

THE CONDUIT

NEWSLETTER OF THE PALISADES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

AND IN 1949...

BY MAYA LATYNSKI

Rummaging through our neighborhood association files, which go back to the 1920s, pays off! I recently spent a couple of afternoons at the DC History Center's Kiplinger Library, what a pleasant adventure: the room is quiet, the archive meticulously organized, the staff charming and helpful. You never know what you'll find, and even after you've plowed through everything you came for, there are neverending distractions in the form of books and papers about the whole city's history. And then you're hooked: ideas about what you may be missing and what you still want to explore will pop into your head at random moments, day and night. You're clearly suffering from researcher's syndrome.

One file I explored includes documents about the 1949 neighborhood Christmas celebration, seemingly the only mention of this event. How long did this tradition continue? When was it discontinued? Why?

The only other piece of evidence I found so far was in the December 1951 Palisades Citizens' Association newsletter, which announces on its front page that "The Community Christmas tree will be at Foxhall Road and MacArthur Blvd. in response to requests from many members in the eastern end of our area. This follows the custom of changing the location each year so that eventually all sections will be covered. A tree-lighting ceremony will be held at 6:00 P.M. on Sunday, December 16, in cooperation with the Palisades Community Recreation Council." What happened to the Recreation Council?

Judging by the detailed instructions, the 1949 celebration organized by what

was then the MacArthur Boulevard Citizens' Association must have run like clockwork! Numerous typed sheets instruct key players on their duties and timing. There were seven subcommittees, which were charged with permits, public safety, tree, neighborhood decorating and awards, publicity, invitations and funding.

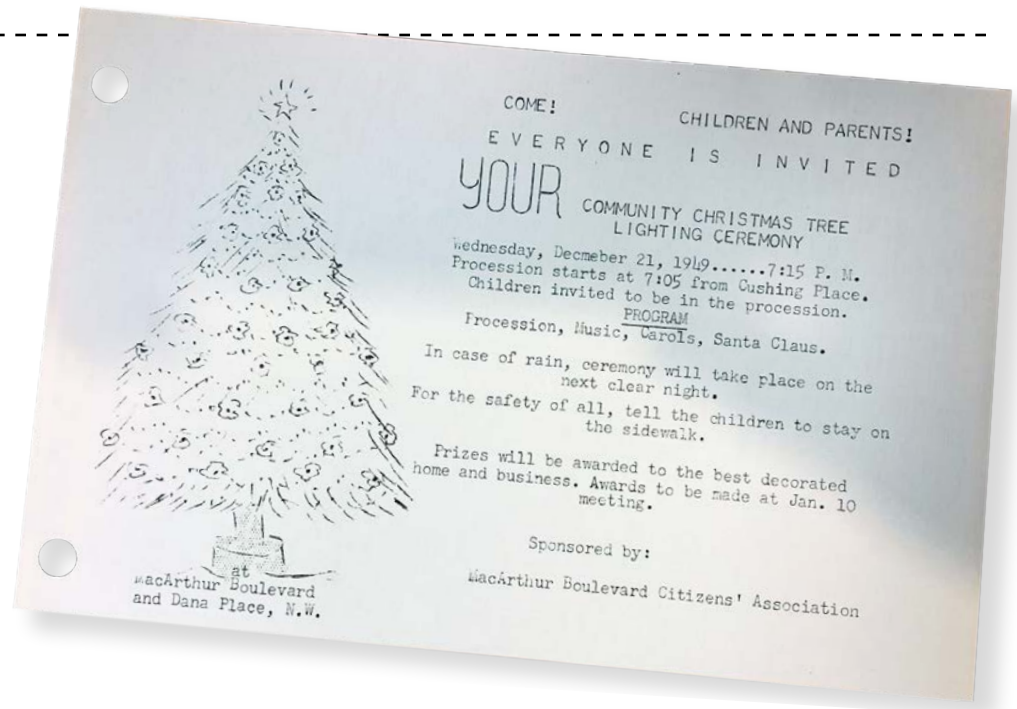
The event began with someone driving a Jeep to pick up Santa at 4621 Clark Place at 6 p.m. sharp. "Santa will be ready." The Jeep was to tour the entire neighborhood for fifty-five minutes, with the route clearly delineated. "At 6:55 P.M. he should be back at Stewart's Drug Store and there pick up the Accordion [sic] player" and take the two to the head of the procession.

By the time the procession had wound its way to the tree, "About 30 feet east of MacArthur & Dana, on the boulevard parking," it sounds like pretty much the whole neighborhood was there. The children and adults came in twelve units, including the Childrens Home Choir, the Neighborhood School of Dance and Art, and various Cub and Scout formations. The Brownies were to distribute programs "to every one"

Someone was to "Urge the various groups to sing the two carols 1. Jingle Bells and 2. Santa Claus is Comin to Town."

The six-part program to accompany the tree-lighting itself sounds formal and elaborate. There was an invocation by a minister, "brief remarks and dedication by Association President," a carol, "Lighting ceremony preferably by school child," a carol and a benediction by a priest from Our Lady of Victory. An organ was parked on a truck. There are instructions to the organ player on which six serious and traditional carols to play, no "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" [alas! it was not to be released till 1952!] There is a text of the remarks to be made by the Master of Ceremonies, which includes an announcement of a home and business decorating contest, to be managed by the Palisades Garden Club.

The tree would continue to be lit nightly from December 21 through January 6 from darkness till 10 p.m. And an "Invitation to Community Center to have affair at tree during period" remains a little unclear to me!





COME CHECK OUT THE RENOVATIONS AT MIMI'S CONVENIENCE ON MACARTHUR BOULEVARD!

