

MARCH 2017

HOLLIN HILLS BULLETIN



From the CAHH President

POTLUCK, PRESERVATION, AND WEBSITE PROGRESS

Winter Pot Luck

The Winter Potluck on February 11 was, as anticipated, enjoyable and delicious. There were really great appetizers and desserts, and one or two that were indescribable, or as my mother-in-law has said occasionally about my cooking, "very interesting." I'm pretty sure that we consumed a fair quantity of beverages, too.

Thanks to the Stromayer family, in particular, for their hard work. Susmita Dastidar (Mrs. Stromayer) is our social director, so her participation one would expect, but her entire family showed up, lugged stuff around, and helped make the entire event run like a Swiss watch. So, thank you Aditi, Antara, and Lalita for your efforts. And thanks to Eric Stromayer (Susmita's husband) for stepping off a plane from Europe and coming directly to the party to tend bar—that is truly noteworthy. Also, thanks to Susmita, herself, for her hard work, as well as to fellow board members Chris McNamara and Bob Kinzer for being such stalwarts. If I have forgotten anybody, I am sorry. This memory stuff is not so easy for me anymore.

I think next year we will probably go back to Sunday, rather than Saturday, for this event. I am curious about which day works better for others, so if you have an opinion, shoot me an email, and let your preference be known.

What to do? What to do?

There were documents available at the Potluck for people to take home and read about the investigative committees' results concerning the preservation of Hollin Hills architecture. Since few of the documents went home with people, they will be sent to you via email in the near future. We need to learn your opinions and support levels of the various possibilities suggested by the committees. I expect that we will also take a survey of residents to get opinions on this subject. This is an important subject, and we need to have a conversation about it.

I have come to realize that what seems obvious to me is not necessarily obvious, or even important, to other people. For example, last Friday, in the Real Estate section of the Washington Post, I learned that the average price for real estate in zip code 22307 where my house is located, is about \$495,000-\$525,000.

The average price of the mid-century modern houses in Hollin Hills is more—frequently considerably more—than, \$700,000. Hollin Hills houses are not larger, not better built, do not have substantially bigger lots. So why are the per-square-foot values higher than average? I believe the answer is Charles Goodman and the quirky, light-filled, funny-roofed houses he designed, along with the landscape designs of Dan Kiley and Lou Bernard Voigt. I also believe that home owners in Hollin Hills work hard to maintain and improve their homes in ways that adhere to the original architectural themes put forth by Goodman and some other architects of his time. Every time one of us violates those themes because it is temporarily convenient ('that box gutter is too expensive' or 'I really need that stockade fence'), we chip away at the very attributes that attracted many of us to Hollin Hills in the first place. The big fear I keep hearing is that a developer will come, tear down a Goodman house, and replace it with a McMansion because the per-square-foot value of this neighborhood is high. That is why we need that conversation.

Hollin Hills Website (hollinhills.net)

One last thing. If you have not yet done so, take a look at the progress made on our revamped website, 'hollinhills.net'. There is still a lot to do, and much more information that needs to be added, but there are some things there already that should be useful. We have an on-line version of the Hollin Hills Directory, which can be reached from any browser by going to <http://CAHHServices.net/directory>, as well as from the website. You can then install the directory on any cell phone or tablet or computer you like. Shortly, we will send out an email explaining how to do this. The Directory goes directly to our database, so the information should be fairly current. Please contact me at gus.matson@gmail.com if you have questions about this, or suggestions for other useful things that might be added to the website.

—Gus Matson, CAHH President

MVCCA

WHAT IS IT?
HOW AND WHY SHOULD
YOU GET INVOLVED?
See page 5

CIVIC ASSOCIATION OF HOLLIN HILLS (CAHH)

CAHH OFFICERS

President Gus Matson	768-3797
Vice-President Chris McNamara	660-9536
Treasurer (Open)	
Secretary Frederike Ahrens	571-481-4628

Membership Linda Benson	312-907-1797
-------------------------	--------------

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Pool Laura Kistler	768-4161
MVCCA Kathy Seikel	768-2350
Social Susmita Dastidar	660-5938
Parks Bob Kinzer	768-4048

