

January 2017

Volume 70 Number 1





Blowing Smoke

By Bob Williams, President

Happy New Years folks!!! I hope you all had a safe and happy holiday season with family and friends. After a few weeks of what I call brutally cold temperatures in early and middle December, the weather has warmed up a bit, to where temperatures range from the high 30's to the low 50's. Be sure to check their food stores when the weather allows, because your bees will consume about 25 pounds of food this month. You can feed the bees with fondant, sugar bags, candy boards, or some use two parts sugar to one part water (2:1 syrup) with good success. Even if it looks like the food stores are just fine, I would recommend that you put in some of these emergency food stores as insurance, because you never know when you will be able to check them again. Remember, that after any snow, you will need to make sure their entrance is cleared to allow for ventilation and so that your bees can take cleansing flights.

We had a great turnout at the December meeting. The Association provided the meats and bread for sandwiches, vegetables and chips, along with drinks. Members provided a large variety of delicious deserts and fellowship. We also handed out awards: Beekeepers of the Year, goes to Wes and Wanda Johnston, Lifetime Membership Award goes to Dean Sanders, Outstanding Service Awards were given to board members who were stepping down from their positions as a recognition and a Thank you for their service; Tom Britz- 1st VP Program Chair, Wanda Johnston- 2nd VP Membership, Cathy Misko- Youth Scholarship Chair, Rick Messenger- Hospitality and Debbie DeCaigney-Honey Plants. We also awarded an Outstanding Service Award to Kyle Day for his ongoing contributions to the newsletter. Some of these members were not on hand to receive their awards at the December meeting, but we hope to present them at the January meeting. Congratulations to all!!

January is also a good time to pay your Midwestern Beekeepers Association membership dues and possibly subscribe to "The American Bee Journal" or "Bee Culture" magazines. The American Bee Journal subscription form is on our website, http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org under the upcoming events tab. It allows you to receive the magazine at a reduced cost because you belong to a beekeeping association. Be sure to order your equipment for the coming season, it will give you plenty of time to build and paint. It is a great time to catch up on reading books that you were too busy to read during the holidays. We have a vast library available to members, and you can check the list on our website, then email John Martin your choices, and he will bring them to the next meeting. You could also sign up for our 22nd Annual Beginning Beekeeping Workshop to be held on Saturday, February 25th, at the Burr Oak Woods Nature Center in Blue Spring, MO. Registration form is on our website and in this newsletter. At the January meeting we will have presentations from scholarship students and general discussion. Come join us, it'll be fun!!!

COMING UP

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY
JANUARY 15, 2017

Bass Pro Shop
Independence MO
2:00 PM
Q&A Session for
Beginning Beekeepers
2:30 PM
General Meeting



In case of inclement weather on the day of a meeting, please check our website, Facebook, or call an officer.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2017

https://mostatebeekeepers.org/ product/individual-membership/





www.midwesternbeekeepers.org



Midwestern Beekeeper's
Association
Midwestern Beekeepers
Association
Members Closed Group





January General Meeting

Sunday, January 15, 2017 Bass Pro Shop at Independence MO

Q & A Session for Beginners 2:00 PM General Meeting 2:30 PM

Youth Scholarship Presentations
Shelby Copeland and Amelia Schneider

Certificate of Ownership Awards Shelby Copeland and Seth McGraw Cathy Misko, 2016 Scholarship Chair



In case of inclement weather on the day of a meeting, please check our website, Facebook, or call an officer.



Community America Credit Union Transactions for the Month of November 2016	
Bank Balance as of October 31, 2016	\$ 14,953.25
Total Receipts Deposited	146.00
Total Expenses Paid (-\$ 333.43 Pending)	-2,254.04
Interest on Savings & Checking Account	.56
Bank Balance as of November 30, 2016	\$ 12,845.77

A complete report is available under the member's area on the website.



PAYPAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2017

www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/2016/07/join/

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BEEKEEPING VENDORS

The vendors listed below have agreed to be available at the Beginning Beekeeping Workshop, Saturday, February 25, 2017, at Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center, in Blue Springs MO from 8 AM to 5 PM.

