

2015

THE HOLLIN HILLS BULLETIN ■ JANUARY 2015 Happy New Year!

CAHH MEETING TOPICS INCLUDED BUDGET, ELECTION, LITIGATION

On December 3, 2014, 7:30pm., the Fall Membership Meeting of the Civic Association of Hollin Hills (CAHH) was held at Hollin Meadows Elementary School. A quorum was reached, and Ron McCallum, president, presided. Upon motion, the reading of the minutes of the prior membership meeting was waived.

Treasurer's Report:

Susan Kuhbach first provided an overview of finances to date relative to the 2014 budget. There was a surplus of \$23,000, which is higher than predicted and due primarily to a very successful House and Garden Tour. Also, in all revenue categories we did better than anticipated. For example, memberships are up to 331 households, an increase of 10 over last year. Some expenses were also less than predicted. For example, we changed the format of the Winter Potluck, traditionally a lasagna dinner, to an appetizer event due to construction at the church. This resulted in significant savings. For calendar 2014, CAHH still has some outstanding parks bills to pay as well as more legal bills. By the end of the year we expect to be closer to a \$20,000 surplus – still higher than the expected \$10,000 surplus. Susan thanked Barry Pearson and Ron Ullrich, who cleared debris from trails in

the parks and to Lee Ann and Bob Kinzer, who did bridge repairs. Those actions resulted in savings and they are much appreciated.

Susan then provided an overview of the proposed 2015 budget, as follows:

- **Legal fees:** The proposal only allocates \$2,000 for legal fees. With the pending litigation (more below), we can expect that the number will be larger. However, we don't have a guide for those expenses at this time. Any legal expenses above the allocation will be drawn from reserves (savings).

- **Balanced budget:** The Board is proposing a balanced budget, which is unusual for CAHH. The proposed budget for 2014, for example, yielded a \$7,600 deficit. The year before that we intentionally ran a deficit to pay expenses for taking down numerous trees in the parks. These deficits were funded in part by proceeds from the House and Garden Tour. However, in anticipation of increased legal expenses, the Board has intentionally proposed a balanced budget. The budget proposes conservative revenues, and the Board evaluated each expense and found some savings. For example, we are going to change our accounting software, which is very expensive and has more features than we need. Also, we are not intending to distribute a printed Directory in 2015. We will do so in 2016. Updates will be provided electronically by email. Last year we received positive feedback about the cost-saving appetizer event for the Winter Potluck, so we are doing so again in 2015.

- **Parks:** Parks costs are a large part of the



budget—\$22,900 proposed for 2015. Built into this amount is \$10,000 for tree removal. While in 2014 we had budgeted only \$1,000 for unexpected tree removal, we spent considerably more than that. In 2015 we have budgeted for the mowing and other work Jose Chavez does, which he has agreed to do at the same cost as last year. The \$10,000 for tree removal is a dedicated expense, which, if it is not spent, will not automatically flow into the parks budget. The parks chair/liaison will need to come back to the Board to receive approval to use any unspent balance for other parks-related expenses.

Upon motion, the proposed budget for 2015 was passed unanimously.

Litigation Update, 7305 Rebecca Drive

Ron McCallum first noted that he cannot discuss tactics or merits of the parties' positions in the litigation. He did discuss what has happened so far.

- CAHH filed a complaint in Fairfax County Circuit Court against Ms. Cutler, asking for relief in the form of restoration of her roof to its original form.

- Following that, Ms. Cutler hired an attorney that filed a "plea in bar," arguing that CAHH lacks standing because it is not a property owner in Section 6 of Hollin Hills. The (continued on pg. 2)



CIVIC ASSOCIATION OF HOLLIN HILLS (CAHH)

CAHH OFFICERS

President Gus Matson	768-3797
Vice-President Patrick Kelly	768-2497
Treasurer Susan Kuhbach	768-8154
Secretary Barbara Southworth	721-0734
Membership Betsy Damitz	721-2002

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Pool Laura Kistler	768-4161
MVCCA Michael Plotnik	660-6272
Social Barbara Jacobs	660-6342
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
Christine Kelly	768-2497
Roger Miller	768-2095
Ken Wilson	768-5838
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.
- For questions regarding 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.

