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Gary & Diana Ditto's Newsletter

June 2021

Tag Team Kitchen — Pizza Crust with a Purpose

This spring Tag Team Kitchen moved into its own brand new, professional commercial kitchen. For decades the space was the classroom of Creative Metal Works. The location is just right — in the Kensington community, close to both Kensington Farmers' Market and home in McKenney Hills.

Marianna P. Judy, owner and baker of Tag Team Kitchen, started small in 2016 in her home kitchen, aiming only to cover expenses. She baked her very first cake at age 11 for the 1976 Bicentennial and kept right on baking. She would come home from school and head to the kitchen to experiment and create her own recipes.



Judy has since discovered that her great-grandmother Rosa was a bread maker in Valentano, a hillside town overlooking a huge lake, south of Tuscany in central Italy.

Son Ben, a young man with autism, has a passion for cooking. As a 3-year-old, standing on a stool, Ben was already stirring the tomato sauce. Both love home-made pizza.

Judy saw what a challenge it would be for Ben to find steady employment with his communication disability. She decided to develop the pizza crust business to provide a work opportunity for Ben and other people with disabilities, who have a true passion for food and kitchen work.

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THE DITTO GROUP
experience • knowledge • community

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— *Tag Team Kitchen continued*

Resourceful, creative, and practical, Judy drew on her degree in education, ten years of classroom experience, and over forty years of baking know-how. She created a system, breaking the baking process down into steps and adapting baking techniques and recipes to suit Ben's strengths.

She and Ben started by taking turns to complete each step in a recipe — "tag-teaming." Ben learned the process quickly and now makes all the kinds of dough. The hand-stretched, fully baked crusts and pizza kits come in various creative flavors, including classic, whole wheat, sourdough, herb, "parm garlic," and seasonal, gluten free, and paleo-friendly options.

Ben's favorite crust is the whole wheat 50-50 parm and his favorite part of the process is baking the crust — "10 minutes in the oven." Ben types his part of conversation into his mobile phone with enviable speed.

Being a part of the community through farmers' markets is an important part of Tag Team Kitchen. By sharing food and connecting with customers, the community can see how all kinds of people can make a positive impact in society. "Working gives us purpose, and everyone who wants to work deserves a chance! That's the idea behind Tag Team Kitchen."



10453 Metropolitan Avenue
Kensington, Maryland 20895
For details visit www.tagteamkitchen.com

Storytime in Homewood Park

Mrs. Miller and her Oakland Terrace Kindergarten class enjoyed *Rainbow Weaver / Tejedor Del Arcoiris*, by Linda Elovitz Marshall, outdoors in Capitol View-Homewood Park. It tells the story of a young Mayan girl who discovers that she can weave with strips cut from the plastic bags littering her Guatemalan village and leads the villagers in cleaning up the roadsides.

Oakland Terrace Elementary School parent Kristen Haddeland organized the bilingual StoryWalk® in cooperation with the Noyes Children's Library Foundation, Montgomery Parks and the Oakland Terrace Elementary School PTA.

Oakland Terrace is a Spanish-English immersion school, a Maryland Green School and right next to Homewood Park. Students, teachers and neighborhood families enjoyed the Foundation's fourth



SPOTLIGHT on:

Thiên Kim Barber Shop

10515 Metropolitan Avenue
Kensington, MD 20895

"The best barber I've ever had," recommends a customer.

Since 2015 the owner of her own barbershop, Thiên Kim provides full Barbershop services - all styles of haircuts, razor cuts, shaving, facial, and massage.

Thiên Kim Ngyuen grew up with her parents, sister, and three brothers in her father's hometown in the Mekong Delta. When the Vietnam War ended in 1975, Thiên Kim was 8 years old and in third grade. Her father disappeared and for years she thought he had died. In fact, her father had survived, hiding in the jungle, making his way to Thailand by boat, and eventually to the United States by 1982.

Thiên Kim overcame many challenges before coming to the United States in 2001 and reuniting in Aspen Hill with her father, mother, and several siblings. She trained as a barber and was licensed in 2003.

Her barbershop sparkles. Thiên Kim is meticulous and takes great care of her customers. That care shows in everything, down to the plants that thrive in and outside Thiên Kim Barbershop.



Open
9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday –
Saturday
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sunday

Now again open for walk-in
customers!

