

# The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 44, No. 1

April - May, 2014

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

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

FREE

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

## Better Block Project Scheduled for Des Peres Avenue in September

by Liz Pund, Executive Director, SDCC



SDCC held the Better Block Kick-Off Public Meeting on February 22, 2014. The attendees chose Des Peres Avenue as the location for the Better Block Project and the event date was set for September 13, 2014. (Mark your calendar!) The Better Block Planning Team will meet again on Saturday, April 5 at 10am at the SDCC Office.

On September 13, the Better Block Team will work with other neighbors and volunteers to transform a section of Des Peres

Avenue with temporary cafes, shops, bike lanes, landscaping, food, live music and more. It's going to be a lively, large-scale street festival that changes the way neighbors experience the street and its connection to Delmar. The entire neighborhood is invited to come out, have fun, and provide feedback on what you'd like to see on Des Peres on a more permanent basis.

More information is posted on SDCC's website, [www.skinker-debaliviere.com](http://www.skinker-debaliviere.com).

## Liz Pund Named Executive Director

by Lana Stein

Liz Pund was officially named the executive director of Skinker DeBaliviere in February. She had been Neighborhood Coordinator, a position she had held for over a year. A native of St. Louis area, Liz moved to our neighborhood shortly after coming to work here. She has had experience in community action and development in Washington, D.C. and Buenos Aires. She has facilitated at all the Council's events and has been actively involved in the planning process. David Whiteman, her predecessor, is working part time on the master plan before formally retiring.



Liz Wright Johnson and Liz Pund shown here at the 2014 MLK Day Service.

by Demeitrus Webb

## STL VILLAGE GRAND LAUNCH

Saturday, April 12th, 10am-Noon

Location: Missouri History Museum

As part of stl250, join STL Village in a celebration of St. Louis seniors. Enjoy ragtime music, entertainment from the Black Repertory Theatre, and information on area resources for seniors. Learn the benefits of becoming a member, volunteer, or partner of STL Village, a new nonprofit organization for people 50+ who want to remain in the homes they love and stay active in the community. STL Village is the first of the national 'Village' model of aging in community to open in the St. Louis region. Free. For more information contact 314-802-0275 or [stlvillage.org](http://stlvillage.org).

## Upcoming SDCC Events

Frequently, events are scheduled or updated in between issues of the *Times*. Keep an eye on our website ([www.skinker-debaliviere.com](http://www.skinker-debaliviere.com)) or join our email list to get information about the upcoming Brightside Blitz Day, Electronics Recycling Day, and more.

Upcoming events include the Breakfast Garden Tour, Saturday June 7, 8:30am-12noon, featuring a delicious breakfast in McPherson Garden. Enjoy a tour and visit your neighbors. For tickets, please contact SDCC Office.

Also that day, Wabash Station Visioning Session, Saturday June 7, 8:00am-12noon

Come out and share your vision for how the Wabash Station could be revitalized as the primary entrance to the Delmar MetroLink station.

And later that week, the annual SD Dog Show, Tuesday June 10, 7pm. All dogs invited! Bring your owners!

## Easter Concours d'Elegance

Easter Sunday April 20, 2014, will mark the 53rd Annual Automobile Show of the Horseless Carriage Club of St. Louis. The show is held on the upper parking lot of the Muny Opera in Forest Park. Dozens of classic cars will be displayed. The 2013 Easter Show had 107 Cars pre-registered for Judging, 70 Cars for Display, with about 216 Club Cars from 16 different Clubs. The Horseless Carriage Club has been active in St. Louis since 1944. Their newsletter featured the 1950 auto show at the Winter Garden on DeBaliviere. Their colorful website is: [www.hccmo.com](http://www.hccmo.com).

Following the parade of transportation at the World's Fair, the first actual Auto Show in St. Louis was held in 1907 at the old Winter Garden Building at 500 DeBaliviere, formerly the site of the 1904 Jai Alai competition in the St. Louis World's Fair and Olympic Games, before becoming a popular ice skating venue. In 1907, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch noted that a parade from downtown preceded the "society event" with an "artistic background for the throngs of handsomely gowned women whose presence is expected...To protect these gowns, huge tarpaulins have been spread over the floor... no small number of St. Louis women own machines and drive them." There were at least two auto manufacturing plants on DeBaliviere: the "Success Auto Buggy" and the "Darby Motor Car," which was found at the website <http://www.earlyamericanautomobiles.com/americanautomobiles6.htm>.

