

Montgomery
County Executive
Marc Elrich

PRESENTS
THE 2022

*** MONTGOMERY
serves
Awards

honoring those who serve

PRODUCED &
SPONSORED BY

 Montgomery County
VOLUNTEER CENTER



Wednesday,
June 15, 6:30 pm

SILVER SPRING CIVIC BUILDING
SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND

Awards Program

GREETINGS

Faith McNeill, Manager, Volunteer Center

WELCOME & RECOGNITION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

Emcee Andrea Roane

REMARKS

County Executive Marc Elrich

REMARKS

Senator Chris Van Hollen

VOLUNTEER GROUP OF THE YEAR AWARD

Awarded to Mercy Health Clinic Volunteer Medical Providers

Presented by County Council President Gabe Albornoz

YOUTH VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Awarded to Samantha Jayasundera

Presented by Councilmember Will Jawando

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Awarded to Schai Schairer

Presented by Sierra Pyles

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Community Ambassadors and Language Bank Volunteers

Presented by Councilmember Sidney Katz

NEAL POTTER PATH OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Awarded to Charlotte Tacy Holliday and The Honorable Chung K. Pak

Presented by Stuart Rosenthal of *The Beacon Newspapers*,

Dr. Patrice McGhee, Director of the Area Agency on Aging, and

The Honorable Susan Lee

ROSCOE R. NIX DISTINGUISHED COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

Awarded to The Honorable Nancy Kopp, Mona Negm and

Kenneth Nelson

Presented by County Executive Elrich joined by Veretta Nix and Susan Nix-Webster

CONCLUSION

Program Production

ORGANIZERS

Montgomery County Office of Community Partnerships

Diane Vu

Montgomery County Volunteer Center

Faith McNeill and Kathleen Meaney Stobie

RECEPTION

Chef GPO Presents, Inc.

PRODUCTION

Producer *Shelley Block*

Video Production *Shannon Farney, Office of Broadband Programs*

Video narration *Elijah Wheeler*

PROMOTION

The Beacon Newspapers

JUDGES OF AWARDS

Montgomery Serves Awards

Alycia Chuney, Pam Saussy, Rob Scheer, Theresa Testoni

Neal Potter Path of Achievement Awards

Commission on Aging: Betsy Carrier, Nkiru Ezeani, Hillery Tsumba

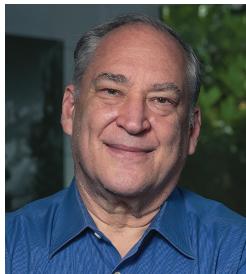
VOLUNTEERS (AT TIME OF PUBLICATION)

Sara Abdel, Audrey Berenato, Jan Brown, Francine Farber, Hannah Fein, Amy Harbison, Lorraine Hunte, Donna Kleffman, Eleanor Lettau, Amy Yontef McGrath, Marci Morrill, Teresa Pham, Magda Sepulveda, Pat Shultz, Andrés Sorensen, George Stobie, Shahnaz Tehraniazad

ENTERTAINMENT

Joanne Fan, Ethan Hang, Vincent Lee, Angela Shen, Emily Wang,

Alan Whitman

**Dear Friends:**

I am delighted to host our 2022 Montgomery Serves Awards event to recognize the essential role that volunteers play in the success of Montgomery County and to honor some of our county's most distinguished volunteers and community servants.

Our talented and committed residents are Montgomery County's greatest resource. We have so many who have contributed so much to make our community the special place it is today, and it is difficult to choose among the many wonderful people.

This year, it is a privilege for me to be able to present Nancy Kopp, Mona Negm, and Kenneth Nelson with the Roscoe R Nix Distinguished Community Leadership Award. The Nix award is our county's equivalent to the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award. This award honors those who, over the course of their distinguished lives of service and community leadership, have substantially improved the quality of our community. The community builders who receive this award will stand as role models for future generations.

