

# The TIMES of.... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 43, No. 4

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Nov. - Dec. 2013

FREE

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

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

## Wintermarkt

Now in its 14th year, the idea for Skinker DeBaliviere's popular Wintermarkt came from the traditional German Christkindlmarkt. This hearty outdoor festival features live music, delicious holiday foods & drinks, and an array of local artisans selling their hand-crafted creations – including many Skinker DeBaliviere residents.

In addition to professional jewelers, potters, woodworkers, and sculptors, you can also find novice crafters with clever new ideas. Our growing collection of young artisans sell origami Christmas cards, neckwarmers, candles and more – many of whom sell out of their items by the end of the day!

Though many of us look forward to presents around the holidays, our neighborhood's annual Wintermarkt can help give us another experience: one of tradition, hard work, and neighborly cheer. One favorite German and neighborhood tradition – for the adults – is Glühwein, a warm spicy drink popular during the winter holidays. And of course, roasted chestnuts and will be back again this year.

Wintermarkt provides volunteer opportunities for students and children, too.



There are many ways that they can contribute to the success of the event, such as by taking warm drinks to the vendors or helping keep the area tidy during the event.

Wintermarkt will take place Saturday, December 7 from 11am to 4pm at Greg Freeman Park at Four Corners, Kingsbury Ave. and Des Peres Ave. If you or your child is interested in having a booth or volunteering, contact Liz Pund, Community Engagement Coordinator, at [sdcc@skinker-debaliviere.com](mailto:sdcc@skinker-debaliviere.com).

## 2014 Minor Home Repair Program

SDCC is partnering with Rebuilding Together to solicit eligible homeowners for Rebuilding Together's FREE Minor Home Repair Program in 2014. In 2012, our partnership led to significant repairs for five homeowners on the 5700 – 5900 blocks of Pershing.

Mark Gorman, a property owner (and then a resident) on Pershing, was instrumental in soliciting his neighbors and helping to coordinate follow up activities with Rebuilding



### Rebuilding Together®

Together also partners with local and national corporations for donated materials and volunteer labor for their annual Spring Build.

The flier that is being distributed with this issue of the Times contains more information about income eligibility for the program.

If you, or someone you know, is in need of some basic home repairs – and if you believe you qualify, please contact the SDCC office at 862-5122. Application forms are available online at [www.skinker.debaliviere.com](http://www.skinker.debaliviere.com) and at the

SDCC office. Your confidential financial information will be available only to the staff of Rebuilding Together, which will hold a workshop at the SDCC office at 6:30 PM, Tuesday, November 12 to answer questions about the program and assist applicants with their paperwork. Your RSVP is required to participate in the workshop.

## Upcoming Events

Urban Design & Development Planning Workshop #4, Tuesday November 19, 6pm at Collegiate School for Medicine & Bioscience, 450 Des Peres Ave.

Come learn about the recently finished Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Study of the Delmar and Forest Park/DeBaliviere MetroLink stations, and hear how the results fit in to the ongoing master planning process for the neighborhood. H3 Studio will present the Draft Neighborhood Urban Design & Development Plan and gather feedback from those in attendance for the final plan. To review the planning documents from past meetings, read planning articles, or send feedback please visit our website, [www.skinker-debaliviere.com](http://www.skinker-debaliviere.com). (Editor's Note: read more about the plan in Richard Bose's article on page 4).

**MLK Day Celebration** – Sunday January 19, location TBD

Neighbors and friends are invited to a celebration of the life & legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. More details will be available closer to the date of the event.

**Urban Design & Development Plan** – Final Presentation, End of January or beginning of February, location TBD

**H3 Studio will present the final master plan** for the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood. To review the planning documents from past meetings, read planning articles, send feedback and for the most comprehensive and up-to-date information on SDCC events, please visit our website at [www.skinker-debaliviere.com](http://www.skinker-debaliviere.com).



Randy Vines shows the new T-shirt designed by the SDCC team and produced by STL-Style.

Skinker DeBaliviere has a new neighborhood t-shirt for neighbors and friends who want to wear their pride on their sleeve.

The shirt features our new logo, which was announced earlier this year and is "uniquely Skinker DeBaliviere." It was designed in partnership with neighbors to reflect our friendly, diverse neighborhood and represent us to the broader St. Louis region. T-shirts come in black or white fabric in both youth and adult sizes. They are available for purchase at the SDCC Office, 6008 Kingsbury Ave. For more information call the office (314) 862-5122 or email Liz Pund at [sdcc@skinker-debaliviere.com](mailto:sdcc@skinker-debaliviere.com).

## Your Neighborhood, Your House: A Skinker DeBaliviere History Workshop

The Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood is well over 100 years old. Come learn about its early years and how it overcame mid-century stresses to become the vibrant and diverse community it is now. Jo Ann Vatcha and Marjorie Weir, authors of the book, *Celebrating SD, Its History and Comeback*, will present historical highlights. Then, Dennis Northcott, Missouri History Museum associate archivist, will show you how to get started researching the history of your own home and its former inhabitants. Wednesday November 13, 6:30pm at the SDCC Office, 6008 Kingsbury Ave.