CAHH COMMITTEES

ARCHIVIST Judy Riggan	765-3025
Historian Scott Wilson	765-4471

(Also see Hollin Hills Archives below)

DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC)

Chair Frank Collins	660-6525
Members John Burns	660-9763
John Nolan	231-2229
Ginny Wallace	765-7116
Ken Wilson	768-5838

CAHH-DRC Liaison Chris McNamara	660-9536
---------------------------------	----------

HOLLIN HILLS POOL COMMITTEE

Chair Barbara Bogue	571-257-9313
---------------------	--------------

PARKS COMMITTEE

Chair Elisabeth Lardner	765-3023
-------------------------	----------

HOLLIN HILLS BULLETIN

Published monthly since 1951 by the CAHH. Material in this publication does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the CAHH Board or the editor.

Editor Barbara Shear	660-6543
Editorial Assistance Andrew Keegan	660-1004

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 Eleanor Fina at 703-768-3174 or etfina@gmail.com.

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.HOLLINHILLS.NET

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

Quick Takes



WHAT'S NEW ON YOUR BLOCK?

Would you like to greet new neighbors or welcome a new baby on the block? Congratulate a Hollin Hiller for an accomplishment or an honor received? Bid a fond farewell to a family that's moving away, or offer a memorial tribute for a neighbor who has died? Our Neighborhood Greeters network does a good job of keeping the Bulletin up to date, but your input is invited and appreciated, too. Don't like to write? Send in the basic facts and we'll do the rest. Remember, it's *your* newsletter.



MOUNT VERNON TOWN MEETING

Fairfax County Supervisor Dan Storck continued Gerry Hyland's tradition by hosting an Annual Town Meeting at Mount Vernon High School on Saturday morning, February 4. Attendees were given papers on almost every imaginable topic pertaining to the Mount Vernon area. Hollin Hills residents can get copies of this material by calling Supervisor Storck's office, 703-780-8518, or by emailing him at mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The speakers included Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and Ed Long, the Fairfax County Executive.

Chairman Bulova noted that this is the 275th anniversary of Fairfax County. She expressed concern over land use and excess office space, and discussed the prospective move of the FBI to Springfield.

Mr. Long provided a rather dim forecast of County finances. General fund receipts for FY 2017 are estimated at \$4.01 billion of which \$2.60 billion or 64.8 percent is from real estate taxes. Personal property taxes provide 14.8 percent. Another 12.7 percent comes from the local sales tax and the Business, Professional, and Occupational License (BPOL) tax. All other local revenue sources are small. He noted that revenue growth has gone down for six years. The commercial vacancy rate of 16.5 percent is particularly troublesome. The recent failure to approve a meals tax was noted. It is almost certain that Fairfax County's contributions to Virginia revenue will vastly exceed the amount that will be returned to Fairfax County.

—Burt Kronstedt

MVAH PROGRAM TOPIC: EPA POLICY CHANGES

Avi Garbow, outgoing EPA General Counsel, will be the featured speaker at the March program of Mount Vernon At Home. (Many will remember the speaker as a former Hollin Hills resident, who grew up on Rippon Road.)



He will describe and discuss anticipated radical changes in environmental policy and regulations. With Scott Pruitt, a climate change denialist, as the incoming EPA Secretary, previous regulations and much-needed investments in renewable energy are now on the chopping block.

The program, which is open to the public, will be presented on Sunday, March 26, 3-5pm, in the Mansion to the left of the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church.

—Mary-Carroll Potter



NEWS OF OUR SCHOOLS

- At West Potomac High, the Wolverine Green Learning Island is an ongoing project that is well on the way toward its ambitious goal of transforming an under-used part of the campus into an attractive, functional, and sustainable green space, with wide walkways and seating for classes and small gatherings.

Contributions of time, talent, and money by West Potomac (continued on pg. 3)

QuickTakes



Recent warm weather found groups of students and teachers trying out the emerging Wolverine Green. The alfresco classes ranged from discussing Shakespeare in English Lit to Islam in World Religions.

(from page 2) parents, local residents, and businesses have made this a true community project, and will continue to be vitally important as the work goes on.

