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Gary Ditto's Newsletter

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1994

"THE VIEW FROM HERE"

How do you turn a dream into a reality? For Cathie France Nelsen, who grew up on Summit Avenue in Kensington, a friend's encouragement played a key role. Words of support a few years ago started Cathie on her journey to her current position as Chautauqua Resident Artist at Glen Echo Park in Cabin John. During January, her portraits were displayed at the Stone Tower in an exhibit called "*The View From Here.*"

Cathie is one of a surprising number of artists who either live or work in Kensington or have their roots here. Others include Muriel Sugar, Merren Frichtl, and Donna Dende Spealman.

Cathie attended nearby schools—Kensington Elementary, Kensington Junior High, and Walter Johnson High School—before going on to major in art at George Washington University and the Corcoran Gallery. Specializing in portraits, Cathie says she keeps learning even more from teaching. She's glad that she followed her dream and says she loves to get up in the morning to "create" her day.



*Chautauqua Tower, the Stone Tower
at Glen Echo Park. By Cathie Nelsen,
Chautauqua Resident Artist.*

On a chilly winter day, stroll along Howard Avenue in Kensington to visually sample the works of our area's artists. Or take a short drive to the Strathmore Hall Arts Center or the Glen Echo Park. You'll encounter a wide variety of distinctive, unique approaches to drawing, painting, sculpture, and other visual arts.

For one of your stops, visit the Sugar and Frichtl Gallery at 3762A Howard Avenue near the Tea Room, a favorite local lunch spot. Featuring original fine art by more than 35 regional artists, the gallery displays

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landscape, still life, wildlife, and floral works in watercolor, pastel, oil, acrylic, colored pencil, collage, etching, and ceramic.

For February, the special theme at the Gallery will be *Polymer Clay Art: Jewels and Adornments*. The opening reception will take place Sunday, February 6 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Gallery. Everyone from the community is invited!

Gallery co-owners Marie Sugar and Merren Frichtl both live in Kensington. They are artists themselves and active in many art organizations. Marie also shares her talents in two area schools, as an instructor in watercolor techniques at Einstein High School Visual Arts Center and Holy Redeemer School in Kensington. Merren works in mixed media to create paintings of glass vessels, pears, other fruits and flowers, and night cityscapes. Kensington artist Donna Dende Spealman also works at the gallery. Using contemporary subjects and photographs displayed in period-style frames, her artwork reflects an antique style of painting.

Also nearby is Strathmore Hall Arts Center, in a mansion just north of the Grosvenor Metro Station. Year-round and nearly every hour of the day and evening, it offers a choice selection of music and visual arts. From February 4 through the 26, the Center will feature the Montgomery County Youth Art Exhibition, with outstanding selections from students in kindergarten through high school. The annual Youth Art Festival will be held Monday, February 21st from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with demonstrations of painting, music, and performing arts by talented students.

Further afield, try Glen Echo Park, which offers a different taste of our area's history. Dedicated to visual arts, dance, and children's theater, the Park offers more than 120 courses for children and adults between January and March alone. Cathie Nelsen will be teaching four of these courses: drawing and a portrait class for adults began in January and two classes for 5 to 10-year-olds starting in February.

Glen Echo Park— Historically Speaking

Glen Echo Park, now an arts center, opened in 1891 as a National Chautauqua Assembly—a place where people could learn about and take part in the arts, languages, literature, and the sciences.

The first "Chautauqua" had been opened in 1874 by the lake of the same name in southwestern New York State. Started as an educational institution for Sunday School teachers, the Chautauqua soon opened to the public and offered a wide variety of cultural, scientific, and recreational activities.

The success of the program at Lake Chautauqua inspired the "Chatauqua Movement." Communities around the country started similar summer programs



in parklike settings. The Glen Echo program was the 56th of the Chautauquas.

