

# The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 38 No. 5

Nov. - Dec. 2008

www.stlouis.missouri.org/skinkerdebaliviere/sd\_times

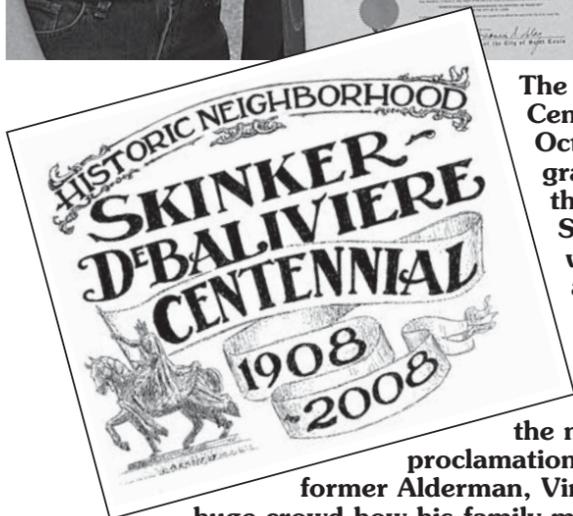
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photo by King Schoenfeld



The official neighborhood Centennial Celebration on October 11, 2008, was a grand success. Nancy Farmer, the neighborhood's former SDCC Executive Director, as well as State Representative and State Treasurer, served as Mistress of Ceremonies. Mayor Francis G. Slay, who certainly dressed for the occasion, presented

the neighborhood with a proclamation. Former Mayor, and former Alderman, Vince Schoemehl told the

huge crowd how his family moved to Skinker-DeBaliviere and how much the neighborhood has meant to all of them--and us--through the years. Other speakers included Congressman Lacy Clay, Comptroller Darlene Green, and Alderwoman Lyda Krewson. Special kudos were given to Centennial Committee Co-Chairs Andy Cross and Katie Kurtz, and great thanks to all the Centennial donors and sponsors, especially our Premier Sponsors, Washington University, the Skinker-DeBaliviere Housing Corporation, and Joe Edwards.



photo by Linda Edwards

Joe Edwards may not be a real astronaut, but he did take a walk on the moon to kick off the construction of his newest venture, the Moonrise Hotel. Alderwoman Lyda Krewson (shown here with Joe and Delmar Committee Chairman Jo Ann Vatcha) congratulated our intrepid entrepreneur on this exciting accomplishment for the Loop.



## Wintermarkt Returns Saturday, December 6th



Christian Boxdorfer

Mark your calendars and make your holiday shopping list. Wintermarkt is returning on Saturday, December 6th at Greg Freeman Park at Four Corners (corner of Des Peres & Kingsbury). Wintermarkt is a local re-imagination of a traditional German street festival, produced by the West End Arts Council. The event will take place from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

The event features artists selling hand-made crafts, toys, artwork, and decorations. There are baked goods, hot cider, hot food, and roasted chestnuts. A blacksmith will also be exhibiting his work and holding demonstrations again

throughout the day.

As you shop, enjoy musical performances. Past Wintermarkts have featured acappella groups from Washington University, choirs and musicians. Expect another fantastic music line-up. The event takes place regardless of the weather.

For more information on Wintermarkt or to sign up as an artist and have a booth, contact the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council office at 314-862-5122 or email wintermarkt@gmail.com. The Arts Council is also looking for volunteers to help staff the event and to provide baked goods.



Julie Schoemehl

Wintermarkt photos by Rachel Boxdorfer

# Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

Amidst financial and political turmoil, we in Skinker DeBaliviere have reason for some optimism. Our Centennial celebration brought out many neighborhood stalwarts, new neighbors, and former neighbors. Children played, adults chatted, ate, and drank and we were as we are – diverse and encompassing. No matter what happens in the weeks to come, we know that all of us can come together to party and that's a good thing.



Former West End Arts Council Chairman Roy Roncal and former President of SDCC Catherine Forslund returned to the neighborhood for one of the Centennial block parties, celebrating with Co-Editor Lana Stein and her dog, Max.

## Christmas Caroling December 13

Interested Carolers are once again invited to share in Christmas festivities with their neighbors. Plans are to gather at 6121 McPherson at 4:00 p.m. and traverse the 6000 and 6100 blocks of McPherson singing carols. Afterwards, the Christmas carolers and friends will be invited to one of our McPherson neighbor's home for fun and fellowship. Please bring your favorite holiday treats; hot chocolate and wassail punch will be provided.

