

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 39, No. 1

April - May, 2009

www.stlouis.missouri.org/skinkerdebaliviere/sd_times

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

FREE

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

Invitation to Annual Thurtene Carnival



On April 18 and 19, over 50 student groups and hundreds of students from Washington University in St. Louis will come together to put on the oldest and largest student-run carnival in the United States. This year's theme is Timeless Traditions, Endless Adventures. With exhilarating amusement rides, creative student performances, delicious food, and great tradition, the Thurtene Carnival is a must see for any age. The Carnival is open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on the Danforth Campus of Washington University. The location will be in the parking lot and driveways in front of Brookings Hall, near the intersection of Skinker Blvd. and Forest Park Parkway.

Over 80,000 people generally attend Thurtene, and the net proceeds from the event are donated to a St. Louis area charity.

Washington University's fraternities and sororities pair together to design and build facades. Other student groups construct and operate themed food booths and carnival games to help raise money as well. The fried food booth is a long-standing tradition, as is the elaborately decorated BBQ hut.

Food, drink, and tickets for rides and student plays may be purchased at the carnival with cash only. Entrance to the carnival site is free of charge. For more information, visit www.thurtene.org.

Introducing Sean Meara, SDCC's New President

by Lana Stein

Sean Meara lives with his wife Angie and daughter Olive in a rehabbed home on 59xx Pershing. The Mearas moved to the neighborhood in April of 2005. Sean indicates that they "were seeking a more diverse neighborhood and wanted to be closer to Forest Park." He grew up in Shrewsbury but saw the city on an almost daily basis when he attended Saint Louis University High. He has a degree in business administration from UMSL and works in the technology services field.

Sean noted that Skinker DeBaliviere was still reasonably affordable when selecting his home. He also liked the ton of economic development going on in the Loop as it expanded eastward. He also found a lot of young white and black families continuing to move in. He hopes the neighborhood continues to be diverse.

Sean joined the SDCC Board a year ago. He was elected president in January, succeeding Bob Mahon who had served for two years. He wants to make sure that the council is representative of the whole neighborhood and to increase volunteerism and draw new people to the council's committees.

Sean wants to see the development of the East Loop continued. In addition, one of his main focuses is to improve safety for residents and business owners. Crime has gone down because of the diligence of our neighbors. Violent crime concerns him the most. Sean helped to get neighbors together on his own block to deal with safety issues. In this venture, Sean amazed me. He has



Photo by Lana Stein

become acquainted with almost every family, and knows everyone's names, including the children.

According to Sean, "it is no mistake that this neighborhood has become what it is, and the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council's involvement has been major. Decades of people worked hard to see that this neighborhood survived and flourished." He hopes people will rededicate themselves to the neighborhood and support the Council. He hopes younger people will become more involved.

To volunteer or ask a question, contact SDCC Office at 862-5122. Bethany Everett is the administrative assistant, and Darcell Braylock is the executive director. To reach President Sean Meara or any of the SDCC directors, consult the SDCC website at www.stlouis.missouri.org/skinkerdebaliviere.

Moon Rises over Delmar

By Jo Ann Vatcha

On Friday, April 17, 2009, the beautiful new Moonrise Hotel at 6177 Delmar will open its doors for business. Once again, Loop Entrepreneur Joe Edwards is pulling out all the stops with a 125-room hotel being marketed to visitors to the Pageant and Loop, as well as university visitors and business travelers who want to stay in the entertainment district at night and have ready access to downtown and the entire region for business during the day. With its easy access to MetroLink and all the restaurants and music attractions of the Loop, the new Moonrise Hotel fits the bill. The hotel has been designed for complete accessibility, with a luxurious lobby with dramatic angled staircase. Ten "Walk of Fame" suites have been created.

The front facade of the building has incorporated the lovely features of the historic Alexander and Sons building, which was carefully removed for structural integrity and reintroduced to the new building with all its architectural detail. The color of the stone and other materials has also been carefully matched to the historic building it now encases.

The hotel's upscale restaurant

"Eclipse", which is located in the historic facade of the hotel, also opens for business on April 17. Joe Edwards is excited about the "creative cosmic cuisine" he has planned there, with executive chef Maurice Reed II. Certified sommelier Chad George will bring an excellent wine selection to augment the great collection of beers that Edwards' other restaurant, Blueberry Hill, is known for.

The hotel's rooftop terrace bar will open later this spring, featuring incomparable views of the Loop, the Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood, and Forest Park, as well as the downtown skyline to the East. Joe hopes the neighborhood will come to regard the restaurant and terrace bar as one of their special places.

The rooftop terrace will also feature a spectacular 10 foot diameter rotating moon. Painted to simulate the phases of the moon, this lighted feature will definitely be a new landmark in St. Louis, brought to Skinker-DeBaliviere and the Loop by Joe Edwards, who invites all to "experience the sublime in a setting that is out of this world." For more information, visit www.moonrisehotel.com or call 721-1111.



