

ALONSOVILLE VOICE

“IT’S A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD”

Calling on all Alonsoville artists and poets!

Please submit your art for July/August, the art issue of Alonsoville Voice.



Photo by Denise Bolton

ONCE UPON A TIME

Cold Spring Lane was a black two-lane road that ended at Roland Avenue.

Streetcars ran along Roland Avenue.

There was a coal yard where the Farm Store sits.

The Ma and Pa (Maryland and Pennsylvania) Railroad ran between Stony Run and Wickford Road.

Alonso Sr. sold penny candy in his store during prohibition.

The Alonsoville picnic was in the park.

There were ponies for kids to ride.

-- Keswick History Notebook

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“I heard you threw your clubs into the pond.”

“Not all of them.”

-- a pair of disc golfers in Druid Hill Park

David Bolton

Writer,
Editor &
Bon Vivant
writeventures@gmail.com

Sara Pak

Newsletter Designer &
Dog Photo Judge
ksarapak@gmail.com

Listserv issues?

Contact James Stevenson,
james.m.stevenson@gmail.com

Want recycling weekly?

Call 311.
Make your voice known.

Got an issue with the City?

Contact your City
Councilwoman,

Odette Ramos

410.396.4814 (office)

443.801.8137 (mobile)

odette.ramos@baltimorecity.gov





1967, Drawing First Style Painting in Herculaneum

Anne Laidlaw

A Life of Adventure and Independence

DAVID BOLTON

In March of 1960 28-year-old Anne Laidlaw was in Rome, a dual fellow (Fulbright & Roman Prize) at the American Academy. She was writing her dissertation on Roman empire theaters. She and a fellow graduate student, 25-year-old Bettie Forte, intended to drive to Turkey to study the preserved Roman sites. Professors at the Academy tried to dissuade the two women from traveling through that unstable country, but Anne and Bettie would not hear of it.

Off they went in their Volkswagen, driving across Yugoslavia to Athens. They took a boat to Istanbul and drove “all over” the western part of Turkey. There was so much to see, beginning with Troy and what Anne described in a recent interview as “gorgeous Roman sites,” including many theaters.

They drove along the Meander River valley, over dirt roads not meant for a car. The Turks they met were “delighted” to see the Americans.

During their exploration, Anne said they were treated “wonderfully.

A soldier in a jeep pulled up behind the Volkswagen and signaled for them to pull over.

“Until you have your first revolution, you’re not a proper archaeologist.”
– Bettie Forte

In May Anne and Bettie noticed that the police were now all military. On a mountain road, an officer with a prisoner “commandeered” their car, ordering them to drive to Antalya, hours from their destination. It would be a long day getting there. At their hotel, they learned that martial law had been declared, with a 9pm curfew. The democratically elected government was being overthrown. So they headed north to Istanbul, driving along the coast. Time to return to Greece.

“The minute we got outside the Roman gate, both sides of the road were filled with military vehicles, troop carriers, fancy guns, the entire Turkish army preparing to take Istanbul.” Anne picked up speed, trying to get to the Greek border.

A “spic and span” lieutenant approached, asking where they were going in what Anne called “guidebook English.”

Anne answered in Turkish: “Yunanistan.” He let them go. Two miles later they were stopped again before being waved on. They were driving through an invading army. Finally they reached the border, only the border wasn’t for Greece, but Romania. The Turks had not been forthcoming in directions. Anne and Bettie were directed to another border, Bulgaria.

“Finally, we stumbled across the Greek border, no-man’s land for 100 meters. The Greeks showered us with laughter.” They had just received a call from a Turkish officer. He wanted them back, for speeding. How did this New England gal find herself in this position?



2006, House of Sallust, Pompeii

Perhaps her most significant work occurred in Pompeii, a source for a number of articles, reviews, and three books. The hefty *The First Style of Pompeii: Painting and Architecture* is considered “the Bible” on First Style painting patterns, reflecting 20 years of research. Her last book, *The House of Sallust in Pompeii*, published in 2014, describes a specific house in Pompeii, first excavated in the 19th century, which had major examples of preserved First Style painting.

“When you are excavating,” Anne explained, “you become attached to a particular place. You identify with the building.” With a National Endowment grant, she dug under floors, found Roman pots with black glaze, and coins. The styles of pots dated the house to 140BC.

Looking back, Anne said “the happiest time in her life” was her first time at the American Academy in Rome. She had a boyfriend from Lubbock, Texas, with a Vespa, and they spent the days tooling along roads, visiting ancient sites and museums.

In ‘96 she moved from central Virginia to Alonsoville, buying a house next to Patty Laidlaw, no relation. She lives with her cat, Catullo, named after a Roman love poet who was a contemporary of Julius Caesar. She goes to the gym three days a week and enjoys reading in her sunroom. Currently, she is working her way through the ACLU’s list of banned books, including *Beloved*, by Toni Morrison. An avid reader of American history, Anne keeps handy a copy of the Constitution to check against “our present weird politics, a mindset based on belief, not reason.” Spoken by a woman who dedicated her life to the pursuit of knowledge.



