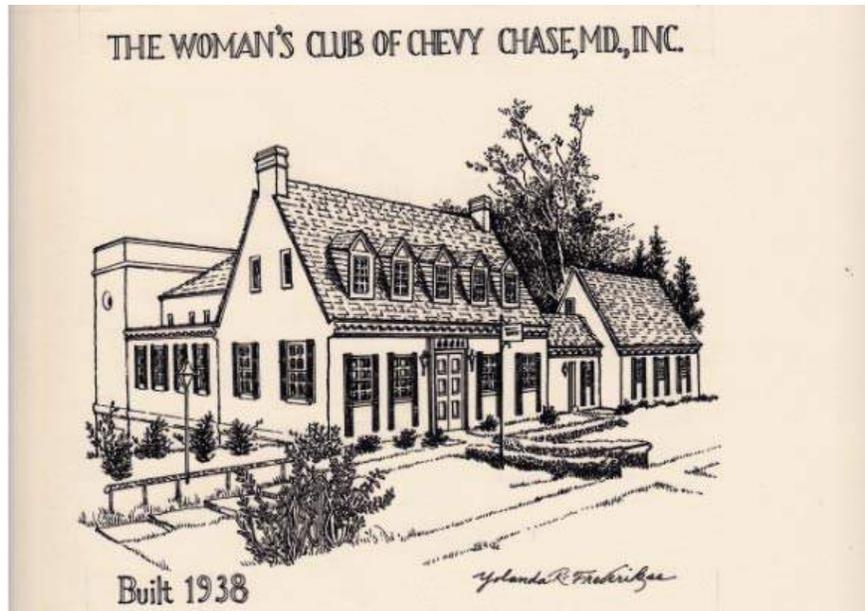


Published
Since 1983

Gary & Diana Ditto's Newsletter



September 2012

The Woman's Club of Chevy Chase a Century of Caring and Community

by Antoinette Kranenburg

This fall marks the start of the 100th year of the Woman's Club of Chevy Chase. Ninety-nine years ago, in 1913, could Mrs. Burkart and her neighbors Mrs. Beattie and Mrs. Bielaski have imagined that the club they wanted to create would continue to be a community institution in the next century?

"The Three Busy Bees," as they came to be known, met for tea at Mrs. Burkart's home at 6811 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase, Maryland. Chevy Chase was then a young and growing streetcar suburb. The goals of the club they had in mind were to care for the needs of the community, stimulate the healthy growth of the neighborhood, and offer sociability and mutual improvement.

-Continued on page 2

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The Woman's Club — *continued*

Fourteen women who lived in Chevy Chase's Section 3 responded to their invitation to meet on October 1, 1913. They agreed to form the club. The first regular Club meeting was held on Wednesday, October 15, 1913, and ever since, regular Club meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month, September through May. The Club's first dues were set at 25 cents per meeting and membership was to be forfeited after three consecutive absences.

The Club's first project involved efforts for better schools in Montgomery County. According to Club history, an act of Congress in 1912 excluded Maryland schoolchildren from attending schools in the District unless their parents worked for the federal government. This presented a challenge for Chevy Chase children, who could no longer attend nearby schools across the district line.

The Club created an Education Section to respond to this crisis. In 1914, the Club provided a temporary schoolhouse on Rosemary Street. The schoolhouse later became Chevy Chase Elementary School. Over the years, the Club has helped with school supplies ranging from paper and pencils to window shades, and with many hours of volunteer tutoring. Well over \$350,000 has been awarded in scholarships to area students over the years.

Incoming Club Vice President Nathalie Bramson also remembers a Club excursion to Clara Barton's home where a ranger gave them an excellent tour. Afterward, he came up to thank them, saying that as a senior at Montgomery College he had received a \$1000 scholarship.

As the Club developed, members have formed a range of other sections according to their interests. Among them is the Art Section, which offers art classes in the basement art studio and organizes the Club's annual WCCC Community Art Show each spring. The Literature section focuses on current and classic outstanding literature and organizes the Club's Used Book Sale. The Drama section presents an annual play. Other sections include the Social Section, International Affairs, Heritage Preservation, and Music.

Fundraising activities have been an important part of Club life. Past President Mary Anne McKay remembers childhood family visits to Washington with her aunt, who was a Club member and president in 1941. Mrs. McKay was struck with how her aunt was always busy with the club in some fundraising activity, so when she settled here she joined the Club.

