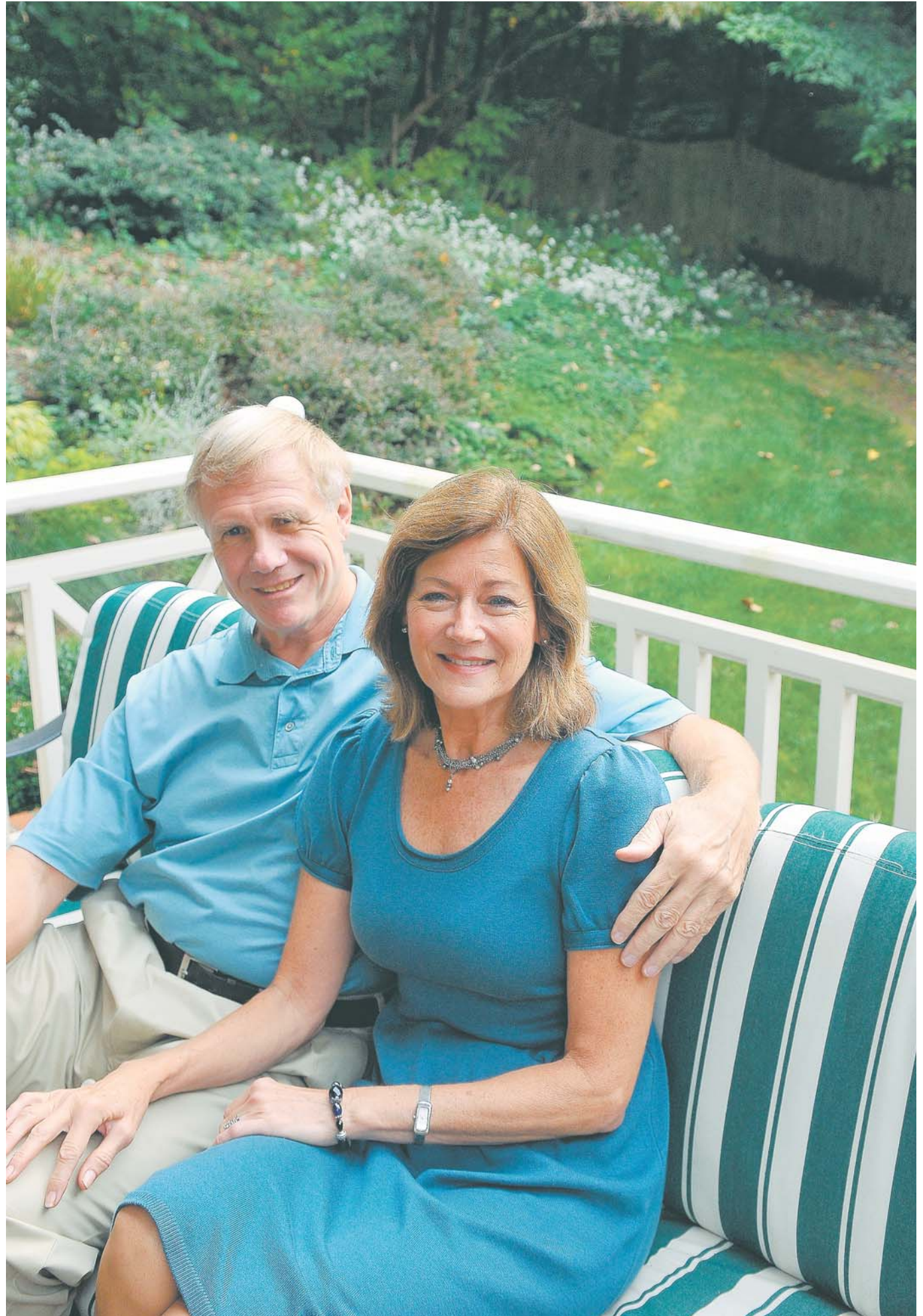


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McLEAN CONNECTION

Home Life Style



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2009

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Vanderhye's Vision

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE

Cooking is one of a few activities Del. Margi Vanderhye (D-34) does to blow off steam. So when she and husband Robert renovated the kitchen in their McLean home 10 years ago, Vanderhye

wanted everything to be just right.

