



Vol. 29 No. 9 A Monthly Publication of The Collington Residents Association Nov/Dec 2017

## Vassar Honors Collington Resident

by George Newman

The Vassar College alumni association has honored Collington resident Glen Johnson with its inaugural Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award.

A Vassar announcement said Glen, who taught at Vassar for nearly 40 years and twice served as the college's acting president, "influenced and inspired generations of students." He taught international politics, U.S. foreign policy, South Asian politics, international law, and international human rights in Vassar's Political Science Department. He also was the founding director of the International Studies Program.

Glen holds the title of Shirley Ecker Boskey Emeritus Professor of Political Science and International Relations. The current occupant of that chair, Robert Brigham, said, "Glen lives at the intersection of integrity, intellectualism,



*Glen and Sipra Johnson with their daughter, Denise, at the Oct. 21 Vassar awards ceremony. Vassar College photo.*

generosity, and compassion. For a faculty [member] to have all of those qualities is rare."

Glen's two stints as acting president came during sabbaticals for Vassar President Frances Fergusson. Monica Vachher of the class of 1977, who worked with him as a Vassar trustee during that time, said he "brought to that

role the same dignity and grace that pervades all of his activities." Though the campus was, at times, marked with moments of tension and strife, she said, "Glen did not shirk from confronting and dealing with tough issues. But importantly, he managed and defused moments that could have been incendiary with sensitivity and concern."

Glen and his wife, Sipra, also a former Vassar faculty member, continue to serve the college's

see Vassar, p. 2

# U. of Hawaii Lauds Mary Olmsted's Gift

By Frances Kolarek

When Mary Olmsted retired from the diplomatic service she had recently completed a four-year tour as Ambassador to Papua-New Guinea, a new country on a remote Pacific island. She once characterized her years there as "the happiest of my life," caught up in the beauty of the sunsets and of the country, itself.

On her arrival at Collington, she established a sizable fund, the income from which was dedicated to students from Papua-New Guinea at the University of Hawaii.

A recent letter from the University brings the news that the Ambassador Mary Olmsted Fellowship Fund is providing assistance to two recipients of scholarships, one a graduate in Economics, the other in the field of tropical plant pathology.

Malia Peters, director of Scholarship Development of the University of Hawaii Foundation, in a letter to Mary Olmsted, writes: "With tuition increasing each year, your continued support helps alleviate financial obstacles and provides the confidence our students need to inspire their educational journey."

## Editor's Note

This is a double issue, covering November and December and comprising 16 pages rather than the usual 12. The November *Collingtonian* was delayed by the editor's hospitalization (See p.11). Barring further disruptions, we will return to the normal publication schedule in January. Thanks for your patience and understanding.

Vassar from p. 1

alumni as hosts of the Vassar Travel Program. Indeed, the Oct. 21 dinner at which Glen received his award came shortly before their departure for Sri Lanka.

After retiring from Vassar, Glen worked part-time for two years at the American University in Cairo, helping to establish an American Studies program. He has twice been a Fulbright Professor in India, where he took a three-year assignment as Director of the American Studies Research Centre in Hyderabad.

**Facts about Prince George's County and Surroundings** compiled by Pat Bozeman  
(Taken from Alan Virta's *Prince George's County: A Pictorial History* (1984))

Tobacco leaves adorn the columns of the U.S. Capitol, a reminder that the city of Washington was once Prince George's County tobacco land.

## *The Collingtonian*

**Financed by Residents,  
Written by Residents for Residents**

10450 Lottsford Road, Mitchellville, MD 20721  
Phone: 301-925-7349

Published monthly (except July and August)  
by the Collington Residents Association, Inc.

Editor: George Newman; News Editor: Frances Kolarek. Additional staff and contributors for this issue: Mary Bird, Pat Bozeman, Ann Davie, Marian Fuchs, Bud Gardiner, James Giese, Carl Koch, Peggy Latimer, Peter Pfund, Bill Preston, Marion Robbins. Doris Walsh.

Distribution Manager: Ernie Blake.

This issue and many past issues of the *Collingtonian* are now online at [collingtonresidents.org](http://collingtonresidents.org).

*The Collingtonian* invites all Collington residents to submit articles, photographs and story suggestions, preferably concerning Collington and its people. We also welcome "Letters to the Editor" commenting on the *Collingtonian* and its content. Submissions may be e-mailed to [collingtonian@gmail.com](mailto:collingtonian@gmail.com) or placed in the *Collingtonian* mailbox. All submissions are subject to editing for length, clarity and style.

# On the Road to Sustainability

By Pat Bozeman

In 2009, all Kendal affiliates approved 13 sustainability goals. However, Collington (which wasn't a Kendal affiliate in 2009) didn't begin working on these goals in earnest until 2015.

Since then, under the leadership of chair Sara Case, the Sustainability Committee has been working steadily with the administration to bring the campus into closer alignment with the goals. (The table now is published on the Collington residents' website (Collingtonresidents.org). Scroll down, under Resources, listed on the left-hand column, to Sustainability Resources, where the table of Kendal goals and Collington's achievements may be found. Click on "Kendal Goals and Collington Assessment." These goals and achievements also are on the Kendal webpage (<http://www.kendal.org/kendal-affiliate-sustainability-initiatives/>). Both sites will be updated as necessary.)

