



# Gary Ditto's Newsletter

March 2008

## *Then and Now...* *The Noyes Library for Young Children* *by Sara Phang*

For 115 years, the Noyes Library, at 10237 Carroll Place in Old Town Kensington, has had a warm spot in residents' hearts and provided books, at first for adults and children, later just for kids.

When Noyes Library was first founded, in 1893, the District of Columbia and surrounding region lacked a public library. Washington, D.C., financier Brainard Warner, the developer of Old Town Kensington's charming Victorian houses, joined Crosby Noyes, editor and publisher of the Washington Evening Star, to provide the library building and its initial book collection. Mr. Warner was inspired by the excellent public library system that then existed in England.

In its first decades Noyes Library was a private library for Kensington patrons of all ages. Children's books, though present, were not specially acquired. The library was funded by a trust left by Mr. Noyes and by the money-raising efforts of community organizations, such as the Women's Club and later Woman's Community Club of Kensington. In 1951, the Montgomery County Public Library system acquired Noyes Library, but it continued to be partially funded by the community.



Noyes Library's small size and funding could no longer meet the needs of the growing Kensington community. In 1970 the county threatened to close the library; the Kensington Park branch on Knowles Avenue had opened in 1969.

Upset at the potential loss of a loved institution, the town and residents mobilized and received permission to keep Noyes open, converted to a library for children only.

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## **Noyes Library** — *continued*

In 1991 Noyes Library was threatened again by a lack of funding. Kensington residents raised funds from personal contributions and a silent auction held at Strathmore Hall, including art by local artists. The Noyes Children's Library Foundation was created to provide assistance.

Noyes now serves children from infancy to about age 10; Montgomery County Public Library's other branches also carry children's books and books suitable for tweens and young adults. Noyes lends out about 3,500 books a month.

The one-room building is best known for its roof pediment with the letters NoYes (the Y is larger than the other letters). Generations of Kensington children have read the sign as "No Yes!" The pediment also features an owl, the inspiration for many owl-themed gifts to the library, more than can be displayed at any one time.

In 1970 Noyes Library was designated a Historical Site by the Montgomery National Capital Park and Planning Commission. The building was at one time painted dark green, but for many years has been a light tan color with brown trim. It eventually received air conditioning and a vestibule to prevent cold drafts blowing in whenever anyone opened the door. The traditional American furniture is scaled for little ones.

Noyes Library welcomes children in every way, including its small size, the furniture and books, decorations, reading programs, films, puppet theaters and plays. Noyes Library loans "grandparent packages" with toys and books to those whose grandchildren are visiting them.

Noyes Library, at 10237 Carroll Place in Kensington, is open Tuesday 9-5, Thursday 9-5, and Saturday 9-5; phone (301) 929-5533.

## **Special Events at the Noyes Library**

**Baby Storytime.** Introduce your child (newborn to 24 months) to the joy of language and books with this program featuring rhymes, songs, bounces, movement activities, and short stories. Wednesday, April 2 and May 7 at 10 a.m. Pre-register at 240-773-9570.

**Storytime for Two's and Three's.** Enjoy songs, rhymes and movement activities in our cozy group. Wednesday, March 12 and April 9 at 10 a.m. Pre-register at 240-773-9570.



## **The Academy of the Holy Cross Celebrates Its 140th Anniversary**

of educating young women. The Anniversary Salute Benefit Dinner and Auction will take place on Saturday, March 8, 2008, starting at 6 p.m. at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center. Visit [www.academyoftheholycross.org](http://www.academyoftheholycross.org) to find out more.

## **Kensington Park MOMS Club...**



...part of a national support group, invites moms and their children to attend the monthly meetings. On Wednesday, March 19 at 10:15 am at the Kensington Park Library, a Spanish instructor will lead moms and children in music, movement, story, and game. On Wednesday, April 30, the meeting will be at 10:15 a.m. at the Blue and Green Park for a park cleanup one of the club's service projects. This MOMS club is open to moms whose children are zoned to attend Kensington Parkwood ES and Garrett Park ES. The group's activities include park trips, lunches, coffees, playgroups, and more. For more information, see [www.kensingtonparkmoms.com](http://www.kensingtonparkmoms.com) or e-mail [kpmomsclub@yahoo.com](mailto:kpmomsclub@yahoo.com).

## **Come to the Art Show and Sale**

On Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, the The Woman's Club of Chevy Chase is sponsoring its 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Community Art Show and Sale, to benefit the Club's Art Scholarship Fund.

The show takes place at the clubhouse, 7931 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD. Exhibits include oils, watercolors, acrylics, drawings, prints, pastels, miniatures, and photographs; artists may sell their own work. In 2007, over 168 local artists submitted 499 of their works.

The Show will be judged by Ellen Zelano, Adjunct Professor at the Corcoran School of Art and Design. Hours are Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2-5 p.m.; Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 11-5; and Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 1-5 pm.

A champagne reception will take place on March 14<sup>th</sup> from 8-10 p.m. when Ms. Zelano will critique her selection of show award winners.

The Show is free. A donation of \$5 is requested for the reception. Free parking is available behind the clubhouse. For information, please call 301-652-8480.



*Gary Ditto's Newsletter welcomes ideas and news items from community members. The writers and editors are from Kensington Communications. The drawing of the Noyes Library, and the drawings on the lower part of this page, are by Sara Phamg.*

## B-CC HIGH SCHOOL USED BOOK SALE

Saturday, April 5, from 12 – 5 and Sunday, April 6, from 10 – 4 at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, 4301 East-West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814. Two days of great books at rock bottom prices! Thousands of books — more than 40 categories.