It was in 2003 that current owner Mr. Lee's family was introduced to the Palisades neighborhood. We have all grown and aged together. Our precious child customers who were looking for little pieces of candy and ice cream have grown into teens, college students and young adults, who are all beautiful and handsome. We are so proud of being part of their memories, and we still remember their cute smiles. What a flying time! We love seeing the

growing of new generations. Mimi had a cosmetic retouch at the beginning of 2021, and now it looks much better. It was a MAKEOVER in a sense :)

We deeply appreciate all your support during hard times such as the DC riots and the pandemic. We could continue to stand because of your support, patience and kindness. Palisades has become our second home.

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RECYCLING'S WISHFUL THINKING!

On September 28, under the new pavilion at Hardy Park, Charlotte Dreizen of DC's Office of Waste Diversion gave a fascinating talk about recycling in DC. Co-sponsored by the Foxhall Community Citizens Association and the PCA, the presentation focused on how to reduce "wishcycling," the practice of putting items that cannot be recycled into the recycling bin and hoping for the best! In practice, "wishcycling" risks contaminating an entire truckload—when a truck appears to have a large amount of non-recyclable material, it will be rejected at the transfer station and the whole load will be diverted to the trash.

DC's Top "Wishcycle" Mistakes:

- 1. Plastic grocery bags.** You should throw your recycling into paper bags or straight into the bin without bagging. Plastic bags can be recycled at any grocery store.
- 2. Wet cardboard.** It's fine to flatten cardboard boxes and put them out next to the blue bin, but only if it's not raining. Wet cardboard gums up the works and will be rejected.
- 3. Food.** It is a contaminant, so please wash out food containers before putting them into the recycling bin.

It wasn't all bad news, though! During the Q-and-A, we got some happy surprises. First, all hard plastic (short of PVC) of any color is recyclable. Also, recycling machines can handle the grease on a pizza box, so just throw away the crusts and any small plastic items, and put your empty boxes in your blue bin!

Thanks to all who attended the event and a huge thanks to European Market for donating their delicious pizza!

—Wendy Lynch

FROM THE PCA PRESIDENT

Dear Neighbors,

As I look back on 2021, I am heartened at what the Palisades community was able to do during these strange times of the pandemic. Last January and February, time with friends was spent largely sitting outside by pit fires and dining outdoors under heaters. Throughout the year, the Farmers' Market was staffed every Sunday by volunteers making sure we followed the strict DC guidelines for health and safety. When the vaccines came out in late winter and demand far outstripped supply, neighbors helped at-risk and older neighbors get their shots in a timely manner. In April, we held a socially-distanced Eggstravaganza at the Palisades Park. By Memorial Day, we emerged outdoors for larger gatherings and the PCA was delighted to host our annual Fourth of July parade! We seemed to be in a state of quasi-normalcy for a bit. As we entered into Fall, schools were back to in-person learning, places of worship were holding services and offices were opening up, while masks still needed to be worn indoors. In September, the PCA held its first-ever Paltoberfest at the Hub with an amazing turnout; it kicked off Palisades Main Street. We launched our Instagram account and rebranded our Facebook account @palisadesDC. And Halloween was pretty much back to normal! Unfortunately, the fire station dinner typically held around Halloween was cancelled, but we were able to hold our first pop-up concert block party featuring the U2 cover band U2Topia.

What are our plans for 2022? We want to do all our traditional events plus more. One thing is for sure: we will be constantly assessing safety concerns at our community events and, I suspect, we will adjust to the accordion pattern of opening up and shutting down as we continue to adapt to this pandemic. I'm envisioning more pop-up concerts throughout the neighborhood. It's likely that we will expand the Farmers' Market by adding an additional mid-week market. We plan to do more of our community events at Hardy Park. We plan to support our small businesses through the new DC-funded Palisades Main Street. For next December, I'm envisioning a Holiday Market weekend with vendors, food trucks and music. We have received funding from DC for several improvements at Palisades Park, including a new dog park, a repaired skate park and a renovation of the newly discovered amphitheater. And don't forget to look for the new PCA website. In other words we have big plans for 2022!

I'd like to take a moment to thank all the people in our community who volunteer their time not just for the PCA, but for all the other incredible groups that support our neighborhood and people across our City. And thank you to everyone who comes out to enjoy our events. This is what makes our neighborhood like a small village. Finally, a special thank you to all who serve on the PCA Board. I'm grateful for their time and contribution, and what a fun group it is!

Sincerely, Tricia Duncan



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LET'S GET SOCIAL!

Hello neighbors! I'm thrilled to introduce myself as a new addition to the PCA Board, where I have volunteered to increase the visibility of the PCA's work and other neighborhood news through social media. I have lived in Washington, DC for twelve years in various neighborhoods, including Adams Morgan, Shaw and Georgetown. I was lucky enough to move to the Palisades this past March. In our search for a place to settle our family, my husband and I loved everything this neighborhood has to offer including walkability, great schools, nature and easy access to the city. (And Et Voila French onion soup of course!) We have loved joining this community and have felt welcomed.

Shortly after our move, eager to get our toddler outside on Easter, I tried to find information online about a rumored Easter Egg hunt at a nearby park. Alas, I found nothing and settled on our own backyard adventure. But sometime later, I was warmly welcomed by Maria Garcia at the Farmers' Market PCA booth and brought into the fold. And then it clicked! I could help others connect with the PCA and everything it does—including events like the Easter Egg Hunt!—online by tapping into my background.



I currently serve as the Senior Vice President and Brand Managing Director for SCOUT Bags. We are a DC-based lifestyle brand selling both online direct-to-consumer and through specialty retailers around the country. I have the pleasure of working with our marketing department on building brand strategy and finding how, when and where to connect with our audience through various online channels.

This leads me to our PCA social strategy. It works well, but we can do more with our email listserv, Facebook and Instagram to engage more neighbors, keep everyone informed and start new conversations. In the coming months, we will focus on announcing events, highlighting our amazing Farmers' Market and its vendors, showcasing our local small businesses, sharing neighborhood stories and having some plain old fun with features such as dog of the month!

