

Welcome new neighbors!

One of the many wonderful aspects of our neighborhood is the camaraderie that has fostered a true sense of community. We make an effort to reach out to new residents and get to know them. In the next several issues of the newsletter, we'll endeavor to catch up on introductions to the newest neighbors as well as with folks who may have been around a while longer.

Meet four of the new families who have moved into Rock Creek Woods this past year. We welcome **Jon and Cindy Camp** (into the former home of Harvey and Janice Hill), **Luis Franco** and **Paolo Pinto** (previously the Julie Kim and Paul Metalic home), **Henri and Motoko Lezec** (the former Marogi residence), and **Michelle Thomas** and **Eli Tomar** (Catherine and Jim Roberts' former home).

Jon and Cindy Camp

Jon and Cindy moved to Rock Creek Woods from the Rosedale Park area, near BCC High where they had lived for 33 years. Cindy had known about the Goodman homes; two of her parents' friends owned Goodman homes. As a youngster, she was excited about entering at the top of the house then traveling down to reach the center of the house. Cindy and Jon were most delighted to find 3940 Rickover. The house has a deck at the back, leading off the family room, looking over a wooded backyard that slopes down to a small creek. With this view, Jon and Cindy feel they are in a tree house or a vacation cabin.

Cindy grew up in the DC area (the same neighborhood in NW as neighbor Valerie Tate, although they did not know each other then). Cindy studied fine art at college, then worked as an art conservator. She returned to school to study interior design and had been employed by large architectural firms, working on a wide range of projects both in the USA and abroad. Since 2015, Cindy has been with Walter Reed Hospital as an interior designer and enjoys seeing how her designs help patients as well as staff. Cindy maintains her interest in art and has set up a painting studio in her house.

Jon hails from Yellowhouse PA, a small town near Reading. Jon came to Washington in 1970 to attend George Washington University and has remained here ever since. At GW, Jon earned a BS in biology and an MA in Physiology. He then worked for seven years in the Animal Reproduction

Unit of NIH where he was part of the team that helped with the initial efforts to breed National Zoo's panda, Ling-Ling.

In 1985, Jon made a big career change, wanting to do something completely different from the area in which he had been trained. Building on his long-term interest in design and pottery, Jon established a little company called "A Few Cool Lines" that helps craftspeople find a market for their products. The company represents artisans—mostly jewelry and textile designers—and sells their products to retailers, galleries and museum shops.

Jon and Cindy have two daughters. Laura is a nurse who lives in the San Francisco area and Camilla lives in England with her husband David. They also have two granddaughters, Isidora, aged 7 and Eliana, aged 3, who they try to visit in England at least once a year.

Cindy and Jon's dogs, goldendoodles Gracie and Rosie, are thrilled with Rock Creek Woods. They are sisters, a year apart in age. They love the family room or deck where they can keep their eyes peeled into the woods spotting deer, birds and squirrels. Otherwise, they are at the front windows barking at passing dogs.

—Tom Klein



Jon & Cindy

Luis Franco and Paola Pinto

Doctors Luis Franco and Paola Pinto and their 5-year old son Marco moved to 3946 Rickover Road last September from Houston, where they lived in a similarly modern home.

Luis got a position at NIH as a geneticist studying the genome of immune cells, particularly how medications used to treat inflammation and autoimmune diseases can be targeted to reduce collateral damage to healthy cells. Paola was offered a position as a rheumatologist at NIH, where she studies severe auto-inflammatory diseases resulting in high fevers, unexplained chest pains and brain inflammation. While she works with patients from all over the world, she specializes in patients of Hispanic/Latino origin and

language. She also trains other physicians in the use of musculoskeletal ultrasound techniques.

Right now Paola is on maternity leave since new baby Valeria was born in July. Paola's cousin Veronica (a.k.a. Pilar) arrived a week ago and will be living with the family for the next year or so to help with the kids.

Marco has started new adventures of his own as a kindergarten teacher at the Lycee Rochambeau, the French International School. Marco is already bilingual in English and Spanish, is reading and is a great sous chef. We predict he will have taken over the world by high school. Luis and Paola love their home, all the more because of this community's uncommon openness and inclusiveness. We have no doubt they will carry on the tradition with future neighbors.

—Maggie Toscano



Above: Luis, Paola & Marco; Right: Henri, Motoko & Adele.

Henri and Motoko Lezec

Henri and Motoko Lezec, their daughter Adele, and Minou the cat, moved into 3918 Rickover Road during the summer of 2014.

Henri, originally from the Brittany region of France, is a Physical Scientist at National Institute of Standards and Technology. Motoko, originally from Japan, is a Museum Researcher at the Freer and Sackler Galleries at the Smithsonian. Their daughter Adele is 14 and attends the French International School in Bethesda. Adele studies violin at the Levine School of Music and classical ballet and modern dance at City Dance, Strathmore. Adele was instrumental in helping the family find their house; she is interested in becoming an Architect.