**DON'T MISS THE ENVELOPE ENCLOSED WITH THIS ISSUE AND HELP US CONTINUE THE TIMES!**

## Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

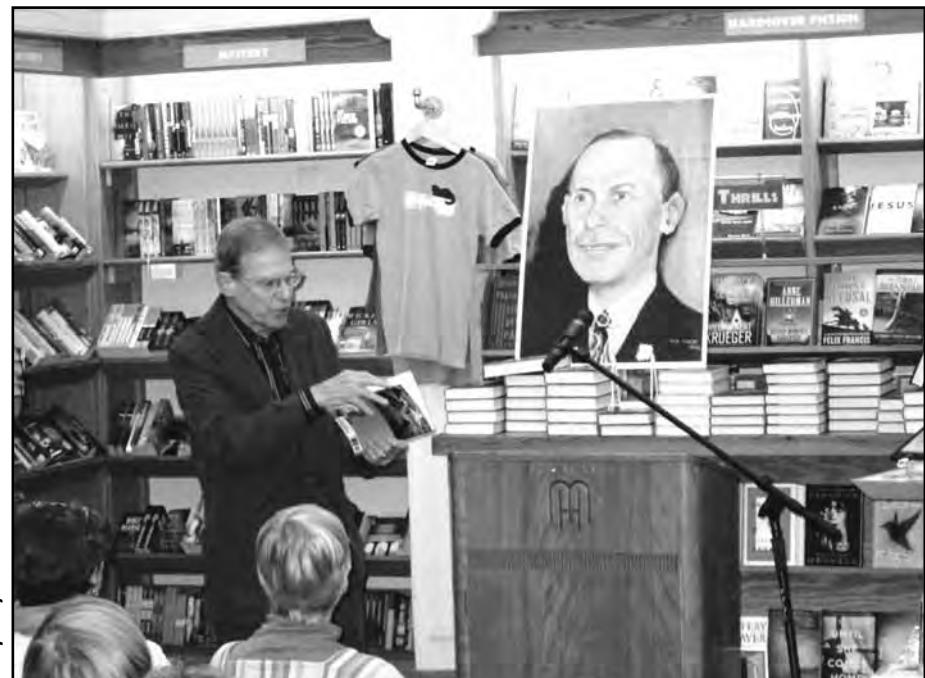
Sometimes good things do happen. I join many neighbors who are delighted that Global Foods will locate at Eastgate and Delmar in the Wash U building under construction. It will be an easy stop for milk and bread and will also offer ingredients needed in a wide variety of foreign cuisines. It will serve to make our neighborhood more attractive to potential residents. In a survey undertaken a couple years ago, neighbors had expressed a strong desire for a grocery store. The old A and P departed in the late 70s. We've been waiting a long time.

Speaking of Delmar, what a plethora of fine restaurants we now have. They've been reviewed in these pages and the ones I've visited certainly live up to the reviews. It's nice to have family-friendly places as well. This is a compliment to all those who have worked on Delmar development.

The concert series plus barbecue was fun. The SDCC seems to be enabling a wide variety of activities for all ages.

JoAnn and I want to acknowledge the many contributions of Lois Schoemehl who has served as business manager for almost two decades. She has brought enthusiasm and competence to the task and has participated in every Times event. Thanks so much, Lois.

by Marjorie Weir



Robert Kohn, author of a book on the work of his brother, Bill Kohn, a longtime neighbor on Kingsbury Avenue and well-known painter, spoke to a group at Left Bank Books on October 7. Robert, a retired economics professor and painter himself, credited Bill with exceptional skill demonstrated from an early age. The painting displayed behind him is a portrait of their father, Rudy Kohn, done by Bill when he was only 14 years old. The occasion was a book-signing for the study called "A Darwinian Reading of Bill Kohn's Painting."

## Linda Cross is New Business Manager

The TIMES is pleased to announce that Linda Cross will become the Business Manager/Treasurer of the TIMES OF SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE, commencing with the February, 2014, issue. Linda has served the neighborhood for many years in a multitude of roles, including the Community Garden. Linda will be responsible for billing advertisers and keeping the books of our publication.

Linda can be reached at [mccross@att.net](mailto:mccross@att.net) or by phone at 721-6060. To inquire about ad rates and to submit advertising copy, please contact Jo Ann Vatcha at [jvatcha@gmail.com](mailto:jvatcha@gmail.com) or by phone at 726-6974.

## School News

by Lana Stein

St. Roch school has a new principal. Timothy Cummins, a teacher there, has taken the place of long-serving Gloria Openlander, who retired. Cummins said he loves the job and that the staff, students and parents have been wonderful. St. Roch has 210 students. As a stewardship project, each grade is competing to bring in the largest donation of canned goods to be given to the less fortunate. The winning class gets a dress-down day.

St. Roch is hosting an open house on January 26 from Noon to 3 p.m. St. Roch is a PreK through eighth grade metropolitan elementary school that provides quality education in a setting encouraging diversity to help teach students respect for themselves and others. Principal Tim Cummins may be reached at 721-2595.

The St. Louis Public Schools' newest magnet, the Collegiate School of Medicine and Bioscience, on Des Peres at Westminster, is hosting its first freshman class. There are 65 students and 10 teachers. The students address a core curriculum in medicine and bioscience and are all taking physics, the only freshmen in the SL area taking physics. Phyllis Anderson, the administrative assistant, reported that the principal, Chip Clatto, is already reviewing applications for the next year's freshman class. There is a great deal of interest in the school. Prospective students will be judged by their academic ability as well as their character. Students selected must really know what they want and be very focused. Anderson said their program is quite rigorous.



## Annual Food Drive Returns

By Sarah Cross and Andy Cross

After a three year hiatus our Skinker Debaliviere Food Drive returned this year with great success. On Saturday, October 12th drivers combed the neighborhood, gathering bags of non-perishables and delivering them to volunteers at the SD office who categorized and sorted the donations. The result was 887 items of food and toiletries. Volunteers who have been working on food drives in past years remarked that this was the biggest return that they remembered. When the items were sorted into boxes and bags, they were brought to the food pantries at New Cote Brilliante, St. Roch, Grace Methodist, and Grace and Peace. Long time volunteers of the Skinker DeBaliviere Food Drive decided unanimously to rename this effort the 'Shirley Polk Memorial Food Drive' in honor of the late Mrs. Polk of the 5700 block of DeGiverville who was very active in the SD neighborhood and spearheaded this effort for many years. This year's drive was an initiative of SDCC's Neighborhood Services Committee. Thank you to all who volunteered and to all who donated to this worthy cause.

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

**Deadline for next issue: January 15, 2014.** Please send copy by e-mail to [jvatcha@gmail.com](mailto:jvatcha@gmail.com) or by disc to 6008 Kingsbury, St. Louis, MO 63112.

## The TIMES of.... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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Heather Hoganson		

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**The Times**, 6168 Westminster, 63112, or call 727-6630.

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).

# News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

Summer flew by and Autumn is here. And our neighbors continue to be busy with their lives. Here's a peek at some of the recent events in the lives of some of our neighbors. Please be sure to share your news when you have time!

Faith Sandler of the 6000 block of Westminster received the 2013 Executive Leadership Award of Excellence from the National College Access Network at the 2013 National Conference in Nashville. Faith is the Executive Director of The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis.

Kathleen Merlo of the 6300 block of Westminster in Parkview has been named Chief Operating Officer for the University Medical Group at Saint Louis University Hospital. Congratulations Kathy!