Please join us online by scanning our Instagram QR code or search @palisadesdc on either Instagram or Facebook. If you are new to either platform, all you need is an email address: visit www.Facebook.com or www.Instagram.com to sign up. We would love to share your stories, pictures and news so tag, message or #palisadesdc to connect!

—Kate Kegan

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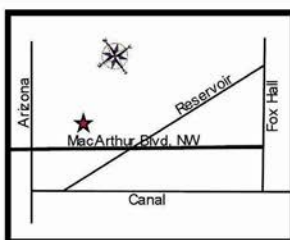


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IN OUR BACKYARDS: BENEATH THE SOIL

BY LINDSEY TRUITT

For several months now I've been reminded that it's time to start saying goodbye to the gardening year. Green tomatoes have been picked, perennials trimmed back and leaves are falling. When the spring blooming plants finish, we still have summer and all feel a bit solemn—winter is coming and for a few months the world will be less alive. Every year at this time I wonder how I will pass these winter days.

This year we've had the opportunity to get to know a large grasshopper in our rooftop garden. He, we call him John, could be identified by his large size, solitary leg and apparent fearlessness vis-à-vis us. All summer long, and into fall, we would find him methodically working his way through a sprig of parsley or a leaf of lettuce, or sometimes just sitting on a flower. Occasionally, he would hop or fly over to where I was sitting and land on me. I obviously started to wonder whether grasshoppers have a way of living through the winter like some other insects. Apparently, grasshoppers survive the winter "as eggs in

Apart from the future generations of insects, there are other important things lurking beneath the soil as the aboveground parts die back.

the ground." I think that this means that they do die but leave behind eggs that will hatch in the spring. Though I know I shouldn't be sad about the natural order of things, I do feel sadness, and I also have had to fight the urge to create a terrarium inside the house for John. So instead, I am going into winter thinking about all the precious eggs hidden in the soil.

Apart from the future generations of insects, there are other important things lurking beneath the soil as the aboveground parts die back. Bulbs from previous years, not seen since June, are lying quietly in wait for their cold dormancy so they can

pop back up and bloom again. Sometimes at this time of year, I gaze over my brown beds and try to visualize all the hundreds of sleeping bulbs in there. Luckily, it isn't too late to put more in now—as long as the ground hasn't frozen, and I have a box of 200 that will go in any day now. Planting bulbs is different from planting other plants because you really do just bury them like treasure. Here, months go by before you catch even a glimpse of life. There is a special type of joy, a hopefulness, which comes from the waiting.

As the weather gets colder, but before it's fully winter, also think about watering the evergreens. We often don't think about our plants' need for water when it isn't hot outside. Evergreens lose water through their leaves or needles throughout the winter, so going into winter fully hydrated is important. I like to use a sprinkler to really reach the full network of roots that extend in all directions from the plants.

So there are still a few tasks to do in the garden, and there are ways to meditate on what's below the soil in these last days of the year. And as the leaves completely fall and the bare branches open our view of the sky, there is a beautiful new wintry landscape ahead of us for the months to come. And then I will go find and welcome our baby grasshoppers as the green world reemerges.



JOHN IN FALL



JOHN IN EARLY SUMMER

ARTISTS OF THE PALISADES at the Palisades Post Office

DAVID C. HAMMOND December 2021–January 2022



David Hammond returns with his beautiful and historically accurate boat models. His is a rich, all-consuming hobby, which involves multifaceted research. David studies old photographs and drawings, and regularly visits the Chesapeake's maritime museums. (For a more detailed description of David's work, please see the Spring 2021 issue of *The Conduit*.)

PAUL ZAPATKA February–March 2022

"A Bunch of Birds"

Paul Zapatka, a native Washingtonian, got his art education at the American University in Washington and the College of New Rochelle in New York. He has had fourteen solo shows and taken part in numerous group shows. The most recent exhibition, a group show, was the first in which Paul's work was presented in downtown Washington's Touchstone Gallery and was virtual (due to the pandemic), "Spotlight @ The Touchstone, 77 Artists." Paul showed "Red, White, and Blue," an acrylic still life. Paul works both in his studio and outdoors. He has traveled across America and Europe, always getting ideas for making art. His subjects are many, as are his inspirations: Claude Monet, Vincent van Gogh,

Edward Hopper, Matisse, Diebenkorn, Georgia O'Keeffe, William Bailey, Giorgio Morandi, Georges Braque.

Recently, following the advice of art dealer Royce Burton, Paul developed a new interest in birds. His bird pictures range from oil paintings based on photographs he has taken at the beaches and elsewhere on Cape Cod, and some images from TV or calendars, as well as ones he takes out of his own apartment window in Washington!



IF YOU LIKE TO TALK, THIS HOBBY IS FOR YOU!

BY PAUL TAYLOR, Amateur callsign WB2GIN | paulus@fastmail.fm

Ham, or amateur, radio is an old-fashioned hobby, but it's so much fun! Imagine being able to talk to anyone anywhere in the world by just fiddling with radio frequencies. I've made some of my equipment myself, as do many amateurs, but nowadays you can take the easier route of going online by attaching a radio to your computer and downloading the appropriate software. The amateur service has expanded from spark gap transmitters to digital equipment. We've gone from spark to space!

My experience goes back to my childhood, when I first heard about amateur radio, a much more mainstream hobby than it is today. But for a while I had no

earned Amateur Extra Class, the top license. At each step, there was help from other amateurs.

Imagine the excitement when, with great trepidation, I tuned until the pilot light was very bright and called CQ, which is a wide-open contact with any radio person anywhere in the world. To my utter amazement, I heard my call in the earphones. This turned into an enjoyable QSO, communication, over 200 miles with another new ham. My first equipment was a Heathkit, which I had to put together myself. In those postwar days, you needed to build your own or, if you were lucky, get one for free from Army surplus. Canal Street in New York was the kingdom of surplus.

