



Backchannels

Army Spouses' Club of the Greater Washington Area

April 2019



PRESIDENT'S PEN

Happy April and happy Volunteer Appreciation Month! We have a wonderful luncheon planned, and I'm so excited for Administrator McMahon to visit!

We have our annual plant sale which will benefit our scholarship program. Look for more information in this issue of Backchannels. Order BIG for scholars! April dollars make spring scholars. :)

I'd like to talk about our volunteers! We have an amazing team who keep our club running. Our two Vice Presidents, Michelle F. and Joy, plan and execute our monthly luncheons; our Treasurer, Deb, makes sure the bills get paid; our Secretary, LaDonna, makes sure we are compliant with post regulations and keeps in touch with our members who may need a kind word; our Advisor, Esther, guides us when we need advice; and our Parliamentarian, Amy, keeps us in line during meetings. The Executive Board doesn't run the club alone, we have committee members who go above and beyond on a daily basis to ensure our club is the best and to ensure our members have a great experience at all our events. Jackie and P.A. are the two ladies who put this wonderful newsletter together for you every month. Connie, our JAFOWL representative, provides you with registration information so you have the best chance to attend. Barb helps you register for membership and get your directory. Mandy makes sure you have a name tag and place card at the luncheons. Christie makes sure you have new items to purchase at the Ways and Means table. P.A. makes sure our club has the opportunity to serve those who need our donations. Holly makes sure there are fabulous opportunity prizes available at every luncheon. Kim F. makes sure members who work can meet for Happy Hour. Nina and Mary P. organize walks around the area, Ellen invites you all to the movies, and Jennifer helps all our Zip Code Group leaders get information for the groups to run smoothly. Kathy searches for new and exciting vendors. Kerri organizes unique opportunities to raise funds. Maggie takes pictures of all our fun activities, and Jill says hello to all our new members. Jackie makes all the pretty flyers and posts on Facebook. Patty shares all the good information from all the great military organizations. Sharise and Kim H. collect the scholarship information, and organize the selection committee. Jill sends out all the Evites for our Special Activities. Michelle Z. takes us to all the fun places. Diane makes sure our website is updated, and that our members get all the emails, reminders and invitations. Nancy makes sure we have a place to share our faith. Henriette shares her love of Bridge. Lori hosts a small group of members to discuss current events. LaDonna, Mary P., Paige, Jeanne, Lori, Fran, Pat, P.A., Jennifer, Marie, Deidra, and Mary D. all serve to make people in their neighborhoods welcome. Kim N. helps us find an extra hand or two when needed, which is all the time!

I've simplified their jobs almost beyond recognition; however, my "thank you" for what they do is sincere! We could not run this club successfully without our team of selfless volunteers! When you get an opportunity this month, let our volunteers know that you appreciate them too.

If you want to volunteer, we would love some new faces next year. Give me a holler if you want to be a part of a team, and are interested in having a great and fun time with your club!

Fondly,
Kelly

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LUNCHEON DATES

2019

April 11*

*Date changed to second Thursday

May 16



March Mad(ness) Hatter Luncheon and Bunco

ASCGWA 2018-2019

Honorary Presidents

Hollyanne Milley

Honorary Vice President Advisor

Holly Dailey
Maria McConville
Esther Howard

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President
First Vice President
Second Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Parliamentarian

Kelly Kreis
Michelle Funkhouser
Joy Kovacevic & Kerri Eldridge
LaDonna Cavanaugh
Deborah Kalisz Wehr
Amy Sutton

STANDING COMMITTEES/SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Backchannels Editor
Charitable Causes
Fundraising
Historian
Hospitality
International Liaison
JAFOWL Representative
Membership & Directory
Military Support Organizations Outreach
New Member Table
Publicity
Social Media
Reservations
Scholarships
Special Activities
Tours
Vendors
Volunteer Coordinator
Ways & Means
Web Administrator
Zip Code Groups

Jackie Habel & Paula Ann Mancini
Paula Ann Mancini
Kerri Eldridge
Maggie Hollinger
Holly Scherer
Melissa Pederson & Amanda Foote
Connie Semonite
Barb Patterson
Patty Barron
Jill Vaniman
Jackie Habel

Mandy Downey
Sharise Spellmon & Kim Houston
Jill Vaniman
Michelle Zuniga
Kathy Fox
Kim Nykanen
Christie Kehoe
Diane Martinez
Jennifer Stepetic



The Army Spouses' Club *of the Greater Washington Area*

Do you have a military friend moving to the area? Joining ASCGWA at any point in the year is easy! Simply fill out our online membership form found at: armyspousesclub.org/Join. New members are always welcome!

