

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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MARCH 1988

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Winter Shelter Provides Warm Beds, Sometimes A Fresh Start

by Robert Lowes

If you walk into the basement of Grace and Peace Fellowship on a winter night, you'll encounter between twenty and twenty-four women whose troubles go beyond the dead car batteries, over-cooked chickens, and ignored RSVPs common to most people. A few of the women might be watching television, and a few others might be exercising, but many will simply be lying on cots set up in the church's dining room.

That is the bottom line at Grace and Peace Winter Shelter—a warm, peaceful place for homeless women to sleep. But the shelter does rise above this minimum expectation, thanks in part to dozens of volunteers from the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood. The women find compassion, a little education and entertainment, and sometimes, a fresh start. Seven of the women from the 1986-1987 shelter season left to find jobs and live in their own apartments.

"It's all because they had a little bit of a stabilization period," says LaVerna Meyer, director of the shelter and a member of Grace and Peace Fellowship.

The Grace and Peace Winter Shelter is a satellite shelter of St. Peter and Paul Winter Shelter, which is operated in St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Soulard. The Soulard shelter, an ecumenical effort, accommodates homeless men. Another satellite shelter at St. John's Episcopal Church at 3664 Arsenal St. cares for women with children.

The Grace and Peace shelter occupies a special niche by opening its doors to women without children. Meyer says such women in the past have tended to dislike the nursery-like atmosphere of other shelters where children were accepted.

"Probably 60 to 80 percent of the people we're talking about (at the Grace and Peace shelter) are mentally ill, and they can't tolerate noise and crowded conditions," Meyer says.



Photo by King Schoenfeld

With the St. Peter and Paul providing money, equipment, and advice, Grace and Peace established its twenty-two-bed shelter in 1986. In the first winter season, from Dec. 1, 1986, to March 31, 1987, ninety-eight women slept there. The average stay was twenty-four nights.

Two paid workers provide direction and continuity, but the shelter couldn't function without the volunteers who spend the night.

Preparing an evening meal with donated food at the Grace and Peace night shelter for women are (from left): Volunteers Katherine Lutjens and Poogy Bjerklie, while night manager Jim Bakeman and shelter director LaVerna Meyer talk and plan the evening's activities.

Continued on page 8.

Laughs and Desserts To Delight April Theatregoers

- WHEN:** Saturday, April 9, 1988
8:00 p.m. curtain
- WHERE:** Center of Contemporary Arts
524 Trinity (behind CASA)
- WHAT:** Community Theatre production of classic melodrama
Hors d'oeuvres—cocktail—coffee—dessert—reception
- FEATURING:** Rita Sweets, Director
Sterling neighborhood talent (and others)
Cast, crew, cooks, ushers, etc.
- SPONSOR:** Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, with support from the
Regional Arts Commission

The neighborhood dinner theatre tradition of the 1970's was revived in 1986 to help celebrate SDCC's 20th anniversary. The heart wrenching melodrama "Penelope, Pride of the Pickle Factory" was directed by Rita Sweets and featured the "Double Decade Pickled Players" including: Karen Kelsey, Venita Lake, Tina Offner, Peggy Peters, Roy Bell, Dan Shea, Kathleen Williams, Rich Lake, Paul Kurtz, Betty Nerviani, Al Nerviani, and Cal Stuart, with guest appearances by John Roach and Steve Vossmeier. One reviewer

(O.K., the only reviewer) wrote of the production: "Following Cal Stuart's lead, the audience 'slipped' into an exciting and enjoyable evening." (Cal says he was tripped and I, for one, believe him.)

Enthusiasm for this event hasn't waned, and with the help of a Regional Arts Commission grant, SDCC will sponsor another community theatre production next month on April 9. Rita Sweets will again deftly direct many from the "Penelope" cast along with newcomers (to the neighborhood and the stage) and old-timers (who missed the '86 revival), in another sensational play of villainy and heroism.

To the disappointment of many, dinner will not be served after the play this year. There will be plenty of eating and drinking, mind you. Plans for a reception after the play include a buffet of hors d'oeuvres and desserts, cocktails and coffee. Unfortunately, the restrictions on use and the cost of space at COCA, precludes our offering a full sit-down dinner. In way of consolation to the die-hard diners, we hope to feature the winning entries from the *Times* hors d'oeuvres contest at the reception. (Double portions of that 1000+ calorie per serving snack, please.)

The minor details of this production—name of the play, ticket prices, you know, that last minute stuff—will be announced soon. Watch for the April *Times* and/or flyers for more info.

Meanwhile, if you can help with this event in any way, please call SDCC, 862-5122. No, anyone *can* help. If you *will* help, please call. Soon!! Help!! Damsel in distress...

Thank you...

The following have made donations to **The Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere** as part of our recent push to raise operating funds. Those names which appear in bold face type have given \$100 or more. The list will be ongoing.

Brian Clevenger & Mary Anne Rudloff

Sue and Sandy Rothschild

Venita and Richard Lake

Paul and Katie Kurtz

Joan and Ray Bruen

Rosedale Neighborhood Association

Cal and Gee Stuart

Ernest Stix

Margaret Droege

Steve Ensor Construction Company

Maggie Hart-Mahon and Bob Mahon

Msgr. Salvatore Polizzi

Thomas A. Scatizzi

Blueberry Hill

Polly O'Brien & Barrett Toan

David Garin

Nancy & Richard Rice

5900 Block of DeGiverville

Marcia Kerz

Marvin Nodiff

Lisa and Bill Horner

Marj and Brad Weir

Bob and Heidi Dowgwillo

JoAnn and Neville Vatcha

Tom and Karleen Hoerr

Dee and King Schoenfeld

Anne and James McCarthy

Mary and Hitch Powell

Margie Brammeier

John and Cindy Curley

Paula and Paul Repetto



DeBaliviere Strip Is Coming Along

Photo by Greg Weir

Hospital to Seek Funds for Laser

St. Louis Regional Medical Center has begun a campaign to raise \$50,000 as the result of an anonymous donor's pledge of \$15,000 toward the purchase of a surgical laser for gynecological use.

