

OCTOBER 2017

HOLLIN HILLS BULLETIN



Wendy Kilpatrick

COUNTY HELP IS ON THE WAY FOR GOODMAN PARK STREAM

The Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, Stormwater Planning Division, has received funding to assess and design a stream restoration project for Goodman Park. In the fall of 2016, a county team reviewed the site and determined the stream was eroding and contributing to poor water quality.

Residents may see contractors and county personnel scouring the park, taking measurements, and painting strange marks on the ground and/or on the trees. This early stage of data collection is used to create the models that will help identify what the stream could look like when restored. Residents will also see lots of flagging tape (each survey crew has their own color, and some use multiple colors), tree tags (small round disks with a number stamped on them), and pin flags. Please don't remove any of these markers. As the project moves forward the tape will be replaced with tape that will guide the team as we get closer to the final plan and the tree tags will serve as important survey and reference points.

There will be a meeting late this fall for residents to speak with the project team, ask questions, and provide feedback about the stream. Project updates can be found on the county's project web page: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/stormwater/projects/project_list.htm. Or contact the project manager, Meghan Fellows, at Meghan.Fellows@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-5807, TTY 711.

—Meghan Fellows, Ecological Restoration Specialist



A MESSAGE FROM GUS

Elbow Bending

Have you ever seen a fancy foot-tall beer stein with a flip-top silver lid AND (wait for it...) a music box bottom that plays festively when you pick it up? Well, I have. It was proudly being used at the Hollin Hills Oktoberfest. How glorious can one afternoon be? It was a grand stein and a fabulous event. Thank you Susmita Dastidar and hubby, Eric Stromayer, and our great volunteers for pulling off a truly wonderful, fun party.

Our New Web Address I want to remind everyone that the new website URL is www.hollin-hills.org. If you haven't done it yet, please bookmark it in your browser, then you won't need to remember it.

House & Garden Tour One of the things that made my day at the Oktoberfest was that two concerned, smart, energetic, smiling, beautiful Hollin Hills ladies have volunteered to host the 2018 House and Garden Tour. As I am writing this, we have yet to meet, so the matters of schedules and committee members, etc., are still undecided, but I am thrilled that we seem to have a way forward. I will keep you posted.

Friends of Hollin Hills The Friends of Hollin Hills set up shop right next to the keg at the Oktoberfest, so I must assume these people mean business. Many FHH etched pint glasses were sold and brochures distributed. The goal is to raise \$20,000 by year's end, and various improvement projects are being mapped out. Please support the FHH in their mission to preserve the Hollin Hills Historic District.

—Gus Matson, CAHH President



For many years, a mysterious witch has turned up in Hollin Hills every Halloween. Don't be alarmed if you meet her; she might seem frightening at first, but she's really a very friendly witch. This photo was taken as she paraded down Paul Spring Road, carrying her broom and waving to passersby. Her identity is unknown, but she was last seen heading into the woods, right across from Judy Rosen's house . . . Happy Halloween, everyone!

CIVIC ASSOCIATION OF HOLLIN HILLS (CAHH)

CAHH OFFICERS

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Historian Scott Wilson	765-4471

(Also see Hollin Hills Archives below)

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Editor Barbara Shear	660-6543
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Deadline is the 15th of the preceding month. Articles generally should not exceed 500 words. Send your submission in the body of an email or as an attachment to barbshear@verizon.net. If you cannot produce computerized copy, please find someone to submit it for you. No material will be accepted over the telephone.

Distribution problems:

- If you have not received your digital Bulletin, or to correct/change mail or email address, contact Linda Benson at 312-907-1797 or linda.benson@me.com.
- To replace a missing paper Bulletin, contact Ellen Rydell at 703-768-3442.

HOLLIN HILLS ARCHIVES

The Hollin Hills Archives are part of the Special Collections and Archives of George Mason University. To contact the SC&A staff with research questions, use the following:

- For general description of HH Archives contents, go to http://sca.gmu.edu/finding_aids/hollinhills.html.
- For questions about collections, hours, usage, duplications, or directions go to http://sca.gmu.edu/using_sc&a.html.
- Other contacts: phone 703-993-2220, fax inquiries 703-993-8911, email speccoll@gmu.edu.

www.hollin-hills.org

Calendar of community events and information about our parks, the Design Review Committee, the National Historic Registry, and more.

