



# BACKSTAGE AT THE MAINSTAY

The latest “scoop” from our Board of Directors

Volume 3 Number 1

## New Mainstay Board Members bring a Wealth of Experience to the Board

Nonprofits thrive when they have an experienced, diverse and energetic board. The Mainstay is pleased to announce and welcome four new board members to The Mainstay family.

Dr. Kenneth Schweitzer holds a Master of Music in Ethnomusicology and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Percussion from the University of Maryland. An expert in Afro-Cuban music and ritual, his research and performance activities focus on the sacred batá drumming tradition and possession rituals of the Lucumí religion. Dr. Schweitzer returns annually to Cuba to conduct ongoing research, develop his performance skills, visit old friends, and (since 2014) to introduce Washington College students and Kent County residents to the music, culture, and natural beauty of this place.

Dr. Schweitzer is an accomplished performer. He spent 10 years as percussionist, researcher and vocalist for the Afro-Cuban, Afro-Caribbean and Brazilian folkloric ensemble Havana Select, performing throughout the greater Washington area. As a classical percussionist, proficient in marimba, xylophone, timpani and other related instruments, he continues to work regularly with chamber and choral groups, including regular engagements with the Chester River

Chorale. As a drum set player, he enjoys both jazz and rock, appearing at events like Chestertown’s Downrigging Weekend (Oct 2017) and Tea Party Festival (May 2018).

Dr. Schweitzer has been teaching at Washington College since 2001, and is currently an Associate Professor in the Music Department. He will be an excellent resource for World Music at The Mainstay.

Another new addition to The Mainstay Board is Mr. Riley R. Thornton, who has experience with designing and developing information for the World Wide Web. His expertise includes front end web development (HTML, CSS, and Java Script), back end programming (PHP Python, SQL, Ruby), and design and content flow involving typography, color theory and photography.

He is the co-founder of “Creative Blazer,” ([www.creativeblazer.com](http://www.creativeblazer.com)) a web development company. Mr. Thornton is an invaluable resource to The Mainstay as our web presence continues to grow. (He also is holder of a third degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do should we need anyone to assist with crowd control!)

New Mainstay Board member Susan (Sue) Kenyon hails from Wales, where she lived until she was 18 and then went to London University (Bedford College) to study History. On graduating in 1965, she joined Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), and went as a High School teacher to a

girls' boarding school in Wad Medani, Sudan. This experience convinced her to become an anthropologist. She enrolled at Bryn Mawr College, PA, as a graduate student in anthropology, gaining an MA (1975) and PhD (1977). Her doctoral research was carried out in a native-American village (Kyuquot) on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, but much of her research since that time has been carried out in the Muslim world, particularly Sudan and Indonesia. As a practicing anthropologist she has also carried out research in Costa Rica, the Caribbean, and Ghana. She is the author of many articles and several books, notably *The Kyuquot Way: the Study of a Northwest Coast (Nootkan) Community* (1981 Mercury Press), *Five Women of Sennar: Culture and Change in Central Sudan* (1991 Oxford University Press; 2nd edition 2004, Waveland Press), and *Spirits and Slaves in Central Sudan: the Red Wind of Sennar* (2013 Palgrave MacMillan). Sue has taught at the University of Delaware (1975-7), Indiana University (1990-91), Valparaiso University (1991-5) and Butler University (1995-2008). She is Professor Emerita of Anthropology at Butler University, Secretary of the Association of Senior Anthropologists, and an occasional instructor for WC-ALL, which she thoroughly enjoys.

Our fourth new Mainstay board member is Dr. Allen L. Hammond. Dr. Hammond is a scientist; an award-winning journalist and editor; a widely-published author; and a serial entrepreneur who has led startups in publishing, wireless internet services, and rural healthcare. He has served as founding editor-in-chief for four national publications, organized several influential

global conferences, helped catalyze innovative approaches to international development, and consulted with numerous U.S. government agencies, international organizations, and major corporations.

Currently, Dr. Hammond is President of Allen L. Hammond & Associates, and consultant to the U.S. scientific community for effective communication of research opportunities and results, including Convergence: The Future of Health (2016) and A Remarkable Return on Investment in Fundamental Research (Dept. of Energy, 2018). He is Chairman of the Advisory Board, Gracious Heart Nursing (Delaware); and member of the Advisory Board, Sustainable Enterprise MBA program, University of Vermont. Dr. Hammond is a mentor at large for Santa Clara University's Global Social Benefit Accelerator (10+ years) and advisor to numerous social enterprises operating in low-resource communities.

### **The Mainstay Listens ... New Programming for 2019**

During 2018, Mainstay Program Manager John Thomas received feedback from Mainstay patrons who were interested in seeing more musical diversity in our concert programming. With that in mind, John has come up with a terrific group of performers representing a broad range of musical styles for 2019. As contracts are finalized, we will be advertising the musicians; in the meantime, know that the following series will be produced during 2019 - Americana/Bluegrass, Acoustic and Electric Blues, Straight Ahead Jazz, Folk/World Music, Hedgelawn Classical Music and Local Favorites.