

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

March 13, 2015 • Volume XI, Number 24



The Ishii family at the St. Peter's community dinner. See the Family Album on page 2.



A Dickerson couple hit the road to follow a dream. See Tidbits on page 7.



Commissioner Brice Halbrook spoke at the Annual PACC dinner. See more pictures on page 11.



With spring near, everything is coming up roses. See Garden on page 14.

State Champs Again!

By Jeff Stuart

Especially high tides are called springtides. It was a springtide for the Poolesville High School boys' and girls' swim and dive teams on February 27 at the Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex as they dominated and won the State Swim and Dive Competition. The boys, with 317.5 points, finished well ahead of second-place Damascus (181) and third-place C. Milton Wright (164). The girls, with 386 points, more than doubled the point total of runner up Easton High School (181) while Urbana was third with 163.

"I was very pleased with how everyone swam," said head coach Jon Leong. "The kids were enthusiastic and excited the whole meet. We achieved many personal best times. In a meet where the girls have come up short before, they won by a lot due to them swimming their best. We had lots of support from family, friends, schoolmates, and teammates. We are overjoyed with our accomplishment and are looking forward to hanging another set of banners on our gymnasium's 'Swimming Wall.'"



PHS girls and boys sweep 3A/2A/1A State Swim and Dive Meet.

For senior boys, William An, Ross Lippe, Anthony Kim, John Van Nevel, and Brad Miller, it was their fourth state title in four years. For senior girls, Dorit Song and Lindsay Knapp, it was their second state title in three years.

For the fourth year in a row, Song won gold in the 100-yard freestyle. She also finished first in the 200-yard freestyle, winning four golds overall. Freshman

Continued on page 3.

Kettler and Nightingale Honored at PACC Dinner

The Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce honored two of its most longstanding members and leaders at its annual membership meeting held at the Comus Inn on February 26.

Maggie Nightingale, who was selected as the Poolesville Day Grand Marshall in 2013, received special recognition upon her retirement as the organization's secretary. She served in that position for seventeen years starting in 1998 under the leadership of Eddie Kuhlman who was president at the time. Stating that "Maggie's institutional knowledge has been key to the success of the group," President Hilary Schwab presented her with an appreciation plaque, a necklace pendant to remind her in the years to come of PACC's appreciation for her work, and a lifetime membership in the PACC in the hope that she will continue to join in many of the group's events throughout the years.

Each year, the PACC honors an individual member who has exhibited exceptional contribution in time and energy to the community with its prestigious Community Service Award. This year, PACC selected Tom Kettler of Kettler Forlines Homes.

Mr. Kettler has a long list of community service, which includes: past board of directors member and president of PACC, chairman and designer of the PACC area tourists' map, organizer of the publication of a Poolesville Civil War walking map, chairman of the Poolesville Board of Election for ten years, co-creator of



Hilary Schwab, president of PACC, presented awards to Maggie Nightingale and Tom Kettler at the annual members dinner.

the town's Community and Economic Development Committee, and past member and current board of directors president of Heritage Montgomery

Continued on page 5.

Family Album



Jan Delorica, Jim Clouse with Bill and Joan Carroll.



Dick and Ann Bauer, Heather Hillard, and Carol Harmon.



Monocacy Lions Club Vice President Joe Ryba, with Megan Benjamin of the Maryland Environmental Trust and Lion Jim O'Connell of the Sugarloaf Countryside Conservancy, who addressed the club on land preservation alternatives.



Andrew, Robert, Kevin, and Carol Collar with Rev. Ann Ritonio of St. Peter's Parish.



"Don't Drop the Top" mural created by students of Poolesville Elementary School as part of Sophia Mense's Girl Scout Gold Award project. Its purpose is to raise awareness of the harmful effects of plastic bottle tops on marine wildlife and to promote their recycling.



The Hardwick family at the St. Peter's Community Dinner on March 4.

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Greenridge Baptist Church
Invites you to Palm Sunday Service
March 29 - 9:30 a.m.
21925 Frederick Road, Boyds greenridgebaptist.org



Town Government Limited Agenda

By Link Hoewing

The Town of Poolesville commissioners considered a limited agenda at their March 2 meeting. One reason for the abbreviated agenda was that the commissioners spent two hours before the meeting interviewing candidates for the new Poolesville Green Team. The Green Team (reported in the February 13 edition of the Monocle) is a group of advisors who will help the town decide how to participate in the Sustainable Maryland Communities Program. The program is a statewide initiative to encourage local communities to focus on adopting initiatives that help promote more sustainable, less energy-intensive and environmentally-damaging projects and operations.

Town Commission President Jim Brown noted that the commissioners had interviewed six candidates to be members of the Green Team. While members won't be officially announced until the next meeting, the names of the advisory group were listed by Brown. They are Tom Kettler, Sarah Jamison, Don Street, Linda Bergoksky, Joyce Breiner, and Tom Jagodits. The group will start its work later this month.

After this announcement, the commissioners turned to a couple of agenda items. They considered first Ordinance 201, a series of changes with regard to the Community and Economic Development Committee (CEDC) that was established under the town's charter. These changes have been under consideration for a number of months, and a public hearing was held last month. No one testified regarding the changes, and no one submitted written comments either. The changes essentially eliminate the CEDC as a formal body but continue its functions in the form of a series of mini-committees appointed as needed to manage town

events like Springfest. The proposed ordinance passed by a unanimous vote (Commissioner Stump was absent).

The commissioners then turned to consideration of the Westerly land exchange. This transaction also has been under consideration for some time. As reported last month in the Monocle, the commissioners balked at what they felt were high taxes and fees that would need to be paid by the town and the property owner (Jamison Realty) in transferring the land owned by the town to the Jamisons. The town would receive land from the Jamisons in exchange for the land it is ceding in order to allow for the building of a road into the new Westerly Subdivision addition and the preservation of an existing soccer field. Without the land swap, the soccer field would be impinged on by the new subdivision.

Town manager Wade Yost reported that he had a number of communications with the county government about the fees and taxes associated with the land swap. He said they had managed to agree on a figure of approximately \$3400 that would be split between the town and the Jamisons. This figure is far lower than the initial estimates, and the commissioners were supportive of the new proposal. In a unanimous vote, they approved the land swap along with the associated fees and taxes.

In his report, Yost remarked that the most important work coming up for the commissioners is the town budget. The budget must be adopted by May in order to ensure that it is in place when the new fiscal year begins on July 1. Mr. Yost laid out a schedule of working sessions, public hearings, and proposed adoption dates for the new budget. The schedule is as follows with times to be announced later: April 6, Public Unveiling of the Budget; April 20, Public Hearing on the Budget; May 4, Work Session on the Budget to Consider Public Input; May 18, Adoption of the Budget by the Town Commissioners.

Continued from page 1.

State Champs Again!