Jeff Schoenfeld, son of King and Dee Schoenfeld of the 6100 block of Westminster, will be moving to South Korea to teach English in a public school in Chang-won near the south coast. Jeff was a student at St. Roch and New City School, graduating from Metro High School and Webster University, and working at Left Bank Books handling author events. He has been living in Portland, OR, on the staff of Powell's Books for several years. His parents hope that the Korean weather is a welcome change from



by King Schoenfeld

Portland's and will visit him before he leaves the country.

We always love to welcome new neighbors and especially love happy news about our neighbors. Here is a double scoop as we welcome S. Joshua and Victoria Swamidass who moved on to the 6100 block of McPherson in September and celebrated their wedding on October 18th at Grace and Peace Fellowship. Joshua is a professor at Washington University in the Pathology Department and Victoria works for Express Scripts. Welcome and congratulations!

Congratulations to Westminster neighbors and WU genetics researchers Ryan Bogdan and Arpana Agrawal on their recent marriage. The ceremony celebrated their two cultures in grand style and was featured in the October issue of Alive Magazine. As writer Mary Beard wrote, "the result was a big-band, swing-themed evening with Indian customs sprinkled throughout." You can see it all on the Alive website!

All of us know that one of the greatest things about this neighborhood is the people! We know and enjoy our neighbors. Proof of this has been happening regularly on the 6100 block of McPherson. They have begun a new (warmer weather) tradition of Friday night pizza parties! Neighbors gather on the block bringing beverages and order pizza while kids play. A recent event had 40 adults who were completely outnumbered by children playing on the block and enjoying the festivities. Neighbors from other streets have been joining in on the fun too!

The Westminster neighbors held their sixth block party on October 6. The fun extended way into the evening as kids and adults enjoyed the music, entertainment of a magician and a great potluck dinner and drinks. The planning committee, energized by Mary Powell, Jaina Stus, Gale Fitzpatrick, Marj Weir, and others,



did another great job of planning the ultimate block party.

Our deepest sympathies go out to the family of Steve Laury of the 6300 block of Waterman. Steve passed away peacefully at home August 20, 2013. Steve passed away at much too young an age. His life was celebrated at a memorial service at St. Roch Church on Saturday, August 31.

The neighborhood also lost another long time resident, Katja Buckley, formerly of the 6000 block of Westminster. Katja passed away on August 26. She and husband Michael had been married 62 years and raised their children in the neighborhood.

Kingsbury residents Leonard Knese and Susanne Jersa Knese were honored as "Very Important Volunteers" by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, recognizing the generous contributions made by their National Sales Company, which handles commercial plumbing and HVAC products. This past winter, NSC provided furnace repair/replacements to two families struggling with severe health and financial problems. Susanne also serves as

head of the Women of St. Roch and has teamed with Heather Hoganson to write a new column for the TIMES called Kids Corner.

Parkview residents Mark and Chanaya Jacobs



celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary with family atop the Moonrise Hotel with brunch and the one of the best views in St. Louis!

And speaking of the Loop, Joe Edwards was honored with the 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award from Landmarks Association of St. Louis, including the following: "His work stands out as a superb case study of how historic preservation goes hand-in-hand with community revitalization... Historic preservation is not just about protecting buildings. It is about protecting buildings and the neighborhoods they comprise so that residents and communities can benefit from beautiful, unique places. Joe's work exemplifies this ethos and stands as a shining example of what can be achieved when people commit themselves to the protection and improvement of historic neighborhoods."

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".

on Washington University's Good Neighbor Board.

Both Dee and Gary have enjoyed the neighborhood and watched it improve over the years. They like the fact that neighbor knows neighbor here. There are many active people who work to make Skinker DeBaliviere a better place. The diversity here has been important to them. Gary noted that he never lived in a neighborhood he enjoyed as much. "It is so conveniently located. You can walk to the Pageant, the Loop and Forest Park." And the neighborhood is full of children.



Dee and Gary agreed that Skinker DeBaliviere is a model for the city. It has shown how to make a diverse neighborhood work. The neighborhood is much safer now. When Dee arrived in 1972, the neighborhood was really struggling. No one could get a conventional home loan; all the banks redlined this area. Fortunately, people like Suzanne Hart and Susie Roach formed our own real estate agencies. The Lantern House was the only eatery on Delmar. Who would have thought it would turn out the way it did? What made so much difference was the commitment of the people who lived here.

Although Thomas Wolfe said "You can't go home again," Dee and Gary are doing it. They have bought a home in Lexington, Virginia, a small college town home to VMI and Washington and Lee. The town of 7000 is about twice the size of our neighborhood. It is where Dee was born and grew up. Gary talks about the green space, all kinds of wildlife and the peace and tranquility. They will miss their friends here but have very good memories.

## Au Revoir Dee and Gary

By Lana Stein

It's never easy to have old friends leave our neighborhood. It brings back many memories of shared activity and the shared desire to work for a better community. Yet, you wish well for your friends in the new life they are encountering. So it is with Dee and Gary Hayes. Their friendship and enthusiasm will be missed by many.

Dee arrived in Skinker DeBaliviere in 1972 and lived with her state legislator husband, Steve Vossmeyer, on 6000 Westminster. A son, Rob, arrived. Dee attended SLU law school and then joined the staff of the Circuit Attorney. Her marriage did not last but in the course of her work she met police detective Gary Hayes. They married and bought a house on 6100 McPherson. They later adopted a daughter, Elena. Dee was elected as Circuit Attorney in 1992 and was reelected to a second term in 1996. She then went into private practice and most recently served as counsel to Metro. After leaving the police force, Gary worked as a private investigator for 12 years. For the past 16 years, he served as chief investigator for the city's Department of Public Safety.

In addition to their active careers, Gary and Dee both served the neighborhood. In the 1990s, Gary became a member of the SDCC Board, representing Grace United Methodist Church. He was elected president and served two terms. He participated in many council events, lending his enthusiasm and ability for hard work. Dee later filled the Grace spot on the board. She had also participated in neighborhood theatre. Gary went on to serve

## From The Keaveny Connection

by Joe Keaveny, State Senator



In July, I hosted my annual health and back-to-school fair in collaboration with the Betty Jean Kerr People's Health Centers. Approximately 2,900 individuals registered at the health fair this year. More than 40 organizations took part in the event and offered free services and products such as eye screenings, clinical breast exams, and hearing tests. We are proud to announce that 85 booster seats were distributed to families in need, making our total this year of distributed booster seats nearly 700. We are on a roll!

