



# Backchannels

Army Spouses' Club of the Greater Washington Area

December 2018



## PRESIDENT'S PEN

Happy December! We've had a busy month with the club. Even with the early winter weather, we were able to raise funds for our scholarship and welfare program that exceeded our expectations! We added close to \$4,500 to our fund in November thanks to our generous members, faithful shoppers and amazing vendors!

Our first Festival of the Firs was a HUGE success thanks to Michelle Funkhouser's hard work and our very talented members. The wreaths and trees looked amazing, and it was such a fun way to raise money. I'm thankful to Michelle for her creativity and passion for our club. Our guest speaker, Chef Rush, was an inspiration. I'm not surprised that we have such dedicated veterans who continue to serve our soldiers and families. He is the epitome of a "Soldier for Life" and is a fabulous person to continue the #AllArmy spirit.

Barb Patterson made sure members received the directory in time for our November Luncheon! I know it is not an easy undertaking and we all appreciate the hard work required to complete that task.

December continues to be busy with tour opportunities, including the annual New York City trip, the last of the White House tours, the Trump Hotel tea, and the National Geographic tour. Michelle Zuniga has done a wonderful job organizing tours for us again this year! A LOT of work goes into planning the tours. Unfortunately, we've had a higher than normal or acceptable number of no-shows and last-minute cancellations. I know life happens and sometimes circumstances are unavoidable; however, as members we must be considerate of the tour organizers and our fellow members. Please do not take a spot on a tour unless you plan to attend.

While I am giving friendly reminders, please remember our luncheon cancellation policy which is stated on the event when you register and posted online. We also included it on the membership forms this year. To receive a refund, you must cancel before the RSVP deadline. If there is inclement weather, Patton Hall only closes if the local government and Fort Myer are closed. School closings and delays do not impact our luncheons. I have a child in school here, so I understand a delay or cancellation can create issues. Unfortunately, we are liable for the costs once our numbers are submitted to Patton Hall. I wish we could make exceptions, especially for those of you with elementary school aged kids whose timeline is affected most by a delay. However, our club cannot cover the cost when Patton Hall charges us for the service. Hopefully the weather will cooperate and our winter full of snow will not happen on the third Thursday of the month!

Our last luncheon of 2018 is December 20. I know, it seems late and too close to Christmas. I think of it as a chance to relax and have a great time with my favorite friends the day before some of us have kids home ALL-DAY LONG for weeks! It's after most of the work-related parties, after we've mailed packages, finished the shopping (I hope!), and after we've decorated our homes. Unless you are like me last year... My fall wreath, made by the fabulous Connie Semonite, stayed on my door all through winter, and I was that neighbor with old pumpkins on her porch until December 21. My goal this year is to not haul out a small portion of decorations four days before Christmas just so I can say I decorated. This year I will be prepared for Christmas in time to enjoy the festive spirit at our luncheon, and start off the winter break relaxed because I've spent an afternoon with my favorite people!

Fondly,  
*Kelly*

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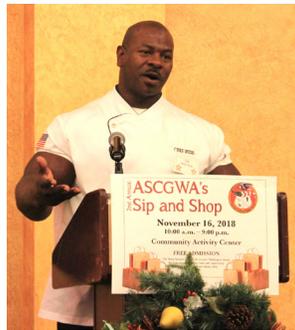
## LUNCHEON DATES

2018  
December 20

2019  
January 17  
February 21  
March 21  
April 11\*

\*Date changed to second Thursday

May 16



## ASCGWA 2018-2019

### Honorary Presidents

Hollyanne Milley

### Honorary Vice President Advisor

Holly Dailey  
Maria McConville  
Esther Howard

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

President  
First Vice Presiden  
Second Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Parliamentarian

Kelly Kreis  
Michelle Funkhouser  
Open due to PCS  
LaDonna Cavanaugh  
Deborah Kalisz Wehr  
Amy Sutton

## STANDING COMMITTEES/SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Affinity Clubs Coordinator  
Backchannels Editor  
Charitable Causes  
Fundraising  
Historian  
Hospitality  
International Liaison  
JAFOWL Representative  
Membership & Directory  
Military Support Organizations Outreach  
New Member Table  
Public Relations  
Publicity  
Social Media  
Reservations  
Scholarships  
Special Activities  
Tours  
Vendor Chair  
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  
Connie Semonite  
Barb Patterson  
Patty Barron  
Jill Vaniman  
Jackie McKenna  
Jackie Habel  
Desiree Moore  
Pam Parker  
Open due to PCS  
Mandy Downey  
Michelle Zuniga  
Dawn Zagame  
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](http://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](mailto:newsletter@armyspousesclub.org)