If you would like to pre-order supplies, they will have it for you to pick up. You may also shop during the workshop.

Crooked Hill Beekeeping, LLC. Jordy's Honey

Other local vendors are listed on Page 10 of this newsletter.



Welcome New Member

Phillip Duncan Harrisonville, MO

Mary Budenholzer Kansas City, MO



Midwestern Beekeepers Association just received notice that member, Robert D. "Bob" Robey, of Adrian, MO died May 7, 2016.

Burial was in the Crescent Hill Cemetery, Adrian. His obituary stated, "Bob enjoyed gardening and beekeeping, often sharing the results with friends and family. Midwestern extends condolences to Bob's family.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Basic Beekeeping

By Kyle Day

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Many thanks to these members who have agreed to take the following positions:

Terry Wright
Second Vice President/
Membership Chair
Luanne Oneal
Honey Plants Chair

We are still needing persons to take First Vice President/Programs Chair and Hospitality Chair.

We need the following volunteers at the Beginning Beekeeping Workshop on February 25, 2017:

- People who would be responsible for setting up and maintaining snacks and drinks.
- People who would serve at a table to demonstrate woodenware assembly.
- People who would serve as host and be available to answer questions about the workshop and general beekeeping.

If you are interested, please contact Bob Williams at 816-331-6634.





https://mostatebeekeepers.org/ product/individual-membership/

January brings a new year to the bee yard. It's time to get thinking about the pending honey season. Have you located your bee supplier for this spring and ordered your bee needs with them this month?. It's not a game breaker if you miss this opportunity now, but the sooner the better and start building woodenware. Do not put wax foundation in your new equipment yet, wait till just before you put bees and that equipment together. Bring your questions to the bee meetings, if you need help determining what you need. If you like the idea of having a mentor, now is a good time to look for one. We have mentors in the club. The club also has a basic beekeeping class in February which will help you fill in on what beekeeping knowledge you lack so sign up now. The next best thing to local experience, is the internet and YouTube. Just be careful and know where the beekeeper is located. There are many methods that work in various areas of the country but do not work well here or they just aren't necessary. You will still need some local context to interpret these videos and suggestions. November and December in Missouri, really on average, provide ideal temperatures for bee cluster overwintering. 30's to 40's are just the perfect temps for the European honeybee to overwinter. They respond to these temps ideally, using their stores the most efficiently. January and February in Missouri are much tougher weather wise for our bees. January usually is the month the queen will start brood rearing again. Having larva to protect, the brood nest is no longer as mobile and the combination of colder weather, longer cold snaps, and larva that can't be moved, mean the nest must be able to cover enough food to support the cluster through that weather. A general number used regularly suggest about 25 pounds of honey will be consumed this month, give or take. Brood rearing will exponentially increase the hive caloric needs as spring approaches. This is why beekeepers will experience most of their winter loss in late winter. If the cluster has not arrived at the top of the hive you are still good for food stores but keep your eye on this. If they arrive at the top, you need to feed either fondant or dry/moist cane sugar. Your inspections will still be just checking for life, and relative location. Do not break the propolis seals between boxes. If we have a warm sunny day you may get to see some flights. You may witness yellow streaks (bee poo/ dysentery) sprayed across the front of your hives and the immediate area. A lot of this streaking could mean a sick weakened colony. Not much you can do at this point in cold weather but by locating these hives and with some timely warm weather in the future, you may pull through. Some streaking is normal. I would open a suspected sick hive and look for evidence of dysentery on the top bars of the top box for more information. If the hive is sick, you will probably smell the problem even before you see additional proof.

Dear Midwest Beekeeping Community,

My name is Josh Terhune and I am a high school science teacher at Fort Osage in Independence, MO. I attended the beginning beekeeping workshop last spring and have been working toward starting my own hives since then. My goal is to start a beekeeping club here at school and I need your help, support, and encouragement!

I first became interested in beekeeping about five years ago when I graduated with my masters in education for secondary biology. I had decided I wanted to become a teacher after doing several other jobs and not becoming a conservation agent which was my original goal when I got my undergraduate from Mizzou. Upon my graduation, my uncle gave me a beekeeping book that was my grandfather's when he attended Mizzou from 1911 - 1914! His The Bee-Keepers Guide: Manual to the Apiary is over 100 years old and still relevant with a lot of its information. That began the spark that has had me interested in raising bees since I started here at Fort Osage.

