

Redbuds are just coming into bloom all over Potomac. The native tree will bloom just ahead of dogwoods, also native.

Potomac ALMANAC

Springing to 87 Degrees

Schupak Wins Mendez Award

PAGE 3

Does White Ferry Have a Future?

PAGE 4

Obituaries

PAGE 6, 7

REAL ESTATE, PAGE 2 ♦ EVENTS, PAGE 5 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 7

PHOTO BY MARY KIMM

APRIL 5-11, 2023

ONLINE AT POTOMACALMANAC.COM

Potomac REAL ESTATE

4 11610 Karen Drive
— \$1,288,000



5 2616
Oakenshield
Drive
— \$1,288,000

February, 2023 Top Sales

IN FEBRUARY, 2023, 18 POTOMAC HOMES SOLD
BETWEEN \$3,375,000-\$560,000.

PHOTOS FROM BRIGHT MLS

6 11216 Willowbrook Drive
— \$999,999



2 10233 HOLLY HILL PL



1 8801 Belmart Road — \$3,375,000

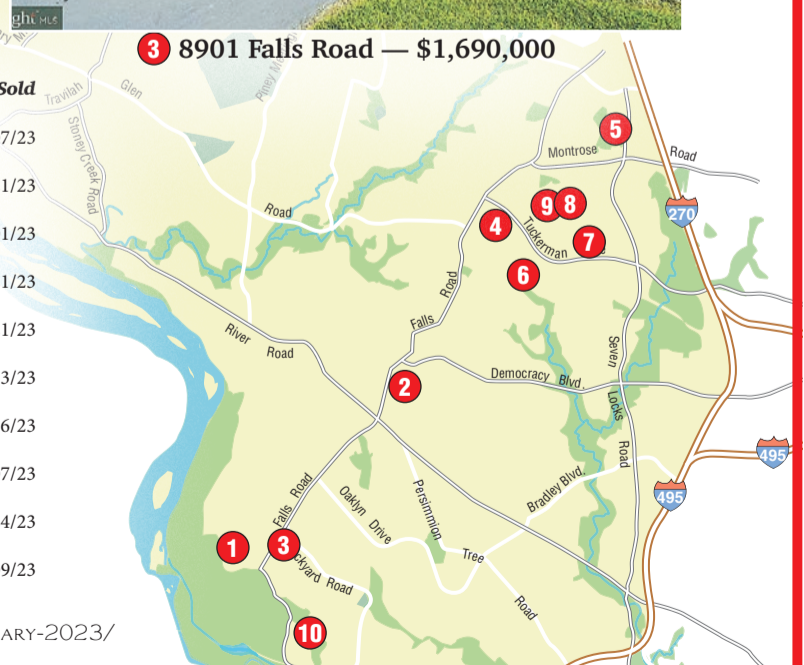


3 8901 Falls Road — \$1,690,000

Address.....	BR	FB	HB	Postal City.....	Sold Price...	Type.....	Lot AC.	Postal Code ...	Subdivision.....	Date Sold
1 8801 BELMART RD	8	10	1	POTOMAC.....	\$3,375,000.....	Detached.....	2.62	20854	GREAT FALLS ESTS.....	02/07/23
2 10233 HOLLY HILL PL.....	6	5	1	POTOMAC.....	\$1,750,000.....	Detached.....	0.47	20854	BLENHEIM.....	02/21/23
3 8901 FALLS RD	6	5	1	POTOMAC.....	\$1,690,000.....	Detached.....	1.26	20854	ROCK RUN KNOLLS	02/01/23
4 11610 KAREN DR	5	4		POTOMAC.....	\$1,288,000.....	Detached.....	0.61	20854	LAKE NORMANDY ESTS .	02/21/23
5 2616 OAKENSHIELD DR.....	6	4		POTOMAC.....	\$1,275,000.....	Detached.....	0.26	20854	POTOMAC SPRINGS	02/21/23
6 11216 WILLOWBROOK DR ..	5	2	2	POTOMAC.....	\$999,999.....	Detached.....	0.36	20854	WILLOWBROOK.....	02/13/23
7 11426 GEORGETOWNE DR..	4	2	2	POTOMAC.....	\$925,000.....	Detached.....	0.21	20854	REGENCY ESTATES	02/16/23
8 11804 ROSALINDA DR.....	4	3	1	POTOMAC.....	\$860,000.....	Detached.....	0.21	20854	REGENCY ESTATES	02/07/23
9 11810 MILBERN DR.....	4	2	1	POTOMAC.....	\$860,000.....	Detached.....	0.21	20854	REGENCY ESTATES	02/24/23
10 7831 WHITERIM TER	3	4	1	POTOMAC.....	\$852,000.....	Townhouse ..	0.06	20854	FAWSETT FARMS MANOR..	02/09/23

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NEWS

MPT's Steven Schupak Receives Mendez Award

Potomac resident recognized at Maryland International Film Festival for contributions to TV and film.

