

# BARCROFT NEWS

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JANUARY, 1987

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## JANUARY 8TH MEETING WILL FOCUS ON SCHOOL ISSUES: DESEGREGATION AND BUSING

Our speaker at the January 8 meeting of the BSCL will be Dr. Virginia Vertiz of the Arlington County schools. Dr. Vertiz will speak on the current efforts of the Superintendent and School Board to reevaluate the desegregation plan for the Arlington public schools.

Since 1971 Arlington public schools have operated under a desegregation plan that was the result of a civil rights lawsuit brought against the schools. In order to balance the racial makeup of the school system students from throughout the County were bussed to two previously black schools, Drew and Hoffman-Boston. In turn, most of the black students from the neighborhoods around these schools were assigned to other schools throughout the county. The plan has been changed somewhat in recent years, but retains the basic 1971 pattern.

The School Board is now evaluating the desegregation plan in light of recent court decisions, the increase of the non-black minority population in the schools over the past few years, and other factors. The Superintendent has prepared a report for discussion by the Board and for public comment. The Board has asked for citizen comments before the end of January. Dr. Vertiz will speak and answer questions about the report and the larger issues involved. On page 2 we have summarized some information from the report about Barcroft School's role in the plan.

This meeting is so important for anyone who has children that we are distributing extra copies of this newsletter through Barcroft School as a reminder to parents.

## HIDDEN OAKS COMES TO PRESENT ITS SIGN REQUEST

The second speaker at the January meeting will be Mr. Tim German, a representative of Hidden Oaks Partnership, the development on Pershing Drive where the oaks are increasingly well hidden. The developer had petitioned the County to erect a brick wall, then a large brick sign. The BSCL opposed both. At our January meeting we will listen to the position of the developer and find out if we have overlooked any good points. Mr. German hopes to convince us to support the sign. Better be there-- you never know what the rest of us might approve!

## NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION QUESTION POSTPONED

Since decisions on the school plan will be made at the end of January we have decided to postpone our meeting to consider whether or not Barcroft should develop a Neighborhood Conservation Plan until next month. That meeting will be on February 5th.

**BARCROFT SCHOOL'S ROLE IN THE ARLINGTON  
COUNTY SCHOOL DESEGREGATION PLAN**

The Superintendent of Schools' report titled "Desegregation Issues" of November 26, 1986, provides some interesting background on the importance of the desegregation plan for Barcroft School. The information which follows is summarized from the report.

Barcroft School, one of the smallest elementary schools in Arlington, has one of the most diverse student populations. Of the 345 students in kindergarten through grade six, 31% are white, almost 13% Hispanic, 32% black and 24% Asian. This compares to the county-wide averages of 52% white, almost 19% Hispanic, 16% black and 13% Asian. Many North Arlington schools have student populations which are more than 75% white, despite the county-wide diversity.

As a result of the 1971 court-ordered desegregation plan for the County, many

black students from the Nauck community are bused to other County elementary schools. Due largely to Barcroft's low enrollment and its proximity to Nauck, Barcroft includes the largest number of Nauck area students of any elementary school outside of the Nauck community. Fifty-one students, as of last spring, were bused to Barcroft from Nauck.

To some extent, the School Board's reevaluation of the desegregation plan stems from complaints from Nauck area parents with children at Barcroft. In 1983 changes were made in the original busing plan to reduce the distances children in grades 1 to 3 were bused. This resulted in the black enrollment at Barcroft increasing from 12% to 27%. In 1984 the parents of some black students at Barcroft requested that their children be allowed to remain at Barcroft through grade 6, rather than be bused after grade 3 to a North Arlington school.

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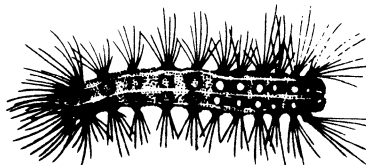


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HERE COME THE GYPSY MOTHS!!



Way back in 1869 a French scientist brought the gypsy moth here as a silk-making experiment. The dummy let some get away up in Medford, Massachusetts, and as they say the rest is history. The little pests spread to Connecticut by 1905, New York by 1922, Pennsylvania by 1932 and...Northern Virginia in 1981.

North Arlington has already been hit by the gypsy moth, and Barcroft will begin to see them this year. They eat every leaf on a tree. (Most mature trees can stand about three years of that before dying.) They love oaks, but will eat other tree's leaves as well. They crawl over everything, and "leave debris from their feeding." (Quotes here are from the County brochure on gypsy moths.)

At one BSCL meeting last year the County's Gypsy Moth Coordinator came to tell us the bad news. The moths are very hard to control, and are expected to kill many of Arlington's most desirable shade trees over the next few years. It is possible to spray large areas, and the State is embarking on some sort of program. But if you see a copy of the warning notices distributed before the spraying, you begin to wonder if it isn't time to visit relatives somewhere else. They tell you to keep children and pets indoors, keep all windows tightly closed, cover all lawn furniture...seems like a gas mask might be a good investment. The County has done some spraying in North Arlington, but has generally decided to leave control of gypsy moths up to the individual homeowner. That's you. If you want to save your trees, you had better find out about gypsy moths!

