

Mimosas & Masterpieces: Art on the Half Shell

By Florence Thompson

What do mimosas (the liquid version) have to do with art?

On January 31, Stacey Sass, retired school art teacher, made her second appearance at Londonderry for a hands-on Mimosas & Masterpieces art session. The activities room was laid out with individual stations replete with all necessary equipment to produce a finished still life of an open oyster shell. Stacey's first session last July produced portraits of a Chesapeake Bay blue crab.

Eleven participants (nine residents and two staff members, plus three resident aides) were comfortably accommodated for a 10 AM start. An hour and a half later, there were 11 paintings, each a unique version of Stacey's painting.

The group picture at the end of the session displays a wide range of talent (or lack thereof), but all participants happily showed off the results of their efforts.

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Mimosas (cont. from page 1)



What do mimosas have to do with art? Due to the early hour, Erica Hardeo offered orange juice, with or without spirits, and blueberry muffins.



She promises two sessions a year with Stacey. One can only wonder what will follow the crab and oyster subjects. ♦



Celebrating The Year of the Snake...

By Jay Craig

Chinese New Year, or the Spring Festival, was celebrated on January 29 this year. This celebration is one of the most important holidays in Chinese culture. Celebrating the end of winter and the beginning of spring, this festival takes place on the evening preceding the first day of the year on the Chinese lunisolar calendar.

The Year of the Snake was celebrated as the 2025 Chinese New Year. The snake is one of six animals depicted on the Chinese calendar, and it is believed that people born in the Year of the Snake are wise,



charming, and intuitive. As such, the staff at Londonderry in their wise, charming, and intuitive manner presented a dinner menu in honor of the Chinese celebration.

The dining room was beautifully decorated in colors of red, yellows, and orange, and each table setting included an orange to eat and a decorative red envelope containing a one dollar bill. In Chinese culture oranges symbolize good luck and prosperity, and the small monetary gift is usually given to guests at Chinese New Year celebrations, again a symbolism for good luck.

Not to be outdone, the kitchen staff offered a variety of traditional Chinese dishes for all to enjoy. Residents could enjoy chicken fried rice with veggies or beef and broccoli stir fry. In addition, egg drop soup, edamame dumplings and baby bok choy were offered. Line cook D.J.

Moaney did a great job on the beef and broccoli stir fry. For dessert, lead line cook Shavonte Greene utilized her magic wand in the making of mini egg tarts.

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New Year (cont. from page 3)

For entertainment, a young woman named Yuriko, dressed in traditional Japanese attire, played the koto which is a Japanese plucked half-tube zither instrument, the national instrument of Japan derived from the Chinese zheng. Yuriko was a skilled musician, and the musical chords were soft and appropriate to the event.



It takes planning and coordination for these events to take place and shout outs should go out to all involved. Obviously, Erica Hardeo, Director of Community Engagement, was involved with the booking of the entertainment. Chelsea Harris, Director of Dining Services, in conjunction with some great line cooks, was responsible for the menu items. As usual the event was a success and reflects directly on the entire staff here at Londonderry who make this community a vibrant and wonderful place to live. ♦



...And a Day of Love

By Jay Craig

There are many reasons to celebrate Valentine's Day, but the one most thought of is love. The origins of this celebration are numerous, but a later addition maintains that St. Valentine performed weddings for Christian soldiers.

With deep affection for Londonderry residents, the staff provided us with a great Valentine's Day three-course dinner on February 14. More than 80 residents gathered together to celebrate this day of love and togetherness. In looking around the dining room there seemed to be a feeling of contentment with folks laughing, chatting, and enjoying their favorite beverages.