BACKCHANNELS SUBMISSIONS

If you would like to submit an article, information about an upcoming club activity, movie or book review, restaurant recommendation, recipe, local event, or a must-see travel destination please let us know! We would love your input!

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

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

We can be reached at:
newsletter@armyspousesclub.org

Fondly,

Jackie Habel & Paula Ann Mancini
Co-editors



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ASCGWA
April Luncheon

Featuring

Linda McMahon

25th Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration

April 11, 2019
10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Patton Hall
\$25*

Registration at: armypousesclub.org
RSVP NLT April 4, 2019

* buffet included



Linda McMahon serves as the 25th Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). As a member of President Trump's cabinet, she advocates on behalf of the 30 million small businesses in America. She leads a team of professionals dedicated to ensuring entrepreneurs have the support and tools they need to start, grow and succeed in business, specifically through access to capital and federal contracting opportunities; counseling and mentorship; and financial assistance following declared disasters.

An entrepreneur and business executive herself, McMahon is the co-founder and former chief executive officer of WWE, based in Stamford, Connecticut. She helped grow WWE from a 13-person regional operation to a publicly traded global enterprise with more than 800 employees in offices worldwide.

McMahon has been a longtime advocate for women in leadership and business and has been widely recognized as one of the country's top female executives. She stepped down as CEO of WWE in 2009 to run for the U.S. Senate and was the Republican nominee to represent the people of Connecticut in 2010 and 2012.

McMahon is a graduate of East Carolina University. She and her husband, Vince, have two adult children and six grandchildren.

Time to Travel

UPCOMING TOUR SCHEDULE

April

Library of Congress

Look for emails about upcoming tours!
Questions should be sent to Michelle at
tours@armypousesclub.org



Secret Service Car Tour



Kennedy Center Tour



Winks Photobooth
Owner: Chris Agbalog
Instagram: @WinksPhotobooth
Email: winksphotobooth@gmail.com
Cell: (808) 398-6066

Weddings | Birthdays | Corporate Events |
Retirements | Celebrations

Veteran owned and operated



Army Spouses Club of the Greater Washington Area

has partnered with

Greenstreet Growers

We are excited to announce that Greenstreet Growers will be at our April luncheon. Enjoy the benefit of beautiful blooms while helping out our scholarship program.

In addition to having plants for sale at the luncheon, Greenstreet will also have gift cards available that can be used at their nursery.

This is our last scholarship fundraiser of the year. Your continued generosity in support of our scholarship program means more than we can say!



Spring is in the Air

~ MAGS ~

Maggie Hollinger
myColorSTREET.com/MAGS
hollinger.maggie@yahoo.com
910.824.6520

Eggplant Purple \$12 value	Purple Night \$12 value	Pinkish \$12 value	Heavenly Blue \$12 value
You're Simply Irresistible \$12 value	It's a Mystery \$12 value	Chick-a-Boo \$12 value	Party on the Hill \$12 value
Sunshine My Day \$12 value	I've Got a Feeling \$12 value	Pink Shout Time \$12 value	Water You're Hot \$12 value
Pink, Love and You Care \$12 value	Blueberry Bliss \$12 value	Red, White and Blue \$12 value	Blueberry Bliss \$12 value

colorSTREET

April
SHOWERS
BRING
May
FLOWERS

Out and About

One of the many benefits of living in this area is the plethora of activities the VA, MD, and DC area has to offer. Each month we will spotlight one event that catches our eye! Get out and enjoy the day!

Bluebell Festival at Merrimac Farm

15020 Deepwood Lane
Nokesville, VA 20181

April 14, 2019

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Celebrate nature close to home and view the fabulous Virginia bluebells that carpet the Cedar Run shoreline for nearly a mile.

Meet local organizations and people who are working to improve our community. With some of the best Northern Virginia naturalists leading tours and activities, we're looking forward to a special day at an outstanding natural area. Family-friendly and free of charge.