More information about the early days of automobiles specifically in St. Louis can also be seen in the History Museum's new STL250 Exhibit.

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## Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

### The Problem with Problem Properties Master Planning

With the facilitation of a consulting firm, residents have met over the past months to work on a master plan for the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood. The result was explained in penultimate form at a recent meeting. Some of the ideas make sense and could be acted on, e.g., planting more flowers at the barricades or recognizing that as a multigenerational neighborhood, we might want to make it easier for residents to age in place.

Other ideas require considerable capital to implement and the involvement of numerous actors outside the neighborhood. Such an idea is the construction of a bridge over the Forest Park Parkway to ensure greater safety to those who wish to access Forest Park. It's a good idea, one that should have happened initially. But where will the money come from? Another idea is the creation of a distinctive district around the Delmar Metro station, change the existing street network, and foster multiuse development on adjacent parcels. The plan mentions the possibility that Metro might wish to relinquish its garage at DeBaliviere and Delmar and that could also be a site for mixed use development. A sound barrier along the north side of the Parkway would also be desirable. Are these realizable dreams or chimeras? Where's the money?

The planners speak of creating a CID, an improvement district with a dedicated tax. This CID would have to be voted on by the neighborhood and would add a fraction to everyone's property tax. To make things equitable, Washington University, which owns a significant amount of property in the neighborhood, would have to contribute. As a nonprofit institution, the university is not taxed. How much this new tax could raise and how quickly is open to conjecture. The planners feel it could be a catalyst to raising other funds. Would the neighborhood buy into this? There are CIDs in the Central West End but they are used for security patrols.

Also advocated is increasing voluntary giving to the SDCC. The SDCC is facing belt-tightening conditions. The CDA grant which the council has received for years has been shrinking as federal funding has declined. The council will need to increase its revenues from other sources if it wants to maintain its present staffing and activities.

In a matter of weeks, I will have been a neighborhood resident for 25 years. In that time, I have seen considerable improvement in housing stock, falling crime, and continued diversity. My friends, some of whom have lived here for over 4 decades, would concur. We've come a long way, we defied the odds and we are a model to other city neighborhoods. Success should not father complacency but at the same time we should be realistic about where we are. Taking steps that we can afford to improve certain conditions should begin and block units should be involved in planning. I would love to see that bridge; if for nothing else it would make it far easier to walk the dogs southward. But, we have to think long and hard about what we want to pay for and how to do it. My parents always used to caution me that Rome was not built in a day; I share that caution with you.

## It's Always Fun

The annual Thurtene Carnival will take place on April 11-13 on the campus of Washington University. Enjoy rides, games, food, and performances, with free admission for all. The carnival is located in the parking lot and green space near the intersection of Brookings Drive and Skinker. For more information, go to [www.thurtene.org](http://www.thurtene.org) or [communityrelations.wustl.edu](http://communityrelations.wustl.edu).

### Interactive Shakespeare Reading - No experience or practice necessary!

Thursday April 24, 5:30-7:00pm • [SDCC Office, 6008 Kingsbury Ave.]

Come join us to celebrate William Shakespeare's birthday! We'll have birthday cake and coffee as well as a reading of his play, King Lear. All are encouraged to be part of the reading - no experience necessary, no practice needed!! Show up, join us at the table or be part of the audience. This is a neighborhood, family event and we hope many of you will celebrate with us at the SDCC office. Sponsored by the SDCC Neighborhood Services Committee.

"All the world's a stage" penned William Shakespeare, and St. Louisans will hold him to it by reading, painting, dancing and singing their way through the Bard's 38-play canon during the 5th annual SHAKE 38 April 23-27. Rats & People Motion Picture Orchestra will kick-off off the free citywide celebration on the Bard's 450th a musical reaction to Love's Labour's Lost at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23, at the Festival headquarters (5715 Elizabeth Ave.). Guests attending the SHAKE 38 kick-off will also get a peek at the Festival's 250th birthday cake developed by artist Andy Cross as part of the city's Cakeway to the West.



## Residential Committee

by Nicole Blummer, Chairperson

In February 2014, the SDCC Residential Committee wrote letters to Skinker DeBaliviere landlord and property owners who do not live at the neighborhood address. The letter was written to make sure property owners and landlords are aware of certain City of St. Louis laws that apply to our neighborhood.

