



The BANNOCKBURN *Back 9*

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February 2022

Thank You Bannockburn! By Andrea Polk

After my sister Claudia [Levy, of West Halbert Road] died [unexpectedly, on December 3rd], I arrived from California in a state that veered from utter disbelief to overwhelming sorrow. Confronted by this sudden loss, I had many of the reactions most people feel: "I never had a chance to say goodbye" or "who will I talk to about the things that are most important to me?" and "how could this happen?"

It was unimaginable that my sister, the person I love most in this world, would leave the planet without me. Yes, we both knew that life is about loss and about impermanence. That everyone we love will leave us or we will leave them.

Life is what happens while you're busy making other plans.

I admire those folks who've made peace with our limited human lives. Denial is a powerful defense mechanism.

So, when I got to Bethesda, all I could tell myself was to put one foot ahead of the other. That can be an extremely lonely place emotionally – wondering how you're going to manage without the person you most confided in and relied upon.

What I actually encountered was a community of open-hearted, empathetic, thoughtful people who have been incredibly supportive to my parents and me.

From the time I arrived to now, the neighbors of Bannockburn have reached out to my parents and me with true generosity. And I've had the priceless opportunity to learn that my sister was loved and respected and appreciated by so many people in her Bannockburn community.

We have had food brought to us by somebody almost every day. Even in this time of plague I see people willing to cook, and then leave the warmth of their homes to deliver dinner to us.

Many people took the time to talk with me about

what I was going through. After a death occurs it's pretty common to be asked how you're doing. But the fact is that there's a conventional, socially-accepted response to that question which is "I guess I'm doing okay, thanks."

It's not that folks don't want to hear about your grief, it's just uncomfortable for them. So the convention is to simply reply, "I'm okay."

But here in your community I had conversations with people who actually wanted to know what I was feeling, whether it was emotional or not. That gift of listening non-judgmentally to another's sadness (not trying to fix it, and not trying to minimize it) is precious.

And further, I got to hear what others had gone through in their own lives. I think it's important to be reminded that we're not alone in our experience and that life is about these painful challenges – there's no escaping it.

I felt privileged to learn about the losses and challenges that others have been through themselves. Of course I never thought that I was the only one to lose a beloved sister, but there's something about death – particularly an unanticipated one – that can leave you feeling scared and hollowed out, as though a part of you has been removed. But you're not allowed to talk about it in our culture.

But Bannockburn neighbors were there to support and help me and my family, including listening to the intense stuff. The reminder that we are not alone in our loss, as well as the knowledge that my sister was appreciated and cared about by so many in her community, helped me feel I could make it through.

The support we received extended into referrals for workers who could clean out the house, for attorneys, for elder care agencies – this kind of information is so critical, particularly in a town that I don't know well anymore.

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BCA Leadership 2021-2022

Mike Zangwill, President
 Elizabeth Kellar, Vice President
 Steven Solomon, Treasurer
 Patty Howie, Historian
 Tanya Sisler, Ombudswoman
 Ana Rasmussen, Environment
 Anne Quinlan, Secretary
 At Large: Nancy Roche, Randall Ingate, Nancy Forden, Laura Chavez, Brian Moore, Rachel Stender, Ross Hurt, Kirk Claussen

Back 9 Production Team

Beth Rogers – Writer/Editor
 Mike Zangwill – Design/Layout

Back 9 Contributors

Patty Howie
 Cricket Park
 Andrea Polk
 Juliette Searight
 Anne Quinlan

Bannockburn Community Club (BCC)

The BCC is the 501(c)(3) organization that manages the clubhouse and grounds on behalf of the BCI. As a result of this designation, any donations to BCC are tax deductible to the full extent allowable by law.

BCC promotes, supports, and sponsors educational and cultural activities at the Bannockburn Community Clubhouse, including a not-for-profit nursery school, a children’s summer camp, theater (including the Spring Show), art, music, dance, forums, lectures, and discussion groups.

Membership:

Area residents, former area residents, and friends of Bannockburn.

Annual Dues:

Set by elected Board of Directors (currently \$250 for sponsors, \$50 for families and \$35 for single heads of households).

President: Susan Wexler

Vice President: Terri Payne

Treasurer: Hans Engler

Contact: contact-bcc@bannockburncommunity.org

The Bannockburn Civic Association (BCA) has published our neighborhood’s newsletter since 1953. The Back 9 is published monthly September through June and currently reaches almost 700 households. To make sure you receive a copy of this newsletter, visit <http://bannockburncommunity.org/newsletter/>.

Interested in submitting an article or running an advertisement? Please email bannockburnback9@gmail.com.

The opinions presented in the Back 9 are the authors’ own. The BCA Board neither verifies nor endorses the contents of this community newsletter. While the editors make every effort to ensure published dates, times, and other information are correct and current, errors may occur; the editorial staff, authors, and the BCA Board are not liable for any damages that may result from readers’ reliance on the information published in good faith herein.



