

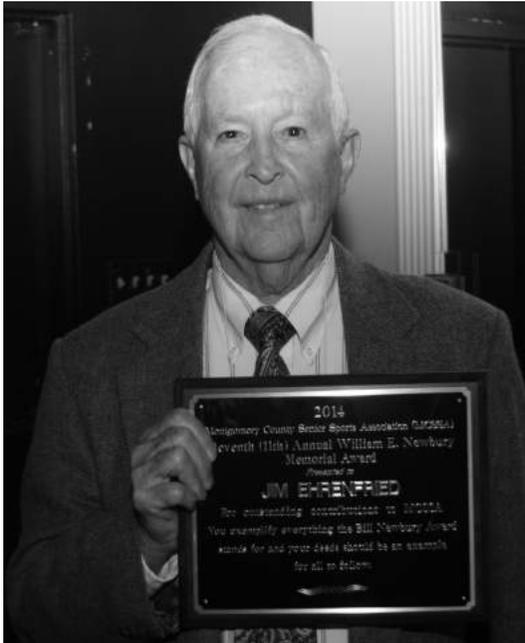


# THE SENIOR ATHLETE

Montgomery County Senior Sports Association

Volume 24 No. 1  
January 3, 2015

## Jim Ehrenfreid Wins Newbury Award



Jim was cited for his leadership and playing skills over a 15-year period. He has managed his team in National Senior Games in Virginia, Kentucky and Texas.

He has led the Senior Moments team in the CoRec league for many years. As a testament to his managerial skills, Jim has maintained the same roster, adding people only when older players needed to drop out. Players really enjoy playing for him.

He was instrumental in getting canopies installed over the dugouts on the Olney Manor softball fields.

On several occasions Jim made the 911 calls that have saved the lives of players who have been injured or who have suffered heart problems. He has also been trained on the use of a defibrillator.

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### Dates to Remember

- **Jan 6** Indoor Softball drills begin.
- **Jan 20** Registration for Spring Leagues begin.
- **April 20** Action begins in spring softball leagues.
- **July 11** MCSSA Picnic and League All Star games.
- **July 12** 20th Annual "Bill Tait" Invitational Tournament.



## Keith Moore Wins "Comeback" Award



Keith Moore won the 2014 Spike "Comeback" Award. He has been playing

sports since he was old enough to pick up a ball. But on March 1, 2011, while waiting to be seen in the cardiologist's office, he suffered a major heart attack. Had he not been in the cardiologist's office when it happened, he would have made his wife a widow.

He was med-evacuated to Washington, D.C. and was saved. A few months later more damage was found, and an additional stent was installed. He did manage to play softball in the Fall Season. Keith never told

(Continued on Page 8 **Moore**)



## Basketball 2014-15

Basketball Results will appear in the next issue of *The Senior Athlete*

### From the Editor's Desk:

\* \* \* \* \*

Our new website is up and running. The address is **montgomerycountyseniorsports.org**. There are links to all of our activities. Seniors interested in the sports we provide can now find us more easily. David Schardt does an excellent job of keeping everything updated and accurate

\* \* \* \* \*

Indoor Softball Drills begin on January 6, 2015 at the Rockville Sportsplex on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. and run through the end of March. I will run the drills on the field on the left and Spike will handle the field on the right. The fee is \$10 per person, per session.

\* \* \* \* \*

Next time you see **Fern and Ed Hamel** congratulate them on being recipients of the Howard County Philanthropist of the Year Award for 2014 from the Community Foundation of Howard County. The award recognizes the extraordinary generosity and leadership, who through giving, made a remarkable difference of positive change in their community. As most of you probably know, Ed has sponsored three teams in our evening leagues almost since the beginning of MCSSA. Ed also sponsors five tournament teams where a lot of our members participate. Congratulations Fern and Ed, you have been an inspiration to all of us.

