

Tree Tops - President's Message

By **Eli Hassid**, HOA Board President

Dear Residents,

The cool weather is finally here and the leaves are changing colors, making this one of my favorite times of year. It is a great time to be outside and take advantage of the walking trails nearby. The recent months have been busy here in DuFief. September's annual picnic was a wonderful event. I hope that everyone who came out had a great time and enjoyed the music, food and companionship. I want to thank everyone who helped with the planning, setting-up, and cleaning-up -- it was truly a wonderful team effort. A special thank you goes again to Jeannette Repie without whom this event wouldn't be such a huge success. We are already looking forward to next year's picnic. I also want to thank everyone who came out for the pond clean-up day. Keeping the pond area clean is important to preserving the beauty of this wonderfully peaceful and unique area of our neighborhood.

In addition to the special events, like the picnic and the annual meeting, there are the usual day-to-day issues that the Board and Committee members deal with, be it spring, summer, fall, or winter. Here are some of them:

- Evaluating alterations and improvements to homes in accordance with ARC guidelines
- Making sure there are no white doors, white trim, white garage doors
- Taking care of the finances and collecting dues
- Updating community directory
- Contracting for and overseeing weekly care of common areas
- Dealing with homeowner concerns, such as noise at basketball courts, speeding cars, or damaged fences
- Arranging for "No-Parking" signs at entrance and signs for pond entrance
- Issuing Readwood
- Dealing with dead or fallen trees at pond and entrance
- Cleaning up storm debris at the pond and in the park

If you want to attend the monthly board meetings (second Monday of every month) and get involved, you are more than welcome.

Winter will be here before we know it. When it snows, please remember to shovel your driveway and sidewalk. Also, note that the County handles the plowing for DuFief, rather than a private company, and therefore the HOA has no control over when the snow plows reach our streets.

Wishing everyone a great fall, Thanksgiving, and holiday season.

Sincerely,
Eli Hassid

**The Annual Homeowners Meeting
will be held at the DuFief School
February 23, 2017
Potluck Dinner at 6:30 pm - Meeting at 7:30 pm
Please email board@dufief.org to RSVP for the Dinner**

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Artist in Residence — International Folk Dancing

by *Martin Misakian*

Before describing some local international folk dancing group activities, I would like to provide a brief introduction to the activity taken from Wikipedia:

“International folk dance developed in the [immigrant communities](#) of the [United States of America](#) during the first half of the 20th century. [Traditional](#) dances such as [branles](#), [polkas](#), [quadrilles](#) and others have been done internationally for hundreds of years; however, the creation of international folk dance as such is often attributed to [Vytautas Beliajus](#), a [Lithuanian-American](#) who studied, taught, and performed dances from various ethnic traditions in the 1930s. Other prominent teachers and promoters of international folk dance in its first few decades included Michael Herman and Mary Ann Herman, [Jane Farwell](#), and [Dick Crum](#).”

From the early 1960’s through the approximately mid 1980’s, local international folk dance groups flourished. When I arrived in Maryland from Michigan in 1971, the local Friday night international folk dance group numbered about 100 people. In Ann Arbor, the Friday night dance group also attracted about 100 people, but that group as well as others no longer exist. One can speculate about the reasons for the decline in numbers, e.g., people glued to computer-related activities, as well as the popularity of contra and swing dancing. While the numbers of people doing international folk dancing have declined, the activity continues to attract substantial numbers of people locally on most weekdays and provides enjoyment for many adults.

Below are photos of local international folk dance groups that may be of interest, particularly if one is interested in learning about other cultures and doing a form of enjoyable exercise. While the dancers shown are in lines, couple dances also take place. No partners are needed to attend and beginners are always welcome.

A long-running **Monday night** folk dance takes place in Chevy Chase, Maryland, with Phyllis Diamond’s group (<http://diamonddancecircle.com/>). A scene from that event is shown at left below. The dances take place at the Jane Lawton Community Center (4301 Willow Lane) from 7:30 p.m. to 9:45 p.m. on Monday evenings. Mel and Phyllis Diamond began this group in 1964.



On **Thursday nights**, one can dance with Jamie Platt’s group at the Church of the Redeemer (6201 Dunrobbin Dr.) near Glen Echo Park (<http://www.dancingplanetproductions.com/>). The dancing goes from 7:30 p.m. to 10:45 p.m. Shown below is the group posing for the camera during a recent party evening earlier this year.