I started last year in earnest trying to have my own bees here at school and I meant some resistance. The fear of the bees stinging a student or some other bee related malady has made the administration against establishing a colony here at school. I presented my information and showed examples of some other schools that have colonies and way to prevent negative interactions but to no avail. The consolation was the school paid for me to attend the beginning beekeeper workshop. I think they were tired of me bugging them about bees! (Pun intended....)

I attended the workshop and it gave me awesome knowledge and the chance to do some networking. Everyone I talked to was supportive of what I was trying to do and very helpful. I got Mr. O'Bryan's information and set up a time later in the spring to go out with him while he worked his bees to get some hands on experience. I also helped him harvest some honey which was fun and delicious! I have been working ever since on what we need to start beekeeping at my school.

This brings me to the point of this information. I am finalizing a location for us to have bees across from the school so it is not on the property and establishing a beekeeping club to learn about them and maintain the hives. I will also potentially do a demo hive to bring into school for when we talk about bees in my environmental science classes. My plan is to start this spring and we have raised some funds but we are looking for any help we can get. Do you have some old equipment, suits, hives, you don't use anymore? Donate to us and get a tax writeoff! Have a connection to get reduced costs items, help us out! Have some money burning a hole in your pocket? We will gladly take donations and can give you a receipt. I have several students that have expressed interest, I just need some help in getting us going because most of my students are low income and don't have alot of extra money to spend on equipment for them. Thank you for taking your time to reading this and please contact me at iterhune@fortosage.net or 816-261-4684 with questions, comments or of course, donations!





Dr. Leo Shirashkin presents a program for independent-minded beekeepers seeking ways to keep bees without treating them with chemicals, disrupting their homes, and otherwise intruding on their lives. Whether you are a beginner curious about bees or an experienced beekeeper looking for natural alternatives that work, this class is for you.

- Keys to Natural Beekeeping: Starting with Local Bees
- Choosing an Ideal Hive: Your Options & Horizontal Hive Advantages.
- Managing Your Apiary: What to Do and NOT to Do.
- Not by Clover Alone: Native Honey Plants for Bees.

To register, http://www.greatplainsgrowersconference.
org/





Missouri State Beekeepers Association Spring 2017 Learning Session

A Day with Dr. Jay Evans

the Research Leader of the Bee Research Laboratory (BRL) in the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, MD

Saturday, March 4, 2017

8:00 am Registration 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Discussions and hands-on demonstrations

Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center 2601 S Providence Rd, Columbia, MO 65203 573-442-6400

http://www.stoneycreekhotels.com/hotel/travel/columbia/home.do



Dr. Evans was an early proponent of the Honey Bee Genome Project and helped recruit and lead scientists interested in applied genomics for bees. He has received the James Hambleton Bee Research Award from the Eastern Apicultural Society (2011), the BA Early Career Scientist Award (2002), and is on the Council of Fellows for the International Bee Research Association. Dr. Evans holds an AB in Biology

from Princeton University and a PhD in Biology from the University of Utah. He has served as Acting Research Leader for the BRL since October, 2014.

Dr. Evans joined ARS as a Research Entomologist in 1998. During the ensuing years, his research focused on threats to honey bee health, from bacteria to mites, and on the ways bees and beekeepers can reduce these threats. He published 120 research papers from his work.

Registration for this event: December 1, 2016 to February 15th, 2016 Limited space available.

Visit www.MoStateBeekeepers.org or more information.



COALITION BUZZ



The 2017 Queen is Yellow

The Honey Bee Health Coalition released a series of videos December 1st to help beekeepers promote colony health and combat costly and destructive Varroa mite (*Varroa destructor*) infestations. The videos can be found on the Coalition website

at honeybeehealthcoalition.org/Varroa and provide detailed step-bystep instructions on how to monitor hives for Varroa and safely treat when levels get too high. The videos complement the Coalition's wildly popular Tools for Varroa Management Guide.