Photo by Jo Ann Vatcha

The "moon" about to be raised to the top of the Moonrise Hotel.

Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

It was 60 degrees today and I reveled in the warmer air and sunshine. Max (the dog) and I are extending our walks and noting the buds on trees and bushes, harbingers of a more pleasant season. I grew up in Michigan and spent 32 winters there. Of course I was younger but the cold didn't penetrate like it does now. I and most of my friends seemed to be waiting out what was actually a fairly mild winter and counted the days till Daylight Savings Time kicked in.

Our neighborhood always looks so lovely in spring and summer and there are a plethora of events to keep us occupied and in touch with neighbors. We begin at the end of April with the Operation Brightside Blitz. Then it's the Garden Tour, a perennial favorite, and on to my personal best event – the Dog Show! Then there's National Night Out, Rags to Riches, and concerts at Four Corners. It's worth waiting for and I hope that neighbors who have not participated in these events will do so and perhaps volunteer to help out.

If "the year's at the spring" then "all is right with the world." Besides, each day that passes brings us closer to the reopening of Highway 40!

THANKS TO DONORS

The Friends of Skinker-DeBaliviere Fundraising Campaign wishes to acknowledge the contributions of the following neighborhood businesses:

Kingsbury Animal Hospital, \$ 100

Pin-Up Bowl, 6191 Delmar, \$ 100

Hair City, 5837 Delmar, \$ 100

Modai Sushi Lounge, 6100 Delmar, \$ 100

St. Louis Design Alliance, 6014 Delmar, \$ 75

Calendar

April 13 and May 11, 2009, 7:00 p.m. Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council Meeting, 6008 Kingsbury

April 8 and 22, May 6 and 20: Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation, 6:00 p.m. 6008 Kingsbury

April 8th and May 13, 2009, 6:30 p.m. Historic District Review Committee, 6008 Kingsbury

May 2, 2009 Operation Brightside Blitz Day

May 9, 2009 13th annual Skinker DeBaliviere Plant Exchange, 10 a.m.-Noon. Wood chips, flowers, grass seeds and more will be available for planting in your lawn or other public planting areas, and exchange free plants from others' gardens for your own. Hot dogs and sodas from 11:30-1 at the Four Corners, Des Peres and Kingsbury.

Coming Soon: June 6, 2009, McPherson Garden Tour



Among those interviewed for the DVD were two longtime directors of SDCC, Cal Stuart and Nancy Farmer, and Dan McGuire, former Alderman of the 28th Ward.

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

A brand new 100+ page book covers the neighborhood's rich history and includes "The Neighborhood" A History of Skinker-DeBaliviere by Gee Stuart, Sue Tepas, and Kathy Harleman (yellow book), written in 1973; dozens of photographs from the Missouri History Museum, THE TIMES OF SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE, and private donations from neighborhood residents; the "Neighborhood Chronicles" about the 70's written by Jo Ann Vatcha; and selected articles from the archives of THE TIMES OF SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE; The book has an accompanying DVD, produced by Marj Weir and Jo Ann Vatcha, with interviews conducted by Jody Sowell of the Missouri Historical Society;

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!

Saturday, April 25: Sheep to Shear! Peggy McCallie shears a few of the Shetland sheep that she raises at her WildFlower Farm, near Dittmer, Mo.! 2 p.m. Her woven items -- and balls of her own yarn -- also are sold exclusively at Bowood Farms, 4605 Olive Street in the Central West End, where the event takes place, rain or shine. Call Bowood at 314-454-6868 for more information.



The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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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 Summer issue: May 15, 2009. Please send copy by e-mail to 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 or maxlana@sbcglobal.net.

Skinker-DeBaliviere Centennial House Plaques



Designed by artist Andy Cross and executed by tile painter Madeleine Laura, these handsome, weatherproof tiles will be customized with the year a house was built.

Name: _____

House Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Year Requested on Plaque: _____

We have a map of the Historic District with building dates. Price: \$55
Checks made payable to West End Publishing Company. Please mail to: Katie Kurtz, 6178 Kingsbury, St. Louis, MO 63112. Call 727-6377 or 496-5083.

News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

Well, it's spring in Skinker DeBaliviere and at least at the time I am writing this, it's over seventy degrees, birds are singing, and the sun is shining. Neighbors are out and about visiting with one another. A great reminder of why we all love this neighborhood so much. Let's hope this gorgeous weather continues!

Lana Stein reports that wedding bells rang on the 5900 block of Pershing recently for long time resident **Joe McNeal** and his new bride, **Tammara**. They were married on Saturday, March 1st and vacationed in the islands! Congratulations and best wishes to the happy couple. Joe actually grew up in Skinker DeBaliviere and like so many of our residents, moved back as an adult.

