

SAVE THE DATE ■ CAHH MEMBERSHIP MEETING ■ WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 7:30pm

# HOLLIN HILLS BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 2014

## NOMINEES FOR CAHH BOARD ANNOUNCED

Thanks to all our neighbors who did not turn away when members of the Nominating Committee approached you while dog walking, by phone, by text, or by email. Due to such a wonderful reception, the 2014 CAHH Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following individuals as nominees for the open positions on the CAHH Board: President, Gus Matson; Recording Secretary, Barbara Southworth; Treasurer, Susan Kubach; and for three Directors-at-Large positions: MVCCA Liaison, Michael Plotnick; Parks Liaison, Bob Kinser; and Pool Liaison, Laura Kistler. Photos of all the candidates can be seen on page 2.

If you are also interested in being a candidate for one of these positions, please submit your interest in writing by November 15 to Elisabeth Lardner, nominating committee chair, at [elbardner@aol.com](mailto:elbardner@aol.com). Your written submission must include the signatures of at least five Civic Association voting members in good standing. The final candidate list will be published, along with an absentee ballot/proxy form, in the December Bulletin. Additional nominations may also be made from the floor at the December 3 membership meeting.

All the positions are for two-year terms, with the exception of the Parks Liaison position which will run for one year to complete a prior term. The election will be held on the evening of December 3, 2014, at Hollin Meadows School, as part of the Civic Association's general meeting. Please make note of the date, and be sure to participate.

A very special thanks is owed to the terrific group of neighbors who gracefully and effectively served as nominators: Paul Krizak, Paige Conner Totaro, Tom Voskuil and Bob Blandford.

—*Elisabeth Lardner, Chair, 2014 Nominating Committee*

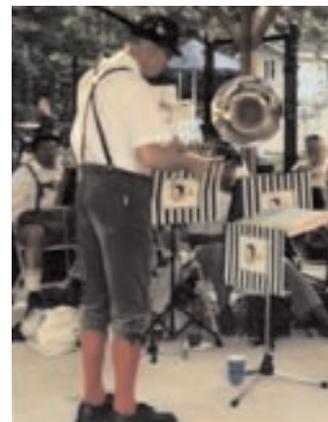
### PRESIDENT - GUS MATSON

Gus and family moved to Hollin Hills about 18 years ago from the Philadelphia area. Their first days here were overwhelming. A neighbor invited them for dinner; another invited them for drinks; a third delivered cookies; a fourth brought a plant. Barbara Liggett and Gus were stunned. Where had they moved? This place was definitely different. It was those experiences, along with many others like them, that led Gus and Barbara to love Hollin Hills and its community of people. Really, that's why Gus wants to be part of the CAHH. He wants to keep strong that sense of community that he has experienced here for all these years.

In the past, Gus was the treasurer (two years) and president (two years) of the Hollin Hills Pool, back when the pool had "presidents." He also spent four years as treasurer of the CAHH. Gus is now retired, but was a CPA and forensic accountant for many years as well as a software development engineer.

### RECORDING SECRETARY - BARBARA SOUTHWORTH

Barbara is a printmaking photographer, instructor, and consultant offering photography training and outdoor experiences independently, and for the Smithsonian, NOVA, and the Art League. Her photographs focus on experiences of connecting with natural systems and habitats, often centering on woods and waters where elemental nature's intricacy and intimacy go hand-in-hand. Clifford Wheeler and Barbara have lived in their 1000 sq. ft. house since 1999, and spend part of the year in Maine. She is a budding anti-fracking "fractivist." (Continued on pg. 2)



### THE OKTOBERFEST

From the top: A great turnout on a glorious day for our second annual Oktoberfest; David and Jaelith Rivera, a major force behind the Oktoberfest, decked out in lederhosen and dirndl; Greeters Christine Kelly, Ginny Kinzler, and Jodie Burns helped sign up new members and renewals bringing the current CAHH membership to 330 households; The oompah band lent an authentic sound to the festivities. More on page 4.

