Backchannels

Army Spouses' Club of the Greater Washington Area

SUMMER 2022

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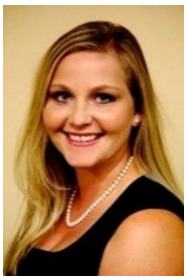
COMING SOON!

2022-2023 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

PRESIDENT'S PEN



As we officially close our 2021-22 club year, I hope you enjoy this Backchannels special summer edition! What a fun-filled year we had being back together at Patton Hall and in person. I hope you'll smile when you think about the fantastic luncheons, tours, and events we shared throughout this last year!

Again, I want to thank our 2021-2022 board members for their hard work and dedication. Their creativity and energy made each of our events so special. Thank you to all the board members who will be returning next year, and a heartfelt welcome our new board members that are planning to be part of this great organization.

The new board is already hard at work and will conduct their planning retreat soon to develop our agenda for next year. It will undoubtedly be full of fun luncheon themes, exciting tours, and other special events.

Speaking of the board, we are still looking for some fabulous spouses to join our team next year. If you are interested in joining our board or if you know of someone moving to our area that would be interested, please contact Sonserae Martinez at parliamentarian@armyspousesclub.org.

Congratulations to our Scholarship recipients! We are excited to have awarded $11,500 to six outstanding scholars this year. Their hard work and achievements are simply inspiring. Thank you to all our members that supported our fundraisers throughout the year and to First Command for its generous donations. This made it possible to recognize these six recipients – again, congratulations!

I want to highlight a change for the upcoming year. The board voted to increase our membership fee from $35 to $45 due to the all-around increasing prices, which have raised our operating costs. Additionally, we will be transitioning to a more green system for sharing information. Our Backchannels newsletter will be provided in digital copy only. Our Membership Directory will be distributed digitally as well. It will only be printed on order for $7 per copy if you would like a paper version.

With heavy hearts, we bid farewell to our Advisor and Honorary Vice President, Leann Martin, as they prepare to retire this summer. We will miss you and wish you and your Family all the best on your next adventure.

I'd also like to thank our Honorary President, Maria McConville, for hosting our International Farewell at Quarters One. It was a special treat to honor our departing international members at such a historic and remarkable location. We wish all our departing international spouses safe travels and best wishes in the future.

It was an honor to serve as your ASCGWA President this year. I am humbled and excited to continue in this position for what I hope will be another fun-filled and rewarding year!

I look forward to seeing you on September 15th at our Fall Kickoff event. Details are forthcoming, but it will be a wonderful engagement and opportunity to reconnect. Until then, I wish you and your Family a memorable and relaxing summer!

Warm regards,

Ramona Smith

Coming together is the beginning, staying together is progress, working together is success!

ALOHA

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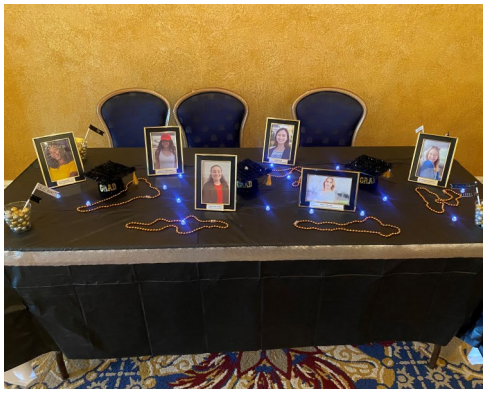

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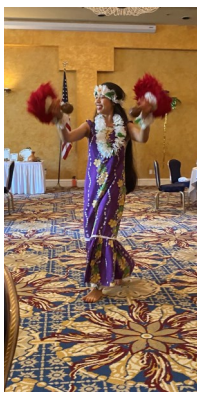

ALOHA

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BACKCHANNEL SUBMISSIONS

If you would like to submit an article, information about an upcoming club or community activity, movie or book review, restaurant recommendation, recipe, or must-see travel destination please let me know! I would love to share your information with our members!

All Backchannels submissions are due no later than the second Friday of each month.

Pictures from the monthly luncheons are due the following day on the third Friday of each month.

I can be reached at:

newsletter@armyspousesclub.

Fondly,

Ramona Smith

President/Editor

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Special Activities will resume in September. To join the Special Activities groups, log in to your profile at https://www.armyspousesclub.org. Hover the curser over your name and click View Profile, then click Edit Profile. Scroll down through your personal in-formation and check the box(es) in front of the Special Activities groups that you would like to join. You will then be added to the Evite invitations. If you are unable to log in to your profile on our website, send an email to specialactivities@armyspousesclub.org and let her know which activities you would like to join. She will add you to the invitation lists.

Questions? Send an email to specialactivities@armyspousesclub.org.
Hope to see you soon!

Bible Study
The Living Word Bible Study meets every Monday on Zoom.

Flick Chicks Movie Group
The Flick Chicks Movie Group will resume meeting monthly soon and peri-odically throughout the year whenever there is a movie that we think the members would like to see together.

