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Gary & Diana Ditto's Newsletter

May-June 2011

Meet Your Neighbors: Fifi and Will Chase

by Antoinette Kranenburg

High water many years ago canceled the canoe race from Great Falls to Sycamore that would have been their first date. Both widowed, Will and Fifi Chase met through mutual friends and married in 1984. These longtime Kensington residents share a spirit of adventure and love of the outdoors and approach life with energy.

Light and art fills their home on Old Spring Road in Kensington's Rock Creek Hills community. Fifi Chase is a docent at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, "eighteen city blocks of art," as she puts it. The colorful pottery pieces in their home are made by Will Chase, 90-plus and retired from the Foreign Service.

Active in the community, Will served as Commissioner of the Commission for Women in the 1980s and also served for four years on the Montgomery County Commission for Human Relations. He jokes that he now is an active member of ROMEO, Retired Old Men Eating Out, and he relishes his regular bike rides.

Fifi and Will both love sailing and canoeing. As a young man, Will enlisted and joined the Coast Guard as a sailor boy. He was on picket patrol out of Long Island on a 50 to 68-foot sailboat looking for submarines from Nantucket down to the Delaware Bay. —continued on page 2

Inside this issue...*The Kensington Historical Society Garden Tour.....Benefit Concert by Acclaimed Singer-Songwriter Ted Garber... and more*

Long & Foster Real Estate, Inc.
Bethesda Gateway Office
4650 East-West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814
301-907-7600

THE DITTO GROUP
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Gary Ditto 301-215-6834
Diana Ditto 301-215-6904
gd@thedittogroup.com
diana@thedittogroup.com
www.thedittogroup.com

...Will and Fifi Chase continued

He joined the Foreign Service in 1945. Stationed at the consulate in Basra, he sailed down to the Persian Gulf in a lateen rig.

In 1960, he bought a Grumman canoe in Canada and is a long time member of the canoe cruisers club. One expedition was a five-night canoe trip on the Penobscot River following Thoreau's 1844 trip from Walden Pond.

Will was born at home in 1919 and grew up in Chevy Chase. He remembers ice skating on the Canal, the reflecting pool, and Chevy Chase Lake and wonderful neighborhood sledding gatherings. A fire would be blazing in a trashcan, and the police would close off Grant Street.

In the snowstorm of 1922, when he was very young and living on Huntington Street, a neighbor walked to Chevy Chase Circle and brought food back for the neighborhood.

Washington, DC, used to be a very, very small town, Fifi explains. She grew up on Brandywine Street near Rock Creek Park. She fondly remembers playing in the creek, and the homes with porches that gave you the feeling you could drop by. Back then, all the stores were in downtown DC and you would take the trolley.

Her grandfather, a dentist, was friends with the Senator from Boston. He gave passes for Fifi and her mother to go up in a plane with Charles Lindbergh. It was 1928. The year before, Charles Lindbergh had crossed the Atlantic in the first nonstop solo flight and was the "darling of the United States."

In Junior High School, Fifi was assigned to do an interview. Her father, an insurance agent on K Street, had gone to school with J. Edgar Hoover, with whom he shared a January birthday. So for her school assignment, she interviewed J. Edgar Hoover. Though Hoover lived nearby on Linnean Avenue, she went to the FBI in the Justice building for the interview.

Fifi went to Roosevelt's second and third inaugural and was on the White House grounds with the Girls Scout when King George of England visited with his wife. She remembers the queen in a periwinkle, flowing chiffon dress.

Fifi moved to Kensington in 1958 with her husband, a surgeon. He opened his office in Silver Spring at a time when specialists were expected to have an office in downtown Washington.

She enjoys that Kensington is still a village, that you can walk to the Safeway and the Post Office. She loves driving



New Kensington Stories Booklet

A new, updated edition of the popular *Kensington Stories* booklet is now available! First published in 1995, the booklet features Kensington history, community resources, and charming illustrations by local artists.

If you would like to receive a copy, simply:

- Call or email The Ditto Group office and you will be mailed a copy (301-215-6834, gd@thedittogroup.com)
- Visit the Kensington Row Bookshop at 3786 Howard Avenue, where copies are available. (www.kensingtonrowbookshop.com)
- Visit any of The Ditto Group's Kensington Open Houses, which are posted on the Current Listings page at www.thedittogroup.com



...Will and Fifi Chase continued

and walking through the historical sections. Her daughter used to walk to the Junior High School.

