



Queen's Quarterly



A Q U E E N O F T H E C H E S A P E A K E P U B L I C A T I O N

COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT:

To empower young women of the Chesapeake Bay area yacht clubs through a unified, supportive community.

COMMUNITY UPDATE



As the 74th Annual QOTC Pageant came to a conclusion, Miss Ellie Hermann of Maryland YC received the crown and Miss Michelle Studnicki of Bush River YC was named 1st Runner Up as well as Miss Congeniality.

Soon there will be new club Princesses with friendships and lifetime bonds being created. Such wonderful experiences for these lovely young women.

SCHOLARSHIP TEAM:

Frank "Wojo" Wojciechowski
Paul Dolan

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE:

The Scholarship Team would like to thank all of those who supported the very successful fund raiser held at Eastern Yacht Club on August 6th.

We would especially like to thank those who donated baskets, liquor, gift cards, and other items that were raffled off to raise funds.

The event raised just under \$6,000. Those funds go directly into the scholarship account to pay out for post-secondary education for the winners.

A QUEEN'S LIFE... BY ELLIE HERMANN

My name is Ellie Hermann and I am the 2021 Queen of the Chesapeake from the Maryland Yacht Club. I attend Northeast High School as a senior Honor Roll student, where I am involved in Student Government Association (SGA), Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), National Honor Society (NHS), Yearbook, and Interact (a division of the Rotary Club). I am on the Northeast Cheer Team, and I run track in the spring. I am the Historian for the International Thespian Society, and I am involved in my school's drama department where I have designed numerous costumes for both the Wizard of Oz, The Little Mermaid, and The Twelve Incompetent Jurors.

My charity is the Queen of the Chesapeake scholarship fund. Queen of the Chesapeake serves to help empower young women, helping them to build self-confidence through positive experiences within and around the Yachting Community on the Chesapeake Bay and its surrounding tributaries. In addition to learning and experiencing Chesapeake Bay Yacht club customs and traditions, the Queen of the Chesapeake helps expand young women's personal growth and inspires self-confidence through speech writing, public speaking, time management, relationship building, community service, conflict resolution and fundraising.

Since the Pageant, I have had the pleasure of representing the Queen of the Chesapeake at numerous events. I first attended the Severna Park 4th of July Parade. Then, while on a sailboat trip in Mallorca, Spain, I claimed a small island for the Queen of the Chesapeake, although I am not sure of the full legality of this, or even whether the King of Spain will honor my claim. But, if you are ever in Santa Ponsa, that little island now belongs to the 74th Queen of the Chesapeake. I returned from Spain just in time to attend Middle River's Ball and Bodkin's Ball. I also had the privilege of participating in Anne Arundel County's National Night Out event. There was also an amazing fund raiser to raise money for the Queen's Scholarship fund at Eastern Yacht Club. Next, I attended Wounded Warrior Day on the Bay, and had the privilege of helping Princess Kailey with her Princess for the Day booth. I would like to give a big shout-out to Kailey from Maryland Yacht Club who organized 6 donation locations to collect school supplies for the Wounded Warrior Program, as well as to Princess Tori, Princess Katie and Princess Gracie.

As we now turn our attention to Fall events, I look forward to attending the upcoming crownings of the new Princesses around the Bay and promoting awareness of the Queen of the Chesapeake and Princess Program.



*Edited to fit publication

What's to come...

Fall (October/November)
Princess in Waiting Orientation

Information to follow soon

SUPPORT TEAM REPORT

It seems that the Princesses and Queen have been enjoying their summer and that is a very good thing. Now is the time when the support team starts planning for the new and returning Princesses to come aboard. Dates for the Princess Orientation will be announced soon and we look forward to seeing Queen Ellie, Princess Michelle and the new and prospective Princesses this year.

THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson:

Larry Korpany (Maryland YC)

Treasurer:

Bill Corun (Bush River YC)

Outreach Team:

Gary Blankenship (Baltimore YC)

Pam Chaney (Baltimore YC)

Khriessie Toolan (Sue Haven YC)

Support Team:

Faye Broseker (Baltimore YC/YCM)

Karen Corun (Bush River YC)

Dottie Kastrunes (Riverside YC)

Operations Team:

Nicole Sokol (Bodkin YC)

Liz Selig (Red Eye YC)



WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Gabriella Kastrunes - I am honored to be writing to my yacht club family in this edition of the Queen's Quarterly. As I begin my senior year at Boston College, I am certain that my experiences as the 2017 Queen of the Chesapeake helped shape me into the person I am today – an empowered, compassionate, and intelligent young woman who is capable of transforming the world. Since September 2018, I have been studying Biology and Public Health at Boston College, while continuing to dedicate my time to serving marginalized populations. This year, I am conducting research at Dana Farber Cancer Institute (a teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School), where I will be working in a cancer immunology laboratory. I am very excited to begin this position, as I am passionate about finding a cure for various cancers.



Outside of my studies, I am very passionate about the volunteer work that I do through Big Brothers Big Sisters Association. I have served as a Big Sister to a Boston-area child throughout my time in college. This year, I am serving as a leader of this organization, which involves leading reflection groups and planning weekly activities for the "Bigs" and "Littles". Last year, I worked as a teaching assistant in the biology department at Boston College, helping teach students about molecular and cellular biology and giving lectures about the biology of SARS-CoV-2. During summer 2021, I had an internship at a cancer institute in the Baltimore area, where I worked with a multidisciplinary team that treats and supports cancer patients, attended weekly conferences with a team of physicians to discuss treatment plans, and helped implement support services for patients facing food insecurity. In this role, I also had the opportunity to shadow surgeries, procedures, and infusion treatments. At Boston College, I am also on the executive board of Partners in Health, which is an international organization aimed at promoting access to healthcare to those who need it most. Following my graduation in May 2022, I plan to continue conducting research for a year before attending medical school.

I know that my experiences as queen mentoring and building friendships with the princesses, delivering speeches to the community, fundraising for charitable organizations, and lobbying for environmental policies at the Maryland State House helped me become who I am today. Though I have not been able to attend many balls or openings while I have been in college, I hope that you all will remember the quote that I said in my final speech at the 2018 Queen's Pageant: "Friends are like stars, you don't always see them, but they are always there". No matter where life takes me, I have been undeniably impacted by all of you.