

Smoke Signal



MOYAONE
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

THE MOYAONE RESERVE • LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

VOLUME LXI

JUNE 2021

NO. 6

President's Note:

New Moyaone Association Board Members Elected at May Meeting

— Rose Kim
MoyaonePresident@gmail.com

Thank you to all Moyaone community members who attended the May 15 Moyaone Association Membership Meeting. We especially appreciate those who voted by proxy, which allowed us to meet the quorum needed to elect new leadership. After a year of COVID lockdown, it was wonderful to see old friends and meet the many new neighbors from our community.

Please join me in welcoming the newly elected Moyaone Association Board Members and Financial Trustees:

Lindsay Laws, Vice President — Lindsay, her partner Brian Sentman, and kitty Tybalt moved to Apple Valley from DC three years ago. Lindsay originally hails from New Orleans. When not attempting to grow a vegetable garden, she manages collections and plans exhibits for the Department of the Interior Museum. We welcome Lindsay to the Board and look forward to her insights and creativity.

Karen Bell, Comptroller — Karen and her husband Matt moved to the Moyaone in the summer of 2018. When not busy renovating their home in Cactus Hill, they love taking their dog Andre on neighborhood walks, especially in Piscataway Park and river swims. Karen brings a strong accounting background to the Board as the CFO for a DC nonprofit. We are thrilled she's sharing her expertise with our community.

Rita Bergman, Financial Trustee — Rita and her wife, Nan Fremont, have lived in the Poplar Hill neighborhood for over

10 years. Rita is a former Moyaone Association president and has led many initiatives vital to the preservation of our community, such as the fight against the Dominion Power compressor station and more recently, having the Moyaone Reserve designated with the National Register of Historic Places. We welcome her institutional history and the insights she brings to the position of financial trustee.

The following Board members and financial trustees will remain in office:

Rose Kim, President
Michael Leventhal, At-Large
Lona Powell, Secretary
Bill Robertson, Financial Trustee
Paul Livingston, Financial Trustee

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Moyaone Association Board of Directors

President — Rose Kim
MoyaonePresident@gmail.com
Vice President — Lindsay Laws
MoyaoneVice President@gmail.com
Secretary — Lona Powell
MoyaoneSecretary@gmail.com
Comptroller — Karen Bell
MoyaoneComptroller@gmail.com
Director-at-Large — Michael Leventhal
MoyaoneDirectorAtLarge@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE . . .

for a Moyaone Evening Party

Saturday, July 17 at 7 pm

- Moyaone Community Center on the Pool Deck
2311 Bryan Point Road
- \$35/person, \$60/couple with pre-registration by July 7
\$40 per person at the door



Celebrate midsummer with friends and neighbors at a gala party on the deck of the Moyaone pool. Delight in the transformation of the pool deck into an elegant, magical place. Savor delicious food and drink as the sun sets while enjoying wonderful music.

All proceeds from this event will be used to improve physical and recreational spaces at the

Moyaone Community Center and Commons.

More information to come.

This is an adult-only event. Attendees will follow current CDC and Prince George's County COVID guidelines.

President's Column

— continued from page 1

A very special THANK YOU goes to our outgoing comptroller, Paola Addiamiano-Carts. Paola has been an outstanding comptroller for the past two years. Being comptroller is a tough, busy job. It's really a part-time job and Paola handled all the tasks in a timely, efficient, and friendly manner. Our community owes her a debt (pun intended) of thanks.

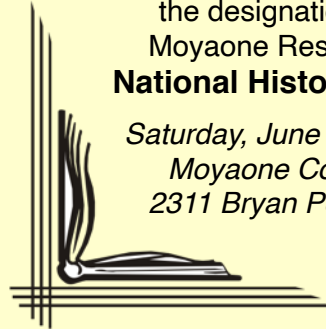
In addition to the business of elections, we also heard from local organizations at the meeting: [The Alice Ferguson Foundation](#), [The Accokeek Foundation](#), [GACA](#), and the [Prince George's County Lynching Memorial Project](#). I encourage every resident of the Moyaone Community to support these important organizations by joining, donating, or volunteering.

