

## Mount Washington Lower School Considers Options

By Mount Washington School  
SFC Council - Facilities Committee

This May, high temperatures closed the Mt. Washington School (MWS) Lower Building and roiled school families, who scrambled to pick up kids early. Families were frustrated that our neighborhood school is still among the 30 City public schools that have yet to upgrade the air conditioning in their aging buildings. Plus, the MWS is the only city school without playground access for its elementary students. For those of us looking for an immediate fix, several hard truths emerged.

First, although Baltimore City Schools owns the MWS Upper Building on Sulgrave Avenue, it leases the Lower Building from the Shrine of the Sacred Heart, and without ownership of the

building, the school district cannot use public funds to upgrade it. Another truth: our school's expansion in 2010 from K-5 to K-8 did not include a long-term infrastructure plan, and soon thereafter MWS quietly fell off the list for now-exhausted 21st Century Schools building funds. Neither City Schools nor our elected officials have immediate designs to acquire the massive funding or land for new construction.

Finally, we learned that MWS had a relatively sudden choice to make: to continue leasing a building inadequate for our students' needs, or to seize on a one-time pot of federal money to construct a modern, air-conditioned, prefabricated



From Kelly and Lochlea

Rendering of proposed modular building for grades 6-8, shared by City Schools on Aug. 15, 2022

building atop the existing (and school-owned) blacktop at Sulgrave and Lochlea.

On August 15, City Schools publicly announced its plan to move ahead with the prefabricated building – a sleek, two-story modular structure that will house 12 classrooms. Grades 6-8 will move into the building in August 2023 while the younger students return to the Upper Building. A traffic study is pending, and officials made

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Lou and Erica Jacobs in front of their little library at 2424 Brambleton.

## Little Library Love

Lou and Erica Jacobs have lived in the neighborhood for 36 years, but their little library is a more recent addition to their home. When I asked them what inspired them to do a little library, they said that during their travels they began to notice places that had been made into libraries and thought it might be a fun thing to do in the neighborhood. For instance, while hiking in the Cotswolds in England where they saw a British phone booth that was made into a library. These inspirations combined with their love of books and an idea was born.

Lou is a woodworker, so he decided he would build one himself and once he completed it, they painted it to match their house. Since then, their little library has enhanced their lives in unexpected and joyful ways. They have met a lovely cross section of people, from the Mt. Washington Neighborhood and beyond. They have even have someone from Pennsylvania who stops on her way to work

Erica recalled a heart-warming story where she was gardening and heard two moms and kids. The kids wanted a lot of

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**CONTACT THE MWIA NEWSLETTER**

The newsletter of the Mount Washington Improvement Association is distributed six times a year to all residents of Mount Washington and includes information on the news, people, activities, and businesses of the neighborhood, as well as the actions of the Association's Board of Directors. Contact the newsletter at newsletter@mwia.org with story ideas, calendar listings, volunteer opportunities, and other inquiries. Advertising in the newsletter generates revenue to support the MWIA and community. Interested advertisers should contact advertising@mwia.org for information on rates and publications. Advertising specifications are available online at www.mwia.org/mwia-newsletter

— April Herring, Editor  
april.herring@gmail.com

Area Captains are liaisons between the seven community areas and the MWIA. Contact your area captain to raise and discuss issues you would like to see addressed by the MWIA or obtain information about the neighborhood and other assistance. You can find a map of the seven areas at www.mwia.org/area-map.



Learning to me, is investing in understanding the world around you; *and leaning in.*

**I know this because I go to Park.**

—Ella, Grade 9



The Park School of Baltimore is a Pre-K through 12 school with the mission of supporting young people in becoming confident questioners and responsible citizens of the world.  
www.parkschool.net



# Neighbors Come Together to Celebrate Independence Day





**ARTS** By CATRIN DAVIES — [catrin\\_r\\_davies@yahoo.com](mailto:catrin_r_davies@yahoo.com)

## Opera Baltimore

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer! I confess that time has gotten away from me, so instead of interviewing a neighbor about an arts organization about which they are passionate, I am going to write about one that is close to my heart: Opera Baltimore. (Full disclosure – I am the Director of Community Engagement for OB.)

