

# The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 41, No. 5

February - March 2012

<http://SDTimes.org/index.html>

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

FREE

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

## Big Renovation on Skinker Moves Library to Delmar and Feinberg to Millbrook

by Cheryl Adelstein

Washington University will be renovating 6188 McPherson, during 2012. The six-story building includes 50 apartments and is the home of the Charing Cross Branch of the St. Louis Public Library and also of Feinberg Realty.

The renovation will include new utility systems and elevators, as well as complete upgrades to all the apartment units and the retail space.

During construction in 2012, the Charing Cross Branch will be temporarily relocated to 6046 Delmar, at the intersection of Delmar and Rosedale.



According to Mary Campbell, Associate Vice Chancellor for Real Estate, "It was important to keep the branch close to the adjacent Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood and an easy walk for library users."

Said Diane Freiermuth, Deputy Director of the St. Louis Public Library, "The Charing Cross Branch enjoys a very loyal patron base. We are pleased to work with Washington University so that we can continue serving them while the Branch is renovated."

Feinberg Realty will move to an office space in the Millbrook Plaza, at the intersection of Forest Park Parkway and Big Bend during the renovation period.

When the renovations are complete, in Spring 2013, Washington University looks forward to welcoming back the Charing Cross Branch and Feinberg Realty to a newly renovated space.



Whether you missed the Loop Ice Carnival or just crave more winter fun, there's another event coming soon. Bill Christman and the West End Arts Council are planning a special snow day event. The first time we have major snow - schools closed - there will be a bonfire and snow sculpting at Lucier Park. All are welcome. The bonfire will be in the good hands of St. Louis City firefighter Eric Trudo, who is also a council member. So watch the skies!

## Special Surprises on MLK Day

Our neighborhood's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration was held on January 15 at Grace and Peace Church at 5574 Delmar. Featured speaker was artist and WU professor Bob Hansman. In addition to his stirring speech, Alderman Lyda Krewson and event chair Liz Wright Johnson presented proclamations to Clara McCleod, widow of recently deceased past president of SDCC Jim McCleod, and to the trailblazing SDCC leader of the 70's, Calvin Stuart. Krewson's proclamation stated the following:



From left, Liz Wright Johnson, Calvin B. Stuart, Jr., Clara McCleod, and Alderman Lyda Krewson.

WHEREAS, we pause to recognize Calvin B. Stuart for his many years of service to the community; and

WHEREAS, Calvin B. Stuart, former president of the Skinker- DeBaliviere Community Council in 1970, was appointed executive director of the Council in February 1971; and

WHEREAS, he assisted in the ongoing improvement of the SDCC neighborhood through McPherson Management Company and also served on the West End Town House Board; and

WHEREAS, he worked with City of St. Louis, SDCC neighbors and the aldermen to keep a finger on the pulse of the neighborhood and to identify, assess, and resolve immediate concerns; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stuart was committed to having the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council continue to work with encouragement of business and commercial ventures in those areas zoned for this activity.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Saint Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize Calvin B. Stuart and thank him for his many contributions to the City of Saint Louis and we further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a commemorative copy to the end that it may be presented to our honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 292

Calvin B. Stuart

Introduced on the 13th day of January, 2012 by: Honorable Lyda Krewson, Alderwoman 28th Ward

## Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program

In 2011 more than 50 households from Skinker DeBaliviere and nearby neighborhoods participated in the new Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program organized by Lee Farms and the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council. From mid-June through mid-October (20 weeks) Lee Farms delivered fresh boxes of produce for residents to pick up from the SDCC office. Each week participants looked forward to finding a variety of produce in their boxes including squash, zucchini, corn, pumpkins, sweet potatoes, popcorn, watermelon, eggs, carrots, lemon cucumbers, tomatoes, and much, much more. Lee Farms sent weekly newsletters that included delicious recipes, updates about activities on the farm, and information about the produce for that week. Lee Farms also hosted a farm tour for CSA participants and, on a few occasions, they delivered meat bundles to residents.

For the Lee Farms brochure with more information about this year's CSA program, please visit our website at [www.skinker-debaliviere.com](http://www.skinker-debaliviere.com)

To participate in the CSA program during the 2012 season, please contact Lee Farms. Email: [rusty@leefarms.net](mailto:rusty@leefarms.net), Phone: 314-954-0551

## Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

In my hometown of Detroit, when neighborhoods integrated, they soon became all minority. When I came to St. Louis, I learned in my political science interviews about neighborhoods that did not tip – neighborhoods of diversity. The most significant one, it seemed to me, was Skinker DeBaliviere. Stories of neighbors pulling together to increase stability and market the neighborhood in more difficult times piqued my interest. When an opportunity came to buy a condo here, I took it.

In becoming a resident, I learned more about the neighbors--their dedication, their work ethic, their charm. One such person who exemplified those traits was Sam Green. Sam and his wife Lu bought a home on Westminster in 1972. Lu and her family of Schoemehls were living on McPherson already. Sam quickly became part of a plethora of neighborhood events. He was Chairman of the Art Fair/House Tour and many St. Roch parents' events. Everyone liked Sam. His optimism and good cheer radiated. On Blitz Day in 1989 I met Sam when he was handing out the BrightSide flowers. A couple years later, he and Nancy Farmer and I spent a late afternoon planting flowers on the Forest Park Parkway islands during a city budget crisis. A little bedraggled, we staggered into Redel's for libation. I remember Sam, with Neville Vatcha and Brad Weir, cooking at Rags to Riches.

Since its inception, Sam served on the Delmar Committee. His real estate experience aided us in drafting the redevelopment ordinance and his humor kept the many meetings on an even keel.

