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COURTESY THE ARC NCR

The Arc Northern Chesapeake celebrating its 65th anniversary

AEGIS STAFF REPORT
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The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region (The Arc NCR) is marking its 65th year of empowering people with differing abilities to live, work and play in the community. With locations in Harford and Cecil counties, the nonprofit has grown from a small grassroots movement to an organization providing services to more than 300 people.

Founded in 1953, The Arc NCR began in a basement where 10 families from Harford and Cecil Counties gathered in hopes of providing meaningful education and life experiences for their children. Since its inception, the organization has worked to provide services and advocacy for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities – a phrase the nonprofit now terms “differing abilities.”

“We are all unique human beings with strengths and weaknesses,” explains CEO of The Arc NCR, Shawn Kros. “It is our hope that within another 65 years, as a society, we can leave off labels altogether. We are all simply ‘people.’”

The nonprofit provides support services

over “the arc of a lifetime,” including supported employment, family support services to individuals from birth to 21 years old and their families, services for transitioning youth, treatment foster care services, supported living and personal support services to adults and a Community Partners day program for adults.

To kick off the anniversary, The Arc NCR hosted a 65th Anniversary and After d’Arc Gala “License to Give: A Night of Bond 007 Style Pre-Event Party” on Jan. 23 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Alchemy Elements at 528 Baltimore Pike in Bel Air. Attendees were offered “Bond-style” drinks, food, raffle prizes, mingling with the Belvedere Vodka Girls, a photo booth and more.

A portion of all proceeds will be donated to The Arc NCR country of Alchemy Elements.

The Arc NCR is a private, nonprofit local chapter of The Arc Maryland and The Arc of the United States, the largest national community-based organization devoted exclusively to improving the quality of life for all adults and children with developmental disabilities. For more information about services and events or to donate, visit arcncr.org.



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The Arc NCR Executive Director, Shawn Kros, gives a toast at a party to kick off the organization's 65th anniversary.

Maple Magic back for year 13 at Ladew Gardens Feb. 17-18

On Feb. 17 and 18, Ladew Gardens will present its annual Maple Magic in its 13th year.

Guests of all ages are invited to experience the process of making real maple syrup.

An indoor presentation is followed by a nature hike to identify maple trees and demonstration of tapping maple trees, and collection of sap which is boiled down into delicious, amber syrup.

End the day with tasty treats of Ladew syrup, maple candy and a pancake / snack.

There are two programs each day: noon and 2 p.m. (programs last an hour and a half). Space is limited. Advance registration is recommended as Maple Magic sells out each year.

Register online at www.LadewGardens.com or call 410-557-9570, ext. 223. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors (62 and older) and students; \$5 for children ages 3 to 12, and free for children under 3.



HCC Actors Guild set to perform Almost, Maine

The HCC Actors Guild will perform *Almost, Maine* Friday to Sunday, Feb. 9-11 and Feb. 16-18 in the Black Box Theatre in Joppa Hall on the Harford Community College campus. Performances start at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. on Sundays.

On a cold, clear, moonless night in the middle of winter, all is not quite what it seems in the remote, mythical town of *Almost, Maine*. As the northern lights hover in the star-filled sky above, *Almost's* residents find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected and often hilarious ways. Knees are bruised. Hearts are broken. But the bruises heal, and the hearts mend – *Almost* – in this delightful midwinter night's dream.

“*Almost, Maine* is a series of nine amiably absurdist vignettes about love,

with a touch of good-natured magic realism... witty, romantic, un sentimental. A beautifully structured play, with nifty surprise endings (most but not all of them happy),” according to a review in *The New York Times*.

This production is presented by Special Arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

Tickets are \$8-\$12 at LIVEatHarfordC-Com, the HCC Ticket Office in the Chesapeake Center, or 443-412-2211. All venues are accessible to individuals with disabilities. Patrons requiring special seating arrangements may purchase accessible seating online at tickets.harford.edu or by calling the HCC Ticket Office at 443-412-2211. Assisted listening system headsets are available in the Chesapeake Theater and the Amoss Center.