In the January 2017 issue of the *Collingtonian*, Jim Giese, in an article titled "Aiding the Planet and the Bottom Line," reported on Collington becoming a member of the Community Purchasing Alliance (CPA), allowing the community to partner with a new trash hauler, saving about \$144,000 annually, as well as a five-year conversion by the administration to move the campus to complete LED light bulb use. Already the cottage walkways have been converted. In conclusion, Jim noted that



**Gay Kelly writes a comment for the suggestion box. Photo by Pat Bozeman.**

“residents can expect to see more accomplishments by [the Sustainability] committee as it works with management to achieve their common goals.”

At about the same time, yours truly undertook the project of updating and reorganizing the late Bessie Carrington's original 2015 table, charting Kendal's goals and the accomplishments made by

Collington toward those goals. After a months-long effort, campus-wide accomplishments were brought up-to-date, with the Sustainability Committee agreeing to regularly update the accomplishments table as new efforts are realized.

In addition, a sustainability flier, based on Collington's accomplishments, was written and produced by Marian Fuchs. It was delivered to the Marketing staff to give to prospective residents, further advertising Collington's commitment to sustainability.

Beginning Sept. 8, the Sustainability Committee began a 13-week poster publication series, located in the Clock Tower that ran through Dec. 1, with a closing date for commentary on Dec. 8. The purpose is to highlight Collington's accomplishments that are in line with Kendal sustainability goals. Along with the weekly-changing poster,

see Sustainability, p. 10

# *We Welcome Our New Neighbors*

## **Hugh Pitcher (Apt. 130, Ext. 7594): A Role in a Nobel Prize**

By Marion Robbins

A man of many interests, Hugh arrived at Collington after living in Washington, D.C., for 46 years.

He was born in Snyder, N.Y., a small town near Buffalo, but when he was 5 the family moved to Granville, Ohio.

Hugh earned a degree in Economics from Oberlin, and then studied at Northwestern. During his first year in graduate school, he married another graduate student. Soon thereafter, he went on to teach Economics at the University of Kentucky.

He came to Washington in 1971 to work for the Institute for Defense Analysis for one year, creating a model of the U.S. economy in case of nuclear attack. During the Daniel Ellsberg/Pentagon Papers affair, the Institute lost its funding, so Hugh moved to the Labor Department. He had the good fortune to land in a small office providing support for the Secretary of Labor, who happened to be the chairman of the Department of Economics at the University of Kentucky, and a friend.

With the next change of administration, Hugh was offered a job working for the Environmental Protection Agency, heading the Jobs Project to support environmentally friendly work. Later, he was involved in analyzing the levels of lead in children's blood. Unfortunately, he says, this continues to be a problem today. He also was involved in studying ozone depletion, including its effect on skin cancer. After he left the E.P.A., he worked for an NGO studying population issues, such as insuring that women had access to birth control worldwide.



Hugh then worked for the Pacific Northwest National Lab. His work there contributed to the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change in 2007. A framed certificate on his wall commemorates this achievement.

Hugh was married and divorced twice; he then had a partner who is currently living in Washington. He has two sets of daughters, born in 1965 and 1968, and in 1985 and 1987. Three of them live nearby. Asked what gives him most joy these days, he said, "seeing my daughters." He feels that coming to Collington was a good choice. And he happened to find two classmates from Oberlin: Bill and Bobbie McCuskey.

Hugh continues to be fascinated by patterns, so he's looking at data, trying to understand how patterns, such as longevity, are changing. He has a sister living on Baffin Island near the Arctic Circle, and that brings him to tracking sea levels. In view of the recent hurricanes and floods, I asked him if he was an optimist about the effects of climate change. He replied, "No, I think I'm a realist."

## **Priscilla Lindenauer (Cottage 1007, Ext. 7207): From New Jersey to Collington**

By Pat Bozeman



Priscilla's knowledge of CCRCs goes back a number of years, when a cousin was doing research for a family relative. When her husband died suddenly in 2014, she knew it was time to resurrect the notion of a CCRC for herself, not wanting to be burdened with the responsibilities of caring for a house and grounds alone.

Fortunately for Priscilla, both her son and daughter and their families live close by, and it was her daughter who scouted out nearby retirement communities. Priscilla says it was clear from the get-go that our community was the place for her.

Priscilla is a native of Brooklyn, having lived there until after her marriage, when her husband was transferred to a CPA firm in New Jersey. By then, she had a year of teaching elementary school under her belt. The Lindenauers lived in Edison, N.J. for a few years before moving north to Teaneck, where she lived until moving to Collington.

She says, "I met my husband when he was a toddler and I was in a baby carriage." His and her older sisters were friends in the same school grade, and their mothers became friends before Priscilla's birth. Following public school, she earned a Bachelor's degree in education from Brooklyn College, part of the City University of New York system. Later she acquired an M.Ed from William Patterson College (now University) in Wayne, N.J. Priscilla taught in New Jersey and New York City throughout her adult years, conducting at-risk remediation classes as part of Title One's early intervention program, and later teaching children with multiple disabilities.