Katarina Lechner also won two individual events for the Falcons (200 individual medley and 100 backstroke), also winning four golds overall. Knapp finished first in the 50-yard freestyle, winning three golds. Song and Knapp also finished first in the 200-yard freestyle relay (Song, Knapp, junior Sayaka Vaules, and freshman Julia Wang) and the 400-yard freestyle relay (Wang, Lechner, Song, Knapp), the last event of the day. In all, the girls won eight of eleven events, including all three relays.

Getting off to a quick start and never looking back, Poolesville won the first two events of the day, the boys' 200-yard medley relay (An, sophomore Benjamin Kaplan, Lippe, and sophomore Conner Dunathan) and the girls' 200-yard medley relay (sophomore Arona Baigal, Vaules, sophomore Fanny Wu, and Lechner). The boys also won the 200-yard freestyle relay (Dunathan, sophomore Justin Kim, Theodore Jagodits, and Anthony Kim).

The two relay wins were the only first place finishes for the boys, but their depth proved decisive. They placed in nearly every event.

Jagodits and Justin Kim finished second and third in the 200-yard freestyle. Anthony Kim finished second in the 50-yard freestyle and fourth in the 100-yard freestyle. Van Nevel was fourth in the 100-yard backstroke, and Kaplan was fourth in the 100-yard breaststroke. The boys were also second in the 400-yard freestyle relay (Anthony Kim, Brad Miller, Van Nevel, and Lippe). Coach Leong made it a point to have his seniors to swim together in this race. Justin Kim finished third in the 500-yard freestyle.

Second place finish for the girls went to Julia Wang in the 200-yard freestyle and the 500-yard freestyle, to Fanny Wu in both the 100-yard butterfly and 100-yard freestyle, and to Vaules in the 100-yard freestyle. Knapp was third in the 500-yard freestyle. Baigal placed fourth in the 100-yard backstroke and the 100-yard butterfly. Vaules placed fourth in the 100-yard breaststroke.



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Commentary

Run, Martin, Run

By John Clayton

With the retirement of U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski, the contest for an open senate seat has stirred up every ambitious politician in the state. I must convey my profound regret that the dream matchup of former governors Martin O'Malley and Robert Ehrlich will not be happening, as O'Malley has announced that he is not planning to run for the seat. That is a pity, strictly from the perspective of someone who loves a good race. Ehrlich and O'Malley have a history, and there's nothing as entertaining as a good grudge match. In 2006, O'Malley denied Ehrlich a second term when he won his first term as governor. If I'm Ehrlich, I'm thinking, "Let's do this again with that record that Governor Hogan ran against in play." O'Malley might retort, "All I have to do is get more than fifteen percent Democratic turnout and I'm in there." This is but a mere shadow of the dramatic discourse that would follow—it would get much better than this. I am so disappointed.

I suppose O'Malley is holding back because of his chances to be the next president of the United States. After all, according to recent polls of possible candidates for the Democratic nomination, he has sole possession of sixth place, only about a dozen percentage points out of second place and fifty-five points out of first place. This may sound like a lot to you and me, but let us analyze the situation a little further. As we shall see, there is not a whole lot between O'Malley and second place, which is a mere forty-three or so points away from first place.

The fifth place candidate is former Virginia senator, combat veteran, and pretty-darned-good writer James Webb, who in my book should be more of a factor but is probably too much of a maverick for many Democrats. The fourth place candidate is Senator Bernie Sanders, an independent from Vermont, whose zeal on economic issues would also likely be a tad strong for many Democrats, to say nothing of the general electorate. Obama was only accused of being a socialist; I can't

imagine the reaction to nominating a self-proclaimed socialist. The third place candidate is Vice President Joe Biden, and I'm just going to say he isn't going to get any closer to winning and I hope he figures it out sooner rather than later. The candidate in second place is Elizabeth Warren, a Massachusetts senator (yes, here we go again), who has denied she is running. I understand that all candidates deny they are running until they are running but as we go to press she is not running.

This leaves the first place candidate, former senator and secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton, with no credible, mainstream, existing competition for the Democratic nomination, save for that candidate in sixth place fifty-five points away. That is on the positive side of the ledger for Clinton. On the negative side of the ledger, the nominating convention is about sixteen months away, which in twenty-first century internet-obsessed America, is an eternity. We Americans as a group have the attention span of squirrels. The media, especially those who seem to enjoy the race itself more than the substance of the issues, will also be trying to instigate a closer race with someone, anyone, so that they have something to talk/write about.

The Republicans have, at least for now, a surprisingly large field of possible candidates, especially if one counts Donald Trump, who has been dropping coquettish hints for anyone who will listen. While the GOP candidates are duking it out and fine-tuning their messages—and Trump jokes aside, it is clearly a stronger field than last time—Clinton will be sitting there saying "I'm still here waiting." I'm sure she will have debates, but it will be like playing the Washington Redskins: if you win, Ho Hum, if you lose, Disaster (yes, it hurts to say that). That big lead will narrow for any number of reasons.

While her lead narrows for all those reasons, and the other candidates drop by the wayside, O'Malley has to be thinking that if the foreign donor scandal cost Clinton five percentage points, and if the email scandal cost her five percentage points, that's only ten more scandals and he could be in first place. That may sound like a lot of scandals, but this is a Clinton we're talking about. She could do it. Sixteen months is a long time.

Rande(m) Thoughts

Rotten to the Core?

By Rande Davis

If the description of something turns out to be inaccurate and not what it is claimed to be, what do you call it? a. Surprise. b. Mistake. c. Fantasy. d. Fraud.

I ask the question because I spent a good part of our last snowy, no-schools-opened day scouring the web answering questions like that in a private quest to better understand what Common Core is all about (in Montgomery County, Common Core is aligned with the program Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers). Even though my children are long grown up, I am keenly interested since we will be welcoming our sixth grandchild this summer, and I wanted to know how this would help them. After my research, my only real reaction is: God help us all!

I beg all readers of the *Monocle* to go online and spend a simple hour taking sample tests for high school seniors. I bet more than one of you will be afraid to do so for fear of what the creators of the test think it says about your educational level. If you don't do

well answering its questions, does that mean you lack analytical skills? That you are not ready for the work force? That you are not prepared to be a college freshman even though you hold a Master's degree? Is measuring the level of the educational sophistication of our students their only goal or will the test be used for other purposes? Like setting teacher income? (Yes.) Is an amalgamation of purpose a good idea on something this important? Maybe developing a metric for educational success alone is enough rather than trying to force it to do too many things at once.