The County's brochures are a good source of information on gypsy moths. They are produced by the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service. They have photographs of what to look for, and suggest non-chemical ways to control these little pests, as well as a list of "safe" sprays the homeowner can use. All sprays can be assumed to present some hazard to people, pets or desirable insects, so one could hope that both you and your neighbors will be using the other methods. That means you need to start this year. Now.

What to Look for Now

The gypsy moth winters in an egg case which looks like a fuzzy, tan lump about 3/4 to 1 1/2 inches long. The egg cases are attached to tree trunks, the underside of branches, stone walls, fences, house eaves, woodpiles, etc. They can come on a Christmas tree, or on a car, trailer or boat, especially if it comes from the Northeast region. In the spring this egg mass will hatch 800 to 1000 eggs. The strategy is to get them now before they can hatch. Hunt for egg cases now. Pry them off and put them in a plastic bag. They are not easy to kill, and stomping them in the ground, for instance, will not do the trick. The county recommends that you kill them by soaking in chlorox, alcohol or ammonia, or burn them in your fireplace. If you want to ask an expert about what you have found, take the plastic bag to the Arlington Extension Office at 855 N. Edison Street (558-2475). The Center's hours are 8 to 5, Monday thru Friday. We could probably use a Barcroft Gypsy Moth Coordinator, if someone wants to volunteer at the next BSCL meeting.

Materials and further information on gypsy moths are available from Jamie Bartalome at the Arlington County Extension Office (558-2475), the County Library or the Long Branch Nature Center. We will publish seasonal Gypsy Moth Alerts as the year passes and they go into later stages of the annual cycle.

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*	<b>NEWSLETTER STAFF</b>	*
*		*
*	<u>Advertising Manager:</u>	Karen Duff *
*		797-2422 *
*	<u>Contributions Editor:</u>	Susan Sarcone*
*		920-8131 *
*	<u>Editor:</u>	Randy Swart *
*		521-2080 *
*	<u>Around the Neighborhood:</u>	Kathy Kerr *
*		892-6458 *
*	<u>Calendar of Events:</u>	Anne Noll *
*		892-6710 *
*		*****

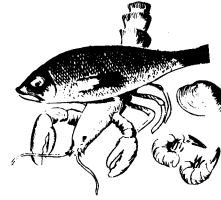
Barcroft Restaurants:

**SUSHI AT JIN GO KAE**

You may have noticed that the building at 4701 Columbia Pike next to Roy Rodgers (know as "the musical restaurants building") has had yet another change of tenants. This one seems to be a cut above the rest, and offers a lot more than just sushi.

Jin Go Kae is built around its sushi bar. (Sushi. That's raw fish, folks-- something that few Barcroftians really eat much of.) The new Japanese decor is appealing to those who prefer a clean, brightly lit interior. The sushi counter in the center has seats for a few people, and displays the fish nicely. When we were there a young couple (probably not Barcroftians) were sitting there calmly eating raw fish. They did not seem to be suffering any ill effects on the spot, but you never know.

The good news is that this restaurant has an extensive and varied menu of cooked foods, including Japanese, Chinese and Korean specialties. My companion and I started with Gyoza, fried dumplings with vegetable and meat stuffings. They were perfectly cooked and reminded us of China. We followed that with Salmon Terriyaki and a really different and delicious soup called Duc Man Doo, which featured more dumplings and rice cakes in a fish stock. The rice was the glutinous kind favored by this critic (sticks together for your chopsticks to grab) and there were colorful garnishes of fresh veggies, fish cake and other delicacies with each dish. A bowl of Japanese soup comes with each meal for starters. We were given a little bowl of salad stuff and a desert orange (craftily pre-skinned) "on the house," even though I had taken the precaution of wearing my wig and dark glasses to



avoid being identified as the Barcroft News critic.

With the garnishes, fruits and the pleasant presentation of food on rectangular Japanese plates and wood blocks, the general impression of the food here is that it is fresh and wholesome, as it would have to be to sell raw fish! Most of the patrons the night we were there looked Japanese, but that may be because Barcroftians have not yet discovered that the cooked things are there. The total bill, with all that and two Chinese beers to boot, came to \$23.80 before tip.

In all, Jin Go Kae is a nifty place which ranks right up there with the Pastry Connection as another fine oriental restaurant for our Neighborhood. Let's hope it lasts longer than the previous six occupants in that building. We'll go back, probably soon.

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**BSCL AND WAKEFIELD BAND HAVE  
A ROLICKING GOOD SING**

**WANT ADS\*\*WANT ADS\*\*WANT ADS\*\*WANT ADS**

Fun and holiday cheer was had by all at the annual BSCL Christmas Sing Dec. 4, 1986. For the second time in two years, 4-year-old Michael Sarcone Roach fell asleep during Good King Wenseslaus. That is quite a feat when you consider that 35 musicians from the Wakefield H.S. band were puffing away in our tiny community house, not to mention the Barcroftonians who were singing along. Joshua Lande, age one, took his hand at directing the band which caused some consternation amongst band members who found it difficult to play a wind instrument and laugh at the same time.