2015, studying First Style Roman plaster fragments at Cosa (a Roman colony on the coast of Tuscany that was excavated by the American Academy in Rome).

The Path to Pompeii

A child of the Great Depression, Anne Laidlaw grew up in a highly educated family of writers and painters. They lived in a small village on Cape Cod, 30 miles “out to sea.” Living off her grandmother’s trust (\$300 monthly), her parents rented a large Victorian mansion, a ramshackle 25-room house that young Anne “adored.” It was just a mile and a half from the ocean.

She chose to major in marine biology at Bryn Mawr College. Chemistry proved a challenge. When she “flunked math,” she shifted her major to Latin. Upon graduation, she taught Latin and English for five years in the Quaker schools around Philadelphia.

In 1955, she found her life’s work while earning a certificate in Roman Archaeology at the American Academy in Rome Summer School. By the end of the summer, an assistant professor at the American Academy convinced the Latin teacher to go to graduate school and study archaeology.

“I saved my money from teaching, so I could afford to go to Yale. The shift from supervising 14-year-old girls to a grad student at Yale University was wonderful.” She paid six dollars a week for a room and rode her bike out to the old campus, many times staying there from nine in the morning till 11 at night. Eventually, Yale would pay for the rest of her graduate work. A Fulbright fellowship brought her to Rome for two years.

Earning a PhD in Latin and Archaeology in 1963, Anne admits she didn’t have “a clue about politics.” Her passion was archaeology. She did her dissertation on Cosa, a Roman colony 90 miles north of Rome. Over a seven-year span, she participated in the dig as a staff member.

The first year they were looking for the foundations of a temple. They ran a trench 15 or 20 yards long and dug through the medieval levels. Approximately 15 meters down, they found no temple, instead “an archaeological dump from the houses destroyed in a siege: building stones, household pottery, a thousand fragments of wall paintings, every possible thing dating back to the siege in 80BC.” A skeleton in a house cistern showed the extent of the violence. They also found a hidden hoard of coins under the kitchen floor of a house, 2005 mint silver coins from the same era. From the writings of Cicero, they surmised that Mediterranean pirates had attacked Cosa. Either the city had fallen, or it was abandoned.

She became an expert in ancient Roman painting fragments, particularly the First Pompeian style of painting. If she found a fragment of a raised panel, Anne could immediately date the fragment to that style.

Meanwhile, she was trying to land a job in Rome or in the States, but universities were not hiring women. In 1961, she became an instructor in classical studies at Hollins College, a women’s college in central Virginia. Rising to full professor and chairman of Classical Studies, she would be a vital part of Hollins until 1996. Anne loved teaching, but any time she wasn’t, you would find her either in Cape Cod or in Rome, engrossed in an archaeological project.

In the 1980s, she worked as a consultant for the German Mission in Carthage. Her research on the Greco-Roman world would take her to Syria, Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Libya (she was there when Gaddafi ran off the Italians), Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, England, France, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Hungary, Russia, Yugoslavia and Malta.

RENEW BALTIMORE

Cutting Real Estate Taxes?

Renew Baltimore, a coalition of local residents, is gathering signatures of 10,000 Baltimore City voters so that Renew Baltimore's property tax cut plan is on the ballot this November 8th. Currently, Baltimore City's property tax rate is 2.248%; Renew Baltimore's plan lowers this rate to 1.25% over the next six years, making the city's property tax rate competitive with Baltimore County, which currently has a 1.100% property tax rate.

The Baltimore City Board of Elections recently approved the two petitions that Renew Baltimore is asking Baltimore City voters to sign. One petition specifies the exact property tax rate cut plan, and the other makes it less likely for the plan to be reversed in the future. Renew Baltimore's website (www.RenewBaltimore.org) is expected to come online later this month. This is a 'grassroots' effort by Baltimore City residents to lower the property tax rate for the benefit of homeowners, non-home property owners, businesses, and Baltimore City. To help Renew Baltimore gather additional valid signatures, contact Matt Wyskiel (cell: 410-218-1472) or mwyskiel@gmail.com).

KESWICK IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Seeking a Solution to Speeding on Cold Spring Lane

On June 6, KIA met via Zoom with Tiffany Walker, Department of Transportation Chief of Engagement and Damoonen Taylor, Concept Design Engineer for DOT. They were there to get feedback on how to make the Cold Spring Lane corridor safer. There was talk about creating a buffered area using flex posts to slow traffic at the intersection of Cold Spring & Keswick. Mr. Taylor presented a layout of the proposal. While this may have value, it would not end the speeding.

Jack Carneal, a 20-year resident at the corner of Wickford and Coldspring, said it best: "People go 50 to 55 miles per hour, and no one pays attention. People are flying down the hill, running the lights." Everyone agreed that speed cameras were the solution. Mr. Taylor said he would "explore the idea of speed cameras. The entire corridor needs attention." Both Ms. Walker and Mr. Taylor said they would be glad to return to the next KIA meeting in September and report on the issue.

