

# ShapTalk

Editor  
Lisa O'Donnell Connors  
Extension 6803

## Paying Respects

**DEBORAH MORRIS**, as part of her Army Reserve unit's color guard.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY EMPLOYEE

**JACK SCHWANER**, College Park Plant mailroom, has a simple request of fellow employees on Memorial Day. "It would be really nice if you know someone is a veteran to say thank you, and that does mean a lot," he noted. "A little appreciation goes a long way." Schwaner, **DEBORAH MORRIS**, Advertising and **MIKE NAJARIAN**, Information Technology, will be among other Post employees, veterans and reservists, who will spend this weekend privately or publicly honoring American men and women who died while in service to the country.

Schwaner was hired at The Post in 1960 as an apprentice mailer in the pressroom at the Northwest plant. He received a draft notice in 1965 to serve in the Vietnam War, but was able to get a one-year deferment until his apprenticeship was completed. In 1966, he reported to the Marines boot camp in Parris Island, S.C. Schwaner then headed to Vietnam to join the 3rd Marines for 13 months.

"I was an artillery forward observer, my job was to call in the artillery and air strikes," he recalled. "I was ahead of everybody...between friendly

and enemy fire. A lot of people in that position, well their names are on the (Vietnam Memorial) Wall...I was very happy to make it back."

On March 17, 1967, he was wounded and received the first of his two Purple Hearts. "They patched me up and put me back in the field a few days later," said Schwaner. In August, he was wounded again and received his second Purple Heart. He was then reassigned to be an instructor at Camp Lejuene in N.C. After his 13 months were up, he returned home to Washington and his job at The Post.

Schwaner's most vivid memories of Vietnam are of a bloody weeklong battle that took place in late April, beginning of May in 1967. "The worst thing that happened was during the battle for Hill 881... It was 105 degrees for a whole week... I mean it was hot. I was in the lead company going up the hill...we had to work our way up to the hill, it took us five days to get to the summit." According to the May 4, 1967, issue of the *Pacific Stars and Stripes*, more than 250 Marines were wounded and 96 were killed on Hill 881, in what was described as one of the year's bloodiest battles.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY EMPLOYEE

**JACK SCHWANER** in Vietnam in 1967.

"We lost quite a few men in my rifle company, and that's why I'll be at the Vietnam Memorial on Memorial Day - to pay my respects," said Schwaner.

This weekend, Deborah Morris is pretty sure she'll be at one of the area's many Memorial Day ceremonies as a member of the color guard for the 323rd military intelligence battalion, based at Fort Meade, Md. Morris has been a Post employee for six years and an Army reservist for 16 years. In 1980, she joined the Army for three years, prompted by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

# Howard University Establishes Asher Award

**B**OB ASHER's father and The Washington Post presented a special gift to the editorial page writer for his birthday this year – a journalism award established in his name at Howard University. According to Dr. Barbara Hines, chair of the school's journalism department, the annual Robert L. Asher - Washington Post Award for Excellence in Journalism will provide an annual \$1,000 cash award to a graduating senior who most exemplifies the characteristics that Asher has embodied in his professional and academic life: integrity, competence, compassion and resourcefulness.

"Bob really learns about Washington area issues, and then through his editorials he provides an invaluable voice



**BOB ASHER**

for the benefit of the community," commented Publisher **BO JONES**.

The first Asher award was presented to Sufiya Abdur-Rahman by Asher and his father on Wednesday, May 9 during the University's annual end-

of-the-year awards ceremony.

The award was established through a joint financial contribution to Howard University by Asher's father, Robert E. Asher, his stepmother, Marilee, and The Post. Asher, who has worked at the newspaper

since he was hired as a copy boy in 1959, has taught journalism classes at Howard since 1972.

"Teaching classes is a lot of fun, although I spend a lot of nights reading papers," said Asher, who teaches two classes a semester. "The real fun is staying in contact with students long after they are out of school. Hardly a day goes by that I don't hear from a former student."

He proudly notes that his former students have gone on to jobs at major newspapers across the country and network television. Former students include best-selling author, Benilde Little, and **SHIRLEY CARSWELL**, The Post's AME/Administration and Planning.

## New Employees Reception

**O**n Monday, May 14, 160 new employees at The Post attended a reception in their honor in the 9th floor community room. The new employees reception is an opportunity for staff to meet other new employees, as well department managers and vice presidents throughout the newspaper. Publisher **BO JONES** and Chairman **DON GRAHAM** spoke to the group about The Post and its history.



General Manager of Community Advertising, **BOB KEENAN**, (center) talks to new employees **TODD BERMAN**, Accounting, (left) and **ALLEN WARREN**, Advertising, (right) at the reception.

