



Volume 4, Issue 1

## Save the Date: March Quarterly Meeting

By Jane Guttman

The Lake Barcroft Village Quarterly Meeting, to be held March 12, promises to be a busy and exciting event. The presentation portion of the meeting will feature the film *Gerryrigged*, with commentary from a volunteer from OneVirginia2021, a non-partisan organization that advocates for “fair redistricting in the Commonwealth of Virginia.” According to the web site, OneVirginia2021.org, “Virginia is ranked as one of the most gerrymandered states in the country both on the congressional and state levels based on lack of compactness and contiguity of its districts. Virginia is ranked the 5th worst in the country. Throughout the Commonwealth, counties and cities are being broken in half or into multiple pieces to create heavily partisan districts.”

Members of the community are invited to attend the meeting. At the business portion of the meeting, members will vote on directors to fill the slots of those who are leaving the Board. A ballot will be sent to members in advance of the meeting. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. at the Mason District Governmental Center on Columbia Pike.

# The Villager

February 2018

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## Board Candidates

**Candidates are Ellen Feldstein, Ross Kory, Hugh McKay, and Richard Morton.**

**Ellen Feldstein**, Dockser Terrace, is one of the founding members of the Lake Barcroft Village and began her service first by volunteering as a driver



Photo by Ron Karpick

and then becoming a section leader for Keeping in Touch. For the past year she has chaired the Village Program Committee and is one of the Cooks on Call. **(See Page 2)**

## Board Candidates (c't'd from Page 1)

Ellen was an officer of the Newcomers Club and served for seven years on the staff of the community newsletter. Ellen, her husband Stuart and their two children moved to Lake Barcroft in April of 1972. Ellen feels that the Village is a major asset to the community in which she lives, and she is willing to expand her service to it.



Family Photo

**Ross Kory**, Waterway Drive, was appointed by the Board to fill Peg Veroneau's unexpired term as Village Treasurer, since Peg has relocated. Ross and Kaye Kory have lived

in Lake Barcroft since December 1984. They have three children who attended Fairfax public schools. Ross was an IT consulting executive at AMS (now CGI). Ross retired in 2002 and then joined with a colleague to found an IT consulting firm, Ascella Technologies. Ross continues to work at Ascella part time. Ross served on the Board of the Classical Ballet Academy of Northern Virginia from 2002-2005 and on the Board of the Stuart Educational Foundation, as Treasurer, from 2007-present.

**Hugh G. McKay**, Beachway Drive, became involved with Lake Barcroft Village first as a member and then by supporting his wife Deenie who is currently serving as the Secretary for the Village Board; he hopes to succeed her when her term expires. Hugh worked for 26 years with the United States Air Force as an Electronics Systems Engineer and 35 years as a government satellite communications contractor.



Photo by Larry Golfer

He views the Village as a vital and necessary social and support organization for its members and hopes, through Board service, to assist in its future.



Photo by Dottie Bennett

**Richard Morton** currently is a member of the Board of Lake Barcroft Village, co-chair of the Volunteer and Services Committee, and the database

administrator. Richard worked on projects related to computer assisted instruction and software development environments before becoming a consultant on a variety of IT issues. He retired in 2013 from the Institute for Defense Analyses. Richard tutors first graders in reading under the auspices of the Alexandria Tutoring Consortium and teaches English to adults through the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia.

## New Members

Josi and Nikki Hillary, Lark Lovering and Annemarie Russell have joined Lake Barcroft Village. We welcome them and hope to see them at upcoming events.

## Home Safety Assessment

By Cindy Waters

The Village would like to remind members that we have volunteers to assist you in determining your home safety and accessibility needs. Some examples: Is your home address number visible from the street? Do you have a no-trip doorway threshold? Do you have safe and secure handrails on both sides of a stairway? Do you need grab bars in the bathroom? **(See Page 3)**

## Home Safety Assessment (c't'd from Page 2)

If you would like our volunteers to help identify possible safety needs in your home, please contact Cindy Waters at 703-354-0652 or by email at lbvcoord@gmail.com so that arrangements can be made for a home visit.

## Interview: New Treasurer Ross Kory

By Anne Murphy O'Neil

*Ross Kory is completing Peg Veroneau's term as treasurer of the Lake Barcroft Village. He was elected at the December 14, 2017 Board meeting, and is here for a visit in the O'Neil great room.*

### How did you find Lake Barcroft?

**Ross:** After six years of commuting from outside the Beltway to Roslyn, I asked Kaye to work magic and find a place we could afford closer in. She found Lake Barcroft, fell in love and made it happen.

### What led to your becoming Village treasurer?

**Ross:** When Peg Veroneau resigned, Cindy Waters asked if I would consider stepping in. After some back and forth, I agreed.