All schools will be required to follow the initiative, but do all schools need Common Core or are many schools succeeding "just fine without it, thank you?" The program reminds me of the Affordable Health Care Act. We had fifteen percent of the population inappropriately insured for their healthcare. The solution was to radically disrupt the entire healthcare system only to find we may still have nearly as many people inappropriately insured for their healthcare. We have a group of radically under-performing public schools, so the solution is to introduce something that affects even the schools that are performing above

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Letter To Editor

Leong and Miller: The Team behind the Team

During the cold months of winter, most sports teams compete in hot gymnasiums, and the thought of swimming is reserved for the summer when it's hot outside—except in Poolesville where the most successful winter sports team spends its time in a swimming pool.

Each year for the past four years, the Poolesville boys' swim and dive team has finished its season as the Maryland State Champion, and the Poolesville girls' swim and dive team has finished as Maryland State Champion twice and runner-up twice. This kind of success requires great athletes, but this is a story about the people behind the athletes without whose support those great athletes would not have achieved their significant accomplishments.

Ten years ago, a young, new tenth grade social studies teacher, Jon Leong, accepted the head coach position for the swim and dive team. Each year, Coach Leong would quietly cultivate and nurture a growing interest in swimming and diving. Slowly, the size of the team grew, and there was also great individual talent with swimmers like Cara Chuang. In spite of this improvement, it was difficult for a small school like Poolesville to gain much recognition in a hotbed of swimming like Montgomery County; nevertheless, Coach Leong kept pushing ahead.

Six years ago, a parent of one of the swimmers, Julie Miller, volunteered to be the parent representative and help

coordinate some of the activities for Coach Leong's swim team. As is the case with any volunteer opportunity, you get out of it what you put in, and Mrs. Miller put in a whole lot: She began coordinating pasta dinners on Friday nights before meets; she organized lunches for the team at school; she organized all of the volunteers at the meets (each meet requires at least twenty volunteers); she also wanted to make sure that everyone recognized the Poolesville swim and dive team when it entered the pool facilities, so she coordinated all of the team's apparel purchases. As Coach Leong grew the team, all of the activities for which Mrs. Miller was responsible also grew.

In many larger schools, there are usually two coaches for swimming, a third for diving, and a number of parents who divvy up the coordination of the volunteer activities, but in Poolesville, there are Coach Leong and Mrs. Miller who, together, created a partnership to grow and support a swim team of ninety swimmers.

In 2011, it was decided that for the first time, Montgomery County's swim teams would participate in the Maryland State Championships, and Poolesville could finally compete with schools its size. It was at this moment that the dynamic duo's efforts really paid off and the entire Poolesville team could be successful—in addition to its talented individual swimmers. The results speak for themselves but don't tell the whole story. Coach Jon Leong and Julie Miller are the leadership, cohesiveness, and creators of an environment where our student-athletes can support each other and thrive. Thank you, Jon and Julie!

—Mike Knapp, Appreciative Swim Dad

Continued from page 1.

PACC Dinner

(HM), assisting in gaining grants from HM for the town's band shell. He also spearheaded the new signage and way-finding program in Poolesville.

Kettler Forlines Homes is a strong supporter of many local events and organizations, including: Poolesville Day, the Holiday Lighting Festival, Rebuilding Together, WUMCO Help, Spring Fest, Historic Medley District, local schools, etc.

Also at the dinner, the board of directors voted Monica Molina of Magica Realty to be its treasurer.

President Schwab recapped the many activities and community programs sponsored by PACC in 2014: the publication of its annual telephone directory, sponsorship of Poolesville Day and its 5K Run and Walk, scholarships, financial support to WUMCO, Historic Medley District, Helping Hands, Fourth of July fireworks, and sponsorship and support of the Community Business Fair (March 21 at the Poolesville Baptist Church), Springfest, Holiday Lighting Festival, and the evening's shop local event. Also, in 2014, PACC initiated the monthly networking breakfast meetings.

Speakers at the dinner were Commissioner Brice Halbrook with an update on town matters, and Jeff Stempler of Homebridge Financial Services who spoke about the success of the new Business Helping Business monthly breakfast meetings, a program that he and co-chair Gail Lee of WC & AN Miller Realtors developed.



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Special Events:
Bi-weekly, WUMCO Food Drive - Bring staples to church, such as canned vegetables, canned tuna, rice, flour and sugar. For more information go to WUMCOhelp.org
Lookout for Hospitality Sundays - Get to know parishioners while enjoying Coffee, juice and home made treats.

The Power of God's breath! - And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." - John 20:21-23

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Things To Do

Save the Dates:

March 25

Special Event by the PHS Black Students Union: High Achievement Forum

"Wise Words for the Ambitious Black Student." Come hear the wisdom of Judge Arthur Burnett (first black U.S. magistrate judge), Dr. Gregory Bell (overcoming physical disabilities), and Mr. James Etheridge (local history about battle for equality in education). Refreshments available. PHS auditorium. 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

March 28

Kevin Dorsey Benefit Barn Dance
Entertainment by DJ Val, and Gina's Soul Party and the Souled Out Horns. BYOB. Food, water, and soda available. Located at *Calleva Farm Barn, 19120 Martinsburg Road, Dickerson*. Cost is \$25.00 per person, \$40.00 per couple. Attendees limited to 16 or older. Advanced ticket purchase is advised through KDBD2015@gmail.com.

Special Reminder:

Booster Club Annual Mulch Sale
Orders need to be placed by March 16.

Visit phsboosterclub.wordpress.com for details and placing orders through PayPal.

March 13

Spaghetti Family Dinner – Fridays in Lent
\$5.00 per person, \$15.00 per family. *St. Mary's Pavilion in Barnesville*. 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

March 14

Poolesville Community Garden Spring Cleanup and Raised Bed Installation
All welcome. SSL hours for teens. *Poolesville Presbyterian Church*. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

St. Patrick's 5K Walk/Run

Registration at 9:45 a.m., run begins at 10:00 a.m. *Parking lot of old Healthworks*. All ages. 1K walk map available. Bring canned good for WUMCO.

Sugarloaf Citizens' Association Annual Meeting & Brunch

Linden Farm, 20900 Martinsburg Road, Dickerson. 9:30 a.m.

March 16

Commissioners' Meeting
Poolesville Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

March 17

St. Patrick's Day – Celebrate locally
• Complete Irish menu and Irish beer specials at *Bassett's*.

- Specials on Guinness beer draught and Old Irish Red Ale at *Cugini's*.
- Brian Jamison Band at 8:30 p.m. at *House of Poolesville*.

March 18

PASC Special Event
Poolesville Area Senior Center. **Zumba Gold**. 17750 West Willard Road, Poolesville. 1:00 p.m.

March 19

PASC Special Event
Montgomery Countryside Alliance movie screening of Growing Legacy (filmed locally). *Poolesville Town Hall*. 1:00 p.m.

March 20

PHS Varsity Home Games
Boys' tennis. *Watkins Mill*. 3:30 p.m.
Boys' lacrosse. *Gaithersburg*. 7:00 p.m.
Coed volleyball. *Sherwood*. 5:15 p.m.
Boys' volleyball. *Sherwood*. 7:00 p.m.