Grub Club
We meet once a month at a variety of casual restaurants and cafes. They may be off the beaten path so if you like to try new places, join us!

Happy Hour Group
Meet new friends and catch up with other members at Happy Hour gath-erings throughout the year in the DC/NOVA area.

Tea Group
The Tea Group is currently on hold.

Trivia Group
The Trivia Group is just getting started and will be virtual for now. Join us for a fun zoom trivia meeting. Everyone is welcome! More information coming soon.

Walk Around Washington Group
Stay tuned for more information about future walks.

ZIP CODE GROUPS

ALEXANDRIA
Coordinator position open

ANNANDALE, FAIRFAX, & FAIRFAX STATION
Mary Pawlow
703-764-9656
mlspawlow@aol.com

ARLINGTON & WASHINGTON DC
Paige Kellogg
703-248-8313
paigekell@aol.com

BURKE
Mary Anne Beagles
703-569-7415
jmbe1@verizon.net

CHANTILLY, CLIFTON, CENTERVILLE, & VICINITY
Pat O'Neill
703-378-3624
pponeill6@aol.com

FALLS CHURCH, FORT MYER, & MCLEAN
Lori Borgna-Strong
706-799-9308
borgnalori@gmail.com

FORT BELVOIR & LORTON
Frances Biggerstaff
973-997-8074
bignlittlestaff@gmail.com

MARYLAND-HOWARD COUNTY & BEYOND
Coordinator position open

MARYLAND-MONTGOMERY & BEYOND
Coordinator position open

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY & BEYOND
Paula Ann Mancini
703-346-4468
Pa.mancini@comcast.net

SPRINGFIELD
Jennifer Stepetic
910-263-2063
stepetic@yahoo.com

ASCGWA History

A club composed of Army spouses has been a part of our greater Washington military community for decades. The club originally existed as the Women's Club of Fort Myer. In March 1974, it was decided by the board to change the name of the club to the Army Officers' Wives Club of the Greater Washington Area because it was felt the name, Women's Club of Fort Myer, was misleading and inappropriate. The membership voted to approve the name change at a luncheon in April 1974.

Lois Kornet served as the first President of the Army Spouses' Club. The club's Honorary President was Julia Abrams, the spouse of Army Chief of Staff, GEN Creighton Abrams, Jr. Sadly, GEN Abrams passed away in September of 1974. Arline Weyand, the spouse of the newly appointed Army Chief of Staff, GEN Frederick Wey-and, became the Honorary President for the remainder of the club year. Mrs. Abrams would later serve as the Honorary Chairperson of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

The first issue of the Backchannels was mailed on September 16, 1974. In those days, the newsletter committee would meet to address, sort, and prepare over 550 issues of the Backchannels to be mailed out to the club's members. In 2016 club members were welcomed at the Fall Kickoff to a "New Beginning" and a new club name – the Army Officers' Spouses' Club of the Greater Washington Area. The club's name would change again in April 2018 when the club's membership was opened to all military spouses.

Even though the name of the club has evolved over time, the mission of the organization has remained constant: strive to provide and promote socio-economic and educational outreach to the Soldiers, Family members, and Department of the Army (DA) civilians assigned to, attached to, or with duty in the National Capital Region (NCR) and to organizations which benefit soldiers, as well as to encourage, support, and maintain interaction of our membership.

As the Army Spouses' Club, we are proud of our heritage, inspired by our diversity, and excited about the future! The club makes it easy to connect with old friends and make new ones through a wide array of activities, including monthly luncheons, tours, volunteer and fundraising opportunities, and other social functions.

Mrs. Lois Kornet

ASCGWA Past Presidents

NEWS FOR YOU

Madison Kerby
Auburn University

Kaitlyn Mersiowsky
San Diego State University

Molly Pflaum
Georgetown University

Congratulations to our 2022 Scholarship Recipients

Anna Fenn
James Madison University

Mackenzie Mangan
University of Delaware

Rylei Porter
Belmont University

Thinking of You!

Is there someone that needs a little cheer, a get-well wish, a condolence, or a congratulations? If you know of a member in need, please let our secretary know.

Email the member's name, address, and the type of card that should be sent to Petra at: **secretary@armyspousesclub.org**

SAMSON
PROPERTIES

Paige Kellogg & Nancy Jackson, Realtors®
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Paige - 703.598.2785 (C)
Nancy - 571-213-3284 (C)
Office - 571-677-2900

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Referrals always welcome!

