

HONOREES

ROSCOE R. NIX DISTINGUISHED COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD



Joyce Siegel

Joyce Siegel is a dedicated community advocate whose impact spans housing, education and human rights. As the proud mother, grandmother and great-grandmother of a wonderful family, Joyce credits her family for their unwavering support throughout her endeavors.

One of Joyce's most notable achievements is her pivotal role in redeveloping the Scotland community. Scotland was once an extensive Black community, stretching on both sides of Seven Locks Road from Democracy Boulevard to beyond Tuckerman Lane, with some families living on the site of what is now the Cabin John Shopping Center. In partnership with Scotland's residents, neighbors and her husband's dramatic black-and-white photographs, Joyce's leadership drew public attention to the poor living conditions in Scotland and was instrumental in the "Save Our Scotland" campaign in the 1960s. This led to the construction of 100 new homes on what remained of the "old" Scotland and aided the passing of a federal rent support program. Joyce remains actively involved in the community, ensuring the legacy of Scotland continues.

Joyce, a Smith College "dropout," returned to school and earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland and a master's degree in public administration from the Washington branch of USC. In the mid-1960s, she joined forces with other Montgomery County residents to establish a Citizen's Human Relations Commission, which was crucial in encouraging the County to create its own Human Relations Commission. Joyce was also a founding member of the Bernie Scholarship Awards Program, which, by 2023, provided nearly 900 scholarships to low-income Montgomery County residents. Her commitment to social justice extended to her long service on the board of Interfaith Works and her tenure as President of the Interfaith Housing Coalition.

Joyce's contributions have been widely recognized. In 1970, she was awarded the Smith College Medal, an award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews and the Make America Better Award from the Montgomery County Board of Realtors. She was part of the inaugural group inducted into the County's Human Rights Hall of Fame. She also served on the Housing Opportunities Commission board for 10 years before becoming its Public Affairs Officer. Her dedication to sustainability was honored in 2013 with a Maryland Clean Energy Award. In 2013, Joyce received the Neal Potter Path of Achievement Award, acknowledging her decades of tireless service to the community.

Guided by her favorite maxim, "apathy is not an option," Joyce Siegel's life exemplifies the power of commitment, community and action. Her legacy continues to inspire those who strive to make a difference.