The cash gift is conditioned on Regional's raising the full cost of the laser by Sept. 30.

"We are very pleased and excited about this pledge," said Robert B. Johnson, Regional's president and chief executive officer. "We believe it indicates a growing appreciation of Regional's role in the community."

"The donor is a Central West End businesswoman who wants to express her support for Regional's mission of providing expert health care, primarily for those unable to pay the full cost."

Johnson said Regional would be soliciting additional donations from individuals and groups, especially women's organizations.

The medical center's employees and the Regional Auxiliary already are planning special fund-raising events to help in the campaign, he said.

The gift would be the largest cash donation from an individual to Regional since the medical center's inception in July, 1985. The medical center, at 5535 Delmar Blvd., serves

the medically indigent residents of St. Louis and St. Louis County as well as the general public.

The new laser would allow Regional's physicians to make use of the latest technology in the removal of cervical lesions, according to Klaus Staisch, M.D., chief of obstetrics and gynecology at Regional.

"We have a limited budget for the purchase of new equipment, so a pledge for this purpose is especially welcome. At present, we use conventional surgery or freezing to remove precancerous lesions, preinvasive cancers and warts in the cervical area. Both methods at times cause scarring that reduces fertility or causes subsequent pain."

"The virus that causes the warts has been linked to cancer, and a new study has shown a relationship between cervical warts and low birthweight and preterm babies."

"Most laser procedures can be done in our outpatient surgery service, so that the patient can go home the same day."

"Because we have many women of child-bearing age in our patient population, Regional is developing a top-quality OB/Gyn service. The purchase of this laser will help us advance toward that goal."

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Editor: Katie Kurtz, 727-6377

The Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere is published by the West End Publishing Co., a not-for-profit, community organization. Members of the Board of Directors are:

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Guidelines for Submitting Copy

The Times welcomes unsolicited articles and letters. Because of the small size and volunteer nature of the writing staff, the quality and range of The Times has always depended in large part on submissions from non-staff area residents.

All material—articles, letters, notices, classified ads—must be typewritten on opaque paper, double-spaced, and signed. Signatures on correspondence to the editor may, on publication, be omitted by request. Calendar listings should be phoned or mailed to the staff member responsible for the Calendar of Events. Deadline for all copy is the 15th of the month.

In a news article it is essential that the writer state the most important information in the first paragraph. The writer is responsible for the accuracy of data, including times, dates, locations and particularly the spelling of names.

Any pictures or illustrations submitted should be in black and white.

The editor retains the right to omit or alter any material.

Send all correspondence to 6010a Kingsbury, 63112. Deadline: 15th of the month.



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March Calendar

"Nation's First Olympic Games," photographic exhibition, Missouri Historical Society, Forest Park; "I, Too, Sing America: Black St. Louisans in the 1940s," an exhibition featuring a living room, c. 1948, filled with photographs, newspapers, magazines and other memorabilia from World War II and the post-war era recalling the lives of black St. Louisans in the 1940s. Missouri Historical Society, thru March. 9:30 a.m.-4:45 p.m., Tues.-Sat. Free.

Through 3/13: Robert Adam and Kedleston, "The Making of a Neo-Classical Masterpiece." Cohen Gallery, St. Louis Art Museum.

Through 5/29: Enamels and Maiolica from the Lopata Collection, Gallery 120, St. Louis Art Museum.

MARCH

- 5 Children's Program: "Folk Art—Painting," 10:30 a.m., Missouri Historical Society, free.
Storytelling at the Kingsbury Kiosk, 11 a.m., to be held at the 28th Ward Headquarters, Des Peres at Kingsbury.
- 6 Thomas Harmon performs the Howard B. Kelsey Organ Recital, 2 p.m., Graham Chapel, Washington University.
Reception for artists Susan Bostwick at The Gallery, University City Library, 3 p.m. Her drawings will be on display through 3/31 at the library, 6701 Delmar.
- 7 **Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council meets**, 7:30 p.m., 6010a Kingsbury.
- 8 *Caesar* (film), 5:30 & 8:15 p.m., Art Museum Auditorium, \$2, \$1 for Friends.
Showboat (film), 5:30 p.m., Hamilton Community School, 5819 Westminster, free.
- 10 *Raisin in the Sun* (film), 5:30 p.m., Hamilton Community School, 5819 Westminster, free.
Japan's "Pro Musica Nipponia" premiere St. Louis concert at The Sheldon, 3748 Washington, 7:30 p.m. Tickets, \$15; call the Japan America Society, 726-6822 for info.
- 11 *Once Upon A Time In The West* (film), with Charles Bronson and Henry Fonda. 1:30, 7 & 9:15 p.m., Art Museum Auditorium, \$2; \$1 for Friends.
"Frederic Remington: The Masterworks," exhibition opens, Special Exhibition Galleries, St. Louis Art Museum. Thru 5/22.
- 13 "Earhart, Lindbergh, Markham—Pioneering Women Pilots," talk by Pat Vern-Harris. 2 p.m., Missouri Historical Society, free.
- 15 *In the Heat of the Night* (film), 5:30 p.m., Hamilton Community School, 5819 Westminster, free. (Parental discretion advised.)
- 17 *Soldier's Story* (film), 5:30 p.m., Hamilton Community School, 5819 Westminster, free. (Parental discretion advised.)
"Tender Loving Care: Interpreting and Conserving Your Family Photographs," talk by Katharine T. Corbett, followed by tea with pastries, 1:30 p.m., Missouri Historical Society. \$3, for reservations call 361-1424.
- 18 *Buffalo Bill and the Indians* (film), with Paul Newman and Burt Lancaster. 1:30, 7 & 9:15 p.m., Art Museum Auditorium, \$2, \$1 for Friends.
- 19 **Blarney Roch, St. Roch's Dinner Auction**, Waterman at Rosedale. Call 721-6340 for further information.
Children's program: "Folk Art—Needlework," 10:30 a.m., Missouri Historical Society, free.
- 20 "Salute to the St. Louis Olympics," talk by June Becht, 2 p.m., Missouri Historical Society, free.
- 21 Congressman William H. Gray III (D-PA), will speak at 3:30 p.m., Graham Chapel, Washington University.
- 22 *Carmen* (film), with Placido Domingo, 5:30 & 8 p.m., Art Museum Auditorium, \$2; \$1 for Friends.
- 23 William Safire will speak on integrity and responsibility in public discourse, 11 a.m., Graham Chapel, Washington University.
Eton College Chapel Choir for Windsor, England, 8 p.m., Graham Chapel, Washington University.
Sculptor Michael Hall will discuss recent work, 8 p.m. An exhibition of his work "Reasoned to Believe" thru 3/23, St. Louis Gallery of Contemporary Art, 524 Trinity. Call 725-8655 for info.

