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Vol. 19 No. 13 For the Community • By the Community

May 2, 2025



Bonjour! from France

Over spring break, 20 French students and four teachers from Kenston High School journeyed through France, speaking and practicing the language they had learned throughout their French classes. It was truly an eye-opening experience. Students in French 4, who had studied the Roman conquest of Gaul in 52 B.C., were thrilled to see actual Roman ruins in Nîmes. Students also enjoyed visiting the Louvre Musée d'Orsay, exploring the Eiffel Tower, Versailles, Nice, and other historical places in France. Throughout the trip, they confidently used the vocabulary they had practiced in class to order food at restaurants and interact with local shopkeepers, turning their studies into real-world experiences. They also participated in a cooking class, providing first-hand cultural experiences. Kenston High School French teacher, Brenda Wahl, shared, "My favorite part of taking students abroad is witnessing their excitement as they experience, firsthand, the places they've only read about. It's so rewarding to watch those classroom lessons come to life. I also believe it's so important to foster global citizenship—encouraging students to step outside their comfort zones, connect with other cultures, and see the world from a new perspective." Kenston Schools Photo.

Inside this Spirit...

- Our "Civics 101" series of articles continues with Anne North's explanation of the Bill of Rights. Please see page 6.
- Our Spring Home & Garden Guide of 2025 is here to help you finish those spring projects around your home and yard. What a plethora of resources and information we have assembled for you, beginning on page 16.

A Mother's Day Memory

By Anne E. North

We all have our successes and failures as mothers. The former are fleeting, the latter are inevitable. But we all have stories to pass down to our children. In this Mother's Day edition of the *Spirit*, I would like to share a story about my own mother, Mary.

The fifth child and first daughter of of an Irish father and German mother, her family lived two blocks from the heart of our hometown near Columbus. They did not have an automobile, so my grandfather walked to work at the hardware store he owned with his brother. The family walked to St. Mary's Catholic Church and the children walked to the adjoining parochial school.

My mom used to talk about a well-known house here in Lancaster, the Maccracken home, which is now The Georgian and operated as a tourist attraction by the Fairfield Heritage Association. When my mom was little, she would wander off and go in the front door of that grand house. It got to the point where the owners would put her doll, leaned up against a huge pillar on the front veranda, so if her brothers were out looking for her, they would know where she was!

I've often thought about the neighborly and kind people who lived there and went to lengths to kindly shelter that little girl who much later became my mother. And then I learned just how truly compassionate they were!

When I worked for the county visitor's and convention bureau, which included giving tours of local historic homes, I discovered that that historic building was a station on the Underground Railroad in Lancaster! I wonder if my mother ever knew that fact existed...

I wonder if my mom ever knew that the grand house where she played as a child was a station on the Underground Railroad...

We tend to think of mothers only in the context of how we knew them as we grew. Stories like this help us imagine them as they were as children.

At my mom's funeral in 2000, her lifelong friend, Betty, whispered in my ear, "I've lost my best friend." I could picture the two of them, laughing as girls, sharing secrets as teenagers, and confiding in each other as young mothers. And I think of my lifelong friend Nancy, and the fun and laughter and tears we've shared as young girls through motherhood, and now into our senior years.

To all mothers and those who nurture others on this Mother's Day, I offer my heartfelt wishes and gratitude for all you have done for your families and loved ones. You know life is difficult, relationships are sometimes tenuous, but the rewards are superlative!

Remember that life is a gift, tied with the heartstrings.

Our next issue will be delivered May 23, and will include our fifth *Spring Home & Garden Guide*, our *Summer Pet Guide* and our *Summer Fun Guide*.

Editorial Deadline is May 9. Advertising Deadline is May 14. For more information, email us at spiritofbainbridge@gmail.com.

Cycles of Spring!

As children, we welcomed spring
with gleeful shouts,
"School's out!"
And endless days of
imagining animals in the clouds and
making mudpies were ours.
Twas the season of scraped knees, bug bites
and allergy sneezes,
Catching lightning bugs on
warm summer breezes,
Dripping ice cream cones while
we pedaled our bikes
all the way home.