**Companion Wanted** to take care of school-aged boy. Three or four afternoons a week from 3:30 to 5:00. Salary negotiable. Please call 979-8479 evenings.

**Computer for sale.** Kaypro II. Three years old and obsolete, but does most everything important. Uses CP/M system, not IBM or Apple compatible. Comes with 34 disks of clunky, slow software, including a word processor, spreadsheet program, database program, games, communications and lots of other programs. Has two disk drives, built in monitor, keyboard (which sometimes sticks) and a custom-made cover. Comes complete with an old IBM magcard typewriter which has been converted to a printer. The printer is clunky and slow, and it sometimes puts in extraneous dashes, but it is built like a tank with its own desk and acoustic cover, and comes with more than a dozen ribbons. What a deal for only \$250! Call Randy at 521-2080 after Jan. 1 to try it out. Your free ad can be this long too if we have only two ads and lots of space! Bring yours to the next BSCL meeting--the only way to have it put in.

In case you missed this uncommon event, plan on coming next year. The band has treated us with their music every year since the early 1970's when they came as a fundraiser to obtain new uniforms. It has become such a tradition that BSCL President Ira Belcher says no phone calls are involved in the planning. The band simply always shows up the first Thursday in December. So can you..next year!



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR JANUARY



6 Tues Arlington County Civic Federation. 7:45 PM 892-6710 .

8 Thurs BARCROFT SCHOOL AND CIVIC LEAGUE 7:30 PM. Program on School Issues and the Desegregation Plan, plus an appeal from Hidden Oaks to approve their sign. For further information please call 892-6929.

8 Thurs and 22 Thurs Arlington County School Board. 7:30 PM Info 558-2838.

10 Sat Arlington County Board. 9 AM Info 558-2261.

20 Tues Barcroft PTA General Meeting. 7:30 PM Info 920-6423.

27 Tues Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization. 7:30 PM For information please call 892-6710.

28 Sun Center Dance Company's Holiday Dance Concert, featuring The Juggler of Notre Dame. Thomas Jefferson Community Center. 7:30 PM Tickets \$3 to \$6. Info 920-4340.

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**AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD**  
with Kathy Kerr

**NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION**

Six years of excuses, forgetfulness, good intentions and overall procrastination came to an end the first Thursday in November, 1986, when my husband and I attended our first BSCL meeting. The crowd was small considering the number of Barcroft residents. We were amazed by the number of issues presented that were really going to affect our neighborhood. We had not expected to vote so many times! It was fun talking to other members there about why they came to the meetings.

Back before Bill Peine became one of the "regulars" at BSCL meetings, he had received the newsletter but felt it was all something that didn't concern him. About 7 years ago he decided he'd like some input and control over things going on in his neighborhood. Bill explains that the BSCL is part of a larger network with the Arlington County Civic Federation. Delegates from the BSCL can present concerns to the Federation. The Federation can then take concerns to the Arlington County Board. Bill points out that 1-2 people from Barcroft can be the voice for over 700 homes. The Federation and the County Board are motivated to take action when a delegate can say "my Civic Association voted for this." Bill likes the fact that he truly feels his vote counts and his voice can be heard. And that he has seen results.

Anne Noll is one of our neighborhood's greatest resources for action and information related to Barcroft and Arlington County. She began going to BSCL meetings in the early '50's but dropped out to become more involved in her children's schools. In the early 1970's she became concerned that more needed to be done in the community. Anne served as the first woman BSCL president in 1972 and again from 1974-5. A few of her countless activities included canvassing the neighborhood for members, seeing to the revision of the BSCL by-laws, increasing involvement with other community associations and obtaining the wooden playground equipment for

Barcroft School. Anne Noll likes living here. Her involvement with BSCL and other county organizations such as the Columbia Pike Revitalization, Friends of the Parks and the Arlington County Archives really make her feel that she is a part of the county. Arlington and Barcroft could not be the same without her!

Phyllis "Phyl" Kinsey can readily be found in attendance at BSCL meetings which she began attending in the late 1960's. Her first meeting was a very crowded Candidate's Night. There were so many people there that the crowd spilled out into the yard of the meeting house. Phyl had not gone to meetings before this because she had not known about them. Her children were in school at that time and she simply had no contact. After all, the first BSCL newsletter didn't come out until 1973, edited by Susan Christopher. These newsletters were hand distributed. Like Anne Noll, Phyl Kinsey is proud of the countless achievements of the BSCL and the many activities and programs that have been presented.

I hope that you will consider joining me in my New Year's Resolution to begin attending BSCL meetings on a regular basis.

See you there!



*Pastry Connection*

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# NEWS

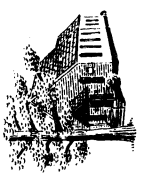


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