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Gary & Diana Ditto's Newsletter

September 2016

“Roosevelt wants to talk to you” — **Anthony Triantis Remembers**

Part 1

by Antoinette Kranenburg

Anthony Triantis remembers watching a Memorial Day Parade as a young boy downtown on Pennsylvania Avenue, and seeing the old civil war veterans. “Now I am the old veteran” he chuckles, as he gets ready to attend a meeting of the American Legion.

Anthony Triantis loves history. As a young man of just 18, he participated and lived through some critical chapters. At last year's Kensington's Labor Day Parade, Mr. Triantis and Gary Ditto met and got to talking. Mr. Triantis graciously agreed to share some of what he remembers.

For the past 42 years Mr. Triantis has lived in Capital View Park, where he raised his two daughters. He was born on May 18, 1925, in North Carolina, the eldest of five — three boys and two girls — and now the only one still living.

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You're Invited!

The Kensington Train Show **September 10 & 11, 2016**

Kensington's fabulous model train show returns the weekend after Labor Day with fun for young and old. Bring your trains and repair questions. The Train Doctor will be on location both days from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. **New this year:** Students and teachers from **GIGS** (Gaiser Insider Guitar Studio) will perform popular train songs Saturday afternoon. Please see inside for details.

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THE DITTO GROUP
experience • knowledge • community



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Thank you, Jan Jablonski

Our community was deeply saddened to learn that Jan Jablonski passed away on July 18th at age 61. Jan was a teacher at the Outdoor Nursery School and a founding member of the Noyes Children's Library Foundation.

Jan loved children and children's literature and was a passionate and determined advocate for people with differences. Even as Jan dealt with ALS, she was active in raising funds for the renovation of Noyes.

Just this June, Jan wrote a beautiful, inspiring article about her beloved Noyes Children's Library for this newsletter. She wrote it by operating her computer through her eye motions. You can read Jan's article on www.garyditto.com in the June 2016 newsletter.

Our heartfelt condolences go to Jan's husband Dan and their sons, Matthew and Peter.

Donations in Jan's memory can be sent to Noyes Children's Library Foundation, Box 31, Kensington, MD 20895 or made on line at www.noyeslibraryfoundation.org.



Congratulations to SPIRIT Club

To support SPIRIT Club, the Adam Ezra Group, winner of "Song of the Year" at the 2016 New England Music Awards, gave a benefit concert at Kensington Town Hall on July 10th. The concert raised over \$6,000 for SPIRIT Club's upcoming move to a new, 3,000 square foot space on Metropolitan Avenue where they plan to open a community-integrated gym for ALL abilities in October 2016. The fitness club is currently located at 10408 Montgomery Avenue, Kensington.

SPIRIT stands for Social, Physical, Interactive, Respectful, Integrated & Teamwork.

Founder, Jared Ciner, became inspired to expand fitness to underserved populations while working as a Personal Trainer at a local gym and as a Support Counselor for adults with developmental disabilities at the Jubilee Association of Maryland. Today, adults with disabilities are 57% more likely to be obese than the general population. SPIRIT Club offers fitness training with specialized programs that support people with physical and developmental disabilities.

To learn more, visit www.spirit-club.com

Anthony Triantis —Continued

Around 1900, his father came to Charlotte, North Carolina, from Evritania, the remote mountainous Karpenisi area in central Greece. His father was a decorated veteran of the World War I — the Great War, as it was known then. He survived trench warfare and being gassed with phosphine gas, and he lived to World War II.

At ten years old, Anthony went to Greece by boat to visit his grandma. She was shocked that he did not speak any Greek and wanted him to stay for a year so he could learn Greek. She ended up keeping him for 5 years!

In the summertime they lived in Aegina, an island near Athens. During the rest of the year they lived in Athens, where he went to school. He was a good student. He says that he got a better education than he would have had at home.

Meanwhile, his father was trying to get him to return home to the United States. In the end, his father went to the State Department to help get his son back and asked to "forcibly remove my son." By then it was around 1940, and war was breaking out across Europe.

