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www.TimoniumOptimist.org



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Club Meetings: 1ST. Monday, 6:30 pm, Radisson Hotel, 2004 Greenspring Drive, Timonium, MD. * Board Meetings 2ND. Monday, 7:30 p.m., N. H. Yates & Co. Bulletin news due Friday after Board Meeting to Sue Cavanaugh (suecavanaugh@hotmail.com) 410 561 3048



December 2016

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**To make all of your friends feel that there
is something in them.**

December 5th Dinner Meeting

Pres. Joe gave the invocation and our SOTM, Joshua Simbana led the Pledge.

Joshua is a 5th grade student at Timonium Elementary. He came with his parents, 2 sisters and 2 brothers. Joshua enjoys sketching comics with characters with funny names. He is also a member of the chess club and always gets good grades. Joshua always attends church and once he becomes an adult wants to be part of a group that travels helping those in need and influencing the world for Christ. Joshua is also in the Buddy program helping autistic students and is an art helper every Friday. He is a good example for his brothers and sisters. He is always polite and gracious. In addition, he likes to read and plays trumpet in the school band. His family won the 50/50.

Our speaker was Barbara Hopkins from Neighbor Space. Their mission statement is “Neighbor Space works with community partners to protect and improve land for parks, gardens, trails and natural areas within Baltimore County’s Urban Rural Demarcation Line (URDL). Within the URDL, 90% of the County’s population lives on 1/3 of the total land area. We seek to promote health & well-being, buffer local streams from polluted run-off, and enhance the value of homes and businesses.” “The challenge: 70% of residences inside the URDL Lack sufficient access to open space within a 5 minute walk.” They are a 501 (c)(3) non-profit. It was created in 1967 to help curtail urban sprawl.

As a non-profit, it’s a land trust and they are able to offer tax benefits if the donated land has “conservation value”. Donated land may be eligible for a federal tax deduction, state deduction and a local property tax abatement. Their goal is to have 1000 sq.ft. of open space/residence. Pointing to historical sociological/cultural changes brought about by the advent of the car, stock market crash, housing needs, WWII & GI Bill and the advent of suburban housing developments and its sprawl, people have been separated from easy accessibility to needed services. In addition, the effect of such changes have had a negative impact on the landscape – particularly on the watershed. 23% of the population live below the poverty line and 13% are

food insecure in the county. There are many on-going projects in the County to increase Open Space and to identify land and funding partners for a pilot effort to address access to so called food insecurity in the URDL. Also they want to address the challenge of disconnected youth inside the URDL on land that Neighbor Space currently owns or may acquire in the in the future.

If you have questions or may have land that may qualify to be included in their endeavors, please take a look at www.neighborspacebaltimorecounty.org or www.barbara@neighborspacebaltimorecounty.org

Editor's note: This appears to be a worthwhile endeavor – there is much that needs to be addressed within our high density populated area: the increased senior population, the increased disadvantaged/disengaged youth and increasing inaccessibility to services. However, due to time constraints of that evening, I was not able to pose questions regarding some reservations I had.