Steven J. Schupak, Maryland Public Television executive vice president and station manager, accepted the Mendez Award from the Maryland International Film Festival-Hagerstown during a March 23 ceremony opening the 11th annual event.

"The Mendez Award is awarded to someone who has succeeded and made a positive impact in the television and film industry, or has supported film and television and has given back to the community," said Film Festival Board of Directors President Nicole Houser. "Steven Schupak ... gives back to the community in numerous ways, and is also being recognized for his support of the arts, and for his support of high-quality television production and filmmaking."

The first official Mendez Award, given in 2013, was named for Antonio "Tony" Mendez, CIA Master of Disguise and award-winning author and painter. Previous recipients include film director and producer Joe Carnahan, best-selling author Nora Roberts, actor Amir Arison, actresses Ann Mahoney and Kerry Cahill, and former Maryland Governor Larry Hogan.

"It's humbling to review the list of prior award recipients and to now be included among them," said Schupak while accept-

ing the award. "Their talent, leadership, and dedication to the arts – especially their contributions to film and television – make membership in the Mendez Award alumni group very special."

Schupak is a member of the board of directors of Olney Theatre Center and a 2019 graduate of Leadership Maryland. Schupak resides in Potomac, Maryland, with his family.

During Schupak's 20-plus year tenure at MPT, the statewide public television network has earned numerous television industry honors for productions including Star-Spangled Spectacular: The Bicentennial of our National Anthem. Other awards came for its long-running series MotorWeek; the two-part documentary Music of Ireland; Potomac by Air; annual Chesapeake Bay Week programming; and the popular series Maryland Farm & Harvest.

Among MPT's regional Emmy Awards are the 2017 Overall Excellence award, and two Community Service awards. One was presented in 2017 in recognition of its multi-year MPT Salutes Vietnam Veterans initiative; the second in 2018 for "Breaking Heroin's Grip: Road to Recovery" documentary. Schupak arranged to have the one-hour Breaking Heroin's Grip simulcast



on 38 TV and radio stations throughout Maryland and Washington, D.C. to help individuals with substance abuse disorders to seek assistance. This effort led Schupak to establish the Maryland State Ad Agency at MPT, which has brought awareness to issues including the dangers of opioids, problem gambling, COVID-19, and the 2020 U.S. Census.

The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences' National Capital Chesapeake Bay Chapter inducted Schupak into its Silver Circle in 2020. The award recognizes individuals who have made contributions to the broad-

cast or cable industry for 25 years or more.

Schupak is an alumnus of the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University where he earned a bachelor's of fine arts degree in film and television. He also holds a master's degree in marketing from the Graduate School of Management & Technology at the University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC) and was honored with the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2019, the highest alumni award bestowed by UMGC.

For more information about the Maryland International Film Festival-Hagerstown, visit marylandiff.org.

Montgomery County to Sponsor 7 Pit Stops During Bike to Work Day

National Bike to Work Day will be held on Friday, May 19, and the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) will sponsor seven pit stops throughout the County as part of the Washington Region's participation in the event. Registration for the free event is now open. The first 15,000 bicyclists to register and participate will get a free t-shirt and will be automatically entered into a raffle for a chance to win a new bike.

Bike to Work Day is held annually across the nation on the third Friday of May to celebrate bicycling as a fun, healthy and climate friendly way to get to work.

MCDOT will sponsor seven pit stops with refreshments, music and local vendor displays at varying times throughout the morning of May 19. There will be free raffle prizes and a grand prize raffle of a new bike at each of the MCDOT-sponsored pit stops. Residents biking to work, as well as leisure riders, are encouraged to participate.

In addition to the seven pit stops sponsored by MCDOT, there will be six Bike to Work Day pit stops in the County operated by other organizations.

"Today, we offer more bike paths, dedicated lanes, as well as opportunities to transport a bike on RideOn, MetroBus and Metrorail, than ever before," said County Executive Marc Elrich.

