April 7 dawned with the discovery of anti-Semitic defacement of the Shaare Torah Synagogue. By 8 p.m. that evening, the congregation and the community gathered at the synagogue for a special service to reflect, heal and focus on strength.

Hate Crime Strengthens Resolve to Promote Tolerance

By Ellyn Wexler

In the still of the night of April 7, two masked vandals spray-painted 11 white swastikas, “KKK,” “Hitler” and a misspelled expletive on three sides of Shaare Torah Congregation’s exterior. Within hours of discovering the defilement of the 10-year-old Lakelands building, volunteers removed the visible damage; city and county government officials expressed their outrage; the local media spread the ugly news; community members exchanged opinions on social media sites and gathered to pray, talk and support each other at the building; and City of Gaithersburg and Montgomery County police detectives initiated a search for the perpetrators.

Kentlands Home & Garden Tour Is a Feast for the Eyes

By Sharon Allen Gilder

My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece,” said impressionist painter Claude Monet. His words will resonate during the 2015 Kentlands Home & Garden Tour on Saturday, May 9 as doors and gates open for attendees to enjoy the rare opportunity to feast their eyes on the architecture, private interiors and outdoor sanctuaries of several properties in Kentlands.

In celebration of the community’s 25th anniversary, visitors will also have the opportunity to see the neighborhood through the eyes of local artists who will be painting en plein air (in the open air) at Kentlands Mansion and in the gardens and homes on the tour.

Kentlands resident Terri Downs, owner of JT Interiors, is coordinating the artists. “I just think it’s a nice touch. Art goes with homes,” she said. “I think it’s a nice thing for people who come into the community and don’t know the community see it looking through the artists’ eyes as they’re painting something right there. Also, it’s just nice for people who are living in the community to come in to see what the local artists have to offer … to tap into them.” She added that the art will be for sale.

April 22 Town Hall Meeting Discusses Publication Merger

By Pam Schipper

On Wednesday, April 22, Kentlands residents are invited to a Kentlands Citizens Assembly (KCA) Town Hall meeting at 7:30 p.m. On the agenda is the proposed merging of the Town Crier, the official voice of the KCA, and The Town Courier, an independent, local and family-run community newspaper. Pros and cons of this proposal will be discussed. Diane Dorney, Town Courier publisher, will give a presentation about the Courier and how the proposed merger would work. Residents will then be invited to ask questions of Dorney and the KCA Board.

Under the proposal, the KCA would be given two pages in each biweekly Town Courier issue, free of charge. The KCA would create content for the pages and retain editorial control of them. As a 25-year resident, former and first-ever KCA president, and the founder and former editor of the Town Crier in its newspaper format, Town Courier publisher Diane Dorney is committed to covering all important Kentlands-related news from its various organizations, such as the Kentlands Foundation.

The KCA would realize a substantial savings in printing and mailing costs from the proposed merger. According to Ty Hardaway, KCA Board vice chair, a figure for the total savings will be shared at the Town Hall meeting on Wednesday night. In addition, staff resources could be diverted toward improving other means of communication like social media, e-publications and the KCA website.

KCA news would gain a wider audience through Town Courier distribution channels. The Courier is delivered to every home in Kentlands, Lakelands, Quince Orchard Park and Washingtonian Woods-free of charge to residents. The Courier is also distributed for town development.
Wells’ Denim & Diamonds Is a Real Gem

By Sharon Allen Gilder

Get ready to kick up your heels and get your jeans and bling on for Denim & Diamonds, the dinner dance fundraiser hosted by Friends of Wells/Robertson House, Inc. (FWRHi) on Friday, April 24 at the Gaithersburg Hilton. The annual event helps support programs housed in a Queen Anne–style Victorian home in Olde Towne Gaithersburg known as Wells/Robertson House (Wells). The house, built in 1885, was purchased and restored by the City of Gaithersburg in 1988, and its programs have been rebuilding lives ever since.

Wells offers transitional housing for people who are homeless and in recovery from chemical addiction, and it stands as a testament to the partnership of government, business and a community that forged together to define problems, identify solutions, and take actions. The program’s goal is to break the cycle of relapse and homelessness, and offer treatment designed to provide services residents need to transition into stable, sober and independent living when they exit Wells’ doors.

Jimmy Frazier-Bey knows firsthand the operations of Wells from recovery process through outreach and assisting others. He openly shares that he is a 1989 graduate of the program and that he had a good job as a plant employee with Montgomery County Public Schools before he fell into addiction that lasted over 19 years. He began as a part-time employee at Wells in 1991 and became full-time in 1994. Today, he is the division manager of homeless services for the City of Gaithersburg, and he is one of many staff members who work as a team effort at the house.

The program accommodates 10 men and four women and is intentionally kept from growing too large to emulate a family environment. Each resident is assigned a primary counselor and builds a master plan with goals, actions steps, and a timeline for reaching the goal. Residents are required to have jobs, establish a budget and savings account, attend a twelve-step meeting daily, and live in a community where they elect house officers and hold weekly meetings. Frazier-Bey shared, “They make a grocery list and do their own shopping. … Of course, some staff has to go with them when they go to the store, but they do the cooking and the cleaning. Everything they do here kind of mimics what they would do in their own house.”

He said a two-man outreach team tries to engage homeless men and women on the streets. If they have alcohol and drug problems and want help, they are the priorities for admission. There are also referrals from local treatment centers. “I want to say it like we say it … you have to be in recovery, in other words, you will have to have gone through a stabilizing process … either an inpatient treatment program, or somewhere where you’re not still using, but have been stabilized from alcohol and drugs,” said Frazier-Bey. The program has a zero tolerance policy. He added, “Once a person takes a drug here, we have to do an intervention.”

Frazier-Bey shared a street success story that he used to do here that I did in my hometown with the support of a community like Gaithersburg, it was just unbelievable.” He also emphasized that he is able, “Once a person takes a drug here, we have to do an intervention.”

Frazier-Bey, division manager of homeless services for the City of Gaithersburg, is one member of a team that supports people transitioning from homelessness and addiction to a stable and independent life at Gaithersburg’s Wells/Robertson House.

Lakelands Greens Up Well

Lisa, Josh, Eric and Olivia Robin worked to keep Lakelands beautiful on a lovely Saturday morning.

Insect (left to right): Mina Golden, Susan Eastman and Claudette Bernstein passed out equipment provided by the City of Gaithersburg on April 11 for Lakelands Clean Up Day. Whole Foods Market Kentlands donated refreshments.

Photo | Mac Kennedy

FrogWatch Reports Spring Peepers

Frogs and toads are more than a welcome sign of spring. Their presence is indicative of the health of local waterways. Last year, Montgomery County joined the FrogWatch USA volunteer frog and toad monitoring program and collected data on species and their numbers all around the county.

Volunteers this spring are already out collecting data. At a monitoring site in the Kentlands on Inspiration Lake, spring peepers have been heard. Further south in Lakelands, volunteers have heard green frogs, spring peepers and gray treefrogs.

Ryan Zerbe, watershed outreach planner for the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, recommended that community residents interested in volunteering with FrogWatch work with Muddy Branch Alliance volunteers who are collecting data for FrogWatch.

For a second year, Muddy Branch Alliance volunteer Sandy Dovekis is monitoring activity at Lake Sheila. She urged prospective FrogWatch volunteers to visit montgomerycountymd.mygreenmontgomery.org/frogwatch for more information, and to contact her at muddybranchalliance@gmail.com if they would like to volunteer.

New General Manager for Kentlands

Randy Fox, Kentlands Citizens Assembly (KCA) general manager, has been promoted by the KCA management company, Community Management Corporation (CMC). Fox’s successor, Beth Brittingham, began work on-site the first week in April.

Tree Removal Marks Next Phase of Quince Orchard Retaining Wall

On April 9, the next phase of work on the Quince Orchard retaining wall began with the removal of trees in remediation areas. In a March 25 President’s Report to the Kentlands Citizens Assembly Board, President Barney Gorin wrote, “The plan is to limit the tree removal work to the areas to be remediated and to do it in the sequence in which the remediation work will be done.”