- 25 "Humanity as Artifact: Fantastic Visions of the Russian Avant-Garde," talk by John E. Bowlt, 7:30 p.m., Steinberg Hall Auditorium, Washington University.
She Wore A Yellow Ribbon (film), 1:30, 7 & 9:15 p.m., Art Museum Auditorium, \$2, \$1 for Friends.
- 26 Children's Program: "Folk Art—Cowboy Music," 10:30 a.m., Missouri Historical Society, free.
- 29 *Don Giovanni* (film), with Kiri te Kanawa, 7:30 p.m., Art Museum Auditorium, \$2, \$1 for Friends.



Western artist Frederic Remington will be the subject of a major exhibition at The Saint Louis Art Museum. Opening March 11, such works as *The Cheyenne*, 1901 (pictured above) will be on display as part of 20 bronze sculptures and 46 paintings making up "Frederic Remington: The Masterworks." Well known for his realistic, action-oriented depictions of Indians and cowboys, Remington's later works promise to reveal a previously underestimated quality and style. The show runs through May 22 and is the first major traveling exhibition of the artist's work.

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Noted Soprano To Be In Concert At Grace

Mary Henderson, internationally known mezzo-soprano, will perform a program of spirituals Sunday, April 24, 4 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 6199 Waterman Blvd. Henderson will be accompanied on piano by St. Louisan Karen Laubengayer.

The program is sponsored by the West End Neighborhood Arts Council, the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council and

Washington University with support from the Regional Arts Commission and Citicorp.

Tickets are \$5, \$2.50 for students, and \$25 for patrons; patrons receive two tickets for the concert and will be acknowledged in the program. For tickets, call SDCC, 862-5122, or contact an Arts Council or Community Council board member.



February SDCC Report

The Minutes of the Skinker Debaliviere Community Council held February 1, 1988.

Attending: Bob Dowgwillo, Georgi Fox, Kathleen Hamilton, Toni Hayes, Karleen Hoerr, Paul Kurtz, Bob Mahon, Jim McLeod, Paul Repetto, Eddie Sanders, Neville Vatcha, Kathy Wobus, Jack Wright, Nancy Farmer.

Guests: Sgt. E. Meemer, Lt. L. Lee, 7th District Police; Alan Hamilton, Laurel Associates; Charles Mosely, CWE Journal; Linda Emerson, Breitmeyer Ministry, Grace United Methodist Church; Dr. Larry Gallamore, Pastor, Grace United Methodist Church.

McLeod introduced A. Hamilton. Hamilton has managed the Laurel Apartments, Laurel at Pershing, the past three years for a group of limited partners. The project has had problems, in part because adjacent projects have not developed as quickly as anticipated.

Hamilton has agreed to take over the limited partnership with the help of a loan from CDA. He requests SDCC endorse his request for this loan in the amount of \$30,000. The loan will help keep the project in operation, and, he hopes, to stabilize it for a couple of years. He looks forward, especially, to Nina Place being well underway by then.

Questions and discussion followed:

Does SDCC enter a Neighborhood Agreement with this endorsement? Yes. Will Hamilton list SDCC as an additional insured on his liability coverage? Yes.

Is the loan forgiven if the project is sold? No. The loan is due when the project is sold, or, in 25 years.

Will the project be converted to condos? No; the 25 units will remain rental.

The rehab of this project is good quality; it was an earlier project of City Equity. While they are physically very nice units, they are tucked away, low profile, in an area that has some problems. Hamilton wants to keep the project going and needs this loan to do it. Occupancy is the problem; there are currently seven vacant units. Occupancy of rental units metro-wide is running about 80%; this project averages 70%.

Kurtz moved that SDCC endorse this loan request pending a review of the Council's legal liability. Second by Repetto and approved.

McLeod introduced **Linda Emerson**, Breitmeyer Ministry, Grace United Methodist Church. Emerson explained Breitmeyer is a sponsor of the annual summer day camp which SDCC supports with a SLATE contract to employ teenagers. SDCC also co-sponsored a Christmas party for neighborhood children in December with Breitmeyer. The Breitmeyer Ministry was founded and named for a former organist at the church. When Douglas Breitmeyer, only in his mid-forties, died in 1973, members of Grace founded the community ministry in his name. With proceeds from their endowment and fund raisers, Breitmeyer employs Emerson 30 hours a week.

Emerson plans a day camp again this summer. The cooperative effort of several institutions for the day camp last year was a little confusing. There were 122 children; the camp was divided between two sites; there were 16 SLATE workers—in short, it was difficult for

everyone to manage. This year, Delmar Baptist is independently sponsoring a two-week vacation Bible School, and Breitmeyer is planning an eight-week camp with lower enrollment.

Emerson plans to serve neighborhood children first; last year, up to 70% of the enrollment was from outside the area. The camp will run 8:30-4:30, Monday-Friday. Tuition will be \$100-\$120, with a 10% discount for additional children from the same family. The camp will serve children 5-13 years old and begin mid-June, ending mid-August.

Emerson will direct the camp; a second full-time employee will be requested from Metro Ministries. Emerson asked if SDCC will contract with SLATE for 7-8 youth workers and one full-time supervisor to work at the camp.

What is the role of SDCC? Administrative, primarily related to SLATE contract.

Kurtz moved SDCC support the camp by contracting with SLATE and that we fund a scholarship for a neighborhood child to participate. Second by Hoerr and approved.

