



PUBLISHED SINCE 1948 FOR THE TOWN OF GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND ~ CHARTERED IN 1904 ~ MARCH 2015

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

All four Council Members and the Mayor were present at the February 9 Town Council Meeting. Absent was Aaron La Rocca, the representative of the National Park Service, who is on paternity leave. Welcome to his new daughter Hazel Francis and double congratulations to Aaron, who has been given a new position as Deputy Superintendent with NPS.

Glen Echo Park Report

The renovation of the Clara Barton House was discussed. The NPS is currently studying alternatives for the installation of a fire suppression system, repair or replacement of the roof, and installation of a climate management system. Information on this project is available at the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website for the George Washington Memorial Parkway at www.parkplanning.nps.gov/gwmp. The Town has been contacted by the NPS to be

a possible consulting party during the renovation of the Clara Barton House. Federal agencies are required to consider the effects of their actions on historic properties as a result of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The Mayor and Council Members agreed that it would be appropriate for the Town to be a con-



Clara Barton House

sulting party reviewing the effects of this project on the property. A letter stating this will be sent to the NPS.

Snow Removal

It was mentioned by Phyllis Fordham that the streets look terrible due to the sand left by Rasevic, the snow removal company recently hired by the Town. Mayor Beers and all agreed. (As I am sure we all do!) It has been necessary to make an addendum to the contract making it clear that they are not to come unless there are two inches of snow on the ground and to allow for the use of salt. Apparently they have been coming every time we had even a trace of snow and were charging for each visit. Next year the Town will probably re-bid with other companies.

Other Town Business

Ms. Fordham also remarked that she disagreed with the possible move to install

Montgomery County-style No Parking signs, noting that they did not fit with the character of the Town and there were too many signs already. Council Member Stiglitz reminded the Council that at present our signs are not enforceable since they do not follow County regulations.



There was also discussion of the new fees to be charged for the use of the C&O Canal. Ms. Fordham urged that the Town take a position against raising the entry fees. Council Member Long reported that further up the canal, meetings about raising the fees were very crowded and decidedly anti-fee increases. However, even though the

THE ECHO

Distributed free to Glen Echo residents. Subscriptions for non-residents: \$12 per year (to subscribe call Susan Grigsby, 301-229-7735). Copies of *The Echo* are on file at Little Falls Library. Also provided online at www.glenecho.org. Total circulation: 190.

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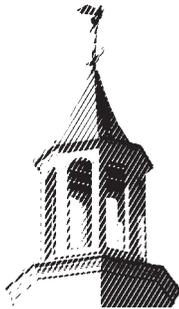
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Next Deadline: March 20, 2015

Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be signed. Articles for publication are also solicited. Please send comments about *The Echo* to the editor, the Mayor, or any Council Member. Volunteer reporters are always needed.



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Next Town Council Meeting: March 9, 2015, 8 PM

February 5 meeting originally scheduled to be held at the Town Hall was moved to the Waldorf School in anticipation of a very large crowd, it was attended by only about 130 people. It was noted that the NPS has already scaled back its plan to implement new fees, but still plans to increase entrance, campground, and pavilion rates where such fees are already collected. Mayor Beers stated that the Town would not be taking an official position on this issue.



Aaron Hirsch brought up the subject of bringing Bikeshare to Glen Echo and other communities along the canal, as well as the possibility of direct access to the canal from the Town. It was stated that Bikeshare has been approached but was not interested because we are too far away from other Bikeshare stations. As for access to the canal from Glen Echo, it has been considered by NPS in the past but was deemed infeasible due to cost. Several people present expressed concern about parking if either of these ideas were enacted.

It will be necessary to replace the hot water heater

that was damaged when the basement of the Town Hall was flooded. The furnace will also need to be replaced with the conversion to gas. Quotes for the conversion have been received from Uneeda and Griffith Energy Services, and the Council will vote on them at the next meeting. Jack Higgins from Washington Gas will come by on February 13 to look into moving the gas meter at the Town Hall. It is currently in a place that could easily be hit by a car and is not safe.

