



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

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T. J. Fannon

T. J. Fannon to be Honored At Annual Benefit

By Carol Downs, AHA Chair

Business leader and native Alexandrian Thomas “T.J.” Fannon will be this year’s recipient of the At Home in Alexandria (AHA) Community Spirit Award.

The award will be presented Oct. 20, 2013, at the Annual AHA Benefit to be held at the Carlyle Club in Alexandria. The award is presented to an individual who exemplifies a commitment to give back to the community.

Fannon has taken the lead in supporting necessary services to Alexandria residents.

Fannon’s support of Senior Services of Alexandria; Inova Alexandria Hospital; the Alexandria Symphony; Alexandria’s Child, a foster care organization; Alexandria youth baseball; and our own organization, At Home in Alexandria, is testimony to a desire to better the lives of Alexandrians of all ages.

For over 125 years, the Fannon family business has served the community. It is now time for us to acknowledge one of its leaders. Please join us in honoring T. J. Fannon.

T.J. Fannon and Sons has evolved from its 1885 function delivering wood, to coal, to fuel oil and now into heating and cooling products such as Carrier. During World War II’s pinch on domestic use of oil and gas, the Fannon firm bought and sold feathers to the government for soldiers’ bedding. There have been several “T.J.’s” in the line, but all have had a different middle name. The latest T.J. Fannon, Thomas Julian, is in his 80s and is still active in the firm and in Rotary and Inova Alexandria Hospital.

The Oct. 20 benefit will feature a catered reception with hors d’oeuvres and drinks and live music from the Greg Lamont jazz band, in a fitting match for the “All that Jazz” theme of the evening.

Come, Enjoy, Bid

AHA members and other supporters: Please help make the 2013 Benefit a success. Think of items you can donate for the silent auction. Think of friends who may be interested in attending and bidding. Think of supporting the event with a sponsorship. Phone 703-231-0824.

If you have crystal, art, timeshare, vacation home, sailboat, antiques, or any such item that would be appealing in the silent auction, let Bill Clayton (703-548-0958) or Ken Hill (703-683-0208) know about it. They will arrange pickup and give you a donor form. Dozens of items have already been given, from hand-woven rugs to porcelain to art and more.



The 2013 At Home in Alexandria Benefit and Community Spirit Award will be celebrated from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 20, in the Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St. The club bills itself as a ‘30s style supper club, in which the “All That Jazz” theme of AHA’s festivity fits right in.

Come prepared to bid on some things and enjoy a sip or two and heavy-duty hors d’oeuvres.

Phone AHA for details on prices and sponsorships. As they say on television, operators are standing by, 703-231-0824.





In photos above, Ken Hill (shown listening to the Seth Thomas clock) and Bill Clayton look over items in storage for the Benefit's silent auction on Oct. 20. Dozens of donations for the auction, from a rare engraving to a handmade quilt, from dining certificates to political campaign buttons, from a catered event to a gaucho knife in a silver scabbard, have already been given.

Donate Your Treasures

Do you have a piece of crystal, a timeshare, a beach hideaway, a friend in the restaurant business, sports memorabilia, or (as Stan Freberg used to joke) an "autographed picture of King Farouk?" These are suggestions for the auction. Remember, it is not a yard sale, so no chipped glass or threadbare items. But things of value will help make this AHA event a sensation. Phone 703-231-0824.

Below left, Helen Desfosses looks over prospects for the auction. Right photo shows a sampling of the pieces of art that will be offered at the auction. Some will be signed originals such as a painting donated by Marian Van Landingham.



Shown at left is Russian Gezhel porcelain. Right, an engraved "aerial view" —before air flight — of the District of Columbia with Alexandria in the background. Below, INOX "gaucho knife" in a silver scabbard.





Kruger, right, with friend Dick Moose

David Kruger

1922-2013

David Kruger, an outstanding civic figure and supporter of At Home in Alexandria, died Aug. 16 in Alexandria Hospital. He was 91.

Friends had similar descriptions of Kruger: “sweet...generous...involved.”

Kruger, long a member of AHA, enjoyed many of the group’s outings,



David Kruger

particularly the “Dine Around” gatherings such as in the picture left, above, where he is chatting with another AHA stalwart, Dick Moose. The picture right, above, shows Kruger as he was honored for years of service through the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. He opened his Alexandria optometry office to all, regardless of economic or social status or ethnicity. Through Freemasonry, he led the development of six clinics in Virginia, for language and learning disorders. The facilities have served thousands of children. He was a big factor in guiding the development of 161 clinics, centers and programs nationwide to provide evaluation or therapy to children with language and learning difficulties.

“David was larger than life in so many ways,” AHA standout Maggie Stauffer said. Paul Zanowski, who did some landscaping for Kruger, called him “a wonderful and kind person.”

Kruger was born in Norfolk in 1922 and studied optometry at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry. During his long career in optometry, he also was active and influential in the Red Cross, Boy Scouts, United Fund, Kiwanis and the Salvation Army. He was generous to AHA and said once that his philosophy of philanthropy was something like: “Give now when you can see the faces of the recipients, better than later when it is part of an estate.”

His son, Perry, said AHA “allowed him to develop friendships on the terms he was at his stage in life.” The village “made his last years better,” Perry Kruger said.

David Kruger was interested in the village idea even before AHA was born, and was very generous to AHA.

“I do believe we became another family for him,” Moose said. Even when it became a chore for Kruger to get around, he attended many of the village events and sang the praises of those who helped him. He was “perhaps the gentlest soul I ever knew,” Moose said.

Learn to Write Your Memoirs

Montserrat and Ernie Lehmann will host a session with AHA folks who want to write their memoirs. The Lehmanns already have done so: Each of them wrote about their memories of early life and 50 years of marriage, and plan to put the paperback account into compact discs to give to relatives.

