



Village News

Volume 38 Issue 1

Serving the people of Cabin John and beyond

35th Annual Cabin John Crab & Chicken Feast Slated For September 11 From 2-6 PM

Join your neighbors September 11 at the Clara Barton Community Center for the 35th annual Crab & Chicken Feast celebration. It's always fun, and it's a great way to get to know and help others in our community. If you are new to Cabin John in the last year, we especially invite you to come and learn more about the great town you've chosen. A magician will be on hand at 2:30 to entertain the kids. And as always, the annual bike parade will kick off the event.

Beginning in September, someone from your street will be coming by selling advance tickets. This year, the cost is \$10.00 in advance or \$11.00 at the door for your choice

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Books and Kids, Cabin John Women and Nigerian Villagers — An Exciting Experiment

By Lisa Brown, Linda Caro Reinisch, Walda Ciafone, Marie Keefe, Arlene Lerner, Robin Mee, Effie Metropoulos, Cappie Morgan, Fran Patch, Claudia Ravin, Julie Smith, Diana Villamor

Sometimes an experience has so much heart that all involved want to shout it from the rooftop. We women of Lisa's Book Club here in Cabin John feel that way about our effort to get books to African

children, and want to share it with everybody in town—a strong antidote of community power in a time when folks are feeling powerless because of incessant negative news. A triumph of Can-Do over an apparent Too-Big-A-Problem. For the last six years, the twelve of us former strangers have been

meeting monthly with rollicking discussions of a hodge-podge of books over scrumptious, book-related dinners. The thought of Isabelle Allende's *Aphrodite* should give you pause. For the last six months, we have also been watching an amazing outpouring from Cabin John, Montgomery County, and the Eastern Seaboard when we launched our request for good quality used books for the children of Ubulu, Nigeria. The ingenuity and dedication of people — many of whom we have never met — to round up quantities of good books and get them to us has been a real affirmation that people feel that problems, no matter how distant, can be solved and they want to be part of the solution.

You may know something about our story if you read our advertisement in the *Village News* or Lisa Brown's great posters at the Co-op, the Market, the library, and day care centers. When Marie Keefe returned from a month's stay in Ubulu, a village in the former Biafra, Nigeria, she described to the book club the open-hearted welcome she had received and the school conditions she had

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Neighborly News

by Barbara Martin

Danny Harris and **Margaret Castle** were married on July 11. Many friends, neighbors, and family members were on hand to celebrate their very special occasion. Danny is one of the hardest-working people in Cabin John, and all for others, and Margaret matches him in energy and good spirit. Danny and Margaret are at home on Caraway Street.

Mike Miller and **Tim Weedlun** were married July 16 in a civil ceremony in Toronto. They have been a couple for 11 years, and for the last 6 have made their home on 76th St. Their union is only valid in Canada, but they hope legal recognition, and the benefits and protections it confers, will eventually be accepted in the United States in their lifetime. Mike is a press officer at the National Cancer Institute and Tim is a graphic designer for Pearson Government Solutions and layout editor of the *Village News*.

Hugh Gallagher has died. Crippled by polio at 19, Hugh was an influential advocate for the disabled, and was a co-author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which mandated handicapped access in government and many other facilities. He wrote many well-received books, the most famous of which is *FDR's Splendid Deception*, about the president's success, with cooperation from the media, in keeping his disability out of the public eye. Hugh played a major role in the decision to add a statue of Roosevelt in a wheelchair to the FDR Memorial in Washington. Hugh lived for more than 35 years on Cabin Road, in a house he designed, built with ramps and easily reachable fittings.

Stefanie and **Gregg Rothchild** welcomed baby **Carly** to their family in May. Carly joins sister **Molly**, 2, and brother **Dylan**, 4. Gregg is a telecommunications attorney for the House Energy and Commerce Committee. The Rothchilds have lived on 78th Street for 5 years.

Gene Wright has retired from the MC School system, after a 30-year career of teaching math and computer science. He will begin teaching at Stone Ridge in the fall. The Wrights live on 79th Street in the house Gene grew up in.

Carlotta Anderson, our Glen Echo neighbor and publisher of *The Echo*, has written a marvelous book, *A Walking Tour of Glen Echo*, that gives the history of every house and building in Glen Echo. It's easy to follow her street-by-street directions, and well worth the price of \$5. Call Carlotta at 301-229-3748 to get your copy.

