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CLASSIFIEDS

OUR TOWNES

CONTACT



Gaithersburg Names New Police Chief

Editorials

Maryland 20878™ magazine began as [Kentlands Dot Us®](#) which focused on Kentlands. We rapidly acquired both readers and contributors from Lakelands and added both the Market Square area as well as Lakelands to our coverage areas. As we have now added Gaithersburg city news, we have expanded.

Kentlands is a neo-traditional, or new urbanist, community. The community design is based on the concept that the most pleasant living environments were nineteenth century villages in which homes were grouped around a town center with shops, community buildings, and schools. New urbanism has developed architectural communities going back to this design.

Lakelands is a similar, and neighboring, community built on property which was also once owned by Otis Beal Kent. Lakelands has its own distinct character. Both communities are within walking distance of restaurants, grocery stores, and shops.

Kentlands and Lakelands were built on the estate of Otis Beall Kent. His mansion is now the cultural arts center for Gaithersburg, Maryland. The barn, which is now the Arts Barn, houses a rich center for community theater and artists' workspace as well as offices and a pleasant shop selling the works of local artists. The former barn loft is now a 99-seat theater for the performing arts. Kentlands is thought to be the

- [Feature Series: How Do "Our" Spouses Cope? a look at how being the spouse of an office holder affects daily life and how to cope with the team sport of Elected Official](#)

Columns

- [Charles Sullivan—All Real Estate is Local](#)
- [Grace Maciolek's Destination column—Two Weeks in London; What a Whirl!](#)

Commentary

- [Marien Helz—Growing Up in Gaithersburg: Renewal](#)
- [Spring Photographs](#)

Viewpoints

- [Louis Solomon—To the Hilt](#)
- [Charles Miess—Introducing Lauren Kingsland](#)

[Restaurant Reviews](#)

[Curious Club Meetings](#)

Gaithersburg News:

- [School Supply Donations Sought](#)
- [City Receives Financial Reporting Award](#)
- [Mayor Katz, Council Member](#)

Check OUT:

[The Mortgage Vault, Inc. Relocating! See Building Sale](#)

[Charles Sullivan, Realtor](#)



[England Custom Furniture Direct](#)

[Inspiration Original Paintworks](#)

[Great Novels! Thriller Tales](#)

[Tri-State Home Services Heating and Cooling](#)

[Floor Stiles](#)

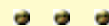
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[Kentlands House and Garden Tour](#)

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Articles:

- [Gaithersburg Skate Park Opens for Season, Hours Extended](#)

largest and most successful neo-traditional project in North America.

Kentlands Dot Us® focuses primarily on Kentlands, while *KentLakes*™ adds Lakelands, and *Maryland 20878*™ is the over-all publication with city news and information for the area covered by the 20877 and 20878 zip codes. We thank our readers and advertisers for their interest which has led to our expansion.

[Sesma Appointed to NLC Committees](#)

- [Gaithersburg Celebrates Green Week Apr. 16 - 22](#)
- [City Hall Gallery Features "PAINT" Multi Media Exhibit](#)
- [Harmonious Art Group Comes to Gaithersburg](#)
- [Spring Activities](#)
- [Chief Viverette to Retire](#)
- [Marraffa Elected to National League](#)

[During Spring Break](#)

- [City Sponsors Trip to See Phantom](#)
- [Preschoolers Invited to "Roll" at Gaithersburg Skate Park](#)
- [Gaithersburg Receives National Cultural Diversity Award](#)
- [Police Accreditation Team Invites Public Comment](#)
- [Comedy and Mystery Society](#)
- [Arts Barn Hosts Inspiring Gospel Night & "The Dining Room"](#)

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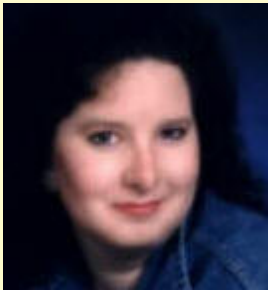
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COLUMNS

Quarterly

Two Weeks in London; What a Whirl!



By Graceann Maciolek

I've never traveled internationally before. Just getting my Passport was an adventure, so you can imagine how excited and bewildered I am by the process of navigating international terminals, security and customs

checks. I plan things to the nth degree, and having this many unknowns in the mix is a bit beyond my comfort zone. However, nothing is going to keep me from my date with London. I've waited a long time to see this City – and a few butterflies and metal detectors aren't going to deter me.

Once I settled into my flight, I realized that this was a very lightly-scheduled trip. Unless we were traveling with someone, we each ended up with a row to ourselves. Once we had our delicious dinner, we could push back the armrests, spread out the blankets and make a bed out of each of our areas (which I did). It was like when I was a small child traveling in the back seat of my Dad's station wagon. I slept comfortably and peacefully in the dark cabin for more than two hours.

By the time I felt restless and ready to stir, we were approaching the United Kingdom and it was time to freshen up in preparation for our arrival. Sleeping helped the time pass, though it was still a longer flight than I'm used to at more than eight hours. I was ready to move around on terra firma, and to get my first glimpse of London.

An Airport by any Other Name Would be Just as Crowded

My first glimpse of London looked like my first glimpse of every other city I've ever visited: a busy airport, long lines and baggage carousels. I got into the queue for the Passport control, and waited for the slew of questions I was sure I would receive. Roughly 30 seconds after I approached the agent, I was sent on my way with a stamp in my passport and a smile on my face. I've had more difficult times getting through my grocery store check-out lane.

Monthly

All Real Estate is Local

By Charles Sullivan, ABR, CRS, GRI, MBA

Living amidst the biggest media beehive in the known world can often lead us to take in "large" news stories and extrapolate them to our own community.



An example of this phenomenon is the recent bankruptcy filing of New Century Financial and the demise of the sub prime mortgage-lending industry. During the last five years or so, homebuyers with poor-to-mediocre credit and no cash to speak of have been able to purchase homes in the United States through 100% loan programs, whereby the lender would front the entire purchase price and the seller would often pay all of the buyer's closing costs. Bad credit plus no cash equaled new home!

Predictably a large percentage of these loans will go bad, as they have started to do so in spring 2007. Estimates range up to 20% of sub prime 100% loans originated in 2005-2006, almost as scary a number as the losses projected for the Washington Nationals in the 2007 season (from an optimistic 100 to a Biblical 130). With the fall of the sub prime lending industry, many Chicken Littles are predicting a major blow to the national real estate market.

How does the fall of the sub prime mortgage market affect buyers and sellers of homes in Kentlands? The answer is that it does not, for very few properties in Kentlands fit the category of "starter home." Rather Kentlands consists almost exclusively of "move up" or "trophy home" properties.

The point is nicely elucidated in a new book by David Lereah, chief economist for the National Association of Realtors. *All Real Estate Is Local* argues that proper evaluation of "present and future trends and influences in your region or neighborhood is essential to creating long term wealth, whether you are in a buyer's or seller's market."

It had been so terribly cold at my starting point that I was bundled in a bulky sweater and winter coat. When I got to the airport I realized that it was in the 50's and that I was ridiculously overdressed. The very first thing I did was put my winter coat in the suitcase in order to free up the use of my arms. I was still melting, but I'd have to wait until I got to the final destination to change into something more appropriate to the weather. I made it through the maze of corridors to where travelers exit the airport, and there my darling host was waiting for me, smiling, happy and with ... [click to continue](#)

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Lereah posits that real estate markets, even small ones such as Kentlands, have their own DNA.

One would almost think Mr. Lereah, a resident of Fairfax Station, Virginia, were a faithful reader of *Maryland 20878*, for the cognoscenti appreciate that Kentlands has had its own "real estate DNA" since its creation in the early 1980's. Kentlands is indeed the exemplar of the real estate DNA concept: buyers flock here regardless of average public schools, zero lot lines, high prices per square foot (for both land and finished living area), and ...[click to continue](#)

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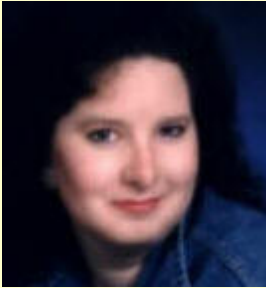
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OUR TOWNES

CONTACT

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Maciolek's Past Columns



We are pleased to present columns by Graceann Maciolek. She is a writer whose greatest loves are her fiance, David, her cat of dubious intelligence, Spike, silent and early sound cinema, and road trips (usually to silent film events or historic sites).