To reach Glen Echo that first summer, one of your choices would have been the streetcar. A streetcar line, known as the "electric road," had opened June 11th of that year. For a 25 cent roundtrip fare, you could go from Tennallytown in Washington to within a mile of Glen Echo's entrance. For \$1 per day, you could stay in one of the 48 canvas rooms of the Potomac tent hotel.

The Chatauqua at Glen Echo lasted just one season. For the next several years, vaudeville shows, acrobatic acts, concerts, and operettas were among the many events on the land. In 1899, an amusement park opened. For the next 60 years Glen Echo was a center for rides, dancing, and other entertainment. Its first carousel was installed around 1899; its first ferris wheel in 1904.

Attendance dropped during the 1960's, so the owners announced that the park would close after the 1968 season. Community members worked hard to save the site as a cultural center for future generations and to save the antique, hand-carved Dentzel Carousel. As a result of their efforts, the park is now managed by the National Park Service in a cooperative effort between the government and the private sector.

The buildings at Glen Echo still illustrate the changing architectural tastes of the past century. In addition, with its Chautauqua Artists in Residence and its many classes and events, the park now thrives as a permanent educational and cultural forum where artists, students, teachers, and visitors learn from each other.

(Many thanks to Judy Whitehurst for gathering information for these articles. We plan to feature other Kensington area artists in a future newsletter.)



Enjoy the Sounds for SOME

This wonderful annual evening event brings three contrasting and delightful musical groups to Temple Emanuel in Kensington for an evening of music to benefit the hungry and homeless. This year's performers include the SOME Chamber Orchestra, playing classical music; the Savoir Trussle Jazz Trio; and, back for a repeat performance, the Jewish folk musical group, the Capital Klezmers. A \$15 tax deductible donation includes refreshments. For more information please call Carrie Shoenbach at 949-4031.

Your Keys?

Someone recently found several keys on a green Gary Ditto key holder. If you're missing some keys and think these might be yours, please give me a call at 907-7600(O) or 949-0489 (H).
--Gary Ditto

Calling all Preschoolers

Many nearby preschools are inviting parents and children to come for a visit to plan for next year. To name a few:

Cedar Lane Nursery School, at Cedar Lane and Beach Drive, is now taking applications for next year for children born in 1991. An open house will be held on February 5th. To find out more, call 589-4185.

Evergreen Montessori School, 10101 Connecticut Ave., Kensington, will have an open house the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month, starting at 8:30 in the morning. The school serves children ages 2 1/2 through 12. Call 942-5759 to find out more.

Grace Episcopal Day School will have its open house February 2nd from 9 to 2, for grades 1 through 6. The school is located at 9411 Connecticut Avenue in Kensington. Phone 585-3513.

Holy Redeemer Nursery School, located at Summit Avenue and Saul Road, is registering 3 and 4 year olds for next fall. Call 942-2567 for information. Also, its Summer Play School Program for children ages 4-7 will run Monday through Friday, June 20th-July 29th Registration is March 1st. For more information call the school at 942-2567 or Beverly Langston at 983-1898.

Learning Center for Young Children at 10123 Connecticut Avenue, will hold registration for its preschool on February 1. Call Karen Murphy at 949-2933 for an appointment. On Saturday, February 12th from 10 to 2, Winterfest will be held at Warner Memorial Church.

Caring for Your Furry Friends During the Winter Chill



Your dog, cat, or rabbit feels the cold and wants to be cozy and warm just as much as you do. But that thick-looking fur may offer surprisingly little protection against the cold and wet winter weather. The Montgomery County Humane Society offers several tips for pet owners, to keep your pet safe and warm in the worst weather.

The best advice of all is to let your pet live inside the house with you. However, if your pet lives outside or stays outside a lot, be sure to give it access to unfrozen water. Electrical devices are available to safely keep outside water from freezing. Also, be sure to give your outdoor animals extra food during cold weather.

Shelter is also essential for a pet that stays outside much of the time. The shelter should

- have a floor at least 2 inches off the ground.
- be of solid construction, with no cracks or metal surfaces on the inside.
- have a thick layer of dry bedding—straw is great. Avoid rugs or blankets, because they hold wetness and will freeze solid.
- have a flexible flap or other door protection to keep out the wind, rain, and snow.

