

# Smoke Signal



MOYAONE  
ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER

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## ***President's Note:*** **2019 Membership Review**

— *Michael Leventhal*  
*MoyaonePresident@gmail.com*

It has been one month since the notices for the 2019 membership dues were sent to all Moyaone Reserve property owners. To date (March 1) the response has been as follows: of the total 189 lots with residences in the Moyaone, 59 have been paid in full (\$770) and 22 additional lots with residences have committed to pay in installments; of the 50 unimproved properties, 11 property owners have paid in full (\$150) and 1 committed to pay in installments; and, lastly, 3 Moyaone residents have made a contribution to the Moyaone Association in lieu of paying full membership dues.

This is a good start of our 2019 membership dues drive. I am optimistic that the remaining property owners will be paying soon. Anyone with any questions about the dues are welcome to contact me (301-642-4847; [moyaonepresident@gmail.com](mailto:moyaonepresident@gmail.com)).

As everyone knows, the upkeep of the gravel roads throughout the Moyaone Reserve, the maintenance of our road equipment, the maintenance and staffing of our community pool, the upkeep of the Wagner Community Center, and the grounds around both the

pool and Wagner building are solely the responsibility of all of us. No funds from the Federal, State, local Prince George's County, or Charles County governments assist the Moyaone Association. Most of our expenses deal with maintenance and sustainability. While the short- and long-term issues are to a large degree due to the use and the age of our assets, there are other elements such as weather and the damage to our gravel roads caused by cars moving at speeds greater than 15 mph.

I assume that everyone who lives in the Moyaone Reserve is conservation oriented. We live in the woods by choice not due to financial circumstances. We are independent minded and private, and tend to enter into local social activities on our own terms. The pride of living here should include responsible stewardship of maintaining what we have. The fiscal responsibility should not be left to your neighbors. And as frugal as the Moyaone Association tries to be, the work expected by everyone to be undertaken to maintain our roads, etc., requires money that must be raised from somewhere. Fortunately it is a price that is modest and evenly distributed among all property owners in the Moyaone Reserve.

I hope that my membership review in the next newsletter will show continued strong membership participation.

## **Book Review of Local Moyaone Author James P. Turner**

— Rita Bergman

I just finished reading Jim Turner's book entitled *Selma and the Liuzzo Murder Trials: The First Modern Civil Rights Convictions*. It was a timely read, as it was just the 54th anniversary of the Selma, Alabama, march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Jim, who many of you may know, is a long-time resident of Poplar Hill and served in the Dept. of Justice (DOJ) Civil Rights Division for 25 years. He began his career in February 1965, two weeks before Selma's Bloody Sunday March on March 7, 1965. This book describes the details of the murder trial of Viola Liuzzo, a Detroit mother who was shot in the head while driving her car in Alabama accompanied by a black man who was helping to organize the march.

On the surface, descriptions of jury trials can be boring — but this one is riveting not only because of the repeated instances of blatant racism that permeated the Alabama culture of that era, exemplified in Lowndes County where the trials were held; but also because of the instances of more subtle — and sometimes maybe not so subtle — racism that we read about in the newspapers today across America that report on the killing and incarceration of black men and women under various circumstances.

Jim was the designated DOJ attorney assigned to the case, first to observe two State prosecutions of the murder, and then to assist in the federal prosecution for federal conspiracy. The first trial resulted in a hung jury and the second, an acquittal — both by all-white male juries. The descriptions of the legal strategies employed by the prosecution and the defense — the defense referred to himself as “klonsel” to reflect the defense attorney's representation of the accused white men (all Klan members) responsible for the murder of Viola Liuzzo — are astonishing, chilling, and sobering. What was also striking was the defense tactic of attacking not the facts of the murder, which were very straightforward, but the credibility and character of the main witness, an FBI informant who was riding in a car with the accused at the time of the murder. It strongly resonated with the tenor of the Congressional hearings held last week.

The DOJ Civil Rights Division then prosecuted the three defendants under federal conspiracy charges and the verdict was guilty from a racially diverse jury that included men and women. All three men received the maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.

