

TREE TOPS—President’s Message

By Eli Hassid, HOA Board President

Dear DuFief Residents,

We are now in the thick of winter, which means cold nights and hot chocolate. With that, please be mindful of icy driveways and sidewalks. The hills of the neighborhood can be challenging at times, so exercise caution at night or early in the morning.

We had a lovely fall picnic and I want to thank everybody who helped and who came out to enjoy the festivities. I hope all of you noticed the new sign at the pond entrance. As we are trying to maintain the aesthetics of the community we must replace aging physical items. Our big initiative for 2018 will be to replace the current playground set with a new one, which we hope will provide many years of enjoyment for our young family members. The community is looking great, thanks to the collective effort of maintaining its original design and intent. The earth tones and proximity to the trails make DuFief a unique community the desirable aspects of which people see when they pass or visit here.

This is my last message as the President of the DuFief HOA Board, so I want to thank the Board for providing such valuable and insightful help over my term. I also want to thank all the residents who stay involved, come to the picnic and the Annual Meeting, make contributions to the *Readwood*, and maintain their properties in a way that retains the beauty of our environment and the vibrancy of our community.

Lastly, as you know, WSSC has been working hard to replace our water mains. To provide an update and answer your questions we will have a WSSC representative at the Annual Meeting.

Once again, thank you, and I hope to see you at the Annual Meeting on February 22.

Eli Hassid

The Annual Potluck and Member Meeting will be held at the DuFief School

February 22, 2018

Potluck at 6:30 pm, Meeting at 7:30 pm

Please email Board@dufief.org to RSVP for the Dinner

Inside this issue:

Linguist in DuFief	2
Community Composting	4
DuFief Treasurer’s Report	4
Plumbing Advice	5

Special points of interest:

- *About Speaking Japanese*
- *Composting*
- *Plumbing Tips*



Linguist in DuFief – Why I Study the Language of Japan

By William Flanigan, PhD

Part One

If you enjoy traveling to other countries, you likely discovered early on that knowing a bit of the indigenous language can enhance the enjoyment of your visit. So it was for me when preparing for my first of many trips to the "land of the rising sun" several years ago. But nothing could have prepared me for the cultural shock! Wow! That initial experience is something I have never forgotten. And I wanted to learn more, much more about this strange and mysterious country of over 1,000 islands (which in total land area is about the size of California). Since culture and language are intimately intertwined, this meant I really needed to start studying about the language of Japan in my spare time. Something that, so far, I have been unable to stop doing! Here's why:

Fun. Like all languages Japanese is complicated, but perhaps less so than English. Surprisingly, the mega



complication of Japanese makes it fun to learn and use. If you go about the process in a nonconventional way. This means steering clear of the drudgery of classes and text books, and exploring the language on your own. (Sort of like having a free day on a tour to explore a foreign city.) Sure, initially it may require a bit of discipline, but it will likely soon become a fun diversion and enjoyable hobby! Given the plethora of tools on the Internet, you will not have to leave home (and travel to Japan--but I absolutely recommend it!) to get started. In fact, you will likely learn more Japanese at home than in Japan, since super-considerate Japan folks will always want to talk with you in your native language, especially if it's English. Get started by learning to say (and write) in Japanese what you normally say around home. When you greet someone, you



may say "hi, hello, how are you? what's new? where have you been lately?" etc.

You will also have fun practicing the pronunciation of your new words. This is important to get right the first time, since a lot of English-speaking folks learn to mispronounce Japanese to the point that even native Japan people cannot understand them! Avoid listening to pronunciation guides on Internet web sites (unless you want to also end up sounding like a computerized little girl!), and, for now, develop your own phonetic cheat sheets. Two pocket-sized cheap books I have found useful for phonetics: INSTANT JAPANESE, ISBN 978-0-8048-3366-0; and JAPANESE SLANGUAGE, ISBN 978-1-4236-0748-9. (As an aside, try answering your phone in a word or two of Japanese to help stop spam calls!)

Discovery. Perhaps one of the basic joys in life is discovering something new. If you have been (or are) working as a researcher, you really know what I mean! Japanese is loaded with things to find (at your own pace, of course), and you are more than likely to uncover a gem or three each time you study a bit. Like "Japanese" only refers to the language, not people. Japan people communicate from right to left, whereas when you are speaking/writing English, you communicate from left to right. Or that there are just about zero ways to express something in a negative manner when using Japanese. The language often seems vague and why it is meant to be that way.

continued on page 3



Japanese books and magazines are typically read from "back" to "front." Also written Japanese consists of three

sets of symbols that usually can be translated into English letters and vice versa.