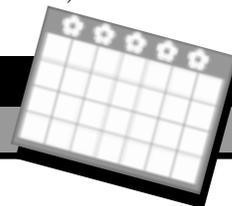
Eileen and **Frank Wagner** are the happy parents of **Anastasia**, 20 months, whom they recently brought home from Russia. The Wagners were 79th Street neighbors for several years before moving to Kensington last year.

On June 22, the Church of the Redeemer in Glen Echo held its annual Strawberry Festival. A highlight of this year's festivity was the performance of several songs by the Cabin John Chorus. **Nick Schraft** is our leader, **Denise Britti** is the coordinator, and **Jim Gilchrist** with his wonderful sound system ensured that we could be well heard. **Steve France** was liaison between the chorus and the church. Other Cabin John chorus members are **Phil Anderson**, **Melissa Bell**, **Janice Erich**, **Mireille** and **Gilles Lisimaque**, **Barbara Martin**, **Rob Morgan**, **Melanie Patt-Corner**, **Connie Rice**, and **Sara Wright**.

Margaret Stream has died. Margaret was born in Great Falls and worked for 20 years for the Army Map Service. Margaret raised her family on 79th Street and moved away a few years ago. Long-time residents may remember her husband, **Hubert**, her daughter **Mary Gilbert**, and sons **James**, **Michael**, and **Robert**.

Please send news items to Barbara Martin by mail (6431 79th Street), phone (301-229-3482), or email (barbmartin@comcast.net).

Community Calendar



SEPT	11	Cabin John Crab & Chicken Feast Clara Barton Center 2 - 6 pm (see p. 1)
	28	CJCA Meeting Clara Barton Center 7:30 pm
OCT	3	Cabin John Blood Drive Clara Barton Center (see p. 8)
	9	Glen Echo Park Fundraiser Glen Echo Ballroom 7 pm - midnight (see p. 4)

BOOK DRIVE

cont. from page 1

observed. When she visited all the primary and secondary schools, meeting over 4,500 school children, and talking to teachers and headmasters, she observed no children's books, neither in schools nor in homes. Teachers readily supplied the answer: Since the war, the region has remained desperately impoverished. Without revenue-generating resources such as oil, there is no money to buy books for teachers or a library; and teachers have not been paid since the beginning of the school year. Villagers struggle to come up with the \$5.00 it takes for a uniform and supplies in order to send their child to a tuition-free public primary school. Many cannot.

We decided to help these children. We had a good starting place: a group of young Nigerian professionals had returned to the village, formed an association to keep kids in school, and launched a project of beginning a library. As English is the official language, it seemed like such a no-brainer: a book club asking our friends to help us give used books to kids who didn't have any. The ultimate recycling for people who love books. We would each reach out in any way we felt comfortable to ask for books: at the office, at schools, in church and synagogue, e-mail lists etc. Our goal was to collect one book for each public primary school child in Ubulu, 1703 books. Little did we know what was about to happen.

Within days of our decision, children's books were coming in from all over, from New Hampshire to Florida. When Caroline Pryor of Norfolk, VA heard



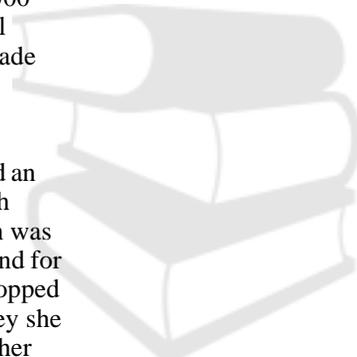
© Brent Morgan

Marie Keefe stands behind Linda Caro Reinisch and her daughter Cecelia inside a 40-foot shipping container loaded with books bound for Nigeria.

her mom talk about it, she decided that her Girl Scout troop should collect and send books that they loved. These girls set a goal of sending 500 books to us for Nigeria. Big thinkers these Girl Scouts — a third of our original goal! They made posters and took them around to stores and encouraged other troops to join in.

For library week, a Charlotte, NC librarian held an office-wide party at her law firm, complete with decorations and prizes; the price of admission was children's books. Needing to come to Richmond for work, she made the drive to Maryland and dropped off boxes of books, school supplies and money she had collected. Another law librarian wrapped her collection of loose coins and used the money to buy new books of African folktales to ensure that known stories and faces would be among the

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Want to Be An Interviewer? We're Looking For You

After more than 30 years of writing interviews for the *Village News*, I'm ready to hand the job over to another writer. If you're at all interested, talk to me—301-229-3482. We'd like you to write one interview to be published in the paper, to see how you like it and how it goes. Our hope is to get several willing people to do one interview each, and go on from there.

