



Smoke Signals



MOYAONE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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President's Note:

Moyaone Association Budget Meeting to be Held Sat., Dec. 11

— Rose Kim
MoyaonePresident@gmail.com

Dear Neighbors,

As we move to shorter, cooler days, it's time to think about the Moyaone Association December Budget Meeting. As is tradition, the meeting is held the 2nd Saturday in December. This year, that will be on December 11 from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm. While the focus of the meeting is to review 2021 finances, we also vote on the 2022 budget, hear updates on community matters, and there are some exciting project proposal presentations scheduled. If you want a say, we need you to come out and vote. So please mark your calendars! The Moyaone Secretary will send a formal agenda and proxy ballot later this month, and a copy will also be included in the next edition of *Smoke Signals*.

The meeting won't be all money talk and no fun. Laura Ford, President and CEO of the Accokeek Foundation, will speak about the important relationship between the Moyaone

**Moyaone Association
Budget Meeting**

Saturday, December 11, 2021

*Wagner Community Building
2311 Bryan Point Rd.*

3:00–4:30 pm - Meeting
4:30–6:00 pm - Social

Please bring a favorite nibble and beverage to share.

Reserve and Piscataway Park. She may even bring a friend or two to help tell this special story.

Once the meeting adjourns, all are invited to stay for conversation and a BYOB happy hour with friends and neighbors. Please bring a favorite beverage and nibble(s) to share.

As a reminder, we welcome all at the meeting; however, only full Moyaone Association members in good standing (you've paid your consolidated fee of \$770) are permitted a vote (1 per household regardless of the number of properties owned). Speaking of dues ... if you wish to attend the meeting and vote but you haven't paid your 2021 dues, it's never too late! For details on how to pay, you can reach out to Karen Bell at MoyaoneComptroller@gmail.org

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

The Moyaone Cookshack and the Pizza Oven at 2311 Bryan Point Rd., aka The Commons, are hibernating until Spring. For any buildings and grounds questions, please email John at Hollyfield1@comcast.net



Milburn Garland Butler

December 1, 1935 – October 10, 2021

Milburn Garland “Gil” Butler was born December 1, 1935 in Bradenton, Florida. He attended local schools, where his mother was a teacher. He grew up in a community where electrification was still being developed, where the Saturday morning movies were an all-day entertainment for kids, and where families would gather in the town square on Sundays for band music and ice cream. After a brief stint in the Army (serving as a quartermaster at a base near Washington, DC), Gil Butler went to college in Colorado, returning to Florida where he graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in radio engineering. Along the way, he met and after a whirlwind courtship married Judith Bunten, who would become his lifelong companion.

Gil Butler began working as a DJ at a small radio station in Bradenton, Florida in the early 1950s, spinning disks from the very beginning of rock and roll. His love of music of all sorts ranged from jazz to rock to classical. His collection evolved through several formats (LP, cassette, CD, and MPs), and his special chair was always surrounded by the music he would enjoy while reading in the evening. Professionally, Gil moved up to larger stations and more challenging positions in radio and television, working for radio stations around the Tampa Bay area. His first TV gig was as a general reporter for WTVT in Tampa. From there, he moved to WXYZ in Detroit, Michigan, before moving to Silver Spring in the Washington, DC area where he worked as a White House correspondent for local CBS affiliate WTOP, covering Washington politics under presidents Nixon and Ford. During this period, Gil appears briefly in Timothy Crouse’s *The Boys on the Bus* (a recounting of the White House Press Corps during the Nixon era). He was one of the

six “Knights of the Green Ottoman,” named for an item of furniture in the 1972 White House press complex where the newsmen would gather and share notes. In one passage, he is described: “Gil Butler ... the reporter for TV station WTOP, who was chuckling over a volume of Mencken” This description will surprise no one who knew him, as Gil was a voracious reader. He was always in the middle of a massive nonfiction volume about politics, military history, or the Space Race.

After WTOP, in 1978 Gil began his ultimate career at the Voice of America, the United States Information Agency’s international radio network. Over a nearly three-decade career with Voice of America, he covered 68 countries, working abroad in Cairo, Egypt; Beirut, Lebanon; Beijing, China; London, England; as well as covering the State Department and Pentagon during his time at home between foreign assignments. At the Voice of America’s 40th Anniversary Celebration, Gil received the Meritorious Honor Award for his work in Cairo covering the assassination and funeral of Egyptian President Sadat and its aftermath. Twenty-seven years later, Voice of America News ran a story looking back at that work and the restraint and integrity he exercised in waiting for confirmation before reporting that Sadat had been killed.