Spaghetti Family Dinner – Fridays in Lent

\$5.00 per person, \$15.00 per family. *St. Mary's Pavilion in Barnesville*. 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

March 20 and 21

Annual Used Book, and Media Sale
St. Peter's Parish in Poolesville. From 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Friday), 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Saturday).

March 21

Annual PACCommerce Business Fair: Destination Poolesville

Come visit with scores of local business vendors. MainSpring is sponsoring a commercial-size paper shredder and electronic recycling system. Food available. Door prizes with a drawing for the grand prize of \$200 gift certificate. *Poolesville Baptist Church Community Life Center, 17750 West Willard Road*. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Church 7th Annual St. Patrick's Dinner

Great Irish food and beer with all the fixins, Ceili dance, live Irish band. \$15.00 per person, \$35.00 per family. Reservations recommended at jphipps@gl.com. 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

March 25

PASC Special Event
T'ai Chi. 17750 West Willard Road, Poolesville. 1:00 p.m.

March 26

PASC Special Event
Budd Bingo with Bar T children. 17750 West Willard Road, Poolesville. 1:00 p.m.

March 28

Poolesville Small Engine: Spring Open House
Latest 2015 lawn equipment on display, food, and giveaways. *15100 Barnesville Road, Boyds*. 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Destination: Poolesville

Business/Community Fair

Saturday, March 21, 2015 10am-2pm

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Admittance is free! Get your passport and visit the vendor booths (submit to win prizes)

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- *3rd Alarm BBQ
- *Document Shredder Truck
- *Electronic recycling
- *Poolesville Soup Ladies
- *Door Prizes
- *Local Businesses

Tidbits

Dowdy-Rice Engagement

Tom and Nancy Dowdy of Poolesville are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter Hannah, a 2010 Poolesville High School graduate, to Ronald Rice, United States Coast Guard, son of Dave and Gayle Rice of Greene, New York. He is presently stationed in Baltimore, but will be reassigned to Alexandria Bay, New York in the summer. Wedding plans for later this year are in the works.



PHS grad Hannah Dowdy and fiancé Ronald Rice.

Who's that Peeking in the Window?

There are quite a few historical homes and commercial establishments in Poolesville, and perhaps you always wanted to check out some of those privately-owned homes and buildings but never got a chance. We can understand if becoming a peeping Tom is unacceptable, but the good news is there is another way to satisfy your curiosity.

Next October, there will be a history festival in town, and many of those homes will be open for your visit. Over two dozen Poolesville residents have already stepped forward to help create a very special event: Poolesville in the Civil War: The House Tour. This one-day event scheduled for October 10, 2015 will be focused on the town's historical Civil War experience through lectures by local experts, costumed docents at various homes of the war open to the public, special living history displays and presentations, and refreshments of the time period.

On February 28, a planning committee of town leaders, Ray and Link Hoewing, Cathy Bupp, Kevin Virkus, Kevin Schramm, Tom Kettler, Susan Petro, and Rande Davis, gathered to sift through the many ideas that could be included in such a special day. The group considers this a starting point and hopes it will become a much bigger festival in future years. Anyone interested in being part of this exciting event can simply contact any one of the planning committee members.

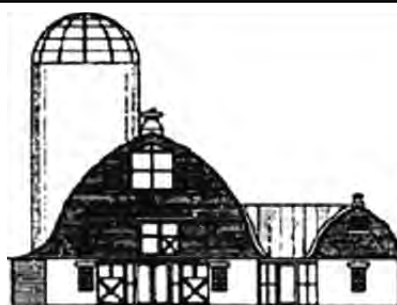


This planning group is undertaking a special Poolesville in the Civil War event. Front: George Virkus, Link Hoewing, and Susan Petro. Back: Kevin Schramm, Hilary Schwab, Tom Kettler, and Ray Hoewing.

Living the Dream?

It might not be every baby boomer's dream, but Marti and Ed Kirkpatrick, formerly of Dickerson, are now living their dream. They sold everything, their house and belongings, and are now living and traveling full-time in their twenty-five-foot Winnebago.

Continued on page 13.



SUGARLOAF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER March 2015

"Protecting our rural legacy"

How to contact us:

Sugarloaf Citizens' Association

Beth Daly, President

Linden Farm, 20900 Martinsburg Road

P.O. Box 218, Dickerson, MD 20842

Visit our Web site: www.sugarloafcitizens.org

You're Invited to:

Sugarloaf Citizens' Association's Annual Meeting & Brunch

Saturday, March 14th
9:30am

Linden Farm; 20900 Martinsburg Road;
Dickerson

Keynote Speaker: Senator Brian
Feldman (D-15)

It has been a long winter. Please come out from the cold and join us for brunch and conversation at the upcoming the Sugarloaf Citizens' Association's Annual Meeting.

We are pleased to announce that State Senator Brian Feldman will be our guest speaker. Land use attorney, Michele Rosenfeld, will also give an update on the Global Mission Church legal battle. Please feel free to bring along your questions and concerns to the meeting.

Leafgro bags and items from the "Sugarloaf Shoppe" will be for sale – so bring your checkbooks.

We look forward to seeing and catching up with all of you!

Warmly,

Beth Daly, President

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Focus on Business

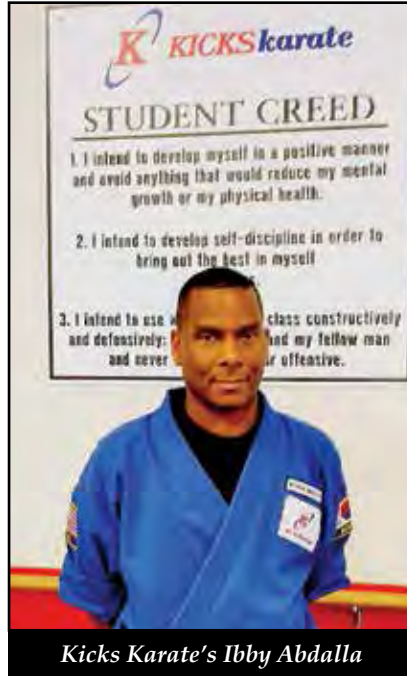
Ibby Abdalla And Kicks Karate

By Susan Petro

Kicks Karate recently welcomed Ibby Abdalla as the new manager and instructor at its Poolesville location. Abdalla, known to his students as Mr. A, is a seventh-degree black belt with over thirty years of teaching experience. Mr. A has quite an impressive résumé, including a world championship win in 1991 in a karate sparring competition. Mr. A competed both nationally and worldwide in locations such as Japan, Russia, and Switzerland against the best karate champions in the world. He was one of the top martial arts champions in the tri-state area of Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

Karate has been a part of Mr. A's life since he first began lessons at the age of seven when his mother enrolled him in an afterschool program at the D.C. Dragons Martial Arts Training Center in Washington, D.C. He continued to train at the studio and earned his black belt when he was twelve. Additionally, Abdalla was class secretary and president of the National Honor Society. When he was a junior in high

school, he participated in a student exchange program and studied in Japan. After Mr. A graduated from high school, he attended Catholic University and studied engineering. "I found



Kicks Karate's Ibby Abdalla

I didn't have the same kind of interest in that field as I did with martial arts," said Mr. A. "I'd become a local champion at the time and started competing

Continued on page 15.