It's been great fun and it's a wonderful chance to get to know interesting residents. Everybody has a story, believe me. Now, after maybe 200 interviews, it's time to pass on the privilege. Please consider trying it. Remember, just one interview. You can choose your own interviewee, or I can give you some suggestions.

I'll still be writing the Neighborly News column, proofreading each issue, and helping my husband Reed with the monthly mailing of over 800 copies. So—hardly retirement.

—Barbara Martin



CJCA News

by Burr Gray

The next meeting of the CJCA will be Sept. 28, 7:30 pm at the Clara Barton Community Center.

Upcoming Glen Echo Park Event— On Saturday, October 9, the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts & Culture (GEPPAC) will host two friendly “battles,” as both wine and music are put to the test. From 7 – 9 pm, it’s the Reds vs. the Whites at a wine tasting hosted by Ben Giliberti, *Washington Post* wine columnist. From 9 – midnight, Swing bands Tuxedo Park & Tom Cunningham will vie for the dancers’ affections as they both take center stage in the Ballroom. Ticket cost is \$125/person for the wine tasting (includes admission to the dance & hors d’oeuvres paired to the wine) and \$30/person for the dance (advance purchase price; \$35 at the door), which also includes desserts. Call 301-320-7757 for information. Please note that tickets to the wine tasting will **not** be sold at the door, and space is limited. The evening is a fundraiser to benefit GEPPAC and its arts programming function.

Cabin John History Night—The evening organized by CJCA in July at the Community Center drew about 100 people who ate, drank and enjoyed an evening of entertainment and local history. Jan Neudorfer, Helen Daniel, and Diane Leatherman cooked and fed the masses, while Burr Gray procured the freely flowing beer and wine. Music and sound was provided by the ever trusty Jim Gilchrist (who borrowed a portable microphone from Evan Mader). The evening entertainment opened with the world premier of a very humorous skit by Al Twanmo (portraying three different figures) and his hardy band of pirates (Riley Lewis, David and Andrew Brookes) about the origin of Cabin John’s name. (We hope to convince Al to give a second performance at a later date.) Andy Rice proceeded to give some highlights of early Cabin John history (look in the new directory for some more of that), and was followed by former County Executive Neal Potter with his memories of growing up in Cabin John. Neal’s boyhood home had to be moved to make way for the Beltway. Neal also spoke of attending the Clara Barton School.

on his projector against the large screen in the big social room. To make matters more interesting, Richard Cook brought part of his large collection of local memorabilia and spread that out for folks to view. Reed Martin also set up a table exhibiting his collection of photos of the Sears kit homes in Cabin John and other interesting features. (A number of the original Sears homes have been replaced over time.) Finally, the truly lasting aspect of the evening will be the historical panels beautifully framed and expertly hung by Ritch Kepler on the corridor leading to the Child Care Center. Look for those when you next go into the Community Center (perhaps for the Crab Feast on Sept. 11). Ger Quinn designed those panels, based in part on the panels in the Post Office, with assistance in collecting and processing photos and drafting narrative from Diane Leatherman, Barbara Martin, Andy Rice, Peter Vogt, Tim Weedlun, and Burr Gray. Many thanks to the MC Recreation Department and Community Center Director Modestine Snead for allowing us to place the panels in the Center.

6th Annual Potomac River Canoe Trip—Despite our community’s loss of the Potomac Outdoors store, owner Dave Smith kept tradition alive and continued to get Cabin Johners out on the water for our annual community canoe trip down the Potomac. The canoe crews included the Barnhard family, the Lewis family, the Despard/Chandler family, Elaine Hornauer and Gill Cook, Whitney Wright, the Duffy family, Carolyn Miller and family, Andrea Caplan, the King family, Matt Curran and his daughter Julia, Linda and Frank Ritzenberg, and Burr Gray. The kayakers included: Jackie Hogle, Robert Patch, Rita Gerharz, Ned Goddard, Neal Helm, Helen Daniel, the Bender family, and Reed Martin. All in all, not including our 6 guides, we had about 50 people, about 20 canoes and about 10 kayaks. The river level was about 3.4 ft. according to the Little Falls meter, which was a perfect water level. Yellow Falls whitewater stretch usually poses some challenge but almost all paddlers escaped unscathed. Stubblefield Falls was its usual bouncy self but if you stayed low in the boat and kept paddling, you did fine. The weather cooperated; it didn’t rain and it wasn’t blazing hot. This is always a real opportunity for Cabin Johners to explore our unique backyard called the Potomac River. CJCA continues to be very appreciative of Dave Smith and his guides.