First Person

P.A. Mancini



P.A. working at the 1988 Seoul Olympics

We can all agree that being a military spouse has its share of wonderful advantages, including the chance to travel to and live in many unique locales! Because of just such an adventure, I had one of the best “jobs” of my life: working as a Production Assistant for the 1988 Summer Olympics held in Seoul, Korea.

You guessed it; my husband was on a two-year accompanied assignment and I reaped the benefit by applying for and

getting this plum position. I started out as a Protocol Instructor for NBC and the International Broadcasting Foundation (IBF), helping the spouses of high-ranking Korean nationals gain familiarity with the ins and outs of American customs. Next, I took on the position of Military Liaison between the IBF and the military, sourcing supplies and otherwise supporting the needs of the incoming media personnel.

Finally, I was offered a job as a Production Assistant at the venue of my choice. I thought long and hard before selecting diving and water polo, and the choice was fortuitous: I was poolside as Greg Louganis won two gold medals and the water polo team earned their silver medal.

Being part of a “live” production was intense. The smallest slip-up meant not having the shot, and there is no do-over in live television!

My press pass allowed me unlimited access to all sporting events. Experiencing the pageantry of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies in person was a memorable experience and being able to include my husband and three children was a fabulous perk! My daughter was especially interested in synchronized swimming, equestrian and gymnastic events. My two sons were enthralled with basketball, boxing, archery, and wrestling.

My days on site were far from boring. I met many notable NBC news personalities -- Bryant Gumbel, Tom Brokaw, Jane Pauley, and Bob Costas. Tom Brokaw liked to have his lunch at the diving venue, and we ate together several times a week, which was a thrill. He remains one of the nicest men I’ve ever had the pleasure of meeting.

At the conclusion of the Olympics, I was invited to the NBC wrap party. It was an event like none other, with over the top decorations and delicacies that would rival a Michelin star restaurant. No cost was spared. I remember telling my husband that we’d never experience anything like it again!

Our adventures with the Army were many, and this role truly was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Do you have an interesting story or photo relating to one of your military posts or a job you have held? Is so, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Jackie or P.A. at newsletter@armyspousesclub.org

Tuesday, May 7, 2019



JOINT ARMED FORCES OF WASHINGTON LUNCHEON

proudly welcomes

Dr. Carla Hayden



14th Librarian of Congress

First Woman and First African American to lead the National Library

Registration for the JAFOWL Luncheon will be on a first come, first served basis and will take place April 8 - 12, 2019. Registration will be on-line only and club members will be sent an email with the registration link.

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW!!

Did you know...

The Librarian of Congress, Dr. Carla Hayden:

- She was sworn-in as the 14th Librarian of Congress on the Lincoln Bible. This historic bible is the same bible that President Abraham Lincoln placed his hand upon while taking the oath in 1861.
- Dr. Hayden was featured as an answer on Jeopardy in October of 2018.
- Her favorite book as a child was "Bright April".
- She is a huge baseball fan.

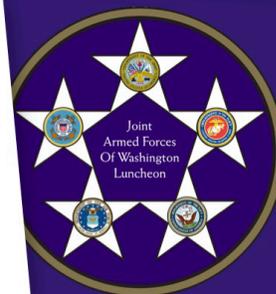


The Library of Congress:

- Founded in 1800, making it the oldest federal cultural institution in the nation.
- The largest library in the world with more than 168 million items.
- Receives 15,000 items each working day and adds approximately 12,000 items to the collections daily.
- The smallest book: "Old King Cole". It is 1/25th x 1/25th; about the size of a period at the end of a sentence. The largest book: 5 x 7 feet featuring color images of Bhutan.

JAFOWL:

- 2019 marks the 41st anniversary of JAFOWL.
- JAFOWL promotes and celebrates the unity of all military spouses.
- The JAFOWL committee is comprised of representatives from each of the five military services (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard).
- Formerly known as the "Joint Armed Forces Officers' Wives' Luncheon", the name was updated in 2016 to Joint Armed Forces of Washington Luncheon in order to reflect today's military and spouses' clubs.



Further details will be published in your Club Newsletter. In the meantime, book May 7th on your calendar!



SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Bridge Groups

The Bridge Group meets the third Tuesday of every month at the Army Navy Country Club of Arlington. You must have knowledge of how to play.

