

# Barcroft News

January 2014

Vol III, Issue 5

## Reminiscences of the 8th Street Hill

*By Hank Biddle*

When we were young my sister and I enjoyed bicycling around the county. We did not need to worry much about traffic then because there was very little. When we went west on Columbia Pike past Bailey's Cross-roads there was none at all. Columbia Pike was just a two lane concrete road.

What we enjoyed most was finding a long steep hill to coast down. One day riding west on 8th Street South we came to Quincy street and saw a wonderful sight, the 8th Street hill. But the road stopped at the top of the hill and a rocky



path was all that led down. At the bottom was a creek. Someone had placed a ten foot plank across the creek. It was only eight inches wide, a challenge. We would fly down the rocky path hit the center of the plank and coast up toward George Mason Drive. I flew

down the path yelling at my sister "No brakes, no brakes, keep up speed for the other side." But she had stopped and walked across.

We laughed and both sat down in the pine covered ground and looked around at the wonderful pine woods covering both sides of George Mason Drive. It was a great hill. •

## Next Community Meeting Set for January 2

Please join us as we ring in the new year at our January meeting, set for January 2 at 7:30 p.m. at the Community House. We will hear about Arlington Neighborhood Villages, a non-profit group that will begin operations

this spring. It seeks to enable people to stay in their homes for as long as possible (often called "aging in place") by creating a group of volunteer members who provide and receive services for neighbors. •

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# Monthly Happenings

## ***President's Report by Eric Harold***

Well, the reviews are in. Once again, the annual Holiday Party was a huge hit. There was music, dramatic readings and singing. A new and much improved actor in the role of the Grinch (said one reviewer: "The role of the Grinch was taken to a whole new level."). Thanks to Barbara Swart for her organizing this. Thanks to Santa for taking time out of his busy schedule this year (and every year) to visit Barcroft. A great tradition continues.

Also in November the Cackley Family helped organize a wonderful show to benefit the Dream Project. Hollertown played some rousing bluegrass music to a packed house, Barcroft's own Cecelia Cackley played and sang beautifully, and we heard inspiring stories from recipients of assistance from the Dream Act. This has been a quasi-recurring event that I for one would love to see continue.

Speaking of recurring events, in January we pick up with our routine monthly meetings with a discussion about Arlington Neighborhood Villages. And at the end of the month, on Sunday, January 26, we will have our annual Spaghetti Dinner. Read the rest of the newsletter for details on both of these events. Happy New Year, Barcroft! •

**Next Community Meeting: January 2 at 7:30.**



# The People in Barcroft: Aaron Winter and Susannah Rosenblatt

## **Compiled by Lisa Piantanida**

Aaron and Susannah have lived on 8th Road South near Buchanan since July 2011. They previously lived in the Whitmore apartments and liked the area so much they decided to stay!

## **What do you enjoy about Barcroft?**

The eclectic houses and old trees here give our neighborhood a cozy, welcoming feel. We also like living so close to Columbia Pike businesses, easy



bus service to DC, the W&OD trail--and great salteñas! We also love our diverse, friendly, generous neighbors, and hope to get to know more of them.

## **A fun fact (or two) about you two.**

Susannah competed on "Jeopardy!" in March 2012. Next time you see her, ask her

how she did--and what Alex Trebek is REALLY like!

Aaron has a doctorate in 19th-Century American literature, which he is putting to good use working in the

finance industry.


Together, Aaron and Susannah have traveled to 47 countries, and are always ready for their next adventure. •

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## Gardeners Needed

### **By Noreen Atkinson**

Spring will be here before we know it and we still need gardeners for our Spring tour on May 4. Remember, all proceeds go to the community restoration fund. There will be refreshments after the tour at the comm. center. We need at least six more gardeners who would like to have their yards toured. Call Noreen Atkinson at 703-979-4868 or [noreenatkinson@verizon.net](mailto:noreenatkinson@verizon.net) for more information.



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# Flavors of the Season: Soup

By Kari Hickman,  
[virtualgoodyplate.blogspot.com](http://virtualgoodyplate.blogspot.com)

Happy New Year! Like most people, in January I need a caloric reprieve from the holidays' rich foods, but I just can't stomach a cold salad. That means finding a way to get my greens, but warm. This hearty soup loads up on a rainbow of veggies and will warm you up from the inside out.