Sharing a laugh at the reception are Newsroom staffers (l-r) **DWUAN JUNE**, News Desk; **DANIEL UTHMAN**, Sports, and **BERNARD KOHN**, Business.



her mother and the Army commercials, which beckoned "Be all that you can be - join the Army."

"I will be in the Army for a total of 21 years, this year," said Morris, who signed up to be a reservist after completing her three years of full-time duty. "I only planned to be in for three years, but I enjoy the camaraderie and the good leadership. You are part of a unit and you have a lot to contribute. I love the patriotism and it became a part of life for me - I can't imagine not doing it."

A mother of two, Morris spends one weekend a month and two weeks of her vacation from the Post in training as an intelligence/counter terrorism analyst. Through what she calls the luck of the draw, Morris has never been deployed. However, she notes that the Army is losing a lot of analysts to private sector jobs, making the odds greater for her to be deployed, if needed.

According to Morris, her proudest moment as a member of the Army was when she

marched in this year's Inauguration Parade in her unit's color guard. "There is nothing like it," she explains. "It was really cold, but very exciting and my kids got to see it on TV."

Mike Najarian will spend Memorial Day with fellow members of his Montgomery County Chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), laying wreaths at the Rockville Vietnam Memorial and perhaps participating in the local parade.

You can find Najarian at the Vietnam Memorial on the Mall in the early morning hours one weekend a month with other members of the VVA washing the Wall to preserve its beauty and the respect to the veterans whose name it lists. He also assists homeless veterans who are trying to get their lives back on track and is a member of the committee developing the Veterans Plaza in Silver Spring, among many other activities that support veterans.

"I didn't get involved with the veterans groups right away when I came back in 1966," he said. "There were a lot of neg-

ative attitudes toward the Vietnam veterans, even from other veteran groups. It wasn't until after the Vietnam Memorial was dedicated in 1986, that I got involved."

Najarian was hired by The Post in 1966, three weeks after serving 12 months with the Air Force in Vietnam. He had already worked for The Post as a messenger for several months after school when he was 14-years-old. He left his job, when his family moved away, but when given the choice after Vietnam of returning to Washington or Miami, he chose Washington. He wanted a job at The Post because of the opportunity to work with computers, which he notes "were an up and coming thing then."

A special Memorial Day memory for Najarian is the year he and a friend rode in the annual Rolling Thunder motorcycle parade through Washington in remembrance of vet-



**MIKE NAJARIAN**, (left) at the South China Sea in 1966.

erans who are missing in action or prisoners of war. They put POW flags on the back of their bicycles and joined up with the thousands of motorcycles rolling through the District. "It was wonderful," he said.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY EMPLOYEE

## Bylines



Everybody Wins! mentors **BILL O'BRIAN**, Magazine, **KATE AGNEW**, Editorial and **SUSANNAH GARDINER**, Magazine, at the reception with children they read to at John Ross Elementary School.

**M**ore than 50 students from nearby John Ross Elementary School and their reading mentors from the Newsroom gathered at the Northwest Building on Tues-

day, May 15 to celebrate the end of the school year for The Post's Everybody Wins! program. This is the fourth year that Newsroom staff have participated in the program as

reading partners with the students. Everybody Wins! is a nonprofit organization that matches corporate reading mentors with students.

**O**n Wednesday, May 16, **TIM PAGE**, Style's culture critic, delivered the Evangeline Wilbour Blashfield Foundation Address at the American Academy of Arts and Letters — the keynote address of the Academy's annual meeting in Manhattan. His speech "Music In An Age of Over-Stimulation" was the first Academy address on the

topic of classical music since 1960.

Past Blashfield speakers have included Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Helen Keller, Robert Frost, Iris Murdoch and John Updike. Membership in the Academy is limited to 250 American creative artists. Page received the Pulitzer Prize for Criticism in 1997 when he was the newspaper's classical music critic.



## POST SCRIPTS

### LONG-TERM CARE BENEFIT

Employees should have received in the mail a letter and brochure detailing an opportunity to purchase group long-term care. The benefit is available to full and part-time employees, their spouses and parents. Presentations to explain the long-term care benefit are scheduled for today, Thursday, May 24 at the Springfield Plant conference room b-1 and the College Park Plant conference room and Friday, May 25, at the Northwest Building in the 9th floor community room. Times for the presentations are listed in the letter sent to your home. For more information contact the Benefits Department at x4582.