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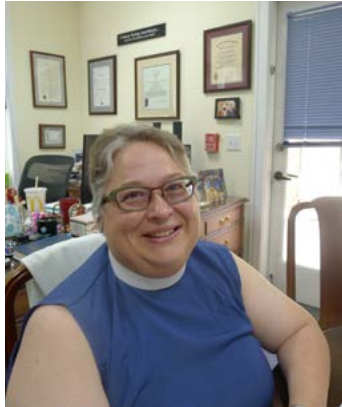


Amen Corner

Tend to Your Spirit

By the Reverend Cricket Park, Rector
Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

We have been through so much as a society over the last two years. The pandemic pushed our lives to the limits. When this kind of stress continues over a long period of time, it hurts our psyches.



I'm not a medical person who can diagnose or treat mental illness. I am a spiritual person who is ordained to talk with and encourage the spiritual health of others.

Spiritual Friendship groups facilitated by the Church of the Redeemer provide a way for people from different spiritual backgrounds to listen to each other, help each other discern where they may be being led, and keep each other accountable for their commitment to grow in their journey. Small groups of no more than

four or five people make it possible to go deeply into conversation that upholds each person in times of light or darkness.

Now that Redeemer's building is put back together, we're able to offer space, physical and ethereal, for our neighbors to tend to their spiritual health. The labyrinth is available for all. There aren't any rules for walking it. There are church members who walk the labyrinth at 11 AM each Sunday, weather permitting, while the congregation worships inside. You're welcome to join them!

If you would like to be a part of a Spiritual Friendship group, please let me know. My e-mail address is rector@redeemberbethesda.org. We can meet safely at Redeemer. The parish hall has enough space to gather masked and socially distant. Being a member of the church is not a requirement. You will not be pressured to join.

Your spiritual health is as important as your mental and physical health. Do what you can to tend to both of them. Redeemer is here to help you.



*Redeemer
Bethesda*

*The Episcopal
Church of the
Redeemer*

In-person at 8:00am Sundays

In-person and Zoom Worship

10:30am Sundays

www.redeemberbethesda.org

[Music at Redeemer](#)

February 19, 7pm

KASSIA Music

**Masks are required for all
indoor events.**

The Rev. Cricket Park, Rector
Geoffrey Silver, Director of Music Ministries
6201 Dunrobbin Drive 301-229-3770



*Photo of the Valley in the snow taken by
Juliette Searight of Owen Place.*

BCA Board Minutes, Jan. 4th

By Anne Quinlan, BCA Board Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM and was conducted via Zoom. In attendance were Mike Zangwill, Beth Rogers, Anne Quinlan, Randall Ingate, Patty Howie, Ana Rasmussen, Elizabeth Kellar, Steven Solomon, Brian Moore, and Kirk Claussen.

The Board welcomed a guest speaker, Phyllis Edelman, of Bethesda's Springfield neighborhood, who is the Chair of the Coalition to Remove River Road as a Growth Corridor. She wanted to alert us to proposed changes to zoning in our area. Every 30 years Montgomery County has to review and revise guidelines for zoning. Most houses in our area are currently zoned R-60 which is for single family homes. The Thrive Montgomery 2050 Planning, Housing, and Home Development Committee will meet soon to discuss proposed changes. Among those changes include the possibility that some lots that are currently zoned for single family homes could be changed to multiple family homes meaning duplexes, triplexes, or quadplexes.

River Road (from the Beltway to the DC line) is currently proposed by the County as a Growth Corridor which means that all lots within 500 feet of River Road on either side could eventually become multi-family dwellings. These multi-family units would be classified as attainable housing, which means housing at market prices, instead of affordable housing. The Thrive 2050 plan is based on creating more dwellings around areas

that have good mass transportation. The Coalition that Edelman chairs is seeking to remove River Road from this classification because there is no rapid bus transit on River Road and there are no plans in the future for it. There is only limited bus service. Since River Road doesn't have good rapid mass transit it doesn't make sense to include it as a Growth Corridor in Thrive 2050, says Edelman. The Montgomery County Council is meeting to review the Thrive 2050 plan on January 27th. Edelman will send a copy of her proposed letter to the County for the BCA's review.

Leigh Rose announced he would no longer be serving on the BCA Board.

BCA Board President Mike Zangwill sent out emails with assignments for selling ads to support publication of the Bannockburn Community directory. The directory will come out next fall. Zangwill would like ad commitments by late February.

BCA Board Treasurer Steven Solomon noted he had nothing to report.

Environmental Chair and BCC liaison Ana Rasmussen noted that several more trees have been planted on the Bannockburn Clubhouse property thanks to funding from the Chesapeake Bay Trust. Another interpretive sign has been designed specifically for young children. She added that the BCC is interviewing four different couples who applied for the job of caretaker for the Clubhouse property.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50. The next meeting will be February 8th.

