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# THE VILLAGER



# 2013

On New Year's Eve, a number of word class cities harken in 2013 with giant fireworks displays. In New York City, a giant ball suspended above Times Square slowly descend at midnight.

Why?

Until 1903, the largest New Year's Eve gathering of New Yorkers took place at Trinity Church on Wall Street and Broadway. *The New York Times* described the scene in 1897: "The crowds came from every section of the city, and among the thousands, who cheered or tooted tin horns, as the chimes were rung out on the night, were many from New Jersey, Long Island, and even Staten Island." Things were much the same for another half-dozen years. But as December 31, 1904 approached, many party-goers were persuaded to attend a different celebration far uptown.

Until that time, the area where 7th Avenue, Broadway and 42 Street met was called Longacre Square. The Detroit Publishing Company [sells a print](#) showing what it looked like back in those days:



That narrow building rising all by itself, then the second tallest in New York City, is the just-finished headquarters of *The New York Times* newspaper. Its publisher, Alfred Ochs, had successfully lobbied city leaders to change Longacre Square's name to Times Square earlier that year. He then resolved to throw a New Year's Eve celebration that would be the talk of the town. "An all-day street festival culminated in a fireworks display set off from the base of the tower," according to an official history published by the Times Square District Management Association, "and at midnight the joyful sound of cheering, rattles and noisemakers from the over 200,000 attendees could be heard, it was said, from as far away as Croton-on-Hudson, thirty miles north."

An annual event was born -- but two years later, the city prohibited the fireworks display. "Ochs was undaunted," the official history continues. "He arranged to have a large, illuminated seven-hundred-pound iron and wood ball lowered from the tower flagpole precisely at midnight to signal the end of 1907 and the beginning of 1908." Thus the origin of today's celebration.

## ***HOA and Leacroft Committees***

### **Message from the HOA President**

Happy new year to all and I hope that everyone's holiday travels were restful, enjoyable, and of course, safe. It's hard to believe that 2012 is in the history books already.

In December the Board met for the purposes of appointing officers for the 2013 fiscal year. Due to holiday events, not all Board members were available to attend, however we did have a majority and the appointments are as follows; Paul A. Greiner – President, Bob Matthews – Vice President, Paula Henrickson – Secretary, Beth Degrassi – Member at Large. You may notice that there is no appointed Treasurer at this time however, the Board will meet again in January to formally appoint that position and we will publish those updates.

We have been informed by our friends at the Bass Pro Shop in Concord that they will begin charging the HOA for the use of the meeting room. Rates for rental are not yet available and thus, the Board will be meeting at an alternative date and location for January. We will of course, continue to publish minutes of all meetings on the community website when they are approved.

Speaking of the website, in 2012 I promised to all that I would do all I could to keep the website up to date with any events that I am aware of as well as the publishing of the minutes and newsletters. Please take a moment to review the website ([www.leacroft.org](http://www.leacroft.org)) from time to time for this information.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the Board members who served in 2012 and specifically thank Joe Mercier for his dedicated service to Leacroft as he went far and above as President in his efforts to make the Board more efficient, transparent, and well documented. His sacrifices to his professional career and personal life were very likely tremendous and without his efforts, the President's job now, would be much harder. Thank you Joe, from all of us.

Till next time stay safe,

Paul A. Greiner

President – Leacroft HOA

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## **Events Planning Team**

The Events Planning team has a very ambitious plan for this year. In fact it is so ambitious that it would not fit into the Villager. I tried and our mail server would not accept it. So the Events Planning Team plan is being sent separately.

## Village Voices

If you have a story you would like to tell or an article that you would like to write, send it to [LeacroftVillager@gmail.com](mailto:LeacroftVillager@gmail.com)

### I How I Became a Member of the Bahá'í Faith

By Richard Meier



I became a Bahá'í on 21 March 1966. I am certain had not been redirected by God to go down another path I would have ended up in jail (or worse) as recalcitrant as I am. Today, looking back on it, I can only describe my conversion as one inspired by the Holy Spirit.