### FREE SHAKESPEARE IS BACK

Mark your calendar to attend this year's Shakespeare Free For All running June 1-17 at the Carter Barron Amphitheater. This year's performance, by the Shakespeare Theater, is *King Lear*. The Post's Family Night is scheduled for Saturday, June 16 at 7:30 p.m. The



performance on the 16th will be sign-interpreted and audio described. Free advance tickets for the June 16 performance will be available to employees through the Public Relations department beginning June 7. Up to four free tickets for all other weekday performances will be available at the

Northwest building's front counter beginning at 8:30 a.m., *the day of the performance*. Tickets will also be available on the day of the performance beginning at noon Tuesdays through Sundays at the Carter Barron box office or at the Shakespeare Theatre at 450 7th Street, NW. If you have any questions, contact **LISA JACZKO** at x7970.

### BLOODMOBILE AT NORTHWEST

The next Bloodmobile at the Northwest Building will be held Wednesday, May 30, from 8:30 a.m. until 1:15 p.m. in the 9th floor community room. The Post needs 50 donors to meet our goal of 40 units. If you can donate, please call the Health Center at x7192 for an appointment.

### TWP FORMS AVAILABLE ONLINE!

Dozens of the forms you need throughout the year are now available on *IntraNED*. The *IntraNED* online form site includes expense forms, benefits forms, the matching gifts form, the MetroChek election form, the address and name change form, among many others. Next time you are in need of a form, type in *IntraNED* on your browser, then click on the online forms site under "Tools", on the left-hand side of your screen. If you need assistance, contact **ROGER PIANTADOSI** at x7865.

## REC ASSOCIATION

### DISCOUNTED TICKETS AVAILABLE

Throughout the month of June, the Rec Association will be selling discounted tickets to area theme parks, theaters and other entertainment venues in the Northwest Building's cafeteria on Fridays, noon – 1 p.m. The discounted tickets are available to Rec Association members – annual memberships will also be available for \$5. For more information, click on the Rec Association channel link on *IntraNED* or contact **RITA O'CONNOR** at x6159.



## MARKETPLACE

**CHILD CARE** - Nights and weekend hours available. Will provide a creative, safe, and fun-loving environment for children of all ages. I am willing to commute. Excellent references and experience. Call Ms. Hargett at x5995 or (202) 489-5277.

**FOR SALE** - A 9635 Weilder pro home gym system, 3-sided workout unit, includes 16 - 12.5 lb. weights, 2 - 6 lb. weights. Asking \$250. Assembly will be required, am willing to help reassemble. Call Kay x5980 or (703)768-7892 after 6:00 PM

**FOR SALE**—Alleycat kids trail-a-bike attachment, hooks to adult bicycle. Like new, \$95. Call Sandy at x7391.

**FOR SALE** - Two cemetery sites at Mt. Comfort, Monticello section, both for \$3,250. Call Nancy at x7042 or (703) 548-0804.

**FOR LEASE** — \$1,700 per month, 4 BR, 2 BA, single family home in Alexandria. Close to Metro, bus and shopping. Only 13 miles from The Washington Post. Beautiful landscaped yard, waterfall pond and many other amenities. Available July 1. Contact Jolly Sienda at x5776 or (703) 921-0755.

**TRIP TO ATLANTIC CITY** - Join us for a trip to Atlantic City on Sunday, May 27, returning Monday, May 28 at 7 a.m. Destination is Hilton Casino, tickets are \$34, \$18 back in coins. For more information, contact Brenda at x5737, or Mark at (202) 723-9426.

**SUMMER CHILDCARE POSITION** - Seeking full-time childcare giver for two girls, ages 4 and 6. Hours are 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m., June 11 - Sept. 4, located in nice Chevy Chase neighborhood. Must have own car and valid drivers license, competitive salary based on experience. Call John and Terri at (301) 657-8087.

**FOR SALE** — A sliding board/playhouse by Little Tikes. Like new, in mint condition, \$50/OBO. Contact Pershon at x5995 or (202) 489-5277.

**FOR SALE** — '96 Jeep Grand Cherokee Ltd., V8, 4x4, exc. cond., 70.4 K, loaded, plus extras. \$15,250. Call Ted at (202) 726-6515.

**FOR SALE** - Incredibly comfortable, beautiful blue-gray leather sectional sofa. Approximately 120" x 100". VERY good condition. MUST SELL - \$1,000/obo. Call RITA, x7088 or (301)564-1414.

**MARKETPLACE DEADLINE:** Noon Fridays. Please include your *name, extension and home phone number*. **ADS ARE FOR POST EMPLOYEES ONLY.** Send ads to Shop Talk, 7th floor, or call x6803. To send ads via fax dial x5609; via e-mail send to **shoptalk**. Ads run two issues unless otherwise requested. One ad per employee, please.

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER**