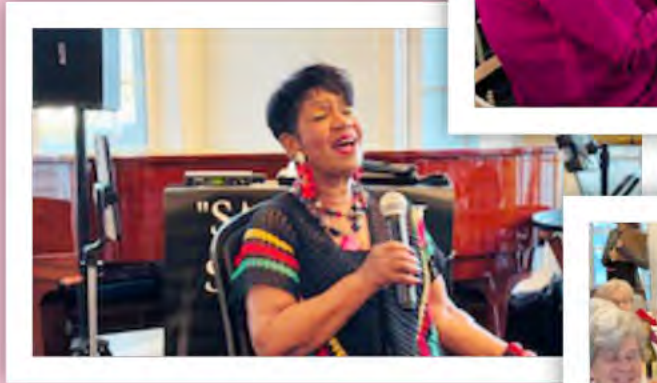
As usual, the dining room and kitchen staff were at their best providing the residents with super service and yummy food. The meal began with a caprese plate followed by a choice between a creamy shrimp pasta or braised beef short ribs,

both excellently constructed by line cook Bryant Harper. To top the dinner off, lead line cook Shavonte Greene spoiled us with an assortment of scrumptious chocolate truffles.

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Valentine's Day (cont. from page 4)

Entertainment was provided by singer Suzette Pritchett, a native of Salisbury. Her melodic voice was reminiscent of other rhythm and blues artists like Macy Gray and Lala Hathaway. Her performance was beautifully integrated with the festivities which allowed for general conversation without being a distraction.



These types of events reflect positively on the strength of the community and the commitment the staff has in ensuring resident contentment. It takes a great deal of effort to put these events together and many staff members deserve acknowledgment for their efforts. Chelsea Harris, Director of Dining Services, and her staff are to be congratulated. Additionally, Erica Hardeo, Director of Community Engagement, played a pivotal role in making this celebration one to remember. ❤️



More Valentine's Day photos in Parting Shots on page 19



Welcome

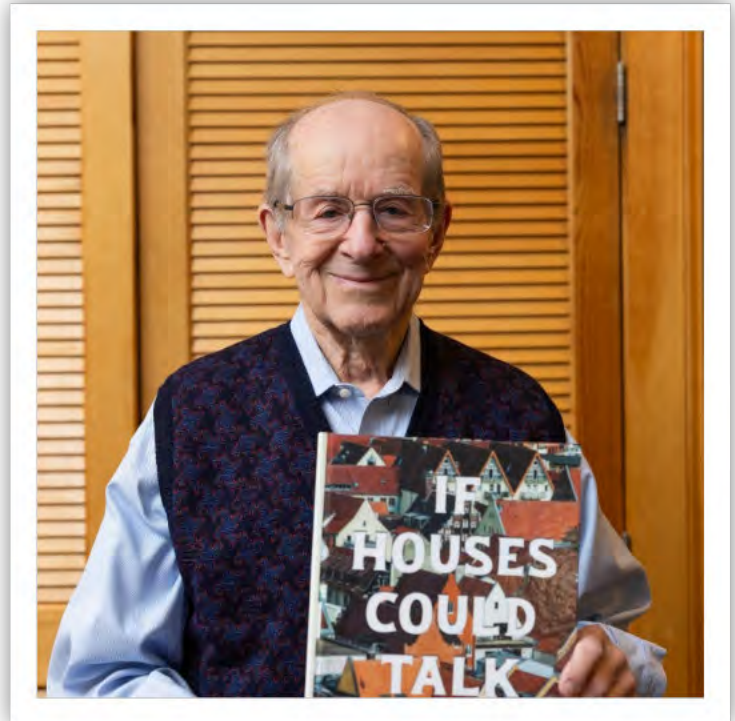
New Resident

Merrilie Ford #4104

Dr. Foss Gives Dying Houses a Voice

By Patricia Bradley

It was a fine affair. On Tuesday, February 11, at 2 o'clock, folks filled the Clubhouse to hear our own **DR. JOHN FOSS** talk about his recently published book: *If Houses Could Talk*, Dorrance Publishing Co., 66 pages, illustrations by the author. A long line quickly formed for a book signing, and then he told us the story of how the book came about, including his thanks to the Sadlers for encouraging him to actually have it published.