There are many avenues by which you could become a Bahá'í. You could study Scripture, come to know how Bahá'u'lláh is the fulfillment of prophecy and become a Bahá'í. (<http://www.bci.org/prophecy-fulfilled/bne-p.htm>) You could read the writings of Bahá'u'lláh, experience their splendor and become a Bahá'í. (<http://reference.bahai.org/en/>) You could learn of the holy and sinless life Bahá'u'lláh led, discover the sacrifices He made on our behalf, and become a Bahá'í. (<http://www.bahauallah.org/>) You could witness the transforming effect of His teachings on the life of His followers and become a Bahá'í. (<http://www.bahaibookstore.com/productdetails.cfm?PC=7943#.UMzIG29TyJk>) None of these avenues is how I became a Bahá'í. All of these proofs were added on later and became confirmations.

I was raised Christian and was active in the Presbyterian Church. I still have the presentation Bible given to all third graders dated June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1953 from First Plymouth

Church in Lincoln, Nebraska.

When I went to college at the University of Nebraska I became more or less agnostic. I came to believe if you wanted to do something, against the law or not, and you were willing to take the risk, you could. In other words, morality became something external to me, imposed by society to prevent chaos.

Among other things, I became quite adept at shop lifting. Finally I was arrested for stealing a steak from a grocery store. The judge said the fine would be sixty dollars plus court costs of twelve dollars.

I replied, "Your Honor, if I had sixty dollars, I would not be stealing food."

He agreed to let me spend three days in jail, going in on Friday evening and coming out on Monday morning, so I would not miss any classes. The Wednesday after my release I was sitting in the Student Union with some friends. One asked the other, "Don't you belong to some new religion?"

She replied, "Yes, I am a Bahá'í."

Immediately curious, I asked, "What's that?"

She started to explain about some principles of the Faith like unity from diversity and independent investigation of truth. Having to go to class, I asked, "Where can I learn more?"

She invited me to attend a fireside at Wig and Gale DeMoville's home that Saturday. I do not remember all of the things discussed that evening, but I do recall I asked many questions, ranging from the micro-cosmic to the macro-cosmic. At the end of the evening I came to understand there was only this question that needed to be answered: Is there a God and is Bahá'u'lláh the manifestation of God for today?

I asked, "What should I read?" Wig suggested **Some Answered Questions**.

"What else?" Wig answered, "**Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh.**"

"Anything else," I asked. "The Book of Certitude", he said.

He offered to lend me these books, but I replied I wanted to buy them. He said it would take a couple of weeks to order them from the publishing trust. I later learned Wig commented, "Richard has so many intellectual hang-ups it'll take years for him to become a Bahá'í." The next Saturday I was over at Jeff England's home. He had been at the fireside and had been answering most of my questions.

He showed me a picture of the Shrine of the Báb and explained how this holy and consecrated spot had an effect on the souls of those who made a pilgrimage to this place. He then read to me a passage from **Citadel of Faith** by Shoghi Effendi. It describes the significance of the Shrine of the Báb as the spot round which the Concourse on high circle in adoration. As I listened I had a vision. In my mind's eye I could see spiritual lines of force radiating out from that spot and this analogy occurred to me: Just as electricity is produced in wire that crosses a magnetic line of force, elation must be produced in a soul that crosses a spiritual line of force. In that moment I knew it was true. There must be a God and Baha'u'llah must be from God. When I came home from college, full of enthusiasm for my new found faith, I announced to Mom and Dad, "Christ has returned!" Being a new Bahá'í I did not know how to present to them the proof of this astounding claim. Instead of it being received as worthy of serious investigation, they were skeptical, to say the least.

I learned later Mom went upstairs, shaking her head, and said to my sister, "Your brother has done some crazy things in his life, but this time he has really flipped."