New in the Neighborhood

By Patty Howie

Cina and Antonia Ketabchi moved into 6921 Ayr Lane last April. They have a 10-year-old son, Finley, who is a 4th grader at Norwood School, and a dog named Ice Bear. Cina was born in Tehran but grew up in primarily in New Jersey. Antonia, who is from Hungary originally, has lived in many places including London, Dublin, and San Diego. They met 15 years ago when they were both working in New York nightclubs and got married six months later!



Prior to their move to Ayr Lane, they were living in the Ashleigh neighborhood near Seven Locks Road. They are delighted to have found a Bannockburn house that has wonderful architectural appeal and is in a warm and welcoming neighborhood. Antonia is a realtor with Redfin, and Cina works in corporate IT. They are looking forward to getting to know more about the history of the Bannockburn community and getting involved in the many social events that make Bannockburn a special place to live.

Levy from p. 1

Had Bannockburn not taken us under its collective wing to give names and suggestions, offers of rides and of help, knowing where to begin would've been a nightmare.

I was thrown into the deep end but fortunately there were many people around who were lifesavers.

I imagine that you recognize what an extraordinary community you have. This was my first opportunity to get to know people in Bannockburn at a deeper level. There are so many really talented, creative, smart people living here who for one reason or another have been blessed with extraordinarily open hearts.

I was told repeatedly that Claudia was "one of the finest people I have ever known." Others said "she was my closest friend." I did not hear one empty platitude, not one cliché or empty word about her death. There was an authenticity and a genuineness in people's words that came through loud and clear. When someone said that Claudia was very special to them that's exactly what they meant.

So I would like to thank everyone in this community for the love, generosity, support and unconditional listening that they have given my parents and me. Without you, the experience of losing so precious a person would have been insupportable. But somehow you made it bearable with your will-

ingness to give and to be there for us.

I'm not sure what else to say. I can imagine Claudia rolling her eyes, wondering when I was going to stop being so long-winded and just get to the point.

Well, I'm not sure when that will be but I'll never have her gift for brevity. She was one of a kind.

Thank you again for everything,

Andrea, Virginia, and Sid

Polk is the sister of Claudia Levy, a longtime West Halbert Road resident. Virginia and Sid are her parents.

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I've changed teams. Now I'm on yours.

Bannockburn Cooperators, Inc. (BCI) – What It Is, and How You Can Join

By Patty Howie and Juliette Searight

BCI can fairly lay claim to being Bannockburn’s “original” community association. It was an out-growth of an organization called Group Housing Cooperative (GHC), which was formed in 1944. GHC bought the bankrupt Bannockburn Golf Course, including the Clubhouse, with the intention of forming a housing cooperative.

GHC then changed names to Bannockburn Cooperators, Inc., or BCI. The bylaws were changed in 1948 to allow for the individual ownership of lots and houses, while BCI retained ownership of the Clubhouse, current Clubhouse grounds and the portion of land known as the valley.

The focus shifted to building a cooperative community through establishment of the Nursery School and encouragement of social activities centered on the Clubhouse. In 1964, BCI amended its charter and bylaws to change its purpose from nonprofit housing development to “promotion of moral, spiritual, ethical, and physical well being of all persons in the community.”

Bannockburn Cooperators, Inc.

Board Members 2021-2022

Juliette Searight, President
 Ava Hillman, Vice President
 Tom Holzman, Secretary/Treasurer
 At Large: Margie Gustafson, Diana Keeling, Joy Lanford, Nicolette Romano

BCI owns the Clubhouse and adjoining property as well as the two properties in the Valley. BCI has an agreement with BCC (Bannockburn Community Club) whereby BCC manages the Clubhouse property. It also cooperates with BCC, BCA, and NAN.

BCI has shareholders. Residents become shareholders of BCI either by transfer from the previous owner of their house or by paying a one-time \$10 fee. Shareholders can participate in major decisions regarding BCI property. If you have received a notice of eligibility or would like to check your shareholder status, please contact Patty Howie, pbhowie@verizon.net.

So, how does BCI work? BCI is owned by its shareholders. Any homeowner within two miles of the original golf course boundary is eligible to buy a share. Shares can be transferred with the sale of a house, or by purchase from BCI. Shares cost \$10. Shareholders have a voice in major decisions regarding the Clubhouse, its surrounding grounds, and the Valley.

BCI is a separate organization from BCA and BCC and does not collect membership dues. BCC (Bannockburn Community Club) was set up by BCI to manage the Clubhouse and land on behalf of BCI.

If you are a resident of the Bannockburn community and would like more information regarding your eligibility as a shareholder, please contact Patty Howie at 301-320-6993 or pbhowie@verizon.net with your name, street address, and contact information.

DIANA *R* KEELING TEAM

COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

For more than 20 years, Diana has lived in Bannockburn, supported the community, raised a family, and helped families buy and sell here.

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For every home I sell in the Bannockburn neighborhood, I donate \$250 to the Bannockburn Clubhouse Renovation Fund.