Graceann Maciolek's past columns are available here in Adobe files. Click on the links below to access the Adobe files. If you do not have Adobe on your computer, you can download a free copy here:



- [St. Simons Island – Going Coastal](#) April 2005 [Quarterly]
- [Stepping Into the Past – Gettysburg](#) July 2005 [Quarterly]
- [The New Orleans I Remember](#) October 2005 [Quarterly]
- [St. Simons Island – The First Visit](#) January 2006 [Quarterly]
- [‘Wonderful People Out There in the Dark’](#) April 2006 [Quarterly]
- [Travel Then and Now](#) July 2006 [Quarterly]
- [Mackinac Island–Of Lilacs and Long Ago](#) October 2006 [Quarterly] in columns
- [HOO-RAY For Hollywood!](#) January 2007 [Quarterly] in columns



...continued from the [columns](#) page:

a Coca Cola in hand (this is a man who knows me). Now I was going to get to see London? Nope, not quite yet.

The Tube at Rush Hour – London in your Lap

My host shuttled me onto the Tube and we stood for quite a little while, since this was a Monday morning and everyone was on their way to their various workplaces. It took us quite a while to finally get seats, and when we did, one of the unlucky standees lost her footing and I got a very informal, yet definitive, introduction to a nice lady who only wanted to get to the office on time. I was tired, disoriented and completely dependent on my friend to make sure

that we got to our appropriate destination. It took just a bit over an hour to get to Central London, and then I finally got to see what the City looks like. Neighborhoods with little courtyards, and shops everywhere. So far, very interesting.

We kept things fairly low-key that first day; if only to let me ease into the routine of a very busy City, given that I live in a much smaller one. We took a walk around the neighborhood and picked up some supplies, and I learned my way around the intricacies of my host's home and amenities.

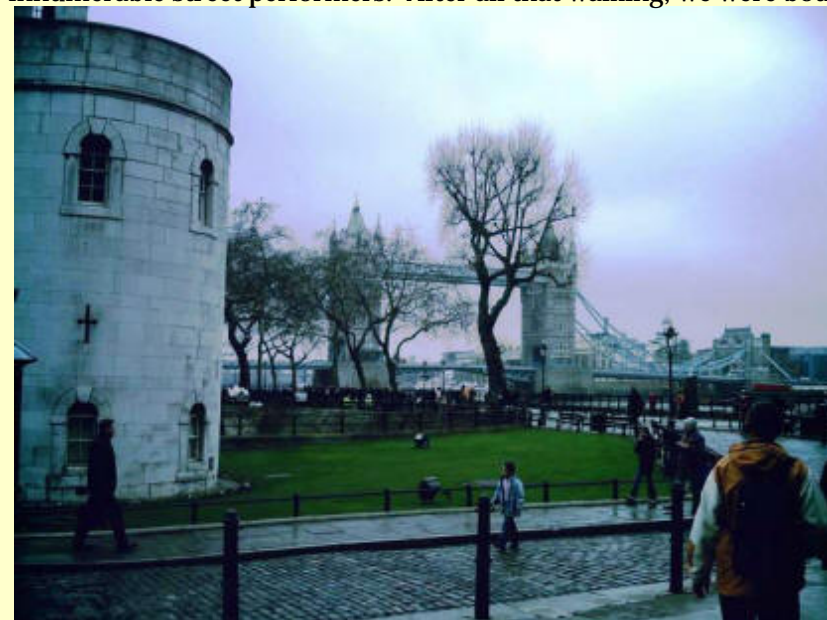
Tower, Eye & Garden

I woke up the next day, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, ready to see all that London had to offer. The best and easiest way to get around London is by using public transport. Cars are expensive, and driving is confusing, congested and frightening. I'm no more interested in driving in London than I would be in Manhattan or Chicago. The first order of business was to get me an "Oyster Card," which allows reasonably priced, unlimited access to the buses for a week, and then we went exploring. We headed out to the South Bank, past the Millennium Eye ferris wheel (a hugely popular attraction), over Tower Bridge and disembarked in order to see the Tower of London. The juxtaposition of old and new in London is mind-boggling. The centuries-old Tower surrounded by glass skyscrapers of varying tastes and styles. It was quite an education. Wherever a bit of the old Wall appeared, it was surrounded by a fence and preserved – very different from what I'm used to seeing in my domestic travels. It was a fairly grey and dreary day, which I found to be fairly normal for London in February, but the weather reduced the crowds and we were able to walk without having to deal with too many other people. Next we ventured over to Covent Garden and visited some of the shops and enjoyed the seemingly innumerable street performers. After all that walking, we were both famished, so we tucked into a tasty meal before getting back on the bus and heading home.



A Full, Rich Day

I'm so glad I wrote down everything I did on this particular day, because I never would have remembered it all. I can barely believe we squeezed it all into a mere few hours. We started, as always, with catching the bus just a block away from home and heading off into what for me was the unknown. We went past the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben and Westminster Abbey before we even disembarked. We first visited Admiralty Arch, from which you can see Buckingham Palace off in the distance. Then we visited Trafalgar Square, the National Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery. We walked over to Leicester Square where you can buy reasonably-priced tickets for the West End shows (and see a top-notch



statue of Charles Chaplin), shopped the bookstores at Cecil Court and saw the plaque where the now defunct Marks & Co. (made famous in the book and film "84 Charing Cross Road") once stood. Chinatown was a marvelous destination for dinner, and we had our pick of delicious eateries. In order to walk off all of that food, we made our way to Oxford Street (which was a bit too crowded for my taste – even though it was after dark, it felt very much like downtown Chicago on the day after Thanksgiving). After all of that, I was more than ready to go home and put my feet up for a bit.

Notting Hill Explorations

This was one of my favorite London locations. Lovely little shops and a very arty atmosphere, and a gloriously beautiful ride in getting there, past the Albert Memorial and Hyde Park (where daffodils were already starting to bloom). We stopped in a little café for hot chocolate and a piece of cake, and then strolled along the streets, enjoying

the wares offered by the different book, music and retro shops. We each found some treasures and even explored a street that my host hadn't yet viewed in detail. It was generally a relaxing, happy day. Top this off with a delicious meal (which we did), and you have a recipe for wonderful memories.

A Boat and a Bus Ride (or Two)

This was the furthest I traveled during my explorations, and it still was a very quick ride home at the end of the day. It all began with a leisurely boat ride from Westminster Pier past many London landmarks, including the recreated Globe Theatre and the HMS Belfast, to Greenwich. Unfortunately, the Cutty Sark is being

restored so we weren't able to visit that particular site, but we were able to visit the artisan's bazaar, with so many different offerings of food and crafts that I didn't know where to spend my money first. I loved the little streets and the lovely bakeries – I had some of the finest carrot cake I've ever enjoyed (and that's saying something). We then hopped onto a bus to return home (just one bus, and it got us all the way back to where we started that morning). After a brief rest and freshening up, we headed out again, this time for a romantic stroll along the Thames to see the Houses of Parliament and the Millennium Eye all lit up just for us (or so it seemed). We took a pedestrian bridge over the River and tried to eat at one of the waterfront restaurants, but it was late and they had all closed; no matter, we found a little side street with a marvelous Italian restaurant, and felt that we'd discovered a treasure.



buildings and walking on the cobblestones, such that when we arrived at Canary Wharf, it was a bit of a jolt. We had a nice lunch with one of our friends there, and by the time we were done eating, the lunchtime business crowd had thinned out and we were able to visit some of the shops without being elbow-to-elbow with everyone else in town. However, after a short time in the complex, I was ready to head back out and go back through Limehouse again, and as a special treat, we left the bus at St. Paul's so that I could look at it more closely. It's a gorgeous, inspirational building and I could have easily spent much longer exploring it. The weather was turning threatening again, however, and after all the exploring we'd done since lunch, we were ready for our supper. My host took me to one of his favorite restaurants and we had a marvelous evening together.

Canary Wharf

This was such an interesting journey for me – Canary Wharf is a very modern office/shopping/real estate complex, but to get to it, you go past St. Paul's Cathedral and through the very historic Limehouse District. It's as if you're time-traveling, and in reality you are. I enjoyed seeing all the old brick

One Last Night on the Town

I couldn't fathom how it was that I had been in London for two weeks and that it was time to head back to the US

already. The time had flown so quickly that if I hadn't dated my diary entries, I wouldn't have believed that the time had already passed. I had one last evening to spend, and it was a truly memorable one. A friend picked me up, and took me through the streets of London at night, past the beautiful Buckingham Palace and then past Harrod's, which is lit up like a Christmas tree once the sun goes down. We then drove through several of the neighborhoods and visited my host as he finished the last couple hours of his shift as a continuity announcer for one of the television studios. Seeing him in action was fascinating, to say the least. It was rainy and cold, again, as we left the studio to head for home one last time. We tried not to think about the fact that it would only be twelve hours before my flight would be leaving Heathrow to return me to the States. I know I'll be back, and soon.

Some tips:

It seems a cliché, but seriously, make sure you have an umbrella with you when you leave the house. It rained at least a little every day that I was in London. I visited in February and I understand this is normal for that time of year; I don't know what precipitation is like during the other months.