This was a hobby for John for several decades. His family was involved as well. They all enjoyed finding abandoned structures in their travels and enjoyed the collection of photographs that grew to hundreds. John was an archaeologist and was used to taking a camera wherever he went. As an archaeologist, he was interested in preservation, but also in the manner and means of how things deconstruct and, oftentimes,



simply return to nature. The pictures would raise questions in his busy, inquisitive brain, and he would imagine the human story and the life, or lives, that might be connected. Hence, the book. John makes it perfectly clear that the stories are fiction, but also feasible. He includes some instructive, historical

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Houses (cont. from page 6)

information, and then, for fun, his stories raise some questions: for example, haunted houses? Yes? No? Hmm....

KEN SADLER, right, has done some oil paintings of a couple of John's photographs and brought them to display; then he presented John with a painting of an empty landscape for "the house he has yet to find." John also showed two pictures of an abandoned house in Trappe that Don Goodliffe led him to. This, however, would not fit into Ken's lush landscape as it sits alone in about 100 acres of treeless land. John is already speculating on what kind of story this house will tell, so maybe his next book will have a Londonderry connection. (Here's an idea. Maybe the house was home to a bunch of elderly citizens who lived together and never had to feel alone?)

Events like this one are so welcome. They do strengthen the connections we feel with one another, and give us opportunities to celebrate each other's success. ♦

To receive *Tred Avon Times* by email for easier reading or printing, contact Cyndy Miller to be added to our distribution list.



Ken Sadler was recently awarded the "People's Choice for Best in Show" at the "Traffic Jam" art show hosted by ARTEast (Artists Roundtable—EasternShore) at the Queen Anne's County Centre for the Arts. Congratulations, Ken! – *Talbot Spy*

Be Prepared!

By Nancy Henry

On Jan. 30, approximately 50 residents and staff attended a comprehensive presentation on the important topic of **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**. The program was coordinated by Rich Williams, Londonderry's Director of Security and Transportation, and included remarks by Geneva Schaffle, Division Chief of Talbot County Emergency Services and Madison Loker, Emergency Management Coordinator.

PART ONE of this two part program was a slide show narrated by Ms. Schaffle. With photos and written notes, the slide show summarized an overwhelming array of services and resources available to Talbot County residents and their neighbors. It is clear that Talbot County plays a central role in the delivery of emergency services across the area.

The Emergency Services building sitting directly across the street from the entrance to Londonderry employs approximately 100 staff who are assigned to work 24/7 in the four primary divisions of Emergency Services.

- **Dispatch:** responsible for answering all 911 calls. Calls may originate from residents, local fire departments, EMS stations and/or law enforcement. This is the division with which we may be most familiar.
- **Emergency Medical Resource Center:** Provides updated medical information to individuals and staff as needed.



- **Prehospital Medical Service:** Provides an immediate, seamless communication stream between ambulances answering calls and staff in designated receiving hospitals. The goal is to have informed staff arriving at the pick-up point within eight minutes with appropriate services beginning immediately.
- **Special Operations:** Provides trained personnel skilled in handling situations involving mass casualties and/or the use of specialized equipment such as temperature-controlled shelters and/or the ambulance "bus" that is available when needed.

In a larger view of services, Talbot Emergency Services has the ability to coordinate with partners and resources across the entire Shore if necessary. Providing a structured response to all incidents is the goal. Advanced technology in the form of mapping systems to

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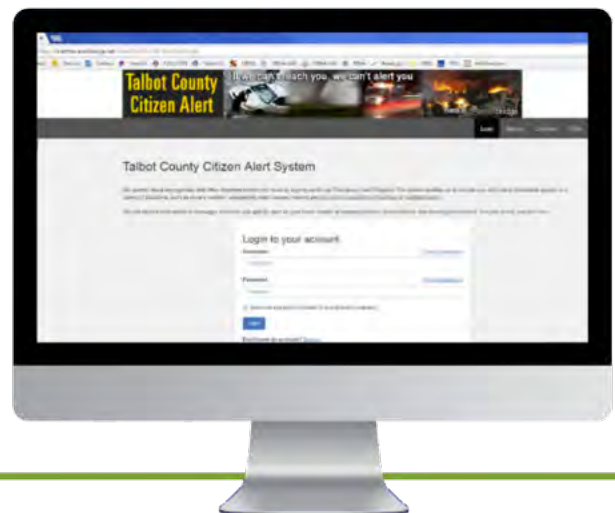
Preparedness (cont. from page 9)

