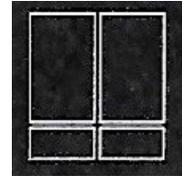


# Hi Neighbor!



Newsletter for friends and neighbors of the Rock Creek Woods community

## Winter lights festival

Let's light our neighborhood! Whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Winter Solstice, New Year's Day, or just want fun, we'd like to invite you to join our first Holiday Lighting Contest in an effort to brighten what might be a less-than-jolly season. At the end of December, we will have a walk-around so our children's panel of judges (those under 13) can cast their secret ballots for Best Window and Best Overall House decorations.  
- Audrey Fincher

## Noting changes

Yolanda Parra is now at the Consulate in Matamoros, Mexico as Consul General. Lauren Thompson and Peter Hamady rent her lovely home at 3909 Rickover. "I have fallen in love with this special place and wonderful people. After this tour, I'll be back," Yolanda says. Joan Brierton, Glenn Boyce, and Ryan, 10, are now living at 4008 Rickover. Former residents, Susan Finkelppearl and Ted Sobel, are in Ottawa where Ted serves the US Embassy as DHS Attaché to Canada.

## Halloween fun

A late Saturday afternoon children's parade on October 31 turned into a very enjoyable event for everyone. Almost two dozen children



participated with some accompanying parents who also loved receiving treats! Other residents, many in costumes, were stationed curbside at 20 homes offering carefully wrapped treats safely available at a distance from decorated outdoor tables and also clever delivery systems such as a basket hanging on a scabbarded sword and elaborate duct work tube. A dog sported a dragon costume. We thank Sarah Van Hasstert for organizing this great alternative celebration. Many asked for a repeat next year as they liked this better than past experiences popping up and down many times to answer door bells for trick-or-treaters. *(Beginning parade photo by Dan Chew)*

## Katharine Waldmann

November 22, 1927 - August 15, 2020

Kathy Waldmann succumbed to lung cancer in August. Kathy and her husband, Tom, were Rock Creek Woods original owners, moving into 3910 Rickover in 1959. She was past president of our community, a regular at brunch/lunch gatherings, book club meetings, and movie night at the Hoyt's.

Kathy was born in Cleveland, graduated summa cum laude from Oberlin College, and went on to study medicine as her mother, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and great, great-grandfather had. She met Tom, then in his fourth year at Harvard Medical School, during her internship at Massachusetts General Hospital. When Tom finished his internship, he enlisted with US Public Health Corps and was assigned to NIH where he continues to this day. In 1959, Kathy joined the Montgomery County Health Department where she began a lifetime career. She was Chief Physician at Dennis Avenue AIDS Clinic. She was honored with the Albert Nelson Lifetime Achievement Award and as Outstanding Hospice Physician. Neighbors Jean Hoyt and Betsy Binckes recall the devotion Kathy had for her clients and their great admiration for her. Betsy remembers Kathy's visits to people refusing to leave their homes. With her brilliance, she could have had a highly paid career, but Kathy chose to selflessly serve others.

She is survived by Tom, her husband of 62 years; three children (Richard, Jonathan, and Carol), two of whom are physicians and one a hospitalist; and seven grandchildren.