Here at Collington, Priscilla has very good things to say about the physical and occupational therapies she's received, as well as taking an active part in the Balance and Beyond and AquaFit classes. Having osteoporosis and being told by her doctor she was at risk for a fall, she has been proactive in taking advantage of what Collington has to offer to augment her daily safety.

For rest and relaxation, Priscilla enjoys the frequent social gatherings of residents in her cluster and she loves to read. She also likes the challenge of crossword and math puzzles.

And how about a fun fact? She attended the same high school in Brooklyn as Woody Allen and American composer John Corigliano.

## **Nancy and Lois Brown (Cottage 5015, Ext. 5081): Travel and Adventure**

By Mary Bird

Lois and Nancy share curiosity for nature, people and places.

From her childhood in Mississippi, Nancy recognized her vocation for science. Early dreams of becoming a marine biologist or a park ranger were thwarted when she discovered an intolerance to immersion, then confronted



**Nancy Brown**

"Jobs for Men Only" policies at the National Park Service in the 1950s. Her biology professor at Millsaps College pointed her toward the National Institutes of Health. She worked in a National Cancer Institute laboratory while taking graduate courses in microbiology at the University of Maryland, and attained a Master's in Public Administration from American University. Positions in administration of NIH grants and contracts followed.

Before retiring from NIH, Nancy worked for seven years at the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases. Her team helped identify HIV, and later devised drug cocktails for various cohorts of AIDS patients.

Nancy encountered one of the great "what ifs" of a scientific career when the peer reviewers of her team's research on a virus that could replicate with RNA only (and no DNA) delayed acceptance. Another magazine published corroborative results from another research team, which eventually was awarded a Nobel Prize.

While busy with her career, Nancy found time to travel extensively in the United States and neighboring countries. Upon retirement, she bought an RV and travelled in all 50 states, and many Canadian provinces. When at home, she volunteered as a reader for audio books, and was a "panda interpreter" at the National Zoo, telling hundreds of visitors about the pandas. Ten years after retiring, Nancy moved to Maine with Lois.

Lois met Nancy at one of her "salons" at Nancy's home near Washington. Lois, a native of New York City, moved to Washington after

see Newcomers, p. 6



**Lois Brown**

dropping out of Hunter College to marry (and divorce), and lived in our area here on and off for 25 years. During her first stay, she sought training as a registered nurse in order to improve life for herself and her daughter. During four years of nursing at the Houston Medical Center, she missed the cultural advantages of Washington, so came back east. She also returned to college (the University of Maryland) to finish her bachelor of arts with a degree in political science. Lois went on for a degree in civil engineering. With this degree, she left nursing for a new career as an environmental engineer with Bell Atlantic and its successor, Verizon. She obtained a transfer to Maine, to be with Nancy. In 2013, Nancy and Lois married there.

For nine years Nancy and Lois lived the snowbird life, wintering in Florida, summering in Maine. While at home, Lois recruited and coordinated over 1,250 volunteers for their town's summer festival. Nancy volunteered in the local library and edited a memoir by a woman with Down syndrome.

Nancy and Lois also travelled and continue to travel extensively. Last February, a few months before moving to Collington, they took a Roads Scholar river cruise to Cambodia and Vietnam. Their next trip will be a river cruise from Bucharest to Amsterdam.

Nancy and Lois enjoy the close Collington community; finding exercise on their doorstep (walking their two dogs and in the fitness room); and having choices and more choices. Nancy can show her skill as a "pool shark" and memoir writer, while Lois joins in the Booker and Beyond group and Tai Chi. They both are avid gardeners.

Nancy and Lois have two granddaughters, one in college and the other finishing high school.

## **Godelieve Bartley (Apt. 321, Ext. 7573): Multilingual Teacher**

By Mary Bird



Godelieve moved to Collington last May, a few years after the death of her husband of 47 years. A SAGE water aerobics class had introduced her to Collington. She is still taking SAGE fitness classes but is also trying out many Collington activities: meditation group, yoga, marketing, weed warriors, estate sales, Collington singers, and the trip committee.

Godelieve and her family lived in Prince George's County for more than 30 years, most of that time in Upper Marlboro. For 15 years, Godelieve has been a volunteer docent leading tours at the Calvert House Museum/ Riversdale House in English, French, and occasionally, Dutch. The mansion was built by a Belgian family whose daughter married George Calvert, a descendant of the fifth Lord Baltimore, Godelieve, who was born in Belgium, acts as liaison between the Riversdale Historical Society and the Belgian Embassy in Washington, DC.

Godelieve met her American husband at university in Belgium. When his student year ended, they married and moved to the United States. While her husband established his career in the insurance and annuity business, Godelieve taught at the Defense Language Institute for three years, then moved to the Prince George's County School system. Her bachelor's degree in speech pathology and master's in special education were a good mix for her to contribute to Individual Educational Plans for numerous students. Godelieve also served as secretary of the P.G. Chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children.