Mr. Triantis remembers that an American policeman came to the school. The policeman and his grandmother were both pulling on him, as he protested, "But you don't understand — I have a test tomorrow!"

He was taken to an American ship. France hadn't fallen yet, but when they came to port, Marseille was dark, because all the lights were out. "That city was an ancient Greek settlement called Massilia," Mr. Triantis adds.

He was on board the ship for twenty days. The transatlantic journey took longer than the typical five days because of the need to avoid U-boats. "Two and a half years later, I was drafted and came back."

Back from Greece after five years away from the United States, he had to go to Americanization school to relearn English! Now he is bi-lingual and bi-cultural.

After Greece, home was a Tudor house on a triangle by itself at 2nd Street and Rittenhouse Street NW in Washington, DC. He went to St. John's College High School, then on Vermont Avenue, NW.

On the street corners in Washington, DC, during World War II, he recalled, there were big drums to collect cooking grease. The grease was then donated to the Army to produce explosives. "If a motorcycle with a uniformed man came down the street, your blood would freeze in case it stopped in front of your house. 'We regret to inform you....'"

Triantis felt ashamed to be in civilian clothes, and as soon as he turned 18 he reported for the draft. "They were creating an army from scratch." By 1944, the U.S. would have a population of 138 million and an armed force of 12.2 million.

There were enlistment offices all over the city. He registered at a high school downtown. "If you volunteered, you could pick your branch." He traveled with the others by bus, but, he said, you did not know where they were going. It turned out that they went to Fort Knox, Kentucky.

-to be continued in the next newsletter



Villages of Kensington: Building Community One Neighbor at a Time!

After months of preparation, your Villages of Kensington opened fully on July 1. VoK offers full memberships (access to all services and other activities) and associate memberships (access to recreational and social activities), to individuals and two-adult households within 20895.

VoK's vetted and trained volunteers provide free services to members, including rides, light household tasks, light yard work, friendly visits, occasional meals and shopping, and activities to ensure members stay active in their community.

"Our intergenerational Village offers assistance to residents of all ages to remain engaged in the greater Kensington community as long as possible," explained Board president Donna Savage.

Annual membership dues offset the substantial costs of running the organization, such as insurance, activity coordination, supplies, and communication services. VoK also seeks donations in-kind and in cash to its budget, to keep membership fees as low as possible.

VoK is dependent on individuals from the community to volunteer their time to assist their neighbors. All volunteers are trained and undergo criminal background checks, and driver-volunteers undergo an MVA records check.

Upcoming events include neighborhood barbecue parties, an ongoing monthly book club (for members), and "VoK Day" on October 29, a variety of activities culminating in a fundraiser performance of Oklahoma!

Come visit VoK's tables at the Kensington Labor Day Festival and the Kensington 8K Race on September 17. For information on VoK memberships, to volunteer and the calendar of events, visit www.villagesofkensington.org or contact VoK at 301-501-0191.

2016 Paint The Town Art Show

Labor Day Weekend

Saturday, September 3 through Monday, September 5

Kensington Town Hall/Armory

3710 Mitchell Street, Kensington

Show hours are:

Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Labor Day Monday 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Meet the artists at the reception on Saturday, 6 – 8 p.m.

E-Mail Updates from The Ditto Group—

Sign up for either or both of these updates:

- Our Monthly Sold Reports, 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.thedittogroup.com.

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

www.thedittogroup.com

Gary and Diana Ditto's Newsletter welcomes ideas and news items from community members. Many thanks to Anthony Triantis, Donna Savage, and Jared Ciner. The editor is Antoinette Kranenburg of Kensington, assisted by Cherry Wunderlich.

Coming up in Kensington:

September 3, 4 & 5 – Paint the Town Art Show

September 5 – Labor Day Parade and Festival

September 10 & 11 – Kensington Model Train Show

September 17 – 23rd Annual Kensington 8K

September 24 – Community Yoga Mala

October 24 – WCCC Art and Craft Fair

October 29 – "VoK Day" fundraiser featuring Oklahoma!

The Kensington Train Show!