Several teachers took advantage of February's unseasonably warm days by moving their classes out-of-doors to this 'island.' A variety of subjects were taught simultaneously, with each class finding its own corner of the Wolverine Green.

The next phase of this work in progress—bringing water to the Green—is now in the works. The aim is to install the water-line in time for West Potomac's first Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 22, when landscaping efforts will begin. Suitable native trees, shrubs, and perennials will be used to create a Virginia native habitat.

To become involved or to learn more, contact Sue Conway Bernstein, sueconway1@verizon.net. And come visit the school on Earth Day—or any day—to see the project's progress for yourself.

- **Hollin Meadows Elementary School (HMES)** is creating its first community cookbook. The cookbook is intended to be a reflection of our wonderful, culturally-diverse community, and

recipe entries are being accepted from HMES families, as well as from others living in the surrounding neighborhoods, including Hollin Hills. The PTA Care & Share Committee is compiling the recipes and will sell the cookbooks for \$14. The proceeds will benefit children in need who attend Hollin Meadows. Please contact Jane Runnels, janerunnels@gmail.com, if you are interested in submitting a recipe or purchasing the *Hollin Meadows Community Cookbook*. Recipe submissions and cookbook orders should be made by Sunday, March 5.

POLICE/CITIZEN LIAISON MEETING

At the February meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee, Captain Shawn Martin gave an update report about the Mount Vernon District Police.

In the Mount Vernon District, there are 128 police officers who cover 26 square miles, with five police service areas.

Captain Martin reported the good news that DWI incidents are down over the past two years.

Mount Vernon Division officers are encouraged to get out of their police cruisers to "Walk and Talk" with the population.

The officers participate with kids, especially students at Walt Whitman Middle School, across Parker's Lane from the station.

Crime Prevention Officer Robert Urps is an advisor to the Explorers, a group that encourages middle schoolers and beyond to develop communication skills. They learn how to develop a resume and to sell themselves through their resumes.

Mount Vernon area residents are invited to attend the monthly meetings of the Citizens Advisory Committee to learn about and meet our local police. The meetings are held at 7pm, on the second Tuesday of each month, at the Parker's Lane facility.

—Laura Wirkkala

IN MEMORIAM

Don and Kathy Giles

Don and Kathy Giles, who lived in Hollin Hills at least from 1969 (my oldest Directory) until 2001, both died in this new year at Greenspring, following long illnesses. Kathy passed first on January 3 and Don on January 15. Her memorial service at St Luke's Episcopal Church on Fort Hunt Road took place on January 14 and Don's on the 21st. Their second beloved Hollin Hills home was at 7423 Rebecca Drive, which they left with sorrow for the ease of a retirement community. —Eleanor Fina

Helen Kaufmann Smith

Jeff Kaufmann writes: My parents, Helen and John Kaufmann were early settlers in Hollin Hills, moving in to what was then 1228 Stafford Rd in 1951. [Numbers have since changed.]

Hollin Hills played a significant part in our lives and we feel quite a connection to the community. Dad worked on the orig-

inal tennis courts, and made the props for the production of "Pinocchio" in 195(?). Mom volunteered for just about everything, including starting the community Christmas carol sing, various Cub, Boy and Girl Scout operations, PTA, etc.

Dad long since passed away, and now Mom also, at age 99. We are having a memorial Service at the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church on Sunday, March 12 at 3pm with a reception to follow. Here is a link to Mom's obituary: www.gaschs.com/obituaries/Helen-Smith-62/#!/Obituary.

Joe Shubert

Joe Schubert, who lived at 1952 Martha's Road with his partner Duke Johns, died on February 15. A service will be held at 1pm, on March 11, at St. Louis Catholic Church. More about Joe will appear in the April Bulletin.

(continued on pg. 4)

In Memoriam *from page 3*

Marge Silverberg

Marge Silverberg died in her home on December 27 from a recurrence of acute myelogenous leukemia, a disease she first faced and miraculously overcame in 2001. She was a Hollin Hills fixture, often seen walking her dog Spike and chatting up neighbors.

