

editor and State House correspondent who sat next to him for 20 years.

"He was a walking encyclopedia of Maryland history and just plain facts. His desk was overrun with books," said Ms. Winslow, a Hanover resident who is now digital news manager for the state Department of Transportation.

"At night, Gerald wrote his editorials and when he was finished, would help me proof the paper. . . . He never missed anything, and if we found something funny we'd crack up and double over laughing," she said.

"When he finished an editorial he'd read it out loud to check its cadence, and had a clicker he used to count the words," she recalled. "He was incredibly thorough."

Gerald Fischman was born in Washington, the son of Morton and Charlotte Fischman. He was a year old when the family moved to Silver Spring.

After graduating from high school, Mr. Fischman attended the University of Maryland, College Park, and received a bachelor's degree in journalism in 1979. During his college days he was an editor for *The Diamondback*, the university's student newspaper.

He began his career in 1980 as a reporter at *The Carroll County Times* and later was promoted to copy editor. Edward J. "Mac" McDonough, public information officer for the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, was sports editor of *The Times* during Mr. Fischman's tenure there.

"Fisch, we always called him that, was very meticulous, quiet and gifted, with a wry sense of humor," said Mr. McDonough, a Towson resident who was later an editor on *The Baltimore Sun's* old Carroll County edition.

"As the chaos of deadline approached, he'd come up with some wry observation, and then he'd go back to work. This happened fairly frequently," he said. "He was a great copy editor; the paper would never have gotten out on time without him."

He recalled Mr. Fischman as being "not gregarious . . . but very engaging when talking to you. [He] was not the kind of guy who'd go out for a drink with the staff after the paper was put to bed."

In 1990 he joined the staff of *The Montgomery Journal* in Rockville. He did a two-year stint as a copy editor, then was promoted to assistant city editor.

Ron Jones was a friend of Mr. Fischman's for more than 30 years. They had worked together at *The Carroll County Times* and later *The Montgomery Journal*.

"As an editor, Gerald was incredibly thorough and always had tons of questions for reporters unless their pieces were incredibly well-written, which was not often," said Mr. Jones, a Gaithersburg resident who is a night copy editor for *The Washington Post*. "He rarely got upset or raised his voice and was always calm, collected and very detailed-oriented."

"He wanted stories to be as objective and accurate as possible," he said. "He wanted to know their core themes and that everything made sense, and it was the same with his editorials."

Mr. Fischman went to work for *The Capital* in 1992, and quickly developed a reputation for his trenchant, hard-hitting and fact-laden editorials that reflected the newspaper's community temperament and roots. Mr. McDonough said his colleague "found his niche" at *The Capital*.

"When he had an idea for an editorial, he'd parse every word and check every fact," he said. "That he was a survivor for more than 30 years in the business is a testament to who he was."

Mr. Fischman was fascinated by the bizarre absurdities of government and wrote often about them. He also wrote about mass shootings, gun violence and gun ownership.

"He loved the odd things from history, and was skeptical of any New Age stuff and religion," Mr. Jones said.

Mr. Fischman's work earned him numerous awards from the Maryland-Delaware-D.C. Press Association—including two recent honors for editorials related to the case involving a noose found at a Crofton school, and a piece about censorship at County Council meetings. He also received awards from the Chesapeake Associated Press, as well as Mark Twain Awards for Outstanding Editorial, Best Editorial and Best of Show Editorial.

Mr. Fischman brought an unflappable nature and strong work ethic to the newsroom. Long hours and days were not uncommon, and he steered clear of debates over long hours, low pay and where newspapers will be in 10 years—or in 10 minutes.

"When deadlines approached and things were going on, Gerald never panicked," recalled Mr. Jones. "He was the kind of person who always kept his cool. He was level-headed."

"He was a human search engine and did he know Maryland politics," Ms. Winslow said. "He was so loved by his colleagues."

"I've have the difficult task of trying to write in Gerald's place," Mr. Hutzell said. "I've written four editorials so far, and before I start every one I ask myself: What would Gerald say? I wish I had half the insight into our community and human nature that he brought to the job every day."

Mr. Fischman had lived most of his life as a confirmed newspaper bachelor, and surprised his colleagues when he announced some years ago that he had fallen in love and was marrying the former Saran Erdenebat, a noted opera singer from Mongolia.

He had met the lyric soprano at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts while attending a performance of Richard Wagner's "Die Walkure." They were married shortly thereafter.

The Pasadena resident who enjoyed collecting books and reading was also a classical music, opera and ballet fan.

Services scheduled for Sunday are private. In addition to his wife, he is survived by a stepdaughter, Uka Saran of Miami, Fla.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE REDEDICATION OF THE SLOCUM STREET PARK IN HONOR OF ANDREW BARILLA, JR.

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 26, 2019*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Andrew Barilla, Jr. and Swoyersville Borough, Pennsylvania as Swoyersville rededicates its Slocum Street Park as the Andrew Barilla, Jr. Park.

Andrew Barilla, Jr. has been a force for positive change in Swoyersville Borough and an outstanding member of his community in every way. He was born in Swoyersville and was the borough's first All-Scholastic athlete in three sports. Driven to athletic and academic excellence, he attended Michigan State University on a football scholarship. After a severe knee injury ended his athletic career, Andrew finished his degree at Lock Haven State Teachers College.

As a ten-year member of Swoyersville Borough Council, Andrew made it his mission to share his love of sports and remain active with the children in his community. He founded

Slocum Street Park, which will now bear his name. He is also a charter member of the Swoyersville Baseball Club for Boys and was a driving force behind building Roosevelt Stadium. Andrew also generously sponsors Barilla's team in the Wyoming Valley Girls' Travel Softball League. For his athletic prowess and commitment to sports, he was inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame in 1991.

Andrew's dedication to his community does not end with athletics. He is a past president of the Crime Clinic of Greater Wyoming Valley and the Special Court Judges Association, and he recently retired as the Magisterial District Judge for Swoyersville, Forty Fort, Luzerne, Courtdale, and Pringle.

It is a privilege to recognize Andrew during the rededication of the Slocum Street Park in his honor. I thank him for his lifetime of service to the people of Swoyersville Borough and beyond. May the park continue to be a place for residents and visitors to gather and enjoy for generations to come.

HONORING OPERA MAINE

**HON. CHELLIE PINGREE**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 26, 2019*

Ms. PINGREE. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to congratulate Opera Maine on its 25th anniversary season.

Since its inception, opera has mirrored and challenged culture, politics, and power. And now, in our fast-paced world, opera invites us to slow down. It is bold and extravagant, and it evokes emotion unlike other art forms. Both passionate and beautiful, opera is an antidote to our busy lives, showcasing voices both powerful and exquisite, honed by years of training.

I am grateful to Opera Maine for bringing acclaimed, nationally and internationally known vocal artists to the state. They have developed a reputation for creativity, sophistication, and artistic excellence, and they have played a key role in educating the next generation of aspiring theater performers.

As Maine's creative culture continues to grow and receive well-deserved recognition, I want to thank Opera Maine for 25 years of enhancing the quality of life in our beloved state.

I commend them—the little opera company that could—for their outstanding leadership and success, and for many years of entertainment and inspiration.

Bravo.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JODY B. HICE**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 26, 2019*

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on the afternoon of June 25th, I was delayed in returning to the Capitol due to a meeting with President Donald Trump at the White House. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY Roll Call No. 403; NAY on Roll Call No. 404; YEA on Roll Call No. 405; and NAY on Roll Call No. 406.