



The Highland Lakes Newsette

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“All the News That Fits We Print”



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The Natural World of Inspiration

NICOLE MARCH, COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE



PHOTO COURTESY OF NICOLE MARCH

Winter is fast approaching and the idea of staying home once again with dropping temperatures and inclement weather coming, is not at the top of anyone’s “recreation” list, especially since the majority of 2020 had us in this exact situation.

Take comfort in knowing that slowing down to take a look at what’s around you is not a bad thing. Since life on the mountain has no shortage of wildlife year round, you may be surprised at what you’ll find.

If you’ve ever stepped foot outside on a winter morning when that thermometer hits 40° you know exactly what I mean. When the wind dies down and the sun comes out, it’s a whole different world out there. Winter birds make their debut on snow covered landscape and the ground animals move into the sunshine to stretch their legs. Those of us who are late sleepers know what it feels like to slowly be awakened by a variety of vocals from any one of the many black-capped chickadees, sparrows, house finches, tufted titmice, downy woodpeckers, northern cardinals, and goldfinches that are milling about.

Maybe that same sunny day you took your time getting the mail, walking your dog, or just standing on your front porch and noticed different scenes catching your eye. A small sprig of red berries in an otherwise monotone background, a group of birds bobbing up and down in

a section of the lake that hasn’t frozen solid yet, broken cattails on the shoreline and many other simple displays of nature that are easily overlooked when we are in a hurry, become apparent. At some point you may have wondered, “Why are all the ducks on the water facing one direction? What made these tracks in the snow? Where do chickadees make a nest?”

More than likely, when you arrive back home these observations are forgotten. So often, those brief moments of silence and solace as your mind wanders in nature, just as it did when you were young, are replaced with work, bills and stress. But what if they weren’t lost? What if you started to keep track of those questions and observations throughout the year with sketches and notes?

Creating a field sketchbook or art journal will do just that. A small blank sketchbook and writing instrument are all you need to get started, and can be tucked away in a jacket pocket for easy access to recording your observations next time you are on a walk. Colored pencils and watercolors can be used as well to brighten up your observations. Grab a leaf that you find interesting, tape it to a page and try to recreate it. Draw the same bird foraging in the grass in five different positions as it hops about and don’t forget to record any questions that pop into your mind as you work.

Don’t have much time? Take a photo or sample back home and work on it when the time feels right. No matter how you do it, recording these observations while you are out will not only give you a new creative outlet. These practices can be used as a tool to remind you to take a minute to slow down and appreciate the beauty of nature that has been around you all this time.

Santa and His Friends Return to Highland Lakes on a Fire Truck

HIGHLAND LAKES VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Saturday, December 19, 2020



Children – get your warm coats and gloves ready (and boots if it snows) to greet Santa and his friends on Saturday, December 19. Starting at 10:30 am, Santa will be riding through your neighborhood

waving to the girls and boys of Highland Lakes. Santa and the volunteers of the Highland Lakes Volunteer Fire Department knew they wanted to wish all children a Merry Christmas while not getting too close, as they don’t want to spread the colds they have had, so Santa and his friends will be wearing masks. We ask that all children and parents wear their masks also.

At a remote meeting with Santa at the North Pole,

Santa and his friends decided that Santa would ride the fire truck and wave to everyone while keeping his distance from children, and that means your parents will be able to take a picture of you standing by the fire truck but Santa will not be getting out of the truck. Santa’s friends will be distributing candy canes but also will be staying away from the children.

The volunteers of the Highland Lakes Volunteer Fire Department are proud to be able to continue this Christmas season tradition of more than fifty years! Listen for the sirens and horns from the fire truck letting you know that Santa is in your neighborhood. There are so many children to visit, and Santa can’t wait to wave hello to everyone. Merry Christmas.



From the President’s Desk

MICHAEL GELFAND, PRESIDENT

I became a full-time Highland Laker nearly 15 years ago when my twin sons were about six months old. As you’d imagine, moving here from Manhattan with two infants was quite a challenge, but we did it because we felt it was the logical next step for our family. What we gave up to leave the city was made up for in the wide open sky, the rolling mountains, the stunning lakes, the surrounding forests, and the welcoming community. It was and remains a perfect place for kids and adults alike to grow up.