## CIVIC ASSOCIATION OF HOLLIN HILLS (CAHH)

### CAHH OFFICERS

President	Ron McCallum	765-9134
Vice-President	Patrick Kelly	768-2497
Treasurer	Susan Kuhbach	768-8154
Secretary	David Rivera	944-6563
	& Jaelith Hall-Rivera	944-6390
Membership	Betsy Damitz	721-2002

### DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Pool	Judy Beelaert	973-270-6247
MVCCA	Debbie Burns	768-2655
Social	Barbara Jacobs	660-6342
Parks	-Open-	

### CAHH COMMITTEES

ARCHIVIST	Judy Riggan	765-3025
Historian	Scott Wilson	765-4471
(Also see "Hollin Hills Archives" below)		
DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC)		
Chair	Mike McGill	718-2090
Members	Frank Collins	660-6525
	Christine Kelly	768-2497
	Roger Miller	768-2095
	Patrick Kelly, CAHH Liaison	768-2497
HOLLIN HILLS POOL COMMITTEE		
Chair	Rebecca Bostick	768-2240
PARKS COMMITTEE		
Chair	-Open-	

## HOLLIN HILLS BULLETIN

Published monthly since 1951 by the CAHH.

The 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.

Email or deliver your submissions to:

Barbara Shear  
 1820 Drury Lane (22307)  
 E-mail: barbshear@verizon.net  
 Phone: 703-660-6543

Send email submissions as attachments. Small ads or articles (1 paragraph) can be sent in body of email.

If you cannot produce computerized copy, try to find someone to submit it for you. As a last resort, type or print it clearly, leave in basket to right of front door, 1820 Drury Ln., and inform editor at 703-660-6543. No material will be accepted over the telephone.

Distribution: To replace a missing paper *Bulletin*, contact Eleanor Fina, 703-768-3174. To correct/change address, contact Betsy Damitz, 703-721-2002.

## 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 a general description of the Hollin Hills archives contents, go to [http://sca.gmu.edu/finding\\_aids/hollinhills.html](http://sca.gmu.edu/finding_aids/hollinhills.html).
- For questions regarding collections, hours, usage, duplications, or directions go to [http://sca.gmu.edu/using\\_sc&a.html](http://sca.gmu.edu/using_sc&a.html).
- Other contacts: phone 703-993-2220, fax inquiries 703-993-8911, email [speccoll@gmu.edu](mailto: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.

*Board Nominees, continued from page 1*

### TREASURER - SUSAN KUHBACK

After retiring a year ago, Susan Kuhbach is reinventing herself, exercising, puttering around the yard, and volunteering. She has lived in Hollin Hills for twenty-four years and for much of that time has been the greeter for a section of Rebecca Drive. She is the current CAHH treasurer.

### MVCCA LIAISON - MICHAEL PLOTNICK

Michael has been actively involved in community life for the past 30 years, having served as a board member and Treasurer of Bryn Gweled Homesteads (Southampton, PA), and as a member of the Southampton (PA) Civic Association. Mike is a registered Patent Agent and senior level Systems Engineer with over 35 years of experience in research and development, intellectual property, and start-up ventures. Mike has a master's degree in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University and a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Drexel University. Mike has worked in R&D for Bell Laboratories, RCA Labs, and Hitachi America. He has also been involved in a number of start-up ventures related to wireless networking, hand-held modular computers, and telecommunications equipment. He is currently employed as a Senior Patent Analyst at Global OLED Technology in Herndon, VA. Mike is a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians and former advisory board member of the American Society of Inventors.

### PARKS LIAISON - BOB KINZER

Bob moved with his wife, Lee Ann, from Oklahoma to Arlington in 1967 to accept a job at the Naval Research Laboratory as an astrophysicist. In 1969, they moved to their current home at 2100 Pickwick Lane, where they raised two daughters, Kirsten and Robin, two dogs, and four cats. Bob worked at the lab for thirty-some years until he retired a few years ago. He has kept busy since retirement by doing a few more practical things. He served on the Design Review Committee both as a member and chair, as the CAHH representative on MVCCA's Special Committee on Affordable and Workforce Housing, and as a Hollin Hills parks volunteer over the years.