B-CC musicians, student projects, B-CC authors! B-CC Cafe for your dining pleasure. All proceeds benefit the B-CC High School PTSA.



## Grace Episcopal Day School

Annual Spring Auction – Saturday, April 26, 2008 at the Kensington Town Hall, starting at 6 p.m.

This year's theme is "On the Blue Horizon."

Details at [www.geds.org](http://www.geds.org)

## Kensington Arts in the Greenhouse

Saturday, May 3, 2008 2 to 6 p.m. (Rain or shine!) Residence at 3811 Calvert Place (off street parking available). You're invited to a Spring shopping experience in a greenhouse. Browse through colorful items from Kensington area artisans. Jewelry; metal flowers by Petals of Metal; stylish and sturdy bags by Hope Totes; freeform oversized hand-painted canvas placemats by Susan Seabolt; fun, classic girl's dresses by Mum & Yoey; inlaid boxes, other wood products; and more! A portion of the proceeds will benefit House of Hope Maryland, a nonprofit organization which helps at-risk teens.



## CORE Yoga in Kensington

In the middle of a year-long yoga teacher training program, Kathleen Holmay broke her wrist walking on the Rock Creek path near her Kensington home. After the cast came off she was told to get a massage. She went to a new group of massage therapists in Kensington at CORE Wellness. They got to know each other, and in a few months Kathleen became the CORE yoga teacher. An oddly lucky break!

Four years later she's taught hundreds of yoga classes, mostly to Kensington residents. Yoga was once uncommon, and now this thousands-year-old approach to wellness is popular. Kathleen says, "I like the way yoga invites each student to bring body, mind and spirit together."

She had a career in communications, and as a prelude to retirement decided to pursue yoga teaching because she'd enjoyed taking weekly classes for over 20 years. At 62 Kathleen says she's had an assortment of injuries and challenges and likes to offer her students ways to approach their own healing and physical limitations. CORE classes include meditation, asanas (physical postures), and breath work. The classes appeal to all levels and ages. The spring class term at CORE starts on March 31. See [www.coreyoga.us](http://www.coreyoga.us) for details or e-mail [info@coreyoga.us](mailto:info@coreyoga.us).

## Tea & Silent Auction on April 19 To Help Katrina Recovery Effort

Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church, 10123 Connecticut Ave. Kensington, is holding a Tea and Silent Auction on Saturday, April 19, 2008, from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Gift items and services will be offered. Proceeds will be used to underwrite the cost of sending a work team to New Orleans in May. A tax-deductible donation of \$10 per person is requested. If you would like to attend, please call the church (301-949-2900) as soon as possible so that a place will be reserved for you. Help us bring help and hope to those struggling to rebuild.



**Kensington Day of the Book Festival**  
April 27, 2008 — 12 noon to 5 p.m. Free! Lots of special activities on Howard Avenue Antique Row- News and details at [www.dayofthebook.com](http://www.dayofthebook.com)

## Outdoor Nursery School

### Plans 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

to be held October 4th (rain date Oct. 5th). If you or a family member attended the school and have pictures or remembrances to share for this occasion, please call the school at 301-656-8871, or write to Outdoor Nursery School, 8922 Spring Valley Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.



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

[www.garyditto.com](http://www.garyditto.com)

## GARY UP'ING INTERNET EXPOSURE!

I'm happy to report that we are embarking on a new internet age! We of course won't forget the telephone, the face to face contact, or the printed newsletter and other forms of communication, but we are experimenting with a few newer technologies that we hope you will find useful and informative.

We have set up a subscriber list via my website and blog ([www.garyditto.com](http://www.garyditto.com)) for anyone interested in receiving weekly e-mail notices of my open houses. We will soon expand this to allow interested parties the ability to register to receive separate monthly e-mails of sold reports by zipcode. All lists are free to join and you may always "opt out" at any time as the subscriber will have full control of their profile. Please see my home page or blog for more information or give me a call.

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## GARY H. DITTO - ACTIVE LISTINGS



**4008 Cleveland Street**  
Kensington/Chevy Chase View  
For Sale - \$1,915,000



**10509 Parkwood Drive**  
Kensington/Kensington Estates  
For Sale - \$1,195,000



**3817 Lawrence Avenue**  
Kensington/N. Kensington  
For Sale - \$899,000



**8903 Kensington Parkway**  
Chevy Chase/N. Chevy Chase  
For Sale - \$749,000



**3414 Wake Drive**  
Kensington/Kensington  
For Sale - \$659,000



**10115 Parkwood Terrace**  
Bethesda/Parkwood  
For Sale - \$640,000



**4516 Everett Street**  
Kensington/Parkwood  
For Sale - \$589,000



**4217 Colchester Drive**  
Kensington/Kens. Estates  
For Sale - \$489,900



**11701 Charles Road**  
Silver Spring/Garrett Forest  
For Sale - \$397,500

## GARY H. DITTO - RECENTLY SOLD



**4300 Brookfield Drive,**  
Kensington  
SOLD - \$600,000  
February 22, 2008



**11113 Lund Place**  
Kensington/Newport Hills  
SOLD - \$425,000  
January 31, 2008



**3005 Blueford Road,**  
Kensington  
SOLD - \$380,000  
February 29, 2008

*Data as of March 4, 2008*

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