### You and Kaye Kory, who represents us in Richmond, are married. How did you meet?

**Ross:** We met in the Grand Tetons in 1971. She was camping with 2 girlfriends and I was on an adjoining site with 4 fraternity brothers. We traveled together and married in 1972. We entered the VISTA program and worked for the city of Davenport, Iowa. I was content, but Kaye was keen for me to apply for a scholarship to Wharton. I majored in decision sciences, wrote an extensive software program for residential mortgage

calculating (now contained in a little calculator), and graduated in 1977 with an MBA. Kaye took care of Matthew, our baby.

### Where did this education lead you?

**Ross:** I joined American Management Systems [AMS] when it was about seven years old and kept my commitment to the public sector, focusing on state and local government and education systems. D.C. was my first big IT project. I left AMS in 2002 and worked with a colleague to found Ascella Technologies. I was part time the first four years so I could support our daughter Caroline's pursuit of ballet. I went full time with Ascella from 2008 to 2014 focusing on federal government clients. We grew revenues from \$3 million in 2008 to \$11 million in 2014 and \$15 million in 2017. I returned to part time in 2015.

### You and Kaye have three children, Matthew, Alexander and Caroline.

**Ross:** Yes. In 2018 we'll celebrate our 46<sup>th</sup> anniversary. During my 24 high-stress years at AMS, Kaye raised our children. In 1999 she launched her political career and I began my transformation to Mr. Kaye Kory. Over the years I've helped with campaigns, fundraising, banking and filing required reports. Oh, and I'm a noisy pain in the neck, an unrepentant curmudgeon. I've earned the right, and as I see it, that's what the world needs at the moment.

### What do you do for fun?

**Ross:** I'm a tennis player. My current playing partner and I had met on a tennis court in New York in September, 1965. Today, we play at Sleepy Hollow Bath and Racquet.

I enjoy taking photos, and celebrate big events by making videos and slideshows. **(See Page 4)**

## Interview: New Treasurer Ross Kory (c't'd from Page 3)

### What are you reading these days?

**Ross:** I'm reading "Evicted" by Matthew Desmond. It won the Pulitzer Prize for non-fiction in 2010. It's a story focused on challenges facing low income residents to find affordable housing in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It tells the story of how people on welfare and social security are forced to live. What screams out to me is that our cohort--the upper middle class--has no idea of the soul crushing challenges of living in poverty.

The "American Dream" is a worthy aspiration, but it is also a callous myth we use to blame the poor—nearly 50% children--and to deny our collective guilt as we violate basic human rights to adequate shelter and health care of at least 20% of the population. The book depicts the ridiculous ineffectiveness of appallingly inadequate government programs, but does not offer easy answers.

**That's what we see you and Kaye working for. Not even a smidgeon curmudgeonly.**

## In Memoriam: Earl Ziebell

Village founding member Earl Ziebell passed away suddenly on December 13. Earl was a long-time Lake Barcroft neighbor. His wife, Louise, was at his side. Earl was an early supporter of the Village and along with Louise was very active in getting the Village started.

## In Memoriam: Gene Davidson

Former neighbor Gene Davidson passed away January 12. He and his wife, the late Carol Davidson, were among the founding members of the Lake Barcroft Village and, after moving out of

the neighborhood, Gene continued his affiliation with the Village as a member with alumnus status.

## Upcoming Fundraisers

Please mark your calendars for the following special events -- more details will be sent to you by email.

Panera Bread at Bailey's Crossroads will host a fundraiser at their location Wednesday, February 28 from 4:00-8:00 p.m. The donation to the Village will be 20% of sales. Donation amount is determined by pre-tax sales from participating orders. Panera Bread requires a minimum of \$100 in sales brought in by our organization in order to make a donation. A printed flyer or an electronic version of the flyer on a mobile phone or tablet must be presented when ordering. The flyers cannot be passed out onsite the night of the event. Cindy Waters will have flyers (required) for customers to take with them to the event.

Dogfish Head Alehouse at Seven Corners will be hosting a fundraiser to benefit Lake Barcroft Village on Tuesday, April 24.

## Join Us for Coffee!

Here's a photo of some of the attendees at the coffee at the home of Cathy and Clyde Williams.



Photo by Cathy Williams

L to R: Bill and Mary Jo Wasyluk, Linda Woodrow

## Frontline Program “Being Mortal” Discussed

By Vic Utgoff

A group of Village members gathered at the home of Vic and Kathy Utgoff January 23 to watch the Frontline program Being Mortal by Dr. Atul Gawande. The discussion afterwards

drew many comments and questions. Ron Karpick, M.D., and President of Lake Barcroft Village was especially helpful in drawing on his professional experience and his careful review of both Dr. Gawande’s book and the TV presentation to answer questions and make helpful comments.

