A steady stream of renewals and new memberships has been coming in ever since late March, when the 2015 CAHH membership forms were sent to all Hollin Hills households, but there are still members who have forgotten to renew and non-members who have not yet joined this important neighborhood organization.

Our community relies on a strong civic association. Please ensure that your household’s dues are paid for the 2015-16 membership year that begins on May 1.

Benefits of membership
• Many Hollin Hills social events are made possible through membership dues, including the Winter Potluck, the Fourth of July Parade and Picnic, and the Oktoberfest.
• CAHH member households receive a free digital subscription to the monthly Bulletin and a printed copy, and periodic digital updates, of the Hollin Hills Directory.
• Membership dues maintain and enhance our unique and beautiful community by:
  - supporting the enforcement of our architectural covenants,
  - providing funds for the care and maintenance of the Hollin Hills parks and common areas,
  - paying for insurance as well as for the other operating expenses of the CAHH.

How to join or renew
• Fill out the form you received in late March, enclose your check made payable to CAHH, and mail it to: CAHH Membership, 1600 Paul Spring Road, Alexandria, VA 22307.
• Can’t find your form? You can download and print it at www.hollinhills.net where you can also pay online (a $5 convenience fee will be added).
• Can’t download it, didn’t receive it, have questions? Contact Membership Chair Betsy Damitz at bmdyard@hotmail.com or 703-721-2002.

BLUEFISH ALUMNI: IT’S TIME TO SWIM HOME!

This summer marks the 60th season of the Hollin Hills Swim Team (a.k.a. the Bluefish) and we’re inviting former members and parents to join us in celebrating with a season of Homecoming.

We will kick off our celebrations on June 13, with time trials in the morning, followed by a 60th anniversary reunion party at 5pm. Both will be held at the Hollin Hills Pool. Dig up your old photos, t-shirts, and other memorabilia and start training for the relay race! Over the last 60 years, the Hollin Hills Swim Team has provided countless children and their parents with priceless experiences and lifelong friendships. Whether you (or your child) swam on the team for one or fifteen seasons, we welcome you to come share your memories of this amazing team. Please RSVP for the reunion dinner by email at swimmingsince93@gmail.com. A $5 per person/$20 per family donation will cover the cost of dinner.

The Hollin Hills Swim Team is one of nine charter members of the Northern Virginia Swimming League (NVSL), that was formed in spring 1956 as a league comprised entirely of community pools. Hyman Graus of Hollin Hills was among the founding league officers and served as treasurer.

The league has grown over the years to include more than 100 pools and 17,000 swimmers. It is the largest, oldest summer swim league in the country. We are proud Hollin Hills was part of it from the beginning.

If you can’t make the party, try to stop in at one of the home meets. The races are thrilling and the food at the Bluefish Bistro can’t be beat! If you are in town for July 4, come watch our home meet before heading over to the picnic. For the meet schedule, team records, and other current information about the team, visit the swim team website https://hollinhills.swimtopia.com, or visit our Facebook page, Hollin Hills Swim Team 60th Anniversary. We’d love to see you during this significant anniversary season for the team! Please spread the word to any former team members you know.


The Hollin Hills Swim Team also congratulates the Hollin Meadows Swim Team as it prepares to celebrate its 50th season. Good luck, Barracudas!
—Saskia Jansen, The Hollin Hills Swim Team “Swimming since the Beginning”
Quick Takes

AROUND HOLLIN HILLS

• We have new neighbors on Rippon Road, Leland and Amy Owens, who have moved into #7302, formerly owned by Ruth Barriere (more about Ruth on page 6). The Owens family came from a townhouse in Alexandria and are pleased to live now with so much open space and so near a corner park. They are deep into the joy of renovations, discovering new problems to solve before the birth of a new baby in August, all the while caring for a 22-month-old son, Fergus, and a 9-year-old daughter, Sydney. Welcome to Hollin Hills! —Cindy Aarit

• And on Martha’s Road, there’s a very new resident for us to welcome. Congratulations to Tyger and Sara Latham on the birth of their baby daughter, Sophie.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

A memorial service for Diana Cross will be held on May 2, at 2pm, at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church. There will be a reception following the service.