Finally, a big thank you to those who've recently paid membership dues (see page 3 for a current list of paid members and those who have made donations). Your support is appreciated! There are still many of you who have not stepped up, but I hope that you will think about the stewardship of the Moyaone Reserve and how vital your financial contribution is in making our community a better place. Our wooded community is unique and special, with a welcoming community commons, pool, and safe private roads — all these benefits come at a cost. It's not too late to make a difference in 2021.

Celebrate Our History

Residents of the Moyaone Reserve are invited to a reception to celebrate the designation of the Moyaone Reserve as a National Historic District

Saturday, June 26, 4–6 pm
Moyaone Commons
2311 Bryan Point Road



RSVP: To help us with planning, please let us know if you will be attending by emailing Mary Lee Phelps at maryleephelps@gmail.com. Include your name and the number of people in your party. Please respond by June 21.

This is a perfect opportunity to see old friends and meet new neighbors. We hope to see you there.

We respectfully ask that all attending guests abide by current CDC and Prince George's County COVID guidelines so that all may enjoy the gathering safely and confidently.

MOYAONE MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT OPTIONS

Questions? Contact Moyaone Comptroller Karen Bell at:
MoyaoneComptroller@gmail.com

Single Payments

(Residents and Undeveloped Lots)

- Check paid to: The Moyaone Association (P.O. Box 113, Accokeek, MD)
- Venmo payment: @moyaonecomptroller

Debit Payment Plan (Residents Only):

- Ten (10) ACH deductions of \$77 to be debited monthly from FEB–NOV *or* MAR–DEC

Consolidated Fees Update

Thank you to all Moyaone property owners who have paid their consolidated fees for 2021 or made donations. If you believe you have paid your fees, but your name does not appear below, please contact the Moyaone Comptroller, Karen Bell (moyaonecomptroller@gmail.com).