Moving from Silver Spring in the late 1970s, Gil spent many years on a small horse farm in Accokeek with his wife, Judi, maintaining their home, called “The Poplars,” gardening, and taking his grandchildren to art museums and concerts. While never a horse person himself, Gil was devoted to maintaining the farm, outbuildings, and the ever-growing menagerie of cats, dogs, and horses. Later, after his wife Judi required full-time nursing care, Gil sold the farm and moved to Waldorf to be closer to his wife. When COVID restrictions prevented him from coming in to visit, he would stand outside her window, wave to her, and have what conversation he could with her through the glass. He was, to the end, a devoted, loving, and loyal husband.

Gil Butler was a prodigious reader, a professional and avid follower of government and politics, willing to discuss the intricacies of the nation, past and present, with insight and first-hand knowledge. A lifelong political progressive, he was proud to have been born during Franklin D. Roosevelt’s administration and expressed relief at living to see the end of the 2017–2021 presidential administration. Gil passed away Sunday, October 10, 2021 in his home in Waldorf. He is survived by his wife, Judith Butler; his children, John Butler and his wife Rosa Butler, Peter Butler and his wife Lynn Butler, and his daughter Melinda Butler Walker; his grandchildren, Sylvia Molina, Evan Brettell, Scurvy Walker, Violet Butler, Benjamin Butler, and Charles Butler; and his great-grandchildren, Ethan Butler, Daphne Molina, and Joshua Brettell.




Artists' Winter Art Market, Nov. 13–14

The Accokeek Artists Alliance invites one and all to our heralded annual Winter Art Market. Art for sale, hot cider and treats, fire pit, good company — not to be missed! Join us on Nov. 13 (Sat. 2–6 pm) and 14 (Sun. noon–4 pm) at Alice Ferguson Foundation's Cafritz Environmental Center (2201 Bryan Point Rd.).

There will also be a Trey Thomas Fundraiser Silent Auction. If you would like to make a donation, please bring it to the Cafritz Center on Fri., Nov. 12, between 3 and 6 pm.

Welcome, New Neighbors!



David and Carrie Stute — originally from Detmold, Germany, and Lakeland, Fla. — have lived in Capitol Hill for the past seven years and were excited to discover Accokeek after visits to the Colonial Farm with their two young children. Recently David began a new job as an attorney with the State Department after working for a law firm downtown for a number of years. Carrie is a cellist with the Marine Chamber Orchestra and runs a chamber music series on the side (chiarina.org). The two are the proud parents of Theodor (age 2.5), whose hobbies include digging in the dirt and riding a scooter, and Josephine (9 mo.), who enjoys showing off her single tooth and grabbing her brother's toys.



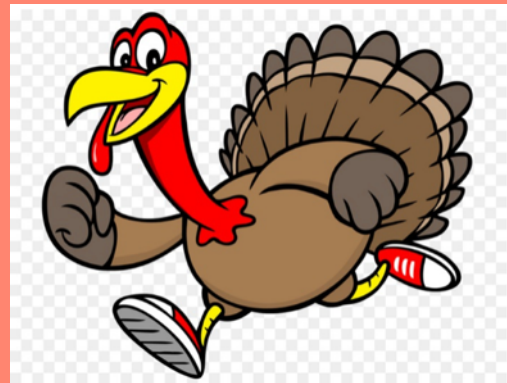
Moyaone Christmas Market (Weihnachtsmarkt) on Dec. 10

All are invited to join in the holiday fun at the Moyaone's Weihnachtsmarkt sponsored by our local youth. The learning pod that's been meeting at the Moyaone pavilion has been busy practicing learning about banking, making change, and keeping ledgers. They've also been creating an array of hand-crafted goods suitable for holiday giving. Will they make a profit or suffer a loss? The community decides, but the students do the math.

The outdoor, cash-only market is open for one day only, rain or shine: **Fri., Dec. 10, 2–7 pm.** Moyaone Pavilion and grounds, 2311 Bryan Point Rd.

Hot cocoa and cookies will be available for purchase. Curbside pickup of reserved items is available. To view the inventory of goods (items are being added as they are completed), visit our website:

<https://lunactias.wixsite.com/weihnachtsmarkt>



9th Annual Moyaone Thanksgiving Day 5K Turkey Trot

November 25, 2021 • 8:30 am

**Meet at the Moyaone Commons
2311 Bryan Point Road**

New trail route in process of being mapped out!

**Walk or run with your family, neighbors, friends, guests, dogs.
Join us for a cup of apple cider before heading home.**

If raining, Trot will not be held.

Improving Acoustics at the Wagner Community Center

The Wagner Community Center's construction budget was approximately \$10,000 when it was built around 1960. The building has been well used over the years for every kind of community or resident event. Since the beginning, the principal complaint has been the acoustics.