Godelieve and her husband had one son, who now lives in Los Angeles. An early travel adven-

ture took them with their son camping at KOA sites throughout Mexico and Central America. More recently, Godelieve and James went on 14 cruises, including one up the Amazon in Brazil. Some of the fun has gone out of travel since James died, but still Godelieve is planning a trip to Australia to visit friends in Perth. Also, Godelieve still has family in Europe to visit.

Since retiring in 2002, Godelieve has helped plan pre-retirement conferences offered by the Prince George's Public School Retirees Association for other teachers. She occasionally works with the legislative committee of this organization as well.

Besides her many activities in- and outside of Collington, Godelieve enjoys the company of her in-laws' family, and long-time friends and colleagues in this area.

**Helen Dziduch (Apt. 237,  
Ext. 7540): Italian Heritage,  
Polish In-Laws**

By Marian Robbins



Born in Scranton, Pa, Helen is very proud of her Italian heritage. Her father left Lombardy to join a cousin in White Plains, N.Y. Drafted into the Italian Army during the First World War, and sent to serve in the Alps, the father returned to America as soon as the war ended. He met Helen's mom, who lived with her cousins in a boarding house in Scranton.

Helen is one of nine children. She has memories of coloring, playing with cut out dolls from magazine catalogs, and not being allowed to be angry! She was introduced to her husband, Charles, who was serving with the Air Force, at an evening of music and dancing in a beer garden. Married soon thereafter, Helen went to live with his Polish parents. Because they spoke very little English, she enjoyed the opportunity of picking up Polish words.

Soon thereafter, Charles was transferred to

El Paso, Texas, where their first son was born. They lived close to the Mexican border and she remembers the Mexicans "flirting with me because I had dark hair and eyes." Her husband served with the Strategic Air Command and asked to be transferred. They were sent to Rome, N.Y., only three hours from Scranton. When her second child, a daughter, was due, Helen moved back to Scranton so that her mother could help her.

The next step for Helen and Charles was Hawaii, where they lived for three years. Another son was born there. She remembers the day Hawaii became a state, and she thought the island would sink from the many fireworks sent off. They eventually landed at Andrews Air Force Base, where her husband completed 20 years of service. Their last child, a daughter, was born there.

Helen worked with special education children. While she was interviewing for a job working with handicapped children, a child came into the office and gave her a big hug. She was hired instantly! It was a wonderful job where she could be off during the summers. Her father had congestive heart failure and Helen nursed him off and on for many years.

Unfortunately, she lost her husband to cancer in 1999. After selling her house, Helen moved to Collington to be near her children. She feels surrounded by caring people and is blessed to have her sons come to visit her every Thursday. Her daughters live farther away, but come as often as they can. The mother-in-law of one of her sons is also a Collington resident. Helen has joined an art class, where she still enjoys coloring. She also feels blessed to have a Roman Catholic priest from Eucharistic Ministries bring her communion every week. Her biggest joy comes from seeing her children, and she hopes to spend Christmas at her daughter's home.

## Christmas Cheer in November

By Marian Fuchs

A week after the Holiday Bazaar (See p. 16), Collington had its second holiday shopping event on Nov. 10. This was the Christmas in November sale put on by the OO Shop. Tables displaying holiday gifts were arrayed around the room, and OO Shop manager Joe Howard had priced things to sell. There were bargains to be had – most prices \$3 or less. The Glass Case wing of the OO Shop had more special Christmas gift items for sale – several tables of them. They, too, were doing a brisk business.

At the end of the sale, resident Larry



*Helen Svensen was a happy camper at the "Christmas in November" sale. Photo by Marian Fuchs.*

Harris took possession of all the left-over goods and drove them to a church thrift shop in Southern Maryland. So the recycling and re-use will continue.

At this year's sale, some of the happiest shoppers were members of two refugee families adopted by Mary Kim. When she learned about the families, Marion Henry made a substantial donation to both of them, and they used her gift to make substantial purchases, leaving the sale with bulging bags of goodies.

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## Enjoying the Revamped Courtyard

By Frances Kolarek



Collington's Courtyard, recently spiffed up with the aid of a Collington Foundation grant, was the scene of three outstanding cocktail parties given by the Hospitality Committee during the warm days this fall.

In the spring the wealth of bulbs recently

planted will bring new color to the site and we can look forward to many more occasions to socialize.

Photo by Peggy Latimer

## Woodshop Saves Treasured Rocker

By Doris Walsh



**The restored rocker.**  
**Photo by Doris Walsh.**

Ed knew how much I liked rocking chairs. On my birthday, many years ago, a beautiful shiny black wooden rocking chair, with gold trim and early American designs painted on the headboard, appeared in our living room. With great pleasure I rocked our children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews to sleep with its soothing