"I asked myself, if Jefferson was putting a kitchen in Monticello, what would he want to put in it?" she said.

Vanderhye, a Chicago native, has been a fan of Thomas Jefferson since she visited the founding father's rural Virginia estate as a high school student.

"I have wanted to come here since I was little," said the del-



Local produce adorns the table in the breezeway between the kitchen and the family room.

egate.

She did not know it then, but Vanderhye would end up somewhat following in Jefferson's footsteps as an adult.

In 2007, she was elected to represent McLean in the Virginia

House of Delegates, where Jefferson served as representative from Albemarle County 230 years earlier. Vanderhye is up for re-election Nov. 3 and faces Republican opponent Barbara

SEE VANDERHYE, PAGE 3

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Jeffersonian Influence

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CONNECTION

FROM PAGE 2
Comstock. (Comstock's McLean home was featured last month.)

LIKE JEFFERSON did with his home of Monticello, Vanderhye meticulously planned out every feature of her new kitchen. The delegate said she researched design, materials and appliances for a year before any construction on the project started.

Her attention to detail paid off, with features meeting her precise needs and aesthetic preferences.

For example, the elected official, who frequently throws parties and entertains dinner guests, found a stove with one small and one large oven. It allows her to easily cook for two people or, alternatively, for 16. The stove also is particularly wide, so both Vanderhye and her husband, who also enjoys cooking, can be working at different burners simultaneously without running into each other.

"You could cook a Thanksgiving meal on this stove all at once," she said. Directly over the stove, the delegate also has a decorative wood carving of a dogwood flower, the tree traditionally associated with Virginia.

Vanderhye is avid gardener,



The family room.

another trait she shares with Jefferson, and she wanted her kitchen, where she spends the most time when she's home, to have a bit of an "outdoors on the inside" feel.

Instead of a traditional tile, Vanderhye's kitchen floor appears to be covered in brick pavers, similar to those seen in a backyard patio. The pavers provide a transition from the kitchen inside to Vanderhye's outdoor dining space and the backyard garden, she said.

"There is usually a big pot of herbs from the garden sitting on the counter. That is how I taught our kids about nutrition growing up," said Vanderhye, whose son earned

his doctorate in horticulture.

In the spring, summer and early fall, Vanderhye and her husband like to eat outside. When the couple moved from Springfield to McLean in 1984, Vanderhye worked with an architect to design a pergola that could be used as a second dining room many months of the year.

"We eat out here spring through the fall. This is where we eat breakfast and read the Sunday paper," said Vanderhye.

The delegate's interest in Jefferson can be found in other parts of the house. Vanderhye owns a replica of the "book caddy" from Jefferson's office in Monticello. The spinning table can hold several large books at once but also folds up into a box for storage purposes.

Vanderhye's father was a commercial artist who worked with large advertising agencies and the delegate spent her youth taking art classes and visiting museums.

"I grew up in Chicago going to the Art Institute [of Chicago.] That was a fairly standard Sunday outing for our family," she said.

Georges Henri Manzana Pissarro, son of French impressionist painter Camille Pissarro, did the painting of a haunting tree hanging over the Vanderhye's living room mantle. Behind the Jefferson book caddy is a small painting done by William B. Hoyt, who has a couple of large works hanging in the U.S. Capitol, she said.



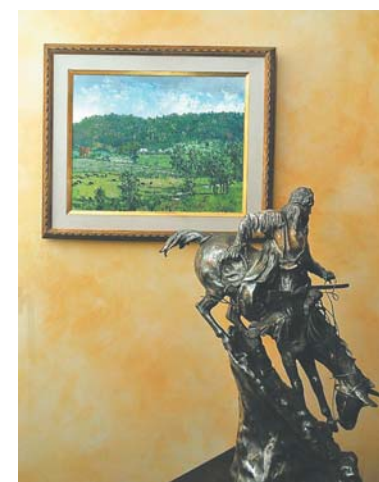
Margi Vanderhye at home in McLean.



