

Gary Ditto's Newsletter

May 2010

The Noyes Children's Library: A Haven for Young Children Needs Your Help

by Antoinette Kranenburg

"Haven" that is the word that comes up again and again when parents talk about what is so special about the Noyes Children's Library. Noyes is a safe haven for young children and their parents, a library like none other.

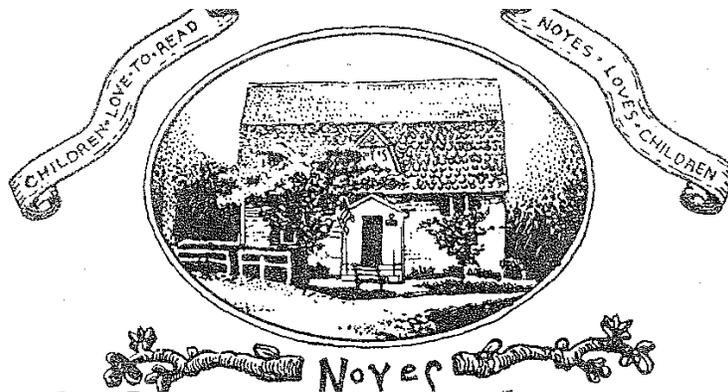
True, Montgomery County Libraries have wonderful books and programs in areas set aside for children. But only Noyes is just for children. It is small and contained. Once inside, you can settle in on the floor and get absorbed in a story without worry about your toddler wandering off and possibly getting into someone's way.

Stepping into Noyes is like stepping into an illustration of one of the picture books on its shelves. The small, shingled building on Carroll Place, with its signature Owl over the front door, speaks to the imagination, of the stories it could tell.

"Everything within Noyes's single, homey room exists to infuse kids with a fierce irresistible love of reading," according Parenting Magazine, 1991.

This spring The Noyes Children's Library is at the center of a flurry of activity as the word spread on neighborhood listservs and in town meetings that the beloved library might close.

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Direct Line: (301) 215-6834



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—**Noyes Children's Library** —*continued*

“Montgomery County is faced with a terrible budget crunch,” explains Jan Jablonski, teacher at the Outdoor Nursery School and member of the Board of the Noyes Children's Library Foundation (NCL Foundation). She says that the County is trying hard to keep as many libraries open as possible, for as many hours as possible, for as many people as they can, but cuts made to the Library system have been heavy. In 1999 the Montgomery County Public Library (MCPL) budget was 1.3% of the budget; now it is down to just 0.68%.

Jan Jablonski became involved in the library in 1991 when she lived in Silver Spring. “I would drive by other libraries to bring my children to Noyes,” she remembers. Her oldest child had epilepsy. Over the years she has noticed that the library is a magnet for parents with children who have special needs. She thinks it is because of “the haven-like feeling, the safety, and the support of the librarians.

Though Kensington is its home, the Noyes Children's Library draws children countywide. Jan Jablonski points out that it is the only library just for children in the county and one of only three children's libraries in the nationwide. It is unique treasures like Noyes that make Montgomery County a great place to live.

In 1991, when a previous budget crisis threatened the Noyes Children's Library with closure, the county and community were both excited about keeping Noyes open. Volunteer supporters of the library established the NCL Foundation in cooperation with the County Council.

The Foundation helped fund Noyes through a public-private partnership, and raised some \$300,000 in the 1990's from individuals, businesses, foundations, and community organizations. It held its last fundraising event in 1999, but the board continues to take care of the landscaping. Diana Ditto is the Foundation's past president and continues to be an active member.

Now the Foundation proposes to keep the Noyes Children's Library open while plans for proposed renovations are worked out and funded, and to raise funds to keep the Library open through fiscal year 2011. The NCLF is working with the Friends of the Library of Montgomery County, the County Government, and the Town of Kensington. Once money and plans are in place, then the library could close temporarily to make the changes.

Foundation co-chairs Sheila Dinn and Jan Jablonski want to see Noyes reopen as part of the county library system with a strong circulating collection, as well as the 900- square-foot attic space finished for use, the building made ADA compliant, programming space, and new ways to help children develop literacy skills.

Almost 100 people came to an April meeting at the Kensington Armory to lend their support for the library. They came ready to start fundraising and to learn what they could do to help.

The first challenge is to get the county to agree to restore the public-private partnership so that the Foundation can share in the funding of the library.

The Montgomery County Public Library Department, the Friends of the Library and County Executive Ike Leggett are in support. However, at least five council members must also be persuaded to give their support. It is time to contact your County Council Member and ask for their support.



SAVE NOYES LIBRARY!

- **Write to all County Council Members** as soon as you can! Use your own words, or contact Sheila Dinn or Jan Jablonski for a template.