"The Honey Bee Health Coalition's Tools for Varroa Management Guide has provided beekeepers in the US and Canada with invaluable tools and techniques to confront destructive Varroa mite infestations," said Mark Dykes, Apiary Inspectors of America. "These videos will show beekeeper real world application techniques that will help them correctly apply treatments."



The videos provide helpful visual aids and step-by-step directions on how beekeepers can monitor and control Varroa mites through an Integrated Pest Management strategy. The videos cover a range of strategies and tools, including the uses of formic acid, essential oils, and other synthetic miti-

cides. "Healthy bees support our world's food supply and farmers everywhere. A single untreated colony can transmit Varroa mites to other nearby hives and threaten honey bee health across large geographic regions," said Danielle Downey, Project Apis m. "Beekeeping is becoming very popular, and often keeping the bees healthy is a mysterious learning curve. These important 'how to' videos bring the Coalition's Tools for Varroa Management Guide to life — and will amplify its impact in the United States, Canada, and around the globe."

The Coalition's Tools for Varroa Management has given beekeepers the tools they need to measure Varroa mite infestations in their hives and select appropriate control methods. The guide, which has been downloaded more than 5,500 times since its release, is now in it's 4th Edition and will be continually refined

The spot you have seen on a queen's thorax is a code. With a quick glance, you can tell how old she is because the color of the spot represents the year of the queen's birth.

The International Color Code is pictured below: Since queens normally live only a year or two, the color code repeats every five years.

Color	For Year Ending
White	1 or 6
Yellow	2 or 7
Red	3 or 8
Green	4 or 9
Blue	5 or 0

It takes time and practice to find an unmarked queen, so marking your queens makes the job easier.

A marked queen helps you when you are splitting hives, breeding bees, and alerts you if your queen has left with a swarm.

Many experienced beekeepers mark a queen by holding onto her legs with one hand and quickly dabbing the paint with the other hand. It looks easy and takes only a moment. However, many are not able to master this skill and there are many aids available in helping you catch your queen so you can mark her.. Whatever method you choose, may you be successful!

2016 Annual Awards





Beekeepers of the Year Wes & Wanda Johnston

Wes and Wanda have made outstanding contributions to the Midwestern Beekeepers community. Wes serves as the Treasurer and Wanda served as the 2nd Vice President/Membership Chair. They indexed the library titles that we own, and it is now on the website. They organized the Fall Bee Festival held in November. They have made numerous visits to member's hive for an inspection. They both hold offices with the Missouri State Beekeepers Association.



Lifetime Service Award Dean Sanders

Dean has been a member of Midwestern Beekeepers for over 20 years and has served in many capacities during his tenure. Currently, he is the 3rd Director on the Executive Board. He also serves as the Missouri State Liaison for the Missouri State Beekeepers Association and coordinates the volunteers for the booth at the Missouri State Fair.

Outstanding Service Awards



Tom Britz 1st Vice President Program Chair



Rick Messenger Hospitality Chair



Kyle Day Contributing Monthly Writer to Basic Beekeeping in The Beeline.



Wanda Johnston 2nd Vice President Membership Chair



Debbie DeCaigney Honey Plants Chair



Cathy Misko Youth Scholarship Chair



Midwestern Beekeepers Association 22nd Annual Beginning Beekeeping Workshop February 25, 2017

Ezekiel Amador, MC

8:00-9:00 AM: Registration: Visit vendor tables, complimentary catalog tables, and woodenware assembly table.

9:00 -11:30 AM: Morning Session

Honey Bee Biology, *Tom Britz:* Successful beekeeping requires a good foundation and understanding of honey bee anatomy, the life cycle, how bees make wax, and the different duties the bees perform in the hive.

Equipment Basics, *Steve & Debbie DeCaigney:* Learn proper equipment terminology, beekeeping tools, protective clothing, and standard woodenware.

Smoking and Getting into the Hive, *Seth McGraw:* how to fire up the famous smoker, properly approach a hive and open it up for an inspection.