Quick Takes

OKTOBERFEST? WUNDERBAR!

Beer and brats along with the our usual array of succulent side dishes and deserts, glorious weather, a large, friendly crowd, kids galore weaving in and out, all accompanied by the appropriately happy “oompah” music—who could ask for a better Oktoberfest? A huge thanks goes to Social Chair Susmita Dastidar, David and Jaelith Rivera, and the many volunteers who pitched in to make it such a success.

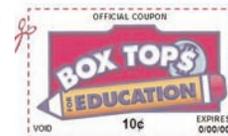


Jaelith Hall-Rivera

A NEW SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS WELL AT HOLLIN MEADOWS

Hollin Meadows Elementary School is back in full swing for the new school year. The building renovations are humming along, and we are seeing much progress. The PTA has been busy with our Care & Share program that helps children in need at the school. Care & Share sponsors after-school clubs throughout the year, and organizes evening and weekend events including a special Math Game Night, a Veteran's Day Ceremony, Bingo Night, and more. Here are a couple of very easy ways that you can help Hollin Meadows, our neighborhood school:

- **BOX TOPS:** Please save Box Tops for Education symbols (*sample at right*) for Hollin Meadows. They are found on many General Mills products. Each Box Top provides 10 cents toward the school and they can really add up—Hollin Meadows earned over \$700 in Box Tops last school year. Clip them, collect them, and then give them to a Hollin Meadows family near you, drop them off at the school office, or contact Jane Runnels at janerunnels@gmail.com for pick up.
- **AMAZON SHOPPING:** Do your online shopping on Amazon using this link: <http://smile.amazon.com>. Then select "Hollin Meadows PTA" as your charity. A percentage of your purchase amount will automatically be donated to HMES PTA .



—Jane Runnels

WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

New at 2200 Glasgow Road, but not new to Hollin Hills or the Washington metro area, Jin Jang and Min Park rented another house in Hollin Hills for nearly a year while undertaking extensive renovations to their beautiful new home at the corner of Glasgow Road and Popkins Lane.

Jin and Min met in Tokyo. Born in Korea, Min grew up in Canada. He received a PhD in biochemistry in Japan, and later, a JD from Georgetown University Law School, after which he worked in a patent law firm in Tokyo, and practiced Kendo martial arts, a very physical form of one-on-one fighting with bamboo bats, imitating the original art of Kendo sword fighting. Jin was born and raised in the south of Korea. She graduated from Hongik University in Seoul, with a degree in art history and art theory. She worked as a translator, did photography, and wrote magazine articles. She enjoys going to art museums and has some beautiful art done by friends hanging in her home.

Jin and Min left Japan so that Min could pursue a better career path as a patent lawyer, combining his technical knowledge with an American law degree. Min works for Fish and Richardson, a patent law firm in Washington; Jin stays home to care for their two young sons, Aaron, who is four and attends St. Louis pre-school, and Ian, who turned one on August 31.

The family's nine-year-old yellow lab, Hirkari, who came along from Japan, has her own interesting history. Hirkari was supposed to become a seeing-eye companion. Jin and Min volunteered to foster her as a puppy. They were sorry when Hirkari failed her final test, but they were thrilled to be able to keep her! (*continued on page 3*)

Quick Takes *from page 2*

The family loves living in Hollin Hills. They have meticulously restored their new house, with an eye to maintaining the original feel. They discovered midcentury modern houses while searching for a home in the Bethesda area. When they lost a bid on a Carderock Springs house, their realtor suggested Hollin Hills. After taking the home and garden tour, Min fell in love with Hollin Hills. The mix of modern design with a retro feel appealed to his Asian minimalist aesthetic, and he feels “very comforted by it.” They had already begun to furnish their early spaces with MCM furniture. Min says he didn’t recognize the link between MCM furniture and architecture but, “Now I get it.”