Whether we were chasing our children along the water’s edge over at Beach 1, pushing our double stroller around the main lake, or struggling to navigate through the supermarket aisles, well meaning people would always come up to us with words of encouragement. They saw the looks on our faces, and wanted to strengthen us to confront the obvious parenting challenges in the moment as well as those that were around the corner.

Of all the comments that people offered, one kept coming up over and over again, and it has stuck with me. “The days are long, but the years go quickly,” people would say. At the time, barely awake and depleted from early morning feedings and night terror monitoring, I’d nod in their general direction and hope they’d keep moving. It wasn’t that I wanted to be rude—it was more an acknowledgement that sound had indeed come out of their mouths, and I had heard it, and that was the best I could offer in return.

Frankly, at that time, the days often felt as if they couldn’t go by quickly enough. I knew I’d eventually miss them, but I was focused on the future—a more restful one—and what great promise it hopefully held for my kids. Today I find myself stuck between trying to hold back time and wanting to jump ahead past the present. I look at my children and wonder how these little boys who once clung desperately to my legs crying with sheer horror at the thought of being left behind on the first day of pre-school will soon be learning to drive a car. How did that happen? How is that going to happen?

This feels particularly poignant during this notably crappy year when I’d do anything to get off of this monotonous treadmill. While the pandemic continues to rage, we’re left remembering carefree days of the past, and day-dreaming into the not-too-distant future when we’ll once again be able to give people hugs, shake their hands, and enjoy being pressed into suffocating crowds of strangers breathing on us.

It’s been a relentless slog, full of long days followed by longer nights, each one seeming to last a year in and of itself. And yet somehow it has actually sped by. We’ve endured and agonized through social unrest, political upheaval, economic woes and an ongoing pandemic, but here we are, two days from Thanksgiving at the time I’m writing this, and we’re still grinding ahead, pushing on through change

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Club Office and Clubhouse Closes in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

JACK MCLAUGHLIN, GENERAL MANAGER AND MICHAEL GELFAND, PRESIDENT

New Jersey reported over 4,000 Covid-19 positive test results on November 16, 2020. Compare that number – 4,000 – to July’s numbers of less than 400 per day. This pandemic is surging and extraordinary measures are needed. These are figures from November 15:

- 2,115 total hospitalizations
- 417 in critical or intensive care
- 137 ventilators in use

Governor Murphy’s Executive Order issued November 16, 2020, further restricted indoor gatherings to not more than ten. Continued guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention emphatically states that when indoors with those with whom you do not live, the wearing of masks at all times and maintaining social distancing of at least six feet must be required. However, the overarching guidance issued by public health and government authorities, repeated constantly especially now in advance of the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, is clear: DO NOT TAKE ANY UNNECESSARY RISK OF EXPOSURE.

What does this guidance mean? Spend time indoors

ONLY with those with whom you live. With that simple guidance in mind, the Club Office and Clubhouse are being closed to members and the general public indefinitely.

Effective Wednesday, November 18, 2020, NO ACCESS is being permitted to any portion of the Clubhouse and Club Office, all scheduled meetings and activities are canceled. The Club Office will continue to operate, Monday through Friday, from 9 am to 4 pm, though the Office will be closed on Saturdays.

Reminder:

The Club is not entering into new contracts for family event rentals, though please feel free to call to “hold” the date for any family event planned to take place after Labor Day 2021.

The Club continues to evaluate COVID-19 guidance. We will continue to closely monitor news and updates from relevant health organizations and government regulators, and will share all relevant information as necessary. Thank you for your understanding.

FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK CONT’D

after change, challenge after challenge, trying to make the best of what life leaves behind on our doorstep.

No one will look back at 2020 and think, “wow, what a great year,” but as we enter the holiday season, I encourage you just as I do myself not to lose sight of everything we’ve got going for us. Through all of this darkness there is still light visible, and it’s growing brighter.