**Refuse** - We are fortunate to have recycling dumpsters, along with trash and yard waste dumpsters, located in the alleys throughout our neighborhood. Please ask tenants to use the appropriate dumpsters and remind them to NOT stack any discarded items on or next to the dumpsters, including yard waste of any type, as the City is unable to pick up those items.

**Historic District** - Our neighborhood is within the Skinker-DeBaliviere - Catlin Tract - Parkview Historic District. Property owners must obtain a building permit to make any changes or improvements to the exterior of their building. (And for most major interior work.) The Historic Code adds some restrictions to protect the historic quality and character of the neighborhood. These restrictions

include the types of materials and windows, for example, which are allowed. You can find instructions on how to obtain permits on the City's website. You will find a downloadable copy of the Historic District Ordinance at the City's website or on SDCC's website.

**Occupancy Load** - The Certificate of Inspection specifies an occupancy limit for residential living units. This is the maximum number of people that can reside there. Additionally, according to the St. Louis City Revised Code Section (26.08.160) no more than three unrelated persons may reside in any living unit. It does not matter how many bedrooms a living unit has; there can be no more than three unrelated persons living in the unit.

**Housing Conservation Inspection** - All buildings are required to have a Certificate of Inspection before a resident (tenant) moves in. Instructions for obtaining an inspection can be found on the City of St. Louis website.

Skinker DeBaliviere is a great neighborhood, and we appreciate everyone's cooperation in maintaining the quality of life for all residents.

## The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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#### Display Advertising:

Column width, 2.25". Minimum ad size 2" x 1 col: \$25/insertion.

For a complete list of sizes and rates, write:

The Times, 6060 McPherson, 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).

### 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: May 15, 2014. Please send copy by e-mail to [jvatcha@gmail.com](mailto:jvatcha@gmail.com) or by disc to 6117 Westminster, St. Louis, MO 63112.**

# News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

Greetings and happy spring (I hope!). It has been a tough winter and at the time that I am writing this, it appears that spring is easing its way back into our lives with birds singing and even a few buds peaking out into the world. Let's see what our neighbors have been up to during these cold winter months.

Well known neighborhood do-gooder and artist, Andy Cross, celebrated his 50th party at his studio in February. It was a who's who of people from Andy's life and a full house throughout the night. The amount of people spanning all parts of Andy's life was a real tribute to his kind and generous spirit. Andy and his family live on the 6000 block of McPherson.

Never being one to dwell on himself, Andy has spent more time in the past year preparing for another birthday. As you all most



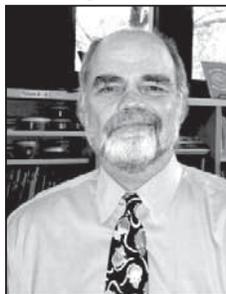
likely know, our beautiful City of St. Louis is celebrating its 250th birthday this year! Have you seen all of the wonderful cakes throughout our town? Andy completed five cakes for the Cakeway to the West project. His cakes are the Jewel Box, the Riverfront, the Shakespeare Festival, The Forest Part Balloon Race, and the Hanley House.

Andy's oldest daughter Emily also painted a cake celebrating the St. Louis Symphony, and younger daughter Sarah painted a cake celebrating the St. Louis Science Center. There really is no doubt that talent runs in the Cross family.

Andy also created the '50 Places', a mural at the History Museum, which is part of the 250 in 250 exhibit at the Missouri History Museum. The exhibit showcases 50 objects, 50 moments, 50 people, 50 events, and 50 places in St. Louis' history. Before he completed the mural, he completed 50 drawings of the same places so that they could be scanned and entered into the computer for selection to get more information about the places in the exhibit. It's an exhibit we all need to see in this celebration year for our city.



Moving from art to writing, Tom Hoerr of the 6100 block of Kingsbury published a new book entitled *Fostering Grit: How Do I Prepare My Students for the Real World?* Hoerr has been the Head of School at New City School for 32 years but of course is well known to *Times*



Readers through his column In Your Ear. Congratulations, Tom.