### *In Memoriam*

Eileen Thomas Powell  
(wife of John)

Cathy Spencer  
(Daughter of Jim)

Paul Ritchey  
December 1932—November 2014

### MCSSA Dues Issue

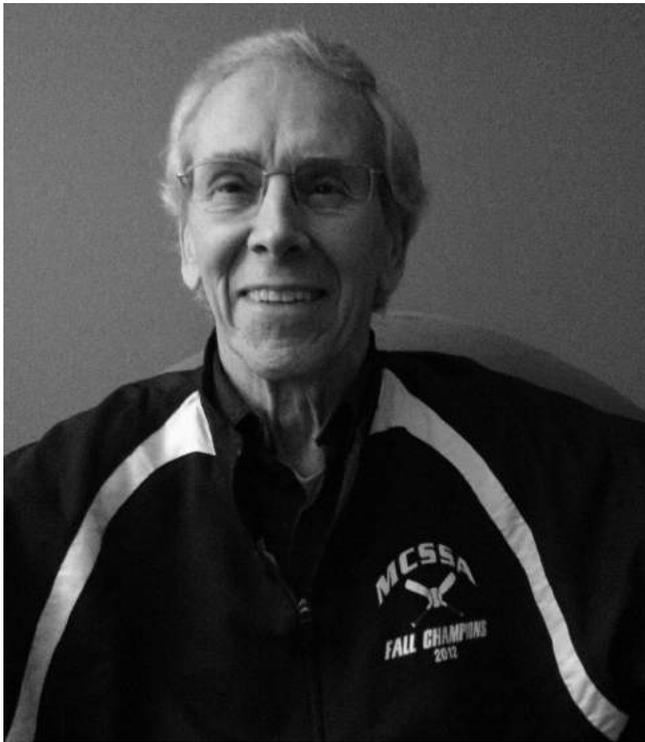
At the recent MCSSA annual meeting, the Board of Directors discussed the issue of dues. There was a recommendation to double the fee to \$10. Instead, the decision was made to keep the fee at \$5, and include it in the registration for each of our leagues. In other words, if you play in the Super Senior League next Spring your registration is \$45. Five dollars of that amount will go toward your MCSSA dues. If you play in multiple leagues you still need to pay MCSSA dues only once per year.

*The Senior Athlete* is a publication of the Montgomery County Senior Sports Association (MCSSA) and is published four times a year, at the beginning of each quarter (January, April, July and October) to members in good standing. MCSSA is a non-profit organization exempt from Federal income taxes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Submit articles and/or changes of address to:

MCSSA  
14320 Fairdale Road



## MCSSA Personality Profile



### BOB BALLENTINE

It all started with baseball, of course, because we never played softball as kids. Baseball began to creep into my blood around 7 years old, when our family moved across town to a row-house directly across from the city park. At "Central Park" men's baseball games were played most every summer night, starting at 5:00 p.m., and all of us kids competed for foul balls even though we had to return them to the home team's bench. The field was surrounded by stands on both sides and often dozens of fans watched the games, creating an atmosphere of fun and excitement, which set the stage for my life-long love of the game.

Living only 35 miles west of Philadelphia, I got interested in Connie Mack's A's as well as the Philly "Whiz Kids" by age 8 or so. I can remember my grandfather taking me to Shibe Park by train on an occasional Sunday afternoon and being awed by the size of the stadium and the height of the upper deck where we often sat. But without a doubt the greatest influence on my love of baseball was living next to Central Park, playing pick-up games most summer days and playing 2B for the Central Park "Peanut League" team, ages 9-12. There were 3 or 4 teams

in the league, so I learned competition as well as sportsmanship at an early age. Our coaches were usually men who coached our team after their night shift at the local steel mill and they had little time to teach us the finer points of the game, so we learned primarily through repetition and trial and error.

When I was 12, my father was transferred to the Pentagon and our family moved to the Wheaton-Silver Spring area. Unfortunately there were no organized sports programs for kids and no nearby parks or recreational facilities. So, I decided to go back to my hometown the next 3 summers to stay with my grandparents and play in the Coatesville "Pygmy League" for boys 12-14. I usually played the infield and occasionally pitched until it became clear that my knuckle-curve was very hittable. During the school years at "Monkey Hills", I played soccer, basketball and softball (there was no junior high baseball). At Blair, in the 10th grade I failed to make the final cut in baseball and instead ended up as sports editor of the student newspaper.

Fortunately, not making the varsity at Blair was not to be the end of my baseball world. The summer prior to graduation and the summer after I graduated I played in the Montgomery County prep school league for the Colesville Colts and Blair was our home field. I played 3B and Jay Solomon was our right fielder. The following year Jay and I played together again and we were joined by Ron Dustin. Surprisingly, Ron, who still has the scorebooks from that season, tells me that we faced Steve Barber (of Orioles and Yankees fame) twice, beat him once and that all three of us hit well against him. It shocked me to hear that because all I remembered was being uptight facing Barber, who already had a reputation as a flame-throwing but very wild lefty. At season's end I was named to the county All-Star team and we played an All-Star team composed of guys from local private schools like Sidwell Friends, St. Albans, etc. The only thing I remember about that game was playing at the Gaithersburg Fairgrounds, where the outfield looked like a cow pasture. I had never been to Gaithersburg before and it was very much country then.

