

Published
Since 1983

Gary & Diana Ditto's Newsletter

Winter 2012

From the Farm to Kensington All Year Round

Spotlight on Stonyman Gourmet Farmer

by Antoinette Kranenburg

Saturday morning means a walk to the Farmers' Market for Dan and Kate Campion. Between 8 a.m. to 12 noon every Saturday all year, they and many others come to the Kensington Farmers' Market at the MARC Train Station on Howard Avenue. The Market is a place to shop for varied groceries and to enjoy serendipitous meetings with friends and neighbors.

The wares includes high quality staples, treats and gifts: fresh produce, seafood, meat, breads, olive oil products, pickles, pizza, paella, peanuts, homemade soaps, cheeses, cut flowers, bedding plants, chocolate, and baked goods.

On a recent winter Saturday, Kate chatted with Susan and Alan James of Stonyman Gourmet Farmer. She says it is like walking into the past, stepping into a fromagerie and catching up with old friends.



Alan James knows his cheeses and is filled with lore. He tenderly describes his "lovely" cheeses, some hard-rinded and others encased in mold and drippingly delicious. Goat and raw cow are featured. Some are dipped in Bourbon and wrapped in grape leaves. The Campions went home with a brick of goat cheese graced with pine nuts, sun-dried tomatoes, and pesto and dusted with basil.

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From the Farm to Kensington (continued)

Stonyman Gourmet Farmer is a family farm business specializing in premium farmstead cheese, milk, and meat. Stonyman has been part of the Kensington Farmers' Market for some three years.

Proprietors Susan and Alan James like it in Kensington. The market has a feel of its own, the spirit of community, says Susan James. It's a neighborhood market—people walk or ride bikes and come with their kids and dogs. The Jameses are glad to have the time to talk with people and answer questions. They have a lot of knowledgeable customers, who are curious and come up to look, taste, and ask questions.

Their 18th century farm in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia was settled in colonial times and figured in the creation of Shenandoah National Park. It takes its name from Stony Man Mountain, which from the side has the profile of a mountain man.

Their farmstead cheeses draw on the 'terroir' of the southern Appalachian region. The French term refers to the characteristic qualities that result from the pastures, soil, and elevation particular to a region. The elevation of Stonyman Farm is the highest for a cultivated farm in the area, and this altitude creates an "alpine effect" in their products. "Farmstead" means the cheeses are made from the milk of the livestock that graze on their own farm.

Susan James's family has farmed in Virginia since 1725. As a child, Susan lived on a Montgomery County farm for a few years. She remembers the long school bus ride from the Double D Farm on Falls Road to Rockville Elementary School.

Susan has kept her connections with the County: Stonyman Gourmet Farmer participates in the Kensington and Elm Street farm markets and operates a permanent retail space in the Montgomery Farm Women's Cooperative Market in downtown Bethesda.

In Washington, Virginia, Stonyman Farm operates a store, kitchen café, and garden room in an early mercantile and garden. The "mercantile," an old farm store, dates to the late 18th century and has not changed its footprint. The handmade shelving and counter are original. The garden extends to the next street and has a cook's cottage, dairy house, and smoke house. The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation called the mercantile "without hyperbole, one of the most intact early stores in the broader Chesapeake region of Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina. It contains more original elements, inside and out, than any other known early Virginia store."

Between them, Susan and Alan James lived in France for more than twenty-five years where they developed their appreciation of fine food. Susan James is a "Dame d'Escoffier." On Saturday, March 10, starting at 8:30 a.m.,

she will teach the basics of making fresh cheese at one of four hands-on cooking classes at the day-long Celebrating Food! Women in Gastronomy symposium, sponsored by the Washington DC Chapter of Les Dames d'Escoffier International. Visit www.lesdamesdc.org for the event program and to register.

Each of the market's vendors has a story to tell. For questions about the Farmer's Market, contact Shirley Watson at 301-949-2424 or Shirley.Watson@tok.md.gov.

An experiment with delicious results:

Roasted Orange Balsamic Chicken

- 1/2 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1/2 cup freshly squeezed orange juice
- 1/3 cup Dijon mustard
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 4 pounds bone-in skinless chicken thighs
- 1 teaspoon grated orange rind
- 1 Tablespoon minced fresh parsley



In a bowl, whisk the first 6 ingredients together. Place chicken thighs in a rectangular baking dish and pour the marinade over the chicken. Turn the chicken to coat all the pieces with marinade. Cover and refrigerate for 4 hours or overnight if desired.

Roast the chicken uncovered in a 400 degree oven for 40 to 45 minutes until cooked through. Remove the chicken from the marinade and place on a platter. Pour the marinade into a saucepan and boil until the liquid reduces by half and thickens – approximately 5 to 8 minutes. Pour the sauce over the chicken and sprinkle the orange rind and parsley over the chicken.

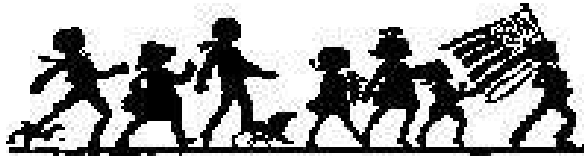
You are welcome to direct any questions or comments to Diana@thedittogroup.com.