Emerson outlined other neighborhood program plans: Valentine Dance, 2/12, 8-12 p.m., \$5 per person. Easter Egg Hunt in March and Neighborhood Carnival in August.

Dowgwillo commented Rosedale sponsors Rags to Riches in early September, maybe the Carnival could be held in conjunction with yard sale day.

Breitmeyer also has an ongoing job referral service, matching individuals looking for work with employers who contact the office looking for workers. It has been very successful; most of the work is temporary, but Pantheon has hired five of Emerson's referrals. Emerson checks references, etc. The service is growing and has great potential.

G. Fox commented she looks forward to Emerson working with SDCC's social service committee. The committee can be a good resource for some of these programs.

McLeod introduced **Lt. Lee** and **Sgt. Messmer** from 7th District Police. Lt. Lee was the first officer to arrive at the scene of the recent robbery/homicide at Talayna's. Lee related his experience that evening and summarized the subsequent investigation. He reported the homicide division has good information and good leads in the case.

Discussion followed about the size of our precinct, the number of police in the area, and the incidents of crime at that corner.

Farmer reported that Mike Faille, owner of Talayna's, plans to install additional lighting on the outside of his building and employ a security guard from dusk to closing.

Repetto suggested that the Skinker Planning Committee would be the appropriate body to follow up with Talayna's. McLeod asked if the committee would do so.

Skinker Planning Committee—Repetto reviewed the history of the parking problem that affects Grace Church, the Skinker Place Apartments, the neighbors in Parkview, and on 6100 McPherson. While there was a verbal agreement between the church and the apartment management allowing tenants to use the church's parking lot on McPherson, there was never a formal agreement until recently.

Repetto presented plans for the expansion of the parking lot, south toward the street. By expanding the lot and closing the alley entrance/exit, the number of spaces is increased from 29 to 42. McPherson traffic will be two-way between the parking lot entrance and Skinker.

Grace will pay for the cost of the expansion and, in turn, lease 13 spaces to the Skinker Place Apartment Building.

Neighbors immediately adjacent to the parking lot have met and approved these plans, as have the Parkview Agents and the full Skinker Planning committee. Residents of 6100 McPherson and Kingsbury were informed of these plans in writing and invited to review them with Repetto, Alderman McGuire and other committee representatives. Grace Church has unanimously approved the plan.

Repetto asked SDCC to approve the plan. Kurtz moved SDCC approve the plan for the expansion of Grace United Methodist Church's parking lot, at 6181-85 McPherson, as presented. Second by B. Mahon and approved.

McLeod commented this plan is a good example of how institutions, associations, and businesses can work together. He commented that Repetto's concise presentation of the plan belied the many hours of meetings and work that went into it. McLeod thanked Repetto and all the others involved for their efforts.

Home Improvement Loan Committee—McLeod reported the proposal to the Neighborhood Assistance Program has been approved for 1988.

Social Service Committee—Fox reported the committee will compile a list of the institutions and what services they provide in the neighborhood. The committee asked Kalimba Kindell, director of Hamilton Community School, to prepare a list of the school's needs. The committee will consider organizing volunteers to help with tutoring in the GED classes where current student-teacher ratio is 20:1. The committee is still finding out who needs what, and who is doing what.

Discussion followed about the need for programs and activities for children.

Rosedale Neighborhood Association—Dowgwillo reported the first mailing of new neighbor packets were sent last week. The packet included: Good Neighbor Guide, auto theft pamphlet, a Safe Street pamphlet, SDCC brochure, and a cover letter. Packets were sent to property managers in hopes they will reproduce them for new tenants. The next Rosedale meeting will be held mid-March. Rosedale is accepting nominations for officers; elections are scheduled for May.

Parkview Agents—Mahon reported the Agents have developed a six-year plan for capital improvements in the subdivision including resurfacing streets and sidewalk repair. Implementation is contingent on approval of an increase in assessments. He added there is an engineering problem with the street lights in Parkview which has not been solved. Wells Fargo continues to provide security in Parkview; crime is down across the board and the Fargo guards are responsible for three arrests in University City.

Director's Report

People's Clinic, 5701 Delmar, has requested a letter of support from SDCC for their grant application to the Urban Health Initiative. Kurtz moved SDCC write a letter of support for their application; second by K. Hamilton and approved.

Rosedale Square—Foreclosure took place Jan. 21 and 26. HUD, who had guaranteed the loan, now holds the title to the property. HUD has contracted with Shirley Chism to manage the project during the interim period while the buildings are appraised and sold.

CDA/St. Louis Centre special event, March 26—As suggested at the last meeting, Farmer contacted the Central West End Association and Washington University Medical Center Redevelopment Corporation; they are interested in sponsoring a large booth for the event together with SDCC and possibly the West End Neighborhood Arts Council. The day-long event will feature displays by neighborhood organizations, housing corporations, city agencies, and cultural institutions, with the goal of promoting city life.

Edward's Lounge/Liquor Store—The second protest hearing on his 3 a.m. liquor license application was January 22. Mr. Edwards had neither a majority of first floor tenants of property owners' signatures, but it was very close.

There is precedent for having an ordinance which prohibits 3 a.m. liquor licenses within specific boundaries, e.g. the Central West End has such a law. Directors might consult with constituents to see if such an ordinance might be appropriate here. Directors requested Farmer pursue this with Alderman McGuire.

Property Manager's Association—T. Cohn of Forest Park Investment, called Farmer with the idea of forming an association of property managers in Skinker DeBaliviere, which would have the primary goal of marketing and promoting the neighborhood. Both Shaw neighborhood and DeSales have such associations. The timing is good considering the March event at St. Louis Centre. Cohn asked SDCC for assistance at this preliminary stage to find out if there's interest in forming such an association, how it could be structured, etc. Fox moved SDCC proceed with forming this association; second by Wobus and approved.

Dinner Theatre—A small group met with Rita Sweets two weeks ago and will meet again Wednesday night. The major obstacle is finding a place to hold it: New City is not available until mid-May, Crossroads' auditorium is not big enough. The two suggestions right now are Center of Contemporary Arts and the Sheldon. It has been suggested also, that the dinner be dropped; following the performance there would be cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.

