



If you have a best or worst Valentine experience, please submit it to any Bugler. Submissions will be published in the February edition of the *Bugle*.  
- *The Buglers:*

Sarah B.  
Linda C.  
Lois K.  
Russ L.  
Ron R.

Angelika B.  
Phil C.  
Max K.  
Nancy R.

Cari B. (Design and Layout)



**We will miss you, Chris.  
Thanks for the Memories!**

## Orchestra Joy

*Jan W.*

Fun! Music Education! Social Interaction! All of the above! Orchestra members have had a great experience. We've made new friends, learned more about music and had a lot of fun.

Our two afternoons a week rehearsals were filled with laughter and music. Director Chris and members alike laughed with each other over our mistakes and clapped after solos. The atmosphere was relaxed but at the same time dedicated to our practice.

Some of us were relearning the language of music while others were beginners to musical signs and symbols. Of course each of us knows how to count to three or four, but for beginners the combination of counting each measure and playing a new instrument could be challenging. Without quite realizing it, we also were learning music history, composers and their works.

Members got to know individuals with whom we might never have crossed paths. All showed concern and support for each other. Friendships developed, and we expect they will continue.

I have realized that orchestra is one place where as a group we improved. We got better through the season and were able to perform three concerts for EastView residents and families as we had done for several years. At a time when most of us frequently could be heard saying, "I used to be able to..." about most activities, it was pure joy to improve at something we were doing.

Thank you, Chris!

## Bone Builders Fun

When asked for comments about Bone Builders class, Tai H. recalled that Chris always brought joy to the class. He made the class like a big family where everyone knew and took care of each other. Russell K. provided more details: Chris had a great sense of humor. Before class he went online to find out what happened on this day and then came to class with jokes that would be fitting. Also, there was a mix of music from Bob Dylan to the classics. Certainly Connie and Chris are a powerhouse couple.

**Still Laughing and Enjoying Life: Mimi R., Sarah B., Patsy C.**

In 1974 three friends, beginning different professional careers, decided to purchase their first home together. Mimi had completed medical school and post-graduate training in Internal Medicine and Oncology and was beginning her 27-year practice at Aesculapius Medical Center in South Burlington, to be followed by 13 years as Associate Dean for Primary Care at the University of Vermont College of Medicine.

Sarah spent most of her career teaching English Language Arts at South Burlington Middle School (now Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School). After 22 years, she retired and eventually became the Guidance Secretary, also at Tuttle. She especially enjoyed the challenging computer work in that position - working on scheduling and student attendance.

Patsy was involved in her career as a college administrator specializing in Financial Aid, Admissions and Student Life. She subsequently worked as an administrator in public education and started a consulting business. She consulted with hundreds of families involved in the college selection process.

Our first home together, in Westford, Vermont, included 13 years of being very busy with careers and also enjoying life with wonderful neighbors. We learned to garden, cut and split log-length wood, made trails through the woods and fields for walking, skiing, and snowshoeing, and shared "the country" with our "city" families (Mimi's in the Boston area, Sarah's in Barre, (VT) and Patsy's in Woodside, Queens, NYC).

In 1987, we moved to our next home in Williston which allowed us more room for our parents to spend time with us, decreased our work travel time, and increased our gardens, fields and wooded areas. After 33 years, when the pandemic of 2020 began, we decided to simplify our lives and sell our Williston home. We moved to what had been our summer home on the lake in Ferrisburgh, and began planning for EastView!

We have shared our homes with four black Labradors, a Golden Retriever, a German Shepherd, and four cats. Lucy (lab) is our only pet at this time. We love to travel and have spent a cumulative total of four years in Ireland with family and friends. We are all avid readers, Mimi is a news "specialist", Patsy is a wonderful cook and flower-landscaper, and Sarah minds the pets. Indoor and outdoor projects keep us busy.

Over these years we have enjoyed each other's families, have been blessed with wonderful friends, experienced amazing travels and wonderful learning experiences, with perhaps the glue of it all, Patsy's cooking and incredible humor.



