“Teachers change lives of the curious, the willing and the stubborn. In other words their capabilities are endless and that’s why they are called a blessing.” By Hermann J Steinherr

This quote perfectly describes Barbara Ripps, who was born in Yonkers, New York. She grew up with her father, mother and one sister. Barbara has many fond memories of tobogganing on the Municipal Golf Course with her family. As a teenager she loved bowling with others from the JCC. Barbara has many special memories of the time spent with her mother teaching her Mahjongg, needlepoint and the importance of giving back to your community. They volunteered at the Temple Gates of Heaven’s fundraisers.

In 1985 she married Richard and they had two children, Zachariah,33 is married lives in New Hampshire. Karina, 29 lives in the Boston Sea Port area.

Barbara was an elementary teacher in South Colonie for 37 years. Her BS degree is in Elementary/ Special Ed. Her masters is in Reading Ed./ Literacy. She has been an Arbonne International Consultant for 18 years. Since recently retiring, Barbara has started, “Barbara’s Charcuterie Creations” consisting of innovative Boards, Boxes and Jars for family and friends. Her love of teaching continues as a tutor for children K-3rd. “I love helping people!”

Barbara has many hobbies which keep her very busy. Playing/teaching Mahjongg at the Center has been a blessing. Her patient ways encourages new players to feel comfortable. This is not the only group Barbara plays with, she belongs to 2 other groups. Barbara enjoys taking Tai Chi at the Center and has made many new friends. These friendships have expanded to activities outside of the Center. Barbara enjoys bowling with her fellow Senior Center Member Connie Nagy. Staying active and healthy is an important component of Barbara’s lifestyle, so she takes a 3 mile walk/run at least two times a week. She embraces each day with a positive attitude and makes each day count. Finding time for herself is another key part of her healthy routine. If relaxing ever happens, Barbara has a book in her hand!

Barbara and Richard enjoy traveling and some of their favorite places are Aruba, Las Vegas, Europe, Oahu and West Palm Beach, FL. However, spending time with their children where they each live is by far their favorite.

Barbara has been a wonderful person to get to know and have as an active new member here at the Center. Her patience, smile and warm personality are a real blessing! She is teaching all of us the importance of staying active and caring for others!

VITO’S QUOTE: “It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop.” By Confucius

VITO’S READING CORNER: “Catch 22” By Joseph Heller
Schenectady Art Society Workshops

Look for more information in your email, Date TBA

January
Marjorie Ward - Creative Card Collage.
Marjorie brings years of experience and tons of materials for a day to play, make cards and enjoy being together.
This workshop in scheduled in January gives us time to theme our cards as Valentines, Easter, Birthday or just a card to say Hello.

February
Laurel-Le Lipski - Let’s go Abstract
Laurel-Le, a traditional watercolorist, learned her first abstract techniques from Karen Rosasco, AWS.

In this workshop, she will share one of the methods that Karen has taught in her classes. It will be fun and it will make you think and paint in a new way. (At least for a day)

March
Vince Forte - Use your computer or iPad to make art.
Vince is an award winning oil painter, but just for fun, and to satisfy his natural curiosity, he has learned to make art “on line”. He will show us how to overcome our fear of technology so that we too, can make some art in a new way.

“If you live to be 100, I hope I live to be 100 minus 1 day, so I never have to live without you.”
– Winnie the Pooh

Mahjongg News

Our Mahjongg group is growing by leaps and bonds, thanks to these 2 ladies. Thank you Pam Madej (refer to Spotlight on a Member Fall 2021 issue.) and Barabra Ripps (refer to Spotlight on a Member, front page article in this issue.)

Meet our new Bus Driver-Bob

Welcome our new bus driver Bob Bour. He joins us with years of experience driving buses. Bob has stepped into the position flawlessly.

We offer door to door bus transportation to Niskayuna residents aged 60+ each Tuesday & Thursday between 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, for transportation to the Senior Center for our programs & lunch, or for appointments and shopping within Schenectady County. If you are new to us, please call us at the Center 372-4969 for an appointment. Returning patrons can call 495-6202 to schedule transportation and for pricing.

General Information for all SAS Workshops at the Niskayuna Senior Center-Lower Level, 2682 Aqueduct Road, Niskayuna, NY 12309
The workshops will run 10:30am-2:30pm. Dates are subject to change. Registration is required by calling Luel-Le Lipski at 518-466-6543 or by emailing her at hlandlll@aol.com.
Space is limited; maximum of 14 attendants, first come and first registered. A waiting list will be available.
Bring your own lunch and drinks. Coffee and water are available for a small charge. Refrigerator and microwave are available for use. A lunch break is scheduled into the workshop.
FEEs will cover the cost of the instructor and/or materials, unless otherwise specified. Cash or check on day of program payable to Laurel-Le Lipski
All Covid-19 Protocols Followed, all entering the Niskayuna Senior Center are required to submit to a temperature check and self-attestation upon entry. All visitors must wear a mask, vaccinated or un-vaccinated. Vaccination proof is recommended but not required.
Book Club and Library News

The Book Club meets the first Thursday of each month, lower level in our Library.

December-"Comfort and Joy" by Kristen Hannah
January-"Yellow Wife" by Sadeqa Johnson

A very special Thank You to Barbara Allen for organizing our books and to Charlie Bergami and Ron Lupi for the new book shelf.

Picture Gallery - Bocce, Halloween, Entertainment, Day Trips
Transportation is available for Niskayuna Seniors age 60+. Please call 495-6202 by noon the day before ($5 per day).

Gershon’s Lunches - $5.00 per meal. Pre-ordering is REQUIRED. Call 518-372-4969 by 12noon Monday of that week’s offerings. Eat-in or Drive-thru. Menu’s Available Upon Request.

Niskayuna Senior Center
2682 Aqueduct Rd.
Niskayuna, New York 12309
518-372-4969
Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am - 3pm

Thank you!
For your continued support