This festive holiday activity is organized annually by your neighbors Dave Schmidt and Mary Schmit. David is a volunteer with the St. Louis Christmas Carol Association and can help you start a caroling tradition on your block. Call Dave at 863-4512.

## The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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

Tom Hoerr, Venita Lake, Lana Stein, Marcia Kerz  
Loretta Lloyd, Juliet Schoemehl, JoAnn Vatcha, Katie Kurtz  
Essie McLean, Lois Schoemehl, Marjorie Weir, King Schoenfeld  
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Layout: . . . . . Kate Klimut  
Printing: . . . . . Arcade Printing

Advertising Rates:  
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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. Calendar listings should be phoned in to the editor at 721-7532, or mailed to 5953 Pershing Ave., 63112.

The writer is responsible for the accuracy of the data, including times, dates, location, and particularly the spelling of names. The editor retains the right to omit or alter any material.

Deadline for Feb.-March issue: January 15, 2009. Please send copy by e-mail to [jvatcha@gmail.com](mailto:jvatcha@gmail.com) or by disc to 6008 Kingsbury, St. Louis, MO 63112.

Readers are welcome to send us e-mail or letters commenting on any of our content. Send to [jvatcha@gmail.com](mailto:jvatcha@gmail.com) or [maxlana@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maxlana@sbcglobal.net).

# Calendar

To receive emails with announcements of neighborhood events, send an email to Bethany Everett, Administrative Assistant, at the Council office, [beverett@skinker-debaliviere.com](mailto:beverett@skinker-debaliviere.com). The list will only be used for announcements and invitations and will not be shared with third parties. Help save paper and get the scoop from your own computer!

**November 5 and 19 and December 3 and 17:** Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation, 6:00 p.m. 6008 Kingsbury

**Nov 7 and 8 at 8:00 p.m. November 9 at 2:00 p.m.:** K's Theatrical Korps presents "Pump Boys and Dinettes" at New City School, 5209 Waterman. More information at [www.kurtainkall.org](http://www.kurtainkall.org).

**November 10 and Dec. 8:** Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council meeting, 7:00 p.m., 6008 Kingsbury

**Dec. 6 Wintermarkt, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.:** Greg Freeman Park at Four Corners, presented by the West End Arts Council

**Dec. 11:** Police Appreciation Luncheon, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., SDCC office. Call 862-5122 for more information and to volunteer or donate food.

**January, 2009:** The Big Read returns with programs throughout January encouraging all ages to read together the great novel, To Kill a Mockingbird. For more information, visit [www.bigread.wustl.edu](http://www.bigread.wustl.edu)



**January 19, 2009:** Loop Ice Carnival. Go to [www.visittheloop.com](http://www.visittheloop.com) for more information.

## Service Project Brightens Hamilton School



Leadership Through Service, a program sponsored by the Community Service Office at Washington University, provides 90 incoming freshmen with an opportunity to explore the St. Louis community while acclimating to college life. The students participate in multiple community service projects and receive leadership training.

New in 2008, students talked with the new principal of Hamilton Elementary School, Mr. Todd Williams, about the challenges of urban education. Then all of the students participated in service projects at Hamilton including

fence painting and creating bulletin boards to welcome the students back to school. The three days of work at Hamilton were coordinated by Cheryl Adelstein, Washington University's director of community relations.

Stephanie Kurtzman, director of the University's Community Service Office, says, "We hope that these students develop an interest and attachment to Hamilton and then will choose to stay involved with the school by joining the ranks of Washington University student tutors who participate in Each One Teach One at Hamilton School."

# News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

The Skinker-DeBaliviere Board of Directors held their general meeting on Monday, October 13th at Crossroads School and shared a potluck dinner with neighborhood residents. In addition to the normal business, well-deserved recognition was given to several neighborhood residents. Executive Director **Darcell Braylock** presented certificates of appreciation for outstanding service to the neighborhood to **Andy Cross** (who is clearly involved in just about everything!) and **Jo Ann Vatcha**, who wears many hats, including co-editor of the *TIMES of SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE* and also chairman of the neighborhood's Delmar Commercial Committee.



**I am Bruno. Feed me pizza!**

**Bruno Erasmo Hitchcock Spampinato** was born on July 31st at NYU Medical Center in

Manhattan and now resides in Brooklyn with his very proud parents **Louisa (Hitchcock) and Rob Spampinato**. Louisa is the youngest of the four Hitchcock girls.