All participants should visit the Find Your Pit Stop Map to plan a route in advance.

MCDOT-sponsored pit stops will be at the following locations:

Downtown Bethesda at Woodmont and Bethesda Avenues, Bethesda. 6:30-9 a.m.

Friendship Heights at the Shops at Wisconsin and Western Avenues, Chevy Chase. 6:30-9 a.m.

North Bethesda at Pike and Rose, west of 935 Prose Street (next to Bark Social). North Bethesda. 6:30-8:30 a.m.

Rockville, Falls Grove at Thomas Farm Community Center, 700 Falls Grove Drive, 6:30-9 a.m.

Rockville Town Square at Dawson's Market, 225 N. Washington Street, 6:30-9 a.m.

Silver Spring Downtown at Veterans Plaza, Ellsworth Drive and Fenton Street, Silver Spring. 6:30-9 a.m.

Downtown Wheaton at Marian Fryer Town Plaza (co-sponsored with Montgomery Parks), 2424 Reedie Drive (next to the Wheaton Metro), Wheaton. 7-9 a.m.

Other pitstops within Montgomery County will include:

Gaithersburg-Kentlands at the corner of Great Seneca Highway and Orchard Ridge Dr., 7-9 a.m.

Gaithersburg Olde Towne Plaza (afternoon), 1 S. Summit Ave., Gaithersburg. 4-6 p.m.

National Institutes of Health, Building 1, 1 Center Dr., Bethesda. 7-9:30 a.m.

Rockville at Twinbrook, 5635 Fishers Lane, 7-9 a.m.

Takoma Park – Downtown/Old Takoma, 7035 Carroll Ave., Takoma Park. 6:30-9 a.m.

Takoma Park – Sligo Creek Trail, at New Hampshire Ave., Takoma Park. 7-9:30 a.m.

Visit <https://www.biketoworkmetrodc.org>.

All riders are encouraged to wear a helmet.



Bicycles parked in Potomac Village.

ALMANAC FILE PHOTO



Combined Offer Rejected by Virginia Landowners

Offer could have enabled Whites Ferry to reopen in 30 days.

White's Ferry owners report that they worked closely with the State of Maryland, Commonwealth of Virginia, Montgomery and Loudoun counties, including their economic development authorities and transportation departments, and previous Ferry owner Herb Brown, to develop a proposal to purchase the Virginia landing site from Rockland Farm in Virginia in an effort to get the ferry reopened for its nearly 1,100 daily users.

Rockland Farm owners rejected the bid — which White's Ferry owners say was well above the land value. This rejection caused White's Ferry owners to pursue selling the land and operation to Montgomery County.

"We have run out of options and will now seek to sell the ferry land and operations to

Montgomery County so it can work to invoke eminent domain and acquire the Virginia landing site. This is not what we had hoped, but we understand the importance of White's Ferry to the region's economy—and the ferry needs to get moving again," said Chuck Kuhn, owner of White's Ferry.

The proposal was submitted by the two counties to Rockland Farm in January. The plan had called for Rockland Farm to sell the 1.4 acres landing site for \$1.1 million, well above the appraised value for the flood plain land. The offer included funds from White's Ferry's owners, both Montgomery and Loudoun counties, and additional funds from Herb Brown, the original ferry owner. Under the proposal, the landing site would be limited to public use and passage along White's Ferry Road including poten-

tial modifications to facilitate vehicle travel, pedestrian and bicycle passage, or improved ferry operations.

Chuck and Stacy Kuhn bought the ferry in February 2021 to help protect this important Potomac River crossing. The purchase included the ferry, the store, and the Maryland shoreline that supports the ferry operation. Established in 1786, the Ferry ceased operation in December 2020 after the previous owner Herb Brown could not come to terms with Virginia's Rockland Farm. The farm's proposed price of 50 cents a car each way would have resulted in a 50% reduction in operating income, making the ferry business unviable. In addition, the farm's stipulation that it could shut down the ferry at any time without notice made it too risky. Since purchasing it, the Kuhns have been working with

Rockland Farm and the local and state municipalities to find a good faith resolution.

"We needed an agreement that we could build a business model around. Owning landing rights would enable us to understand and manage ferry costs so that we could offer the best product at a price the users can afford," added Kuhn.