Cabin John Fourth of July Parade—The annual Cabin John July 4th parade and celebration managed to squeeze in between thunderstorms. CJCA provided flags, pinwheels, and hats for those interested. (We keep looking for fife and drum

Following some informal recollections of other CJ residents, we finished with a few slides that Ger Quinn had put on a disk and were processed and shown by John Rabner

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CRAB FEAST
cont. from page 1

of one of three different entree combinations: 1) six crabs, 2) three crabs/three vegetables or 3) a piece of BBQ chicken/3 vegetables. Sodas, beer, lemonade, pizza and popcorn will also be for sale. More than 100 Cabin Johners come together to put this event on each year. If you would like to help at the event, contact Frank Ritzenberg at 320-9080.

Help Needed To Sell Tickets

The Cabin John Crab Feast is the biggest community event of the year and our only fundraiser. During the first two weeks of September, neighbors will be visiting houses on their street to sell advance tickets for the event. Advance ticket sales are important. Residents can save a \$1.00 per ticket when purchased in advance and these sales guarantee that the thousands of dollars in expenses to put on the feast are covered.

Ticket sellers are needed for the following streets: Barkwater Court, Buxton Terrace, Cypress Grove Lane, Endicott Court, Little Leigh Court, MacArthur Blvd., Osage Lane, Persimmon Court, Riverside Avenue, Seven Locks Road, Tomlinson Avenue from 77th Street to MacArthur Blvd., Tomlinson Avenue off Persimmon Tree Road, Wishbone Terrace, 77th Street, and 78th Street below MacArthur Blvd.

This should only take an hour or two of your time. We ask that you go to each home on your street. If no one is home, leave a form behind telling them that you were there and they can contact you to buy tickets. There is a single \$10.00 ticket for all entree combinations served at the crab feast. We will drop the tickets and forms off at your home and pick up any remaining tickets and the money from your sales.

Be a part of this great Cabin John event! Call Clare Amoruso (320-2685) or Lisa Landsman (229-1747) to volunteer. Thanks!

Kid's Parade Launches Festivities

This is a great time for all kids to get out those bikes, wagons, roller blades, scooters and strollers and help start the 2004 Crab Feast by parading down MacArthur Boulevard to the Clara Barton Community Center. During the feast, prizes will be awarded to all kids who participate. Parade starts at 2 pm at MacArthur Boulevard and 79th Street. — 🍌



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Looking Back in Cabin John

by Andrew E. Rice

The Trolley Line to Cabin John

In earlier columns this year I have mentioned a few books that tell of Cabin John's history. One other that I should have included is *Bethesda: A Social History* by William M. Offutt, published in 1995. Although the book is primarily focused on Bethesda proper, it includes more than a dozen pages on Cabin John. Much of Offutt's account is derived from *Time Was*, the wonderful book of reminiscences collected by Elizabeth Kytle and published by the Cabin John Citizens Association in 1976 for the bicentennial celebration. But he also drew on the papers of Morris Fradin deposited in the Montgomery County Historical Society. Fradin, who lived in Cabin John for many years, was often — and correctly — called the town's historian. Cabin Johners may particularly remember him for his delightful children's book, *Hey-ey-ey, Lock*, a fictional (but historically accurate) story of a 1908 canalboat trip on the C & O Canal.

Fradin had a gift for nostalgic writing and for the rest of this month's column I shall quote directly from him as he recalls what it was like to ride the No. 20 trolley line to Cabin John on a summer evening in the 1940's and 1950's. Discontinued in 1961, the line started at Union Station in Washington. It came out Pennsylvania Avenue to Georgetown, where its original tracks are still visible on a couple of cobblestoned blocks. Fradin picks up the story there:

"At 37th and Prospect Streets, the motorman rapidly cranks his manual brake chains tight by whirling a large wheel. The car screeches to a halt over an underground pit. The heel of the motorman's shoe comes down hard on a floor button. GONG-G-G-G! There's a dull thud under the car and the third-rail plow is extracted.

"Lights and power go off and the passengers sit quietly in the gathering dusk, then blink their eyes when the current flows again, this time from the overhead copper wire, contacted by an outside worker who hoists a spring-loaded pole and wheel from atop the car roof. The air compressor motor for the brakes cluck-chugs alive.

"Clang! Clang! There goes the all-clear gong in the pit beneath the car tracks. The motorman releases his hand brake with an ear-shattering crash, and the trolley rattles off into the woodlands of suburbia.