As adults, we say,
"Plant something today."
Get your hands in the warm soil of the earth.
Plant green beans. Plant herbs.
Plant kitchen "scraps" and be amazed!
Plant some new ideas,
and maybe a couple of new habits, too!
Plant kindness and courtesy.
Plant a smile on your face!
Think what would happen if we could
plant peace and unity as well!
Such a grand harvest that would be!

Anne E. North
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Our National Treasures

By Jeff Griff

Long ago I came to realize that all our National Parks are well worth visiting. Whether near or far, I have never been disappointed with time spent in one of our National Parks. I am sure many of you are similar in having a National Park poster marked with the locations you have visited, and the remainder still waiting to be seen. For many years (ever since I first visited the Florida Keys) I have been wanting to see Dry Tortugas National Park, but poor planning had stifled several of my earlier opportunities.

Dry Tortugas lies nearly 70 miles west of Key West, so it is not easily accessible. You can take a private boat or charter a sea plane to the island but that is quite expensive. The most affordable method of traveling there is by Yankee Freedom Ferry that departs from Key West daily. While this sounds straightforward, the ferry books up quickly, necessitating planning well ahead of time to secure a seat. On top of that you wouldn't want to go all that way and not enjoy all that the Florida Keys has to offer, so careful planning is essential to make the most of this trip. Luckily, I was invited (last year) to visit friends (this year) who have a time share in Key West, so I was able to secure seats on the ferry well in advance of our trip.

So, how did the Dry Tortugas get its name? In 1513 explorer Ponce de León happened upon the islands and couldn't help but notice the abundance of sea turtles in the area calling the islands Las Tortugas or The Turtles. Later sailors added 'Dry' knowing there was no fresh water available there. Many sandy shoals in the area still provide important nesting for Green, Loggerhead, Kemp's Ridley, Hawkbill and Leatherback turtles.

So, what makes the very remote Dry Tortugas National Park worth visiting? Yes, you may see (sea) turtles, the snorkeling and scuba diving is great, many birds call the islands home, but the main attraction is Fort Jefferson. One of the largest forts ever built, Fort Jefferson covers over 16 acres and was made with over 16 million bricks and is still the largest brick structure in the United States today. Why take 30 years (1846-1875) to build this giant fort on a remote island with no fresh water? The deepwater port at Dry Tortugas served as an advanced post to patrol the Gulf of Mexico and the Straights of Florida. This post was along the world's busiest shipping lanes connecting New Orleans, Mobile and Pensacola and the eastern seaboard of the United States providing a crucial military asset. The port allowed ships to resupply, refit or seek refuge from storms. Passing ships could avoid the long guns from the fort but not the warships that used its harbor. Interestingly, the construction of the fort was never finished, was never fully armed or attacked but remained the most sophisticated fortresses within a link of coastal forts stretching from Maine to California. During the Civil War (and during construction) Union warships used the harbor as a blockade to southern shipping and thus cutting off supply of bricks from Raiford and Abercrombie in Pensacola forcing builders to utilize bricks shipped all the way from Maine. Today, the (Maine) bricks at the top of the fort are obviously much darker than the lower, Florida-made bricks. At the time, the fort was also used as a military prison mainly for Union deserters. The fort's most famous prisoner was Dr. Samuel Mudd who was imprisoned for conspiring with John Wilkes Booth to assassinate President Lincoln and (so goes the story) what the saying "your name is mud" refers to.

Abandoned by the Army in 1874, the fort was later used as a coal supply depot for passing ships and during the Cuban Missile Crisis was used as a radio station facility. President Franklin D. Roosevelt designated Fort Jefferson as a National Monument in 1935 and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1970. In October of 1992 Fort Jefferson and the Dry Tortugas were established as a National Park.

Other famous visitors to the park include James Audubon who in May of 1832 visited Dry Tortugas, drawing many species of endemic birds including the Sooty Tern and Brown Noddy. Ernest Hemingway considered himself an accomplished hunter and fisherman and spent the years from 1928 to 1940 as a resident of Key West and a frequent visitor to the islands for deep sea fishing trips.