M.L. King Commemoration—150 to 200 attended; it was a great program.

7th District Public Affairs meeting—The agenda tomorrow evening is open group discussion about problems and concerns of residents in the district; Lt. Reese will lead the discussion: 7 p.m. at 7th District Station, 5240 Enright.

Meeting adjourned 10:00 p.m.

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Times Marks Greatest Fund-Raising Success At Appetizer Contest



Winners of the 1988 hors d'oeuvre contest (from left): 1st row, Nancy Farmer and Lisa Horner; 2nd row, Lois Schoemehl and Paula Repetto; 3rd row, Christine Smith and Dee Schoenfeld; back row, Rose Storey and Katie Kurtz, editor. Not pictured: Bette Botz, Georgi Fox, Karleen Hoerr, and Jo Ann Vatcha.



Judges Marvin Nodiff, Sandy Rothschild, and Brian Clevenger tasting some of the appetizers entered in the hors d'oeuvre contest.

by Katie Kurtz

It is the morning after the night before. The final tally of how much money was made last night (Feb. 27) at *The Times'* fund raiser is still in process. However, it seems clear that the hors d'oeuvre contest held at the offices of Smart Planning, 500 N. Skinker, was an unqualified success—financially to *The Times* and gastronomically to all who attended.

Not only were our budget projections exceeded, but this party looks to have broken all previous fund-raising efforts (it is a good thing, given our situation!). It would not have been possible without the help and support from many people, and I would like to thank those individuals who truly made it happen: Bob Smart and Sherry Delo, and their staff at Smart Planning—without whose generous

and gracious hospitality it simply would not have happened; Steven Ensor and his wife, Linda—he is the contractor to whom credit is due for the beautiful rehab and together, they made a very generous donation toward stocking the bar; Sam Green (what would the neighborhood ever do without Sam?)—Sam made the initial contact with Steve, not to mention hauling tables, beer, ice, carving a stubborn turkey, the list could go on; Nancy Farmer, Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council's executive director, donated Council resources and avidly watched the newspaper for the best beer buys in town; and Peggy Droege who, through her company—Renard Paper—donated all the paper products and cups.

Those who attended know that we broke tradition from the previous cookie contests by not giving out cash prizes. Instead, neighborhood business people made donations which were "custom-made" to go with the winners (at least we tried to do that). Many thanks go to: Kim Tucci from The Pasta House restaurants; Susan Garrett, owner of Pershing Hairlines; John Sappington and Melanie Harvey, partners of West End Wines; Joe Edwards, Blueberry Hill's proprietor and rock 'n roll entrepreneur; Steve Brammeier, Kingsbury Animal Hospital's super veterinarian; area newcomers Lois Clay and Greg Gizinski, partners of the Classical Coffee Company; and the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council.

So, say those of you who missed out on the fun, WHO WON? It was complicated at best (thanks to Tom Hoerr with his categories and his rating sheet for the judges). However, it did work out—with only one mistake. First, second, and third prize winners overall were also the first place winners in a specific category (are you with me so far?...). First place overall and first place in the "Made-

with-things-that-swim-in-the-sea" category was Rose Storey; second place overall and first place in the "Tastes-better-than-it-looks" category went to Dee Schoenfeld; third place overall and first place in the "Made-with-things-with-four-legs" was Jo Ann Vatcha. Other winners were: Lisa Horner, Nancy Farmer, Paula Repetta, Christine Smith, Lois Schoemehl, Bette Botz, Georgi Fox, and Karleen Hoerr—who, I am sorry to say, was not properly recognized at the prize-awarding ceremony. As I said earlier, there was one mistake. Due to the complicated arrangements of trying to give prizes which would be appropriate to the winners, many pieces of paper floated about—so much so that Karleen's prize and tally sheet were buried. We apologize to Karleen.

Now, I know that those of you who were unable to attend are really feeling sorry for yourselves and are dying to know what all the various goodies were. However, in order to find out, you will have to attend the community theatre production and reception to find out. On April 9—as you have already read on page 1 of this issue—there will be a wild and no doubt wacky play with appetizers and desserts following. The winning hors d'oeuvres will be the highlight of the buffet table. So, you have plenty of warning; save April 9 and come see what fun you missed last night. If you were there last night, you know what a good time you had and we will see you in April.

A final thank you to Tom Hoerr and his hardy crew of judges, including: Ray Breun, Lisa Horner, Lois Schoemehl, Brian Clevenger, Mary Anne Rudloff, Marvin Nodiff, Sandy Rothschild, Brad Weir and Hitch Powell. Judges who had entered a dish (or their spouse had) did not judge those dishes (or so we were told).

Thanks to all!



Judges gather to receive instructions from Tom Hoerr, chief judge and originator of the hors d'oeuvre contest categories.

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From The Mayor's Desk

by Vincent C. Schoemehl, Jr.
Mayor, City of St. Louis

On March 8, 1988, voters of the City of St. Louis will be asked to approve a tax reform package. The tax reform package was devised by a Commission I appointed headed by former Mayor John Poelker and was comprised of university professors, business leaders, and elected officials. The tax reform package will be listed on the ballot as propositions F, A, I and R. (FAIR).

A key recommendation of the Commission was replacing the Business Head tax and the Merchants and Manufacturers (M&M) tax with a .5% payroll tax. As a result of the inequities of the two taxes, smaller businesses have been paying a larger share of taxes relative to larger corporations. The Business Head tax placed a comparatively greater burden on employers of lesser skilled workers. The M&M tax is paid by the city businesses that produce or sell goods. The tax is not applicable to the service sector, such as banks and law firms. Instituting the payroll tax will shift the tax burden from small and mid-size businesses to larger businesses. If the tax reform package is approved, most businesses will see a reduction in their total tax bill.

Included in the tax package is a measure for an annual licensing/inspection fee based on the number of full-time equivalent employees. This fee would eliminate many "nuisance" fees such as those paid for annual inspections and permits. The .5% payroll tax combined with the annual licensing/inspection fee would ensure a more equitable distribution of the business tax burden.