*Sarah, Patsy, and Mimi*



**Dave D. , Interim Executive Director of EastView**



I live in Cornwall, I have three mostly adult children, I am a lifelong educator and have lived in VT since 1997. I have held various positions over the years, including school board chair, youth lacrosse club president, Chamber of Commerce member, and have always been very involved in community. I have held a variety of leadership positions in education over the last 20 plus years. Prior to that I was in management consulting. I started my career as a kindergarten teacher and coach. Coaching is definitely a passion. And I am probably more comfortable out of the spotlight than in it.



**January Birthdays**

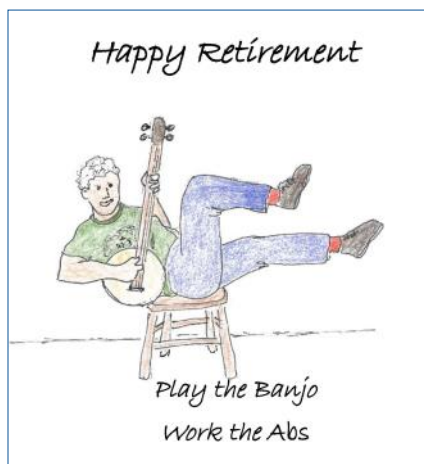
- Charlie R. 1/3
- Bob F. 1/10
- Rebecca B. 1/17
- Ann R. 1/18
- Jean H. 1/18
- Daphne P. 1/20
- Bonnie S. 1/21
- Bob B. 1/30



After his last Bone Builders class and with appreciation for making the class so much fun, Chris was presented with a T-shirt.



The residents of MeadowSweet and GardenSong greatly appreciate the many years Chris played music in the neighborhoods multiple times per week.



Tai gave Chris a memorable cartoon, too.



Neither snow, nor rain, nor a COVID lockdown could keep Chris from bringing music and joy to everyone at EastView. Chris, we will miss you.

## The Art Committee

*Lois A. and Gail L.*

Retired UVM physicians Roberta and Larry C. moved to EastView in 2012. Since retirement Larry had become a serious watercolorist and art enthusiast. He soon established the first EastView Art Committee. Its objectives were to encourage the creation and appreciation of visual arts and crafts in the community.

About ten residents began meeting once each month and soon organized the first art exhibit of works created by residents, families of residents, or staff members to be hung in the EastView lobby and Terrace Dining room. Ensuing projects included planning and curating new exhibits, the purchase of a hardware system for hanging paintings, sponsoring art-related classes, trips to museums and talks by visiting artists and craftsmen. Among the exhibits have been fine needlework, hand crafted wooden boats, and original illustrations for a children's book.

The legacy of Larry C., for whom the art room is named, includes an ongoing program of unique displays, arts and crafts, and related activities. The program continues under the expert direction of EV's Engagement and Communications Manager, Cari B., with assistance from the committee.

We welcome any art-interested residents, skilled or not, to participate.

## A Brief History of the *Bugle*

Linda C.

Today marks the 42nd issue of the *EastView Bugle*!

In the beginning of the pandemic, George J. enlisted the help of a few residents and the first publication of the *EastView Bugle* came out on December 4, 2020. George had been a foreign service officer for numerous years and a Diplomat-in-Residence at Middlebury College from 1987 to 1989. In the introduction to the *Bugle*, George wrote: "Wow, what's this? Well, it's a modest new monthly publication put out by EastView residents to provide some additional resources which could help get us through the difficult months ahead. The hope is that many of you will find at least some of the information, links, and ideas interesting and useful in dealing with continuing isolation and restrictions until we can all get vaccinated and hopefully begin to relax a bit. To that end, we hope that the *EV Bugle* will also be a catalyst for community involvement and will help all of us get to know each other better, as we are hunkered down in our silos."

The first Buglers: Paul S. wrote the medical column. Lois K. and Gail L. had a column about books. Betsy L. focused on music. Phil C. headed up the meet and greet your neighbor column. Max K. shared his photographic notes. George J. wrote a few last thoughts. Cari B. did the design and layout. My focus was films. The Buglers basically provided the content within four pages.

In the end of 2020, George resigned as editor because of his commitments to preparing for classes at ESI and finding speakers for Great Decisions. I stepped up to lead the team of Buglers because I realized if I didn't then the *Bugle* might not continue, and we had received such positive feedback.

