



December 2018 SRLC NEWSLETTER

### **New Lion Lillian McGraw**

Lillian moved from Connecticut to Maryland in 1980 in order to pursue a career in nursing after graduating from the University of Connecticut. She worked at University of Maryland Hospital for several years. She met her husband Peter McGraw in 1981 and has been married for 35 years since 1983. They have been residents of Severna Park since 1982. They have two grown children who live in Maryland. Lillian enjoys being active and her hobbies include hiking, gardening, traveling, and reading. She is a member of Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church and is active in several Volunteer Organizations including Partners in Care. She is currently employed at Johns Hopkins HealthCare in Glen Burnie. She is excited and happy to be a new member of the Severn River Lions Club and is looking forward to participating in many of the activities.



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Lions Ollie Wittig,  
Suzette Kettenhofen

Severna Park, MD, November 29, 2018 – Aurora Nelson, a 7th grade student at Severn River Middle School has taken the first steps to becoming an internationally recognized artist by winning a local competition sponsored by the **Severn River Lions Club**. Aurora’s poster was among 200 entries submitted from Severn River Middle for the annual Lions International Peace Poster contest. There were 3 clubs from District 22A that submitted Peace Posters. She also won the prize for the Multiple District which is comprised of Delaware, Maryland, and Washington, DC. “Sharing Kindness Matters” was the quote on Peace from the 12 year-old from Annapolis resident. The poster was selected by a local art school instructor, Barbara Bustard. The judging was held on November 28, 2018 in Dundalk, MD. Her poster will now advance to Lions Clubs International contest with the possibility of being declared the international grand prize winner. One international grand prize winner and 23 merit award winners will be selected. The grand prize includes a cash award of US\$5,000, plus a trip for the winner and two family members to a special award ceremony.



The 23 merit award winners will each receive a certificate and a cash award of US\$500. Severn River Lions Club Peace Poster chairperson, Catherine Violette, said she was impressed by the expression and creativity of the students at Severn River Middle School. “It is obvious that these young people have strong ideas about what peace means to them. I’m so proud that we were able to provide them with the opportunity to share their visions

Locally, Aurora and her fellow students will be honored for their participation by the Severn River Lions Club at a date to be selected later.

## Off To A Good Start

SRLC's first citrus sale on November 17 began just after daybreak on a chilly and breezy morning on the parking lot at Severna Park High School. Early arriving Lions got the big truck unloaded and the fruit, navel oranges, grapefruit, and mandarin oranges were stacked. Lions and band kids assembled the two booths and by the starting time we were ready to go. A total of 348 customers had ordered about 650 cartons of delicious citrus fruit and cars began to line up. The first stop



were greeted and the orders loaded. Customers were given a card that listed the date and fruit for the next sale on December 15. As customers drove out they passed another table where special candle and a variety of roasted nuts could be purchased. As the morning progressed the stacks of fruit dwindled and close down was begun. The five citrus sales are SRLC's main income source and the club is pleased to offer delicious citrus fruit to benefit the club's charitable events. Even though the Saturday citrus sale was successful there was still some fruit left and on Sunday Lions

Carl Gilbert, Rollins Clark, Jon Valett, Dick Maurer, Bill Zelenakas, and Ollie Wittig. Joined up at Clements Hardware to sell the extra fruit. The big Lions truck was parked and Lions set up a table with displays of fruit and were ready for prospective buyers. Three customers asked to be added to the mailing list and two customers expressed interest in visiting an SRLC meeting and were given a club brochure. As the morning passed the stacks of fruit had dwindled and the season's first sale was a success. We will be back on December 15 for another vending.



## Stuff A Truck

On November 14 Lions Dick Maurer and Ollie Wittig travel to Shipley's Choice School for the annual "Stuff A Truck" competition between Pack 688 and SRLC. This event which has been held for at least six years challenges both organizations to donate more food that will benefit SPAN and the group that gives the most food will "win" pizza. For at least five years Pack 688 has bested SRLC by the food donations and won pizza. Lions collected 9 cartons of food and this was transported to SPAN the next day. The SPAN

staff expressed appreciation for the donation. SRLC was challenged to donate food and bring it to the November 20 meeting and try to "win" the pizza this year but if past Pack donations are an indicator they will get the pizza. Pack 688 is one of the most active Cub Scout units in the District and Lions also participate in the Bike Rodeo, Raingutter Regatta, and Pack Bridging where Cubs "graduate" to Boy Scouts. Members who have not taken part in any of these events are encouraged to do so in the future and get a chance to interact with the Cub Scouts and leaders.