The memoir meeting will be 10 a.m. Sept. 26 at the AHA office, 3139 Mt.Vernon Ave. (rear). Phone the office if you plan to attend (703-231-0824).

Interested people will learn something about memoir-writing from two who have done it. “Montsie” Lehmann said a daughter-in-law “persuaded us to write about our lives.” The memories flowed—meeting speed pioneer Chuck Yeager, talking with Ernest Hemingway, escaping World War II in the Pacific and in Germany.

Lecture on Globalization

Rhodes Scholar and Yale graduate Dean Copeland will lecture on globalization and a “cluster of related subjects” for an AHA and Alexandria House audience Sunday, Oct. 6.

The presentation will consider globalization; environmental issues such as global warming, energy resources, and population trends; innovations in technology and science; variations of capitalism; democracies and authoritarian states; and terrorism.

The session will be held from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Drake Room of Alexandria House, 400 Madison St.

For the past two years, Copeland has taught “Trends and Effects of Globalization in the 21st Century” at the University of Mississippi.



Survey Shows AHA Is Doing a Good Job But of Course, There's Room for Improvement

Most people who received an AHA membership survey responded, and their replies showed “we are doing a good job,” with room for improvement, AHA Chair Carol Downs said.

Chriss Nielsen planned and carried out the survey, whose responses showed overwhelming member satisfaction with AHA's services of transportation (89 percent of those who answered that question were “very satisfied”), handyman work (86%), referral to a vetted vendor (83%), social events (76%) and technology assistance (73%). AHA's periodic “check-in” phone calls to members got 100 percent satisfaction.

Most respondents had been to social programs, but fewer than half had accepted transportation.



Dine Around at Taquería Poblano

Left, the AHA group enjoys a mild summer day's lunch outdoors. Right, a waiter serves taquitos to David Kruger as Anne Karoly looks on. It was Kruger's last event with AHA before his death Aug. 16. (See story, p. 3)

Lesser percentages had availed themselves of handyman work, technology help, referral to a vetted vendor or a check-in phone call.

Most respondents liked the idea of a periodic check-in call, but most suggested once a year would be about right.

The most popular gathering was the “Conversation With” program presenting experts in various fields, including foreign affairs, politics, military and the like.

Around half the respondents had been to evening Dine Around gatherings, museum visits and TGIF sessions. A series on health and wellness drew half the respondents.

Overwhelmingly, respondents said they would recommend AHA to a friend or neighbor. They all liked receiving the calendar of events and most liked reading in the newsletter about member activities or interests.

The bridge group, movie outing and walking group each drew a few supporters.

Most respondents said they joined AHA “so it will be there when I need it.” Substantial percentages cited social interaction, transportation and other services.

AARP Legal Services

AARP members receive a free 45-minute consultation (in person or by phone) and a 20% discount on attorney's fees. Allstate is the provider for AARP. Members can use the website to find a lawyer in their zip code area and can select the type of attorney as well (i.e. estate planning, wills, real estate, etc.). They will be asked for their AARP member number, zip code, and type of attorney they want. Phone: 1-866-330-0753. Website: aarpls.com

Social Security's Future

Four groups are co-sponsoring a discussion that will give attendees “a say about the future of Social Security.”

The event will be from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 26, in the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 905 Wythe St. Registration is encouraged. Phone 1-877-926-8300. The sponsors are the Alexandria Commission on Aging, Northern Virginia Urban League, Senior Services of Alexandria and AARP. Attendees will discuss possible “responsible, common-sense solutions” for the future of Social Security. “Share your ideas,” the sponsors urged those interested.



AHA group enjoys “Sundaes in the Park” Aug. 25. in the park across the street from Alexandria House.

Newcomer to the Family of Villages

Silver Spring Village began operations July 29, joining the approximately three-dozen villages in the D.C. metropolitan area.

The newcomer was incorporated as a nonprofit organization June 29, 2012 and encompasses the commercial core of Silver Spring, Md., and surrounding neighborhoods. The village movement started by Beacon Hill in Boston has grown to more than 100 operating villages in the United States, with more villages in Canada, New Zealand and the Netherlands and more than 100 in development worldwide.

Great Ways to Save

A sampling from AARP's annual "Great Ways To Save" list:

- Big bills – Convert money to \$50 bills. You will think twice before spending them.
- Find your pension – Go to pbgc.gov – the online directory of U.S. Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. to see if you or someone you know has an unclaimed pension.
- Build up your plan – You may be able to contribute an extra \$5,500 to your 401(k) plan as a catch-up contribution in 2013.
- Homeowner's insurance – Make sure you have enough insurance coverage to rebuild your home if disaster strikes. Have your agent double-check.
- Dump "dogs" – Sell losing investments in your portfolio. Selling them at a loss could bring a tax benefit.
- Special promotions – When ordering catalogue items by phone, be sure to ask about special promotions. Some firms prohibit operators from mentioning them unless asked.

Caregiving

Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter said once, "There are four kinds of people in the world: those who have been caregivers, those who currently are caregivers, those who will be caregivers and those who will need caregivers."



Visit to Glenstone

A large contingent from AHA visited the ultra-modern Glenstone Manor in Potomac, Md., a grand estate-cum-art museum.

The featured works were by Peter Fischli and Dave Weiss: whimsical clay sculptures, paintings and a huge array of travel slides. Outdoors were large pieces by Ellsworth Kelly and Richard Serra. The place is a bit eccentric: visitors need to register long ahead and check in at a guardhouse; no photos are allowed, inside or out; and no ink pens are allowed. But the AHA visitors were fascinated by the art.

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