## Hungarian Hot Sausage and Lentil Soup

Generous drizzle of olive oil

1 lb. bulk hot sausage\*

3 cloves garlic, chopped

1 medium onion, chopped

2 Portabello mushrooms, de-gilled, chopped

1 cup pre-shredded carrots

1 cup dry lentils

2 large potatoes, peeled and diced

Salt and pepper

1 bay leaf

Spice mix: 2 T cumin, 1 tsp paprika, a pinch of cayenne

3 sprigs fresh rosemary, stems intact

1 can diced tomatoes

6 cups vegetable or chicken stock

4 cups (1 bunch) chard or kale, veins removed and leaves chopped

1. Heat a medium Dutch oven over med-high heat and add olive oil. Add the sausage, brown

and crumble it, then add garlic, onions and mushrooms. Cook a few minutes, then add lentils, carrots, potatoes, salt and pepper, bay leaf, spice mix and rosemary sprigs. Add tomatoes and broth and cover the pot. Raise the heat until the soup boils.

2. Keep at a good rolling boil for about 15 minutes, until the lentils and potatoes are tender. Wilt the greens in small bunches, remove rosemary stems, and turn off heat. Let stand 5 minutes. Serve with crusty French or pumpernickel bread. Makes 6 to 8 servings\*\*



\*To further reduce calories, use turkey sausage instead of regular, or omit and add shredded cooked chicken in at the end.

\*\*Reheat leftovers by thinning a little with broth or water. ●

# Happy New Year from Barcroft Elementary!

*By Jenny Ditta, Barcroft Elementary Liaison*

Barcroft Elementary wishes our neighbors a happy, healthy New Year. May all of your resolutions for 2014 come true! Many thanks to our wonderful neighbors for your support in 2013. We appreciate you taking the time to link your grocery and store cards to Barcroft Elementary, your attendance at school and PTA programs and events, and your patronage of PTA fund-raisers. Your support and participation is always welcome.

The students have been enjoying an extended Winter Break that began on December 20. School will resume on January 6, and the third quarter will commence. On January 7, there will be a PTA meeting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. We will plan events and fund-raisers for 2014. Second quarter report cards will be sent home in January as well.

On January 15, beginning at 6:30 p.m. the Arlington County Council of PTAs (CCPTA) will host a Reception and Awards Ceremony to recognize all APS student participants and winners of the county PTA Reflections art contest. First place winning PTA Reflections art entries from all APS schools qualify to be judged at the county level. This is a great event that showcases talented APS student artists in the fields of photography, visual arts, literature, dance choreography, musical composition, and film production. Congratulations to everyone who participated! On January 21, students will have no school to recognize the Martin

Luther King, Jr. holiday.

Looking ahead in 2014: March is "Arts in the Schools" month, so look for some great faculty art and music presentations at the March 4 PTA meeting as well as the ever-popular Coffee House and Book Exchange. Three student teams will be competing in the March 15 preliminary Odyssey of the Mind competition. The student teams have been meeting and working hard since November 2013. We wish them the best of luck. From March 31 to April 11 is Spring Intersession. Students may take enrichment classes offered by the school or enjoy time off. May is Staff Appreciation Week. Around this time, plan for special fund-raisers to celebrate Mother's Day! And the annual Farm to Table week will occur in June. We hope that you will join us! •

## Boatwright Fund Update

As was announced in the last issue of **Barcroft News**, beloved neighbor and long-time Barcroft Elementary lunchroom attendant and volunteer, Diane Boatwright, died in November 2013 at the age of 53. If you would like to assist Diane's family in paying for funeral and end-of-life health care expenses, go to: <http://www.youcaring.com/memorial-fundraiser/everyone-s-grandma-diane-boatwright/105642>. As of mid-December, \$6,385 has been raised of the \$25,000 goal. Many thanks to those who have contributed to this worthy cause. •

# News Notes

## ARLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS “WHEN METRO CAME TO TOWN”

The Arlington Historical Society’s (AHS) programming year will kick off on Thursday, January 9, 2014 with Kevin Craft’s lecture “When Metro Came to Town.” Craft examines the circumstances surrounding the approval and construction of the Orange and Blue lines and the eleven Metro stations located within Arlington County. The arrival of Metro, combined with the county government’s forward thinking plans for transit-oriented development, forever altered the character of this bedroom community.

The hour-long program will begin at 7 p.m. at Arlington Central Library Auditorium (1015 N. Quincy Street). A question-and-answer session will follow. The program is free and open to the public. For additional Central Library information, please contact 703-228-5990.

## DELEGATE HOPE PRESENTS COMMENDATION TO LONG BRANCH NATURE CENTER

This year marks the 40th anniversary for Long Branch Nature Center. To honor that milestone and the current work of the center, Delegate Patrick Hope presented a resolution passed by the Virginia General Assembly

commending Long Branch during a graduation ceremony for Arlington Regional Master Naturalists on Monday, December 6. Hope presented Resolution 166 to commend Long Branch Nature Center, which was also supported by Delegates Bob Brink, Rob Krupicka, and Alphonso Lopez.

The Nature Center is an oasis in a highly urbanized community. It provides educational programs and exhibits to help people of any age enjoy and learn about Arlington’s natural resources. Long Branch Nature Center is also a collection site for the Growing Native program—a year-round volunteer project that collects hardwood seeds and plants trees to help restore and protect rivers and streams in the Potomac River watershed. The center also has a Native Plant sale every year.

