



JULY 2020

# Becketwood Times

Becketwood Cooperative • 4300 West River Parkway South • Minneapolis, MN 55406  
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## Board Column

By Helen Gilbert, Vice President and Ombudsperson

Thank you for electing me to the Board of Directors. I will serve with the integrity we all need and deserve from those we elect to a role of temporary leadership.

I'm glad to have been appointed Vice President because, in addition to being available to take the President's place if needed, I will also serve as the Ombudsman (or Ombudsperson, as it's called in the policy book; either name is fine with me, especially since ombudsperson and ombudswoman are really awkward words.) Wanting to learn more about that job, and being a fan of Wikipedia, I looked it up. I learned that there are Ombudsmen in countries, localities, and institutions all over the world, and that the position has been in existence since ancient China. Sweden and Norway even have special Ombudsmen for children.

The idea is universal: someone is appointed from within a governing body to provide a smooth conduit for

complaints, suggestions, and questions from the people for whom the government works. It functions as a recognition that everyone has a stake in how their civic or community group operates, and individual members' observations, ideas, and needs matter and might even help everyone. This seems to be especially true of a co-op.

I was given the records of past Ombudsmen when I was appointed. I found it fascinating that so many of the communications had resulted in an improvement to the way things are done, which I, coming in later, took for granted as just part of Becketwood. For example, complaints about double-booking of common areas for events resulted in a better scheduling system; exercise groups who needed more space in the game room got the large poker table removed; more lighting was added in some areas; better signage was added to the laundry rooms.

There are a lot of us here, and we have a complicated organizational structure, as well as a culture and traditions that take some time to get to

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know. For myself, I've sometimes thought of a needed improvement, or wondered about something, but had no idea who to talk to about it — before I heard about the Ombudsman. That person's — now my — job is to listen, and to transmit the issue to a place within the co-op that can provide more information, consider the proposal, or solve the problem. The Ombudsman becomes a sort of advocate for the Member, not so much for the outcome they are looking for, but to advocate for a serious hearing of their concern by the people in relevant positions.

You can contact me in various ways. Leave a signed note in the suggestion box in the convenience center; email me at [helen39gilbert@gmail.com](mailto:helen39gilbert@gmail.com); call 612-721-3282; call or text 651-485-8093; send or bring a note to my box at Unit 412; or talk to me. If we talk in the hall, please follow up with a written note so I won't forget. I'll acknowledge your communication within three days, and then report back to you what's happened.

Already, some interesting concerns have been brought to me. I'm reminded of the book *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green. It's a young adult book about love and death and cancer, and in some ways it's one of the most mature books I know. In it the teen boy tells the teen girl, who wonders why he would be interested in her, "What I like about you is that you notice things." I like that about the people here, too — we have a co-op full of people who notice things. Sometimes the Ombudsman might be the person to get your "noticings" the hearing they need.

The Becketwood office will be closed July 3 for July 4th holiday.

### Board Actions in June

M/S/C to extend the cancellation of excursions, indoor programs and gatherings sponsored by Becketwood through July 31. Member-driven activities and programs should take place outdoors and follow current recommendations regarding masks and physical distancing. For programs on the circle, fire regulations prohibit seating in the driveway.

M/S/C to not exercise the Board's right to purchase Unit #301.

M/S/C to approve Andy Momont and Kim Langness for membership in Unit #403.

M/S/C to approve Sharon Lage for membership in Unit #608.

M/S/C to approve John and Lyn Pegg for membership in Unit #371.

M/S/C to approve Roger and Peggy Ryden for membership in Unit #270.

M/S/C to approve Carolyn Foulke for membership in Unit #342.

M/S/C to approve the priority internal transfer request of John Fenn.

M/S/C to accept the first year of the two-year plan as submitted by MN Controls to automate all building systems in an amount of \$54,500 with funding from reserves.

M/S/C to approve the purchase and installation of a new central corridor humidifying system in an amount of \$34,374 using funding from reserves.

M/S/C to accept the consulting services of an engineer to design a retaining wall at the garage entrance for an amount not to exceed \$5,000 using funding from reserves.

## Notes from Debbie

By Debbie Richman,  
Executive Manager



How many of you have seen the movie “Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory”? There is a character in that movie named Veruca Salt. In the movie she sings a song called “I Want It Now” which addresses her need to have whatever she wants right now - usually granted by her father. Maybe a good thing - maybe not.

Last month I wrote about patience as it related to the current pandemic. Before I change topics a little, here is the definition of patience that I used in June:

**Patience:** (definitions) The capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset OR a person’s ability to wait something out or endure something tedious, without getting riled up OR remaining calm, even when you’ve been waiting forever or dealing with something so painstakingly slow OR trying to teach someone how to do something and they just don’t get it.