Fondly,

*Jackie Habel & Paula Ann Mancini*  
Co-editors



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# ASCGWA

## December Luncheon

*Featuring*

### IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BAG BINGO

December 20, 2018  
10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.  
Patton Hall  
\$25\*

*Guests are invited to dress in festive wear*

Registration at: [armypousesclub.org](http://armypousesclub.org)  
RSVP NLT December 13, 2018

*\*buffet included*





## Spotlight on our International Community

We would like to welcome Amanda Foote and Melissa Pederson as our International Liaison co-chairs. As international spouses themselves, Amanda and Melissa have first-hand knowledge of the challenges facing families on an overseas posting.

Both ladies are excited and honored to be providing the link between the international community and ASCGWA. They have a busy few months ahead as they start planning the annual International Showcase, to be held on February 21, 2019. This always popular event is a great way to introduce one's country to the rest of the world! Please contact Amanda or Melissa if you are interested in representing your country at this event. Additional information and volunteer opportunities will be forthcoming.

Our club has always been open to international friends, many of whom have found us a home away from home. If you know a foreign spouse who is new to the USA, please extend the hand of friendship and welcome them to the Army Spouses' Club family.

For additional information, contact Amanda or Melissa at: [internationals@armyspousesclub.org](mailto:internationals@armyspousesclub.org)



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## Trump International Hotel

### Tour and High Tea

December 19, 2018

Tour | 11:00 a.m.

Tea | 12:30 p.m.

1100 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20004

**\$65.25\***

Please contact Michelle Zuniga for  
additional information at:  
[tours@armyspousesclub.org](mailto:tours@armyspousesclub.org)

\*Includes choice of tea, glass of Trump Blanc de Blanc, and two-tier traditional stand with scones, tea sandwiches, savories, & sweets.

# TOMB OF CHRIST

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre Experience

## ASCGWA

December 28, 2018

10:00 a.m.

\$11.50

National Geographic Museum  
1145 17th St NW, Washington, DC

Join ASCGWA as we are virtually transported to Jerusalem and discover the fascinating history of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in an immersive 3-D experience unlike anything you've seen in a museum before. This special exhibit ends on January 1, 2019. After the film, you are free to explore the museum. The museum's Titanic exhibit is also available until January 1, 2019. Further information about the museum can be found at: [nationalgeographic.org/events-exhibitions/](http://nationalgeographic.org/events-exhibitions/)

For additional tour information, contact Michelle at [tours@armyspousesclub.org](mailto:tours@armyspousesclub.org)



A beautiful day to tour the U.S. Capitol!

## Time to Travel

### UPCOMING TOUR SCHEDULE

December 19

Trump Hotel Tour and Tea

December 28

National Geographic Museum

Look for emails about upcoming Secret Service car and Air Force Two tours!

Questions should be sent to Michelle at [tours@armyspousesclub.org](mailto:tours@armyspousesclub.org).



Thank You for your generous donations to the ACS holiday toy program. For several years the Army Spouses' Club has been an active supporter for this worthy cause.

Despite the inclement weather, our November luncheon was a flurry of activity! Along with the excitement of the Festival of the Firs, and a "larger-than-life" guest speaker, most of our attendees brought unwrapped toys and gift cards for the children of designated local military families. Your donations were appreciated and were truly in the spirit of the holiday season.

Looking forward, we would like to plan an excursion to Knollwood, the military retirement community located in Washington, DC on Oregon Avenue, NW. If you know of a Girl Scout or Boy Scout troop that would be willing to spend a couple of hours on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon socializing with Knollwood residents, please contact me at: [charitablecauses@armyspousesclub.org](mailto:charitablecauses@armyspousesclub.org).

May this season bring joy, love and a multitude of blessings to you and yours!

Paula Ann Mancini  
Charitable Cause





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FEEL BETTER.  
LIVE BETTER.  
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<https://www.facebook.com/NeriumwithSaraBlaschke>

## 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!*

## Downtown Holiday Market

25 November - 23 December, 2018  
Noon - 8 p.m. daily

You do not want to miss the Downtown Holiday Market! Now in its fourteenth year, the market is located right in front of the Smithsonian American Art Museum & the National Portrait Gallery at 8th and F Street, NW. It is also close to the Gallery Place metro stop making the market easily accessible.

The market features over 150 artisans and vendors, on a rotating schedule, with a wide variety of pottery, crafts, jewelry, art, clothing, and specialty food items.