• be big enough for your pet to stand, turn, and lie down comfortably, but small enough so that your pet's body heat will warm the space. An unheated garage or shed is too large for the animal to warm with its own body heat.

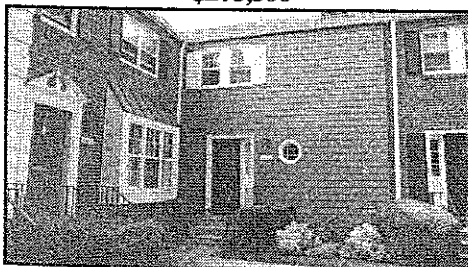


A Trip Around the World

With an international theme and both past and new antique dealers in attendance, the 27th Annual Holy Redeemer Antique Show promises to be the finest ever. Featured items this year include restored trunks, oak furniture, and the popular new collectible, chintz print china. Many volunteers have worked long hours to create a beautiful quilt in pastels for the quilt raffle. Dates for this year's show, to be held at the school at Saul Road and Summit Avenue in Kensington, are Friday through Sunday, February 25th through 27th. The gala preview, chaired by Sharon Addabbo, will take place Thursday evening February 24th. Leading this year's volunteers are Kathleen Dolan, Eileen Vaughan, and Marie Gehringer. For more information, please call Kathleen Dolan at 907-9268.

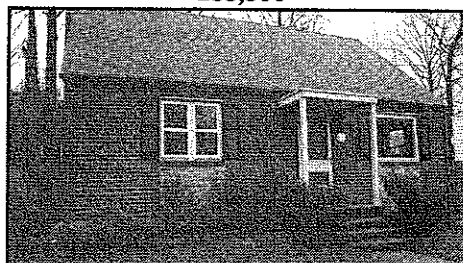


FOR SALE
\$279,500



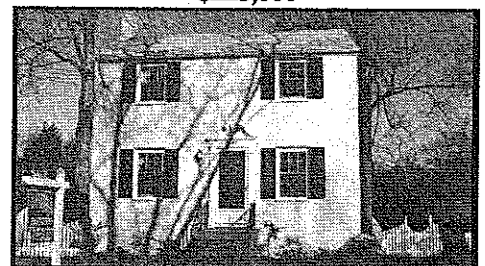
6651 Fairfax Road, Bethesda
Oversized Townhome.
Liv Rm w/ FP, Din Rm, Deck,
Rec Rm, 4 BR, 3 1/2 BA, and more!

FOR SALE
189,500



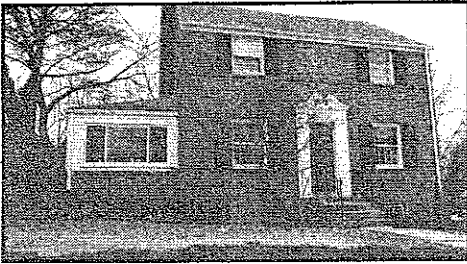
10209 Parkwood Drive, Kensington
Just Painted. Floors Refinished.
Rec Rm w/ 2nd Full Bath, Mod Kit,
Porch, Fenced Yard.

FOR SALE
\$229,000



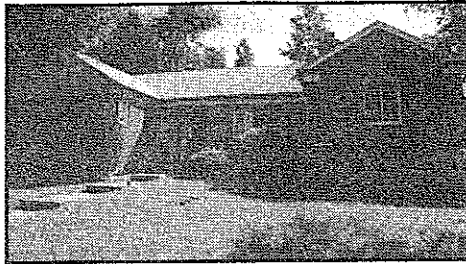
4407 Ambler Drive, Kensington
Brick Colonial w/ 2 New Baths,
Refinished Floors, Rec Rm, Mod
Kit, Plus Child's Playhouse/Shed.