Presents are awesome - aren’t they? Except for one thing - you always have to wait to open them. What do you hate waiting for? Here are some other things that come to mind:

- Waiting in the doctor’s office when your appointment was supposed to be 30 minutes ago
- Waiting for dinner in a restaurant when you ordered 30 minutes ago
- Standing in line at the store
- Being on hold on the phone

- Sitting in traffic for no apparent reason
- People who are late
- Waiting for vendors to come to your home to do something or to deliver something
- Other things?

Here at Becketwood Cooperative — decisions are made in a different way than when you were living at your own home and that requires patience. In very basic terms (and not including every detail of the process): an idea is brought forward and proposals about that idea are developed/written and presented to the appropriate committee. Committee #1 (this varies by type of project) meets and asks for more information or votes to push the proposal forward. This might include getting bids for the project.

The Finance Committee then meets to determine how to fund the project and then the Board meets to vote on the entire proposal.

This takes at least a month (best case) or sometimes many months to even years.

This process can be challenging when you are used to making these decisions on your own or feel really passionate about the project.

In the end - the goal of this process is to be able to engage as many Members as possible in the process so that the Board can make the best informed decision possible on behalf of the whole.

In rare situations - something that is an emergency might go directly to the Board from the Executive Manager. For

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example, repairing water leaks from pipes.

Other decisions are made outside of committees when they are part of Operations. These items are identified in the annual budget presentation but include things like staff and related expenses (i.e. health insurance, employee management, etc.), usual maintenance of the building and property both interior and exterior (i.e. cleaning, food service, etc.). Once the Board approves the annual budget, these expenses are managed by the Executive Manager. Depending on the area of operations, such decisions may or may not include input from the Membership.

In Cooperative living, decisions are not always made quickly. Projects take time to research, develop and implement.

Regardless of how long it might take to get a project from proposal to reality, the ultimate goal is to do the right thing for Becketwood so that Becketwood can be here for another 30+ years.

“All things are created twice; first mentally then physically. The key to creativity is to begin with the end in mind, with a vision and a blueprint of the desired result.” - Stephen Covey



## Marketing News

Maura, Kari, and Lynette



It's July  
and I have hope in who  
I am becoming.

— Charlotte Eriksson

### Sales

There was one closing in June. Brighton Unit #403 was purchased by Andy Momont and Kim Langness. You may recognize them, because Andy's father and mother, Phil and Joyce Momont, lived in the building for many years. Welcome Kim and Andy!

### New Members

We had a very successful — and new, socially distanced — New Member event recently. Thank you to Carol Bechtel, Candace Barrick, Jacqueline Teisberg and all the other volunteers who made the day go smoothly!

Although we had Members from eight units being introduced, we continue to have more new Members moving in! And this means we continue to need mentors to help welcome new folks and ease their transition into Becketwood. We need you! Would you like to be a mentor? You don't need to have the answer to every question in order to serve as a mentor. But if you've lived here awhile, you may know who to ask when something comes up. And you have likely learned a thing or two about navigating the ins and outs at Becketwood. All this, and a friendly welcoming demeanor can make a huge difference for a new Member. If you are interested or have further questions about this, please contact Carol Bechtel, chair of the Marketing Committee. We can add you to our list of mentors to call on when needed. Thanks for considering!

## Essential Refurbishment Information!!

If you are having **any** work done in the building, whether it is painting, flooring, bath or kitchen remodel, any kind of demolition, plumbing or electrical work *IT IS CRITICAL* that you notify Lynette in Refurbishment *IN ADVANCE*. If contractors arrive at the building and Refurbishment has not been notified in advance, **they will not be allowed to do the work they came for and it is likely you will be charged a service fee.** The reason for this is that contractors have to present their insurance to Lynette and to sign off on the Contractors Agreement. In addition, contractors have requirements to meet when in the building, as do Members. Lynette will provide that information to both you and the contractors. If you are having appliances delivered, you must be present to receive them or arrange for someone to be here in your place. Staff is not able to receive or sign for them. Lynette can be reached at 612.746.1003 or [lloizeaux@becketwood.com](mailto:lloizeaux@becketwood.com). Thank you for adhering to these important guidelines.



## Member Services

By Deb Rodmyre, LSW  
Member Services  
Coordinator



### Flu Clinic

Mark your calendars for **Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup> from 10:30-1:30 p.m. in the Wellington Room.** You will need to wear a mask and social distance. As we learn more about COVID in the days to come, we will share the plan with you further.

PRIMARY ELECTION  
is **August 11.**

Don't forget to vote!

The primary

election will be held on **Tuesday,**

**August 11.** For those of you who are new at Becketwood, you are in Precinct 5 and vote at St. Peder's Church. Even though the church is right down the street, I will provide a free bus ride, if COVID allows. Voter registration forms can be found in your A-Z Manual or the Convenience Center. You can request absentee ballots for BOTH the August 11 and November 3 elections on the same application IF you check the correct box. You can fill in the form online or pick one up in the Convenience Center to fax or mail in.