In 2009, if you were an opera-lover in Baltimore, the unthinkable happened. The Baltimore Opera Company, a fixture in this city for over 50 years, declared bankruptcy, leaving artists and patrons devoid of large-scale professional opera productions. (Side note: operetta and musical theater continued to thrive in Baltimore. The Young Victorian Theatre Company, for example, has been performing Gilbert and Sullivan for many decades, but I will highlight them in another column!) As a performer with BOC, I saw firsthand the sadness and anger that resulted in the collapse of the company. A few BOC soloists and choristers founded Baltimore Concert Opera, using the captivating concert opera format to keep our city's century-long tradition of opera alive. What started as a group of colleagues banding together to perform a concert production of Mozart's Don Giovanni on a shoestring \$700 has grown into a vibrant, professionally-staffed organization with an annual operating budget today of over half a million dollars.

That first production of Don Giovanni was performed at the Engineers Club in Mount Vernon, and it has been our artistic home ever since. We are currently an Artist-in-Residence at the Club, and our annual programming there typically includes two full concert opera productions, each with two performances and a pre-performance lecture. Additionally, each season we offer two one-night-only performances of our successful 'Thirsty Thursdays at the Opera,' a series targeted toward introducing new audiences to opera. We make great efforts in our artistic planning to present a varied selection of repertoire each season, giving our curious audiences a balance of classic and innovative programming. In addition, Opera Baltimore presents continuing education classes, educational children and youth performances, opera appreciation clubs, and free

outreach and education events. We are committed to accessibility for our artform, so our tickets start at \$29, with \$10 student rush tickets when inventory remains, and a "pay what you can" program.

We are now in a period of tremendous growth, in which Opera Baltimore is preparing to serve our community on a larger scale both through our renewed focus on DEI as well as our "Bold Leap Forward" - our company expansion that added new programs, including our first fully-staged opera with orchestra, Rossini's Barber of Seville, which opened in February 2022 at Stephens Hall in Towson. This coming season, we will offer Britten's Turn of the Screw and Gounod's Faust in concert performance at the Engineer's Club, and a fully-staged La Traviata at Stephens Hall.

I am particularly excited about 'Opera on the Avenue', Opera Baltimore's civic practice partnership with the Arch Social Community Network, celebrating African-American opera singer Anne Wiggins Brown, the first Bess in Gershwin's iconic opera, Porgy and Bess. Ms. Brown was born and raised in Old West Baltimore, where she received her formative musical training here. On October 8, 2022, this 18-month project will culminate in a free all-day festival around the Arch Social Club, featuring live performances, activities for children, vendors, food trucks, and a collaborative multi-media installation inside the ASC. The pinnacle of Opera on the Avenue is a world premiere concert that same evening, featuring our lead creative, Adrienne Danrich, and a host of other local artists. We have partnered with various local groups, including the No Boundaries Youth Organizers, the Black Arts District, and the Enoch Pratt Free Library. Opera Baltimore's vision is to Build Community through Opera, and we certainly have seen that, so beautifully, during this project.

[www.operabaltimore.org](http://www.operabaltimore.org)

*Catrin Davies is a Realtor for Cummings & Company, and Director of Community Engagement for Baltimore Concert Opera. If you have an arts organization you would like to highlight, please email her at [catrin\\_r\\_davies@yahoo.com](mailto:catrin_r_davies@yahoo.com)*

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# Here's the jam on Porch Concerts

In August Beth Rossi hosted a porch concert. It's a great addition to our community, so we thought we would find out more about how this came to be and what it might take to host one in case others want to follow Beth's lead and create more of these in our neighborhood.

## How did you get the idea for the porch concerts?

My husband and I moved back to Baltimore in August 2020. As a housewarming gift, my cousin and his wife booked a local band, Rusty Sal, to play a Sidewalk Serenade at our house that September. At that point in the pandemic, everyone had been deprived of live music and opportunities to socialize for six months. It was incredibly fun and so cathartic to host that gathering.

The next year, my Mom was buying bagels at Greg's in Belvedere Square and heard Ed Hrybyk playing and learned that he had started a series of porch concerts. She asked me if we'd be willing to host another show. Of course we said yes! So Ed and his 8-piece jazz band came and played a show in May 2021. It was also a blast! So when Ed reached out earlier this year and asked if we'd be interested in hosting another porch concert, it was an easy yes.