Publisher of this very Monocle!

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Irish Stew
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Corned Beef and Cabbage
 The traditional St. Patrick's Day entrée:
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 (Corned beef, Swiss, and mustard)

Plus: Happy Hour All Day
Saturday, March 14th!

Local News

Fatal Collision on Darnestown Road

Detectives from the Montgomery County Police Department—Collision Reconstruction Unit (CRU) investigated a fatal collision that occurred the morning of March 9 in the Beallsville area.

At approximately 7:39 a.m., officers responded to a vehicle collision in the 20700 block of Darnestown Road (Route 28). Preliminary investigation indicates that a 1997 Ford F-250 was traveling west (toward Frederick) in the 20700 block of Darnestown Road. A 2009 dark gray Subaru Forester (with Maryland registration) was traveling east (toward Montgomery County) on Darnestown Road. For reasons still under investigation, the Ford F-250 crossed into the eastbound lane of Darnestown Road and struck the dark gray Subaru Forester head-on. The F-250 then rolled over multiple times and struck a 2014 Kia Sorento (that was traveling east) before coming to rest. A 2009 gray Subaru Forester (Virginia registration) was struck by flying debris during the collision.

The driver of the 2009 dark gray Subaru (Maryland registration) was transported to a local hospital and succumbed to her injuries at the hospital. She is identified as Amy Burdette Riggs, age 34, of the 2700 block of John Mills Road in Adamstown.

The driver of the Ford F-250 is identified as Kenneth Turner Bynaker, Jr., age 19, of the 13700 block of Travilah Road in Rockville. He was transported to a local hospital with serious but non-life-threatening injuries.

Tribute

Jane Stearns – A Life of Service

By Ray Hoewing

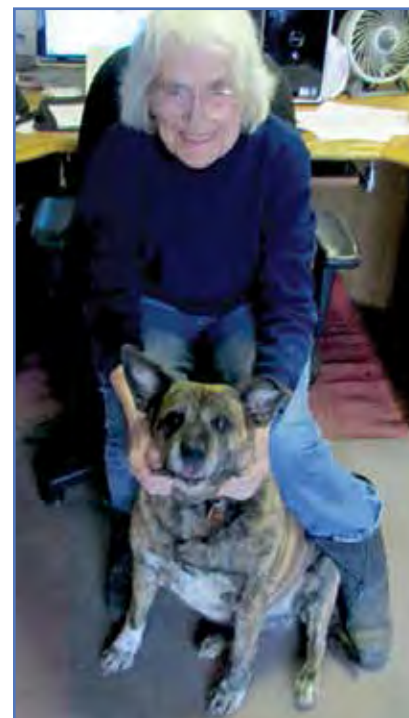
The WUMCO Help, Inc. board of directors will throw an appreciation party for Jane Stearns, its founder, next month, and everyone is invited to join them in celebrating her long service to the community. Before getting into the details of that event, *Monocle* readers should know a bit more about this grand and wonderful lady.

Of course, most local residents know that Jane is fiercely committed to providing emergency assistance to income-qualified families in crisis, and many also know she has devoted forty-seven years of her life to this cause, without compensation ever, essentially on a 24/7, 365-days-a-year basis. Additionally, for those who have had the pleasure of personally knowing her, she is gracious, self-deprecating, and always ready with a quip. Some may recall her selection in 2011 as Grand Marshal of the Poolesville Day Parade and that she had previously been a recipient of the Community Service Award from the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce.

Jane was born in May 1927 in a small town in Missouri. Her upbringing was not an idyllic childhood as she lost her mother at the age of eight to tuberculosis and lived with her great aunt for most of her growing years. She was determined to get an education and left home after high school to attend the College of William and Mary—a different route than what many of the young women of her era followed. Upon graduation, Jane headed for Washington, D.C. to find a job. She had focused on chemistry while at W&M, but women of her generation with a major in a “man’s field” had virtually no professional employment prospects. Although capable of much more, she took the only kind of work she was offered, a clerical position at the Pentagon.

Jane met Fred Stearns, the love of her life, when she was on a double date. “We were attracted to each other from the first moment,” she says. Within two weeks, they were engaged and two months later married. Fred Stearns had a well-positioned job with U.S. Geological Survey and provided a good life for his bride. Unable to have children, they opened their home to two foster children at different times.

Fred and Jane moved to Boyds shortly after their marriage. A few years later, they moved into a new



Jane Stearns and her “child,” Duchess.

home near Beallsville designed and partially-built by Fred (where WUMCO’s offices are housed today). Experiences in their early years in the community and even at their church (where they witnessed blatant discrimination against black people) changed their life orientation. “We felt God calling us” is Jane’s simple way of putting it. Both became advocates for change and participated in more than a few rallies and picket lines. For some years, Jane was also secretary of the county NAACP.

In the late sixties, she came to know Beulah Harper, a black woman and fellow community activist. “Inseparable,” she says of their relationship. Beulah’s pantry (sharing of groceries with needy neighbors) was the first iteration of WUMCO—with Jane racking up 75,000 miles in transporting clients to medical offices during the first few years. Though Beulah died a few years later, Jane guided the fledgling organization into the many-faceted, established 501(c)3 agency it is today. In her endeavors, she always had the enthusiastic support and involvement of Fred, including keeping WUMCO’s books for many years. He died in 2006 as a result of cancer.

Ask those who know Jane best to describe her and they will say “loving,” “woman of faith,” “tenacious.” Perhaps one other descriptive word is needed: Serenity. “I have had a good life,” she says. “I feel like I have been where God wanted me.”

As mentioned earlier, this highly-deserving and remarkable woman will

Continued on page 15.

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Fran Ichijo (Hope Garden Ballet) with Craig and Val Dickerson (commissioner, DJ, and Gopher It).



Poolesville Day Committee leadership: Gina Beck, Cathy Bupp (Town Recreational Director), and Faith Etheridge.



Brian (Liberty Gas Station), Frank, Jr. (Charles Jamison Real Estate), and Robert Jamison (Alegi Anderson, LLC) with Trent Bateman and Brian Foster of Colony Supply.

PACC

Annual Dinner



Jeff Stempler promotes the monthly PACC breakfast meetings themed Businesses Helping Businesses.



