

Avila News and Views

A publication of the Resident Council at Avila Retirement Community

Albany, NY

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A MEETING OF THE MINDS: AVILA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND RESIDENTS

By Tom and Ellen Fitzgerald

On April 18th, Avila residents were pleased to welcome members of the board of directors to a first-of-its kind meeting to personalize the long-standing relationship between our two entities. Two board members came in person to address the Avila group while an additional four, including Bishop Edward Scharfenberger, of the Albany Diocese, participated via zoom. The intention of the meeting was to clarify the board's mission and operation as well as to respond to comments and questions raised by residents.

We learned that the board meets quarterly here at Avila with a specific agenda, with minutes recorded, and operates according to the policies established in the bylaws created at its inception. Board activities are focused on ensuring financial stability and residents' safety. On-going renovations and upkeep of the facilities are increasingly important issues. Residents were assured by attorney Michael Costello that the recently announced Chapter 11 Reorganization by the Albany Diocese will have no effect on the operation of Avila since it is a separately incorporated entity. Bishop Scharfenberger affirmed that statement. The board also expressed an eagerness to establish greater transparency between the board and the Avila community by creating better avenues for communication.

The hour-long session ended with words of appreciation expressed to the board, who commit themselves to this work voluntarily, and for the steady course during the COVID pandemic that assured outstanding success and wellbeing during a very difficult time for all.



Photo by Tom and Ellen Fitzgerald

As a gesture toward establishing a path to more fully understanding the role of the Avila board and its relation to the community, long term members Kenneth Raymond and Vincent Colonno consented to be interviewed for this publication. These gentlemen have collaborated for 10 years and bring extensive experience to their work on the board. Mr. Raymond's background is in real estate and property management as well as extensive volunteer service in not-for-profit agencies, such as the Council of Social Services and Catholic Charities. Mr. Colonno is a former CEO of Catholic Charities and SEFCU Credit Union in addition to serving on the board of St. Ann's Institute. Both are motivated by a commitment to others that stems from their training and values and love for the community. As for the Avila Board, they identified the principles that guide board discussions and decisions as: maintaining safety of the residents, ensuring financial stability of residents' investments,

and setting priorities for needed renovations of the facility.

Both expressed a desire to hear the perceptions of residents about their needs and concerns as helpful to the deliberations of the board. While the board relies on the Avila administration for understanding pressing issues or concerns, both members were impressed by learning from Lynn Altonin that in fact there are currently nine residents' committees operating that contribute toward maintaining communication among residents, staff, and administration.

On the lighter side, Ken laughed about his efforts to secure a new bus for Avila. After much effort finding one and having it delivered to Avila, residents reacted negatively to its design, but a new opportunity soon presented a better solution. Never discouraged, Ken chided himself saying, "No good turn, goes unpunished." We are sure from his tone that he and other members of the board are committed to their efforts to support Avila residents. They concluded with the comment that board members look forward to future contacts with residents, possibly over coffee before their regularly scheduled meetings.

Avila residents are grateful to the members of the board who freely give so generously their time in support of our community, and we too look forward to future meetings.

MEET OUR NEW NEIGHBORS . . .

PATRICIA ACKERMAN

By Rod Correll



Photo by Rod Correll

Patricia, "Pat" Ackerman grew up in upstate New York, near Hudson, an older sister to three younger brothers. After graduating from Hudson High School, she went on to Elmira College. It was a women's college at the time, but near enough to Cornell, which is where she met Bill Sheffield, her husband-to-be. A close relationship developed and, two weeks after they graduated, they got married. Their family grew quickly from two to six and Pat and Bill were constantly on the move in the six and a half years that followed. Two daughters, Elizabeth and Stephanie, were born while they were living in Arizona and Oregon (with a brief stay in California). Two more, Sarah and Melanie, arrived after they settled in Cooperstown.

Pat lived in Cooperstown for ten years and then, when her marriage ended, moved to Albany where she went to graduate school at SUNY Albany to get a master's degree in social work. Pat is an avid bridge player, and it was at a bridge table, while they were students at SUNY, that she met her second husband, Jim Ackerman. They married two weeks after she graduated. Pat began her career working for the state of New York in various capacities, at what is now called the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities. Jim got a job as a chemist at Sterling Winthrop Research Institute, a job he retained until the company moved to Pennsylvania and he retired. Pat and Jim lived in Albany for over 40 years, raising her children and happily engaged in bridge, tennis, hiking and traveling all over the world. The fact that her children were at times working and living abroad provided plenty of incentive for visits overseas, mostly to Europe but also to New Zealand.