### POOL LIAISON - LAURA KISTLER

Laura moved to Hollin Hills with her husband, Steve, in 2005, first living on Hopa Court and then moving a block over to Kimbro Street just this past winter. (It turns out that children can grow out of houses, not just clothes). By day, she's a full-time marketing director for a global travel company, and by night, you might find her chasing Sam (10) and Susy (8) around the neighborhood. She can also frequently be spotted trying to conquer our hills in her running shoes, walking her spaniel Ginger, and attempting to produce produce from her large vegetable garden. In her spare time, she tries in vain to manage her husband's addiction to cars and boats with an "if you can't beat 'em, join 'em" attitude. Laura has been a member of the Hollin Hills pool for nine years, and her kids are bona fide pool rats and HH Bluefish. She is particularly excited by the opportunity to serve on the Board as Pool Liaison for the Hollin Hills community.



*The 2014 candidates for the CAHH Board of Directors are (from the top): Gus Matson, Barbara Southworth, Susan Kubach, Michael Plotnik, Bob Kinzer, and Laura Kistler.*



# Quick Takes

## COMINGS AND GOINGS

- Ellen Dudar moved to 2402 Daphne Lane from Arlington in July and was already volunteering at our Oktoberfest a few weeks later! Ellen is a co-founder of FourthWall Media, a television data and analytics company. In her spare time, she enjoys pottery classes at The Art League..
- Long-time Kimbro St. residents, Stan and Lynn Falk, who moved to Porto Vecchio in July, have kept their same phone and email contact information: stanfalk@verizon.net, lynnfalk@verizon.net, 703-765-2426. Their new address is 1250 S. Washington St., Apt. 310, Alexandria, VA 22314.

## OUR NEIGHBORS IN PRINT

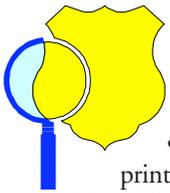
Two Hollin Hills residents, Ian Roberts and Robert Wineland, MD, are authors of recently published books.

Ian Roberts' handsome new book is *Hidden in Plain Sight: Moments of Beauty*, which he says is "a memoir of eye-opening experiences in stories and images...and the benefits of catching beauty on the run." The images mentioned are his own beautiful photographs that accompany his text.

Bob Wineland's *Flirting With Trouble* covers his much-traveled and adventurous adult life and is a companion to his earlier book, *Staying Out of Trouble*, which told of growing up in long-ago Washington, DC.

Contact them for purchase information.

## POLICE-COMMUNITY MEETING



October highlights from the monthly meeting of the Mount Vernon Citizens Advisory Committee :

- The sheriff's office fingerprints and photographs children as a public service. Last year they performed this service for 10,000 children. They also create ID bracelets for Alzheimers patients and replace the batteries for them monthly.
- "SLOW DOWN! You Live Here. We Live Here." is the message on free signs available at Gerry Hyland's office in the Mt. Vernon Government Center on Parker's Lane as part of a County public awareness campaign.
- The World Police and Firemen Games will be held next summer, June 21-July 5, throughout this region. With 53 venues, 61 events, 12,000 athletes, and 30,000 visitors expected, 4,000 volunteers will be needed.
- Our new Mt. Vernon crime prevention officer is Robert Urps, 703-360-8400.

## SCOUTING FOR FOOD

As part of their annual Scouting for Food Drive, the Boy Scouts will collect non-perishable food on Saturday morning, November 8, and deliver it to UCM (United Community Ministries). Place your food contribution next to your front door, in the bag that has been distributed by the Scouts.

## THE CHANGING FOREIGN SERVICE

On Sunday, Nov. 16, Mount Vernon At Home invites you to hear Eric Stromayer, newly appointed executive director of the State Department's Bureau of African Affairs, who will talk about the rapidly changing mission of the Foreign Service.