The Greens and the Vatchas hosted many Times New Neighbors Parties and Sam was always there, getting everything ready. In truth, I can't remember an event from my first decade here where Sam was not present. In keeping with the family connection, Sam was also active politically. He served as president of the 28th Ward Regular Democratic Club. He always brought his cheer to ward events and parties. When Sam and Lu decided to try loft living downtown, their many connections with our neighborhood remained.

Sam was a good neighbor, a good citizen, and a good friend.. I'm sure that with many of you my heart goes out to Lu, the 5 children, 7 grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews, and all the friends who packed St. Roch for his funeral. I don't know anyone quite like him and I will miss him at all the old places. We all will miss him.



King Schoenfeld

Sam Green, with other neighborhood residents, planted the trees on Des Peres.

## From Circuit Attorney Jennifer Joyce:

The Neighborhood Ownership Model (NOM) is a way for citizens to get involved to lower crime in their neighborhood. The NOM is a comprehensive plan that helps citizens take control of their neighborhoods. Although each neighborhood has its own unique challenges and issues, the NOM has three general categories: Citizens-based Solutions including citizen's patrols, neighborhood safety boards, and neighborhood planning teams; Government Partnerships including Neighborhood Orders of Protection, dedicated neighborhood liaison officers, and victim impact statements; and Technology-based Solutions including cameras, crime alert emails, and phone chains.

Since 2009, Michael Petetit and his group in Lafayette Square have worked with several other neighborhoods to guide them through the process of starting the NOM in their neighborhood. To date, there are 12 neighborhoods that have implemented the NOM including Dutchtown, Bevo Mill, and Shaw. Since starting the NOM, crime in Dutchtown is down 18%. There are 16 neighborhoods planning to start the NOM this year. If you're interested in learning more about the Neighborhood Ownership Model, or to request a comprehensive copy, call the Circuit Attorney's Office at 314-622-4941.

## The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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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. Opinions expressed in Commentaries are the opinion of the author.

**Deadline for next issue: March 15, 2012. 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

Security Committee Meeting- Wednesday, February 8, 5:30 PM

Community Supported Agriculture Information Session- Thursday, February 9, 6:30 PM

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Meeting- Monday, February 13, 7:00 PM

Skinker DeBaliviere Housing Corporation Meeting- Wednesday, February 15, 6:00 PM

Bowling for Skinker DeBaliviere- Monday, February 20, 12:00PM-3:00PM

7th District Police Awards at the Pageant- Thursday, February 23, 11:30 AM

Residential Committee Meeting- Monday, February 28 6:00 PM

Skinker DeBaliviere Housing Corporation Meeting- Wednesday, March 7, 6:00 PM

Historic District Committee Meeting- Wednesday, March 7, 7:00 PM

Annual Meeting: Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council- Monday, March 12, 7:00 PM

Security Committee Meeting- Wednesday, March 14, 5:30 PM

Skinker DeBaliviere Housing Corporation Meeting- Wednesday, March 21, 6:00 PM

Residential Committee Meeting- Monday, March 26, 6:00 PM

# News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

Happy 2012! I hope that your new year is off to a good start. As I have been gathering stories for the column this issue, it seems there truly are some very bright and talented young people who are growing up in Skinker DeBaliviere.

As regular readers and residents know, Wintermarkt is a wonderful event put on by the West End Arts Council. Artists, including many neighborhood children, sell their goods at the event. They do not sell food, though, because that would compete with the Arts Council's baked goods and barbecue food booth and fundraising efforts. Given those rules, two young entrepreneurs in the neighborhood came up with a different twist. **Anton Gudiswicz** of the 6100 block of Washington, and **Karl Lodholtz** of the 5700 block of DeGiverville, decided to take orders for doughnuts which would be delivered to buyers on Christmas morning. The boys handed out flyers with order forms at Wintermarkt and soon got many customers. Later, on Christmas Eve, the boys and Anton's mom, **Ligaya Figueras**, along with Anton's cousin **Alex**, made the dough and let it rise. That night, Anton and his mother cut it into doughnut shapes and let it rise again. They woke before 4:00 a.m. on Christmas morning to fry and season them and then delivered them to all of their very happy customers! Karl and Anton are planning to do this again next year and welcome your business.

**Anne Leathers**, daughter of **Ellen Leathers** and **John Dahl**, of the 6100 block of McPherson returned home on Christmas Eve followed by a semester in London. Ellen and John were thrilled to have Anne home for the holidays!

Artists have resided in Skinker DeBaliviere for as long as I can remember. And now we have another neighborhood artist among us. **Meta Stephens** of Parkview, who attends school at St. Roch, was a runner up in Mayor Slay's holiday card contest in December. Congratulations, Meta, the daughter of **Mike and Ann Stephens**.

**Lily Webster**, of the 6300 block of Waterman, is a junior at Nerinx High School and is a national finalist in the International German Olympics! In November, Lily competed with German students from all over the country. The competition is sponsored by the Goethe Institute and the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG). She has advanced to the exclusive 2nd round (the U.S.A. Finals) to be held in Chicago, February 2-3, 2012. The two-day competition includes oral and written assignments, after which two American participants will be chosen to represent the United States at the international finals in Frankfurt, Germany, July 1-14, 2012. The winners of round two receive round-trip travel to Germany and all accommodation expenses. We wish Lily the best of luck! Lily is the daughter of **Albert Webster** and **Kristina Stierholz** of Parkview.

Speaking of **Albert Webster**, our thoughts are with him as he recovers from a broken leg that resulted from a fall on a ladder. Albert has had to undergo two surgeries and some rehabilitation but has had a very positive attitude. We are hoping that Albert has a speedy and full recovery and look forward to see him walking his dog **Hunter** around the neighborhood when he is all better.