It is interesting to note that from the first *Bugle* publication to today there have been more than 432 contributions by EastView residents, staff, and board members. Chris P. wrote a little bit about his musical background in the January 15, 2021, issue. 64 bios have been published including those of board members Sarah P. (March 1, 2023), Diana B. (September 13, 2023), John P. (February 13, 2024); and Joannie D. (September 19, 2024). The content has varied from the serious to human interest articles about trips/adventures and hobbies to poetry and Haikus. *A Look Abroad* by Russ L. has continued where George's last thoughts had been. Tai H.'s cartoons have become an added feature. All *Bugle* issues are in a bound notebook in the EV Library. Peggy R. has created a separate alphabetized notebook of bios, too.

Yes, the *Bugle* has changed a great deal since the first publication. The color of the masthead is now the EastView maroon/pink versus a green. The formatting is different as is the content and the number of pages. However, the *Bugle* has remained a catalyst for community involvement and getting to know each other. Its success is all due to YOU and your contributions. Please continue to send along your creative works. Thank you!



Photo by Betsy E.

## Town Hall Theater Trip to London

Nancy R.

For a number of years Middlebury's Town Hall Theater has sponsored a theater tour of about a week in London, generally during October. The group of fifteen to twenty, many of whom come year after year, includes local theater buffs and people with ties to Middlebury living elsewhere. Doug A., Mary L., and Lisa M., all from the Town Hall Theater, are facilitators and enthusiastic participants.

London Arts Discovery is our contact in London. It is run by three delightful men, Giles R., Nigel H., and Phill W., who know everything about what is going on from major theatrical, musical, and artistic events to small local theaters, little-known museums, and interesting workshops. They arrange private tours, meetings with directors or actors from the plays we see, and handle everything from hotel accommodations, to the coaches that take us to all performances. At least one of them accompanies us to every scheduled event, indicating points of interest along the way.

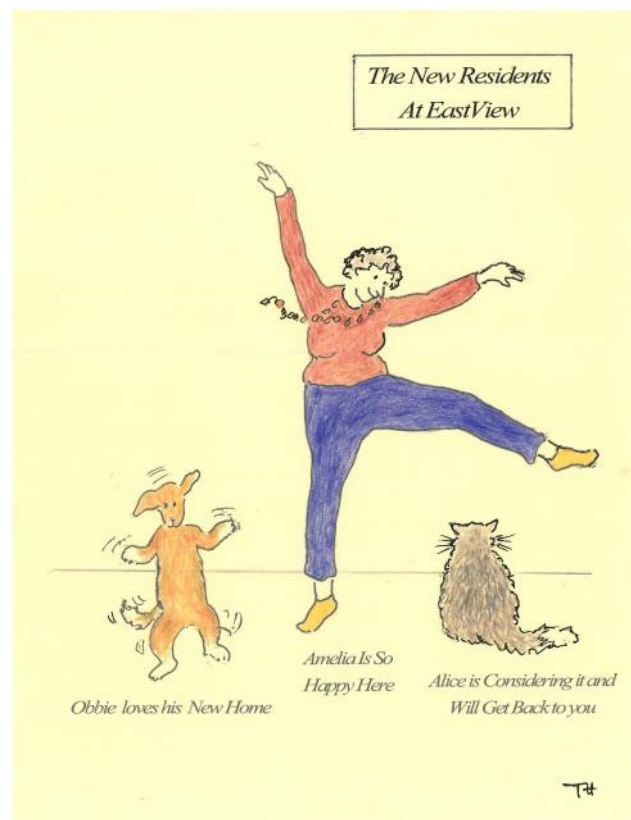
Every tour is different and special. The performances and events we see are never the same. Sometimes there are day trips to other cities or to historic homes; one year the week was divided between Paris and London. Changing hotels have introduced us to different London neighborhoods, and there is always a list of interesting events and restaurants to enhance our spare time.

Last October's tour included six plays, a wonderful exhibit of paintings of London and the Thames by Monet; a service at London's oldest parish church, established in 1123, with a superb choir; and a farewell dinner at a restaurant with a spectacular view of the city. In our free time, we went to an opera, a concert, an exhibit of paintings by van Gogh, and enjoyed a special lunch at a small French restaurant.

Details about the 2025 tour will come out in the spring.