As my wife, kids and I gird ourselves for what will undoubtedly be a historically cold and snowy winter—it’s 2020, after all—I remain thankful for the health and happiness of my family and friends, and the natural beauty that has woven itself into and around this community of ours. And even as winter’s days grow shorter and dimmer, I’ll remain thankful for the small things and simple moments we share together. When the days grow darkest, this is what will keep my sanity intact. The memories we make this holiday season will sustain us through these difficult times, and they will be sweeter in retrospect when we can all gather together with our glasses raised high to offer good riddance to the bad memories of this most awful of years, and to welcome in the better times to come.

I wish you and those you love health and as much happiness as you can handle during this holiday season and beyond. There is light at the end of this tunnel. We’re almost there...

Voting Board Highland Lakes Country Club and Community Association October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021

Officer	Name	Telephone	E-Mail
President	Michael Gelfand	973-764-8758	president@hlcc.org
First Vice President	Judith Norton	973-764-2495	firstvp@hlcc.org
Second Vice President	Raymond Zimmerman	973-766-3359	secondvp@hlcc.org
Treasurer	Michael Gillooley	973-764-4366	hltreasurer@hlcc.org
Secretary	Climeen Wikoff	973-764-5604	secretary@hlcc.org
Section	Trustee	Telephone	E-Mail
1	Louis Iannucci	973-764-7042	trustee1@hlcc.org
2	William Beardsley	973-764-7730	trustee2@hlcc.org
3	Patricia Thompson	973-271-9566	thompsonpatty208@gmail.com
4	Janice Fajardo	917-572-5449	trustee4@hlcc.org
5	Julia Campbell	973-670-4539	juliakaichercampbell@gmail.com
6	Melissa Hardin	973-764-1433	trustee6@hlcc.org
7	Lee Eisenberg	201-787-8772	trustee7@hlcc.org
8	Dominick Beninati	917-566-3136	trustee8@hlcc.org
9	Thomas Castiglione	973-764-4366	trustee9@comcast.net
10	Chris Kaas	-----	section10hlcc@gmail.com
11	David Cartier	973-534-2039	trustee11@hlcc.org
12	Len Bogdon	973-764-7136	trustee12@hlcc.org

No Parking on Roads During Snow and Ice Operations

Please be aware that Rule No. 16 of the Club’s Rules and Regulations, adopted April 22, 1994, reads as follows:

Whenever snow has fallen or roads become covered with ice and the accumulation is such that it covers the roadway, an emergency shall exist and no vehicle shall be parked on any roadway or portion thereof. This parking prohibition shall remain in effect after the precipitation has ceased until the roads have been plowed and/or sanded sufficiently and to the extent that parking will not interfere with the normal flow of traffic.

Any unattended vehicle in violation of this Rule will be deemed to be parked without the consent of the Club and may be summonsed and towed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 39:4-56.6 and Vernon Township Ordinance 99-12.

Your cooperation is needed to make the winter as easy as possible on your neighbors and the Club. Thank you.

Holiday Office Hours

The Club office will be closed in observance of the Christmas Holiday on Thursday, December 24 at 12 noon and Friday, December 25. The office will reopen for telephone and email inquiries ONLY on Monday, December 28 at 9 am. The office will again close at 12 noon on Thursday, December 31 and Friday, January 1, 2021, for the New Year’s holiday and will reopen for telephone and email inquiries ONLY on Monday, January 4, 2020. Enjoy the holidays!

Online Payment Option Now Available

Cash No Longer Accepted

Please note that in response to the escalating Covid-19 pandemic, access to the Club Office was barred effective November 17, 2020. Please use the mail slot in the office door if you are dropping off a payment.

An option has been created for members who wish to make payments online through their debit or credit cards. You will find the information and instructions you need in the Make A Payment link on our website on the far right in the blue ribbon, immediately above the HLCC logo. Note: a convenience fee is applicable to credit card transactions.

While the Club Office has now been closed during this continued Covid-19 pandemic, payments may be made by mailing a check or money order to HLCC, PO Box 578, Highland Lakes, NJ 07422. For your convenience payments (NO CASH) may be dropped through the mail slot in the Club Office door.