For those of you who have not seen it yet, the cover girl for the latest issue of *Saint Louis Woman Magazine* is none other than **Rachelle L'Ecuyer**. Rachelle, who lives on the 6100 block of Washington, is a second generation Skinker DeBaliviere resident and the power behind the City of Maplewood and all the exciting things we read about happening there! The issue



Rachelle L'Ecuyer

features gorgeous photos of Rachelle and a wonderful article about her. If you don't pick up a copy at Schnucks, be sure to check it out on line at: http://www.stlouiswomanmag.com/index_home.html.

Yet another second generation resident is making the news again. **Andy Cross** of the 6000 block of McPherson recently closed out his second art show at the **Bill Kohn Studio** at Kingsbury and Des Peres. Andy's show, "*Diocotyledon*," featured a wide range of Andy's talents with many different styles on display and for sale. Also included in the exhibit was a wall

of Andy's volunteer efforts from the past year. We all appreciate the beautiful signs, posters, and fliers that Andy designs for our neighborhood, but seeing them displayed on an art studio wall was a reminder of how blessed we all are with his talented works touching our daily lives.

Andy Cross also hosted some young visitors in his studio recently. The **St. Roch Webelo**



Andy Cross with Webelos

Scouts were treated to a behind the scenes tour of life in an artist studio, and also took the time to enjoy Andy's show. Andy followed up with a lesson on drawing at a recent scout meeting and has inspired some of the boys to work more on their own artistic endeavors.!

Susan Gamble of the 6100 block of Kingsbury co-chaired the Herbert Hoover 'Table for Four' event on March 11th at the Frontenac Hilton. It was created to help dedicate more resources for the girls' programming and to raise more awareness of the girls' activities and accomplishments at Herbert Hoover, and to enrich the girls' experience. While the club originated as a boys club, it has served both boys and girls for a very long time. Parkview neighbor, **Flint Fowler**, is the executive director of the Herbert Hoover Boys and Girls Club. We commend both Susan and Flint for their great efforts and congratulate them on a successful event!

Baby news has just arrived from **Holly and Bob Moraca**, former residents of the 6100 block of McPherson. The Moraca's have welcomed their third child, **Ryan Joseph**. Proud big sister is **Sydney** and **Lucas** is now a big brother! Congrats to the Moraca's who now reside in Pittsburgh. Great news!

A year ago I reported about DeGiverville resident **Mike Butler** being recognized by the 7th District Business Association

as Officer of the Month. Well, I am happy to report this year that Mike Butler repeated the honors again in 2008 and was awarded Officer of the Month for July 2008. Congratulations to Officer Butler for continuing his outstanding service to our community!

From BJC, we learned of a new honor for **Dr. Scott Jones** of Parkview, who received a new title of Fellow from the American Osteopathic College of Occupational and Preventive Medicine. "I am honored to receive this distinction from an occupational medical organization that means so much to me," Jones is also owner of Occupational Health Strategies, LLC, a service that schedules and reviews medical exams, as well as owner of Doctors-on-

Call Physician Case Management Services, LLC, a company that provides real-time, work-related injury and illness management through a 24-hour call center and periodic review of medical cases for local and national companies. Congrats to busy Scott!

The 6100 block of McPherson was sad to see longtime residents **Mary and Pete Schmit** move away. The Schmits have downsized to a condo but are still seen regularly in the neighborhood and at St. Roch Church. Mary wrote to the *TIMES* to get a "subscription"! She said, "What a world here in St. Louis County. Yes, we feel blessed: no grass to mow and no walks to shovel... but we miss the City noises... sometimes it gets so quiet... but we do have many dog walkers and trains and birds, and most of all, friendly neighbors. Bob and Trish Martin are both our former neighbors and now our current neighbors."

The same block bid farewell to **Howie Brick and Debra Schwartz** at the end of 2008. They

have moved on to Michigan where Howie will continue teaching. We wish them the best of luck.

One of the harder parts of writing this column is when we have to say goodbye to neighbors. But hopefully we take the time to look back at lives lived well, happy times, and fond memories.



Mary Fleener with Molly and Cristina

Many neighbors recently said their farewell to **Mary Fleener**. Mary and her husband **Charlie** were longtime Parkview residents who raised their two daughters here. Mary's daughter **Cristina** and her husband **Sean** are now raising their children in the neighborhood too. Mary died the way she lived, sharing stories and enjoying the company of her family and friends, and of course, her beloved grandsons. Many people were able to say goodbye in person while others followed Mary's journey through a Caring Bridge website that her daughters **Cristina McGroarty** (of the 6100 block of McPherson) and **Molly Kluckznik** took the time to update regularly. Her daughters gave her the greatest gift they could, their love and support to the very end. Without a doubt, Mary's smiling face will be missed, but never forgotten.