Mobile 249-899-8994
Phone 301-532-9151
www.thienkimbarbershop.com

Congratulations Class of 2021!



The Kensington Train Show is ON!

September 11 and 12th, 2021



The trains are coming back on track! The Town of Kensington, the Ditto Group, the Noyes Library Foundation and the Kensington Historical Society are thrilled and the National Capitol Trackers chomping at the bit to set up a fabulous lay-out and run the trains after all this time.

The Kensington Train Show is a benefit for the *Noyes Children's Library Foundation* and the *Kensington Historical Society*. These volunteer organizations contribute so much to the community

Go ahead and save the date: Saturday, September 11 and Sunday, September 12, 2021.

Isabelle Barr Toy Collection

Isabelle Ogilby Barr was born in the District and raised in one of the first homes built in Chevy Chase Village. As a young girl, she held classes for preschoolers in the neighborhood. She collected children's toys and books, especially antiques and vintage stuffed animals.

When the Barrs moved to Rock Creek Hills in Kensington after World War II, Mrs. Barr founded the Barbelle Creative Center for Children on Capitol View Avenue. She ran the nursery school for thirty years. After retiring and closing the school in 1978, Mrs. Barr donated many of her toys to the Town of Kensington.



Vintage toys from the collection of Isabelle Barr.

The collection was displayed, and known as The Toy Museum, in the Town Hall where the elevator and side lobby are now located. The Kensington Historical Society displays some of the toys at the Town Hall and the Noyes and Kensington Park Libraries.

Find out more at Kensington Historical Society.

Today's Real Estate Market

Gary Ditto's thoughts:

Since the start of the pandemic in early 2020 we have experienced the most powerful real estate "Seller's Market" that I have witnessed in my 4-decade career in real estate sales.

The result has been a significant and unexpected surge in the value of real estate in our area and, really, in much of the country. The wild stories you hear of 19+ contracts on a given property and amazing escalation clauses are real.

Our listing at 3300 Wake Drive was appraised for estate purposes at \$760,000. Representing the estate, we placed it on the market on a Friday at \$850,000 in "AS IS" condition. By Monday we received seven contracts and sold it for "cash" at a price of \$960,000. This sale shattered all records, and it is not the only sale to do so.

The key factor that allows this process to unfold is to give all potential buyers an opportunity to offer a contract.

Great News for Folk Music Fans!

Early this year, Gary and Diana Ditto were thrilled to meet Mary Cliff while at the Birchmere in Alexandria. Folk music fans in the area and beyond recognize her name instantly as the longtime host of "Traditions." The weekly radio program aired on WAMU for decades.

The good news is that Mary Cliff is on the air hosting Traditions sharing her wide-ranging selection and deep knowledge of folk music. Traditions airs live on Radio Arlington at WERA 96.7 FM every Saturday from 9 p.m. to midnight or listen online at wera.fm.

Visit www.marycliff.net for playlists and Mary Cliff's updates announcements, previews, and anything of interest to the greater Washington DC area folk music community.



QUESTION: Would you like to receive the Ditto Group's newsletter by email? Please send your request to: Gary@thedittogroup.com.

Gary and Diana Ditto's Newsletter welcomes ideas and news from community members. We are grateful to Von Gurney and the Kensington Historical Society. The editor is Antoinette Kranenburg of Kensington assisted by Cherry Wunderlich



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The Ditto Group Real Estate Activity



**10211 Montgomery Ave
Kensington/Kensington
Under Contract - \$1,395,000**



**2915 Jennings Rd
Kensington/Oakland Terrace
Sold - \$1,065,000**



**3300 Wake Dr
Kensington/Rock Creek Hills
Sold - 960,000**



**3303 Oberon St
Kensington/Homewood
Under Contract - \$769,000**



**10803 McComas Ct
Kensington/Kensington
Heights
Sold - \$759,000**



**9408 Kingsley Ave
Bethesda/Maplewood
Manor
Under Contract - \$750,000**



**9649 E. Bexhill Dr
Kensington/Rock Creek Hills
Coming Soon - \$750,000**



**4516 Everett St
Kensington/Parkwood
Sold - \$665,000**



**4800 Chevy Chase Dr #106
Chevy Chase/Bradley House
Under Contract - \$430,000**