The Neal Potter Path of Achievement Award honors two county residents 60 years old or better for their lifetime of volunteerism. Charlotte Tacy Holliday and Judge Chung K. Pak are this year's winners, and they certainly exemplify Neal Potter's example of the power of giving back through service; they are outstanding role models for everyone. The Montgomery Serves Award recognizes exemplary volunteer service performed in the previous calendar year, and I am delighted to celebrate Samantha Jayasundera, Schai Schairer, and the Mercy Health Clinic Volunteer Medical Providers for the service they gave this past year.

My thanks to those who have worked so hard to make this event a great success—all of you who nominated people for the awards, selected the honorees, and came out tonight to celebrate our county's proud tradition of volunteer community service.

And I want to give special thanks to Faith McNeill, Kathleen Meaney Stobie, and Shelley Block of our Volunteer Center for organizing this event. They were supported by The Beacon Newspapers, Commission on Aging, Montgomery County Public Information Office, Shannon Farney with the Office of Broadband Programs, Office of Community Partnerships, and many others. Our emcee, Andrea Roane, makes this event wonderful each year!

With Appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marc Elrich".

Marc Elrich, Montgomery County Executive





Andrea Roane, Emcee

For nearly four decades, Andrea Roane was a familiar face and voice bringing us the news on WUSA 9. Andrea joined the TEGNA-owned CBS affiliate, Channel 9, in 1981. She anchored every news program from morning to afternoon, late night, and weekends. A multi-EMMY and GRACIE Award winner, Andrea has covered a wealth of hard news stories, from politics, the arts, education, religion, and sports, to women's health and empowerment issues.

Andrea's commitment to women's health and community service has been recognized with countless national and local awards. She was inducted into the National Capital Chesapeake Bay Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Silver Circle in 2018; received the 2015 Board of Governors Award by the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, National Capital Chesapeake Bay Chapter; was a 2014 inductee into the DC Hall of Fame; was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters Degree from Marymount University in 2007; and was named a Washingtonian of the Year by Washingtonian Magazine in 2006.

Andrea is a lifetime member of the NAACP and the National Council of Negro Women; co-chair of the Kennedy Center's Community Advisory Board; a member of the Capital Breast Care Center Community Advisory Council; a Trustee Emeritus of the Catholic University of America; a Dame of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta; a Sustaining Director of the Prevent Cancer Foundation; a member of the International Women's Forum-DC; and a member of the Metropolitan DC Chapter of the Links, Incorporated.

Andrea holds an undergraduate degree in Secondary Education and a graduate degree in Drama & Communications from LSU, New Orleans, which is now the University of New Orleans.

Andrea and her husband, Michael Skehan, live in Washington, DC. They have two children, a grandchild, and two Shih Tzus.

Montgomery County VOLUNTEER CENTER

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OF WAYS TO **VOLUNTEER!****

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- ★ Professionals
- ★ Retirees / 50+ Volunteer Network
- ★ Students / SSL Hours
- ★ Families
- ★ Groups
- ★ Everyone!



Learn more at MontgomeryServes.org

HONOREES

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

**Schai Schairer**

As a student studying criminal justice at Coppin State University, Schai Schairer needed an internship but wasn't interested in the options that were presented to her. She had visited the Maryland Correctional Institute for Women as part of her coursework and noticed a gap in rehabilitative services. Schai's experience as a spoken word artist whose performances often referred to social justice issues led her to create her own internship at the Correctional Institute, and the

Prison to Poetry program was off and running!

Prison to Poetry Pipeline is a 15- to 20-week course that offers the women safe and productive ways to utilize their voices through spoken word poetry and the different elements surrounding the art, including theater and visual arts presentations.

Schai began the program in 2017 with 11 women and eventually had 250 on the waiting list. After completing her internship, she continued to volunteer.

In 2021, when COVID prevented in-person visits, Schai developed Art Express mail-in packets and served 47 women. These were detailed lesson plans tailored to individual interests, and she provided feedback on all the creations developed by the women. Schai also offers resume writing, goal-setting sessions, interview prep and job search services for previously incarcerated women.