It is a quick, compelling read, and though the events occurred 54 years ago, it represents a detailed account of a historical event from which we can all learn something about the ongoing challenges we face today in this country to distinguish facts and truth from bias, deception, and outright falsehoods.

The book is available from the University of Michigan Press in both hardcopy and paperback.



## **Broken Promises at Accokeek Academy**

— Marcy Canavan

There is a long history of broken promises and shortchanging of students at Accokeek Academy (formerly Henry G. Ferguson Elementary School and Eugene Burroughs Middle School). The new proposal for reassigning students due to overcrowding is the latest example.

When the Talented and Gifted (TAG) program was put there, the Board of Education made a public pledge that no Accokeek kids would ever be moved out of the school due to the TAG program. Proposals to move Accokeek students to another school have been made twice since then.

Other broken promises made when the new school was built include: The continuum-based learning program was never implemented — neither was the continuity program to Gwynn Park High School, the rooftop science lab and garden, or special community gym access. Also, our TAG program was not funded at the same level as the original TAG magnets.

It took State Senator Mike Miller's intervention to get our school built even though it was at the top of the Prince George's County school system's list of needed school replacements for years. Then there was the Board-proposed cell tower on school grounds.

Moving Accokeek students out of their school — to reduce enrollment was proposed for the third time a year or two ago. The community came up with several alternative suggestions. This proposal ignores *all* of the community input, and makes the proposal even worse by now planning to bus two neighborhoods of Accokeek kids out — all the kids on the west side (the Moyaone side) of the highway to Potomac Landing Elementary School and all of Simmons Acres to Fort Washington Forest.

The solution is to create a second TAG magnet at Fort Washington Forest and/or Potomac Landing to serve some of the non-Accokeek communities currently being sent to Accokeek. That would also create the space to make the TAG program available to more kids in this end of PG County.

There will be a public hearing about this plan on Tuesday, March 19 at 7 pm at Accokeek Academy, Upper Campus Multipurpose Room, 14400 Berry Rd. Be sure to attend as it affects not only your kids, but also your property values.

NOTE: some people have the mistaken idea that reducing enrollment will reduce class size. It will not. The number of teachers assigned to a school is determined by the number of students enrolled, not the number of classrooms available.

*Marcy Canavan was the school board member for District 9 (our district) in Prince George's County from 1986 to 1996.*

# Localism, Governance, and You

— Charles Gaumond

I read an article in the *Wall Street Journal* by Christopher DeMuth, who presents two cultural issues in American society. He referred to the book *The Road to Somewhere*, which I haven't read, but I vaguely remember reading the review. That book breaks contemporary society into "Somewhere" people and "Anywhere" people. Somewheres live in and identify with a locality. However, Anywheres are a bit rootless and could and would live anywhere. Living here near the Nation's capitol, I have noticed politicians, originally Arkansans or New Yorkers, becoming Anywheres. However, I have always considered myself a "Somewhere" person, born a Northern New Yorker and now a Moyaoner.

The article also discussed how national legislation is now pretty general with the specifics determined by agencies filled with experts. The general population has no recourse to these specifics. This is not a problem in the Moyaone Reserve! We know who makes all decisions and implementations in our neighborhood; the names of the Moyaone Association officers are on our website (<https://www.moyaone.org>) and below.

These two things – pride in neighborhood and knowledge of the legislators (the Moyaone Board of Directors and Committee Chairs) – should make all of us feel more pleased with and a part of our neighborhood. These two things should make each of us feel that we are not an insignificant number but an important member. Your opinions matter and if voiced to "our" legislators can make a difference. The Moyaone Reserve is a unique and precious community in modern America. Let us be aware of that, and work to keep it that way.

## ***Moyaone Association Board of Directors***

- *President* — Michael Leventhal  
MoyaonePresident@gmail.com
- *Vice President* — Rose Kim  
MoyaoneVice President@gmail.com
- *Secretary* — Gwen Peters  
MoyaoneSecretary@gmail.com
- *Director-at-Large* — Karen Hoagberg  
MoyaoneDirectorAtLarge@gmail.com



## ***Work Continues on National Historic Register Nomination***

— Rita Bergman

We have been notified that we have received two grants — one from the Maryland Historical Trust and one from the Historic Preservation Commission of Prince George's County. These grants will cover approximately two-thirds of the projected costs of the required tasks. Efforts are under way to secure the balance of the funding from other sources by the summer of 2019.