The Council discussed a contribution to Adventure Theater. There was a motion to donate \$1000 and it was carried. Mr. Stiglitz recused himself because his daughter is in Adventure Theater, and Council Member Matney opposed the motion saying that even though the Town had donated last year during the government sequester, we should not guarantee a donation every year.

Police Report

Between January 8 and February 1, off-duty police officers issued 21 warnings and 5 citations for not stopping at the stop sign on Oxford Road. The Town paid \$280 for these services.

Town Expenses

In January, the Town paid \$4319 to Waste Management of Maryland, \$1619 to Knopf & Brown, and \$1258 to Chapel Valley Landscape Company. —DEBI SACKS

HOLLY IN THE IVY

Now is a great time to do some pruning in your garden. With no leaves on plants, it is easy to see the branches and look at the shape to think about how pruning could make the plant more beautiful. Pruning can be artful. I often think of certain woody plants as sculptures and use pruning as a way to highlight the sculptural element. Japanese maples are a good example: Rather than looking at a mop of leaves which happens when you cut all branches back (like a lollipop), prune the

plant so the curves of the branches and trunks can be appreciated. Do not cut your crepe myrtles in this way either—we call this “Crepe Murder” since the whole plant is more beautiful if allowed to develop as a small tree, showing off the stunning bark. Do not be afraid, because plants grow fast enough to cover up mistakes. Most plants like being pruned, and it can often serve as a way to renew them if they are not vigorous. In addition, pruning provides an opportunity to open a plant up so that it gets better air circulation as well as a chance to reduce its size so that the plant fits the scale of the space.

As a starting point, I have a few guidelines that I use in my pruning. First, prune growth that is dead, diseased, damaged, or crossing. And always cut branches at an angle above a node (where the leaves come out).



Felco No. 2 pruners

Flowering plants fall into two categories: those that bloom on old wood and those that bloom on new wood. If the plant blooms on old wood (growth produced the previous year), then you do not want to cut it too harshly as you will be removing the flowers. You can still prune the plant but just be aware of keeping some of the old growth. If the plant blooms on new growth, then cutting it back will not have such an

effect on the flowering.

Pruning evergreens can be tricky and timing is important! Boxwood is pruned just prior to the emergence of new growth (look for bud swelling, which is usually in March and depends on weather). Never remove too much of an evergreen (not more than a third) at one time since it can be a real setback to a plant's well being.

Use the right tools! To get started, I recommend a good pair of pruners. Felco No. 2 are still my favorite brand.

Some groups of plants, especially hydrangeas and clematis, are quite confusing regarding the pruning times, so I suggest that you research correct pruning times. Since I have only begun to scratch the surface for pruning information, check out the helpful lists and videos at Fine Gardening: www.finegardening.com/pruning-tips-and-techniques

—HOLLY SHIMIZU



GLEN ECHO & BANNOCKBURN ST. PATRICK'S DAY SPRING FLING

Saturday, March 14, 2015, 6:30 PM

Glen Echo Town Hall

Live Music, Singing, Dancing,
Limerick Contest & Kids Activities!
Welcome Spring! Enjoy Neighbors!

Corned beef and libations provided.

Please contribute a side dish (for example: colcannon, potatoes, cabbage, green beans, or a dessert).

Volunteers needed for setup (3:30 PM) and cleanup

**Unlike other Town parties,
you need to RSVP if you wish to attend.**

RSVP to townhall@glenecho.org or 301-320-4041

Kids bring a home-made instrument.

OLD WOOD/NEW WOOD? TELL ME MORE

As a general rule of thumb, plants that bloom in spring do so on old wood (growth formed the previous year), whereas plants that bloom in summer and fall bloom on new wood (growth formed that year).

Plants that bloom on old wood and should be pruned after flowering include lilacs, azaleas, cherries, dogwoods, and redbuds. Plants that bloom on new wood and can be pruned hard in late winter/early spring include abelia, spiraea, butterfly bush, and bluebeard.