Cindy Eeg (Poolesville Veterinary Clinic) with Margaret Valega (Pike & Valega, D.D.S.).



Monica Molina (Magica Realty LLC), Alka Bhargava (M&T Bank), Gail Lee (W.C. & A.N. Miller Realtors), Eleanor Bateman (Redeemed Interiors). Standing: Gabi Jacob (MainSpring, Inc.) and Jim Brown (Turning Point Realty).

Colleen Brown (R.N. Brown) with William Price and Cherry Barr (William Price Wealth Management).



Nikki and Alex Markoff of Calvea Outdoors (left and right), and in the back, Doug Balls, Adrienne McBride, JaLynn Prince, and Alice Lynn O'Steen from the Madison House Autism Foundation.



Karen Wilson (The Blue Hearth), Dr. Peter Eeg, Catherine Beliveau (WUMCO Help), and Lucille DeGraba-Brown (Franklin Press).



Retiring PACC secretary Maggie Nightingale, and Jennifer Singh, the new secretary.



Paul Yaney and Joyce Breiner (Poolesville Green) with Joy (Old Oaks Tea Parlor) and Tom McCartin (Law Offices of Thomas McCartin).

Come Celebrate the Easter Season with us at Poolesville Baptist Church

Tenebrae Service
Good Friday
April 3rd
at 7:00 pm

Easter Breakfast
Sunday morning
April 5th,
at 9:15 a.m.
Followed by
Worship Service
at 10:30 a.m.

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School News

News from the Poolesville Cluster

By Heidi Rosvold-Brenholtz

PHS Students Win Awards For Excellence from MCCPTA

Three PHS students received Awards of Excellence for their submissions to the Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations (MCCPTA) Reflections Program, which celebrates the arts in education.

Annually, students across the country are invited to share their creativity and individuality through this national PTA program. Students are provided a theme, and they are free to interpret the theme through one of six categories: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts. Students in MCPS submit their entries through their local PTA to MCCPTA. Winners selected at the MCCPTA level move on to compete at the Maryland PTA (state) level, and if selected, proceed to the national competition.

PHS winners at the county level are: Huile Zhou, sophomore, for literature; Catherine Gao, sophomore, for music composition; and Kevin Su, freshman, for music competition. These students and their Reflections submissions have advanced to the state competition. Stephenson Botten, senior, was awarded an Honorable Mention.

In December, approximately twenty PHS students who participated in this year's Reflections Program competition were invited to the PTSA/principal's breakfast meeting where they displayed (and played) their submissions. The students discussed how their art connected to this year's theme: "The World Would Be a Better Place If..."

PHS Wrestling Continues to Dominate

The PHS wrestling team is proud to see continued success by its team members. In the 285-pound weight class, Kyle Wilkins took the top spot at the MCPS championships at Gaithersburg High School. Brian Truppo placed third at 113 pounds, and Dmitri Agnew placed sixth at 132 pounds.

At the Class 2A/1A South Regional, Kyle Wilkins captured the region title at 285 pounds by a 3-2 decision. Others who placed in the region were Dmitri Agnew, second place

at 132 pounds; Chris Danna, third place at 106 pounds; Brian Truppo, third place at 113 pounds; and Luke Maher in fourth place at 126 pounds. The Falcons finished in fifth place as a team.

Read about the team's season in the next issue of the Monocle. Also, read online about Kyle Wilkins's wrestling passion after only two years on the mat at www.gazette.net.

Nominations Open for PHS PTSA Officer and Committee Positions

The PHS Parent Teacher Student Association—"Supporting Rigor, Relevance and Relationships"—is seeking nominations for its officers (president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer) and for committee positions for the 2015-2016 school year. PHS PTSA committee members and officers work hard throughout the year to identify needs that will benefit the entire student community and fund or otherwise support activities that enhance the PHS experience of its students. For example, the Cultural Arts committee selects programs for two assemblies each school year that are widely appreciated by students. The committee also coordinated the artist-in-residence who organized the mural in the science building that each PHS student helped to create. Staff appreciation events, the Senior Class Picnic, purchasing comfortable recliners for the Media Center, holiday ornament sales, and supporting students in need are just a few examples of the PTSA's work.

For a full list of committees, please see the PTSA web page or attend the next PTSA meeting on April 21, 7:30 p.m. when nominations will be submitted. Consider serving as a PHS PTSA officer or committee chairperson or nominating someone who would. Contact nominating committee chairperson, Judy McKenney, with names: judy.mckenney@comcast.net.

Here Comes Kindergarten

Poolesville Elementary School is scheduling appointments for 2015-2016 Kindergarten Orientation. Students must have turned five years old by September 1, 2010 to register.

Orientation dates are:

**Friday, May 1, 2015 and
Monday, May 4, 2015.**

Please contact Mrs. Harnay at 301-972-7960 to schedule an appointment.








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March 13: DJ Slim Pickens at 8:30 p.m.

March 14: DJ Slim Pickens at 8:30 p.m.

March 17 – St. Patrick's Day:

Brian Jamison Band 8:30 P.M.

March 20: DJ Slim Pickens at 8:30 p.m.

March 21: Gina's Soul Party at 8:30 p.m.

March 27: DJ Slim Pickens at 8:30 p.m.

March 28: Mindy Miller at 8:30 p.m.

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Police Blotter

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Assault: 19200 block of Hempstone Avenue.

Theft: 19200 block of Fisher Avenue, 19600 block of White Ground Road.

Disorderly conduct: 19800 block of Beatriz Avenue.

Past Crime

March 13, 1905 A word of warning from Deputy Sheriff Bradley was enough to call off the boxing match scheduled at the Rock Spring Club on the Conduit Road (MacArthur Blvd). Over a hundred swells from Washington were on hand to watch Eddie Crowley and Fred Martin go at it. Martin wanted to proceed with the match, but Crowley announced that he had a good job and did not wish to be a guest of the Rockville jail.

March 14, 1905 Deputy Sheriff Hamilton arrested the owner of the Laughing House at Cabin John Bridge and charged him with being in violation of the Sunday laws (at the time amusements and certain stores could not be open on Sunday). Andy Kimball, the owner, was taken before a magistrate and fined \$15. In the meantime, detectives fanned out across the county and observed certain amusements being operated and planned to bring their evidence to the state's attorney.

March 15, 1906 Judge Henderson sentenced Thomas Thornton to one year in the House of Correction for assaulting well-known Derwood area

farmer Aubrey Green. Later that day, the judge heard the case of Charles and Louise Magruder. Deputy Green testified that he had attempted to arrest the husband and wife team for disturbance of the public peace when he was assaulted by both. The judge sentenced Charles to six months in jail but suspended the sentence for Louise.

