



TREE TOPS—President’s Message

By **Nathalie Noon**, DuFief HOA President

Dear Community:

Happy Summer! The community is in full bloom and it is nice to finally put the cold winter and rainy spring behind us. It is great to see everyone out enjoying the weather, working in their yards, and walking in the neighborhood. Don't forget to take a stroll down to the pond. It is a great place to go for a quiet walk, and you can even hike or bike into the woods and take the Greenway Trail into the Muddy Branch Regional Park. There is plenty of wildlife to spot as well. The pond entrance is on Coles Chance Road. The pond is truly an asset to the community. As a friendly reminder, please obey speed limits and stop signs as you drive through the community to keep everyone safe.

WSSC continues to work in our neighborhood on the water main replacement project. While the project is expected to take many more months, the much-needed upgrade will benefit everyone. Thank you for your patience as they continue the construction. For another much needed upgrade, the Board is currently working on plans to replace the playground at the pond; we hope to have a new play set installed before the community picnic in September.

Finally, I would like to thank our past-president, Eli Hassid, for his service to the community for the past several years. Eli served as Board President for the past three years and worked very hard to be responsive to resident concerns. He also always volunteered his time whenever needed for special projects. Thank you for your service, Eli! As President for 2018, I look forward to getting to know many of you and continuing to work to meet our community's needs.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy summer!

Nathalie Noon

Speaking of Wildlife ...



Two of the six fox kits living in Chuck Caldwell's back yard, and taking their afternoon nap in his flower pots.



A newborn fawn waiting for his or her mother behind Linde Fuller's vegetable garden.

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Special points of interest:

- Attention to Trash Cans and Smoke Detectors
- Community Picnic Dates
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Linguist in DuFief – Why I study the Language of Japan

By William Flanigan, Ph.D.

Part II

So how is your study of Japan's language coming along? Not so much, I would surmise. Probably a matter of just getting started? Here are a few more ideas to spark your interest. They helped to get me going and to persevere. Hopefully they will do the same for you!

Curiosity. Written Japanese at first glance looks strange (at least to Western eyes), since it is based on symbols. In fact, it is based on three sets of symbols. Each can be used independently to write Japanese, but for historical reasons (and due to the persistence of convention) they are usually combined. Perhaps the most curious symbol set is called "Kanji," came from China, and (with slight variations) is the written *lingua franca* of North Eastern Asia (and beyond). Here is Kanji for "phone call": 家電. Kanji symbols are primarily used for nouns or pronouns but can reveal much more – such as the historical evolution of the symbol – when deconstructed and closely examined (sort of like a self-contained story fragment). There are between 30 and 60 thousand Kanji symbols (estimates vary all over the place!). Students currently need to memorize about two thousand to graduate from high school. Katakana is another symbol set used primarily to put a Japanese spin on foreign (mostly English) words. It was invented about 1,500 years ago by Buddhist monks as a mnemonic aid (or cheat sheet) for learning complex Kanji symbols. Hiragana, symbol set number three, was invented by court ladies around the same time, since they were not al-

lowed to learn Kanji. Interestingly, it has become the dominant symbol set used today. (Katakana for "phone call" may look like: カデン; and Hiragana for "phone call" can be written as: かでん). Notice the sharp, straight-line masculine nature of the former, and the soft, curved feminine nature of the latter. Only native-born Japanese use Kanji when writing their (usually Japanese) names. Foreigners use Katakana if they want to translate their names into Japanese as do folks with Japanese ancestry when writing, say, an English first or nick name. In Katakana, my first name is: ビル. (Emoticons were invented not long ago by the Japanese, so perhaps we now have four sets of language symbols!)

Culture. Japan has a recorded history (documents are still being discovered) stretching back well over 2,000 years during which there evolved a unique culture often isolated from overseas influence. It has also managed to retain most of its historical culture while picking, choosing, and exploiting the cultures (especially technologies starting, perhaps, with Portuguese weaponry) from abroad. You can see, and experience, ancient traditions today starting with participating in a few of the hundreds of annual historic festivals and visiting some of the 30,000 or so temples and shrines found literally everywhere. I have discovered some truly fascinating tiny ones – about the size of two or three parking spaces – by just wandering around urban areas. Japan also has some of the best-preserved or restored castles in the world, each with meticulously prepared multi-lingual educational features. There are as well precisely maintained ancient farm houses, complete

with traditional silk-worm "factories" in attics.