Bruno and many other people made appearances at various Skinker-DeBaliviere Centennial events. Dating back to the

McPherson block party in May (celebrated by the 6000 and 6100 blocks), the huge Kingsbury Centennial party (6100 block) on October 4th, the Westminster party (6100 block) on October 18th, and of course the neighborhood-wide party on October 11th. It has been a year of nonstop celebration! Nothing but good things can be said about all of these

events and everyone who made them happen. It is no surprise that so many people young and old, present and past residents, turned out to attend any or all of these functions. The event on October 11th even included appearances from local dignitaries including **Mayor Francis Slay**. There were several proclamations, festive music, dancing, and lots of tasty food as highlighted in the special Centennial issue of *The Times* that was distributed in October.

Congratulations to **Scott Jones**, our Parkview neighbor, on being

named North America Medical Director of Imaging Solutions and Pharmaceutical Products Radiation, Environment, Safety and Health, for Covidien, Inc. He will continue to serve as BarnesCare medical director. BarnesCare strives to help its client companies improve productivity and reduce expenses associated with worker injuries.

Welcome to New Neighbors **Leslie and Kevin Bley** of the 6000 block of Westminster! The Bleys were among the many folks who came out for the October 18 Westminster Centennial party.

Also new in the neighborhood, welcome to **Velocity Cafe and Cyclery**, at the corner of Pershing and DeBaliviere, near Forest Park Metro Station. Let's hope this shop transforms this corner as **Kayak's** did the Skinker-Forest Park Blvd intersection!

In the Loop, **PI restaurant**, which was profiled in these pages a few months ago, has gained a new distinction, as reported by **Deb Petersen** in the *Post-Dispatch*, as **Barak Obama's** new favorite pizza. Apparently, owner **Chris Sommers** got the momentous

phone call after Obama's gigantic rally at the arch.

This neighborhood has never had a shortage of educators and we are pleased to congratulate **Andrew Abbott** of the 6100 block of Kingsbury on his appointment to the position of head of school at John Burroughs. Andy started at Burroughs in 2001 as an English teacher and college counselor, and principal of 11th and 12th grades. In 2006, he was promoted to the position of director of college counseling and assistant head of school. Andy & his wife **Katie** have three children. Congrats and well done!

And last, but certainly not least, our prayers and well wishes continue to go out to **Mary Fleener** of Parkview, who is on the mend in St. Louis after a six-week stay in Chicago hospitals. We wish her a speedy recovery and are happy she has made it back to St. Louis!

Do you have some news to share? Please send your items to Rachel Boxdorfer at rboxdorf@cbgundaker.com with the subject line "News of Neighbors." Thank you!

Outgoing board members **Gwen Lazar** and **Shirley Polk** were



**Bethany Everett, Gwen Lazard, and Darcell Braylock**



**Darcell and Shirley Polk**

also recognized for their years of service to the neighborhood. **Bob Mahon** was also given recognition for serving two years as President of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council Board of Directors. Kudos to **Darcell Braylock** and **Bethany Everett**. All the Centennial events relied on SDCC support! This could not be accomplished without their support in the SDCC office!

News from the stork has come in that **Jim and Helen Hitchcock** of the 6100 block of Kingsbury celebrated the birth of another grandchild this summer.

## Coming soon from the Missouri Historical Society and the *TIMES of SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE*:

A brand new 100+ page book and DVD will include the "Neighborhood Chronicles" written by Jo Ann Vatcha; excerpts from *The Neighborhood - A History of Skinker-DeBaliviere* by Gee Stuart, Sue Tepas, and Kathy Harleman (yellow book); other selected articles from the archives of *THE TIMES OF SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE*, quotes and photos from Oral History interviews conducted by Jody Sowell, and dozens of photographs courtesy of Missouri History Museum, *THE TIMES OF SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE*, and private donations from neighborhood residents.

If you would like to pre-order this new book, contact Jo Ann Vatcha at jvatcha@gmail.com. A book sale event to benefit *THE TIMES* will be scheduled soon!

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All photos by King Schoenfeld

**Old friends Ken Cohen, Gee Stuart, Susie and Dan Feinberg, and Cal Stuart at the Kingsbury Centennial.**

## Growing Up Kingsbury - The Reunion of Lifetime

By Rachel Boxdorfer

Without a doubt, it was the reunion of lifetime. No one could believe just how many people returned, and in some cases, from how far they came. California, DC, New Mexico, Texas, New York, South Carolina, to celebrate the centennial of the street they once lived on.