Eleven property owners have agreed to participate in the architectural research and documentation of their homes that will focus on mid-century modern architecture as designed by Charles Wagner, Charles Goodman, and The Architects Collaborative, of which Walter Gropius was a member. Although these houses have been selected for detailed research, the National Historic District nomination will include a general inventory of all the houses in the Moyaone. This general inventory will include property addresses; property owner mailing addresses; block, lot, and/or parcel number; date of construction; architectural style or building form; structure type; number of structures on property; relevant information on the architect, builder, or developer; and summary information on architectural and historic integrity. The presence of a collection of mid-century modern homes is an element of the nomination, yet equally important is the reinforcement of the Mount Vernon viewshed which is of paramount interest to everyone. The National Register designation would be instrumental in providing protection from future potential threats as we experienced with the gas compressor station proposed by Dominion Energy.

Following receipt of two very good technical proposals, an evaluation was conducted, and Robinson and Associates based in Washington, DC was selected as the awardee, based on price. A Project Initiation meeting was held on Feb. 15 at the Wagner Community Center where we kicked off the effort including a discussion on processes, reporting, and schedule. The first phase of the project is planned to be completed by June 15, 2019.



# The Moyaone Chili Challenge

WHEN: Saturday, March 23, 6 pm  
WHERE: Moyaone Community Center,  
2311 Bryan Point Rd., Accokeek

Accept the challenge and enter your favorite chili in the Moyaone chili cook-off. All recipes are accepted — exotic and creative to wonderfully traditional. Prizes for the best plant-based chili and the best chili with meat will be awarded.

Entering is simple. **Just send an email to Mary Lee Phelps at [mlgp42@msn.com](mailto:mlgp42@msn.com).** Admission for all chefs will be waived.

The Moyaone Brewers will offer a variety of their delicious beer. Salad, bread, and all the chili toppings will also be available. Admission is \$20 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Admission includes all the chili, salad, bread, beer, wine, and soda that you can eat.

All proceeds from this event will support upgrading the Community Center bathroom. Hope to see you there.

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## Local Produce Available

**Red Tree Farmstead**, Nanjemoy, MD. Seasonal flower CSA. Deadline to sign up is April 1. Pickup options available in Waldorf, La Plata, Nanjemoy, and Annapolis; delivery available also. More information on the website ([www.redtreefarmstead.com/csa](http://www.redtreefarmstead.com/csa)) or email: [redtreefarmstead@gmail.com](mailto:redtreefarmstead@gmail.com).

*Local organic vegetables in southern Maryland:*

**Good Fortune Farm**, Brandywine, MD. Seasonal vegetable CSA, eggs, and turkeys. Contact them for availability: phone (240) 350-2111 or email: [gfforganic@gmail.com](mailto:gfforganic@gmail.com)

**Dicot Farm**, Waldorf, MD. Seasonal vegetable CSA. <https://dicotfarm.com/csa>. Contact them for availability. Deadline for



## Accokeek Artists Alliance Makes Plans for the Future

The Accokeek Artists Alliance is up and running again after a two-year hiatus. About twenty artists and art enthusiasts met at Daniel Wise and Jim Wickman's art-filled house on February 16. Some brought samples of their art to show the group, including paintings, sculpture, ceramics, architectural paper models, and turned wooden bowls.

Anne Stokes has volunteered to curate an exhibit of vetted artists to be held in the Wagner Community Center this coming fall. A call for artists will be issued in July.

Trey Thomas, Arts and Cultural Lead for the Alice Ferguson Foundation, is interested in collaborating with the Alliance for an "Arts in the Woods" event. Another possible joint endeavor might be with Moyoane Modern, an organization dedicated to the preservation, education and promotion of mid-century modern architecture within Piscataway Park. Another possibility is mounting an exhibit with the theme, "Connecting with Nature", with diverse pieces drawing inspiration from the rural, natural surroundings of southern Prince George's County.