In an increasingly challenging world, posts formerly held by the US Foreign Service are being shared with offices concerned with drug enforcement, international business development, clean energy, and many others. Eric will discuss his personal perceptions of this fundamental change as observed during his varied assignments since 1989, in Burkina Faso, Calcutta, Rabat, Budapest, Madagascar, and most recently, his two years in Amman, Jordan.

Eric is a 1978 graduate of Groveton High School (now known as West Potomac), Northwestern University, and Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).

The talk will be at nearby Collingwood Library, 3-5pm. Given space limitations, please call Mount Vernon At Home to make your reservation, 703-303-4060.

—Mary-Carroll Potter

## ST. LOUIS 5K RUN

St Louis Catholic School PTO will host the first annual "Hawks 5K and Family Run/Walk" on Saturday, Nov. 8, starting at 8:30am. It is being held in support of the schools' physical education, health, and wellness programs.

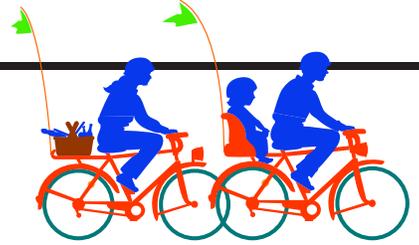
The race will start and finish at St. Louis School, and the participants will be running through Hollin Hills.

All runners are welcome. Register at <http://www.novaracetiming.com/Race/StLouis5K.html>. Direct questions to Kieran Mitchell, [stlouishawks5k@gmail.com](mailto:stlouishawks5k@gmail.com)

—Marielle Reading

## BIKE TRAILS, HYBRID TRANSIT

The Transportation Committee and the Environment and Recreation Committee of the Mt. Vernon Council of Citizens' Associa-



tions (MVCCA) met jointly on October 6 to discuss the need for improving existing bicycle and pedestrian trails and the need for new ones. Peter Christensen, Mt. Vernon representative to the Fairfax County Trails and Sidewalks Committee, and Ken Schrantz, representing Fairfax Advocates for Better Bicycling, focused on "connectivity gaps."

Discussion centered on the area's major routes, including Route 1, GW Parkway, and Ft Hunt Road. While there is interest in completion and/or improvements, impediments such as "by right" exceptions, and lack of rights-of-way and available space are factors. Specifically reviewed by the committees were the identified needs on Route 1, (Richmond Highway), Fort Hunt Road, Morningside Road, and Dogue Creek. The bond issue on the November 4 ballot includes funding for trails.

The final topic of the meeting was the anticipated Route 1 Alternative Analysis recommendation for a hybrid of the Bus Rapid Transit and Metrorail underground extending to Beacon Mall and Hybla Valley. Further information on this meeting can be found at <http://route1multimodalaa.com/participate-in-public-meeting-3/>.

The next Transportation Committee meeting will be at 7:30pm, November 3, in the Walt Whitman Middle School library.

—Becki Brady

## JOCELYN GUTCHESS

Jocelyn Fleming Gutches, a long-time Hollin Hills resident, died September 18 in Hanover, NH. With her husband, Frank, she moved to New Hampshire after retiring in 1989 from a distinguished career as an economist with the Labor Department and a founding partner of the consulting firm of Rutenberg, Friedman, Kilgallon and Gutches.

Jocelyn was an inveterate world traveler, a civic leader wherever she lived, and a committed environmentalist. A lover of the outdoors, she was an accomplished hiker, skier, and tennis player. As a founding member of the Over the Hill Club, a New Hampshire hiking group, she completed the ascent of New Hampshire's forty-eight "4000 Footer" mountains not once, but four times, with much of this climbing achieved after the age of seventy.

# Oh, Oktoberfest!

We celebrated our Second Annual Oktoberfest on September 27, with over 200 attendees. Oktoberfest is a social event sponsored by the Civic Association and one of the benefits of membership. The weather gods once again smiled down on Hollin Hills, giving us glorious weather.