March 16, 1906 Sidney Hawkins, of the upper section of Montgomery County, caused quite a commotion at the Clerk of the Court's office that week. He first appeared and obtained a marriage license for himself and a lady of the upper section. A few days later, he walked in again and bought a second marriage license naming Miss Mary Case as his bride. When questioned, he said that he changed his mind and wanted to marry Miss Case. Sheriff Williams happened to be in the courthouse on business, so Hawkins sought his advice on which woman he should marry. Sheriff Williams wanted no part of making such a decision. Hawkins then walked out front where a carriage was waiting, and he and Miss Case made their way to the home of a preacher who pronounced them man and wife.

March 26, 1909 The Montgomery County grand jury returned thirty indictments for violations of the local liquor laws. Sheriff Mullican, Deputy Hewitt, and members of the Anti-Saloon League had spent the previous weeks gathering evidence against those who partook in intoxicants. Rockville had passed a local option (no liquor) law a few months before.

Some of the material in this column was obtained from the archives of the Washington Post.

Continued from page 4.

Rotten to the Core?

average without any certainty that those excellent schools won't actually be hurt by this program.

We in Poolesville can march solidly with torches lit with our collective voices shouting to improve our school buildings, but watch numbly and silently as our entire educational system is radically experimented with by academic elites who, at their core, seem to lack common sense.

The irony is that initially I liked the idea of Common Core—at least, what I thought it was all about. It sounded really good to me. Who could be against something that would ensure that core educational knowledge would be taught and that academic values would be commonly shared and this program would measure results to make sure that schools were bringing good value for the expenditure of our investment into them?

The official title of the program is Common Core States Standards Initiative. I don't think the program lives up to its name. I do not believe the examinations reflect our core educational needs in order to succeed in life and will only emphasize the division

in educational levels from school to school, and they will not bring about commonality of improvement in education. It smacks more of a nationally-based system than the marquee as a localized, state-by-state description. If you evaluate Common Core by my opening question, I think the answer is all of the above. Common Core as it turns out is a big surprise, a bigger mistake, a fantasy unhinged from reality, and borders on fraud.

If you think I am way off base on this, the following is taken from one of its sample questions.

2. Which of the following choices best defines the underlined word?

The impoverished shepherds stumbled upon the stele while desperately searching for some lost sheep; they were surprised and puzzled by the bizarre lines and squiggles that covered its face.

- a. an item that has been looted from a tomb
- b. a sign that indicates direction
- c. the side of a cliff
- d. a large, inscribed stone

Answer: A large inscribed stone. A stele is a large, upright stone that typically has writing on it. It is used as a monument; steles were commonly used in ancient cultures in the Middle East.

Continued from page 7.

Tidbits: Living the Dream?

After forty-three loving years together laboring for both the corporate world and themselves, raising two fine young men, and actually accomplishing a shared dream of designing and building their perfect home, they were not truly content. They were getting physically and mentally tired of maintaining too many flower gardens and too much house.

There was also the ever-present emotional exhaustion of having buried their oldest, Scott, at Arlington National Cemetery in August of 2007. Needing a change, a big one, and with their other son Kevin's blessing, they embarked on another long-shared dream. They will be traveling from place to place crossing off a lot from the bucket list as they go. You can live their dream vicariously through them by following their travels at whackamole.com.

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Garden

A Rose Is a Rose Is Not a Rose

By Maureen O'Connell

Several columns ago, I pledged that I was through with pampering my gardens' Delicate Ones and through with spraying for pests and diseases with harsh chemicals. From now on, my garden residents would have to be tough, and the motto, Survival of the Fittest, would carry the day. Well, I must confess a little secret: I miss my roses.

Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862) believed in simple living; he said, "Truths and roses have thorns about them." Alphonse Karr (1808-1890), a French critic, journalist, and novelist, wrote in his book, A Tour Round My Garden, "Some people grumble that roses have thorns; I am grateful that thorns have roses." Simply said: Not everything in life comes without a downside. I believe that the rose is truly the Queen of Flowers and the most versatile and beautiful of garden plants. The rose's thorns are both literal and figurative. They may prick your finger, and their high maintenance may make them thorny.

That said, why did I just order six new, own-root roses from David Austin Roses?

As I said, I miss the beautiful, ever-changing color and shape of their petals, their intoxicating and sweet scent, and their commanding presence in my garden, but I am fully aware of the difficulties of growing them here in Monocacy Country. Where is the best place in the U.S. to grow roses? Portland, Oregon has been proclaimed the top U.S. Rose City, with Tyler, Texas coming in second. I speculate that that might have been the reason that David Austin chose Tyler for the site of his first U.S. rose garden center.

My apologies to William Radler, the Wisconsin rose breeder who spent twenty-five years developing and bringing to market the Knock-Out Rose. Its claim to fame is that it is considered one of the hardiest, most disease-resistant, and prolific breed of rose ever created. Well, after growing them from 2000, the year they were introduced, I beg to differ, or, to use a cliché, the bloom is off that rose for me. They might have some resistance to many rose troubles, but resistance is not enough when the conditions are

Continued on page 17.

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Continued from page 8.

Ibby Abdalla and Kicks Karate

in national events and national tournaments—which eventually led to becoming an instructor.”

Before joining Kicks Karate when they opened in 1994, Mr. A taught at a variety of martial arts schools in Montgomery County and Northern Virginia. Mr. A appreciates teaching at Kicks Karate because it is one of the top karate schools in the country with twelve schools in Montgomery County and over 4300 students and still growing. Kicks Karate was recently voted as the number one martial arts school in Montgomery County in the 2014 Best of Montgomery County contest sponsored by the Gazette.

Karate is a Japanese form of self-defense derived from the word karate-emptiness and te-hand; meaning you don't have anything in your hand to defend yourself. The Korean form of self-defense is referred to as taekwondo. The president and founder of Kicks Karate, John Bussard, was taught by taekwondo grand master Ki Whang Kim who produced some of the best black belt champions in the world. One of Kim's students won the first taekwondo championship in Korea.

Kicks Karate has classes for all age ranges starting with the Tiny Tigers program for three- and four-year-olds, Little Ninjas for ages five through seven, and the Children's Program for ages eight to twelve. Children start earning solid color belts at the age of eight. It takes about three and a half years of continuous training to earn a black belt. Adult classes start at age thirteen. Each level focuses on age-appropriate skills and activities. The students who are less than eight can still earn different colored belts, but they will have white stripes either on the inside or outside of the belt, signifying the different level of skill sets appropriate to each age group.

Mr. A teaches all age groups with the help of two assistants. Each class has an average of ten students. The maximum class size is thirty students.

Many former students who develop the same passion for karate as Mr. A go on to become assistants or instructors as they progress with their karate skills.