Congratulations are in order to the new Executive Committee of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council. Longtime resident **Alice Stanley** (who has served on the SDCC board and executive committee in the past) is taking over as President. **Karin Hagaman** is the new Vice President. **Deborah Cooper** will serve as Secretary, and **Shelly Conley** of Pulaski Bank is taking over as Treasurer. We are so fortunate to have a strong neighborhood community council office and wonderful people like this willing to give of their time to serve on the board of directors and executive committee. If you are interested in getting more involved and volunteering, contact the SDCC office at 314-862-5122.

One of the things that is always a bit difficult about this column is when I have to report on deaths of residents. However, I also appreciate the fact that it is so important to recognize the lives of these special people and so we must also acknowledge their passing. On Tuesday, November 29th, 2011, **James "Jim" Irwin**, of the 6100 block of McPherson passed away at the age of 75. He was surrounded by his family. He leaves behind his wife **Ruth**, and daughters **Debbie** and **Kathy**. He was also father to the late **James "Jimmie" Irwin**. A memorial service was held at Bethel Lutheran Church in University City.

Another long time Skinker DeBaliviere resident, **Sam Green**, who still had very strong ties to the neighborhood passed away on Monday, January 2, 2012. Sam and wife **Lucille "Lu" Schoemehl Green** were married for 39 years and lived with their children for many years on the 6100 block of Westminster. Sam served as President of the 28th Ward Democrats and was active in Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood. Sam worked as a Housing Analyst for the Community Development Administration of St. Louis and was proud that he was helping to "build neighborhoods." He had also worked for the Collector of Revenue. Sam was surrounded by 35 loved ones when he died. Our hearts, thoughts and prayers go out to the Irwin and Green families.

And as we say goodbye to these old neighbors, it is with a happy heart that we welcome some new neighbors. Congratulations go out to two new sets of parents in the neighborhood.

**Ethan Henry Hunter** was born



on November 8, 2011 weighing in at 7 lbs 15 oz and 19.5" long. Not surprisingly, the proud parents, **Jen** and **Kurt Hunter** of the 6100 block of Kingsbury, report that they are absolutely crazy about him!

**Asher Samuel Bien-Willner** arrived early enough to enjoy the Cardinals World Series excitement.



Asher weighed in at 6 lbs 13 oz and was born on October 16th, 2011. He is the first child of Gabe & Lenee Bien-Willner of the 6100 block of McPherson. I imagine it will be just a short time before we are reporting on the accomplishments of both Ethan and Asher, our newest residents, here in the News of Neighbors column! Welcome to the neighborhood boys!

Congratulations also to Marj and Brad Weir of the 6100 block of Westminster, whose daughter Lynn and her husband John Wagner welcomed a second child and first son, Joseph Bradley Wagner, in January.

Be sure to check out (and 'like') the Skinker DeBaliviere page on facebook! The SDCC office has a facebook page that shares updates and announcements about neighborhood events, meetings and activities, as well as information about other things happening in and around the St. Louis area. There is also a facebook page for people who grew up in Skinker DeBaliviere. Be sure to 'Like' them on facebook and stay connected with your neighbors and your neighborhood!

Do you have news to share? Please send your submissions via email with the subject line News of Neighbors to rachelb@sdtimes.org or drop off a note to the attention of Rachel Boxdorfer at the Skinker DeBaliviere office. Be sure to mark it, "News of Neighbors."

## Searching The Times Online

By Marj Weir

The "rehabbing" of the past issues of The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere (and The Paper) is now finished. We began this project in the summer of 2011 because we found that our earlier work to put the issues online had not resulted in their being adequately searchable. The process originally used to recognize the text of the photo/scanned issues produced a high proportion of gobbledegook (a technical term).

We decided to go back to the beginning, clean up the photocans further to increase their readability, perform the OCR (optical character recognition) on each one again, edit the results, and finally, reload them to the website. We have been doing this by decades so the improvement should have been available for our early years for some months.

Perhaps you haven't used the Times Archives until now, but we urge you to go to the site and have a look. Search for your name or someone else's or for some event like Blitz or Centennial or Art Fair. You'll be surprised what you'll be

able to find.

Bear in mind that OCR is still not perfect. If your search fails on something you're sure was there, try other words that would have occurred.

The publication was also not always perfect. If the name or subject you're looking for was misspelled in the newspaper, it will not find it. Try common misspellings or alternative spellings just in case.

Searching for "Skinker DeBaliviere" will result in far too many hits. Focus on the key and distinctive words that relate to the topic, like "Team Policing" or "historic district" or "tax credits." Capitalization is not significant.

On the home page there are buttons that will allow you to contact us. If you are having trouble with anything in the Archives, please use the Email Marj Weir button. I watch my email closely, so I should be able to get you an answer quickly.

Here's the web address. <http://sdtimes.org/index.html>. Please try it out and let us know what you think.



Searches for an individual are often touching, as well as fun. Just typing in "Sam Green" takes you to dozens of past neighborhood events and reminds you of all the rewarding and enjoyable activities in our neighborhood.

## The Beatles

### Part 3 of a 3-part series

by Matt Boxdorfer

This article/debate started at the McPherson Block Party (as the keg was being drawn down).

Let me start by saying that The Who has always been my favorite band (my older brothers fought hard to influence me, but Bill won out over Buck due to the hard-driving beat that got my heart racing by The Who). The Stones are not far behind; my all-time favorite song being Sympathy for the Devil. In the wee hours, we did get this right; these are the three greatest rock bands without a doubt. But there is no denying that The Beatles is the greatest "rock" band ever. Just as in baseball, when arguing the greatest player ever – there is Babe Ruth and then the argument starts for the second greatest, which is the real debate. But that is for another article/block party.