ACCOUNTS REVIEW COMPLETED

Under the bylaws, the Civic Association’s accounts are to be reviewed annually. Ellen Rydell conducted the review for 2014 and found everything to be in order. A huge thanks to Ellen for her time and effort. —Susan Kubach, Treasurer

ODDS & ENDS FROM THE POOL

A last minute reminder that Hollin Hills Pool memberships are due by Friday, May 1. All membership renewals are processed online this year. If you did not get an email link (or paper copy for our few members without an email address) or misplaced that info, let us know at admin@hhpool.org.

The pool parking lot really took a beating this winter when the hydrant on the corner was hit, and water flooded the lot. Fortunately, Fairfax Water stepped up and repaired the lot for us, a nice savings to both the pool and the Civic Association!

The Bluefish Swim team is holding its interest meeting at the Pool on Saturday, May 16, at 4:30pm. Pool opening day is Saturday, May 23, at 10am.

This year, the pool will host a food truck (a different one each week) on Wednesdays, from 5pm to about 7pm, starting May 27. Even if you are not a pool member, feel free to stop by and pick up a dinner to take home. As we finalize truck reservations, we will have a schedule posted on the Pool website.

See you at the pool!

—Rebecca Bostick, Chair Pool Committee

DON’T BE SCAMMED!

Springtime brings out those persistent solicitors offering home improvement services. Some are legitimate; others are unlicensed and often dishonest. Dishonest ones use convincing business cards and vehicle logos to fool trusting homeowners and are often involved in other criminal activity, as well.

Always remember that soliciting without a license is illegal. Never hire anyone without first ensuring that they are insured and properly licensed. You can call 703-324-5966 for licensing information.

Scam crews often claim your home is in need of “emergency repairs” and insist that work must be done immediately. They frequently demand a large down payment and then never complete the job.

Beware also of distraction theft in which the “contractor” shows you items “in need of repair” while another crew member is slipping inside your home.

Be the eyes and ears for elderly neighbors, often the scammer’s favorite targets.

Contact the police at the non-emergency number, 703-691-2131, whenever you observe suspicious activity, people, or vehicles. Our Mt. Vernon area crime prevention office is Robert Urps, 703-360-8928.

—Laura Wikkelada

THERE’S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO GET THE BULLETIN

Your household automatically receives a digital subscription to the Bulletin because you are Civic Association members, but did you know that the newsletter can be sent to more than one email address at the same member household? Don’t miss an issue because your spouse has forgotten to forward it to your email. Send your request to Gus.Matson1@verizon.net.

Use the 2015 membership form for (continued on page 3)
these other ways of subscribing:
• Do you miss the paper version of the Bulletin that used to arrive in the mail? For $25 a year, CAIH members can still receive the paper Bulletin each month.
• Would an ex-Hollin Hills friend like to get the Bulletin? A non-resident digital subscription is $15 a year; a paper version is $30.

**RECENT DRC ACTIVITIES**
The Design Review Committee (DRC) met on April 8, with the following members in attendance: Frank Collins (chair), John Burns, Christine Kelly, Roger Miller, and Ken Wilson.

• **Jodie and Dennis Burns, 7618 Elba Road:** The DRC conducted the second review of the drawings for the homeowner’s proposed addition. Approved unanimously.

• **Brian and Christine Hooks, 7207 Rebecca Drive:** The DRC conducted a preliminary review for the extension of an existing pool and patio fence. The committee requested additional information and asked that neighbor notification be completed. The project will be reviewed in more detail at the May DRC meeting.

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 12, at Sherwood Hall Library. —Patrick Kelly

**HOLLIN HILLS RESIDENT IN DELEGATE RACE**

One of Hollin Hills own, longtime resident Paul Krizek, is running to be our Delegate. He has opened a campaign office at 8246 Richmond Highway (near Aldi’s supermarket) and invites his neighbors to stop by.

**In Memory of Barbara Blandford Helm**

Barbara Blandford Helm died at her Hollin Hills home on the evening of March 30.

Barbara was a graduate of Washington State University (1964) with a BS in Political Science. She and her husband, Larry, followed his retirement as a Navy captain, moved to Hollin Hills in 1994. Barbara quickly became active in the Hollin Hills’ community and the larger community. She served on the CAIH Board as the Membership Chair and participated on many committees. If Barbara cared about something, she got involved, bringing fresh ideas, doing a thorough job, and also getting it right. She had a quick wit (at times wry) and enjoyed nothing more than laughing with her friends. She was beloved in the community for her thoughtfulness, her willingness to help, and her loyal friendship.