Their contact numbers: Min Park, Minoupark@gmail.com and Jin Jang, hyejin0909@gmail.com, 202-957-2536. —Lainey Nexon

INTRODUCING YATES

If you should happen to be in or near Elba Court, there is a possibility that a small bird might land on your head. This bird is Yates, a titmouse who was evicted from his nest when he was about three days old, his eyes not yet open, no feathers, transparent skin with tufts of fuzz and a big mouth. I expected him to grow up and fly away. He does fly away, but he comes back often—and always at night. He is an indoor-outdoor bird. All people are his friends. He seems to consider us a race of friendly giants. He has enormous charm for one so small, but I worry that he is over-confident. Someone who does not know him or expect him to land on their head could swat him and do him great harm.

Like every baby, he had to learn how to move his body. Instead of crawling, there was fly-hopping from table to back of chair, crash landing on the floor, then working from floor to chair rung—to higher territory and so on up to the table, and try again and again until exhaustion.

This ordinary miracle, closely observed, caused me to name him after Sally Yates, also thrown out, whose style, perseverance, and courage I so admire.

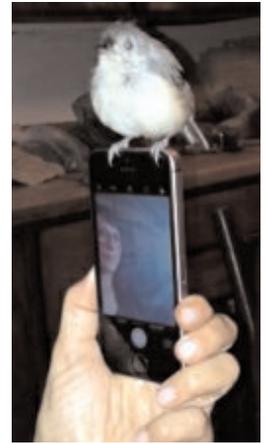


Viewing the solar eclipse (clockwise, from top): Casey Olney and Martha Schumacher on Martha’s Road; Doug Magenity checks out his viewing equipment; the large crowd of sky watchers who gathered in Doug’s Recard Lane yard for the event.



So, this small, grey and white hybrid human/bird is at large in our community. Yesterday he entered my neighbor’s home uninvited. Please help me keep him from harm. Call me if I need to come. Leave a message at 703-768-0624. I check it often.

—Bobbie Godwin



IS ‘MOUNT VERNON AT HOME’ RIGHT FOR YOU?

One of 300 membership “villages” across the nation, our local Mount Vernon at Home shares with them the aim of making it possible for older adults to remain in their homes while retaining their independence with practical help, and enjoying community activities and connections (more about an MVAH activity on page 4).

Mount Vernon at Home (MVAH) stretches from the area south of the city of Alexandria to Mount Vernon, with 160 members and 70 volunteers. Tom and I joined at its beginning, at Arnold Edelman’s suggestion (read “insistence”!).

Hollin Hills’ own Judy Rosen, a founding members of MVAH, summed up her membership this way, “A life saver for me! They take the place of my family who live too far away to help. Their handyman volunteers are terrific. . . The happiest surprise for me, however, has been the social aspect. Mt. Vernon at Home events are always stimulating, and the best part is that I have met some very interesting people who I now call friends.”

If MVAH sounds right for you, please consider joining or volunteering. MVAH Executive Director Barbara Sullivan has her office on the second floor of the Sherwood Regional Library. Telephone her at 703-303-4060, or visit for more information.

—Eleanor Fina

SEPTEMBER CAC MEETING

The September speaker at the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Mt. Vernon District Police (CAC) was Lt. Joseph Flynn, who comes with a wealth of experience which includes being a first responder at the Pentagon on 9-11. Lt. Flynn presented an overview of the Northern Virginia Regional Intelligence Center. Its mission is to gather, evaluate, analyze, and disseminate information and intelligence data. The center is a vital link between the federal government, state, and local partners for effectively sharing information to prevent crimes and terrorism.

(continued on page 4)



Top photo by Hino, others by Rebecca Byham

Quick Takes *from page 3*

Hear more about Mount Vernon Police capabilities at the CAC meeting on the second Tuesday of each month, at 7pm, at the Parker's Lane police station.

—Laura Wirkkala

LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORIC ALFRED STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

Historian Dr. Alton Wallace, the featured speaker at the October 15 program of Mt. Vernon At Home, will talk about the amazing history of the church beginning in 1803 when “negroes had to meet at night, often in secret places,” even though they were officially members of what was then called Alexandria Baptist Church.