I share with you my personal story, not as a proof, because we all have to find our own way, but I do hope a small glimmer shines through of how my being a Bahá'í has changed my life. The central core of each path is your heart has to be touched, as mine was. It is my hope my story is sufficient to allow you to start to consider there must be something here worthy of further investigation.

***Leacroft People*****Nancy Paige, Villages of Leacroft Manager (Henderson Properties)**

My name is Nancy Paige and I have been a community manager for 19 years. I began with a small community in Orlando, Florida at age 18 and was quickly promoted to district manager. While working in the corporate office, I was able to administer the company portfolio of owned properties. I enjoy the challenges of managing communities and the experiences that I have gained from meeting diverse people and learning the different laws that apply to a variety of situations.

In college I majored in Criminal Justice to become a paralegal, however greatly enjoyed my experience in property management and decided pursue the field as my career. I have received my MHM Certification while managing a large mobile home community in Lakeland Florida as well as my CAM and CMCA. I am well versed in several community management computer programs such as Rent Right, Rent Roll and most recently Jenark. I can manage all aspects of the community from budgets, hiring and training staff to inventory control. I enjoy what I do and look forward to coming to work daily.

I have two wonderful children, Robert age 21 and Samantha age 19. I also have the two most amazing granddaughters, Michelle, 3 and Alyssa, 5 months which reside in Florida with my daughter. I recently rescued a puppy from a shelter whom I've named Jack. He is an Akita-Lab mix and a wonderful addition to my life.

Also I started volunteering at a shelter for abused children and it is an amazing experience. I enjoy my time with the children, listening to their stories and watching how they are coping with their situations. Their strength and determination to survive is truly inspiring.

In my free time I enjoy reading, writing and watching movies. I also enjoy spending quality time with my family and friends.

## Jack, Angie and Lorelie Freund



Hello everyone! We are the Freund's and we moved to Villages of Leacroft on Old Bridge Lane in October. Our family is comprised of Jack, Angela, and Lorelei. We relocated here from Columbus, Ohio so that Jack could take a new job at TIAA-CREF. Jack works with computers, and Angie is an accounting manager for Citibank. Their little one is in preschool. Jack and Angie were instrumental in the formation of a Blockwatch in their community in Columbus and helped in planning community events. We are enjoying the good weather down here (and no snow!) and are looking forward to enjoying the community pool--a luxury that is largely absent from the HOA-run communities up North. We've been adjusting to life here in Charlotte and here is a list of light-hearted things that confuse us Northerners: 1) Jack is always confused by the

dual furnace/AC configurations down here. Up North, we typically just buy one big one to run the whole house, 2) No basements! Where do you put all your stuff?, and 3) Lizards: They're very cute, but its the stuff of pet shops up North--here they run around like the squirrels. We're a busy bunch, but are looking forward to meeting the rest of the neighbors (and setting up some playdates for the little ones), so feel free to say "Hi!" if you see us around.

## Len and Connie Tucker



We celebrated our thirtieth wedding anniversary at Disney World with our whole family. There are 16 in our family now. Eight adults, two teenagers and six 9 and under.

Our oldest son, Larry, lives in Leacroft with his wife Gina and daughter Faith. They have a son, Ryan, who is in the Air Force and a son, Dan, who lives in California.

Our daughter, Dawn, lives in Highland Creek with her husband, Buddy, and their three kids, Kylie (9) and twins Rudy and Connor (7).

Our youngest son, Todd, lives in California with his wife, Jenni, and their two daughters, Hailey (6) and Landry (4).

The cousins had a great time together.

We spent one day at Sea World and 5 days at Disney and went to every park; some twice.