## How do you pick the band?

Ed Hrybyk is the only band I'm aware of that does these porch concerts regularly! The Sidewalk Serenades were started in the summer of 2020, when the weather was good and people were starting to venture out for the first time since Covid started. My cousin chose



Last summer's porch concert. Photo by Matthew Ruppert

Rusty Sal because both of us are big fans of Letitia Van Sant, who is the singer in Rusty Sal.

## What has been an unexpected positive thing that has come out of hosting them?

I'm not sure it was unexpected, but it's just been so much fun to make use of our front lawn as a space to bring neighbors together and build community while supporting local musicians. I used to live in Nashville, and loved the music culture of that city. You can't go anywhere in that town without being surrounded by live music. So the porch concerts are maybe an effort to relive some of that experience.

## What have been some of the challenges?

I was worried that getting my 6-month-old baby to sleep during the concert would be a challenge, but he ended up snoozing right through it.

Other than that, they're so easy to host. If my husband would let me, we'd host them every week!

## If you could do anything to make them better or add to them what would it be?

I would love to make the concerts more of an event, with drinks, food, lawn games. That's more than I can manage on a weeknight these days, but maybe one day!

## If someone else wanted to try one what advice would you have?

Do it! Reach out to Ed Hrybyk or call up another local band and book a show.

Any questions for Beth, or to volunteer to help her, she can be reached at [elizabeth.a.rossi@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.a.rossi@gmail.com).



# Where to Plug-In?

Getting ready for your Electric Vehicle

By LIBBY BAKER  
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Senior Climate Activist Bill McKibben writes:

“If our civilization has a fighting chance of survival, we need to cut emissions in half by 2030; it’s the greatest challenge we’ve ever faced as a species”.

Now Congress has passed significant climate legislation. The European Union is asking members to cut their gas usage by 15% to bypass the Russian gas pipeline. What can we in Mount Washington do?

- LEDs light your whole house! Congratulations!
- You now buy Community Solar Credits to cover your electric usage. Your solar electricity is generated just a short drive away.
- You choose Energy Star when replacing appliances and electronics when available.
- You hang dry some or most of your laundry to reduce dryer use.
- You’ve had a Home Energy Audit, \$100 net cost. You are planning your prioritized energy saving investments.
- You are considering an Induction Range, even just to improve indoor air quality.

Again Congratulations. You are in fact making a difference, conserving and reducing demand for fossil fuel. You bike, bus, rail or carpool to work? No wait, that is NOT going to happen unfortunately. What are you waiting for?

Given the advantages of EV’s over ICE (Internal Combustion Engines): lower ownership costs, safer from rollover, filling stations are only for coffee and air pressure checks, it’s a no-brainer. Except for Charging.

Where is best to charge?

Charging at home is ideal hands down. The lowest cost per kilowatt-hour; no overhead cost for charging station networks; no waiting somewhere in line to charge, or, for your charge to complete. Plug-in when you get home. Plenty of miles appear by sun rise. ZERO time is spent waiting to charge. For short to moderate commutes and local shopping, only occasional overnight charging is required. We have charged several EVs at home over the past 7 years, charging from a 120V GFCI protected outlet, mostly charging only twice a week.

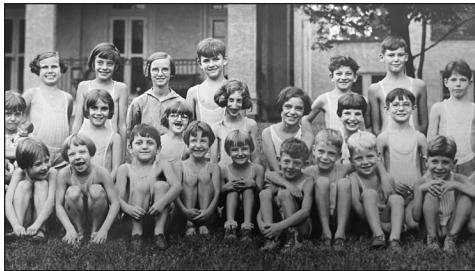
Typically, charging at home means your EV is parked on your own driveway or in your garage. But what if you only have street curb parking? You may want to set an outlet or charger near your curb parking spot. Remember you don’t own that street parking spot. The City of Baltimore has not yet addressed this condition where one crosses the public right-of-way with own charge cord unattended for hours. If you do this, it is smart for now to disguise your charge post as a mailbox. Electric on the back side. Cross the public sidewalk with a safe visible cord cover to protect walkers. Install and grandfather your curb side charging access now. It could be complicated later to do when regulated.

If you live in an apartment, condo or coop, EV charging for you is being addressed in Maryland Legislation. Stay tuned. Some lucky employees can get free charging at work, an MD State initiative.