Book Festival Receives Large Donation

Whole Foods Market Kentlands donated 5 percent of the store’s pre-tax sales on April 8 to the Gaithersburg Book Festival (GBF). This 5% Community Giving Day and special evening wine tasting resulted in a $5,150 donation to GBF! Pinksy Rodgers of Pinksy’s and Pepe’s Grape Escape and Sienna Wines brought wonderful wines to complement food prepared by Whole Foods.
Gaithersburg Police Preserve and Strengthen Relationships With Community

G
t on an opinion on the Gaithersburg Police Department (GPD)? Have your voice heard by completing a survey on the city’s website. Residents are asked to choose one of four ratings—excellent, good, fair or poor—for general questions, including rating your overall experience with the department and officers’ attitudes and behavior. Participants are also asked to choose comfortable, moderately concerned or very concerned when asked questions regarding their thoughts on safety and security in the city and their neighborhood.

The survey, which can be done anonymously, also provides a section for residents to leave comments regarding their tips for better and we do. ...(The survey) helps us to focus on where we need improvement.”

With the goal of strengthening relationships between law enforcement and youth, members of the GPD and the Montgomery County Police Department recently participated in a Youth Summit held April 8 at the Activity Center at Bohrer Park. Around 80 high school students from around the county participated in the event. Students were paired off into a group with a law enforcement official where questions were asked, including what they value, when was a time they felt like they were judged, and how can the bond between youth and police be strengthened?

“The hope is that this will be one of many summits to be held in the future,” Lane said.

Former Teacher Takes Plea Deal, Sentencing May 29

A
former Montgomery County Public Schools substitute teacher will be sentenced May 29 after reaching a plea deal five days before he was set to be tried for alleged sexual assaults against two students.

The agreement, reached April 1, states prosecutors will drop eight of the 10 charges against Jose Pineda, 50, and not ask for more than a five-year prison term. Since he is from Honduras and not a U.S. citizen, he could face deportation once his sentence is completed. His name will also be added to the state’s online sex-offender registry.

On Sept. 30, a female student at Roberto Clemente Middle School alleged Pineda allegedly touched her inappropriately, Montgomery County Police Department said. After an investigation, Pineda was charged on Oct. 14 with one count of third-degree sex offense and one count of sex abuse of a minor. During the plea hearing, Assistant State’s Attorney Timothy Hagen said Pineda touched and squeezed a female student’s buttock several times.

After news broke of the first victim, three more came forward to police, each saying Pineda allegedly touched them inappropriately during the school day, police said. Two of the victims are currently enrolled at Ridgeview Middle School and one is a woman in her mid-20s who

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MEETING CALENDAR

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>4/17</td>
<td>Economic and Business Development Committee Meeting, City Hall Gallery, 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/20</td>
<td>Environmental Awards Ceremony, City Hall Gallery, 6:15-7:15 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/23</td>
<td>State of the City Address, Rosborough Cultural Arts Center, 6:30-8:30 p.m.</td>
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| 4/27  | Mayor and City Council Work Session, City Hall Council Chambers, 7:30 p.m.
| 4/29  | Gaithersburg Arts & Monuments Funding Corporation Meeting, Activity Center at Bohrer Park, 7:30 p.m. |

For the latest information on city meetings, visit the City of Gaithersburg website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov.

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story from many years ago about an alcoholic woman who lived in a homeless camp for eight years in the woods near Watkins Mill Road. He visited the campers over a six-month period to encourage her to seek treatment. “I kind of allied with her peers and they too said, ‘You need to go to treatment.’ I showed up there one day just to visit the camp and she said, ‘I’m ready.’ After treatment she went to Wells. Today I can knock on her door and she can say, ‘Who is it?’ because she has a key to her own apartment. She reunited with her daughter. … That’s just one (story), but that one there just always stands up.”

He added, “This is kind of a hard thing to say, but I’ll say it the best way I can … they (the homeless) may not perceive needs the way we do. I mean, sometimes living in the woods is not homeless but surviving to them. Many of them have mental health issues. I had a gentleman tell me in that same camp … I said, ‘Look how you’re living,’ and he said, ‘I’m living better than you. I don’t have to put up with the stuff you put up with. It’s simple out here.’ And, the way he said it, it was said in sincerity … he really believed that.”

Bratta Monaco, director of the department of community and public relations for the City of Gaithersburg, said the FY15 budget for Wells/Robertson House is $56,000. The program is supported by other funds including $130,000 from HUD, $9,200 from Montgomery County, and $35,000 from FWRH. “The residents of Wells pay a service fee that equals about $8,000 in revenue,” said Monaco.

FWRH, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, is the fundraising arm of Wells and was established in 1993 with the goal of raising an endowment to allow for the continuation of programs in the event that federal funding ceased to be available. Gaithersburg native Linda Plummer, community connector with Health and Human Services and current president of FWRH, said she was recruited by the late Mayor Ed Bohrer to serve on the committee to establish the non-profit. She said, “I’ve always been an advocate for people who are disenfranchised. I like the interaction with the residents to let them know that they have a support base and that we can interact with them as well as their families throughout the year, and provide additional services for them outside of programs that they don’t have at the Wells house, or that are not covered under fundraising or the budget under the Wells house.”

Plummer said that FWRH solicited Montgomery College (MC) to partner with them and provide scholarship career development for the residents that remain in good standing. MC provided a $20,000 grant that was matched by the non-profit. Wells has a computer lab for residents to conduct job searches and complete coursework.

She noted that last year, Denim & Diamonds raised almost $6,000. “In order to continue to provide an annual allocation for them for their programs throughout the year, this is one of the events that we really count on to provide services.”

City Councilmember Henry Marraffa, who also serves on FWRH’s board of trustees, praised the work of Wells. “It takes a lot of people who we actually get off the streets and puts their lives back in order. … We get them education, we get them jobs, and we get them sober. It’s really hard to get into. It’s a very popular program and this is one of the better ones in the county, if not the best. We have about an 85 percent success rate, which is unheard of. … That means 85 percent of the people don’t come back or don’t go into another program.”

“It’s been a boost really,” said Plummer. “They used to have a lot of homeless people standing around, hanging around, and we see very little of that anymore … and, if we can better the lives of some community members, then that impacts their families and that’s how we can move forward.”

Residents learn coping skills, problem-solving, and team-building strategies. Frazier-Bey said, “One of the biggest things that we’ve found effective in recent years is that we have a volunteer corps that is called Gratitude in Action, which means basically giving back to the community that supports them. It keeps them in touch with where they’ve been and where they’re trying to go.”

Residents are required to complete volunteer hours by participating in a variety of events, such as greeters for outreach programs, stuffing bags for local camps, and working at the Gaithersburg Book Festival.

“Friends of Wells/Robertson House helps us with programs like aftercare, continuing care … they sponsor our annual recovery picnic, which we host over 200 people … they do a lot to help us with the activities. … It almost sounds like you’re bragging, but those funds and activities help us to be a cut above like programs. … There are a lot of great outcomes,” said Frazier-Bey. He added, “Donations and underwriting says what the community supports and values.”

FWRH’s commemorative project titled “Walk of Life” provides the opportunity for individuals, families, groups and businesses to purchase bricks or pavers engraved with corporate or loved-one’s names. The memorials line the pathway to Wells/Robertson House’s entrance. “There’s a lot of history here,” said Frazier-Bey.

The cost for Denim & Diamonds tickets is $50 per person. Jim Savitz and The Reunion Band will provide live music. For more information, visit www.friendofwells.org.
**Winter Farmers Market**

Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Main Street Pavilion

Enjoy winter vegetables as well as produce grown in local greenhouses. Other items may include meat, breads, crab cakes, soups, dips and spreads, pickles, crepes, cupcakes and cookies, scones, eggs, honey, jams and jellies, hot drinks, herbs, soaps, and plants and flowers. The market will not open if weather is severe. www.gaithersburgmd.gov

**‘Abstractions’ Exhibit**  
Through April 19, Arts Barn Gallery

This exhibit features the paintings of Lawrence Charity, Nina Graybill and Linda Orenstein and the ceramics of Sherine Emanuele and Jennifer Hamilton at the Arts Barn Main Gallery. Featured in the invitational gallery is the work of the students of Natalya Parris. www.gaithersburgmd.gov

**‘Next to Normal’**  
Through April 26, 8 p.m. Fridays & Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays, Arts Barn

With a thrilling contemporary score, “Next to Normal” is an emotional powerhouse of a musical about a family trying to take care of themselves and each other. It is presented in partnership with Rockville Schools. www.gaithersburgmd.gov