Growing up on Kingsbury was the best. Ask anyone who lived there, they will agree. So when we all got together on October 4th, we were able to relive so many fond and crazy memories. It was a great place to raise kids and a great place to grow up.

In the 70's and 80's, Kingsbury was the place to go. The number of children who lived on the street varies depending on who you talk to, but most claim it ranged from 125-150. Not only was there almost always a game of kickball, hide & seek, or "Johnny Cross," there were always large groups of kids to hang out with and play with, children of all ages. Kingsbury was

in the street. There were stories of wild parties (Bill Kohn's 40th birthday) and of teenagers having to watch out for their parents seeing them sneak home late. The concept of it "taking a village" was in play years ago on Kingsbury!

There were other stories too. There was the church angel left on Bender's front porch while the Newshams hosted a party. There were stories of all the large families, the McCarthys, the Wilmerings, the Cantwells, the Lodes, the Nervianis, the Botzs, just to name a few. There was jumping on the trampoline in Leguey-Feillieux' backyard, and families, working together, to make the neighborhood strong and aiding each other in raising all these children. The Kingsbury poster by Virginia Leguey-Feilleux was even reprinted and available for sale, capturing life on Kingsbury in 1972.

To see all thirteen McCarthy children in town, on their old front



**Beautiful Kingsbury homes and a great crowd of old and current neighbors together on October 11.**



**McCarthys and Leguey-Feuilleux - how Kingsbury!**

the street with the Art Fair, the home of the "Shoe Tree." It was such a cool place.

At the block party, we tried to catch up on where we are in life today, but conversations swayed back more to the days of swinging on the Newsham or McCarthy family porch swings or to plays produced in a Cross or Hitchcock basement, by kids, for kids. There were "cookie men" off the Bender's Christmas tree, and leaf houses

porch, posing with proud parents Jim and Ann, it was emotional. It was a reminder, of how important family and neighbors were and always will be. It was a reminder of how lucky we all were and continue to be.

The October 4th celebration was a great block party for the current residents I'm sure. But with great gratitude, I must say thank you to those residents, who spearheaded this joyous celebration of 100 years on Kingsbury. It was a fantastic party for the best place to grow up, ever. I know I speak for my generation of Kingsbury kids when I say, thank you. It was the best reunion ever, the reunion of a lifetime. And, best of all, as time marches on, new memories will continue to be made.

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**Bill Christman had a very successful gallery showing of his artwork at his Kingsbury studio.**



photos by King Schoenfeld

The 6000 and 6100 blocks of Westminster celebrated the Centennial again on October 18 with a great block party organized by Mary Powell, Gayle Fitzpatrick, Jaina Stus, Elsie Lindstrom, Marj Weir and powered by many more neighbors. Well over 100 neighbors and dozens of kids and friends shared a fabulous spread of food including some grill specialties. There were amazing children's activities, including a bouncy house, organized by Jamie and Cari Allen, and an old-fashioned whirly-gig shared by Bill Christman. New neighbors who attended the party included Leslie and Kevin Bley, of the 6000 block of Westminster, who remarked that it was a great way to meet folks. Alderwoman Lyda Krewson and State Senator Jeff Smith also joined the fun!"



**McPherson children, Westminster children, all the neighborhood block parties were a hit with the kids! McPherson celebrated the Centennial on May 31, 2008.**



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# Neighbors Visit Olympics and the Great Wall

by Lana Stein

Sean and Angie Meara and their copper-headed two year old daughter, Olive, reside on 59xx Pershing. Sean is a board member of the SDCC and has played a strong role in getting his block more involved. However, he and his family took a 3-week respite from daily concerns in August to visit China.

Angie has been an event marketer. She met a very good friend working at an agency here, Mayan. Mayan and her husband moved to China and invited Angie and Sean to visit during this year's summer Olympics. It seemed like a tremendous opportunity. Angie had worked on the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. Angie and Sean worked on a creative way to be able to travel to this year's events. Olive would go too. Mayan had a child just 4 months older than their daughter. They also had a 7 week old, Meme.

The Mearas found the people in China to be very welcoming. Everyone took note of Olive and her very fair skin. A number of people wanted their picture taken with Olive. Their culture seemed to embrace children and some were surprised to see a couple travelling with a 2 year old. Olive picked up a few words and people's names. The Chinese did seem more reserved and contained than Americans.