To develop her program on a larger scale, Schai founded a nonprofit called FIST—Fighting Injustice Standing Together. She is currently working with Montgomery College to potentially provide inmates with micro-credentials.

Prison to Poetry was named a finalist in the Harvard Kennedy School Social Innovation and Change Initiative, where she is studying for a certification in Nonprofit Leadership and Management. A lifelong resident of Montgomery County, Schai is pursuing a master's degree in social work at Howard University.

—Nominated by Laura Tarantino

HONOREES

YOUTH VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

**Samantha Jayasundera**

Samantha Jayasundera, a recent graduate of Montgomery Blair High School, is making an impact in Montgomery County and beyond. She is devoted to making education accessible for all, not only in her community but also in areas of the world where there are explicit barriers to education.

In 2021, Samantha participated in a leadership development program offered by PeaceJam, a global youth organization led by 14 Nobel Peace Laureates dedicated to growing and supporting a generation who believe peace is possible.

As a United States Mid-Atlantic Councilwoman for PeaceJam, she co-founded a project called Sankofa Empowering Women in Ghana, known as SEWING. Under the auspices of PeaceJam, this program aims to combat child labor and female exploitation. Girls in the program train under the mentorship of local teachers, who provide entrepreneurship training and opportunities for sustainable employment.

Samantha works to raise awareness of the program through public speaking, reaching hundreds of people all over the world and increasing the number of people involved in SEWING. She also initiates fundraising efforts and secures sponsorship opportunities.

Closer to home, Samantha led Montgomery County Public Schools virtual Equity 4 Change Summit to raise awareness and promote advocacy for global issues including protecting the environment, health equity, empowering women, and equity in education.

Samantha had a leadership role in organizing and facilitating the 2021 Females in Science and Technology Conference, designed to empower seventh grade girls interested in STEM. The event, sponsored by the Montgomery Blair High School Science Department, attracted 200 participants and 21 international guest speakers.

Committed to making the world a better place, Samantha is a young leader that the world so urgently needs.

—Nominated by Michaela Sevalie

HONOREES

VOLUNTEER GROUP OF THE YEAR



Mercy Health Clinic Volunteer Medical Providers

For 21 years, Mercy Health Clinic in Gaithersburg has provided high quality medical care, health education, and medications – free of charge – for low-income uninsured patients in Montgomery County. The clinic serves more than 2,000 patients annually who struggle with health disparities related to poverty and suffer from long-term lack of access to healthcare.

Mercy leverages a small paid medical staff with additional support from volunteer, board-certified physicians and nurse practitioners who work at least one 4-hour shift each month, but most volunteer weekly. While some of these physicians and nurses are retired, many are volunteering in addition to their regular practices.

These volunteers are at the core of Mercy's operations, providing much of their primary care and all their specialty care.

The pandemic upended operations at the Clinic, yet a core of volunteer medical providers played a critical role in Mercy's ability to continue to provide the level of care patients need and expect, in person and via telemedicine. Many put themselves at risk of contracting the virus as they cared for patients who were not yet vaccinated and encouraged patients to get vaccinated. As a result, more than 95% of Mercy's patients received at least one vaccine.

The commitment of the volunteer medical providers enabled Mercy to be one of the few safety net clinics offering specialty care in fields such as gynecology, pulmonology and rheumatology.

Mercy's volunteer medical providers were instrumental in preserving access to healthcare during unprecedented times and made a significant impact on the health outcomes of patients. As a group, they have demonstrated that now, more than ever, community healthcare matters and is essential for creating a healthy community for all of us.

