

Main Line Banter: Aprils past and a look ahead at local happenings

Published: Wednesday, April 08, 2015

By Ray Hoffman
For Main Line Media News



Relaxing on the banks of the Chesapeake over the last holiday weekend was a wonderful opportunity to get one's ducks in a row. The tranquil watershed, only a few hours away from the heart of the Main Line, is a refuge for thousands of species of waterfowl and one of nature's most serene "quiet rooms."

Especially at this time of the year, James Michener's storied estuary affords an ideal environment for one to sit back, peer at the far horizon over the chilled, glistening waters of the creeks and rivers that are tributaries of this fabled watershed and ponder: "what lies ahead around our towns for the rest of the month?"

In chronicling but a few events in the shower of local April activities, it may be interesting (and I hope that you agree) to interlace notice of these local events with a few historical observances and other claims to fame that share their April dates.

On April 15, the most taxing day of every year, many of us have the sunken feeling that goes with the privilege of being an American. We have filed our tax returns (and signed the checks that go with them.) But on April 15, 1912 there was the much more horrific sinking. The White Star Liner Titanic, the widely heralded “unsinkable,” but doomed, luxury ship that crashed into an Atlantic iceberg the night before, descended to its watery grave. On a much happier April 15th note, painted into history in 1452 was the birth of Leonardo DaVinci. And I’m loving it to tell you that McDonald’s opened its first restaurant on that date in 1955 in Des Plaines, Ill.

April 17 is the date for submission of nominations for the 2015 157th Legislative District Extraordinary Woman Award sponsored by State Rep. Warren Kampf. For information and nomination forms, please call Kampf’s office at 610-666-0610. The winner will be announced at Rep. Kampf’s Women’s Luncheon on May 8 at the Pfizer Conference Center, Collegeville. Also on the 17th, Friends of the Easttown Library will gather to celebrate a Golden Masquerade at Hilltop House to mark the 50th Anniversary of the organization. There will be live music, dancing, a magician, a photo booth, a fortune teller, a caricaturist, hors d’oeuvres and open bar, as well as a raffle. For more information about the 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. gala, please contact the library. (Fans of movie cartoons may want to take a minute on the 17th to quack about the debut of Daffy Duck in 1937, and “clean freaks” amongst us will obviously put a few coins into their memory banks on that day to celebrate the opening of the first Laundromat in Fort Worth, Texas in 1934.)

Nationally, there is no significant observance on the 19th, but making up for it on the 20th are National Pineapple Upside-Down Cake Day and, yes, National Cuckoo Day. Locally on the 19th,, National Pet ID Week will be celebrated at Braxton’s Animal Works in Strafford, and free IDs will be offered there, and also that day the Main Line Symphony Orchestra will perform a Vienna Strauss Concert at 3 p.m. at the Sunnybrook Ballroom, Pottstown.

Let’s skip over the plethora of “designated” commercial national observances that populate the 21st through the 24th and remind you that the new production of “A Piece of My Heart” will open its nine-performance run at Berwyn’s Footlighters Theater on the 24th at 8 p.m. The Main Line Symphony Orchestra will perform a concert of favorite works of DeBussy, Ravel, Hindemith and Dvorek that evening at Valley Forge Middle School, also at 8 pm. (More about the Footlighters and their financial straits in next week’s column.)

On April 25, Baker Industries will hold its annual gala at Merion Cricket Club to benefit the work of this highly respected non-profit. (On the same date in 1967, the first law legalizing abortion was signed by Colorado Gov. John Love.) Locally, on April 26, the spring tennis clinic at Tredyffrin’s Strafford Park will begin a seven-week program (\$95 fee) and the 28th Annual Walk 4 Paws will be held at Hibernia Park. A 5K run, dog training demonstrations, live music, food vendors, face-painting and microchipping will be part of the day-long event. (On April 26, 1944 federal troops seized the Chicago offices of Montgomery Ward and ousted its chairman for not obeying an order from President Roosevelt to recognize a CIO union. On the same date in

1986, the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Russian exploded, unleashing a radioactive cloud that eventually covered most of Europe.)

Patrick J. Kennedy, son of the late Robert Kennedy and nephew of the late President John F. Kennedy, will speak at Bryn Mawr College on April 27 at 7 p.m. about the stigma and treatment of mental illness in the U.S. Proceeds will benefit the DMAX Foundation's work in mental health issues and emotional pain in our youth. A limited number of tickets at \$49 each is available for a wine and cheese reception with Mr. Kennedy at 6 p.m. General admission for the speech is \$24, and student tickets are \$8. (On this date in 1865, the worst steamship disaster in the nation occurred when the Sultana exploded, killing more than 2000, mostly Union soldiers who were prisoners of war and returning home.)

Shortcuts around town

Congratulations to Caley Maslowsky, 17-year-old daughter of Eric and Sharon Maslowsky, of Bodine Road, Berwyn, for winning a trip to Germany for her outstanding work in reading, writing and speaking German. Caley is a junior at Conestoga High School ... The Kiwanis Club of the Main Line presented \$1,000 each to four charities that serve children. The charities are: Crista Rey School, TALK, of Newtown Square, Results, and the Main Line Art Center. The club also will honor the Lower Merion Township Police Officer of the Year at its April 22 luncheon meeting in Bryn Mawr College's Wyndham Alumnae Hall ... Nobody asked me, but if you stay up all night to see where the sun went, it will dawn on you.

The Last Word: Good day, good luck and good news tomorrow.

Ray writes a regular column for Main Line Suburban Life. You may contact him at mainlinebanter@verizon.net.

http://www.mainlinemedianews.com/articles/2015/04/08/main_line_suburban_life/opinion/doc5525292c9bb91326188062.txt?viewmode=fullstory