Today, more than 80,000 people visit every year for diving, fishing, birding, camping and simply enjoying the beauty and rich history of the islands. It does take some time and planning but just like all our National Parks, it is a treasure well worth visiting.

Now go outside and have fun playing in the dirt!

Mother's Day Haiku

I remember Mom!
Ninety-eight was good for you.
Love to all Mothers!

Cecil West



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Geauga County
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Bainbridge Library Updates

Programs require registration unless otherwise noted. Include an email and phone number when registering for programs to receive updates about all programs. Visit GeaugaLibrary.net.

Library Led Discussions

Monday, May 12 from 10-11 a.m. *The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife* by Anna Johnston.

Monday, May 12 from 2-3 p.m. *The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife* by Anna Johnston.

Tuesday, May 20 from 7-8 p.m. *None of This Is True* by Lisa Jewell.

Chair Yoga

Thursday, May 8 from 2-3 p.m. Connect with local yoga instructor Ann Vickers to explore the world of chair yoga, an accessible form of yoga for all ages and skill levels that helps increase strength, flexibility, and body and breath awareness.

Bookworm Painting

Monday, May 12 from 4-5 p.m. Grades K-5 - Kids, head over to the Library's Bainbridge Branch and help staff decorate for summer by using your creativity to paint a rock to add to the Library's bookworm.

Gather & Game – Magic: The Gathering

Tuesday, May 13 from 3-5 p.m. Grades 6-12 - Calling all teens, drop by for an afternoon of Magic: The Gathering fun! Bring your own deck or use one from the Library's supplies; no previous experience or cards are required.

CPR/AED Certification

Wednesday, May 14 from 1-4 p.m. Need to get CPR/AED certified for a new job? Certification about to expire and looking to be recertified? Connect with a trained instructor and learn how to conduct CPR & AED treatments in a safe, timely, and effective manner through hands-on and video-based learning perfect for beginners.

Intro to Improv

Wednesday, May 21 from 7-8:30 p.m. Interested in taking up improv and want to learn more? Learn all about this unique form of theatre by thinking on your feet, playing games, and being silly with friends in this beginner-friendly improvisational comedy workshop.



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From My Bookshelves

Reading Recommendations from a Casual Reader

By Anne E. North

The Third Gilmore Girl by Kelly Bishop was an interesting look at the world of entertainment from behind the scenes. For many years, I watched *Gilmore Girls* and then re-runs of *Gilmore Girls* so, like many, had a love/hate relationship with Emily Gilmore, Kelly's role in the series. So, to learn she was a dancer first and actress second was fascinating.

The Forgotten Girls by Monica Potts was a difficult read. The author returned to her roots in the Ozark Mountains where her childhood bestie still lives. If ever Robert Frost's poetic line "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I/I took the one less traveled by,/And that has made all the difference" held starker meaning, it is here. The author, at her mother's insistence, followed a college and career path out of the cyclical poverty/pregnancy/drug use common in that area of Arkansas, while her friend Darci did not. Liberally peppered with current statistics, the author certainly did her homework.

Only You Know and I Know, musician Dave Mason's autobiography, is a gem. The front man of Traffic only landed on my radar in recent years. Oh, I always loved his song "We Just Disagree," and like millions, Joe Cocker's rockin' "Feelin' Alright," which Mason wrote. But although I am a latecomer to his fandom, we have recently seen him twice at The Kent Stage and treasured every moment. Mason was born in Worcester, England, (which is, incidentally, the birthplace of Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce!) and relates tales (and of a severe injury) from his youth. And upon his first visit to the U.S. as a pre-teen, he was quite taken by a ukulele he found in the trash. Thus was born his passion for music which has lasted until now, well into his seventh decade. If you enjoy behind-the-scenes look at the music industry of the last half century, this book is for you! (Unless you're a die-hard Steve Winwood fan. Enough said.)