Next, it was off to college to try to figure out what to do with the rest of my life. I won an academic scholarship to Colgate in central New York State. I went out for freshman soccer and surprised myself becoming a starter after not having played competitively since 9<sup>th</sup> grade. And, after having had some success playing baseball the previous two summers, I decided to give baseball a shot. I came close but again I failed to make the final cut. I didn't know it  
(Continued on Page 8 **Ballentine**)

## FINAL FALL SOFTBALL STANDINGS 2014

### WOMEN'S MASTERS LEAGUE

Team	Won	Lost	Tied	Points
Stein, Sterling & Bennett	10	1	1	21
Like a Fine Wine	7	5		14
Old Bats	5	6	1	11
Tornados	0	10	2	2

Commissioner: Carmen Campbell

### ROSS EMERSON 60+ LEAGUE

Team	Won	Lost	Tied	Points
Fire Balls	23	7		46
Dust Busters	16	14		32
Centurions	16	14		32
Senators	16	14		32
Good Sports	10	20		20
Patriots	9	21		18

Commissioner: Jacky Loube

### TUESDAY NIGHT 50+ LEAGUE

Team	Won	Lost	Tied	Points
Spicer	10	2		20
Armands	10	2		20
Michael & Sons	8	4		16
Gaithersburg Rentals	5	7		10
NATS	2	10		4
Marauders	1	11		2

Commissioner: Paul Jarosinski

### RON SCHELL 50+ DRAFT LEAGUE

Team	Won	Lost	Tied	Points
Midnight Special	10	4		20
Blue Knights	9	5		18
Sneaksters	5	8		10
Green Hornets	3	10		6

Commissioner: Dave Hyder

### SUPER SENIOR LEAGUE

Team	Won	Lost	Tied	Points
Tigers	12	4		24
Panthers	11	5		22
Cougars	10	6		20
Bobcats	9	5		18
Jaguars	7	9		14
Lynx	1	9		2
Lions	0	12		0

Commissioner: Ed Guillette

### THURSDAY NIGHT 55+ LEAGUE

Team	Won	Lost	Tied	Points
Senior Ballers	10	0		20
Chartwell Builders	6	4		12
Hamel	4	6		8
Marauders	0	10		0

Commissioner: Don Juran (Interim)



**FIRE BALLS** Ross Emerson League Fall Champions  
2014



**TIGERS** Super Senior League 2014 Fall Champions  
Manager: Harold Kessler



## Emergency Contact Info

Emergency contact name and telephone number are required when registering for any MCSSA sport. Registrations will not be accepted without this information

## SPRING SOFTBALL STARTS WEEK OF APRIL 20

This spring softball season will begin the week of April 20, 2015. MCSSA will be managing eight leagues: three daytime and five nighttime. On Monday mornings there is the Super Senior league for men 70+ and women 40+. The Ross Emerson league on Tuesday and Thursday mornings is the men's 60+ league. The Co-Rec league for men 60+ and women 40+ plays its games on Wednesdays.

On Monday nights, the Women's Masters 40+ league play. Tuesday night we see the men's 50+ league. On Wednesday night it's the men's 60+ league. Thursday nights it is the men's 55+ league. Finally, on Friday nights, we have the men's Ron Schell 50+ draft league. More information on these leagues appears on page 10 of this issue of *The Senior Athlete*.

Bat standards for the night leagues follow the Amateur Softball Association guidelines. Day leagues allow only wooden bats or single-wall bats with metal barrels.



Member Car Services champions of the Wednesday Night 60+ League.



Who said Buzz can't bend down and field a ground ball???

### MCSSA Board of Directors

<u>Office</u>	<u>Incumbents</u>
President	Jim Ganz
Vice-President	Don Juran
Secretary	Dan Mann
Treasurer	John Rice

#### Other Board Members

#### League Commissioners

Women's Masters	Carmen Campbell
Super Senior League	Ed Guillette
60+ Ross Emerson League	Jacky Loubé
Co-Rec Wednesday Morning	Don Juran
50+ Tuesday Night	Paul Jarosinski
55+ Thursday Night	Don Juran (Interim)
60+ Wednesday Night	Joe Fry
50+ Ron Schell Draft	Dave Hyder
Basketball 50/55/60	David Schardt
Basketball 65/70	John Medford

#### Program Coordinators

Volleyball	Stan Way
Senior Olympics	George Huson
Internet Advisor	David Schardt



# 2014 MCSSA Annual Awards Banquet





(Moore Continued from Page 1)

anyone that his doctor, over a decade ago, advised him to stop playing softball because of his degenerative hip disease. Two years after his heart attack he had hip replacement surgery. The doctor said it was the worst case she had ever seen. He could barely stand.