When her children were growing up, their play land was near where the Mormon Temple now stands on Stoneybrook Drive. They played at a large boulder called Indian Rock that was bulldozed in 1961 to make room for the Beltway.

Old Spring Road is named for the old spring located at Bexhill Road. The owners of the property have created a waterfall there.

Today, the neighborhood party in Rock Creek Hills is a longstanding summer tradition. Fifi is working with the neighborhood association to have some big rocks and plantings installed in the triangle at Elrod and Old Spring, "since we are Rock Creek Hills," she explains.

Catching Kids Before They Fall:

*Strategies for Children with Sensory Processing Challenges,
for parents of children with a little or a lot of
Sensory Processing Disorder.*

Tuesday, June 21, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Carol Stock Kranowitz, M.A., author of "The Out-of-Sync Child" and co-author (with Joye Newman) of "Growing an In-Sync Child," presents this workshop that gives parents a thorough grounding in the spectrum of behaviors that result when children struggle with their responses to ordinary physical sensations. Does your child



scream about shirt tags or sock seams? Crave fast or spinning movement and dare-devil adventures? Complain about noises like the vacuum cleaner? Trip over obstacles in the path? Have trouble functioning smoothly in daily life? Learn a wealth of strategies to support

children, whether they are mildly, moderately, or severely out of sync.

The Parent Encouragement Program (PEP), 10100 Connecticut Avenue, Kensington (www.PEPparent.org) \$30/person, \$55/couple; PEP members: \$25/person, \$45/couple. Pre-registration is required; please call 301-929-8824.

All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast!

Saturday, June 4, 8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
10401 Armory Avenue, Kensington.

A charity benefit fundraiser. For more information please visit www.stpaulsk.org, e-mail stpaulsunited@verizon.net, or call 301-933-7933.

Neighborhood Watch Groups Organize

At a recent meeting of the Rock Creek Hills Citizens Association, County Police Officer Denise Gill explained how Neighborhood Watch programs can help to prevent home and car break-ins and other crimes. Aware and alert neighbors provide the best line of defense against these crimes of opportunity.

After some recent incidents, residents are restarting Neighborhood Watch groups that were active in Rock Creek Hills in years past. This takes volunteers! Residents interested in learning more, and possibly willing to become block captains, please call Jacquie Borda at 301-587-0235.

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. The editor is Antoinette Kranenburg of Kensington, assisted by Cherry Wunderlich. The drawings on page 2 are by Sara Phang.



Kensington Garden Tour

Sunday June 5, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Come enjoy a garden tour hosted by the Kensington Historical Society on Sunday, June 5, from 1 to 4 p.m. The tour features seven gardens within walking distance of Flinn Park. The gardens demonstrate innovative solutions for various landscaping challenges, e.g., a once-barren backyard hillside and the use of landscaping instead of fencing to mark shared backyard boundaries.

Flinn Park is across from the Kensington Post Office at 10325 Kensington Parkway. The cost is \$10 for reservations received by May 31st, \$15 after May 31st and free for children. For more information please visit www.kensingtonhistory.org or contact Detta Voesar at dvoesar@verizon.net or 301-949-1059

Summer Outdoor Concert Series

Howard Avenue Park, Saturdays, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

The Kensington Historical Society's summer concert series starts June 4th with concerts every Saturday through the end of September at Howard Avenue Park, across from the Farmers' Market at the Train Station.

The concert series is dedicated to Wat Stewart, who founded the series to bring the community together in a joyful way. The series is part of Wat's legacy to the community. He was ever mindful that the cultural history of a community is as important as the physical history. Look for the schedule on www.kensingtonhistory.org.

Benefit Concert by Singer-Songwriter Ted Garber Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, June 8, 7:00 p.m.

Ted Garber brings his "BluesAmericanaRock" guitar and harmonica playing to the Warner Sanctuary to benefit three global charities:



The Moringa Tree Project

has planted over 6,000 Moringa Tree seedlings in the Republic of the Congo. In developing countries, Moringa Trees are used to combat malnutrition, especially among infants and nursing children.

