

ASPIRE Community Leadership Awards – 2017

ASPIRE honors community leaders who have been selected by a local organization on the basis of sustained, positive and visionary leadership with the organization, with the goal of serving the greater Severna Park Community.

Joan Cunningham – Berrywood Community Association

Joan Cunningham is an active volunteer and leader, taking responsibility for many community activities. She has been a longtime member of the Berrywood Women's Club and is a regular participant in the assembling and distribution of luminaries. She also headed the Welcome and Membership Committee for the past 16 years. Joan has seen that all new neighbors are welcomed and provided with a packet of information about the Community. A welcoming event is held every year.

Joan willingly steps up to do whatever is needed. We feel that her contributions should be recognized for her long and dedicated service in making Berrywood a friendly place to live.

Ann Fligsten – Growth Action Network of Anne Arundel County

Ann Fligsten is the Executive Director of Growth Action Network of Anne Arundel County, better known as GAN.

Starting as a project under the Arnold Preservation Council in 2007, GAN, with tremendous assistance from Al Johnson, convinced the County that they should have citizen input into the 2009 General Development Plan. Becoming its own 501 (c) 3 in 2013, GAN, under Ann's leadership, has been instrumental in increasing citizen awareness and input into county growth. GAN helped increase developer impact fees, improve county code and is taking the lead on the update to the 2019 Growth Development Plan.

Charles and Andrea Germain – Magothy River Association

Charles and Andrea Germain are residents of Berrywood and live on Cattail Creek. They are retired from the scholarly publishing and food service industries and have been energetic and engaged Magothy River Association members since 2010. Charles is very active in his filming company, Chesapeake Clear Video, and has used his talents to lead the MRA Living History Project, recording fascinating histories of local residents. He has captured many stories of life along the river and in Severna Park.

Andrea had a successful career as a small business owner and loves painting and bicycling. They both love traveling around the world. Andrea has several different roles with the MRA. She is the MRA's public relations expert, writing press releases, letters to the editor, and letters to elected officials. She successfully wrote and managed a grant to develop the kayak Water Trail Map, and worked with the team to highlight environmental, educational and historic components on a pocket size map. Charles filmed all of the video clips that make the Water Trail Map so unique. The MRA is grateful to have the Charles and Andrea team!

Tom Lerario – Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce

It is our pleasure to name Tom Lerario as our 2017 Honoree for the ASPIRE Community Leadership Award. Tom was President of the Chamber of Commerce in 2012 and Chairman of the Board in 2013. He has given so much of his time and effort to our Chamber and our community. He helps out every year with our July 4th Parade, and also with our annual golf tournament. While President he participated in numerous events and activities, providing leadership and assistance.

He has been a part of the Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church staff since 2004. He was a recipient of the Excellence in Education Business Award from Severna Park High School. For four years he was a Concession Manager at the High School. He is also an annual Guest Server for the Severna Park Community Center's Pasta Dinner fund raiser. Tom gives his time and assistance whenever and wherever he can. He is truly a valued member of our community, giving leadership and extending a helping hand.

Erin O'Neill – Greater Severna Park Council

Erin O'Neill is a Severna Park native, having been baptized at Holy Grounds Youth Center which was then St. John the Evangelist Church!

Her early adult life was devoted to being a mom, raising four wonderful children. She lived in Florida, Minnesota, Belgium and California before coming home to Severna Park.

She started a career outside of the home later in life and worked in real estate, health care at Anne Arundel Medical Center, and is now with the Maryland General Assembly. Fortunately for the Greater Severna Park Council she now brings that knowledge and experience, and a deep love for Severna Park, to serving on our Board of Directors. She never fails to step up to the toughest tasks, and does it with a smile!

Susan Origlio – Partners In Care

In 2015, Partners In Care asked members of the community to fill a holiday stocking for older adults. PIC realized that Susan Origlio was a born leader when she rallied more than 50 friends to join with her in this. In 2016, she named her project Elves for Elders and used her leadership and charisma to get over 120 stockings filled!

Susan helps with planning and organizing for our Learning Series and she works with our Retired Senior Volunteer Program task force. She also rallied friends and their friends to fund a new arm for someone who could not afford one, and to send over 200 pounds of coffee to a military group in Iraq with personal greeting notes.

She belongs to Severna Park United Methodist Church where she works with the soup kitchen ministry. She has done successful fundraising for the National Children's Hospital, Save the Bay and House of Ruth. Despite it all, friends say that Susan never feels as if she has done enough. Partners In Care and all others who know her treasure her gifts of leadership, positive energy and her ability to inspire others.