**GARDENING BY DEB PETERS**

Gardening 101      January 2013      Deb Peters

Christmas is over. Even though I don't celebrate it, I feel that it is a magical time of year. Along with everyone else, I've listened to Clement Moore's "Twas the Night before Christmas many times. I would close my eyes and try to picture visions of sugar plums, which got me to thinking—What are sugar plums, what do they look like and if they're that good maybe I should be planting them in my garden. I went to my go-to gardening site (Burpee.com) and put in sugarplums. What my search turned up was, Peaches, Gloria-apples, gold rush, and edible flowers, not even plums. A search of some of my other favorite garden sites also turned up nothing. I'm beginning to think; "how can I dream of these if I don't even know what they look like. What do I do now? I ponder this for a minute and decide to google the term sugarplums. Well guess what? Sugarplums are not plums at all. They are a type of candy. No wonder I couldn't find them on a garden site. So, I transferred my efforts to another favorite site of mine "foodnetwork.com. At least here, I could view recipes on how to make sugarplums, and let me reiterate none of the recipes use plums.

I am now starting to get bummed out. How can you dream of something if you don't know what it looks like. More research turned up an interesting fact. The Oxford English Dictionary declared the term sugarplum obsolete. So now I don't feel so bad. All I have to do is decide what types of visions are going to dance in my head. Using my own thoughts and some items I would like to envision in my Southern Garden in the future:

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,

While visions of oranges danced in their heads.

While visions of apples danced in their heads.

While visions of tomatoes (or how about zucchini.)

How about avocados?

Yes, if you have an active imagination and can dream as vividly as I do (and yes; I do dream in color) you can have almost anything dancing in your head. Or you can make up your own versions of sugarplums.

My personal favorite is when my cukes and eggplants start dancing around in the garden. The cows (yes I have cows) just stand there looking amazed. I guess what I'm saying is that you can dream about anything you want, but just remember it's almost time to stop dreaming and start planting your 2013 garden.

Here's to green thumbs and happy gardening.

Deb Peters



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*Travel*

Last month, I started our Tales of the South Pacific. Our first stop was in Moorea.



On the second day of our cruise, we were in Bora Bora just a few miles from Moorea. This time, instead of taking a jeep tour of the island, like we did in Moorea, we decided on a boat ride around the island. We stopped at a beautiful beach for a Bora Bora lunch. Lots of fresh pineapples and other fruits. After lunch and back on the water we stopped to allow us tourist to swim with the sharks and sting rays. I passed on the opportunity with the excuse that I would take pictures. Connie jumped in with the sea creatures and had a great time.

Bora Bora is unbelievable beautiful. Two towering peaks of sheer black rock dominates the center of the island (see picture above) and makes an impressive backdrop to variety of blue/green waters that surround the island.

Bora Bora's lagoon is its most treasured feature and this is where Connie swam with the sharks. Other fun opportunities are to windsurf, jet ski, scuba dive, snorkel or just relax on the beach.

Bora Bora is an experience worth having. As I write this, Connie is asking if we can go back. I would love it. Next month, the Big Island of Hawaii

**Classified Ads**

Classified Ads		
<b>Classified Ads</b>	<b>Leacroft Youth</b>	
For Personal items only. Free for 3 months. For Leacroft Residents only.	These ads are free for Leacroft residents under 19 years old.	
<b>Lots of room for ads</b>	<b>Babysitting</b>	<b>Lawn Care</b>
	<b>Sarah Moore</b> is available for babysitting or pet sitting. She is Red Cross-certified for babysitting. Sarah can be reached at 980-225-7733.	<b>John Caffrey</b> 704-593-0581 rake leaves, lawn mowing, pet setting
	<b>Jillian Manning</b> is available for babysitting or pet sitting. She is Red Cross-certified for babysitting. She can be reached at 704-510-9296.	<b>Tyler and Carson Moore</b> Fall leaf removal 704-549-1499
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***Leacroft List***

All listings on these pages have been recommended by Leacroft residents that have used the services.  
 Plenty of room for more