Ways to Acquire Bees, Installing a Package of Bees and Package Bees Management, Stuart & Nita Dietz: The various ways to obtain bees and addressing swarm instincts, Step-by-step instructions covering how to install a package of bees and how to successfully care for a newly housed hive of bees including how to feed them and when to put on the next hive body (rule of 7).

11:30 AM -1:00 PM: Lunch Break, Lunch on your own. Visit vendor tables, complimentary catalog tables, and Woodenware assembly table.

1:00 -5:00 PM: Afternoon Session

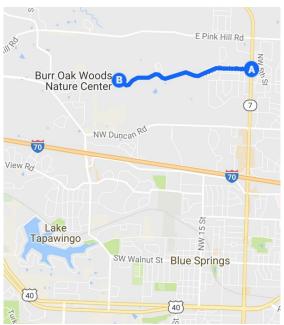
Seasonal Colony Management, *Bruce Bird:* Package Bee Management including when to put on supers, late Summer care, including removing excess honey from the hives, and Fall Management (evaluating hives assuring adequate bee population, food reserves, and winter preparations)

Bee Disease & Pests and Integrated Pest Management, Wes Johnston: How to manage Small Hive Beetles and Varroa Mites and a brief introduction to other major diseases and pests.

Location: Urban and Rural Bee Hives & Honey Plants, Connnie Unzicker and Diane Wilson will present best practices of basic bee hive location principals and address urban and rural settings and which honey plants to look for forage.

Extracting Honey, *Cindy and Jim Connell:* How to remove honey from hives, uncap honey and extract, and how to bottle.

Educational Resources-Books Videos, and Magazines, *Kyle Day* Midwestern's intensive library will be introduced along with MBA's excellent educational monthly meetings and The Bee Line. Other opportunities include: Mo State Beekeeper's Assn., Kansas Honey Producers, and Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers who organized Fun Day each June. Join us on Facebook and twitter.



Midwestern Beekeepers Association Members will be on hand throughout the day to answer your questions.



Burr Oak Woods Nature Center



22nd Beginning Beekeeping Workshop Registration Form Saturday, February 25, 2017

Registration: 8:00-9:00 AM

Workshop: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

11:30 AM-1:00 PM Lunch on your own, snacks provided Burr Oak Woods Nature Center 1401 NW Park Rd, Blue Springs, MO 64015

(Print)			
Name:			
Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	
Phone:			
Email:			
Pre-Registration required—Workshop Registration Fee:	rkshop limited to 60 indi lled or by February 18, 2	<i>017</i> \$35 ea	
Make checks payable to: Midwestern Beek	eepers Association	n	

Mail registration form and fees to:

Cindy Connell 365 SW 1081 Holden MO 64040 (816) 517-4357 goldwingers2004@yahoo.com

Beekeeping Suppliers will be on site to order bees and supplies

Crooked Hill Beekeeping, LLC.

Bill and Tammy George 19133 LIV 355 Chillicothe, MO 64601 (660)214-0132

www.chbeekeeping.com

Open by appointment most days. Store is located on our farm; early, late and weekend hours are available.

Packaged bees and NUCs available in the spring. Locally manufactured high quality woodenware in stock.

We offer a complete line of beekeeping supplies and equipment. Including: Woodenware (assembly and painting available), frames, foundation, smokers, tools, bee suits, Bug Bafflers, veils, books, feed supplements, honey containers, extracting equipment, NUC boxes, materials to build your own hives.



Jim Fisher 816-918-6648

Do you need your honey supers extracted? Contact Jim for custom extracting.



Moonstruck Meadery

Meadery
"World Class Cider & Meads"
Brian Schlueter
President

brian@moonstruckmead.com 1006 W. 24 Ave, Bellevue, NE 68005 Tel: 402.871.5858 Fax: 402.779.8445 www.moonstruckmead.com

Heartland Honey and Beekeeping Supplies

Joli Winer and Cecil Sweeney 19201 S. Clare Rd Spring Hill, KS 66083 (913) 856-8356

joli@heartlandhoney.com

Monday through Friday (closed Wednesday) from 10:30 am to 5:30 pm and by appointment.

We appreciate when you call your orders in ahead.