Marge was a resident of Hollin Hills for more than forty years. She and her husband, Stan Silverberg, moved to Rebecca Drive in 1965, where they raised their children, Steve and Laura. She spent the last 25 years with partner Pam Richmond on Martha's Road. Marge and Pam shared many hobbies and interests and loved photography trips to destinations including Cuba, Maine, and Peru, where they photographed nature and enjoyed one another.



Marge Silverberg with her grandkids.

As a psychotherapist who compassionately counseled individuals and families suffering from damage due to alcohol and drug addiction, Marge employed cutting edge techniques to help clients. She used the same passion and discipline for learning in her personal life as she pursued interests that included painting, photography, meditation, and ikebana. She served as the photographer for Ikebana International Chapter #1, simultaneously combining her love for hobbies and camaraderie. She was also an ardent feminist, Democrat, and advocate, who registered voters through October while suffering unknowingly from the recurrence of leukemia.

A gifted writer, Marge had a number of letters published in the Washington Post. In one, she discussed how she used walking to regain her strength and empowerment after her initial leukemia diagnosis. She went on to learn new skills, continue her career, and develop a fierce tennis game that could not be stopped by a knee replacement. She loved tennis and took immense joy in watching her entire family, including grandchildren Pete Silverberg, Katie Silverberg, and Lucy Byer play this past Thanksgiving.

A Celebration of Life will be held for Marge in early June. Details will be in the next Bulletin.

—Laura Byer

Healthy Eating

According to Ayurveda, the traditional system of medicine of India, there are three main seasons to the year: Late Winter/Early Spring, Late Spring/Summer, and Autumn/Early Winter. Each of these has specific qualities that can affect us.

Late Winter/Early Spring can be cold, wet, heavy, and dense. Think about what winter is usually like during February. It's cold outside and we tend to get more wet, heavy snow than dry fluffy snow. The light of day is still short and we spend more time nesting and resting. As we move into March, there is a noticeable change. Snows have melted and left muddy or watery spots in our lawns. Similarly, this 'melting' creates excess mucus in the body. I bet most of us can recall spring 'allergies' with runny noses. Some of us may also have created a little extra padding from the nesting and resting that we did over the winter.

We can follow nature's lead to help bring balance back. From a food perspective, the early spring greens bring natural cleansing. Consider dandelion greens, fennel, spinach, and mustard greens. These all have a bitter taste to them, but we want that. Bitter foods are detoxifiers, they stimulate bile production in the liver which helps cleanse the body. In essence the bitter greens literally help lighten us. There is evidence that the bitter taste stimulates our immune system as well. Dr. Douillard explains it well at <http://lifespas.com/bitter-is-better/>.

Fruits aren't really in abundance yet for the year; most will be ready for harvest in late spring/summer. We've lost that innate knowledge, since most fruits are available year round at the grocery store. It makes sense though—fruits in the summer are sweet and light. The word refreshing comes to mind as a slice of watermelon in July sounds perfect. Early spring fruits won't be ripe; you might find some small stone fruits like apricots or early berries, but they won't have the sweetness of summer berries and

stone fruits such as peaches.

Spices in early spring can be an aid to this natural cleansing. The pungency of ginger and black pepper can help dry out the excess water in the tissues and adding a little turmeric to sautéed greens will help kick that up a notch. Ginger tea can also be a nice complement to the winter/spring transition.

Dairy was harder to come by traditionally in early spring because cows and goats were having babies and milk was used to nurture the young. Laying off dairy can also help reduce the body's mucus production so again, let nature help you out.

SPRING GREENS RECIPE (*serves 1-2*)

Melt 1 tsp ghee and add 1 tsp of sliced garlic and saute til fragrant. Add 1/4 tsp powdered turmeric and 1/4 tsp powdered ginger and incorporate until garlic is coated. Add 2-3 cups of greens. If you're wary of doing all dandelion or mustard, then do a blend of spinach with one to soften the blow. Saute until wilted, and add a dash of salt and black pepper to taste.