CAHH Meeting *continued from page 1*

CAHH is a property owner in Hollin Hills, with over 20 acres of ownership, but not in that Section.

• The other ground Ms. Cutler's attorney provided was that it was not filed on time, within 30 days of construction. Ron noted that the complaint was filed on September 2 and the county issued the final inspection on September 3. The inspection is part of the public record and it notes that there are several items remaining to be done.

• A court hearing has been set for January 29 on the plea in bar motion, the purpose of which to hear argument on the merits of the parties' legal positions.

• We have no information on timing for a trial, if one were to occur following the ruling on the plea in bar motion.

• It was not known if the potential trial would be held before a judge or a jury.

• Ms. Cutler's brief is due January 1 and our response is due January 15. Once those documents are filed, they will become public records.

• There have been some discussions between the attorneys about where the case could go and what could be done. However, there is nothing at this point that appears to lead the way for resolving the dispute amicably.

• Ron also noted that, on the advice of counsel, we did not file a temporary restraining order because the damage we would suffer would not be considered "irreparable" in a legal sense, since the new roof can be deconstructed. The new

roof was constructed by placing trusses on top of existing trusses, at least in the main part of the house.

CAHH Members asked a number of questions and engaged in a dialogue about the legal action. Information was shared, but no decisions were made nor were any motions offered.

Election of Board Members:

The following were nominated for positions on the CAHH Board:

Gus Matson - President
Barbara Southworth - Secretary
Susan Kuhbach - Treasurer
Michael Plotnick - MVCCA Liaison
Bob Kinzer - Parks Liaison
Laura Kistler - Pool Liaison

A motion was made and seconded to elect these Board Members en masse. The motion was approved unanimously.

Other Matters

Ron McCallum thanked the nominating committee: Elizabeth Lardner (chair), Bob Blandford, Paige Conner-Totaro, Paul Krizek, and Tom Voskuil.

He also offered a general thank you to other volunteers: the DRC, the park wardens, archivist Judy Riggan, Barbara Shear, the Bulletin editor, Mike McGill, the recent past DRC chair; and Michael Hentges, who prepared and designed the Directory.

As the outgoing president, Ron himself was then thanked by CAHH members for his two years of service.

The meeting adjourned at 8:24.

—*Jaelith Hall-Rivera, CAHH Secretary*

Design Review

The Design Review Committee met on December 10, at Sherwood Hall Library, with the following members in attendance: Frank Collins (chair), John Burns, Christine Kelly, Roger Miller, and Ken Wilson.

• **Jamie Agnew, 2320 Kimbro Street**, received preliminary feedback for renovations on her home. She will return before the DRC for final approval once her plans are completed.

• **Katie Fleming, 7217 Stafford Road**,

represented by her architect, Christine Kelly, requested approval for a new carport at her home. The DRC voted to have the plans resubmitted after revisions were made to reflect the integration of the existing patio structure with the carport. The motion passed by a 3-1 vote. (Christine Kelly recused herself from the vote.)

—*Patrick Kelly*



QuickTakes

THIS IS NOT AN AUDIT!

Wanted: Someone to examine the Civic Association's 2014 accounts, as called for in our bylaws. Working conditions are good: work at home (in your pajamas even); flexible hours (the books close December 31 and the review isn't due until the spring membership meeting in late March/early April); nice people to work with (our treasurer, Susan Kuhbach). The only drawback is the pay (\$0).

You do not need to be a CPA to qualify. This is not an "audit" or "review" as accountants use those terms, only an assessment of whether the Association's income and expenses are reasonably documented.

If you are able to help out, please contact Susan Kuhbach, 703-768-8154 or skuhbach@yahoo.com.

HO-HO-HO AND CAROLS, TOO

Thanks to the Totaro family for once again shepherding an enthusiastic group of Hollin Hillers who gathered at McCalley Park to sing carols and greet Santa Claus on Sunday evening, December 21. They had help, too, not from Santa's elves, but from many good neighbors. The Reading family, Judy Beelaert, and Sophie Nowicki supplied firewood, good ideas, and cookies, respectively; Katy Fleming helped set up; the Shears provided the firepit and tables; Bob Blandford set up the tree; Nila Patel supplied the electricity for the lights; Bob Wachter led the singing; and Bob Hale made sure that a very jolly Santa paid us a visit.