Funds were raised to support community causes and to build and maintain the Club House. The Club needed its own building, because church parlors and school auditoriums could no longer accommodate the growing membership.

In the 1930's, the Club bought two lots on Connecticut Avenue for \$6,600. According to Club historian Louise Ogle, the Club convinced the realtor they should pay only 25 cents per square foot rather than 75 cents, since it was for such a good cause. The beautiful clubhouse at 7931 Connecticut Avenue was dedicated on October 17, 1938, which was also the Club's 25th anniversary. For the occasion a club library was created: each member was asked to

contribute a favorite book with their autograph. The Junior Woman's Club of Chevy Chase was chartered that year.

In the 1940s, members were very active in support of the war effort. They knitted, sewed, rolled bandages, and trained in volunteer work such as home nursing, motor maintenance, blood donation, and aircraft spotting. Louise Ogle recounts that one time a member sounded the alarm when she spotted a captured Mitsubishi aircraft overhead.

After members sold \$75,000 of war bonds and stamps, an airplane was named in their honor. They collected hundreds of gifts for servicemen and women. This developed into Operation Santa Claus, through which thousands of gifts have been given to patients at the Naval Hospital.

The Club's highly regarded and successful Antiques Show started in 1961 and was a key fundraising activity for many years.

Caring for the needs of the community has always been central. "*Getting mad? Don't hit or shout. Walk it off. Talk it out.*" was the message of a Ride-on Bus poster campaign created by the Club to further nonviolent dispute resolution.

In 1964, the Montgomery County Association of the Visually Handicapped requested a large-type cookbook for visually impaired teens. Club members contributed recipes, illustrations, and proofreading and in 1969 published *What's Cooking in Chevy Chase*, a cookbook that was mailed across the country free of charge.

The club house is shared with community service organizations. For example, as of last year a Boy Scout Troop meets in the building; the basement stores troop belongings and has posted a plaque of the Eagle Scouts. In return, the scouts help maintain the grounds. One person's problem is someone else's solution, as Nathalie Bramson puts it.

From the "Second Serving" of *What's Cooking in Chevy Chase* (1976) comes the following amusing recipe:

HOW TO PRESERVE A HUSBAND

by Agnes Janssen (Mrs. Wallace F.)

First, use care and get one. Not too young; but tender and a healthy growth. Make your selection carefully and let it be final. Otherwise they will not keep. Like wine they improve with age. Do not pickle or put in hot water. This makes them sour. Preserve as follows:

Sweeten with smiles according to variety. The sour bitter kind are improved by a pinch of salt of common sense. Spice with patience. Wrap well in a mantle of charity. Preserve over a good fire of steep devotion. Serve with peaches and cream.

The poorest variety may be improved by this process and kept for years in any climate.

From the cookbook celebrating the 100th anniversary of a church my father had served years before.

Congratulations to the Woman's Club of Chevy Chase on your 100 years of fellowship and community service!

SAVE THE DATE



**Thursday, October 11, 2012
6:30 – 9:30 PM**

**Julia Bindeman Suburban Center
Washington Hebrew Congregation
11810 Falls Road Potomac, MD 20854**

Fables and Tables

Interfaith Works 40th Year Anniversary Gala

You're invited! Interfaith Works will celebrate its 40th Anniversary with a benefit in support of its many services for our low income and homeless Montgomery County neighbors. The nonprofit is an interfaith non-sectarian coalition of congregations around the county, including Kensington and nearby. It runs the Interfaith Works Clothing Center, and provides Homeless & Housing services, vocational services, and other support with the goal of helping our neighbors in need achieve self sufficiency.

'Fables and Tables' is a creative, family oriented gala featuring a performance by Adventure Theater, food donated by local restaurants and decorated bowls by local artisans to remember the many empty bowls in our community.

General admission tickets are \$40. Sponsorship and VIP opportunities available; please contact events@iworksmc.org or call 301-315-1101. For more information on how your congregation can be involved, e-mail news@iworksmc.org or call 301-315-1101. If you cannot attend, you're invited to donate to Interfaith Works. See www.iworksmc.org

Presenting...the Needlechasers of Chevy Chase

QUILT SHOW and ARTISAN BOUTIQUE

Quilting: A Capital Idea!