—Claudia Crowder

In past issues, we've had Robert's tips on healthy houses; Paul's on healthy gardens; and now, from Claudia, tips on healthy lifestyles

CLASSIFIEDS

Highly recommended: Contractor Bradley Furman, Entropic Enterprises owner, (bafurm@gmail.com, 703-201-6797) renovated our kitchen, our lower level, our deck, installed recessed lighting throughout our house, and painted, all to spectacular effect. A Hollin Hills native and true craftsman, he knows the idiosyncracies of Hollin Hills homes and offers creative solutions to unusual problems—plus he knows the Hollin Hills aesthetic. —Cliff Bernier & Kyoko Nakamura

**MOUNT VERNON
COUNCIL
OF CIVIC
ASSOCIATIONS**

MVCCA ...MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

Ever wish you had a better way to engage with public officials on matters affecting our quality of life—issues like school boundary realignments; air traffic noise; construction and rezoning decisions; environmental impact of new roadways and construction; roadway widening, rapid transit; walker and bike trails? A great way to make your voice heard is by participating in the Mount Vernon Council of Civic Associations (MVCCA).

In January, I joined the CAHH Board to serve as your voting representative on the MVCCA. For those not familiar with it already, MVCCA was founded in 1969 as a non-partisan, non-profit organization composed of representatives of 40+ local civic associations working together to provide input to Fairfax County officials on a wide variety of issues affecting quality of life in the Mount Vernon area. The Council meets monthly at the Mt. Vernon Government Center to share news and concerns from member civic associations and to discuss and vote on resolutions teed up by the Council's six committees: Planning & Zoning, Environment & Recreation, Education, Transportation, Public Safety, and Budget & Finances.

For forty-seven years, Hollin Hills has been ably represented on MVCCA committees by a cadre of civically active participants who ensure our positions on the issues are factored into decisions made at the County level. We currently enjoy representation on three committees, but are missing in action on the other three: Burt Kronstedt is our representative on Planning and Zoning, Paul Phelps on Environment and Recreation, and Ron McCallum on Public Safety.

We are eagerly looking for volunteers to represent us on the three committees where Hollin Hills has no representation: Education, Transportation, and Budget and Finance. Of these three, the committees

where I think our representation is most critical are Transportation and Education.

Transportation

The Transportation Committee works closely with Planning and Zoning to consider the impacts on traffic congestion of all new construction and rezoning decisions. It is also directly involved with a multi-year effort called "Embark Richmond Highway," a work group set up to ensure the public is apprised of progress on implementing the Richmond Highway Multimodal Study, which provides for phasing in of transit improvements on Rte. 1 from the Beltway to the Prince William County line. These improvements include roadway widening, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, improved Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), and a 3-mile Metrorail Yellow Line extension to Hybla Valley.

Education, Planning & Zoning

The Education Committee covers issues such as school boundary realignments; new construction, renovations, and additions to existing schools; and ensuring capacity enhancements to meet emerging enrollment needs associated with demographic trends and the specials needs of the 14 % of Fairfax County public school students who do not attend base schools (advanced placement students; ESL students; students with emotional, physical or intellectual disabilities).

We are also looking for someone to work alongside Burt Kronstedt on the Planning and Zoning Committee with an eye to taking over this position when Burt steps down. Burt has generously served on this committee for almost two decades and, while he has thoroughly enjoyed being a part of this work and reporting back to the neighborhood on its progress, he is looking forward to one day passing the baton.

Being on a Committee

Serving as a committee representative is not tremendously time-consuming, and it can have a significant impact on matters that affect our community. Each committee meets monthly at the Mount Vernon Government Center. Meeting times are posted on the MVCCA website (www.mvcca.org). If you are not quite ready to commit, but are interested in learning more about the committees, drop in at one of the monthly committee meetings, or attend a monthly Council meeting. You can read a summary of the latest Council meeting by clicking on the current issue of "The Record," the official MVCCA newsletter. If you are interested in serving on a committee, or if you have questions, please contact me, Kathy Seikel, at seikel.kathy@gmail.com or 703-772-0676.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE MVCCA COMMITTEES

Planning and Zoning: CAHH representative: Burt Kronstedt who, after 20 years, is ready to turn this job over to another Hollin Hiller. Could this be you? Examples of issues recently focused on:

- Rezoning of North Hill
- Rezoning of Bock Farm
- Other land use activities including zoning case changes, new construction and infill projects
- Rules governing operation of Air B&Bs
- Verizon DAS (Distributed Antenna System) to improve cell phone reception
- Embark Richmond Highway