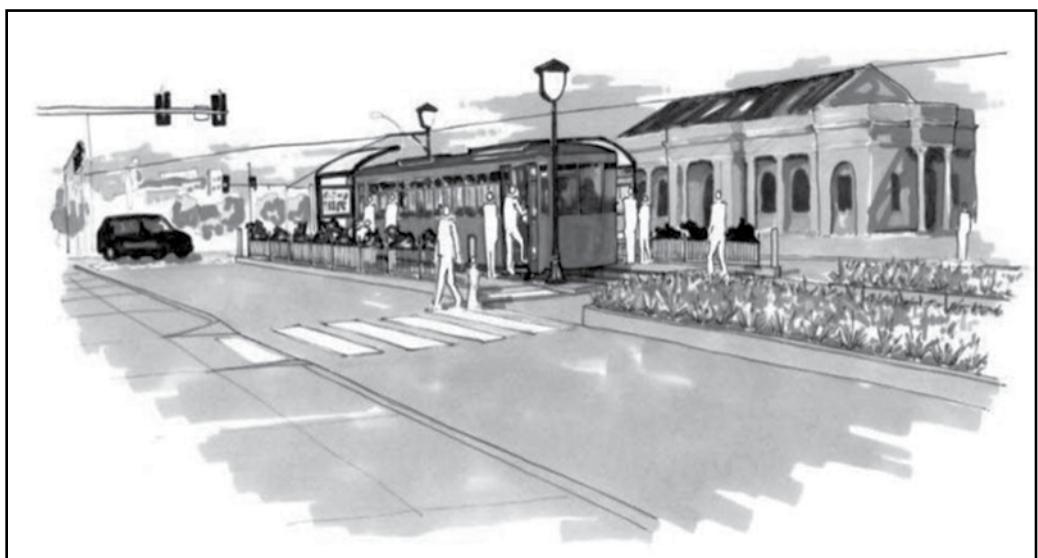
## Planning for Transit Oriented Development - Part II

by Richard Bose

In the 20 years that Metrolink has been running, little direct TOD development has occurred near the Delmar and Forest Park stations. Forces greater than the Metrolink, at play for much longer than the last two decades, have stymied the development potential near it. A fine book about St. Louis, Mapping Decline: St. Louis and the Fate of the American City gives a melancholy account of St. Louis' 20th century slide. See the website

<http://mappingdecline.lib.uiowa.edu/>.

Finally the tide is turning. There is greater recognition that silver-bullet projects, building more and more highway lane-miles, throwing away old neighborhoods, and spreading our jobs and housing out thinner and thinner isn't working well. We simply have to encourage development that is more financially productive in order to have any hope of maintaining the infrastructure and funding the government services we expect (for more on that see strongtowns.org). Also technological advances, environmental concerns, and an economic boom hangover are changing housing, lifestyle, and transportation preferences. The dedication to fostering the strong neighborhood in the study area puts it in a position to capitalize on these shifts. For the first time in a long time the developments envisioned in the TOD plan are realistic.



The plan outlines streetscape improvements to varying degrees depending on the street. These are important to make the street more attractive to pedestrians and add to the sense of place. We see the difference in pedestrian experience and how it complements development already by comparing the parts of Delmar that have had a street diet and the parts that haven't. The plan calls for extending the diet east to Goodfellow. Pedestrian lighting, marquee lighting, curb cuts, fixing sidewalks, burying/moving overhead utilities, are all good incremental improvements. Broken, weedy, and littered sidewalks and poor lighting don't foster a safe feeling. Street trees are encouraged too. They add shade, beauty, and value; please contact the city to get a free tree if your property doesn't already have one. The trolley and greenway will bring some of these improvements.

A great conundrum for the consultants and meeting attendees is what to do with Lucier Park. The three-acre park was established

in 1980 after apartment buildings were torn down and streets vacated. One can see the ghosts of the buildings on Google Maps. Its main problem is that the surrounding buildings don't face the park. Parks are supposed to add value and draw people out. Lucier misses the mark. The consultants offer two visions. Each would take land away from it and add buildings facing it. I prefer option two because it allows the completion of the street grid, leaves more room for development, puts eyes on it almost all the way around, appears to be more all-seasonal, and looks to require less maintenance. Either option would require a city-wide vote since they take land away from the park.

While the TOD planning process is complete, there is one more public workshop for the Skinker DeBaliviere Urban Design Planning Process on Nov 19 6-8pm at the Des Peres School. These plans will help guide our neighborhood development over the next decades. The vision of the future is bright; let's make it reality.

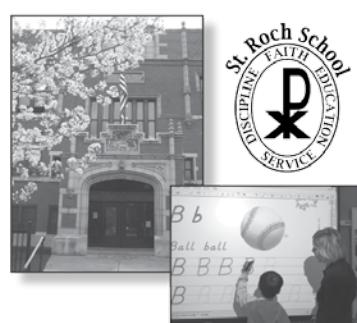
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## Kids Corner

by Suzanne Kneze and Heather Hoganson

### Kid Friendly Events around our Neighborhood:

Nov. 1, (1st Friday of the Month) Public Telescope Viewing at the Science Center

Nov. 4, Science with the Symphony: Water Worlds at the Science Center - 7pm

Nov. 9th, Annual Barrellrollman Rolloff at Art Hill - 10:30am - 4pm

Nov. 16 & 17, Pinocchio at COCA

Nov. 23, Allegro Winter Concert at COCA performed by student vocal ensemble

Nov. 28, Thanksgiving Day Parade in Downtown St. Louis

Dec. 6, (1st Friday of the Month) Public Telescope Viewing at the Science Center

Dec. 14 & 15, The Little Dancer at COCA

*If you have other kid friendly events you would like included in this section, please email [kidscorner@sdtimes.org](mailto:kidscorner@sdtimes.org)*

### FEATURED THIS MONTH:

*What are you thankful for in our neighborhood? Or What are you thankful for?*

Maxwell (7yrs) - "I am thankful for my family and good friends in the neighborhood!"

Nayeli (9yrs) - "I'm thankful for my family and friends for inspiring me and making me laugh."

Karyna (7yrs) - "I'm thankful for the whole world."