- In the case of a serious emergency, Londonderry staff will be available to assist us. They are considered “essential employees”.
- Should Talbot County residents be required to evacuate, we should be able to be accommodated at the emergency shelter located at Easton High School. The shelter program is administered by the local Dept. of Social Services. The facility can accommodate up to 300 people and can accommodate pets confined in crates. Talbot Emergency Services has included Londonderry in their plan and will assist in moving us to the shelter if necessary.
- Everyone should have his/her own disaster plan in mind. Where would you go? We also need to develop an emergency kit containing essential papers, medications, flashlights, extra batteries, extra clothes, pet food and other items we don't want to lose. The kits should be updated on a regular basis.
- All homes should have a portable fire extinguisher readily available. Rich showed us an inexpensive one that can be purchased from Target for \$12. These devices can be used for a couple of years and then replaced. Fire retardant blankets are also a good idea.

A final related topic concerning the **MOLST** (*MD Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment*) was briefly reviewed by our Director of Health and Wellness, Lorraine Flisher. This important document is completed and signed by each resident and their physician. The document provides specific guidance to emergency personnel should you be found unconscious or unable to communicate. The completed document should be attached to the outside of your refrigerator where it can be easily found if needed. Lorraine plans to visit each home to review the purpose of the MOLST.

As you can see, this presentation was jam packed with important information. The audience was engaged in conversation concerning the topics listed above as well as related issues not mentioned. Rich has promised additional presentations/ workshops and probably some evacuation drills in the coming months. If we have additional questions, we are invited to contact him. ♦

Talbot Citizen Alerts www.talbotalerts.com



Dinner at Caroline's

By Kaye Dutrow

On Monday, February 10, residents Dorothy Vanderpool, Florence Thompson, Clare Kettell, Don Goodliffe, Queenie Swaren, Susan Andrews, Barbara Hargroves and Kaye Dutrow journeyed to Denton to have dinner at the charming restaurant Caroline's Table, located on Market Street. On its website, Caroline's is described as "an historic house with a cozy vibe" and a "farm-to-table restaurant that serves locally-grown ingredients." On this chilly night, we were warmly welcomed and escorted to our table. Our server Fred mentioned that the restaurant has been open for a couple of years, but new owners bought it about six months ago. In addition to outside seating in warmer weather, Caroline's has wheelchair accessibility and a parking lot located in the back.



The menu was varied, and most of us enjoyed our meals which included shrimp and grits, swordfish, meatloaf and a new version of chicken pot pie. The prices ranged \$20-\$30. We were pleased to hear that Monday was wine night and enjoyed our \$5 selections.

Fred told us that they have a wonderful brunch on Sunday, and reservations are recommended. We smiled politely and didn't mention to Fred that we, too, have a delicious Sunday brunch at Londonderry with no reservations needed!

It was a pleasant evening with our Londonderry family. We talked, laughed and shared stories. Many thanks to Erica Hardeo for making the reservations and rescheduling when we had to cancel in January because of snow. We appreciate her efforts to find new interesting places. Also, thanks to Robert Pitts, our most capable driver, who made sure we had a safe trip. ♦



Men's Breakfast

By Jay Craig

A new month was upon us and once again, a group of hungry men from Londonderry were about to embark on another breakfast outing. The morning broke sunny and cool, and the group of men gathered at the community center to await their transportation to Cambridge.