Modern Japanese culture, especially in urban areas, is also fascinating. Here are a few random elements: Short party dresses might be worn as day-time fashion statements in urban areas. Multilingual AI-driven robots serve as receptionists in office buildings and hotel lobbies; they closely resemble humans in facial expressions and voice tones. Taxi drivers wear white gloves and train for up to 15 years to learn where all unmarked streets and unnumbered buildings are; only relatively recently has Tokyo started to put up street signs. City streets are as clean as (or cleaner than), say, Disneyland. It took me several years to locate some graffiti in Tokyo, and it turned out not to be much. Official documents are date-stamped based on the current Emperor's year of reign. Upon the accession of a new Emperor, the calendar reverts to year # 1, which, by the way, will happen again next year.

Customs. If you have the opportunity to visit a Japanese home, say, for dinner, treasure it, as this is a rare honor. Since most Japanese residences are small (except for farm houses), entertaining is normally conducted off-site, which is probably why Japanese cities hold global records for the number of restaurants per capita. If invited to visit, there are traditional (almost pro forma) rituals to observe and perform – even if a free meal is not involved – most of which are language-related. There are several levels of common Japanese communication – customs from the super-polite and honorific to the everyday conversational and cleaned-up slang. It's not just a matter

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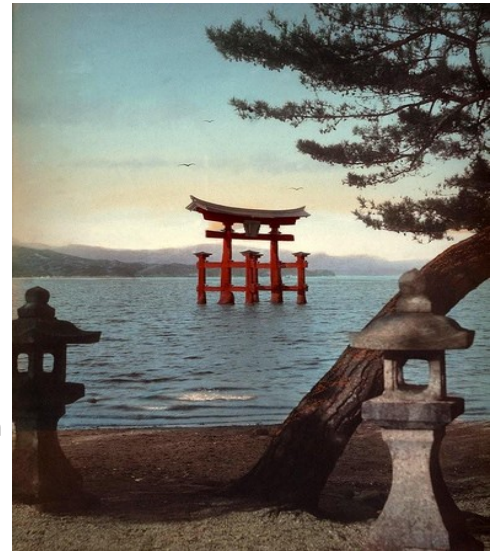
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of substituting the right word or phrase but of communicating on a different plane. Listen aggressively if your hosts are communicating, unless they are truly fluent in English. The safest strategy is to let whoever extended the invitation do all or most of the talking in Japanese and even in English. Business meetings are even a greater challenge, for "Business Japanese" (BJ) will be used – always among males. If you do not understand and cannot speak on this level and are inexperienced with BJ customs, your first client meeting may be your last. Hire a highly recommended interpreter to serve as an interface and, again, listen and observe aggressively. Business-hour business meetings usually just serve as a portal to progress to and conduct real busi-

ness after hours in restaurants, bars, and hostess clubs (at least for males).

I hope this two-part essay has energized you to the point of starting to learn a bit of Japanese and increased your curiosity about where it is employed. Unlike English, which seems to be spoken just about everywhere, Japanese is only used in one country. Japan is an incredible place to visit and knowing some of its language can only enrich your experience and add to your fun. たのしみな! Enjoy!

WILLIAM FLANIGAN



Possibly the most photographed spot in Japan. A "floating" torii archway as seen from the Shinto shrine of Miyajima Island.

Introduction

By **Betty Ball**, DuFief HOA Secretary

Hello Fellow Neighbors!

I'd like to introduce myself as a newly elected Board member and Secretary of the DuFief Homes Association. Originally from the Washington area, my husband and I lived in the Twin Cities for nearly eight years. I worked there as a professional property manager of community associations just like the DuFief Homeowners Association, holding the designations Certified Manager of Community Associations (CMCA) and Association Management Specialist (AMS) from the national Community Association Institute (CAI).

After having our second child in Minnesota I "retired", as my husband likes to say, from the business, and our family moved back to the area to be close to my sisters. We feel so lucky to have found a perfect house - one that's in a cul-de-sac, backs up to the woods (with a creek, no less!) and is in a great school district. Having great neighbors around us is icing on the cake.

My husband, I, and our two boys, ages 3 and 5, spend a lot of time in the woods walking our husky, Wilco, and exploring the creek. So, I hope we get a chance to meet many more of you out there. If not, maybe you'll want to come visit at the next Board meeting and see what your association is doing for you.