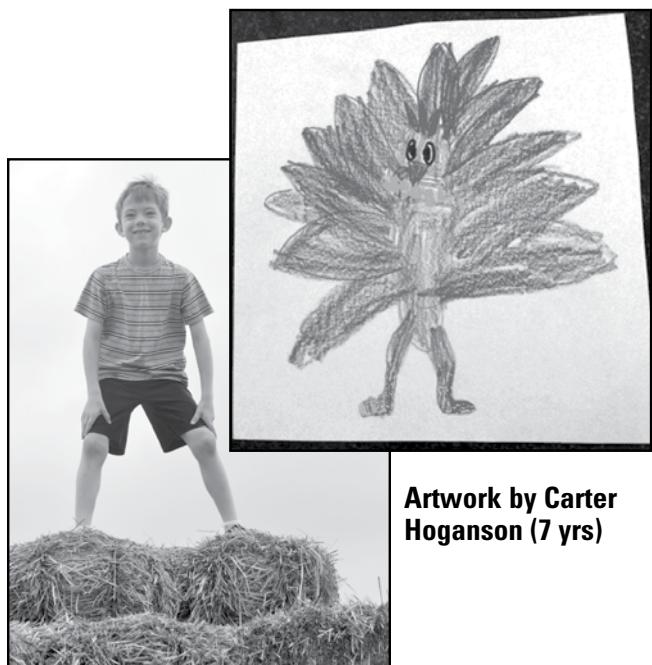
Brockden (4yrs) - "I'm thankful for my friends, every single one of them."

Luke (5yrs) - "I am thankful for such a fun neighborhood at Halloween."

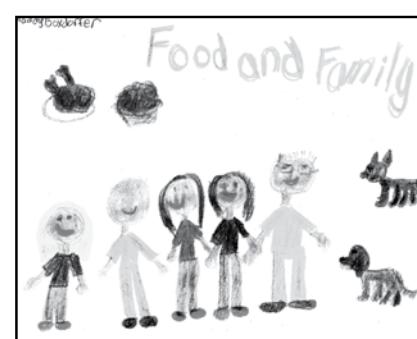
Carter (7yrs) - "I am thankful for all of my friends in the neighborhood."

Chloe (5 yrs) - "I am thankful for having a playground we can walk to and ladybugs."

Isabella (5 yrs) - "I'm thankful for my family and my dog."



Artwork by Carter Hoganson (7 yrs)



Artwork by Maddy Boxdorfer

### QUESTION FOR FEBRUARY KIDS CORNER:

*What is your favorite Dr. Seuss story or quote? And / or Submit a valentine picture. Include your name and age.*

Please submit drawings and answers to [kidscorner@sdtimes.org](mailto:kidscorner@sdtimes.org) or drop them at the SDCC office at Four Corners by January 10th!



## Especially for children

by Archilla Buford

2nd Annual Central West End Winter Wonderland

On Saturday, December 14, from noon to 2:30 p.m. Union Communion Ministries and its community partners: St. Louis Philanthropic Organization, Monsanto YMCA, Westminster Presbyterian Church (PC USA), Pilgrim Congregational Church (UCC), and Union Avenue Christian Church (DOC) will sponsor an afternoon of fun and joy for children (ages 1-17) and their families. The event is open to low to moderate income families who live in either 63108, 63112, or 63113 zip codes. There will be face painting, balloon sculptures, arts and crafts, inflatables, light refreshments, photos with Santa, and much more. The event will be held at the Monsanto YMCA located at 5555 Page. Children must be present for giveaways and proof of residency will also be needed. For information contact UCM at 367-2112.

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



### Rachel Boxdorfer

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## A Field Trip to Water Street

By Cristina and Sean McGroarty

You should know something about Sean's childhood. Mom worked nights as a nurse. She also did all of the cooking. So, on the nights that she worked, she either made a casserole for us to put in the oven, or she left things to Dad. When Option B happened, the McGroarty children frequently We can just see the foodies in the reading audience salivate at the mere mention of chicken pot pies. Yes, these were exactly what you are imagining: cardboard box, aluminum mini plates, greasy upper crusts, and enough sodium and trans fats (whatever those are) to make the modern First Lady cry. They were fantastic!

Fast forward 25 years after the last such frozen morsel. We headed out to Water Street on Manchester in Maplewood. We knew about Water Street because we had almost gone there once, accidentally. Water Street has indoor and outdoor seating. We chose the latter, which would have dramatic consequences later.

Once seated, the words Chicken Pot Pie on the menu immediately caught Sean's eye. Flashbacks ensued: Dad McGroarty calling children down for dinner; oilcloth table coverings and mis-matched

tableware; six McGroarty children fighting for the least-burnt dish of chickenny goodness. "I'm getting the Chicken Pot Pie!" Sean blurted out before Cristina even had the chance to open the menu.

We all know Sean married up in this arrangement. Cristina calmly suggested we look at the wine list first.

This is where sitting outside proved critical. Perusing the wine list, we noticed a bottle happily named Domaine de Cristina. "It's a sign of Something!" we said fervently, and asked the waiter to bring us a bottle. The waiter smiled patiently, said something about bouquets, wood chips, and Provencal soil, and left to fetch said bottle. Yes, it was a sign: a sign that our 40 year-old eyes can no longer read in dim lighting. "Cristina" wine, it was not. "Cristia" wine, it was. The menu said, "grenache, fairly full and smooth with a touch of oak." I don't know what that means. I do know, however, that it was awfully tasty.

That surprise behind us, we ordered our main dishes. Cristina chose the Pair and Prosciutto Flatbread, Sean, the aforementioned pot pie. Enjoying the "grenache, fairly full and smooth

with a touch of oak," Sean eagerly awaited the chance to relive a piece of his childhood.

Imagine his shock and horror when the chicken pot pie came, without one bit of aluminum in sight. No cardboard, either. And, it appeared that the dish was made completely from fresh ingredients! Well, who really wants to relive their childhood, anyway? Midway through the first bite, the frozen dinners were forgotten. The chicken actually retained its texture, the vegetable were just slightly crunchy, and the crust was flaky and magnificent.

Cristina's dish was every bit as good as the pot pie. The flatbread would have been a tasty meal by itself. Topped with balsamic-caramelized pears, prosciutto, and parmesan, it was like eating dinner and dessert at the same time.

The food at Water street is simple, fresh, and really, really good. The menu fits the atmosphere perfectly. Once you walk into Water Street, you immediately feel at ease. The chairs are comfortable, the staff is friendly, and the décor and lighting is soft and inviting. Water Street does not lend itself to hurried meals and frenzied activity. It is a place to go when you want to enjoy your meal, appreciate those you are with, and take your time.