### Did you know...

that four friends from Minnehaha Academy, who will be 12<sup>th</sup> graders in the fall, took it upon themselves to write a few friendly letters to Becketwood Members to spread joy. I randomly distribute these. If you are a lucky recipient, now you know the story behind them. So far, I have distributed about 25 letters.

## Hennepin County Election Office and Contact

### Hennepin County

Election official: Ginny Gelms  
General phone: 612-348-5151  
Fax: 612-348-2151  
Website: <http://www.hennepin.us>  
Email: [hc.vote@hennepin.us](mailto:hc.vote@hennepin.us)

### ADDRESS

Hennepin County Gov't Center  
300 South 6th St MC 012  
Minneapolis, MN 55487-0012

### ABSENTEE VOTING CONTACT

Jim Howitt  
Phone: 612-348-5151  
Fax: 612-348-2151  
Email: [hc.vote@hennepin.us](mailto:hc.vote@hennepin.us)

Have you read the latest blog on the Becketwood website?

It changes often! Go to [becketwood.com](http://becketwood.com).

See Carol Masters to submit your own blog or idea:  
[cmasters@bitstream.net](mailto:cmasters@bitstream.net)  
or drop in #474 mailbox.



Look for  
*"Becketwood Cooperative"*

## What's Cookin'

By Chef Brandon  
Lenzmeier



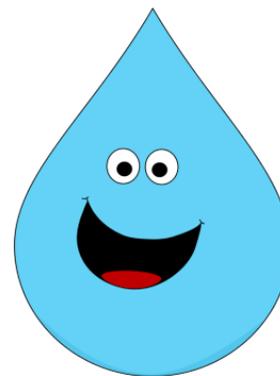
Greetings,  
Starting **Wednesday, July 1**, we are going to try having a Vegetarian/Meatless Menu on every Wednesday in July and August. Menu options #3-6 will still be available those days so if you do desire a steak or salmon on those days you will still be able to select those options although we encourage you to give the vegetarian options a try! We will be trying this out for a couple months to see how it goes.

Please feel free to contact the kitchen if you have any questions. Thank You!

Two exciting dates to mark on your calendar for July 2020:

Independence Day Meal  
**Friday July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12 pm**

Birthday Celebration Meal  
**Friday July 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm**



**Stay out of the hospital.  
Stay hydrated! Eat fruit,  
drink Gatorade and sip  
water throughout the day to  
feel good!**



## **Celebrating Independence Day on the Fourth of July Striving for Ideals in 2020**

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by the Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

*The Declaration of Independence, 1776*

The preservation of the sacred fire of liberty and the destiny of the republican model of government are justly considered as *deeply*, and perhaps as *finally, staked* on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people.

*George Washington, First Inaugural Address, 1789*

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

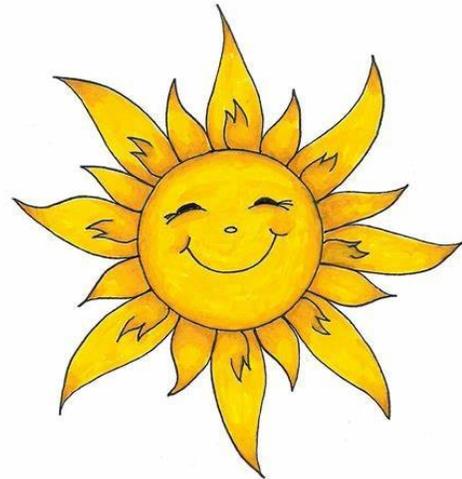
*Preamble of the Constitution, 1787*

As I would not be a *slave*, so I would not be a *master*. This expresses my idea of democracy. Whatever differs from this, to the extent of the difference, is no democracy.

*Abraham Lincoln, Definition of Democracy, 1858*

My faith in the Constitution is whole, it is complete, it is total. I am not going to sit here and be an idle spectator to the diminution, the subversion, the destruction of the Constitution.

*Barbara Jordan, House Judiciary Committee statement, 1974*



July is hot afternoons and sultry nights and mornings when it's joy just to be alive. July is a picnic and a red canoe and a sunburned neck and a softball game and ice tinkling in a tall glass. July is a blind date with summer.

*Hal Borland*

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# Becketwood Committee News

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## Program Committee



In our efforts to reaffirm and rebuild the “community” part of our Becketwood community during these COVID-19 times, the Program Committee has begun offering a series of outdoor concerts. Most of these events will be taking place on weekend afternoons, weather permitting. You are encouraged to attend, bring a lawn or camping chair and space yourselves COVID appropriately. We’ll also try to have a rack of folding chairs you can pick up inside the front door. Please bring your masks.

