

Community

Center for the Arts announces 2016 celebrity dancers for popular Dancing for the Arts Gala

Organizers of the 2016 Dancing for the Arts amateur ballroom dancing competition have announced the lineup of local "celebrity" performers. This year's event features 14 acts, and for a limited time only, tickets for the signature Gala performance are available at last year's pricing of \$185 each. The annual fundraiser will benefit Center for the Arts by helping to sustain and enhance programs and provide financial stability for ongoing development. Performances are set for November 18 and 19 at the Maryland Golf and Country Clubs in Bel Air.

The field of dancers for 2016 includes:
Duos: Cassie Firestone, C. Milton Wright High School student and Stephanie Scalchunes, Notre Dame Preparatory School student; Bill Kelly and Lois Kissinger Kelly, The Kelly Group; Michael and Charlotte McCarthy, Riparian Construction, Inc.; and Michael and Shannon McFarren, Chick-fil-A, Abingdon and Aberdeen.

Individuals: Kelly Hinder Haggerty, Saxon's Diamond Centers Aberdeen; Charrman Hess, Harford Mutual Insurance; Jeffrey Hosenz, M.D., Plastic Surgery; Stathis Kotamidis, Pat's Pizzas; Joel Lightfoot, The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region; Aaron Piccirilli, MedStar Health; Edgar Radzabli, D.D.S., Abingdon Family Dentistry; Eric Rebbert, Express Employment Professionals; Christine Soné, Coldwell Banker; and Darinna Swan, Special Olympics Athlete.

Each individual and duo will be challenged to learn and perform a unique dance routine in front of a live audience as they compete for awards including Judges' Choice, People's Choice and the prestigious Top Fundraiser. By popular demand, there will once again be three opportunities to see the competition: a preview November 18, a matinee November 19 and the Gala performance on the evening of November 19.

The Dancing for the Arts Gala is black tie optional and offers attendees an evening of fine dining, an open bar and a silent auction. The Friday preview and Saturday matinee shows are business casual events. All shows feature a performance by the Rage Box Contemporary Dance Center under the direction of Karen Muccioli.

Most of the participants do not have prior dance experience. They will be teamed with a professional dance coach to master their routines; either dancer and choreographer Tom Rzepnicki or his dance instructor partner, Natasha Pollock. Tom Rzepnicki is a professional dancer and the owner of Dancing with Friends Studio in Harford County.

In addition to learning their dances, each individual and duo also has a fundraising goal which they will strive to reach by hosting events around the area, promoting ticket sales for the shows and selling sponsorships and program ads. Participants are also raising money through a group raffle that features three prizes: a diamond necklace from Saxon's Diamond Centers; use of a private skybox for an Aberdeen Ironbirds home game donated by Harford Bank; and two club seats for a Rays home game courtesy of Laurel Bush Family Dentistry.

All dancers have a designated page on the Center for the Arts website where supporters can make individual donations, purchase raffle and performance tickets, and reserve program



The "celebrity" dancers pose after their performance at the 2015 Dancing for the Arts Gala. Dance instructors Natasha Pollock and Tom Rzepnicki, seated in front, are working with a new group of citizens for this year's show.

ads. Follow Center for the Arts on Facebook for updates on the dancers and their fundraising activities. Monies raised through raffles, donations, and sponsorships directly benefit Center for the Arts programs and overall financial sustainability.

Michael Jessup, CEO for Center for the Arts, says, "It is fitting that we put on the biggest Dancing for the Arts Gala in the same year we launch the first construction on the Center for the Arts property because this event has been an instrumental part of our progress. The building of a performance amphitheater will be a very visible way to show what our community can accomplish together, and we hope this year's Gala will help keep the momentum going as we work to fully realize our goal of having a world-class arts center right here in Harford County."

Event co-chair Carolyn Evans adds, "This event has sold out for the past three years, even with the addition of a matinee show in 2015. The community loves Dancing for the Arts!" Dr. Mary Teddy Way, the other event co-chair, says, "It's truly the county's best entertainment, so get your tickets early to guarantee your seat!"

Sponsorship and advertising opportunities are available. For additional information, to support a dancer, or to purchase tickets to the gala, preview or matinee, visit www.harfordcfa.org.

