



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

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AHA Annual Benefit a Fine Party That Attracted Festive Crowd, Gave a Welcome Boo\$

Words such as “fabulous,” “impressive” and “just a really good party” were used to describe At Home In Alexandria’s annual Benefit and Silent Auction.

A crowd filled the Carlyle Club Oct. 20 for an evening of “All That Jazz” and celebrated AHA’s growth in size and civic recognition. The audience of around 135 applauded AHA’s reaching its 100th member, Nancy Macklin, who joined at the event.

Chair Carol Downs presented the Community Spirit Award to T. J. Fannon, business and civic leader and “supporter of organizations serving Alexandrians of all ages.”

Fannon, recovering from illness, could not be at the



AHA’s founders in scene from new film

event to receive the award, but his son, Tom, accepted for him, saying, “I know he wishes he could be here.” Tom Fannon said his father is “a humble man,” and thus would attend not mainly for the honor but for the camaraderie with other civic figures and AHA members.

The visual highlight of the evening was a film put together by Executive Director Cele Garrett and Board Member Steve Nelson with professional videographer Nick Greiner, featuring a conversation among three co-founders of AHA (see photo above), Ernie Lehmann, Dr. Judith Jones and Dick Moose. They reminisced about the time, years ago, when they decided to plan a group to help Alexandria’s seniors, based on the original “village” at Beacon Hill in Boston. There was also a slide show on a big screen, showing what AHA volunteers do for members—home repairs, light yard work, rides to appointments, appearances at farmers’ markets and the like. Downs gave special praise to AHA Executive Director Cele Garrett and Office Managers Julie Gentry and Monica Estabrooke for their work on the benefit.

Guests at the affair included T.J. Fannon’s brother, Frank III, and his wife, and T.J.’s nephew, former City Councilman Frank Fannon IV. Several other civic leaders, including some members of the City Council, attended.

Mayor Bill Euille gave T.J. Fannon the nickname “Mister Alexandria” in recognition of his role in business and his support of such as Inova Alexandria Hospital and Rotary.

One leader, asking not to be quoted by name, called the evening “fabulous” and said, “I loved seeing and meeting so many folks.” Another guest called the benefit “just a really good party.” One thing drew praise without dissent: the jazz offerings of the Greg Lamont Trio, who played a toe-tapping program.

The evening’s mistress of ceremonies, Julie Carey of NBC4, congratulated all who support AHA: “Families who cannot provide for the care and needs of an older loved one benefit from the peace of mind AHA provides,” Carey said. She not only helped draw a crowd but also gave a generous donation to AHA.

Financial figures were not final at this writing, but the Benefit netted approximately \$20,000, which was the goal set when AHA officers were budgeting for the event months ago. AHA will plan a yard sale and eBay offering for the few objects that did not draw bids at the auction. Benefit Committee Chair Barbara Rosenfeld said of the net proceeds, “I don’t think you can get much closer than that” to the budget projections. “We really did o.k.”

The Benefit Committee, meeting Oct. 28 for a “postmortem” on the Benefit, heard many suggestions for future events—ideas prompted by the enormous amount of work by many AHA people. Ideas included substantially abbreviating the silent auction, concentrating on potential underwriters and major sponsors, briefing event volunteers more thoroughly and examining completely different events such as a house tour.

Scenes From the Benefit

Photos by Heather Reitze



Delegate Adam Ebbin checks auction items along with two other guests



Carol Downs chats with Tom Fannon



Former Councilman Frank Fannon and parents Mr. and Ms. Frank Fannon III



Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg (left) with Montserrat and Ernie Lehmann



Margaret and Don Ford with Nina Tisara



Barbara and Hugh Barton



L to R: Cofounders Dick Moose, Ernie Lehmann and Dr. Judith Jones



Carrying out the "All That Jazz" theme: The Greg Lamont Trio sets toes to tapping.

How the Video Came About

Realizing the value of a video record of AHA, for history and to support grant requests, Executive Director Cele Garrett and Board Member Steve Nelson worked with a professional videographer to film an informal conversation among three co-founders, Dr. Judith Jones, Dick Moose and Ernie Lehmann. The six-minute initial result had its debut at the Oct. 20 Benefit, winning applause and encouragement for additional efforts.