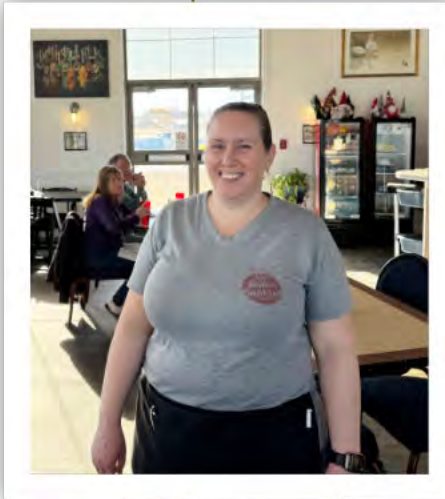
James Brooks, Director of Buildings and Grounds, jumped in the van's driver seat and was accompanied by Chris Andrews, Lead Maintenance Tech. Off we went to Carol's Kitchen located at the Cambridge-Dorchester Regional Airport. The traffic was light, and the weather was good, allowing for a pleasant 20-minute or so drive to the restaurant.

The group was excited about eating breakfast at a location that was new to us. Carol's Kitchen had moved to the airport in September 2024 from another location in Cambridge. The airport had been without a restaurant since 2022 when Katie's At The Airport left.

The restaurant appeared small from the outside but was quite expansive once inside. The hostess met us at the door and immediately sat us at a long table prepared in advance for our arrival. Our server, Ashley, was very prompt and started us off with coffee or other beverages and showed us the menu for breakfast.



The service was great, and the food was even better. Our plates arrived with mounds of breakfast goodies, enough to satisfy a grown man. All of the men seemed to enjoy the food, and the quantity they received. There was even a suggestion that the scrapple was cooked to perfection.



Ashley was kind enough to take a photo of the group. Seated at the front left corner of the table was Barney Johnson, followed counterclockwise by Bruce Kranz, Lou Duvall, Steve Cades, Rich Morin, Roger Bollman, Chris Andrews, James Brooks, Dick Codrington, Jay Craig, Don Goodliffe, and Henry Prieger.

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Breakfast (cont. from page 12)

With bellies full and smiles on our faces, we travelled back to Londonderry under the skilled hands of James and Chris. Thanks to Erica Hardeo, Director of Community Engagement, for selecting this venue and making arrangements for us. The general consensus was that this restaurant should be a do over and as such a return to it was recommended.

These breakfast outings usually occur within the first week of every month. They are well attended and a lot of fun. Camaraderie abounds, and all of the world's problems are usually solved. So if you are hankering for some good fellowship along with a belly full of scrumptious breakfast fare keep this trip in mind. Erica Hardeo announces the date, time, and location of men's breakfast outings on CATIE usually a week or two before they occur. The guys would love to see new faces on these trips, so keep us in mind. ♦

An Evening at the Theater

By Susan Andrews

Paula Gervis, Cathy Cooper, Pat Bradley, Queenie Swaren, Jan Benvenuto, Evelyn LoRe and Susan Andrews attended opening night of *Plaza Suite* on Thursday, February 13, presented by the Tred Avon Players. This was a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

The play by Neil Simon is composed of three acts, each involving different characters set in Suite 719 of New York City's Plaza Hotel.

The first act introduces the audience to a not so blissfully wedded couple celebrating their wedding anniversary.

The second act involves a meeting between a movie producer and his old flame, a suburban house wife.



The third act revolves around a married couple on their daughter's wedding day, with her locked in the Suite's bathroom.

As with any Neil Simon play, there are wonderful lines that led to much laughter.

The acting was well done. The sound system worked beautifully. This really was a delightful evening. ♦

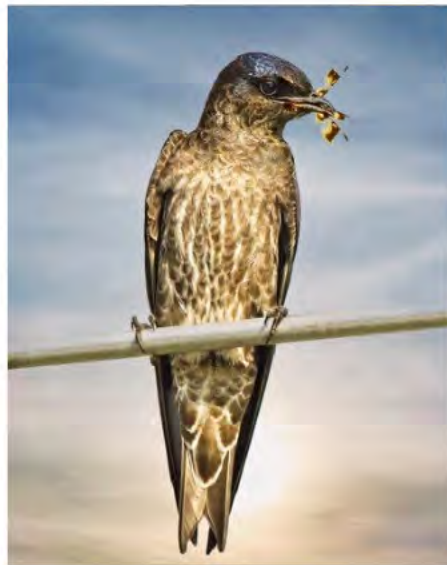


Speaking of Birds...