Saturday and Sunday, September 10 & 11, 2016

11 a.m. - 5 p.m. each day

KENSINGTON TOWN HALL

3710 Mitchell Street, Kensington, Maryland

New this year: Students and teachers from GIGS (Gaiser Insider Guitar Studio) will perform popular train songs on Saturday afternoon 2 - 4 p.m.

Admission: \$5 for adults, \$2 for children, \$10 per family.

Each day 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Train Doctor is in!! Bring your trains and repair questions.

Saturday 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. The Dixie Land Express Band

Sunday 1 - 4 p.m. Matthew Dodd's Railroad Songs & Stories

Now in its 5th year, the Kensington Train Show is a benefit for the Noyes Children's Library Foundation and the Kensington Historical Society.

The show celebrates Kensington's railroad history and is sponsored by Gary and Diana Ditto and the Town of Kensington. The "O" Gauge electric train enthusiasts of National Capital Trackers set up the train layout and run the trains. Visit www.kensingtontrainshow.com for updates.



FREE Community Yoga Mala

Saturday, September 24th, 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Howard Avenue Park (under the pergola)

Join the teachers of **NiMaSte Yoga** for one hour of consecutive Sun Salutations, followed by *Kirtan* (traditional call and response singing). This "one hour Yoga Mala" is a modification of the Global Mala Project (www.globalmala.com), a worldwide event that takes place around the Spring or Autumn Equinox to celebrate and promote peace. Please bring a mat, blanket, and water bottle. All ages welcome; no experience necessary!

NiMaSte Yoga opened in June, above the Sweatshop at 10412 Montgomery Avenue in Kensington. The teachers are Stephani Kolevar, Marisa Martucci, and Nicole VanHouten, who all taught at the now closed Allay Yoga. For new students, there is special offer of one week of yoga for \$35. For more information, visit www.nimasteyoga.com or call 240- 242-9654

Summer Outdoor Concerts

Saturdays, 10 to 11 a.m. Howard Avenue Park

Sept. 3—Silver Strings MD ~ Folk, traditional, & contemporary

Sept. 10—Ruthie Logsdon & Greg Hardin ~ Country

Sept. 17—GP Jams ~ Eclectic folk pop

Sept. 24—Blue Book Value ~ Rhythm & blues swing band



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The Ditto Group Real Estate Activity



9604 Old Spring Road
 Kensington/Rock Creek Hills
FOR SALE - \$ 899,900



3500 University Boulevard
 Kensington/North Kensington
FOR SALE - \$ 685,000



3211 Fayette Road
 Kensington/Homewood
UNDER CONTRACT
 List Price - \$ 625,000



11011 Brandywine Street
 Kensington/Rck Creek Palisades
FOR SALE - \$ 489,000



11414 Lund Place
 Kensington/Kensington Knolls
FOR SALE - \$ 459,000



10601 Meadowhill Road
 Silver Spring/Northwest Branch Est
UNDER CONTRACT
 List Price - \$ 449,000



5117 Bangor Drive
 Kensington/Garrett Park Est
FOR SALE - \$ 619,000



SOLD
3604 Littledale Road
 Kensington/Rock Creek Hills
\$ 905,000 - JUNE 2016



SOLD
3603 Dundee Driveway
 Chevy Chase/N Ch Ch-Kenilworth
\$ 745,000 - JUNE 2016



SOLD
4426 Strathmore Avenue
 Garrett Park/Garrett Park
\$ 585,000 - AUGUST 2016



SOLD
3333 University Boulevard # 902
 Kensington/The Waterford
\$ 239,000 - JULY 2016



SOLD
3534 Raymoor Road
 Kensington/Rock Creek Hills
\$ 875,000 - JULY 2016



2901 Terrace Drive
 Chevy Chase/Donneybrook Ests
RENTED - \$ 2,850 a month



3015 Homewood Parkway
 Kensington/Homewood
RENTED - \$ 2,200 a month



10716 Kings Riding Way #T4-20
 Rockville/Tuckerman Station
RENTED - \$ 1,500 a month



10217 Summit Avenue
 Kensington/Kensington
RENTED - \$ 5,500 a month