Wednesday nights will find people doing international folk dances in Columbia, Maryland, at Kahler Hall (5440 Old Tucker Row) from 8:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. A recent photo of the group is shown at right below.



One cannot leave out the long-running **Friday night** international folk dance group that currently meets at the Greenbelt Community Center Dance Studio at 15 Crescent Rd. (no dances in August this year). This group justifiably mentions the beautiful wooden dance floor that is suitable for ballet dancers. Four dance instructors (Larry Weiner, John Robinson, Michael Gelman, and Ben Hole) take turns providing instruction. Larry began teaching international folk dances on Fridays in the Washington area in the 1960’s. The photo on the next page shows John providing instruction on a recent Friday evening.

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Directions and schedule information can be obtained at <http://www.larryweiner.com/FridayDance.htm>. The photo shows John providing instruction on a recent Friday evening.

In closing, it is worth noting that while individual local folk dance groups in this area are not large, globally the activity is widespread and large numbers of participants attend international folk dance camps. A relevant quotation is taken again from Wikipedia:

"International folk dance has grown into a large community of dancers, performing groups and recreational folk dance clubs throughout the United States, Europe, Canada, Japan, Australia and other countries. Dance festivals and conventions are held year-round. Dance "camps" or workshops invite teachers to instruct dancers in dances from many traditions. These groups usually focus on European dances, but the international folk dance repertoire may include dances from every part of the world: Europe, Africa, North and South America, the Middle East, the Far East, Australia and the South Pacific."



Treasurer's Report on Annual Assessments

by **Brian Frank**
Dufief HOA Treasurer

As of October 31, 2016, the Board has collected annual dues from 292 of the 306 homes in our neighborhood (roughly 95.4%). The annual assessments that we use to maintain our common areas in order to keep the DuFief neighborhood a popular area for homebuyers **ARE NOT OPTIONAL**. Every household must pay the annual dues. The original notice for 2016 dues was sent to all homeowners at the beginning of January 2016.

Any homeowners who have not paid their dues are subject to potential lawsuit, which will include a request for interest and attorneys fees and may result in a lien on the property.

We have been very successful in collecting dues. All assessments have been collected for 2010 and all years prior. There is one homeowner who has not paid dues for 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 and two homeowners who still owe for 2015.

The Board does not enjoy having to take neighbors to court. However, the homeowner assessments are no different than having to pay real estate taxes on your property.

To those of you who have paid your annual assessments in a timely manner, "THANK YOU". For those of you who have not yet paid the 2016 dues in the amount of \$195.70, please do so as soon as possible in order to avoid additional costs, and a potential lawsuit.

***We have collected
95.4% of 2016 dues.***

If you have questions or would like to discuss your annual assessments, please feel free to contact me at 240-606-5100.

Brian Frank, *Treasurer*

Dues notices for 2017 will be mailed out in late December or early January.

Recipe: Cauliflower and Chickpea Curry

Kani Madhaaven's favorite vegetarian recipe

This is a simple and light recipe. It's always preferable to use some carefully selected freshly ground and whole spices in a recipe like this, but if you are in a hurry, use ready-made curry powder instead of grinding your own mix.

INGREDIENTS

1 medium-large cauliflower (about 1 3/4 pounds/800g), trimmed
Sea salt
2 tablespoons sunflower oil
3 onions, chopped
4 garlic cloves, chopped
1 teaspoon freshly grated ginger
2 teaspoons ground coriander powder
2 teaspoons ground cumin powder
A large pinch of dried pepper flakes
2 star anise (optional)
1 (14-ounce/400g) can plum tomatoes, chopped, any stalky ends and skin removed
1 (14-ounce/400g) can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
2 teaspoons garam masala
A good handful of cilantro, chopped
Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

PREPARATION

1. Cut the cauliflower into medium florets. Put into a large pan, cover with cold water, add some salt, and bring up to a rolling boil. This will partly cook the cauliflower. Take off the heat right away, drain well, and keep warm in the pan.
2. Heat the oil in a second large saucepan over medium heat. Add the onions, garlic, and ginger and sauté for about 10 minutes, stirring often.
3. Add the ground coriander, cumin, pepper flakes, star anise, and some salt and pepper and cook for a further 5 minutes.
4. Add the tomatoes with their juice and the chickpeas. Stir well, then add the precooked cauliflower. Pour in enough cold water to almost but not quite cover everything (1/3 to 3/4 cup/100 to 200ml) and bring to a simmer. Simmer for 5 to 10 minutes, stirring once or twice, until the cauliflower is tender.
5. Stir in the garam masala and half of the chopped cilantro, then check the seasoning. Serve scattered with the remaining cilantro and accompanied by rice, flat breads, or naan.