The Sentence by Louise Erdrich weaves a bookshop, a bit of a ghost story, Indigenous people and Minneapolis events during COVID — specifically the murder of George Floyd and subsequent BLM protests — into a page-turner.

Peaces by Helen Oyeyemi reminded me of my cousin's rules of reading: You don't have to finish every book. One hundred pages in, the fine writing couldn't hold me there. A non-honeymoon honeymoon? A mongoose or two? A mysterious train? A gin partying auntie? Enough!

State of Terror, a novel by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Louise Penny, proved to be a gripping thriller, like the TV series "Madam Secretary" on steroids. Be sure to check it out!

We'd love to know what you're reading! Email us at spiritofbainbridge@gmail.com and let us know!



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OBITUARIES

Barbara Cinadr

Barbara Cinadr, age 72, passed away on April 3. She was a long-time resident of Auburn Township and was a member of the Chagrin Falls Eagle's Club. She enjoyed casinos, gambling, NASCAR and spending time with her family.

She is survived by husband James; children Melissa, James (Kelly) and Alyse (Brandon); grandchildren Conroy, Kennedy, Leelee, Brandon Jr., Rosemary and Billie; brother Robert Falkowski (Carol); son-in-law Michael Griffin; her beloved fur-child Buddy; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral arrangements were handled by St. John Funeral Home.

The family suggests that donations be made in her name to Rescue Village <https://www.rescuevillage.org/>

Katherine A. Eibler

Katherine "Kathy" Eibler, age 81, passed away on April 5. She was a long-time resident of Bainbridge Township and a long-time member of the Church of the Holy Angels. She enjoyed watching soap operas (especially "General Hospital"), fishing and spending time with her family.

She was preceded in death by her husband David F. Eibler. Katherine is survived by her children Denise (David) Reich, Daniel (Amy), and Michael; and grandchildren Austin (Vicki), Arianna, Margaret, Daniel II, Charles, Jane and Eva.

Funeral arrangements were handled by St. John Funeral Home. Burial was in All Souls Cemetery.

Janice A. Kovacs

Janice A. Kovacs, age 79, passed away on April 6. She was a long-time resident of Auburn Township and worked as a postal worker for the USPS. Janice enjoyed collecting teddy bears, animals, and spending time with her family.

She was preceded in death by her husband John; her daughter Dawn Jenkins, and granddaughter Brandi Herrilko. Janice is survived by her son Michael; grandchildren Jonathan Kovacs (Sarah), Jeff and Ashely Jenkins, Greg Dahart (Alexandra), and Emily Jenkins; and great-grandchildren Jonathan, Zoey, Joey, Blake and Dylan.

Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Alice Christine Demming

Alice Christine Demming, 72, of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, passed away peacefully on April 16. A devoted mother, grandmother, friend, and lifelong nurturer of both people and animals, she will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Born on July 28, 1952, in Westlake, Alice was a proud alumna of Miami University of Ohio, where she was an active member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority, an affiliation that remained important to her throughout her life. Known for her warmth, intelligence, and creativity, Alice had a gift for bringing people together and making any space feel like home.

Alice had a remarkable talent in the kitchen and shared her skills through a local cooking school that welcomed students of all ages. She also sewed beautifully, played a mean game of cards, and had an extraordinary green thumb. Friends often turned to her for gardening advice, and her home bloomed as a reflection of the care she poured into it.

A passionate animal lover, Alice ran a dog rescue for many years and was a source of comfort to those mourning the loss of their pets, often sharing the story of the Rainbow Bridge to bring them peace.

She is survived by her daughter Lauren, her son Hunter, and her two beloved grandsons. She also leaves behind many dear friends and extended family members, all of whom were touched by her kindness, wisdom, and unwavering generosity.