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



Charlie Spoonhour, former basketball coach at SLU, was the entertaining speaker for the 7th District Police luncheon held at the Pageant Theatre, honoring the "Officer of the Year," as well as each month's nominated officer. To his right is Mark Jaffe who organizes these annual events; to his left, Captain Moran, who has moved to a new post in the police department. Also attending were Chief Dan Isom and new 7th District Captain Sam Dotson. Captain Dotson indicated that the neighborhood would have bicycle patrols this summer and that the district will receive more officers shortly for patrol. The police forces of University City and St. Louis, as well as Washington University's security force, are cooperating actively regarding security.

Skinker-D Gastronomy

Garden Greens Nutloaf is a Gardener's Delight

by Ligaya Figueras

If you have ever strolled through the McPherson Community Garden located on the 59XX block of McPherson near Des Peres, chances are that you've stopped to admire Mary Hellwig's vegetable plot. Mary, who lives on the 61XX block of McPherson, has been a gardener for many years. Her green thumb has earned her numerous

growing plants, but she's also a fantastic home cook. "Cooking is something that is relaxing for me so that even though I am tired at the end of a day of work, I generally enjoy cooking dinner," she explained. During the summer, Mary frequently visits her vegetable plot before dinnertime. "Part of the dinner will be whatever is ready for harvest sauteed in olive oil – like a kind of ratatouille."

Her "Garden Greens Nutloaf" is essentially a vegetarian meatloaf made from fragrant toasted nuts, cooked rice, sauteed leafy greens, eggs and cheddar cheese. The result is a dish so rich and full that "though it has no meat in it, even my son – a devoted meat-eater – loves it!" The nutritional quality and adaptability of the dish are other reasons why Mary considers the dish a keeper: "It's full of healthy ingredients and I can use whatever garden greens and nuts I happen to have available." The greens might be Swiss chard, spinach or kale; she has also used a combination of brown and white rice; periodically, she uses another cheese in combination with

the cheddar.

Mary, her husband Frank and their children Elise (19) and Luke (16) enjoy the nutloaf with a simple side salad, although Mary has served it alongside another vegetable dish such as roasted winter vegetables. "Although it already has rice in it, I've even served it with mashed potatoes and gravy because the loaf is sort of like a meatloaf," she noted.

To be considered for future issues, contact Ligaya Figueras at figueras@sbcglobal.net.



Photo by King Schoenfeld

During the gardening season, Mary Hellwig often visits her plot at the McPherson Community Garden to harvest fresh food for dinner.

gardening awards and she was one of the first gardeners to join the McPherson Garden when the initial set of plots was constructed some twelve years ago.

"I still remember Andy Cross approaching me to ask if I would be interested in a community garden and I was delighted with the possibility," said Mary, who also helps with the Columbia Peace and Hope Garden vis · vis her work with the St. Louis Mennonite Peace Center.

Mary not only has a talent for

Garden Greens Nutloaf

Courtesy of Mary Hellwig • Serves 12

2 cups mixed unsalted nuts, toasted and ground (suggested nut mix: 1 cup walnuts or pecans, 1/2 cup sunflower seeds or almonds, and 1/2 cup cashews)

2 1/2 cups cooked brown rice

2 cups cooked white rice

6 cups coarsely chopped fresh spinach or chard leaves (or substitute with 8 cups coarsely chopped fresh kale)

4 large eggs, slightly beaten

1/2 cup tamari soy sauce

1 large onion finely chopped

3/4 lb. grated cheddar cheese

If nuts have not been roasted, toast nuts at 275° for 10 to 15 minutes. Use a food processor to grind nuts to a fine grind. Set aside.

Preheat oven to 300°. Gently saute the greens in oil or steam them until slightly wilted. Remove from heat and set aside. Spray a 13 x 9-inch baking dish with nonstick cooking spray.

Combine toasted nuts, cooked rice, greens, eggs, soy sauce, onion and cheddar cheese in a large bowl. Transfer mixture to baking dish and press into dish. Bake for 50 minutes to one hour. Let stand 10 minutes before cutting.

Third Degree Glass

April 17 Third Friday 6 - 10 p.m. FREE

BURNIN' TO LEARN?

Burnin' to learn? You'll be the hit of the party when you take a glass class from Third Degree. Call 314-367-4527 to register.

If you're a glass newbie:

- April 6, Glass I, 6-Week Intro, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. \$350

Six Monday classes teach you the fundamentals so you can work independently in hot glass.

- April 11, Make a Glass Flower, 2 – 5 p.m. \$75

Work one-on-one with a Third Degree instructor and make a beautiful flower in just 30 minutes. Reservations required. We'll contact you by phone and email to assign a specific 30-minute time slot. *Also offered April 25.

- April 18, Paperweight Workshop, 2 – 5 p.m. \$95

Our famously fun paperweight workshop. With a quick intro to the tools and techniques of furnace work you'll be on your way to creating beautiful one-of-a-kind paperweights. Looking for a unique day out with the kids? Great for ages 10 and up. *Also offered May 16.

