

Published  
Since 1983

# Gary & Diana Ditto's Newsletter

Fall 2011

## All Came On Board!

Over 2,000 children, parents, grandparents and model train enthusiasts turned out for Kensington's first model train event at the Kensington Armory/Town Hall the weekend after labor Day.



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**THE DITTO GROUP**  
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– All Aboard– continued

Trains ran through fanciful and familiar landscapes —endearing settings with amusing details included a fifties diner, a small town train station, an alligator swamp, Mount Rushmore and much more.



Wide-eyed, smiling children were everywhere. A little girl watched a trolley drive back and forth in rapt fascination. A reluctant toddler's mood changed the instant he stepped inside and saw what Mom and Dad had brought him to see.

It was a labor of love on the part of many and a successful benefit for Noyes Children's Library and the Kensington Historical Society, which received a sizeable donation, and sold t-shirts, balloons, calendars, books and more!

Heartfelt thanks go to all who came and the many who made it possible:

The **Town of Kensington**, co-sponsor of the event, who made the Town Hall available.

The **National Capital Train Trackers** and track-master Jim Myer, who set up the splendid layout, shared their expertise and enthusiasm, and kept the trains on track and running smoothly.

The **Itsy Bitsy Bakery**, who created the delicious train shaped cookies.

**Matthew Dodd**, for his wonderful music.

The members of **the Noyes Library Foundation** and **the Kensington Historical Society**, who volunteered in so many ways.

And, a special thank you to **County Executive Ike Leggett and his wife Catherine** for visiting and for supporting the show!

**Good Luck** to all the Runners participating in **Holy Redeemer's Cardinal 5K** on November 5! For information see the website at [www.cardinal5K.com](http://www.cardinal5K.com).

## ***All That Glitters May Be Golden — For Local Author and Readers***

By Sara Phang

If you're looking for a good read and like Washington, DC art and architecture, try *All That Glitters*, a mystery/thriller novel written by Paul Herron, a familiar face and new author in the Kensington community.

Long-term Chevy Chase View resident and retired *Washington Post* reporter/editor Paul Herron turns from fact to mystery writing with the e-book *All That Glitters*, published under the pseudonym Marguerite Herron, in honor of his sister Marguerite, who died in 2008. *All That Glitters* is dedicated to her memory.

The novel's exciting, suspenseful plot concerns mysterious murders and international intrigue involving the disappearance of an immense treasure of gold bars belonging to the Italian government and the Vatican. Without giving away more of the plot, *All That Glitters* features a familiar and gaudy Washington, DC monument, the gilded horse statues that adorn the Arlington Memorial Bridge.

However, *All That Glitters* also reflects Paul Herron's experience as a reporter and editor for the *Washington Post* for more than 20 years. He based much of the plot and characters on real-life persons and situations he encountered during his years as a reporter/editor for the *Washington Post*. He began to write *All That Glitters* while still working on the *Post* business section on Friday and Saturday; he had a block of four or five hours' free time before he started work on the Sunday edition. Working for the *Washington Post* also familiarized him with Washington, DC's police department and government agencies.

*All That Glitters* is cutting-edge because it was published as an e-book, available in the Kindle section of online retailer Amazon.com. If you have a Kindle e-book reader, simply open "Shop in Kindle Store" and search for "All That Glitters Marguerite Herron." *All That Glitters* retails for \$2.99 on Amazon. Though he is enthusiastic about electronic publishing, Paul still uses an Underwood typewriter for his drafts.

—continued

Paul Herron's new novel, currently titled *Diamonds, Dixie, and Destiny*, includes two of the three principal characters in *All That Glitters*, though it is not a sequel.

*The Story of Capitol Hill*, published by Coward-McCann, Inc., is Paul's non-fictional account of the evolution of Washington, DC from a collection of shanty communities, cheap boarding houses, and muddy streets to a city now compared favorably to the finest in the world. Look for this fascinating book in your community library.

### ***Two Pears Café opens in Old Town***

Two Pears Café is open for business at 10417 Armory Avenue, the former Café 1894 restaurant. Local friends, Marisol Vasquez and Karen Brotherton-Julien, have created a cozy setting "where good food and good friends meet!" The Grand Opening is planned for November 12, 11:30 a.m., but the café is already gaining a following. Every third Thursday, 5-8 p.m. is Open Mike Night.

**Congratulations to Holy Cross School on its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary!** The Garrett Park school kicked off a year long celebration of fifty years in the community with a Family Carnival and an Alumni Reunion and Dinner Dance. We wish them many more years.

### ***Allay Yoga - New Kensington Yoga Studio***

Allay Yoga opened at 10419 Armory Avenue, next to the Itsy Bitsy Bakery. The new studio offers a variety of classes, including pre-natal yoga and 'doga' - a partner class co-taught by Kelly Spring, certified dog-trainer and Pamela Kaufman, certified vinyasa yoga instructor and founder of Allay Yoga. Check [www.allayyoga.com](http://www.allayyoga.com) for the schedule and more information. Phone: 240.398.3773

### ***E-mail Updates from The Ditto Group—***

Sign up for either or both of these updates:

- Our monthly Sold Reports, sent via e-mail
- Our weekly "Open House" e-mail

You choose what to sign up for and you can always unsubscribe. Sign up on our home page:

**[www.thedittogroup.com](http://www.thedittogroup.com)**

For dates and news of more events, be sure to visit the *Community Activities Calendar* on the website:

**[www.thedittogroup.com](http://www.thedittogroup.com)**

*Gary and Diana Ditto's Newsletter welcomes ideas and news items from community members. The editor is Antoinette Kranenburg of Kensington, assisted by Cherry Wunderlich.*

### **Hal Runkel - Screamfree Parenting**

- ***Five Truths Every Parent Needs to Know***

Learn proven, practical, scream-free ways to raise resilient, responsible, happy children.