Margi Vanderhye shows the writing desk designed by Thomas Jefferson. William B. Hoyt, who has large pieces of his artwork hanging in the U.S. Capitol, is responsible for a small painting hanging on the wall behind the piece of furniture.



An outside bricked patio surrounded by the garden with pergola provides a seasonal space for relaxing, dining and entertaining.



The Mountain man in solid silver by Frederick Remington, one of only a few hundred in the world, is in the Vanderhyes' collection. The couple juxtaposes it with the first painting they ever bought together, a scene of southwest Virginia sold to them by an artist near The Homestead resort in Bath County.

Stirring Up Fun and Food

DONNA MANZ

When Frank Sturgeon's wife suggested 10 years ago that he learn to cook, she did not envision a neighborhood men's cooking club. Now, entering its 10th year, the Hill Road Thyme Gourmet Group celebrates good food, fine wine and friendship with monthly themed dinners, all courses prepared, cooked and served by neighborhood buddies.

"I thought, 'why would I learn to cook by myself?'" said Sturgeon. "I called my neighbors and suggested we all learn together. This is more than just learning to cook for two people. It's

cooking for fun and cooking for eight."

The eight current members, six of whom are part of the original seven, take cuisine and wine seriously, but not themselves. The dinners are noted for their camaraderie and mutual frames of reference.

The participants started out as neighbors, although a couple of them moved a block or two away now. Most are retired military officers and global travelers.

The Hill Road Thyme Gourmet Group elected to focus on French cuisine this year, from October through mid-June, paying homage to the work of Julia Child.

They meet monthly on a Sunday evening, the year's theme and schedule laid out prior to the beginning of their next gourmet

season. Each dinner is hosted and directed by a "head chef" with the help of two assistants. Themes have gone from regional – Mediterranean to the American South – to motif, such as the Julia Child dedication.

"She didn't have many appetizers or salads in her book, so I looked online for French regional specialties," said Gordon Ettenson, October host and head chef. The result of the first Julia Child foray was spectacular. Butter, cream, puff pastry, bacon and Calvados ... they're all there.

After a two-month summer hiatus, the men's gourmet club kicked off the new season on Oct. 4 with a selection of pâté and terrine, Brie and filled puff pastry. From there, they segued to cream of mushroom soup, coquilles St. Jacques, boeuf Bourguignon, salad, cheese and an apple tart,



The Hill Road Thyme Gourmet Group: Peter Roberts, Jim Stevens, Frank Sturgeon, Gordon Ettenson, Charles Stringfellow, Steve McDaneld and Larry Mangin. Missing from the photo and dinner is group member Graeme Bradford

each course accompanied by an enhancing wine. The chefs stayed faithful to the traditional rich, buttery, creamy French recipes.

"Nobody has had a heart attack," said Ettenson. "It's the red wine."

Sturgeon prepared the boeuf Bourguignon and provided an array of French cheeses and a

quince paste. The quince paste, Sturgeon said, is a "little thing to enhance your palate."

The menu, in the colors of the French flag, was printed in French for an authentic feel. Champagne flowed.

None of the members practices the recipes prior to the dinner

event. Chef Steve McDaneld said they have never had a bad meal. Chef Jim Stevens takes his friends out instead of hosting a dinner.

Appetizers and champagne lay spread out on a massive granite



Chef Franque checks on his creation of Boeuf Bourguignon au dessus les nouilles du beurre for the main course.