The church has seen many changes—emancipation,

reconstruction, the Jim Crow years, the Depression, World War II, the civil rights struggle, Vietnam. In 2003, it celebrated its bicentennial and now has over two thousand parishioners.

This program is on Sunday, October 15, 3pm, in the Hollin Hall mansion at the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church. Guests may attend.

—Mary-Carroll Potter

THE BOOK CLUB'S BACK, AND YOU'RE INVITED

The Hollin Hills book group will have its first fall meeting on October 18, at 2pm, at the home of Anne Parke. Join us for a lively discussion of *Flight of the Sparrow*, by Amy Belding Brown.

—Anne Parke

Design Revue

DRC Actions at September Meeting

The Design Review Committee (DRC) reviewed, discussed and approved these homeowner projects at the September meeting:

- **2209 White Oaks, Weidenfeller residence:** Replacement in kind of a shingle roof. Homeowner will maintain the existing box gutters.
- **7221 Stafford, Crooks residence:** Modification of a front entryway. The homeowner will enclose the open porch, adding a window and a door.
- **7600 Elba, Young residence:** Construction of an 18' x 11' x 8.5' shed in the backyard. The shed will be located in the area adjoining the Hollin Meadows Swim & Tennis Club property.
- **2003 Bedford, Potter residence:** Construction of front walkway railing. This project was approved via administrative review between the August and September meetings.

Other Actions

- **2204 Glasgow, Wallace residence:** The DRC advised committee member Virginia Wallace on roof replacement options/issues.

ABOUT THE DRC The Civic Association of Hollin Hills DRC meets monthly to offer homeowners guidance about potential exterior property renovations and whether those desired renovations are in harmony and conformity with the association's Design Review Guidelines. All DRC-approved projects are subject to and must comply with Fairfax County building regulations, policies, and codes. Homeowners should complete appropriate County permit processes prior to the start of any renovations.

- **7501 Elba:** The committee discussed landscaping issues associated with a complete home renovation at this address, agreeing to seek further information from the contractor.

Next Meeting

The DRC will meet again on Wednesday, Oct. 11, 7pm, at the Sherwood Regional Library, Sherwood Meeting Room (2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria).

—Chris McNamara

Notable Neighbors

Those of us who have lived in Hollin Hills for ages know that good cooks abound here; we only have to attend the Fourth of July picnic to know that. Now we have a neighbor, Jan Derevjanik, who is not only a good cook, but is also an art director and graphic designer of more than 100 cookbooks.

One of the cookbooks, *Eat in My Kitchen*, won the coveted James Beard Foundation award this year. Jan was responsible for the book's design and layout. Interested in seeing what the prize-winning book looked like, I typed the name of one of the recipes, “Rhubarb Corn Galette with Saffron Sugar.” Up came not only the cover of the book that Jan had designed, but also a photograph of the dish, with the added bonus of the rhubarb corn galette recipe.

This is not an easy career for the wife of a busy lawyer and the mother of two adorable, very young children. Jan and her husband, Darren Pagoda, moved here from Old Town in 2014. She now works primarily out of her home, in a well-designed office.

Currently, Jan is working on the design of a cookbook due to be published in the fall of 2018. To meet this deadline, Jan must talk

at length to the author. She must hire a photographer/food stylist who will take hundreds of photographs, from which Jan will choose maybe forty that will attract the consumer.

She must schedule the photo-shoot, and start designing the final product, while continually getting the approval of her client. She works collaboratively with the publisher, the author, editors, production managers, copy editors, and marketing publicity, and sales personnel. This collaboration begins at the conception of each book, and does not end until it is available to the consumer. No wonder that each book takes at least a year to do.

What's hard, Jan says, is coming up with something new and creative that both the author *and* the publisher will like. Jan commented that she has done so many cookbooks that now she knows she must take time off after each one to “clear my mind.”

—Mary-Carroll Potter



Jan Derevjanik

In Memoriam

DICK BARTL Longtime Hollin Hills resident Dick Bartl passed away on August 14, 2017. Dick and his wife, Lois, moved to their home on Brentwood Place in 1972, where they raised their daughter Lara (LB). In 2013, they moved to Blacksburg to be closer to Lara, her husband, Greg, and their two grandchildren Courtney and Brendan, who, along with his wife, survive him.