Be prepared for people; lots of them. London is a very crowded city, and while most of the folks I met were incredibly nice, just the sheer volume of humanity could feel overwhelming at times.

Relax and enjoy what's around you. Don't try to cram a huge amount into a "schedule," or you will be frustrated and exhausted. Just let the day happen, and you will have much happier memories.

Links of Interest:

<http://londonengland.ca/> (general information about the City)

http://www.britishairways.com/travel/home/public/en_us

(the lovely airline that got me there and back again – talk about a stress-free trip)

<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/tfl/fares-tickets/oyster/general.asp> (Oyster Card information)

http://www.citycruises.com/london_06/thames_boat_trips.htm (boat trip info)



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COVER

TOURS & MAPS

CLASSIFIEDS

OUR TOWNES

CONTACT

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Charles Sullivan's Past Columns



We are pleased to present columns by Charles Sullivan, ABR, CRS, GRI, MBA.

Charles Sullivan, real estate consultant and founder of the Sullivan Team, is licensed to serve clients in Maryland and the District of Columbia. He is an owner of the Keller Williams market center in Gaithersburg. Prior to joining Keller Williams, Charles worked for Fortune 500 companies such as MCI, Giant Food, Centel, and Contel.

Charles resides in Gaithersburg with his wife, Shelly, who is also licensed and part of the Sullivan Team, and their three sons, Frank (16), Edward (14), and Steven (10). All three boys help the team with marketing and promotional campaigns.

Charles Sullivan's past columns are available here in Adobe files. Click on the links below to access the Adobe files. If you do not have Adobe on your computer, you can download a free copy here:



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- [Best Gift Ever—Real Estate Taxes](#) February 2005
- [Seller Mistakes to Avoid in a Hot Market](#) March 2005
- [Buyer Mistakes to Avoid in a Hot Market](#) April 2005
- [Crazy Days in DC Real Estate](#) May 2005
- [The Importance of Time](#) June 2005
- [New Law on Capital Gains Withholding](#) July 2005
- [Is the Housing "Bubble" Ready to Burst?](#) August 2005
- [Homes I Would Buy](#) September 2005
- [Tell Before You Sell](#) October 2005
- [Twelve Rules of the Game](#) November 2005
- [Santa's Been Good to the Kentlands](#) December 2005
- [The Kentlands at 14: Aging Well](#) January 2006
- [Truths, Half Truths, and Outright Baloney](#) February 2006
- [Mature Kentlands](#) March 2006
- [The Forward Observer](#) April 2006
- [Rules of the Road](#) May 2006
- [How Do I Price My Home?](#) June 2006
- [So You Want to Sell Too?](#) July 2006
- [The Future is Ours to See](#) August 2006
- [Summertime Views](#) September 2006
- [Ducks on the Pond](#) October 2006
- [The Golden Age](#) November 2006
- [I Told that Girl my Prospects Were Good](#) December 2006 in Columns
- [Tea Leaves](#) January 2007 in Columns
- [Surprise, Surprise](#) February 2007 in Columns
- [Tossing the Rulebook](#) March 2007 in Columns



...continued from the [Columns](#) page:

zealously enforced covenants, all deterrents that prove far more effective at repulsing buyers looking in *other* neighborhoods. Kentlands is often “love at first sight.”

Although Kentlands has experienced sales swings in the past, and will undoubtedly continue to do in the future (few communities can withstand sustained periods of 9%+ interest rates), it is probable Kentlands will maintain its unique appeal, its own DNA, for several reasons. As Souldecision puts it, “no one does it better.” Our commute is still a breeze compared to Clarksburg’s. And our restaurant selection is improving.

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COVER

TOURS & MAPS

CLASSIFIEDS

OUR TOWNES

CONTACT

COMMENTARY

Monthly

Growing Up In Gaithersburg



Renewal

By Marien Helz

In the Ohio town where my mother lived as a child, there was an immigrant family, probably Hispanic, with six children. The mother died when the children were all quite young. My mother told us about one of the women in the town saying that she was going to take one of the children; it sounded like the townspeople picked up the children as though they were a litter of stray kittens. Disagreeable as this may seem, all the children who were *taken* did well in life. That was the advantage of villages, which are the model for the neo-traditional communities that are now becoming popular—villagers tended to feel a degree of responsibility for other members of the community, even for those who had not been there long.

Of course, there are well-documented disadvantages to traditional village life as well. Some people fell through the cracks, and all tended to be labeled and pigeon-holed. If a family got the reputation for being lazy, no amount of industry on the part of a member of that family could keep him or her from being assigned the familial tag.

In spite of that, there was a healing quality villages tended to have, and when I was growing up in Gaithersburg our town was such a place. Many people in my parents' generation were in need of such healing since they had come of age during the Great Depression that left more damage, psychic and physical, than most of us can now imagine. My mother was a teacher during that time and felt extraordinarily fortunate to have a job. She managed to have a car, and every morning on her way to work would fill her car with men going down to the factories to wait in

Quarterly





endless lines for the possibility of some meager work for the day.

The depression left scars, but some had scars far deeper than that. The mother in the family across the street from us had survived an attempt by her stepmother to murder her and her brother for insurance money.

My mother was an orphan, and had suffered more losses by the time she

became an adult than anyone should suffer in a lifetime.

My grandmother died when my mother was born. I once wrote about that, questioning whether my mother felt she had killed her mother and would face retribution when she gave birth. After my mother read that, she phoned me and kept saying, “How did you know? How did you know?” It was a subject that people didn’t talk about much then, and I’m sure that my mother didn’t let herself think about it often—so she was astonished that I could have fathomed it since those who cannot imagine that their pain can ever be understood are ecstatic when they learn that it is.

In order for my mother to survive after her birth, she was boarded with a woman in the village who could feed her. Her birth family never had any intention of giving her up, so her father, her maternal grandmother, and two brothers visited her every Sunday after church. Then one Sunday when she was a year and a half old, her father said, “Next week, we’ll take our baby home with us.” And that was that.

The woman she knew to be her mother had a nervous breakdown ... [click to continue](#)

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COVER

TOURS & MAPS

CLASSIFIEDS

OUR TOWNES

CONTACT

MARYLAND 20878

Marien Helz's Past Columns



Marien Helz is originally from Gaithersburg and began writing the *Growing Up in Gaithersburg* column for an HOA paper in 2003.

She published four books of poetry beginning in 1980 under her married name, and felt that when she began publishing prose articles, she needed a different pen identity, and began writing those works under her original name.

She holds a Master's degree in English and American literature from the University of Iowa, a Master of Fine Arts degree from the world renowned Iowa Writers' Workshop [the only organization to receive the National Humanities Medal, presented by the U.S. government in 2003], a Master's degree from the University of Buffalo Reading Specialist Program, and a PhD in English Research from the University of Buffalo.

She splits her time between Kentlands and a classic village in the Buffalo-Niagara region of Western New York state where she is a college professor—a profession she began at the age of twenty-two. She lives with her husband, Franklyn (Lyn) Perry, and their Belgian Malinois Shepherd.

Marien Helz's past columns are available here in Adobe files. Click on the links below to access the Adobe files. If you do not have Adobe on your computer, you can download a free copy here:



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- [Names](#) January 2006
- [Moving to Gaithersburg.](#) February 2006
- [Children and Safety.](#) March 2006
- [Grave Danger for Jonathan](#) April 2006
- [Sugarloaf Mountain.](#) May 2006
- [Gardening.](#) June 2006
- [Mothers.](#) July 2006
- [Fathers.](#) August 2006
- [Real Class True Grace](#) September 2006
- [Harvest and Halloween.](#) October 2006
- [Trouble.](#) November 2006
- [Santa Claus.](#) December 2006 in Commentary
- [Treasures.](#) January 2007 in Commentary
- [Paperboy.](#) February 2007 in Commentary
- [The Final Snow and The Follies.](#) March 2007 in Commentary

...continued from the [Commentary](#) page:

after the baby was taken away. There is a picture of my mother with the son of her nurse/mother. She was a happy infant. Then there is another with her real brothers taken after she was with them when she was about two years old.



She appears to be a frightened and angry toddler. In the first decade of the 20th century, however, nothing was known about bonding, and my grandfather did the best he could in the wake of tragedy.

My mother's maternal grandmother who lived with the family and took care of the children, died when my mother was seven. When my mother was nine, her father died. The boys were taken in right away by a farming couple who could use their help and who gave them parental love. My mother was left sitting on the porch stairs after every scrap of property that she had known in the world was sold with the auctioneer calling all day long, "Remember the orphans! Give me a good price for this." She still had nightmares about that day at the end of her life, nearly eight decades later.