Hydrangeas have types in each category. For example, Mophead hydrangea, Lacecap hydrangea, and Oakleaf hydrangea bloom on old wood, while Panicle hydrangea and Annabelle hydrangea bloom on new. —HS



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LETTER FROM GENEVA

It has been five months since we left Glen Echo and we think of you all often. For those of you that don't know, we moved here for Harley's work. The children are enrolled in a bilingual international school. We live about three kilometers from the school in Commugny, a village mixed with Swiss and expat families, small homes, a scattering of apartment buildings, and many farms, all about 20 minutes from central Geneva. In the fall, we rode past apple orchards, vineyards, and fields of sunflowers and sweet corn on our way to the school. But now, the bike riding has stopped as the days have become so short and we've been inundated with snow. I should have been aware that this was coming because in October the snow plow stakes

were set out and they were disturbingly high: 1½ meters. However, I was lulled into a false sense of what was to come; we were in shirtsleeves for one balmy week in January. And then the snow came and kept coming. Our kids are desperately hoping for a snow day, but I'm told it has been more than 20 years since there has been a school closure due to snow.

The best part of the snow is that the kids have their P.E. time condensed to one day a week and their grade will take off from the school and drive 30 minutes to a ski area for a day of "winter sport instruction" for six weeks. I know this is common in some parts of the States, but I'm still impressed. It is a huge logistical feat to get over 100 children each day with all

of their gear (plus passports for the foreigners, like us!) onto a bus and back. When I quizzed my kids when they came back about how the teachers achieve this, Maddox and Nora seemed completely unfazed. I heard more about the hot chocolate and fries at the snack bar and whom they got to sit next to on the bus than any actual skiing or snowboarding.

I do hope all of you are warm and safe in Glen Echo,

and that just enough snow comes to cover the sledding hill on lower Yale but not so much to make your commutes to work and school difficult. We'll raise a mug of hot chocolate from this side of the Atlantic and wish you all a happy winter.

À la prochaine! —**NICOLE FRASER** (and Nora, Maddox, and Harley)

Nicole and her family moved to Glen Echo in 2008 and she served as Town Clerk from 2011 to 2014.

A FAREWELL

I moved to University Avenue in Glen Echo in 1988 with my wife Lisa and son Joshua. I have lived here for many years and loved the comfortable feeling that I have always had for this special place. We had lived in Somerset for 20 years before the move and really appreciated the different feel of the community and the laid back feel of the Town.

Over the 27 years I've lived here, I've been through some difficult times. Some of you know that my son, Joshua, was the chef at the Inn at Glen Echo, in its previous incarnation, and that he was murdered in 2003 during a robbery when he was working at another well known eating establishment in DC as the executive chef. That event, in a strange way, was the catalyst for many changes

in my and my second wife Pam Mason's life here in Glen Echo. Our lives had been interrupted by this event and were never really the same. We decided to divorce after 16 years together and that was the reason for selling the property, which is way too large for a single, old man.

I am relocating to Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, as soon as I recover from a hip replacement surgery that has kept me nailed to the house as I rehab from the procedure. It's not a lot of fun and is complicated by the fact that I have a house full of stuff and a lot of it still needs to be packed up for the future move. I've sold a few things to Glen Echo residents and there is still more to come. My daughter lives "down the street" in Florida *(continued on page 6)*



Maddox, Nora, and Nicole on the slopes in January

(continued from page 5)
and the beach is about ten minutes away. And, even though I never thought that I would be leaving Glen Echo, I'm actually looking forward to Florida living, especially in light of this terrible cold winter.

I've lost several close friends during my stay here, and I'll take the memories of great people, great times, great food, and great music with me to my new home. My feeling is that I can go forward and carry many of the things I value with me: John Morrow's photographs, Jim Shaut's jokes and good spirit, Carol Reeder's children's books, Brockie's paintings, and so many other meaningful memories. There is some comfort remembering these folks as I look forward to the nightmare of the final pack up and move out. I am sorry to leave, but I hope that folks will remember me with love. —DAVID GREENBERG

EASY BEING GREEN

To kick off an occasional column about the "green" aspects of everyday life, especially in our homes, I thought a good topic would be something that many of us often have questions about—recycling.