A long honored tradition continues to help neighbors on the 6100 and 6000 blocks of McPherson celebrate the Christmas holidays. For several decades the street has had an annual Christmas Caroling Party on the two blocks, raising money for the St. Louis Christmas Carols Association. This year the post party (traditionally cookies and hot chocolate) grew into a larger pizza party. The neighbors aging from about three to 60 were able to raise \$151.50 for the Christmas Carols Association and also enjoyed a wonderful evening with neighbors. I have no doubt that David Schmidt, who originally helped organize the event, was singing along with pride from heaven!

We love to hear about neighbors celebrating, and we love to hear about friends dining out. How about six Rosedale neighbors getting together in Jerusalem in early March for dinner? Susan Rotroff and Bob Lambertson (of the 6100 block of Kingsbury), both Washington



University Classics professors doing research in Israel through this academic year, and Britt-Marie and Jerome Schiller (from the 6100 block of McPherson), who were celebrating Jerome's 80th birthday, and Peggy Hermes (6100 block of Kingsbury) and David Garin (6100 block of Westminster), who were vacationing in Israel after visiting grandson Oscar who's studying in Madrid; all met for a lively dinner in Jerusalem!

Please welcome our new neighbors, Glenn & Narci Herr, the new owners of 6046 Westminster, formerly owned by Alex Schaffer & Becky Homan. Realtor Katie Kurtz relates, "They regretted missing the block party as they were out of town, but they seem very happy to be in such an involved neighborhood and want to do things ... (they are) very lovely people; they have lived in Hong Kong since the early '80s and now they are here!"

The Hart family of the 6100 block of McPherson bid farewell to their much beloved dog Katy last month. Within a week the youngest members of the family had coordinated the delivery of two puppies to their home to make up for the loss.



Adopted from an animal pound rescue group, brother and sister mixed breed (mutt) puppies Farley and Bailey have brought lots of energy to the household. Recent warm weather has helped the pups outside and learning to walk on their leashes acquainting themselves with the neighborhood. Welcome Bailey and Farley, you've landed in a dog loving neighborhood!

Helen Hitchcock of the 6100 block of Kingsbury was happy to report that daughter Louisa and her family were able to visit daughter



Consuelo in Washington DC for Mardi Gras. She was kind enough to share this picture. And the oldest of the Hitchcock girls, Alex, was in town from her home in Summerville, South Carolina to help sister Hilary and her parents celebrate their father Jim's birthday!

Moviegoers in The Loop suffered a loss in February with the passing of John Thompson, who had served as the ticket taker at The Tivoli, working there for 35 years. Thompson was an institution in The Loop and the tributes were a testimony to the type of person he was.



These tributes are certainly a reminder to us all that it is not your position or status that matter, but how you live your life and treat others along the way.

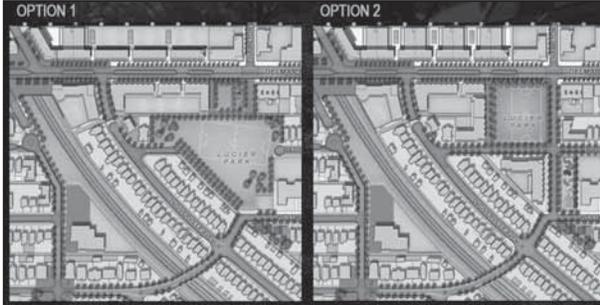
Do you have news to share? Please send your submissions via email with the subject line News of Neighbors to rachelb@sdtimes.org or drop off a note to the attention of Rachel Boxdorfer at the Skinker DeBaliviere office. Be sure to mark it 'News of Neighbors'.



The 19th Annual Police & Firefighter Luncheon was held on Valentine's Day, Friday February 14. Representatives from the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, St. Louis Fire Department, Washington University Police, Metro Police, and the Neighborhood Stabilization Team enjoyed a delicious lunch cooked by SD neighbors, including Hazel Morris (left) and Gwen Lazard (right), shown here with luncheon organizers Arline Webb and Ruth Johnson. The staff & students at Hamilton Elementary School made "thank you" pictures. Thanks to the volunteers and donors who helped make the luncheon a success.

# Planning for Lucier Park

by Richard Bose



The neighborhood planning process wrapped up with a public meeting at Grace United Methodist Church on Feb 25. The plan lays out a vision for the next 30 years. The presentations are available on the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council website.

The areas of contention among meeting attendees (the unraised subject of traffic flows and considering opening and reconfiguring streets is tabled for another generation) were how to implement bike paths along Skinker and what to do with Lucier Park. Regarding bike lanes the options are do nothing, add something on the west side, or add something on the east side.

