

Published  
Since 1983

# Gary & Diana Ditto's Newsletter

Spring 2018

## The Jubilee Association of Maryland Celebrates 40 Years of Service

By Antoinette Kranenburg

When you call Jubilee, very likely you will be answered by the friendly voice of Steve Brent, Jubilee's receptionist. About fifteen years ago the Jubilee Association of Maryland moved its office to 10408 Montgomery Avenue in Old Town Kensington. Not long after that Steve started to volunteer answering phones and after two months became an employee.

Steve was also being served by Jubilee. While living in Olney with his family, Steve found out about Jubilee through his Mom. After high school Jubilee helped him get set up in his apartment and find a roommate. He has his own apartment in Silver Spring. His family lives in Virginia.

Steve likes being able to work and has had other jobs. He loves it at Jubilee, because you have the background support. He explains that the average person on the street would not know that he is dealing with some challenges. "Jubilee understands the challenge and has been able to work with it." Other places may not be as willing or able to do that.

Steve is easy to talk to, and says that is something he learned over time. "I personally made up my mind and wanted to make it work. I am going to let these folks help me. That was a big step." He still receives support, but as time goes on he needs it less and learns new tasks. "I count it as a blessing."

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– Jubilee continued

In 1978 Jubilee started with one group home on Sandy Ridge Road and its office in a shed in the backyard. The Hyattsville Mennonite Church started Jubilee to provide opportunities and support for people with developmental disabilities to live in and enrich their community while fulfilling their personal, family, and spiritual needs.

This year Jubilee Association of Maryland celebrates its fortieth anniversary. From a single group home serving seven adults forty years ago, Jubilee has gradually grown to serve about 135 adults who have developmental disabilities in over 70 locations in Montgomery County and is a leader in developing flexible services for its clients.

About fifty individuals are served in fifteen group homes in the community. Live-in counselors and Community Living Assistants staff each home. The level of staffing is based on the needs of the individual. The people who are served by Jubilee are taught skills that enable them to make their own choices and increase their independence.

Increasingly, Jubilee provides training and support to individuals who live in non-group home settings, helping with budgeting, managing bills, and finding affordable housing. About eighty-five adults served in Jubilee's Community Supported Living Arrangement program live in their own apartments or homes or with family or friends.

Jubilee works with partner organizations, such as the Housing Opportunities Commission, Rosaria Communities of the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Montgomery Housing Partnership, to find the best housing that suits each client's needs.

The partner agency owns the housing, through which the client rents the housing, and Jubilee provides services to the clients.

The clients are free to keep receiving services through Jubilee, or they may select a different agency. They may decide to move to different housing, but keep Jubilee as their service provider. The key is that housing is separate from services. This model gives people with developmental disabilities the greatest personal choice regarding where they live and from whom they receive services.

The quality of the staff, their experience, and the low rate of staff turnover result in greater stability and security of relationships between staff and individuals served. Tim Wiens, who was hired on April 1, 1979, as the Executive Director is still with Jubilee today. A sense of a close and caring community is fostered within Jubilee.

Steve Brent is the first person people meet when they come in to the Jubilee office. He has worked there for so long now that when counselors and individuals come in they tell him, "I remember you when I first came here." To Steve that is important. "It shows folks that someone who has received services can also work here."

When he isn't working, Steve spends time with his girlfriend, sees his family and his church family, volunteers, and, with spring around the corner, he is looking forward to getting out on his bicycle. He feels close to his sister and his family. He and Ben Apt, a volunteer, go to different places and have become longtime friends and talk about things.

Volunteers play an important part, both individuals and groups. There are opportunities at the office, at events, landscaping projects, Spring-cleaning, and more. Learn more at [www.jubileemd.org](http://www.jubileemd.org). To volunteer contact Dominique Clark at 301-949-8628 x198 or [devvolunteer@Jublieemd.org](mailto:devvolunteer@Jublieemd.org).