"We hope this is the start of an ongoing project to preserve AHA history," Nelson said. Click link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdwY4ueYDu9jp8zJC48u9Yw> for the AHA Founders video.



One group focused on D.C. radio and TV history . . .



. . . while another learned about globalization.

Two Sessions of “Conversation With ...”

AHA held two gatherings in October of its popular series “Conversation With.”

Chris Sterling (left photo above), editor of the Encyclopedia of Radio, spoke Oct. 27 on “Radio and TV History in Washington, D.C.” Sterling’s appearance was arranged by AHA stalwarts Alan Dinsmore and David Butler, who are friends of his. He traced the early days of broadcasting, both radio and television, detailing the development of the two media. Sterling detailed the rapid changes occasioned by the Worldwide Web, portability of radio/television equipment, and attitudes toward news and entertainment content, with emphasis on the Washington area.

Sterling is former director of the National Capital Radio and TV Museum. The session was hosted by Marianne Ginsburg.

Dean Copeland, who has taught the topic of globalization for years at Ole Miss, spoke Oct. 7 (righthand photo above) to a combined audience of AHA villagers and Alexandria House residents. His topic was globalization, its trends and effects in the 21st Century.

Copeland, speaking in the Drake Room of Alexandria House, said that among other things, globalization is highlighting the disparity of wealth between rich and poor -- increasing not only in the United States but also in other countries. Another serious issue, he said, is global warming. The know-how is there to reverse it, he said, but the question is, Will political structures adopt the fixes in a transformative century? The global proliferation of cell phones has changed many aspects of life, including the reach of terrorism, he said. The time between significant changes is compressing, Copeland said.

We Heard You

The results of a membership survey brought to mind some features that members wanted AHA to try.

“Many of you indicated an interest in a current or foreign affairs discussion group,” Membership Chair Chriss Nielsen, who conducted the survey, said.

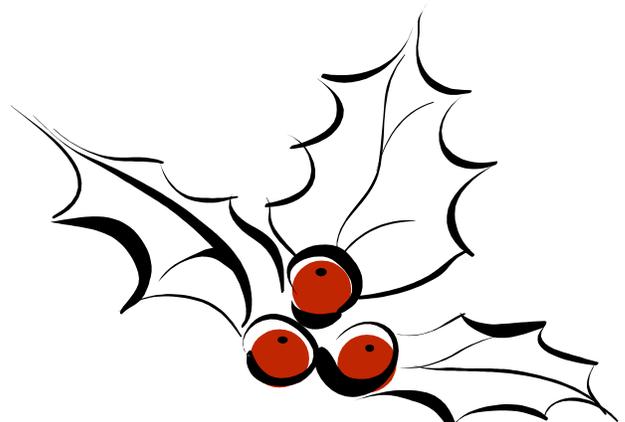
“Well, we heard you.” The first informal free-wheeling chat was in October and more will be scheduled.

Another idea was for a wine-and-cheese potluck gathering. The first such gathering will be Nov. 9, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., at the home of Carol and Stuart Downs.. Bring a bottle of wine or appetizer and **please RSVP right away.**



SAVE THE DATE

Msrk your calendar for the Dec. 7 Scottish Walk. AHA needs a big, flashy contingent of walkers for this parade. Phone the office for details 703-231-0824.



TWO IMPORTANT COLLABORATIONS

On Thursday, Nov. 7, 10 a.m.-noon, AHA and Mount Vernon At Home host "Where Did I Put The Keys?" program on memory loss. Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Discussing ways to cope with changes in a family member or maybe a friend. Christi Clark with the Alzheimer's Family Day Center will speak.

On Tuesday, Nov. 12, 9-11 a.m., AHA and Speck Caudron Investment Group of Wells Fargo Advisors are teaming up on "Investing and Planning for Seniors" at Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Rd. Coffee/pastries at 9, workshop 9:30. Topics will include investing in an unpredictable economy, balancing income and growth investments, investing lump sums, determining appropriate cash reserves. RSVP to AHA by 10 a.m., Nov. 7.