## ARLINGTON ARTS CENTER 40TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION

January will be an important month for the Arlington Arts Center, because they’re unveiling the 40th Anniversary exhibition - CSA: 40 Years of Community-Sourced Art. The exhibition will open Wednesday, January 22 with a reception to follow on Saturday, January 25 from 6 to 9 p.m. The reception is free and open to the public. Please come and take a look at how Arlington Arts Center has helped advance the careers of local, emerging artists for 40 years, and get a glimpse of what the next 40 will look like! ●

# Turkey Vulture Finds Safe Haven at Long Branch

*By Cliff Fairweather,*

*Naturalist, Long Branch Nature Center*

Tippy, a young Turkey Vulture, was found in a backyard in Round Hill in Loudoun County with a broken wing. By the time she got to the vet at the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center her bone couldn't be set. Blue Ridge and other sanctuaries had no space for her and without a new home, she would be euthanized.

Fortunately, Sharon Granzow, a volunteer wildlife transporter for the Wildlife Welfare League, knew that our big flight cage at Long Branch Nature Center was empty. She called us to see if we could take Tippy and, after a brief consultation among our staff, we decided we could. Tippy arrived Thanksgiving week, a different kind of Thanksgiving turkey indeed!

Vultures often evoke fear and disgust, partly because of ignorance and myths about them and partly due to their feeding and other habits. Turkey vultures eat primarily dead animals, though they also eat some vegetation. But their carrion diet makes vultures ecologically important – they are nature's undertakers.

Without turkey vultures, animal carcasses would linger in the environment longer, spreading disease and creating quite a smell. Turkey vultures have powerful digestive enzymes that destroy disease organisms in the meat they consume. That reduces the risk of infection spreading to other animals or even people. So it's fitting that the scientific name for turkey vulture is *Cathartes aura* or golden purifier. The Cherokee call them Peace Eagles

because they don't kill anything for sustenance.

Bald heads, projectile vomiting, and a tendency to defecate on their own legs are turkey vulture characteristics that won't win them any popularity contests. Each of these traits, however, is important for their survival. The bald heads allow them to reach into carcasses without getting feathers fouled and projectile vomiting is one of their few defenses against predators. Vultures defecate on their legs in hot weather to cool down and their poop also has antiseptic properties to kill bacteria from carcasses.

Contrary to myth, turkey vultures don't wait around for dying animals to drop. Instead, they soar gracefully on their long wings and use their strong sense of smell to locate carcasses. Soaring turkey vultures are easy to identify because they hold their wing in a dihedral (a shallow V) and are a bit tippy in flight – hence Tippy's name. Few birds match a Turkey Vulture's grace in flight.

That tippy flight also distinguishes them from their close cousin, the black vulture. Black vultures are more stable when soaring and have white wing patches near the end of their wings. Both of our vulture species are related to condors and storks.

We will be training Tippy this winter so that we can present her to the public in programs next spring. We understand that this is an unconventional bird for a nature center but we believe that she will be a valuable asset to our environmental education efforts and a symbol of recycling and renewal in nature. ●



# Happy New Year from Our Savior Lutheran School

**By Nancy Greenwood**

We wish you a Happy 2014 and hope that your Christmas and holiday season was safe and full of fun. We are enjoying these winter days and all of the students are keeping their fingers crossed for lots and lots of snow!

Our Savior Lutheran School is holding an Open House for all prospective students and their parents on Saturday, January 25, 2014, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At that time, applications will be accepted for the 2014-2015 school year for

grades Pre K through 8. This is an opportunity to tour the school, meet the teachers, see the classrooms, and ask questions. OSLS was established in 1952 and has been providing an affordable, quality Christian education in Barcroft ever since. With small classes, our dedicated teachers are able to entirely devote themselves to our diverse student body. We are fully accredited, licensed and bonded and also offer before and after care. OSLS is non-discriminatory in enrollment and we welcome the chance to show you around our school if you are looking for a Christian education for

your child. We are located at 825 South Taylor Street.

We are really excited to offer two new after school clubs for students, Geometry Club and Club Francais. Both clubs are led by

parents who are passionate about the club they sponsor.

The Geo Club is led by a Montgomery County high school teacher who knows that kids with a leg up on Geometry will do great in high school. Club Francais is a French immersion club led by a parent who speaks eight



*Our Savior Lutheran School students begin every day by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and singing My Country 'Tis of Thee.*

languages. Students get a taste of the French language by learning basic conversational communications skills. ●

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# Local Teens Comment on the Holidays

**Editor's Note:** *Inge and Markarius Nealis have been regular contributors to Barcroft News. These stories reflect their personal views, not necessarily those of BSCL.*

## The History of Christmas

**By Markarius Nealis**

Christmas is a time that we have fun, play in the snow, and open presents. Although these are wonderful things to do at Christmas it is not the real reason that we celebrate this wonderful holiday. We come together to celebrate the birth of Jesus who came in to this world to forgive our sins. Christmas is composed of two words, "Christ" — the man who came to save us from our sins and "mass" — the church session or reading.