Phil Andrews: councilmember.Andrews@montgomerycountymd.gov
Roger Berliner: councilmember.Berliner@montgomerycountymd.gov
Marc Elrich: councilmember.Elrich@montgomerycountymd.gov
Valerie Ervin: councilmember.Ervin@montgomerycountymd.gov
Nancy Floreen: councilmember.Floreen@montgomerycountymd.gov
Mike Knapp: councilmember.Knapp@montgomerycountymd.gov
George Leventhal: councilmember.Leventhal@montgomerycountymd.gov
Nancy Navarro: councilmember.Navarro@montgomerycountymd.gov
Duchy Trachtenberg: councilmember.Trachtenberg@montgomerycountymd.gov
Duchy Trachtenberg: councilmember.Trachtenberg@montgomerycountymd.gov

- **Become a Facebook fan of SAVE NOYES LIBRARY.**

Post your thoughts about the value of Noyes on Facebook and invite others become a Facebook fan of Noyes at www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Save-Noyes-Library/109281445756528.

- **Set up a web site** for the Noyes Children's Library Foundation. If its proposal is approved, the Foundation needs your **Hands-On Help** for:

- A fun event at Noyes to launch awareness and fundraising efforts, probably a Storybook Parade.
- An immediate fundraising mailing.
- A fundraising event such as a gala auction.
- Grant proposal writing.

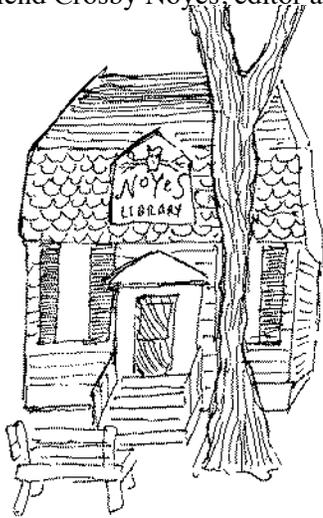
- **With your questions, suggestions and support contact**

Jan Jablonski: janjablonski@msn.com; 301-365-4415 or
Sheila Dinn - dinnsofmd8@mac.com; 301-929-0861

The Noyes Children's Library Foundation
Post Office Box 31
Kensington MD 20895

Our First Public Library

Real estate developer and financier Brainard Warner and his friend Crosby Noyes, editor and publisher of the Washington



Evening Star, founded the Noyes Library in 1893 as a neighborhood library for the citizens of the new town of Kensington. It is the oldest public library in the Washington area and one of nine libraries that joined in 1951 to create the Montgomery County Library System.

In 1970, Noyes became the Noyes Library for Young Children. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission designated the library a historical site the same year.

Hours are Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Group visits and special programs are on Wednesdays by appointment. Adults can borrow special Grandparent Kits with books, toys, and media centered on a particular theme, to have on hand for visiting youngsters.

For a complete schedule please visit:
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/Libraries/branchinfo/no.asp
Noyes Library for Young Children, 10237 Carroll Place,
Kensington, MD 20895 . Phone: 240-773-9570



Congratulations **Katie Butler & Jonathan (JT) Burton**, married April 17, 2010! Best wishes to the happy couple. (JT is Gary's Buyer Specialist)

Saturday Concerts in Howard Avenue Park.

The Kensington Historical Society presents their FREE concert series. Saturday mornings through September, 10 to 11 a.m. in the Howard Avenue Park across from the Farmers' Market at the Train Station. The Dixieland Express opens the series on June 12th, followed by Keith Grimes and Esther Haynes ~ June 19th, Old School County Bluegrass ~ June 26th, JP McDermott ~ July 3rd, Rita Clarke and the Naturals ~ July 10th, Side by Side ~ July 17th. A complete schedule on www.kensingtonhistory.org.



ALBERT EINSTEIN HIGH SCHOOL CLASS REUNION

Classes of 1968 - 1969- 1970 - 1971 - 1972

Saturday, July 10th, 6 p.m.-Midnight

Bolger Center, 9600 Newbridge Drive, Potomac, Maryland

For tickets & information,

please contact Liz Quinn at webethemom@aol.

For dates and news of more events, be sure to visit the *Community Activities Calendar* on the web site:

www.garyditto.com

Gary Ditto's Newsletter welcomes ideas and news items from community members. The editor for this issue is Antoinette Kraneburg of Kensington, assisted by Cherry Wunderlich. The drawings are by Judy Hanks-Henn and Sara Phang.

"The Truth about Consequences: Effective Discipline without Punishment"

...is the topic presented by the Parent Encouragement Program at the Kensington Park MOMS Club monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 25th at 7:30 p.m. at the Kensington Park Library. Moms are invited!