Keith worked hard in post-surgery therapy and he began playing volleyball as soon as he could stand on his own. He made great progress. With a new hip and mended heart he had a new lease on life. This past spring he played five days a week of senior softball and refused to accept a runner from home plate, in case he could, and did, get to second, third or home when he was at bat. Amazingly, he even slid into second base and caught a lot of grief from everyone. His only comment was, "*But I was safe!*"

(Continued from Page 3 **Ballentine**)

at the time but even if I had made the freshman baseball team, I'd never have made the varsity because, as it turned out, Colgate had an elite baseball program which that same year (1955) went to the College World Series final four, beating the Univ. of Southern California, 6-4, but losing to Wake Forest, the eventual CWS champion, 1-0, despite a 2-hitter by our pitcher. How do I remember that? Well I was now writing sports for the college yearbook and newspaper. Colgate had a first team All-American leftfielder and a bunch of All-East players. Ironically, in 1998 the baseball program was terminated by athletic director, Mark Murphy, who had been both a baseball and football star at Colgate before becoming our Redskin Super Bowl safety. Apparently, Title IX forced the termination of several men's athletic programs.

Then it was off to UNC at Chapel Hill to get my doctorate in clinical psychology and prepare to become "a poor man's Dr. Phil". I married a Blair girl in 1959 and we had two daughters while living in Chapel Hill. I was so caught up in grad school and parenting that I was unable to follow the new Minnesota Twins team, who had left D.C. with some of my all-time favorite players, viz., Killebrew, Allison, Pascual, Battey and Kaat. I never followed a Washington MLB team again, not the "Teddy Ballgame" Senators or the new Nationals. I later became an ardent Orioles fan and will remain one for the duration. After grad school I returned to Maryland for my first real job at the Georgetown University Medical Center. My first couple of summers back I played softball with a bunch of Blair guys, including who else, Jay Solomon. And while my life took off professionally, things went downhill marriage-wise resulting in a divorce in 1970.

As work and family began to require more and more of my time, I dropped softball and never played it again until I was 60, when my new partner, Marilyn, and I began playing Montgomery County Co-Rec softball for Dick Baratte's Cloverly Cannons. Marilyn and I lucked out because we landed on a team with several highly talented softballers, including Gary Fitzgerald, Eddy Densmore and Bob Dewese, all of whom I believe are in a state or national softball Hall of Fame. As I recall it, in the Co-Rec championship game, Gary shut out Upper County, 16-0. That was in 1997 and we were pitching with a high arc then and Gary had Upper County popping up time and again, in fact, I remember getting 3 or 4 pop-ups at 3B alone.

Marilyn and I played for Baratte's Cloverly team for several years and then Jim Ehrenfried recruited us to play for his Senior Moments (money under the table). We moved on from there to Bob Stroup's Co-Rec team and eventually ended our Co-Rec careers playing two seasons for Jack Melnick. During those Co-Rec seasons I also began playing for our Montgomery 65'ers when I was 64 and at 70 I transitioned to our MC 70's team and played until the untimely death of Cliff Rice, who had managed the 70's team. I also continued playing in the men's REL league, which I always preferred to Co-Rec, and am still playing at age 78. The last few years, despite diminishing returns, I've enjoyed playing for Ron Dustin's Dustbusters some 60+ years after he and I played baseball together in 1954.

Next year will be my 18<sup>th</sup> season playing in the MCSSA program. It's been one of the best experiences I've ever had from almost every standpoint: the friendship and camaraderie, the exercise and vitamin D, the pure enjoyment of summer mornings doing something I love, the thrill of a solid base hit, especially with runners on board, or making a difficult defensive play—what else even comes close!? (Try to keep your fantasies in check, guys.) I feel fortunate to have found our league, thanks to the encouragement of Carol and Don Juran, and I also feel fortunate that I'm still relatively healthy and no longer need to strap on my Velcro every game.