Environment and Recreation: Current CAHH representative: Paul Phelps. Examples of activities recently focused on:

- Environmental impact of the North Hill rezoning
- Consideration of air and water quality, wildlife, and cultural and historical resources affected by the Fort Belvoir

(continued on page 6)

MVCCA Committees *from page 5*

Residential Communities Initiative

- Proposed roadway between Jeff Todd Way and Telegraph Road that will potentially impact an RPA (resource protection area)

Education: No current CAHH rep. CAHH rep needed! For description of issues, see preceding page, second column.

Transportation: No current CAHH representative. CAHH rep is needed! Examples of projects this committee is focused on include:

- Traffic and transportation impacts of projects coordinated by the Planning and Zoning Committee
- Aircraft noise
- Expansion of Richmond Highway to six lanes from Rte. 235/Jeff Todd

- Highway north to intersection of Rte. 1 and Buckman Rd.
- Metrorail expansion to Beacon Mall and Hybla Valley
- Speed limits, traffic calming devices, bus pull-outs, traffic lights
- Road repairs
- Trails for walkers and bicyclists

Public Safety: Current CAHH rep: Ron McCallum. This committee is the interface between the MVCCA and these Fairfax County departments/offices: Police, Sheriff, Fire and Rescue, Emergency Management, Fairfax alerts.

Budget and Finance: No current CAHH representative. This committee is responsible for preparation and oversight of the MVCCA budget.

—Kathy Seikel

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

VISIT the MVCCA website at www.mvcca.org

ATTEND an MVCCA meeting (8pm, 4th Wednesday of each month, Mt. Vernon Government Center)

OBSERVE a committee meeting (see schedules on the MVCCA website)

REPRESENT CAHH on a committee (see details on preceding page)

QUESTIONS? Contact Kathy Seikel, CAHH rep to the MVCCA at seikel.kathy@gmail.com or 703-772-0676

Design Review

January 2017 Meeting

The Design Review Committee (DRC) met Wednesday, January 11, 2017, at Sherwood Regional Library. Members present: Frank Collins (Chair), John Burns, John Nolan, and Ginnie Wallace.

- **2103 Martha's Road, Jeff and Jade Texcell:** The homeowners' architect (Cook Architecture) presented initial design concepts for a carport. The committee offered observations about the plans and committed to make site visits.
- **1937 Martha's Road, Matt and Lisa McMullen:** Homeowner presented initial design drawings for a studio addition to be situated in the front yard. The committee provided feedback and suggested that the studio would be more appropriate in the backyard. Homeowner agreed to submit revised drawings when they determine where to build the addition on the back of the house.

February 2017 Meeting

The DRC met on Wednesday, February 8, 2017, at Sherwood Regional Library. Members present: Frank Collins (Chair), John Burns, John Nolan, and Ginnie Wallace. No homeowners appeared before the committee during the meeting. The DRC reviewed and discussed the following projects.

- **7618 Elba Road, Jodie & Dennis Burns:** The DRC reviewed submitted drawings for a fenced front yard patio area. The committee conceptually approved the design provided that the fence was not higher than 4 feet, as limited by Fairfax County. Collins was to inform the homeowners.
- **7401 Recard Lane, John Segura:** The DRC discussed a proposed privacy screen, concluding that a small screen augmented by landscaping would be the best solution. Collins was to inform the homeowner.
- **1944 Martha's Road, Heidi Hess & Gene Muller:** The DRC discussed the possibility of rebuilding a crumbling wall with breeze

block, as presented by the homeowners. The committee determined that a replacement wall could only be 4 feet tall (about half the height of current wall) and would require County permitting. However, the homeowner could rebuild current brick wall to the same height without permitting. Collins was to inform the homeowner.

