



Helping Alexandria's seniors who prefer to remain
--independently—in their own homes

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“All That Jazz” Benefit Shaping Up To Be a Festive Evening of Food, Drink, Live Music And an Auction of Goodies and Treasures

By Carol Downs, AHA Chair

Leaders, members and volunteers of At Home in Alexandria are working feverishly to make the Oct. 20 benefit and award night a festive “All That Jazz” evening.

More than one hundred valuable items have been donated for the silent auction, from crystal and porcelain to meals and services to silverware and housewares to art and rugs—you name it, the auction probably has it. (See pp. 2 and 3 for photos of a sampling of the auction items.)

The annual Benefit takes place Sunday, Oct. 20, 2013, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St., just off Duke St.

Don't miss out on the fun. This year's Benefit celebration promises to be an evening of great jazz, scrumptious food, a well-stocked cash bar and an opportunity to join other merrymakers in friendly competitive bidding on desirable items in our silent auction.

Have a kid or grandkid who would like a kaleidoscope? There will be one in the auction. Oriental runner for a hallway? That, too. Set of Spode or Wedgwood? Yes. Folio of Audubon prints of birds? Check it out.

There are items that can transport you to a once-in-a-lifetime stay at a luxurious lodge and a spa, have a fabulous meal at a local restaurant, enjoy a week at the beach, spruce up your home with art or a rug.

We promise you will have a wonderful time. All you need to do is to get your ticket and join the party.

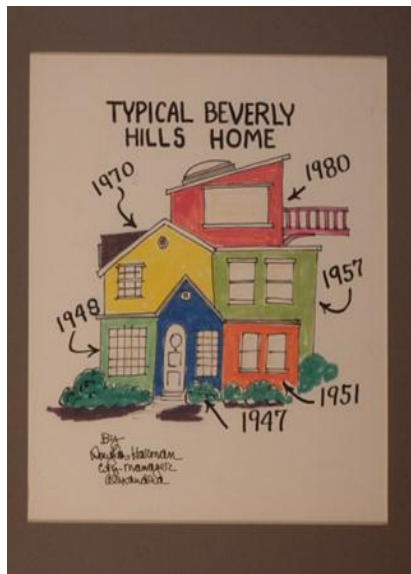
The ceremonial highlight of the evening honors a longtime business standout and civic mover and shaker, T.J. Fannon. AHA will give Fannon its Community Spirit Award, recognizing an individual who exemplifies a commitment to give back to the community. Fannon has long been involved with a list of civic groups as long as your arm.

The jazz theme will be carried out with spirit by the Greg Lamont Trio, well known for its versatility and energy. *The Washington Post* wrote about the trio, “Greg Lamont’s repertoire of jazz and American standards transforms any evening . . . The music is intoxicating.” Lamont is a “skilled pianist and electrifying organist,” the *Post* wrote. “Whether creating a mellow mood or an all-out jazz fest, [he brings] listening pleasure.”

Phone AHA for details on prices and sponsorships—703-231-0824. Member price is \$75, nonmember \$125. Despite the price of admission, you will be richer for the experience that helps Alexandria’s seniors remain, independently, in their homes.



Preview of Artistic Offerings at the AHA Benefit's Silent Auction



Photos on this page show the variety of art that will be in the auction. Works shown are from prominent Alexandria artists, including the whimsical house evolution above by former City Manager Doug Harman and the evocative Train Wheels below by former Delegate and Torpedo Factory Founder Marian Van Landingham. Not pictured are some art posters, more engravings and some whimsy from British artist Ronald Searle showing a fox riding a horse to safety from a hunting party.



A Sampling of Other Items to Be Offered at the Auction



This page shows some of the bling in the auction. Other items, not shown for lack of space, are sets of Wedgwood and Spode china, Russian porcelain, two handwoven rugs, a handmade quilt, a dozen sterling silver serving pieces, a kaleidoscope, crystal napkin rings, South American figurines.