Payments by Mail – Check or Money Order – or through mail slot in office door

Members may make payments on their membership accounts by check or money order mailed to HLCC, PO Box 578, Highland Lakes, NJ 07422. Members may also drop off their payments at the Club Office anytime through the mail slot in the office door.

Cash Payments No Longer Accepted

Effective Monday, November 30, 2020, cash will no longer be accepted for payments on membership accounts of dues and assessments. Cash will continue to be accepted for daily guest badges (not to exceed \$10.00 per member per day), and classified ads only in the Highland Lakes Newsette. Purchases at the Activity Center (when open) are also limited to a maximum of \$10.00 per member per day.

Payments by Debit and Credit Card Now Accepted

Another option for those members who have asked about debit and credit card payments is to authorize payments through our online payment system by clicking the Make A Payment on the far right in the blue ribbon, immediately above the HLCC logo on our website. If you use your credit card to make a payment, please note there is a convenience fee of 3.25% for all credit card transactions processed this way. There is no convenience fee for payments processed using a debit/credit card. You will need to provide your four digit Membership Number, physical Highland Lakes address, and a credit card or debit card that can be used as a credit card to complete the online payment process.

Please note the following:

1. If your account is subject to monthly Late Payment Charges, your payment must be made not later than 6 pm on the last day of the month in order to avoid additional late payment charges.
2. TOTAL CHARGES to your credit card will include a convenience fee of 3.25% which is retained by Elavon, Inc., an electronic partner with the Club's financial institution, which will process your payment through a secure payment gateway. The convenience fee is retained by Elavon, Inc. – no part of the convenience fee is remitted to the Club.
3. Payments are credited to your account on the third business day after your payment date.



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Questions? 973-764-4366 or email to hlccaccounting@warwick.net.

Next Newsette: February 6, 2021

Newsette articles should be submitted on the Friday before the week of publication at noon. Under no circumstances will submissions be accepted after noon on Monday of the week of publication. Typed submissions must be emailed to the Club office at hlcc@warwick.net. Sorry – we can only print photographs submitted as .jpg files with a minimum of 150 dpi. Thanks!

The Highland Lakes Newsette

Highland Lakes Country Club
and Community Association

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Roe Hall, Administrative Assistant

Karen Vogel, Editor

Special Thanks to the
Communications Committee and
all of our contributors

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Bocce Plays Into the Fall

DORI ZARR

Saturday, November 14 was sunny and bright and out came the players. Games were close: 10 to 10, winner at 11. Blue team versus red. Autumn leaves swirled down but concentration and focus prevailed! Luncheon coming up.



Joan Yankowski and Jo Von Essen taking a shot.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DORI ZARR

Complaints Received About Leaves Being Dumped Into Lakes



Reports have been received that residents and/or their landscapers have been observed blowing leaves into our lakes. The lakes can handle the additional nutrients from the decomposition of leaves which naturally fall in our lakes. However, dumping of leaves in the lake demonstrates a disregard of the effects these additional nutrients have on lakes, and the contribution these additional layers of decomposing organic material have on lake depth and the lake bed. Dumping of leaves is also an unneighborly act when the floating leaves are transported to other lakefront owners.

These matters will be addressed by the Voting Board. We urge all lakefront owners to stop this practice immediately, and where necessary to instruct their landscapers as well. The Club will alert the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection when this activity is observed..

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Ecology Corner

BARBARA JAGGI, CHAIRPERSON, ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

A Tribute to Joan Ross

The following tribute was written by Brenda Susman, a member of our community. Brenda was serving as co-chair of the Ecology Committee with Joan Ross when I moved into the community in 2003. Joan passed away earlier this year, but will remain in our hearts forever.

Joan M. Ross - Lover of Nature, Steward of the Lakes.
Joan Ross' love of nature was most notably depicted in her nationally acclaimed watercolors of Highland Lakes and Sussex County. She also felt a commitment to preserve the natural beauty of what she saw and painted. Joan formed the Ecology Committee many decades ago because, as she often told the committee, she saw neighbors cutting down their trees unnecessarily. She wanted residents to become aware of the beauty of trees in the landscape and their important ecological value to the Lakes.