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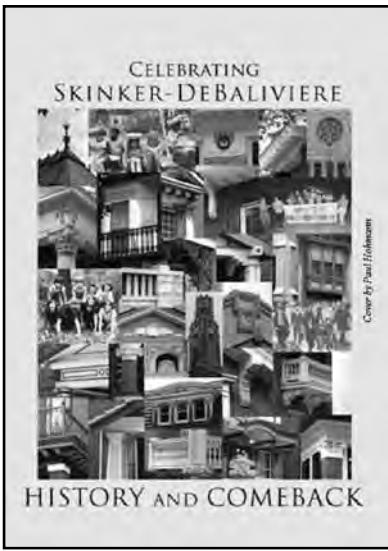
## Our Century Neighborhood



The home pictured here will be 100 in 2014; you can have your own centennial year on a plaque which can be ordered in time for holiday giving. Call Katie Kurtz at 496-5083 or email her at knkurtz@swbell.net to place your order.

The full-color book about our neighborhood, *Celebrating Skinker-DeBaliviere, History and Comeback*, is also available.

Published by the TIMES of SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE for the neighborhood's centennial, the book remains the best source for neighborhood history. For the best price, order directly from the TIMES by contacting Jo Ann Vatcha at 726-6974 or jvatcha@gmail.com or Marj Weir at 863-7558 or weir.marj@charter.net. The current price is \$42.



## GARDEN REHAB

by Andy Cross

On Sunday Sept. 8th Grace Methodist Church and the McPherson Community Garden teamed up with Great Rivers Greenway to help rejuvenate a former garden space along the St. Vincent Greenway. The old garden, near the Ruth Porter Mall, is about 2 blocks distance from Delmar on Chamberlain Ave. The goal is to help turn the old garden space into a new community garden. Mountains of weeds and vines were removed, areas of good soil was tilled, and the garden looks much better. Now it is more inviting for neighbors to adopt and grow in. This is a small step

in 'bridging the Delmar divide' and adds to the attractiveness of the St. Vincent Greenway. S D resident Laura Patterson lead the energetic volunteers from Grace Methodist as part of the church's goal to serve communities with needs, and all the groups are working to build healthier communities, decrease food deserts, and help neighbors connect with each other in healthy and positive ways. As we worked on the garden space, neighbors joined the volunteers from Grace Methodist, McPherson Garden, and Great Rivers Greenway, and a small garden area in the front corner of the site was adopted and cool crops were planted for late season harvest.

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## DIVERSITY WATCH

by Cecilia Nadal

### The Power of Women to Improve Race Relations in St. Louis



Members of the Women's Group On Race Relations (From left to right- Cecilia Nadal, Pat Cox, Co-Founder, Dr. Priscilla Dowden-White, Janice Thomas and Mickey Clarke)

Even though Janice Thomas, a seasoned health-care manager, was helping people in a rural town with a shortage of doctors get some much-needed medical attention, she was escorted out of town. Because Janice, an African American, was in an area where the Klu Klux Klan had influence, some were concerned about her safety.

That experience and many others she had growing up in the South as the daughter of a Pullman porter on the railroads helped foster in her a commitment to improving race relations.

Janice, who has lived in our neighborhood since 2004, was attracted to the diversity and walk-friendly environment in our community..

Janice is a member of the Women's Group on Race Relations (WGRR), which includes St. Louis area women from "all walks of life, ethnic and racial groups and various nations of origin committed to making the St. Louis community a welcoming place for all."

"I was impressed by the fact that this was an easy group to become a part of," she explained. "WGRR allows you to make connections that might not have occurred without the group. Even though we live in a diverse neighborhood we are still a part of a larger city."

At last count there were 180 diverse women in WGRR so one can only imagine the possibilities that might come from their collective power to improve race relations in St. Louis! Plenty of evidence points to women possessing a unique combination of leadership skills that include creativity, compassion, intelligence, honesty and they think analytically and strategically.

Six of the women in this growing collaborative of individuals are residents of Skinker-DeBaliviere (SD) and each brings a rich history of experiences and skills to WGRR.

Another member of WGRR is Heather Corcoran, Associate Professor and Chair of Design at the Sam Fox School of Design at Washington University.

"I have always valued diversity and chose to live in SD partly because it is diverse", she said. "I think that grows out of my experiences as an "outsider kid" with so many school changes. (Military child) I came to value the wide range of perspectives I was exposed to in my youth. In my work as a designer and a teacher of students, it is important to be open to all kinds of people, learning styles, and life paths. Without that, it is difficult to design successful communications or successful learning classrooms."

Like Heather and Janice, Mickey Clarke, Manager, Human Research Quality Assurance Program in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Research at Washington University joined WGRR because she shares a broad vision of diversity and wants to help make St. Louis a more welcoming and inclusive city.

While working with the city's Juvenile Courts as a volunteer, Clarke saw the need for more inclusion and cooperation. Clarke moved from Clayton to the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood 13 years ago.

The public is invited to learn more about the vision of WGRR on November 4 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM when the organization will sponsor a free community discussion on "How Do We Unite Our Community?" The event will feature Dr. Priscilla Dowden-White, author of *Groping Toward Democracy*. Priscilla is on the UMSL faculty, a member of WGRR, and yes--a neighbor! . For information, contact Pat at plcox@att.net or Janice at jmarshallschild@aol.com.

(Story ideas, initiatives and events about diversity may be sent to info@gitana-inc.org)

## Delmar Commercial Committee

By Jo Ann Vatcha

The Delmar Commercial Committee is one of several standing committees of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council that have met continuously and productively for many years. In 1988, Mayor Vince Schoemehl's "Operation ConServ" initiative was helping neighborhoods plan for the future. Out of that came the

development. Grants were applied for to redo the streetscape with wider sidewalks and trees and lighting.

One of our core values was--and remains--for full cooperation between neighborhood residents and the business community. That tradition continues as planning ever eastward. My fellow "charter

Mugg. Alderman Lyda Krewson has been a faithful attendee and leader for all the years she has been alderman of the 28th Ward. Meeting frequently for more than 20 years, it's a great mix of businesses and residents from all parts of the neighborhood: Randy Vines, who lives on Washington, and owns a small business, STL-Style, on Cherokee; Richard Bose, an engineer who lives on DeGiverville; attorney Paul Hales; Cynthia Watson, Sharon Spann, James Handson, and Brenda Simpson are all residents from the north side of Delmar near Hamilton. Cheryl Adelstein represents Washington University, and David Whiteman and Liz Pund assist from SDCC.