Arrangements were handled by Murphy Funeral Home, Chagrin Falls.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to support brain cancer research, in honor of Alice's strength, resilience, and the legacy she leaves behind. Please sign the funeral home Tribute Wall at: murphyfamilyfuneralhome.com

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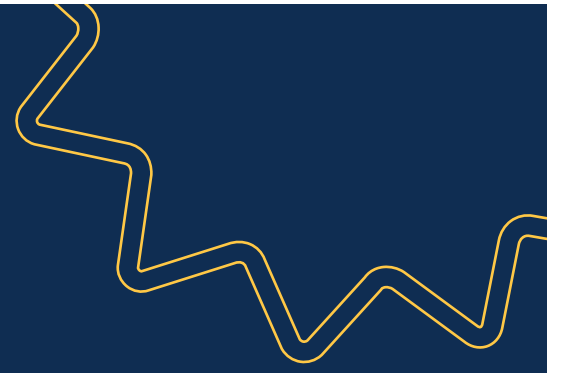
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Spirit of Bainbridge
Mission Statement

*Our mission at the Spirit of Bainbridge is four-fold:
To enhance the Bainbridge-Auburn area with a positive sense of our shared humanity.
To be a catalyst of community pride for local businesses and assist in publicity for community-minded groups.
To promote the Fourth Estate with truth and trust.
To continue our founding support of Bainbridge Area Food For Friends and A Taste in Bainbridge.*

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Civics 101: The Bill of Rights

By Anne E. North

We recognize The Bill of Rights as the first 10 amendments to our U.S. Constitution. Although the Constitution was the basic framework for our democracy, the amendments were a necessary means of adding, via voting, necessary adjustments over the past 248+ years. They provide safety and sanity for our collective good, "collective" being the operative word here. We should be working together as a nation to make everyone's life better. And remember that with privilege comes responsibility. Let's explore these rights as they pertain to us common citizens:

Amendment 1 - Freedom of Religion, Speech, and the Press: *Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.* We know these basics, don't we, folks? It is among the most basic tenets of the First Amendment that we may worship as we choose in this secular republic based on good morals. And that the government cannot retaliate against the public or the press for what they say. Freedom of speech means we can express our opinion, orally or written — such as a Letter to the Editor! We can peacefully assemble, such as happened recently with the "Hands Off!" gatherings. Civil disobedience is "good trouble," said the late civil rights activist and U.S. Representative John Lewis. Protest was at the heart of this Great Experiment 250 years ago. Remember the Boston Tea Party and Paul Revere's ride?

Amendment 2 - The Right to Bear Arms: *A well-regulated Militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed.* This amendment has not aged well, truth be told. We are far from those days of a two-shot [highly inaccurate] musket used for hunting and self-defense. No, I am definitely not advocating taking away this right. However, it needs to be better defined, i.e., background checks and liability. And high-velocity guns should be limited to police, military and federally licensed gun owners' use only. And there must be accountability when guns are not secured properly.

Amendment 3 - The Housing of Soldiers: *No soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war but in a manner to be prescribed by law.* This amendment is well defined, and pertains to the early days of our republic. Let's hope we don't need it going forward.

Amendment 4 - Protection from Unreasonable Searches and Seizures: *The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched and the persons or things to be seized.* This is basically saying, a search warrant, grounded in facts, is necessary to infringe on your private property and belongings.

Amendment 5 - Protection of Rights to Life, Liberty, and Property: *No person shall be held to answer for a capital or otherwise infamous crime unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.* Probably the most important take-away from this amendment is that no one can be jailed without due process of the law, as well as what we now call the Miranda Rights. No matter your "station" in life, we should all be treated equally under the law.

Amendment 6 - Rights of Accused Persons in Criminal Cases: *In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which*

district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor; and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense. Again, this is pretty clearly stated. All people have rights in criminal prosecutions.

Amendment 7 - Rights in Civil Cases: *In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise reexamined in any court of the United States than according to the rules of the common law.* Imagine! Twenty dollars was a large sum in 1776. But our right to have the case heard by a jury remains law.

Amendment 8 - Excessive Bail, Fines, and Punishments Forbidden: *Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.* In simple terms, the Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects against excessive punishment. It prohibits excessive bail, excessive fines, and cruel and unusual punishments. Essentially, it ensures that the government cannot inflict overly harsh or disproportionate penalties on individuals.