I also appreciate all the guys who contribute so much of their and time energy to MCSSA, including our officers, managers, umpires, past and present, all of whom have made the program so viable and enjoyable. And finally, I want to thank all the guys (with one or two exceptions) I've played with and/or against, past and present, for their friendliness, fun-lovingness and good sportsmanship. It's been a helluva ride and I hope to keep riding as long as it continues to be fun. Who knows, I may even make it to whatever ages Spike and Lenny are now!???



## REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE SPRING DRAFT LEAGUES

Please indicate which league(s) you wish to play in and enclose the proper amount as indicated below. Make check payable to MCSSA. **Please note: Your Annual MCSSA Dues are included in the registration fee for whichever league you in which you want to play. You only need to pay Dues once a year. So if you sign up for multiple leagues you only pay the dues once.**

I want to play in the Super Senior Draft League on Monday Mornings (\$45.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I want to play in the 60 and over Ross Emerson Morning League (\$125.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signup deadline for this league is April 10, 2015

I want to play in the 50 and over Draft League on Friday Nights (\$90.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signup deadline for this league, April 10, 2015

I would like to enter a team in the Wednesday Morning CoRec League (\$800) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual MCSSA membership (\$5.00)** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Optional: Donation to MCSSA to further the goals of MCSSA \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT DUE** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact (required): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**It is vitally important that you provide an emergency contact and phone number**

**Would you like to be considered to manage a team in one of the leagues? YES NO**

**What positions do you play? \_\_\_\_\_ What playing dates will you miss? \_\_\_\_\_**

**Mail this form with a check for the TOTAL AMOUNT DUE made out to MCSSA to:  
MCSSA - 14320 Fairdale Road - Silver Spring MD 20905**

The participant assumes all risks associated with participation in the above activities. MCSSA assumes no liability for injury or damages arising from participation in these activities. Due to the strenuous nature of some activities, MCSSA encourages each participant to consult his or her physician concerning fitness to participate in the program. The participant consents to emergency treatment.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



## **SOFTBALL REGISTRATION BEGINS IN JANUARY**

Registration for the 2015 Night Leagues senior softball season will begin in January, and continue until April or until leagues are filled. Daytime and Friday Night leagues can register immediately.

### **NIGHT LEAGUE FORMATS**

The following night leagues play a 10 week 20 game doubleheader schedule on regional fields. Early games are at 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. with late games at 8:00 and 9:00 p.m.

**Monday Nights**—Women’s 40 and over league  
Commissioner: Carmen Campbell—443-864-4179

**Tuesday Nights**—Men’s 50 and over league  
Commissioner: Paul Jarosinski 301-774-5841

**Wednesday Nights** – Men’s 60 and over league  
Commissioner: Joe Fry 301-460-6096

**Thursday Nights**—Men’s 55 and over league  
Commissioner: Don Juran (Interim)  
301-231-8622

**Friday Nights**—Men’s 50 and over DRAFT league  
Teams play 2 seven inning games at Wheaton  
Commissioner: Dave Hyder—240-393-3516  
This is a draft league and the cost is \$90 per person.  
Those interested in playing in this league, please fill out the form on page 9 of this newsletter.

### **DAYTIME LEAGUE FORMATS**

**Monday and some Friday Mornings** **Super Senior Draft League**  
70 and over for *men*, 40 and over for women.

Teams play 2 seven inning games at Olney Manor Park.  
Every player in attendance is entitled to be in the batting order.  
Cost is \$45.00 per person.  
Please fill out the form on page 9  
Commissioner: Ed Guillette 301-438-2060

**Tuesday and Thursday Mornings** **Ross Emerson League**  
Men 60+ play doubleheaders at Olney Manor and Wheaton.  
Every player in attendance is entitled to be in the batting order.  
Cost is \$125.00 per person. Please fill out the form on page 9.  
Commissioner: Jacky Loubé 240-731-9477

**Wednesday Mornings** **Co-Rec League**  
60 and over for men 40 and over for women.  
All players are entitled to 7 innings of playing time  
Registration fee is \$800 per team with checks payable to MCSSA at the address shown below.  
Commissioner: Don Juran 301-231-8622

**Note: Estimated Franchise fee of \$1,150 per team is expected for the night leagues (Except Fridays).**

## **MCSSA**

14320 Fairdale Road  
Silver Spring MD 20905  
Phone: 301-236-9130  
Email: jimganz@verizon.net  
Webpage: montgomerycountyseniorsports.org