**Fatoumata Diawara**  
April 17, 8 p.m., BlackRock Center for the Arts

Perpetuating Mali’s rich musical tradition, Fatoumata Diawara presents a joyous mix of the vibrant and understated, combining songs about love, politics and empowerment with arresting melodies soaring over intricate guitar and drum arrangements. Inspired by Wassoulou tradition, jazz and blues, Fatoumata Diawara has created her own unique, contemporary folk sound, with a distinctly African spin to the concept of the female singer-songwriter. Tickets are $26. www.blackrockcenter.org

**Sugarloaf Crafts Festival**  
April 17-19, 10-6 p.m. Friday & Saturday, 10-5 p.m. Sunday, Montgomery County Fairgrounds

Lovers of fine crafts and art will find more than 250 top artisans displaying and selling their unique creations in pottery, sculpture, glass, jewelry, fashion, home décor, furniture and home accessories, items for the garden, and photography. In addition to top national artists, the festival will also introduce new and emerging artists showcasing the latest trends in handmade fashion and accessories, statement jewelry and fine art. www.sugarloafcrafts.com

**Grow It Eat It Open House**  
April 18, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Agricultural History Farm Park, Derwood

Visit the garden, meet with Master Gardener consultants (bring your garden plans to discuss), attend classes and demonstrations, bring your seeds for the Seed Swap and visit the much larger plant sale this year! The plant sale will sell many of the plants and items mentioned in the classes and demonstrations plus supplies for your spring garden—everything from fruit, vegetables, flowers and herbs to garden supplies. Free, but donations are appreciated.

**Meet the Artists Reception for ‘Sea Paintings’ and exhibit by the Maryland Colorists**  
April 19, 3 p.m., BlackRock Center for the Arts, Terrace Gallery

Meet the artists Melissa Gryder, Sharon Littig, Abigail McBride, Nancy McCarra, Sarah Wardell, Michele del Pilar, and Andree Tullier, the members of the Maryland Colorists group whose paintings are featured in the exhibit “Light: Essence of Color,” on view in the Terrace Gallery through May 30. Free. www.blackrockcenter.org

**Meet the Artists Reception: ‘Sea Paintings’**  
April 19, 3 p.m., BlackRock Center for the Arts, Main Gallery

Meet local artist Stephen Estrada, whose oil paintings are featured in the solo exhibit “Sea Paintings,” which will be on view in the Main Gallery through April 25. Free, but reservations are recommended. www.blackrockcenter.org

**Tales of Wonder: ‘The Cave Dwellers’**  
April 19, 7:30 p.m., Arts Barn

“The Cave Dwellers” by William Sa-royan explores the adventures of home-less people camping out on the stage of an abandoned theatre that is about to be torn down and replaced with a housing project. Although food is scarce and the cold is congealing, the characters have glowing spirits and wonderful memories of their triumphant days. Humor, grace, innocence and improvisation distinguish this Broad-way classic performed by Montgomery Playhouse. Appropriate for ages 16+. Tickets are $10. www.gaithersburgmd.gov

**Arab American Heritage Month Celebration**  
April 20, 5:45-7:15 p.m., Activity Center at Bohler Park

The City of Gaithersburg’s Multicultural Affairs Committee is hosting a celebration highlighting Arab American Achievers. The evening will consist of student presentations on select achievers in the fields of science, entertainment, sports and journalism. There will also be students performing dance, music and song. Light refreshments will be available. Reservations are encouraged. Please contact the Multicultural Affairs Committee by April 16 at mac@gaithersburgmd.gov. www.gaithersburgmd.gov
Shopping ‘Small & Local’ Reinvests in Community

By Pam Schipper

Kentlands business owners have come together to launch the “Make a Difference, Shop Small & Local” campaign in our community. Their Kentlands Business Owners networking group, which meets once a month for lunch and occasionally for happy hours, created the campaign “to encourage people to reinvest in local retail and services,” according to Rami Bakri, co-owner of the dry cleaning and delivery service Perfectly Pressed. “Online business has taken away a lot.”

Chris Gault, co-owner of Fleet Feet Sports Gaithersburg, said that the campaign’s impact goes beyond supporting area businesses—shopping local benefits our schools, infrastructure and emergency services. Internet purchases generate no sales tax, and there are no local employees involved in these online purchases to generate needed state tax revenue, he explained.

He recalled his first Kentlands Business Owners lunch when County Councilmember George Leventhal spoke. “Overcrowding at Rachel Carson came up,” he said. “Leventhal said, ‘There’s only so much money to go around, and there are probably schools in worse shape.’”

With the phrase “only so much money to go around,” he said, came a deeper realization of how important shopping local is to the community as a whole—it’s an easy way to reinvest local dollars in community services and infrastructure. Fleet Feet Sports designed the “Make a Difference, Shop Small & Local” logo and is giving campaign window clings to interested local businesses.

Andrew Ross, owner of Great Kids Events and Force teen job board, said that the “Shop Small & Local” campaign has another goal—to differentiate Kentlands from nearby areas that are increasingly populated with national retailers. “Kentlands is one of the few areas left with small, local businesses and entrepreneurs,” he said.

Local businesses that help one another. The 50 to 60 Kentlands-area businesses that are part of this informal networking group, Ross said, get together to develop a sense of community, join forces for promotions and refer business to one another.

Their New Resident Welcome Baskets, to be delivered for the first time this month, were the brainchild of Bakri and Andy Meyrowitz of The Wine Harvest. Kentlands Business Owners group members will all contribute toward purchasing the baskets, and each basket will contain promotional offers and items from area merchants and service providers.

After the Wine Harvest puts the baskets together with help from some group members, Bakri will hand-deliver approximately 40 baskets in the 20878 zip code. Businesses, he said, hope that new residents “will use our services and visit our shops.”

According to the campaign, “For every $100 spent at a locally owned and operated business in the community, $68 gets returned/reinvested in the local economy. Only $48 gets reinvested in the local economy when you spend the same at a big box store and $0 gets reinvested when you shop at an online store. Supporting local is a small thing that can make a huge difference in the community around you!”

Local business owners are encouraged to join the Kentlands Business Owners Facebook group page: www.facebook.com/groups/kentlandsbusinessowners. You’ll find “Make a Difference, Shop Small & Local” logos to share on social media, as well as postings for networking events like the April 20 happy hour at The Wine Harvest, 5:30 p.m.

ASSIGNMENTEDUCATION

The Arts Flourish at Quince Orchard High School

Quince Orchard students continue to win recognition for their talent and dedication to the arts. On April 3, two teams from QO competed in the Maryland State Destination Imagination tournament. Team Husted took on the Theater Arts challenge at the secondary school level and distinguished itself. Team member Sarah Husted, a senior, won a scholarship. The Pounds of Grapefruit team entered the Improv challenge at the university level. The team has advanced to the Global finals in Knoxville, Tenn., for a third year in a row.

In the Maryland 6th District Congressional Art Competition, QO’s Laura Crooks-Howard, Katie Rogers, and Mi-calea Inchauste are finalists, Julie Gleason is a finalist and runner-up, and Alexa Thompson is an overall winner.

SHOP TALK

Compiled by Pam Schipper

The Healthy Back store at 640 Center Point Way, across the street from Paragon Kentlands 10, has closed. The Kentlands Market Square Shopping Center, owned and managed by Beatty Cos., has 46,967 square feet of space available for lease. The entire center has 253,420 square feet of leasable space.

Fleet Feet Hosts Free Self-Defense Workshop

Fleet Feet Sports Gaithersburg is holding a second free self-defense workshop on Sunday, April 19, 5:30 p.m. Uriel Casas from American Tae Kwon Do Academy will volunteer his time to come and instruct the workshop. The first self-defense workshop was such a huge success that Marketing Director Brittany Jackett said this may become a seasonal offering at Fleet Feet, three
Rabbi Jacob Blumenthal, the 300-household Conservative congregation's spiritual leader of 16 years, sees the hate crime as a “wake-up call to the community.” In its aftermath, he recognizes, sadly, that “there is still a lot of work to be done,” and that everyone must play a part in eradicating prejudice. “It starts with us, then works outward,” he said. “All of us need to explore our biases. Once we know them, we must look at them closely, look at the language we use, look at what our kids are learning on the Internet, and hearing from family and friends.”