Ham radio is a worldwide fraternity.

munications services are back on to pass distress signals.

In the beginning, in the late nineteenth century, all radiomen were amateurs who used a telegraph key to transmit Morse code.

When radio became a going concern, the radio spectrum was divided by international law so that different interests would not interfere with each other and certain bands were reserved for amateur operators and licensing was required. In the United States, this is handled by the Federal Communications Commission. We still use the Morse code, even though it's no longer a licensing requirement.

In the United States, the largest organization catering to the radio amateur is the ARRL, National Association for Amateur Radio, which publishes a monthly magazine, QST. The association has nearly 160,000 members. The Long Island CW Club (LICW) uses the internet to transmit Morse code. It also offers other forums, such as an international listserv, to assist amateur operators with any questions they may have.

At present there is little operator-to-operator interaction in Northwest Washington. My hope is that the amateur radio operators in our area can improve that. If you want to know more or if you want an information session, please email me or check out:

National Association for Amateur Radio at www.arrl.org

Long Island CW Club at <https://longislandcwclub.org>

Morserino-32, the multifunctional Morse machine is explained at www.morserino.info



one to teach me. I studied a bit on my own, but that was not enough. Finally, one fine summer I got a break: I was on reserve duty at Camp Lejeune just as we were experiencing a bumper crop of snakes, one of my least favorite creatures! A sergeant came around and asked if anyone wanted to go to code school. Guess whose hand went up! Anything to get away from the snakes! At the school, I improved my Morse code. Later, the IBM Radio Club helped with the theory. I continued to work on it, got an advanced license and finally

By law, conversations must be non-commercial. Most are short exchanges, which give callsigns, signal reports and location (QTH). They can also be long conversations. Antennas are a big topic of discussion. Amateur radios must meet the technical specs required by the FCC. There are many types of radios, including weather radios, marine radios, business radios and citizen band radios, police radios.

Amateur radio also exists to provide back-up in an emergency, such as an earthquake, to fill in until regular com-

CATCHMENT AREA: JACKIE VANN

BY ELIZA MCGRAW

Jackie Vann is a graphic artist, designer and the owner of Undeclared Sales and Marketing. She designed the Key School penguin, and the garage-door wings on Edmunds Place are hers too.

Has graphic design always been your passion?

I always thought I would be some sort of artist. When I graduated high school, I really wanted to go to SCAD [Savannah College of Art and Design], which was brand new then, and my parents could not wrap their head around art school. I was trying to convince them. It didn't work, and then I didn't go to school right away, because I couldn't figure out what I wanted to do. So I went to community college in '95 or '96, and majored in graphic design and photography, because I was still trying to convince them that I was going to art school. Then I got an internship at Sony, and then they hired me, so I quit school. I did graphic design for them every single day for marketing, and within a couple of years, there was the demise of the record industry. This was all before Napster [music file sharing software]. Branches started to close around the country. And then I went to Baldwin Graphics, and I was their graphic designer. I always loved graphic design, I tried to convince my parents—they were like, what's graphic design? I was trying to show them, it's this label here—it's everything. I was trying to show them all this print, it wasn't so much online yet, but they still couldn't wrap their heads around it. But when I got hired by somebody, they were like, ok. All right, then. But then I never went back to school. I stuck with it. And I learned a lot about how to have fun with graphic design at Sony. When I went to the print shop, I learned a lot of technical stuff, once you're doing it, you kind of pick it up quickly. I love print the most. I love paper. I've always loved paper and stationery, I just love it. It's fun.



Will you tell me about you and [Vann's husband] Ross working at Sony?

It was called the mid-Atlantic branch. Ross had the absolute coolest job in our office. He took care of all the independent record stores. Soundgarden, Smash and some of the smaller ones like Kemp Mill. Where you would go to shop for music, that's where he was. I came in as an intern for the marketing department. It was 1998. It was kind of amazing—I came in and seemed like a genius in graphic design because they were still cutting stuff out and making letters and photocopying them for things; everything looked like a ransom letter. Then I came in and was like, I can use this program, and they ended up upgrading things. We did marketing for stores. If an album came out, like David Bowie, we would make these cards in the stacks so they would stick out of the stacks to draw your eye to Bowie.

We would have in-stores, we would have contests. Remember the old enter-to-win contests, when you were at a store? It was legit. There was no getting everybody's data, it was just entering to win. So that's what we did. It was a lot of fun. We went to a lot of shows. It was part of the job. I was an intern and then I got hired, and when I got hired I wasn't in the marketing department anymore. I was a mailroom girl. But then I got hired back into the marketing department. The mailroom was fun! I got to see all the posters and everything before everybody else did.

In terms of making your art every day, what's inspirational to you?

I used to have a book, I would rip pages out of magazines and put them in this book, design that I love. I love marketing, I really like how cool it can be. Before I went to school I loved rave flyers and show flyers that were kind of like ransom notes. But rave flyers were definitely using graphic design, they were just beautiful. So I really got into that. Magazine covers. Art in general, going to museums, street art, I am definitely not some sort of art history buff, but I love art of all kinds. I love going to museums. Photography. I just like visual art in everything. I can see a leaf—I saw a leaf on the ground a few months ago that had these water droplets on it and it just looked so freaking cool. I can just see stuff everywhere. My brother used to call me Eagle Eye because I would notice things in commercials or in advertisements and he thought it was funny how I would notice, like, a Butterfinger commercial—Butterfinger labels are yellow and blue. So everything would be those colors. I always liked it! Everything visual, I like, in art form.

How about here in Palisades?

This neighborhood is awesome because there are so many creative people in so many different areas. So everybody's really encouraging and supportive, which is really nice, just even walking around the neighborhood and seeing people's gardens. Like Lynda's [Cokin's] garden—it's awesome. We have painted rocks in our garden and people stop and look at them. It's like stopping to smell the roses, like giving you a pause. The wings are like a pause.