Richard Bartl attended Purdue University and George Washington University Law School. He was a founding partner of the law firm Tyler, Bartl, Ramsdell and Counts in Alexandria, Virginia, and a member of the Alexandria panel of bankruptcy trustees appointed by Judge Martin V. B. Bostetter Jr. He mentored numerous attorneys throughout his career and was well known for his calm demeanor and intense practicality and ethics.

Around Hollin Hills, we knew Dick best for his love of his family, his unparalleled martinis, and his cordial handshake. He will be so very missed.

—Allie Elder

EULALEE MARION CORDICE PARHAM A woman of faith, devoted wife and mother, and career art educator, Eulalee Marion Cordice was born September 30, 1920 in Aurora, North Carolina. Marion's big brother felt she was a gift just for him.

Marion's father had immigrated from the West Indies to study surgery at Howard University School of Medicine. After World War I started, Dr. Cordice was commissioned as a Public Health Medical Service Officer and sent to Aurora to stem an outbreak of influenza. When the children—Vincent, Marion, Evangeline, and Victoria—reached school age, the family moved to Durham, where a new hospital that needed doctors had opened. The move provided better living accommodations for the Cordices and improved their quality of life.

As Marion advanced from nursery school to elementary school, Evangeline wanted to stay with her big sister; this desire continued through high school. The sisters became known as "Big Cordice" and "Little Cordice." After high school, they enrolled at Howard University in Washington, DC. Evangeline's poor health prevented her from finishing that first year, and she passed away the next summer.

Thriving at Howard, Marion majored in Fine Arts and Art Education, pledged Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA), made the "A" honor roll, and graduated in four years. After a year of graduate studies at Columbia University, she accepted a teaching position at North Carolina Central University in Durham. Marion left NCCU after five years to complete her M.A. at Columbia. She returned to Durham and married a childhood friend, Thomas David Parham, Jr., who had joined the Navy as a chaplain.

As a Navy wife, Marion accompanied her husband to places ranging from Japan to Rhode Island. As a chaplain's wife, she found her true calling: serving as surrogate mother for young naval officers. The couple provided guidance to numerous, self-described "lost children," treating them as family. Marion and David were married for 55 years before his death in 2007.

A career art educator, Marion taught for public schools in Alexandria, Virginia; Harford County, Maryland; and Norfolk, Virginia. Her last education job was as an art supervisor for Norfolk public schools. While at NCCU, she had completed

affiliation with AKA and put on the 20 pearls of a full-fledged Soror Alpha Zeta AKA. Marion served in the Portsmouth, Chesapeake, and Norfolk chapter culminating in her designation as a Golden Life Iota Omega Soror. She was a dedicated member of Messiah Presbyterian Church in Norfolk.

Marion Parham is survived by her daughters Edith E. Greene and Capt. Mae M. Pouget, MC, USN; her son Dr. Thomas D. Parham, III; and a host of family members and friends.

—Mae M. Pouget

SAMMY RICHMOND It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Samuel C. Richmond, known to his friends as "Sammy," after many years of illness. But Sammy's life was marked not as much by his maladies as by his joie de vivre, which he shared generously with those he encountered on his journey.

Sammy was perhaps best known as a faithful fan of West Potomac High School athletic and band activities, earning him a "Number One Fan" award from the school. Although his body was frail, his booming voice could be heard cheering the Wolverines on through countless sporting events. Sammy also loved animals, and was seen by many walking his dog, Lulu, in the Belle View area where he lived during the past 20 years. He also had two cats that he loved dearly. Another of his passions was classic movies, and Sammy knew endless trivia about the actors, directors and producers of his favorite films.

Where ever he went, Sammy made friends, whether it was water aerobics, or the local IHOP on Rte. 1 where he was a regular, or elsewhere. Sammy was a social animal; he loved group activities of all kinds, and always took the time to ask about people's loved ones, inquiring by name about the children and spouses of his friends and acquaintances.