Rabbi Blumenthal belongs to the County Executive’s Faith Advisory Group, a network of clergy of all faiths, that he said are allies in fighting prejudice. “We support each other. It’s very powerful and meaningful,” he observed. He noted that Shaare Torah members are involved in the wider community as well, active in organizations like Gaithersburg HELP and on environmental issues.

At the end of her early morning run, congregant Meredith Wesel came upon police officers at the synagogue; after talking with them and viewing the damage, she called her husband to notify Rabbi Blumenthal. Wesel said she feltviolated, and two days later, was still trying to decompress from the distress of seeing the blatant evidence of hatred, and having to explain it to her children. “They said mean things about God. That hurts my feelings,” her 7-year-old daughter said.

“My first reaction,” Rabbi Blumenthal said, “was shock and sadness.” Removing the disturbing graffiti immediately was imperative, he said, crediting community volunteers and especially landscaper Bruce Allentuck, who knew exactly what chemicals to use when congregants called upon him.

Congregation President Connie Liss went through the full gamut of emotions. “When I got the call Tuesday morning, I just wanted to cry. My mom and dad were concentration camp survivors, and my mom spoke to students throughout much of New York State. Her message included her experiences and her view of the world. She definitely saw the bad and the good. And here we are, looking at swastikas and foul language sprayed on my synagogue, in 2017.”

Liss experienced “tears first, then anger. Then, throughout the day, support and caring from so many different people embraced and overwhelmed us. I guess I saw the bad and the good. … I know that our larger community is compassionate and welcoming and good, but I also know that bad things continue to happen.”

Rabbi Blumenthal described the special Thursday evening service at Shaare Torah as “a very powerful evening. It was important for our congregants to gather in our synagogue, our Jewish home.” He was gratified that “so many members of the broader community came—from other congregations, clergy of other faiths, from the County Executive’s office, the City Council.” Their presence assured him that “We’re not alone, we’re very much part of the fabric of the community. The city and county respect many different kinds of people.” All of the synagogue’s 320 chairs were occupied.

Lakelands homeowner Toby Savell, who attended the service, said Rabbi Blumenthal invited the attendees to talk about their feelings and concerns among themselves “especially with people we didn’t know who were sitting near us,” and “then brought us back together to discuss them. … I was moved by how honest people were with their thoughts.” When people started leaving, slowly, she said, there was “a lot of embracing, hugging and the expectation that we are a strong community who can and will recover. The message was clear that although this happened to a specific synagogue, it affected an entire community.”

Gaithersburg City Council Vice President Ryan Spiegel, an active member of Shaare Torah, said he was “heartbroken to see such an act of hate in a community that is known for respecting and celebrating its diversity. … The terrible acts of a few will not deter or weaken the resolve of the vast majority of our residents to continue celebrating and respecting our diversity and multiculturalism as great strengths. … In-deed, if anything, this incident will make us even stronger as we come together as a city to confront hate and diminish it through education and friendship.”

That thought was echoed by many neighbors. “While this isn’t my temple, it is my neighborhood and community,” said Lakelands resident Mark Erzin. “I’d have the same reaction if it were the LDS church. The sense of community was outstanding, and I was pleased at the non-Jewish outpouring of emotions and support.”

Congregant Michele Zaiderman, who lives in Washingtonian Woods, said she “clicked onto Facebook expecting to see photos of friends on vacation … however what I saw was nothing short of horrifying. … I couldn’t believe my eyes; my jaw hung open. I felt like I had been punched in the stomach. The synagogue where my family worship, where my children go to Sunday school, where we feel at home was defiled. After the initial shock wore off, the anger set in. We live in a diverse, inclusive, tolerant community. Who dared perpetrate such a hateful and cowardly act?”

The standing-room-only service filled with people of all ethnicities, and the outpouring of support moved her to think differently. “The cowards who spray-painted our synagogue under the cover of darkness with hateful words and symbols and wanted to intimidate us did the exact opposite: They strengthened us. I am now even more proud to be a member of Shaare Torah and to be a Jew in such a supportive community.”

— Michele Zaiderman, Shaare Torah congregant
NORTH POTOMAC/KENTLANDS OFFICE CONGRATULATES OUR 2014 AWARD WINNERS

FOUNDER'S CLUB

Catalina Sandoval
Top Group Listings and Sales

Ellie Hitt
Individual Top Producer
GCI Listings/Sales

Trish Stovall
Individual Top Producer
Volume Listings/Sales - HOF

WELCOME

Mike Aubrey
Lifetime Achievement Award

NEW HOMES

Kenny Light
New Homes Agent of the Year
Montgomery County

CHAIRMAN’S CLUB $5 – 10 MILLION

Bob Graves
Fatma Halici
Gary Gestson
Jennifer Cuthbert

Annette Hargreaves
HOF

Hycienth Obiakor
Kody Yazdani
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Courtney Griffiths

WELCOME

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Courtney Griffiths
Brownie Points

QOP’s Brownie Troop 3683 is comprised of 13 second- and third-graders, all but one of whom attend Diamond Elementary School, and their co-leaders Liz Pilloff and Sarah Lang. During the school year, the troop meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month at the QOP Community Center. The girls entered second grade and Brownies at the same time in the fall; most of them started their scouting experience as kindergartners in a Daisy troop.

“Our troop is structured such that each parent chooses a meeting topic that coincides with a badge,” Pilloff explained. “That parent runs the meeting for the girls to earn their badge. Some badges are just fun and learning, while others have a larger, philanthropic purpose.” This year, by virtue of working on badges, they have learned about such varied topics as dance; staying within a budget; computers and the Internet; and the work of the breast cancer foundation.

For 3 Sisters. In a letterboxing event, the girls went on a scavenger hunt through the neighborhood, searching for clues that led them to rubber stamps to add to their books.

Cookie moms Lynn Dicker and Melanie Mollica reported “an amazingly successful cookie season.” The girls sold 1,568 boxes, which included donating 191 boxes. Most of the cookies went to Stepping Stones Shelter in Rockville, and about 50 boxes went to the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless’ men’s shelter in Rockville.

“We definitely exceeded expectations and beat last year’s sales of 1,245,” Dicker said. The Brownies learned about money management and math, working as a team, sales skills and interacting with adults at the cookie booths they ran near Staples and Einstein Bagels, Pilloff noted.

“We have some great activities planned for the rest of the year,” Pilloff said, including one on nature and the outdoors, and another on creating “my best self.” A special activity, funded by money earned from cookie sales, is in store to end the year:

“We have a lidded bin delivered and the old one picked up. The new bins will diminish problems with trash in the neighborhood. It is helpful to label recycling bins with house numbers. Lids may be attached to bins by drilling small holes and attaching with twine. Bulk recycling pickups are the first Friday of each month. May 1 is the next bulk pickup day.

The City of Gaithersburg and Potomac Disposal (301.294.9700) both offer collection services for bulk items at no cost.

Dog Duty and Animal Services Information

Cleaning up after dogs is the legal responsibility of every canine owner walking a dog in the community. Dogs are not permitted off-leash on common property in the City of Gaithersburg.

Contact Information for Gaithersburg Animal Control

To report after hours/emergency animal service calls, City of Gaithersburg residents must now contact the Montgomery County Emergency Communication Center (MCECC) at 301.279.8000. MCECC will then notify and dispatch a Gaithersburg Animal Control Officer for response.

To report non-emergency animal service calls and for information on related animal matters during regular business hours, residents may contact the Gaithersburg Animal Control Office directly at 301.258.6343. Regular hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, please visit www.gaithersburgmd.gov/animal.

Trash and Recycling

Trash, which is collected on Tuesday and Friday, must be placed in lidded trash cans. Trash should not be left for collection in bags; these may be ripped open by dogs, birds and other pests, and trash is strewn throughout the community. Continued use of bags may result in fines.

Consider painting your house number on your trash cans and lids so they may be returned on windy days.

It is also helpful to label recycling bins with house numbers and to place bagged newspapers and magazines atop commingled materials in the bin.

Trash cans and recycle bins must be stored out of sight on non-pickup days.

Recycling is picked up on Fridays. Containers, with lids, are now available from the City of Gaithersburg. Please contact the city at 301.258.6370 to have a lidded bin delivered and the old one picked up.

The new bins will diminish problems with trash in the neighborhood. It is helpful to label recycling bins with house numbers. Lids may be attached to bins by drilling small holes and attaching with twine.

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For more information, please visit www.gaithersburgmd.gov/animal.