"In its unique never-to-be-forgotten fashion, the car lunges and bounces, jerks, creaks, sways, squeals,

bobs, rocks, and rolls over rickety wooden trestle bridges, over culverts, through wooded areas, with glimpses of the Potomac River far below the hill of Georgetown University.

"A cautious stop to cross MacArthur Boulevard in Foxhall Village, then clickety-clickety-clack through the Potomac Palisades.

"You stare out the windows on the same Potomac river valley landscapes your grandparents viewed since 1896, when trolleys first made the breathtaking, picturesque sights possible. Then there were open 'summer cars' — until the 1930's — with long, varnished benches running the width of the vehicle, while the conductor scurried the length of the outside running board, juggling his large leather purse and mysteriously searching out riders who had not paid their fares as they leaped up into their seats at stops along the route.....

"Past the Georgetown Reservoir...Then the car picks up speed. It whizzes past the backyards of Palisades homes....Past Dalecarlia with its reservoir. Through sleepy, quiet Brookmont...Past Glen Echo Heights. Then...around a bend — and there up ahead glow the bright lights of the Glen Echo Amusement Park — land of enchantment for the young and young at heart.

"A long pause at the gaudy entrance, while excited passengers stream off the car and enter the park to the strident tunes of the carousel....Then the car jerks ahead again, empty now except for a few end-of-the-liners residing in Glen Echo, Fairway Hills, Bannockburn, and Cabin John.

"A wooded island, girded by a loop of tracks, appears at the east end of the Cabin John Bridge. It serves as the terminal of the Route 20 line. Here Mrs. Mary Bobinger operated a refreshment stand, ever since her famous Cabin John Bridge Hotel burned down in 1931. The car conductor drops off a case of potato chips for her stand. Also mail sacks for the waiting Cabin John postmaster standing by his flivver.

"The conductor twirls the car's destination signs to 'Union Station.' Then he goes outside for a breath of fresh air, a smoke, or a chat with the waiting passengers."

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CJCA NEWS

cont. from page 4

players for the march along the bike path so keep practicing if you are out there.) Peppi & Tim Bolger organized the refreshments with help from Liz Gray, Danielle & Maggie Bolger and Lindley & Rachel Gray passed out the helium balloons (a new feature) as well as the patriotic necklaces. The recitation of the litany of complaints against the Crown was greeted with unanimous applause and there was great support for the declaration of independence from England. In this 40th anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Cabin John friend John Hall gave a reading of selected portions of Dr. Martin Luther King's famous "I Have A Dream Speech" given on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 1963. John mentioned that Dr. King realized halfway through that he was not holding his audience and improvised the entire second half of the speech. It is the second half that holds the wording and cadence that has made that speech one of history's most famous.

Next Cabin John Blood Drive – Oct 3—The next community Blood Drive will take place on Sunday, Oct. 3 at the Clara Barton Community Center in Cabin John. Please contact Cabin John resident Karen Melchar (ardenroad@mac.com, 301-229-9049 (h)) if you are willing and able to donate blood. For various reasons, volunteer blood donations have been decreasing over the past few years while the demand for blood has been growing. We hope that our local community (including our adjacent neighborhoods) will rise to the occasion and participate in this most important of civic obligations. Call 1-800-272-2048 (Red Cross nurses station) if you have any questions regarding eligibility to donate.

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BOOK DRIVE

cont. from page 3

children's books of animal characters, fanciful wild things, shapes, and alphabet rhymes.

Here in Cabin John, the Market and the Co-op have been a beehive of activity. Parents of our children's schoolmates have responded to our request with gusto and to this day we are receiving calls from the Co-op that the collection box is overflowing. In March, we received enough beautifully bound children's dictionaries to furnish all primary schools, and current atlases and adult dictionaries for the secondary schools. Little Falls Library hosted our collection box for a month, yielding books from pre-school through junior high.

Stone Ridge School has chosen to send boxes of book donations monthly from their year-round book sale collection effort. We average a book run of at least 15 boxes a month from these volunteers and they are keeping an eye out for special needs our kids may have.

Cappie Morgan began to ask the question: Where do all our used school textbooks go when they are replaced by a new curriculum? Like a detective on a trail, she eventually ended up at the Department of Materials Management of Montgomery County Public Schools. Their response was staggering: they donated 22 skids of books with over 35 boxes a skid for both primary and high school. And they donated the manpower and equipment to help us load the skids.