Sammy's survival into middle age was due in no small part to his mother Pamela Richmond's tireless efforts, which enabled him to live longer than anyone had expected or predicted. It is due to the constant support of Pam, along with his father, Yale, that Sammy was able to live such a full life. And in spite of life-long disease, Sammy was not a complainer. He endeavored to make the most of every day, and his infectious enthusiasm will be missed by many.

Sammy was predeceased by his younger brother, David, and is survived by his father, Yale, of Washington, DC, his mother, Pam, of Alexandria, VA, and his sister, Hania, of Wantage, UK.

—Hania Richmond

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE FOR A GOOD CAUSE: Preserves for Becca's Ark. Pint jars of plum, peach, strawberry and strawberry/peach for \$5 a pint, five jars for \$20 (pays for one distemper shot at a discounted price). Becca's Ark no longer has charity status, so you can't take it off your income tax; however, I still raise money for the spay/neuter fund for pets of low-income families living off the highway. Will deliver.

—Wendy Kilpatrick, 703-765-7163

mid-century modern ARCHITECTURE IN AMERICA

new england:
hudnut,
gropius &
breuer
at Harvard

In the late 1930s, a revolution in the college-level teaching of architecture began at Harvard University. Spurred by the spread of the International Style in Europe and the ravages of the Great Depression, architecture students at Harvard began to question the relevance of the very traditional education they were receiving. University administrators and faculty joined in. Time was ripe for a bold new approach. In 1935, Harvard recruited Joseph Hudnut from Columbia to chair the department of architecture. Hudnut, who was enthusiastic about the International Style, came to Harvard prepared to enact major reforms. Within one year, he created the Graduate School of Design (GSD), combining architecture, landscape archi-

ture, and urban planning into a coordinated curriculum. After another year, he recruited Walter Gropius, the founder and leader for a decade of the innovative Bauhaus school of design in Dessau, Germany, to head Harvard's architecture department. The year after that, he brought Gropius' protégé Marcel Breuer to the faculty. For the next 15 years, Harvard churned out talented, zealous young architects who spread the gospel of the International Style. In addition, GSD faculty and graduates joined forces to develop clusters of what would become known as Mid Century Modern housing in the small, sleepy New England towns of Lexington, Massachusetts, and New Canaan, Connecticut.

LEXINGTON, MA.

In 1945, Walter Gropius established The Architects Collaborative (TAC), partnering with a half dozen architects whose education at Harvard he had overseen. Among its early projects, TAC created two surprisingly modern neighborhoods in the town of Lexington—settled in 1642, the place where the first shots of the American Revolution were fired on its famous commons. At the time these developments occurred, Lexington had a population of 17,000 people and was full of Colonial, Greek Revival and Saltbox homes. There were few other modern homes in the area except for several in nearby Lincoln, including the first one in New England designed in 1937 by local architect Henry Hoover, and another designed by Gropius for his own family in 1938.



Henry Hoover home (1937)



Walter Gropius home (1938)

In 1947, TAC purchased a 20-acre tract to build new modern homes for themselves and other university faculty and professionals. TAC was committed to the collaborative principles that were being taught at Harvard. All planning and design were to be based on consensus among the partners, and the property was owned by a corporation with each lot having two voting shares, plus two for Gropius, who continued to live in Lincoln.

They divided the site into 26 parcels, with the goal of designing homes in the \$10,000-\$22,000 price range. They also set aside land for open space and a community pool. The individual partners drew straws to determine who would get what lot, and they were all involved in reviewing the designs for each home.

The 25 houses they built were one to two stories, with vertical wood siding, flat or butterfly roofs, large windows, and had small individual bedrooms and large communal areas. They were nestled in the land,

conforming to the terrain of each lot. A design review committee oversaw further development. Where possible, innovative industrial components were incorporated into the homes, such as plexiglass skylights made by the same factory with the same materials used for transparent bomber noses and turrets during World War II.

The Six Moon Hill neighborhood has been a great success. None of the houses has been torn down. In addition to the TAC partners, many eminent academics have lived there, including two Nobel Prize winners. The design review covenant was renewed in 2002, with only two opt outs, and the neighborhood was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2016.