New members are always welcome. The group will meet again on April 13. Please contact Peggy Reichard ([preichard1@verizon.net](mailto:preichard1@verizon.net)), Lona Powell ([lona\\_p@yahoo.com](mailto:lona_p@yahoo.com)), or Daniel Wise ([danielpastels@gmail.com](mailto:danielpastels@gmail.com)) if interested in joining this diverse and talented group.



CSA signup was March 1, but there may be a few shares left.

**Next Step Produce**, Newburg, MD. Seasonal vegetables, organic grains, beans, and flours via a "locals list." For more information: phone: (301) 259-2096 or e-mail: [farmers@nextstepproduce.com](mailto:farmers@nextstepproduce.com).



## **Accokeek Foundation: Chesapeake Conservation Corps; Lattes with Lambs**

The Accokeek Foundation is pleased to announce that it has been selected as Host Applicant for the 2019 Chesapeake Conservation Corps Program. This one-year-long program, managed by the Chesapeake Bay Trust, places young professionals with nonprofits and government agencies to work full-time in the environmental field in the Chesapeake watershed. A line from the Accokeek Foundation's application notes the assigned Corps member "... will lead a native plant revitalization project in Piscataway Park by engaging the community in native and invasive plant identification, mapping, and management."

If you know of anyone between the ages of 18 and 25 who is interested in gaining vital green jobs skills and building a network of connections in the environmental field, please direct them to the on-line application:  
<https://cbtrust.org/chesapeake-conservation-corps/prospective/>

At the same time, the Accokeek Foundation is looking for a host family or low-cost rental to house the Corps member in the area. Stipend for the Corps member after taxes is roughly \$1,200/month so rent should not exceed \$500/month. This is not an obligation but an opportunity to help someone get started in an environmental protection career.

Each Corps member is vetted by the Chesapeake Trust and the individual assigned to Accokeek Foundation will have to pass a background check beforehand. Corps members are assigned to Host Organizations for one year starting mid-August 2019. The point of contact at the Accokeek Foundation is Daniel Trott (dtrott@accokeek.org).

### ***Sir Nigel Nicely and Lady Aster to be Married during "Lattes with Lambs," April 6***

The Accokeek Foundation would like to officially announce the engagement of farm favorite Sir Nigel Nicely, the bellwether of the National Colonial Farm's Hog Island sheep flock. He will wed Lady Aster, also of the National Colonial Farm, in a special ceremony during the Lattes with Lambs festival on Saturday, April 6.

Born on February 25, 2015 to Nuget, Nigel's small stature (a mere two pounds) required he receive extra care from farm staff. He quickly won the hearts of all he met. Unwilling to let his tough start slow him down, Nigel has become an important advocate for heritage breed conservation.

Receiving a knighthood for his work in 2017, the newly titled Sir Nigel went on to debut a business enterprise at last year's Lattes with Lambs festival. His company solidified his success in the business world, and he continues to be involved in the heritage breed philanthropic efforts so close to his heart. When he met Lady Aster at pasture last summer, it was love at first bleat. The couple have been inseparable ever since, and are excited to share their love with all the guests at Lattes with Lambs.

We hope to see you on April 6, 10 am–2 pm. Enjoy coffee and donuts, sheep-shearing demonstrations, milking demonstrations, wool spinning demonstrations, a 4-H livestock show, and live music.

### **Season Opening, Piscataway Park Visitor Center and Gift Shop, March 19**

Starting Tuesday, March 19, the Visitor Center and Gift Shop will be open Tuesdays–Sundays, 10 am–4 pm. Pick up an updated trail map, book a guided farm tour (Mondays and Fridays), rent gear for a nature adventure, or check out the handmade and artisan crafts and novelties.

For more information, visit [accokeek.org/events](http://accokeek.org/events). *Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park, 3400 Bryan Point Rd., Accokeek*

# Alice Ferguson Foundation Board of Directors Announces Transitional Leadership

*Dear Friends,*

The Alice Ferguson Foundation Board of Directors is pleased to announce that our own Amanda Foster has accepted the position of Interim Executive Director for the Alice Ferguson Foundation. We are confident she will provide strong leadership during this time of transition, following the departure of Lori Arguelles, who served the Foundation for nearly 8 years.