Website

Agendas for meetings, as well as many important documents (minutes and meeting summaries) can be found at the QOP website: www.quinceorchardpark.com.

QOP Management Contact Information

Quince Orchard Park Community Manager
Steve Leskowitz

c/o The Management Group Associates, Inc.
20440 Century Boulevard, Suite 100
Germantown, MD 20874

Phone: 301.948.6666
Fax: 301.963.3856

Email: SLeskowitz@tmgainc.com
Spring Renewal Comes to Main Street Farmers Market May 2

By Pam Schipper

For the first time ever, the Main Street Farmers Market operated year-round through the colder months. Hardy souls like Alan Kresse of Kresse’s Market—famous around town for his crab cakes—pioneered the winter market, a trend in farmers markets, he said. While attendance was not as high as in warmer months, Kresse felt that it had been a good first year for the winter market.

On a blustery and sunny early April Saturday before Easter, Kresse’s Market was joined by Jennifer Brown, owner and pastry chef of Cupcakes Lounge, Ryan Tuckey of Tuckey’s Farm, Cori Antignani of Persistence Farm, and Mark McGaughan of M&M Plants. Carl Fellows of Orchard Breeze Farm offered a great variety of pasture-raised, all natural meats and chicken and duck eggs. Ursula Elgert brought wholesome treats for man’s best friend, and her regulars included Billy and Minnie, the Northern Chesapeake Shetland sheepdog rescues of Angel Tirone. Elgert has been bringing her homemade dog treats to the Main Street Market for several years now, and she said that she uses what she has in her house to bake the treats that people can eat, too. Recent creative endeavors in the kitchen yielded “Cheesey Nuggets” that her own dog loved.

On May 2, the farmers market will go through a spring renewal, adding even more creativity with music, artists and craftpeople and gardening advice. Kresse said that more music and prepared food will encourage farmers market visitors to come and stay awhile.

“Some of our longtime vendors will be expanding their offerings to include prepared breakfast and lunch items,” said Amanda Cornaglia, City of Gaithersburg recreation program coordinator. “We are also working to bring in new vendors selling more seafood, cheeses, vegan breads/cutters/dips/spreads, arepas, and hot sauce. New confirmed vendors include The Namaste Kitchen, Fafa Company, and Stone Soup Catering.”

Cornaglia said the market hopes to feature small acoustic acts each week. The city is in the process of setting up an entertainment schedule.

Spring also brings the return of the Montgomery County Master Gardeners Plant Clinic on May 2, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring your questions about lawn care, growing

Surfing the Turf: It’s Not a War

By Ellyn Wexler

Turfgrass was the talk of the Tuesday Topics series at the Gaithersburg Community Museum on April 14. Typically, the sessions feature local historians, authors and re-enactors, but that evening, Eric Wenger, president of Laytonsville-based Complete Lawn Care, offered homeowners an overview of turf management.

Karen Yaffe Lottes, the museum’s program director, said the subject does have a historical tie-in. The Summit Hall Turf Farm, before it became part of Bohrer Park, was among the country’s leading growers of turfgrass and turfseed. Turfgrass, for the uninhibited, is any species of the lush green grass designed for residential lawns. The farm’s owner William Wilmot, Lottes said, was the first in the U.S. to change his focus from traditional seed crop and turfgrass Continued on page 14

Farmers Market Continued on page 14

Hey MoCo Residents!

Don’t let our name fool you. We don’t limit ourselves to Northern Virginia—we’ve been operating in the MD/DC/VA area for 20 years. Not only that, but our Owner and President is a longtime Kentlands resident. His kids go to school with yours, he dines at the same restaurants as you, and he walks his bulldog Brutus in the same parks as you. We’re a boutique Home Renovation Company that has been winning awards for our quality and service for years. Need siding, doors, windows, or roof upgrades? We’re the team for you. Need a Kitchen and Bath remodel? We can’t wait to show you our stuff.

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and some artists will bring additional completed works to display and sell.

Katy Thoms, a Kentlands resident in her third year as chairperson for the Kentlands Home & Garden Tour, added, “When people are walking house to house, they will have something to look at and they can talk to the artists as they work.”

Kentlands Mansion will be a rendezvous point for a vendor fair with boutiques and musical entertainment. Local retailers and contractors will have their wares and services for sale. Artisans, Framers Choice, JT Interiors, and Lipstick Lounge are among the retailers that will be represented as well as local realtors, roofers and window companies. A "K25" booth will have informative literature regarding Kentlands and upcoming anniversary-related activities. The mansion’s front lawn will be picking up good vibrations from the musicians and instruments that comprise the Kentlands Acoustic Jam.

The Kentlands Community Foundation and numerous volunteers make the event possible. Six homes, from historic colonial elegance with modern updates to an eclectic residence with muted tones and pops of color, will be on display in addition to two gardens. One of the outdoor spaces features a historical garden with traditional elements and the other is a modern outdoor living oasis. Thoms said some of the outdoor spaces would be staged with potted plants loaned from Potomac Garden Center. She said she hopes that keeping specific details of the properties to a minimum will create an added mystique for residents and visitors as they tour each property.

One home on the tour went through a top-to-bottom renovation after it suffered a leak on the top floor that went undetected for three days while the owners were out of town. “So, it’s all three levels. Everything is nice and new, and very well-thought-out, so it’s beautiful,” said Thoms. One of two homes with finished attics will also have the basement on display providing four levels to see.

Talk about a room with a view! Thoms said one of the homes has over 50 windows. “The homeowner said it was the last house built in Kentlands. That house is very cool. It has great views, and it’s very nice inside.” The event benefits The Kentlands Community Foundation, the Kentlands Garden Club, and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Thoms’ 19-year-old son was diagnosed with diabetes when he was 11. “It’s near and dear to my heart … so I’m doing whatever I can to try and help,” said Thoms.

Tickets for the rain-or-shine event went on sale April 15. The cost is $25 per ticket before May 3, and $30 after May 3. Tickets may be picked up at Kentlands Mansion at 9 a.m. on May 9. The Home & Garden Tour hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hours for the vendor fair & boutiques at Kentlands Mansion are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, visit www.kentlands.org.
vegetables and more to this first Saturday of every month “Ask a Master Gardener” organized by Kentlands resident and Master Gardener Sandra Christian.

In addition to the Main Street Market, Master Gardener Plant Clinics can be found at the Quince Orchard Library every Saturday, May through September, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; the Gaithersburg Library every Saturday, April through September, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and the Germantown Library every Wednesday, May through September, 6:15 to 7:45 p.m.

Working with the Agricultural Center in Beltsville, she noted, Wilmot sold strains of zoysia and Kentucky blue grass as well as other turf varieties; sod, grass plugs, and seed. Summit Hall turf, Lottes added, “covered lawns at the White House and the Lincoln Memorial as well as many private homes throughout the country.”

Wenger, a Montgomery County Master Gardener and President of the D.C. branch of The Professional Grounds Management Society, has “lived” in the world of lawn care and landscaping in the metropolitan area since 1980. He also serves on the Town of Laytonsville’s Tree Committee and chairs the town’s Planning Commission.

His discussion began with a question about site conditions: “Can you actually grow a good lawn in your yard?” “Too much shade, less than six hours of full sun per day, will not allow a thick, healthy stand of grass to survive year-round,” Wenger said. “And no, there is no magic seed that survives in the shade. That is called marketing – always guaranteed to grow, never guaranteed to survive!” Choose the right type of grass (seed or sod) for your yard. A soil test offers solid information, Wenger insists. You cannot determine pH by looking at the soil and moss is not an indication of low pH.

“Proper fertilization,” he counseled, “is the foundation of growing a good lawn. Grass needs to be fertilized because it is mowed. Without proper fertilization, grass cannot compete with weeds and will be quickly overrun.”

Wenger offered guidelines for mowing, “another cornerstone in the foundation of a lawn.” Mow high for cool season grasses during the growing season (April 15 to Oct. 14), three to four inches for cool season grasses, two inches for warm season grasses.
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free around town at popular locations like Whole Foods Market Kentlands and the Kentlands Starbucks.

The Town Courier would benefit from this merger by gaining potential advertisers. “In a very small community, we have three competing publications for shrinking ad dollars,” explained Dorney. “We are fighting for our life.”