After Jim died in 2017, Pat had a decision to make, where to live. Her daughter Sarah encouraged her to relocate near to her in Brooklyn. She did so and spent five good years there. But it was a bit lonely, and Pat missed her friends in Albany. Another daughter, Elizabeth, now living near Cooperstown, urged her to look for housing options in the Capital area. Last fall, they toured the Avila campus, liked what they saw and decided it would be the perfect place for Pat and her little dog, Coco, to settle down. And so far, it has been. Welcome aboard, Pat and Coco, we're happy you're here!

PAULA ALPART

By Ray and Erin Teichman

Paula and Harvey Alpart moved to Avila from their retirement home in Vermont in the fall of 2022. Sadly, Paula lost Harvey to Alzheimer's disease in October 2022, after 56 years of marriage. Harvey was an alumnus of Albany High school, the University of Vermont and the Georgetown University School of Dentistry. He had maintained a practice in Stuyvesant Plaza.

She was born in Brooklyn, NY, but grew up in various American cities as her father, a lawyer, worked with the U.S. Army in army-civilian relations. She graduated from George Washington University with a degree in linguistic anthropology, and later obtained a master's degree in organizational management from the College of St. Rose.

Most of Paula's career was spent at the College of St. Rose teaching, counseling and in administration. She was Associate Dean of Graduate and Adult Education Admissions at the college from 1988 to 2001. From 2001 to 2005 Paula was an adjunct at SUNY Albany where she conducted tutorials on grant writing and developed criteria to evaluate learning outcomes in prior experience of returning adult learners.

She is particularly proud of her work with Gov. Mario Cuomo's Council on Volunteerism.

Paula and Harvey have two sons: Andy, a physician in family practice in Albany, married to Cindy with two children, Maxine and Simon; and Brian, a musician and entertainer, living in Jackson, WY.

Paula and Harvey led a highly active life that included traveling widely in both Europe and the United States and skiing in Vermont. Paula is enjoying her life at Avila and looking forward to skiing again.



Photo by Erin and Ray Teichman

LOIS AND PATRICK CAULFIELD

By Ray and Erin Teichman

The Caulfields are a delightful couple who have recently come to Avila after residing for nearly 40 years in Delmar. Lois is originally from Jaffrey, NH; raised on a horse and dairy ranch established by her grandfather after World War II. Patrick, born and raised in rural County Galway, Ireland, is one of six children. They met when Patrick's sister, Eileen, brought Lois home with her in 1967 and introduced Lois to him.

Lois returned to the United States to complete her bachelor's degree at Springfield College, Springfield, MA, in elementary education; then she went to Arizona to teach on the Navajo reservation. Patrick came to the U.S., where he got his GED (having only a seventh-grade education in Ireland); attended St. Anselm College, Manchester, NH, and the University of New Hampshire and the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, where he obtained his degree in medicine. He did his family practice residency at UVM in Burlington, VT. He has practiced and taught at both Albany Medical College and St. Peter's Hospital, specializing in primary care.



Photo by Erin and Ray Teichman

Married on New Year's Day, 1970, Lois and Patrick celebrated their 53rd anniversary this year.

Patrick spent three years with the Indian Health Service in Tulsa, OK, paying back the U.S. government for help in medical school. He served in the Vermont Air National Guard and the Army Reserve, including time with medical units in Iraq and the UN action in Kosovo.

Lois was able to stay at home with her pre-school age children by providing day care for other working parents. She has also done extensive volunteer work with various immigrant groups in the area.

The Caulfields have three children, two sons, Brian and Christopher, and a daughter, Heather. Heather and husband, Tim, have a seven-year-old daughter; Brian and wife, Dana, a 12-year-old son and a year-old daughter; and Christopher and his wife, Yi, have a year-old son.

Patrick retired in 2015. He currently practices geriatric medicine part-time at the Shaker Place Nursing Home.

Over the years the Caulfields have made numerous trips to Ireland to visit relatives, often accompanied by their children.

They came to Avila after careful study of competing local retirement communities. They found that it exactly meets their needs at this stage of their journey. We welcome them!