- April 19, Glassblowing Intensive, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. \$150

Cover all the basic tools and techniques of glassblowing in a single afternoon. *Also offered May 17.

- April 25 & 26, Flameworking I: Intro to Beadmaking, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. \$175 Learn beadmaking basics - including bead shapes, stringers for surface design, shaping by marvering, and dimension with frits and foils.

- May 23, Glass Art Sampler, 12 noon – 4 p.m. \$100

In less than a day, get hands-on experience in three glassworking methods.

Summary of annual Rosedale Meeting,

Sunday, March 1, 1009.

A small, but vocal and compatible, group attended the annual meeting at which the following items were discussed.

- 1) The SD website was given for those who might not be familiar with it. [<http://stlouis.missouri.org/skinkerdebaliviere/>]
- 2) There was discussion about Rags to Riches. The feeling is that this is a very good fundraiser with more sellers participating each year, especially from outside the neighborhood. Since this is the sole source of income for Rosedale and is split with SDCC we felt that it should continue.
- 3) We have a new 7th District captain - Sam Dotson. His phone # is 444-0027. According to him crime is down in the city by 25% in the past two years. Our area's crime is mostly down with the exception of car thefts and larcenies. His #1 focus will be on larcenies, followed by burglaries. More officers on bikes will be out as the weather warms up. Police are getting out of their cars to check both the platforms

and upper areas of the Metrolink stations.

- 4) The Community Events calendar was distributed along with the SDCC board of directors list with phone and email numbers. <http://stlouis.missouri.org/skinkerdebaliviere/sdccboard.html>
- 5) Two major fundraising events are being planned by the SDCC fundraising committee. Information was given out about them and more info will be coming to all via email and flyers.
- 6) Officers were elected and the new officers are:

Dan Hudspeth - president
Kate Nash - vice-president
Vincent Flewelling - treasurer
Nicolle Blumner - Washington/
Westminster rep
Duana Thomas - Kingsbury-
McPherson rep
Arline Webb - Waterman-Pershing
rep
Karin Hagaman - at-large rep

Notes taken by Arline Webb, outgoing President, and Dan Schesch.

*I live in the city,
I sell the city,
I love the city!*



Rachel Boxdorfer

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Blue Ocean Sushi Brings Offers All-You-Can-Eat Sushi to Loop

By Ligaya Figueras



Photo by King Schoenfeld

Pictured at right enjoying Blue Ocean Sushi is State Representative Maria Chapelle-Nadal, who grew up on Westminster.

With the arrival of **Blue Ocean Sushi** at 609 Eastgate in The Loop, locals now can eat as much sushi, nigiri and rolls as their stomachs can handle. The restaurant, which is adjacent to the 609 Lounge nightclub and shares a pass-through door with the bar, opened for business in December, and offers all-you-can-eat sushi.

Manager A.K. Ploentham convinced Birny Lee, owner of Blue Ocean Sushi and 609 Lounge,

that the all-you-can-eat concept was worth it. "I saw other all-you-can-eat restaurants in other cities – Las Vegas, New York, L.A. It's a big trend," said Ploentham, who added that in the current economic climate, the concept makes financial sense for diners. "You can eat for a controllable price."

Blue Ocean Sushi has three menu tiers. The first level starts at \$14.99 for lunch and \$19.99 for dinner and includes popular rolls like California rolls, salmon rolls, and avocado rolls, a selection of nigiri, crab rangoon, edamame, miso soup, a house salad made with miso dressing and more. Ploentham said that this menu is perfect for students and others on a tight budget, as well as individuals who want an introduction to Japanese cuisine.

The Level 2 menu is "for people who would like to discover sushi a bit more." For five dollars more, diners can select anything from

Level 1 as well as a greater selection of rolls and nigiri, and even mochi ice cream. The highest tier is for "people who know sushi." That menu costs \$24.99 for lunch and \$29.99 for dinner and includes everything on Level 1 and 2 plus, more expensive sushi and nigiri and other specialty Japanese dishes. Soda and hot tea are included in the fixed price for every level.

Although most customers choose the all-you-can-eat menu, the same items are available a la carte. Food, however, is not served buffet style. Customers order what they want and "if you feel like you have more room [in your stomach], you just order more," said Ploentham. "Everything is fresh."

Working behind the counter is sushi chef Jeff Tabtiang, who has worked in the restaurant business for 18 years, including at The Drunken Fish in the CWE and most recently at KiTARO, a Japanese steakhouse, seafood and sushi bar in O'Fallon, Missouri. One of Tabtiang's specialties is the AK-47, a roll made with spicy

tuna, eel, cucumber, cream cheese and Sriracha sauce. "It's sweet and spicy – pretty hot," said Tabtiang.