Joan became interested in ecology early in life. Her father managed the water quality of upstate New York reservoirs that supplied clean water to New York City. She studied to become a scientist and eventually became a science and art teacher of elementary school children at the Immaculate Conception School in Franklin.

Under Joan's chairmanship, the Ecology Committee became the steward of the Lakes. Ecology meetings, lectures and publications helped to educate the community about how to keep the lakes and their watershed clean. A lake management company that monitored water quality was hired by HLCC. Aerators were installed to mix the water columns to help prevent algae blooms. Networking with other lake communities helped to solve common problems. An annual community clean up day was begun. More recently, a Rain Garden was planted near the Clubhouse lawn as an example of how rain runoff can be absorbed before rushing into the Lake. A "Carry in and Carry out" policy was established to manage garbage at beaches and common areas. These and many other initiatives were taken over the years to maintain the health and beauty of the lakes

In tribute to Joan, the Ecology Committee is purchasing a brick on the Path to Goodwill. She will be remembered as one who loved the natural beauty of Highland Lakes and sought to preserve it.



Thank you to Chastity Cortijo for capturing this glorious November morning sunrise over Upper East Highland Lake (Lake 4).



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUE ROSS



Highland Lakes Volunteer Fire Department Address Marker Campaign

Reflective Address Markers Available

In an effort to have members' homes clearly marked, the HL Volunteer Fire Dept. is continuing its endeavor to sell reflective address markers. Anyone interested in purchasing one and to contribute to the Fire Department's scholarship fund, use the order on the left or contact the Club office to have a form mailed to you.

HIGHLAND LAKES VOL. FIRE DEPT.

REFLECTIVE ADDRESS MARKER ORDER FORM

Please complete the following information:

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Note: If your address has fewer than 5 digits, please X those boxes not used.

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Proceeds benefit the
HLFD Scholarship Fund

Holiday Greetings

GOODWILL FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Build Path to Goodwill



The Path to Goodwill, situated right outside the Clubhouse, continues to grow with memories expressed through sentiments engraved on bricks included in the path. Expressions of love, fond remembrances of times shared, lasting thoughts of lost loved ones and commemorations of joyous

events are all found as you meander along. Bricks purchased in the spring and summer will be installed shortly.

If you are torturing yourself with what to buy the person who has everything this holiday, we have the answer. Customize a message; evoke a memory that will last for years to come. Bricks ordered during the holidays will be processed during winter and installed in the spring. To get started, download the order form at the HL website: (<https://hlcc.org/oldsite/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Path-to-Goodwill-Order-Form-2018.pdf>), or call the office to have a form mailed to you.

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7/17/21



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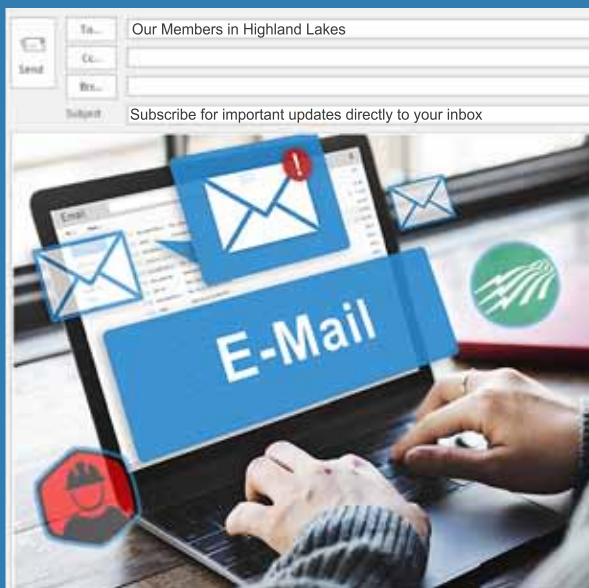


Highland Lakes is proud to partner with the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, sponsored by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, in the national effort to prevent and control the spread of aquatic nuisance species.