The voters will also be asked to approve the continuation of the 3/8 cent sales tax. The 3/8 cent sales tax must be resubmitted to the voters for approval before its 1990 expiration date. Approval by the voters will allow for continuous collection of the tax.

The last tax proposal, 1/2 cent sales tax, will be dedicated to repairing the City's deteriorating infrastructure. Last year, the state legislature granted the City authority to collect an additional 1/2 cent sales tax. Up to 1/3 of the revenue collected under the tax will be utilized for capital improvement projects for the St. Louis public school system. The capital improvement projects proposed by the school system would be subject to annual review and approval by the Board of Aldermen.

It is the goal of the City of St. Louis to adopt a tax structure that will provide for an equitable distribution of the business tax burden as well as provide stable sales tax revenue. The sales taxes provide an alternative to seeking property tax increases to meet our City revenue needs. The four tax measures appearing on the March 8, 1988 ballot, if approved, will provide the City of St. Louis with the financial security needed to meet the challenges of the future.

St. Louis Commemorated As First Site Of National Olympic Games



1904 Olympic Games, St. Louis—Fred Winters, of the New West Side Athletic Club, New York, in the Dumbbell Competition." From the collection of the Missouri Historical Society.

Memories of the nation's first Olympic games, held in St. Louis in 1904, will be revived in a new exhibition of photographs, medals and memorabilia at the History Museum in the Jefferson Memorial Building in Forest Park. "Forgotten Glory: St. Louis and the Third Olympiad" opened on Saturday, February 13, to coincide with the opening of the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

This collection of more than 50 photographs and artifacts from the predominantly American participants offers a view of the clothing and athletic styles of the athletes and spectators. Several buildings in the backgrounds and a set of viewing stands, which exist today at Washington University, are also pictured.

The 1904 Olympics were originally scheduled to be held in Chicago, but David R. Francis, chairman of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, wooed the games to St. Louis to be part of the 1904 World's Fair. The First Olympiad was held in Athens in 1896; the

Olympic games were held for the second time in Paris in 1900.

The Third Olympiad ran from early July to October, 1904. Highlights of the games were the track and field events August 29-September 3.

June Wuest Becht will highlight the changes in the Olympic Games over the past 80 years in her "Salute to the Olympics" on Sunday, March 20 at 2 p.m. She will intersperse black and white slides, made from photographs of the Olympic Games held in St. Louis in 1904, with color photos from the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. The program is offered to the public free of charge.

"St. Louis was the first city in North America to hold Olympic Games," Becht said, "and because the 1904 Games were only the third in the history of the Olympics, we were real pioneers. My slides—made from photographs in the pictorial history collections of the Missouri Historical Society and from the Games in Los Angeles—will show dramatic changes in the last 80 years."

A St. Louisan, Becht is a free-lance writer specializing in Olympic history and a former high school coach. She received her masters' degree in physical education from Washington University. In 1980 she co-authored the first academic study of the Third Olympiad, held in St. Louis. Her feature articles on Olympic history have been published in *Ladies Home Journal*, *Sports Heritage* and the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

Becht's talk is being given in conjunction with the exhibition, "Forgotten Glory: St. Louis and the Third Olympiad," at the History Museum through May. More than 50 photographs and memorabilia from the predominantly American participants in the 1904 Olympic Games show swimming and diving, field and track competitions and depict the athletic styles of the participants and clothing of the spectators.

The History Museum in Forest Park is open Tuesday through Sunday, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. There is no admission charge.



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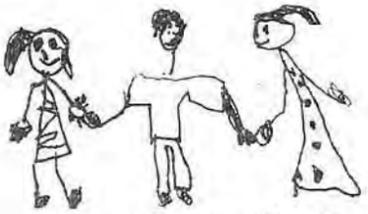
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Sharing At The Kiosk

by Mary Ann Shickman

If there is one thing one can say about the Kiosk, it is that it is small. When people come into the Kiosk for the first time, there is the predictable reaction: "Oh, what a tiny little library!" Of course it is small and we have to depend on the reserve system and daily delivery since we cannot possibly have every kind of book. But small places have a certain intimate and sharing atmosphere.

Recently, Anne McCarthy phoned me and asked me to get the book, *City of Joy*, by Dominique LaPierre. It arrived in the afternoon delivery and Anne picked it up that same day. When she returned it about a week later, she recommended it highly and wanted Betty Renard to have a copy. I ordered it for Betty Renard and also for someone else who was in the Kiosk at the time. I got a copy of it myself and can say it is a book worth sharing, especially during Lent.

The *City of Joy* is in Calcutta, India. LaPierre found more "heroism, more love, more sharing and ultimately more happiness than in many a city of the affluent." Calcutta is the home of such saintly people as Mother Teresa as well as many others who would inspire us. There is Stephen Kovalski, a Polish priest, a young American doctor, Max, who treats people with no financial resources, and a nurse who is an angel of mercy to countless children.

The author spent a month himself in a hovel in the City of Joy and learned first-hand what it is like to become a human horse by pulling a rickshaw and how to exist on six cents a day.

The second part of the book goes more and more into the unbelievable pain and suffering but in spite of this, hope comes through. It is a very positive book as well as a spiritual book and would make good Lenten reading or anytime for that matter.

A book for older children about India is called *Children of the Wolf* by Jane Yolen. It is based on a true story about two girls who were raised by wolves, then brought to an orphanage. The girls were much more like animals than human beings. They could not walk upright; they scratched, bit, howled, and preferred raw meat. The strictness of the orphanage and the teasing of the other children was cruel and brought about a terrible fate. It is a highly emotional story.

For the very young children, the books by Hoban will make children sensitive to color, texture, and shapes. Also there are many appealing ABC books at the Kiosk. The classic *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown with appealing illustrations by Clement Hurd makes a perfect bedtime story book for young children.

This is a perfect season to share...one's time, a favorite recipe with someone who cannot get out, or a special book.