Ploentham and Tabtiang even created some Japanese/American fusion dishes like the Cheese Burger roll, which consists of a ground beef patty, cheese, lettuce, mustard and ketchup. "People love it!" Ploentham said, noting that there is something on the menu for everyone, even kids. For youngsters, he recommended the California roll. "It's an American favorite. It's cooked so you don't have to worry about raw stuff."

Unlike traditional sushi restaurants where diners fill out an order slip, the servers at Blue Ocean Sushi write down customers' orders. "We want interaction between the server and the customer," explained Ploentham. He hopes that this method will help customers – especially the uninitiated – feel comfortable and become more educated about Japanese/Asian cuisine.

Blue Ocean Sushi

609 Eastgate
314.721.9168

www.blueoceansushi.com

Hours: Lunch: Mon. to Fri. – 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Dinner: Sun. to Thu. – 5 to 10 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. – 5 to midnight

The Building Corner

By Katie Kurtz

The Historic District Review Committee is committed to having an article in every issue of *The Times*. This month will be a mixture of things, but we would welcome anyone calling or writing us about subjects of general interest.

The Committee will meet on the second Wednesday of each month at the Council office at 6:30 p.m. If any property owner, architect or contractor needs to have improvement plans or new construction reviewed, this would be a time to present to the group. The Historic Review Committee is in place to help explain the standards, review new construction projects as well as demolitions. Please call Katie Kurtz, 727-6377 or 496-5083, to get information or be put on the agenda.

Almost all exterior improvements require Cultural Resource Office permits; these include but are not limited to, window and door replacements, porch repairs including railings and columns, soffit and eave repairs, roof replacements, substantial tuck pointing, and painting of unpainted brick and stone. These standards apply to building exteriors which are visible from the street. Fences also require permits from the Building Division due to height, placement and materials. The neighborhood standards can be found at stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/planning/heritage. The St. Louis City Preservation Board, which reviews major construction projects as well as appeals, meets the fourth Monday of each month at 4 p.m. A member of the neighborhood review committee attends to observe proceedings and to speak,

if necessary, on any neighborhood items.

One of the committee's priorities is to increase communication to current and potential property owners. To that end we are working on a letter which will be mailed to real estate brokers who have buildings for sale in the neighborhood. Skinker-DeBaliviere has a relatively low number of foreclosures, there are some. When a bank or financial institution owns a property, there is little history about it. As many of these properties might well be eligible for historic preservation tax credits, it would be a helpful marketing tool for parties to be aware of the district.

Some other things happenings in the neighborhood: Kudos to Grace United Methodist Church at the corner of Skinker and Waterman. They are in the process of replacing the blacktop surface, which used to be around the street trees, with brick pavers. They look wonderful and are a great improvement. Delmar is looking very exciting with the Moonrise Hotel nearing completion (the architects and

contractors did an excellent job of replicating the historic Alexander Funeral Home facade). Work has begun by Washington University on the building on the northeast corner of Skinker and Delmar. (While this isn't a historic district item, please remember to patronize the restaurants and shops on Delmar.)

Member of the Committee are: Katie Kurtz, chair (Rosedale); Darlene Davison (Parkview); Paul Hohmann (Rosedale); Venita Lake (Washington Heights); Jonathan Parker (Rosedale); David Rothschild (Washington Heights); Richard Wilkes (property owner, Rosedale and Washington Heights). The Historic District includes Rosedale, Washington Heights (excluding Kingsbury Square), Parkview, Lindell (Catlin Tract).



Photo by Paul Hohmann

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Beth Bender, (Parkview Rep)

Green Irene Launches Green Home and Office Consulting Service

Michelle Pike, of the 6100 block of McPherson, recently became an independent, authorized distributor of Green Irene consulting services and products, providing eco-friendly consulting services to local homeowners and small business owners who want to lead their family and employees to a healthier, safer and more sustainable lifestyle while saving money by reducing energy use.

"I was looking for a way to help others get started reducing their carbon footprint. Green Irene has been a great fit for me in taking the mystery out of the process and making it accessible to anyone who is interested. Not only are these Eco-Friendly lifestyle changes inexpensive or even free, but many of them will save thousands of

dollars in utility costs."

Pike takes the guesswork out of going green through 90-minute Green Home Makeovers.

For a \$99 consulting fee, Pike covers all these topics and provides recommendations that include immediate steps a homeowner can take for free as well as green home product and service suggestions.

"Green Irene's \$133 Water Conservation Kit for two bathrooms and one kitchen saves more than 44,000 gallons of water per year and more than \$4,300 in reduced energy costs (to heat the wasted

water) in a five-year period," said P.J. Stafford, co-founder of Green Irene. Similarly, \$200 worth of energy efficient light bulbs can save more than \$2,000 in energy costs.

Anyone interested in a Green Home Makeover or consultation should contact Michelle at Michelle.Cville@GreenIrene.com. She will be happy to schedule an appointment when she is in town and invites the opportunity to catch up on Skinker Debaliviere news!

For more information about Green Irene LLC, visit www.GreenIrene.com or call (888) 212-GREEN.