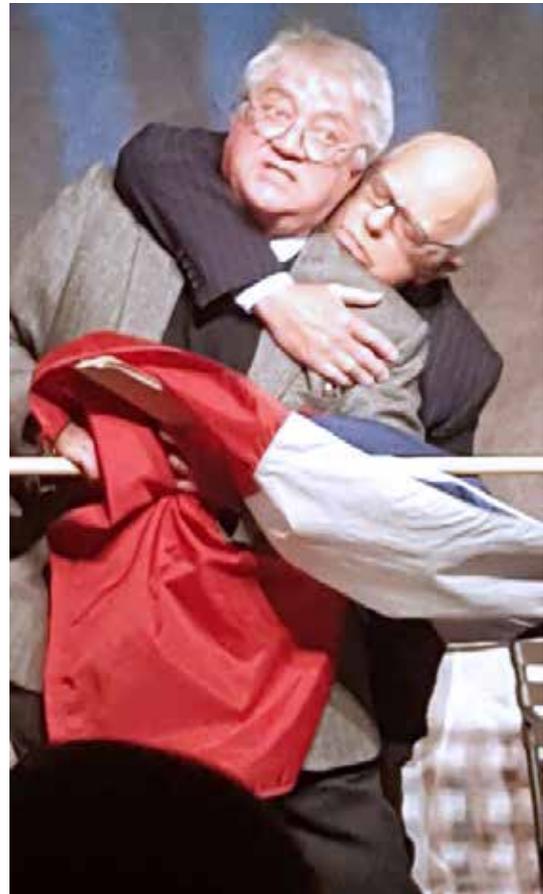
motion and calming sounds.

The early American designs faded from frequent use. Then for some strange reason, an adult visitor stood on one of the rocker legs and broke it. I carried my chair to numerous professional furniture repair shops only to be told, "Can't be fixed," and "Get rid of it and buy a new one."

Unwilling to part with my chair, I patched it best I could with wood glue, tape and sometimes rubber bands. Alas, it could not be rocked. In preparing for our move to Collington, it survived the dreaded downsizing and came with us. I was telling this tale to our neighbor, Chris, and she immediately said she could take it to the wood shop at Collington to be fixed. Sure enough, in a few weeks she brought back my chair. The talented residents had fashioned a new matching shiny black wood rocker leg!

With function restored, I am again enjoying the soothing motion and calming sounds of my rocking chair and all the sweet memories that come with its use.

## Mon Dieu!



Tim Sabin, left, and Ed Robbins share a tense moment in the Drama Committee's production of "Heroes," Tom Spottard's translation of "Le Vent Des Peupliers (The Wind in the Poplars)."

The comedy centers on three French veterans of World War I who are bored with life in the old soldiers' home. Tom McCain was the third soldier; Nadine Hathaway sang Edith Piaf *chansons*; Marilyn Haskel provided musical accompaniment, including a rousing rendition of *La Marseillaise*. Pat Howard had a silent but forceful role as Sister Madeleine, overseer of the home.

The production played to large audiences for three nights, Nov. 15-17.

**Photo by Peter Pfund**

# Restaurant Review: Rasika – A Splurge, but Worth It

By Carl Koch

Rasika offers modern Indian cuisine showcasing tandoori and regional dishes. The Penn Quarter eatery is convenient to the museums, especially the art museums, the Capital One Center (formally the Verizon Center) and can be reached easily by Metro from the Largo or New Carrollton stations.

The Washingtonian magazine has ranked Rasika at 11<sup>th</sup> out of the magazine's "top 100" restaurants in the Washington area. The Washingtonian lists it as "expensive" but the majority of the higher ranked places were said to be "very expensive".

Within this past year, Rasika has been visited by many Washington notables, including Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Ivanka Trump, and the Obamas. Michelle took her husband there for his 56<sup>th</sup> birthday and had been seen lunching there with her women friends.

A beautiful sunny and cool day in August found my wife Joyce and I traveling by car to Rasika for lunch. Inside, the restaurant was bright and the tables well-spaced. By using hanging beads as well as curtains laced with golden thread to break up a large room into several smaller spaces, the general impression was one of elegance. With abundant waiters and busboys, our courses were served well-spaced and the table kept impeccable.

We had drinks, wine for Joyce, a gin and tonic for me. We split the Reshmi Kebab appetizer, spiced minced chicken cooked on a skewer with a tasty mint, coriander, green chili sauce. Joyce chose the Halibut Curry and I the Chicken Tikka Masala as our entrees. Vegetable side dishes were: the Dal Makhari, lentils, tomatoes, garlic,

fennegreek and Malai Palak, finely minced spinach with garlic, chiles, and onions. None of the dishes were particularly spicy but all were savory.

Coffee followed, with a shared dessert called Pista Kulfi, pistachio ice cream rolled in chopped pistachios – very delicious! The bill was \$102 without tax or tip. That's a lot of money for lunch, but after all we had drinks and six different dishes. Also, it was a beautiful August day, the trip to the restaurant was quick and easy, our table was in the front so that we could see outside and we may have gotten a little carried away. The only negative I found was weak coffee! This is truly a great restaurant.