In June, accordionist Dan Newton and his wife Elizabeth entertained in the front traffic circle. On **Saturday, July 11 at 2 pm** folk singer Mary Hall plays in our circle with Sunday, July 12, as a rain day. Also on **July 12th from 6:30-8 pm** the **Tapestry Dance Company** will perform in our parking lot by the Member gardens. “Two Peace Suite,” a musical duo, will perform at **2 pm, July 18** with July 19 as the rain date, in the traffic circle.

Be watching the bulletin boards for more events, weather cancellations and rescheduling. We’ve also had some of our talented Members offer “pop up” concerts that have been well received.

We invite you to share these events with your neighbors but please continue to adhere to COVID guidelines regarding space and masks. We think that is one of the reasons why our community has remained safe. It is

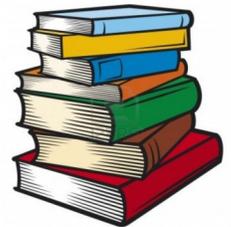
also because of the care taken by our building management, staff and Members.

We would also welcome suggestions from Members for others who would be willing to entertain outside this summer. Contact me or other members of the Program Committee with your contacts and ideas.

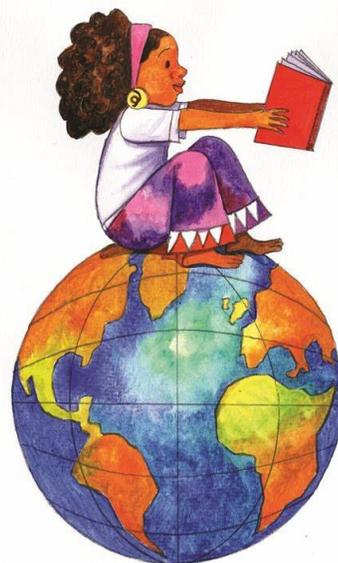
David McKay, Co-Chair

## HUGE THANKS!

Becketwood Members have contributed several hundred books so far for AAUW’s *Books for Africa* project. We thank you for the South African children who will receive them. We’ll be gathering books for another school year (May, 2021) so please keep ‘em coming.



Priscilla in #408



## Chapel Committee

Like many of us, Chapel Committee members were shocked and grieved by the police killing of George Floyd. The killing and its aftermath showed us the pain of racial discrimination and the suffering of poverty that happens in our neighborhood. This crisis helped to make visible the unconscious racial biases that exist in our society, even among people of good will.



We are offering two responses to this painful state of affairs. **Vespers Prayer Vigil is offered Wednesdays from 4 to 5 pm.** Members are invited to gather outside in front of the chapel for meditation and silent or vocal prayer. This is an opportunity to hold in prayer those who are suffering, representatives of our local and wider government, police officers seeking answers, and Members of our Becketwood community. This is not intended as a discussion group, but quiet reflections may be shared.

The Chapel Committee's other response is to re-consider installing a peace pole on the Becketwood grounds as a statement that we support peace in the world and in our neighborhood. Peace poles are not representative of any group or organization; they have been erected on the grounds of thousands of schools, churches, and organizations. A pole is not a commitment to any particular action but is a statement of values: this community believes in peaceful solutions. Other structures have been erected on our grounds when they were needed: garden shed, maintenance shed, compost pile. We think this statement of peace is called for at this time.

Please give the peace pole some thought and call or email me (or other Chapel Committee members) with your feedback. Thank you and be well.

Susan DeVries, Chair

## Choir News



### THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

Thanks to Becketwood Member Rich Brown, who forwarded me a valuable summary of the Barbershop Harmony Society's recent webinar on "Near-Future Prospects for Singing in Groups." Although the news is disappointing, it is important to know what experts have discovered: "On the hierarchy of 'safe' activities to return to, group singing is considered among the least safe. Our deep breathing and loud sound produced during rehearsals project disease particles into the air at a significantly higher rate than talking. For a variety of reasons, singers are considered 'Super Spreaders.' This is going to be a marathon, not a sprint."

On a lighter note, from *The Power of Music to Heal*: "My vision is that healing music be available to anyone who is going through a health challenge. This is what I know: Music can heal. Music can inspire. Music is essential to our well-being. I invite you to listen to and sing positive songs every day and see how your life changes." Karen Drucker, song writer.

Peace,  
Jean Geissler, Director

## Bicycle News:



### No Available Bike Spots — Time to Donate?

All bike spots in the garage are assigned and we have a waiting list of five, soon to be seven, new owners who need spots. If you still have a bike, but are no longer biking, it would be a kindness to free your spot for the use of those who are still active cyclists.

**Donating is easy!** If you need help, contact Candace Barrick. She and other Easy Riders will facilitate the donation process.

Whether you donate your bike, sell it, or give it away, if you permanently remove your bike from the garage, please contact Susan Evans so the spot can be reassigned.