Mr. A talks about the many benefits that karate instruction offers for both children and adults, including the emphasis of learning focus and control. The structure children get from learning karate helps them listen and function better in both classrooms, at home, and other social environments. Kicks Karate also has a life skills manual that teaches the importance of gratitude, goal setting, and dealing with bullies. Additionally, karate provides an excellent workout for all ages and helps to relieve stress.

In addition to karate, the Poolesville location is known for its excellent kickboxing program that is quite popular with adults. Some local students come to classes four or five times a week to participate in kickboxing activities.

Both males and females actively participate in every level of karate. Recently, one of Mr A's female students from Kicks Karate's Bethesda location won first place in a local Capital Classics competition. On Sundays, Mr. A works with a competition team in Bethesda, and he recently started another competition team for local Poolesville residents.

When not teaching Karate, Mr. A likes to watch basketball, football, and other sports on television. Since his job as an instructor is physically demanding, he uses his off time to unwind and relax. "It's a long, but rewarding day," said Mr. A, who clearly loves instilling the same passion, confidence, and skills that have carried him throughout his lifetime.

To meet Mr. A and learn more about the classes offered at Kicks Karate, stop by the Poolesville Village location to watch our own local world-champion karate instructor inspire and teach future generations of students. Whether your goal is to become a champion, a future karate instructor, or simply to improve your fitness level with rounds of kickboxing or karate lessons, Mr. A looks forward to meeting you.

Continued from page 9.

Jane Stearns – A Life of Service

be fêted by WUMCO on April 30 in a very special evening entitled: "Salute to Jane." After the decades of her service and sacrifice, it is time for the whole community to come together to properly thank her. The event will be held at the Poolesville Baptist Church Community Life Center (where WUMCO will be relocating around April 1) directly across from the high school starting at 5:30 p.m. It's hoped all will attend, and readers should watch for final details in the next *Monocle*.

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 Family Spaghetti Dinners, March 13 & 20 - 5:30 - 7:30 pm \$5 per person / \$20 per family
 Youth sponsored Soup & Salad Bar Supper, March 27, same price
 Stations of the Cross at 7:30 pm

St. Patrick's Party - Saturday, March 21 - 6:30 - 10 pm

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Remembrance

Florence E. Randolph

Florence E. Randolph of Dickerson passed away on February 25. Florence was born on December 21, 1938. She was remembered by mourners for her sweet personality, welcoming hospitality, and smile.



Florence E. Randolph

Continued from page 14.

A Rose Is a Rose Is Not a Rose

just right for a disease or pest attack—like the ones that we have recently been experiencing. They claim that they do not need to be deadheaded. That might be true for a small bush, but larger ones look totally messy and unkempt without deadheading and pruning by mid-summer. They have no scent; that is one of my main requirements in a rose. They have become as ubiquitous as ornamental kale at gas stations. They are pushy neighbors in a perennial border. Once they become established, they grow and grow and grow. I would rather grow one beautiful, scented English or hybrid tea rose to ten Knock-Outs.

How am I going to take care of these new roses? Probably the same way I took care of them in the past. Some of my hybrid teas and David Austin roses lived for ten, fifteen, even twenty years: ‘Mr. Lincoln,’ ‘Peace,’ ‘Chicago Peace,’ ‘Queen Elizabeth,’ ‘Heritage,’ ‘Mary Rose,’ ‘Just Joey,’ ‘Winchester Cathedral,’ ‘Sharifa Asma,’ ‘Queen of Denmark,’ and many more. I believe that harsher summer weather conditions and my no-chemical spray program contributed to my present problems. Some were planted in newly-dug beds and some in old beds; some were in full sun and others were in filtered sun.

I recently spoke with Michael Marriott, senior rosarian at David Austin Roses in Shropshire, England, about my rose problems. He made some planting recommendations and suggested some David Austin roses that might do well in Maryland. We both agreed that England is a more weather-friendly country for roses than Maryland. Plus, they don’t have our Japanese beetle-infestation in England.

For mildew and blackspot problems, he recommends a simple homemade solution: 1tablespoon of baking soda (or potassium bicarbonate, gentler to the rose), one gallon of water, 2 tablespoons of vegetable oil, and three drops of dishwashing liquid, such as Dawn. Spray every week. He also recommended a product named Serenade. It is a broad spectrum bio-fungicide which contains a unique patented strain of Bacillus subtilis, and it is approved for organic gardening. I like it because it is nontoxic to birds, bees, beneficial insects, fish, and wildlife. For best results, treat plants prior to disease development and at first signs of disease.

Rose breeding is an unpredictable science. Many roses are of many mixed origins with many generations behind them. Crossing a pink one with a certain white one with exceptional fragrance and hardiness is no guarantee that the offspring or sport will be equally good. Progress is not always a step forward. It is often a game of tradeoffs. The old roses might have bloomed once and had poor disease resistance, but the fragrance, the fragrance. That’s why many love the rose, despite its problems.

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Toxins for Cats

Peter H. Eeg, DVM

Poolesville Veterinary Clinic

Your cat is curious, sticking his nose into random spaces and places. Exploring may expose him to some not so obvious dangers in your home. It just takes a bit of time and know-how to "cat-proof" your house so your kitty stays healthy and safe.

Human Medicines: Some human over-the-counter and prescription medicines pose a serious threat to your cat, so keep them in a place he can't get into. You may have heard that some common medicines work for people and cats. Never medicate your cat without first talking to your vet, though—it's easy to give your cat a fatal overdose. What to watch for: Antidepressants, cancer medicines, cold medicines, diet pills, pain relievers (acetaminophen, aspirin, ibuprofen), vitamins and other supplements.

Human Foods: Many cats crave people food, but this human fare can be poisonous to your feline: Alcohol, caffeine (coffee, soda, tea), chives, chocolate, garlic, yeast dough, grapes, onions, raisins, and xylitol (found in sugarless gums, candies, toothpastes).

Indoor and Outdoor Plants: Aloe, azaleas, chrysanthemums, lilies, marijuana, mistletoe, poinsettia, rhododendrons, and tulips.

Insecticides and Other Chemicals: Some chemicals taste especially good to cats. To prevent accidental pet poisoning, keep these and all chemicals locked away: Antifreeze, bleach, detergents, de-icing salts (which pets may walk through, then lick from their pads), dog flea and tick medication (pills, collars, sprays, shampoos), fertilizers, herbicides, insect and rodent bait.

Household Hazards: Some may lead to intestinal blockages. These common household items can choke or strangle your cat: Chicken bones, dental floss, yarn, string, holiday decorations, including lights and tinsel, toys with small or movable parts.

If your cat's been poisoned or you think he/she has been exposed to something toxic, every moment matters. Call your vet. Post your veterinarian's phone number in an obvious place, along with the number for the **Animal Poison Control Center: (888) 426-4435** or **Pet Poison Helpline: (855) 289-0358**.

Remember to collect samples of vomit, stool, and the poison your cat consumed to take to the vet with your cat.



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