



# MONTEAGLE SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

· A CHAUTAUQUA EST. 1882 ·

PO Box 307  
Monteagle, TN  
931-924-2286

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## Platform Update

from Lisa Hammett and  
Ruth Cobb

As I write, two days before Christmas, the 2021 Platform schedule is nearly finished. After the holidays, much of the work involves communication with the platform guests to clarify and compile the details of their presentations. These administrative files provide information for on-line registration, financial and housing information, references for the physical and technical set-ups, and, of course, the Program book.

There are some specific needs of the platform this summer, and at the suggestion of Lisa Hammett, platform committee chair, they are shared here with the hope that assistance may be found among the membership. Please read on about the programs and get in touch with me ([ruth.cobb@mssa1882.org](mailto:ruth.cobb@mssa1882.org)) if you can help or know a resource.

**Scrap textiles** are needed for a five-day weaving workshop in Week 5. There will be a large community loom that will become a work created by everyone in residence who wishes to participate. Bring an **old blanket, coat or clothing** that can be cut into strips for you to weave into the work. The size of the strips will depend upon the loom, so bring it as a whole piece and plan to cut when you arrive. All ex-



tra pieces will be used by the youth in their workshops. **We will need lots of fabric, yarn, ribbons, etc.** for the large community project and the individual projects to be done by the youth. Please send or leave your donations at the platform office or bring them this summer.

The Eagles and Eaglets will have their own **weaving class**, with each student receiving their own loom on which to learn weaving and to keep. **NEEDED:** The wood looms are simply constructed with four pieces of wood screwed together. The instructor will nail the brads when she arrives. If you know someone who can cut and join the wood for small looms, please be in touch. Materials and a stipend are available.

A weekly series for the Buzzards and Falcons is entitled **This is Life**, and features a workshop that teaches a handy skill through a hands-on process (often making an item to

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MSSA

## Platform Update

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take home). The plans for this series include a class that teaches the use of basic tools to make a simple item. **NEEDED:** Someone to teach this class. Please contact me if you know a skilled worker with a love of the topic and hopefully, teaching experience. A stipend is available as well as materials for the class.

The platform committee has identified the **need for housing on (or near) the Assembly grounds for two seasonal platform staff.** We are fortunate to have staff members who want to return for another season after they have graduated from Sewanee, but the University only provides summer

dormitory space to current students or those employed by summer programs. These two individuals return with the knowledge and skills to capably lead the production of the eight-week season, and they have also been invested in helping to create an administrative infrastructure for the platform.

And, while the MSSA pays a competitive wage, it is not sufficient to rent a place during the season. (Last summer, a happy coincidence provided two cottages at just the right time; thank you!) If you know of a possibility or will not be using or renting a cottage for a period of time this summer, please contact either Platform Committee Chair Lisa Hammet ([lisarham@hotmail.com](mailto:lisarham@hotmail.com)) or Ruth Cobb ([ruth.cobb@mssa1882.org](mailto:ruth.cobb@mssa1882.org)).



Enjoy the yellow carpet of the fallen leaves of the ginkgo tree outside the Auditorium. The earliest ginkgo leaf fossil dates from 270 million years ago.

*Though a tree grows ever  
so high, the falling leaves  
return to the root.*

Malay proverb

*From the Reforestation  
Committee*

## QUICK BITES

Lawn trimmings are collected on Wednesdays.

**The possession or use of alcohol or controlled substances on public grounds, in public places, or at public functions on the Assembly grounds is prohibited and subjects the offender to disciplinary action by the Board of Trustees.**

**Safety first!** Call (931) 607-8615 when the main office is closed for any security questions or concerns.



The Monteagle Sunday School Assembly was organized by Charter issued by the State of Tennessee on October 4, 1882 for the purpose of: "... the advancement of science, literary attainment, Sunday School interests, and the promotion of the broadest popular culture in the interest of Christianity without regard to sect or denomination."

The Mission of the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly is to be a welcoming community of Christian faith where people gather to engage in spiritual growth and renewal, lifelong inquiry and learning, recreational and cultural enrichment, while being good stewards of our natural resources and our Assembly heritage.