If you have been playing around with your pronunciation, you may pick up some words used in Japanese movies and TV shows. In fact, one way to work on your contemporary conversational Japanese is to watch modern, i.e., no more than about 10-year-old Japanese films and TV programs. And you get to judge if the English subtitles are close enough! The more you keep nibbling, the longer your list of discoveries.

Next time: *Japanese Study and the Curiosity, Culture, and Business Knowledge Factors.*

RECIPE—Japanese Salmon with Mirin and Soy Sauce

This is a classic, simple, everyday way of cooking fish with an amazing flavor that is being made in millions of Japanese households every day. With only three ingredients in the marinade (and no chopping!), it takes all of seven minutes to prepare. Be careful to ensure you cook it over medium heat and no higher - because of the sugar in the mirin, if you cook it on too high a heat the sugar will burn before the inside has been cooked.

Ingredients

- 2 salmon fillets (5 oz / 150 g each)
- 1 tbsp soy sauce
- 3 tbsp mirin
- 1 tbsp sake
- 1/2 tbsp oil

Instructions

- Combine all ingredients except the oil in a ziplock bag, remove as much air as possible and marinate overnight (or minimum 3 hours).
- Heat 1/2 tbsp oil in a nonstick pan over medium heat.
- Add salmon, skin-side down, cook for 2 to 3 minutes until crispy. Check the skin to ensure it isn't cooking too quickly - if it is turn down the heat and/or remove the pan from the stove briefly to allow the temperature to decrease.
- Drizzle remaining marinade in the zip-lock bag over the flesh side. Flip and cook the flesh side for 2 minutes, or to your liking. I like salmon medium rare, so the inside is very moist and just cooked.



Recipe Notes

To broil/grill, preheat the broiler/grill on high. Use the oil to grease a tray, then place the salmon on it and place under the broiler/grill (about 5 inches / 15 cm from the heat source) until cooked to your liking. The general rule of thumb is 10 minutes per 1" / 2.5 cm thickness of the fillet (measure the thickest part of the fish).

Community Composting in DuFief

By Leilani Micalizzi

Perhaps you saw, on Nextdoor DuFief, my message about Community Composting in the Travilah-DuFief-Kentlands area. Composting, of course, is a good idea as a matter of principle. It reduces the garbage that goes into landfills or will be incinerated. Maybe you already have a compost bin in your yard where you throw your kitchen scraps, yard waste, grass clippings, etc., and know that in time you end up with this amazingly fresh-smelling, dark, crumbly soil that your plants love.

If you haven't gotten around to doing your own composting, here is a chance to have it done for you: I, and others in DuFief, are trying to organize a weekly curbside pick-up of organic waste by the *Compost Crew*, run by the Walt Whitman grad, Ryan Walter, and his friends. After an initial trial period of two months, at a cost of \$17.50 per month, the price will be adjusted downward, depending on the number of participants who sign up. Twenty-five participants are required to sign up initially for the pilot program to start. If all 306 DuFief households participate – either individually or through the HOA – the price per household will be around \$5.00 per month. Once a year you will get a delivery of compost at a reduced price.

You can sign up at www.compostcrew.com/Travilah-DuFief. If you have questions, you may call me at 301-996-4328 or contact *the Compost Crew* directly at info@compostcrew.com or (301) 202-4450.

Treasurer's Report

By Brian Frank, HOA Treasurer

BIG NEWS!!!! WE HAVE GONE ELECTRONIC!!!

Homeowners who wish to pay their assessment by Bank Transfer will be able to do so. Invoices were sent via email with a link to pay online. Payments of \$207.62 are due by February 2, 2018.

If you did not provide us with an email address, your invoice was sent by first-class mail. If you still wish to pay by mail, just print out the invoice and mail it to DuFief Homes Association at P.O. Box 3034, Gaithersburg, MD 20885

As of January 12, 2018, the Board has collected annual dues for 2017 from 297 of the 306 homes in our neighborhood (roughly 97%). We have also received approximately 10% of the 2018 dues payments.

**We have collected
97 % of 2017 dues.**

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.

Any homes that 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 your property.