We can start with the sheer numbers: in *Rolling Stone* magazine's Top 500 Albums of All Time, the Beatles hold 4 of the top 10 albums. They have 21 #1 Hits on the Billboard 100 charts. They have sold more albums in the US than any other artist. In the UK, they have the record for holding the top spot on the charts (174 weeks) longer than any other artist. They had to stop touring because



you couldn't hear them playing over the screaming crowds (OK, not a fact). Most "shower-sung" songs (unofficial stat). Ed Sullivan Show; were the Who or Stones ever invited? (I think he was afraid they would have trashed the set). Were either as popular as Jesus Christ? (this is not my blasphemy, but John's). This is not to mention their individual successes after their untimely break-up (thanks Yoko!).

The argument has been made that they are not a "rock" band, but more of a "pop" band. To combat that argument, I suggest you listen to: Helter-Skelter, Revolution, Taxman or even Birthday to show you how they could "jam"! The

complexity and diversity of their music was responsible for both their growth in popularity as well as their demise, as their individual tastes became apparent. True, they have more mellow sounds than The Who or The Rolling Stones, but that just attests to their complete musical sound and artistry.

Has there ever been a better song-writing duo than Lennon and McCartney? From the early love songs (Love Me Do, She Loves You) to their storytelling numbers (Eleanor Rigby, She's Leaving Home) to the timeless classics that span any musical genre (Hey Jude, Let It Be), not to mention

arguably the greatest album ever made (Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band), one is hard-pressed to find a parallel. Their musical creativeness took hold on generations and has never lost its grip.

It is hard not to argue that they have been the most influential band of our generation, but possibly of all time. Their impact and influence can be heard in musicians from Motown to Jimi Hendrix as well as in punk and heavy metal. The Beatles arrived sounding like nothing else and have inspired countless musicians to do the same. Their influence has also been seen in fashion; hairstyles and clothing trends were affected by them as young people looked to them as their representatives in a cultural transformation at the time. You could even say The Beatles started music videos with the movies they made and their North American tour in 1965 began the era of the modern rock concert, as they attracted crowds unlike ever before.

In mentioning their love songs and storytelling fables, I may be contradicting myself in arguing that they are the greatest rock and roll band ever. Granted; the face of rock and roll has changed (evolved may be a better term), but let's not forget who shaped it.

## From Avocation to Vocation: The Photography of John Sappington

by Lana Stein

John Sappington, his wife and daughter, have called 61xx Kingsbury home since 1988. A Maryland native, John came to Washington University for college and stayed in St. Louis. He lived in DeBaliviere Place before coming to our neighborhood. Some might remember that John was in the wine business for 20 years and was a partner in West End Wines on Belt. He then turned to freelance writing and consulting with restaurants about their wine list.

Photography was always a love

of his. He started taking pictures in middle school. After leaving retail, he also turned back to photography. He switched largely to digital and now can print and edit his own photos. He has done a lot of landscape photos as well as shots of architecture and plants. His operating principle: shoot photos of things that don't move much. He has photographed his more immediate environs: Forest Park, the Botanical Gardens, Tower Grove Park. He enjoys walking and carries his camera in case something catches his eye. John has family in New Hampshire and visits twice a year. He extends his visit to neighboring Maine and has taken many shots of the Maine coast. He likes photographing in winter, which presents a different aspect. He has also taken pictures

in Ireland. His daughter is working on a Ph.D. at Trinity University in Dublin. He has shot in Dublin, Belfast, Derry, and County Mayo.

He said he would love to take more pictures in northern California and would also like to work in central Illinois where corn and bean fields extend to the horizon. It is a different kind of grandeur. That's in the plans for the next year. John said, "Photography is such an important part of how I see the world. It feels like I'm doing the right thing now." When he leaves his camera behind, he tends to miss shots and doesn't take in the surroundings in the same way.

Sappington has exhibited at Wintermarkt several times and a private showing at the home of Ken and Kathleen Cook on 62xx Washington last fall. He also uses a web site, Kingsburystudios.net, to show and sell photos. He is exploring opportunities to sell at studios specializing in local art.

John and his wife, Mary Kerr, enjoy the neighborhood and can't imagine living anywhere else in St. Louis. The diversity, the location, the 2 Metro stations are great as well as the easy walk to the park.



**John Sappington captured the winter beauty in our own Forest Park.**

And things on Delmar are certainly exciting.

It isn't that often that an avocation can become a vocation but it has in John's case. I bought my first print from him at a Wintermarkt awhile back and keep adding prints. His shots of the Maine landscape are stunning and I hope readers have an opportunity to experience them.

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# Valentines Day in SD

by Susanne Knese

Two of my favorite questions to ask anyone in a relationship are: How did you meet? and How did he propose? Just two simple questions usually bring a smile or laugh to a face be it in a current relationship, marriage or to the widow/widower. Answers are always interesting, varying and sometimes quite funny. My parents met on a blind date when my mom's cousin set her up with a friend who was "good for one night" . . . 45+ years later and they are still happily married. Me, I have had a crush on my husband since I was a kid at Queen of All Saints sitting in the first pew shyly peaking over my shoulder at him with his family in the last pew. But of all the stories I have heard, none have stayed with me as much as the story of Jean-Robert and Virginia Leguey-Feilleux (pronounced le-gay-fay-yer) of the 6100 block of Kingsbury Avenue.

