Cannon Fire Hits the Target for Charities

Linda Lewis reports that Pumpkin Chunkin’ really paid off to the benefit of a few good causes. During the first two weekends of October, Lewis Orchards brought in a pumpkin cannon and, for a donation, fired pumpkins at a target floating in their pond at least 700 yards away. There were a lot of shots and a lot of laughs, and, in the end, they raised $1,545.00 to be shared by Poolesville Relay for Life, Fisher House, and the Poolesville High School Post Prom committee.

National Achievement Semi-Finalists Named

Congratulations to Poolesville High School students Aminata Keita and Maeva S. Nyandjo for being named semifinalists for the National Achievement Scholarship, a program administered by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation in recognition of promising African American students throughout the nation. Nationally, only 800 Achievement Scholarships are awarded, and to be named a semifinalist is something of which to be very proud.

Kehilat Shalom Synagogue Dedicates Torah

To a packed sanctuary, the Kehilat Shalom Synagogue in Montgomery Village dedicated its new Torah on September 26. The service celebrated the end of Kehilat Shalom’s Mitzvah 613 Torah Program which culminated after months and months of work by a sofer (scribe) in Israel, participants by many congregants, and many educational programs along the way. Kehilat Shalom’s Rabbi Mark Raphael wrote the last two letters of the last word, Yisrael, in the Torah as a representative for those who could not write in the Torah themselves, many of whom made other types of contributions to the new Torah. After the ink of those last letters dried, congregants Gail Lieberman and teen, Josh Forgosh, read from the brand-new Torah.

Rabbi Raphael emphasized the importance of community in all aspects of religious life and pointed out that, as a result, the Torah is more than just the words that comprise it. Carrie Ettinger, who led the Mitzvah 613 Torah Program and who is Kehilat Shalom’s new president, echoed the rabbi’s sentiment when she said, “As I look back over the past year, I am so proud and grateful for what we have accomplished together as a community. I hope we find comfort knowing that, together, the congregation has participated in creating a Torah that will live on in our Kehilat Shalom community for many, many years to come. Our children will read from it, and their children will read from it, from generation to generation.

It’s Number Twenty and Counting

The folks at Poolesville Presbyterian Church recently threw a surprise celebration party for their pastor, the Rev. Ruth Everhart, in honor of her twentieth anniversary of her ordination. It’s hard to imagine, but she’s already been at PPC for nine years. Seems like just yesterday when she first came to town, or as one congregant said, “Time flies when you are having fun.”