June Birthdays

1st - Carolyn Kadesch

2nd - Margaret Thomas

3rd - Tracey Hepner-Smith

10th - Cynthia Giesecke
- Candace Guelzo

12th - Desiree Moore
- Mandy Sammons

14th - Patricia Broyles

17th - Mara Work
- Kathleen Phillips

18th - Linda Matz
- Sonia Sansoucy

19th - Anke Starkey

21st - Cindy Risch
- Mary Wargel

22nd - Dawn Zagame

25th - Joan Gontis

July Birthdays

5th - Lousie Kugler

7th - Rosalie Nahas

8th - Helgard Zebell
- Nancy Foscue
- Shannon Brady
- Tammy Sisson
- Nattakarn (Yui) Piyarat

9th - Janey Otto
- Marta Lefler

12th - Verginica (Vergi) Mihalache

13th - Elizabeth Mahoney

14th - Marcia O'Connor
- Carolyn Crissman

17th - Por Laotrakul

18th - Katherine Talor

19th - Connie Semonite
- Melissa Fitzgerald

20th - Sonia Bosio
- Darleen Chadwick

23rd - Ginny Brennan

24th - Heidi Miller
- Nagako Kawachi

25th - Allene Martin
- Douglas Brown

26th - Ingeborg M. Schmidt

27th - Robin Williams

30th - Samantha Tucker

31st - Lori Fenn
- Margaret Solomons

August Birthdays

1st - Teresa Feldmayer
- Margaret Lepak

2nd - Terri Stevens

3rd - Sadie McCurry
- Stephanie Murphy

4th - Angie Geary

5th - Shannon Duckworth

6th - Kim Farnsworth
- Kristen Farrand

7th - Latonya Henry
- Debbie Tobin

8th - Michele Hood

10th - Karen Thoms

11th - Natalie Mack

13th - Yvonne Bennett
- Catherine Melusen
- Paula Powell

14th - Hurdis Griffith

15th - Maria Yee

16th - Lisette Clemons
- Rita Rogers

19th - Monica Boone

24th - Kara Anderson
- Marleen McCabe
- Karen Smith
- Sandra Todd

25th - Barbara Patterson

27th - Ruby Freeman

29th - Pilar de Luis Rullan

30th - LeWonnie Belcher

Happy Birthday wishes to all our fabulous spouses with summer birthdays!

Cultural Bridges group members, along with some family members, met on a beautiful day to visit the top of the Washington Monument.

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Amish Country Overnight Excursion

Bird-in-Hand Family Inn

International Connections

ASCGWA 2022

International Farewell

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

OUT AND ABOUT

One of the many benefits of living in this area is the plethora of activities the DMV has to offer. Each month we will highlight events and hope that you and your families will get out and enjoy the culture!

US Army Twilight Tattoo
Wednesdays, 6:30 PM
June - July, Fort Myer

4th of July Fireworks
National Mall, 9:09 PM
Washington, DC

Prince William County Fair
August 12-20
2:00 PM - 10:00 PM
10624 Dumfries Rd.
Manassas, VA 20112

Sunset Cinema at the Wharf
Thursdays, 7:30 PM
June - August
760 Maine Ave.
SW Washington, DC 20024

The Office Experience, DC
July 28 - January 16th
Various Times
Tickets Required
1020 G Street NW
Washington D.C. 20001

Prince William County and Beyond Zip Code Group

Armine Graham graciously taught us how to make homemade Baklava!

Springfield Zip Code Group

Lunch at House of Dynasty

Annual End of Year Party!

Burke Zip Code Group

Chloe'z Café in Fairfax Station

Grub Club

13 members of Grub Club met at Egg Karne in Herndon

A Salute to Everything You Love.

Enjoy all your favorite activities plus new, fun-filled experiences—with those who share ties to the military.

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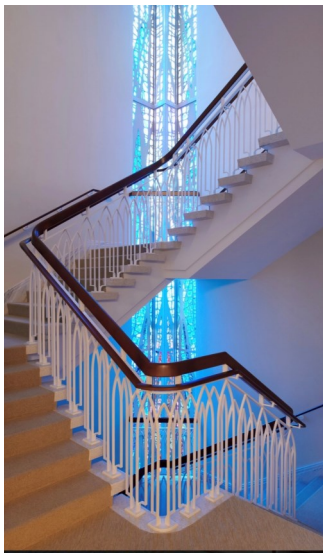
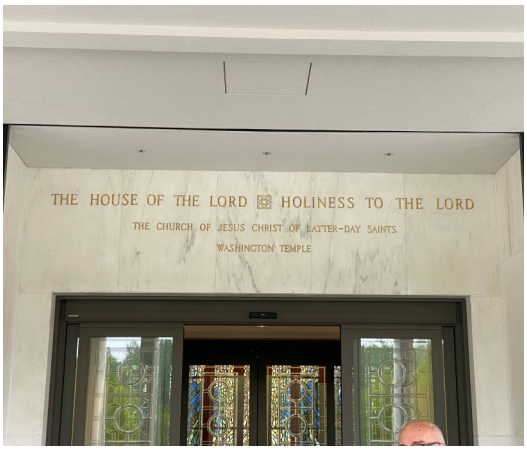


ASCGWA 2022 - Washington D.C. Temple Tour



Photos are not allowed in the interior of the Temple. Images of the interior were shared from an open source media advertisement:

https://newroom.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/washington-dc-temple-open-house

The Army Spouses' Club
of the Greater Washington Area
www.armyspousesclub.org
Backchannels
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