## New Member Spotlight: Elizabeth Fox

As you may have seen, renovations are underway for Southern Comfort, and new Assembly member Elizabeth Fox is tackling the project head-on. The cottage was built in the 1880s, and Elizabeth is giving it a complete overhaul, including an addition on the back that provides two bedrooms, two baths. She will need that space with two married sons and seven grandchildren, all of whom are excited about their future in Monteagle.

Elizabeth is no stranger to the Assembly. The Roberts are her cousins, and she is related by marriage to Laddie Neil's family. A native of Nashville, Elizabeth came to Monteagle when she was little. Her sons Brian and David, both in their mid-40s, have also spent quite a bit of time in the Assembly. In fact, it was Brian's suggestion that they buy a cottage.

Although Elizabeth followed a somewhat traditional path growing up (Harpeth Hall and then Vanderbilt), her career choice was anything but typical. She married Gary Fox, an MBA boy she had dated since high school. After graduating from Vandy, she became a Metro police officer. In 1970, there were



David, Elizabeth and Brian Fox

only four women on the force, including Elizabeth and her female partner. The two were part of a special vice squad for drug and alcohol enforcement. Elizabeth worked there for six years, but the job was just too disruptive with babies at home. She decided to leave the force and pursue a law degree at night, enrolling at the Nashville School of Law. She earned her degree and went to work for Davidson County, handling social service cases. But she still found herself missing her boys and their various activities.

Her husband Gary was a home builder and suggested that Elizabeth get a real estate license. His plan was to build homes and have her sell them. It became a family business, and she sold homes for the next thirty years. Elizabeth lost Gary to a tragic hiking accident when he was only 51

years old, so it is especially meaningful that she has both sons in Nashville with their families. Brian and his wife Megan are both SMU graduates. They have five children, and he enjoys outdoor adventure sports – even climbing

Kilimanjaro with each of his kids when they turn 15. Younger brother David is a U.T. grad and followed in his mom's footsteps by serving as a Metro police officer before moving full time into real estate and property management. He and his wife Liz have two girls, both at Brentwood Academy.

Elizabeth is jumping in to MSSA with both feet, participating in Bridge Week, MahJongg ("I'm getting better at it!") and playing Mexican Train. Her friend Jack Arnold has given her a couple of Pickleball lessons. Elizabeth loves to travel, but Monteagle is such an easy drive. She envisions her Bridge group coming up from Nashville and loving the Assembly as much as she does. She has her fingers crossed that the cottage will be ready by the 2021 season.



### LEASEHOLDS AVAILABLE

#23 Edgeworth Inn \$1,300,000

To arrange a tour or for more information contact:  
W. Scott Parrish,  
General Manager  
[scott.parrish@mssa1882.org](mailto:scott.parrish@mssa1882.org)  
(931) 924-2286





## HOUSING QUESTIONS?

### ASK RHONDA!

Should you have concerns that your cottage has not rented to your satisfaction during the season or off-season, contact the housing office to discuss your options. If you are willing to consider offering your cottage for 3-day rentals, negotiate or pro-rate rentals, or if you have questions about your rentals, call Rhonda.

The housing office can also help if you want to rent a golf cart during the season. The housing number is (931) 924-9000.

Monteagle Sunday School Assembly  
P.O. Box 307

Monteagle, TN 37356

[www.mssa1882.org](http://www.mssa1882.org)

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[othompson@bassberry.com](mailto:othompson@bassberry.com)

#### Key MSSA Contacts

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**Bookkeeper** – Crystal Hill  
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**Facility Superintendent** – Rick Duncan  
[rick.duncan@mssa1882.org](mailto:rick.duncan@mssa1882.org)



## ARC PROJECT SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Planning a renovation project? The Architectural Review Committee will accept projects for review and recommendation to the Board of Trust for approval four times per year. Questions about possible projects, the process, and necessary requirements should be referred to the General Manager. Projects submitted by the following dates will be reviewed and presented at the board meeting following the submission.