We carry a complete line of beekeeping supplies including woodenware, smokers, extractors, books, queens, package bees and containers. We will trade wax for supplies.



Fisher's Bee Supplies

Ed Fisher 4005 N.E. 132nd Street Smithville, MO 64089 816-532-4698

Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm Saturdays after 8:30 am Call in advance to make sure we are here. We carry a complete line of beekeeping supplies. See us for your woodenware, smokers, containers, foundation, extractors, beekeeping books, queens and package bees. We also have extractors for rent. We will trade your wax for supplies.

Jordy's Honey

Robert Hughes 12333 Wedd Street Overland Park, KS 66213 913-681-5777

www.beekeepers.com

Monday through Friday 8 am to 6pm Weekends by appointment.

Please call in advance so we can have your supplies ready when you arrive. We carry a full line of beekeeping supplies. Bee hives, supers, frames, foundation, honey containers, smokers, beekeeping books, queens, packaged bees and much more.



Bee Culture

The Magazine of American Beekeeping

www.beeculture.com (800) 289-7669

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Return white copy to: American Bee Journal, 51 : Retain yellow copy for your	ces good through Dec. 31, 2017 S. 2nd St., Hamilton, IL 62341	Association U.S. ☐ 1 Yr. \$23.80 ☐ 2 Yr. \$45.00 ☐ 3 Yr. \$63.75	5 🗌 2 Yr. \$79.00 🔲 2 Y	Foreign r. \$48.00
Subscriber's Name	As	ssociation	Midwestern Beekeepers As	sociation
Address	Se	ecretary's Name	Wesley Johnston, Treasure	r
Address	· Ac	ddress	401 NW Heady Avenue	
City, State, Zip	A	ddress		
Phone	Ci	ity, State, Zip	Ferrelview, MO 64163	
Email	PI	none	(816) 392-4960	



2017 MIDWESTERN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE CHECK ONE: _____RENEWAL ____ NEW MEMBERSHIP

www.midwesternbeekeepers.org

MEMBER'S NAME:			
ADDRESS:			
CITY:			
TELEPHONE NUMBER:			
EMAIL ADDRESS:			
Please consider receiving your Bee			
WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIV	E THE BEELINE BY:	EMAIL	MAIL
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP:	\$15		
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP:	\$18		
YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP DONA	ΓΙΟΝ:	_	
TOTAL:		_	
Do you have special skills or i	nterests to offer the a	association?	
Make checks payable to:	Midwestern B	eekeepers Associa	ation
Mail to:	Terry Wright		
	9203 South Litchfo	ord, Grain Valley MO 64	1029
Questions:	Contact Pres. Bob	Williams @ thebeltonbe	ee@gmail.com

Note: To Join the State Association (Missouri State Beekeepers Association, MoStateBeekeepers.org), Membership Fees can be paid by Pay Pal or mailed directly to: Missouri State Beekeepers Association, c/o Wanda Johnston, 401 NW Heady Avenue, Ferrelview, MO 64163

*Beeline is the our monthly newsletter



Terry Wright 9203 South Litchford Grain Valley MO 64029 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. POSTAGE PAID Warrensburg, MO 64093 Permit No. 16

General Meeting

Sunday, January 15th, 2017
Bass Pro Shop
Independence MO
2:00 PM
Q&A Session for
Beginning Beekeepers
2:30 PM
General Meeting

Midwestern Beekeepers Association 2017 Calendar		
February 19, 2017	General Meeting at Bass Pro, 2:30 pm	
March 19, 2017	General Meeting at Bass Pro, 2:30 pm	
April 23, 2017	General Meeting at Bass Pro, 2:30 pm	
May 21, 2017	General Meeting at Bass Pro, 2:30 pm	
June 18, 2017	General Meeting at Bass Pro, 2:30 pm	
July 16, 2017	General Meeting at Bass Pro, 2:30 pm	
August, 2017	Picnic, TBD	
September 17, 2017	General Meeting at Bass Pro, 2:30 pm	
October 15, 2017	General Meeting at Bass Pro, 2:30 pm	
November 19, 2017	General Meeting at Bass Pro, 2:30 pm	
December, 2017	Christmas Social, TBD	