CHARLOTTE LEFTON

By Erin and Ray Teichman

Upon entering Charlotte Lefton's apartment, we immediately noticed her wall of pictures she painted while living in Florida. The bright colors bring light to a long, dark hall.

Charlotte was born and raised in Brooklyn; graduated from Vassar College, Phi Beta Kappa; attended Columbia University; then began to teach English and creative writing. She initially taught for 12 years; took a break to raise their three children; returned to teach another 12 years, all in NYC high schools.

During her career she received a "Teacher of the Year" award. Charlotte had her students write essays and poetry which were compiled and illustrated under the title "American Literary Almanac." She proudly showed us copies which she had saved. Over the years, Charlotte told us, her students won most of the creative writing and poetry prizes given in NYC high schools.

Charlotte had one brother, also a teacher, who died at 42.



Photo by Erin and Ray Teichman

We welcome Charlotte to our Avila family.

She and her husband, Phillip, were married for 65 years; both were teachers. During her "break" from teaching, she and Phillip refurbished a 1912 home in Brooklyn. Upon retirement they moved to Green Mansions condo community, Warrensburg, NY, and wintered in their home in Ft. Myers, FL.

Phillip had been a high school principal; wrote the AP history reviews for NYC's high school advanced placement classes and loved playing the violin. He played for 22 years in a community orchestra in Florida. Charlotte enjoys reading and writing poetry.

Daughter, Andrea, a psychiatrist with two daughters, lives in Albany; son, Daniel, a neuroradiologist in NYC, has one daughter; son, Scott, an engineer, lives in the Boston area. He and his wife have two sons and a daughter.

KEVIN NIEBUHR

By Tom and Ellen Fitzgerald

Kevin Niebuhr joined the Avila community in February as one of our first floor (west) neighbors. Kevin spent his early years in the Watervliet area with his parents and three siblings, two sisters and one older brother. He is a graduate of Catholic Central High School, Hudson Valley Community College and Russell Sage Evening College, earning a BS degree in criminal science. He then joined the National Guard full time, serving 20 ½ years before retiring in 1990. In the late 1990s, he continued working on Army contracts throughout New York State with a focus on Air National Guard bases at the Watervliet Arsenal and West Point.

Kevin is most pleased to join the Avila community, to share in its welcoming atmosphere, its many supportive activities and to have the assurance it offers each of us in dealing with the physical challenges we face in the aging process. His journey to Avila began abruptly on Thanksgiving Day in 2022, when a fall required EMS assistance and physical therapy which was supervised by his daughter at her home in the Bennington, Vermont area. Kevin and she decided that living alone was no longer in his best interests. His daughter, after investigating assisted living opportunities, recommended Avila and the rest, as they say, is history.

Kevin is gregarious, outgoing, and lively, eager to share information and to listen to the life experiences of others. After the death of his wife in 2013, a period of grieving naturally took place but, at the same time, he found new interests in Irish music in the Watervliet area, sipping single malt scotch, and discussing politics. He enjoys the independent lifestyle provided by Avila and intends to pursue physical activities through physical therapy and fitness classes to maintain his hard-won recovery from his fall. In addition, he hopes to join social activities such as playing Mah Jongg, playing poker, and perhaps sipping an occasional scotch at the Lodge.



Photo by Tom and Ellen Fitzgerald

We are sure that you will enjoy healthy conversations with him on many topics, such as his work experiences, politics, and the "state of the world." Be sure to ask him about his brother, who worked for the FBI and was involved in the Jimmy Hoffa case. Do you know the story behind Saratoga Vichy? He does and is happy to share his thoughts on the subject. Welcome Kevin.

... AND CATCH UP WITH SOME OF OUR EARLIER- RESIDENTS

[EDITORS' NOTE: News and Views did not start profiling our new neighbors until 2008 . As space permits, we will publish interviews with our earlier residents.]

JAN MONTY

Interviewed by Pat Binzer



Photo by Patricia Binzer

Jan and her husband John arrived in Avila in 2004. Their lives had begun in Altona, NY, close to the Canadian border, where they had gone to school together since kindergarten and graduated in 1950 with a class of twelve.

Many of the families Jan grew up with were farmers, and she remembers that she had to help her grandfather in the hayfield before she could go off with friends. It was a time in Altona with many dates and excursions into Canada.