But where did the name come from? TAC bought the property from a man who had been a dealer in the Moon motor car, a model made in St. Louis during the first two decades of the 20th century. In a barn, they found what they thought were six Moon cars and used that as their name. When they later discovered that one car was a Franklin, they kept the name anyway.

Five Fields (1951-1959): TAC next decided to develop speculative housing. They bought the 80-acre Cutler Farm to develop 60 homes, and set aside eight acres for common open space and a community pool. They first developed 20 sites to provide a stream of income, offering three basic house plans, with shallow pitched roofs, vertical wood siding, and large windows. Later, plans were available with flat or shed roofs, and they designed ten custom homes with no garages or carports. Houses cost between \$20,000 and \$36,000. TAC held design review authority in the neighborhood for the first two decades. Again, it was a success.

(continued on page 7)



36 Moon Hill Rd (1948, Norman Fletcher/TAC)



5 Fields, 510 Concord Ave. (1956, TAC)



NEW CANAAN, CT.

In 1946, Marcel Breuer left Harvard to establish his own architectural practice in New York City, settling in New Canaan. One of his students, Eliot Noyes, was already living there, and three more followed—Landis Gores, John Johansen, and Philip Johnson, each with his own practice. New Canaan had a population of only 8,000 people

The Harvard Five in New Canaan (1947-1966): The Harvard Five as they quickly became known soon made their presence felt by building boldly designed, elegant Mid Century Modern homes. They were scattered throughout town rather than being concentrated in distinct neighborhoods. Their work soon drew other architects as well, and by the time demand for these homes tapered off, approximately 100 had been built, of which 20 have been demolished and four are on the National Register of Historic Places.

Perhaps the most noticed home by a member of this group is the Glass House, designed by Philip Johnson based on a similar design by Mies van der Rohe for a home in suburban Chicago. Mies van der Rohe was another Bauhaus product who migrated to Chicago in 1938. The Glass House has hardly any interior walls, and its exterior is all glass. But there were other notable designs, particularly by Breuer himself, with each architect establishing a distinctive style.

ORIGINS

The Harvard Graduate School of Design proved to be an ideal vehicle for Walter Gropius and Marcel Breuer to inculcate the values and methods of the International Style. Its graduates became even more fervent advocates of this new gospel—behold the revolution!

Walter Gropius (1883-1969), born and raised in Germany, got his first job in architecture with Peter Behrens in Berlin, along with two young colleagues who would also become famous modernists, Mies van der Rohe and Le Corbusier. He fought in World War One, was seriously wounded, and awarded the Iron Cross twice. In 1919, he founded the Bauhaus, first in Weimar, then in Dessau, where he designed the campus. The Bauhaus was dedicated to the idea that architecture should unify art, crafts, and technology into a complete work of art. Each of its courses featured two instructors, an artist and a craftsman, to symbolize this unity. Gropius left in 1928, and the Bauhaus was closed under increasing pressure from Hitler in 1933 by its last director, Mies van der Rohe.

The Harvard that Gropius arrived at in 1937, was by no means the first American school of architecture. That was established in 1868 at M.I.T. By the time Harvard's was created in 1895, eight others existed. All taught a curriculum based on the practices at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, emphasizing design based on the Classical architecture of ancient Greece and Rome: its approach was to decide on the appropriate Classical design to copy, then fit the activity inside.

However, Harvard established the first urban planning curriculum and the first professional degree in landscape architecture. Hudnut and

From top left: Philip Johnson's Glass House (1949), Marcel Breuer's House I (1947), and the Big Dig House (2006, Single Speed Design)



Gropius combined the three disciplines into one innovative program, creating student teams rather than individual stars competing with one another,

and emphasizing the nuts and bolts of architectural practice: Define the need, choose 'honest' materials and methods, and a beautiful building will result. Traditional art appreciation and architectural history courses were moved to the undergraduate curriculum.