The economic impact of resuming ferry operations (based on travel time savings, travel cost savings, safety savings, the value of emissions avoided, and the value of trips not taken) would be over \$9 million this year alone and could result in a travel time savings that equates to up to \$1.7 million a year, according to a Montgomery County Department of Transportation study. While working through the efforts to regain landing rights, the Kuhns invested in needed upgrades and repairs, ensuring that the ferry could reopen within 30 days of a possible agreement.

SPRINGING TO 87 DEGREES



BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ANIMATION WORKSHOPS FOR TWEENS AND TEENS

Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) will offer several free animation workshops geared toward ages 10-15 during the week of April 3-7, which will be spring break for Montgomery County Public Schools. The workshops will be facilitated by cartoonist, illustrator and animator Leila Cabib.

Registration is required to attend each workshop. Art supplies for use during the workshops will be provided to attendees.

Workshops times, dates and locations: Wednesday, April 5. 11 a.m.-noon. Twinbrook Library, 202 Meadow Hall Drive, Rockville. Register at <https://mcpl.libnet.info/event/8151633>.

Thursday, April 6. 2-3 p.m. Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave., Rockville. Register at <https://mcpl.libnet.info/event/8153026>.

Friday, April 7. 2-3 p.m. Davis Library, 6400 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda. Register at <https://mcpl.libnet.info/event/8151610>.

For more information contact Clotilde Puértolas at Clotilde.puertolas@montgomerycountymd.gov.

MONDAY/APRIL 10

Spælímennir. 7:30 p.m. At St. Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Road, rockville. Spælímennir ("the folk musicians") is a lively group of six musicians that play traditional and contemporary folk music from Scandinavia on fiddle, recorder, piano, guitar, mandolin, acoustic bass and vocals. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door, available at www.imtfolk.org

POTOMAC LIBRARY BRANCH TO REOPEN SATURDAY, APRIL 15

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich will join Montgomery County Public Libraries, other officials and community members at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 15, for ceremonies reopening the Potomac Library. The branch has been closed since May 22, 2022, for significant renovations.

The renovation work included the replacement of all flooring, reconfiguration and updating of shelving, painting throughout, a new service desk, new lighting, redesign of the children's reading nook, installation of security equipment, addition of lounge seating and study areas, replacement of the entry doors, creation of a family restroom and the updating of interior and exterior signs.

Work was also performed to bring the building into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

SATURDAY/APRIL 29

Carousel Day. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Performances, Hands-On Arts and Crafts, Carousel Rides. Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture.

JOB FAIRS SCHEDULED

Montgomery County Recreation is hiring part-time seasonal employees to work during the 2023 summer season. Available positions include lifeguards, camp counselors, camp directors and more.

Job fairs are scheduled at the follow-

ing locations and dates:

Thursday, April 20, 5:30 - 8 p.m. at Upper County Community Recreation Center, 8201 Emory Grove Road, Gaithersburg

Saturday, April 22, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at East County Community Recreation Center, 3310 Gateshead Manor Way, Silver Spring

Sunday, May 7, noon - 4 p.m. at Wheaton Community Recreation Center, 11701 Georgia Ave., Wheaton

The part-time/seasonal pay rate begins at \$15.65 an hour and increases based on experience. Applicants must be at least 15 years of age. Bilingual applicants are encouraged to apply.

Applicants should bring their resumes, come dressed for success and be prepared to discuss their experience. The department is looking for dedicated, hardworking and motivated individuals. Applicants should note these job fairs are not job or location specific. Applicants may attend any job fair regardless of where they are seeking to work in the County.

As a condition of employment, applicants will be required to pass a criminal background investigation. The investigation will include state, federal and sex offender background checks.

If you are interested in applying, you can also visit the website for additional information or to apply online.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY RECOGNIZES NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK APRIL 3-9

Montgomery County will commemorate National Public Health Week (NPHW) April 3-9 by highlighting daily themes through a series of social media posts based on this year's theme "Centering and Celebrating Cultures in Health." Montgomery County is home to many diverse cultures, all of which have different health impacts based on unique backgrounds and circumstances. It is important to honor these cultures through meeting people where they are to positively impact their health.

The County's Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Twitter and Facebook platforms, as well as Healthy Montgomery's Twitter and Instagram, will include daily messages corresponding to daily themes. The themes are:

Community (Monday, April 3)
Violence Prevention (Tuesday, April 4)
Reproductive and Sexual Health (Wednesday, April 5)
Mental Health (Thursday, April 6)
Rural Health (Friday, April 7)
Accessibility (Saturday, April 8)
Food and Nutrition (Sunday, April 9)

DHHS also will host a Public Health Services' staff appreciation event where leadership will personally thank public health workers and facilitate team-building activities.