## Welcome to EastView!

Welcome to new staff members who have joined the EastView Community in the past month! Halee R. (Server); Duncan W. (Dishwasher); Moses M. (RCA).



## New Year's Customs

*Angelika B.*

My Austrian girlfriend taught me two important New Year's customs from her native Tyrolean home. On New Year's Eve you have to open the back door to let the old year out, then open the front door to welcome the new year in. And on the first of the year, you have to eat a meal of pork, potatoes, and sauerkraut. Pork for good luck, potatoes for health and sauerkraut for money.

If anyone has a New Year's custom, please send it along to any Bugler.

## A Look Abroad: Syria

*Russ L.*

After 13 years of civil war, the al-Assad regime, which ruled over Syria with an iron fist for over half a century, collapsed during an 11-day assault by rebel forces. Bashar al-Assad has fled to Russia. The Russians are bringing home the aircraft that terrorized Syrian citizens with their barrel bomb attacks. Today Syrians are euphoric, but what is the future likely to bring?

The divisions that ravaged Syria during the civil war have not gone away. Today six different groups claim political control over territory in Syria. The Islamic State, or ISIS, is a growing underground threat. The fates of other recent revolutions in the area do not encourage optimism. Think of the post-Arab Spring fates of Libya, Egypt, and Yemen, or think of Iraq and Afghanistan. As one political observer has put it, "It will require a new miracle in the days and weeks ahead to ensure that things don't go wrong in Syria."

Living conditions for ordinary Syrians are desperate. 14 million of Syria's population of 21 million are refugees, either in Syria or in nearby states. Those states want the refugees to go home. Many are on their way, but to houses and villages destroyed by war. The Syrian economy has all but collapsed. Syria's GDP dropped 87% during the war. Estimates for rebuilding the country run between \$250 and \$300 billion. Who is going to foot the bill in a country with a poverty rate over 90%?

The victorious rebel group, Hayat Tahir al-Sham, or HTS, is a Sunni Muslim organization, with its roots in al-Qaeda and ISIS. It has been classified by the US Department of State and by the United Nations as a terrorist organization. But prior to its advance on Damascus, HTS held control of the province of Idlib, where it maintained a civilian government, and resisted creating a theocratic regime. HTS has indicated its desire to work with other states in rebuilding Syria.

The political upheaval has produced significant winners and losers in the international arena. Turkey, which backed HTS from the beginning, and has long sought to be a power broker in the region, is the major diplomatic winner. The state that has gained the most militarily is Israel, which has taken advantage of the situation by bombing military targets in Syria, and moving its forces beyond the buffer zone in the Golan Heights into Syria-proper. Flexing the muscle of the IDF, Netanyahu is boasting that he is delivering on his promise to change "the face of the Middle East." Israel plans to double its settlements in the Golan Heights.

Russia and Iran are the biggest losers. Russia spent billions in supporting the al-Assad regime, and spent what moral capital it had by bombing Syrian civilians. It has lost its only significant Middle East ally, although its symbiotic relationship with Iran remains. More specifically, the HTS victory threatens Russia's only Mediterranean replenishment and repair naval port at Tartus. Iran is another big loser. Not only has Iran lost its only major ally in the region, but it has lost access routes across Syria to aid its Hezbollah and Hamas proxies. As an Iranian commentator put it, "We have gone from a regional power to just another state."

How should the US respond to all of these events? President-elect Trump urges that we keep our distance. "The US should have nothing to do with this. It is not our fight." President Biden says it is something that should be left to the Syrians to work out themselves, but he has sent senior diplomats to meet with the new regime to discuss "transition principles," in the hope of achieving an inclusive (not just Muslim) government.

Some observers see the change as a rare opportunity for the US to help create a movement toward pluralist, stable governments in the Middle East, but they are in the minority. Too many people remember the promises of G.W. Bush's advisers prior to the US invasion of Iraq.

History provides little cause for optimism. Revolutions unleash outbursts of freedom, but upon assuming power the new regime must restore order. The historian/philosopher Hannah Arendt wrote that even the most radicalized revolutionary becomes a conservative during the second day in office. Syria's new leaders have no experience in governing a large, highly diverse country, not to mention one in a state of severe economic crisis. Their training has been in destroying, not building. If they are to succeed in the manner in which we would like, they will need help. Who is going to help them?