Unlike some of the SDCC committees which meet every month, we call meetings when



there is a specific need, to hear about applications for zoning variances (remember the pawn shop debate?) and to learn about new businesses who actively seek our support. As we met recently to learn about the new Global Market coming soon, we were pleased to see a great diversity of independent business owners and neighborhood residents from north and south of Delmar, and a wonderful extra was Francis Yueh, who owns the Bubble Tea on Delmar and also the St. Louis Chinese American News, who took many pictures of our committee at its collaborative work. To see the full array of pictures in this publication, go to: <http://www.scanews.com/2013/08/s1198/119802/>.



Delmar Commercial Committee, and a core group was recruited to help improve our desperate border street, Delmar east of Skinker. At that time, there was a feeling of "falling off the edge of the earth" at Skinker, and the group began planning for a Redevelopment Plan and Ordinance (sponsored by both Aldermen, Dan McGuire and Irv Clay) to prohibit undesirable commercial uses and encourage

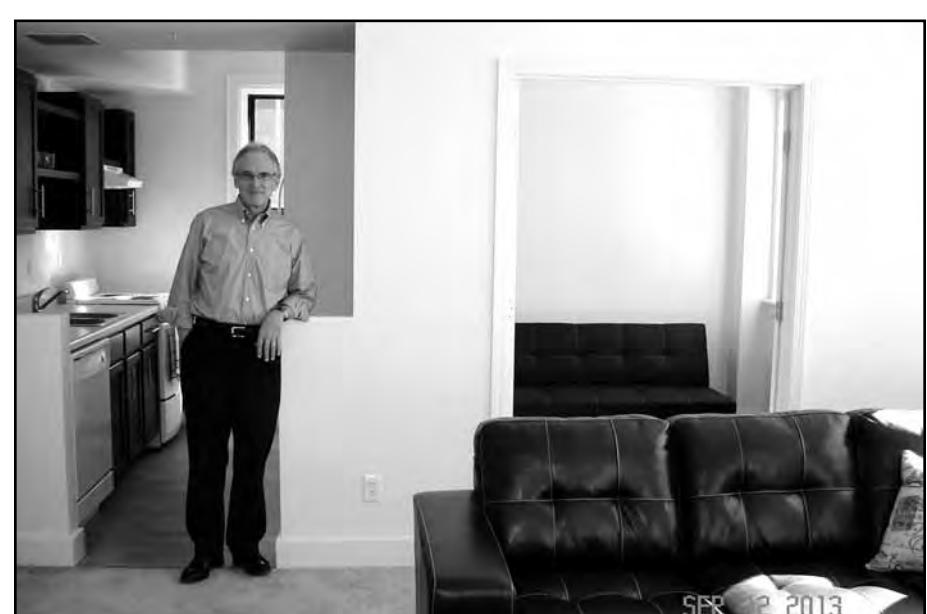
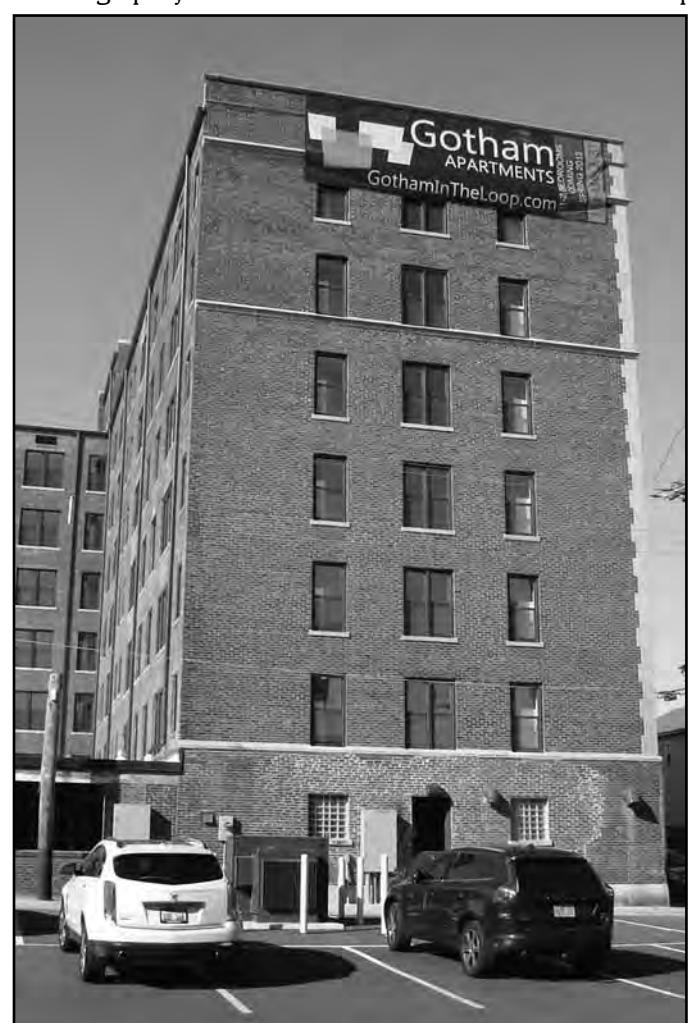
members" Lana Stein, Loretta Lloyd, and Anne Voss; former members Nancy Farmer, Dennis Townsend of Boulevard Cleaners, Dan McGuire and Irving Clay; and great neighbors Jack Wright and Sam Green, who have passed away, formed our original committee, joined early on by Loop mentors Joe Edwards, Paul and Suzanne Schoomer, and Neal Shapiro, and later by David Mastin and Jeff



## Gotham Apartments Now Available

On September 12, a grand opening celebrated the completion of a large project: the historic rehab

of a 88 year old apartment building at 5901 Enright, along with the successful completion of a brand-new apartment building at 5901 Delmar. The apartment complex consists of two buildings, one historic, one new. Originally built in 1925, The Gotham Apartments offers all the amenities of modern living in a historic, architecturally beautiful building. There are four different floor plans. The historic building has a beautiful lobby which faces Enright. A gated parking lot and garage parking for some, secure access to residential floors, a fitness center and on-site laundry are just



Dave Mastin, of St. Louis Design Alliance, showed off one of several fully handicap-accessible apartments in the Gotham complex.

a few of the amenities offered to renters.