JUBILEE ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND

# RUBY Gala

**CELEBRATING 40 YEARS**  
SERVING ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Saturday, May 5, 2018

Master of Ceremonies is Joe Theismann, former Redskins quarterback, and John Darvish, president and CEO of Darcars Automotive Group will be honored. Joe Theismann and John Darvish are good friends and have both supported Jubilee for years.

Gala tickets are available at [www.jubileemd.org](http://www.jubileemd.org).



*Jubilee receptionist Steve Brent with Joe Theismann*

## **5th Annual Kensington Car Show**

Sunday, May 6th, 2018

The Kensington Cars Show returns to Howard Avenue with gleaming cars, motorcycles, live music, a monster truck, prizes for the top cars and motorcycles, food, and fun for the children. More at [www.kensingtoncarshow.com](http://www.kensingtoncarshow.com)

## Parkrun Has Come to Kensington!

Saturdays at 9 a.m.

*Kensington parkrun* (sic) is a free 5k that starts every Saturday at 9 a.m. at Puller Park along Rock Creek Trail at mile marker 6.5. Parkruns started in the United Kingdom and are spreading around the world. Ktown resident Cindy Conant, an active runner, came across the College Park parkrun and is involved in bringing parkrun to Kensington.

The runs are in a park setting, free, and very low key. Runners, walkers, strollers, dogs —the idea is to get the community outside and get some exercise! The runs are timed. Children under 12 must run with an adult. After the run, whoever wants to, goes to Java Nation for breakfast. Kensington parkrun is on Facebook.

### Seminar on Successfully Aging at Home Safely

Sunday, May 20th, 2018, 2- 4 p.m.

Temple Emanuel

10101 Connecticut Avenue, Kensington



Anyone in the community interested in exploring issues and solutions for aging at home safely is encouraged to attend, along with current Villages of Kensington (VoK) members and volunteers. The

three speakers will discuss confronting aging, the County resources available to enable independent living at home, and concerns about age-related changes in physical and mental health. The seminar is free.

RSVP to [secretary@villagesofkensingtonmd.org](mailto:secretary@villagesofkensingtonmd.org). Villages of Kensington (VoK) and its volunteers provide a variety of services to VoK Members throughout the 20895 zipcode. If you have questions about the event or about becoming a VoK Member, please call 301-509-0191.

### Blue Zones: Live Longer, Better

Thursday, May 10, 2 – 4:30 p.m.

Woman's Club of Bethesda

5500 Sonoma Road, Bethesda 20817

Hosted by Kensington Park's spring speaker series. For details and to RSVP go to [kensingtonparkseniorliving.com](http://kensingtonparkseniorliving.com).

### E-Mail Updates from The Ditto Group—

Sign up for either or both of these updates:

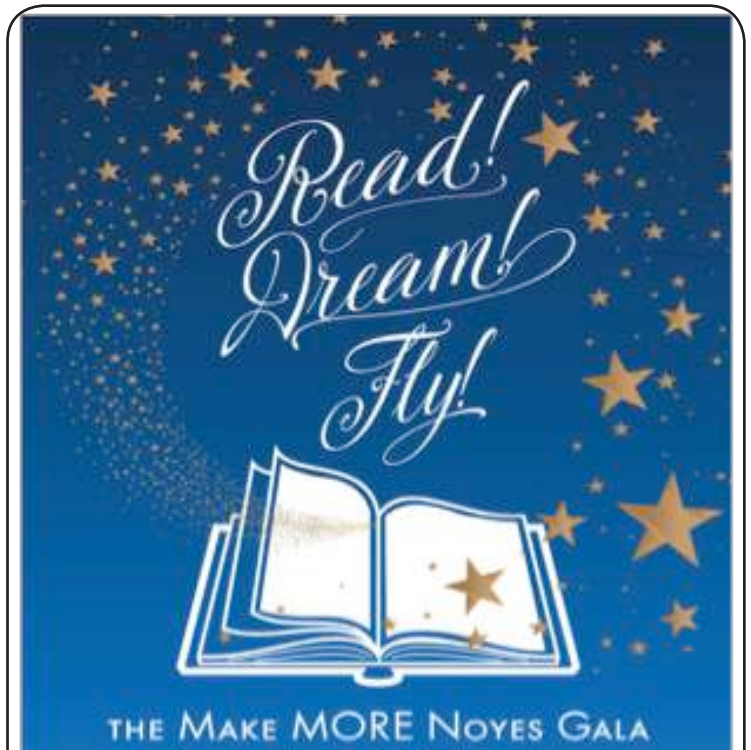
- Our Monthly Sold Reports, sent via e-mail
- Our weekly "Open House" e-mail