Preparations for Oktoberfest started shortly after our successful Fourth of July Picnic. CAHH provided the Oktoberfest beer selections, with four kegs being consumed. In a change from last year's food truck, CAHH offered bratwurst and German hot dogs grilled on-site, as well as sauerkraut prepared with special ingredients by CAHH President Ron McCallum. Many attendees raved about the food. We purchased the bratwurst and hot dogs from Café Mozart in Washington, and Bread and Water in the Belleview Shopping Center supplied authentic German rolls. David Rivera and Jaelith Hall-Rivera made all the arrangements. We asked attendees to bring sides and desserts to share, German-themed if possible. As usual, Hollin Hillers showed their creativity and wowed us with their cooking skills, with delicious German potato salads, beet salads, and apple strudel among other wonderful dishes.

The three rented tents were decorated with festive pennants and additional autumn decorations provided by Becki Brady. The long tables were covered with traditional Bavarian tablecloths.

Children's games, overseen by Judy Beelaert and Betsy Damitz, included a barrel race and pumpkin painting. (Lowes of Alexandria gave us large discounts on the pumpkins.) The Tennis Club graciously allowed the games to



Left: Barbara Liggett (in memorable Tyrolean garb) with Susan Kubach. Above: Steve Ryan, Ron McCallum, Mike Damitz, Andrew and Tania Ryan, and Cathy and Steve Labas celebrate Oktoberfest with beer steins raised.

be played on their courts—thank you, Steve Ryan. Members of two Fairfax County Emergency Squads arrived to show the children their trucks and equipment. Toward the end of the event, one young resident asked me if we could have an Oktoberfest the following weekend as well—I would call this “success.”

Live German oompah music was provided by members of the Mount Vernon Community Band all afternoon, with many members in Bavarian dress. The pool pavilion was the perfect venue for them.

The winners of the drawing for two authentic beer steins bearing the Oktoberfest emblem were Andrew Keegan and David Goldstein.

CAHH Board members were on hand whenever and wherever needed. Many thanks to all of them, particularly the Riveras, Ron McCallum, and Judy Beelaert. Thanks also to Rebecca Bostick, HH Pool president, and Steve Labas, who worked with us to make sure the pool pavilion and playground, including grills, were available.

Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers who made this event possible:

**Set-up:** Mike and Betsy Damitz, Judy Beelaert,

Ron McCallum, Peter and Ginny Kinzler, David and Jaelith Rivera, Patrick Kelly, Peter Jacobs, Susan Kuhbach, Debbie Burns, Andrew and Lynn Cheng, Nate Ha, Steve and Andrew Ryan, Mary Beth Keegan

**Membership Table:** Ginny Kinzler, Christine Kelly, Jodie Burns, JoAnn Hersh, Eleanor Fina, Barbara Shear, Ellen Dudar

**Games:** Judy Beelaert, Betsy Damitz

**Pre-cooking of bratwurst and hot dogs:** David Rivera and Jaelith Hall-Rivera, Betsy and Mike Damitz

**Master Grillers:** Jim Davidson, Jeff Beelaert, Peter Jacobs

**Servers:** Jaelith Hall-Rivera, Susan Kuhbach

**Photography:** Steve Labas, Jaelith Hall-Rivera

**Beer:** David Rivera, Nate Ha, Steve Labas, Patrick Kelly, Mary Beth Keegan, Steve Ryan

**Sodas and Ice:** Patrick Kelly

**Clean-up:** David Rivera, Jaelith Hall-Rivera, Barbara Liggett, Gus Matson, Peter Jacobs, Ron McCallum, Patrick Kelly, Andrew Zalman, Ray Mims, John and Debbie Burns, Betsy Damitz, Neil and Mike Green

My apologies and sincere thanks to anyone whose name was inadvertently omitted.

*Zum Wohl! (Cheers!)*

Barbara Jacobs, CAHH Social Chair



## DEALING WITH LEAVES

Leaf drop is a movable feast, its exact timing determined by factors such as day length, rainfall (especially during the summer), temperature (especially at night), and wind storms. Some years it starts in September, other years it's not done until Christmas. Some trees, like the American beech, hold on to their leaves far into the winter.