February 28    June 10    July 31

September 30    January 15

The ARC is available throughout the year to advise members on their project planning prior to submission of a request. Not sure if you need ARC approval? Check with the General Manager first.

## SAFETY FIRST

The MSSA security team is at your service. If you have any emergency --medical or otherwise-- call 911, but our seasoned team is here to help for non-emergency situations. If you have a safety issue or see suspicious activity anywhere on the grounds or at the Point, don't hesitate to call (931) 607-8615 after 5 pm or call the office during business hours. There are no silly concerns--it's better to call and quell your fears than to let something go because you are afraid of a false alarm.

Consider putting the security number by your home phone and/or plugging it into your cell phones.

Kids got cell phones? Plug the security number in those too.

Together we'll keep MSSA the safe haven it is!



## In Our Prayers

**Frederick Kirke Martin III**, age 70, passed away peacefully on December 16th, 2020, surrounded by his family. The days preceding his death were filled with laughter and tears, music and knitting, and the GREAT love of his devoted family.

Kirke was born January 13th, 1950 in Pittsburgh, PA, as the only child of Kirke and Jenny Martin. As a child he spent his afternoons with his first-generation Lithuanian grandparents, smelling freshly baked bread, snacking on Mallow Cups, and being doted on by his mother. Kirke was a graduate of North Hills High School and DePauw University. He was an accomplished football and baseball player and was nicknamed “Lurch” for his gentle demeanor and towering stature.

Kirke graduated with a bachelor's degree in Finance & Business and a master's degree in Education and was a proud member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity. In 1970 Kirke studied abroad in Denmark, and while traveling on a bus of students in Reykjavik, Iceland, he asked if anyone knew how to play bridge. Margie, thinking he was cute, pretended she knew how to play (she still has never learned!). The two fell immediately in love and were married June 12th, 1971. The newlyweds then moved to Nashville, TN, which Kirke lovingly dubbed as “The City of Son-in-Laws.”

Kirke's Pittsburgh accent faded during his 50 years as a Tennessean, but his love for the Penguins and Steelers never did. He loved calling Nashville home. Kirke founded his own music business firm in 1981, Martin and Associates (now Martin, Albee, Miller, Bryan and Associates). Kirke was revered for his honesty, loyalty, and practicality, and his advice was sought after by many up and-coming and established artists. During his 40 years in the Nashville music industry, Kirke served on the boards of Leadership Music and Nashville Entertainment

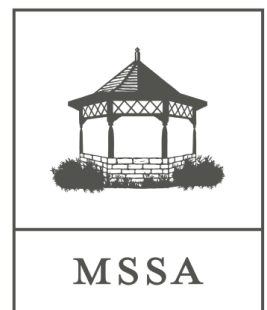
Association, and was a member of CMA and GMA.

The happiest Kirke ever was, was when he was surrounded by the chaos and love of his wife, four children, their spouses, and his eleven grandchildren. Kirke took pride in his greatest role - being a beloved “Poppie” to his grandchildren. He loved to spend his summers at the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly. Kirke is survived by his beloved wife of 49 ½ years, Margie, his children Kirke (Keedysville, MD), Edward and Rachel Martin, Margo and David Cloniger, and Helen and Kris Nonn (all of Nashville TN). And by his eleven beloved grandchildren, Samuel, Meridian, and Reuben Cloniger, Dylan, Rowan and Eamon Martin, Olive and McKay Martin, and Ryer, Marlow and Hollis Nonn. Kirke is also survived by his dear chosen brother, Thom Schuyler (Sarah Tallu), his brothers-in-law Ed (Toni), John (Denice), and Walter Fish, his niece, nephews, cousins and by his friend, Henry Yarborough.

