

SpeakEasy Singles announce February social events

Lazer Bowling planned Feb. 19 at Town-n-Country Lanes in Nitro

By Clint Thomas
cthomas@cnpapers.com
304-346-1232

Throughout February, the SpeakEasy Singles social group will host Thursday evening dinners in Kanawha, Putnam and Cabell counties; weekly dance lessons on Charleston's West Side; Lazer Bowling in Nitro and a Valentine's dance this weekend.

The Thursday night dinners get underway at 6:30 p.m. The dinner this week, on Feb. 10, will be held at the Barnyard BBQ in Hurricane and feature live music. On Thursday, Feb. 17, the dinner destination is the TGIFriday's restaurant in Cross Lanes, and on Feb. 24, diners will convene at O'Charley's in Barboursville.

"The Thursday dinners are open to anybody who's single; we don't interview anybody at the door or anything like that," said Howard Thompson of Cross Lanes, who coordinates the dinners and several of the other singles' activities. "The turnout has been growing since starting the dinners in October. It runs about eight people a week, but sometimes as many as 13 people or more. Even during the night of the snowstorm, five of us showed up.

"It's always a really good time, with good conversation and, hopefully, real good food, too," Thompson said.

Each Wednesday this month, dance lessons will be offered from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Knights of Pythias building, Randolph Street and Tennessee Avenue on Charleston's West Side.

Instruction will be given in dances such as the waltz, fox trot, swing (rock and roll) and cha-cha.

George Alder teaches each class, assisted by Ruth Justice

bership information and a full calendar of events are also available at the group's website, www.speakeasysingles.com; by calling 304-345-7810 and leaving a voice-mail message or by directing e-mail to speakeasysingles@suddenlink.net.

The SpeakEasy Singles maintain a Facebook page, as well.

Admission costs \$3 per class.

Participants can show off the fruits of their practice at a dance at the KoP hall on Sunday, Feb. 20, when the Regular Joes Band performs.

Doors open at 5 p.m., and the Regular Joes Band will play from 6 to 9 p.m.

Admission is \$3, and soup, sandwiches and pizza will be among the concessions available for purchase. (The KoP hall is a tobacco- and alcohol-free venue.)

For more information, call Justice at 304-766-1041.

The SpeakEasy Singles' Valentine's dance will be held on Saturday, Feb. 12, from 7 to 11 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.) in West Virginia State University's Wilson Student Union, Washington Avenue off Fairlawn Avenue in Institute.

Willie D and the Nitelife will provide music.

Admission is \$8 for members and \$10 for nonmembers, which includes finger foods. Drinks can be purchased for \$1 each. No alcohol is allowed on the premises.

For more information about the dance, contact Alice at 304-766-2415 or Nancy at 304-744-1955 or nifty50inwv@gmail.com.

On Saturday, Feb. 19, the singles will sponsor Lazer Bowling at Town-n-Country Lanes in Nitro, beginning at 10:15 p.m.

"Lazer Bowling is a first we're doing," said Thompson. "It's for anybody who's single who wants to get together for a night of fun. I've been with the group for almost two years, and I'm trying to get a more diverse crowd and more activities for the younger generation."

For more information regarding the Lazer Bowling, contact Thompson at 304-543-1001.

SpeakEasy Singles mem-