In addition, there is a new building facing Delmar. The Gotham Annex is a new residential community in Delmar Loop offering spacious two bedroom apartments. Providing much more than new construction and modern features, it reflects smart design and a sophisticated, forward-thinking atmosphere. Its location on Delmar puts the residents right in the middle of all the Loop has to offer.

The Gotham development also offers street-level retail spaces, which will add to the amenities available in the Loop. With the Loop Trolley coming soon, this should be a wonderful addition to the street life on Delmar.

For information on the Gotham, contact Charrette Community Management, 436-2787, go to their office at the corner of Delmar and Hamilton, or go to [www.GothamInTheLoop.com](http://www.GothamInTheLoop.com).

# IN YOUR EAR

by Hawkeye Z. Hoerr, Commentary in the TIMES for more than 32 years.

WOOSH! That noise is the sound of change happening all around you. WOOSH! There it is again! Yep, things are changing that fast. Oddly, though, because change is such a constant, you may not notice it.

It's hard to pick up a tablet or e-book and not read how technology is changing not only what we do but how we do it (and maybe where we do it). Chances are, that I'd read that too if I picked up a regular book, one with those things called pages. I used to read those while listened to music on my 8-track player. I sure miss hearing the Kingston Trio.

At both big and little levels, we sense remarkable changes rippling through our society. Just recently, I read about docs performing surgery – cutting and sewing people and all that stuff – while being hundreds or thousands of miles from their patients. They use a remote camera and a robot, and control his/her/its arms electronically. Wow. (So much for the importance of "bedside manner," eh?) Google glasses are coming down the pipe, so it won't be long until all the world's knowledge is in the corner of your cornea. You'll be able to see and know everything just by glancing aside into your glasses. An eye-roll will show you recorded history from Aardvarks to Zorro. WOOSH! (Hey, maybe these glasses can even help me remember people's names?) And coming soon, we will have watches that do the things that phones do. It gets a bit confusing: phones which tell time and watches which are phones. What's next – radios that talk? (Oh yeah, that's television.)

I decided to ask some friends what they view as the biggest change in the past couple of hundred years. Carla, ever the pragmatist, noted that a couple of hundred years ago she wasn't here, so she'd be most surprised to find out that she was alive. You know, I'm not sure that I understood her, but maybe it was because I was preoccupied in trying to determine whether a tree falling makes noise if no one hears it.

Bill said, "Simple. It's air travel." He wisely pointed out that for thousands of years we traveled by feet – ours or that of four-legged animals. Now the coach in which we sit hurls us across the sky at hundreds of miles per hour. The speed is breath-taking,

and hopefully it makes up for de-shoeing in the security line, sitting at the gate, and waiting on the tarmac (not to mention stale peanuts). Do you think people living in the Renaissance had a Frequent Horse card? WOOSH! Did you hear it this time?

Lucy talked about longevity. She pointed out that in Biblical times, 32 was the life expectancy, whereas today the Social Security Administration predicts that if you're 33, you'll likely live to be 76, that you'll live to be 94 if you're 54 now, and make it to 85 if you're currently 67. That's a lot more days and almost as many nights. You know, if you consider all of the people in the world times all of the days everyone has lived, it sorta makes you wonder why we haven't gotten more accomplished. By now, wouldn't you think that we'd have cured cancer, solved world hunger, and the Cubs would have won a World Series?

Hanson, a computer geek, proclaimed computers as the achievement of mankind. He did this by email, of course. He talked about how computers are automating so much of our lives, that it won't be long until they perform virtually every task imaginable. Computers will drive cars, perform surgery, teach classes, walk dogs, offer counseling, be embedded in our clothing to keep us warm or cool, water lawns, and cook breakfast. Death will simply be re-booting!

(Here's a scary thought: When you couple computers doing just about everything while our life span increases, what will happen to us? What are we going to do with ourselves???) You won't need to go to school because learning will be injected in your arm each year. You won't have any work to do; it will all be automated. But then what???) I mean, you can only watch Gilligan's Island for, what, three or four hours a day until it becomes boring. Chances are your computer will be programmed to do your hobby too! You can watch it knit, play Scrabble, cook, do woodworking, or work out. (I see a future column here...)

WOOSH! Ed is an out-of-the-box thinker, so I was eager to hear his thoughts about change, and he didn't disappoint. "The designated hitter is the single biggest change," he said while wearing his Cardinals shirt, "end

of story." I've always admired Ed's balanced approach to life. Perhaps similarly insightfully, Renee talked about the invention of fast food. "Think of the millions of people who have easy and cheap access to food, virtually 24-7," she said, "we no longer have to trap or kill our prey to get a McNugget." Maurice, a demographer, took the long view. "It's pretty amazing that we haven't exterminated one another by now," he said. "With all the nuclear weapons floating around, I'd have thought we'd be dust by now." Can you guess that Maurice isn't the optimistic sort? I wonder if he eats McNuggets.

Reflecting on their responses, it's pretty clear that we are all biased. We are struck by the technology that has a significant impact upon us, personally. For example, I am most amazed by microwave ovens. That's because a microwave oven defrosts my frozen Hostess Twinkies in just 20 seconds. That's fast – I never have time to linger at breakfast -- and tasty! (I froze seven cases of Twinkies when they were going out of business.) But, surprisingly enough, not everybody likes Twinkies, so the invention of the microwave might not appear as significant to others. (I know, dear reader, it's hard to contemplate that some people don't like Hostess Twinkies. Truth is there's no accounting for some people's taste or wisdom. After all, some people vote for Republicans.)

What about change in the past? If Washington, Franklin, and Jefferson returned to life today, what would surprise them the most? Odd as you might find this question, it's one that I ponder quite a bit. You see, I am constantly ruminating on what's been the biggest change in our country over the past 200+ years. I wondered how George Washington, Tommy Jefferson, and Benny Franklin would respond to this question. Since my Ouija board couldn't conjure them and since my time capsule can't get me back before 1968, I decided to ask around and elicit how others think they might respond. That will be the topic of my next column. In the meantime, enjoy that added life expectancy and let me know if you'd like a dethawedTwinkie.

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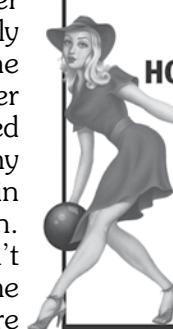
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