Leaf color is a sign that leaves are getting ready to fall – chlorophyll production slows, a layer of callous forms where the leaf attaches to the tree branch, and the resulting buildup of sugars leads to the synthesis of pigments, espe-

cially the carotenoids and anthocyanins that turn the leaf yellow-orange-gold or red-purple-bronze.

Left to its own devices, nature will recycle fallen leaves back into the trees. Leaves that fall in a forest will decompose and release their nutrients back into the soil, forming a spongy layer of humus that absorbs rainfall and prevents runoff. A deep enough layer will also smother the plants that nature doesn't want growing underneath deciduous trees, such as turfgrass. No raking, no lawn, and hence our annual battle with the leaves.

The leaves don't all drop at once, of course. First there's a few, then there's a flurry, then there's a flood. When the first couple of leaves

**REMEMBER:** Composting leaves on your own property is a good idea, but dumping leaves and other yard debris in our parks is not allowed. Please ask yard workers not to throw anything in the parks, either. Offenders will be asked to remove anything that has been dumped.

come down in September, the best way to deal with them is to ignore them completely. It's still warm, you just fertilized the lawn, which is growing happily, so you're still mowing regularly (whether happily or not), and you're not about to let a couple of oak leaves get in the way of all those blades of grass.

In October, as the *(continued on page 5)*

**Leaves** *from page 4*

leaves start to fall a bit more heavily, the easiest thing to do is to compost them in place. Your lawn is still growing, you're still mowing, and mulching lawn mower will chop up the leaves as you go. The resulting mulch disappears into the turf. This works best at the beginning of leaf drop, and it helps if you lower the cutting height a little more each week, which improves the vacuum action of the mower.

By Halloween, as the leaves begin to fall pretty heavily, this approach will leave a layer of chopped-up leaves that's a little too deep, aesthetically, but you can still use the mower to keep up with them. Hook up the bagging attachment and Hoover up the shredded leaves along with the grass clippings. Use the clippings as mulch around trees and shrubs, or spread them in an even layer over your flower beds, or start filling your compost bin to build a supply of compost for next year. Keep lowering the cutting deck a little bit each week.

Inevitably, however, the leaves will get ahead of you. A big windstorm brings down a huge glut of leaves, or the rain makes them too wet to mow, or you get a life and ignore your lawn for a week. Whatever. When the layer of leaves is too thick to pick it up in a single pass of the mower, mow the lawn a second time at a 90-degree angle to pick up the remaining debris. Or pre-mow in the mulching mode to reduce the size of the shreds, then mow again (at a 90-degree angle) with the bagging attachment. Again, spread the mulch on beds or put it in the compost bin.

If you fed the grass in September, it will probably keep growing until Thanksgiving, and some years you might be mowing into December. Keep using the bagging attachment to pick up any straggling leaves, and dump the mulch into the compost bin.

The biggest problem with raking leaves, other than the sheer repetitive drudgery of dragging a rake across your entire lawn, is the sheer waste of shoving all those leaves into bags and putting them out for the county to deal with. Trucks from the county and its contractors remove over 30,000 tons of leaves each fall, with most of them going to commercial composting operations (often subsidiaries of the Hyponex Co., itself a subsidiary of the massive Scotts-Miracle Gro conglomerate). Eco-nomically, it makes no sense to buy back your own leaves in the form of compost or potting soil. Environmentally, that commercial compost and potting soil has an unnecessarily large carbon footprint. Better to compost it yourself, and by shredding the leaves before they go into the pile you're helping them to break down that much faster.

—Paul B. Phelps

**DESIGN REVIEW****October DRC Decisions**

- **Kevin Lindsey**, 7720 Elba Road, received unanimous approval to replace a deck that was damaged in a recent storm.
- **Barbara Liggett and Gus Matson**, 7410 Recard Lane, received unanimous approval to expand a bathroom by bumping out an exterior wall on the front of their house by approximately two feet.
- **Barbara Kahan**, 2311 Kimbro Street, received administrative approval to replace the gravel on the peaked roof portion of her home with light gray shingles and gravel on the flat shed roof portion with a rubberized surface covered by the same decking and railing that are currently installed.