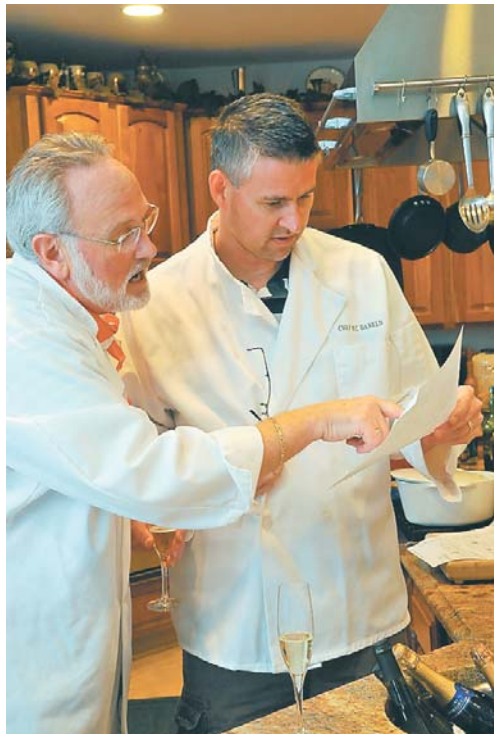


"Nobody has had a heart attack. It's the red wine."

— Gordon Ettenson,

countertop in the kitchen with a professional Viking gas six-burner cooktop. Dinner, however, is served in the dining room.

The Hill Road Thyme Gourmet Group is really about friends getting together to eat well, drink well, and laugh. "We get the opportunity to remember we live in the neighborhood, to see our buddies more than just when we're walking our dog," said Ettenson.



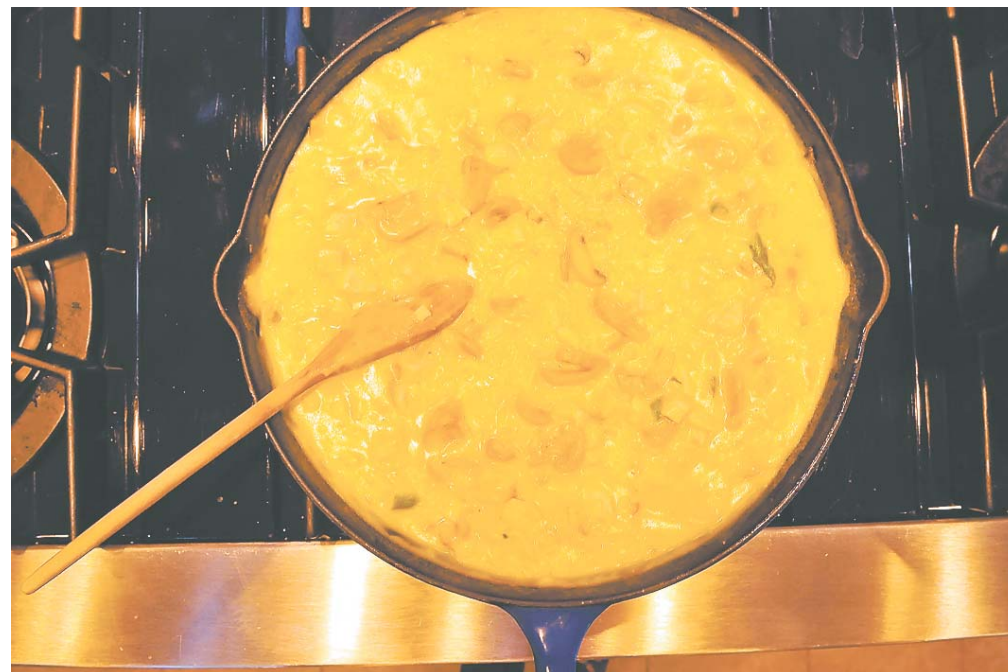
Chefs Gordon Ettenson and Steve McDaneld



Chef Pierre Roberts uncorks the evening's first bottle of champagne.