Recycling is not mandatory in Glen Echo, but it's encouraged. The Town pays for the service once a week, Tuesdays, in addition to regular trash pickup that happens on both Tuesdays and Fridays. Our contract covers "single stream" recycling, which is different from the "dual stream" system that Montgomery County encourages when possible. The question of which type of recycling we should be doing is a possible topic for further discussion, but for this article, the focus is on how the single stream system works.

Residents are encouraged to mix all their recycling together in either the big green or small plastic bins.

This means you can include all types of paper products with the glass, plastic, and metal items.

Items to include in your recycling bins:

Paper—including newspapers, magazines, paper bags, and miscellaneous office paper

Coated paperboard
like juice and dairy containers

Cardboard—please flatten boxes

Glass bottles and jars

Metal cans—steel, tin, and aluminum—mainly food containers

Plastic bottles and containers



Please follow these tips when collecting items in your recycling containers:

- Paper and cardboard must be dry and free of food debris, including grease.

- Don't recycle tissues, paper towels, or other paper that's been in contact with food.

- Make sure all containers are empty and have no food left in them.

- Separate lids and caps from containers, because if they are different materials (like glass bottles with metal lids), then the sorting machinery can't separate them if they are screwed together.

- No plastic bags! (This is a biggie.)

- No styrofoam cups or containers.

- No hangers.

- No medical waste like needles, catheters, or lancets.

- No hazardous waste.

Next column: More detailed info on what NOT to include with your recycling, aka the "dirty dozen."

—MICKIE SIMPSON

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DRINK ME

In my house, the martini is pretty dry—just a dash of dry vermouth with gin—and a little dirty—with a few olives and a splash of olive juice. Of course, it must be as cold as possible (to match the weather!). To keep the chill on the martinis, our glasses have gotten smaller, but I've found myself making a tray of drinks with slight variations—extra vermouth,

extra olives, no vermouth—a half dozen times in an evening. A feat which admittedly becomes challenging as the time passes.

So I was inspired to revisit my approach by Kingsley Amis' description of his perfect dry martini in *Every Day Drinking*. He begins with a wine glass half filled with water frozen solid, allowing his gin, vermouth, and cocktail onions to mingle in the remaining space.

Possibly brilliant, I

thought. So I took a half dozen standard martini glasses and prepared a sampling. We had water, olive juice, water and olive juice, and those mixtures plus or minus olives, all frozen, and then the gin and vermouth poured over. I regret to report that this exercise was a complete failure. Most versions went from not dirty enough to salt bomb over the course of consumption and no one

enjoyed the iceberg floating in the middle of their martini. The wine glass must be

a necessary concession, but I'm unwilling to give up on the classic glassware.

Those chilled stones people put in their scotch could be another inelegant solution. But I can't see myself making that investment, so back to small glasses it is. And another round for my picky friends! Cheers! —EMILY PARSONS



LET'S GET PHYSICAL

March is a month that's hard to love. The newness of the new year has worn off, and spring still seems a long way off. How do you burn off that midwinter funk and stave off cabin fever without freezing? Here are a few of our family's favorite cheap, commitment-free ways to burn off kids' energy and keep adults sane.

1. Just put on a dn hat and play outside.** I'll admit this is usually the last thing I want to do, but when I do dress for the weather, bundle everyone up, and head out to explore along the canal, or ride bikes, or go to a playground (Beauvoir at the National Cathedral is magical), I'm usually glad—especially if I've gotten a coffee on the way.



2. Think local. Glen

Echo Park hosts the drop-in Arts Explorers program on Saturday mornings for kids under 10: For \$10, kids can do a simple craft project and play with someone else's (fun) toys for an hour or two. It takes place in the Playgroup in the Park space at the Candy Corner from 10 AM to 12:30 PM every Saturday.

3. See a show. Also very, very local: Adventure Theatre (under Glen Echo's own Michael Bobbitt, Artistic Director) never disappoints. *Petite Rouge*, playing through March 8, is great fun and even little kids keep squirms at bay for the colorful, hour-long production.