John Hoal of H3 Studio, the consultant who has guided the process, stressed that there is a problem at present, and it will only get worse.

John Hoal again stressed currently there is a problem with the park. The options for Lucier Park are: do nothing, option 1, and option 2. Option 1 adds the property at Delmar and Hamilton and spruces up the park with trees. Option 2 builds back Hamilton and Washington Avenues, puts the main part of the park at Delmar, Hamilton, and Washington, and places a playground between Hamilton Ave and Hamilton Elementary School. Land freed-up would be available for development. From the recent parks bond issue Lucier receives: Repair rubber playground surfacing \$12,522, Install security lighting in park \$25,000. From the \$64M bond issue the neighborhood's three parks will see \$50,000 worth of improvements. \$30M will go to Forest Park.

I agree with the consultants, the park is fundamentally flawed. It's no surprise given that it was birthed from the demolition of apartment buildings and vacating streets. When redevelopment capital didn't show up, the park was created. Other neighborhoods like Benton Park and Lafayette Square were built around their parks. They are greatly enhanced by them.

As it is Lucier park is an asset for soccer and rugby players, but it is a liability the rest of the time. It adds nothing to the property values of nearby real-estate.

Its flaw is that there are no eyes on the park. No buildings face it. Option 2 fixes this.

With property facing the park residents take ownership of it, ne'er do wells see that they are more likely to be seen doing their shenanigans and go elsewhere. The rebuilt streets add frontage for development and improve traffic flow. Buses could access Hamilton Elementary from Delmar instead of going through the neighborhood.

Implementing option 2 requires a city-wide vote because it reduces its size. Another concern is that breaking up the street wall on Delmar would discourage people from walking east. This has been a challenge at Delmar and Skinker largely won. Continuous development on the north side of Delmar, the trolley tracks and wires, a signature art installation at Delmar and Hamilton, and an open business in the corner space of the Alanson would overcome this.

We don't have to accept the status quo. Remaking Lucier Park will be difficult, but worth it.

# Nearby and worth seeing

by King Schoenfeld

St. Louis's new International Photography Hall of Fame has opened a stunning exhibit of 'Street Photography,' including classic prints from St. Louis collectors. The show features iconic images by Cartier Bresson, Kertesz and Brassai, as well as modern photographers.

According to Executive Director John Nagel (shown at the gallery with vintage cameras), 'St. Louis is a city with a rich photographic heritage stretching back to the origin of photography.'

Today, the cultural landscape of St. Louis supports a diverse army of photographic artists, including 'Street Photographers.'



by King Schoenfeld

Nagel, himself a noted photographer, said the St. Louis area is home to many collector of vintage photographs, who have loaned prints for this exhibit, and to over a dozen colleges and universities with photography programs.

Nagel invited readers of the Times to come and view also the exhibits of

work of Anna Kuperberg, who documented life in South St. Louis and digital prints by Susan Stang, professor at Webster University. Included in the exhibit are photographs by contemporary, up-and-coming Street Photographers from St. Louis.

The IPHF and Museum, founded in 1965 and newly-arrived in St. Louis, is the only non-profit organization in the world dedicated to celebrating the inventors, pioneers and pivotal artists throughout the history of photography. It is home to 30,000 images and over 6,000 historical cameras.

'Decisive Moments - 20th Century Street Photography,' through April 27, 2014, at the IPHF, 3415 Olive, open Wed-Th 11am-6pm, Fri-Sun 11am-4pm; free admission on First Friday in Grand Center til 9pm www.iphf.org.



# WU on Top

In mid-January, the last piece of structural steel was placed, and the \$80 Million Lofts at Delmar and Limit were "topped-out, according to Washington University, the developer. Opening in August, 2014, the Lofts will include 240 apartments, a grocery store from Global Foods Market, and a 24-hour diner, the Peacock, Joe Edwards' latest venture. The international flavor at the grocery store will extend to prepared foods, including a deli counter, a sushi and ceviche bar, a grill area, and a coffee bar. To view photos and a video, visit [governmentrelations.wustl.edu](http://governmentrelations.wustl.edu).