We first met when we were both single, twenty-three, and working at the American Council on Education in Washington, DC, where she was Executive Assistant to the Director of Research. Later she left to take a position as Executive Assistant to Chancellor for the Minnesota State College System. When Larry returned from Vietnam incident to the general US departure, they married in 1973. She began her life as a Navy wife, living in Naples, Rota (Spain), Hawaii (twice), San Diego, and London. While abroad, she often worked for the Navy as a legal secretary or as a military-related office administrator.

Barbara had many interests, a curious mind, and multiple passions. She loved the performing arts, in particular, the opera, ballet, and orchestral and chamber music. Her enthusiasm was contagious, and she passed along this appreciation to many who knew her. She volunteered at the library teaching basic Apple computer skills and was a registered EBay seller. She was a “foodies” and was always on the lookout for a new restaurant to try. Barbara was a kidney transplant survivor for almost twenty years, but was notably careful and involved in her own care, and it never slowed her down significantly. She just rolled on. She was courageous.

She is survived by her husband, Larry; a sister, Lynn Blandford of St. Louis; two brothers, Bob Blandford of Hollin Hills and Bill Blandford of Racine, Wisconsin; and many nieces and nephews. She has also left behind a warm place in her many friends’ hearts. We will miss her. —Pat McCallum

So many friends say, "Let’s get together," but never quite get organized enough to do it. Several years ago, Barbara decided that she would solve that problem by organizing a small lunch group that would do exactly that—get together on a monthly basis. The original group of women knew each other from working on various neighborhood projects, but as the years rolled by we lost some members and added others who didn’t know each other quite so well, or at all. One thing was constant. The newer folks quickly came to discover what the originals already knew. Barbara was a joy—interesting, funny, often irreverent, honest, good-hearted and someone you were just so happy to have in your life. She planned our monthly lunches with an eye to trying something new every time, and as a result, we sampled all different kinds of food. Our table was invariably the noisiest. Other diners would stop by and say, “You all look like you’re having so much fun,” and we were. We would rarely leave a restaurant without Barbara meeting the owners and often other patrons, too. One particular favorite was the day she introduced herself to the French Foreign Legion group next to us, and we all drank a toast together. The lunch group will try to struggle on without you, our dear Barbara, but there will always be an empty place at the table and a hole in our hearts. We miss you so much, our wonderful friend. —The Ladies Who Lunch
**Outdoors in the Spring**

**DEALING WITH OUR IVY GLUT**

Ivy is everywhere, covering our yards and choking out other plants, but when we remove it, what do we put in its place?

The first thing to do about ivy is to get it off the trees. The easiest way is to snap it off at the base of the trunk. Pull it down later if the dead ivy annoys you. Next, clear an area around the base of each tree to keep insects and vermin away from the tree. After that, clear a larger area by uprooting more ivy. If you don’t do this, it will quickly grow back.

Now for the constructive part. Here are some plants and bushes that can replace ivy or grass. All will do well in the shade. This is just a partial list to get you started. There are many more plants in all categories.

**Groundcovers:** Mazus, (semi-evergreen with blue flowers in spring), partridge berries (sort of slow to spread), lamium (mostly evergreen), epimedium (pretty spring flowers, semi-evergreen), sedums, ground cover euonymous, wild ginger also called asarum (some are evergreen), liriope, hellobores, even vinca or myrtle.

**Low growing shrubs:** Sarcococa (also called sweet box), skimmia, cotoneaster.

**Ferns:** Wood fern, lady fern, sensitive fern, New York fern, hay scented, Christmas (evergreen), maidenhair, and many others.

**THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE INVASIVE**

You can't have missed noticing that during April and perhaps still as we head into May, the color in Paul Spring Park has been yellow. My entomologist brothers-in-law would surely point out yellow as the spring pollinators’ favorite color. In Hollin Hills Parks, that’s both good and bad:

It's good, when it comes to spicebush, the shrubs with plentiful, small bright yellow flowers that give the whole woods a golden glow in their prime. Later, they will develop scarlet berries. More than twenty species of birds and small mammals eat the fruit and browse the leaves. Native Americans used the berries as a spice and brewed tea from the leaves. An extract has been used medicinally.

And it's bad when it comes to lesser celandine, those low-growing mats of shiny leaves and bright yellow flowers that seem to have suddenly carpeted half the woods, probably washed downstream with floods. I actually found them on "Most Hated Plants" lists! They form a mat so thick that it may even block English ivy and definitely will keep early native spring flowers from growing. Removal is extremely difficult, so if it appears in your yard, dig it out carefully.