The town provided for her and people took care of her, but it was not until she came to her home in Gaithersburg that the real healing occurred, for Gaithersburg at that time was a perfect mix of opportunities. A small farming town was a cradle for young families—providing friends to play with, community activities, churches, and people interested in being good neighbors. My mother had been a teacher and had a master's degree when not many teachers did. In addition, she had done her graduate

work under a nationally famous educator, so she was in demand as a teacher or a substitute. I had felt that she would be a strict substitute and had assumed that not many of my fellow students would like her—yet to this day people who knew her as a teacher in our town tell me about a kindness she did for them or for someone else, and how they subsequently saw the world differently as a result.

None of them knew about the road she'd had to travel, and not many people realize the power there is in an ordinary life nor the glory in giving anything you can to the vision of the children in your community.

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[Cover](#) | [Up](#) | [Articles](#) | [Columns](#) | [Viewpoints](#) | [Restaurants](#) | [Tours & Maps](#) | [Our Townes](#) | [Letters](#) | [Links](#) | [News](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Contact](#)

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COVER

TOURS & MAPS

CLASSIFIEDS

OUR TOWNES

CONTACT

VIEWPOINTS

Monthly

Introducing Lauren Kingsland



by Charles Miess

Lauren Kingsland is familiar to many *Maryland 20878* residents and visitors as “the quilt lady” at the Gaithersburg Arts Barn. There she creates functional and art quilts for clients and for exhibition and she also

teaches. Her book *The Extraordinary T-shirt Quilt - A Scrapbook You Can Sleep Under* is based on her years of creating heirlooms and developing her teaching techniques.

Born in Evanston Illinois, her parents followed their dream and moved to Colorado when she was ten. Needlework and sewing in all forms were her passion as a young person. She picked up a needle to embroider letters on Daddy’s handkerchiefs at age four, and one way or another hasn’t put it down since.

Columbia, Missouri was home for a while when she was a student at Stephens College. Then she married and stayed on for graduate school. Her husband’s job brought them to Maryland in 1984 shortly before the birth of their second child.

During the busy years of raising two boys, and community involvement, Lauren also worked toward her dream of having her own quilting studio in a public place. She began thinking of quilts as an artistic medium in a moment of epiphany after seeing a painting by Frank Stella at the National Gallery of Art.

In order to improve her quilts she studied painting, drawing, and color through local art programs as well as the small business courses at Montgomery College. Custom Quilts Studio operated out of her home studio

Monthly

To the Hilt

by Louis P. Solomon

In the past I have written about technical subjects, and the implications for our society, not only in the United States but also for the world at large. However, this column focuses on the more human side of our existence. What brought about this re-focus was a visit to our home by my Mother-in-Law and her long time friend. They come at least twice a year.



My Mother-in-law is 91 years old. Her husband, a pharmacist and a very well known and respected member of the community died about 25 years ago. It was relatively sudden, and his entire family, both immediate and extended, grieved deeply. He had three children, the oldest of which is my wife, Leslie, and two sons. His wife, Edna, and he had been together since they were in high school; they had worked and played together their entire lives.

Edna became friendly with another woman, Gertrude, shortly after her husband's death. They began to travel together. They moved to Florida and lived in separate apartments within the same community. With the passing years they finally moved to a senior living facility in Florida, and now share an apartment. Gertrude is now 93. They essentially have intertwined their lives and activities. They are quite different people. Edna is quite business oriented, and is one of the few, if not the only woman invited to play in the weekly poker games down in the Florida senior living facility. It is with some amusement that I record that she is almost always a winner. Gertrude, on the other hand, is far more artistically inclined than Edna.

for more than ten years before the Arts Barn opened.



Even before the Arts Barn called for applications for artists in residence in 2001, Kingsland had been involved with the Gaithersburg Arts Council by organizing the annual quilt exhibits in the City Hall Gallery. Her first one-woman show there in 1994, called *Landmarks of Gaithersburg*, included quilts and companion watercolor studies of the fairgrounds, the Cider Barrel, Lakeforest Mall, and the geese. When the Barn opened, her proposals for ways for the public to interact with art, and quilt art in particular, were well received by the City ... [click to continue](#)

Gertrude writes poems, and makes rather interesting pictures and designs in different media.

In the past few years, Edna has had some health issues. She fell and broke her leg, and had to have the bone screwed back together. She has had a hip replacement. She also had some stomach surgery which was quite serious, even for a much younger woman. Gertrude is beginning to lose her balance, as is Edna, and both of them have begun to walk with canes for support. In other words, both are beginning to physically slow down. The idea of going for a stroll with them is simply no longer feasible. Edna shuffles as fast as she comfortably can, which is not very fast; and Gertrude walks with hesitation. When we go for a drive to a local mall, we ... [click to continue](#)

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Maryland 20878™  Archetypal Towns and Villages of Country and City

[Cover](#) | [Articles](#) | [Columns](#) | [Commentary](#) | [Viewpoints](#) | [Restaurants](#) | [Tours & Maps](#) | [Our Townes](#) | [Letters](#) | [Links](#) | [News](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Contact](#)

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COVER

TOURS & MAPS

CLASSIFIEDS

OUR TOWNES

CONTACT

MARYLAND 20878

Guest Columnists

Columns are available here in Adobe files. Click on the links below to access the Adobe files. If you do not have Adobe on your computer, you can download a free copy here:



Shari Kersch is a Registered Nurse with twenty-four years of experience, primarily in long term care. She is also a licensed massage therapist, combining her nursing skills with the healing effects of massage. She is the mother of a twenty-year-old daughter, and ten-year-old twin boys.

- [Second In Command](#) June 2006
- ["Artistic" Tendency](#) March 2007 in *Viewpoints*

Kevin Nielsen's column "West Virginia" appeared in the August 2006 issue. Nielsen enjoys writing and loves West Virginia even though he does not currently live there.

- [West Virginia](#) August 2006



Michele Hiczewski has a degree in Commercial Art, but her life's profession has been in the office supply industry. She has been a purchasing agent at an office supply company since 1985, and has also worked retail, customer service and outside sales positions within the industry. Her other interests include yoga, music, animals, and occasionally riding a Harley Davidson.

- [CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?](#)
- [T.V. Topics](#)
- [The Most Wonderful Time](#)

...continued from the [Viewpoints](#) page:

and she was awarded one of the studios.

Since 2002, visitors to Oktoberfest and other special events at the Arts Barn have been able to contribute in various ways to a quilt that grows over the course of the day and is then raffled off to the lucky winner. Visitors can select pieces that are sewn together on the spot or are asked to write on such themes as Peace, Counting One's Blessings, or Home is...

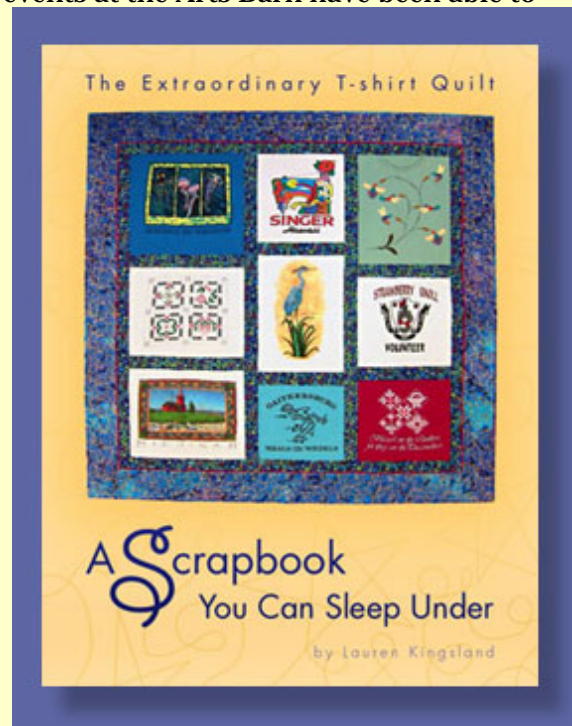
Quilts as healing art is another facet of Lauren's passion. The Children's Inn at NIH has unique wall quilts in every sleeping room as a result of challenge projects she has organized with local quilters. For the past five years she has created pairs of original quilts for the Children's Inn, raising thousands of dollars by live auction at an annual



fundraising gala. The top bid for one quilt was \$40,000, thanks to the generosity of the patrons that year.

Kingsland lives within walking distance of her studio and enjoys "the commute" along the ponds and Inspiration Lake.

We are delighted to announce that Lauren will be writing a column for *Maryland 20878* and welcome her to our team. Watch for her in the coming months.



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Maryland 20878™  Archetypal Towns and Villages of Country and City

[Cover](#) | [Up](#) | [Articles](#) | [Columns](#) | [Commentary](#) | [Restaurants](#) | [Tours & Maps](#) | [Our Townes](#) | [Letters](#) | [Links](#) | [News](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Contact](#)

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COVER

TOURS & MAPS

CLASSIFIEDS

OUR TOWNES

CONTACT

MARYLAND 20878

Louis Solomon's Past Columns

We are pleased to present viewpoint columns by Louis P. Solomon.

