

# Old Patrician



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## Progress and the Future

Take a look at the upper right hand corner and notice that this issue of the *Old Patrician* is into volume two. That's right, your Social Committee and this newsletter are one year old. As the article below indicates, this season's events are setting all kinds of records for attendance.

When I took this job in December of 2007, plenty of people warned me that this was a "thankless" task and we could never rekindle the spirit of the old Patrician of the 1970s. While that time will never return again, any fair-minded observer can not fail to see that we have made progress.

Our events are well attended now. There is something going on almost every month; even in the "off season." Beyond the numbers, there is a new feeling of comradery alive and well within the building. You see it everywhere. It is particularly noticeable at the barbeques. People want to sit together such that we push tables together so that people can occupy a few large tables. This is in contrast to last year when people sat a tables of three and four, or worse did not come at all! The bottom line is we are making progress. Also of note is that the folks stick around after the meal is done to talk or even dance.

There is a sense of gratification to see that the long talked about dinner dance is going to actually happen in February. We have a "critical mass" of people who are interested so we are going through with our plans to hold the event.

OK, here are the details. Although most people who responded to the questionnaire said they would pay \$60.00, we decided to hold the price at \$50. We will assemble at Benvenuto at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, February 24, 2009. Even if you are single, you will enjoy a great meal and a fine night out. At fifty bucks, where can you find a meal like that?

## Over 70 of Us Attended the Meet 'n Greet, 80 at New Year's Day

On December 14, 2008 the SocComm gave what will become the annual Meet 'n Greet party. What was once called the Snowbird welcome back event has morphed into a welcome bash to not only greet old friends but to meet new ones. Every year new people move into the building and it was decided that they should also be included in the name of the affair.

For about three hours everyone drank wine and soft drinks and sampled the hot hors d'oeuvres. In spite of the fact that we did this on a shoestring budget, I did not hear one complaint about the drinkability of the wine nor the quality of the snacks.

Marilyn Kweller had some kind words of welcome. I said a brief word of thanks to

her and Edna Krents who both worked like Trojans to make the afternoon an event that will long be remembered.

When the SocComm was established its mission was to revive the feeling of the old Patrician. Having been a visitor in the building since 1971 I can safely say that events like the Meet 'n Greet do just that. Almost every conversation that I entered into revolved around what a joy it is to live here amongst friends. We are indeed accomplishing our goal. A small measure of this is the fact that Marilyn bought 75 name tags and ran out of them! Thank you all for coming.

As the year wound down Donna Gustafson held the last barbeque of the year. It took place on New Year's Eve. People ate inside and out on the pool deck.

There was singing and dancing throughout the evening. The throng welcomed the New Year in style. While we did not have the numbers that filled Times Square I can say without fear of contradiction that we were a lot warmer than those brave souls.

The next day Carol Bakunus hosted her annual New Year's brunch. This year the SocComm sponsored the event, but this was Carol's party for sure. She prepared lots of food and provided many

bottles of wine for the affair. There were even a couple of bottles of old red wine that were a real treat. I tasted a 1985 and can report that it was still excellent.

I cannot say how many people showed up, but at one point, an hour into the festivities, I counted 80 people in the room. Almost everyone brought a side dish for the table(s). In fact there was a problem finding a surface on which to put all of the food! Salads, potatoes, puddings, fishes, pate, Pat's rye bread, and deserts too numerous to count were everywhere.

Carol had some warm words of welcome for everyone. Lively conversations sprang up all over the room. Like the Meet 'n Greet old friendships and new were cemented during the afternoon. This is surely the way to live!

This January may prove to be a pivotal point in the social life of our building. If we can continue to turn out large numbers at Patrician sponsored events we can do more and better activities. When signup sheets go up on the bulletin board write your name early. There is strong evidence that a "tipping point" is reached when the tenth name is entered on the list. Lets keep the ball rolling through the winter, the spring, and even after the season is over.



Listening at the Meet 'n Greet