Betty Ball

A Thank you to Carolyn Carlson

Unlike most other communities, we here in DuFief have a Welcome Committee. For the last eight years the Committee has consisted almost exclusively of Carolyn Carlson. Every time new neighbors moved into one of the DuFief homes – on average about six a year – Carolyn would visit them, taking a plant, and cookies, and a package of information about the DuFief community and the surrounding area, going as far as getting coupons for them from nearby restaurants and businesses. Everyone, the newcomers and the old-timers, appreciated and admired her for her devotion to the cause, and it came as a shock when she recently announced to the Board that she was going to “retire” from this “job” at the end of August. She deserves it, of course, and we want her to know that we are grateful for her service and will remember her for it forever.

The Board Members of the DuFief Homeowners Association



ARC Affairs, etc.

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Number of homes in DuFief that on a recent Thursday afternoon had their trash cans exposed to public view – displayed either along the side of the house or right in front of the garage door. And that even though Paragraph 6 of Article VI of the Protective Covenants and Restrictions, to which we agreed when we purchased our homes, states:

“Trash and garbage containers shall not be permitted to remain in public view except on days of trash collection.”

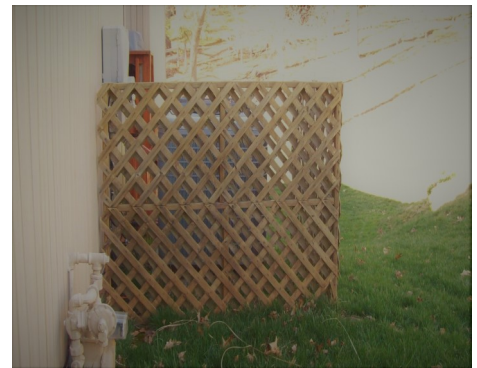
Having the appearance of 25% of DuFief homes defined by a row of garbage cans says: Aging, not-taken-care-of, second-rate neighborhood!

Please do something about it!

Reminder

The implementation period of and full compliance with Maryland’s 2013 Smoke Alarm Law ended on January 1, 2018. The law applies to homes built before 1975, as DuFief homes are, and targets BATTERY-ONLY Smoke Alarms. (More recently built homes have hard-wired smoke alarms, which are not to be replaced by Battery-Only smoke alarms.) The required new Battery-Only smoke alarms are powered by sealed-in, 10-year, long-life batteries.

For more information, go to mcfrc.org or call 311 to speak to a Customer Service Representative at the Montgomery County Department of Fire and Rescue Service.



Before doing exterior work to your home, please go to

www.dufief.org Architectural Review

to apply for prior written approval for additions, alterations, and/or improvements.

2018 DuFief Community Picnic



SAVE THE DATE: **Sunday, September 23, 2018**
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

RAIN DATE: **Sunday, September 30, 2018**
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

***Gather the family, come join your neighbors,
and celebrate DuFief at our community pond!***

SAVE THE DATE

SET-UP AND CLEAN-UP HELP NEEDED!
(SSL hours provided to high-school students)

Please contact Betty Ball at ball.betty@gmail.com



Treasurer's Report

By **Brian Frank**, *DuFief HOA Treasurer*

Payment of Annual Assessments

**DUES STATEMENTS WERE SENT OUT
ELECTRONICALLY ON JANUARY 2, 2018 AND
NEARLY 25% OF THE MEMBERS PAID
ELECTRONICALLY.**

If you did not provide us with an email address, the invoices were delivered by mail. A second batch of invoices was sent out at the beginning of June to those homeowners who still owe dues to the Association.

As of June 14, 2018, the Board has collected annual dues from 274 of the 306 homes in our neighborhood (89.5%).

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 homeowners 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 the property.

We have been very successful in collecting dues. All assessments have been collected for 2010 and all years prior. There is one home for which dues have not been paid for 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014, two homes that still owe for 2015, four homes that owe for 2016, and six homes that owe for 2017.

***We have collected
89.5% of dues for 2018***

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. If you owe more than one year of dues, a lawsuit is likely to be filed.

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.

Brian Frank

**DuFief
Homes
Association**

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Announcements

Welcome New Board Member!

One new member—**Betty Ball**—see introduction above—was elected to the DuFief Board at the Annual HOA Meeting in February. Betty agreed to serve as Secretary.

We would like to thank **Eli Hassid** for his many years of devoted service to the community in his capacity as Board member and Board President. (See President’s Message.) Thank you also to Carolyn Carlson for her service on the Welcome Committee (see page 4).

We are always looking for neighbors who would be willing to get involved as Board or Committee members. You will find that the work is worth the effort.

Note: *The Readwood was printed at cost as a community service by AlphaGraphics in Gaithersburg.*



Turtles sunning themselves at the pond,
photographed by Pam Weld

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 3 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."