Abernethy	Apple Valley	Hansz	Auburn	Palatucci	Bonds Retreat
Ackley	Poplar Hill	Hartwig/Palermo	Cactus Hill	Palmateer/Raj	Poplar Hill
Aills	Hidden Valley	Hattaway	Bonds Retreat	Park	Poplar Hill
Allen	Cactus Hill	Haucke	Poplar Hill	Parker	Bonds Retreat
Allen/Penn	Auburn	Hibben/Cibelli	Poplar Hill	Perrizo	Auburn
Anderson	Apple Valley	Hoagberg/Plesniak	Apple Valley	Peters	Cactus Hill
Architzel/Canavan	Poplar Hill	Hodavance/Murray	Poplar Hill	Phelps	Bonds Retreat
Barrera	Apple Valley	Hollyfield	Auburn	Pipitone/Truett	Cactus Hill
Bednar	Poplar Hill	Huettner	Bonds Retreat	Pollack	Poplar Hill
Bennett	Poplar Hill	Jackson/Gorsuch	Bonds Retreat	Powell	Auburn
Bergman/Fremont	Poplar Hill	Jolly	Poplar Hill	Powell/Carlson-Powell	Apple Valley
Bigelow	Poplar Hill	Jones	Auburn	Ramundo/Stansbury	Auburn
Bihms	Apple Valley	Jones	Apple Valley	Reiben	Cactus Hill
Binder	Poplar Hill	Jones	Auburn	Reichard	Apple Valley
Bruce/West	Auburn	Kader	Cactus Hill	Romeo/Schwaller	Cactus Hill
Buckley/McChesney	Poplar Hill	Kagle	Bonds Retreat	Root	Auburn
Burke	Hidden Valley	Karimi/Melham	Poplar Hill	Rudzis	Cactus Hill
Campbell	Apple Valley	Katz	Cactus Hill	Rudzis	Cactus Hill
Canavan	Bonds Retreat	Keim	Apple Valley	Russell	Auburn
Carts/Addamiano-Carts	Poplar Hill	Kim	Auburn	Savage	Poplar Hill
Clay/O'Day	Auburn	Kirkup	Cactus Hill	Saylor	Poplar Hill
Cohen	Bonds Retreat	Kistler/Sewell	Poplar Hill	Schaaf	Hidden Valley
Cohn/Witkin	Bonds Retreat	Kline/Coley	Poplar Hill	Schreck	Cactus Hill
Coleman/Murray	Apple Valley	Koch/Haven	Poplar Hill	Scott	Auburn
Collin/Wheeler	Apple Valley	Kochen/Vine	Auburn	Shotwell/Neinaber	Hidden Valley
Condit	Bonds Retreat	Kovacs	Poplar Hill	Silhol/Bell	Cactus Hill
Cook-Deegan	Cactus Hill	Kucab	Auburn	Spalding/Pak-Spalding	Poplar Hill
Cremer	Bonds Retreat	Lapan	Cactus Hill	Stagg	Apple Valley
De Leon	Apple Valley	Laws/Sentman	Apple Valley	Stokes/Robertson	Cactus Hill
Dickert	Poplar Hill	Leventhal/Allen-Leventhal	Apple Valley	Strass	Bonds Retreat
Essex	Hidden Valley	Leventhal/Allen-Leventhal	Apple Valley	Strathern/Houseworth	
Evans	Apple Valley	Livingston	Poplar Hill	Taylor	Poplar Hill
Faull/Volcovici	Auburn	Livingston	Auburn	Tesi	Hidden Valley
Ferguson/Francisco	Bonds Retreat	Luedtke	Poplar Hill	Thompson	Bonds Retreat
Fetter	Auburn	Lynott/Haeri	Cactus Hill	Tinsley/Vongevitz	Auburn
Finger/Cox	Bonds Retreat	Mazariegos	Bonds Retreat	Townsend	Auburn
Finkbeiner	Apple Valley	McCleve	Poplar Hill	Turner	Bonds Retreat
Fischerkeller	Apple Valley	McVinney	Hidden Valley	Wagner	Bonds Retreat
Fishman	Poplar Hill	Miles	Bonds Retreat	Ware	Bonds Retreat
Gandy	Poplar Hill	Mills	Poplar Hill	Wareham	Cactus Hill
Garcia	Poplar Hill	Mitchell	Auburn	Wasylczuk	Bonds Retreat
Gaumond	Auburn	Morales/Ramirez Perez	Bonds Retreat	Watts	Poplar Hill
George	Poplar Hill	Mullins	Apple Valley	Weiman	Bonds Retreat
Gheen	Poplar Hill	Naar/Heys	Apple Valley	Welch/Jenkins	Bonds Retreat
Gillespie	Hidden Valley	Nelson	Poplar Hill	Wilk	Auburn
Gillespie	Cactus Hill	Nelson	Hidden Valley	Williams	Cactus Hill
Gladson	Apple Valley	Nicholson	Auburn	Wise/Wickman	Apple Valley
Gruwell	Poplar Hill	O'Donnell/O'Grady	Poplar Hill	Wright	Poplar Hill
Hall	Cactus Hill	Osborn	Auburn	Zak	Bonds Retreat
Hannes	Poplar Hill	Paajanen/Jagger	Auburn		
Hanson	Bonds Retreat				

Another Bump in the Road (With Kudos to the Road Crew)

—Kay Powell

I knew when the power went out during the severe weather we had on May 19 that a tree might be down, so I phoned my son to pick up dinner on the way home. When he arrived on foot, my suspicion was confirmed — a large tree had taken down wires on “our hill.”