Julie Smith's 8-year-old daughter Sarah convinced her Brownie troop #4924 to make the children of Ubulu their year end outreach project by donating books and cookie sale proceeds to the effort.

A lot of hands were needed to sort and pack the boxes for shipping. Marie Keefe's house became temporary headquarters. Arlene Lerner's mom, Marie, pitched in, as did Effie Metropoulos' daughter, Chloe Batch. Brent Morgan and Sean Keefe became proficient at hauling and stacking boxes.

We are partnering with Action Africa, Inc. a non-profit organization, which brings people together to create solutions in the village itself. Because one of us is on the Board of Directors, working directly with the headmasters of the schools and making all the arrangements for customs, shipping and distributing the books, we are able to guarantee that these books will get to the children and that any financial contributions (tax-deductible) are dedicated strictly to the costs of shipping and handling.

We are so excited to report, thanks to your help, that today a 40-foot sea container full of books, approximately 30,000, is on a ship due to dock this week in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Yahoo!



© Nwaka Egbulem

Marie Keefe, standing next to the blackboard, visits the children and teachers at Mbachu Primary School in Ubulu, Nigeria.

While we are overwhelmed by success—we already have 30 boxes of books from Stone Ridge, 30 boxes of school supplies from MCPS Drive for supplies, and the promise of another 22 skids of books from the Montgomery County school system in September—we would also love some help. We are looking for partners to help us fund transportation costs to the next village. If you would like to be a part of this effort and help defray the \$6,000 shipping costs for the next container, you can hand any one of us a check (tax-deductible) made out to Action Africa, Inc. or send one to Action Africa, 2903 Mills Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20018.

We are deeply grateful for the can-do spirit of folks in Cabin John and Montgomery County as well as our friends far and near. —🙏

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Local Choral Group Begins New Season

The Cabin John Choral Arts Club, under direction of Nick Schacht, Cabin John resident, begins rehearsals in September after a short summer break. The club ended its last season with a performance at the Glen Echo Strawberry Festival in June which had the audience calling for more. The group, comprised of singers of all ages and abilities, meets every three weeks or so at the Church of the Redeemer in Glen Echo on Sunday evenings at 7:30 pm. We welcome anyone who enjoys singing to join; no tryouts are necessary. It's a fun way to meet members of the community and to experience the rewards of harmonizing. We plan to perform at the annual Cabin John Holiday party and to arrange a night of caroling in Cabin John. Please contact Denise Britti at 301/263-0511 or denise.britti@verizon.net for more information. Our first rehearsal begins September 12 at 7:30 pm. Come join!

CJCA NEWS
cont. from page 8

Mailing of New Cabin John Directories—Many thanks to Reed & Barbara Martin for getting the new Cabin John directories labeled and mailed out quickly; no small feat.

Observation of 100th Anniversary of Town of Glen Echo—The following letter was sent to Glen Echo Mayor Deborah Beers:

*July 21, 2004
Deborah Beers
Mayor, Town of Glen Echo
29 Wellesley Circle
Glen Echo, MD 20812*

Dear Deborah,

Members of the Cabin John Citizens Association voted at their May 25, 2004 meeting, to recognize and congratulate the Town of Glen Echo on its first 100 years. Reaching the 100th anniversary is a real accomplishment. As neighbors, we appreciate the ideas represented in the founding of Glen Echo and the rich history that your community has had over this past century. Some of that history is shared with our community, Cabin John, and we feel a kindred spirit with Glen Echo. We are both communities that share easy access to wonderful resources like the Potomac River and the C & O Canal. We are both small communities that have a mix of residential and commercial areas, which provides both opportunities and challenges. We are certainly both communities that have a strong sense of identity.

So, congratulations on 100 years. On this day when we look back at Cabin John's own heritage, we look forward to working with the Town of Glen Echo as we face shared challenges ahead.

*Sincerely,
Burton Gray, CJCA President*



A Reflection On School Integration: Joyce McKinney Barr

By Barbara Martin

Patricia Joyce McKinney Barr was educated in local schools both before and after integration. Although her family lived in the Rock Spring community off Macarthur Blvd. when she started school, she stayed with an aunt in Georgetown during the week and attended nearby Phillips-Wormley Elementary School for the first, second, and third grades. "I suppose at that time, the DC schools for black children were better than those available in Montgomery County. I came home on weekends. My older sister Bettyann and my younger brother Ronald did the same thing."