–Nominated by Mark Foraker

NEAL POTTER PATH OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Neal Potter Path of Achievement Award each year honors two county residents 60 years old or better whose accomplishments, enthusiasm, and lifelong commitment to volunteer service make them outstanding role models for those of all ages. The Path of Achievement Award was established by County Executive Doug Duncan in 1998. In 2009, County Executive Ike Leggett named the award to honor the extraordinary lifetime of achievement of former County Executive and County Councilmember Neal Potter. The award has been co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Commission on Aging and The Beacon Newspapers. The 2022 honorees were selected by a panel organized by the Commission on Aging



About Neal Potter

Neal Potter was a model public citizen. Raised on a dairy farm near Cabin John and trained as an economist, Potter dedicated his life to serving others from both a global and local perspective. In the 1940s, he was present at the meeting that launched the World Federalist Association. In the 1950s and 1960s, he was active in a wide variety of civic activities in Montgomery County. He organized the Citizens' Committee for Fair Taxation and served as president of the Citizens' Planning

Association. In five terms as a member of the Montgomery County Council (1970-1990 and 1994-98) and one term as our County Executive (1990-94), he focused on fiscal responsibility and sound land-use planning. Neal Potter began his distinguished quarter of a century of county government service at the age of 55. He died in 2008 at the age of 93. In 2009, Former County Executive Ike Leggett named the Path of Achievement Award to honor the memory of his extraordinary lifetime of achievement.

PAST HONOREES

1998 Donna Dorros • Charles Pritchard • Vernetta Reynolds • Murray Stein • William Tait **1999** Nina Clarke • Margaret Coleman • John Harvil • Richard Kelly • Kermit Mohn **2000** George Cohen • Ellis Klioze • B. Eugene Neal • Lolo Sarnoff • Donald Torr **2001** Martin Galvin • Adrienne Lees • Helen McCarron • Herman Meyersburg • Loise Sullivan **2002** Helen Bowman • Doris Day • Francis Farrow • Horace Saunders • William Wellington **2003** Ling Cheung • Betty Lichtenstein • Maryrose Rogolsky • Patricia Zannie **2004** Anne Elward • Austin Heyman • Pearl Isenberg • Kenneth Putkovich • Rosalie Silverberg **2005** Irene Booth Coleman • William H. Graham • Margaret McRory • Robert Silberg • Lowell & Betty Tripp **2006** Nguyen Minh Chau • Marilyn D'Antuono • Marian Fox • Theodore "Ted" Hannah • Mary "Flo" Hill **2007** Helen Abrahams • Chester Kneller • Karen Montgomery • Eloise Strand • Sammie Young **2008** Ruth Emerson • John Lopes • John G. Miers • Irene Spector • Joann Woodson **2009** Virginia "Ginny" Gilbert • Msgr. Ralph Kuehner • Robert Mabie • Rev. Samuel Myers (aka Jim Dandy) • Dorothy Nelson **2012** Tufail Ahmad • Ruby Rubens **2013** Marcine Goodloe • Joyce Seigel **2014** Joe Howard • Mona Negm **2015** Jean Brady • Karin Wilson **2016** Gene Counihan • Sarah Gotbaum **2017** Miriam Kelty • Marilyn Symonds **2018** Sharyn R. Duffin • Chih-Hsiang Li **2019** Karen Bashir • Jacquette Frazier **2020** Robert Marques • Wolfgang Mergner **2021** Nancy Aldous • Delores Cole

NEAL POTTER PATH OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Charlotte Tacy Holliday

Charlotte Tacy Holliday, a Germantown piano teacher, began her volunteer service in 2007 in response to tragedy. When her best friend faced cancer, Charlotte brought her students together to create music CDs for patients at Johns Hopkins University Hospital. Based on that experience, she created a foundation that would offer the gift of music, *"inspiring hope, note by note."*

As the foundation produced music CDs for hospitals across the United States and overseas, new ideas began to take shape. The foundation began offering free concerts for patients, military veterans, and seniors, with student musicians presenting live, virtual and recorded performances. Under Charlotte's leadership, these young performers begin to see their talents as a valuable means of uniting them with other people, providing a service to the community, and gaining confidence in their talents.

Charlotte did not stop here. She developed Piano Pals, a mentoring program where volunteers learn to teach piano to economically disadvantaged children at local elementary schools. The success of Piano Pals led to two additional programs—Piano Pals for Seniors and Guitar Pals for elementary students.