*Rasika, 633 D St. NW, Washington, DC 20004*

*202-637-1222, rasikarestaurant.com*

*Lunch – Monday – Friday 11:30am – 2:30pm*

*Dinner – Monday – Thursday 5:30 – 10:30pm*

*Friday – Saturday – 5:00pm – 11:00pm*

*Closed Sunday*

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Sustainability from p. 3

paper, pencil and a suggestion box were provided for residents and staff to make comments and suggestions. The community is engaged, as a good number of suggestions received attest. It should be noted that two Kendal goals – numbers 4 and 10, relating to energy management in buildings and green cleaning materials – as yet have no Collington accomplishments. These goals will, nevertheless, be posted to encourage residents and staff to give them serious consideration.

All suggestions are gathered, charted and are being discussed at the Sustainability Committee's monthly meetings, with an eye toward what further initiatives Collington might take. Your continued interest and participation in this project is greatly appreciated.

# Lessons from the Heart

By George Newman

To paraphrase Samuel Johnson: A heart attack concentrates the mind wonderfully.

I can testify to that. What follows are some lessons from my newly concentrated mind. Fear not: this will not be a detailed account of my medical history, as fascinating as that is to me. But I think – I hope – I learned from my experience, and perhaps some of the lessons are useful.

**Respect your genes.** My father suffered a fatal heart attack at age 70, 10 years younger than I am now. As I moved through my 70s with no outward signs of heart disease, I thought I had beaten that rap. You don't, after all, get all your genes from your parents. My aunt, who thought the major food groups were cookies, cake, and ice cream, lived to 92, and it wasn't her heart that did her in. Unfortunately, it turns out that I inherited her sweet tooth and my father's arteries.

**If you suspect something is wrong, it probably is.** I didn't have the classic elephant-on-the-chest symptom. But I had enough pain, and a cold sweat, to merit a trip to the emergency room.

**Don't fear Prince George's Hospital.** Its reputation at Collington is not stellar. The building is old and the emergency entrance unwelcoming. But the staff is competent, compassionate and hard-working. The cardiac



unit, where I spent a week, appears first-rate in every respect.

## **Obey your captors.**

The last time I spent a night in a hospital, I was 5 years old, getting my tonsils out. That hardly prepared me for this stay. Like many men, I'm used to at least the appearance of being in control of

my life. It's a culture shock to be dependent on nurses and technicians for basic needs, to say nothing of a schedule of blood draws, blood pressure checks and other indignities that occupy day and night without apparent reason. Especially difficult were my three days in the Critical Cardiac Unit, where patients are tethered to monitors and can't get out of bed without help. I was not, I confess, an easy patient. I think women generally are more sensible about this. It's probably one reason they outlive us.

**Develop some empathy.** Belatedly I realize that the conditions of confinement I complained about comprise daily reality for a substantial number of people, including many residents of our Creighton Center. Their courage merits our admiration.

**Be grateful for life.** That's a cliché, but sometimes clichés carry truth. I'm writing this a few days before Thanksgiving, a holiday whose meaning I more than ever take to heart, in more ways than one.

# Born to be a Horticulturist

By Ann Davie

Q. What do a kernel of corn, a peach pit, and a grapefruit seed have in common?

A. They were the objects of a curious 5-year-old, who wondered, “What will happen if I plant these?”

Kyle Olsen, Collington’s new horticulturist, told me this story to illustrate how he has been drawn to plants and horticultural questions “forever.” He enthusiastically reported that he *did* plant those things, and that the result was edible food – a long time later!

Kyle grew up in Kensington, Md., went to the University of Maryland to study agriculture and education, and was tapped after his sophomore year to begin preparing to teach agricultural horticulture. A job doing just that in a high school in rural Virginia showed him that what he really wanted to do was to focus on horticulture, which is NOT mowing, digging, and planting only but involves learning and practicing sustainability, techniques of growing and advances in the field, making the environment livable in an integrated way.

For twenty years before coming to Collington, Kyle did just that – taught horticulture to special needs children and to the small number of fascinated youth who chose his courses in Charles County schools. When the program ended, Kyle was 59 years old, and had to construct his first resume because a friend had told him he would be “perfect for jobs in the National Parks.” But he found himself overqualified because of his years in his own landscaping businesses and the wide experience he enjoyed helping people make good decisions about planting. And just at that moment, through a connection he can’t even remember,



**Caption: Kyle Olsen.**  
**Photo by Ann Davie.**

Collington’s job description popped up. He firmly believes it was meant to be.

Kyle started with us Sept. 1, knowing that he wanted to facilitate the plans that have been developing among residents here, rather than take over with a new program. He has proven himself to be an effective advocate for plans coming from several resident committees. An example is the Weed Warriors’ work to improve the trail on either side of the hilltop. With Jacob Kijne’s design and Kyle’s assistance in managing materi-

als and workers, there are now six barriers made of 6x6s, pebbles and sand to drain water off to either side of the trail.

Kyle works with Alice Nicolson on many projects, the largest of which right now is the Bee Meadow, on the left of the main drive into campus where a beehive can be seen above a slanted hill which is to be planted in wild, native, natural plants and flowers. Another example is that the Grounds Committee needed “follow through” as they chose locations for six trees bought to replace trees taken down during the recent lake improvements. He also has worked with Marketing Director Lindsey Hamilton to be sure the campus entrances are seasonally appealing to our visitors.