If you drive longer distances, or irregular distances: today VA, tomorrow PA and NY, you will need a Level 2 charger at home to add more miles overnight. This requires a 240V “electric dryer” circuit installed by a master electrician. Charger can be in a garage, next to the driveway or if you are discrete, near the public street curb. Level 2 charger installs earn a Rebate from MD up to \$1000. BGE has a special Time-Of-Use Rate you might find interesting.

Out on the road, PlugShare, Tesla and other APPs locate public chargers and help plan longer journeys. Maryland is building out on major routes with Level 3 chargers less than one mile from most major MD and interstate routes. You will get to know Royal Farms along highways. Usually they offer a free Level 3 DC Fast Charge, taking just enough time to consume Royal Farm coffee, Slush and RF Fried Chicken. Or time to read quietly.

A great place to research available EV’s, charging and incentives is MarylandEV.org.



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## To Your Health

*In "To Your Health," Mount Washington's healthcare and wellness professionals offer counsel on caring for the body and mind.*

## Heal the Body by Healing the Gut - The 5R approach to Wellness

By DR. STACEY KARGMAN

According to the NIH there are currently more than 70 million people in the U.S. suffering with some form of GI disorder and the CDC reports that approximately 117 million (1/2 of all adults) have one or more chronic health conditions. In addition, GI complaints are among the top reasons patients seek health care. So, if you are an adult reading this, most likely you or one of your close family members falls into one of these categories.

The important thing to understand about the body, especially chronic health conditions, is that not all symptoms are related to the location they are associated with. For instance, problems such as, migraine headaches, allergies, hormonal imbalances, mood swings, acne, or auto immune diseases, can stem from a systemic imbalance which often originates in your digestive system aka- the gut. However, you may or may not have any noticeable GI symptoms.

Now, along with some of those chronic or auto immune conditions, you can also be experiencing GI issues such as diarrhea, constipation, gas bloating, heartburn on a regular basis and may even have been diagnosed with something such as IBS, IBD, Chrons or Colitis. If you have been diagnosed, there is a good chance you have been on a variety of medications that did not produce much effect and have also been told that what you eat makes no difference in fixing the problem. Often this leaves patients feeling frustrated and not sure which direction to go next, or that it's something you just have to live with. Not true!

The Gut is responsible for much more

then just processing the food that we eat and functions as the bodies hub. It is involved in many aspects of health such as immunity (60-80% of our immunity is located in the gut), mood (90% of our neurotransmitters such as serotonin, are made here) and energy metabolism, just to name a few. So, it is a key player in maintaining and restoring health.

A variety of factors including, food allergies/sensitivities, stress, antibiotics, lack of enzymes, not enough fiber, too much sugar, over growth of yeast or bacteria, can all cause the gut to get out of balance and lead to illness.

*So what can we do to remedy this situation and heal the body?*

As Naturopathic Doctors, we focus on getting to the root cause of the problem instead of just eliminating the symptoms. We take a very simple yet highly effect approach to gut healing.

**The 5R approach- Remove, Replace, Repopulate, Repair and Rebalance.**

**Remove-** Get rid of the bad. Eliminate or remove whatever is negatively impacting the gut. Foods, drugs, chemicals, or problematic bacteria, too much yeast or unwanted parasites.

**Replace-** Add back the good. Just as important and bringing down the irritating factors we need to reintroduce the GI tract to the essentials it needs to work properly, such as enzymes, HCL, bile acids- all essential for proper digestion.

**Repopulate-** Restoring the balance of good bacteria is critical. This is done by eating and drinking fermented foods, and using the correct live supplements such as pre- biotics and pro biotics.

**Repair-** This step restores the healthy

lining of the digestive tract that may have been compromised. This can be done by supplying the body with nutrients like zinc, vitamins A,C and D, anti oxidants, Omega 3-fatty acids, amino acids like L- Glutamine, and/or natural anti-inflammatories and mucilaginous agents, all in food or supplements form.

**Rebalance-** This is where we take a step back and look at the even bigger picture- Lifestyle. It is important to address the external stressors in life that increase your sympathetic nervous system and reduce your parasympathetic drive. Working on ways to decrease these concerns through improving sleep, increasing exercise, counseling, yoga, meditation or other mindfulness- based practices, can go a long way to restoring and maintaining balance in your gut and subsequently benefiting your entire body.