Vicissitudes

by Lisa Horner

It was great to see lots of friends new and old at the annual St. Roch's Progressive Dinner on January 30. Gene and Delores Hoefel and Charlie and Mary Fleener co-chaired the event. A number of lovely cocktail parties and delicious dinners were held and attended throughout the area. Dessert and coffee at St. Roch's Church Hall was enjoyed by all and gave everyone a great chance to exchange rave reviews on their evenings.

A Valentine Dance was held at Grace Methodist on February 12 from 8 to midnight. The event was sponsored by the Breitmayer Community Ministry. Among the neighbors in attendance were: Sam and Lou Green, Terry and Mary Vanicelli, Neville and JoAnn Vatcha, Nancy Farmer, Tyrone and Gabrielle Wilson and Eddie and Helen Sanders. Bob Dowgillo was not only there, but was a runner-up in the evening's contest. Entrants submitted a written statement explaining why their Valentines were the best. Too bad Bob's Valentine, his wife Heidi, was not there to hear his stunning tribute.

Friends and neighbors were saddened to learn of the recent death of Betty Nerviani. Betty and her husband, Al, and their family had lived for many years in the 6100 block of Kingsbury.

Mary and Terry Vanicelli of Parkview are expecting a new baby at the end of the summer. Terry was quite disappointed to have missed the last issue of the *Times* with their news. He "blames" the expected baby all on Tom and Ginny Klevorn. The Klevorns, you

may recall, left the area last November for a couple of years in Belgium, and their first child will be born in late April. The Vanicellis were gracious enough to give them their baby crib to take along.

Betty Klinefelter, 6100 Kingsbury, spent six weeks this winter at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico. This was the third year at the ranch for Betty who studies weaving there. She is already quite an accomplished weaver.

Congratulations to Polly O'Brien, 6100 Kingsbury, who has just been elected to head up the Neighborhood Arts Council. Polly has been a member of the council for three years and has many exciting plans for the future.

A hearty congratulations to Bill Christman and Christman Studios, Kingsbury at Des Peres. The studio won first place in the 1987 Commercial Sign Design Competition sponsored by *Signs of the Times*, a national trade magazine. Their winning design, a billboard for a home developer, was judged against several thousand entries from all over the world.

Bill is not only a talented guy, but a nice one as well. He contacted librarian, Mary Ann Shickman, about repainting the Kiosk, and she put him in touch with Dr. Glen Holt, executive director of the St. Louis Public Library. Dr. Holt subsequently commissioned Christman Studios to study doing new signs for all the branches, and to design a new logo for the library system.

Craft Alliance To Offer Classes in March

Craft Alliance Center for the Visual Arts will present several classes and workshops for adults during the month of March. Weekend workshops will be offered in paper making, weaving, and jewelry making. Four-week classes in watercolor, painting, ceramics, weaving, and sculpture are also available.

Tuition for workshops and classes ranges

from \$30-\$65. Materials fees vary by class. For further information, please call 725-1177 Monday through Saturday.

Craft Alliance is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization. Its programs are made possible by support from the Regional Arts Commission, the Missouri Arts Council and the Arts and Education Council of Greater St. Louis.

New Works By Mary Sprague and Joseph Piccillo At Elliot Smith

Elliot Smith Gallery, 360 North Skinker Boulevard at McPherson, will feature new paintings and charcoal on paper drawings by **Joseph Piccillo** March 20 through April 17 in Gallery I. In Gallery II, **Mary Sprague** will exhibit new mixed media on paper works March 20 through 17. Both exhibitions open Sunday, March 20 with a reception from 2 to 5 p.m.

This exhibition marks the second time Elliot Smith Gallery has shown new works by **Joseph Piccillo**. Characterized by bold figures often oddly posed against rich, black backgrounds, his paintings and drawings are in many public and private collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Mary Sprague introduces a new series of works in pastel and charcoal for her first one-person exhibition at this gallery. This series reflects her recent study of the American artist Frederic Remington whose work is the subject of a major exhibition opening at the St. Louis Art Museum. A long time favorite among St. Louis collectors, Sprague's work was featured three years ago in a "Currents" exhibition at the Museum.

Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday or by appointment.

For more information, contact Roseann Weiss or Elliot Smith at 314/726-1170.



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A large portion of the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood is targeted by this program.

For more information and assistance, phone the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, 862-5122.



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In Your Ear

by Tom Hoerr

I have a confession to make. No, this isn't about wife beating or the fact that I wear a toupee. This is something more serious. It's been bothering me for some time now, and I feel a need to share my problem. You may learn more about me than you care to know, but I'm casting caution to the wind! Hear me out, dear reader and share my mighty burden.

I'm a true believer in "literary osmosis." I believe that by simply having books around me, somehow I'll get smarter even if I don't read them. I know, I know, that sounds foolish and bizarre enough to have been uttered by Pat Robertson. It's not as bad as praying away a hurricane or touching a forehead and curing cancer, but I believe it.

My problem started somewhere in my childhood. I guess, excluding acne, that's where most problems start. I can distinctly remember being left to wander through the Southtown Famous-Barr book department while my mom shopped for whatever. If you believe in Holy Water, then you know what I mean when I tell you that the air that surrounds a stack of books has a magical quality. Simply by breathing it you can increase your vocabulary. Somehow you even look smarter while standing among books. After all, can you imagine Sylvester Stallone in a bookstore?

As a youngster I remember that a series of biographies were my favorite books. I don't recall the publisher or even the details of the books, just that they were all printed with plain orange cloth covers. I used to go to the St. Louis Public Library, Carpenter Children's Branch, but in the 7th grade I had read all of their books—those that interested me, anyway—and asked for permission to go to the Adult Section. Librarians being librarians, I was allowed to browse, but couldn't check out the books until High School.

In High School I found the library a wonderful place to get books about coaching football to win and build character, alien beings who came to visit but not to stay, and why we were able to win World War II. I also found the library a great place to talk and play tag. I was not, needless to say, a favorite of the librarians.

When I got a real job and received my first pay check, light years ago, I immediately began to subscribe to the host of magazines that I'd thumbed through since boyhood. What a shock to find that "Popular Mechanics" really wasn't all that interesting when I received it on a regular basis. Maybe this had something to do with the fact that I've always regarded hammers as tools that could best be used to make straight nails bend in odd directions.