Angie said that it was interesting to see this evolving industrial nation. They closed the factories in and around Beijing so that there could be more blue sky days during the Olympics. All visitors had to register at the police station in Beijing. The government wanted

to know where you were. There weren't a great many U.S. fans there because China stopped issuing visas after the Torch Relay. This affected Europeans as well. There was a strong police presence, three per mile. But, personal safety was never an issue in China. It was safer and cleaner than back home. However, there was a huge disparity in wealth and considerable poverty. The Olympics forced a million migrant workers and students from Beijing.

Beijing had a great many tall buildings. Housing there was vertical. There wasn't any personal green space. Even with all the efforts the government made, the pollution was a "downer." Sean and Angie couldn't see 2 blocks away. There was soot on a lot of things. Pollution was evident even down in the subways. Angie noted that, "The sky felt within reach. It was so low because of the pollution." When they toured public places, they had a guide/interpreter.

The Mearas travelled to the city of Xi'Nan where they saw the famous terra cotta warriors located 45 minutes outside that city. They also visited the Great Wall. They took a gondola up and a toboggan down. They also saw the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, and the Temple of Heaven. They attended a performance of Chinese acrobats. And, they visited several markets where you could bargain over the price of your purchases. They also saw the Muslim quarter in O'Tian.

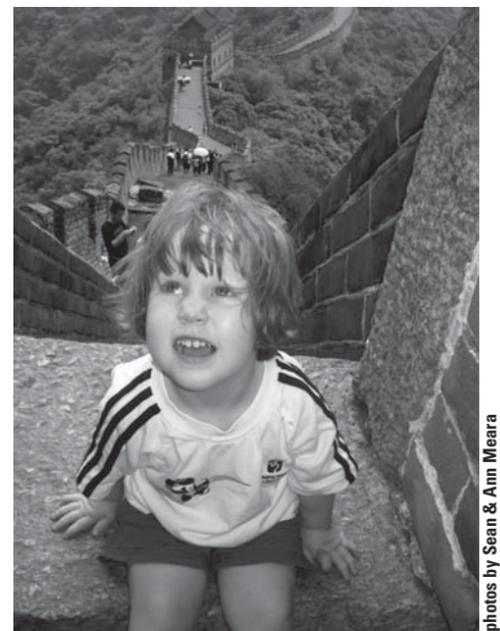
Angie and Sean raved about the food. Fresh was the key

word. They have little refrigeration and ate vegetables picked within 24 hours. The Chinese cook all their vegetables including cucumber. Angie liked that and ate a lot of eggplant as well, something she eschewed at home.

They raved about the games and said the venues were amazing. The Chinese had pulled out all the stops. They saw soccer, field hockey, synchronized diving and the 100 meter men's final (the latter from the 14th row). They saw the women's soccer gold medal game and enjoyed the flat water canoe kayak.

Angie's friend worked on Club Budweiser. They had an event every other night. It was set up as a night club for athletes, Olympic commissioners, and celebrities. They saw Vince Vaughn there.

Angie hopes to keep the memories of this trip alive within her. They still haven't absorbed it all.



photos by Sean & Ann Meara

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# HOLIDAY SHOPPING CLOSE TO HOME

By Ann Dollimore

Just to get us all thinking about how we can support our neighborhood businesses and keep ourselves out of shopping malls, we've asked a few proprietors and sales associates of local shops to select one item that they think is of exceptional value. Here are some things they love:

At **Winslow's Home** (Delmar, just west of Midland) owner Ann Lipton is a big fan of the "Sucker", a silicone door knob that is stylish and more importantly, stays firmly in place on smooth surfaces such as glazed tile, mirrors and windows to hold towels, dog leashes, shopping bags, etc. **Craft Alliance** in the Loop has handsome cherry wood butter knives, jam spoons, tongs, spatulas and more made by Jonathan's Spoons of Kempton, Pennsylvania. You'll pay no sales tax, and proceeds fund Craft Alliance's cultural outreach.

At **City Sprouts** (Delmar, east of Westgate), store manager Annekin Blackman loves the Plan line of toys, which are made of wood, and painted with vegetable dyes. The Plan City and Doll House, can be added on to with a wide variety of boxed sets of

furnishings and equipment. At **Componere Gallery** (Delmar, east of Westgate) owner, Eleanor Ruder, is organizing an exhibit, November 7-29, of local artist Bob Smith's wonderful Birds From Beaches. They are made from wood found around lake Erie and the Maine coast, and no two are alike. At **PlowSharing Crafts**, Rich Willms recommends the newly arrived small angel ornaments, made in Northern Zululand. These items are made from recycled soda cans by teenagers orphaned by AIDS. Your purchase (again, no sales tax here) will help these boys and girls to feed, clothe and educate themselves.