**Tricycles.** Tricycles don't fit in regular bike racks. Before you invest in one, be sure you have room to store it in your car parking spot or permission to use someone else's space. Please don't block car doors or bike rack access.

**To get on the wait list or if you have replaced a bike and need a new sticker,** call Susan Evans' landline. Leave your name and phone number and explain what you need.

Susan Evans, Bicycle Parking Coordinator

**Comment and Suggestion Box  
Convenience Center**  
Please use the form and  
remember to sign your name.

## Recycling Tip



**Butter wrappers and muffin/cupcake papers are trash,** not compost, not recyclable. These papers have **coatings** that make them not stick to their contents (butter and cake), but that means they are TRASH. Thanks for all you do to keep our recycling and compost streams flowing with **the right stuff!**

## Help wanted!



The 3<sup>rd</sup> floor West recycling team is looking for an additional volunteer to assist with taking recyclables from the 3W recycling room to the garage. We are particularly looking for someone to assist during the month of July (we do monthly tours of duty), but going forward the schedule is usually adjusted to meet volunteers' needs and schedules.

If interested, please contact Jon Riehle, Unit 337, telephone 612-722-5532. Thank you!

## Question of the Month



*Does Becketwood have a notary public?*

No, we don't. It is best to go to your bank.

## Wellness Committee

The Wellness Committee is glad to bring you an interesting outdoor program on **Wednesday evening, July 8, at 7 pm.** (Rain date - the next evening, the 9th.)

**CAN DO CANINES** are trained service dogs who can assist their owners for needs around mobility, diabetes, seizures, vision/hearing impaired, etc. These dogs are allowed, for those reasons, at Becketwood.

This organization, known to at least two Becketwood Members, has agreed to send a staff person with a trained dog to present the service in the front patio and traffic circle area. The portable sound system will be used from the middle circle, while we Members sit on the patio, sidewalk and grass in a semi-circle. We'll provide chairs, or you can bring your own lawn chairs, sitting six feet apart. Questions will be relayed by Wellness Committee members from the audience to the presenter (not sharing the mic).

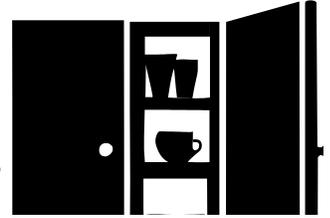
Joy Nelson



## Pantry News:

### Delivery schedules almost back to normal:

Available Lund's delivery times are now under a week from order date. (They were taking up to three weeks due to excess demand for their service.) We are shooting for Wednesday afternoon deliveries, but cannot yet guarantee that.



**Fulfillment:** Due to shortages on Lund's end, we are not receiving between 10 and 20% of the items we order. That means some items you have come to expect may not be available.

### Product Updates:

- Haagen-Dazs vanilla, chocolate, strawberry, and butter pecan ice cream flavors are now being stocked. We will continue to stock Ben & Jerry's vanilla and novelty flavors.
- Skim milk quarts, in addition to 2%, are now being stocked.
- Bubly sparkling water will be stocked for the summer, replacing LaCroix brand.
- Toilet paper four-packs are still unavailable, so we will continue to open the larger packs we receive and sell TP singly.

Susan Evans, Pantry Committee Chair

### Recycling Tip #2

Napkins, paper towels and tissues are dry **compost**, not recyclables.

## Summertime – and the livin’ is busy

The Member gardens are coming into full bloom this month. If you haven’t already, take time to check out our colorful and fragrant Member gardens. You will find that no two garden plots are alike. Some plots feature perennials, annuals or vegetables — and some a combination of all three!



This summer we will continue the tradition of Member gardeners sharing produce from their gardens. A collection basket will be on the ledge across from the mailboxes. Gardeners with an abundance of produce may fill the basket to share with others. Some early crops, lettuce and arugula for example, have already been placed on the ledge. Tomatoes, green beans, cucumbers and zucchini are sure to follow.

Flower gardeners are invited to mark their gardens with the colorful butterfly markers found in the garden shed if they are willing to contribute flowers to Becketwood. These markers alert the Flower Committee that they may pick blossoms to grace selected areas of our first floor commons.

In the Common Gardens, our two projects have seen great results. The new shed is finished! Brilliantly designed and built by Todd Gulliver, this beautiful shed will provide storage space for gardening tools and equipment on the northeast part of the property so Members who work north of the driveway have easier access to the tools they need. Peggy and Roger Ryden painted the finished shed and Todd Gulliver and Naomi Jackson determined options for the location

considering water flow, ease of access, and visibility issues. Joel Mortenson joined the crew to move the shed to its new location in Fernwood Glen on June 13th. Check it out!