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* Revised January 2009

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Hamilton Community Education Center

by Gwendolyn D. Hall

This is the "VOICE of Hamilton Community Education Center." Yes, we are still here! We are located 2 blocks south of Delmar, between Laurel and Hamilton Ave. at 5819 Westminster Pl. We are open from 3:30-9 p.m./Monday thru Thursday. Now, I know that you thought that we were closed and gone but that was temporarily for remodeling. We have been back in the heart of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Area for some time now but people seem to have forgotten us, even though we send out a brochure twice a year. Now neighbors, the brochure really isn't for hitting the dog, swatting flies, or junk mail. There is a lot of fine important information in there.

We offer:

COMPUTER CLASSES: Internet job search, word processing and the internet.

PHYSICAL FITNESS: Cardio conditioning, aerobics, plus a fitness center.

SEWING: With our own Vivian Dobbs who lives in the 5800 of Westminster Pl.

UPHOLSTERY

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT: Chess club for youth, open basketball plus team sports. Scouts: cub, boy, and girl. Child shield: which is fingerprinting and identification cards of your children for your own personal use. After-school program/homework helper for children pre-k-12 with certified teachers.

Dance: jazz and ballet.

DANCE: Adult dance choreography to popular music from the 70's, 80's, and 90's for greater fitness.

We also offer free use of our facility for block units and community meetings Monday - Thursday.

We are a multi-service agency with local community, educators, Hamilton's parents and business people comprising our Advisory Board members. But guess what we are missing? YOU!

We need more of our neighbors, parents, and business people coming out, taking classes, having meetings, watching movies when we have them, and joining our board. Please, don't forget us again.

Contact Avis May, community collaborative specialist or our own Katrina Garrison, chairperson at 367-6996.



Garden Tour Breakfast

BLITZ DAY May 2

by Andy Cross

Remember, Blitz Day '09 is Saturday May 2nd. Operation Brightside's annual neighborhood cleanup, is a day when neighbors clean-up our alleys and other areas that need attention. Bulk waste items will be picked up when placed in the alleys according to established guidelines, watch for upcoming neighborhood flyers for more details. Remember to put sticks and leaves in the yard waste dumpsters. Plastic bags are not yard waste, even if they are full of leaves, because plastic is not organic, and will not turn into mulch. Yard furniture and other trash and rocks are not yard waste because they are not sticks and leaves. Branches must be bundled in lengths no longer than three feet and placed with bulk items. Place large items near dumpsters, 4 feet away so that the trash trucks can pick up and set down the dumpsters. Operation Brightside recommends that you have all your large items set out by 10:00 am. Remember to look at the Blitz day flyers for more details about bulk pickup.



Garden Beds Available

Block Unit 1035 Garden has openings for new gardeners! It's a great year for growing your own food -- save money and enjoy delicious food all at the same time.

The Community Garden across from Hamilton School/Lucier Park has beds available for planting. A planning meeting was held on Saturday, March 14, but you can still visit the garden and pick a bed.

The Block Unit 1035 Community Garden is located on the 58xx block of Westminster, across from Hamilton School and Lucier Park. To learn more about the Block Unit 1035 Community garden, please visit the website at <http://sites.google.com/site/bu1035communitygarden/> To learn more about what it means to be a part of this Community Garden, please visit <http://sites.google.com/site/bu1035communitygarden/Home/how-our-garden-works>

If you have any questions, please contact the head of the garden, Mark Banaszak at banaszak.mark@gmail.com.

PLANTING DAY May 9

Saturday, May 9, is our planting day and neighborhood plant exchange. Operation Brightside flowers are available to block captains who placed orders for flowers with Blitz area commanders Andy Cross and Darcell Braylock at the SDCC office, and are intended for planting in public areas. Our plant exchange takes place each year on this day at Greg Freeman Park at Four Corners at Kingsbury & Des Peres from 10 am to noon. This is a good place to drop off the extra plants that are crowding your garden, or to look

at what other folks have dropped off and see if there is something you want or need. You don't have to make a swap, you can just drop off plants or pick up plants if you like. We usually have drop-offs of irises, daylilies, ivy, coneflowers, etc. Wood chips for trees, lawns and other public planting areas are available on planting day, along with small packets of grass seed for bare patches in your lawn. Watch for our flyers for more information about Planting Day and Blitz Day'09.

Neighborhood Talent Show Planned

Plans for a Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood Talent Show are in the works! The venue will be in late April at Joe's Café, artist-neighbor Bill Christman's great location located at 6020 Kingsbury. All residents aged 15 years and older who wish to participate are welcome. Organizers Bill Christman, Mark Gorman, and Karin Hagaman plan a variety of acts and hope to interest talented neighbors in doing 2 to 3 minute performances of music, dancing, comedy, acting, poetry, etc., to make this a great neighborhood event.