Paul Striffler – Severna Park Kiwanis

Paul Striffler has been a member of Kiwanis for more than 23 years and has dedicated his life to service. Paul started in the United States Navy, where he served as a Commander and led our brave officers overseas. He also served patients as a facilities manager for the Aramark Corp. As a fixture in the Severna Park community, you can find Paul at Whitehurst community functions, and Navy games on Saturdays. He is a family man and was lucky enough to find his best friend and wife, Pat, over 40 years ago.

In Kiwanis, Paul has held practically every office – from President to Treasurer to new member trainer. To this day, he leads and coordinates the Club's participation in the Meals on Wheels and Teen Court programs.

He is known to all of us as the voice of reason and the great moderator. Our club is extremely grateful for Paul's service.

ASPIRE Heritage Awards – 2017

The ASPIRE Heritage Awards recognize individuals and small groups of individuals for playing a significant role in contributing to the character of Severna Park. While the recipients of these awards often demonstrate leadership and a dedication to community service, what sets these awards apart is that their efforts have noticeably improved the quality of life in Severna Park. The awards may be awarded to living residents (or former residents who have moved away) as well as posthumously. The selection of awardees is made by the ASPIRE Board of Trustees annually.

Joan Machinchick

Artist Joan Machinchick's background is in book design and illustration, with a BFA with honors in graphic design from Maryland Institute College of Art. Now semi-retired, she devotes her time to painting and design of artist's books. She has been the owner of Lake Claire Design Studio for over 40 years.

During her professional career she provided graphic design, illustration and calligraphy for a variety of clients, including publishers, entertainment professionals, gourmet companies, health care facilities, and a NASA/JHU research satellite. She produced monthly watercolor maps for Chesapeake Bay Magazine and she custom designed wedding and event stationery. Joan did a beautiful map of the Magothy River and the Severn River which many residents have framed and proudly displayed in their homes throughout these watersheds. She served as the graphic designer and illustrator for the very well received book, *My River Speaks*, for which the author, Marianne Taylor, is very grateful.

Her artist's books, invitations, articles and book reviews have been published in several books and magazines and she has exhibited in many solo, shared and juried exhibits in the Maryland, Virginia and Washington area, as well as in Arizona. She is a member of the Annapolis Watercolor Calligraphers Guild and Friends of the Arts. She is presently on the book arts faculty of the Academy of Art Museum in Easton, Maryland.

She has lived in Cape St. Claire since 1961.

Alberta Shelton Stornetta

Alberta was born (fifth generation) on her father's farm in Princess Anne County, Virginia, now the great city of Virginia Beach. She received a degree in chemistry from the Univ. of Mary Washington in 1953. She married Wakefield Stornetta (USNA class of 1951) in 1953 and they have five children. The family has lived in Virginia Beach, VA, Monterey, CA, Timonium, MD, Middletown, RI, and Annapolis, MD.

Her background in publishing began with "Hey Good News!," the monthly newsletter of Haygood UMC in Virginia Beach, VA. She edited and published "Stornetta Stories," a monthly publication of family genealogy and news stories from 1965 – 1999. She became editor and publisher of "Antiphon," the American Guild of Organists monthly newsletter 1988-1989. She served as editor and publisher of "Asbury News and Views" from 1988-2000.

The idea of writing a history of Arnold came after she joined the Arnold Preservation Council. When APC began the beautification of the median strip of Ritchie Highway, people asked "Exactly, where is Arnold?" "How did Arnold gets its name?" and "Is there any history of Arnold?" Alberta chaired the history committee and attempted to find the answers. The Maryland Archives had deeds and wills, but the bulk of information came from transcriptions of many taped interviews of living residents of Arnold, and old family photos which people were willing to share. Six years later, *Arnold, Maryland and Neighbors on the Broadneck* was published.

Marianne Taylor

Marianne Taylor and her husband, Robert A. Taylor, have lived along the banks of the Magothy River for more than 30 years. In the midst of her 22-year career as an English teacher, she served as a docent for the Baltimore Museum of Art. It was there that she discovered her passion for history. This passion has led her on a journey of discovery and appreciation: the Magothy River is infinitely beautiful and infinitely fascinating. She is proud to publish *My River Speaks* with the assistance of Pat Troy and to share the history of this valuable and historic waterway with the community.

Though her four children have flown the nest, her home on Ferry Point often overflows with eight grandchildren and a great grandchild. All of them cherish the Magothy.

She is a member of the Magothy River Association, and served as a board member of the Gibson Island Historic Society and the Gibson Island Club. She remains concerned with "all things Magothy".