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# Gary & Diana Ditto's Newsletter

October 2012

## *All Aboard Kensington! Returns*

by Antoinette Kranenburg

The 'big smoke coming out of the train' was 5-year-old Audrey Stelzig's favorite sight. Audrey came with her neighbor to the model train show at the Kensington Armory/Town Hall on September 8 and 9, the weekend after Labor Day.

The event is a benefit for Noyes Children's Library Foundation and the Kensington Historical Society and fast becoming a Kensington tradition. For next year, save this same weekend after Labor Day, September 7 and 8, 2013! This fantastic show is coming back!

Over 2,000 visited this year's train show. Wide-eyed tiny tots, knowledgeable grade schoolers, parents, grand parents, and model train enthusiasts watched in fascination as trains of numerous kinds traveled through varied settings from across the continent.



The huge display was built and assembled by the members of the National Capital Trackers.

Trackmaster Jeff Talaga of Kensington kept all the complex operations running smoothly, assisted by his now 9-year-old son Casey. As a child, Jeff had a model train, and when Casey became interested in model trains, they both joined the National Capital Trackers.

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— All Aboard *continued*

Together, they are now working on a module that is a train yard. The train yard allows trains to be loaded onto the track and pulled out to the main track while other trains can continue to run on the main track.

When a train is loaded on to a track, the power needs to be turned off to avoid electrical shorts and surges, because these would damage the electronics of the model trains. With a train yard module, they can power off only the train yard while the trains on the main track keep running.



Casey attentively tended a wonderful conveyer belt that loaded coal onto a freight train, part of the realistic display with an agricultural theme built by Iowa native Fred Koester, now of the Eastern Shore.

Trains rolled through cityscapes, small towns, a lumberyard, and even some National Parks: Mount Rushmore, Yosemite's Angel Falls, and the steaming geysers of Yellowstone.

Volunteers contributed their time and talents in many ways. Last year, Hannah Meyer volunteered at the registration table, using a rubber stamp to mark their hands for attendance.

This year, Hannah, now 12, decided to support Noyes' Library with her Bat Mitzvah project. She made and sold three varieties of owl-shaped chocolates—dark, milk, and white. She found the cute owl-shaped molds at The Little Bitts Shop, which gave its support by providing supplies.



Ticket sales alone raised over \$5,400 and The Noyes Library Foundation and the Kensington Historical Society each received \$2,700. Thank you to the many who came and contributed:

- The Town of Kensington, for co-sponsoring and opening the Town Hall to All Aboard Kensington! [www.tok.org](http://www.tok.org)
- The National Capital Trackers, for sharing their amazing train displays, their enthusiasm, and their knowledge. [www.capitaltrackers.com](http://www.capitaltrackers.com)
- JennyCakes Bakery for their delicious cupcakes and special train-shaped cookies. Stop by the bakery at 10419 Armory, Kensington and visit [www.JennyCakes.net](http://www.JennyCakes.net).
- The Dixie Land Express, who played their lively jazz music.
- Matthew Dodd, who performed old-time train songs and told railroad lore. E-mail [doddmatt@ail.com](mailto:doddmatt@ail.com) or phone 717-766-0139.
- Scout troop 439, who sold hot dogs and cold drinks.
- The members of the Kensington Historical Society and the Noyes' Library Foundation, who volunteered in countless ways. For more about these organizations visit [www.noyesfoundation.org](http://www.noyesfoundation.org) and [www.khs.org](http://www.khs.org).

For a slide show with lots more photos of the train show, visit [www.thedittogroup.com](http://www.thedittogroup.com).



## Pacci's Trattoria & Pasticceria

Pacci's Trattoria & Pasticceria has become a favorite neighborhood Italian restaurant ever since it opened well over a year ago. It's located in the historic Forest Glen General Store at 6 Old Post Office Road, Silver Spring.

Pacci's serves delicious Italian food for lunch and dinner. The focus is on fresh ingredients and traditional Italian cuisine. The pastas are homemade as are the subtly flavored sauces. Desserts include an outstanding limoncello shortcake with strawberries. Pacci's is open for lunch and dinner Tuesday through Friday 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 5 to 9 p.m., and now also serves brunch Saturday and Sunday 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For a look at the menu, visit [www.facebook.com/PaccisTrattoria](http://www.facebook.com/PaccisTrattoria). Phone 301-588-0867.