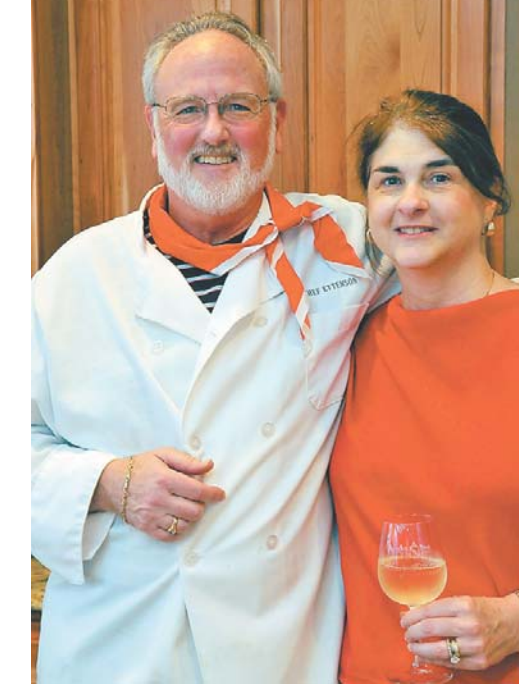
Chef Steve McDaneld



Les Vols au Vent simmers on the range as the puff pastries rise in the oven.



Group Founder Frank Sturgeon



Chef Gordon Ettenson says goodbye to his wife Donna for the evening as he finishes preparations for 'La Grande Soiree.'

Artist applies quilts to any household surface.

Piecing Together Her Décor

BY MIKE DiCICCO

For Great Falls resident Cindy Grisdela, quilts are not just for the bedroom or snuggling on the sofa. “This is where we spend most of our time,” she said of her family room. “I like bright color, my family likes bright color, so fortunately, it works out.”

Adorning the walls are eight quilts of varying sizes and styles, hung the way most people hang paintings.

“People are used to thinking of quilts as just for beds. ... I think having quilts on the walls adds a lot of warmth to the room, makes it inviting somehow.”

She said she also found that the quilts mixed well with the paintings and other artwork she and her husband collected.

Her two cats sat on a couple of quilts draped over the backs of the family room couches, while quilted throw pillows rested



Quilted throw pillow.

along the arms. Carefully sized quilts covered the surfaces of coffee tables and end tables throughout the house. “Quilts on the walls, quilts on the table. I have a quilted shower curtain,” she laughed.

Although she has been quilting for about 25 years, it wasn’t until five or six years ago that she began getting adventurous with her designs and showing in art shows. With a background in art



Detail of 'Leap of Faith'

history, she was especially influenced by modern abstract painters like Wassily Kandinsky.

On most of the quilts, the intricate stitching patterns were radically different from the designs created by the cloth pieces, such as the squiggly stitchery that caused the surface of one quilt made with squares of uniform size to look like a jigsaw puzzle. “It adds dimension and texture and interest. I hope.”



'Summer Breeze'

On the walls of the upstairs hallway leading to her studio, small quilts mingled with her children’s artwork from grade school. The studio is modest, with the “battening” that is used to stuff quilts covering one wall. Fabric sticks to the bating, so Grisdela can arrange and rearrange patterns on it, right now a modern twist on the double wedding ring pattern.

“People say to me, ‘How do you have the patience to do this?’ ... It doesn’t take patience. It’s what makes me want to get up in the morning.”

“There’s still so many ideas to think about and explore and try to realize in fabric,” Grisdela said. Grisdela’s will be one of 44 artists’ homes open to the public for the annual Great Falls Studios Tour Oct. 17 and 18.