Tuesday, November 8, 2011, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m., at Bullis School, 10601 Falls Road, Potomac, \$25/person.

- ***Staying Calm Through Life's Challenges***

Using leading clinical research, Hal Runkel will share how conflicts can strengthen relationships; identify barriers to healthy interaction; and, show why vulnerability signifies strength rather than weakness. An intensive and interactive workshop for all adults.

Wednesday, November 9, 2011, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., at the Women's Club of Chevy Chase, 7931 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase, \$50 /person.

Tickets are available at [PEPparent.org](http://PEPparent.org) or call 301-929-8824.

### ***Let's do it again!***

Since *All Aboard Kensington* was such a success all around, it is planned again for next year. The Ditto Group will again be pleased to co-sponsor this community event. Be sure to reserve the weekend after Labor Day, September 8 and 9, 2012, for family fun at All Aboard Kensington!



For a slideshow with more photos of the weekend visit to [thedittogroup.com](http://thedittogroup.com), click on blog, and search 'All Aboard Kensington.'

### **Kensington Arts Theatre presents HAIR!**

Performances of HAIR - the American Tribal Love-Rock Musical are on November 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19; Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. at the Kensington Town Hall/Armory. (Parental discretion is advised.) Visit [www.katonline.org](http://www.katonline.org) for more information.

### **New Management at The Sweat Shop**

*The Sweat Shop* at 10410 Montgomery Avenue, a full service fitness center in historic Kensington, has a new owner: certified personal trainer and massage therapist, Samson Moy. The Kensington resident looks forward providing the community with a welcoming gathering place where everyone can exercise and pursue fitness at his or her own pace. The fitness center includes cardio equipment, free weights and weight machines.

For more information visit [sweatshopkensington.com](http://sweatshopkensington.com), phone 301-933-8858 or e-mail [sweatshopKensington@yahoo.com](mailto:sweatshopKensington@yahoo.com).



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**RECENT SALES BY THE DITTO GROUP**

3805 Club Drive (*).....	Chevy Chase/Chevy Chase.....	July 6, 2011....	\$810,000
4518 Dresden Street.....	Kensington/Chevy Chase View.....	July 26, 2011....	\$562,000
14613 Peach Orchard Rd (*)	Silver Spring/Fairland Acres.....	July 25, 2011....	\$499,000
10805 McComas Court.....	Kensington/Kensington Heights.....	July 25, 2011....	\$495,000
12012 Auth Lane.....	Silver Spring/Springbrook Forest...	July 26, 2011....	\$480,000
9816 Capitol View Avenue....	Silver Spring /Capitol View Park....	Sept. 6, 2011....	\$385,000
20 Logan Circle, NW LL2 (+)	Washington DC/Old City #2/.....	Sept. 16, 2011....	\$370,000
4015 Lawrence Avenue.....	Kensington/Rock Crk Palisades....	Aug. 30, 2011....	\$290,000

(\*) Denotes a Gary & Diana Ditto Sale  
 (+) Denotes a Gary Ditto & Jonathan Burton Listing

**HOUSES CURRENTLY UNDER CONTRACT**

4404 Delmont Lane.....	Kensington/Rock Creek Highlands.....	\$629,000
9904 Wildwood Road.....	Kensington/Parkwood.....	\$549,000
3210 University Blvd., W.....	Kensington/Kensington Heights.....	\$545,000
7311 Jackson Avenue.....	Takoma Park/Takoma Park.....	\$515,000
3402 Farragut Avenue.....	Kensington/Kensington Heights.....	\$424,500
3306 Pendleton Drive.....	Silver Spring/Hammond Hill.....	\$269,000

**The Ditto Group Real Estate Activity**



**9805 E. Bexhill Drive**  
 Kensington/Rock Creek Hills  
 For Sale - \$1,250,000



**9716 W. Bexhill Drive**  
 Kensington/Rock Creek Hills  
 For Sale - \$979,000



**8507 Halston Way**  
 Bethesda/Glenbrook Village  
 For Sale - \$960,000



**4515 Saul Road**  
 Kensington/Parkwood  
 For Sale - \$895,000



**4112 Dewmar Court**  
 Kensington/Byeforde  
 For Sale - \$779,000



**9625 Old Spring Road**  
 Kensington/Rock Creek Hills  
 For Sale - \$729,000



**10017 Leafy Avenue**  
 Silver Spring/Capitol View Park  
 For Sale - \$709,000



**10007 Connecticut Avenue**  
 Kensington/Chevy Chase View  
 For Sale - \$639,000



**10023 Kensington Parkway**  
 Kensington/Kensington  
 For Sale - \$550,000



**10128 Meadowneck Court**  
 Silver Spring/Capitol View Park  
 For Sale - \$449,000



**3156 Plyers Mill Road**  
 Kensington/Homewood  
 For Sale - \$429,000



**9601 Barroll Lane**  
 Kensington/Larchmont Knolls  
 For Rent - \$3,900/month



**10716 Kings Riding Way**  
 Rockville/Tuckerman Station  
 For Rent - \$1,395/month

**For more information on any of these homes please visit [www.thedittogroup.com](http://www.thedittogroup.com)**

**or  
 TEXT LF to 59559**