Please contact Henriette Gordon at hmg1776@sbcglobal.net

Tours

Throughout the year, various group tours are scheduled. One of the most popular is the yearly New York City bus ride with tickets to the Radio City Music Hall Rockettes show.

Please contact Michelle Zuniga at tours@armypousesclub.org

Flick Chicks Movie Group

Once a month, this group meets up to enjoy a movie together.

Please contact Ellen Pirog at specialactivities@armypousesclub.org

Walk Around Washington Group

Each month a walk is organized in and around the Washington, DC area.

Please contact Nina O'Shaughnessy at ninaspangos@gmail.com

or Mary Pawlow at mlspawlow@aol.com

Bible Study

The Living Word Bible Study meets every Monday at 10 am at the Memorial Post Chapel on Fort Myer, across from the PX.

Please contact Nancy Jackson at jacksonjn@verizon.net

Happy Hour Group

Meet new friends and catch up with other members at Happy Hour gatherings throughout the year in the DC/Northern Virginia area.

Please contact Kim Farnsworth at jkfarns@comcast.net

Great Decisions

Do you enjoy talking about current events and exploring the rationale of our foreign policy decisions? Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The program model involves reading the Great Decisions Briefing Book, watching a DVD, and meeting in a discussion group to discuss the most critical global issues facing America today. A National Opinion Ballot is compiled and presented to the Department of State, Congress, and the White House at the end of the year.

Please contact Lori O'Neill at meoneill@aol.com

Zip Code Groups

Zip Code Groups meet in one another's homes, at local restaurants, or visit places of interest and are a perfect opportunity to meet your ASCGWA neighbors in a smaller setting.

Please contact Jennifer Stepetic at zipcodegroups@armypousesclub.org

You are
invited!



ZIP CODE GROUPS

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Mary Dulany
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Volunteer Corner

A sincere THANK YOU goes out to March volunteers Edie Gunnels Klimow, Mary Pawlow, and Sara Wade. The March Mad(ness) Hatter luncheon was a lot of fun and, as always, we are so grateful for our volunteers.

If you think you might have a few hours to spare every now and then, please email Kim Nykanen at volunteer@armyspousesclub.org. Also, look for sign-up sheets at the monthly luncheons for specific events we have coming up.



TO VOLUNTEER



Operation Deploy Your Dress at the March luncheon



APRIL CHARITABLE CAUSE

April is the Month of the Military Child, so it is only fitting that we honor our military children by supporting the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Library and their Summer Reading Program.

Storytime at the library is more than books; it can also include hands-on crafts. Their budget does not cover supplies for these educational and fun projects, so our donations will help with their programming. Items from the following list can be found at your local Michaels or Hobby Lobby:

- Crop-a-diles (this tool punches holes in popsicle sticks and come in a variety of hole sizes)
- Popsicle sticks (all colors and sizes)
- Scrap book paper
- Card Stock in any color
- Pompoms (all sizes and colors)
- Perler Beads (plastic beads with a hole through the center)
- Plastic Mason Jars (8oz. size)
- 8 x 10 Inch canvases
- Mod Podge (all in one decoupage glue, sealer and finish)
- Wooden clothes pins

Please bring your donations to the next ASCGWA luncheon to be held on April 11. If you're in a hurry, a craft store gift card (in any denomination) is just as helpful and will be used to fill in any gaps.

Thank you in advance for your always generous support! ASCGWA members are the best!

Paula Ann Mancini, Charitable Cause Chair



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 LaDonna Cavanaugh at secretary@armyspousesclub.org.



The Army Spouses' Club of the Greater Washington Area (ASCGWA) is a non-profit organization seeking to enhance the quality of life of its members and the Military District of Washington community at large.

We offer friendship, monthly luncheons, special activities and many volunteer opportunities. Additionally, there are zip code groups to make it easier to connect to the military spouses who live near you. Our volunteers organize fun activities and share information about unique opportunities available in the Washington, D.C. area.



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Community News



The annual Easter Sunrise Service, hosted by Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Commander Col. Kimberly A. Peeples, will be held Sunday, April 21 at Arlington National Cemetery's Memorial Amphitheater.

The non-denominational worship service begins with a prelude by the U.S. Army Band, "Pershing's Own," at 6:15 a.m. The service is scheduled to begin with a call to worship at 6:30 a.m. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Gates open at 5 a.m.