Christmas is the most widely celebrated holiday in not just America, but in the whole world. Christmas is celebrated in 163 countries as a federal holiday. This means it is important enough to shut down the government for the day. It is celebrated on six continents and is a great time to receive gifts. We must also remember those who have less than us. Try to make someone else's Christmas a happy and memorable one. I wish you a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year to you and • your family.

## Holiday Roundup

**By Inge Nealis**

It is December and we are all getting

excited about the holidays. Arlington has been getting into the Christmas spirit by hosting events. Shirlington had a "Shirlie lights up the village" event. They put on this event every year and it is a fun event for all ages. There were pictures with Santa, carriage rides, hot beverages, entertainment, and many other activities. This festival is free.

Pentagon Row just reopened the new ice rink arena. The ice rink is now bigger than before and there are a few extra shops/cafés that were added. It costs about \$10-\$11 to ice skate for the day and remains open until March 15. Also if you get cold, there is a nice sitting area with an electric fire place. You'll have a wonderful time if you spend your day here.

Although it is nice to get gifts, let us not forget the true meaning of Christmas which is a day that we celebrate Christ's birthday. Also remember those less fortunate than ourselves and let us give what we can to help others have Happy Holidays. Have a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.



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# Neighbor to Neighbor Ads

*These ads are free to BSCL members.  
The listings run for three months unless requested to be removed or updated.*

**Rebecca Bean Babysitter:** 9th grader available nights and weekends. Email: rebeccaahbean@gmail.com or call 571-344-4134.

**Need music for youth-focused party?**  
Concerned about cost? Call Dylan "DJ VIP" Vega: Local, teenage and reasonably priced.  
Dylanrvega@gmail.com or 703-907-9162.

**Babysitter, house/pet sitter:** Carmen Dunlap, responsible 16 year old. Available weekends and weeknights. 571 243 1029 or Dunlap.carmen@gmail.com.

**Neighborhood college student:** Available for babysitting, odd jobs, cleaning, housework, etc.

anytime. Abby Fram, 703-892-1090 email: abbyfram94@aol.com.

**August's Pet Sitting:** 703-892-6712.

**Vacation Help:** Responsible teen to water plants, bring in mail, care for pets, water gardens, etc: Dylan Vega, 703-271-5987, dylanrvega@gmail.com.

**Alexandra's Babysitting:** high school senior available, afternoon, nights and weekends. 703-307-4889.

**Babysitting, Pet Sitting, and Violin Lessons:** Responsible 9th grade babysitter and pet sitter. Violinist in AYSO, with over 10 years of experience playing, can teach beginner violin. Call/text Tyler at 571-244-7555, or email tylerchanlapointe@gmail.com. ●

## Making Your Yard Sustainable: Landscape for Life<sup>(tm)</sup> Series

Get practical advice on how to improve your soil, conserve water and energy, and select the right plants and materials to create a beautiful garden at home that also protects our environment at large. In this six-part series led by Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) Master Gardeners and other local experts, each session builds awareness of recommended horticultural practices and sustainability principles, all in the context of our local conditions and resources. Participants will develop a plan to improve the sustainability of their own yards.

Six Saturdays, January 25 to March 1, 2014, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street, in Arlington. Just \$75 per household for all six in-depth workshops. Class size is limited to 20 households. To buy tickets, go to mgnv.org. If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact the Arlington VCE (703) 228-6400/ TDD/PC 1-800-1120 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at least five days prior to the event. ●



Barcroft School and Civic League  
800 South Buchanan Street  
Arlington, VA 22204

## Hot Market, Cold Listing

Many Sellers who list their house in a hot market expect to get multiple offers. But when their house languishes without selling, they must wonder what they—or their agents—are doing wrong. But 8 out of 10 times the reason a house doesn't sell is that it's overpriced for what it offers and may need some conditioning. It can be hard to know what the problem is, because you never saw it as a problem. Possibly the hallway is too narrow, the bedrooms are too small, or the lot has some irregularities.

While some homes are easier to price than others there is a proven method to attract the most buyers who will pay top market dollar – which is our Certified Pre-owned Program, guaranteed to sell your home faster at the highest price. Homes that are certified sell for 4.65% more than the average home for less days on the market

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***Before you place your home on the market*** - I can help you be as ready as possible. Contact me for a *Room By Room Review* - I'll advise you what to do (and what NOT to do) to obtain maximum price and a quicker sale to obtain the best return.