How did the wings get started?

The wings [painted on Vann's garage doors] really started because they were just big white doors, that didn't fit anything

in our lives, nothing was that plain. And then I started thinking about painting them and then I wanted it to be interactive for the neighborhood but not an eyesore. It's kind of an oxymoron because when it went up people were calling it Garage Mahal, which is hilarious. But trying to make something nice out of it. It's fun. I hear people stopping and taking pictures or talking about it and it's bringing people joy, even if it's

for a minute. I had seen wings around. There were some cool wings in London, I took pictures of the boys [Vann's sons] with them. They were really cool-looking, so maybe my brain went there. The Palisades is basically as cool as London. There's tons of street art in London, New York, we just love it. We did a street art tour in London that was awesome, which if you ever go, I highly recommend because, of course, it changes, and we learned a lot about different street artists.

What are you working on now?

My biggest client is WITA, the Washington International Trade Association, and I try to make it fun. They're really easy to work with. Programs, and invitations, I love invitations. I love designing any kind of invitation, birthday party,



weddings, you can make them so much fun. I love designing logos, but obviously because my husband and his brothers are all in real estate, I do a lot of real estate marketing as well.

What are some of your favorite things about the neighborhood?

I tell Ross all the time that these are my people. Again, because there are so many creative people, so many supportive people. I feel like we're in some sort of happy bubble. Even when

there's disagreements, they're really not that bad in the grand scheme of things. I personally love that those are our issues with each other. But it surprises you sometimes, you don't realize who your neighbor is and you get along with them so well and then you realize, they wrote all these books.

What about raising kids here?

I am really happy that we moved here. Both boys have made lifelong friends, as you know, that I just can't imagine them not being friends. And they had access to a city that's easy to get around, and we're not as worried about them, and it's kind of awesome. Our boys went to BASIS [Charter School], downtown, and they would cut through the Portrait Gallery to get to the other side to order lunch. I remember when the Obama portraits were there, and I said "I'm going to pick you up from school and just walk over there." And [the boys] were just like, "we have seen them. We go through there at lunch," and how awesome is that? Every day on the way to school they would see the Washington Monument, the White House. And I think they really appreciated it and the different things they got to do. They went to awesome concerts with us, and music is obviously a huge part of our lives. I've had friends that I grew up with who come back with their kids and go to all the museums.

There's a lot of nature for a city. I love it here, and I love that I can see great concerts, and that's really important to me, to our family. I have always told Ross, I can't imagine living that far away from the 9:30 Club. I don't know how people do it. I really don't. Because I have been going there since they were at the old club, which is crazy, there is a bit of a cool factor for people who went to the old club. Remember that pole in the middle of your view of the stage? I just love this city, I do.

This interview has been edited.

CHASING THE GHOSTS ON MY BLOCK

BY LYNDA COKINOS



IDA MARIEN, DATE UNKNOWN

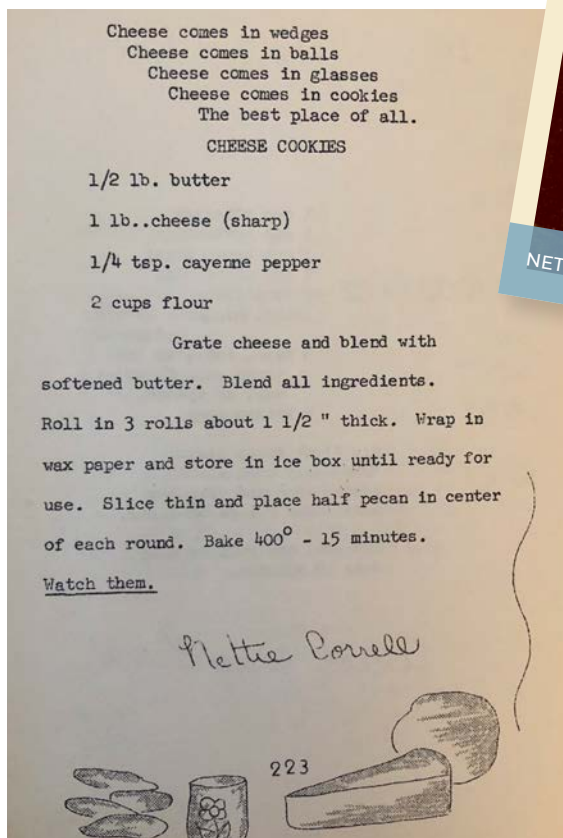
Once upon a time the Cabin John streetcar ran about a half a block from my house, taking city folk out to Glen Echo Amusement Park. One of its stops was on Sherier Place near Cathedral, right in front of a cottage where **Henry and Ida Silver Marien** once lived. Ida was a pixie-sized woman with a big personality. When I met her in 1994, she was eighty years old. She bragged to me that she knew all of the children's names for blocks around. I remember how she used to creep down the alleys in her little car, carefully tooting its horn in case her youngest friends were playing there.

Ida would bounce up and down when she told her stories, especially the one about her husband, Henry, who was sixteen years her senior. He was in his thirties and had already built the house he planned to raise his family in, even before he found a bride. Henry and Ida met when he jumped off a boat to save

her from drowning, she explained, waving her arms for emphasis and leaping into the air with infectious excitement.

Henry and Ida raised two children in the cottage that Henry had built in 1935. The property was a double lot with a seasonal pond, and I often saw ducks and heard frogs peeping in the spring. Before she died in 2002, Ida requested that her home never be torn down. Her wishes were honored, but with a twist. Before planting two much larger homes in the spacious yard that Ida had loved, a developer moved the house to the back of the property, where it would serve as a garage and in-law apartment.