Public health promotes and protects the health of people and communities where they live, learn, work and play. Public Health Services' programs, part of DHHS, monitor health status and implement intervention strategies to contain or prevent disease (including bio-terrorism and emerging diseases); foster public-private partnerships, which increase access to health services; develop and implement programs and strategies to address

health needs; provide individual- and community-level health education; evaluate the effectiveness of public health programs and strategies; license and inspect facilities and institutions affecting public health and safety; and monitor, assess and communicate community population health data and information via Healthy Montgomery, the County's community health improvement effort.

Recent and upcoming activities to support public health include: Later this spring, DHHS's Public Health Services will publish the 2023 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). The CHNA illustrates health data provided by the community and offers next steps to address health needs.

DHHS partnered with community stakeholders, such as Montgomery County Public Schools, to offer forums on fentanyl and provide Naloxone (Narcan) training.

Public Health Services implemented a new social marketing strategy in which daily posts are shared to the Healthy Montgomery Twitter and Instagram page. This strategy centers around engaging community members through colorful health campaigns that highlight health observances and recent news.

MAY 13 AND 14

Save the date! The Bethesda Fine Arts Festival returns this May 13 and 14 to downtown Bethesda. Featuring 130 of the nation's best artists, live entertainment and Bethesda restaurants! Admission to the event is free. More details - <https://www.bethesda.org/arts/artsfestival.htm>

SIX-SESSION, 12-HOUR BASIC PHYSICAL DEFENSE (BPD) COURSE

A six-session, 12-hour Basic Physical Defense self-defense course taught by R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense system) certified instructors will be offered by the Montgomery County Commission for Women at the Nancy H. Dacek North Potomac Community Recreation Center in Rockville. The first of the six two-hour sessions will be Thursday, April 13.

The course is open to women of all abilities. The cost is \$60.

The course will address risk reduction strategies, realistic hands-on self-defense skills practical for women of all abilities and an optional simulation where participants may suit up in protective gear and practice their skills live, in a safe training environment. A reference manual and a lifetime free return and practice policy are included for all students who finish.

The Thursday dates of the sessions are April 13 (mandatory), April 20, April 27, May 4, May 11 and May 18. Participants should make every reasonable effort to attend all classes to get the most out of the course.

For additional information and to register for the Basic Physical Defense Course, click here.

For more information about the Commission for Women, visit here, call 301-740-5108 or mail cfwinfo@montgomerycountymd.gov.

SEE BULLETIN. PAGE 7



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Grace Kimm, 91 of Potomac, Dies March 15

Grace Anderson Kimm, advocate for peace and justice, died peacefully at home in Potomac, Md. on March 15, 2023. She was 91.

Grace Anderson was born in Brooklyn, NY on Sept. 18, 1931 to Josephine Kinsella and Frudolph Anderson. She was one of seven siblings, with just the youngest, Audrey Mondello, now surviving.

Grace married Peter Kimm in 1954 after he returned from serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, 1951-1953. They met only a short time before Pete went into the Army, despite growing up in the same Catholic parish in Brooklyn. They experienced “instant chemistry,” they both recounted at their 60th wedding anniversary. Peter and Grace settled in their native Brooklyn where their first two children, Mary and Peter Jr. were born. Peter Sr. began study at The Cooper Union in New York City at night while working construction during the day, receiving his Bachelor of Civil Engineering degree in 1958.

In 1961, in response to President John F. Kennedy’s call to “ask what you can do for your country,” Peter and Grace, along with Peter’s brother Victor Kimm and his wife Pat, launched their families on an odyssey of public service — first with a Peace Corps-type organization to Paterson, NJ and Seton Hall University, and then to Cuernavaca, Mexico where they learned Spanish. They engaged with Ivan Illich, Margaret Mead, Philip and Daniel Berrigan, and others, with a volunteer organization in US and Mexico.

They moved to the Washington, D.C. area, where Pete first worked for the American Institute for Free Labor Development, AIFLD, 1963-65, and joined USAID in 1966.

Grace was a lifelong activist for racial justice and for peace.

She and Pete attended the 1963 March on Washington, in the company of the Berrigan brothers, and heard Martin Luther King Jr. deliver his “I Have a Dream” speech.