This approach addresses the underlying cause, restores balance and thus reduces and eliminates the symptoms. This plan, although simple, takes some work on your part. It can take up to 6 months to a year, depending on the condition to fully repair the gut, so it is important to work with your naturopathic doctor and any other health care professionals on your team to figure out the best approach for your individual needs.

*Dr. Stacey Kargman is a licensed Naturopathic Doctor and Acupuncturist and has lived in Mt. Washington for 15 years. She has been treating patients with a focus on wholistic gastroenterology for the past 25 years. Go to [www.marylandnaturalhealthcenter.com](http://www.marylandnaturalhealthcenter.com) for more information about the work she does.*

## “Library,” continued from page 1

books, but the moms were telling them to limit the numbers they took. This went on for a bit when she finally pipped up and said “I don’t mean to interfere, but take as many as you want.” Then the moms and the kids walked away with a lot of books and a lot of smiles.

That’s the whole point! To take the books. While there has always been steady traffic of both giving and taking, they said during Covid it really got a lot of use, especially from kids. Kids get sent from around the neighborhood on their own adventure to pick a book out. In terms of how often new books arrive, they said that Inventory turns over every couple of days. I asked them if they read the books and they said, oh sure, we read them and then put them back in. It’s also been a great way for them to give away some of their own books. When Lou retired he put his books out, and they put out their mom’s books when she moved.

While they don’t decide what gets in the collection and what doesn’t, they would like it to be ½ kids books, although it’s generally around ¼ kids books. They put a big rock near it so kids can even reach into the library themselves. Some books come back and go out again and some sit for a while. They do have to occasionally cull the collection and retire books that never get taken. They have found that people tend to like things within the last 10 years, and that the classics just don’t seem to move.

As for what advice they have for others who might be considering putting in their own little library, they said, Just do it! It’s added to our lives and has been more fun than we expected it to be and it’s a great conversation starter. As far as logistics, there are a few things they have done and learned over the years.

While Lou built it on his own, you can find instructions on-line or even buy one already made. In retrospect he says he

might have chosen exterior plywood to cut down on the re-painting, but otherwise he said it has been low maintenance. For the post he used gravel instead of cement in case he wanted to move it, but so far, the location has been just perfect. Their little library self-perpetuates, they don’t really have to do anything, but sometimes they bring some inside to create space and then add them back when more space opens up. Overall it’s something they are glad they did. Want more information on little libraries? There is a national non-profit where you can find out more and register your own at <https://littlefreelibrary.org/>

## Did you know there are other little libraries in our neighborhood?

Check them out at:

- 5504 South Bend
- 2415 Ken Oak
- 2309 Crest
- 5707 Berkley
- 1809 Dixon Road
- 5712 cross country
- 2502 Ken Oak
- Walking path that connects Wildwood Lane and Roxbury Place
- Luckman park

## Community Calendar

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

**Amy Berstein Book Signing** (former MW resident)  
6 pm  
Ivy Book Shop  
[www.theivybookshop.com](http://www.theivybookshop.com)

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

**Friends of Northwest Park clean-up**  
2101 W Rogers  
9:00 – 11:00 am  
For more info: [fonwp.org](mailto:fonwp.org)

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11

**Open Meeting of the MWIA Board**  
7:00 - 8:30 pm  
This open meeting of the MWIA Board will be held on Zoom. To register for the meeting [www.mwia.org/mwia-meetings](http://www.mwia.org/mwia-meetings). An agenda will be posted one week in advance.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

**Clayworks’ Fire Fest 2022**  
FIRE FEST is a celebration of fire – one of a ceramic artist’s most important tools and essential to the creation of ceramic art. Come out for live kiln firings, see the wood fired Noborigama kiln blazing and watch red hot pots being pulled from the raku kiln. Enter the Clay Olympics. live music, food, drinks and more.  
[Baltimoreclayworks.org](http://Baltimoreclayworks.org)

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19

**Dumpster Day in Mt. Washington**  
Arrive between 7:00 – 9:00 am  
(watch listserv for arrival announcement)  
On W. Rogers off of Pimlico Road  
[Mwia.org](http://Mwia.org)

## RECURRING EVENTS

### Luckman Park Clean-Up

9:00 am – 11:00 am  
September 3, September 18, October 1, October 16  
Luckman Park, 2809 Glen Avenue  
Join the Friends of Luckman Park on the first Saturday and third Sunday of every month – weather permitting – for trash pickup, leaf raking, gardening, and other general park cleanings. Come for all or part; RSVP (to [luckman.park@gmail.com](mailto:luckman.park@gmail.com)) helpful but not necessary.