Over time, “our hill” has been declared by numerous road chairs and grader operators as one of the worst-designed roads in the Moyaone Reserve. It’s very steep and has a sharp curve before it levels out to our driveway. Tom and I moved to the bottom of this hill on West Auburn in 1968. We were the first to live at the end of West Auburn, so it had never been maintained. When we purchased the land, I said I wouldn’t move in unless we had four-wheel drive. Tom agreed and we bought a used International Scout and later upgraded to a Land Rover. That was more than 50 years ago and the roads were in very poor shape at that time. Tom served as Roads Chair for many years and worked hard to get things in better shape. I want to go on record stating things have been greatly improved as witnessed by this recent “bump in the road.” Also, I should clarify that “our hill” is technically not ours. We have a neighbor living at the bottom with us now, and thankfully the road is owned and maintained by the community. I just feel ownership!

I have many stories about living at the bottom of “our hill,” and the big tree felled by a microburst (small tornado) on May 19 is definitely in the top three. I should qualify that my choice for number one was when a tractor trailer full of pet food mistakenly drove down our hill one July afternoon in the mid 1970s. The driver was supposed to deliver 10 bags of dog food to the Kanslers via East Auburn, but he took the wrong Auburn — and ended up at the bottom of our hill. It took three large tow trucks at least 6 hours to tow the truck up and out! Neighbors gathered on the hillside with refreshments to watch the struggle. When the tractor trailer was safely up the hill there was much applause — followed by a Moyaone-type happy hour. A second event was with a Green Spring Dairy truck making a delivery to us. After heavy rains we were often challenged by mud-filled sinkholes where our car tires would sink up to the rims. Tom and I learned how to drive up without stopping, March always worse with freezing and thawing. On one of those days the milk truck came down the hill but then couldn’t get up. After several tries, he surrendered. I offered to help and the driver reluctantly agreed. I put our three kids, who were preschoolers at the time, in the back of the Scout. Together with our synchronized driving we made it up the hill. That inspired me to make a homemade ROAD CLOSED sign to prevent visitors from coming down when the road was impassable.

This week’s downed tree definitely qualifies as my number three. Thursday morning I went up to check storm damage and found the road blocked by a very large hickory tree with a trunk that was approximately 3 feet in diameter. My son Roger cleared numerous branches and when we got to the fallen tree, I decided I could probably drive under it. Roger spotted me as I drove to be sure I wouldn’t damage our car. I was



A downed tree blocking the lower end of West Auburn was no match for the intrepid Moyaone Roads Crew, under the direction of Moyaone Roads Chair Stan Fetter.

successful, having about a foot of clearance. I called Stan Fetter, Roads Chair and neighbor, to tell him we had a big problem. Within an hour he had checked it out and reported that a crew would arrive later that day to work on the clearing.

Later that morning the Roads Committee contract labor team of Leon, Troy, and Dave arrived, assisted by several community volunteers. On Thursday they removed numerous branches and big limbs so they would have safe access to cut and clear the trunk from the road the next day. Friday morning, as I was leaving for an early appointment, I was able again to drive under the tree. I waved as the crew was gathering for another day’s work. This time on my return at noon I was blocked! The tree was now in many large pieces all across the road. I took pictures as I walked down our hill to home. Finally, at 4 pm the road was cleared. They couldn’t have removed this tree without the community’s Gradall and its expert operators. To top things off, the tree damaged our cable wire and we are waiting for repairs as I write. A rainy holiday weekend without television, internet, and phone meant returning to time-tested leisure activities — books, writing letters, and puzzles. It’s okay. No longer the wife of the Roads Chair, I’m grateful to not be hauling branches out of the way and making signs that say ROAD CLOSED. Meanwhile, I am especially grateful to all those who pitch in to keep our roads maintained and cleared of fallen trees.