Local food vendors offering freshly prepared food, coffee, hot chocolate, snacks and sweets will fuel your shopping excursion!

Live performances are held daily and include seasonal favorites, jazz, blue-grass, pop and more.

Additional information can be found at: [downtownholidaymarket.com](http://downtownholidaymarket.com)



LYNCH CREEK FARM®



## ASCGWA Lynch Creek Farm Fundraiser

We have partnered with Lynch Creek Farms to offer you a variety of beautiful fresh greenery such as wreaths, centerpieces, trees and garland.

Ordering options are available until December 16, 2018 and ASCGWA will receive 20% from each item ordered.

All items can be ordered at:  
<http://www.lcffundraising.com/c/157736>

*thank you,*

ASCGWA Fundraising



# 2nd Annual ASCGWA's Sip and Shop



The annual Sip and Shop is not only a fun event, it serves as an ASCGWA fundraiser for scholarship. There was an air of holiday cheer as community members explored all that our many vendors had to offer.



colorSTREET 

## Chill Factor

Cool nail looks for Winter 2018



~ MAGS ~  
~ Maggie Hollinger ~  
myColorSTREET.com/MAGS  
910-824-6520

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:ninaspangos@gmail.com) or Mary Pawlow at [mlspawlow@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:zipcodegroups@armypousesclub.org)

You are  
invited!



## ZIP CODE GROUPS

### Alexandria

LaDonna Cavanaugh  
678-464-7470  
[cavanaugh@comcast.net](mailto:cavanaugh@comcast.net)

### Annandale, Fairfax, & Fairfax Station

Mary Pawlow  
703-764-9656  
[mlspawlow@aol.com](mailto:mlspawlow@aol.com)

### Arlington

Paige Kellogg  
703-248-8313  
[Paigekell@aol.com](mailto:Paigekell@aol.com)

### Burke

Jeanne Sander  
703-426-2880  
[ebs17@verizon.net](mailto:ebs17@verizon.net)

### Falls Church/Fort Myer/McLean

Lori Borgna-Strong  
706-799-9308  
[borgnalori@gmail.com](mailto:borgnalori@gmail.com)

### Chantilly, Clifton, Centerville, Herndon and Beyond

Pat O'Neill  
703-378-3624  
[pponeill6@aol.com](mailto:pponeill6@aol.com)

### Prince William County and Beyond

Paula Ann Mancini  
703-346-4468  
[pa.mancini@comcast.net](mailto:pa.mancini@comcast.net)

### Springfield

Jennifer Stepetic  
910-263-2063  
[stepetic@yahoo.com](mailto:stepetic@yahoo.com)

### Maryland-Howard County and Beyond

Marie T. Corbett  
410-418-4934  
[mtcre@aol.com](mailto:mtcre@aol.com)

### Maryland-Montgomery and Beyond

Deidra Stubbs  
803-447-8700  
[dleestubbs@aol.com](mailto:dleestubbs@aol.com)

### Washington D.C.

Mary Dulany  
240-644-2467  
[medulany@msn.com](mailto:medulany@msn.com)

# Volunteer Corner

A sincere THANK YOU goes out to our November volunteers: Kathy Fox, Carol Place, Sara Wade, Mary Doherty, Suzie Woodring, Margaret Lepak, Maria Yee and Rosa Santos. With the November Festival of Firs luncheon and the Sip and Shop Bazaar just a day apart, we were so thankful for the extra hands. The weather was not on our side but our volunteers sure were!

As always, please email Kim Nykanen at [volunteer@armyspousesclub.org](mailto:volunteer@armyspousesclub.org) if you think you might have a few hours to spare every now and then. We can always use help setting up and packing up at our monthly luncheons. Also, look for sign-up sheets at the monthly luncheons for specific events we have coming up.

Be sure to check the ASCGWA website and the Volunteer Corner in Backchannels for updates on future events. For those already signed up to volunteer, Kim will email specific information and our needs for each event so be on the look out! The more people who get involved, the more fun we will have and the more ASCGWA can accomplish as an organization!

Thank you all in advance!



**TO VOLUNTEER**







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

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 O: 703.922.4010  
 E: [Sonya.Anyanwu@C21NM.com](mailto:Sonya.Anyanwu@C21NM.com)  
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*You are Special*

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](mailto: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



Missing the smells of glühwein, waffels, roasted almonds, gingerbread and bratwurst?

Christmas Village in Baltimore is a combination of an outdoor and indoor holiday market at West Shore Park in the Inner Harbor. The event is modeled after the traditional Christmas Markets in Germany like the famous Christkindl Market in Nuremberg.