NEWS & NOTES

July/August issue, the Summer Issue of *Alonsoville Voice*, is the art issue. Looking for poems and photos of your paintings and sculpture. If you wish, please add a paragraph describing the work and the medium, acrylic, watercolor, etc. For the poets, what was the inspiration for the poem? Sometimes adding an explanation adds to the richness of the words. We do accept "prose poems."

Maryland Primaries, Tuesday, July 19

Kudos to Raphael Filippi for putting together "The Sparkle Unicorn Show," which highlights the recent Alonsoville picnic. For the privacy of the children, the video is set up for private viewing only: https://youtu.be/QA_BbjNDGPo.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

ALONSOVILLE ANIMAL KINGDOM

TOM McCracken

Owls, foxes, coyotes are so yesterday. Late yesterday afternoon this beauty was spotted exploring our front door. There must have been a mouse in one of my boots...or was it the devil himself out on a recruiting trip?

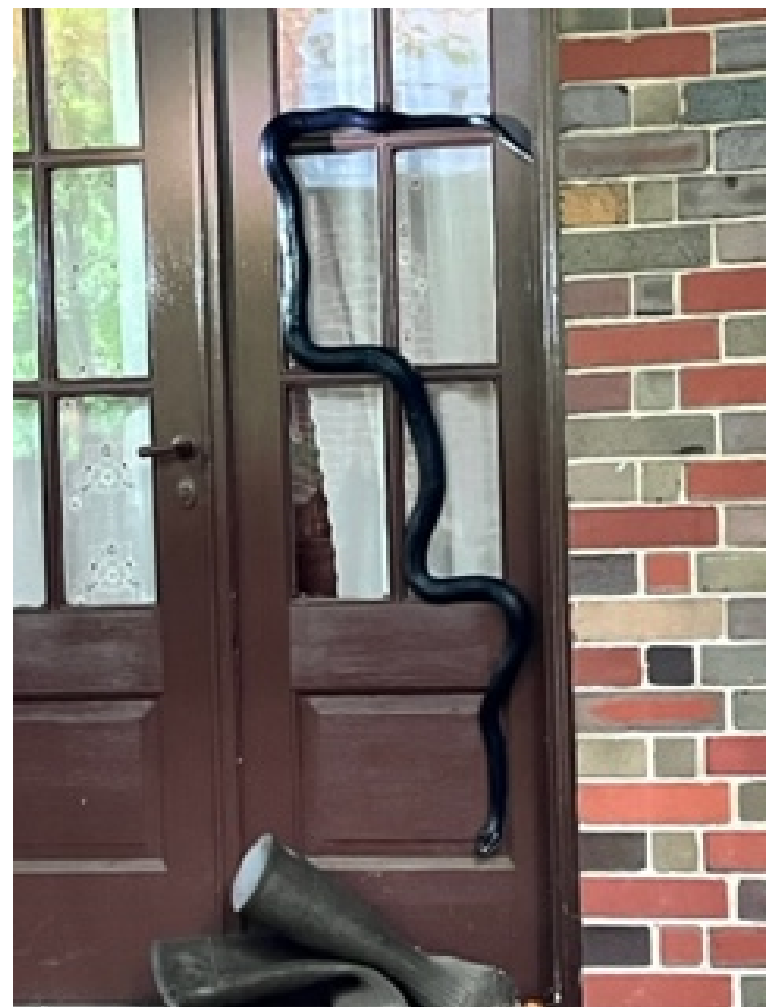


Photo by Tom McCracken





Photo by John Dean (Louie's Human)

FEATURED DOG IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Emperor Louie

Keeping watch on the wall

SUBMIT A PHOTO OF YOUR DOG!

Your dog can be featured here in the Alonsoville Voice. Just like Louie. Remember, the July/August issue is the Art Issue so make it ARTSY!

Please send a photo of your dog, along with the name, age, breed and anything else that makes your dog unique and adorable. Cats and gerbils may be considered in the future.

Submit all photos to ksarapak@gmail.com.



ONE MORE WORD

DAVID BOLTON

Often after spending hours in front of the computer, I walk to clear my head. One of my favorite strolls takes me past the dog run at Wyman Park. I turn left and go over the bridge and up the hill to Hopkins campus. If you've done this climb, perhaps you have noticed off to the right a bench nestled between rock walls. Each rock is painted in a rainbow color. Behind the bench is a marker etched into the facing: "Presented by S. Rippe, 1885." Among the graffiti on the bench is a single-line poem spray painted in coral letters: "**The Earth has music for those who listen.**" How fortunate that Alonsoville residents can hear the laughter of children; the avian symphony; the banter of neighbors; the breeze sweeping through trees—I could go on, but you get the point. We are blessed to live in such a sweet place.



Photo by Denise Bolton