The problem is there are no soft surfaces to reduce reverberations — concrete floor, concrete block walls, and a metal roof. These elements make it harder to listen, hear, and understand what is being said as sounds are being bounced off every hard surface. It makes going to a Wagner Center event somewhat an unpleasant experience. At community meetings it is difficult to understand the speakers, musical performances are painful, it is necessary to get within 6 inches of someone's ear at a good party, classes are difficult for instructor and students alike.

After 60 years of frustration, it was time to look for solutions. A small committee was formed comprised of: Michael Leventhal (planner and Moyaone Board member); Rick Collin (architect); Charles Gaumont (physicist, underwater acoustics); Mary Lee Phelps (Moyaone Event Coordinator Extraordinaire); Frank Pipitone (musician, physicist); and Holly Wagner (long-time resident).

The committee was able to secure the pro-bono services of Ian Hoffman, a professor at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University (for those of you who are interested, check out <http://ian-bryan-hoffman.com/about>). Prof Hoffman began his interaction with the committee by asking how the building was used and what was the source of sound for each activity. For example, the Moyaone Association annual meeting has the Moyaone Board facing the membership from the wall opposite the main entrance; musicians usually arrange themselves in front of the back door; classes are held in various spots around the room; and good parties take up the entire room as do many community events. Professor Hoffman and a graduate student also took a number of measurements and modeled the movement of sound throughout the room.

After a series of meetings with the committee, Prof. Hoffman presented three recommendations: first, a system of baffles across the ceiling to reduce reverberation from high notes; second, an insulated built-out wall, about 4 inches in depth, constructed across the wall containing the main entrance to reduce reverberation from low notes. His third recommendation is to reduce the noise produced by the heating and cooling systems as well as the dehumidifiers by simply turning them off, especially during those periods when clarity is critical to the occasion.

In the next several issues of *Smoke Signals*, articles further explaining the solutions to reduce reverberation sound from the Wagner Community Building will be printed. A community-wide meeting will be scheduled in the early spring to broaden the discussion on the sound problem and proposed solutions.

The Promise of Progress on Air Noise Is in the Air

For many years, those of us representing Accokeek on the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Community Working Group (MWAA-CWG) on noise reduction have seen every recommendation we have made to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) be summarily rejected. We even recommended that the FAA propose its preferred solutions, to no avail. But the promise of change is in the air.

Arlington and Montgomery counties, affected by traffic north of the airport, hired a consultant to develop solutions. The FAA seems relatively enthusiastic about working with a consultant who "speaks FAA" — so much so that a spokesperson for the FAA recommended that jurisdictions south of the airport do the same, if we hoped to make progress.

We protested that nothing in the First Amendment right to peaceably assemble and petition the government for redress of our grievances gives the government the right to require that we hire a consultant to do so, but it was clear that the FAA still preferred that approach. As a practical matter, it seemed to be the only viable path to progress.

The good news is that, over the past several weeks, the City of Alexandria, Fairfax County, and Prince George's County have stepped up and reached an agreement, in principle, to hire a subject matter expert to work on south-of-the-airport noise abatement. We are hopeful that we can soon be on our way to developing recommendations translated into the FAA's technical language, and shepherded through by a consultant with close ties to the FAA teams responsible for changing arrival and departure procedures.

John Mitchell and Bill Parker will make a brief progress report at the Dec. 11 Moyaone Association Budget Meeting, and will be prepared to field any questions.

Davies Concert Series Returns

The Davies Concert Series returns Sun., Nov. 7 at 5 pm with works by composers of the Iranian diaspora, and featuring host and violist Kimia Hesabi, mezzo-soprano Lori Şen, and pianist Ying-Shan Su. In keeping with the Series' emphasis on accessibility, all tickets are Pay What You Can and can be reserved in advance or obtained onsite beginning 30 minutes prior to performance. (Visit daviesconcertseries.com for details.) Masking and proof of vaccination are required for admittance. All Davies Concert Series events take place at the acoustically rich Davies Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 7400 Temple Hill Rd., Camp Springs, MD.

Exploring Local History

The Prince George's County Lynching Memorial Project invites you to hear the complex truth of our local history in a special event at 3 pm on Sat., Nov. 13 at the Accokeek Branch Library, 15773 Livingston Rd. Participants will hear the untold story of the lynching of Thomas Juricks in Piscataway in 1869. (Safety and health protocols will be in effect.) More information is at <https://pgclmp.org>.