At **G'Sell** which features clothes from up and coming designers, Jeannie Callanan Trejo is raving about the fitted trench coat designed by Lulumari. This jacket is beautifully shaped with muted brass bindings and a satin finish.

East of Skinker at **V Vegaz Salon**, where you can get a superb haircut, Brandie Saulsbery has a luxurious Davines body wash made with Ylang Ylang and Chili that comes in an eco-friendly cotton gift sack. Close to V Vegaz you'll

find the **Knitty Couture Yarn Shop** which focuses on natural fibers, such as linen, Merino wool, and Alpaca produced by very small farms (The Yarn Farm in St. Clair, Missouri for example) in the region and around the country. Owner Thi Miller suggested a gift certificate for one of Knitty Couture's knitting classes.

South of Delmar on Skinker at the recently opened **Bobo Noodle House**, Zoe Robinson is featuring her special Bobo Noodle House sauces in Ginger, Lime Soy and Hot and Sour. Next door **Kayak's Coffee** owner Frank Grund reports that the Holiday Blend of coffee is the hands-down best seller and will arrive the week before Thanksgiving, when it will be available by the pound, or fraction thereof, and in gift boxes.

Even though these selections are only a tiny sampling of the many wonderful shops that are close by, you're sure to find that our neighborhood boasts some of the finest and most enticing arrays of holiday offerings in St. Louis, so shop early and shop often!

# Skinker-D Gastronomy

## Cornbread, Apple & Sausage Stuffing is Delectable Thanksgiving Dish

by Ligaya Figueras

For the past seven years, Dan and Anne Marie Lodholz of 57XX DeGiverville have presented their Thanksgiving dinner guests with a turkey stuffed with a savory cornbread, apple and sausage stuffing. The Lodholz stuffing is admittedly involved – Dan makes his own sausage and also brines the turkey for 36 hours before stuffing and cooking it – but worth the effort.

Anne Marie begins preparations two days ahead of time, making the cornbread ("Anne Marie is the baker," says Dan) using a family recipe adapted from a Betty Crocker cookbook. "That recipe calls for vegetable oil but the batter is a bit richer and holds together if you use butter," states Dan. The cornbread is cubed and then set out to dry. "The texture of the stuffing is a lot better if you let it set out and get stale," he adds.

Once the cornbread is ready, Dan fixes the stuffing. He adapted the recipe from one created by award-winning chef Chris Schlesinger. "I increased the sausage by half a pound. Also, he [Schlesinger] used Half & Half; we use heavy cream. If you're going to use Half & Half, you might as well bump it up to cream. Plus, we usually have cream in the house."



photos by King Schoenfeld

All you gourmet chefs out there, if you're looking for a delicious, aromatic stuffing, this recipe will make for a memorable holiday meal.

To be considered for future issues, contact Ligaya Figueras at [figuerasl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:figuerasl@sbcglobal.net).

### Parker's Pick

We asked Jon Parker, resident of 60XX Kingsbury and proprietor of Parker's Table Wine and Food Shop in Clayton, to suggest a wine pairing for Lodholz's stuffing. Parker proposed two French wines: a white and a red. Domaine Des Cassagnoles 2007 Vin de Pays de Cutes de Gascogne (\$11.99) is a clean, crisp white wine from southwest France. Gerard Bertrand Corbi'eres 2006 (\$14.99) is a red blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourv'dre. This wine is packed with plum and blackberry flavor and hints of spice and black pepper, listed as a "Best Value" by *Wine Spectator* (February, 2008).

## Cornbread, Apple & Sausage Stuffing

Courtesy of Dan Lodholz • Serves 12

### For the cornbread:

- 1 1/4 cup all-purpose, unbleached flour
- 3/4 cup cornmeal
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. kosher salt, or sea salt
- 1 cup milk (preferably whole)
- 1/4 cup unsalted butter, melted
- 1 egg

Preheat oven to 400°. Mix together all ingredients, adding more milk if batter is too dry. Pour into a buttered 9-inch baking pan and bake for 20 to 25 minutes. Allow cornbread to cool, then cut into 1-inch cubes and place cubes on a baking sheet to dry out.