Under her guidance, the Tacy Foundation sponsors a Composer's Circle, where students learn to write, create, and understand music and thereby bring more music and joy into the world. Charlotte also created an innovative literacy program that connects music and reading to help young children develop a lifelong love of reading.

The Foundation's volunteers have recorded almost 500 performances on its YouTube playlist and made over 140 YouTube recordings of children's books for Reading Express. They have created music USBs from volunteer performances and shared them with First Responders Children's Fund and Fisher Houses. Charlotte coordinates the production and delivery of thousands of cards with words of encouragement to seniors, hospital patients, and persons serving in the military. She also leads an effort to collect and send crosswords, puzzles and magazines to senior facilities.

The Tacy Foundation has grown over the years and includes over 400 volunteers—all led by Charlotte. In 2021, students logged over 4,000 student service hours. It's hard to state the number of hours Charlotte has volunteered, because—according to the nomination submitted on her behalf—she literally thinks "Tacy Foundation" every minute she is not teaching.

When Charlotte creates, leads, and participates in these opportunities—either in person or virtual—hundreds of volunteers are impacted and respond to her initiatives, including students, young adults and parents. Charlotte inspires all her volunteers and the entire community to take action and reach as many people as possible. The ultimate result is that hospital patients, seniors, military members, and students know that they are truly important to our community.

—Nominated by Karina Willis-Lara

NEAL POTTER PATH OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



The Honorable Chung K. Pak

Chung K. Pak has worked tirelessly to provide a strong voice to some of the most needy and powerless in our community and state. Known as a consensus and bridge builder, Judge Pak has engaged diverse communities around important social justice issues.

Although Judge Pak is a longtime Marylander, he grew up in Alabama after his family immigrated to the United States from

South Korea over 50 years ago. Judge Pak graduated from Auburn University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering and from the Columbus School of Law at The Catholic University of America.

He was appointed Chief Administrative Law Judge of the Maryland Office of Administrative Hearings in 2020 after serving as an Administrative Patent Judge at the United States Patent Trial and Appeal Board for 26 years.

Judge Pak's vision for a just society is reflected in his leadership in many county and state organizations. As Co-Chairman of the Montgomery County NAACP Multicultural Partnership Committee, he brought diverse communities together to fight discrimination and injustice. Judge Pak spearheaded efforts to address issues relating to police brutality and racial profiling as a member of the Montgomery County NAACP Police Monitoring Committee.

He served on the Montgomery County State's Attorney's Asian American Advisory Board, the Montgomery County Asian American Police Advisory Committee, and the Montgomery County Public School Superintendent's Taskforce to reduce racial tension at John F. Kennedy High School.

With his help, Asian American nonprofits applied for and obtained County funding for vital social services. He assisted the League of Korean Americans of Maryland organize job training, English language education programs, health fairs, voter registration drives, and other community outreach. Judge Pak worked closely with the Maryland General Assembly to pass bond bills to help renovate and provide housing for low-income seniors in Silver Spring. Along with CASA Maryland, he helped organize a coalition to defeat proposed anti-immigrant legislation and to support those that protect the civil liberties of immigrants and other vulnerable individuals.

Judge Pak led advocacy efforts to support the passage of the Maryland Equal Pay for Equal Work Act and worked with Progressive Maryland and community leaders to support the Living Wage for working families in Montgomery County and Maryland.

Judge Pak has served on the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, Maryland Higher Education Commission, Maryland Attorney General's Asian American Advisory Council, Montgomery County Executive's Asian American Advisory Board, Montgomery County Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board, Committee for Montgomery, and Progressive Maryland.

Judge Pak is the embodiment of the principles, values, and attributes that are the bedrock of our community.

-Nominated by The Honorable Susan Lee

ROSCOE R. NIX DISTINGUISHED COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Roscoe R. Nix Distinguished Community Leadership Award is presented by the County Executive to individuals who, over the course of their lives, have made extraordinary contributions to the quality of our community at the very highest levels of excellence. This prestigious award was established by County Executive Ike Leggett to honor community icon Roscoe Nix, who gave half century of service to Montgomery County. First presented in 2012, the Nix Award is the county's equivalent of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the local version of the nation's highest civilian award.