Motoko and Henri met when Motoko was working in Tokyo as a newspaper reporter. She was covering the French Film Festival and needed an interpreter. Henri, a friend of a friend, who was in Japan doing a post-doc, was enlisted to help. After they got married, they moved to Munich where Henri started working as a nanotech engineer. They moved to Boston, where Motoko attended Harvard and finished her graduate studies in history of art and architecture. The family



then shifted to Strasbourg, France where their daughter Adele was born. Next, they spent three years in Pasadena while Henri worked at Caltech. They moved to the DC area in 2007, initially living in a colonial style house in Bethesda. Tired after five years in a home with tiny windows, Motoko and Henri sought a modern home.

Henri, who has always been interested in modern architecture, was familiar with Charles Goodman. When they found this neighborhood the entire family immediately knew that this is where they wanted to live. They looked at 3918 Rickover the day it came on the market. Adele told her parents this was the one, and the next day they made an offer.

The house required some work before they could move in. The Lezecs used this opportunity to restore original details. One project was to remove a stucco finish the previous owners installed over the fireplace. Henri himself then sanded each brick back to its original state.

Another project was to remove the dark stained pine board at the stairs so as to reveal the original wood paneling underneath. They also installed new windows to match the original sightlines. Their architect, Michael Cook, was able to locate a few original casement frames and was then able to replace the old single pane glass with double pane glass.

These are now installed at the rear of their living room.

While Motoko searched for documents describing the original exterior paint scheme, she stumbled upon the Charles Goodman drawings housed at the Library of Congress. This effort triggered the RCW Association project to preserve, scan and make available to everybody the entire collection of original drawings.

The entire family loves living in this neighborhood. Henri spent some of his childhood in Connecticut surrounded by mid-century architecture. After returning to the USA from France he found that the open modern homes he remembered had been replaced with cookie cutter suburban homes. He is delighted with the openness and authenticity of Rock Creek Woods. An unexpected surprised for Motoko

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was how many connections the neighborhood has to Japan; several other RCW residents have either lived in Japan or have a family connection to Japan. There are also the architectural connections with Japanese homes. One is the flow of nature between inside and out—shakkei, which means borrowed views. Another is the incorporation of large eaves offering protection. And of course the cherry trees. Motoko and Henri were stalwarts in the community fight with PEPCO last Spring regarding the manner in which our trees were trimmed.

The family travels to see family in France and Japan about once a year. They look forward to continuing to work on their home and contributing to the neighborhood.

—*Suzi Schmidt*

Michelle Thomas and Eli Tomar

Until recently, Eli and Michelle were urban dwellers, in apartments first near Logan Circle and then on H Street NE. But with the arrival of their son, Cole, a roomier house in the suburbs was surely in order.

Eli (a native Washingtonian who was born in Kensington and grew up in Rockville) met Michelle (who is from Pittsburgh) while they were both attending the University of Maryland. After graduating in 2005, Michelle with a degree in Journalism and Eli with a degree in political science, the pair moved to downtown DC, where Eli started a career in public policy at Patton Boggs and Michelle joined the Washington Post, writing on fashion, shopping and beauty for the Style section. In 2008, Eli moved to Los Angeles to attend UCLA's law school. After a year of long-distance phone calls and cross-country visits (and before FaceTime!), Michelle quit the Post and moved to LA, where she worked in fashion marketing.

At UCLA, Eli took the unusual step of working for an masters in public health while pursuing his law degree. He wanted to be grounded in contemporary health policy debates while forced to commit to memory arcane legal

precedents. They stopped by Washington on their way to the Greek Isles to marry at D.A.R. on the national mall in June 2011, before returning full-time to the city the following year upon Eli's graduation. Eli now works at the law firm, Akin Gump, where he advises clients on health care regulatory matters. He also keeps a beat on DC politics and serves on the board of several organizations. Eli enjoys cycling to work in Dupont, via the Capital Crescent Trail, which takes him about an hour each way.

Michelle joined the Washingtonian Magazine to cover style and interior design. A feature story she wrote on a home in Hollin Hills sparked the couple's interest in Goodman's architecture, which reminded Michelle and Eli of the indoor-outdoor midcentury homes of Southern California. Not long after beginning their house hunt, they

started looking specifically for a Goodman home. In October, they bought Catherine and Jim Roberts' house, 3921 Rickover.

Just a few months ago, Michelle took a new job with a design advertising agency in Rockville, HZDC, where she is managing editor of custom print magazines. One, called Sous-Vide, features recipes and intriguing articles on the niche French cooking method. Browse

through a copy when you next shop at a Whole Foods or Costco store.

Cole loves his new house. There's lots of space for his toys, no longer having to share the living room with his parents, and to chase the cat around. Plus, he can easily go outside and ride his bike in practice for his future commute.

—*Tom Klein*



Eli, Michelle & Cole