### For the stuffing:

- 4 apples (preferably Granny Smith or tart baking apples),
- Juice of 1/2 lemon
- 1 1/2 lbs. sweet Italian sausage
- 2 sticks unsalted butter
- 4 small-to-medium red onions, finely chopped
- 8 stalks celery, finely chopped
- 1 cup dried cranberries
- 1 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 1/2 cup fresh sage, chopped
- Salt & pepper to taste (do not add salt if stuffing a brined turkey)

If cornbread needs more time to dry out, place in a 250° oven for about 20 minutes or until dry, then

set aside. Peel and chop apples, then place in a bowl. Add enough water to cover plus lemon juice and set aside. Brown the sausage in a large saute pan over medium heat until sausage is no longer pink. Transfer to a bowl and set aside. Next, add butter to the saute pan and melt, while scraping any sausage bits that may have stuck to the pan. Increase heat to medium-high, add onions and celery; cook until translucent, about 10 minutes. Drain the apples and add them to the pan. Add cranberries and stir to combine. Cook for about 5 more minutes. Add the cream and cook, stirring constantly for 3 minutes. Stir in sage and remove from heat. Transfer to a large bowl, add cornbread and sausage, stirring to combine. Add salt and pepper to taste. Let cool completely before stuffing the turkey.

### Notes:

-For best results, make the cornbread a day or two before serving.

-Stuffing can be prepared up to 2 days ahead of time when stored in an airtight container in the refrigerator.

-If not using for stuffing a turkey, place stuffing in a deep baking dish, cover, and bake in a 375° oven for 35-40 minutes.

## Asian Noodle Restaurant Opens on Skinker

By Ligaya Figueras

The recent addition of Bobo Noodle House on Skinker near Forest Park Parkway provides Skinker-DeBaliviere residents with another neighborhood dining destination. Located at 278 N. Skinker next to Kayak's Coffee, Bobo Noodle House offers Asian cuisine in a casual dining setting.

The menu features a variety of Asian broth noodle and stir-fry dishes, as well as appetizers such as spring and summer rolls, some salads and sides, and desserts. Entrees are moderately priced, between 8 and 12 dollars, and include classic pho fare such as beef with rice noodles, and chicken and seafood with rice noodles, as well as standard wok plates like curried chicken with roasted chili peanut sauce, or beef and green beans, but served with sophisticated udon noodles.

Other notable dishes prepared under the direction of executive chef Ny Vongsaly include a vegetarian pad thai with wide rice noodles, spicy salmon with vermicelli noodles, herbs and nori, and a vegetable dumpling soup with shitake mushrooms. The restaurant also offers a selection of wine, beer (including Japanese beers), spirits and sake.

The 950-square foot interior was designed by architectural design firm Space Interiors, located in Maplewood. The ambiance is airy, open and pleasantly simple, despite the small space. Small round tables and a continuous L-shaped booth that lines two walls provide comfortable seating for up to 30 people. Contemporary lighting fixtures made of wire and paper hang dramatically from the high ceiling. A laminated bamboo



**Bobo Noodle House**  
**278 N. Skinker Blvd**  
**314.863.7373**  
**www.bobonoodle.com**  
**Hours: Mon. to Sat.:**  
**Lunch starting at 11:30**  
**a.m., Dinner starting at**  
**5:00 p.m.**

finish along the counter adds to the Asian decor, and is completed with modest tabletop decorations of single flowers in long-stemmed glass vases and cups filled with wooden chopsticks.

The restaurant offers eat-in and carryout service. Dine-in customers order at the counter then sit down for table service. The eating establishment may be casual (No reservations are required.), but food is served on fine dishware. "I'm still a white linen girl," states owner Zoe Robinson, who also owns Italian eatery I Fratellini on Wydown in Clayton. "This is casual dining, but nice – with table service."

What type of diner does Robinson hope to attract to her casual noodle eatery? "Everyone! We have kid portions available and we can do plain udon noodles or a simple noodle dish with soy sauce."

Located in a busy intersection that sees heavy pedestrian traffic, Bobo Noodle House should attract a diverse, impromptu lunch and dinner crowd from among hungry Washington University students, MetroLink users and residents alike.



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# IN YOUR EAR

by Hawkeye Z. Hoerr

So by the time you read this puppy, the presidential election will be history. I write the week of Halloween, when the McCain versus Obama contest is in the ninth inning. But shortly it will be history and millions upon millions of people will be voting for their candidate. My prediction – you heard it here first – is that CNN will make the call for the Big O on election night, by 8:00 p.m.