In 1950, the family moved to Carver Road, first at #17, then #8, and the McKinney children went to River Road Elementary, "down by the railroad tracks," across from where Talberts is today. "We were picked up on Macarthur and bussed to school. I had fine teachers. Mrs. Wood was my favorite, and Mrs. Trail was the principal and taught as well. I went to the fourth through the sixth grades there."

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Photo taken from Montgomery County. A Pictorial History by Margaret Marshall Coleman

By 1962, integrated classrooms, like this one from Gaithersburg Elementary School, were becoming much more commonplace.

The following article by Carlotta Anderson, published originally in the June 2004 issue of The Echo, gives an excellent background for the interview with Joyce McKinney Barr, and is reprinted here with the author's permission.

A Significant Event: Integration of Local Schools

Fifty years ago, Glen Echo children were probably unaware that they were attending segregated schools. Since there were no black residents in town, they would not have noticed the absence of black schoolmates. But to those black children who lived in Cabin John and other nearby communities, their exclusion must have been a source of constant pain.

On this fiftieth anniversary of the May 17, 1954, landmark Brown vs. The Board of Education Supreme Court decision, which declared that separate schools were not equal schools, it is worth recapturing a time not so long ago when most Glen Echo residents probably did not give the matter much thought.

Black students in Montgomery County had been separated from their white neighbors since not long after the Civil War. Board of Education documents indicate that from 1880-1931 the Cabin John colored elementary school was located near the intersection of River Rd. and Rt. 495, possibly in the Gibson Grove AME Zion Church on Seven Locks Rd.

In 1916 a school was built on River Rd. with funds donated by a Mr. Rosenwald, an official of Sears Roebuck, who established several such schools throughout the country. It

opened with 59 pupils and one teacher. The Rosenwald School, more commonly simply called the colored school, was where most local black children attended elementary school at the time of the 1954 Supreme Court decision. It is now a warehouse near the bike path.

Rudolf Neal, who was Glen Echo's trash collector in the 1970s and who lived in Brookmont, remembered that he would roller-skate to a colored school in D.C. Town Councilwoman Nancy Long, who took the streetcar to a private school in D.C., can recall two black children who lived in Glen Echo Heights riding to a school in Georgetown.

Meanwhile, Glen Echo's children, all of whom were white, attended elementary school in a little wooden building called the Glen Echo School on Wilson Lane where the Trinity Presbyterian Church and the United Korean Presbyterian Church stand today. After it was remodeled in 1908 it was called the Concord School or Crockett's Academy. Glen Echo resident Dorothy Carow, who lived at the bottom of Harvard Ave., recalled walking to this two room schoolhouse by cutting across Bannockburn and fording the creek. It had two teachers, who taught seven grades to roughly 50 boys and girls.

In 1928 children were transferred to the new Glen Echo-Cabin John School in Cabin John, which was renamed the Clara Barton School in 1944.

Before integration, there were only two secondary schools in Montgomery County for black students, both in Rockville:

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McKINNEY BARR
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“For my seventh and eighth grades, I went to Lincoln Junior High in Rockville. And then came integration in 1954, and we went to Western Junior High, off Massachusetts Avenue. Some of my classmates from Lincoln went to Richard Montgomery Junior High. I would say that about 30 per cent of the students at Western were black. Although it’s true we had more resources and smaller classes there, I never felt that I was behind and had to catch up. I think I had been well prepared by my education at River Road and Lincoln.”

“If the schools hadn’t been integrated then, I would have gone to Carver High School in Rockville. That’s where my sister Bettyann went for one year. I went on to high school at Walter Johnson. There weren’t many black students then, just four in my graduating class. I felt that at Western and at Walter Johnson we were treated fairly and welcomed by both students and teachers. If there was tension or resentment, I wasn’t aware of it.”

At WJ, Joyce was a majorette, performed in musicals and a play, “Dino,” and was an alternate to the Student Coordinating Council. “I was taking a business course, so I was in the Commercial Club, too. I was a pretty good student, and enjoyed high school. I was in the first integrated graduating class from WJ.”

“I read a lot in my teens—anything and everything I could get. I think that was one reason that I had no problems with my studies. I’m still an avid reader. I loved ballet and wanted to take lessons. An uncle offered to pay, but we didn’t have transportation, so I couldn’t. But I’ve always enjoyed watching dance performances. I made sure that my daughters were able to take dance lessons—tap, ballet, modern—and study piano. My son plays the trumpet and different African drums.”