Our neighborhood is rapidly changing as older homes make way for new, and stories like Ida's are disappearing with



NETTIE CORRELL

them. Every day the sounds of hammers and chainsaws compete with the airplanes and birds. As I started thinking about the history of this place. I felt lucky to have met Ida, but many of our original residents are gone. Who were the people who lived in these houses and when were they built? What other mysteries might they conceal?

When I first moved here, I heard that Palisades had once



MARY COCHRAN
AND DAVID CORRELL, REAR

been a summer retreat, and I wondered if that's why my bungalow had two huge honking radiators in the attic crawl space. There was no other source of heat in the upstairs bedrooms, a detail which made me bolt wide awake with anxiety the night before we went to settle on the house.

My bungalow, a Sears kit called "The Vallonia," was built in 1923. This was all I knew about it for many years. But after doing a bit of research, I found that it had never been a summer cottage. According to the 1930 census, a full-time family lived in it. The head of the house, **David Correll**, was a railroad clerk, and his wife, **Nettie**, worked as a newspaper photographer. Their two girls, Mattie and Nancy, were listed as David's "step-daughters." I was intrigued. I looked at the 1920 census and found Nettie living in another part of DC, married to a man named Guy Ould. He, too, was a railroad clerk. The young couple had a little girl named Mattie, which matched the 1930 census information. They also had a boarder living with them, and his name was... David Correll.

My imagination started whirling. What happened between 1920 and 1930? Did Nettie run off with David after a torrid affair? Was their younger daughter, Nancy, really Guy's child? Or David's?

No, dear readers. Shame on me. The facts are that poor Guy Ould died young in the summer of 1923 when he was only 31. Nancy was born in 1921. Nettie, now the single mother of two little girls,

bought my house in December of that same year. About a year later, she and David married.

While researching this story last summer, I serendipitously became involved with archiving photos and writing a history of the Palisades Community Church—emphasis on the word "community." From the very beginning, the church sought to connect neighbors with each other, and many

on my block joined the congregation. Both the church and this section of the neighborhood were known as Potomac Heights back when my house was built and the church first started. Nettie and David were early church members, and the congregation photos taken every year turned out to be a treasure trove of images. Hello, Nettie!

And here's David who was involved in church-sponsored community plays, along with another neighbor, Mary Cochran.

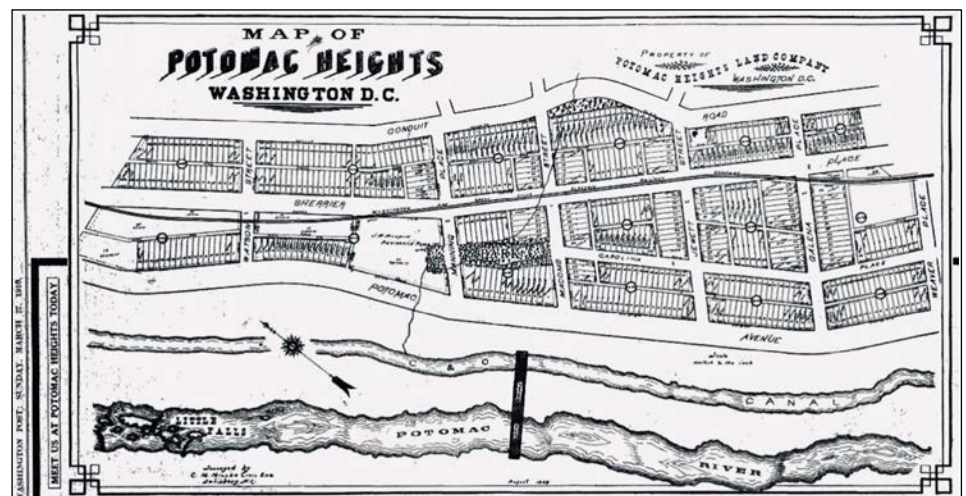
I also found recipes in a church cookbook from Nettie and others.

As I dug further, I learned that most of the thirteen homes on the 5400 block were built in the 1920s. In 1909 the Potomac Heights Land Company bought 76 acres, one mile long, bounded by MacArthur Boulevard and Potomac

Avenue, Arizona Avenue and Norton Street. Newspaper ads raved about the fresh air and the views of the Potomac which, they hinted, would one day be lakefront property when a dam was built below Little Falls. Only double lots were to be sold, and no home could cost less than \$2,500 to build. A wide thoroughfare was planned, overlooking the river with unmatched views. It would be called Potomac Avenue. The tract included a two-acre park at Carolina Place which boasted "two walled springs under wide-spreading branches where the air is always deliciously cool and the water cold."

Most of the first owners were born locally, many on farms, but some were immigrants. **Adolf and Frieda Frelitz**, both from Germany, settled at **5410 Cathedral** in 1928. All the original occupants were decidedly white, which was not accidental. Racial covenants were not uncommon in many parts of DC, and the 5400 block was developed by the Potomac Heights Land Company, which openly advertised the repugnant promise of selling only to the "best" people, vowing that the neighborhood would always be white.

The oldest house on my block was built in 1916 when Cathedral Avenue was known as Jewett Street. The address for the census was described as "the corner



of Jewett and Carolina Place." An older couple, **James and Mary Cochran**, were its first occupants. James was born in Luray while the Civil War was still raging; Mary was twelve years his junior and born in Maryland. They married late in life in 1905, when he was 43 and she was 30, and adopted a baby boy about 20 years later. In the 1930 census, James was listed as a night watchman. The couple took in boarders to supplement their income, a common practice back then. Both were founding members of the Potomac Heights church, and Mary lived long enough to man a shovel at the groundbreaking of the church's addition in 1958. Thanks again to the church archives, here's a photo of Mary and son George in 1926.

Just opposite the Cochran home is a Sears kit bungalow, which first belonged to **Suzie and Albert Kegal**. Albert was

SUZIE KEGAL NÉE KAMPF



a young son, Martin, who made the papers in 1940 when he fell into the canal while playing with a friend and his dog.