4. Hit a museum. I'm a little ashamed of how infrequently we do this, but we recently revisited the American Art Museum and National Portrait Gallery and

were reminded of how great the Smithsonian is. AAM has terrific kids programming and its Luce Center is appealingly chock-a-block with sculpture, crafts, and paintings—even a fantastically creepy dollhouse. The National Building Museum is also a proven winner. If you're taking little kids (or even bigger ones) to an exhibit, keep your expectations modest (I call it a success if each kid shows interest in at least one thing) and don't expect to stay all day.

5. Swim. If you're lucky, you have a spouse who doesn't mind putting on a swimsuit in the middle of winter and splashing in a kiddie pool; but even if you have to get wet yourself, nothing wears kids out like swimming. The public Wilson Pool near Tenleytown has a great kids pool;

nonresident fees are \$3-7. Montgomery County pools are about the same price for residents but seem to be closed for meets more often.

6. Cheat a little. Redtricycle.com and kidfriendlydc.com offer weekly roundups of weekend events, as well as suggestions for various indoor and outdoor outings.

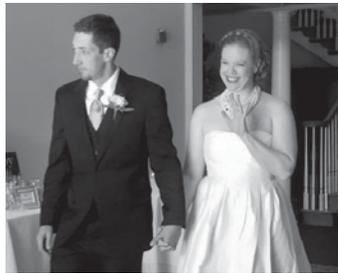
7. Bounce. We call this one the "nuclear option": Pump It Up in Gaithersburg has open jump sessions throughout the week, where kids can spend a couple hours jumping maniacally on various gigantic inflatable things. There are chairs for adults. It's totally charmless and smells like plastic and cleaning fluid but it gets the job done.

Whatever you do, keep faith that warmer, brighter days are ahead of us.

—ANGELA HIRSCH

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Happy day. **Victoria Hewitt**, daughter of **Chris and Maire Hewitt**, was married on January 17 to Richard Lyon. Victoria grew up here on Wellesley Circle. As a young girl she



did lots of babysitting so many thanks to all the mothers and families who were part of her village growing up in Glen Echo.

Carl Essl, longtime manager of **Glen Echo Hardware**, died suddenly on February 9. Under his guidance, the shop has remained one of our neighborhood's most cherished and often relied upon resources. Our condolences to Carl's family. He will be missed.

Debbie Lange is just back from a weeklong Road Scholar tour of Cuba. She visited Camaguey, Santiago, Guantanamo, and farms and ranches in between, all in eastern Cuba. She writes: "We met and talked with cowboys, farmers, fishermen, teachers, writers, painters, potters, dancers, musicians—some of them world famous. The Cuban people are friendly and generous. We learned so much about Cuba's history and social structure—it was a fabulous experience."

Eddie and Renny Springuel have a new toy, which has been very useful this winter: a snow blower. They sing its praises as do their neighbors ... to get a proper workout, Eddie plows not only her driveway, walkway, and cars, but also those of her neighbors, Gloria Levin and Emily Siegel and Dawn Tanner. It only takes two hours, says Eddie, and it's fun!

The construction site-style yard that came with the new property at 6001 Bryn Mawr (disclosure: the editors' home) is no more. Under the capable hands of **Shimizu Landscape Design**, there is now a yard with grass, a slate path going around the house, and a paver driveway. Many thanks to Osamu, Bevin, and their crew!

Applications are being accepted until April 24 for **Youth Leadership Montgomery**, a comprehensive leadership training program for students who will be entering grades 9 through 12 next fall in Montgomery County high schools (public or independent). The program starts with a weeklong, statewide summer residential workshop (July 26 to August 1), at Washington College, Chestertown, MD, followed by eight local sessions devoted to civic engagement, to be held in Rockville during the fall 2015 semester. A meet and greet will be held to discuss the



program and meet recent graduates, Thursday, March 19, 6:30 to 8:00 PM, County Council Office Building. For more information, www.leadershipmontgomerymd.org

Join the **Arbor Day Foundation** in March 2015 and receive ten free white flowering dogwood trees. To become a member of the Foundation and receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to Ten Free Dogwood Trees, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by March 30, 2015. Or join online at arbor-day.org/march

Gloria Levin will be taking over the **Newcomers column** for *The Echo*, welcoming and introducing new neighbors to the Town. If you are new to town, whether buying or renting, we hope you will agree to be interviewed. And to assure we don't miss anyone,



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we ask current residents to keep us abreast of changes. If you know of any newcomers or even upcoming vacancies, please contact Gloria at glorialevin@verizon.net or 301-320-5068.