In mid-April, spring beauties cover the forest floor in my own personal mini-forest behind the house. May apples will follow, as their umbrella foliage rises and opens and then hides beautiful waxy white flowers underneath. These are eventually followed by lemon-sized fruits, apparently edible, but beloved by small mammals who get to them first.

Are you seeing butterflies yet? Or perhaps I should ask if you are seeing them ever—at all. Even though my yard is planted with bird and insect-attracting plants, including “common” milkweed, I counted just two monarchs last summer and only three swallowtails. That is a dismal record. Please consider the environment and our need for insects to pollinata flowers and crops of all sorts and to feed the birds before spraying or allowing businesses to spray your yard. There is no way chemicals remain only on your property; and, “natural” really doesn't mean any less toxic, though reading advertisements would lead you to believe that.

On one brighter butterfly note, I spotted a mourning cloak this week, probably a resident that wintered over. Isn't it amazing that such delicate creatures live through our winters, as we shiver inside?!

Look for all this and more in our parks. Let us know what you see. More important, let us know what your children see. Don’t forget that we’d love more volunteers to help out there. Wouldn’t that make a great family activity? We can find “jobs” for any age!

—Sandy Kabat

**DOUBLE DIGGING**

The root sense of “cultivation” is to care for and improve the soil in preparation for planting. This will always involve some degree of digging—you can’t just throw a seed down on bare dirt, or push a seedling into a little divot in the hardpan, and expect any results. You need to break up and aerate the soil, stirring in organic matter from the surface with minerals from the subsoil to create the best possible medium for germination and growth.

But just how much digging is required?

Double-digging, a time-honored method for preparing a garden, when combined with generous composting forms the basis for bio-intensive gardening and its trendier avatars, biodynamic and French intensive gardening. These are essentially the same techniques that peasants, small farmers, and cottage gardeners have been using for centuries in China, India, and Europe: spread compost, dig it into the soil, plant crops. Done right, this can significantly increase crop production while reducing chemical and energy inputs; in your home garden, you’ve never had such big tomatoes or abundant flowers.

The goal of double-digging is deep cultivation—dig a trench about the depth and width of your shovel head, setting the topsoil aside; backfill the trench with several inches of compost and loosen the compost and subsoil to depth of (continued on page 5)
Double digging from page 4 a spading fork; then dig a second trench and put that topsoil into the first trench; add compost and loosen the second trench, adding the topsoil from a third trench; and so on, until the topsoil from the first trench goes into the last trench. The result is a bed of fluffy, fertile soil between 18 and 36 inches deep (depending on your shovel and fork) that’s ready for planting. There is an animated version of this process under “double digging” at Wikipedia, and several short videos of the process on YouTube.

Contrarians will tell you that double-digging isn’t worth the trouble, and they love to point out that it was once called “bastard trenching”—presumably because you have to convince some poor bastard to do it for you. Clearly, double-digging is a lot of hard work, so you want to do this on a small area at a time, where it is most needed, and at long intervals. For example, I’ll use this technique on the patch of flower bed where I intend to plant butterfly weed (Asclepias tuberosa) for the monarch butterflies.

This area was a flower bed once upon a time, but it fell into disuse long before we bought our house in 1989. One of my earliest projects was to strip off 12 inches of ivy and allow the mud to dry out. In the first few years, I had volunteer daylilies and irises from time to time, plus a crape myrtle that has since gone to crape myrtle heaven. Over the 25 years since then, I’ve planted sedum, astilbe, and yarrow, all of which perished after a few years. However, I’ve been careful to mulch the area each autumn, and I have a whole bin of compost that’s ready to use. This bit of soil is clearly ready for an intensive makeover, and best of all it’s a limited size, about 6’x8’, the sort of job that a 69-year-old gardener with a bad knee can still think about tackling.