After graduation, Joyce went to work for the Department of Labor, and built a career in Government service, moving to Federal offices in Washington DC, Philadelphia, Boston, and San Francisco. Along the way she raised daughters Kim and Jami, and son Ali. “Wherever we lived, my children went to public schools, and I think they did very well. Kim attended the University of Pennsylvania with a major in English. Jami attended Virginia State University with a major in psychology, and Ali graduated from Temple University in Philadelphia, with a Bachelor of Science degree in business.”

Before she retired from the Department of Energy in 1997, Joyce worked in the Office of the Secretary, where she helped to design the gas mileage guide used by US auto dealerships. She was also responsible for reviewing the Secretary’s correspondence, checking for accuracy in policy, responsiveness, and correct English.

Since her retirement, Joyce has lived in Randallstown, outside of Baltimore. “I’ve always come back to Cabin John to visit. For years I sang in the choir at Gibson Grove and considered it my home church. It wasn’t until 2 years ago that I changed my membership to The Empowerment Temple AME Church near my home in Randallstown.” Joyce’s father was the late Frank McKinney, her mother the late Margaret McKinney Coleman. Her sister Gloria McKinney Slayton lives on Carver Road.

Joyce is proud of her seven grandchildren, four boys and three girls. She just came back from Decatur, Georgia, a suburb outside of Atlanta, where she watched her oldest granddaughter graduate from elementary school. “She had the highest math and science scores in DeKalb County.”

Apparently, Joyce’s own good experiences with education, both before and after integration in Montgomery County, have been passed on to her children and grandchildren.

INTEGRATION
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Lincoln Junior High School and George Washington Carver High School. Glen Echo children went to Leland Junior High and Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School.

Despite the 1954 Supreme Court decision outlawing segregated schools, many school districts throughout the country balked at admitting black students and in some places the changeover brought violent confrontations. In Montgomery County, 1954 marked the first time the school board had been elected rather than appointed. Its members were more progressive than earlier school boards and eager to see the court decision complied with. Although the state of Maryland was not eagerly supportive of integration and there was some resistance, no overt hostility took place.

The Rosenwald School on River Rd, and the three other county elementary schools for black children were closed on April 28, 1955. Clara Barton Elementary School became one of the first elementary schools in the county to integrate. When school opened in September 1955, 14% (53 children) of its total student body of 385 were black.

B-CC, Blair and Wheaton High Schools were also integrated at that time. However, it took five years for all schools in Montgomery County to comply with the Federal ruling.

Former resident Tammy Singleton was 10 years old in 1954. She says that she doesn’t remember the school integration at all, but there were never many black students in her classes through high school.

At the Clara Barton School, where the PTA had established an Integration Committee, everything was encouragingly normal. The principals of both Clara Barton and the now-closed River Road colored school felt this could be attributed to the fact that parents never adopted a for or against position and were eager to comply with the law as smoothly as possible for the sake of the children.

By the time the school was closed in 1974 and its 170 children were transferred to Bannockburn Elementary School, educating all races together and equally was not a matter much thought about in the local communities.

(The author is grateful for information researched by Andrew E. Rice of Cabin John, several of whose articles on Cabin John schools have appeared in *The Village News*.)

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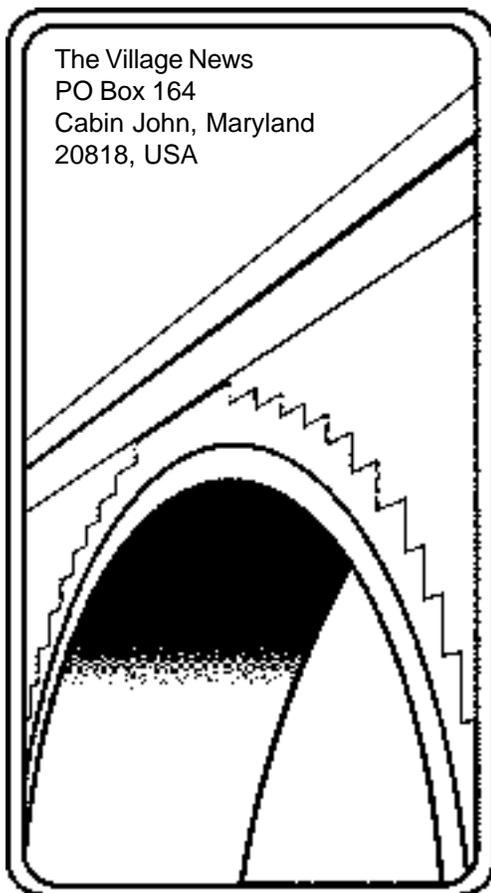
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