### Ivy and Vine Control

Every Tuesday  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Contact [mtwashtrees@gmail.com](mailto:mtwashtrees@gmail.com) for more info.

### Cylburn Parent/Child Nature classes (ages 2-5)

First Wednesday of the month  
10 - 11 am  
Join Cylburn for Tree Time! We will learn about nature through stories, crafts, and exploration.  
Questions: Education Director, Erika Castillo at [Erika.Castillo@Cylburn.org](mailto:Erika.Castillo@Cylburn.org)

### Sinai/Levindale Farmers Market

Beginning on Wednesday, May 18, from 11 AM-2 PM at LifeBridge’s Pimlico Parking lot located near the corner of Pimlico Road and Northern Parkway. The Farmer’s Market will be held from May 18 - October 19 on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. There is a map and more information contained within the attached flyers. For questions, please contact [supugh@lifebridgehealth.org](mailto:supugh@lifebridgehealth.org)



# REI Book Group

Mount Washington Improvement Association has a Racial Equity and Inclusion committee. Part of what we're doing with that committee is reading books relevant to the issue and meeting to discuss them. Our next event is Sunday Nov. 27th at 2:00 pm we will be reading

Shelter: A Black Tale of Homeland, Baltimore by Johns Hopkins University professor Lawrence Jackson

Consider joining us if you haven't already! It's a great way to meet neighbors you might not already know, learn from each other, and (at least for me) a good

kick in the pants to put down the phone and pick up a book.

Email the "official" book club address [mtwash.rei.bookclub@gmail.com](mailto:mtwash.rei.bookclub@gmail.com) to make sure you get updates directly

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“School,” continued from page 1

clear that, while a new play space could be installed in the 1711 Sulgrave lot adjacent to the Upper Building, it will be up to Mount Washington family and community stakeholders to drive that effort, including financially.

It was because of our MWS School Family and Community Council (SFC) that families rapidly learned the full dimensions of our A/C problem and had a platform for providing input, both to our school principal Sarah Long and to the school district. The SFC is made up of MWS administrators, faculty, family representatives for each grade, and representatives of the students and the Mt. Washington community. We don't fundraise. That invaluable work belongs to our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), which will be chaired by 7th grade parent Dione Mitchell in 2022-23. Instead, the SFC handles matters of school policy and development. Over the previous academic year, we worked in four committees: Culture and Climate, Family and Community Engagement, Attendance, Instructional Leadership, and - emerging recently - Facilities.

For any public school, families and community members are challenged to get an inside-track on school developments. The SFC offers one such track. When it came to the air conditioning dilemma, family reps in the SFC met with Ms. Long, then convened a public meeting for families to hear from the school district, conducted a survey among families and community members writ large about their concerns, and most recently met with school district officials to remind them that transparency in their process needs to be a top priority.

The SFC can be a powerful engine for long-term growth at MWS, which remains an attraction and an anchor for families in our neighborhood. The council's effectiveness hinges especially on family interest and involvement. As the new school year approaches, make a plan to find out who the family representatives are for your child's grade. Look on the school calendar and on the Bloomz app for SFC Council meeting dates. Let Council reps know what you're interested in when it comes to the school's progress in academics, extracurriculars, school climate, infrastructure, and other topics where family-community-admin collaboration can bring valuable change.

At the moment, we face a time-crunch to comment on the new building plan before City Schools finalizes its purchase in mid-September. However, we also must

step up to the longer-term project of planning the school's future beyond a prefabricated building. That work will require the effort of us all - administration, families, and community members.

If you're interested to learn more about SFC Council, to be a family rep or a community rep, or want to contribute in another way, please contact our incoming family co-chair for 2022-23, Zafar Shah, at Shah-MWS.SFC@altmails.com.