IS THE POTLUCK ON YOUR CALENDAR?



You won't want to miss the twentieth installment of our annual Winter Potluck, the Hollin Hills answer to the winter blahs. It will take place on Sunday, February

8, 5-7pm, at the historic Hollin Hall of the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church.

Last year, for the first time, an appetizer party replaced the lasagna dinner that

had been part of earlier potlucks. This more casual format allowed everyone to mingle more easily, and met with the enthusiastic approval of those who attended. The format will be repeated this year.

Kids are welcome to attend with their parents, but there will not be any planned children's activities.

Each household is asked to bring an appetizer to share, and drinks will be provided by the Civic Association.

If you would like to volunteer to help, or want more information, contact the CAHH social chair, Barbara Jacobs, at pnbjacobson@verizon.net.

ATTENTION, HOLLIN HILLS POOL MEMBERS

The Hollin Hills Pool will hold its annual meeting on Thursday evening, January 8, at 7pm, at the Sherwood Hall Library meeting room. Elections for new committee members will be held, along with budget and membership discussions.

Members have been emailed meeting information. If you didn't get your copy, please let us know at admin@hhpool.org or call Rebecca Bostick, 703-768-2250.

—Rebecca Bostick, Pool Chair

ROUTE ONE FAMILY GOURMET GOES SOUTH



Recently, we ate Chinese food so good I have to share—even though the restaurant requires a special trip. If you follow Chinese restaurants in Northern Virginia (or New York or Atlanta), you may have heard of the elusive Szechuan Chinese chef, Peter Chang. He would famously pop up at different Chinese restaurants, transform them into foodie hot spots, and then disappear. *Washingtonian* food critic Todd Kliman calls him "the Perfect Chef" and certainly helped with his fame. Well, the good news is,

Peter Chang now has several restaurants open, and there are no signs of more disappearing acts. We tried the location in Fredericksburg, and were pleased to find a broad range of wonderful dishes. While the menu does have standard Chinese fare, you don't have to ask for the special Chinese menu to also browse dishes like Hot & Numbing Tofu Skin, Tea Smoked Duck with Spicy Deep Fried Onions, or Beef in Szechuan Chili Sauce Hot Pot. We enjoyed it so much, we went again two weekends later while on our way to Richmond. So far, we have not had a bad dish. Anything in hot pot, anything with Szechuan Chili sauce, anything with tofu skin, anything that looks good to you—all are worth a try. The kids loved the Bubble Pancakes (see Maggie Weidenfeller above) and the fresh and crispy vegetable spring rolls. We were also able to get fried shrimp for them by ordering the Bang Bang shrimp without the Bang Bang sauce (though they did bring us the sauce and the side, and I can highly recommend it for those with less sensitive tongues). Peter Chang-Fredericksburg is just off I-95 and an easy stop if you are headed south. There are other locations in Richmond (Short Pump) and Williamsburg, and I've heard that there will be one in Rockville soon. Stop into one soon and enjoy some amazing Chinese food!

—Katy Weidenfeller

PETER CHANG-FREDERICKSBURG

1771 Carl D Silver Pkwy, Fredericksburg, VA 22401, 540-786-8988

Article linked in review <http://www.oxfordamerican.org/articles/2010/feb/24/todd-kliman-chases-perfect-chef>

FIGHTING THE FALL CANKERWORM

Urban forests such as ours are particularly vulnerable. Band your trees after the first hard freeze to protect them.

The fall cankerworm (*Alsophila pometaria*, FCW) is a small, undistinguished moth native to eastern North America. Its females lay eggs in late fall and winter in the tops of deciduous trees, where the eggs winter over and hatch about the time of bud break in the spring. The caterpillars feed like mad for four or five weeks and then rappel to the ground like little green inchworms on silken threads. After a summer pupating underground, the adults emerge in late fall to mate, and the wingless females climb back up the trees to lay another brood.

