



Think Spring!
Think Spring!

APRIL 2013 NEWSLETTER

President's Letter

Dear Islanders and Friends of Russell Island,

I saw a robin yesterday and must admit the cold, little BIRD looked somewhat puzzled. Most Michiganders have also been looking for the first sign of Spring; some since last November! Haven't we all taken a second look? So...officially Spring is here, and now starts the days of **wondering**. Is the ice gone? Is the water still low? Did the pipes freeze? Will the golf cart still run? Did we get any visitors over the winter? Did I pay the taxes? Who said owning a cottage was fun? I must admit it is fun and we are all lucky to have these things to worry about!

If you have been **wondering** what has been happening during the winter with the Russell Island Foundation; here is some information on what your Board is planning for 2013. Some of the things have become an annual event, and others will be new this year. It is a great relief that we always have the support of the membership and friends to make these events memories. So get out your calendars and take note...

The Memorial Day Ceremony, is Sunday, May 26, 2013 at 10:30 am. This is a day when we honor and grieve with our Russell Island family, a time when you laugh and cry in the same minute. Hope to see everyone at the Ferry Landing and REMEMBER the Foundation provides coffee and donuts!

Kathy Englehart has formed a Committee to put together another ***RIF Auction at the Hall's "Belmont Stakes" Horse Race Party on Saturday, June 8th.*** Last year was especially exciting for RIF when some Spartans and Wolverines got in a bidding war over just who was going to "raise *their* flag" at the Ferry Landing. It was fun for all! Many thanks to the Hall's for allowing RIF to encroach on their wonderful party! Kathy and team will be looking for your generous donations to this great fundraiser for our Foundation. Speaking of fundraisers, the Russell Island Cook Book has been a huge success. Hopefully all who have purchased a cookbook have been enjoying the "Island Delights" all winter long! For those who have not yet purchased one yet, or need additional copies for your fiends and family - please contact Diane Stock. To date the cookbook has made a profit of over \$2,700! WOW! Thanks to Diane and all who participated to make this project a success!

Another exciting project that Margaret Hall is working on will be an event at the Algonac Historical Museum. She is lining up guest speakers to talk about "Camp Algonac" which was once located on Russell Island; and speed boats from the Chris Craft Factory. Details will be forth coming.

Here is the update on the "Gathering Bench". Jeremy Schroeder and the Monument Committee (plus Mike Conlen) have reviewed all the research on the current project. The design as presented at the RIF annual meeting is not going to be practical to build for two reasons: 1) it would be too expensive; and 2) there are too many unknowns; i.e. how it would stand up to the elements and what the maintenance cost would be in the future. The Committee is starting to look at a streamlined plan targeted for the same location (around the flag pole) which we will still call the "Gathering Bench". The bottom line is that they are not exactly "going back to the drawing board", but will be pulling out an eraser and making some changes. It was a good decision by the Committee. We will keep the membership informed as things progress. I have no doubt that they will make us proud!

Through the Kroger Community Rewards Program, RIF has received almost \$2,000 this past year. Special thanks to all who participated. Remember you have to re-register in May for your points to count for this year.

As I finish the note I swear that the grass is getting greener. I just **wonder** if the ice is melting. I just **wonder** if?

Think spring!

Joe Moosekian

Russell Island Foundation President

Annual Foundation Memorial Ceremony: Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend

Now in its thirteenth year, it has become an Island tradition! The Russell Island Foundation will be hosting its Annual Memorial Ceremony. The *Memorial Day Ceremony will be held on Sunday, May 26th at 10:30 am at the Ferry Landing.* Please join us for coffee, juice, donuts and camaraderie as 7 new names are added to the plaque and we remember those from years past. Come prepared to offer a memory of anyone who is listed on the plaque, recent or not. If there is anyone you would like to honor through a Memorial Contribution, please contact Kathy Engelhart at 248-644-0959.

Russell Island Foundation Auction

"Hold your horses!!!" It's time for the Russell Island Foundation Auction again! As always the Halls have graciously allowed the RIF to hold the event at their fabulous Belmont Stakes party on June 8th! Mark your calendars, head to the bank, and get ready for some fun!!

In order to make this event a success we need your help! The Auction Committee has collected some great items but needs more. We are looking for unique items for both the Silent and Chinese Auctions. Some ideas for donations include: furniture, knick-knacks, beauty items, toys, games, beach items, gift certificates, outdoor gear, liquor, themed baskets, and even things like services or experiences that you could offer! Remember your unwanted items could be treasure to a fellow Islander!

If you have any questions or want to donate or volunteer; please contact Starr Hickey, Margaret Mutch, or Kathy Engelhart. Thanks for your continued generosity and support!!!



Sign up for the Kroger Community Rewards Card and help generate funds

The Russell Island Foundation invites and encourages all Islanders along with *their family and friends* to sign up for the **Kroger Community Rewards Program**. It is one of the easiest ways to help generate funds for the Russell Island Foundation and it doesn't cost you a thing! Every time you shop at any Kroger store a percentage of what you have spent will be automatically sent to the Russell Island Foundation on a quarterly basis. That's it! What could be easier? But, you individually need to register online in order to participate and you will also need to have a Kroger Plus Card which can be easily obtained at the Service Desk of any Kroger store if you don't already have one. Kroger gas and gift card purchases are also included toward the rewards.

The process of registering for the Community Rewards Card only takes a couple of minutes and most everyone will be able to do it themselves by logging on to www.kroger.com and clicking on the "**Welcome sign in/register**" button. If you don't have an Account, click "**Sign up today!**" and follow the directions on the Kroger website. Fill in your contact information and your Kroger plus Card information making sure that they are correct. Look for the Community Rewards Information and then Find Your Organization enter **Russell Island Foundation** in the box and click "**Search**". Simply select the radio button next to Russell Island Foundation and click "**Save Changes**". *REMEMBER anyone who has been registered needs to re-register by May 1st to be included in the 2013 Community Rewards Program.*



Get The RIF Newsletter by way of an email

This one is really simple! Please send your email address to RussellsIslandFoundation@gmail.com by doing so; you will help keep the costs of printing and mailing to a minimum. It would be wonderful to get more people on board to receive communications from the RIF in this manner. It just plain makes sense/cents!

Your Russell Island Foundation Board

Table with 3 columns: Name, Position, Email. Rows include Joe Moosekian (President), Jeremy Schroeder (Vice President), Beverly Lesia (Secretary), Mark Warner (Treasurer), Barbara Bierbusse (Trustee), Kathy Engelhart (Trustee), Greg Tignanelli (Trustee), Karen Ridgeway (Trustee), Margaret Hall (Trustee), and Dan Stock (RIPOA President).

RIF Membership Dues

Remember, annual dues of \$100.00 are tax deductible and qualify you to be a member of the Foundation and enable you to vote on all issues at the annual meeting held on Labor Day weekend. If you haven't done so yet, now is the time to join or update your membership for the year. Please mail a \$100 dues contribution check made payable to the Russell Island Foundation and return it to: Kathy Engelhart, 1011 Satterlee, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

Russell Island Foundation

My gift is: [] A Contribution [] Dues \$100
[] In Memory of: [] In Honor of: _____

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP _____