February 2004

Village News

Volume 37 Issue 5 Serving the people of Cabin John and beyond

Dancing To Support Clara Barton Center

On February 28, Deanna Bogart and her fabulous band are coming to Cabin John's own Clara Barton Community Center to play some great music and blow the winter blues away! This is a wonderful opportunity to do some serious dancing, mingling, and partying right here in CJ, while at the same time supporting our Community Center.

Bogart and her band are described as "drawing on a variety of musical sources ranging from boogie-woogie, to New Orleans R&B, to swing, to rock & roll. Singer and barrelhouse pianist Deanna Bogart emerged as one of the most eclectic performers in contemporary blues. Born in Detroit in 1960, she cut her teeth on the Maryland blues circuit, developing a crowd-pleasing style which often found her leaping up from her piano bench to chat with the audience; clad in her trademark black fedora, Bogart was also known to blow a mean tenor saxophone." You can find out more at www.deannabogart.com.

Net proceeds from the sale of tickets will be used to support our Community Center which is feeling the financial pinch of local government cut-backs. Monies raised last year were used to purchase blinds for the large windows, a grill, a TV, a DJ for the Mac Café events, etc. And similar types of needs are anticipated this year.

In order to ensure maximum fun and financial success, tickets in general are $25/person, but we also need fifty individuals to pay $50 a ticket in order to cover most of the basic costs of the evening with the rest going to help the Community Center. (Our $50 ticket purchasers will be forever known as Members of the Mosh Pit and great respect will be accorded them.) The festivities will be from 8 until 11 pm, desserts and munchies are included in the ticket price, and a cash bar will be available for beer, wine, and soda/water. Please contact Trudi Bick at 301-229-5929 or trudibick@comcast.net for tickets.

This event is being organized by a group of Cabin Johners interested in dancing, hearing good music, and the continued success of activities and programs held at the Clara Barton Community Center. If you are interested in helping out with this event (decorations, etc), please contact Lori Rieckelman at 301-320-6299 or rieckell@aol.com.

—Burr Gray

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Third Annual CJ Fever Hike Set

The Time: February 8, 2 pm. The Place: Meet at the Seven Locks trail head of the Cabin John Creek Trail (across from Cypress Grove Road - just before Seven Locks crosses under the beltway)

Don't let the the long winter nights bring on cabin fever. Join your neighbors in a vigorous and refreshing hike on our beautiful backyard trail. We'll start at the trail head on Seven Locks and finish at the Cabin John park lower playground (behind the tennis courts at the one-lane bridge) with hot chocolate and cider. Along the way we'll see the icy beauty of the creek in winter, and probably have a few amusing activies. Bring the kids - you'll be amazed how quickly they can cover the mile or so of hilly terrain when there's plenty of company!

If you want to park at the playground, arrive by 1:45 and cars will be available to shuttle you to the trail head. Contact Tom or Kathleen Black for more details (301-229-0104.)

—Kathleen Black

Neighborly News

by Barbara Martin

Frances Wolowitz died in December, at 92. Mrs. Wolowitz, a native Washingtonian, was supervisor of elementary education for the DC school system in the 1960s, then principal of Amidon Elementary School in Southwest Washington. She received a Eugene and Agnes Meyer award that enabled her to visit Europe and study the operations of summer camps for the children of U.S. servicemen and diplomats stationed abroad. Mrs. Wolowitz lived on Carlynn Court with her daughter and son-in-law, **Linda and Tevy Schlafman.**

Ann and Chuck Cochran are new neighbors on Tomlinson Terrace. They moved to Cabin John from McKinley Street in Bethesda. Chuck is chief operating officer of the American Speech Language Hearing Association in Rockville; Ann is a writer specializing in health, medical, and travel writing. Their four children attended Whitman High School, where the youngest, **Harris Clarke**, is now a senior.

Allan Shedlin of 81st Street is the founder of Dads Unlimited, a counseling organization that helps men become the dads they want to be in their children's lives. Recently published is his booklet, *The Freedom of Limits*, first in a series of publications entitled *Understanding and Dealing with Parenting Clashpoints.*

Betty Burchell died in November. Betty lived in Glen Echo and was for many years the organist and pianist for the American-Chinese United Methodist Church at 77th Street and Macarthur.

An absolutely wonderful *Fiddler on the Roof* was presented in November by the talented and hard-working young people of Whitman High School. Reed and I enjoyed it as much or more than anything we've seen at the Kennedy Center. Great price and location, too. CJ's **Sara Wright** of 79th Street and **Martha Fortune** of Riverside Drive made big contributions to the show.

An exhibit of canvases by local artist **James Hilleary** was held at the Edison Place Gallery, November-January. Jim is a painter of the Washington Color School. He has lived on Osage Lane for many decades.

Here's an update on the birds reported hanging out on **Betty Johnson's** roof in the fall (Macarthur and Seven Locks). Betty's Seven Locks neighbor, **Jeri Metz** , reports that they are black vultures, a protected species. "I value them for their ability to keep rodents out of our compost piles and our gardens. They are carrion birds, primarily eating dead and decaying animals, thus keeping the rest of the animal population from disease. They did nest nearby, but on the ground, as this species finds a safe stump or brambles to nest. I think the young one is a male, as it was 'displaying' for my ducks the other day."

We have many fine honor students in Cabin John. Here are the Honor Roll students from Walt Whitman High School:
9th Grade: Braeden Bumpers, Patrick Cable, Aidan Fitrzgerald, Keva Garg, Julia Goodwin, Christopher Ingraham, Gregory Johnson, Gregory Kingscott, Amanda LaCurto, Elyse Martin, Benjamin Miles, Craig Miller, Lauren Neudorfer, David Roberts, William Robinson, Nolan Rodman, Pablo Song, Jessica Stahl, Zoe Walsh; *10th Grade*: Olivia Ackerman, Martha Fortune, Brittany Gobish, Rafael Gueits, John Lin, Katie Patch, Bryan Reisberg, Garrick Sheldon, Dillon Stewwart, Scott Veidenheimer, Hannah Wilkoff, Catherine Wilmarth, Sara Wright; *11th Grade*: Vinay Aggarwal, Alyson Goldstein, Kirby Jarrell, Samuel Lazarus, Chelsea looper-Stockwell, Daniel Roberts, Erica Wright; *12th Grade*: Kelly Bender, Kelly Davison, Begona Fernandez, Jennifer Ford, Marina France, Bradley Johnson, Joseph Lee, Lauren Penman-Garcia, Jacob Stangel.

And from Pyle Middle School: Erin Alloway, Wynne Anderson, Jordan Avery, Thomas Berry, John Bick, Danielle Bloch, William Bumpers, Zachary Cable, Lienard Chang, Alexandra Cheney, Laura Devinsky, Hannah Duffy, Mario Finelli, Jr., Daniel Forstein, Kyle Fyock, Kathleen Giese, Brian Gobish, Michael Goldstein, Isabel Crinker, Caleb Hil, David Hoppel, Amanda Ingraham, Leah Jennings, Matthew Jennings, Samantha Kastn, Zachary Lund, Paul Maki, Ian Martin, Olivia McCoy, Nicole Morgal, David Neudorfer, Hidemi Omori, Victor Osnos, Nadia Qassem, Gabriella Rojas, Aaron Rosansky, Marielle Rudick-Taft, Woo Shin, Riley Sieber, Michael Stahl, Allison Veidenheimer, Sam Walsh, Kate Wilkoff, Tania Yavari.

Every reader of the Village News is a reporter for this column. Please call 301-229-3482 or e-mail barbmartin@comcast.net with news of births, deaths, marriages (present or former residents) new neighbors, special honors.

Community Calendar

JAN

27 ..... CJCA Meeting
7:30 pm (see pg. 6)

FEB

1 ..... Blood Drive at Community Center
10 am – 3:45 pm (see pg. 9)

8 ..... Cabin Fever Hike
2 pm (see pg. 1)

25 ..... Zoning Hearing
on Captain's Market expansion
1:30 pm(see pg. 11)

28 ..... Dance in Cabin John
8 – 11 pm(see pg. 1)

Denise Britti: This Lady Can Do It

By Barbara Martin

If you attended the community holiday party last month, you heard the new Cabin John Chorus sing. This latest addition to our town's richness is the brainchild of Denise Britti.

She was born Denise Vangroll in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, a small suburb of Akron. Her parents, Jaap and Mathilde, had come through Ellis Island to the United States from Holland in 1959. Her father came to take a factory job with Goodyear, one of the tire manufacturers headquartered in Akron. Her mother wanted very much to leave the place that was filled with her childhood memories of the years spent under Nazi occupation. She remembered the horror of storm troopers barging into their house looking for men to be conscripted into working for the Germans. By good luck, her father was away at the time. With near starvation conditions, the family often had only tulip bulbs for food. Denise's mother looked to America as the land of her dreams, leaving behind the country of her nightmares.

The Vangrolls' son Alan was born in 1960 and Denise followed in 1962. While she was still a toddler, Goodyear sent her father back to Holland, to The Hague, where the family lived for the next 7 years, with 1 year's assignment in Switzerland. "Like most Dutch people in their generation, my parents spoke four languages—Dutch, German, English, and French. Goodyear considered this a real asset and it was one of the reasons my father began to move up the ranks."

"In Holland, we lived in a 4-story brownstone. The tiny country doesn't have much space, so everything is small and compact. That's probably why Dutch people tend to be organized, neat, and orderly. My brother and I went to the American School of The Hague, a school sponsored by the American Embassy, where all the classes were in English. It's ironic that although my Dutch heritage goes back to the 1600s, I can't speak the language. But my parents wanted their children to be as American as possible, so Dutch was never spoken in our home. One set of grandparents lived in Amsterdam, the other in a small town nearby. We visited them occasionally. Only one grandparent in each set could speak English well enough to communicate with us. It made us feel left out."

When Denise was 6, her brother Michael was born at their home, which was not unusual in Holland. The next year, her father was transferred back to Ohio, and the family made the ocean crossing on a ship.



© Pamela Zilly Photography

Denise Britti at home with her cocker spaniel mix, Scout.

Back in Cuyahoga Falls, Denise started third grade in public school. "It took us some time to feel like we fit in. Even though we spoke English, our family still observed Dutch customs and habits that made us a little different from your average Midwesterners. But overall, I remember those years fondly. I did very well academically and had many neighborhood friends. Our common link to this community was that everyone's dad worked for one tire company or another. Goodyear, Goodrich, Firestone, they were all there.

But in the middle of sixth grade, the family moved to Miami, Florida. Her father was now promoted to sales manager for Goodyear's office in Miami which sold tires to Latin America. Of necessity, he added Spanish to his languages. "We used to laugh at my father when he spoke, because he would often mix words from several languages in one sentence."

"In general that return to Florida was a miserable time for me. It was always so very hot and the sunshine was blinding. The climate didn't suit our Northern European heritage nor our Midwestern experience. We rarely, if ever, went to the beach. I can't tell you how many times I got burnt to lobster red after only 15 minutes in the sun. And sixth grade was when Dade County began to desegregate its schools, so my brother and I were bused into Miami's inner city. The classrooms were a disaster because the teachers spent most of their time focusing on discipline. I wasn't learning anything; I was just surviving."

(continued on page 5)

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"Jesus loves the little children,
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DENISE BRITTI
cont. from page 3

"My mother realized that something had to be done. She located a private school in Coral Gables, an hour's drive from our house. We didn't have that kind of money, so she worked out a deal where she served as the school librarian in exchange for her three children's tuition. I enjoyed my 5 years at that school, although I certainly didn't fit the mold. The other students were mostly from wealthy Hispanic families; they wore designer clothes and drove expensive cars. My brother and I stood out as the tall, white Americans. My brother was over 6 feet and I was already 5'9" in the 7th grade. We rated pretty high on the dork meter: tall, very pale, sweating profusely in the heat, and sporting glasses. Thankfully I did well each year, getting straight A's, and I managed to become a cheerleader for the basketball team. To give you an idea of the makeup of our school, all starting players on the basketball team were named Fernandez: Hector, Jorge, Juaquin, Miguel, and Francis and none of them were related!"

"My father's job took him to South America for weeks at a time and my mother was working and going to college to start her undergraduate degree. I'll never forget that I won first prize for my school in the Science Fair, and neither of my parents were

(continued on page 7)

Looking Back in Cabin John

by Andrew E. Rice

Interesting Books About Cabin John

In my last column I mentioned that, aside from Elizabeth Kytle's classic *Time Was: A Cabin John Memory Book*, I was not aware of any other book wholly devoted to Cabin John. But I was wrong, as Barbara Martin kindly pointed out to me. There is also *Days at Cabin John* by Edith Martin Armstrong, published in 1958.

Mrs. Armstrong's volume is unusual, because it is a book with fictional characters, yet is based on actual incidents that the author experienced as a resident of Cabin John from the mid-1920's to the early 1950's. As she says in her introduction, "Geographical names are real and the dialect is authentic, but no character is drawn from a single living person…The writer hopes in this manner to present a readable and faithful cross-section of the environment, customs, habits, and folklore of an era of American life that is rapidly disappearing."

Days at Cabin John is long since out of print, but there's a reference (non-circulating) copy in the Montgomery County Historical Society Library (42 W. Middle Lane, Rockville). Barbara Martin too has a copy that she has graciously said she would lend to anyone who would like to look at it. You can call her at 301-229-3482.

And speaking of books, there's another book now in the process of being written that will include some interesting material about Cabin John. Last year Johns Hopkins Press published a book about Rock Creek Park authored by Gail Spilsbury. In the course of her research for that book (entitled simply *Rock Creek Park*), she discovered in the Library of Congress some wonderful drawings of sites along the Potomac River that had been deposited in the Library in the 1940's by Robert L. Dickinson. Dickinson had actually made these drawings during World War I when he was stationed in Washington as Chief Medical Officer for the War Department. He had intended to use his drawings as illustrations for a book he planned under the title *Washington Walk Book*. That book, however, was never written and the drawings were forgotten until Spilsbury brought them to light.

One of Dickinson's sketches portrays the Union Arch (others include Great Falls, Widewater and many additional sites of natural or historic interest), and Spilsbury is now preparing the text to accompany the drawing. Her research into the origin of Cabin John's name has been particularly thorough, and I look forward to reporting some of it in next month's column.

At the moment she is searching for information about the summer (mostly weekend) camps that existed in the early years of the 20th century along the Potomac. "All of the camps were rustic, but some had food services, like Trammel's," she says. "People pitched tents or built lean-tos, but it is not clear who the campers were or on whose property their camps were located. And what made the camps disappear?" If you who are reading this column have any knowledge of the camps, Spilsbury would would be grateful if you would contact her. Her e-mail address is spilsbury@starpower.net.

CJCA News

by Burr Gray

The next meeting of the CJCA will be January 27, 7:30 pm at the Clara Barton Center.

Next CJCA Meeting Agenda — (1) Meet new owners of Market on the Blvd, (2) presentation by Billie Wilson (County Rec Dept) on operations/ outlook for Community Center, (3) putting old issues (back to the 70's) of *The Village News* on CJ Home Page, and (4) presentation on the two large developments proposed for the nearby two rock quarries along River Road.

Formation of Friends of Clara Barton Community Center – Please contact Burr Gray (burr.gray@alum.dartmouth.org, 703-607-2740 (w)) if you are interested in being part of this group. The group's focus will be to advocate to the County on behalf of the Center and to help with local fundraisers and other events, such as the dance on February 28.

Annual December Holiday Party Caps A Year of CJCA Activities



The Annual Holiday Party, held on December 14 was once again well attended by about 110 kids and an equal number of adults. Delicious food (donated by local merchants), lots of drinks and cookies were at hand for the event sponsored by the Cabin John Citizens Association, Girl Scout Troop #3 (consisting of Katie Barnhard, Lorena Clark, and Rachel D'Elia), and the Clara Barton Community Center.

Santa showed up (courtesy of Cabin John Fire Department) to distribute the presents (arranged and bundled as always by Judy Barnhard and the Girl Scouts. The kids crafts was once again supervised by Liz and Lorena Clark, Katy Barnhard, Helen Gurley, Ruth Rabner, and others. A local TV newscaster, who is a brother-in-law of one of the Clara Barton Children Center dads, led the children through the traditional and interactive story about "The House Where Santa Lives."

A very special treat this year was the performance of the Cabin John Choral Arts Club. Denise Britti started this group last year, and the great sound is the result of director Nick Schact's efforts. Susan Roberts played the piano. Jim Gilchrist once again provided the excellent sound system, which continues to make a huge difference. The Christmas tree was provided by John Hughes and Hughes Landscaping (with the actual selection being done by Reed Martin), and decorated by Gabrielle Herderschee Hunter and the Rabner and Gurley clans. Girl Scout Troop #3 along with Judy and Gary Barnhard organized the room decorations and helped with set-up. The set-up and cleanup crowd consisted of Werner Schumann, Reed Martin, Burr Gray, John Rabner, Andy Rice, Betsy Lawrence and Greg & Maria Whiteaker. Maria Whiteaker also organized the clothing/toy drive for the Childrens' Law Center, which generated two full carloads of items. Oona Stieglitz organized a collection of hotel toiletries that weighed about 40 lbs at the end of the evening. Well done Cabin Johners!



This effort continues to be very well supported by the local community merchants, both with food and raffle items. Food came from the Bethesda Coop (lots of cheeses & crackers – thanks to manager Helen Atkocius), BB&T Bank (large delicious cake – many thanks to Maija Bauman), Glen Echo Sub Shop (two free sub platters thanks to manager Brad Siegel and transport by Clare Amoruso), plus two other platters that CJCA purchased, plus 12 pizzas purchased at a discount from Pizza Hut. Hanna Wilkoff and Girl Scout Troop #3 once again skillfully handled sales of the raffle tickets which raised a little over $200 dollars to help offset the event's cost. As supervised by Katy Barnhard, local kids reached into a bowl and picked the winners of the raffle items donated by Hughes Landscaping - courtesy of John Hughes, Market on the Blvd, Clara Barton Center for Children, Eleanor Balaban, Alpine Animal Hospital - courtesy of Dr. Tom Ramirez, Glen Echo Hardware – courtesy of Mike Christopher and Carl Essl, Firehouse Cleaners - courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Ahn, Kan Pai Sushi – courtesy of Katz Toyota, and the Clara Barton Community Center (memberships to the weight room).

DENISE BRITTI
cont. from page 5

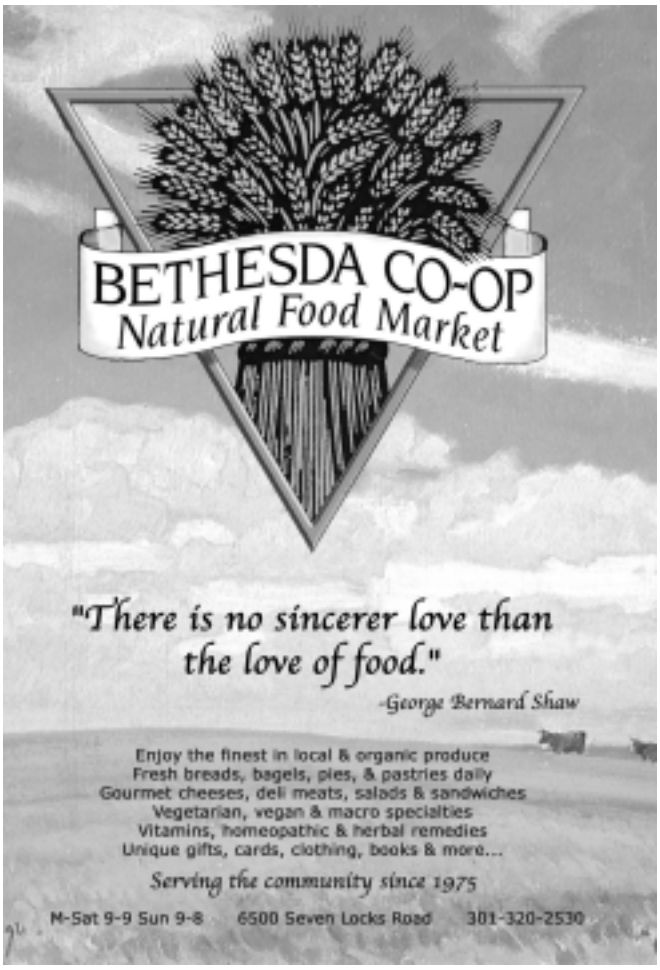
there for my award. I had worked for 2 months training a mouse in a 'Skinner Box' to ring a bell three times. I was learning that I was pretty much on my own."

"My parents' marriage had been deteriorating for some time. They divorced when I was 16. My brother graduated and went into the Army, and my mother moved me and my younger brother, Michael, back to Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. That was my senior year in high school. What a change! In Florida there were 66 students in what would have been my graduating class; in Ohio there were 800. But now there were kids my height. And as 'the girl from Miami,' I had a certain status."

"But we had almost no money. My mother was now a student at the University of Akron, not working, and we lived solely on alimony and child support. We had a cramped little house. My bedroom was the attic. Since the high school was overcrowded, we went in shifts. I was in the early school shift, beginning at 7 am. In the late afternoons I worked at a Super Chef on the closing shift which lasted until 1 a.m. Then I rode my bike home. It was hard to stay awake sometimes in school."

"More trouble came when Alan, now in the Rangers, had an accident on a jump, and fell 150´,

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CHRISTIES GREAT ESTATES

DENISE BRITTI
cont. from page 7

breaking every bone on one side. He came home to recuperate and there was no place for him but the basement. I finally had enough of Super Chef and found a job at Thom McAn's shoe store. There was never much talk about going away to college; my mother asked if I would go to the nearby University of Akron, so that I could stay home and bring in an income. Then on second thought she suggested I move out on my own. So I entered the University of Akron as a freshman majoring in psychology and lived in crowded quarters with a houseful of girls. Finances were certainly strained, but I got into a work-study program in the psychology department." All through high school and college, Denise carried a 4.0 average in spite of everything that was going on.

"By now my father had remarried and I went to Miami to visit him, his wife and two step-children during winter break. His brother, my uncle Theo, was a professor of Architecture at the University of Virginia. My father urged me to stop in Charlottesville on my way back to Ohio. I had always dismissed the idea of a Southern college, but my visit to UVA changed my mind. It was a wonderful place to me. I applied to transfer and was accepted. Again I went into a work-study program in the psychology department and was assigned to the department chair who was beginning a longitudinal study of step-families. We had the task of formulating codes for verbal behavior that could be followed by any interviewing researcher. That brought me into the world of computers and essentially changed the direction of my professional life-to-be."

"My mother had remarried and moved to Texas with my younger brother. Alan had recovered from his injuries and gone back to the Army, where he stayed 22 years until his retirement last year. During the summers, I really had no home to go to, so I stayed at the University and worked in the psych department. I had always intended to go for a graduate degree in psychology, but I had immersed myself so much in it over the years that I needed a break. This depressed me for a time - knowing that my passion to become a psychologist had waned and not wanting to go to grad school. A friend suggested I take a year off, and that seemed a wonderful idea."

"Some of my friends had moved to the Washington area, so I moved in with them in Tysons Corner. I got a job in accounting at Hazeltine in Reston, a company that made computer-based training systems. I knew nothing about accounting but the job I had was just keeping track of travel vouchers and bills. I did the job well, but after 6 months I was extremely bored. I asked my boss to let me do something else, and suddenly I was demonstrating our systems at trade shows and computer shows. I traveled all around the country and helped set up and run our exhibits."

"By now I had become quite computer savvy, and was at home in the technical world. I changed jobs, going to work for Zenith Data Systems, and almost doubled my salary. Zenith had a huge contract with the Government, and my job was to visit naval bases (in my power suit and high heels) and make presentations to audiences of 40 to 100 people. Then I transferred to Zenith's marketing department, writing proposals for contracts. I got my own apartment in Georgetown, close to Wisconsin and M Street, and felt I was really in the Washington swing. Giving all this up to go back to grad school was not a consideration."

In 1989, a friend persuaded Denise to go on a double date, and there she met John Britti. John, who grew up in Wheaton, had just returned from getting his MBA at Dartmouth. They dated a year and a half, were engaged for another 6 months, and were married at St. Ann's in Friendship Heights in Washington, D.C. The Brittis bought a house on Harrison Street in that same area.

In 1991, Denise changed jobs again, joining NeXT, a computer company founded by Steve Jobs of Apple Computer fame. She was their Federal marketing manager for 2 years, until the company down-sized. Her favorite story about Steve Jobs: "Steve came from California to be the keynote speaker at a conference our office sponsored and by then I was in the company's upper echelon. At the end of the day, we all decided to go out to a restaurant to celebrate a successful show. Steve and my California supervisor elected to ride with me. I had John's car and it was a mess—held together with duct tape, broken passenger seat, banana peels on the floor. I apologized for the car and said it was my husband's. Steve wondered what my husband did. It was a short evening because Steve had a terrible cold and I drove him to his hotel early. In my next paycheck there was a raise. I asked my boss and he said he didn't know anything about it but would check into it. Turns out it was for a 'car allowance' (not normally given to marketing managers) which could only have been authorized by Steve!"

In 1993, daughter Corinne joined the family, and 3 years later came son Jake. By now Denise was working part-time for Blacksmith, a software development company, as Director of Marketing. "When I joined the company there were 6 employees. Seven years later we had 70 people. I loved every minute of my work, and it was a sad day in 2001 when the dot com collapse shut us down."

Denise and John found their home on Seven Locks Road in 1998. "We were just driving by and saw

the For Sale sign. When we saw the backyard and all the space, we were sold. We are so happy here. The neighbors are friendly, the kids are getting a terrific education at Bannockburn, Seven Locks Park joins our backyard, the Cabin John Creek trail is right across the road. It couldn't be better. Our family enjoys hiking and bicycling together and this area is wonderful for those activities."

Denise has found circles of friends here. With Corinne and Jake at Bannockburn, she has friends among the school moms, some of whom meet regularly in a sewing group, and friends among the dog-walking group which she and Pam Zilly organized to exercise their dogs from 9 to 9:30 every morning on the soccer field of the park. Denise walks two dogs—their golden retriever and their cocker spaniel. She also belongs to a critique group of women interested in writing children's books. "I have ideas for children's manuscripts, especially stories from my parents' experience growing up in occupied Holland, but I've found that getting a publisher is a very hard barrier to cross. So we get together, share our books-in-progress, and suggest and encourage."

And now her latest "group" is the Cabin John Choral Arts group, which she and Stacy Kinkaid started a year ago. "I like to sing. I sang in the Methodist church choir in Florida, and co-directed a youth choir in Akron. And I was missing that. I knew there were many artistic, talented, interesting people in Cabin John, so I put an ad in the *Village News*, hoping to get maybe 8 people, and right away we had 20 responses. And more kept coming in. My neighbor, Nick Schacht, has had a lot of experience with singing groups, and I persuaded him to be the director. Susan Roberts agreed to be our accompanist and we started meeting in February 2003 at the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Glen Echo. There are now 45 people who either sing regularly or want to in the future, but we're averaging almost 20 every rehearsal. Since our performance at the Community Center holiday party, I've heard from other interested singers." The chorus adds another bond to our town.

John Britti is now an executive with Capital One, a credit card corporation. Denise's current personal/professional venture is interior decorating. With remarkable skill at sewing, a creative sensibility for artistic combinations, and a fine eye for color, she is—at the urging of many friends—launching her own business, Beautiful Decors, Inc. "I've always loved decorating. Wherever I've lived, I have enjoyed fixing up and doing over. Any place I moved from has sold very well, partly because I've made it look good. Now I'm learning all I can about the business end."

For this I-can-do-it woman, her new career can't help but be successful.

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New Look for Village News

With this issue, *The Village News* welcomes a new volunteer – Tim Weedlun, to a newly created position – Layout Editor. Tim has agreed to share his talent to make our community paper look better than ever. A Cabin John resident for 6 years, Tim works as a graphic designer for Pearson Government Solutions in Ballston, Virginia. The rest of the volunteers who contribute to, manage and distribute *The Village News* thank Tim for stepping up to this challenge with a fantastic new layout design. We welcome your comments on the new design, and are always looking for your suggestions to make this paper an informational and entertaining part of Cabin John public life. Send email to: heidiblewis@earthlink.net or mail to PO box 164, Cabin John MD 20818.

—Heidi Brown Lewis, editor

CJ Choral Club Starts New Year Singing

Cabin John's community choral group is starting their second year and is extending a welcome to anyone interested in singing. The group meets a couple of times a month on Sunday evenings at 7:30 pm at the Church of the Redeemer in Glen Echo. We welcome all ages and singing voices to join us for a wonderful evening of harmonizing. No try-outs necessary. Please call Denise Britti for more information 301-263-0511 or denise.britti@verizon.net.

Important Blood Drive Set For February 1

The first community Blood Drive of 2004 will take place on Sunday, February 1 at the Clara Barton Community Center in Cabin John. Please contact Cabin John resident Karen Melchar (ardenroad@mac.com , 301-229-9049 (h)) ASAP if you are willing and able to donate blood.

As usual, we need to sign up 55 donors in advance in order to have a successful blood drive. The time slots (done at 15 minute increments) are from 10:00 - 3:45 p.m. The need for blood is always urgent, especially in winter when colds and sore throats reduce the number of donors.

The entire process takes a little over one hour if you have a reserved time slot. Also, we would like to have 5 or 6 volunteers to staff the sign-in desk for a one-hour period each. Even if you can't donate blood, please let Karen know if you can help at the desk. Even if you are not certain, sign up and try to make it, or just drop in on February 1. Hope you'll participate if you are eligible.

Eligibility - People who can donate are, in general: people in good health, 17 years or older, and weighing at least 110 lbs. People who can't donate are: (1) people who received a tattoo one year prior to the date of donation, (2) most people taking antibiotics, (3) most people taking blood thinners, (4) most people who are not feeling well, have a cold, or sore throat, (5) people who have a temperature at the time of donation, (6) people who have been in England for a total combined period of 3 months from Jan. 1, 1980 to the present, and (7) people who have been in Eastern or Western Europe for a total combined time of 6 months or more since Jan 1, 1980, (8) people who have had cancer, (9) people who have traveled recently to certain South American countries where malaria exists. Call 1-800-272-2048 if you have any questions regarding eligibility. Please read carefully the above restrictions affecting those people who have spent a fair amount of time in Europe. Better to find out ahead of time if you are eligible to give than to get to the event and be disqualified. Blood is in short supply as usual. It saves lives! Please give.

—Neil Helm



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CABIN JOHN AMERICAN-CHINESE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 7703 MacArthur Boulevard. Mixed cultural and traditional background, American and Chinese united in worshiping and serving God together. Residents of Cabin John and surrounding areas: you are warmly invited to share with us. Come and experience the Blessings!!!! English service 10:00 AM, Chinese service 11:15 AM on Sundays. Fellowship groups meet on Fridays at 8:00 PM for youth, young professionals, families and children. Call church office [Rev. Hii] at 301-229-8233.

Letter to the editor

Good Morning!

There comes a time in everyone's life that one must do what they are not quite ready to do. This happened to me this summer when I realized that it was time to sell "The Market". I had thought that I would pass it on to Frank, but this was not to be.

Frank and I were blessed to have a fantastic, dedicated staff; we are like family. Had it not been for these employees "The Market" would have never been the success it is today.

Enough cannot be said about the community of Cabin John and the surrounding areas. The support that we received during these last ten years was outstanding and much appreciated. As many of you know I like to talk, maybe we always didn't agree but we respected each other's point of view. I will certainly miss these conversations. Frank and I have made many friends and value these relationships.

It is hard to say good-bye to something that has been such a big part of ones life for so many years, but since I am not getting any younger I feel that this is the right decision. The new owners will be working hard to continue the excellent service that you have known. I am certain that they will receive the same support from the community and customers that were given to Frank and I.

We would like to thank you again for your friendship and loyalty. You will not be forgotten, please keep in touch.

Sincerely,

The Osborn Family
Ralph Osborn email - jnrosborn@mindspring.com
Frank Osborn email - fjosborn@hotmail.com



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Administrative Appeals Hearing On Captain's Market Building Permit Wednesday February 25

At 1:30 pm at the County Council Building (100 Maryland Avenue), there will be an administrative appeals hearing on the building permit granted to the Captain's Market for its recent expansion.

In several letters to the County from the Citizens Association and community architect Elliott Gitlin, questions were raised about the county ignoring several of its zoning ordinances in granting the permit to more than double the square footage at the Market. None of these questions and concerns were addressed or answered satisfactorily by the County Zoning Office.

On Wednesday February 25 in the Davidson Memorial Hearing Room, there will be an Appeal Hearing (case #A5959) to consider the issues raised by Elliott and the community regarding the County's granting a building permit (#282397) to the Captain's Market. If you want to attend the hearing and need a ride, please contact Helen Daniel (301-229-1521). If you want to write your support, address your letter to:

The Montgomery County Board of Appeals
100 Maryland Avenue, Room 218
Rockville, Maryland 20850

—Helen Daniel

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FOR SALE: 2004 membership to the Clara Barton Center weight training room. Value -$125. Make offer....301-229-3482.

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To place an ad in the Village News classifieds, send us your ad and payment of $0.25 per word by the deadline. If you have questions, call Lorraine Minor at (301) 229-3515.

THE VILLAGE NEWS is published monthly except in July and December and is sent free to all 800+ homes in Cabin John. Others may subscribe for $5 per year. Send news, ads, letters, and subscriptions to: The Village News PO Box 164 Cabin John, MD 20818 [or heidi@alumni.vanderbilt.edu]

The next deadline is 10 AM Wednesday Feb 11th for the issue mailing Feb 19th.

Volunteers who make the Village News possible: Heidi Brown Lewis–editor, Barbara and Reed Martin–distribution & proofreading, Lorraine Minor–business manager, Tim Weedlun–layout editor.

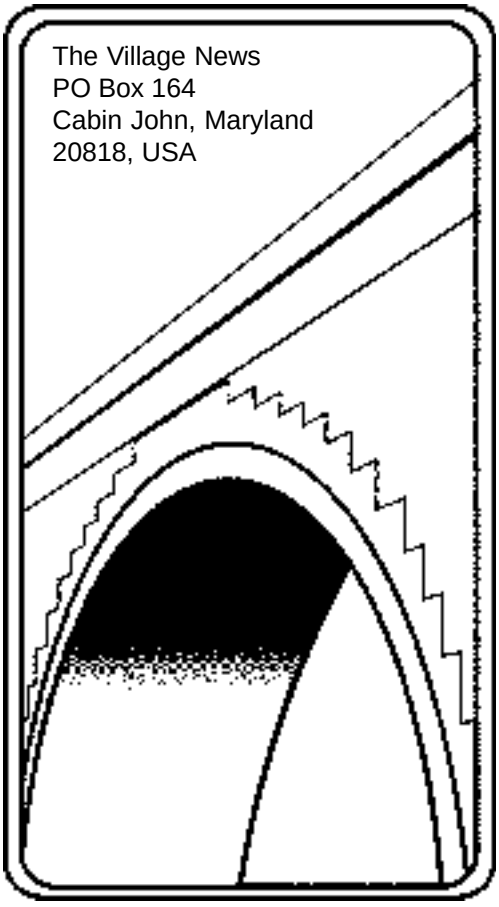
Regular Contributors: Burr Gray, Andy Rice, Barbara Martin, John Rabner.

Ads: 301-229-3515 or mail to *Village News* at above address

Neighborly News: 301-229-3482 or barbmartin@comcast.net

Features/News: 301-320-0918 or heidiblewis@earthlink.net

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