Over the past number of years, I've subscribed to over fifty magazines and periodicals. I had a brief relationship with "Christian Science Monitor" and am long time friends with "Newsweek," "Time," and "Esquire." Aside from the "Post" and "Wall Street Journal" and my professional publications (you can always tell the erudite journals because they have no pictures!), count me among those who receive "Atlantic," "Harper's," "INC.," "Personal Computer," "The N.Y. Times Book Review," "European Travel & Life," "Money," "Sports Illustrated," and "Chess Life." I've recently begun to subscribe to "Current," "a reprint

magazine, not limited by ideological bent, nor by any preconceived subject matter..." Honest, that's what it says! Heck, I even read all of the throw-away newspapers. I never miss reading my column in "The Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere!"

The magazines arrive with a frequency that conveys a screaming immediacy: "READ ME NOW OR ELSE YOU'LL BE UNARMED AT THE NEXT COCKTAIL PARTY!" each timely cover seems to shout. But books are different. The books are more subtle and less demanding of a quick response. The book jackets state with confidence: "PUT ME IN YOUR HOME AND YOU'LL BE SMARTER! BUY ME AND CULTURE IS YOURS!"

Remember how your mom always told you to wear clean underwear in case you were hit by a truck and had to be rushed to the hospital emergency room? I've always felt that if I were going to be hit by the truck, I couldn't imagine a better way to go than carrying a satchel of books.

(Fade to flashing red lights, a siren, and a hospital emergency room in a major metropolitan area: I am being wheeled in on a stretcher, unconscious but showing no injury and resembling, as usual, Tom Selleck. In my left hand, clutched to my breast, is a bulky white bag with "Left Bank Books" printed on it.)

"Nurse, what's wrong with this patient?" (The doctor looks like Robert Young and the nurse resembles...it's my old librarian from the Carpenter Branch Library!)

"Well, doctor, I'm not sure. All I know is that he was crossing this intersection and was hit by a truck."

"What's that in the bag he's holding, I wonder?" asks Dr. Young.

"Why, why," she asks with excitement, "is that a book in his satchel?"

"Yes!" Dr. Young responds, "He's carrying books that he's just purchased. Quick, call the emergency response team. Anyone this intelligent and cultured deserves the best emergency care we can offer!"

So now you know the sordid truth. My home contains thousands of books and my study has more books than the shelves will allow. I've read some of them. Heck, I've read lots of them. But, if the truth be known, my percentage of owned-books-read to owned-books-unread is so low it makes Gary Hart look like a winning candidate.

My unread books could serve as fodder for dozens of literary clubs across the country. It's a pretty impressive list: *War and Peace* (borrowed from Barrett and Polly); *Hoopla*; *Thinking About Chaos*; *Bonfire of the Vanities*; *Indecent Exposure*; *Working*; *The Best and the Brightest* (two copies!); *Fight For City Living*; *The School in Question*; *Right Brain/Left Brain*; *Good Enough to Dream*; *Miracle at Philadelphia*; *Ntozake Shange*; *Mexico Set*; four and one-half volumes of Winston Churchill's account of World War II; *Son of the Morning Star*; *Bandits*; and on and on and on. If the unread syllables on my shelves could each be turned into a grain of rice, my study could feed the world.

It's not bad having all these books waiting to be read. After all, it demonstrates that I'm a man of many interests. My problem is that even as I write, I'm planning to purchase more books. A prudent soul would suggest that I

Shelter

continued from page 1

In the 1986-1987 season, some eighty-five volunteers camped out in the church basement. Other volunteers:

- Provide sack dinners (2,690 in 1985-1987).
- Lead exercise programs.
- Teach classes on hygiene, nutrition and pregnancy.
- Strum guitars during sing-alongs.

The requirements for volunteers are simple. "It takes someone who has some degree of patience and who is ready to listen," says Meyer.

Angela Walsh, a paid worker at the shelter, says most of the volunteers come with an attitude of "What can I do to help?"

"They quickly get acclimated," says Walsh.

The Grace and Peace Winter Shelter represents a coalition of care. Churches and organizations providing meals and volunteers include: St. Roch's Catholic Church, Delmar Baptist Church, Grace Methodist Church, Memorial Presbyterian Church, Union Avenue Christian Church, Old Orchard Church in Webster Groves, Westminster

Presbyterian Church, St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, and the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship chapter at Washington University.

The shelter has expanded to twenty-four beds, but the turnover rate has dropped drastically. "This year, women have stayed from day one," says Meyer. "We can hardly pry them out of their beds."

Homeless women cannot walk into the Grace and Peace shelter off the street. They first must be screened by the Homeless Reception Center operated by the Salvation Army. During the winter, the women are picked up every afternoon by Red Cross vans at Christ Church Cathedral—the daytime shelter for homeless women—and taken to the Grace and Peace shelter, which opens at 6:30 p.m. The women must leave the shelter by 6:30 a.m. the following morning.

The Grace and Peace Winter Shelter, like others, grapples with the widespread practice years ago of taking patients out of psychiatric hospitals and similar institutions and placing them in the community. Meyer concedes that most mental patients do not require traditional, high-cost institutionalization. But life on the street has proven just as hellish as being "warehoused" in the hospitals.

The homeless who are mentally ill "require some sort of maintenance, somebody who sees they take their medication, and who is humane," says Meyer.

"What they really need is family and support. But that's not what they're getting. The families dump them."

The next season for the Grace and Peace Winter Shelter begins Dec. 1. To volunteer, or to obtain more information, call LaVerna Meyer at 994-7708.

wait to buy more books until I finish all that I already own. That makes a good deal of sense, but it creates a major danger. I never know when the truck will spin around the corner with my name on its hood, and if I'm not carrying newly-purchased books, how can I be assured of quality medical care?

Oh well, I'll see you at the bookstore. Does anyone know where I can take a speed reading course?

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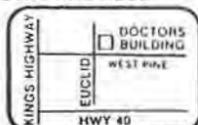
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