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# School Spotlight



## Introducing our new MWS-PTO President

As we embark on what we plan to be a successful year for the Mount Washington School – Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), I look back to one of the first MWIA newsletters I probably received shortly after moving to Mt. Washington in the Fall of 2004. In his Winter 2005 “Message from the President,” MWIA President Clifford Mitchell (no relation) wrote:

Even without snow, there is much going on in Mt. Washington to appreciate. For instance, at the recent MWIA open meeting at the Elementary School, we heard a great deal of exciting updates from Principal Thomas Shepley. Students and parents can look forward to a productive year. **And I'd urge everyone to check out what's happening at the Mt. Washington Elementary School by arranging a visit.**

I am heartened by this long-standing relationship between the MWIA and the Mount Washington School. Since moving to Mt. Washington, my husband David and I have enjoyed raising our

children in such a generous and caring community. After our son's pre-K year at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart, we got the news that the Archdiocese was closing the school. We decided to give the local public school a try. And during his kindergarten year, I joined the PTO. One of my first activities on the PTO was to volunteer for the MWSES K8 Steering Committee. In the 2010 MWIA Newsletter article entitled “Shrine School Under Discussion” David Conn wrote:

With the announcement that the Shrine of the Sacred Heart School will close this year, a committee of Mt. Washington Elementary school parents, neighborhood residents, business representatives and education leaders has begun to explore the community's interest in the Shrine School building. The MWESK-8 Steering Committee, convened by school and community leaders, has met with officials of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Shrine of the Sacred Heart Parish and the Baltimore City Public School System to discuss Mt. Washington's interest in making use of the school building.

As a new mom, while my contribution was limited to attending meetings and assisting with a mammoth mailing campaign, I felt a sense of accomplishment when the committee succeeded in its efforts and the school added the middle school grades 6 – 8. And a short 12 years later as our son is about to start his senior year at St. Paul's School for Boys, I can truly say he will always be a true MWS Tiger for Life and

our daughter is following in his footsteps.

Over the years as a PTO member, I have witnessed firsthand the PTO's special relationship with the MWS, MWIA and greater Mt. Washington Business community. I have witnessed the type of generosity and support for the students that is second to none. Volunteering for MWS's “Swing into Spring,” now “Taste of Mt Washington” and our signature fundraiser, I am heartened by donations from old supporters like the **Tavern** and **Ethel's** to newer supporters like **Woodrow's** and **Abbey Burger**. But most of all I am thankful for the long-standing support of the **Mount Washington Improvement Association**. Here's to our strong partnership and in the words of past MWIA president Mitchell, I “look forward to a productive year. And I'd urge everyone to check out what's happening at the Mt. Washington ... School (PTO) and ...stay in touch.”



Dionne Mitchell  
MWS-PTO President | 2022-2023  
<https://www.mountwashingtonschool.org/about-the-pto>

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## Dated Materials - Please Deliver Promptly

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



The person you all have to thank (or not, depending on your opinion) for me becoming President of the MWIA is Deb Kleiner. Though she has never served as President, she has served just about every other role on the MWIA board on and off over time: VP, Newsletter Editor, Area Director, Chair of Communications, and

Chair of Nominating. She's got institutional knowledge galore, and she knows how to use it. But watch out if she invites you over for a G&T in the Kleiner's beautiful backyard. She doesn't just want to get to know you. She is not so clandestinely trying to recruit you to serve the Mount Washington community in some capacity - join the Garden Club, become an area captain, edit the newsletter, host a block party - and ultimately become President of the MWIA. Unfortunately for us (for me, \*sigh\*), Deb has served her last term with MWIA, and while she assures us she will be around for consultation, this means we have to grow up fast. We'll have to answer our own by-law questions, figure out our own recruitment strategies, and just generally do a lot of work she did while making it look easy. We will miss Deb and Dan Kleiner as gracious hosts for a myriad of events and thoughtful, committed members who made building the community a priority.

That just means we need a new generation to step up. I'll have to follow in Deb's footsteps in scouting new talent.

Service in the community provides a personal perspective and connection you can't get just from participating in the list-serve. Want to learn more - email [president@mwia.org](mailto:president@mwia.org), and we'll connect you with MWIA opportunities and beyond. Or you can just come have some Sangria in our backyard, and eventually you can be MWIA President too.



**Deb Kleiner enjoying one of those famous G and T's.**

Enjoy the shade!  
Ellie Mitchell  
President, MWIA  
[president@mwia.org](mailto:president@mwia.org)

P.S. October 29 is the next Dumpster day. Bring your spookiest throwaways to the W. Rogers close to the intersection with Pimlico.