- **2110 Popkins' Lane, Tim Ragen:** No action taken.
- **1945 Martha's Road, Casey Olney:** The committee discussed how the homeowner might install solar panels on his southern-facing roof. Discussion resulted in several questions about size and pitch of panels, piping or wiring, visibility to adjoining neighbors, etc. Collins is to follow up with homeowner for more information.
- **2309 Glasgow Road, Tyler and Kathleen Tepfer:** The committee discussed the homeowners' request to install a three-section window with sliding windows. The new window will allow ventilation in a bathroom. Materials submitted by homeowner seemed to show an outside-in installation versus installation on the interior wall surface. Such an installation would require new outside trim, which might not meet harmony and conformity standards. Nolan was to follow up with the homeowner to discuss the installation and recommend a way to install the new window from inside the house.

The Role of 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.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 8, 2017, at 7:30 pm, in the Sherwood Regional Library, Sherwood Meeting Room, (2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306).

—Chris McNamara

Looking Back

Brad Newsham lived at 7401 Rebecca Drive with his siblings, Nancy, Scott and Grant, and his parents, Dick and Margy. He grew up to be a world traveler, taxi cab driver, journalist, and activist, in somewhat that order.

Now 65, his latest activist event took the form of an aerial art protest on February 11, 2017, and was covered by CBS News on February 13. He organized over five thousand people to line up and spell out RESIST!! on Ocean Beach in San Francisco, which you can see on his Facebook page. Ten years ago, he organized an anti-Bush/Cheney protest event on the same beach, placing a thousand people to spell out IMPEACH!

In 2010 the West Coast saw Brad in a Prius commercial featuring his Green Cab 914 which, he brags in his latest book, gets over 40 mpg.

I reviewed his first book, *Take Me With You*, (Traveler's Tales, Random House: 2000) a few years ago in the Bulletin. He has

just come out with a self-published book that I will call an "anecdotal journal autobiography." This latest book is part and

parcel a 'novel' idea: If you write to him, he will send you a free copy of the book, but you have to promise to read it! *Free Ride—Mercy and Madness on the Streets of God's Favorite City*, takes you through his daily taxi shifts, his words weaving skillfully as though through traffic and up the San Francisco hills that tourists are so taken with, interspersed with his own fascinating history.

You can check out his energetic life on Facebook and bradnewsham.com, and write to him at newsham@mac.com for a loaner copy of his latest book, *Free Ride*. It's a great read!

—Wendy Kilpatrick

Note: Wendy wrote this piece in response to a Bulletin request for news about Hollin Hills 'alumni.' Others are encouraged to do the same.

This ex-Hollin Hiller chose a unique path and wants to share his story



Last month, the book group read *Native Son*, by Richard Wright. Bigger Thomas—poor, young, and black—is hired as a chauffeur by the Daltons, a rich, well-meaning, white family. He is supposed to drive daughter Mary to the university, but the young woman decides to meet her communist boy friend instead. Bigger is treated by both as an equal, and is invited to eat and drink with them.

Upon returning home, Bigger carries the very drunk Mary up to her room and places her on her bed. Her blind mother enters the room and, to quiet Mary, Bigger places a pillow over her head, holding it too long and accidentally suffocating her. Panicking, he carries her down to the cellar and tries to put her body into the furnace. To make it fit, he chops off her head. He stuffs it in, adds more coal, and leaves. Bigger writes a ransom note and goes to his girlfriend of convenience, Bessie, involving her in the crime. Afraid she will hinder his escape, he murders her by smashing a brick on her head. After a long flight over snow covered roofs, he is captured, jailed, and put to trial.

Book Review

The impact the book had is found in the closing arguments of the defense lawyer Max, a Jew, who is very friendly to Bigger, telling the judge that this boy should not be put to death because, "society made him so." Growing up poor and black, his character was formed by too little schooling, lack of opportunities, and most of all, by the perception of what black people feel, think, and do, that is held by the societies around him, both black and white. Max argues at one point, calling out, "We killed Mary Dalton."

This book not only tells a gripping murder story, but it also reveals the complex thinking that goes on in the head of Bigger, who now faces execution. It is a well-written and disturbing story. Also interesting to read are the "Notes" at the end of the book where the author tells of the many real people he met whose character traits he fused into the fictional person of his "Native Son."

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 1, at the home of Louise Wiener. We will discuss *The Children Act*, by Ian McEwan. New members and guests are very welcome.

—Elisabeth Egghart