For Your Safety

On the evening of February 8, at approximately 10 PM, a car that was left running and unattended by its owner in the Glen Echo Park lot (unclear if big lot or upper lot) was stolen by four young men. Police

were called and after a short chase, the car crashed and three of the four men were caught/arrested. Needless to say, leaving your car unattended while it's running is not a good idea, and in fact, it's against the law.

Real Estate Report

6107 Princeton Avenue sold at the end of January for \$844,500. Homes currently for rent are 7315 University Avenue for \$4500/month and 6000 Bryn Mawr Avenue for \$4000/month.

**THEY SAY
IT'S YOUR
BIRTHDAY!**

March 5 **Aaron Kraus**, 8
March 5 **Zachary Kraus**, 8
March 11 **Greta Hirsch**, 4

Send your children's names and birth dates (up to age 14) to TheEchoEditor@gmail.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ads are free to Glen Echo residents and \$1.50 per line for non-residents. Send your ad to TheEchoEditor@gmail.com.

.....
Spring Artisans Gathering at the home of Debi Sacks, 52 Wellesley Circle, on Friday March 20, 7 PM-9:30 PM, and Saturday March 21, 10 AM-4 PM. One of a kind, beautifully hand-crafted items for you, your home, friends and family! Jewelry, children's accessories, hand-painted pillows and placemats, handbags, pottery, paintings, and crystal lighting. Come chat with the artisans and enjoy a glass of wine, but please leave the kiddies at home.

.....
April 18-A Shred Day will be held 12-2 PM at 2 Vassar Circle.

Patty Sieber at Stuart & Maury Realtors is sponsoring the event. Many thanks to Aaron Hirsch for allowing use of the Church parking lot! Bring your boxes of confidential documents to have them destroyed right in front of you. There is no need to remove staples, paper clips, binding clips, or file folders. Questions? Contact Patty at 240-743-7194.

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GOINGS ON

Glen Echo Town Hall Events

FSGW English Country Dance
Wednesdays,
March 4, 11, 18, 25
 8-10:30 PM; free to town residents



March 14 St. Patrick's Day Party, 6:30-8:30 PM
(see detailed announcement on page 3)

March 21 Folklore Society of Greater Washington Concert, 8 PM

Local Events

March 8 The Capitol Steps will perform at Walt Whitman High School at 7 PM. All proceeds support Whitman's alcohol/substance-free Post Prom event. Purchase tickets online at www.waltwhitmanpost-prom.ticketleap.com.

March 15 5 PM concert at The Church of the Redeemer, Inscape Chamber Orchestra in Concert: American Aggregate



Glen Echo Park Activities THE PUPPET CO.

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Jack and the Beanstalk,
 March 19-May 3
Tiny Tots, select Wednesdays,
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Petite Rouge, A Cajun Red Riding Hood
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Looking Ahead

April 18 C&O Canal Association Board meeting, 1 PM, at Town Hall

April 18 Potomac Valley Fiddle Club Spring Dance, 2-5 PM, at Town Hall

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O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

■ SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Holy Eucharist	8:00 a.m.
Adult Forum and Bible Study	9:15 a.m.
Nursery Care	10:15 a.m.
Choral Eucharist	10:30 a.m.
Church School for All Ages	10:30 a.m.

■ UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Fridays in Lent (beginning February 20), at 7:30 p.m.
Stations of the Cross

Mondays in Lent (beginning February 23), at 7:30 p.m.
Contemplative Service in the Style of Taizé

Sunday, March 15, at 5:00 p.m.
Inscape Chamber Orchestra in Concert: *American Aggregate*

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