Kyle and Walter Lewis, who has been with Collington for several years, make up a team that responds to individual work order requests. Some examples include advising newcomers about what Collington will do for their property and what they may do; keeping an eye on the newly-landscaped Courtyard; removal of trees downed by storms; and completing the removal of green mold from the siding of cottages.

# Woodmoor Centre Growing Fast

By James Giese

In September, Nordstrom Rack became the latest store added to the Woodmore Towne Centre, a 245-acre mixed-use development at the north end of North Campus Drive, a short distance from Collington. The discount outlet clothing store joins other major tenants: Wegmans grocery and pharmacy, COSTCO member discount store and gasoline station, J C Penney and Old Navy clothing, PETCO pet supplies and Best Buy electronics. There is also a 24-hour Fitness USA located on Ruby Lockhart Drive just after the turn-in to the Centre from Saint Joseph Drive.

Two large restaurants have also recently opened: Hook and Reel Cajun Seafood and Kobe Japanese Steak House, joining Copper Canyon and several smaller operations.

According to an August 2016 Bisnow article by Jon Banister, Petrie Richardson Ventures, in joint venture with Prudential Real Estate Investors, closed on a \$175-million financing deal for the development on Sept. 30, 2008, the day after the stock market experienced the single biggest drop in its history. Eight years later, according to Banister, the risk had paid off with the Towne Centre raking in roughly \$600 per square foot, according to the Prince George's County Economic Development Commission (EDC). The EDC said the development is anchored by "Wegmans' No. 1 store in the country in prepared food sales."

The Woodmore store was the first Wegmans to open in Maryland. The chain has been rated first in the retail grocery business for customer satisfaction and also features numerous choices



*Opening of Nordstrom Rack at Woodmore drew a crowd.*

for eating-in or taking out prepared food.

The EDC credits the shopping Centre's success to its location directly off I-95 and the surrounding area's income, according to Banister. In 2008, the average household income within a five-mile radius was re-

ported to be \$76,000 and in 2013, \$89,000.

Nordstrom Rack is a part of a second-phase 59,000-square-foot development of a five-acre track in the Centre, according to a July 5, 2016 article by Rebecca Cooper in the Washington Business Journal. A site plan at the Centre's website indicates a similar sized parcel between Nordstrom and the COSTCO gasoline station, upon which three major restaurants might be located. Also under construction behind Wegmans is a 120-room hotel, according to the site plan, which is to be a Hampton Inn. The site plan indicates more than 3,200 parking spaces will be provided on the commercial site. Also planned are 108 townhome residential units on Ruby Lockhart Drive across from the fitness center.

Most of the residential development at Woodmore Towne Centre is being done by D R Horton -- some 1,100 single-family, townhomes and condo apartment units. According to the company's website, prices range from \$295,000 for a 1,600- square-foot, three-bedroom, two-story townhome to \$523,490 for a 3,389 square-foot, four-bedroom, two-story free-standing home. Apparently sales having been going well, since construction is approaching completion.

# He Played Key Role in Cold War

By Norman Kempster

In the history of the Cold War -- the ideological conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union that defined the last half of the Twentieth Century -- no name seems to come up more regularly than Raymond L. Garthoff.



In 1972-74, Ray was chief of staff of the U.S. delegation that negotiated the first super-power arms control treaties, the pacts popularly known as SALT-I and ABM-I.

Although the Cold War has receded more than a quarter of a century into history, relations between

Now a Collington resident, Ray Garthoff helped to shape that history as a CIA analyst, ambassador, State Department official and arms control negotiator. And as a non-government scholar, he wrote part of the history.

In the late 1980s, he was among the first American analysts to recognize the importance of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's Perestroika policy of government reorganization that relaxed international tensions. Many American observers, including some of Ray's former colleagues in the State Department and CIA, considered the Soviet policy a trick intended to cause Washington to drop its guard. History, as is now recognized, demonstrated that Gorbachev was sincere.

Unlike conventional wars for which historians usually can date the start and the end, there is no agreed timeline for the Cold War. But Ray said the most likely duration is from 1946 to 1990.

His own career spans almost all of that period, starting in the '50s as an analyst of Soviet policy for the Rand Corp., a private firm with close ties to the U.S. military, and lasting until his service as an advisor to government policy makers following his formal retirement from the State Department in 1980.

the United States and Russia have deteriorated dangerously in recent years, causing some to predict a renewal of the Cold War. For his part, Ray does not buy it.

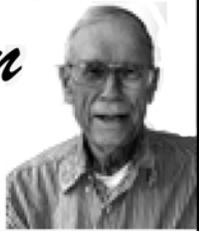
Russian President Vladimir Putin's effort to build Russian world influence, and U.S. programs to extend Western dominance, will cause tensions between Washington and Moscow, Ray said, "but it doesn't rise to the level of a new Cold War." Current tensions, he said, do not have the ideological basis that fueled the conflict of the last century.

Ray's appointment to an ambassadorial post -- traditionally the apex of a Foreign Service officer's career -- was also part of the Cold War. In 1977, he was named by President Jimmy Carter to be ambassador to Bulgaria, then a significant part of the Soviet bloc. While in Sofia, the Bulgarian capital, Ray played a significant role in an emerging U.S. policy of relaxed tensions toward the Soviet satellites in Eastern Europe.