NOTE: For readers who called about the availability of Asclepias tuberosa, I learned that the online “monarch markets” aren’t carrying this variety this year. However, Holly, Woods & Vines should receive a shipment in late April, and Nature by Design is selling well-grown seedlings in 4” pots for $8. —Paul B. Phelps

LET’S TALK TURKEY

The pictures of the wild turkey (Meleagris gallopavo), in the April Bulletin have piqued the interest of some of our neighbors. Bob Meier stated, “The Bulletin contains two photos of a wild turkey on Drury Lane. It looks like the same turkey that I saw on March 9 along the creek between our house and Hemmendinger’s on Marthas Road. I saw one in the same area a couple of years ago.” And Pat McCallum enthused, “Wild turkeys in Hollin Hills—amazing. Wish I had my Dad’s turkey caller. He’d get up at 3am and put on camouflage, grab his shot gun, and then go sit in a tree with his buddies waiting for turkeys to show. He never got one, but I think the fellowship of this ritual formed a bond. Bw, wild turkeys are clever and elusive.”

According to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology website, wild turkeys suffered drastic declines during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries from hunting and habitat loss. Since the late 1940s, turkeys have been successfully reintroduced from remnant populations in wilderness areas to much of their historic range (and beyond, like Hawaii). The wild population is estimated at about 7.8 million.

According to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries website, Virginia began restocking turkeys in 1929. Early efforts used farmed turkeys and failed. Later, from 1955 to 1993, about 900 native wild turkeys were released in Virginia; this effort was successful, and turkeys are now found throughout the Commonwealth.

Despite the completion of the restoration effort in 1993, there have been some releases in Huntley Meadows Park subsequent to that time. There is now a healthy population there, often be heard gobbling at dawn in the spring. In contrast I have never heard turkeys gobbling in Hollin Hills, although I saw one once in White Oaks Park on April 27, 2005.

Turkeys nest on the ground. Many local animals will prey on the nest if they find it, and young turkeys (“poults”) are also vulnerable (particularly to cats, who also prey on many other species—please keep them indoors). There aren’t that many predators here that will take adults (which can fly if necessary). They are a bit big for foxes, but probably no problem for a coyote if it’s lucky enough to get the chance. I doubt there are any turkeys nesting in Hollin Hills—the occasional bird seen here is probably wandering, looking for better habitat.

Ben Jesup

Home Maintenance Checklist for Spring

Note: this information appeared on the Hollin Hills Forum in a slightly different form.

SPIGOTS If you have frost-proof spigots on the outside of the house, but failed to remove hoses or hose fittings for the winter, the spigot may have frozen and the pipe may have burst. You will not know this until you turn on the spigot and water starts flooding out from inside the wall. If you have frost-proof spigots, monitor them carefully for a while after you turn them on. If you don’t know if it’s a frost-proof spigot, it’s best to monitor it to be safe.

CAULKING Extreme cold weather is hard on exterior caulking and paint. Check for shrunk or cracked paint and caulking, particularly around windows and trim. If your house has no roof overhang, typical of flat and shed roof homes, the caulking and paint is all there is to keep the rain out of the woodwork. Even hairline cracks let water in every time it rains, and the trim and siding starts to rot in these areas. Recaulk/repaint these areas as needed. A bit of routine maintenance can save you big expenses down the road. These areas should be inspected and repaired at least once a year.

GRAVEL ROOFS Rain and snow tend to wash the gravel down slope, leaving bare areas along the ridge. The gravel protects the tar roof from harmful solar UV radiation that dries out and cracks the roof. Gently sweep gravel back up to cover bare areas. Leave moss on gravel roofs; it helps protect it from the sun. Always be careful and walk gently when venturing on your roof. Don’t forget to clean out gutters, downspouts, and any connected drain pipes. Remember, those black flex corrugated drain pipes are perfect mosquito breeding habitat. Do yourselves and the neighbors a favor; get rid of them.

HUMIDIFIER If you have one, make sure it’s off.

AIR CONDITIONER Make sure your AC works before the first hot day of the year when repair companies become swamped. If it does not come on, first check the circuit breaker(s) that may have tripped over the winter. Change filters monthly.

SMOKE DETECTORS Remember to change batteries as needed. There are now 10-year lithium batteries, to prevent the annual midnight chirping of a low battery.

WHOLE HOUSE FAN If you have one, this is the season you may want to use it. If there’s a panel over it or insulation stuffed in it to prevent winter heat loss, make sure those are removed before you turn it on. These fans have a fan belt which can get loose or break. If you hear the motor running but nothing happens, the belt may be broken. Make sure doors or windows are open before you turn the fan on. Otherwise, it sucks air in from wherever it can, including the fireplace flue, and the furnace and hot water heater flues. I have seen it blow the pilot light out on a water heater, which is inconvenient and potentially dangerous.