In sufficient numbers, FCW caterpillars are capable of defoliating their hosts, and repeated defoliation is enough to damage or kill even the biggest oak, maple or elm. Urban forests, which are already stressed by fragmentation, soils disturbance, high temperatures, and invasive pests (e.g., ivy and deer), are particularly vulnerable to FCW.

The county's Urban Forest Management Division monitors for "hot spots" by capturing the climbing females on sticky strips wrapped around the trees in fall. Anything over 90 females per tree constitutes an infestation, and in some cases they've recorded up to 300 females per tree. Their response is to spray the "hot spots" from helicopters with a biological control called *Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki* (Btk), a naturally occurring soil

bacterium that's safe enough for organic gardens. Sprayed in the treetops in early spring, Btk introduces a toxic protein into the caterpillar's gut and kills the FCW before it can kill the tree.

The problem is that Btk can kill other kinds of caterpillars, but only if they too are up and eating the first baby leaves of spring. And the county is judicious in its use of Btk—they've sprayed for FCW only four times in the past 15 years, usually on small spray blocks (less than 100 acres), and the low-flying helicopters use GPS targeting to reduce drift. Property owners receive written notices if they're anywhere near a spray area, and they can easily opt out of the program. Target areas for 2014 included a small block near White Oak Park and a larger area at the mouth of Little Hunting Creek, near Mount Vernon. Neither area was within 200 meters of a Hollin Hills property.

There's little reason to opt out, however. The program sprays only once and with a low dose of Btk, just one-fourth of the amount they were spraying for gypsy moth. In addition, there's none of the sticker-spreader that gummed up the finish on our cars; in fact, the frass (bug poop) from the FCW caterpillars is more of a threat to our cars and lawn furniture. Btk persists for only two weeks before being broken down by rain and ultraviolet light, so any species that hatches later will survive. In fact, research shows that spraying to control one species of Lepidoptera may actually increase the diversity of the remaining population of butterflies and moths. And the birds can safely eat the dead caterpillars, since Btk doesn't affect

At the time this is being written, (mid-December) Fall Cankerworm Sticky Banding Kits are available at Supervisor Gerry Hyland's office, one or two to a household, on a first come/first served basis.

The kits include instructions, tarpaper, Tanglefoot glue, and protective gloves. Homeowners must supply duct tape for attaching the tarpaper to tree trunks.

the guts of bees and higher animals (including fish, birds, pets, and humans).

The Urban Forest Management Division is investigating alternatives to spraying, and several environmental groups have offered to help them develop non-spray FCW control strategies. There are several things that property owners can do to protect their own trees. The simplest and most effective control is to band your own trees in the fall to prevent the females from climbing into the treetops. This involves wrapping a layer of burlap or bating around the tree, a few feet off the ground, then a layer of tarpaper or roofing felt, and then a two-inch strip of Tanglefoot™ or some other sticky agent to catch the climbers. Keep the band in place from mid-November through January, and refresh the sticky agent as needed. Every female that doesn't get to the treetop means a hundred caterpillars that won't be eating the leaves come spring. Search the county's website for "fall cankerworm" to find more ideas and information.

—Paul B. Phelps

AVOIDING SCAMS AND ID THEFT

A neighbor recently got a message on her answering machine claiming it to be the IRS and saying that she owed them a ridiculous amount of money. She called the number back, called their bluff, and they hung up. The IRS never leaves messages like this, nor emails similar messages. Report these scams to the IRS Fraudline, 800-366-4484.

—Wendy Kilpatrick

Suggestions from our Mt. Vernon Police for preventing fraud and ID theft:

- Review your credit reports annually at annualcreditreport.com. Contact the three major credit report companies at:

Equifax: fraud 800-525-6285, credit report 800-685-1111

Experian: fraud and credit history 888-397-3742

Trans Union: fraud 800-680-7289, credit history 800-888-4213

- Monitor your credit cards and bank accounts online for early fraud detection.
- Opt out of receiving preapproved credit applications by calling 888-567-8688.
- Use electronic banking if possible, instead of mailing bill payments from home.
- ID theft victims should get a police report and secure a 7-year fraud alert or credit

freeze. Seniors (70+) are advised to secure a credit freeze even if they're not currently victims of ID theft.