Lion Bill O'Neil at SPAN with food boxes and fruit

## Pack 688 wins the pizza AGAIN!!

For at least six years SRLC has challenge our Cub Scout Pack 688 to collect more food for SPAN and the group that collects thee most food wins pizza from the loser. At the Lions meeting on November 20 members brought food and stacked it on a table. It was quite a bit of food but once again Pack 688 donated more food than the Lions and they will win the pizza again this year. A check delivered in a pizza box will go to the Cub Scouts and they will be able to dine at a future event. In reality SPAN is the winner of this contest and the boxes of non-perishable food delivered just before Thanksgiving will benefit many underprivileged families. The pizza contest is another example of how SRLC benefits our community.

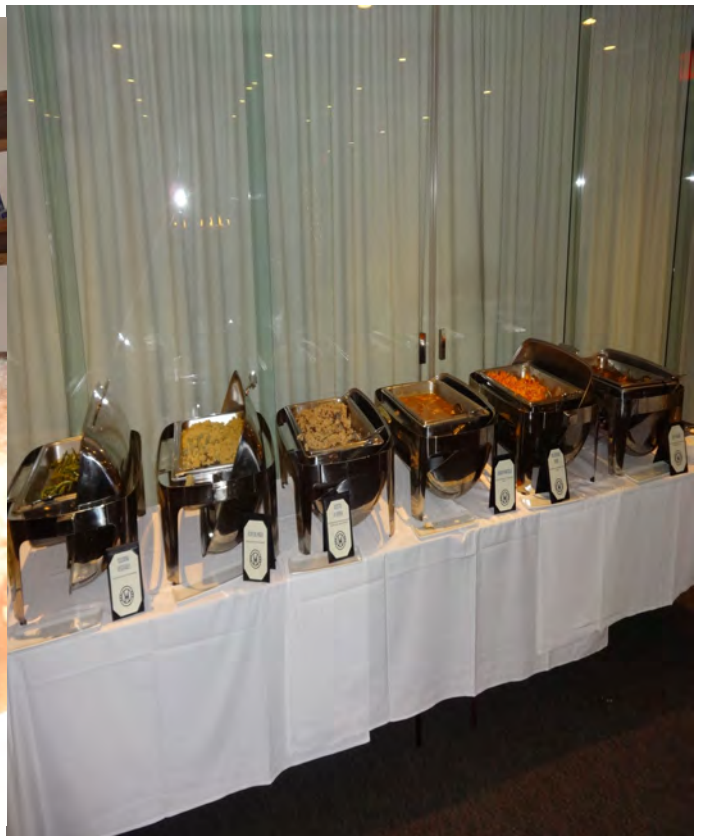


## Holiday Gathering

On December 4 forty Lions and guests journeyed to Café Mezannote for SRLC's annual holiday celebration. Upon entering the "party goers" were escorted to a large private dining area which had been set up with six tables that would accommodate the guests. Off in the corner was a "hydrating area" where party goers could quench their thirst while socializing with other party goers. It was announced that the meal would be served shortly and guests went to the table to prepare to feast on a delicious holiday meal. The lines formed and celebrants were served salad, a choice of four different entrees, and a dessert platter which offered cannolis. Soon the only sound that could be heard was the clinking of the silverware and "boy, is this delicious food." Dining continued for about a half hour then Lion Chris an-



nounced that it was time for gifts. Unfortunately Santa Claus was not able to attend this event but two elves, Dick Maurer and Ollie Wittig had been drafted to give out all of the "expensive" gifts that Santa provided. As names were called the recipient came forward and given their present. When the gift bag was empty the guests were asked to join in singing a carol, "We Wish You A Merry Christmas" and the festivities were drawing to a close. Party goers enjoyed a good meal, a chance to interact with other Lions and guests, and get the holidays off to a good start. The annual SRLC holiday party is one of several fun events the club sponsors and all in attendance were wished a happy and joyous holiday season. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year







