



GLEN ECHO PARK

Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Glen Echo Park Partnership Hosts Crystal Gala in the Park Celebrating the 15th Anniversary of the Partnership and Honoring Jeffrey Z. Slavin

Glen Echo, Maryland -- The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture will hold its 2018 Gala in the Park on May 19, from 6:00 p.m. until midnight. This year's event, celebrating the 15th anniversary of the Partnership, is titled the **Crystal Gala in the Park**. Karen and Tom Natelli will serve as Honorary Chairs, and Arch Campbell will be the emcee.

At the Gala the Partnership will present the **Friend of Glen Echo Park Award** to Jeffrey Z. Slavin, co-director of the Sanford and Doris Slavin Foundation and mayor of the Town of Somerset. A well-known supporter of the arts, Mr. Slavin is active in Montgomery County's philanthropic community and nonprofit sector, serving on a variety of boards and commissions. He is a member of the Maryland Mayor's Association, has been elected to several terms on the Board of Directors of the Maryland Municipal League, and has served as a trustee of the Community Foundation for Montgomery County (CFMC). In 2011, he was named *Philanthropist of the Year* by CFMC. He has also participated in numerous leadership programs, including Leadership Montgomery and Leadership Maryland.

Executive Director of the Glen Echo Park Partnership Katey Boerner said of Mr. Slavin, "He has been a generous philanthropist in our community, including providing support for Glen Echo Park as a whole and for Adventure Theatre MTC, one of our award-winning resident programs. Jeffrey has also supported a film (currently in production) that will tell the story of the Park's civil rights history, an important project in line with his values." Mr. Slavin has received numerous awards over the years for his work in leading local boards and launching new nonprofit initiatives. Ms. Boerner added, "We chose to honor Jeffrey for his generosity and for his amazing capacity to build connections and encourage collaboration. He has gotten to know our organization on a personal level and connected us in so many ways to other nonprofits in the community. He has a huge amount of enthusiasm for the work that we do, and he is a wonderful champion for our organization and many others."

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The Gala will feature a special fundraising component this year to raise money for a new *Scholarship & Transportation Fund*. During a live “Fund-A-Need” call for donations, guests will have the opportunity to be the founding donors to a fund that will be used to assist school age children who cannot afford tuition for classes or camps at Glen Echo Park. Some of the funds will also be used toward transportation costs to bring school groups or camp organizations that serve underprivileged kids to Glen Echo Park to participate in arts and cultural programs.

Gala tickets are \$200 per person and include a reception in the Park’s Bumper Car Pavilion followed by a seated dinner, award presentation, music by **Craig Gildner & The Blue Sky 5**, and dancing in the historic Spanish Ballroom. The Park’s fully restored 1921 Dentzel carousel will remain open in the evening for guests to enjoy and there will be glassblowing demonstrations throughout the evening. Tickets may be purchased on the Partnership’s website (glenechopark.org/gala) or by calling (301) 634-2230. All proceeds benefit the Glen Echo Park Partnership, which sponsors and hosts an extensive range of art classes, exhibitions, festivals, social dances, children’s theater, music programs, and nature programs at Glen Echo Park in addition to preserving and maintaining the Park’s historic structures.

Glen Echo Park is located at 7300 MacArthur Boulevard in Glen Echo, Maryland, six miles northwest of Georgetown along the scenic Potomac River palisades. Originally a Chautauqua retreat, then an amusement park, it is now a vibrant arts and cultural center managed by the Glen Echo Park Partnership. It is home to a community of artists, educators, dancers, and performers who share their knowledge and expertise with more than 375,000 participants and visitors each year. With financial as well as volunteer support from the Park’s patrons and area residents, the Glen Echo Park Partnership, Montgomery County, and the National Park Service ensure that this remarkable community continues to thrive. For additional information visit glenechopark.org or call (301) 634-2222.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: High-resolution images from last year’s gala are available by calling (301) 634-2228.

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