Of course, gulp, as I write I also realize that the Supreme Court is waiting on the sidelines, rubbing hands with glee, ready to jump in and be the deciders if the door is left open a tiny crack. Hopefully that won't happen again. To reduce the possibility, we should not allow anyone to vote whose name is Chad. After all, if the election ain't decided by the time this issue is on your doorstep, we're in big trouble.

It's easy to write about a presidential election – especially this one. There are always possibilities to prod and ridicule, and this election is more ripe than the norm. If you thought Nixon versus McGovern was a hoot, you ain't seen nothing yet. In this election, the candidates are so striking, they're almost caricatures. Actually, they are caricatures. Think about it: If you were writing a soap opera or high school musical, you'd likely come up with the same four kinds of people. There's the grizzled war veteran, limping a bit, filled with courage, and just maybe a bit out of touch. There's the senior senator, a looker but too glib and polished for some. There's the new face on the front, a, gasp, person of color, complete with an Ivy League degree and background as a community organizer! OK, the editor would probably tell you that this is too wild to be true, and ask you to come up with a more reasonable character, maybe an orphan or ex-priest. And saving the best for last, there's the former beauty queen from Alaska, a governor who hunts and kills wild animals and wears a banana clip in her hair. Whoa, Nellie! With this cast of characters, how could you go wrong? Granted, no one would believe that these slates were plausible, but still – If we can suspend reality for a bit and pretend that these folks could really be on a national ticket, this crew could be fun. I can see them now, dancing and singing in harmony on the stage. Will Smith is the person

of color, Fred Thompson is the war vet, Paul Newman was the senior senator, and a youthful Annette Funicello is the Alaskan governor. (Tina Fey is too busy for the role.)

Alas, life isn't that easy. We can't leave this musical at the intermission. These are the real candidates. Yeah, who'd have thunk? And that's my point this month, dear reader, why are these the choices from which we have to pick? Who would have thunk? (In the interests of full disclosure, I wore my Obama t-shirt this morning to basketball, so I'm greatly biased, but my point holds: Why are these the choices from which we have to pick?)

I've heard lots of folks express frustration with our electoral process and say that they wish they could vote for that elusive candidate, None Of The Above. He'd garner lots of votes – or is it she? In any case, he/she/it would get lots of votes and maybe would win, but then what? It's hard to imagine None Of The Above swearing in on the Bible or giving the State of the Union address. Some have even suggested that None Of The Above be on the ballot, and no candidate could be elected until the winner received more than 50% of the vote. That sounds good but I can see the election going on for months and months, with no candidate getting a majority. Sooner or later we'd give in and elect someone who was clueless. (Oops, we just did that -- twice!)

Why are we lacking strong and good candidates, lots of them? The problem, of course, is that it's no longer fashionable for the best and brightest to go into government service. Today, Abe Lincoln would probably be a corporate lawyer, making a gazillion bucks. FDR would be running a cable television company, Teddy Roosevelt would be a fund-raiser for the National Wildlife Federation, and Ike would have remained the president of Columbia University.

You see, the election process has evolved in such a way that it dissuades people from wanting to get in politics. It discourages them

too! I mean, who wants to be under such scrutiny? It's hard to be a statesperson when communication is instant, continuous, and pervasive. And sometimes the communication is even correct.

So now what? We're left with a process that all too often doesn't yield the kinds of folks who ought to be leading our country. But what if it wasn't like this? What if YOU could pick the president? That's right, what if it was YOUR choice? No, I don't mean that you'd vote and choose between candidates X and Y; I mean what if you could appoint someone to be president? That's right: appoint.

You get to pick anyone you want to be president. This person only needs to meet the requirements of the office: be a US citizen, have no felony record, be age 35 or older, and, oh yes, your presidential appointee must be alive. And here's the key: Because you can appoint him/her/it, this person need not have traveled through the political process. That's right: This person need not be a politician. You appoint the president. Yes, you!

Your appointment to the presidency could be a business person, an athlete, an academic, or an artist. For that matter, of course, s/he could be a politician; there's no rule against it. Indeed, if you have enough hubris, you can name yourself president. And to make it easier for your president to do what's right, we'll remove the re-election problem. Your candidate is appointed by you for one eight-year term.

Who's your choice? You get to determine the president, so who is it gonna be? Please send me an email with your selection. Send your presidential pick to Hawkeye at [trhoerr@AOL.com](mailto:trhoerr@AOL.com). Your responses will be fodder for a future column.



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