About Roscoe R. Nix

Roscoe R. Nix, a champion of civil rights, was one of the major architects of modern Montgomery County. Born in Greenville, Ala., Nix served in the U.S. Army during World War II and graduated from Howard University. He and his wife Emma moved here in 1968 with their two children. Professionally, Nix was a peacemaker who traveled the nation on behalf of the Justice Department's Community Relations Service to help resolve conflicts in

communities experiencing civil unrest. At home in Montgomery County, he was the county's leading advocate for equity and justice. A staunch critic of de facto school segregation, Nix became the second African American elected to the Montgomery County Board of Education in 1974. As the president of the county's chapter of the NAACP from 1980 to 1990, he was a fearless and tireless advocate for educational excellence and social, economic, and political justice. The county's annual African American Festival of Academic Excellence, which celebrates the academic achievements of African American students, is among his proudest accomplishments. He was inducted into the Montgomery County Human Rights Hall of Fame in 2001. He died at the age of 90 in January 2012.

PAST HONOREES

2012 Roscoe R Nix • Charles "Chuck" Lyons • Connie Morella **2013** Odessa Shannon • Carol • Teresa Rios Wright **2014** Reverend Leon Grant • Dr. Michael Lin • Nancy Scull **2015** Jennie Forehand • Inez Zeigler McAbee • Tom Perez **2016** Vivian Bass DeLawrence Beard Gustavo Torres **2017** Mark Bergel • Sol Graham **2018** Tufail Ahmad • Brian Frosh • Linda Plummer **2019** Charlotte Coffield • Ike Leggett • David Rodich **2020** Dr. Winston Anderson • Jenny Sue Dunner • Anita Neal Powell **2021** Byron A. Johns • Blanca Kling • Diego Uriburu

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ IN MEMORIAM ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Tufail Ahmad, recipient of the 2012 Neal Potter Path of Achievement Award and the 2018 Roscoe R. Nix Distinguished Community Leadership Award

ROSCOE R. NIX DISTINGUISHED COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD



The Honorable Nancy Kopp

Nancy Kopp served as Maryland State Treasurer from 2002 until December 2021. She spent nearly five decades in public service and was one of the longest-serving treasurers in state history. Nancy is the second woman to hold the post, and for most of that time, was the only woman serving Maryland in a Constitutional Office. Nancy was the State's chief representative dealing with bond rating agencies and banking firms, was responsible for

receiving, depositing, investing and distributing State funds, and led efforts to forecast the monetary needs of the state.

Nancy chaired the Board of Trustees of the Maryland State Retirement and Pension Systems and the Maryland 529 College Savings Board, and was an active member of other vital bodies, including the Commission on School Construction. As a member of Maryland's Climate Change Commission, she was a leader in the state's efforts in climate change mitigation and adaptation, with special focus on reducing inequities and supporting vulnerable communities.

Nancy's retirement capped a remarkable career in Annapolis that began when she signed on as a legislative staffer for the Montgomery County delegation in 1971. In 1974, she was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates, representing Bethesda and Chevy Chase, and served for 27 years.

During that time, she was a leader on the House Appropriations Committee, the Joint Committee on Pensions, the Joint Spending Affordability Committee, the Joint Committee on Budget and Audit, and, at various times, as Deputy Majority Leader and Speaker Pro Tem. She was an original member of and President of the Women's Legislative Caucus and the Legislative Study Group.

Her legislative accomplishments ranged from governmental transparency and efficiency to equal rights for women and minorities to the merger of the old state college and university systems into the University System of Maryland.

During her legislative career, Nancy was named by her colleagues as the most effective woman legislator and one of the most effective members of the House of Delegates.