Jean-Robert is originally from Marseille, France but after World War II many Americans offered scholarships to Frenchmen to come study in the States. This led to Jean-Robert's Masters in Political Science at University of Florida. After graduation and \$100 in his pocket, Jean-Robert enjoyed a road trip through the US. In the Fall of 1951 the trip ended in Manhattan, New York where his university roommate, Lee Jameson, was hosting a Bon Voyage party for Jean-Robert before his return to France. Virginia was invited to the party and there met Jean-Robert

for the first time. The next day Lee and Virginia saw Jean-Robert off on the Liberte (previously a German liner before WWII) back to Marseille. She had mentioned the desire to visit England and France to Jean-Robert, so after written correspondence planned a trip for herself, paid for with her War Bonds. In her words "Everything is possible being young in New



York . . . seeing all those ocean liners sitting at the docks". She purchased a one-way ticket to France arriving at Harfleur, near Caen and was met upon her arrival by Jean-Robert who was now completing his required duties in the French Air Force. The next day Virginia travelled onto Paris while Jean-Robert returned to his base. In those days it was very much frowned upon for a woman to travel unaccompanied by an escort, but Virginia said "everyone was so

preoccupied with rebuilding after the War" she was fine. Plus dressing conservatively, often wearing a little black hat didn't hurt either. She did take advantage of the American Express tours, English speaking guides and use of their offices for mail deliveries. She travelled extensively through Europe, then received correspondence from Jean-Robert that he would be returning home to Marseille the first of October to work as a translator for an American company. After Virginia and Jean-Robert reconnected in Marseille they soon became engaged. Jean-Robert was offered a transfer to Mecnes Air Force base in French Morocco and encouraged Virginia to relocate as well. She found work as a Junior Draftsman at the Neuaceur Air Force base, about 30 miles outside of Casablanca which "was a very small city back then". They were only there for two months before the French Moroccans began forcing all "foreigners" out. They wanted independence and were ready to throw out any and all that were not Muslim. Out went the French, the Jews, the Americans and in time the Neuaceur Air base. On Virginia's last day at the base, the bus loads of Americans returning to Casablanca from Neuaceur had to be escorted under heavy guard. Not all was lost immediately, but it would only be a matter of months and Virginia knew that it was time to go home to the States. It was soon to be New Years and Virginia said her goodbyes. It was arranged

that Jean-Robert would get on the same train but farther up the line and together they would catch the boat in Algeria that would take them directly to Marseille. Timing was everything! New Years Eve was spent with his family and friends, then the following day Virginia left for Paris where she could get the boat-train for LeHavre and from there to New York. She was met by her parents who drove her back to Buffalo, where she grew up.

After a short stay Virginia headed for Washington, D.C. to look for employment as Jean-Robert had already put in a scholarship application to Georgetown University. Completing his military service in France and teaching American English to flight operators, Jean-Robert moved to Washington, D.C.. Virginia and Jean-Robert Leguey-Feilleux were married in Old Trinity Church at the foot of Georgetown's campus on Saturday, September 19, 1953 in front of close family and friends. The following Monday Jean-Robert commenced his four year scholarship and Doctorate studies in Political Science. Four daughters, two grand-daughters, 46 years in the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood and 58 years of marriage prove an amazing testament to this unique romance and loving couple.

Next time you meet someone and are trying to find something to talk about just try asking how they met their spouse or of the proposal? Guaranteed to be a great story.



King Schoenfeld

A great Halloween party at St. Roch. Long time Chairman Art Santen and all the kids and parents enjoyed magician Josh Routh and Colton Tiede. Winners included Isabella and Chloe Knese - Fairies, Evan Holden - Inspector Gadget, Henry Matos - Birds, Sanjay Watts - Zombie, Isabela Von Rohr - Princess, Josephine Villmer - Fairy Butterfly, Peter Santan - Ninja, Izzy Treitel-Knapp - Snow White, Alexis Patton - Butterfly Ballerina.



King Schoenfeld

Another successful Wintermarkt drew a huge crowd to the neighborhood. Great performances, wonderful vendors, and great food. A special feature of this year's fair was the presence of our younger vendors. It was great to see so many neighborhood children participate. Thanks to all who donated baked goods and to all who attended. Thanks, Andy Cross.

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# The Do's of Recycling

by Katie Kurtz

In true Skinker-DeBaliviere fashion, we have enthusiastically embraced the Single-Stream Recycling system. But there seems to be some confusion over what is and isn't recyclable. While I've been seeing some odd things over the past year, the "best" was a plastic bag (not acceptable) filled with cassette tapes (what was someone thinking!) Of course, I was with my music-mad son who was trying to read what the cassettes were and how to get them out of the dumpster. He didn't succeed. So I thought a review of what can be recycled and what can't might be helpful. There is much more information on the City of St. Louis's web site (and on the dumpsters!) These are a few highlights:

**Acceptable items and their exceptions:**

- **Glass, clear, brown & green glass only** (no blue glass, ceramics, mirrors, windows, Pyrex, drinking glasses, light bulbs)
- **Plastic containers #'s 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and #7** The numbers are stamped on the bottoms of the container. (No bottles or jars containing antifreeze and cooking oil. No disposable diapers (who

would have thought!), frozen food bags, plastic bags or wrap and no Styrofoam, foam or polystyrene products.)

- **Chipboard/paperboard/ carrier stock** Examples would be boxes for cereal, cake mixes, crackers, dry foods, paper supplies, shoes, soda, etc. ( Do NOT include boxes or cartons coated or lined with wax, plastic or foil – prime examples would be frozen food boxes.)

- **Aluminum Containers** In addition to cans, include food trays, pie plates and foil.

- **Junk Mail/Mixed Office Paper** - but no paper clips or rubber bands and NO carbon paper, construction paper, tissue paper, spiral note books (remove the metal first), plastic coated paper, laminated paper, plastic sheet protectors, facial, sanitary or toilet tissues, thermal fax paper, hardback books, shopping bags with handles, and foiled gift wrap.