- Tom Klein

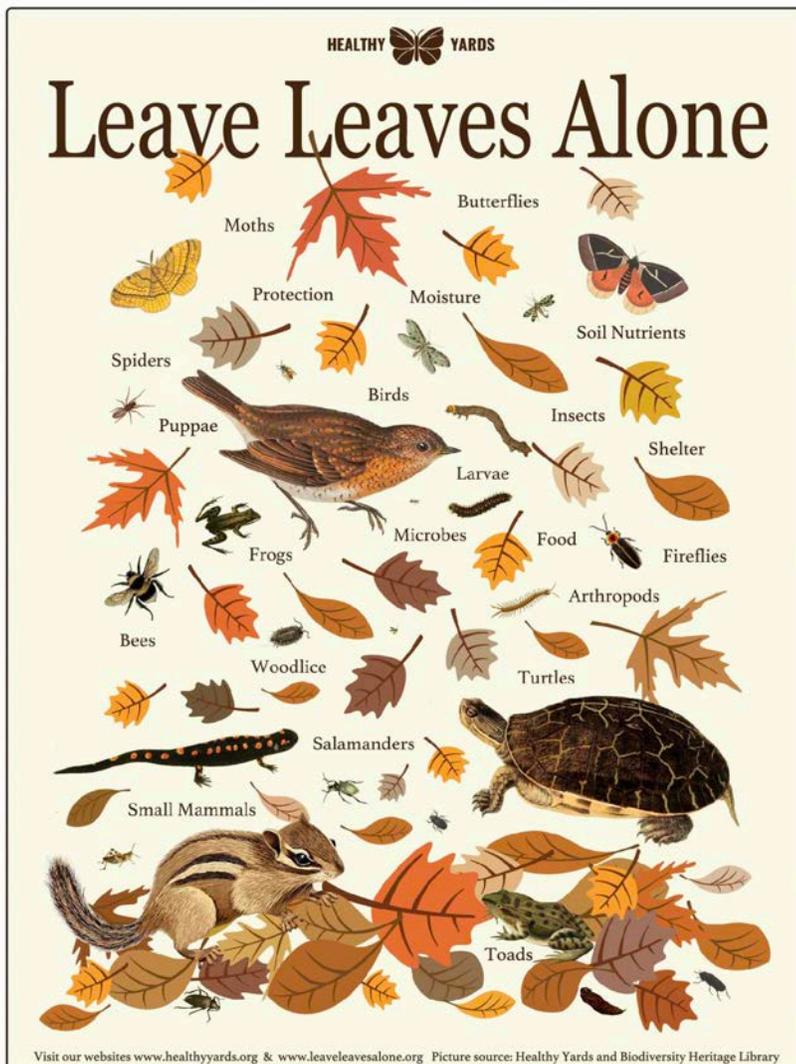


Sophia Hu's daughter Cleo's drawing focuses on thoughts about how quiet the neighborhood is now. Cleo is 10 years-old and in the 5th grade. She loves art and misses being with friends.



## La passeggiata-style Labor Day stroll

Our traditional Labor Day community picnic was replaced this year by *La passeggiata*. The socially distanced neighborhood walk allowed us to visit with neighbors and bid on Lester LaForce's excellent photographs displayed along his fence. Sixteen prints were sold with profits going to Rock Creek Woods Civic Association. We listened to Adam Gonzalez on cello. We talked with and tried to recognize each other behind face masks.



## Save leaves

If you haven't raked all the leaves from your yard, save them after clearing sidewalks, curbs, and parking areas. Remember leaves left on the ground have many important ecological benefits such as vital wildlife habitat. Critters ranging from turtles and toads to birds, mammals, and invertebrates rely on leaf litter for food, shelter, and nesting material. Many moth and butterfly caterpillars overwinter in fallen leaves before emerging in spring. Mulched leaves create greener lawns, too. The less time you spend raking, the more time you'll have to enjoy our gorgeous fall weather.

## Welcome your donations

Our board thanks all who gave recently to the Rock Creek Woods Civic Association. We received contributions ranging from \$35 to \$50 from half our households. If you didn't have a chance to give and would like to contribute electronically, ask Carol Chew to send a PayPal invoice. Funds will enable our many planned projects.

## Nature photos by Julie Marcis



### Close to us: Josiah Henson Park's new museum may open soon

Josiah Henson Park, 11420 Old Georgetown Road, North Bethesda, is part of the former Isaac Riley plantation. This Montgomery County park is a historic resource of local, state, national, and international significance because of its association with Reverend Henson whose 1849 autobiography, *The Life of Josiah Henson, Formerly a Slave, Now an Inhabitant of Canada* inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe's landmark novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. The park contains the historic Riley/Bolten House and its attached log kitchen that is part of the National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program. Featured in a *Time Team America* archeology program, the site has been closed since late 2018 for construction of a new museum that is hoped to be opened in early December. Montgomery County archaeologist, Cassandra Michaud, has continued excavations in preparation for the museum expansion. Both the historic house and the new visitor center museum will have exhibits with AV components. The log kitchen will have a living history opportunity.

A *Smithsonian Magazine* article, "The Story of Josiah Henson, the Real Inspiration for 'Uncle Tom's Cabin'" tells about his more than 30 years enslaved on the Riley plantation, how his master swindled him out of \$350 Henson had raised for his emancipation, and how he escaped with his wife and two children by walking more than 600 miles to Canada. Henson created the Dawn Settlement, a free black community in Ontario. In 1983, Canada honored him with a postage stamp. *Lightning Come from Black Clouds* is an in-depth Henson biography researched for over 10 years by Montgomery Parks' Senior Historian, Jamie Ferguson Kuhns. All her book proceeds go to new museum.