The community’s two HOA publications, the Lakelands Leader and the Town Crier, are supported by community HOA fees. This subsidy enables them to sell advertising at a lower rate than the independent Town Courier. As a small business with a full, professional staff, The Town Courier has struggled to survive through the Great Recession and its continuing impact on the economy. The Town Courier has been covering local news since April 2003. “We are a unifying voice for the community,” said Dorney. “If the Crier stays and we go away, no one is covering news in this town,” Dorney pointed out, noting that the Crier does a wonderful job of communicating Board-approved information, but it does not cover local news in its entirety—business, arts, sports, government and policies—as thoroughly as the Courier does with reporters who focus on different beats. Where the HOA publications work to present their communities in a positive light, The Town Courier also covers controversial issues that affect the town’s communities.

“We are a professional organization dedicated to reporting the news in a way that benefits and looks out for the interests of the community,” Dorney said. “There is no agenda with this paper.”

The KCA Town Hall meeting will be held at the Kentlands Clubhouse on Wednesday, April 22 at 7:30 p.m. Residents are encouraged to attend and share their thoughts on this potential merger. According to the KCA Board, a vote on the merger will be taken April 29, 7 p.m., at the regular April Board of Trustees meeting.

Nine other students told authorities Pineda touched them inappropriately but the accounts did not rise to the level of criminal charges. The department even held a press conference in December, attempting to locate any other possible victims who may have moved out of the area.

Pineda worked for MCPS for many years, starting out as a school bus driver from 2000 to 2003 and then as a substitute teacher from 2003 to 2006 and March 2013 until September 2014. The case has led MCPS to overhaul the way it monitors allegation claims and hiring processes for school workers. A task force was formed to review MCPS regulations, policies and protocols. School employees must now go through a fingerprint and full criminal background check.
Chef Charley has created a sense of community for the store’s multicultural employees as well as its customers. He said that team building is his proudest accomplishment there. An added unforeseen benefit, he noted, is that his own culinary preferences, previously dominated by his training in European styles, are evolving with the diversity he encounters at Whole Foods.

His outgoing personality and vast culinary knowledge are uniquely suited to creating theater in the store. He sets monthly themes, recently March Madness and the April holidays, and arranges programs for customers by both in-house personnel and outside vendors. In the weekly Thursday evening classes he teaches for adults, the focus is “on culinary techniques rather than recipes. I’ve included a wide range of subjects from basic seafood, meat and vegetarian dishes to Beef Wellington.” The twice-a-month classes for children emphasize healthy nutrition—“avoid salt, sugar and carb addictions” and basic kitchen skills. Asked what they think was Chef Charley’s favorite subject in school, Woolverton said, the children giggle when he reveals the correct answer: lunch.

Having chatted frequently with Chef Charley about products, cooking techniques and recipes, Whole Foods shopper Summer Hardinge of Darnestown described him as “a sort of Renaissance man—raised with a love of food, explored languages and literature, writes poetry, interacts with the public, and, of course, cooks. I started wondering, does he dance, too?”

Another customer, Batya Harrell of North Potomac, remarked upon his qualities: “down to earth, so approachable, always in a good mood.”

Food has high priority for Woolverton, but there is more to the man. Growing up “all over, but mostly in Maine and New Hampshire,” he attended a New England prep school and earned a degree at George Washington University as well as a certificate at Oxford University, both in English and American literature. He writes poetry, the venue in which he feels he proved himself to his father, an Episcopal minister who taught at Virginia Theological Seminary and the College of William and Mary.

Woolverton continues to write verse about “my relationship with man, God and nature … just some light stuff.”

Although Woolverton tried his hand at script writing and sales, and fantasized about being a guitar player (didn’t have the chops, he acknowledged), he set his sights on a culinary career. During college, he worked at the Rathskeller’s grill and The University Club, and briefly, as an omelet chef in Georgetown. Later, he “apprenticed under several chefs out of the area,” then took his first professional job at the Highlander Restaurant in Pittsfield, Mass., in 1972. He secured the “backend guy,” or chef’s job, he said, because “it was clear I knew my way around the kitchen.”

Since then, he said, “I’ve worked in many restaurants, but sadly, none are still open.” Feeling he had spent enough time in the kitchen professionally, Woolverton worked as a demo chef at Trader Joe’s and the culinary director at Bloomingdale’s. When it became time for a new path, he chose Whole Foods over Wegmans and Balducci’s. “I like the transparency at Whole Foods. I know where every product came from,” he said. And perhaps most importantly, he added, Whole Foods “gives me the freedom to explore outside the box.”

Woolverton is expanding community outreach at Whole Foods, making presentations to groups like mom’s clubs and garden clubs, helping schools with garden projects and salad bars, and visiting local farmers markets where he buys produce and prepares it for shoppers. And he is pleased at having produced his first podcast, about the blue catfish’s invasive impact on the Chesapeake Bay. Introduced as a sport fish, they are eating the bay’s rockfish and crabs, resulting in an unbalanced ecosystem.

Looking forward to doing more podcasts, Chef Charley observed, “Every food has a compelling story.”

As for family, Woolverton has a daughter, 27; a son, 21, and a stepson, 15, as well as a wife of five years, the lead teacher for toddlers at the Acorn Hill Waldorf School in Silver Spring. “I knew I loved her when she had the guts to season my food … while attending to what I was creating in the kitchen,” he recalled. The twenty-somethings are starting to take an interest in healthy food, he said, but the teenager would prefer a Chipotle burrito. Go figure.
Changes Announced

Stormwater Program Fee

The City of Gaithersburg levies a Stormwater Program Fee (SPF) in order to comply with state and federal regulatory requirements that address water pollution, stormwater runoff management and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandates for restoring the Chesapeake Bay. Recent changes to the SPF will ensure that the city has sufficient funds to make necessary capital improvements to meet requirements of the EPA mandates.

The city has estimated it will cost between $28 and $35 million to make the necessary improvements during the initial phase of the program changes and specific fees.

**Muddy Branch Alliance Receives Grant**

The Muddy Branch Alliance received a $10,000 grant through the Montgomery County Watershed Restoration and Outreach Program. The grant will be used to support program design and development of a County Watershed Stewards Academy to educate and empower resident watershed stewards.

The Muddy Branch Alliance is one of 13 organizations awarded grants for their work to improve water quality and help manage stormwater runoff in Montgomery County. Total grant money awarded this year is $370,000. More information about the program is available at www.cbtrust.org/montgomerywatershedgrant.

**Fourteen Finalists Selected for Festival Short Story Contest**

After considering more than 150 entries, judges selected 14 finalists to compete for top honors in the Gaithersburg Book Festival’s fifth annual High School Student Short Story Contest. The top three and fan favorite stories will be announced during the May 16 festival and receive gift certificates ranging from $100 to $25. Internationally-known writer Sarah McCoy will choose the winning essays. The finalists are from public, private and home schools and hail from Washington, D.C.; Maryland and Virginia. They are Samantha Anderson of Newport News, Va.; William Choi of Washington, D.C.; Riley Corboy of Gaithersburg; Aline Dolinh of Oakton, Va.; Samuel Enriquez of Annapolis; Madeleine Gresh of Rockville; Mary Kupsis of Oakton, Va.; Maggie Leon of Gaithersburg; Allison Marie McGlone of Arlington, Va.; Alexander McLaughlin of Upper Marlboro; Kevin Robinson of Oakton, Va.; Jennifer Schwartzman of Fairfax, Va.; Elizabeth Woolford of Arlington, Va.; and Annika La Vina of Kensington.

To read their stories, go to the festival website at www.gaithersburgbookfestival.org.
Paws in the Park
April 26, 12-4 p.m., Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm
This fun-filled afternoon includes a 1-mile dog walk, pet contests and games, demonstrations, children’s activities, a pet-oriented market featuring more than 50 vendors, food, music and more. The 16th Annual Paws in the Park dog walk and festival is a signature special event of the Montgomery County Humane Society, held in partnership with the City of Gaithersburg. Advance registration (up to 5 p.m. on April 25) is $20 for an individual and $45 for a family. Admission at the gate is $25 for an individual and $55 for a family. www.gaithersburgmd.gov

Broadway Sing-Along
April 26, 1:30-3 p.m., Kentlands Mansion
Belt out your favorite Broadway hit under the direction of the Kentlands Community Chorus musician and song leader. Lyric sheets provided. Fun for all ages. Tickets are $10. www.gaithersburgmd.gov

New Foundry BJJ Location Grand Opening May 9
On May 1, The Foundry-Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu is moving from its current 1,000-square-foot space at 322 Main St. into a state-of-the-art, 4,000-square-foot studio at 7 Metropolitan Court in Gaithersburg. Owner Noel Danforth said he had hoped to stay in Kentlands, but negotiating a reasonable lease in the area proved too difficult. The new location in Metropolitan Grove is just five minutes away from Kentlands. The Foundry-BJJ will hold a grand opening on May 9, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to try free classes, learn about personal training opportunities and attend a world championship seminar. Grand opening festivities also feature a variety of food trucks, so come hungry.