Serves 4 to 6



ARC Affairs



by **Linde Fuller**

Don't you miss that foot of foundation brick between the ground and the wood siding that our houses showed when they were new? Some still have it, but most homeowners covered it up when building their front porches or doing their landscaping. It reminds me of Venice – yes, Venice! The Venetians are dealing with rising water levels in the Canale Grande and other canals. The platforms and sidewalks in front of their buildings have to be raised by half a meter or so to prevent the water from spilling over them. The missing half meter makes the first-floor windows of their famous buildings look too close to the ground – just like in Dufief – which throws off the carefully calculated relationship between the ground and first-floor and upper-floor windows. The houses look crouched down and diminished. And so it is in DuFief. The house fronts look out of proportion without the brick.

Just something to keep in mind in case you are thinking of redoing your porch. Let's see the brick again!



2016 Annual DuFief Neighborhood Picnic



Food from Famous Dave's



Companionship



Helpers



More Companionship



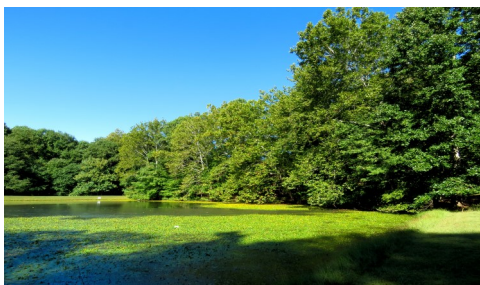
Music from Mauritius



No Grown-ups, please



And what is THIS all about!!!



Our Beautiful Pond



Will be back later!

The DuFief Annual Picnic was a success! Neighbors enjoyed great company and music while enjoying tasty barbecue and the beautiful pond. The weather was perfect. The children loved the huge moon bounce.

Thank you to Jeanette Repie for her help in organizing the event and the vendors. Many thanks also to the volunteers and our neighbors who stayed to help pack up and clean up. We look forward to seeing everyone next year.

by **Nathalie Noon**

Photos courtesy of David Diamond, James Noon and Jean-Louis Staudenmann

**DuFief
Homes
Association**

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**Before doing exterior work to your home,
please go to**
www.dufief.org Architectural Review
**to apply for prior written approval for addi-
tions, alterations, and/or improvements.**

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www.agshadygrove.com



Photo courtesy of Jean-Louis Staudenmann

We Want You to Know About
The MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON COMMON OWNERSHIP COMMUNITIES

Montgomery County recognizes that a substantial proportion of all its citizens now live in condominium and homeowner associations, and in housing cooperatives, generally called "common ownership communities." In order to serve better the special needs of these communities, to act as their advocate, and to maintain and improve the quality of life in these communities, the County created the Commission on Common Ownership Communities. The Commission operates under the authority of Chapter 10B of the County Code.

The Commission has three basic duties:

Education: the Commission provides free information to both members and to governing bodies about their rights and duties under Maryland law, as well as advice on how to properly operate the association and to avoid complaints. Among other tools, it offers a "Manual and Resource Guide" for boards of directors, and detailed information on architectural control, assessments, and meetings. It publishes a newsletter summarizing recent developments affecting common ownership communities. Commissioners will also speak to communities and their boards on request and welcome invitations to do so.

Legislation: the Commission advocates for common ownership communities concerning proposed laws and regulations at the local and State level.

Dispute resolution: the Commission can hear and resolve certain disputes between members of the communities and their governing bodies, and its decisions are legally binding on the parties. Copies and easy-to-read summaries of its decisions are posted on its website and reviewed in its newsletter.

The Commission is composed of 15 volunteers who are appointed for 3-year terms. 8 members must be residents of common ownership communities and the other 7 must be professionals who work with the communities, such as property managers, lawyers, developers and realtors. Every Fall, the County publishes a request for applicants to the Commission to replace those whose terms are due to expire.

For more information on the Commission and its services, visit its website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ccoc. If you have questions, CCOC prefers to be contacted by email at: CCOC@montgomerycountymd.gov. To receive information by email about CCOC news and events, sign up for them by going to www.montgomerycountymd.gov and following these links: 1. "I Want To;" 2. "Register, reserve, enroll;" 3. "eSubscription;" 4. "Create an Account;" 5. "Consumer Protection;" 6. "CCOC."