- **Corrugated Cardboard and Kraft Paper Bags.** Cardboard should be flattened. NO fiber drums and cardboard contaminated with food (e.g. greasy pizza boxes or cardboard egg cartons with broken eggs)

- **Aseptic Packaging and Gable Top Containers** Examples include juice boxes, soy milk boxes, broth and stock boxes



- and milk cartons.
- **Steel Cans** All are acceptable EXCEPT cans which contained paint, oil or hazardous materials.
- **No Plastic Bags** (Return to the retailer to be recycled.)
- **Catalogs and Magazines** EXCEPT postcards and hardback books.
- **Newspapers** but NOT in plastic bags or wrappers or string and twine.
- **Telephone Books** They may be recycled as they are. The City requests that items be rinsed and that caps and lids

removed (with the exception of steel cans, which are attached). Labels do not need to be removed. Please remember with all the dumpsters (trash, Single-Stream and yard waste), items need to be IN the containers. If the dumpster is full, do not leave items on top or leaning against it. The men driving the trucks cannot get out to pick up things not properly thrown away. Please help the recycling program to do what it is supposed to do and to keep our alleys picked up and clean.

# SDCC 2011 Year-end Report

by David Whiteman, Executive Director

The Skinker DeBaliviere community and the Council had a great year in 2011. Under Katrina Stierholz's leadership, the Council completed its Strategic Plan (published in the April-May 2011 issue), strengthened its staffing and operations, and operated with transparency and within a balanced budget - despite mid-year reductions in our Community Development Block Grant funding. The hiring of Jessica Eiland, in June allowed the Council to engage and communicate more effectively with the residents. The SDCC website was redesigned and expanded, the monthly E-newsletter has a new look and broader distribution, we have an active Facebook page with more than 200 followers, and a new Twitter account. And we continue to create the event flyers that the block leaders faithfully deliver to your doorstep.

SDCC committees and the West End Arts Council presented more

than 15 events throughout the year. From the MLK Commemoration in January, to a full concert series and a youth arts workshop through the heat of the summer, to a Roaring 20's Homecoming celebration, and a spectacular Wintermarkt - Skinker DeBaliviere residents enjoyed more community sponsored opportunities to socialize than any City neighborhood.

Our neighborhood continued to become a more sustainable place to live - with two community gardens, a community supported agriculture (CSA) program, blitz day, planting day, electronics recycling fair, and recycling dumpsters throughout both wards. We're one of St. Louis' most "walkable" neighborhoods; and of course, we're the only neighborhood with three MetroLink stations.

Our neighbors were generous with their time and money in 2011 - by volunteering countless hours to make the events successful; and

by contributing financially to the Friends Campaign, Homecoming and other fundraising activities.

For 2012, the Council has new and dedicated leadership and has adopted ambitious, but attainable, goals. New officers elected at the January 9 Board meeting are Alice Stanley (5700 block of Waterman) - President, Karin Hagaman (6000 block of McPherson) - Vice President, Deborah Cooper (5700 block of Waterman)- Secretary, and Shelly Conley (Branch Manager, Pulaski Bank)- Treasurer.

Major initiatives for 2012 include the completion of a marketing plan to position and promote Skinker DeBaliviere as a desirable community in which to live and work, beginning a comprehensive master planning process for the continued improvement and development of the community, connecting our senior and income eligible residents with home repair resources, and working with the

committees to develop and present educational programming for the community. (Please see "SDCC Strategic Plan Update - 2012 Goals" in this issue for details.)

The Council has been presented with a balanced budget proposal for 2012, but will again face financial challenges with uncertainties in our Community Development Block Grant funding. SDCC relies on the generous support of its Member Institutions (Washington University, Grace United Methodist Church, New Cote Brillante Church of God, St. Roch Church), its Member Neighborhoods, Pulaski Bank, and dedicated neighbors like you.

A "Friends of Skinker DeBaliviere" letter is included with this issue of the Times. Please consider a gift to support the ongoing work of the Council by returning the form included with the letter, or by calling the SDCC office at 862-5122.

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## Margaret Hermes' Prize Winning Book

by Jane O. Wayne

Short story writer Margaret Hermes's lively and humorous style gives a reader something to enjoy and admire on every page. *Relative Strangers* is a theme that surfaces throughout the fourteen stories in this collection. In the title story, relatives are shocked by revelations about the buried pasts of family members. In "Transubstantiation," a long-wed couple discover they are strangers to each other.

"The River's Daughter," explores the uneasy relationship between siblings: "Even though I came first, once Carrie was on the scene I never came first to mind. I bore the distinction of being both the oldest and an afterthought." With effort, they've managed not to let men come between them, but the river of the title threatens to permanently separate the sisters.

Sometimes the connection, or misconnection, is cross-generational, as in "For the Home Team," where a boy is sent away to his uncle's farm during the breakup of his parents' marriage. When Daniel bemoans his father's absence and silence over the course of the difficult summer, his uncle replies, "Sure, sure. He is stupid. I mean no disrespect. Men are stupid is all. They don't know how to act."

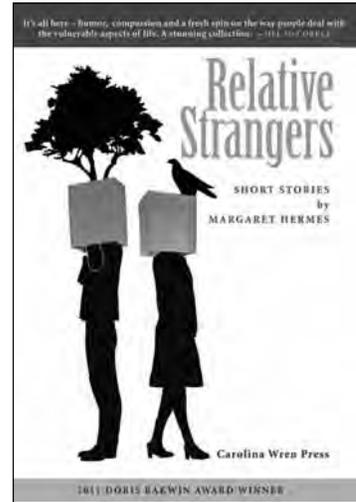
Daniel tells us, "I was glad to find that we two were somehow excluded from this society of morons."