## REGION 1 GUEST SPEAKER TELLS HER COATS DISEASE STORY

After Christmas 5 years ago, our son was diagnosed with Coats Disease. At his yearly routine eye exam we found that he had lost all vision in his right eye and he never told us. He slowly lost his vision over the course of 10 months and during that time his brain forced his left eye to take over and shut off his right eye. Because of this, our 5 year old never said anything to us about the vision loss. Immediately we raced to The Wilmer Eye Institute where Sean was placed under the care of Dr. Handa and Dr. Repka. What followed was a series of 7 surgeries in 8 months to try to reverse the disease. Coats Disease occurs when the blood vessels leak in the eye. The lipids, or fatty proteins, attack the retina and cause blindness. Left untreated, Coats will cause blindness and can also lead to the removal of the eye due to pain. Sean was lucky to be in the best eye hospital in the world. With the care of Dr. Handa and Dr. Repka Sean went from 20/2000 vision to 20/70. He truly is The Wilmer's miracle case. Sean endured Avastin injections as well a laser treatments to restore his vision and today he has some blurry spots, but for the most part his vision is wonderful. Coats Disease has effected our family twice in the last 15 years. Sean's cousin also has Coats Disease, however his cousin lost all vision in his Coats eye and now suffers from a cataract. His treatment didn't include Avastin, as this was 15 years ago. Treatment has been slow to change as no one was researching the disease seriously. That changed when we decided to support The Wilmer Eye Institute and fund Coats Disease Research.



In 2014 we founded The Curing Coats Fundraiser. We raise funds for Dr. Akrit Sodhi and his team who are now researching Coats Disease! The Wilmer was not studying this disease before we came along. In 5 years we have hosted parties at our home, featuring food trucks, a live band and donations from local businesses. These amazing events have raised over \$194,000 in 5 years! Part of that total also comes from The Jack McGovern Foundation who granted Dr. Sodhi \$75,000 for his research and to set up a tissue biobank at The Wilmer. The bottom line is our hard work has allowed Dr. Sodhi to research this disease and hopefully find a cure or better treatment for the children effected with the disease. This Spring The Curing Coats Fundraiser and LVRF are teaming up for our 1st annual golf outing. Taking place on May 3 at Waverly Woods Golf Course, we are looking for sponsors, supporters and golfers to join us! If you are interested in participating, please email us at [blsmole@yahoo.com](mailto:blsmole@yahoo.com). Our next big fundraiser will be in the Fall of 2019, you can find out more about both events at [www.curingcoatsfundraiser.com](http://www.curingcoatsfundraiser.com). With awareness, support and community we can get the message out to our neighbors that we must check our children's vision. Without our yearly eye check Sean would have lost his eye. How lucky we are that that didn't happen to him.



## Lions Go Visiting

To keep a Lions tradition members are asked to visit other Lions clubs in District 22-A or outside the District to interact with Lions. On November 15 Lions Dick Maurer and Ollie Wittig traveled in the rain to the South Anne Arundel Lions meeting at Pirates Cove Restaurant. Upon arrival the visitors were greeted by SALC members and invited to rehydrate before the meeting began. Promptly at 7:00 pm the president convened the meeting and introduced special guests, DG Angela Bruce and her husband past DG Bob and two visitors from SRLC. Attendees were reminded that the meals could be ordered from the club menu which listed about six delicious entrees. The president conducted a brief meeting and soon the salads arrived and “munch, munch” could be heard. The main courses began to arrive and the fifteen Lions enjoyed a delicious meal. Dessert followed and the meeting resumed. The president thanked all who attended and reminded them to drive carefully on the way home in the rain. Club visitation is always interesting and gives Lions a chance to interact with other Lions, tell about their club’s activities, and learn about possible projects. Be sure to sign up for a club visitation this term.