Friday, October 12 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday, October 13 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

*at the Kensington Armory/Town Hall on Mitchell Street
Admission \$5. Free parking! www.needlechasers.org*

E-Mail Updates from The Ditto Group—

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

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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

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. Many thanks to the volunteers of the Woman's Community Club of Chevy Chase.

ALL ABOARD!!



Huge O-Gauge Model Train Family Event for All Ages

Saturday and Sunday, September 8 and 9, 2012

11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Kensington Armory/Town Hall, 3710 Mitchell Street
Historic Kensington

The National Capital Trackers will entertain and educate area families with their fantastic, prize-winning O-gauge model train display in support of two organizations key to the character of Kensington, the Noyes Children's Library Foundation and the Kensington Historical Society.

Miles of track, model towns, and steaming trains, will fill the entire Town Hall auditorium. The model train exhibition is an opportunity for folks of all ages to come out and see terrific live action displays and help two wonderful Kensington community non-profits that bring so much to our town.

JennyCakes Bakery will sell train themed baked goods and Boy Scout Troop #439 will sell hot dogs. On Sunday, singer and master storyteller, Matthew Dodd, will perform train songs and tell stories from the days when steam engines ruled the rails.

All Aboard!! admission fee is \$5 for adults, \$2 for children and \$10 for families. Military families with valid ID are admitted free of charge.

All Aboard!! is sponsored by Gary and Diana Ditto of Long & Foster Realtors and the Town of Kensington. For more about the train show visit www.noyeslibraryfoundation.org or call 301-215-6904. For more about the Kensington Historical Society, visit www.kensingtonhistory.org.



September is Thyroid Cancer Awareness Month. Newsletter assistant Cherry Wunderlich is a longtime volunteer for www.thyca.org.

WCCC Membership Coffee & Open House

Wednesday, September 19, 10-12 noon

Come hear about what members do for and with each other – have fun trips, speakers and activities – and what members do for others, in the Club's many outreach and community efforts. This year's speakers at the monthly meetings include Gail Russell Chaddock, a journalist with the Christian Science Monitor on October 17, and Jane Roberts, the wife of Chief Justice John Roberts. For more visit the www.wccchevychase.org.

PEP, the Parent Encouragement Program, is celebrating its thirtieth anniversary.

Noted parenting author Kenneth Ginsburg, M.D., is the featured speaker on October 24 and 25.

Visit www.PEPparent.org or call 301-929-8824 for more about its highly regarded parenting classes and to register.



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The Ditto Group Real Estate Activity



SOLD - August 17th
3900 Cleveland Street
Kensington/Chevy Chase View
List Price - \$1,050,000



For Sale
3820 Washington Street
Kensington/Kensington
List Price - \$ 899,000



SOLD - August 3rd
9911 Old Spring Road
Kensington/Rock Creek Hills
Settled Price - \$999,000



Under Contract
9805 Hillridge Drive
Kensington/Rock Creek Hills
List Price - \$875,000



SOLD - July 31st
9716 West Bexhill Drive
Kensington/Rock Creek Hills
List Price - \$870,000



For Sale
9102 Jones Mill Road
Chevy Chase/Parkcrest
List Price - \$ 859,000



SOLD - June 20th
9923 Old Spring Road
Kensington/Rock Creek Hills
List Price - \$ 770,000 (*)



For Sale
9619 Glencrest Lane
Kensington/Larchmont Knolls
List Price - \$ 729,000



SOLD - August 15th
9905 Connecticut Avenue
Kensington/Chevy Chase View
List Price - \$670,000



SOLD - July 23rd
3922 Dunnel Lane
Kensington/Larchmont Knolls
List Price - \$645,000 (*)



SOLD - July 31st
10114 Parkwood Drive
Bethesda/Parkwood
List Price - \$575,000



Under Contract
10606 Lexington Court
Kensington/Kensington
List Price - \$ 529,000



For Sale
10809 Drumm Avenue
Kensington/Kensington Heights
List Price - \$499,000



Under Contract
4222 Knowles Avenue
Kensington/Kensington Terrace
List Price - \$495,000



For Sale
3906 Spruell Court
Kensington/Rock Creek Palisades
List Price - \$429,000

Homes noted with an (*) indicate Gary & Diana Ditto found the buyer for the home.