In other collegiate news, we learned that Washington University in St. Louis came out on top of Lumosity's annual ranking of the 'smartest colleges in America.' Last year's winner, MIT, came in second, followed by Princeton University, Northwestern, and Carnegie Mellon. Harvard and Yale came in eighth and ninth, respectively, and Stanford settled down in 12th place. The University of Chicago, Rice University, and Dartmouth were also in the top 10 this year. (from Rebecca Grant, [VentureBeat.com/2013/11/14](http://VentureBeat.com/2013/11/14)).

# 28th Ward Democrats 2014 meetings:

- April 17
- June 19
- July 17
- September 18
- October 16
- November 20
- December 8

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

For up to date information on programs and other news of politics, go to the 28th Ward website: <http://ward28.citywestend.org/index.html>

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## Kids Corner

by Suzanne Knese & Heather Hoganson

### Kid Friendly Events around our Neighborhood:

**University City Library:** Aside from their many interactive story times, their kids section is HUGE and who doesn't want to read in a bathtub?

Celebrate Earth Day / Kid's Night' on Tuesday, April 22nd

FREE Movies are shown in 'Lil's Treehouse' on the 2nd floor:

April 17th @ 4pm 'The Croods'

May 15th @ 4pm 'Frozen'

**Summer Reading Program begins University City Library**  
-May 31st

**St. Louis Public Library** - May 5th

### Missouri History Museum

Let's Build the History Clubhouse: Mississippi River  
May 3, 10:30am-2:00pm

May 4, 12:00pm-3:00pm

*Make your own miniature trunks for steamboat travel, listen to live music, and participate in a Workin' on the Mississippi movement workshop!*

Discover the 1904 World's Fair. Have some time to browse the galleries with your family? World's Fair Family Bags are here! These bags will be filled with exciting and creative activities for families to complete together while exploring the exhibition The 1904 World's Fair. Families will be prompted to imagine, move, write, draw, color, discuss and more. Recommended for families with children 10 and under. Families may check out bags for free at the North Information Desk.

**Featured this Month:  
April 22nd is Earth Day.**

### Question for Summer Kids Corner:

What is your favorite vacation destination? Share your favorite summer activities here in St. Louis. You may just inspire other families to try out your favorite places. Draw or write your answers to kidscorner@sdtimes.org or drop them at the SDCC office at Four Corners by May 10th!

**Kids, share with us activities your school, club, scouts and sports teams doing. This is YOUR corner, so make it what you want!**

## Chubbies

by Sean, Charlie, Brendan and Joe McGroarty

What happens when Dad is left alone with three boys under the age of 15 for the weekend? Many things, none of which involve a low-fat diet. So, when my lovely bride, Cristina, took the three youngest children to Chicago for the weekend, Dad, Charlie (age 14), Brendan (12) and Joe (10) had to fend for themselves. The decision tree looked a little like this: Make, or buy dinner? Ha! American, or international?

Well, do we live in Bora Bora? Meat, or seafood? How far does fish have to travel to get to St. Louis? Destination: Chubbies!

For anyone who has not darkened the doorway of Chubbies, it is located at 6227 Delmar, just a couple of doors east of Mission Taco. I never had the occasion to go there before, but Charlie had visited the establishment several times with his eighth-grade buddies. That sounded like a good enough reason to me to head that way, and so we did.

Chubbies occupies a nice space on Delmar, perfectly sized for its operation.

The inside is comfortably familiar, with wooden tables dispersed along one wall and next to the front window. The walls are decorated with completely-guy material: a basketball hoop, a Sopranos poster, and another poster listing tips to survive the Zombie Apocalypse (#8: Run For Your Life).

The man behind the counter greeted us warmly and immediately once we entered. When I told him that we had never eaten there before, he said, 'Don't worry - everything is terrible.' The staff at Chubbies could not be nicer. As a particularly appreciated touch, Chubbies does not accept tips. So, you are not faced with that awkward coffeeshop moment of wondering why you would leave a tip after paying \$6 for a venti (whatever that means) coffee.

Feeling welcome and at ease, we ordered. I will let the boys take it from there.

### Joe (Age 10):

So I went to Chubbies, just to try it out. I wasn't sure what to expect, but our server was SUPER-nice,

and man, that burger that I had was one of the best ever!

[Saying I'm only ten doesn't really help, but still]. Chubbies has a television, a movie rental kiosk, and almost everything they could fit in there! The temperature was perfect, there was also good lighting, and you could just step in and see everything! So overall, it was a great place!