Hermes draws us in with stories that seem familiar but never ordinary. Some are set in St. Louis, while others take place on a South Carolina farm, in a hospital in Duluth, at a baseball game at the Polo Grounds in Manhattan, in a mythical town in the Missouri Bootheel, or in a nameless village in Eastern Europe where "everything was heavy -- the coats, the shoes, the sky, the hearts." Her versatility is reflected not only in the settings but in the array of characters, ranging from a Methodist shoe saleswoman to a young Catholic proprietor of a consignment shop to a Jewish adolescent who builds a tree house retreat.

*Relative Strangers* was chosen by celebrated short story writer Jill McCorkle as winner of the 2011 Doris Bakwin Award. In the words of contest judge McCorkle, "Margaret Hermes is a wonderful writer and this is a moving and powerful collection."

*Relative Strangers*, short stories by Margaret Hermes, Carolina Wren Press, \$15.95. Also available as an e-book.

Scheduled readings, free and open to the public: Sunday, February 12 at CWE Left Bank Books, 4:00 pm., University City Public Library, Thursday, March 29 7:00 p.m.



Poet and Parkview resident Jane O. Wayne is the author of four books, including *The Other Place You Live and Looking Both Ways*.

## From the Desk of Senator Joe Keaveny

Increasing access to early childhood education programs is one of my top legislative priorities. In a news release issued Dec. 12, it was announced that the St. Louis Public School District plans to further expand access to early childhood education programs in the City of St. Louis.



The release further states, "Under a proposal outlined by the St. Louis Public Schools and approved by the U.S. District Court last month, the school district will invest \$23.1 million from the Desegregation Capital Fund to dramatically expand access to early childhood education programs. This investment in early childhood education is one part of the district's comprehensive plan to improve student performance and ultimately return to full state accreditation."

The funding will be dispersed as follows: \$15.9 million over three years to open and fund 25 additional preschool classrooms throughout the district, two of which will be early childhood special education classrooms; \$4.7 million over three years to provide before- and after-care for preschoolers at 30 sites throughout the district; and \$2.5 million to expand the Parent Infant Interaction Program to Roosevelt, Beaumont, and Sumner high schools. This program provides child care and related support services that allow teen parents to continue their education. I am thrilled that this funding will be used to generate more opportunities for the young people of the City of St. Louis.

## The Gallery at The Regional Arts Commission Presents "If a Print is Shown, Will Someone See It?"

Gallery Talk: Thursday, February 16 • Reception: 5:30 p.m. • Talk: 6 p.m.  
 Gallery Hours: Monday - Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
 Saturday, noon - 5:00 p.m.  
 Sunday - closed

EXHIBITION LOCATION: The Gallery at the Regional Arts Commission 6128 Delmar Boulevard on The Loop, St. Louis, MO 63112 (Free parking in the lot behind The Pageant; metered street parking)

Stephen Da Lay, Bob Hartzell, Jeff Sippel, and Rudy Zapf are four printmakers whose techniques include serigraphy, intaglio, woodcut, and waterless lithography. Themes in the exhibition range from an interest in mathematics and problem-solving to love, hope, and childhood memories. The title of the show asks the viewer to engage in the process of scrutinizing the art and to question the artists' points of view. The exhibit will run through March 3.

## SDCC Has New President: Alice Stanley

For a quarter century, Alice Stanley has lived on 57xx Waterman. She raised her daughter there and she and two grandchildren still live nearby. She now works in the grants department at METRO and previously worked for the city.



New President Alice Stanley (middle) with past president Dan Schesch and visitors to a chilly Wintermarkt

Alice is a strong proponent of the neighborhood. She became a member of the Council over a decade ago and served as secretary, treasurer, and a member of the strategic planning committee. She also volunteered on the annual food drive and at Wintermarkt. In addition, she served on the Greenways Committee and briefly on the Security Committee. Aside from her neighborhood involvement, she also volunteered with the Minority Council of the American Heart Association and at her church.

In January, the SDCC board elected new officers and selected Alice as president. In that office, she would like to see our neighborhood continue to become more cohesive. "We need to be cohesive in our diversity." She would also like to identify resources for residents that might have special needs, such as the elderly. Alice calls Skinker-DeBaliviere a "work in progress." There is a lot of opportunity and potential. She would like to see a mission of which everyone takes ownership. "Everyone needs to feel that he or she can make a contribution."

### - 28th Ward Regular Democrats -

Meetings for 2012: February 16, March 15, April 19, June 21, July 19, September 20, October 18, November 15

Dressel's Pub Above • 419 N. Euclid • 7:30 p.m. • Free Parking

For up-to-date information on programs and other news of politics, go to the 28th Ward website:

<http://ward28.citywestend.org/index.html>

Alderman Lyda Krewson • 367-9765  
[lyda.krewson@pgav.com](mailto:lyda.krewson@pgav.com)

# IN YOUR EAR

by Hawkeye Z. Hoerr, Commentary in the TIMES for more than 31 years.

What's your favorite spectator sport? If advertising costs are any barometer (and they are!), the NFL is the top dog. Millions upon millions are spent each year to plug pizzas, beer, autos, and ammo. Is this a guy's sport or what?

College football is second to the NFL. Millions upon millions are spent to plug pizzas, beer, autos, and acne cream. Shortly thereafter in popularity come college basketball, the NBA, and major league baseball. After that the list runs the gamut from lacrosse, gymnastics, golf, auto racing, beach volleyball, and Wheel of Fortune, to boxing, hockey, Meet the Press, and synchronized swimming.