My Tropical Garden

— by Paola Addamiano-Carts

Being a lackadaisical gardener has its benefits. For instance, we never seem to grow squash intentionally without an army of squash borers descending on our humble plot. Last year, exercising the principle of benign neglect, we had a bumper crop of volunteer butternut squash and pumpkins. Despite foisting them off on friends and neighbors, we're still working through all the baggies of squash chunks and grated pumpkin in our freezer.

This year we had a new and decidedly unexpected volunteer, a papaya tree. More accurately, four papaya trees and three avocado trees sprouted out of our unturned compost heap, giving an insight into the eating habits of the Carts Family epicureans. The most impressive tree by far has been one robust specimen standing almost twice as tall as the others. Capitalizing on this remarkable opportunity, I tasked several of my math students with calculating the height of the tree by approximation, direct measurement, and use of similar triangles. The consensus was that the tree stood 9 feet 6 inches in mid-October.

Today, as I write this article, the tree is in bloom. I am tempted to build an elaborate greenhouse for my tree to see if it can be wintered over, but then I think it might just be easier to consume more papayas next year and discard the seeds into a big wheeled pot. Anyone else up for this experiment?



The Poplar Hill Road specimen: *Carica papaya*.



Our papaya flowers, mid-October (L.) and ten days later (R.). I see one female flower.

Halloween!

Some Moyaone/Accoakeek families had a Halloween party at the Wagner Community Center. There were games, spooky-themed food, and a little trick or treating. Thanks to all the parents who helped out, and community members who welcomed them.





November at Alice Ferguson Foundation

Family Adventures in Nature

Be a part of our FAN Club on Sundays this November! Families will explore the farm, meet our barnyard animals, discover cool critters on a nature walk, take a hayride to the river, create fall-themed crafts, and much more!

[SAVE YOUR SPOT HERE](#)

Program Dates and Times

Nov. 14, 21, and 28. 11 am–1 pm

Cost: \$90/family

Holiday Fun at the Farm

Only two more Fun on the Farm sessions left in 2021! It's the most wonderful time of year to be with family and enjoy the outdoors together. Join us for these awesome workshops, fun for the entire family! [SAVE YOUR SPOT HERE](#)

Session Dates & Times

Cost: \$15 per person. Kids free under the age of two.

- Talkin' Turkey
Nov. 20, 4–6 pm
- Make & Take: Natural Wreath Workshop
Dec. 4, 2–4 pm

Give your loved ones the gift of some great memories and experiences as you spend time together in the outdoors. Fun on the Farm will continue in Spring 2022. Dates and session themes to be announced soon. Stay tuned!

Become A Member

We invite you to join our community of members! For \$45 annually, you and your household will receive an invitation to the Annual Member Meeting, Member Holiday Party, and other member-only events, as well as reduced tickets for Pinot on the Potomac and other workshops.

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)

We can't wait to see you at the Farm! Alice Ferguson Foundation, 2001 Bryan Point Rd.; fergusonfoundation.org



Work and Play at Piscataway Park

Stewards of Piscataway Park Volunteer Event

Sat., Nov. 20, 9 am–1 pm

Come volunteer to help Accokeek Foundation staff as they seek to steward the park! This event will focus on removal of our rotting Food Forest fencing and establishment of "Rabbitats" within the forest. We will be removing the old fence pieces (rotting logs) and restacking them in the forest to create a habitat for small animals over the winter.

This activity is perfect for families with youth ages 8+. All youth volunteers must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Registration is required (see below).

Volunteers engaging in this event should be able to lift up to 25 lbs, follow directions, walk over uneven terrain, and communicate with staff. Please dress according to the weather. The event will be canceled in case of weather containing lightning or heavy rain.

Face masks are requested when social distancing is unable to be maintained outdoors and required inside of all buildings.

Native Tree Identification Hike

Fri., Nov. 26, 1:30–2:30 pm. \$5 per participant.

On this trail walk, participants will be introduced to the basics of tree identification and learn how trees provide food, medicine, and materials for Piscataway People throughout the past and present.

Farm Tour

Fridays, Nov. 12, 1–2 pm, or 2:30–3:30 pm. \$7

Tours must be booked by 5 pm the evening before.

Take a tour through 1770 led by one of our educators. Explore the grounds of a working tobacco farm and meet its two- and four-legged residents. Suitable for all ages.

Please note: Walking tours take place outdoors and over uneven terrain. Unvaccinated visitors over 2 are asked to wear masks, and all visitors are required to wear a mask inside the Visitor Center and other public buildings.

Register online: <https://calendar.accokeekfoundation.org>

Proceeds support the Accokeek Foundation's education programs and land conservation work in Piscataway Park. The Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park is located at 3400 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek; info@accokeek.org