New Moyaoners on Cactus Hill

— *Crystal Garcia*

Joe Lapan and Alisha Edmonson are pleased to have moved to Cactus Hill Road. Joe is a Maryland native, while Alisha hails from the West Coast. Most recently, Joe and Alisha lived in Washington DC but came to Moyaone Reserve seeking more space, peace, and natural environs. Joe and Alisha are music lovers who currently own two music businesses in Washington DC, a venue/bar called Songbyrd Music House and a record store called Byrdland Records. They reside with their two dogs, Phife, a 4-year-old "Schnollie" (schnauzer, collie mix), and Addy, a 2-year-old Airedale terrier. About their dogs Joe and Alisha say, "We hope they won't bother you too much, and they are really the sweetest!"

NPS to Host Virtual Public Meeting on Deer Populations

The National Park Service (NPS), National Capital Parks–East, is hosting a virtual public meeting on reducing deer population in parks in DC and Maryland on Tues., June 15, 6 to 7:30 pm. Registration is not required to participate in the meeting. To connect to the meeting on June 15: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1434719052693446158>

A recording of the meeting will also be available for viewing at the NPS Park Planning website after June 15: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/NACEdeermanagement>.

NPS proposes to reduce overabundant deer populations in several national parks in DC and Maryland. We encourage park neighbors and visitors to review and share comments on a NPS proposal to develop a deer management plan and environmental assessment (EA) for National Capital Parks–East, which includes, among others, Fort Washington Park, Fort Foote, Piscataway Park, Oxon Cove Park, and Harmony Hall,

The purpose of this proposal is to develop a white-tailed deer management strategy that supports long-term protection, preservation, and restoration of native plants and landscapes in these parks.

How to comment: Public participation is vital to the planning process. You are invited to review the proposal and provide comments and ideas from June 15 through July 15. To provide comments online or get additional information on the project, visit the NPS planning website at: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/NACEdeermanagement>.

You may also listen to a recording of the presentation and leave comments on the project information line by calling 410-777-9538. The project information line will be available from June 15 to July 15, 2021.

If you prefer to mail your comments, make sure they are postmarked by July 15, 2021 to receive consideration.

Mail comments to: Superintendent, ATTN: Deer Management Plan/EA Comments, National Capital Parks–East, 1900 Anacostia Drive, SE, Washington, DC 20020.



Artists Alliance Has Many Events Planned — Join Today to Take Part



Twenty-some fortunate Accokeek Artists Alliance (AAA) members were treated to a unique experience last month at John and Linda's Livingston Road house. The Masseys used the pandemic year to create woodland art from fallen trees on their property. The results are extraordinary. Photos above are by AAA member Steven Turner.

The AAA will continue to have meetings in members' homes during the summer months. These meetings will include "show and tell," optional group critiques of art brought by members, and tours of the hosts' art-making spaces. Here's the line-up:

June 27 Dianne and Mike Wallace, Farmington Road
July 18 Jan and Bill Parker, Rockwood Road
August 28 Candice Bigelow, Poplar Hill Road

On Saturday, September 18, the AAA will have an Arts and Crafts Fair at the Moyaone Community Center's Commons on the soccer field. The fair is open to both AAA members and nonmembers.

In addition, the AAA is planning another Plein Air painting and ceramic event at Hard Bargain Farm for the fall and the ever popular holiday exhibit and sale in the winter.

So you see there are many good reasons to join AAA if you haven't already. Just go to the website — www.accokeekartistsalliance.com — and send in your application. Easy.

June at the Accokeek Foundation: Fairy Trail Returns; Board Members Sought

— Casey Lowe Harlow
Marketing Manager, Accokeek Foundation

The Fairy Trail is back!

Starting June 20, the Piscataway Park Fairy Trail will re-open with eight completely new houses to explore. Expanding to encompass more of the park, there will be a new fairy home on each one of Piscataway Park's nature trails. The new fairy trail guide book, which includes a map of the trails and magical activities to complement each house, will be available for download on our website beginning June 20.

In-person farm tours are also back beginning later this month. Small groups can pre-book guided tours of the farm Friday afternoons throughout the summer. Check the event calendar on our website for tour dates and to sign up.