- If you receive a request to wire money somewhere—through Western Union, Moneygram, Greendot Money Packet, etc.—it's a fraud. Don't do it!
- Before you give, check charities at www.charitynavigator.org. Don't give to telephone marketers. They work for companies that are allowed to keep 80-90% of what is collected from donors.

Our Crime Prevention Officer is Robert Urps @ FairfaxCounty.gov.

—Laura Wirkkala



ENJOY LISTENING TO SOME LIVE MUSIC

Happy New Year to all! I hope you're not too hung over to enjoy some good music. Some of these suggestions are inexpensive, some are free.

- **Fri., 1/2, 6pm-9pm**, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I St. SW: Jazz Nights Legends Series #5 featuring alto saxophonist Arnold Sterling. \$5, children under 16 free, www.westminsterdc.org/jazz. If you check their web site you will see that there are Jazz concerts every Friday and Blues every Monday. Food and beverages are available from 5:30 to 8:45. Limited free parking in church lot as well as street and garage parking nearby.
- **Sun., 1/4, 3pm**, Alden Theater, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean: Cellist Steven Honigberg, program tba, www.fairfax-county.gov/library/events/aldenconcerts/
- **Sat., 1/10, 7pm**, Church of St. Clement, 1701 N. Quaker Ln., Alexandria: Chords of

Courage benefit w Kevin Dudley, Laura Baron, Bain Ellis, and RSVP (folk). \$15 advance, \$18 at door, www.focusmusic.org.

- **Sun., 1/11, 4pm**, Vienna Presbyterian Church: US Army Orchestra - A Viennese New Year, www.usarmyband.com.
- **Mon., 1/12, 7pm**, Bistrot Lepic, 1736 Conn. Ave. NW.: Hot Club of DC (gypsy jazz) www.hcofdc.com
- **Sat., 1/17, 7pm**, Celebration Center for Spiritual Learning, 2840 Graham Rd., Falls Church: Aaron Nathans and Michael G. Ronstadt (folk) \$15 advance, \$18 at door, www.focusmusic.org.
- **Sun., 1/18, 2-4pm**, Schlesinger Concert Hall: Marine Chamber Orchestra, Primary Colors, works by Jean Francaix, Schoenberg, Mozart, Beethoven, www.marineband.marines.mil
- **Wed., 1/21, 7pm**, Bistrot Lepic: Hot Club of DC, www.hcofdc.com
- **Sat., 1/24, 3pm**, Kensington Baptist Church, 10100 Conn. Ave., Kensington, MD: Ars Nova Chamber Orchestra featuring Martian: Nonet, Nielsen: Serenata

in vano, Spohr: Nonet in F Major, Op. 31. See web site for tickets, www.ancoselfconducted.org

- **Sat., 7:30pm**, Yorktown HS: US Army Blues with Yorktown Jazz Ensemble, www.usarmyband.com
- **Sun., 1/25, 3pm**, Sydenstricker United Methodist Church, 8508 Hoes Rd., Springfield: Washington Saxophone Quartet www.wsaxq.com
- **Fri., 1/30, 6-9pm**, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Jazz Nights Legends Series #6 featuring bassist Pepe Gonzales and vocalist Imani. \$5, children under 16 free, www.westminsterdc.org/jazz.
- **Sun., 2/1, 3pm**, George Washington Masonic National Memorial: Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic, Ross Wilson: Sparkling Dialogue for Trombone and Strings w Brian Bovine, Franz Liszt: Les Preludes, S. 97 Symphonic Poem No. 3, Brahms: Piano Concerto No. 1, Op. 15, www.wmpamusic.org.

—Tony Jordan



CURL UP WITH A GOOD BOOK

Benediction, by Ken Haruf

The November selection of The Hollin Hills book group was *Benediction*, by Kent Haruf, his third novel set in a fictional town called Holt in the high plains of eastern Colorado. Holt is based on the town of Yuma, Colorado, where

he lived in the 1980s. The novels, including *Plainsong* and *Eventide*, do not have to be read in any particular order.