**Changes in the DRC**

The DRC interviewed two architects, John Burns and Ken Wilson, to fill one existing vacancy and one pending vacancy on the committee. Both candidates were recommended for approval by the DRC to the CAHH Board. On October 11, the CAHH unanimously approved both candidates to serve on the DRC.

**John Burns**, who is a past member and chair of the DRC, is the chief appeals offi-

cer for the National Park Service's Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program, and also serves on the Fairfax County Historic Overlay Districts' Architectural Review Board. John has written published articles and made numerous presentations about the history and design of Hollin Hills, including formal presentations prior to the 2010 and 2014 House and Garden Tours.

**Ken Wilson** is design director and a principal in the local office of Perkins & Will. He has been an architect for over 30 years in a wide variety of venues. For the past 15 years, he has focused on sustainable design and has served on committees that have developed LEED rating systems for both Commercial Interiors and Core & Shell Buildings.

Both candidates will begin their service on the DRC in November and will serve on the committee with Frank Collins, Christine Kelly, and Roger Miller.

**Mike McGill** has completed four years of tireless service on the DRC, including two years as chair of the committee. He has been diligent, honest, and judicious in his service and his work on behalf of the community is greatly appreciated.

—Patrick Kelly, CAHH/DRC Liaison

**BOOK REVIEW****The Ambassadors by Henry James**

Lambert Strether, of Woollett, Massachusetts, runs a literary magazine, funded by Mrs. Newsome, a much-admired society matron, possibly his fiancée. Her son, Chad, went to Paris earlier and has unreasonably delayed his return to Woollett, where Mrs. Newsome wants him to take over the family company. The company manufactures some homely, necessary household object that is never identified, perhaps because there is something vulgar or embarrassing about it. Mrs. Newsome and her carbon copy daughter, Sarah Pocock, have heard that a French woman is involved in Chad's delay. Sure that Paris is Babylon and that Chad is in the clutches of an evil schemer, they want Strether to extricate him. Chad, by the way, is 31.

When Strether reaches Paris, Chad is away, so he takes his time getting to know the city, helped by some of Chad's artist friends. When he does meet up with his young friend, he is pleasantly surprised to find him greatly improved—far more polite

and cultured than he had been at home. When he finally meets Chad's Paris friend, Madame de Vionnet, he is enchanted. He is sure she is responsible for the improvements in Chad. It takes Strether some time to present Mrs. Newsome's plea to Chad, who is still in no hurry to return. At this point, neither is Strether, who has been attending parties, the theater, and the opera and no doubt eating very well.

Eventually, the inevitable happens: Mrs. Newsome sends a second bevy of ambassadors, including the formidable Sarah Pocock, her very American husband, Jim, and Jim's sister, the 19-year-old Mamie Pocock, who has probably been sent along as bait to get Chad to return. Although he has learned the truth about Chad and Madame de Vionnet, Mrs. Newsome's original ambassador is now on his own mission: he tells Chad it would disgraceful to desert Madame de Vionnet. He also promotes the budding romance between Mamie and one of Chad's American artist friends.

At the end, Strether (*continued on page 6*)

**Book Review** *from page 5*

turns down a proposal from an American expatriate and is arranging to return to Woollett, where he probably has no job and no fiancée. Chad seems to be reassuring Strether that he will remain with Madame de Vionnet, but then his eyes light up when he mentions a miraculous new aid to support business—advertising—and how it can stir up business.

The Book Club will meet on November 12, 2pm, at the home of Sandy Kabat to discuss *Plain Song*, by Kurt Haruf, about seven people, young and old, in a Colorado town. On Dec. 10, we will discuss *Americanah*, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, about two Nigerians who sharply observe the U.S., the U.K., and their own country. Both authors have won several prizes.

—Louie Wiener

## MUSIC MAN

In addition to last month's links for local venues, be sure to look at links shown below for other dates, performances. Most are free except where noted, although contributions are often appreciated.