A photo of Ray with Carter hangs on the wall outside the Collington dining room, part of a display of pictures of Collingtonians with heads of state from the United States and foreign nations.

*This is one of an occasional series of articles on the "back stories" of the "photo wall."*

## Bill Preston on Gardening



### What to Plant to Discourage Deer

Spring is cheerful when we can enjoy so many flowers planted as bulbs the previous fall. So here we are in late autumn; are we going to plant now for our future enjoyment? Our friends the deer are expecting us to plant delicious tulips and lilies. Let's fool them by planting bulbs that produce flowers they can't stand to devour.

Daffodils are safe, and they come in a great variety of forms and color combinations. They make a very dependable choice. Hyacinths are also safe, and their range of colors includes every color except yellow. Flowering onions are dependable and safe, and may even protect adjacent susceptible plants from being eaten. Besides the ball-shaped flower clusters of the flowering onion, there are some that produce blooms that are spidery or feathery.

It is surprising but fortunate that bearded or German iris is safe. The colors and forms of this popular flower are breath-taking and beautiful. Tubers are usually planted in August, but this vigorous plant seems to take hold whenever it is planted.

Consider some other fall-planted bulb crops with a badge of safety from deer: winter aconite, grape hyacinth, scilla siberica, and cyclamen coum.

So how about planting fall vegetables instead? Well, it is pretty late to grow veggies outside, and, besides, they are very delicious to deer. Except onions and garlic: you can plant them now, but you will get better results from spring planting, and bulb "sets" are available then.

If we avoid planting all those flowers that deer love to eat, will they starve? Not on your life!

The whole world of vegetation has been on their dinner plate for millions of years.

Horticulturist from p. 12

An example of a project to come is the planting and repair around places recently disfigured, such as the one in the 3000s, where sidewalks and ground had to be dug up to repair water main leaks. It is a great relief to have an advocate who can organize the steps to get the project completed done and the grounds made attractive.

Kyle's family include his wife Natalie, who joins him in many interests (landscape design, floral design, advising friends and family about plant design). They are the proud parents of a son in Georgia and of a daughter and granddaughter who live nearby. Kyle's parents, in their 90s, maintain their home in South Carolina, and Kyle is attentive to try to keep his father "off ladders and roofs."

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### Reigle Family Expands

By Rob Reigle



My wife Samantha and I were given the gift of Lucy Lynn Reigle on Oct. 8. Weighing in at 7 pounds 9.4 ounces, Lucy has been a great baby and for the most part only cries when she has a good reason, as when she is ready to eat. Lucy now smiles at us and even tries to talk, moving her mouth and making some sounds.

One resident said to me, "Because you work at Collington, Lucy has many grandparents here."

I appreciate the great culture we have here at Collington and I am very thankful for the positive thoughts and congratulations I have received from residents.

*Rob Reigle is Collington's IT manager.*

## Busy Bazaar Builds RA Coffers

Collington's annual Holiday Bazaar, held on Nov. 3, raised about \$4,000 for the Residents Association, said Maja Keech, chief organizer of the event (The OO Shop's "Christmas in November" event later in the month was also a success. See page 8).

Top right, Martha Pollick, left, is delighted by an exhibit of decorated wine bottles, as is Roberta Decker. Rhea Hawkins is behind the counter.



*Photo by Bud Gardiner*

## Sue Embree Quoted in 'Code Girls'

By Norman Kempster

Every year during World War II, future Collington resident Sue Embree, then a junior naval officer, applied for a transfer from her stateside job to an overseas post.

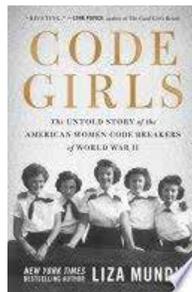
Every year, she was turned down. The U.S. military was not sending women abroad except for nurses.

So, she stuck with her post -- one of the most important, and secret, assignments of the war. She was one of about 10,000 women assigned by the army and navy to break German and Japanese codes.

Their efforts, once so secret that it would be a crime to talk about them with anyone outside of the program, are credited by some with hastening the allied victory, or even possibly turning defeat into victory.

Although the secrecy that surrounded the program survived the war for decades, the story has now been told -- most recently in the just-published book, "Code Girls," by Liza Mundy.

The book features personal accounts, gleaned



from the National Archives and from interviews with some of the surviving participants.

Sue Embree, quoted under her maiden name of Suzanne Harpole, appears in the index at least five times, including the recounting of her ill-fated effort to participate in the war, closer to the front.

There were less weighty events as well. The book quotes Sue as recalling that upon returning to her "oh so respectable" boarding house in Washington following a brief leave, she discovered that her room had been sublet to a military officer and his mistress who were making good use of it.

In addition to Sue, at least one other future Collingtonian was assigned to the code-breaking program although she is not cited by name in the book. Rickie Evans, then known as Mary Richardson, worked at Arlington Hall, headquarters of the code-breaking effort.