Cindy Grisdela



The Grisdela home in Great Falls



Independence surveys the scene from atop a quilt in the family room.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CONNECTION

McLean

- ❖ 7001 Benjamin St (a 6 BR, 5 FB, 1 HB detached home on 0.95 acres) in Langley Forest sold for \$2,585,000 on Aug. 31, 2009.
- ❖ 1921 Macarthur Dr (a 6 BR, 6 FB, 1 HB detached home Kenbargan sold for \$2,275,000 on Aug. 24, 2009.
- ❖ 7111 Elizabeth Dr (a 6 BR, 6 FB, 1 HB detached home on 0.40 acres) in Hansborough sold for \$2,219,000 on Aug. 26, 2009.
- ❖ 6456 Linway Ter (a 5 BR, 5 FB, 3 HB detached home on 0.69 acres) in Brookhaven sold for \$2,200,000 on Aug. 03, 2009.
- ❖ 7702 Carlton Pl (a 5 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB detached home on 0.95 acres) in Millwood sold for \$1,950,000 on Aug. 07, 2009.
- ❖ 1315 Calder Rd (a 7 BR, 7 FB, 1 HB detached home on 0.48 acres) in Salona Village sold for \$1,665,000 on Aug. 04, 2009.
- ❖ 6811 Tennyson Dr (a 5 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB detached home on 0.29 acres) in Bryn Mawr sold for \$1,500,000 on Aug. 20, 2009.
- ❖ 1328 Lancia Dr (a 4 BR, 3 FB, 2 HB detached home on 0.63 acres) in Sugar Mill Meadow sold for \$1,375,000 on Aug. 31, 2009.
- ❖ 1513 Highwood Dr (a 5 BR, 5 FB, 1 HB detached home on 0.39 acres) in Chain Bridge Forest sold for \$1,300,000 on Aug. 20, 2009.
- ❖ 1221 Ranleigh Rd (a 3 BR, 3 FB, 1 HB detached home on 0.71 acres) in Thomas Wolfe sold for \$1,290,000 on Aug. 28, 2009.
- ❖ 1241 Providence Ter (a 5 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB detached home on 0.32 acres) in Providence Forest sold for \$1,271,000 on Aug. 24, 2009.
- ❖ 6530 Chesterfield Ave (a 5 BR, 5 FB, 1 HB detached home on 0.28 acres) in Chesterbrook Gardens sold for \$1,220,000 on Aug. 07, 2009.
- ❖ 6303 Dunaway Ct (a 5 BR, 5 FB, 1 HB detached home on 0.27 acres) in Evermay sold for \$1,200,000 on Aug. 04, 2009.
- ❖ 7201 Thrasher Rd (a 6 BR, 5 FB, 1 HB other on 0.26 acres) in Langley Manor sold for \$1,200,000 on Aug. 24, 2009.
- ❖ 1222 Ballantrae Ln (a 5 BR, 3 FB, 2 HB detached home on 0.94 acres) in Ballantrae Farms sold for \$1,075,000 on Aug. 28, 2009.
- ❖ 6602 Briar Hill Ct (a 6 BR, 4 FB detached home on 0.46 acres) in Langley Oaks sold for \$1,055,000 on Aug. 27, 2009.
- ❖ 8605 Brook Rd (a 5 BR, 3 FB, 1 HB detached home on 1.48 acres) in Woodhaven sold for \$1,035,000 on Aug. 05, 2009.



7001 Benjamin Street sold for \$2,585,000 on Aug. 31, 2009.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/CONNECTION



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Christopher Zimmerman, Music Director

November 21, 2009

Chu-Fang Huang, piano

FALLA: *The Three-Cornered Hat*, Suites 1 and 2

GERSHWIN: *Rhapsody in Blue*

RAVEL: Piano Concerto in G

GINASTERA: *Estancia*

March 13, 2010

Alon Goldstein, piano

BORODIN: *In the Steppes of Central Asia*

DORMAN: Piano Concerto (**East Coast Premiere!**)

SIBELIUS: *The Lemminkäinen Legends*

May 1, 2010

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Julie Albers, cello

HIGDON: *blue cathedral*

ELGAR: Cello Concerto

MOZART: Symphony No. 38, *Prague*

BARBER: *Medea's Meditation and Dance of Vengeance*

January 23, 2010

Augustin Hadelich, violin

HAYDN: Symphony No. 92

BARBER: Violin Concerto

SIBELIUS: Symphony No. 1

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