FOR SALE
\$299,000



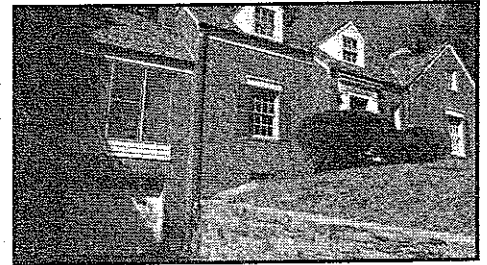
4622 Saul Road, Kensington
Large Colonial w/ expanded Third Level. Liv Rm w/FP, Family Rm, Daylight Rec Rm, Spa, and More.

FOR SALE
\$349,000



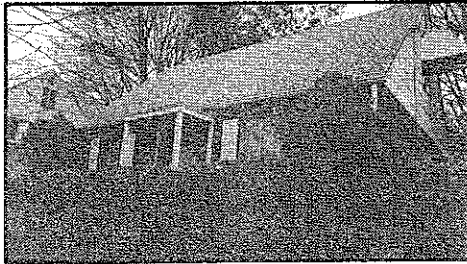
4838 Broad Brook Drive, Bethesda
Elegant Ranch w/ Large Liv Rm, Formal Din Rm, Den, Rec Rm, 4 BR, 3 1/2 BA, Two Car Garage.

SOLD
\$396,000



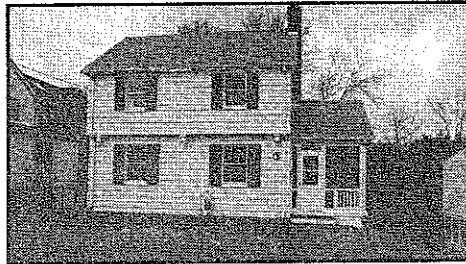
3709 Calvend Lane, Kensington
Restored Cape in Exc. Cond. Large Yard.

FOR SALE
\$179,900



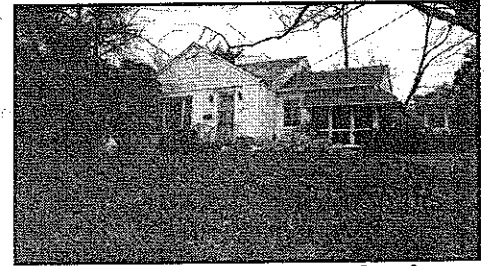
10105 Ashwood Drive, Kensington
Charming Cape w/ Private Yard. Kitchen and Enclosed Porch are Five Years Old. Well Priced.

FOR SALE
\$164,500



3507 Dupont Ave, Kensington
Wood Colonial w/ New Kitchen, LivRm w/FP, Sep DinRm, Rec Rm, Refin Floors, Recently Painted.

FOR SALE
\$235,000



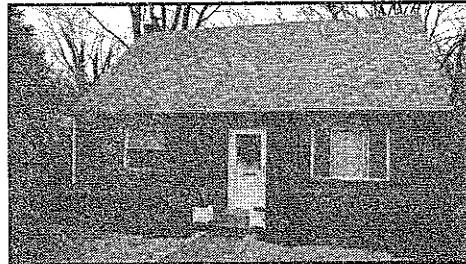
4615 Roxbury Drive, Bethesda
Oversized Ranch, needs TLC. Liv Rm w/ FP, Sep Din Rm, Porch, Rec Rm w/ FP, 3 BR, 3 BA, Garage.

FOR SALE
299,900



4424 Ambler Drive, Kensington
Expanded Colonial. Master Suite w/ FP, First Fl Family Rm w/ FP, Liv Rm w/ FP, Plus More.

FOR SALE
\$219,000



10111 Wildwood Road, Kensington
Restored Cape. House has been made over with TLC. Must See...Exceptional.

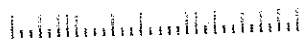
SOLD
\$435,000



9615 West Bexhill Drive
Kensington
Gracious Colonial in Outstanding Condition.

Each of the homes pictured in this newsletter is a Gary Ditto listing.

GARY H. DITTO, G.R.I.
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