Grace was an activist for peace and for nuclear disarmament. She opposed the Vietnam War, participating in antiwar protests, taking along her children.

She drove (with Mary and Christopher, then a baby) to Canada with other members of Women’s Strike for Peace to meet with women from North Vietnam.

She was employed on Capitol Hill first by Women’s Strike for Peace, and later for many years, for the National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy, better known as SANE, the largest peace group in the United States. (SANE is now Peace Action.) A few of the issues she was passionate about included opposing the MX Missile, the B1 bomber, and deployment of intermediate range nuclear weapons in Europe, all of which threatened to destabilize the U.S.-Soviet dynamic and risk nuclear war.



Grace Kimm on her 90th birthday, an outdoor celebration due to the pandemic.

In 1968, After Martin Luther King Jr.’s assassination, Grace volunteered to support the Poor People’s Campaign, thousands of poor men and women who arrived in Washington D.C. to protest for economic justice. Hundreds stayed overnight in Potomac at the Sisters of Mercy (now the Bolger Center) where volunteers including Peter and Grace supported the marchers with meals and more.

“On Mother’s Day, 12 May 1968, thousands of women, led by Coretta Scott King, formed the first wave of demonstrators. Resurrection City, a temporary settlement of tents and shacks, was built on the Mall in Washington, D.C. Braving rain, mud, and summer heat, protesters stayed for over a month. Demonstrators made daily pilgrimages to various federal agencies to protest and demand economic justice.” (Source: kinginstitute.stanford.edu/encyclopedia/poor-peoples-campaign)

Grace was an activist without boundaries, and she was not afraid of conflict. If she observed something that was not right, she would immediately say something and do something. This also applied to family and friends, who never had to guess what her opinion was, and often did have to explain their own actions or lack thereof.

But Grace brought that same ferocious activism in love and support of family and friends. She had many lifelong friends.

Grace and Pete hosted countless dinner parties that brought diverse and global groups together in Potomac, sometimes



Grace and Peter Kimm in January 1954

combining tennis, volleyball or cycling with global relations, international development, civil rights and disarmament advocacy, with Grace serving as hostess-in-chief.

Grace and Peter made their home in Potomac a place for family, for children and grandchildren and more recently, great-grandchildren. Almost every member of the close family lives nearby, and gathers for holiday and birthday meals and celebrations multiple times throughout the year. Every grandchild knew they had a special place and refuge with Grandma.

Grace cared for grandsons Brian and Jeffrey Kimm when their mother, Virginia Fowler, wife of Peter Kimm Jr., Grace and Peter’s son, returned to work. When Peter Jr. was killed in a car crash in 1995, both Grandma (Grace) and Papa (Peter Sr.) increased their involvement. The family lives next door.

As an example of fearless support, one evening Ginny called to say she heard someone trying to break into her house. Grace, still in her nightgown, armed herself with a hammer and headed next door to the rescue. She did not use her weapon on the culprit, a raccoon.

In the last decade before Peter Kimm Sr.’s death at 89 in 2019, Peter and Grace were joined at the hip, more likely to be doing the New York Times crossword together than engaged in higher volume discussions that happened previously. Grace was a fierce advocate for him in health care. During Pete’s

hospitalization for nearly a month in early 2019, Grace, then 87, stayed with him every minute, sleeping in a recliner in his hospital room and eating hospital meals there as well. His doctors said they had never seen anything like it.

Grace read both the New York Times and the Washington Post in print every day until shortly before her death.

She was an avid gardener, and right now, this last part of March, 2023, her work in that Potomac garden continues to shine, with tens of thousands of blooming daffodils, hellebores and more. Multiple cherry trees bloom in succession, followed by redbuds and dogwoods. Towering oaks, tulip trees, hickory and more support a rich environment.

Grace Kimm is survived by her son Christopher Kimm (Emily) of Reston; daughter Mary Kimm (Ken Moore) of Potomac; her sister, Audrey Mondello of New York; daughter-in-law Virginia Fowler (Matt Egger) of Potomac; 10 grandchildren: Colin Dixon (Anna) of Cabin John, Md.; Emma Dixon of Potomac; Brian Kimm (Veronica) of Rockville, Md.; Jeffrey Kimm of New York, NY; Matthew Kimm of Los Angeles, Calif.; Elizabeth Egger of Potomac; Eliot and Eve Kimm of Reston, Va.; Jahna Kimm Knight (John Scherer) of Woodbridge, Va.; Jasmine Kimm Knight of Hackensack, NJ; three great-grandchildren: Declan and Ada Dixon of Cabin John and Chloe Kimm of Manteo, NC.