They had several family members nearby as they grew up and were able to maintain close contact with the Altona family and friends as their lives took them closer to the Schenectady-Guilderland area. Jan is especially close to her granddaughter Genevieve, who visited often when she was attending college.

After high school, Jan and John each wanted more education, so they completed their two-year degrees. Jan went on to become an RN. John was drafted into the army and after his discharge returned to a job at GE in Schenectady. He still wanted a four-year degree, so he attended the University of Kentucky. After this they settled down in the Schenectady-Guilderland neighborhood where they raised their two sons. John stayed at GE for the rest of his career. Jan became a head nurse at St. Clare's hospital in the maternity ward and later worked for Dr. Cioffi, a well-known Schenectady obstetrician.

After they retired, the couple purchased a home near Wilmington, NC, close to relatives and became snowbirds for many years where Jan learned to play and love golf. When John was diagnosed with dementia, they knew it was time to make major decisions about where to live. After searching for suitable options as they planned for John's future needs, they chose the brand-new facility called Avila, located near Teresian House.

Jan described the Avila marketing program in 2004 at Colonie Center, followed by invitations to several dinners with other potential residents to help people get to know their new neighbors. While Avila was under construction, they were sent photos of what was happening to keep the future residents informed about the progress of the facility. She said they felt comfortably involved in what would become their future home. In the meantime, they had to sell two homes, one in North Carolina and one in Guilderland where they had lived for more than 30 years. On move-in day, August 20, 2004, workers were still putting finishing touches on their unit.

Jan turned 90 last year and was given a large celebration orchestrated by her son and daughter-in-law, who live in Hawaii. Relatives and friends came from everywhere to honor her for the big event which provided a reunion of long-time friends and family. As she nears her 91st birthday, she has made a rapid recovery from a recent knee replacement. Jan can't wait to drive herself back to the golf course.

FOCUS FEATURE: AVILA'S FINE STAFF (AND RESIDENTS)

Going the Extra Steps to Help: "After a February snowstorm, Tom Thompson noticed my brake pedal was very low as he moved my car for snow removal. He took the time to tell me to check with my mechanic. I found out that my brake fluid was very low. Tom, thank you for taking the time and interest to come to my aid. You and the entire maintenance staff are appreciated by us Avila residents."

Maxine Koblenz

"I would like to give another shout out to, as I am calling him/her, A. Nonymous for coming through again. I received several packages from A. Nonymous containing St. Patrick's Day and Easter items to embellish the artificial flower arrangements. Thank you, thank you once again.

Joyce Gibbs

"I'd like to give a shout out to Armando. Whenever I come down for lunch, he's always upbeat, a little quirky, in a good way, gives good suggestions and is a caring person.

The other day one of the residents was trying to get back to their apartment and their aide was not around. Armando went looking for her but could not find her. He left the dining area and went to the resident and tried to help them, which we told him he couldn't do. The aide finally came back and found her patient.

He keeps calm even when some residents are rude. Such a good quality to have. Avila is lucky to have someone like him.

Marilyn Seidenberg

"After four years of using my keychain garage door fob, the battery died (no wonder). I was unable to open the battery compartment. So, I called the company. In an abrupt and rude tone, I was told that the cost for the service call is \$130 plus the labor/parts for the battery replacement! Also, the wait time for the service call would be 30 days!!! Being the frugal and impatient person that I am, I filled out an Avila work order. With ten minutes, Tom Thompson installed and tested a new battery and delivered the fob to my door. In an increasingly harsh social climate with impersonal responses to our basic needs, our Avila team of helpers are unmatched and priceless.

Marion Burns

"Residents are often baffled when they walk to their cars after one of the frequent snow and ice storms here in Albany. Armed with snow brushes and ice scrapers, we walk to our cars the day after the weather event ONLY to find the cars are already clear of snow, with the ice scraped off and ready to drive. What a relief!

But how does this happen? Good natured gremlins? A secret group of charitable persons setting out to help the elderly?

We want to thank whoever is responsible for this wonderful service. On second thought, I think we should thank Gordy, Tom K., and Tom T. for their kindness and thoughtfulness. We do appreciate your efforts saving us a lot of work! Maintenance staff, we send our blessings to you!"

Tom Fitzgerald

SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE . . .

We have been busy here at Avila during the past few months. Here is just a sample. Commentary and photos by Tom and Ellen Fitzgerald.