From Thanksgiving through Christmas Eve, vendors in more than 50 booths will sell traditional European food, sweets and drinks. They also offer a great shopping experience with a large variety of international holiday gifts (such as Käthe Wohlfahrt), ornaments, jewelry and high-quality arts and crafts. The outdoor area around the Walter Sondheim Fountain will bring the original Christmas Village charm with its traditional German style wooden huts to Baltimore. Additional vendors will be found in the heated festival tent (60' x 180').

The unique atmosphere with thousands of lights, the big Holiday Tree, and the delicious smells brings you and your family into the perfect Christmas mood.





7TH ANNUAL EMBASSY SHOWCASE  
**WINTER INTERNATIONAL**  
 AT THE RONALD REAGAN BUILDING

Thursday, December 6, 2018  
 11AM – 2PM | Atrium, Atrium Hall

CRAFTS | TRAVEL | EXHIBITS | TASTINGS | MUSIC

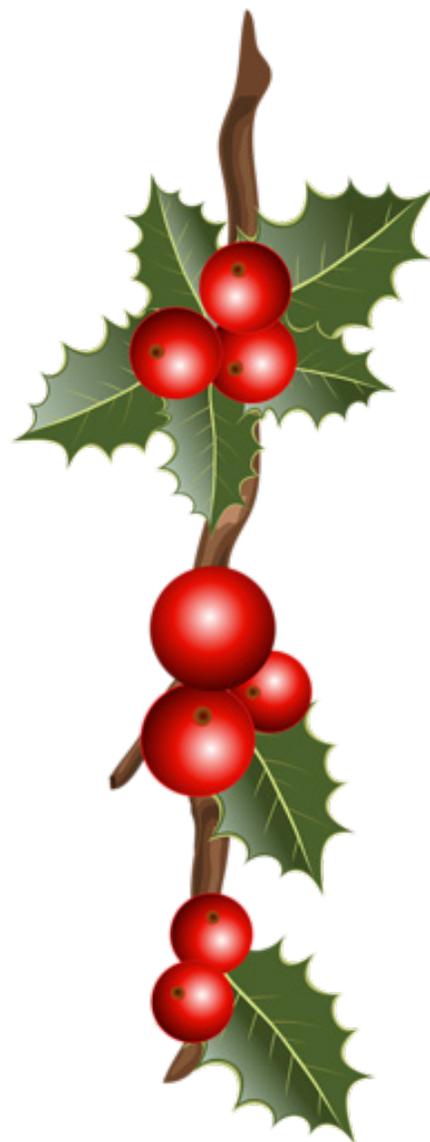
55+ Embassies and Free To The Public

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<https://itcdc.com/winterinternational/>



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## ADVERTISING

Are you looking for an opportunity to advertise your business? Showcase your company with an advertisement in the ASCGWA monthly newsletter and on our web page. We have four options to suit your advertising needs.

For more information, please contact [newsletter@armyspousesclub.org](mailto:newsletter@armyspousesclub.org)

\$40 package: 2" x 3.5" ad in the newsletter and on the web page with customer-provided graphics (October - May & a summer issue).

\$25 package: 2" x 3.5" ad in the newsletter and on the web page with customer-provided graphics (October - January or February - May).

\$60 package: 2" x 3.5" ad in the newsletter and on the web page includes design and graphics provided by ASCGWA (October - May & a summer issue).

\$35 package: 2" x 3.5" ad in the newsletter and on the web page includes design and graphics provided by ASCGWA (October - January or February - May).



calling all  
**Vendors**  
Sign up. Show up. Sell.

Want to sell your creative work? Know a great vendor you'd like to see at a luncheon? Please contact Dawn Zagame, Vendor Chair, at [vendors@armyspousesclub.org](mailto:vendors@armyspousesclub.org).



Burke zip code group enjoying lunch at Oh George! in Fairfax



Prince William County and Beyond zip code group decorate for the Festival of the Firs at the home of Dawn Zagame



**Thank You!**

Thank you to everyone for your support of the inaugural Festival of the Firs! A special note of gratitude is sent to our members and zip code groups that donated and decorated the beautiful, creative trees and wreaths. Your generosity enabled our club to receive over \$2000 for scholarships and outreach. Between the Festival of the Firs and listening to Chef Rush it was "fir sure" a fun luncheon. Unfortunately, the weather was not in our favor. While the snow was pretty to look at, we missed everyone who was not able to attend due to road conditions and school closures. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the December "It's All About the Bag Bingo" luncheon.

Michelle Funkhouser  
First Vice President