Our other project is to create a more solid and stable wheelbarrow path from Member Gardens to the compost bin. Step 1 was to improve the drainage in the area behind the bus. The drainage solution has weathered enough rainstorms to get a thumbs up. The next step is to determine the material and installation plan for the path itself and make it happen. Loren and LeEtta Flicker are responsible for heading up this successful effort.

Our newest project — edging. Becketwood currently has 52 defined planting areas, referred to as our Common Gardens. These areas range in size from a pair of pots to Fernwood Glen or the gardens along Minnehaha’s arena. No matter the size, they all require a lot of attention throughout the season, mostly weeding — lots and lots of weeding. One method that can reduce the amount of weeding is edging, designed to limit the migration of weeds and seeds into the garden bed. Nancy Minahan, with Helen Grant and Dee Schaefer, are investigating the value of edging and old and new options for edging. We solicited

comments and experiences from the more than 70 Members who currently are involved with the gardens at Becketwood. The response rate was terrific. We expect to have a recommendation by the end of the summer.

The Tree Committee added three cedar trees between the parking lot and Kensington Square, a Norway spruce nearby, and the replacement Ironwood tree on the east side of the property. Jeff and Member volunteers will be sure the trees get the water they need. The 17 trees from the City Trees program will be planted this fall due to recent delays in their schedule. With the help of our arborist, shrubbery that did not survive the winter will be removed and replaced with selected plants from professional recommendations.

Join us in the great outdoors!

Bonnie Sample  
Landscape and Gardens Committee

## Environment Committee

Becketwood's Environment Committee via an informal survey found that committee members are willing to consider a change in their eating habits. We are looking for ways to increase the amount of plant food in our diets. Why?

Well, our physicians have been bugging us and our own research has confirmed that whole-food, plant-



based eating can prevent, halt, or even reverse chronic diseases, including heart disease, type 2 diabetes, inflammation and cancer.

**Planet.** Then there's the earth itself. Since Frances Moore Lappe, we've understood that a plant-based diet places much less stress on the environment. From a water and a greenhouse gas emissions perspective, it is much more efficient and cost-effective to eat plant foods than animal foods.

**Mental health.** What? The evidence is compelling that aware people who read, watch television, or breathe are experiencing something called [eco-anxiety](#) about their surroundings (Google it?). Reducing food waste, increasing plant-rich diets, practicing conscious consumption and improving food systems can help to improve mental health and displace anxiety.

**Being a Cooperative.** We care about each other and work with other Members in various ways to support this extraordinary place and its inhabitants. Consider choosing one day a week to eat only plant food. To support us, Becketwood's kitchen, at the suggestion of our Food Committee, will be offering two vegetarian options on Wednesdays during July and August.

Happy summer!

Carol Masters

## Socrates Café

The Socrates Café conversations will now take place on the **first and third Tuesday** of the month from 3:30 - 4:45 pm. Until it is possible to meet in person, those conversations will take place on Zoom.

Anyone not currently on the email list for Socrates Café conversations, who would like to be, should contact Randy Nelson at [rnelson1941@yahoo.com](mailto:rnelson1941@yahoo.com). Topics to be discussed will be announced ahead of time in the weekly calendar.

## Becketwood Breeze

You have all received the first edition of the *Breeze* and may be wondering how it came into being. Here's the scoop. Given the restrictions that the pandemic has placed on gatherings, programs, and excursions, the Becketwood Board invited the Program Committee to think about new ways to support the community. The committee decided that an occasional "letter" of some sort with a lighthearted touch to which people could contribute poetry, stories, or other ideas could lift the spirits of Members. The *Breeze* hopes to be a fun day brightener and solicits your contributions. Please write or call Iric Nathanson or Bob Kirk, the co-editors.



Phyllis Kromer

## Cowboy Month at Becketwood

The Program Committee has approved Doug Herron's offer of organizing one-time-only activities with a cowboy theme. If all goes well virus-wise, October will be *Cowboy Month*.



The plan includes classic cowboy films, one or two a week, led by Peggy and Roger Ryden. A "Quick Draw" contest, of sorts, will be led by Jean Swanson. A cowboy and western song night for all of us will be led by Rita Juhl.

There will be a cowboy poetry night organized by Bob Flink and Doug. Members are encouraged to check out the subject of cowboy poetry online to see some good examples. Then write a cowboy poem. (This notice appears now to allow time to conjure a good piece of poetry or doggerel.)

And Brandon says the kitchen will be ready to help us celebrate a meal with cowboy caviar and other vittles.

Members now have ample time to find their western apparel and rhymes!

Doug Herron, #235



## Beyond Becketwood

After a lifetime teaching philosophy at Minnesota State University, I retired in 1999 and moved with my wife Alice, who was seeking a longer gardening season, to Durham, NC. Looking for something to do in Durham, I discovered that Duke University had a thriving program of classes for seniors. I enrolled in one (History of Durham) and soon was heavily involved in both taking four or five classes a semester and teaching almost every term, mostly adapting courses in philosophy and comparative religions that I had taught in Moorhead.