THREE GUESSES. WHAT EVENT WAS HELD IN FEBRUARY?



Seeing this picture, you will not need three guesses! An overflow crowd gathered in the Great Room in February to wish each other Happy Valentine's Day. We came together with red signs, balloons, food and continuous conversation. If you attended you know that a "good time" was had by all that afternoon but, if you missed this event, we know that you will enjoy next year's Valentine's party! Be on time since the delicious food and plentiful wine disappears early as the level of conversations reaches a crescendo of enjoyment!!

CAFÉ AVILA SWAYS TO 60S MUSIC

Café Lena in Saratoga and Café Linda on Central Avenue in Albany have nothing beyond what we regularly have at our Café Avila (i.e., Great Room). Mike Short and his special guest, Rev. Garret Szantner, entertained residents in February with the smooth and memorable sounds of the 60s. Mike delights his regular Monday afternoon crowds with music, banter and information about the music and writer. With a wink, Mike shares with us that this is the "last song" of the day only to generate an enthusiastic, "No, no, one more" for all of us. Great fun in our backyard at a very reasonable price. We are grateful to him for keeping music in our youthful hearts.



BELLEEK PORCELAIN DISPLAY APPEALS TO IRISH EVERYWHERE



March brings thoughts of spring and for many the celebration of St. Patrick's Day. This year Avila marked this special time with a display of beautiful, diverse examples of traditional Irish Belleek porcelain organized by Erin Teichman from her personal collection. The display included numerous figurines, plates, cups, teapots, as well as a lovely cross stitch embroidery by Mary Farley and a statue of St. Patrick from Lynn Altonin. Thanks to Jeanne Bradt for two modern pieces. So many Avila residents were seen admiring the display and discussing how the display set the tone for our happy celebration of Irish heritage, St Patrick's Day.

CHARISM: ALIVE AND WELL

Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus presented to a large gathering in April the history of their religious order, personal stories of their calling to religious life and the renewed Mission of their Charism. Their narratives, depicting the Order's continuing commitment to service, education and the environment with joy, caring, and love, were well received and inspiring for those attending.



YOUTH INVASION AT AVILA

By Tom Fitzgerald

The annual luncheon this year took place in February for 56 young-at-heart pen pals as part of the Shaker High School Writing Project. In its sixth year, organized by Shaker English teacher James Bell, and Erich Steiner from Avila, the writing project brings together 28 juniors from Shaker and 28 residents to exchange five letters to extend understandings and communication between high school students and Avila's young-at-heart residents. The luncheon took place in the "Erich Entertainment Center," (i.e., the Great Room), giving participants an opportunity for a face-to-face meeting after exchanging letters. A delicious buffet lunch followed introductions and conversations around small tables.

Participating Avila residents expressed an eagerness to continue conversations with their students started through letters but were unsure how difficult it might be in person. Judging from the noise level in the room, conversations started in a polite but restrained fashion but quickly rose in energy as each pen pal felt more comfortable. For the next 45 minutes many stories about college applications, family trips, job experiences, and career goals were shared in the circle of "new families," with the only interruption coming when Erich invited all to enjoy the excellent lunch prepared by the Avila kitchen.

Channels 10 and 6 brought their cameras and interviewing skills to record this memorable event. The afternoon session concluded with a group picture prior to the students reluctantly re-boarding their bus to return to Shaker and their classes.

Before leaving, participants expressed their appreciation to Mr. Bell and Mr. Steiner for their work organizing the luncheon and the exchange of letters. The success of the luncheon can be measured by the smiles, hugs and handshakes exchanged by the students and residents at the end of the day.

All participants left that day with greater appreciation of "young-at-heart" friendships spanning many age levels. Would you be interested in joining this Project next year?

BOCCE RETURNS

By Mary Farley



Photograph by Karl Gohlke

The new bocce season began on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, and will continue weekly throughout the summer and early fall.

The bocce court is located on the lawn in the parking lot of the Lodge. Sessions take place every Tuesday. They begin at 9:30 a.m. and last for an hour or two. All players are welcome. No experience is required.

If you wish to play on your own, the courts are available at all other times. Games can be played with two to eight players on a team. The basic rules are in the cart with the balls. Just go to the front desk at the Lodge to get the equipment, which is in the closet behind the front

desk. If you have any questions, please contact me at Ext. 186.