Marcel Breuer (1902-1981), born and raised in Hungary, got his architectural training at the Bauhaus and became an instructor there. Where Gropius was more of a theoretician and advocate and was not that interested in designing homes, Breuer designed more than 60 over his career. He believed in separating the private bedroom areas from the more public communal areas into separate volumes, connected by passageways or linked at odd angles. His homes tended to be elevated above the land, on high foundations or pilotis with bold cantilevers, and he used a wide variety of materials, including local fieldstone. He also designed furniture.

Arriving in America in 1938, he both taught at Harvard and worked briefly as a partner with Gropius before setting out on his own. Later in his career, he became much more well known for his dramatic Brutalist designs in raw concrete of churches, libraries, museums, and offices.

CONCLUSION

With Gropius departing in 1952, and Hudnut retiring the next year, the GSD lost its sharp focus in advocating the International Style. During their tenure, a stunning cohort of architects and landscape architects were educated there, including Dan Kiley, who worked with Charles Goodman at Hollin Hills.

But the International Style lived on, and not just among GSD graduates. Even in Lexington, two M.I.T. architects developed the 57-home Peacock Farms neighborhood. Indicative of the persistence of this style is the Big Dig House, built on the last lot at Six Moon Hill in 2006, incorporating 600,000 pounds of recycled material from the massive project to underground an elevated highway in Boston's North End.

The revolution wrought by GSD firmly established the International Style among American architects, but the most famous early American modernist, Frank Lloyd Wright, now in his 80s, was not done yet. That will be the next topic in this series.

—Michael S. McGill

News of Our Parks



Back in the Swing: Fall Social Hours in our Parks

Come and join us, meet some new friends, catch up with old friends and get a little work done too.

- **Sat., Oct. 14, 9am and/or 3:30pm. Rain date: Oct. 21**

Two times! Two chances! Join your neighbors on Saturday, October 14, to work in Paul Spring Park, our biggest park. Ivy pulling, litter pick up, sign painting, bench cleaning and sealing, friendly conversations, community building, all are some of the many activities anticipated. Plan to meet at the foot of Rebecca, or wander through the park until you find Wardens Lee Ann Kinzer and Barbara Liggett for tasks and directions.

- **Many dates, no excuses! Saturdays, 10am-noon; Sept. 23 and 30; Oct. 21 and 28; Nov. 11; Dec. 2.**

Join your neighbors in Sutton Potter Park for as many or as few dates as you choose. All are on Saturdays from 10am to noon. Highest priority is freeing trees from vines, primarily English ivy. Goal is to free fifty trees this fall.

- **Saturday, November 4 at 9am**

Learn a new skill or sharpen an old one. Join us in Brickelmaier Park for a work session on trail maintenance. Robert Fina, an experienced trail volunteer on the Appalachian Trail, has volunteered to teach us how to improve the park trail, and with luck, to solve the soggy trail conditions mid-park. Learn how to build a water bar and other tricks to steward our resource more appropriately and reduce stormwater erosion and trail ponding. You just might pick up a skill that is useful downstream of your downspout or in your driveway.

New Park Warden Joins Us

We are thrilled to welcome John Wickham, a Hollin Hiller who now lives on the west side of Sutton Potter Park, as co-warden with of that park with Mary Ellen Gilman. Join us for a work party and thank John for enthusiastically stepping up to bring order to Sutton Potter Park.

Can't make it for a work party?

As always, if you can't join us for a work party there are many other things you can do to help manage our parks responsibly. The list of chores includes, but isn't limited to:

- **Litter patrolling**—always needed, always helpful.
- **Removing ivy** from our trees. Grab your clippers when you take a walk, and plan to free one or more tree trunks from their English ivy smothering. Clip the vine at about waist height, removing it from the tree down to ground level. Leave the remaining vine above that height attached to the tree; it will dry up and fall off over time. Ripping it at the time of cutting will likely do damage to the tree's bark. If still highly energetic after clipping, pull the ivy away from the base of the tree by several feet.
- **Refurbishing park furniture and signs.** We are still looking for a volunteer park furniture wood sealer and/or sign painter. Parks will supply the materials if you can volunteer the labor.

Other needs or ideas? Please let me know.

Elisabeth Lardner, Parks Chair