We have been very successful in collecting dues. All assessments have been collected for 2010 and all years prior. There is one home that has not

paid dues for 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014, two homes that still owe for 2015 and four homes that have not paid 2016 dues.

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

For those of you who have paid your annual assessments in a timely manner, "THANK YOU". For those of you who have not paid the 2018 dues in the amount of \$207.62, please do so as soon as possible in order to avoid additional costs, and a potential lawsuit.

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

Plumbing Advice for DuFief Homes

by Charles Caldwell

With all this WSSC work going on in our neighborhood, probably everybody's thoughts turn to what will happen to the water pipes in our homes after the new main water lines are taken into service. Will the water pressure be the same or lower or higher? Especially since DuFief homes were built before water pressure regulators were required under the plumbing codes.

It so happens that about a month ago I began to have water hammer issues in my home. Whenever a toilet tank fill valve closed, water pipes would "clank" in the upstairs bathrooms. I purchased online an inexpensive (about \$10) water pressure testing gauge. After disconnecting one of the hoses to my washing machine and screwing on the gauge, turning on the valve resulted in a pressure reading between 85 and 90 psi. When the toilet fill valve closed, the

pressure spiked to 105 to 100 psi. Since the recommended maximum water pressure in homes is between 50 and 60 psi, this explains all my water pressure issues.

Although I suspect that many DuFief homes now have regulators, mine did

not. After a bit of online research, I determined that a Zurn Wilkins NR3XLDU 1" pressure reducing valve seemed to be the most commonly installed model for 1" copper feeds. Prices varied widely, but Amazon and Home Depot had them for about \$90. Rather than order online the regulator and the two copper 1" pipe to 1" males NPT thread adapters, I had a "national brand" plumber come out to confirm my water pressure issues and suggest possible solutions. If the price was right, he could install a regulator at the same time. After confirming my pressure issues, the plumber recommended installation of the

same model regulator mentioned above. I asked about the cost of the part and was quoted \$580.00. I noted that this was much higher than the average retail cost and the plumber suggested I buy the parts and he could come back to install them. All the parts arrived the next day from Amazon. Since I had experience with plumbing DIY fixes and upgrades, I installed the regulator myself in about 1 hour. Although I ultimately turned the pressure up to 60 psi to fill toilet tanks a bit more quickly, I no longer have any of the issues mentioned above.

I suspect many of you are aware of the failures in the copper water supply lines coming into DuFief homes which, according to WSSC, are the result of corrosion. Since I have had several leaks over the past decade, the *internal* copper lines also seem to be corroding. A pressure regulator lowers the input pressure and prevents the pressure pulse from toilet, dishwasher and washing machine valve closures, reducing the chance of pinholes or bursts of internal copper pipes.

By the way, if your home still has the original multi-turn main water supply valve and you are considering the installation of a pressure regulator, I strongly suggest having that old supply valve replaced with a ball valve and having both the ball valve and the pressure regulator installed professionally. You cannot solder copper fittings with water in the pipe; these old supply valves are almost guaranteed to leak, constantly refilling the pipe to which the copper adaptor must be soldered. The water would need to be shut off at the WSSC valve in the front yard, which requires a plumber.



**DuFief
Homes
Association**

DuFief Homes Association Board
board@dufief.org 240-242-9678

**Mailing Address:
PO Box 3034
Gaithersburg, MD 20885**

[www.dufief.org]



DuFief HOA Board of Directors:

President: Eli Hassid — emhassid@gmail.com
Vice President: Nathalie Noon — nathalienoon@gmail.com
Treasurer: Brian Frank — schmedbrf@yahoo.com
Secretary: Oksana Klebs — oroz@loc.gov

Board Members:

Pam Weld — jackpam84@gmail.com
William Washington — bobmotku@gmail.com
Keith Shenk — shenk24@gmail.com
Linde Fuller — (*Readwood Editor*) fullersk@verizon.net
Jean-Louis Staudenmann — (*ARC Committee Chair*) jlst@nist.gov

ARC Committee Members:

Pooja Rathore — pkrathore@gmail.com
Lisa Li — lisaliloan@yahoo.com
Webmaster: Barbara Brenkworth — brenkworth@gmail.com

Reminder

Before making any changes to your home, please go to www.dufief.org/architectural-review for the DuFief Community's Architectural Guidelines for renovations, repairs, and additions.

Note: The *Readwood* was printed at cost as a community service by Alpha Graphics Shady Grove in Gaithersburg (agshadygrove.com).