(Hockey, by the way, deserves particular disdain. It's a sport based on the fact that the players have to compete against their environment - skating on ice - as much as the other team. What's the point? Why not take this to the next level and make it more interesting: What about playing hockey in a vat of peanut butter? Or what if the players had to play on a velcro floor with velcro on the bottom of their shoes? Or why not have them play in a steady rain of molasses? Maybe the latter would also result in fewer fights!)

OK, back to my list of lacrosse to auto racing to synchronized swimming and all in between, including velcro hockey. The only thing that these sports have in common is sweat (not counting golf). There are many other redeeming ways that we could spend our time, from doing push-ups to cutting the grass, so why are we mesmerized to watch myriad gyrations in gyms, on fields, in pools, on sand and dirt, standing by a spinning wheel, and in a cockpit? It's simple: competition!

It doesn't matter whether one keeps track in points, runs, seconds, laps, strokes, or votes. We are all compelled to watch the fight. Some of us root for the underdog - Go, Rams! - Whereas others of us root for the predictable winner - Go, Yankees, Hooray for Fat Cat Republicans! Some of us are odd hybrids and root for the consistent underdogs - Hooray for the Cubs and let's vote Democratic! There's no real explaining what causes someone to have long-standing loyalty to a team that doesn't warrant it. Perhaps mom or dad was a fan of the team; perhaps you were struck by a tree limb in a lightning storm. But it really doesn't matter, does it? Spectator sports are healthy because they take our mind away from the real world, so we should all have a favorite team or three. That's always been the case but given the condition of the real world, it's even more important today.

As I think about it, though, I'm a little surprised that we haven't widened our horizons by now. After all, for how many decades can we root for birds or adolescents without getting bored? I've come to grips with the fact that life will go on if the Rams don't make the playoffs and, in fact, life will go on

if Albert Pujols doesn't stay with the Cards. Sure, I'll cry and throw a temper tantrum or two, but the world will keep on spinning.

But because it's spinning and we're getting older (at least I am), it seems to me that we ought to be finding new attractions for our limited attention-spans, new areas of interest for Sunday afternoons or Thursday nights. Personally, while I'm tired of watching overpaid athletes, underpaid athletes aren't all that interesting (which is why they're underpaid, by the way), so now what?

Savvy reader, it's Hawkeye to the rescue! I'm on your side. I propose three new spectator sports. These will have the elements that have propelled the NFL to fame: competition, arcane rules, and some variables worth wagering. I don't know how long it will be until these sports are picked up by television or found on www.sportshog.com but it's only a matter of time, I'm sure. Baseball gets more boring each year, football players all look like Michelin tire commercial protagonists, and I have too much trouble keeping track of basketball scores. So find an easy chair, grab a beer and a stogie, and start anticipating. Here are the three sports in which YOU can participate, and I guarantee that they will hold your interest for the next score of years.

1. Overhead bin stuffing. The task here is to see how much you can jam into the overhead bin in an airplane. Ideally this shouldn't be a competition at all. Purportedly the size of carry-on items is restricted and consistent. HA to that! I've seen people pulling muscles to carry on huge loads and then try to jam them in the bin. I swear some of these containers must be filled with people's rock collections. The winner is the person who can get the most weight in his/her carry-on. You're disqualified if you have to get help from more than one person to get your bag in the bin but you get a bonus point if a helper is wearing an airline uniform. You can earn double extra points, if your bag is so big or odd-shaped that it precludes anyone else getting their bag in the same bin. In case you're wondering, 27.3 pounds is my overhead bin record. Up, up, and away!

1. Red light timing. Admit it, lead-foot: Don't you try to time your driving speed so that you never have to come to a complete stop at a red light? After all, what a

waste of time and gasoline it is when you sit at a red light! B-o-r-i-n-g! Sometimes I just barely make it through a yellow and then I gun it so that I'm ahead of the timing for the next light and can sail through on green. Red lights are my enemy, man! Once the auto Gods were with me and I was on a winning streak - I'd made nine green lights in a row - and I abandoned my destination and just kept driving east to keep the streak alive, seeking green light after green light after green light. Forty minutes later when a red light finally nabbed me I was in Fairview Heights, and I was up to 23 consecutive greenies. What a high that was! (The people that I was meeting for dinner were not amused at my tardiness. What a bunch of wet blankets!)

1. Paper or plastic? Whenever I go to the grocery store and whatever I get, my goal is to carry it all in two hands and make one trip. Of course, this makes plastic the bag of choice. It's amazing how many plastic bags you can manage to grab with two hands, have affixed to two arms, and have clutched in one mouth. Tote that bag! It's not fair, by the way, to purchase items specifically so that you can carry lots of bags: there is a limit to how many packages of cotton balls you can get on a trip, and the limit is one. Thus the challenge is how many grocery bags you can carry at once, assuming that the bags are filled with normal items: Hostess cupcakes, IBC diet root beer, pizza, Starbuck's, coco-Fritos, cheap wine, Dove bars, and bananas. The rules are that you must be able to ambulate to the car carrying all bags, none can drop, and you have to be able to unlock the car and open a door without any of the bags touching the ground (sitting one on the roof or trunk is acceptable, but if the bag slips and falls, you're disqualified). My record, by the way, is nine bags. Bonus points can be earned if you do this in the rain.

OK, the challenge is in the air. Pack your carry-on bag, look for those green lights, and try to move with ten grocery bags affixed to some portion of your body. Once you get into the zen, Monday Night Football will become a distant memory, and you'll think Albert Pujols was a Tea Party candidate from Utah. Keep track, shoot for your personal best, and remember that it's whether you win or lose that counts, not how you played the game. (By the way, the intrepid legal staff at the Times of Skinker DeBaliviere reminds me to remind you that you should not do these tasks simultaneously. Go team!)

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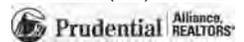
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