Amanda joined the Alice Ferguson Foundation in 2017 as a director of finance and operations. With more than 15 years of experience in financial management, and team leadership, and the nonprofit sector, Amanda is ideally positioned to lead the Alice Ferguson Foundation during this transitional period.

During this time, Amanda will partner with Alice Ferguson Foundation Board of Directors on organizational planning and the Executive Director search. In her role as Interim Executive Director, Amanda will oversee finances, staff operations, and strategic priorities of the organization.

We remain committed to our core values of service and mission of the Alice Ferguson Foundation. Please join me in welcoming Amanda Foster to her new role as Interim Executive Director, and don't hesitate to reach out to her with any questions or concerns at: [afoster@fergusonfoundation.org](mailto:afoster@fergusonfoundation.org)

From all of us on the Board, we appreciate your ongoing support and look forward to continuing to work together to steward Alice Ferguson Foundation's impactful educational programming, our shared community connections, and the natural resources around us.

*Fred Walls  
Chairman*

*Alice Ferguson Foundation Board of Directors*

## Upcoming Events at AFF

More information: [http://fergusonfoundation.org/events\\_list/](http://fergusonfoundation.org/events_list/). *Alice Ferguson Foundation, 2001 Bryan Point Rd., Accokeek*

### **Hard Bargain Children's Garden Volunteer Days**

Join us for a Saturday in the garden. Volunteers and friends, you're invited to come and help out at the Children's Garden from 10 am to noon on the third Saturday of each month, March through August (please note: April's date is the FIRST Saturday of the month). **The first date in 2019 is March 16.**

The Children's Garden is a space we use to teach schoolchildren about plants and where their everyday food comes from. We need help weeding, mulching, planting, and more to help this outdoor classroom grow. New volunteers and all skill levels welcome!

### **31st Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup**

**Saturday, April 13, 9 am–noon.** We are proud to be doing this for the 31st year and continuing our efforts to engage watershed residents in this key work.

### **Summer Camps!**

This year AFF will have two summer camps you can sign your children up for (or share with your friends!). See the next page of this issue for more information.



### **Pinot on the Potomac Sat., June 8, 5–9 pm**

Raise a glass for a good cause; indulge in delicious wines and food; enjoy live music and a live auction; immerse yourself in breathtakingly beautiful views of the Potomac River.

*Support our environmental education programs which serve more than 8,000 students each year.*

RSVP <http://bit.ly/pinot2019>

July 22 - 26, 2019

Alice Ferguson Foundation

## Summer Theater Camp

Calling all young theater enthusiasts and drama stars!



### Discover the fun and magic of theater!

This outdoor summer camp will introduce young theater enthusiast ages 7-14 to the world of the theater. Both kids new to theater and young veterans are welcome, with activities ranging from beginner theater to advanced theatrical concepts and acting techniques.

9:30AM - 3:30PM\*\*  
July 22 - 26, 2019

\*\*Food not included. Extended day is provided between 3:30 - 5:00 PM at \$35 per child. (Capped at 10 children.)

\$200 per child; \$180 for Alice Ferguson Foundation Members.

Learn more at: <http://bit.ly/afftheatercamp>

Questions? Contact [tthomas@fergusonfoundation.org](mailto:tthomas@fergusonfoundation.org)

Open to ALL theater enthusiasts ages 7 - 14!

Aug. 26 - 30, 2019

Alice Ferguson Foundation

## Summer Exploration Camp

Summer Science Fun on the Banks of the Potomac



Join us at Hard Bargain Farm for this special summer science camp. Kids will explore...

- How the soil beneath our feet grows the food we eat
- The mysterious world of water science
- How water and soil combine to create vital wetlands
- The many animals at and around our working farm

... at our engaging, hands-on outdoor program!

8:00AM - 3:00PM\*\*  
Aug. 26-30, 2019

\*\*Food not included. Extended day is provided between 3:00 - 5:00 PM at \$35 per child. (Capped at 10 children.)

\$200 per child; \$175 per additional child in the same family.

Learn more online at: <https://bit.ly/2GgNSrc>

Questions? Contact us at [worndorff@fergusonfoundation.org](mailto:worndorff@fergusonfoundation.org)

Open to ALL young explorers going into 4th, 5th or 6th grade!