AVILA COMMUNITY LINUS PROJECT

By Marilyn Seidenberg

This is just an update on the Avila community Linus Project. I hope you all enjoy looking at the quilts that are on the rack by the "puzzle master."

Our sewers are still hard at work. Even if you are not a sewer, we still appreciate residents who can help with pressing and hand sewing down the bindings.

We also appreciate those who have donated cotton material. Since we fund by ourselves, every little bit helps. Thanks also to the residents who have crocheted and knitted beautiful afghans. We will also happily accept monetary donations to help defray the costs for this project.

At our last count we have donated over 200 quilts to Linus. The children are always overjoyed to receive something that is totally theirs.

If anyone wants to help, please contact me in apartment 423W or at ext. 673. You can also visit the 4th floor West and see more of our quilts before they're delivered. Pictured at right is our Project Linus contact picking up the blankets we have completed.



SPIRITUALITY COMMITTEE

By John Wagner

The Avila Spirituality Committee is a group of Avila residents interested in spirituality and becoming better people. The committee began by discussing how to define "spirituality." There were as many suggestions as people around the table, but the ensuing discussions created a sense of trust that made it comfortable to share thoughts, feelings, and experiences. A formal definition of spirituality is that it is a desire to become the best person we can be. That Best Me may be the person who is fully human. In a religious context, the Best Me is the person the Lord created me to be. To help to discern the properties and traits of the Best Me, one can learn from the experiences of others. Our experience as a committee led us to sponsor discussion meetings,

The first discussion took place about last Thanksgiving and the topic was gratitude. To initiate an atmosphere of trust, a set of prepared questions was used to identify common experiences. What were you grateful for as a little child? What are you grateful for here at Avila? The meeting was held in the Great Room with about 35 people seated at six small tables,

The success of this first discussion prompted us to offer a second one, focused on new beginnings. Some beginnings are easy (a new year), others can be more difficult (moving from a private house to a communal environment), and others can be hard (the loss of a loved one). Sharing these changes with others can make them easier to bear. Recognizing that others struggle with the same challenges also makes our community more compassionate. This second discussion was well received, as indicated by a request for information about future events. The handout with the prepared questions was also of interest to the wine and cheese party that followed,

The committee is planning several events for the spring to include Ecumenical Stations of the Cross. We are also considering future discussion events. The committee meets every third Thursday of the month at 2:00 PM in the Craft Room. Anyone interested in spirituality is invited to attend and/or participate in our meetings. Sharing simple life experiences often opens doors that let us see our elder journey (from whom we are to whom we are to become) as a time to reflect on the faith and hope that got us this far.

JUNE WEDDING MEMORABILIA WANTED

By Claire Russell

During the month of June, I will be showing some of my vintage bride dolls in the display cases.

I would like to invite all residents married in the month of June to lend me a framed wedding photograph, cake topper, or other wedding memorabilia to complete the display.

For more information, please call me at Ext. 528 (Apt. 128W).

RIDE WITH US ON THE BRAND-NEW BUS

By Patricia J. Binzer

*Here I am, the brand new bus
waiting to meet you.
Enjoying the fuss.*

*I'm twenty-four feet long
and can take you away,
giving a ride in comfort
wherever you say.*

*My seats are soft
and cushiony too.
The built-in seatbelts
give protection to you.*

*Bring your walker along.
There's lots of storage and more.
We get it out for you
when we stop at the store.*

*My driver, Byonca,
is someone to trust.
She really loves driving ME
the brand-new bus*

*Check the schedule for sign up
of places to go.
It's really exciting.
See the description below.*

*Three weekly grocery trips
the schedule shows.
Try Walmart, and Hannaford
or Trader Joes.*

*Mall trip locations
are at your request.
The bus drops you off
and goes on with the rest.*

*And stops back in an hour.
You can get on the bus.
Relax in your seat!
leave the driving to us.*

*There are trips to do banking
where your money is stashed.
Check on your accounts
and even get cash.*

*The Guilderland Library
is special too.
Get on the bus.
See what it offers for you.*

*You probably know
there are trips to the shows,
casinos and museums
on and on the list goes.*

*I'm really lucky
to be living right here.
I'll take you many miles
year after year.*

*I do need a name
and personality too.
Should we have a contest?
It's up to you.*



Photograph by Fred Seltzer