By Patricia Bradley

On Thursday, February 20 at 2:00 in the afternoon, we had two gentlemen come to the Clubhouse who did just that. Mike Rajacich is a biologist who worked for years for the Chesapeake Heritage Foundation. Now he and his son, Michael, are the owners, managers and sole employees of a local nonprofit organization called Delmarva Nesting Foundation. This “niche” family-run company is devoted to providing and maintaining nesting structures for certain birds on the Delmarva Peninsula, namely wood ducks, ospreys, bluebirds and purple martins. They provided a beautifully illustrated program with photos they took in the field and related information about the habits and relative well-being of these species; however, they spent most of the time on the purple martins, as we have four houses that they have established and maintain here at Londonderry.

Two of the houses are behind the 200 neighborhood close to the river. One house is in the 500 section, and the most recent installment is on a lawn surrounded by homes in the 100 section. In the older bird houses, colonies of birds have been established and



are greatly enjoyed by us humans. It is a joy to watch them swoop and land, and then hear them chatter with their very distinctive voices including clicks. Unlike most birds, they seem to like people, and they let us into their space. Mike estimates 100 fledglings are born every year at Londonderry. The colonies winter in the Amazon

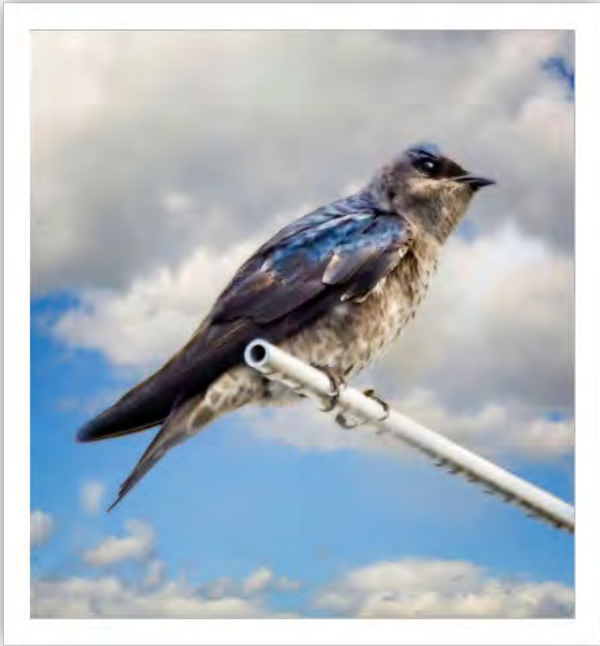
Basin and return in March to the same house they left last fall. The first to arrive will be a lone male, checking things out. When the family arrives a few weeks later, they will settle in and enjoy life before laying their annual clutch of eggs. The babies are hatched and will get acclimated so that next spring they will know how to find home.

The service the two Mikes offer is to install the houses in a favorable spot and then to re-visit every three weeks to maintain the houses. They will clean out any sparrows' nests they find, as sparrows are considered nuisance birds that endanger the martins and are not

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Purple Martins (cont. from page 14)

protected by law. Then, when the season is over the houses come down and get repaired, cleaned and fumigated before being stored for the winter. They will be bringing the houses back sometime this month. Watch for them. The two Mikes have a prodigious amount of information about the life and habits of these birds and will share their data with others including other wildlife organizations.



Those in attendance found the talk most informative and entertaining, but it was Pat Lewers who had the last word. (Pat is related to this family and knows them well.) In Pat's words: "Isn't it great when people really like what they do!" ♦

Have ideas to share? Photos? Stories?

We welcome contributions from our fellow residents. Just contact a newsletter committee member or join us at our monthly meetings in the Londonderry Library.

Next meeting March 4, 9 AM.



A *Wicked* Review

By Paula Gervis

On Friday, February 21, approximately 30 people gathered in the Club House to watch the movie *Wicked*.