Nancy has been active in numerous national, regional, and state organizations and boards, primarily focused on finance, education, and fiscal matters. Appointed by President Clinton to the National Assessment Governing Board, she also served as Treasurer of the Southern Regional Education Board and on the Executive Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures. Kopp was Vice-Chair of the National Commission on State and Local Budget and Finance Procedures, President of the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers and a Trustee of the national Financial Accounting Foundation.

Nancy and her husband, Robert, live in Bethesda and have two adult children and three grandchildren.

As one of the state's most distinguished public servants, Nancy has made a lasting contribution to the well-being of the state of Maryland and Montgomery County.

ROSCOE R. NIX DISTINGUISHED COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD



Mona Negm

Mona Negm is described as a “powerful force” working on behalf of those with no voice: refugees, senior citizens, low-income ethnic groups, and women from developing countries. Having emigrated from Egypt, she understands their concerns. With over 40 years of experience working in the field of multi-cultural aging, her expertise includes research, policy, and practice.

When Mona sees a need, she acts. One early volunteer experience began with the Pump House Community in Rockville, where Mona recognized that low-income African Americans needed more outreach and community engagement. She helped neighbors organize and become empowered to act as one voice with city government. Later Mona volunteered with the Lutheran Church, providing new arrivals with information about community resources.

In 2009, aware that older adults in her Muslim community would benefit from friendly visits, transportation, speakers, and special events, Mona organized 30 volunteers to help.

This initiative sowed the seeds for one of Mona’s lasting legacies—the founding of the American Muslim Senior Society in 2017. The nonprofit, known as AMSS, is a health and Long-Term Care resource organization whose mission is to empower the county’s diverse seniors and caregivers by giving them access to culturally sensitive tools and resources. AMSS focuses on isolated, underserved, and marginalized individuals.

AMSS services include a Certified Nurses Assistant training program, Halal meals on wheels, rapid response ambassador teams to meet emergency requests, and multi-cultural, multi-lingual ambassadors to assist terminally ill patients and their families.

Mona is a firm believer that partnerships foster empowerment, so she has developed a coalition of health organizations, a consortium of Islamic Centers, and the interfaith community.

Mona’s work is enhanced by her past and present involvement in many county organizations, including the County Executive’s Vital Living Network, the County Executive’s Committee on Hate and Violence, the Commission on Aging, the Montgomery County Muslim Foundation, the Muslim Community Center, the Jewish Islamic Dialogue Society, and the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding.

Over the years, Mona’s contributions have been recognized with awards from the Montgomery Muslim Foundation, the County Executive, County Council, the Middle Eastern American Advisory Group, and GROWS. She is a past recipient of the Neal Potter Path of Achievement Award.

Mona has worked at the World Bank, AARP, Northern Virginia and Prince Georges Community colleges, and the Federal Council on Aging—a Presidential Advisory Council.

She received a bachelor’s degree in French Literacy and Sociology from the University of the District of Columbia, a master’s degree in Human Development and a graduate certificate in Aging from the University of Maryland, and a fellowship in Ethno- Geriatric Long-Term Care at Stanford University.

Mona resides in Silver Spring with her husband, Dr. Salah Negm. They have two adult sons and four grandchildren.

ROSCOE R. NIX DISTINGUISHED COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD



Kenneth Nelson

Kenneth Nelson has contributed to the well-being and improvement of Montgomery County by serving as the pastor of Seneca Community Church in Germantown for over fifteen years, and as director of business and community outreach for over twenty-five years at Montgomery College's Workforce Development and Continuing Education unit.

His spiritual journey of caring, worship and community outreach has advanced personal and professional improvement for people and communities by supporting life-changing initiatives.

In his role at Montgomery College, Ken has helped students, community representatives, and professionals achieve their academic and professional goals. He is also a tireless advocate who actively engages in community outreach to address civic concerns.