Earl and family moved to 5618 Conduit Road by 1942, but the older Kegals stayed in the home until the end of their lives. Susie died in 1948, and Albert in 1952.

The Potomac Heights developers attracted builders, and at least four lived on my block. One was **Frank M. Finlon**, an early construction manager at Glen Echo Amusement Park. Frank and his wife, **Tessie**, were both Pennsylvania natives and the children of Irish immigrants. He was a former carpenter for the railroad, and became responsible for many of the attractions at the park including the "gravity coaster" and the Dentzel Carousel structure.

Frank and his young family moved into the park's Chautauqua Tower in 1909. In 1926 Frank built a large comfortable home at **5419** to accommodate Tessie and their four mostly adult "children," most of whom married very late in life. Frank died here in 1942, but Tessie lived for twenty more years.

George Pruett, another builder, also built his own home at **5422 Cathedral**. George was born in DC in 1873. His first occupation was bricklaying. He married a DC girl, **Bessie Jackson**, in 1895 and was able to buy a home in Georgetown in 1906, when their only child, George Raymond, was born.

Twenty years later, in 1926, George and his son joined forces. With George as the builder and Raymond as architect, they built two brick houses at 3301 and 3303 Dent Place. When Raymond married in 1929, he designed a custom home for his new bride, Winifred, at **5411 Carolina Place**.

Being a mason, however, George was all about the brick. A year after Raymond moved here, George built a traditional brick colonial for himself and Bessie just around the corner from



SUZIE AND ALBERT KEGAL

born in Holland in 1873. His family moved to Wisconsin in 1881 where Albert married **Susie Kampf** in 1896. They also adopted a baby boy in about 1901 and called him **Earl**. Albert worked as a pressman all his life. The family moved to Washington by 1917. Albert and Suzie bought the house on Cathedral Avenue a few years later, in 1922, the same year their son Earl got married. Both families lived together in the Cathedral Avenue house, probably for many years. They also were lifelong members of the Potomac Heights Community Church.

In the 1930 census Earl and his wife have



MARY COCHRAN WITH HER SON GEORGE ON HER LAP

Raymond, with a solid brick garage behind the house.

The Pruett team were busy men between 1933 and 1940. They built five more houses much like the one at 5422, within a block or two of their own homes. Three "with river views" were at [5404](#), [5406](#) and [5414 Carolina Place](#). Two more were in the next block at 5507 and 5511 Carolina. All but one of these homes are still standing.

Early Breckenridge Rector was another early developer who lived on my block. Like James Cochran, Early was born on a farm near Luray, Virginia in 1886. He married [Edna Campbell](#) in 1908, and the two made their way to DC by 1910.

Early was a man with a plan. In 1922 he started building two storefronts, at 5441 and 5443 MacArthur. Some may remember 5441 as Ilijas's International Gourmet or Fox's Store, but the Potomac Heights Community Church was briefly Early's first tenant, when it rented the empty storefront for meetings and building planning from January to May 1924.

Early also ran a hardware store at 5443 MacArthur before ripping down both of his commercial buildings in 1932. He then built a gas station at 5443 (now Chu's Cleaners). The building at 5441 (recently DC Boathouse Restaurant) remained a store/deli. A list of stolen goods during a theft in 1927 illustrates the variety of things once sold here, including cigars, soap, shoe strings, pencils, gum, beads



and phonograph needles.

Early bought two lots on Cathedral Avenue and built his own home at 5411 in 1926. In 1933, he built the house next door to himself, at 5409. It was a rental property for many decades.

Meanwhile, Early's brother, [Carey Rector](#), developed 5101-5107 MacArthur. Carey and his wife, [Zula](#), lived here and ran a similar shop with a deli and notions at 5105 MacArthur. Carey, taking another page from his brother's book, also built a gas station at 5101 MacArthur in 1933 (now Bambu).

Both Early and Carey tried to get liquor licenses for their establishments in 1934. This caused quite a ruckus in the 'hood. Both were denied: one cited as being too close to the Palisades Church and the other too close to Key School.

The sturdy house at [5404 Cathedral](#) was built in 1926 by [William Young](#), yet another carpenter born in rural Virginia,

near Fairfax, in 1860. William's house is considered notable as a cement block structure and is mentioned in the *Ward 3 Heritage Guide*. Howard Cutler, the architect, designed this house, the Kodak Building in Rochester, NY, as well as many buildings in our area, including BCC High

GRAVITY COASTER AT GLEN ECHO PARK

Designed and Constructed by Superintendent Frank Finlon.

Of all the attractions at Glen Echo Park none has aroused the enthusiasm that the latest sensation, the Gravity Scenic Coaster, has, and the "ride amid the treetops" is the most popular device on the grounds.

Architects and many other experts have commented favorably on the perfection of its construction, but there are few people in the Capital outside of the employees at the resort who know that to a Washington man, Supt. Frank Finlon, of the park, belongs the credit for its designing and construction.

Beginning about the first of the year, he surveyed the ground and made the plans that enabled him to build the road which gives a ride nearly a mile and sixty feet in the air at places over the limited space he had.

For months the work went on, the structural work being framed in the carpenter shop on the grounds and then set in position, each of the supports being set in a foot of concrete. Some idea of the big task he carried out is given in the statement that 158,000 feet of lumber and 52,500 bolts were used in the building of the big amusement device.

Everything about it was built right on the grounds under the personal super-

School in Bethesda and St. Andrew's Church in College Park.

I think that William bought this house as an investment because he was living in Florida in the 1920s, and tried to sell the property right away in 1927. He ended up living here with his wife, Sina, and their grown son Calvin until 1933.