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Ice Safety Tips

Anyone who loves to ice skate is thrilled to see cold weather without precipitation. It opens up a whole new world that usually doesn't last for very long. All too often, especially in recent winters, the temperature goes up and causes the ice to melt, or snow begins to fall and ice loses its luster and glide. Fluctuating temperatures require deliberate scrutiny of the ice before you can declare it safe enough to venture out. Many experts say that it should be at least 3-4 inches in depth. Before going out it is suggested that you use an ice pick, spud bar or cordless drill to make a few holes that will enable you to measure the actual thickness. Even then it is important to remember that ice does not freeze uniformly.

Here are a few things you should know:

- Clear, black ice is stronger than white or bubble-filled ice.
- Sub-surface currents and fresh-water springs can make ice thickness variable.
- Once on the ice, you are safer if you don't stand in large groups.
- It's not a good idea to drink alcohol while outside on a cold day. It increases your chances for hypothermia and affects your ability to react to dangerous conditions.

Take some easy precautions once you've determined the ice to be safe:

- Bring a buddy but put some distance between you. If either of you were to fall in, the other may be able to help.
- Dress for cold weather. Wear your hat and gloves. Layer

up and wear an outer layer that is both wind- and water-proof.

- A pair of ice picks or screw drivers with a sturdy length of rope between them is easy enough to carry along and could be used to pull yourself out of open water if the ice were to break.

Bring your cell phone wrapped in a watertight bag so that you could call for help if needed.

This information was drawn from the LGA News, an official publication of the Lake George Association, January/February 2011 edition.



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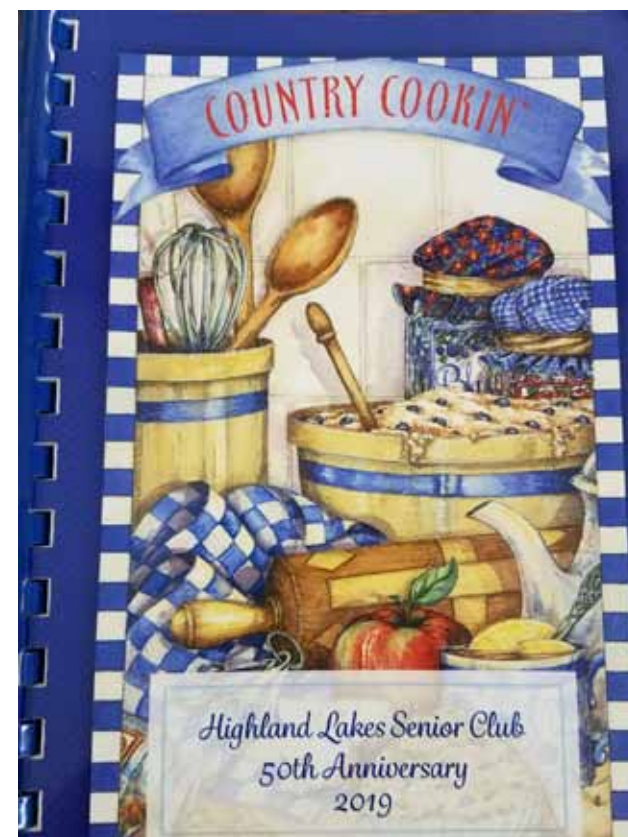
50th Anniversary Cookbooks On Sale

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Step back in time a bit and read some of the wonderful recipes submitted 40 + years ago. Your HL Senior Club gathered these recipes and added some delicious new ones to create the 50th Anniversary HL Cookbook.

\$10.00 per copy is all it costs to get a great gift for yourself or for others in your life. Some of the recipes came from the grand ladies of the HL Women's Auxiliary. Maybe your mom, grannie, auntie or a special neighbor submitted a recipe, and you haven't had it since you were a child. Here's your chance to get your hands on those wonderful taste treats. Call Joyce - 845-544-3749 and pick up 1 or more copies for gift-giving.



**Visit www.hlcc.org
for the latest Highland
Lakes News**

For the most current news on Highland Lakes Events, activities and items of interest, visit the Club's website: www.hlcc.org. Here you will find current calendar of events, the most recent edition of the HL Newsette, as well as archived editions, board and committee news, informative articles, photos and so much more.

Go to the website to join the Club's email list, too. Once your membership is verified, you will receive our e-blast and all emergency notifications.



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