Most of Louis Solomon's career was spent in the military-industrial community working on anti-submarine systems. He has also taught at the university level and founded the firm, Planning Systems. His current interests include co-authoring books of fiction and non-fiction. Solomon holds an MS degree in Aero/Astro from MIT and a BA and PhD in Engineering from UCLA.



Solomon is an avid amateur small boat sailor and cruises his sailboat, *Dream Maker*, on the Chesapeake Bay and up and down the East Coast. He lives in the Kentlands with his wife, Leslie Marks.

Louis Solomon's past columns are available here in Adobe files. Click on the links below to access the Adobe files.

If you do not have Adobe on your computer, you can download a free copy here:



- [The Birth of a Column](#) June 2005
- [Concepts of Responsibility and Courtesy](#) July 2005
- [Living with Gusto](#) August 2005
- [The Rise and Fall of Organizations](#) September 2005
- [The Real Issue in Dealing with Katrina](#) October 2005
- [Some Comments on the Supreme Court](#) November 2005
- [Confusion: Mine](#) December 2005
- [Working as Catharsis](#) January 2006
- [Government Eavesdropping](#) February 2006
- [Government Eavesdropping](#) How They Do It March 2006
- [The Coming Catastrophe](#) Our Helplessness and Our Response April 2006
- [The National Anthem](#) May 2006
- [Alternative Power Sources](#) with Dick Van Orden June 2006
- [The Energy Problem](#) with Dick Van Orden July 2006
- [Nuclear Power \(Fission\)](#) with Dick Van Orden August 2006
- [Hydrogen and its Uses](#) with Dick Van Orden September 2006
- [Fuel Cells](#) with Dick Van Orden October 2006
- [The Ultimate Automobile](#) with Dick Van Orden November 2006
- [Nuclear Power \(Fusion\)](#) with Dick Van Orden December 2006 in Viewpoints
- [Global Warming: True or False?](#) with Dick Van Orden January 2007 in Viewpoints
- [A Potential Partial Solution to our Oil ...](#) with Dick Van Orden February 2007 in Viewpoints
- [Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders \(ADRD\)](#) with Dick Van Orden March 2007 in Viewpoints

• • •

...continued from the [Viewpoints](#) page:

park as close as we can to the entrance, but the time that is required for them to slowly get out of the car, then orient themselves, and finally for all of us to shuffle into the mall seems interminable.

Why am I telling all of this? We all know that people get old and they begin to slow down. Hopefully, they slow down physically, and not mentally. The two ladies, Edna and Gertrude, both have remained as quick witted as always. They don't remember all of the things they used to, but I have a sneaking suspicion that they don't remember the things that they don't care about. What I find rather inspiring is that they live life each day with vigor. They are always ready to try something new.

All this is leading to the thoughts that I have had about growing old. It is possible that you might find a trace of irritation in my dealings with my Mother-in-Law. That would be a temporary feeling. When you are a little short on time and have to assist an older woman to take a walk which would be a quick stroll for a younger person, but takes them several minutes, it can be frustrating. But, that feeling is only in passing. I actually have great respect for both Edna and Gertrude. They may be physically slowing down, but they are still quick witted and use their heads to investigate lots of different subjects. They are invariably fun and interesting company.

The point of this column is to applaud the efforts of all people, of any age, to live with as much enthusiasm and vigor that they possibly can muster. Both Edna and Gertrude continue to travel, read, talk, and play. Gertrude does art and poetry; Edna reads both books and the newspapers, plays poker, and they plan trips with each other. These trips, which used to be on airplanes to unusual parts of the world are now limited to cruises on ocean liners. When they were younger, about 10 years ago, they went to China for a long tour. They were quite tired when they returned, but they had wanted to go, made the arrangements, and went and enjoyed themselves. The physical demand of traveling is quite substantial, for people of any age. For two elderly ladies, now both in their nineties, they arrange to get to the ship, and then settle in for the entire voyage. They have been throughout the Caribbean, and also through the Panama Canal. The Panama Canal voyage is interesting since it leaves from Los Angeles, transits the Panama Canal, stops at several islands on the way, and then eventually ties up in Miami. The two old ladies make arrangements for the entire trip. The discussion about what to take with them in their single suitcase, each, is quite heated and lengthy. But, they remain fast friends, and support one another throughout their entire efforts. They are to be congratulated.

They have implemented what I also have attempted to do with my own life. My wife does the same thing. We live life the best we can with both enthusiasm and vigor, limited only by our imagination, enthusiasm, pocket book, and physical capabilities. We are all of the opinion that Ovid was right: "Death plucks my ear and says: Live! I am coming." We all are trying to live life to the fullest extent possible. I encourage others to do the same.

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[Cover](#) | [Up](#) | [Articles](#) | [Columns](#) | [Commentary](#) | [Restaurants](#) | [Tours & Maps](#) | [Our Townes](#) | [Letters](#) | [Links](#) | [News](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Contact](#)

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COVER

TOURS & MAPS

CLASSIFIEDS

OUR TOWNES

CONTACT

LETTERS

Received in March:

Dear Editor,

While doing some searches for family information, out of curiosity I typed in "Otis Beall Kent." It was a pleasant surprise to see his estate has been put to such good use. I know he would be very pleased.

My grandfather worked for Mr. Kent, who I called "Uncle Otis," from around 1949 until his (my grandfather's) death in 1971. His name was David Bean, and he built many of the lakes on the estate including Lake Lynette, Lake Helene, and the one that the National Geographic building was located on. Only Inspiration Lake was there at the time we moved onto the estate.

We lived there, in the "manager's house" just down the hill from the mansion, from the time I was about 2 years of age until my great-grandmother became sick and we had to move in and take care of her.

The year I started first grade at Rockville Elementary School the county refused to have the school bus come to the front gate of the estate at Route 28. Uncle Otis contacted them and reminded them of how much he paid each year in taxes and that he did not want us to have to travel so far to catch the bus. Soon after that the bus started picking me up and dropping be off at the back door.

I have many pictures of the estate from the 1950s, including one of the black woman, Mary, who lived at the front gate house. I also remember the couple who lived in the newer home at the rear gate: Charles Hughes and his wife. Her name escapes me. But Mr. Hughes took care of the farming activities while my grandfather took care of the "landscaping."

I also have a collection of the Christmas cards my adopted uncle spent the whole year writing the verses for. Each one has a beautiful picture of the estate and inside the mansion.

My favorite rooms were the library and music room. I loved the library because of the beautiful blue Oriental rug. Uncle Otis had his law books and many of the other books in the library rebound to match the colors in the rug. We would gather in the music room and he would play the organ. I used to sit on his lap and he would play "Beautiful Dreamer" for me. He was a very accomplished musician.

That is another reason that I am glad that music is part of what you all have done with the estate. He would be very pleased with that and with the protection of wildlife. He had a soft spot for animals. One of the things I remember fondly was helping my grandfather feed the dogs in the kennels near the "big house." Uncle Otis always had lots of cats. I especially remember "The General," a huge gray tom cat who used to lay on his desk while he was working.

Again, it is good to know that a place that I will always hold dear is in good hands and being used to bring pleasure to so many people.

Yours truly,
Marie O'Donnell

*Thank you for contacting us. We are delighted to hear from you and hope that you will stay in touch.
—The editors*



The Curious Club meets in the Carriage House at 7:30 on the fourth Tuesday of each month:

March Meeting:

Everyone of us has problems with our computers, and their associated systems. You need someone to talk to, offer advice, and even provide support to your computer system. Scott Mohnkern, who ran the sixth largest ISP in the Washington DC area, is very knowledgeable about the entire Internet, design and operation of applications, computer operating systems. I have worked with him for several years. The entire Internet, or world wide web is changing, and there will be options for us to increase our skills, and use these new tools to make our computer lives much more enjoyable. Scott Mohnkern will tell us about this future. The next meeting of The Curious Club, Tuesday 27 March, will be at the Carriage House. We will begin to gather around 7:30 PM, and Scott Mohnkern will start his presentation around 8:00PM.

Mohnkern will be talking about the changes that are currently going on in the word-wide-web. The gist of his remarks are as follows:

Moving from Web 1.0 to 2.0—The development of the Interactive web. In the 1990's, when the Internet began to flourish, the web was primarily a source for information distribution, like a teacher giving information to the students. But with the 21st century, the web is transforming itself into something much more, and its being called "Web 2.0." Gone are the days where we surf from one page to the other, reading and digesting information. The web now is place where we not only read information but discuss and share information as well. From Wikipedia, to blogs, to the new Google docs, people are no longer just recipients of information, they are contributing to the knowledge on the Internet as well.