The house at [5408 Cathedral](#) was built in 1919, and bought by [Clarence Hamilton](#), a self-employed carpenter who lived in Cabin John. This house also seemed to be more of an investment property than a home. Clarence sold it to [Rose Dowling](#) in 1924. I don't know if Clarence or Rose ever lived here, but [Edith and William Blowe](#), who started renting the home in the 1930s, officially bought it in 1948. William and Edith had two sons, William, Jr. and Peyton. Both were students at Western High School. In the 1940 census William was listed as an insurance salesman. William, Jr., who had married a Sherier Place neighbor, Vera Maceron, worked

Boy, 12, Rescued From Canal After Half Hour in Floating Ice



as a mechanic, and Peyton was still at home. Both families lived together here for many years.

John Rhine, yet another carpenter, built the handsome bungalow at **5415 Cathedral** in 1922. He was born in rural Maryland in 1876; his father was a blacksmith. John and his wife, Florence, were married in DC in 1897. The house was yet another multi-generational family home and accommodated both of their married daughters. In 1930 six couples and three small children lived here—perhaps driven together by the Depression. I'm thinking it might have been a little too much as the Rhines tried to sell the house in 1929.

Six years later, the house did sell to **Nellie Hogan** who had been born on a farm in Natural Bridge, Virginia in 1883. Her parents were Irish immigrants and, like Nettie Correll's family, they had eight children. Nellie never married. She worked as a nurse and rented out rooms here until the end of her life.

Even though the Harward house was seemingly on the next block, the address is still **5429 Cathedral**, and its first owner, Fannie, was a strong woman with a head for real estate. Fannie L. Beasley was born just after the Civil War near Charlottesville. She married young and had a daughter, but was divorced in 1896 and probably made her way to Washington then.

In the 1900 census, both she and her sister Elizabeth are single women living together and working as a waitress and a caterer. They rented a room to a typesetter at the Government Printing Office, which may be how Fannie met her second husband, Charles Harward, who also worked there.

Charles and Fannie married in Washington in 1901. Charles, a North Carolina native, was 44, and Fannie was 43. Charles worked at the printing office most of his life. The two first made their home in a large boarding house which Fannie ran, presiding over thirty tenants on 13th Street NW. As far as I can tell, Fannie first started wheeling and dealing in real estate in 1907. By 1920 the couple had bought a home at 23 Iowa Circle (now Logan Circle).

In 1924 Fannie bought 5515 and 5747 Potomac Avenue (both now gone) from the Potomac Heights Land Company, and a Sears kit home at **5434 Carolina Place** where she and Charles next lived. In 1925 she bought the large corner lot at **5429 Cathedral** and in 1927 built a beautiful home across the street from the Sears house. Fannie's name appears as sole owner of all of her properties.

Although many houses on my block have been updated with various additions, I think all but two would still be recognizable to their original occupants.

retired from the printing office in 1932. He died "suddenly" at home in 1935.

By then, Ezra was running both Early Rector's gas station and the store which Ezra thoughtfully renamed Fox's Market. Fannie sold the house, as well as her house at 5515 Potomac Avenue, to the Foxes in 1936.

Both of these homes have made way for new construction, as has the Monez home at **5400 Cathedral**, which a bit ironically was the newest home on the block, built in 1935. **Joseph Monez** was a machinist for the government.

In the 1940 census the Foxes rented a room to George and Sarah Wilson. Keeping it all on the block, the Wilsons eventually bought the Pruetts' home at **5422 Cathedral Avenue** from Raymond Pruett who had inherited the house after his parents died.

Although many houses on my block have been updated with various additions, I think all but two would still be recognizable to their original occupants. I don't know why I was surprised at how interwoven the lives of those people were. When we first moved into this house, **Frances McFall** of **5408**, a longtime teacher at Key Elementary, made sure I knew about the school. Two other families threw us a welcome-to-the-neighborhood party, and Aisha, at the 5400 end of my block, made sure we knew a little bit about every house. Now however that history has deepened for me. I can picture David Correll and Mary Cochran hurrying up the street to perform in a play in the Social Hall or running into Rector's store for pencils or gum. It was fun to uncover their stories. Now, when I pass the median strip where the trolley car stopped near Ida's or head up the block to Mimi's for a quart of milk, a bevy of former neighbors quietly ghost my steps.



WHAT A HALLOWEEN!

BY MAYA LATYNSKI



And what a Halloween we had, perhaps even bigger and better than before the pandemic? The scene on Sherier Place was what it used to be at the best of times, a bit more low-key and homey, but also very lively. Even though it was a Sunday night, no one seemed to be in a hurry to get the kids home, there were parties in the street, a fire pit with 'smores, hordes of happy children and friendly costumed adults, dogs dressed up as lions and lambs, and so much more.

Prior to Halloween itself, we had the (now a tradition!) house decorating contest, with a record number of entrants. There is another new tradition, You've Been Booed, which involves leaving little treats anonymously on a friend's or neighbor's doorstep. Especially a new neighbor's! Once you've been booed, you keep the chain going by booing someone else. On Thursday there was the Boos and Ghouls Halloween Parade at Hardy Playground. On Friday there were activities and a costume contest at Palisades Park.

Thank you, everybody!



BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME.

Who knew, before **THE HUB** was created, that Palisades couldn't live without an all-purpose, all-interest, all-generation meeting place?! But here we are. It's been less than a year of complications thrust upon us by the pandemic, and The Hub thrives! Anyone can bring their ideas for community activities or rent space for a private event. The activities have been plentiful and there is room for more. They have included PCA and Palisades Village activities, seeing-eye dog training, concerts, history talks, a wildly popular Palober Fest, a Halloween "Hotel Transylvania" movie night and Breakfast with Santa. Almost every time you look at the Hub's schedule, something new has popped up!!! All this couldn't be done without the staff, Julie Simonton and Polly Johnson, assisted by an equally enthusiastic Community Advisory Board and other volunteers.

THE CONDUIT

NEWSLETTER OF THE PALISADES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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