- **Sat., 11/1**, 7pm, Lyceum: Ars Nova - R. Strauss: Serenade in E flat Major, Op. 7, Mendelssohn: Die Hebriden, Op. 26, Beethoven: Symphony No. 7 in A Major, Op. 92, [www.ancoselfconducted.org](http://www.ancoselfconducted.org)
- **Sun., 11/2**, 6:30pm, Carlyle Club: Uptown Vocal Jazz Quartet cover charge \$20, [www.uptownvocaljazzquartet.com](http://www.uptownvocaljazzquartet.com)

[www.thecarlyleclub.com](http://www.thecarlyleclub.com)

- **Thurs., 11/6**, 8pm, Lyceum: US Air Force Brass Ensemble [www.usafband.af.mil/](http://www.usafband.af.mil/)
- **Fri., 11/7**, 7pm, George Mason University Harris Theater: US Army Blues (big band jazz), [www.usarmyband.com/](http://www.usarmyband.com/)
- **Sat., 11/8**, 7pm, St. Aiden's Episc. Church, 8531 Riverside Rd. Alexandria: Focus Concerts - Modern Man plus Kipyn Martin (singers/songwriters) \$15 advance, \$18 at door, [http://www.focusmusic.org/venue\\_mountvernon.php](http://www.focusmusic.org/venue_mountvernon.php)
- **Sun., 11/9**, 3pm, Smithsonian American Art Museum, McEvoy Auditorium: Steinway Series, Smithsonian Chamber Players - Beethoven, Schumann.
- **Tues., 11/11**, 3pm, Mount Vernon, Smith Auditorium: US Air Force Strings, [www.usafband.af.mil/](http://www.usafband.af.mil/)
- **Sat., 11/15**, 2-4pm, Anacostia Community Museum: Smithsonian Rhythm Cafe: Charlie Parker w. Strings, [www.culturecapital.com/](http://www.culturecapital.com/)
- **Thurs., 11/20**, 5-7pm Smithsonian American Art Museum, Kogad Courtyard: Take 5 Music of Larry Young (jazz), <http://www.americanart.si.edu/calendar/index.cfm#!/?i=6>
- **Fri., 11/21**, 8pm (pre-concert conversation 6:30), Library of Congress, Coolidge Auditorium: Ensemble Caprice New World Baroque, free tickets from TicketMaster.com, <http://ensemblecaprice.com/en/>
- **Sun., 11/23**, 3pm, Marine Barracks, 7th and K St. SE, John Philip Sousa Band Hall, Interservice Saxophone Ensemble Concert, <http://www.marineband.marines.mil/Calen>

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events/aldenconcerts/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events/aldenconcerts/)

- **Sun., 11/23**, 3pm, Alden Theater, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean: Josef Spacek (violin), [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events/aldenconcerts/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events/aldenconcerts/)

—Tony Jordan

## CLASSIFIEDS

**HOLIDAY HOUSESITTERS** available December 24-Jan 7. I am a former Hollin Meadows resident with many old friends in HH. Our family of 2 adults and 2 quiet teens would like to housesit and provide pet and plant care for you while visiting our family in Hollin Meadows. Currently reside in Sweden. *For more information and references, contact me at [melindasedgley@hotmail.com](mailto:melindasedgley@hotmail.com)*

**CAT FOUND** in White Oaks Park, corner Paul Spring and Devonshire, Sept 12. Very nice grey adult male tuxedo. —Wendy Montanari, 703-765-7163

**UNCLAIMED** from the Oktoberfest: 1 pair Ray Ban sunglasses, 1 large metal bowl. *Contact Barbara Jacobs, 703-660-6342, [pnbjacob@verizon.net](mailto:pnbjacob@verizon.net).*

**HELP AVAILABLE:** Need a driver? dog walker? someone to do odd jobs? Long-time Hollin Hills resident Andrew Ryan (26) seeking part-time work, \$10 an hour.. References available. *Call 703-768-4926*