Leacroft List		
<b>Air Conditioning / Heating</b>		
Bradham Brothers (704) 392-8056	Quality Comfort HVAC PO Box 1726 Matthews NC 28106 <a href="mailto:Qualityhvac@alltel.net">Qualityhvac@alltel.net</a> 704821-6920	
<b>Appliance Repair</b>		
NC Plumbing (Dishwasher install) 5205 Blackjack Lane Mint Hill, NC 28277 NCPlumbing.com 704-9620460	Expert Appliance Service Indian Trail, NC Expertappliance.com 704-292-8429	Carolina Appliance 704-847-0004 <a href="http://www.carolinaapplianceservice.com">http://www.carolinaapplianceservice.com</a>
<b>Auto Repair</b>		
Pitts Repair Service 704-786-6894		
<b>Carpet and Rug Cleaning</b>		
Lillard's Carpet & Rug Cleaning Charlotte, NC 704-728-2724		
<b>Concrete</b>		
Concrete by George 704-605-3709		

<b>Leacroft List</b>		
<b>Dryer Vents</b>		
Dryer Vent Wizard (David LaValle) Charlotte, NC <a href="mailto:DavidLaValle@gmail.com">DavidLaValle@gmail.com</a> Charlottedryerventlady.com		
<b>Electrician</b>		
Robert Riley (electrician & handyman) Riley Electric Charlotte, NC 704-248-1214		
<b>Gas Piping</b>		
Clark's Gas Piping 6443 Pargo Road Charlotte, NC 28216 704-391-1042		
<b>Glass</b>		
Glass Solutions 10806 Reames Rd., Suite D		
<b>Garage Doors</b>		
Precision Door Service 4000-A Sardis Church Road Monroe, NC 28110 precisiondoor.net 704-347-0300	Elite Garage Door Service 704-293-9558 <a href="http://elitegaragedoor.com">http://elitegaragedoor.com</a>	

<b>Leacroft List</b>		
<b>Handyman</b>		
Johnny Shue Shue's Home Improvements & Restorations Mt. Pleasant, NC 704-791-4046	Robert Riley Riley Electric Charlotte NC 704-248-1214	
<b>Lawn Care</b>		
A&T Lawn Care 704-609-9066 See ad in the Villager	Lawn of Dreams  704-262-9869	
<b>Painting</b>		
Randy Tarleton Painter ,Wallpaper, Power Washer -  704-606-6401		
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Jim Myers Plumbing Charlotte, NC 704-786-9001		
<b>Roofing</b>		
Ace Roofing 704-364-5774		
<b>Tile and Marble</b>		
Murdock Tile & Marble 365 Concord Parkway North Concord, NC 28027 704-793-1587		

<b>Leacroft Contacts</b>			
<b>Home Owners's Association Board</b>			
Paul Greiner, President	4501 Bellmore Ct.	<a href="mailto:pagreiner@gmail.com">pagreiner@gmail.com</a>	704-301-9403
Bob Matthews, Vice President	10517 Worsley Ln.	<a href="mailto:maeh_gran@gmail.com">maeh_gran@gmail.com</a>	(H) 704-503-0887
Open, Treasurer			
Paula Henriksen, Sec.	10218 Billingham Dr.	<a href="mailto:bookworm@carolina.rr.com">bookworm@carolina.rr.com</a>	(H) 704-595-9288
Beth DeGrassi, Member at Large	10310 Suffield Ct.	<a href="mailto:degband@aol.com">degband@aol.com</a>	(H) 704-510-0718 704-534-1149
<b>Events Committee</b>			
Jessica Moore, Chair	10508 Old Bridge Ln.	<a href="mailto:dsjsmoore@earthlink.net">dsjsmoore@earthlink.net</a>	(H) 704-549-1449 (C) 704-607-1818
Ellen Mack, Treasurer	10318 Fairbourne Ct.	<a href="mailto:emmack32123@hotmail.com">emmack32123@hotmail.com</a>	(H) 704-548-9379 (C) 704-516-5386
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Trevia Hunter, Co-Manager	10206 Billingham Dr.	<a href="mailto:treviad@aol.com">treviad@aol.com</a>	(H) 704-953-3070