Mr. Haruf, who died this year, was a native of Pueblo, Colorado. His writing style is lean and spare, as one might expect the manner of speaking and thought in a prairie town to be. Ron Charles, fiction editor of the *Washington Post*, wrote, "Haruf may be the most muted master in American fiction."

The main characters are an elderly man called "Dad" Lewis and his wife, Mary. Dad, owner of the Holt hardware store, is diagnosed with inoperable cancer in summer and is expected to die before autumn. Along with the day-to-day events of Dad and his family are retrospective experiences of his lifetime, with seamless additional accounts about friends and neighbors—both present and past. By the end of this book, only 258 pages long, we know and understand a number of Holt people as well as the Lewis family. These seemingly conventional individuals illustrate pettiness and cruelty, kindness and compassion, as well as tragedy, happiness, regret,

and satisfaction. And yet at the end, life goes on.

The group was unanimous in approving of *Benediction*. There was some discussion of whether a younger adult would love the book, or if such appreciation requires the accumulation of experiences that maturity brings.

—Sandy Kabat

Americanah, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

The book group discussed *Americanah*, by Nigerian author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, at its December meeting. We found it a challenging and worthwhile read and had fun figuring out how to pronounce the names of the many characters: Ifemelu, Obinze, Auntie Uju, Ranyinudo, Emenike, and others. The observations made by Ifemelu in her blog are a broad social critique of her home country and the United States. The settings are contemporary Lagos, Nigeria, London, and the eastern United States. She distinguishes American Africans (those recently from Africa) from African Americans (whose roots go back to the slave trade).

On another level, the novel is a love story of two high school budding intellectuals who find each other, becoming best friends and then lovers as they go on to the university together. Obinze first notices Ifemelu because she is a reader and because she questions a lot of things. Obinze's mother is a (*continued on page 6*)

Book Reviews *from page 5*

university professor and she welcomes Ifemelu as a friend of her son. Ifemelu's father worked for the government, but was fired when he refused to call his new boss "Mummy." He maintains his dignity by continuing to use long words, as when he chastises his daughter by saying "You must refrain from your natural proclivity towards provocation. You have singled yourself out at school where you are known for insubordination." Ifemelu is closest to her Auntie Juju, who is only ten years older and a medical school graduate.

The government's failure to pay university salaries and the resulting strikes lead Ifemelu to go to the United States to continue her education. Her Auntie Uju and one of her high school friends whose family had emigrated a few years earlier help her apply for scholarships and get settled when she arrives in Philadelphia. She has a few rough years trying to meet living expenses not covered by scholarships and

begins her blog "Raceteenth, or Various Observations about American Blacks [those formerly Known as Negroes]" She enjoys the generous love of a cousin of the white family for whom she baby sits, but breaks up with him because something about the relationship feels false. He is too happy about everything.

Ifemelu accepts a fellowship from Princeton, continues her blog, and stays a few more years in the United States, living with an American black lecturer at Yale.

Obinze's story is told in separate chapters. He graduates from college and moves to England, keeping in touch with Ifemelu by e-mail and phone until she stops the contacts. He doesn't have a work permit and, after working without one for a year or so, is forced to go back to Nigeria. It takes him a while to cultivate the contacts needed to get employment at the level he desires, but he becomes a successful real estate developer. He has married a beautiful woman and has a small daugh-

ter whom he adores when Ifemelu returns home. I don't want to be a spoiler so will say no more.

We learned a lot about life in the developing world, life as an immigrant without a work permit, how others see us, and about the care of black hair.

—Anne Parke

Next Book Club Meeting

Our next meeting will be on January 14, at 2pm, at the home of Elizabeth Egghart. We will discuss *Sweet Tooth*, by Ian McEwan. New members are welcome.

GOING, GOING, GONE!

Absolutely the last chance to claim the pair of Ray Ban sunglasses and the large metal bowl that were left at the Oktoberfest. Contact Barbara Jacobs, pnbjacobs@verizon.net or 703-660-6342.