Mohnkern will talk about the various new "Web 2.0" tools on the internet, how to get the most of them, and what they're good for.

In addition to Scott Mohnkern, the person who supplies all of my hardware and operational support, Scott Bassett of 4AComputing, will also be at the meeting and will be happy to talk to you, individually, about your computer problems.

Now, in addition to this wonderful opportunity, I remind you of our forthcoming meetings in April and May.

April Meeting:

The April meeting will take place on Thursday, 26 April at the Carriage House. This will feature a presentation by Dr. Karl Lee, who not only has a dental practice in the Kentlands; he is also a certified recreation level uspa instructor, and a tournament level player. His topic will be "The Physics of Tennis." He will dissolve the commonly accepted myths about tennis strokes through using the reality of science. He will discuss and provide understanding of the basic motion of a tennis ball through the physics of projectile motion, and why our mental abilities undermines our best efforts. All you tennis players should be extremely interested in his presentation.

May Meeting:

The May meeting will take place on Tuesday, 22 May at the Carriage House. This will feature a presentation by Marion Perry, who is a well known member of the Kentlands Community. Her topic will be: *What Good is Poetry?*

Perry told me about her decision to become a poet. Her father was a PhD in physics well before there were many of those. He was one of the handful of scientists from around the world who was selected to analyze the first moon rocks to arrive on earth. On the long drive home from college in Wisconsin, Perry announced to her father that she had decided to be a poet not fully conscious that she was jerking his chain; after all, who wants to send their child to an expensive college and have them decide on a career that guarantees no income, no security, and no promise whatsoever?

Surprisingly, he responded that when he went into physics, there were no jobs in the field. It was very much like deciding to go into poetry. By the time he had earned his doctorate, everything had opened up, and physicists were in demand from then on. Later, he said that he'd read something by Einstein in which Einstein said that he approached physics the way a poet approaches poetry.

I invite all of you to come and listen and interact with the speakers at our next three meetings. Looking forward to see all of you.
—Louis Solomon

[December 2006 Letters](#) [May 2006 Letters](#) [November 2005 Letters](#) [Forum Introduction](#) [Comments From Readers on](#)
[Beginning of KDU](#) [How and Why We Began](#) [Great to See the Forum](#) [The Curious Club](#) [Olde Towne Charrette](#) [Charrette:](#)
[Parking Ramps](#) [KCA Elections](#) [KCA Changes](#) [Safety Issues](#) [Craig List](#)

Maryland 20878™ g Archetypal Towns and Villages of Country and City

[Cover](#) | [Articles](#) | [Columns](#) | [Commentary](#) | [Viewpoints](#) | [Restaurants](#) | [Tours & Maps](#) | [Our Townes](#) | [Letters](#) | [Links](#) | [News](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Contact](#)

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COVER

TOURS & MAPS

CLASSIFIEDS

OUR TOWNES

CONTACT

NEWS

School Supply Donations Sought

The City of Gaithersburg Education Committee, in conjunction with the Division of Human Services, is kicking off a semester-long school supply collection drive. As part of the GREAT program (Gaithersburg Recognizing Educational Achievement Today), the committee collects school supplies for distribution to Gaithersburg area schools between January and June. After surveying educators several years ago regarding tangible needs, it was found that supplies for teachers and students are much needed during the mid- and latter parts of the school year.

Items specifically needed include:

Stickers, scissors, glue sticks, folders, 3-ring binders, 3-ring cloth zipper binders, pencil pouches for binders, crayons, paper, small pencil sharpeners, and colored pencils.

Donations may be brought to the Human Services office in the Wells/Robertson House at 1 Wells Avenue (next to City Hall) between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please call Human Services program manager Maureen Herndon at 301-258-6395 x2 or visit the City's website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov for more information.

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City Receives Financial Reporting Award

For the 29th consecutive year the City of Gaithersburg has received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

The Certificate was presented to Harold Belton, Director of Finance and Administration, Tina H. Smith, Comptroller and Ling Yan Angela Woo, Senior Accountant.

The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 16,000 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago, IL, and Washington, D.C.

For more information about the award call the City's Finance and Administration Department at 301-258-6320 or visit www.gaithersburgmd.gov.

Mayor Katz, Council Member Sesma Appointed to NLC Committees

The National League of Cities (NLC) recently announced the one-year committee appointments of two elected officials from Gaithersburg. Mayor Sidney Katz was appointed to the Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations (FAIR) Policy Committee. City Council Member Michael A. Sesma was appointed to the Energy, Environment and Natural Resources (EENR) Policy and Advocacy Committee. Katz and Sesma were selected by the Maryland Municipal League to represent Maryland on these committees.

The FAIR Committee deals with national economic policy, general financial assistance programs, liability insurance, intergovernmental relations, Census, municipal bonds and capital finance, municipal management, antitrust issues, citizen participation and civil rights, labor relations, Native American sovereignty, and municipal authority.

The EENR Committee is responsible for developing policy recommendations on issues such as air and water quality, energy, national wetlands, noise control, and solid and hazardous waste management.

In March of 2007 the two committees will choose topics for policy development and research. Draft recommendations will then be made for full committee approval at the Congress of Cities in December. The National Municipal Policy contains the formally adopted positions taken by the NLC on national issues. As a national membership organization, it focuses its policy positions on federal actions, programs, and proposals which directly impact municipalities, identifying emerging issues of immediate and long-term consequence to the nation's cities



and towns.

For more information visit the NLC website at www.nlc.org or contact Mayor Katz at skatz@gaithersburgmd.gov or Council Member Sesma at msema@gaithersburgmd.gov



Gaithersburg Celebrates Green Week Apr. 16 - 22

The City of Gaithersburg invites residents to participate in activities that celebrate and improve the environment during Gaithersburg's Green Week, April 16 through 22, 2007. In addition to being fun and educational, it's also a great way for school children to earn service learning credits while making Gaithersburg a better place to live.

Environmental Awards

Gaithersburg encourages citizens to nominate an individual, business, school, homeowners association, or scouting group for the Sixth Annual Environmental Awards. Each year, the Mayor and City Council and Environmental Affairs Committee recognize individuals and groups for their commitment to the environment. Awards will be presented at a special reception on Monday, April 16, 2007 from 6:15 to 7 p.m. at the City Hall Gallery, 31 South Summit Avenue.

Nomination forms are available on the City's website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov/environment. Deadline for submission is Friday, April 2.

Arbor Day

Children at Rachel Carson Elementary School will participate in an Arbor Day program on Tuesday, April 17, emphasizing the importance of trees in our community. During the assembly, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources will present the City with the 18th Annual Tree City Award and the Mayor will donate a tree to the school.

"Cheers for Volunteers!" Green Youth Service Project

Green volunteer activities go hand-in-hand with the environmentally friendly characteristics of the Youth Center at Robertson Park. The Gaithersburg Youth Club (GYC) is a program designed specifically for middle school students to provide safe, well-supervised and fun activities for participants during their off-school hours. On Wednesday, April 18, students will earn student service learning hours by volunteering in the youth butterfly garden and helping to clean up streams and parks.

Lug-a-Mug Day

On Thursday, April 19, choose to lug-a-mug while out and about instead of using a disposable cup. Each time a resident reuses his/her mug, that is one less cup in the landfill. Each cup saved from the landfill is another cup that doesn't need to be made, lessening the strain on forests and the environment. Many local vendors may provide a beverage discount for lugging a reusable mug.

Change a Light Day

Save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by changing at least one light in your home with an ENERGY STAR qualified light bulb today. To save the most energy and money, choose high use fixtures, such as the kitchen ceiling light, the living rooms lights, bathroom vanity, and outdoor porch or post lamp. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, if every American home replaced just one light bulb with an ENERGY STAR, we would save enough energy to light more than 2.5 million homes a year and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of nearly 800,000 cars.

Community Volunteer Day

Community volunteering takes on a new meaning during Gaithersburg's Community Volunteer Day on Saturday, April 21 from 9 a.m. until noon. Join hundreds of volunteers as they make a difference throughout the community by cleaning up and beautifying local streams, schools, parks, and homeowners association common areas. The City is looking for individuals or organizations to host a volunteer event. Students can also earn student service learning credits.



Photo by City of Gaithersburg

For more information and to volunteer during Green Week, please contact the Office of Environmental Affairs at 301-258-6310 or e-mail environment@gaithersburg.gov.



Harmonious Art Group Comes to Gaithersburg

City Hall Gallery Features “PAINT” Multi Media Exhibit

The City of Gaithersburg proudly presents “PAINT” (Potomac Artists in Touch), a cooperative group of diverse, local artists on display at the Gaithersburg City Hall Gallery, 31 South Summit Avenue. The works of art in oil, acrylic, watercolor and other media, will be on display from April 2 through June 3, 2007.