Also crystal napkin rings, some kitchen and housewares, a microwave, a tabletop radio from a half-century ago, a Seth Thomas clock, a modern-day battery clock and much more.



Members Get a Special Price

AHA Members: You get a break on the admission price to the Benefit Oct. 20: \$75 per person. Nonmembers' price is \$125, still a good price when you think of an evening of live music and good food and the chance to bid on the pictured items and more.



Conversation With Helen Desfosses

Helen Desfosses (above left), AHA Board member who has been a political science lecturer and has served in both elective and appointive offices, discussed the current political climate with an AHA audience Sept. 22. In right photo, Nancy Kincaid introduces the topic and the speaker.

“Cynicism is spreading in attitudes toward our system of government,” Desfosses said. “I find that really distressing. I worry about what my children and grandchildren are going to think about it.”

Trip to Corcoran

Above, an AHA group pauses outside a Corcoran Gallery display of wartime and terrorism images —this one a series of photos of the World Trade Center.



Walking Club Visits Jones Point Park

AHA’s Walking Club toured Jones Point Park Sept. 24. Above left, the group gathers at the Lighthouse. Left to right are Bill and Teddye Clayton, Vance and Julia Hall, Barbara Rosenfeld, Nancy Kincaid (hidden) and Nancy Berg. Above right, Master Gardener Teddye Clayton (with her “tree book”) points out species to Berg, Bill Clayton and the Halls. Photos by Steve Nelson.

National Village Exchange

The Village to Village Network announced the launch of the National Village Exchange, enabling members of participating villages to use the benefits of villages when they are traveling. More than 30 villages are signed up and more are expected steadily as traveling members participate and enjoy programs and information about hotels and restaurants in other cities. Visitors need only notify the host village beforehand.

Writing Memoirs

Ernie Lehmann, one of AHA's founding fathers, hosted a session on how to write family memoirs. In photo below, left to right, are Montsie Lehmann (holding a granddaughter), daughter-in-law Mayu, and Lehmann. All had a hand in writing Lehmann family memoirs, but the idea came from Mayu, Lehmann said, on the occasion of the Lehmanns' 50th anniversary.

What resulted was a 100-page book, full of anecdotes of fleeing Nazis, temporary statelessness, fears and triumphs. They encouraged the AHA group to write their own memoirs—Mayu said for grandchildren, not for children. Ernie Lehmann said it must be a team effort, because memories are shared and sometimes imprecise.

Montsie said for the youngest generation, reading the memoirs must be “like a fantasy, reading about things like the dial telephone.” The stories may not be dramatic, but they're still meaningful, Mayu said.

SSA's Senior Law Day 2013

Senior Services of Alexandria sponsors its annual Senior Law Day Saturday, Oct. 19, with the theme “Avoid Scams—Don't Be a Victim.”

The session, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., takes place at the First Baptist Church at 2932 King St.

Experts from law enforcement, legal and financial worlds will discuss the scams and identity thefts that victimize the elderly.



Recycling Oddments

For items the City does not pick up for recycling, other outlets are available. For electronic equipment, the Best Buy store in Potomac Yard accepts a wide variety for recycling. For hazardous items, the City's recycling center is just off Duke at 3200 Colvin St.

Senior Discounts

Restaurants from Applebee's to Wendy's, stores from Banana Republic to Ross and a wide variety of other commercial establishments offer discounts to the elderly.

The only thing is, you have to ask for them.

So, next time you book a flight, ask first for a discount. Companies from Alaska Airlines to United Airlines offer seniors price breaks. So do car rental companies, from Alamo to National. And hotels from Holiday Inn to Sleep Inn and entertainment from AMC to Regal Cinemas. Even some phone companies.

Going by train? Amtrak has a discount. So do Greyhound and Trailways bus lines.

Age eligibility varies with the company. But it is well worth it just to ask; you may save something every day.

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