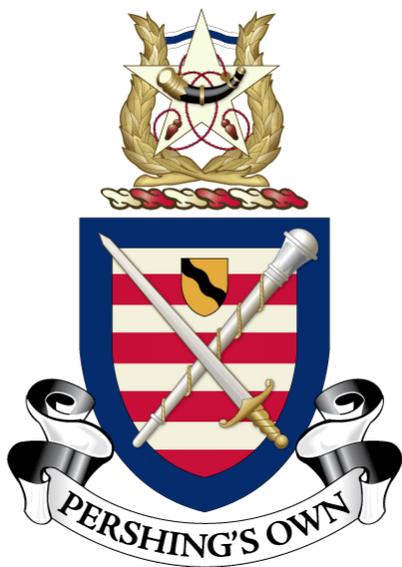
The Easter message will be delivered by Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Thomas L. Solhjem, Deputy Chief of Chaplains, U.S. Army.

For more information, please contact 703-696-6635 or visit the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/jbmhh for the most-up-to-date information.

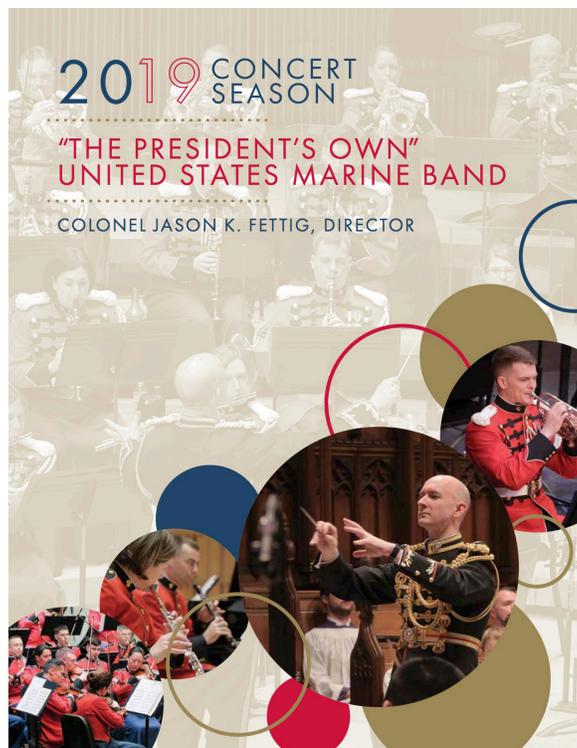


**LOOK BETTER.
 FEEL BETTER.
 LIVE BETTER.
 NERIUM**

TM
<https://sarablaschke.nerium.com>
<https://www.facebook.com/NeriumwithSaraBlaschke>



For the full concert calendar, please visit:
usarmyband.com/event-calendar.html



For the full concert calendar, please visit:
www.marineband.marines.mil/Calendar/



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*Would love to assist you in your
 home buying or selling!*





ADVERTISING

We have reached maximum capacity for advertising space for the year in Backchannels. We know being able to reach our targeted audience is important to advertisers so we are offering a special web page only advertising package. We will place your ad on our web page for the remainder of the year (now until August 2019) for a fee of \$20.

For more information, please contact newsletter@armyspousesclub.org



Cherry Blossom Walk

Wednesday, April 3rd
10 a.m.



The Walking Group's next walk will cover approximately six miles and will take you from Fort McNair, along the waterfront, past the Wharf, and around the Tidal Basin to the cherry blossoms!

We will meet in the parking lot on the right just inside the gate on Ft. McNair. Following the walk we will have lunch at the Wharf.

Weather permitting, our last walk will be Friday, May 31.

Happy Easter




"Military Helping Military"
Sonya Anyanwu, MRP, CIPS, CNE
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 Licensed in VA, NC, and CO

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USAA and NFCU Certified Agent

CENTURY 21
 New Millennium

Honest, Ethical and a Consummate Professional
 With Over 20 Years Experience

Military Spouse Dedicated to giving **YOU** "First-Class" service!



Prince William County and Beyond Zip Code Group learning about spring floral arranging at The Flower Gallery in Manassas

Zip Code Groups



Springfield Zip Code Group celebrating St. Patrick's Day at Fiona's in Springfield