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. We are grateful to Steve Brent for sharing his story. The editor is Antoinette Kranenburg of Kensington, assisted by Cherry Wunderlich.



Saturday, April 14, 2018, 7-11 p.m.

Kensington Town Hall

Celebrate the Noyes Library's 125th birthday and its exciting next chapter with a gala evening of delicious food and drink, delightful dance tunes from *Swing'N On a Star*, and enchanting auction items. Proceeds from the Gala will support the Noyes Foundation's Make MORE Noyes Renovation Campaign for a universally accessible and creatively expanded Noyes Children's Library. To RSVP or make a donation, visit [www.noyeslibraryfoundation.org](http://www.noyeslibraryfoundation.org).

Kensington Celebrates

### The International Day of the Book

Street Festival—*Rain or Shine!*

Sunday, April 22, 2018, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Kensington's fabulous Day of the Book Festival celebrates the International Day of the Book with author readings, storytellers, open mic poetry readings, children's activities, live music, great food, and many, many books along Howard Avenue, Armory Avenue, and Montgomery Avenue on Antique Row in Old Town Kensington. The Kensington Day of the Book Festival is created by the community for the community! To support the festival as a volunteer or sponsor and for details go to [www.dayofthebook.com](http://www.dayofthebook.com).

### Special Events — Woman's Club of Chevy Chase

7931 Connecticut Ave, Chevy Chase

- *The 43rd Annual Community Art Show and Sale – Friday April 13 through Sunday April 15*

More information at [www.wccmaryland.org](http://www.wccmaryland.org)

- *Jazz Fest - Saturday April 21, 2018. Silent Auction at 6 p.m.; 7:30 p.m. Montgomery College Jazz Ensemble*  
Tickets at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com).  
For details call 301-652- 8480.



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### The Ditto Group Real Estate Activity



**10217 Summit Avenue**  
Kensington/Kensington  
For Sale - \$ 1,250,000



**4017 Glenridge Street**  
Kensington/Chevy Chase View  
For Sale - \$ 1,050,000



**10005 Kensington Parkway**  
Kensington/Kensington  
For Sale - \$ 989,000



**9813 East Bexhill Drive**  
Kensington/Rock Cr Hills  
Under Contract  
List Price - \$ 849,000



**10001 Crestwood Road**  
Kensington/Parkwood  
Under Contract  
List Price - \$ 739,000



**4102 Knowles Avenue**  
Kensington - Warners Add to Kens  
For Sale - \$ 679,000



**9510 Riley Road**  
Silver Spring/Woodside Hills  
For Sale - \$ 639,000



**3518 Astoria Court**  
Kensington/Newport Hills  
For Sale - \$ 579,000



**2635 Holman Avenue**  
Silver Spring/Glen Knolls  
For Sale - \$ 365,000



**8901 Montgomery Avenue**  
Chevy Chase/N Ch Ch  
For Rent - \$ 3,300 a month



**2949 Terrace Drive**  
Chevy Chase/Donneybrook Est  
Rented - \$ 2,925



**4807 Flanders Avenue**  
Kensington/Garrett Park Ests  
Sold - January - 2018  
\$ 486,000