B-CC High School Used Book Sale

Support Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School and shop for treasures at the B-CC Used Book Sale Saturday, March 17th (10 a.m.- 4 p.m.) and Sunday, March 18th (10 a.m.-3 p.m.) at the school at 4301 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814. Also, you can contribute your used books between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on March 3rd & 4th, and March 11th. (Please, NO encyclopedias, magazines, or Reader's Digest; NO textbooks or travel books pre-2007 and NO VHS

or cassette tapes.) To volunteer, please e-mail Wendy Price at marylandreader@verizon.net. For more information, e-mail Cathy Ventrell-Monsees at cathyvm2@gmail.com.





Come to The Can Do Kids Fair! Saturday, March 3, 2012

The popular Can Do Kids Fair, sponsored by the Parent Encouragement Program (PEP), is a fair unlike any other. All afternoon children have fun and take pride in practicing skills they already know, as well as learning new ones—hammering nails, painting, vacuuming, manners and courtesy, sewing on a button, making a nutritious snack, and much more. Activities at the fair are designed for children age 3 to 10, with a parent. The fair will take place at the Parent Encouragement Program, in the Kensington Baptist Church, 10100 Connecticut Avenue, Kensington.

This event is free for children under age three. Admission to all activities, for others: General public: 2:30 - 4:30 p.m., \$15/person, \$50 maximum per family. PEP Members: 1:30-4:30 p.m., \$13/person, \$45 maximum per family.

To register and for more information, visit www.PEPparent.com or call 301-929-8824.

Kensington Arts Theatre Presents: “Sunday in the Park with George”

Congratulations to the Kensington Arts Theatre, which continues its tenth season with the musical production “Sunday in the Park with George.” Nineteenth century French pointillist painter Georges Seurat inspired this musical by Stephen Sondheim. Absorbed in his art, Seurat is oblivious to his pregnant girlfriend Dot. She leaves him for America with a more attentive beau, while Georges continues his life, repainting anything he finds unpleasant. In the second act, which takes place in 1984 America, great-grandson George struggles to find inspiration for an artwork commissioned in honor of his great grandfather. He

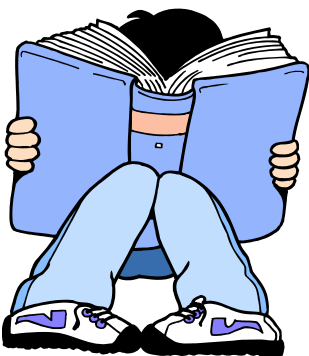


receives help from wise words from Dot’s spirit. Performances continue through March 3, 2012 at the Kensington Town Hall. The 2012 season continues in May with “Rooms; A Rock Romance.” For tickets and details visit: www.katonline.org or call 206-888-6642.

Kensington Celebrates The International Day of the Book

Save the date! Sunday, April 22, 2012, 11 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Howard Avenue, Old Town Kensington



Old Town Kensington’s afternoon street festival celebrates the International Day of the Book with live music, author readings, open mic, activities for children and adults, storytellers—and books, books, books. Local authors, bookartists, publishers, booksellers, and literary groups will line Howard Ave in Historic Old Town Kensington to show, sell, and discuss their works. Enjoy live music by J.P. McDermott & Western Bop, The Nighthawks, 2nd Story Band, and Doris Justis with Sean McGhee (Side by Side). Play Chess Master Allan Savage! All activities are free. Come celebrate, rain or shine!

Participation is open to all local authors, book and paper artists, bookmakers, publishers, literary groups, and Kensington community organizations. Visit www.dayofthebook.com to find out more; contact Elisenda Sola-Sole, Kensington Row Bookshop, 3786 Howard Avenue, at kensingtonbookfestival@gmail.com or 301-949-9416.

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

You choose what to sign up for and you can always unsubscribe. Sign up on our home page: 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 Kate Campion and Susan and Alan James for contributing.

MOMS Club® of Kensington Park

At-home, Moms and their children from Kensington-Parkwood and Garrett Park are invited to the MOMS Club monthly meet and greet, which takes place at the Kensington Baptist Church, 10100 Connecticut Avenue. The annual MOMS Club Valentine’s Day Party celebrates the holiday of love with treats and a fun craft on Monday, Feb. 27, 10:30 a.m. Children are encouraged to bring valentines to share with each other. Visit www.kensingtonparkmoms.com for more.





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 4112 Dewmar Court
 Kensington/Byeforde
 List Price - \$765,000



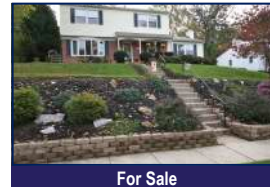
For Sale
 10017 Leafy Avenue
 Silver Spring/Capitol View Park
 List Price- \$690,000



Under Contract
 10007 Connecticut Avenue
 Kensington/Chevy Chase View
 List Price - \$595,000



Under Contract
 10023 Kensington Parkway
 Kensington/Kensington
 List Price - \$550,000



For Sale
 10809 Drumm Avenue
 Kensington/Kensington Heights
 List Price - \$524,000



Under Contract
 10605 Nash Place
 Kensington/Kensington
 List Price- \$539,000



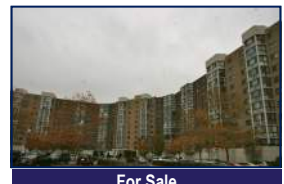
For Sale
 4217 Anthony Street
 Kensington/Kensington Estates
 List Price - \$489,000



Under Contract
 3306 Pendleton Drive
 Silver Spring/PT Wheaton Outside
 List Price - \$269,000



For Sale
 3333 University Boulevard # 1106
 Kensington/The Waterford
 List Price - \$229,000



For Sale
 15100 Interlachen Drive #4-211
 Silver Spring/Leisure World
 List Price- \$89,000