“PAINT” formed in 2001 with the simple objective of creating a group of artists who would support and actively participate in the Potomac art community and that of the greater metropolitan area. With dedicated members meeting monthly to discuss and work on projects, PAINT has helped build multiple friendships both within the group and outwards in the community. They have an ongoing exhibition agreement with The Old Anglers’ Inn and frequently contribute to the Potomac Theatre Company as well as participating in various fundraisers and charities at the Connelly School of the Holy Child and for Cure Autism Now.

In addition to a 2004 show at the Gaithersburg Activity Center at Bohrer Park, “PAINT” has exhibited in local banks for each of the past five years during Potomac Days, for the past two years at Behnke’s Nursery in Potomac and at the Café Monet in Kensington.

For City Hall viewing hours please call Gallery Director Andi Rosati at 301-258-6394 or visit the City’s website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov

The City of Gaithersburg presents the 12th anniversary exhibition of Chinese calligraphy and brush painting at the Activity Center at Bohrer Park, 506 South Frederick Avenue. The exhibit runs from March 9 through May 6, 2007.

The Harmonious Art Group, formally called the Weekend Art Group, consists of twenty artists exhibiting their works in traditional and contemporary Chinese styles. Founded in 1994 by landscape painter Bertrand Mao and Chinese calligrapher John Wang, the group promotes the simple idea of sharing the beauty of this ancient art form with the community.

Viewing hours are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays. For more information, please call Gallery Director Andi Rosati at 301-258-6394 or visit the City’s website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov.

Spring Activities

The City of Gaithersburg Community Museum announces an informative series of exhibits, lectures and tours covering a wide variety of local historical topics ranging from railway post offices to the National Latitude Observatory.

Lectures:

- **“What it Was Like to be on the Home Front During World War II,”** presented by author Eleanor Cunningham. Author and historical essayist Eleanor Cunningham describes growing up in Rockville during WWII. She will talk about deprivations suffered because of the war effort, of friends sent overseas, and about the joy of the war’s end.

- **Friday, April 13, 2007, 11 a.m.**
- **City Hall Council Chambers, 31 South Summit Avenue**
- **“How Railway Post Offices (RPOs) Served Gaithersburg,”** presented by railway historian Frank Scheer. Mr. Scheer will describe the transportation and sorting of U.S. mail aboard trains. These RPOs served Gaithersburg when the B&O Station D. C. was the gateway to the country. The hour-long presentation features two films.
 - **Saturday, May 5, 2007, 2 p.m.**
 - **City Hall Gallery, 2nd Floor, 31 South Summit Avenue**

The admission fee for all lectures is \$5.

Montgomery Heritage Days – June 23 and 24, 2007

The Community Museum is delighted to once again participate in Montgomery Heritage Days with the following free activities:

- Saturday, June 23, 1 to 3 p.m. – Author and quilt maker Lauren Kingsland will be at the Community Museum to sign her new book, “The Extraordinary T-shirt Quilt – A Scrapbook You Can Sleep Under.”
- Sunday, June 24, 2 to 4 p.m. – Scientist, author and local historian Marshall Grotenhuis will be at the Community Museum to talk about his new book, “Asbury Methodist Village Revisited,” a history of Asbury Methodist Village and the United Methodist Church’s response to aging.
- Sunday, June 24, Noon to 4 p.m. – Gaithersburg Latitude Observatory Tour, 100 DeSellum Ave., Gaithersburg. Though no longer in operation, the Gaithersburg Latitude Observatory was one of six observatories around the globe that measured the wobble of the earth on its polar axis. It is the only National Historic Landmark in Gaithersburg.

Extended Museum Hours: Saturday, June 23, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, June 24, Noon to 4 p.m.

Upcoming Exhibits

Look for the following exhibits to debut at the Community Museum soon:

- February – June: “Summit Hall – The Early Roots of Gaithersburg”
- June – October: “Oh The Stories We Tell,” Friendship Quilts designed by Montgomery County residents.

The Gaithersburg Community Museum is located at 9 South Summit Avenue. For more information and tickets to the lecture series please call 301-258-6160 or visit online at www.gaithersburgmd.gov/museum.

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COVER

TOURS & MAPS

CLASSIFIEDS

OUR TOWNES

CONTACT

ARTICLES

Gaithersburg Skate Park Opens for Season, Hours Extended During Spring Break

The City of Gaithersburg's Skate Park will open daily March 27 through October 28, weekdays from 3 p.m. to dark and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to dark. Special extended hours will be in place during Spring Break, March 31 through April 9, when the park will open daily at noon.



The Skate Park is located at the Activity Center at Bohrer Park, 506 South Frederick Avenue, and welcomes skateboarders and in-line skaters during all sessions, and allows BMX bikers everyday except Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Safety equipment regulations require helmets, while elbow and knee pads are optional. However, all safety equipment is highly recommended and in-line skaters must wear wrist guards. Protective gear is available for rent.

The 12,300 square foot park contains a dozen ramps, rails and boxes to trick off of, and all the means necessary to do it. The park also features amenities including a 200-watt stereo system to play all the latest tunes, several quarters, a spine, bank, several smaller obstacles, and a misting system to keep skaters cool on those summer days. Make sure to take advantage of money-saving memberships, lessons, preschool programs, park rentals,

City Sponsors Trip to See *Phantom of the Opera* at Kennedy Center

Make plans now to see the ever-popular "Phantom of the Opera" starring Howard McGillin at the Kennedy Center Opera house on Sunday, June 24, 2007. The City of Gaithersburg has a limited number of orchestra seat tickets for the 7:30 p.m. performance, so early reservation is recommended.

This seven-time Tony Award-winning musical features lavish sets and costumes, and some of the most incredible special effects ever created for the stage. For nearly two decades, Andrew Lloyd Webber's production has been weaving its spell of magic over theater-goers around the world.

The bus departs at 5 p.m. from the Activity Center at Bohrer Park, 506 South Frederick Avenue, and will return to Gaithersburg at approximately 11 p.m. There will be time to eat dinner at the Kennedy Center should you choose. Cost is \$84 for City residents and \$90 for nonresidents, and includes the theatre ticket and transportation.

For more information and to register please call 301-258-6350 or use RecXpress online at www.gaithersburgmd.gov.

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Preschoolers Invited to "Roll" at Gaithersburg Skate Park

The City of Gaithersburg invites young children to roll around the Skate Park, located at the Activity Center at Bohrer Park, 506 S. Frederick Ave, for two mornings of endless motion. Preschoolers from ages two to six will be allowed to play on the lower ramps of the Skate Park with scooters, Big Wheels, and just about anything else that can roll. These Saturday programs will be held on April 21 and May 19, 2007 from 10 a.m. to noon. Admission is \$3 per resident child and \$5 for nonresidents. Parents are welcome to watch for free.

In addition to rolling and scooting, children can check out a real fire engine or bulldozer. There will also be snow cones for your enjoyment.

Pre-registration is not necessary. Payment will be accepted at the gate. For more information please call 301-258-6350 x144 or visit the Skate Park online at www.gaithersburgmd.gov/skate.



Photographs by the City of Gaithersburg

competitions, area skate park trips, and more.

Admission is \$3 for residents and \$5 for non-residents. Money-saving Season Memberships are \$25 for residents and \$50 for non-residents. For more information call Rachel Tailby at 301-258-6350 or visit the website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov/skate.

Please note: the Skate Park will be closed in the event of excessive rain, snow or heat.



Arts Barn Hosts Watercolor Journeys & Laurie Messite Exhibit

The City of Gaithersburg proudly presents the artists of Watercolor Journeys and Gaithersburg resident artist Laurie Messite, on display at the Gaithersburg Arts Barn, 311 Kent Square Road. The exhibit runs from March 22 through May 20, with an artist's reception on April 25 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.



Watercolor Journeys is comprised of award winning artists Debra Halprin, Christine Heyse, Margy Stancill, Karen Norman and Julie Smith, all of whom have works in private collections and galleries throughout the Mid-Atlantic States. Based on their mutual respect for one another's artistic ability and their personal admiration for each other, the collection consists of paintings depicting places, people and scenes that are meaningful to the artists and pleasing to the viewers as well.

Indoor Flea Markets Announced for Winter & Spring

The City of Gaithersburg announces a series of Indoor Flea Markets at the Montgomery County Agricultural Center, 16 Chestnut Street, from January through April. The Markets, held on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., are scheduled for March 17, and April 21, 2007. Admission to the Flea Markets is free.

Vendors are sought to sell gently used and new items. Registration cost for residents selling used items is \$15 per space. The cost for nonresidents is \$20. Residents selling new items may register at a cost of \$20 per space. The cost for nonresidents is \$25.