OBITUARY

Dana Denker Semmes, 73

Dana Denker Semmes, 73, died from a fall on March 9th, 2023, at home in Potomac, MD.

Dana was born in New Haven, CT on June 28, 1949 to Jane Gurley Denker and Dr. David Denker who met while working for The New York Times in Manhattan. She grew up on a farm in New Brunswick, New Jersey where she took in and cared for many animals. She was a tomboy to her father's dismay.

She was a spirited storyteller, actress, educator, and gardener. All that she pursued in her life she did with deep passion and devotion.

As a young girl, Dana had a gift for the dramatic arts and a spirit of adventure. She took acting classes and attended plays at the McCarter Theater in Princeton, New Jersey, then run by Arthur Lithgow, a pioneer of regional theater. She performed on-stage – in high school at Concord Academy, as a theater student at Antioch College and in avante-garde productions in New York City where she lived in her twenties. At 19 years of age, her extended journey by Land Rover across Asia from London through Afghanistan and India exemplified her intrepid spirit. After her college graduation, Dana joined a dozen other Antioch drama students who floated down the Mississippi River on a 17-foot hand-made raft, performing theater for free in towns along the way. While living in Manhattan in the late 1960s, she spent a night in jail for slipping flowers into rifles in protest of the Vietnam war.

She was active in a women's theater group in the Washington, DC area, where she met and married Guy Semmes, her brother Michael Denker's business partner. The couple raised two children, Charlotte and Benedict, during their 43-year marriage. Dana taught drama and creative movement to children throughout the D.C. area, brought an acting class to the Montgomery County Juvenile Detention Center at Shady Grove, and provided spiritual direction for inmates at the county jail.

She was fiercely loyal to her family and went to all ends to protect and nurture their lives. She valued experiential education, teaching for several years at Green Acres school in Bethesda, a progressive school that her children also attended. She introduced them to the expressive arts, gardening, and both national and interna-



Dana Semmes

tional travel. Highlights included summers in Vermont performing with the Bread & Puppet Theater, breaking down in a VW camper in the snow at the Zuni reservation in Western New Mexico, and hiking across the salt mines in the Sacred Valley in Urubamba, Peru.

Dana was an energetic patron of the arts, writing theater critiques for the Potomac Almanac and serving as an usher at theaters throughout the DC area. She supported Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County through her fundraising efforts.

Growing up with Jewish and Protestant heritage, but no formal religion as a child, she held a deep desire to know God. At mid-life, Dana discovered centering prayer – an ancient form of silent contemplation revived in the 1970s by Catholic monks. Dana and her husband embraced the practice, converting to Catholicism and organizing retreats and workshops around the country. She was devoted to her church community, first as a parishioner at St Francis Episcopal Church, Potomac, Md. and then St. Raphael's Catholic Church, in Rockville, Md.

Dana was her own person. She did not hold back her feelings and opinions and was a witty and a sharp critic of popular culture. She befriended and counseled others who followed a non-traditional path.

She was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2019 which reduced her outward ability for creative expression and deepened her faith.

She is survived by her husband Guy Hopkins Semmes of Potomac; her daughter, Charlotte Semmes, of Hudson, NY; her son, Benedict Semmes, of Houston, TX; her brother, Joel Denker, of Washington, DC; her sister, Cornelia Emlen, of Calais, VT; and two grandchildren, Penelope and Francis.

Visitation, funeral and reception took place on Friday, March 17, 2023 at St. Raphael's Catholic Church.

The service can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/live/4F8dDOxq4Uo?feature=share>

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Dana's memory can be made to the International Rescue Committee, <https://www.rescue.org/>

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

ADULT BIKE AND SCOOTER CLASSES

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT), in collaboration with the Washington Area Bicycle Association (WABA), will offer adult bike classes in April, May and June. The classes include a learn to ride and a basic skills class. MCDOT also will offer four free scooter classes in spring.

Participants in the bicycle classes will learn how to start and stop, balance, glide, pedal and steer a bike. Each student will progress at their own pace. The classes will be led by experienced WABA instructors.