We've all heard the saying *"if you want something done, ask a busy person."* Ken is that person! His leadership and association experience includes a long list of organizations. He's been active in the American Cancer Society; Boy Scouts of America National Capital Area Council; YMCA Montgomery Village; Caring Matters; Community Bridges; Montgomery County Executive's African American Advisory Group; Montgomery County Police African American Liaison Committee; Victim's Rights Foundation; Wheaton-Kensington Chamber of Commerce and Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee. He has worked with the American Heart Association, Prison Fellowship, Worksource Montgomery, Montgomery Hospice, and numerous Chambers of Commerce.

Ken is also a member of The American Association of Christian Counselors, National Speakers Association, Downtown Silver Spring Rotary Club, and Montgomery College Global Leaders and Speakers Toastmasters Club.

He is a past president of the Black Ministers Conference of Montgomery County and past president of the International Conference of Community Churches, (ICCC) Ministers Group.

Rev. Nelson has offered invocations for the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, the Montgomery County Council, the Maryland State Senate, and the United States House of Representatives. For his efforts to improve the community, he was selected as one of the 2018 Montgomery County Human Rights Hall of Fame Inductees and currently serves as a Co-Chair of Montgomery College's 75th Anniversary Celebration.

Ken earned a bachelor's degree from Towson University; a master's degree from Western Kentucky University; and graduate certificates in Leadership Development from Johns Hopkins, Indiana University and Lancaster Bible College. Always seeking to add to his arsenal of knowledge, he received certified program planner and certified marketing planning designations from the Learning Resources Network. Ken is a 2010 graduate of Leadership Montgomery and Leadership Montgomery's Racial Equity Action Leadership Inclusion Program.

By harnessing his leadership and collaborative experiences from the fields of religion, higher education, public policy, hospital and business administration, and community and economic development, Ken Nelson has been an agent of innovation and positive change in the community.



CONGRATULATIONS & THANK YOU TO OUR IMPRESSIVE 2022 NOMINEES!

Choosing our honorees was not at all easy. We are grateful for the many impressive nominations & appreciate those who volunteer to make Montgomery County an even better place to live, work, play, raise a family and retire!

NOMINEES

Sara Afifi Abdel, Sara Ahmed, Agbognigan Amouzou, Annapurna, The Arc Montgomery County, Nikhil Arya, Applied Insight, Linda Barrett, Shruti Bhatnagar, Rhea Chelar, Maya Chelar, City of Faith Outreach Program, Larry Cohen, Coordination Council of Chinese-American Associations (CCCAA), Oliva Cox, Jonina Duker, Abigail Eisenhart, Susan Emery, Sophia Fang, Doni Feldman, Fighting Injustice Standing Together (F.I.S.T.), Mark Fine, Lois Forster, Steve Friedman, Gaithersburg Beloved Community Initiative, Melanie Goldstein, Deborah Hanley, Tony Hausner, Elizabeth Hermosilla, Charlotte Holliday, Samantha Jayasundera, Jeffy John, Kundai Jongwe, Matt Kane, Bill Liss-Levinson, Aiden Logmanni, Mary Louise Mahoney, Crystal Masih, Melissa McKenna, Mercy Health Clinic Volunteer Medical Providers, Obaahemaa Mensah, Montgomery Art Association Board Members, Montgomery County Association of Family & Community Education (MCAFCE), Tara Mowbray, Evan Nicholas, The Honorable Chung K. Pak, Rainbow Community Development Center, Laura Reed, Vernon Ricks, Pat Rumbaugh, Fatima Savage, Schai Schairer, Rachel Schiffenbauer, Bob Schleichert, Terry Seamens, Shelly Silverstone, Small Things Matter, Inc., Sadhana Srinivasan, Meredith Strider, Sophia Sun, Elizabeth Tang, Hiwot Tarekegn, Donna Taylor, Desha Teja, Maria Torres Benitez, Sophia Tuncer, Christie Vu, Carol Walsh, Chih-Jung "Julian" Wang, Kenneth Weiss, Eric Wenger, Robert Wilbur, Sue Winakur, Claire Wu, Xi Sigma Omega Chapter Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Joseph Yao

NOMINATORS

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