Questions/comments: Robert@fina-co.com

—Robert Fina
**CAH spring meeting**

After CAH President Gus Matson introduced old and new board members, Treasurer Susan Kuhbach's budget report detailed the association's sound finances. She noted the House & Garden Tour netted $22,000 in 2014, and cash on hand rose from $91,123 to $98,710 between last year's end and now.

Betsy Damitz reported 331 memberships in 2014, totaling 11 more than in 2013. With 140 households signed up in 2015, she anticipates more of the 480 households eligible for membership will join than last year. Through March, 22 families have moved in. Last year there were 33 newcomer households.

Members discussed possible ways to encourage HH residents to join their neighbors in enjoying, as well as contributing to, the benefits of membership, including social events, and the Bulletin and Directory. Dues and volunteers support initiatives that enhance the neighborhood’s reputation and help raise the value of all Hollin Hills homes, such as parks planning and upkeep, and listing on the National Registry of Historic Places. Gus noted that HH homes fetch higher prices compared with nearby similar-sized houses.

Discussion about the Bulletin revealed, among other things, that everyone in attendance reads it. Barbara Shear reminded us that, although she enjoys the job, she was not actually appointed editor-for-life and will some day need to be replaced.

Regarding litigation related to a non-DRC approved roof, Gus reported that a hearing held in January determined that, based on language in the covenants, CAH has standing to bring suit. Our attorney believes our evidence is compelling and that a trail could be scheduled within six months, though we are hoping to be able to settle in some way. Discussion about elements of the situation ensued, resulting in strong consensus that pursuing litigation is very worthwhile to preserve Goodman style and the value of HH homes. DRC guidelines must be defended, else why try to protect the architectural integrity we are so well known for? Support for the litigation included offers to contribute funds, if necessary.

Holding a spring 2016 House Tour appeared on the agenda because it is already time to think about it. With strong support voiced for the next tour, Gus reminded anyone interested in joining the house tour committee or having a house on the tour that groundwork must start this summer and committee meetings will begin in September.

Gus spoke about wanting to serve as board president to try to instill a greater sense of community. He invited everyone to stand and meet someone new and suggested neighbors hold progressive dinners periodically and wave to greet people they see in Hollin Hills.

—Barbara Southworth, CAH Secretary

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**Moving On**

**In appreciation of two longtime residents who moved away from Hollin Hills**

Our loss is New Orleans' gain

When Ruth Barriere moved away, ending her sixty-one year residence on Rippon Road, we weren’t able to give her a proper sendoff. This is a partial remedy:

*Cindy Avrit writes: When I picture Ruth in my mind, it’s always with a broad smile and welcoming hands. My daughter, Natalie, was always quick to hold her warm hand while we took impromptu walks around the block. She would listen intently as Natalie and Adam regaled her with stories and would always reply with one of her own. We have a box of treasured greeting cards including Ruth’s ‘secret’ birthday cards to the kids that they read and reread.

When Natalie was born, Ruth brought a pair of little red Chinese slippers, too small for our 9+ pound baby, so we now hang them on our Christmas tree. These remind me of her house, full of amazing little fragile treasures which she had no problem letting a toddler hold. Once, Ruth set up a little tea party for Natalie with turn-of-the-century cups and saucers. She seemed to delight in seeing us and was never in a rush to do something else. Natalie would play her piano for as long as she wanted, with Ruth as her ever appreciative audience. I will remember her always as a good friend and neighbor, and as everything I love about Hollin Hills.

From Hilary and Judah Ginsberg: We met Ruth shortly after we moved into the house next to hers in 1999. One of the first things Judah remembers about Ruth is her driving him circuitously through neighborhood streets to vote at Hollin Meadows. Ruth took an interest in the changes we made to our house and to the extensive landscaping we did, frequently sharing a kind word about our garden. She got a kick out of the times she saw Lily as a toddler helping us in the garden. Ruth always appreciated the flutter of birds as they came to our feeders. She always remembered Lily’s birthday with a present and a card. In recent years, we saw less and less of Ruth as she grew older, though we would occasionally meet her as she took walks with her caregivers. Those encounters provided a time to visit and catch up. Ruth was a perfect neighbor: kind, gracious, and always helpful. We and Hollin Hills miss Ruth.