Environmental Film Night: ‘Symphony of the Soil’
April 29, 7 p.m., Rosborough Center on the Campus of Asbury Methodist Village
The City of Gaithersburg Environmental Affairs Committee invites you to a free screening of “Symphony of the Soil.” Filmed on four continents, this documentary explores the elaborate relationships between soil, water, the atmosphere, plants and animals. It examines our human relationship with soil, and highlights the possibilities of healthy soil creating healthy plants, creating healthy humans living on a healthy planet. Admission is free, but seating is limited and registration is encouraged. Please contact Gaithersburg Environmental Services at 301.258.6330 to register. www.gaithersburgmd.gov

Magic & Mayhem with David London
May 4, 8-10 p.m., Arts Barn
David London returns to the Gaithersburg Arts Barn with “Magic & Mayhem” that combines storytelling, comedy, puppetry, surrealism, philosophy and “that which cannot be defined” for a show packed full of laughs, mystery and the unexpected. Recommended for ages 12 and above. Tickets are $18, or $12 for youth (14 and under). www.gaithersburgmd.gov

Open Mic @ the Mansion
May 1, 8-11 p.m., Kentlands Mansion
Sing, tell a joke, recite poetry. All unplugged styles of music, poetry & performance welcome. Tickets are $10. www.gaithersburgmd.gov

ARRANSA EDUCATION

Four QO students won awards in the Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Associations Reflections—Believe, Dream and Inspire contest. Ting Chen won the Visual Arts Award of Merit; Honorable Mention. A Reflections Gallery and Ceremony will be held Saturday, May 10, 3:30 to 6 p.m. in the Clarksburg High School auditorium. Mark your calendars for the QO spring musical, “The Sound of Music.” Performances are April 17, 18, 24 and 25, 7 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, as well as 2 p.m. on Saturdays. Tickets available at the door only cost $12 for adults, $10 for high school and college students, and $6 for children and seniors.

ASSIGNMENTEDUCATION

Grass such as zoysia or Bermuda. Aerate once a year—in the fall for cool season grasses, May or June for warm season grasses. Proper watering, he added, can help make the lawn stronger and more drought-tolerant. Learn to identify pests before treating them, he said. If not, use Integrated Pest Management, a broad-based approach that integrates practices for economic control of pests.

Finally, Wenger advised, “Perfection is not a reasonable expectation. A few weeds or grubs are not major problems for your lawn. Ninety percent turf is a really good lawn. Enjoy it!”

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KAUFMAN’S KITCHEN

Spring Is Finally Here

While Easter and Passover are early this year, these recipes will enhance any meal on any occasion.

Greek-style Shrimp

Over the past 30 years, Kerry Dunnington has been a food columnist, caterer, recipe developer, and award-winning cookbook author. Her passion for creative preparation of foods in their growing season, ethical food practices, and healthful food consumption can be seen in the 250 recipes presented in “Fasting the Seasons: Inspired, In-Season Cuisine That’s Easy, Healthy, Fresh and Fun” by Kerry Dunnington, www.kerrydunnington.com.

Her Greek-style shrimp is colorful and nutritious, and you can use a combination of long grain and wild rice. Serves 8.

By SHEILAH KAUFMAN

1 can (15 ounces) garbanzo beans (chickpeas), rinsed and drained
1 1/2 cups cooked rice
1 bag (16 ounces) large shrimp, cooked, peeled and deveined
1/2 lemon zest from one lemon
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup minced parsley
1 cup feta cheese

In a medium bowl, combine yogurt with 2 tablespoons olive oil, oregano, red pepper flakes, and olives. Stir well until blended. Refrigerate until serving time. Preheat oven to 350°F. Place spinach in a 13-by-9-inch glass baking dish. Top spinach with 1 cup of tomatoes. Top tomatoes with remaining 2 tablespoons olive oil, lemon zest, and salt. Top rice/beans with shrimp, arrange them in a single layer. Top shrimp with remaining can of tomatoes and sprinkle parsley over the tomatoes. Evenly distribute the cheese over the tomatoes, cover, and bake for 20 to 30 minutes or until heated through and bubbly. Serve immediately and pass the yogurt mixture to your guests.

Salmon Chowder

This creamy, mild-flavored chowder will be a favorite in your house. It is substantial enough to serve as a main course and will appeal to a broad range of tastes. Tomatoes, corn, leeks, and mushrooms provide additional interest, along with subtle heat from the jalapeno pepper. Serve with white wine or rosé.

From “The Covenant Kitchen: Food and Wine for the New Jewish Table” by Jeff and Jodie Morgan (Schocken Books, NY). This kosher cookbook has more than one hundred mouthwatering recipes complete with suggested wine pairings, from the veteran cookbook authors and owners of the acclaimed Covenant Winery in California. It is filled with the flavors of Italy, Provence, North Africa, Asia, California and Israel. These original, easy-to-prepare recipes bring kosher dining to a new, contemporary level of sophistication. There are lots of informative sidebars on selecting the right wine for any occasion and beautiful full-color illustrations throughout.

2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
1 medium onion, diced
2 cloves garlic, minced
1/2 jalapeno pepper, seeded and finely chopped
2 medium white potatoes, diced
2 leeks (white part only) washed well, cut into 1/4-inch thick rounds
1 can (28 ounces) whole Italian plum tomatoes, drained and coarsely chopped
4 cups vegetable stock or broth (low-sodium)
1 1/2 cups dry white wine
2 teaspoons salt, plus more to taste
1 lb. fresh salmon fillets or steaks, skinned, boned, cut into 1-inch chunks
1 cup fresh corn kernels (2 ears of corn)
6 mushrooms, sliced
1 cup half-and-half
1/2 cup finely chopped cilantro
1 tablespoon sweet kosher wine
1 cup walnut halves, chopped into 1/3-inch pieces

In a Dutch oven or large soup pot, heat the oil over medium-high heat. Add the onion, garlic, and jalapeno and sauté until the onion is translucent, about 3 minutes. Add potatoes and leeks and continue to sauté until leeks have wilted, about 5 minutes. Add tomatoes, corn, leeks, and mushrooms, stir to combine. Reduce heat to low, cover and simmer for 10 minutes.

Add the salmon and continue to simmer, covered, for another 10 minutes. Stir in the corn and mushrooms, cover and simmer for 10 more minutes. Add the half-and-half and cook, uncovered, 3 minutes. Stir in the cilantro and adjust the seasoning with salt and pepper to taste.

Banana Charoset

Passover celebrates freedom, and Paula Shoyer’s innovative Passover collection celebrates culinary freedom while still honoring the holiday’s dietary rules. Her 65 recipes will set you free, and they combine nostalgic pleasures of family favorites with contemporary creations. The undated and global menu includes Banana Charoset, Peruvian Roast Chicken with Salsa Verde, Moroccan Spiced Short Ribs and much more.

Charoset is the element on the Seder plate that represents the mortar used by the Israelite slaves to build bricks. Usually made with apples, cinnamon and wine, this is a variation. This is nice as a side dish with lamb or other dishes. Shoyer is a well-known author (“The Holiday Kosher Baker”), teacher of Jewish baking classes, and a contributing editor to several kosher magazines and websites. From “The New Passover Menu” by Paula Shoyer (Sterling, NY).

3 large ripe bananas
2 cups ground walnuts
2 tablespoons sugar
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 tablespoon sweet kosher wine
2 apples, shredded on the large holes of a box grater
1 cup walnut halves, chopped into 1/3-inch pieces

In the bowl of a food processor fitted with a metal blade, place the bananas, ground walnuts, sugar, cinnamon and wine. Process until the mixture comes together. Transfer to a small bowl, add the apples and chopped walnuts, and stir to combine. Makes 3 cups.

Editor’s note: For more edible delights by Sheilah Kaufman, go to www.cookingwithsheilah.com.

