



Marching Into Spring: A Social Gathering!

MDSC Event Recap

Mary Lynn Lally, Thelma Schroeder, Lisa Skaggs, Contributors

A total of 107 people, including members, KIS staff, volunteers, and visitors, gathered at the Marilyn J. Praisner Community Center in Burtonsville on Friday, March 13, 2026. After about thirty minutes of entering the meeting room, President Thelma Schroeder was able to get everyone's attention and start the day's events. She shared that MDSC has 185 regular and supporting members, announced there would be no gatherings in July and August, and noted a suggestion from the audience about holding Zoom meetings over the summer. The Annual Membership Meeting will be on Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at The Meeting House in Columbia, which can be explored online at <https://themeetinghouse.org/>.

MDSC's 50th Anniversary Gala

MDSC's 50th Anniversary Gala is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3, 2026 at Blackwall Barn and Lodge in Gambrills, MD. The gala will feature a family-style dinner for tables of eight, with two or three entrees, and the committee praised the crab cakes from a recent tasting. MDSC will not have a holiday dinner this year, opting instead for a regular monthly event.

March 25th Trip

Mike Weinstock, Trip Coordinator, reported that 39 people have signed up for the March 25th trip to Fort McHenry and the National Aquarium, including a lunch at Crazy Crepe in the Cross Market, with room for 13 last-minute sign-ups. Payments should be sent to Treasurer Stephen DeMuth after coordinating with him, with the deadline of March 16th. Additional details will be shared with those who registered.

Baltimore DSA 2027

Yvonne Catt, Baltimore DSA 2027 Site Liaison, reminded members that early bird registration for the DSA 2027 Conference ends on April 30th, after which the price increases. Volunteers pay \$375, and others pay \$400 if registered by April 30th. Volunteers can assist with duties like registration tables, hall monitoring, workshop setups, and introducing speakers, with a Google form forthcoming for sign-ups. The conference dates are August 20-27, 2027, and registration is available at <https://www.deafseniors.us/2027-conference>.

Cancer Screening for Older Patients

Guest speaker Dr. James Huang, Director of the Student Health Services at Gallaudet, presented on “Cancer Screening for Older Patients.” He explained the difference between screening and diagnostic tests, emphasizing the importance of preventive screenings for breast, prostate, cervical, colon, and lung cancers. Screening is recommended for people without symptoms, while diagnostic testing investigates symptoms to guide treatment. Dr. Huang asked that attendees be informed about a resource he forgot to mention during the presentation: the Deaf support group for cancer survivors, Pink Wings of Hope, which can be found at <https://www.deafinc.org/pwoh>.

Key questions discussed with answers and brief explanations included:

- Do mammograms expose you to high levels of radiation? False. Mammograms use very low radiation levels, making them safe for routine screening every two years from ages 40-74. Those 75 and older should consult their doctor.
- If the PSA test is elevated, does it mean you have prostate cancer? False. An elevated PSA may indicate other conditions; men 55-69 should discuss benefits and risks with their doctor before deciding on screening.
- Can HPV self-swabs replace a pap smear? True. HPV self-swabs can be done every five years until age 65 after three consecutive normal results, providing an alternative to in-office pap tests.
- When should colon cancer screening start? True for ages 45-75. Those 75-85 should discuss with a doctor, and screening is not recommended after 85.
- Do former smokers need lung cancer screening? True. Screening is recommended for those aged 50-80 who are current smokers or quit within the past 15 years, especially if smoking a pack or more daily.

Dr. Huang emphasized considering personal health values, quality of life, and discussing potential benefits and risks of screening with a doctor. He also highlighted the importance of a healthy diet, including high-fiber foods, vegetables, beans, limiting red meat, and monitoring carbohydrate intake.

Mike & Barry’s Deli

Lunch was served by Mike & Barry’s Deli, giving attendees a chance to socialize.

BINGO

Wayne Berke and Harry Larson won \$38 each in the first round.

Suzanne Dahan won \$56 in the second round.

Guess Jar

Lisa Skaggs won a bottle of dark chocolate eggs for guessing closest to 174 pieces.

Best Spring/St Patrick’s Attire Contest

Nine finalists—Helen Berke, Nancy Chough, Teddy Hackley, Michael Harbison, Arlene Kuschmider, Bertha Lewis, Eve Mitton, Sonny Moreland, and Carolyn Snyder-Mason—were selected.

A spinning wheel determined winners: Teddy Hackley (\$25), Helen Berke (\$15), Arlene Kuschmider (\$10).

50/50 Raffle

Dawn Hampton-Savoy won \$205 from a total of \$411.

Bank Day

Yvonne Catt won \$100 through the Wheel of Names.

April Gathering

The next gathering is scheduled for Friday, April 17, 2026, at the Marilyn J. Praisner Community Center.

Special Thanks!

Admissions: Yvonne Catt, Stephen DeMuth, Laura Sweeney

Bingo: Lisa Skaggs

50/50 Raffle: James Ballmer, Cathy Thompson

Food Planning: Christine Sorkin, Katie Todd

Guess Jar: Stephen DeMuth, Cathy Thompson

Interpreters & KIS Staff: Rebecca Blumenfeld, Eric Hamlow, Senette Jilson, Stephen Kimble, NancyLynn Ward, Delanne Woodall, Jimmy Beldon, Julie Perry, Niki Warman

Pictures: Andriana Canning, Thelma Schroeder, Lisa Skaggs

PPT: Barry White

Presentation: Dr. James Huang

Recap: Mary Lynn Lally, Thelma Schroeder, Lisa Skaggs

Volunteers – for helping with lunch setup, arranging tables and chairs, and cleaning up:

Ilan Brick, Tommy Burgess, Skyler Delgado, Corinne Emanuel, Amelia Fisher, Megan Kules, Katie Parker, Morgan Ramos

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who came out and helped make this day full of fun and great memories!

Gold Sponsors:



Silver Sponsor:



Bronze Sponsors:



Scroll down to see photos taken by Andriana Canning, Thelma Schroeder, and Lisa Skaggs:





