EVENT DETAILS
Dancing for the Arts Preview—Friday, November 18, 2016, 7 p.m. \$25

Dancing for the Arts Matinee—Saturday, November 19, 2016, 2 p.m. \$25

Dancing for the Arts Gala—Saturday, November 19, 2016, 6:30 to 11:30 p.m., \$185 until September 1; \$200 beginning September 2

All events take place at Maryland Golf and Country Club, 1335 E. MacPhail Rd., Bel Air, MD 21015.

Brides

Irvin and Doris Kern celebrate 62nd anniversary

Irvin and Doris Kern of Forest Hill celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary by renewing their vows on April 17. The ceremony took place at Ayres Chapel United Methodist Church in Norrisville. The family and friends who attended the ceremony and reception came from Georgia and many locations in Pennsylvania.

The couple was married in Rayville on April 17, 1954. The groom was a pastor for many years at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church in Rohersville. William C. Badders, brother of the bride, gave the bride away. The bridesmaids and groomsmen were the couple's grandchildren, Emily Kern, Tiffany Andrews, Renee Freidel, Dylan Reed, Mason Stuart, and Andrew Freidel. The flower girls were Madison Stuart, the couple's great granddaughter and Kirsten and Julianna Kennedy, friends from Bethany Baptist Church. The ring bearers, Mason Freidel, a great grandson and Kevin Kennedy,



a friend from Bethany Baptist Church. The bride and groom were given a train ride as a wedding present. They took the Seaford Express in Strasburg, Pa.



Pictured at the vow renewal ceremony for Irvin and Doris Kern are, back row from left, Glenn Kern, Dylan Reed, Andrew Freidel, Mason Stuart, Mike Hamilton, Eugene Kern, William Badders, Doris Kern, Nora Ragan, Renee Freidel, Tiffany Andrews and Emily Kern; and front row from left, Gwendolyn Felts, Julianna Kennedy, Kevin Kennedy, Madison Stuart, Mason Freidel, Kirsten Kennedy, Sandra Reed and Pamela Andrews.

State recognition for Harford mediation program volunteer

The Harford County Community Mediation Program recently recognized Harford County Bar Foundation Executive Director Nancy Mahoney as its 2016 Volunteer of the Year. The statewide recognition came at the 11th annual gala held by the nonprofit Community Mediation Maryland on May 21 at Temple Beth Shalom's social hall in Arnold, Maryland.

Each year, Community Mediation Maryland recognizes one volunteer from each of the state's 18 mediation programs. Nancy Mahoney was recognized for her outstanding work with the Harford County program, which is a division under the Dept. of Community Services.

Nancy first sought out a partnership with the program in 2015 to ensure that low income residents had access to conflict resolution services. She invited Susan Fisher, manager of the Harford County Mediation Program, to the Bar Foundation Law Day luncheon to discuss utilizing mediation for low income clients. This interaction led Nancy to volunteer as a member of the Mediation Commission where she helped spearhead its first-ever art card contest entitled "Ways We Make Peace—Imagine Compromise." Nancy coordinated all facets of the contest. She enlisted the help of summer interns for marketing, worked with the local vocational school for printing, and recruited fellow commission members to help judge the contest. Her efforts resulted in participation by six summer programs and over 300 youth entry submissions. Nancy's enthusiasm and commitment to community mediation has helped citizens, community mediators, and local attorneys discover new ways to resolve conflicts. Her efforts also created a new partnership for joint referrals.

The Harford County Community Mediation



Harford County Bar Foundation Executive Director Nancy Mahoney, center, is honored by the Harford County Community Mediation Program as 2016 Volunteer of the Year by Lorig Charkoudian, left, executive director of Community Mediation Maryland, and Susan Fisher, manager of the Office of Human Relations and Mediation in the Harford County Department of Community Services.

Program offers mediation and facilitation services at no charge to Harford County citizens. Mediation provides a viable alternative to court, which can be time consuming, costly, and often failing court action to resolve the reasons for conflict. The program helps resolve conflicts in a safe, neutral setting, allowing participants to disclose information without fear of being judged. For information about the program, contact 410-638-4807 or visit www.harfordmediation.org.

Community Mediation Maryland (CMM) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to increase access to collaborative conflict resolution. CMM provides training, support, and program development.

Jane Yoon to wed Adam Edwards

Keith and Karen Edwards of Havre de Grace announce the engagement of their son, Adam Edwards, to Jane Yoon, daughter of Christy Yoon of Ellicott City.

Edwards is an associate financial controller with Morgan Stanley. Yoon is communications director for the Reginald F. Lewis Museum.

An Aug. 26 wedding is planned at the Liriodendron in Bel Air.