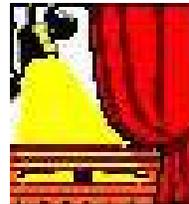
When children misbehave, parents often resort to punishment or rewards to motivate better behavior. Learn how to use natural and logical consequences instead to foster learning and cooperation, rather than anger and rebellion.

The MOMS Club is a national support group for mothers who primarily stay home with their children. The Kensington Park MOMS Club is open to moms whose children are zoned to attend Garrett Park ES and Kensington Parkwood ES.

Activities include trips to parks, lunch and coffee get-togethers, playgroups, and more. Please visit www.kensingtonparkmoms.com for more information or email kpmomsclub@yahoo.com

The Penny Theatre: A Treasured Noyes Tradition

The Penny Theatre dates back to Victorian England, where for one penny, a child could buy a kit to create a small theatre box along with a page of character and background cut-outs. In 1970, the Director of Children's Services for Montgomery County Libraries, Marguerite Murray, discovered the Penny Theatre kits at Pollack's Toy Theatre Shop while on a trip to London.



Marguerite Murray saw the Penny Theatre as a bridge to books for children who had little experience being read to. She adapted the theatre to table-top size.

The theatre curtain rises from a charming wooden façade scrolled with acorns and oak leaves, the stage lit with Christmas lights. One hundred boxes store drop-in sets, puppets, and audiotapes to go with 100 classics. Stories include *The Little Red Hen*, *Corduroy*, *George and Martha*, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, and *Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree*. NCL Foundation volunteers bring the magic of Penny Theatre to schools, shelters and libraries.

Kensington residents lent their voices to the recordings, among them the voice of Mrs. Lorraine Kennedy, whose home was near the library. Active in the community for many years, she kept an eye on Noyes and had a spare key for emergencies. Mrs. Kennedy died this spring on April 3rd at age 95. It was suggested that donations in her honor be made to support the Noyes Library for Young Children.

New E-Mail Updates from Gary Ditto—

Sign up for either or both of these updates:

- Our Monthly Sold Reports for 20895, sent via e-mail
- Our weekly "Open House" e-mail

You choose what to sign up for and you can always unsubscribe. Sign up on our home page

www.garyditto.com

Gary and Diana Ditto
Long & Foster Real Estate, Inc.®

4650 East West Highway
 Bethesda MD, 20814

Office: 301-215-6834
 Email: gd@garyditto.com
 Website: www.thedittogroup.com
 Blog: www.garyditto.com/blog

Bethesda Gateway Office: 301-907-7600

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The spring market has sprung...

Active Properties for
 Sale by Gary and
 Diana Ditto, Long &
 Foster Real Estate, Inc.



10405 Fawcett St., Kensington
 Historic Kensington
 \$925,000



10415 Hebard St., Kensington
 Kensington Estates
 \$769,000



9305 W. Parkhill Dr., Bethesda
 Locust Hill Estates
 \$729,000



2 Campbell Court, Kensington
 Rock Creek Hills II
 \$699,000



4222 Warner Street., Kensington
 Kensington Terrace
 \$675,000



11108 Jolly Way, Kensington
 Garrett Park Estates
 \$529,500



2127 Clark Place, Silver Spring
 Belvedere Glen
 \$489,000



11120 Woodson Ave., Kensington
 Rock Creek Palisades
 \$449,000



3516 Astoria Court, Kensington
 Newport Hills
 \$425,000



3709 Nimitz Road, Kensington
 North Kensington
 \$399,000



3314 University Blvd., Kensington
 Kensington Heights
 \$399,000



10201 Grant Ave., Silver Spring
 Capitol View Park
 \$385,000



3109 Plyers Mill Rd., Kensington
 Oakland Terrace
 \$375,000



70 Rhode Island Ave., NW
 Bloomingdale
 \$369,900



4115 Warner St. Kensington
 Warners Kensington
 For Rent - \$1,550/month
 Application Accepted

UNDER CONTRACT

Street Address

4115 Everett Street
 4201 Culver Street
 11222 Orleans Way
 10007 Connecticut Avenue
 9304 Chanute Drive
 10112 Meadowneck Court
 3304 Ferndale Street
 13531 Spinning Wheel Drive

Town/Neighborhood

Kensington/Chevy Chase View
 Kensington/Byeforde
 Kensington/White Flint Park
 Kensington/Chevy Chase View
 Bethesda/Parkhill
 Silver Spring/Capitol View Park
 Kensington/Homewood
 Germantown/Waters Landing

List Price

\$749,000
 \$694,500
 \$659,000
 \$619,000
 \$595,000
 \$539,000
 \$469,000
 \$345,000