In a class on Shakespeare I was challenged to try writing a sonnet. I wrote three, and the next semester enrolled in a Workshop in Writing Poetry, a class that was offered every term. After a couple classes on poets, where instructors liked to jump into discussions of poems without bothering to have them read first, I decided to offer classes focusing on reading poetry aloud, simply reading the poems and then letting discussions take off in whatever direction students wanted to go. These classes were surprisingly well-received, and I have been doing them ever since.

About 15 years ago, Bernard Osher began giving out million-dollar grants to universities to endow Osher Life-Long Learning Institutes, which led to the renaming of the Duke program to OLLI at Duke. There are now many OLLIs in the nation. They are all structured differently, so the program at Duke differs from the OLLI at the University of Minnesota, primarily in the length of the term. The U of M operates on four-week terms rather

than full semesters. But the concept is the same, and I would urge everyone to get involved taking classes or, if there is something you might want to teach, take a shot at it.

Arnie Johanson



*What special experience with a community activity beyond Becketwood are you having? You are invited to share your human interest story in about 250 words by sending a copy to Elene Loecher or Deb Rodmyre by the 20th of the month. You may also recommend the names of other Becketwood Members whose stories*



## Library Committee

### Book Giveaway

Every year many books which have been donated to our Library are offered for giveaway. Previously, giveaway tables were set up by the mailboxes. Because of the need for social distancing, the area is now in the Book Nook, at the top of the main stairway. Giveaway Books are at the right end of these shelves. Paperback books on the left side may also be taken; these may be kept or returned to the Book Nook.

Books donated to our library may be duplicates of ones already in our collection or they might not be of

interest to many of our Becketwood Members. Because of our crowded shelves, we can't keep all donations. So, some go into the Book Giveaway. Please take these books and do not return them to the Library. Keep them forever or pass them on to others.

We will have another Giveaway, probably in August.

Mary Heltsley, Chair



Helen Grant and Monte Bedford played traditional Scottish tunes at a pop-up concert in the front patio on June 13  
Submitted by Iric Nathanson

## NEW IN THE LIBRARY



### FICTION

**THE STORY OF ARTHUR TRULUV** by Elizabeth Berg. Arthur Truluv — his story will make you laugh and cry. It will show you a love that never ends, and what it means to be truly human.

**THE END OF OCTOBER** by Lawrence Wright. It is eerie that the final draft of this book of fiction was turned in for publication in the summer of 2019. In the story, a raging deadly virus is rapidly spreading worldwide. Are the Muslims to blame? Russia and the U.S. are in their continuing competition. Public health and politics ... and you won't want to put it down.

**DJINN PATROL ON THE PURPLE LINE** by Deepa Anappara. Inspired by TV crime dramas and frustrated by police inaction, three children investigate the disappearance of their friends in a sprawling Indian slum.

**THE LOST GIRLS OF PARIS** by Pam Jenoff. A remarkable story of friendship and courage centered on three women and a ring of female secret agents during WWII who disappeared after being deployed into France as couriers and radio operators.

**THIS IS HAPPINESS** by Niall Williams. In a remote Irish village with no electricity, farmers must now accept telephone poles, and dark stone houses need to be wired. Two men, one young, one old, have a good time riding bicycles, and stopping in pubs trying to persuade villagers to accept modernity. A quiet, subtle love story propels the narrative. A *Washington Post* Book of the Year.

### MYSTERIES

**AN INNOCENT CLIENT** by Scott Pratt. When a beautiful young woman is suspected of murdering a preacher who is found dead in a seedy Tennessee motel, a public defender with a conscience teams up with a fast-and-loose cop to find the real killer.

**INTO THE WATER** by Paula Hawkins. For centuries women have drowned or been drowned for witchcraft in the Beckford river. Now two more have died under suspicious circumstances. Did they commit suicide or were they murdered?

**A SHARP SOLITUDE** by Christine Carbo. Set in rugged Glacier Park, this tense, exciting story features nature researcher Reeve Landon and FBI agent Ali Paige, a former couple who share a young daughter. Reeve, suspected of killing a young journalist who was working with him on a science project, flees into the wilderness. Ali, even though she isn't assigned to his case, sets out to clear him for the sake of their child, even though she's not sure of his innocence.

### NON-FICTION

**MY YEAR OF REST AND RELAXATION** by Ottessa Moshfegh. A young recent college graduate, undergirded by her inheritance and supported by an incompetent psychiatrist and copious amounts of drugs, withdraws from ordinary life in an attempt to find herself.