Dr. Gawande’s concern is that doctors providing care for patients facing life-ending disease too often sacrifice the patient’s remaining time by drawing them into painful and debilitating therapies that don’t pay off. This dilemma poses a very difficult question: When would a patient be better off to refuse further therapies in favor of alternative care that would improve the quality of the patient’s remaining time?

The discussion following the TV presentation was interesting and informative. The participants included some who had close relatives that had pursued noncurative therapies way too long, and others who had been cared for by doctors willing to share the information and judgments making possible better choices by the patient and relatives. But we were left with other questions: How will we find and engage a physician with the compassion and understanding needed to answer our hardest question? How will each of us plan for our future life and when do we start that process?

## Book Review: Isaac’s Storm: A Man, a Time, and the Deadliest Storm in History

By Mary Jane McCall

In 1900, Galveston, Texas, was a thriving port on the Gulf of Mexico. Galveston, “the biggest cotton port in the country and the third-busiest port overall,” seemed to be well ahead of nearby Houston in the race to become the preeminent port. Then in early September of that year, a hurricane of unprecedented fury slammed into the city, leaving over 6,000 people dead and destroying most of the city.

In his non-fiction description of the catastrophe, *Isaac’s Storm: A Man, a Time, and the Deadliest Storm in History*, author Erik Larson is both historian and storyteller. He weaves together an account of the hurricane and the story of Isaac Cline, the Galveston meteorologist who failed to issue a warning about the storm. The word *hubris* appears a number of times in the book, referring not only to Cline’s excess confidence in his ability to interpret weather data but also to the attitudes of certain meteorologists in the US Weather Bureau who ignored the views of Cuban weather experts. So sure of his understanding of geography and its effect on weather, Cline had written an article in 1891 stating that it was “simply an absurd delusion” to believe Galveston could be seriously damaged by a severe storm.

*Isaac’s Storm* is a compelling read. It is filled with suspense and foreboding as the author traces the path of the storm as it gained momentum and approached Galveston. I was especially affected by Larson’s recreation of the experiences of those unsuspecting residents who, unprepared for what was likely a category-four hurricane, struggled to survive. Drawing from photographs, letters, first-hand accounts, telegrams, **(See Page 6)**

## Book Review (c't'd from Page 5)

and newspaper articles, the author presents “telling details” that help the reader to feel first-hand the confusion and terror of people trapped by raging winds and rising water. The final chapters bring the tragedy into sharp focus as survivors and others deal with the horrific aftermath.

Larson’s other books, including *Devil in the White City*, *Dead Wake*, and *In the Garden of Beasts*, are also great reads, and for those of us who are fans of the author,

Crown Publishing has announced that it will soon publish a new book by Larson dealing with Winston Churchill during the Blitz.

## Cooks on Call Helps Members

By Cindy Waters

Keep in Touch was an initiative organized by Louise Ziebell, Sheila Wayman and Adele Neuberg last year; as part of this service, a program called Cooks on Call was formed. As you are all by now aware, Cooks on Call has a list of volunteers who are willing to provide meals to members who request the service following hospitalization, illness or death in the family. The member provides direction on how many meals might be needed, any dietary restrictions, and how often; Executive Director Cindy Waters contacts volunteers to set up a schedule for delivery and visits.

Following Earl Ziebell’s sudden death in December, Cindy contacted Louise to ask if she would like to avail herself of the service and Louise quickly agreed. Louise told us: “For a few days I didn’t think of eating. Cooks on Call made such a difference. It’s like a lifesaver.” Volunteers brought her meals and casseroles. Louise added that Cooks on Call was a “wonderful program” that gave her a “heartwarming feeling” at a very stressful time.

## November Quarterly Meeting: Audiology Presentation

By Jane Guttman

Dr. Travis Stehouwer, an audiologist at the Falls Church office of Ascent Audiology & Hearing, spoke on "Connections Between Hearing and Health."

Dr. Stehouwer noted that “a lot of hearing loss goes untreated”; it takes on an average seven years for a person to “do something” about hearing loss. Dr. Stehouwer explained that three out of ten adults over 60 have some hearing loss. The number of teenagers with hearing loss is rising with no clear explanation of the cause; Dr. Stehouwer said the cause was “not all listening to loud music.”

Hearing loss can lead to psychological symptoms such as depression, anxiety, paranoia and social isolation, Dr. Stehouwer explained. It can also, among working adults, lead to reduced job performance and loss of income, and, among students, to learning difficulties. Health issues are also related to hearing loss. High blood pressure that is not well managed can cause further hearing loss. Seventy percent of diabetics have a high frequency hearing loss.

Dr. Stehouwer’s presentation can be found on our web site.

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