

Kitchen Comeback

The *Inman Café* is cooking with gas—and not just literally.

Since Eileen Oakes and Basilia Mendez took over supervision of the kitchen several months ago, the profit to the Center has averaged \$905 a month; if that continues across the year, that's a net of \$10,860. And yet, only six months ago, our financial advisor recommended raising prices to stop losing money. Why the difference?

First, it's the hard work of many volunteers, who are open not just for Wednesday and Thursday but

also for special classes and events.

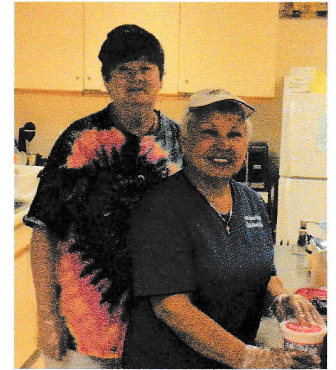
Many of these and other members donate soups, salads, groceries, etc., which is holding down costs, as is shopping around for the lowest prices for those things we do buy.

Also a major factor has been the restaurant donations suggested by Eleanor Landry but tirelessly pursued by Eileen. To date, almost every local eatery has contributed a meal a week at least once. Something new and special every week - goulash, tacos, vodka riga-

toni, etc. - it keeps customers coming back and it's pure profit. Pick up one of our donor's menus at the Center, order from them, and tell them you appreciate their support of seniors.

The word is getting out that *Café* food is inexpensive, plentiful, and good. If the current trends continue, we may be looking to expand operations further.

If you'd like to volunteer to serve or donate, or to learn more about the restaurant program, stop by or call the Center.



Eileen Oakes (left) and Basilia Mendez (right) prepare for the arrival of Thursday's volunteer kitchen crew

Trip The Light Fantastic

We're on the road again.

After having to cancel several trips due to under-enrollment, last month we travelled to the Log Cabin in Mount Holyoke for a lobster fest and oldies concert. Later this month six members will be touring the Canadian Rockies.

Thanks to the efforts of Marilyn Andrews and Sharon Menech, we are closing this year out with trips

to Turning Stone Casino (August 22nd, \$30 per person, with nearly the same in comps as cost; some seats are still available); A lunch cruise on the *Saint Sacrement* steamboat (September 26th, \$50 per person); a guided tour of the *USS Slater* and Albany memorials (September TBA); and a Christmas lunch and concert at The Beeches in Rome NY (Nov 15th; \$72 per person). We're also look-

ing into a rail trip to the Adirondacks.

The price for the Lake George trip has been lowered from \$60 to \$50 by using grant money and money coming from the Center's cut of the Rockies trip. We hope to increase the longer trip participation to lower the day trip costs.

Let us know where you want to go and what you want to do.

Take your next vacation with us.

Members who sign up for the longer trips help hold costs down for the shorter trips

Mutual Admiration Society

United we are stronger: that's true not only for members of our organization, but also for the growing network of organizations the center works with.

The first of which is the Office for Aging. We just hosted their Polish Dinner fundraiser at no charge—and they routinely support our exercise programs. They volunteer for our St. Patrick's Day

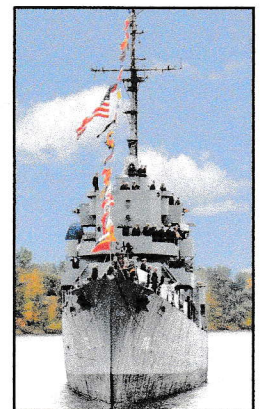
dinner and we sell their picnic tickets at bingo. They publish a great guide book for seniors and we help make sure people know about it.

We recently made a large donation to the United Way Golf Tournament—and they consistently make a much larger annual contribution to the center.

The list of organizations is large,

but even the small ones help: the Polish American Veterans (PAV) bought 15 tickets to our Flag Day Dinner. They also purchased a number of our March lottery tickets. We should all support each other.

And remember, when you participate in Inman activities, you're helping the entire community, not just our senior citizens.



The USS Slater arriving in Albany. The green dot on the port flying bridge is Rob von Hasseln, who will be your guide in September to here, and three Albany war memorials