Keeping Up With AHA Villagers

By Nancy Berg

(Editor's note: In this edition, we inaugurate a regular column with news of members' travels, successes, projects and challenges. Please send contributions to the column to Nancy Berg at elnberg@comcast.net.)

Nancy Kincaid and **Doug Fleming** left Oct. 9 for their last trip to Italy, after having made the trip 16 times. Doug ended up in a Sienna hospital with pneumonia. He was reported to be on the mend, and after a week in their house in San Querico d'Orcia, in Tuscany, they headed home by air.

After lunch and a book discussion with **Margaret French** and **Megan Evans** Sept. 19, **Betty Wanamaker** fell near her car on Lee Street and broke her wrist and kneecap. After hospitalization and rehab, she went home. She asked visitors to phone beforehand so she could have the door unlocked.

TGIF attendees celebrated **Tom Fitzgerald's** 90th birthday Oct. 18. He bought a round of drinks for **Steve and Pam Nelson, Isabella Regis, Don and Margaret Ford, Francine and Bill Gemmill and Barbara Rosenfeld** (photo below).

Teddy and Bill Clayton spent a few restful days in Cuernavaca, Mexico. **Carol and Stuart Downs** visited historic Ljubljana, Slovenia, dominated by its castle (photo below). **Barbara Rosenfeld and Marianne Ginsburg** sailed from Portugal to Morocco to Spain on the four-masted sailing vessel Star Flyer.



TGI...Party? Isabella Regis, Pam Nelson and Barbara Rosenfeld toast Tom Fitzgerald's 90th birthday at the Oct. 18 TGIF. He bought drinks for the nine AHA members who attended.



Historic Ljubljana's castle by moonlight



Auction Items Will Be Offered at a New Event

Several items at the Benefit and Auction did not attract bidders at the initial bid price. They will be offered in two ways in near-future efforts: Some will go on eBay's auction, others will be featured at a yard sale or other outlet AHA will plan on a date still to be determined.

The remaining items, including the Congolese mask at left, range from bed linens to china sets to several beautiful paintings and lithographs.

New Kudos for Downs

The AARP heaps praise monthly on an outstanding volunteer. In October, it was Carol Downs.

The comments about Downs's work with AARP echo what those in the AHA village think of her energy and grace. Downs has spent five years volunteering with AARP, "making a difference," the organization said.

"She simply cannot get enough out of life ... (She) makes most tasks seem effortless with her cheerful and resourceful attitude."

Board Votes Chriss Nielsen Aboard

The AHA Board of Directors voted without dissent Oct. 29 to name Chriss Nielsen a Director effective Jan. 1, with the understanding that she would become treasurer. She would succeed Treasurer Winnie Hill, who won plaudits from the board for her no-nonsense approach to the job.

Nielsen has chaired the Membership Committee through challenging times and has taken on several other heavy duties with grace and a steady hand.

Board of Directors

Carol Downs, Chair	Helen Desfosses
Barbara Rosenfeld, Vice Chair	Eleanor Engh Linus Liddle
Winnie Hill, Treasurer	Steve Nelson
Jane King, Secretary	Bill Clayton, Editor

Executive Director

Cecile (Cele) Garrett

Advisory Council

Carolyn Abshire	H. Stewart Dunn
MaryAnn Griffin	Richard Hobson
Judith Jones, MD	Ernie Lehmann
Tim Lovain	Temple C. Moore
Richard Moose	George Pera
Patsy Ticer	Marian Van Landingham
Vicki Vasques	

Office Co-Managers

Monica Estabrooke and Julie Gentry

A Call to Service

Supporters of AHA: We need your help in finding new talent and activism for the Board of Directors. The Board has several vacancies.

Please think of standouts in the community who might be prospects for the Board of Directors. Particularly valuable are Alexandrians with backgrounds that mesh with the goals of AHA: legal, ethics, medicine, caregiving and the like.

Email or phone us with your ideas at the number below. You can nominate yourself.

Contact Us

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