Hope Unlimited for Children ministers to the physical, intellectual, and spiritual needs of some 1,250 street children in Brazil

Peter Graeff, grew up at Warner and has worked directly with Haitians for over 25 years on health, education, and water issues in Port-au-Prince and the island of La Gonave.

Ted Garber is an engaging storyteller and natural entertainer. A Strathmore Artist in Residence, he received the Washington Area Music Award for his album "American Rail".

Admission to the concert is a suggested minimum donation of \$15 for adults and \$10 for schoolage children. All proceeds will be donated to the three charities. Warner is located at 10123 Connecticut Avenue, Kensington, with free parking in Warner's lot directly across Connecticut Avenue. For more information go to www.WarnerMemorial.org or call 301-949-2900.



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Recent Sales by The Ditto Group

4013 Cleveland Street.....	Kensington/Chevy Chase View.....	April 14, 2011.....	\$860,000
4922 Redford Road (*).....	Bethesda/Greenacres.....	April 15, 2011.....	\$815,000
11056 Powder Horn Drive (*).....	Potomac/Fox Hills.....	May 9, 2011.....	\$750,000
2020 15th Street, NW (*).....	Washington DC/U Street.....	May 10, 2011.....	\$739,000
10015 Leafy Avenue.....	Silver Spring/Capitol View Park.....	May 20, 2011.....	\$701,500
1718 Evelyn Drive (*).....	Rockville/Montrose.....	March 31, 2011.....	\$625,000
10123 Cedar Lane.....	Kensington/Chevy Chase View.....	April 15, 2011.....	\$520,000
11301 Soward Drive.....	Kensington/Kensington Knolls.....	March 31, 2011.....	\$496,460
612 Edmonston Drive.....	Rockville/Burgundy Estates.....	April 29, 2011.....	\$345,000
10205 Montgomery Avenue.....	Kensington/Kensington.....	Rented May 2011.....	\$3,000/mo
9806 Campbell Drive.....	Kensington/Rock Creek Hills.....	Rented May 2011.....	\$3,000/mo

Also Under Contract

11104 Kenilworth Avenue.....	Kensington/Garrett Park.....	\$1,000,000
10007 Connecticut Avenue.....	Kensington/Chevy Chase View.....	\$619,000
5020 Druid Drive.....	Kensington/Garrett Park Estates.....	\$459,000

(*) Denotes a Gary & Diana Ditto Sale or a JT Burton/Gary Ditto Sale

The Ditto Group Real Estate Activity



7019 MacArthur Blvd
Bethesda/Glen Echo Heights
For Sale - \$1,150,000



8507 Halston Way
Bethesda/Glenbrook Village
For Sale - \$1,039,000



9805 Haverhill Drive
Kensington/Rock Creek Hills
List Price - \$895,000



3505 Runnymede PI, NW
Washington DC/Chevy Chase
List Price - \$800,000



9909 Parkwood Drive
Bethesda/Parkwood
List Price - \$689,000



9847 Campbell Drive
Kensington/Rock Creek Hills
List Price - \$610,000



4518 Dresden Street
Kensington/Martin's Add to CCV
For Sale - \$598,500



3704 Farragut Avenue
Kensington/Kensington
For Sale - \$579,000



12012 Auth Lane
Silver Spring/Springbrook Forest
For Sale - \$529,000



10805 McComas Court
Kensington/Kensington Heights
For Sale - \$519,000



9816 Capitol View Avenue
Silver Spring/Capitol View Park
For Sale - \$449,000



3402 Farragut Avenue
Kensington/Kensington Heights
For Sale - \$439,000



11011 Harriet Lane
Kensington/North Kensington
For Sale - \$415,000



20 Logan Circle, NW LL2
Washington DC
For Sale - \$399,900



3303 Pendleton Drive
Silver Spring/Hammond Hill
List Price - \$375,000



3306 Pendleton Drive
Silver Spring/Hammond Hill
For Sale - \$349,900



11318 Newport Mill Road
Silver Spring/Hammond Woods
List Price - \$299,000



4015 Lawrence Avenue
Kensington/Rock Creek Palisades
For Sale - \$295,000



4805 Oxbow Road
Rockville/Randolph Hills
For Sale - \$295,000