Advance registration is required to participate in the bicycle classes and cost \$10 for Montgom-

ery County residents. There is no charge for WABA or Capital Bikeshare For All members. The classes are open to residents 18 and over, are limited to 25 people and fill up quickly.

Registration is currently open for April classes. Registration for May classes will open at 9 a.m. on March 27 and June class registration will open at 9 a.m. on April 24.

The schedule for Adult Learn to Ride bike classes: Saturday, April 16. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Westfield Montgomery Mall (former Sears parking lot), 7101 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda. *Free scooter class to follow.

Sunday, April 30 (Spanish Class). 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Wheaton Ice Arena (back parking lot), 11717 Orebaugh Dr., Wheaton.

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Wading Into New Territory



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I have been CT-scanned regularly/quarterly for 14 years. Occasionally, given my relatively "stable" existence, my oncologist has suggested increasing my scan intervals to four or even five months, up from the current three months. We have always resisted, especially Dina (being afraid the delay would allow a tumor to grow unchecked or to even get noticed in the first place). This suggestion by my oncologist was not made lightly. Given how well I've done, diagnosis-to-date, and how slowly the tumors in my lungs are growing, adding a month or two to the interval is not going to appreciatively tip the scales against me, according to my doctor. And lessening the amount of radiation, albeit comparatively low, that I'm/have been exposed to over these many years, is a side benefit, in addition to making my life less cancer centric (fewer appointments in hospitals). This suggestion is consistent with what my oncologist has regularly said over the years: that my quality of life was paramount. This new variable seems to have given us (Team Lourie) additional insight into the overall health risks possibly affecting someone who's been scanned as often as I have. (One of the side effects of exposure to radiation is, you guessed it: cancer. And since I already have enough cancer, Team Lourie, more so Dina, has consented to this change in scan frequency.) And in real time, now actually, I'll be getting my first scan after this new, longer interval.

To say I'm anticipating trouble is a bit of an overstatement. To say I'm worried about the consequences of waiting (scanning) an extra month or two longer than usual/normal, to see what's going on inside my lungs – where my papillary thyroid cancer has set up shop (and it's a big shop, apparently), is more accurate. Though the thinking/strategy for extending the scan interval still seems reasonable, faced now with the reality of it, is leading to some sleepless nights and stressful days. If I had it to decide over, I'd make the same decision. Still, this first go-around is a bit more challenging than I anticipated. It's hardly just another day in paradise, is it (as the Brits so often end their sentences with a question mark)? But as long as I'm still in the game, I'll never complain. And even though I've been scanned upwards of 75 times since my initial diagnosis in Feb. 2009, I don't ever take any results for granted. I take them as they come and try to take them in stride.

Still, after 14 years; introducing a new variable to my equation, this very familiar process seems sort of new again. It's as if I'm being scanned for the first time and trying not to think that my life hangs in the balance. Over time, especially considering the number of years I've been a cancer patient undergoing treatment, you develop a sense of rhythm in your life; you learn to navigate and schedule all the cancer-related activities/requirements/appointments so that it becomes routine. And in this routine, you're able (at least I was) live a relatively normal life where the cancer is not totally in control (of course the cancer is in control, but you're able to manage it, sort of, so your life isn't completely cancer centric). Unfortunately, increasing the interval between scans is not an indication that I'm in remission. Though it is an indication that I'm less terminal (if there's such a characterization), but as far as being out of the woods? I'm nowhere near the woods, let alone be out of them.

Though there's a new interval, the process by which I, as the patient learn about the results of the scan, has not changed. By an automatic 'process' scan results are emailed to me by the radiologist, perhaps even before my oncologist has even had a chance to review and even comment on them. What the patient receives is right out of the radiologist's pen. All medical jargon. After a few years of reading these documents, I know where to look for answers. There are two obvious lay-person-type sections. One is called "Impressions." The other is called "Findings." It is under these two headings where, sprinkled amongst the medical jargon, you'll find most of what passes as familiar English. I read it and re-read it trying desperately to discover its meaning. And though I wouldn't want to bet my life on my interpretation of the report, that's exactly what I'm forced to do, since I receive it before my oncologist, and I have spoken about/discussed the results. Granted, it's not perfect, but the release of this information is almost immediate, sometimes even the same day as the actual scan. So even though I'm now waiting an extra month or two for the regular scan than I have been having for years, I am not waiting any longer than usual to receive the report from the radiologist. Thank God! I've spent more than enough time already waiting for results over these last 14 years.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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