Adrienne Cannon adds: Ruth was a Neighborhood Watch buddy. She and I swapped the car signs and the watch book for a couple of years on our shift day. We chatted about the neighborhood and often congenially switched our shifts, morning vs afternoon. It was a real neighborhood friendship. I often stopped in to see her when I did the rounds after she no longer was able. I’m glad she has found a happy new home.

Note: Ruth now lives at 5354 Magazine Street, New Orleans, LA 70115, and enjoys hearing from her Hollin Hills friends.

A passionate supporter of nature

Mildred “Mickey” Yous, a 54-year resident on Hollin Hills’ Elba Road, moved to Goodwin House in Alexandria in April. Neighbors and friends know Mickey as a passionate supporter of nature for many decades. As evidence, her National Wildlife Federation “Certified Wildlife Habitat” yard sign is numbered 901. To date, over 400,000 Certified Wildlife Habitat signs have been issued by NWF.

Besides maintaining a beautiful, neat, and colorful garden with many native plants, she has four kinds of bird feeders, bird baths (heated in (continued on page 7)
Moving On from page 6

the winter), and winter nesting sites for wrens in her greenhouse; Mickey is also an authority on a current hot topic, monarch butterflies. With special cages designed and built by her late husband, Dick, Mickey has successfully raised monarch butterflies from eggs, to caterpillars, to chrysalis, to adults.

She finds the pin-head size butterfly eggs on parsley and other garden plants and transfers them to her butterfly “hatchery,” greatly increasing the natural survival rate. Watching voraciously hungry caterpillars devour the plants as they increase in size, Mickey can tell by their “frass” (a new word for us for butterfly droppings) when they are about to begin their metamorphosis. One summer Mickey and Elba Road neighbor Doris Aitken raised and released 500 butterflies, including many monarchs.

A couple of years ago, Mickey asked us if we could release a cage full of butterflies while she went to church. She said “It’s easy. Just turn the cage over in a sunny spot and when their wings warm up they’ll fly out.” Thanks to Mickey, we had the unique pleasure of watching over a dozen butterflies make their way back to nature while we had breakfast in our courtyard.

The list of Mickey’s other accomplishments that we know about includes being an active member of Old Town’s Downtown Baptist Church, an excellent cookie baker, and a wonderful neighbor and cat sitter. We’ll miss her dearly and hope she comes to visit Hollin Hills often.

—Ken & Pam Williams

PLANNING & ZONING

The Planning & Zoning Committee of the Mt. Vernon Council of Citizens Associations (MVCCA) considered three commercial building proposals in April.

Chaney Enterprises, a sand and gravel company headquartered in Maryland, sent four speakers to make the case for building a ready mix concrete plant in Lorton. An estimated 94 truck trips would be made daily during normal working hours. The South County Federation has heard this presentation and its views will outweigh those of the MVCCA.

Developers propose building houses on low lying land just north of the IMP Building and the recently opened Jeff Todd Highway. Unfortunately, it is intersected by an unstable stream and adjacent to a small lake. Some businesses on Richmond Highway would need to be purchased before the site could be developed. Money seems to be available, and another presentation will be made before a vote is taken.

Planning Commissioner Earl Flanagan strongly disagreed with arguments made by a speaker that building a highrise housing development near Walmart at Kings Crossing would be desirable. Once, a Metrorail stop was envisioned near Walmart. Now, Metrorail stations are planned only for Beacon Hill and Hybla Valley.

—Burt Kronstedt

BOOK REPORT

The Hollin Hills Book Group held its April meeting at the home of Sandy Kabat. In this month’s book for discussion, The Storyteller, by Jodi Picoult, there are stories within stories within stories. The novel begins with a young woman, Sage, who works at night in a bakery preparing bread and pastries. She has chosen to work at night in order to escape from deep grief and wounds. Her mother was killed in a car crash when Sage was driving. Her sisters blame Sage for their mother’s death and no longer are in contact with her. Sage herself wrestles with grief, loneliness, guilt, and the large wound across her cheek that she sustained in the crash. She is in a sexual relationship with a married funeral director. At the grief group she attends, Sage meets an elderly man, Josef, recently widowed. They talk together and Josef begins coming to the bakery every day. He and Sage become close friends and companions. Joseph had been a beloved teacher of German and a coach. The story takes a huge turn suddenly when Josef confesses to Sage his shocking distant past “life.” He had been a Nazi Commander during the Holocaust at the camp at Auschwitz He confesses to having been personally responsible for the deaths of many Jews there. After this disclosure, Josef asks Sage to help him commit suicide. Sage’s feelings become very conflicted; her grandmother Minka, had been a prisoner at Auschwitz, and had begun to write an account of her time there. Sage stops meeting Josef and later goes to the local police station to report Josef’s war crimes. She is eventually referred to the Justice Department. After this, the plot begins to take numerous twists and turns, with many characters, levels, and interwoven stories and “myths.” And this is where I leave you to read (continued on page 8)