Amendment 9 - Other Rights Kept by the People: *The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.* The Ninth Amendment essentially states that just because certain rights are listed in the Constitution, it doesn't mean those are the only rights people have. It protects unenumerated rights, or rights not specifically mentioned but still held by the people. Essentially, it's a "catch-all" for rights not explicitly listed but still protected (like the right to marry, travel, or privacy).

Amendment 10 - Undelegated Powers Kept by the States and the People: *The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.* Essentially, it clarifies that the federal government's power is limited to what is explicitly granted in the Constitution, and anything else falls under state or individual authority. For example, laws about family relations (marriage, divorce), intrastate commerce, and local law enforcement are typically within state jurisdiction, not the federal government's.

We hope this clarifies the Bill of Rights for our readers. Remember, knowledge is power.

Community Spirit

BTHS 'White House' May 14

The Bainbridge Historical Society will hold its monthly program meeting on Wednesday, May 14 at 7 p.m. at the Bainbridge Library, 17222 Snyder Rd. The speaker will be Janet Weir Creighton, former Director of Inter-governmental Affairs and Deputy Assistant to President George W. Bush. Janet will tell of her time spent in Washington, DC. Our annual meeting will precede the program. Free admission. All welcome. www.bainbridgehistoricalsociety.org

CV Herb Society Sale May 16-17

The Chagrin Valley Herb Society will be holding its annual Herb and Plant Sale at the Bainbridge Library on Friday, May 16 from 1-3 p.m. and Saturday, May 17 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Cash, check and Zelle payment options will be available. A wide variety of herbs, annuals and perennials will be offered and proceeds from the sale help maintain the CVHS gardens and tea house at the library. For more information, contact CVHS at chagrinvalleyherbsociety@gmail.com.

Bissell-Tucek Open House May 17

The Bissell-Tucek House Museum will be open on Saturday, May 17 from 1-4 p.m. The museum is at 17870 Chillicothe Road, just south of the fire station. Operated by the Bainbridge Historical Society, the museum contains many local artifacts. Free admission. www.bainbridgehistoricalsociety.org.

CV Christian Women Luncheon May 21

Chagrin Valley Christian Women's Connection will host their monthly luncheon at Chagrin Valley Athletic Club located at 17260 Snyder Rd. in Chagrin Falls on Wednesday, May 21 from 12-1:45 p.m. Please join along for food, fellowship and fun featuring the Creative Lab Center at the Bainbridge Library. Guest speaker is Tiffany Blevins. RSVP by May 16 to cwccchagrin@gmail.com or 216-706-9150. Cost is \$20.

Garden Gala June 14

Community Life Collaborative Garden Gala: Cultivating a Better Tomorrow will be held Saturday, June 14 from 6-10 p.m. at the Family Life Center, 16349 Chillicothe Rd, Bainbridge. Join us for a delightful summer evening of dining, dancing to the music of UpTil4, specialty drinks, lively games, unique raffle baskets, silent auction and fun. Proceeds to support the CLC's mission to raise awareness toward a just and sustainable world. For ticket and sponsorship information contact gala@communitylifecollaborative.org or call 440-708-1961 or go to our website communitylifecollaborative.org

SPIRIT FACTS

Spirit of Bainbridge is not responsible for the views expressed by its writers. All Letters to the Editor must be signed and include a daytime phone number. We will withhold signature upon request. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or space considerations. Letters are published in the order received and as space permits.

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BAINBRIDGE AREA FOOD FOR FRIENDS: Donations of non-perishable food and toiletry items, etc., may be dropped off at Bainbridge Library (lobby bin) or at the pantry (lower level of Bainbridge Town Hall). Cash donations may be made at PNC Bank, Solon. If you or someone you know needs the assistance of the pantry, call 708-9829 (please leave a message). Bainbridge Area Food for Friends is **not** affiliated with Harvest for Hunger or Gauga Hunger Task Force and receives no government funding.