Save the Date for a special virtual presentation for Juneteenth. More info about registering for this presentation will be provided on our website and social media channels.

Get on Board!

The deadline for applications to join the Accokeek Foundation's Board of Trustees is June 25! It's an exciting time to support the Foundation, as we reimagine the Foundation's work in better alignment with our partners and with indigenous land-based stewardship ethics and values.

Below you will find links to the slide presentation shared in April, additional information about the Board of Trustees and the Accokeek Foundation, the application to apply to serve on the board, and a recording of the board information session.

If you decide to submit an application to join the board, the next steps are as follows:

- Nominating Committee will review applications and work with staff to contact prospects and arrange interviews and virtual tours.
- Nominating Committee will recommend top prospects to the full board for a vote.
- Nominating Committee will extend invitations to prospects. New board members will be welcomed on a rolling basis, dependent on date of application submission.

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Applications must be submitted by June 25 for consideration at the July 31 board meeting.

[Board Information Presentation](#)

[FAQs and Additional Information](#)

[Board Member Application](#)

[Board Information Session Recording](#)

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to email us at development@accokeek.org. Thank you again for your interest in supporting the Accokeek Foundation's mission and vision—we couldn't do it without community members like you!

Accokeek Foundation, 3400 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek

GACA to Meet Virtually June 30

— Judy Allen-Leventhal

The Greater Accokeek Civic Association (GACA) will host a virtual general membership meeting on Wednesday, June 30, at 7:30 pm. Detailed "Zoom" instructions will be sent via email closer to the meeting date. The program will include updates on a variety of issues of interest to the community, such as the Roadway Advisory Committee for South County (RACS), GACA's ad hoc committee that has been working with the Maryland Department of Transportation and Prince George's County's Councilmanic District 9 representatives on managed maintenance and aesthetic issues along South County roadways (for example, regular mowing, illegal dumping, and the use of portable security cameras). Staff from Councilman Sydney Harrison's office will also participate in the meeting.

Cpl. Rannacher, our local Prince George's County District VII Police Department community officer, will give his report.

Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission staff will provide information about the Accokeek Heritage Tourism Plan application to Planning Assistance to Municipalities and Communities, which has been approved by the Prince George's County's Community Planning Division. The application was submitted in February by GACA in partnership with the Accokeek Foundation and the Alice Ferguson Foundation.

Looking to the future, GACA plans an in-person GACA membership meeting the last Wednesday in September at the Accokeek Volunteer Fire Department Hall. We hope you will join us via Zoom on June 30 in what we feel certain will be the last "virtual" GACA membership meeting. Stay safe.

Community Cleanup Day on June 12

On Saturday, June 12, from 9 am to 12 pm, Council Member Sydney Harrison is hosting a community-wide cleanup, paper shred, and bulk trash collection event. The entire community is encouraged to gather their neighbors and join the District 9 team in removing unsightly trash and debris from our neighborhoods. The bulk trash and paper shred locations are as follows:

- Clinton Baptist Church, 8701 Woodyard Rd., Clinton, MD (*bulk trash and paper shred*)
- Frederick Douglass High School, 8000 Croom Rd., Upper Marlboro, MD (*bulk trash only*)
- Accokeek Academy, 14400 Berry Rd., Accokeek, MD (*bulk trash only*)

For more information on acceptable and unacceptable bulk trash items, please go to [List of Acceptable and Unacceptable Material](#).

Alice Ferguson Foundation Holds Successful “Pinot on the Potomac”



— Tori Bitner

AFF Marketing & Communications Coordinator

Silent Auction Is Live

Our 7th Annual Pinot on the Potomac is officially in the books (photos above). If you were not able to join us or simply want to continue the fun, head over to our [online auction](#) to place your bid on some unique goodies, and support our hands-on, minds-on environmental programs while doing so. These transformative experiences help turn students into stewards who take action to care for the natural world. Bidding ends at midnight on Sunday, June 13. Begin bidding [here](#).