Because his family will greatly miss the stories and memories that would be shared when gathering together, Kirke's family would welcome and cherish your written remembrances in celebration of his life. Please mail your remembrances to The Martin Family, % MAMBA, P.O. Box 128287, Nashville, TN 37212 or email to

[TheMartinFamily3906@gmail.com](mailto:TheMartinFamily3906@gmail.com)

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to, The Store (The Store to P.O. Box 128287 Nashville, TN 37212), created by his friends and clients, Brad and Kim Paisley, The Nashville Food Project (5904 California Ave, Nashville, TN 37209), founded by his cousin, Tallu Quinn and a favorite place for his grandchildren to volunteer, Monteagle Sunday School Assembly (PO Box 307, Monteagle TN, 37356), an adored place of childhood magic, or Alive Hospice (1718 Patterson St., Nashville, TN, 37203) who helped care so lovingly for Kirke in the last three months of his life.



## In Our Prayers

**Jean Magee Murray Reynolds** (98) died peacefully on December 30, 2020. She was predeceased by her parents, Gladys M. Dixon and Orville D. Magee and sisters, Ann Magee Strawn and Nell Magee Roach. A lifelong Memphian, she graduated from Central High School in 1939 and briefly attended Southwestern (Rhodes College).

In 1940, she married Ruffner Page Murray. While her husband, "Coach," served in WWII, she served on the home front as a Red Cross volunteer. They were married for 50 years until he died in 1990. In 2001, she married Eugene C. Reynolds with whom she enjoyed traveling and spending summers at Monteagle until he died in 2017. Over the years, she enjoyed her memberships in Les Passes Fine Arts Club (two term President), Les Bonne Livres Book Club, Women's Exchange, Memphis Glass Collectors Club, Arawata Garden Club, Chickasaw Country Club, University Club, Monteagle S.S. Assembly, and Idlewild Presbyterian Church. She was an accomplished local artist who studied many years under Paul Penczner.

She leaves a daughter, Sandra Murray Polk (Marshall) of Nashville, Tennessee; son, Ruffner Page Murray, Jr. (Judi) of Monteagle, Tennessee; son, John Rosser Murray III (Joy) of Counce, Tennessee; five grandchildren (E. Page Polk, Murray Polk Smartt, Regan Murray Greer, Shelton Murray Thompson and Amy Page Murray) and eight great grandchildren. The family requests any memorials be sent to The Heath Center of Idlewild Church (1750 Union Avenue 38104); Monteagle S.S. Assembly for the Ruffner Page Murray, Sr. Bell Tower Fund (P.O. Box 307 Monteagle, Tennessee 37356); or Elmwood Cemetery (824 S. Dudley Street, Memphis 38104).

**Dr. William Russell Ries** passed away following a brief illness on Tuesday, January 5, 2021. Russell was born in Union City, TN, to Herbert and Marjorie Miller Ries. A graduate of Southwestern at Memphis (now Rhodes College), Russell went on to study medicine at the UT Center for Health Sciences, completing residencies at Baptist Memorial Hospital (Memphis) and Northwestern Memorial Hospital (Chicago), followed by a fellowship at Tulane University under Dr. Jack R. Anderson. In 1988 Dr. Ries became a founding member of the Department of Otolaryngology of Vanderbilt Medical Center, serving as the first holder of the Carol and John S. Odess Chair in Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. At his death, Dr. Ries was Chief of the Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Service at VUMC.

Russell delighted those around him with his quiet, yet mischievous, sense of humor and original storytelling. An Eagle Scout, Russell always lived his life in accordance with the highest virtues of a Scout: He was trustworthy, helpful, friendly, and kind. Generous with his time and kind to everyone regardless of their circumstances, Russell participated in many medical missions in Ecuador and operated on the facial wounds of abused women.

A devoted son, brother, husband, father, uncle, and grandfather, Russell was predeceased by his parents. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Susie Webb Ries; daughter Katie Ries (Stephen Martin) and grandchildren George and Margaret Martin of Green Bay, WI; son Russell Ries, Jr. (Eleanor Schneider) of Nashville; son Robert "Bud" Ries (Charice Starr) of Knoxville; sisters Pat Ries Hart (Don), Jean Ries; brother Mark Ries; mother-in-law, Julie Webb; and many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Christ Church Cathedral, Nashville, TN, or to the Vanderbilt University Medical Center Dept. of Otolaryngology . ([www.VanderbiltHealth.org/giving](http://www.VanderbiltHealth.org/giving)).