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: Several quality fly rods, including Sage, Orvis, LLBean, and custom made. Also fly reels, salmon and trout flies, Old Town Discovery canoe. All in very good to excellent condition. —David Shean, 703-660-6543

FT CHILD CARE FOR SUMMER: Seeking full-time child care provider for the summer (June-August timeframe) for our 10 and 6.5 year olds. Ideal job for college/grad student or teacher looking for summer employment. If you are interested or know someone who would be a good candidate, please contact me. Sharon Sydow, 703-768-0003 or sharon.sydow@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED at Paul Krizek’s campaign office, 8246 Richmond Highway (near Aldi’s) to aid his campaign for Delegate. Jobs include daily office support, phone banking (Wednesday afternoons and Tuesday evenings) and Saturday canvassing. For more information, send an email to paul@paulkrizek.com. Thanks! —Paul Krizek

RECOMMENDED: Madai Abarca, who has cleaned for me and many other Hollin Hillers for many years, has time available since several of her long time customers have moved, lost income, or died. Madai is very good at following instructions, discovering what is needed on her own, and speaks English well. She has her own transportation and is willing to drive or run errands. Madai can be reached at 571-749-8168. If you have questions please call me, Bea Bobotek, at 703-765-4954.

REMEMBER

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Please remind all households, even non-CAHH members, to complete and send in the directory information on the membership form. This will assure the accuracy of our next Directory.
The book, however, got mixed but mostly somewhat negative reactions. Most did not “like” the book. One criticism was that it was not written by a holocaust survivor, and as such was not a very believable account of that time. Some of us had read excellent and moving personal accounts survivors wrote of their own experiences. Other criticisms included the interjection of the supernatural with the vampires, which was not very believable, too many characters, too many twists and turns and stories within stories, and the author’s use of some inappropriate phrases and words.

The book group will meet at the home of Elisabeth Egghart on Wednesday, May 13, at 2pm. The book for discussion will be The Newlyweds, by Neil Freudenberg. We encourage visitors and new members with a warm welcome.

—Barbara Knight Katz

The outdoor concert season will begin soon. Just a couple of the listed events are out of doors, but there are links to everything and you can check for weather cancellations. The following events are free unless noted otherwise. So far, most of the parks schedules are set but not yet posted. Links to these will be coming by next month.

• Sat., 5/2, 7pm, St. Aiden’s Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Rd. Alexandria: Focus Music Concerts: Joan & Joni Tribute with Allison Sharira and Kipyn Martin. $15 advance, $18 at door, www.focusmusic.org
• Sat., 5/9, 7pm, Church of St. Clement 1701 Quaker Ln. Alexandria: Focus Music Concerts: Honey Dewdrops, Buzz Peele $15 advance, $18 at door, www.focusmusic.org
• Sat., 5/9, 8pm, Schlesinger Hall: The American Balalaika Orchestra - Spring of Hope 1945, $25, $20, at door, $15 seniors and students, www.balalaika.biz
• Tue., 5/12, 7:30pm Episcopal HS Pendleton Hall: National Chamber Players - Schubert Octet in E Major, www.episcopal-highschool.org.arts.ncp.ehs/index.aspx
• Sun., 5/17, 2pm, Schlesinger Hall: Marine Chamber Orchestra: Brahms and Dvorak, www.marineband.marines.mil
• Sun., 5/24, 3pm, Alden Theater 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean: Young Soloists recital, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events/aldenconcerts/
• Fri., 5/29, 6:30 pm, Vienna Town Green: Navy Commodores (big band jazz), www.navyband.navy.mil/commodores.shtml
• Sun., 5/31, 4pm, Gunston Arts Center Theater One, 2700 S. Lang St. Arlington: Arlington Youth Orchestra Chamber Music Program, www.preludeva.org

If you are involved in or know about musical events you think the community should be aware of, please let me know so I can include them in my calendar.

—Tony Jordan