Happy Summer

The educators, staff and barnyard friends at Hard Bargain Farm wish all of our students and teachers a well-deserved and wonderful summer break. Thanks for a fantastic school year!

Join Us for a Picnic

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 9, for a special community picnic at Hard Bargain Farm. We invite you and your family to join us for fun and fellowship this fall.

Accokeek "Gators" Swim Team

For over 50 years, the Moyaone pool has been home to the Accokeek Swim Team (AST), a not-for-profit competitive swim team in the Prince-Mont Swim League for ages 4–18. The goal of the team is to provide every member an opportunity to improve swimming skills and achieve success at his or her level of ability, from novice to seasoned competitor. The focus is on mastering correct stroke



CCYO and Dr. Osman Kivrak at AFF. Photo: Jennifer Sullivan

CCYO Performed Live Concert at Alice Ferguson Foundation in May

The Charles County Youth Orchestra (CCYO) with Prelude Strings, Encore Band, and Encore Strings performed their first live in-person concert since 2020 on May 8. The concerts were held outdoors on the beautiful grounds of the Alice Ferguson Foundation (AFF). CCYO provides music education and performance opportunities for talented young musicians ages 8 to 18 in Charles, Prince George's, St. Mary's, and Calvert counties.

Theresa Cullen, AFF Executive Director, said that “We are thrilled to host CCYO once again at Hard Bargain Farm. The great outdoors provides the perfect backdrop for these young musicians to showcase their talents.”

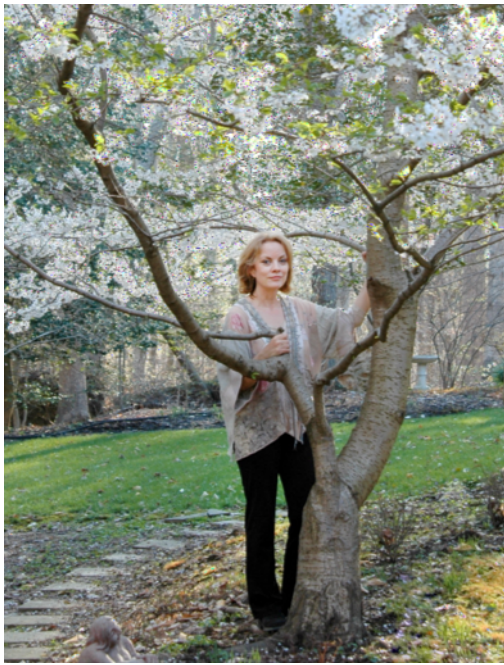
For the 1 pm concert Prelude Strings, directed by Dr Teri Lazar, performed a program of music by Vivaldi, Clark and the soundtrack from the movie *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. The Encore Band, directed by Takako Mato, performed pieces by Merken, Shaffer, and Joplin. The 3 pm segment of the concert featured the Encore Strings, directed by Dr. Krisztina Noble, performing works by Romeser, Bach, and Vaughan Williams. Finally, Dr. Osman Kivrak, CCYO Director, led the CCYO in a program of music by Mozart, Handel, Pachelbel, and his own rendition of a Turkish folk song “Tamzara.”

At the 5 pm performance Chris Zabriskie, President of the Rotary Club of Charles County, presented Dr. Kivrak with a check for \$4,000 to support the CCYO's 2020 Chamber Music Festival to be held July 10, 17, and 24 at AFF. The concerts will be open to the public, as will the CCYO Concerto Competition concert June 5 at Christ Church, La Plata.

Auditions for the 2021–2022 season will be held in September. For more information, contact Osman Kivrak, DMA, Director, Charles County Youth Orchestra (301 375-7109; charlescountyyouthorchestra.org).

technique, and learning teamwork, good sportsmanship, and self-discipline. We are run by our volunteer members and parents, and all are welcome and encouraged to be involved in team activities. For more information about AST [click here](#) or ask at the pool check-in desk.