The musical *Wicked* explores themes of identity, prejudice, power, and morality. The story is a retelling of *The Wizard of Oz* from the perspective of the witches.

Although somewhat long, most of us found it very enjoyable. ♦



In Memoriam

By Florence Thompson

GEORGE ALDRED THOMAS moved to Londonderry in April of 2022. He immediately found friends, old and new. And after moving from Londonderry to Dixon House in Easton, he passed away in just a few short weeks on January 27, 2025.

George was born in 1938 in Cambridge, Maryland, graduated from Cambridge High School in 1956 and Salisbury State Teacher's College in 1960, and taught algebra in Easton Middle School. In 1968 he and his wife, the former Julie Spedden, bought the local Dairy Queen, beginning a business career that developed many customer "regulars" as well as generations of young hirees. He became a mentor to his young employees, developing schedules to accommodate their participation in sports and band, even allowing them to do their homework in lulls at the counter. After 39 years, George sold his business to a former employee who had worked for him at age 14.

Sadly, Julie succumbed to ovarian cancer in 2001. In 2004, George married Jo Anna Meyers and, again, he lost his second wife to the same disease in 2021.

George loved playing poker and tennis, cheered on the Ravens, Orioles, Terps basketball teams on TV and in person, and enjoyed traveling to Florida and other destinations with friends in retirement. He was a member of the scholarship committee of the local Elks lodge.

George is survived by his loving daughters, Tracie Thomas, Amy Gross and Bill, and Laura Coutsolioutsos and Terry; siblings Carolyn Parks, Patricia Fortson, Gretchen Seymour, and Richard Thomas; seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. His Londonderry friends, old and new, join his family in honoring his memory. ♦





In Memoriam

By Florence Thompson

JOE HAMILTON MORTON was born in Camden-on-Gauley, West Virginia, on March 19, 1929. He graduated from Greenbrier Military School in 1948 and from West Virginia University in 1951. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army and served active duty in the Korean War.

Joe had a career starting in Washington, DC, with GEICO, followed by 35 years with the Department of State. He started there as a special agent and concluded as an Assistant Director. His service included postings in Bonn and Vienna. Upon retirement, he worked for a few years for the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. Joe's final retirement brought him and his wife to Londonderry on March 20, 2022.

Joe was married to Betty Mace Morton, a native of Webster Springs, West Virginia. The couple shared their love of West Virginia and maintained a mountain cabin there. Betty was active athletically into her 70s. She taught her children and grandchildren to water ski. She and Joe loved dancing and were referred to as "Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers." Sadly, Betty passed away in August 2024, ending a marriage of 73 years, and a short six months before Joe died at age 95 on February 21, 2025.

Joe was predeceased by his parents, his two brothers, Richard and William, and his loving wife, Betty. He is survived by his two sons: Joe

D. Morton and Debbie Jackson, and John H. Morton and Lauri; his daughter Jennifer Morton Boudart and Chris; seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Joe's friends and neighbors at Londonderry join his family in mourning his loss. ♦



UMB Health Care Education Presentation

By Patricia Bradley

On Tuesday, February 18, Londonderry hosted an educational presentation by members of University of Maryland Baltimore to explain and discuss the UMB **Eastern Shore Pathways Initiative**. In welcoming the speakers, CEO Christine Harrington affirmed Londonderry's interest in increasing the number of medical professionals in our area, especially as the new hospital is being built, and promised whatever support we might be able to give in the future.

enter the health professions. The grants will also be available to those in the health professions who wish to further their studies and advance their careers. In exchange for their expenses being paid, they will agree to practice on the Eastern Shore for five years.

The students who attended heard about the expectations and opportunities at five schools at the University: Graduate Studies (Physician Assistants); Medicine (Doctors); Nursing; Pharmacy; Social Work. They were able to ask questions and visit with the speakers, and then enjoy Chelsea's splendid spread before going home hopefully inspired by what they heard. ♦

This program, backed by an \$18,000,000 gift from a resident of the Eastern Shore, will recruit and grant scholarships to Eastern Shore residents who wish to



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Parting Shots