**WHEN TIME STOPPED** by Ariana Newman is a memoir about a wealthy Venezuelan emigrant from Czechoslovakia, who had never told his daughter about his past. Inspired

*(Continued on page 18)*

(Continued from page 17)

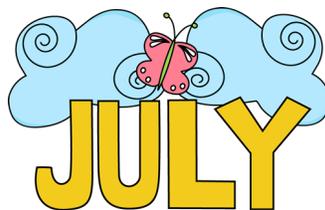
by documents she found after his death, Ariana conducts extensive research to learn about the rich family life of her father's youth followed by the fear-ridden time of the Holocaust.



One hundred years ago, everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today, everyone has cars, and only the rich own horses.



How come noses run and feet smell?



## MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Phyllis Kromer
- 5 Shirley Dahlgren
- 6 Naomi Jackson
- 8 Maggie Easter
- 8 Al Sirek
- 9 Joan Gerth
- 9 Duane Fike
- 9 Ann Haushild
- 11 Leif Duus
- 11 Marvin McNeff
- 12 Corynne Christina
- 15 Milda Ruud
- 15 Ginny Groos
- 16 Ruth Halvorson
- 16 Jim Mansfield
- 20 Dorothy Johnson
- 26 Dale Stuepfert
- 30 Alice Bell
- 30 Helen Mikkelson

Please contact Susan in the office if you do not want your name to appear on the Birthday List or if there are corrections.

July Birthday Dinner:  
**Friday, July 24**  
5:30 pm  
Redeem your birthday coupon!



# B~WOOD DOIN'S

## MEMBER/STAFF KUDOS

This is a continuation of last month's kudos award to the whole **BECKETWOOD** staff etc.

Of course the absolute lynchpin of our success, the general in our battle against the rising armies of COVID-19 and racism, the captain of our good ship **BECKETWOOD**, **Debbie Richman**. She deserves our greatest kudos, praise, and admiration.



Her task has been Herculean, her workload incredibly increased, and all of this has been accomplished because of her ability to stay in touch with, and to keep us protected from, the outside world. We cannot thank you enough, **Debbie**, for your vast contribution to our welfare. Bravo. If it were only in our power, we would double your salary.

We have just observed an exciting new facet to the jewel of talent of **Iric Nathanson**. He has now entered, with characteristic gusto and delight, the world of historical fiction. And what an entry it is! The title of his short story is *The Sheltering Arms Mystery*. By the time you read this it will probably



be posted on our blog on the **BECKETWOOD** website.

The piece is brilliant. The plethora of totally accurate historical facts, the reality of the characters and their struggles, make this a truly compelling read.

**Iric** writes with wonderful economy; there is not an extra syllable. No Teutonic Ruler would ever say "too many words" about this piece. It is a wonderful read for our cooped up Becketwoodians.

Once again, if you have any stories about Members who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in coping with all this, email me at [john@johnfenn.net](mailto:john@johnfenn.net), and I will put the stories in this column. Without the usual gatherings, my journalist's snooping and ferreting has been curtailed.

*This column appears monthly in the Becketwood Times. Drop a word or two about your delights, accomplishments, or just a gentle event from your chronologically enriched lives. My unit is #441, telephone 612-306-4727, or e-me at [john@johnfenn.net](mailto:john@johnfenn.net) with any ideas or corrections.*

The **Becketwood Times** is published monthly by the Becketwood Cooperative's Communications Committee.

**Newsletter Coordinator:** Deb Rodmyre

**Editors:** Phyllis Kromer, Faith Lindell  
Carol Masters, Carol Mockovak

**Graphic Designer:** Susan Greene

**Contributing Writers:** Members and Staff of the Becketwood Cooperative.

*Submissions to Deb Rodmyre and Susan Greene must be received by the 20th of the month preceding publication.*

## **PROGRAMS FOR JULY**

**\*\*\*Please mask and social distance at these events\*\*\***

### **WEDNESDAYS, July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

Vespers Prayer Vigil, 4-5 pm

Meet in front of the Chapel

Sponsor: Chapel Committee

### **TUESDAYS, July 7 & 21**

Socrates Café via Zoom at 3:30 pm

Watch bulletin boards for topic of discussion.

Call Randy Nelson if you have questions about Zoom.

### **WEDNESDAY, JULY 8**

Can Do Canines

7 pm in the Front Circle

Sponsor: Wellness Committee

In case of rain it will be held on Thursday, July 9 at the same time and place.

### **SATURDAY, JULY 11**

Mary Hall, guitar and folk music

2 pm in Front Circle

Sponsor: Program Committee

In case of rain it will be held on Sunday, July 12 at the same time and place.

### **SUNDAY, JULY 12**

Dance with Tapestry Dance Company

6:30-8 pm

Chapel Parking Lot

Sponsor: Program Committee

### **SATURDAY, July 18**

“Two Peace Suite” musical duo

2 pm in the Front Circle

Sponsor: Program Committee

In case of rain it will be held on Sunday, July 19 at the same time and place.