Application forms are available online at www.gaithersburgmd.gov through the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture. For more information please contact Sarah Messier 301-258-6350.

Comedy and Mystery

The Comedy and Mystery Society, combining astounding magic and sleight of hand with interactive theater and hilarious fun, announces its Winter/Spring 2007 season at the Arts Barn.

Award-winning magicians Bob Sheets, Alain Nu, and Mark Phillips invite you to join them as members of the exotic, strange and amusingly interactive Comedy and Mystery Society. As audience members enter the theatre, they'll step into the secret and very kooky world of the CMS, a collection of zany characters not quite clever enough to take themselves lightly. This season's periodic "Society Meetings," - each with a different agenda, frequently with guest artists - will be held at 8 p.m. on April 13, and May 25 (Friday evenings) and March 21, and May 9 (Wednesday evenings).

The Arts Barn is located at 311 Kent Square Road in Gaithersburg. Tickets are \$15 for residents and \$18 for nonresidents for Wednesday performances, and \$18 for residents and \$21 for nonresidents for Friday performances. The family-friendly shows are perfect for ages ten and up. For information and tickets please call 301-258-6394. Tickets can also be purchased online at



Laurie Messite has studied sculpture at the Fine Arts Institutes in Chicago and New York. Her one-of-a-kind works consisting of recycled architectural and functional objects with contemporary materials challenge their standard customary limits. These “tables-as-art” sculptures are alive with color, warmth and whimsy, creating a gentle and thought-provoking collection so unique it must be experienced to be fully appreciated. Originally from a Mid-western family of artists and musicians, Ms. Messite was inspired early on by her father’s ability to create functional objects from everyday materials.

For viewing hours and more information, please call Andi Rosati, Arts Barn Director, at 301-258-6394 or visit the City’s website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov/artsbarn.

Gaithersburg Receives National Cultural Diversity Award

During the National League of City’s Congressional City Conference in Washington, D.C. on March 12, 2007 the City of Gaithersburg received one of eight Cultural Diversity Awards. These awards honor cities that have implemented innovative and unique programs and events designed to help citizens recognize the impressive diversity within their own community. Gaithersburg received a “Runner Up” award in its population category for the City World Market.

On September 17, 2006 the City’s Human Services Division launched the City World

www.gaithersburgmd.gov/RecXpress.

Arts Barn Hosts Inspiring Gospel Night



The City of Gaithersburg presents Gospel Night on Saturday, April 14, 2007, at 7 p.m. at the [Arts Barn](#), 311 Kent Square Road. This year’s event features the First Baptist Church of Gaithersburg Sanctuary Choir. With a 40 year history, this 40-member choir will offer an evening of

Police Accreditation Team Invites Public Comment

A team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) will arrive in Gaithersburg on April 14, 2007 to examine all aspects of the Gaithersburg Police Department’s policies, procedures, management, operations, and support services.

According to Chief Mary Ann Viverette, verification by the team that the Gaithersburg Police Department meets the Commission’s high standards is part of a

Market, a collection of culturally diverse crafters exhibiting unique wares within the larger context of the Celebrate Gaithersburg in Olde Towne Street Festival. This collaborative effort included business education, mentoring and marketing to develop a program that not only enhanced the 25th anniversary street festival but provided recent immigrants with an outlet for their creativity and an opportunity to become entrepreneurs in their adopted country.

“We are proud to be honored on the national level for this unique project,” said Mayor Sidney Katz. “So many partners in our community joined together to help Gaithersburg enthusiastically embrace its diversity and celebrate its heritage in a way that was fun and rewarding for all who were involved.”

Other award winners included Newton, N.C.; College Station, Tex.; Chandler, Ariz.; Indianapolis, Ind.; Las Vega, Nev.; Greenwood, La.; and Coral Springs, Fla. The award program, established in 1995 to promote cultural diversity in community governance, is conducted by the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (NBC-LEO). This NLC constituency group provides African American municipal officials and their colleagues with forums to share ideas, discussion groups to develop strategies for improving municipal governance, and programs that contribute to the success of America’s cities and towns.

For more information on the City World Market please contact the Gaithersburg Human Services Division at 301-258-6395 or visit www.gaithersburgmd.gov/celebrate.



L to R: NBC-LEO President Terry Riley, Liliana Arango of Montgomery College (World Market Partner), City Council Member Stan Alster, Human Services Director Crystal Carr, NBC-LEO Award Program Chair James Mitchell, Jr.

Photo credit: the National League of Cities

voluntary process to gain accreditation or reaccreditation - a highly-coveted recognition of law enforcement professional excellence.

As part of the on-site assessment, City employees and members of the community are invited to offer comments at a public information session on Tuesday, April 17 at 7 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 31 South Summit Avenue. Public comment will also be accepted via telephone between the hours of 2 and 4 p.m. on Monday, April 16. The special call-in number is 301-258-6406 x3221.

Telephone comments and appearances at the public information session are limited to five minutes and must address the Department’s ability to comply with CALEA’s standards. A copy of the standards is available for review at the Gaithersburg Police Department, 14 Fulks Corner Avenue. Local contact is Accreditation Program Manager Sergeant Mary Whalen at 301-258-6400 or mwhalen@gaitersburgmd.gov.

The public may also provide comments in writing to: Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., 10302 Eaton Place, Suite 100, Fairfax, Virginia, 22030-2215.

The Gaithersburg Police Department must comply with more than 300 standards in order to maintain its accredited status. “Accreditation is very important to the Gaithersburg Police Department because it is a way of measuring ourselves against nationally-recognized standards, and fits perfectly with the City’s commitment to continuous improvement,” said Chief Viverette.

The accreditation assessment team is comprised of law enforcement practitioners from similar but out-of-state agencies, including: Team Leader Carel Duplessis, Chief of Police, Oakland Housing Authority Police Department, Oakland, California; Team Member Janelle A. Crowley, Commissioner, McHenry County Sheriff’s Department, Woodstock, Illinois; and Team Member Michael J. Bussiere, Deputy Chief, Lewiston

Police Department, Lewiston, Maine. The assessors will review written materials,

exhilarating, energetic and inspiring gospel music.

Admission for this performance is free, although donations benefiting the choir will be gratefully accepted. Tickets are required as seating is limited in the 99-seat theater. They will be available beginning March 9 by calling the Arts Barn at 301-258-6394. For information and directions visit www.gaithersburgmd.gov/artsbarn.

This show is suitable for ages 12 and older. For more information and tickets call 301-258-6394 or visit online at www.gaithersburgmd.gov/artsbarn.

interview individuals and visit offices and other places where compliance can be witnessed. Once the Commission's assessors complete their review they will report back to the full Commission, which then will decide if the agency is to maintain its accredited status.

Accreditation is for three years, during which the agency must submit annual reports attesting to continued compliance with those standards under which it was initially accredited. For more information regarding CALEA please call 1-800-368-3757 or 703-352-4225.

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John King Named Gaithersburg Police Chief

City Manager David Humpton announced today that John A. King has been named Chief of Police for the City of Gaithersburg. He will be sworn in at the Mayor and Council meeting on June 4, 2007.

With the assistance of a hiring consultant, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the City of Gaithersburg conducted an exhaustive national search for a department head to replace retiring Chief Mary Ann Viverette. There were over 50 applicants, and King was selected from a pool of six well-qualified finalists.

“I appreciate the feedback and assistance we received from the Police Chief’s Advisory Council and the entire community during this process,” said City Manager Humpton. “We were impressed by John’s commitment to community policing, with his extensive leadership experience, and with his innovative approaches to serving a diverse population. He has a long history in Montgomery County, and strong management capabilities that will serve our community well.”



A resident of Damascus, King comes to Gaithersburg from the position of Assistant Chief of Police for Montgomery County, Maryland, where he has been a member of the police department in various capacities since 1981. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Marist College, a Master of Science in Criminal Justice from the University of Baltimore, and is a graduate of the 211th session of the FBI National Academy. He teaches community policing on a regular basis at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Budapest, Hungary, and in the fall of 2006 was selected by the State Department to assist the Romanian National Police with their transition to a more community-focused organization.

“I am excited about joining the City of Gaithersburg leadership team as Chief of Police,” said King. “It is an honor to have the opportunity to both work with the men and women of the Gaithersburg Police Department and to continue the excellent reputation established by Chief Mary Ann Viverette.”

The Gaithersburg Police Department is a [nationally-accredited law enforcement agency](#) of 49 sworn officers who share responsibility for services with the Montgomery County Police, providing coverage 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The Department responds to calls for service as necessary, and, when appropriate, utilizes community action teams to solve problems and deal with issues affecting the safety of all City neighborhoods.

For more information contact the City Manager's Office at 301-258-6310 or visit the City's website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov.