The Gators will host two home meets this season on July 10 and July 17 (both 7 am–12 pm).



Grace Griffith. Photo by: Irene Young.

Grace Griffith

October 30, 1956 — June 5, 2021

Grace was born on October 30, 1956, the eighth of ten children. She grew up in Charles County, MD. As a child, Grace liked to draw and loved music. A drawing that she did when she was five years old was sent to Thomas Merton and inspired him to write the poem “Grace’s House,” which some Merton commentators consider one of his finest. In the liner notes for one of the music albums she eventually recorded, Grace recalled that when she was ten years old, her mother gave her a recorder and she would spend hours playing it in the woods on her parents’ property.

Grace attended Archbishop Neale School in LaPlata, MD, and went on to graduate from the University of Maryland with a degree in physical therapy. Upon graduation, she returned to Charles County where she worked as a physical therapist at, among other places, then-Physicians Memorial Hospital in La Plata. Grace was a dedicated caregiver who drew great satisfaction from her profession. Sadly, her career as a physical therapist was brought to a premature end by Parkinson’s disease.

Music was Grace’s avocation and lasting passion. She believed that physical therapy and music had a common thread in that they both promoted healing. As Grace grew up, she developed into a talented singer and instrumentalist. Among other instruments, she played the guitar, penny whistle, recorder, dulcimer, and even tried her hand at electric bass. The genres of music she leaned toward were folk and Celtic. After college, she began appearing at various venues in Southern Maryland. Eventually, her performances expanded to the greater Washington/Baltimore area and beyond.

Grace recorded many critically acclaimed albums, including: *Every Hue and Shade*, *Sands of Time*, *Grace*, *Sailing*, *Minstrel Song*, *My Life*, and *Passing Through*. With

A memorial service will be held for Grace Griffith on Sunday, June 27, at 2 pm at the Alice Ferguson Foundation Cafritz Center, 2201 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek.

Please bring a mask to wear when inside the Cafritz Center.

Connemara she recorded *Siren Song* and *Beyond the Horizon*. A number of her CDs were released by the Blix Street label.

Grace performed with many groups, including The Hags, Hazelwood, Connemara, Irish Fire, Jennifer Cutting’s Ocean Orchestra, and Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer. She appeared at many venues with those groups and with many other musicians. Over the years, Grace’s music was recognized internationally. Locally, the Washington Area Music Association awarded Grace Griffith WAMMIE awards as “Best Female Vocalist” in both the Celtic and Traditional Folk categories four consecutive years.

Grace was preceded in death by her parents Bert and Lucile Sisson; her sister Maura Sisson (Richard Hesse); her brothers Fred (DeeDee), James (Nancy), and Mark. She is survived by her husband Patrick Holmes and her siblings: Richard (Marybeth), Bridget Sisson (Oren Swain), Clare Barrow (Ted), Michael Sisson, and Joseph Sisson (Janet Silverman). She is also survived by her nephews and nieces: Francis Sisson (Erica), Jane Barrow (Steven), Caitlin Lackey (Brandon), Jamie Sisson, Thomas Barrow (Rebecca), Christine Alexander (Daniel), and Molly Sisson along with two grandnephews, eight grandnieces, many cousins, a multitude of friends, and her other family — the many musicians she had the pleasure of making music with. In this last regard, it has been said that Grace had two families — her biological family and her music family. Grace once said that for her making music was like being next to God. Music remained a great source of solace and joy until her end. Even as Parkinson’s disease caused the clarity of her speech to fade, she would still sing and the lyrics consistently came out clearly.

Contributions may be made to the [Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research](#) or the [Parkinson’s Foundation](#).

More information about Grace can be found on her Wikipedia page at the following link:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grace_Griffith

Also, examples of some of her music can be found at the following links, the first of which includes many pictures of her family:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c9DLE6L2HCs>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAkvEvp_Zm4

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZ-Nw-4DOVM>