## Come Shop to Benefit Breast Cancer Research! Kensington Antique Row Saturday & Sunday, October 20-21

Twenty-five Antique Row shops and dealers, members of the Old Town Kensington Merchants Association, are sponsoring a special weekend, October 20-21, to benefit the local breast research charity, Living in Pink, and will donate 10% of their gross sales for the weekend to the charity.

Throughout October, Antique Row merchants will also raffle off a pair of tickets, valued at \$300, to Living in Pink's fabulous luncheon and boutique on November 2 at the Fairmont Hotel in Washington, DC, hosted by Great Kreuz, anchorwoman of ABC7/WJLA.

Living in Pink is a nonprofit founded in 2004 to help find a cure for breast cancer, so that the next generation of women will not have to endure the emotional and physical pain of breast cancer surgery and treatment.

Come shop at the antiques and specialty shops in Old Town Kensington. For more information please visit [www.KensingtonAntiqueRow.com](http://www.KensingtonAntiqueRow.com).



**"LIVING IN PINK" Weekend!**  
Sales benefit local breast cancer research charity.

Sponsored by the Old Town Kensington Merchants Assn.

## 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).

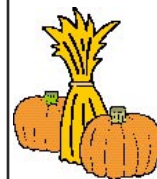
For dates and news of more events, be sure to visit the Community Activities Calendar on the web site:  
[www.thedittogroup.com](http://www.thedittogroup.com)

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.

## Pumpkins with Purpose

St. Paul's Pumpkin Patch  
October 13-31

The park across from St. Paul's United Methodist Church at 10401 Armory Avenue will be transformed into St. Paul's Pumpkin Patch! Pumpkin sales support the Volunteers in Mission trip to Nicaragua and the Hunger Ministry, which provides food every month to our neighbors in need. Come roam through the patch and find the perfect pumpkin for you and your family. Hours are Monday to Friday, 12 to 8 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11:30 to 6 p.m.



## Free Pumpkin Coupon

On the Back Page  
of this Newsletter

Your child is invited to pick out a free child-size pumpkin at the St. Paul's Pumpkin Patch. One pumpkin per child, compliments of the Ditto Group.

Please visit our blog at  
[kensingtonmdblog.com](http://kensingtonmdblog.com)  
for a great Fresh Pumpkin Pie recipe!

## Noted Parenting Author Dr. Kenneth Ginsburg

October 24 and 25

The Parent Encouragement Program (PEP) presents nationally renowned pediatrician and author Kenneth Ginsburg, M.D. While we can't protect kids from life's ups and downs, we can teach them to be resilient and provide the tools they need to tackle challenging situations. Dr. Ginsburg will give two talks for parents and professionals on developing resilience in children and adolescents:

• **Building Resilience: How to Raise Successful Children and Adolescents.** Wednesday, October 24, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Bullis School, 10601 Falls Rd., Potomac. Tickets are \$25 (PEP members \$22.50) and include a reception at 6:30 pm in honor of PEP's 30<sup>th</sup> year.

• **Peers, Pressure, and Parental Expectations: Preparing Your Adolescent to Thrive.** Thursday, October 25, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Woman's Club of Chevy Chase, 7931 Connecticut Ave., Chevy Chase. \$35 (PEP members \$31.50) Order your tickets online at [www.PEPparent.org](http://www.PEPparent.org) or call 301-929-8824.

## Community Yard Sale & Used Book Sale

Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 9 to 4

The Woman's Club of Chevy Chase is sponsoring a Community Yard Sale and Used Book Sale, on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 7931 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase. New or slightly used items, such as furniture, rugs, clothing, jewelry, and books may be donated and delivered to the club through Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Or rent a table and sell your own things. A 6' x 3' table is \$30; two for \$45. For rental information or questions, please email [wccmd@hotmail.com](mailto:wccmd@hotmail.com) attn.: Mary Ourand. And come buy!