A Ministry of Flowers

There are many pleasurable aspects of any living in the Friends House Retirement Community in Sandy Spring, Maryland. But the one I especially appreciate is the way fresh flowers appear regularly in unique arrangements for the library and a nook in one corner along the main hallway. I am especially moved by a simple memorial bouquet with a small photo of the former resident beside it on a low table in the entrance foyer. These gifts of natural beauty originate in the greenhouse next to one wing of the independent living apartments and are arranged by our Garden Club, which enhances the beauty and creativity to residents and visitors alike.

As you turn into Flower Alley, an arresting arrangement always makes me stop to

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A Ministry of Flowers

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Perhaps, though, the sight that impresses many visitors as well as residents is a long, narrow corridor in the main building named “Flower Alley.” A variety of potted plants and hanging baskets line one side of a brick wall. The opposite wall features an amazing array of artwork created by the “Wellspring Artists,” who are members of our community. Small sculptures produced in the clay work class enhance pots of cacti, philodendrons, and bogonias. Flower Alley, an area that could have been an institutional-like corridor, instead is a blessing of natural beauty and creativity to residents and visitors alike.

As you turn into Flower Alley, an arresting arrangement always makes me stop to
Danny Collins (Al Pacino) is a rock star of the Neil Diamond vintage. In fact, his hit song “Hey Baby Doll” sounds like “Sweet Caroline,” and Danny is as sick of it as Diamond is of “Caroline.” He is getting toward that age, even though he has a toehome “dance” (Sophie, played by Katarina Cas) who is less than half his age, when he realizes that he looks ridiculous with her and that she is with him only for the cocaine and the money. In fact, she is cheating on Danny with a ragged hanger-on named Jud (called “Busy Work” by Danny).

Danny’s prize possession comes to him as a birthday present from his manager, Frank (Christopher Plummer). It is a handwritten letter to Danny from John Lennon, dated 1971. Danny promptly establishes the letter as a birthday present from his manager, Frank (Christopher Plummer). It is a handwritten letter to Danny from John Lennon, dated 1971. Danny promptly establishes the letter everywhere he goes in the most prominent place he can find. In part because of the letter and in part due to a well-hidden paternal instinct, Danny finds his long-estranged son, Tom (Bobby Cannavale), but the first meeting does not go well. In fact, without the charming innocence of Danny’s granddaughter, Hope (who he has also not met), and the patience of Tom’s pregnant wife, Samantha (Jennifer Garner), it is doubtful Danny would have been able to stay longer than five minutes. As it is, Danny gets back on his huge tour bus and leaves, after trying desperately to connect with his long-lost family.

Back at the Hilton—an Indiana Hilton without frills—Danny plots to buy his way back into favor with Tom and begins a series of invitations to dinner for the hotel manager, Mary, who is deliciously played by Annette Bening. She is having none of it, and Danny does not help his cause by acting the rock star that he is, drinking and drugging his way through disappointment with the way things are going with his son.

The rehabilitation of Danny is fraught with peril, and he tries to write his way out of it but his songs are NOT “Hey Baby Doll” and are destined to fail with his audience that has ears only for his big hit. With extravagant gestures, such as funding Sophie’s special education (she has ADHD), and continuous nice-guy attention to Mary, we sense he is reforming, but he IS a rock star after all! It will not happen overnight.

The film keeps you wondering. Does it happen? Can Danny reform? Will Mary eventually go out to dinner with him? Can Tom get the leukemia cure he is looking for? Will Danny ever succeed with new, better songs? Will all his money run out after all the gifts he buys to get Tom’s affection? Will Samantha’s baby be delivered? Will Danny ever be anything more than “…a court jester with a microphone”? Will Tom ever succeed at his lifelong goal of “trying to be what you (Danny) aren’t”? And ultimately, will Danny recover enough self-respect to “…stop thinking about suicide”?

We discover at the end of the film that...
the story is based on an actual letter Lennon wrote to British folksinger Steve Tilston. Like Danny in the film, Tilston tells us that he didn’t know of the letter until some 30 years after it was written. For all of us, it’s a good thing the letter was discovered. It spawned an excellent movie. Too much sex and cocaine for the kids, and they wouldn’t understand the references and reverence to Lennon anyway, though they might like the several Lennon songs that are in the score. Beautiful, touching work by Pacino and Bening, Cannavale and Garber are beautifully matched, and there’s a nice young adult twist between the receptionist at the Hilton, Jamie (Melissa Benoist), and the parking attendant, Nicky (Josh Peck). Older viewers will love the tasty romance between Mary and Danny, and the wry humor of Frank (”This is my second week in Jersey, and I am NOT happy about it!”) For a film about a rock star, this one is as real as it gets and will move you as well as make you laugh.

Woman in Gold (PG-13) ****

A true story, this film traces the fight between a Jewish survivor and the Austrian government for possession of six Klimt paintings from WWII, including the famous “Woman in Gold” (Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer), Altmann’s aunt, worth over $100 million by war’s end. They were all stolen by the Nazis and given to the Belvedere Museum in Vienna where “Woman” became a national icon. The plot of the film involves the decade-long legal efforts to get the painting back, led by Arnold Schoenberg’s grandson, Randol Schoenberg, a young lawyer. With the help of a disillusioned young Austrian lawyer, the battle is joined between Maria (Dame Helen Mirren) and Randol (Ryan Reynolds) and various members of the Austrian establishment, representing mostly banks, and the U.S. government, afraid to stir up trouble by a huge lawsuit.

For such a dramatic plot, it is a shame that the movie has so much talking. I suppose the writer and producers thought the plot so byzantine that it needed a lot of explanation, but by far the best scenes in the film are the pursuit scenes in which young Maria (Tatiana Maslany) and her husband, Fritz (Max Irons), try to escape to get to the U.S. from Köln. The cast is uniformly excellent, so all the dialogue seems to be a burden the film did not need. Regardless of possible small wrong details in the plot concerning the ultimate responsibility for the theft, this account will not make you love the Austrians of the 1940s, and the austere Baroque-style architecture of Vienna, though stirring, is oddly intimidating. It is not difficult to imagine the balconies strewn with Nazi swastikas and the jackbooted troops rounding up anyone remotely suspected of being Jewish. It is a chilling memory. Unless they already know the history of the Nazi occupation and destruction of Vienna’s culture, the kids may not appreciate this film. Let them grow into it.
SporTS

Cougar Lacrosse Is Hot, While Northwest Looks to Build

BY ETHAN CADEAUX

The Cougars’ hopes of a state title this spring in boys’ lacrosse is well on its way. Quince Orchard has started the season, 7-1, with an average of 12.3 goal margin of victory in their seven wins. The Jaguars have had a tough schedule to open up their season, but can get back to a .500 record with a win over one-win Clarksburg this week.

In the middle of Quince Orchard’s hot start was a demolishing win over rival Northwest, where they won 20 to 2. Star attack and Colgate commit Jake Christensen scored the Cougars’ first four goals five minutes into the game, and the Cougars never looked back.

Christensen finished with a total of 9 points: six goals and three assists. Senior Troy Porter had six goals, and senior Tyler Milwit had one goal and four assists. Seniors Cory Hathaway and Hunter Thompson each had a goal for the Jaguars.

Although the Cougars have a lot of talented seniors leading them, head coach David Heiney Gonzalez says the biggest surprise of the season so far is “the development and skill of our younger players.” For the Cougars to continue to be a top team in the state for years to come, the mentoring relationship the Cougar players have between seniors and underclassmen needs to continue.

“We have goals that we want to achieve by the end of the season and know that there are many games yet to play,” said Gonzalez. “We know as a team that we do not have control over the ranking. We have control over how well we prepare, practice and play.”

The Cougars look to add on to their win total this Thursday against 5-1 Magruder, who should give them a fight.

Although the Jaguars took a beating from the Cougars, they did not let the negative energy transfer to their next game. Fresh off of Spring Break, the Jaguars defeated the Gaithersburg Trojans 13 to 6, led by five goals by Hunter Thompson.

The Jaguars look to return to .500 this Thursday against Clarksburg.

For the Cougars, Morgan Avissar and Brooke Saffer each scored two goals. Avissar added an assist as well. The Jaguars played their best game all season against the Cougars, and hope that they can improve from their strong effort.

The Jaguars are looking to get their first win of the season this Wednesday at home against Clarksburg. The Cougars are looking to get win number six against rival Magruder on Thursday.