For more information, contact one of the organizers! Bill Christman can be reached at his studio at 862-2541; or call Mark Gorman at 363-5236 or Karin Hagaman at 725-6878.

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IN YOUR EAR

by Hawkeye Z. Hoerr

The picture was simple. A painting of an apple on a table, a wedge cut and lying aside. No one was in the scene, and the morning sun peeked through the curtains. The art was well done, clearly produced by someone of considerable skill; every detail was in place. From a distance, it might have been a photograph. But there wasn't anything particularly remarkable or redeeming about it.

Then I turned to the right and glanced at the narrative on the museum wall, offering an explanation for the work I had just viewed: "Man's isolation and eternal frustration is captured in this work," it began. "The artist shows us a single piece of fruit in a room made empty by its loneliness. The apple has been opened with a sharp instrument and its soul is bare for all to see. The sunlight probes but is stilted by the curtain."

I moved on to the next painting. It was abstract, vertical streaks of yellow and red, shades of each, with a horizontal gray shape two-thirds up the canvas, dividing the verticality of colors into two. The narrative on the wall showed me just how much I missed: "This work speaks to the potential of mankind. The red and yellow shades represent passion and optimism, the nuances of color speaking to the vicissitudes of the human condition. The black tinge illustrates adversity; its position below the center of the painting indicates that man has transcended challenge." I turned around and walked to the other side of the room in order to see a photo of a young child sitting and looking into the distance. Two small dogs sat at his feet staring at one another with a baseball on the floor between them. There was nothing noteworthy about the child other than that he was wearing a baseball cap with the New York Yankees insignia on it.

The words on the wall told me what I was missing. "In this photo the artist speaks to hunger and the role of the United States as world leader." I took a gulp and continued to read. "The two dogs represent continents in which thousands of people suffer from hunger each day. Their location and the bottom of the work indicates that they are below the equator. The ball is a prototype sphere signifying the Earth with plentiful resources yet distribution of disparity. The fact that he is wearing a New York cap tells is that the boy is the United States, yet he looks away rather than involving himself in the plight of the dogs or the world."

I looked around the room and saw a dozen or so other people looking intently at the art. A couple of what appeared to be college students were on the floor, furiously taking notes, looking at the art and then back to their tablets, back

and forth.

All I could think was that I wanted to talk to the artists. Did they really intend these meanings? How much of the description of the art work was due to the spatial intelligence or the artists and how much of it was due to the linguistic intelligence of the people who wrote the narratives? I couldn't tell if I was in an art museum, as I'd thought when I entered the doors, or a linguistic hall of syllables in a Lewis Carroll story.

For example, imagine a painting that consists of a pale yellow background with a score of red and orange circles at the lower left of the canvas; some are larger than others but all are relatively small. The yellow at the top right of the canvas is even more faint than the rest of the painting, and is almost white. There are two narratives to accompany this piece, one on the left and one on the right.

On the left: "This picture speaks to the anomie of society. Individually, we are nothing, and that is indicated by the spheres. While they vary in size and color, they hold no identity and purpose. The futility of life is shown by the fading of yellow into nothingness." On the right: "This picture speaks to movement and purpose. The circles vary in size to show that some are closer than others, their hues affected by the sun which is beginning to set. Once darkness comes they will all return to their origins until the next day when the activity begins anew."

Huh? What's going on here? I can live with either explanation but I want to know what the artist thought. Did this docent speak to him or her? Or were these words written as a best guesstimate? Just maybe the narrative will affect how I view the artwork. Possibly the narrative will prod me to think in a way that would not have been elicited by the art. Or is the narrative art too?

Just what was on Mona Lisa's mind anyway? Was she thinking "I can't believe Leonardo is paying me to sit here and daydream?" or was she thinking "I wish my husband would get a job so that I didn't have to pose like this!" Or perhaps it was "I can't believe that the people of America were dumb enough to elect George W. Bush twice!" More relevantly, just what was Leonardo da Vinci thinking? What was in his mind? Was it "I wish I could afford to get two models," or "Why in the world does she keep smiling like that?"

Envision one of my favorite works of art, Edvard Munch's "The

Scream." We could spend lots of time guessing about what this figure is screaming: taxes, life, and the closing of highway 40 come to mind for me. But wouldn't it be nice to know what Munch was thinking? What happened in his life to conjure this image?

Artists do more than speak to the here and now; they touch parts of us that we didn't know existed; they comfort and they challenge. Some works speak for themselves; some don't. Sometimes we need an interpreter to help us understand the artist's motivation and intent. But when we rely on the interpreter rather than the artist, we all lose. Our appreciation must be limited and the artist, well, we'll never know, will we? What's the moral of this story? Take your favorite artist to lunch while she or he is alive. Talk to the artist and see what is in the mind not only from the hand. Nurture and ask and listen well. Isn't it time to find out what your artist is thinking?



Joe Edwards at the Moonrise.

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