*Dad's note: Joe ordered a Chubbie Burger with cheese, fries, and a fountain soda. After managing to divert his attention, I snuck a quick bite, and the boy speaks the truth. Outstanding burger: pink in the middle, well-seasoned, yet still moist.*

### Brendan (Age 12):

Chubbies is, in no way, a formal restaurant. It just has a laid-back feel to it.

It's more of a place you would go on a Friday night. The back room has an industrial look about it, which gives an edge to casual front seating area. The service was good, and the wait is not long. I ordered chicken wings with barbeque sauce, fries, and a fountain drink. The fries were amazing, but I am not sure that I would order the chicken wings next time I go there. I prefer wings to be almost crunchy, with a the sauce. These wings were a bit sweet for my taste; next time, I might order the cheeseburger.

### Charlie (Age 14):

Out of the four of us, I was the only one who had come to Chubbies before, so I was excited to show the place to my Dad and my brothers. When I came before, it was always with a bunch of my eighth-grade friends, so I was a little surprised to see that it could be relatively quiet. I ordered the Shrooms & Swiss burger, fries, and a soda. The burger was perfect, as always. It helped that I also ordered bacon to go with it. Everything goes with bacon. The man behind the counter was very friendly, and



NC. Tarheels know how to race cars, but they don't have a clue about cheesesteaks. Luckily for me, Chubbies does.

If you have never had a cheesesteak, allow me to expound a little. Picture thinly-sliced steak, covered in melted provolone cheese, sauteed onions, green peppers, and wonderful gooey goodness. Why has this delicacy not come in force to St. Louis? I have no idea. The Chubbies cheesesteak reminds me of the ones I used to eat in D.C. About the only thing that would make it better would be a cold bottle of Yuengling beer (Pottsville, PA). I did have Schlafly Pale Ale, which is not a bad substitute.

Overall, the four of us had a fantastic dinner, casual, laid back, and very reasonably priced. If you are in the mood for a burger, give it a try. Better yet, try the cheesesteak. You will not be disappointed.

we did not have to wait long for our food to come. Chubbies is, in my opinion, a perfect place to go for dinner.

### Dad (Age 40):

Typically, the quality of a Philly Cheesesteak is inversely proportional to your distance from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Growing up in D.C., I came across decent cheesesteaks on a regular basis. I once made the mistake of ordering one in Winston-Salem,



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*I'm a five year Skinker-DeBaliviere resident who graduated from Washington University School of Law in 2012. My legal experience includes: estate planning, small businesses, real estate, landlord/tenant, traffic, family law. The choice of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be based solely upon advertisements.*

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*I live in the city,  
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# The Making of an Entrepreneur

by Lana Stein

My neighbor, Angie Meara, is a remarkable woman of immense energy and commitment. I have learned a great deal from her about natural child birth and home birth. Of particular interest has been her passion for pure food—organic, not sprayed, local if at all possible. She and her husband Sean have a plot in the McPherson garden and also grow vegetables in their backyard. For over a year, they have been hosting 4 laying chickens who reside in a coop built by Sean. Her children, Olive and Van, help out and are clearly learning the values of healthy eating. Angie introduced me to the Farmers Market and has provided valuable information over the years about food. She makes her own butter, olive oil, soap

and other basic products.

More recently she began to create her own mildly fermented beverages, kombucha and ginger beer. Kombucha is made from sweetened tea and contains over 50 different kinds of probiotics. The beverage originated in China about 2,000 years ago and came to the West via Russia. Angie has found that it helps to settle stomachs. She calls her creation



Gut Punch and produces it in a wide variety of flavors including Cranberry/Ginger, Strawberry/Sage, Cranberry/Apple, and Strawberry/Elderberry. I have sampled the latter and found it quite refreshing. She has a business license and sells kombucha and ginger beer to a growing number of friends and family. Some Wash U students were among her early customers. She hopes to acquire an industrial

kitchen in the near future in order to move her business to a new level. In keeping with her philosophy, she uses only organic ingredients. The berries are not sprayed. And, whenever possible, her ingredients are local.

I take my hat off to her. She must have incredible time management skills as well as a love of what she is doing. The process of making these beverages is not simple but the reward is worth it. She is creating something marketable that she believes in, and not many of us are able to say that. For more information or to order kombucha, contact her at [angiemeara@gmail.com](mailto:angiemeara@gmail.com).

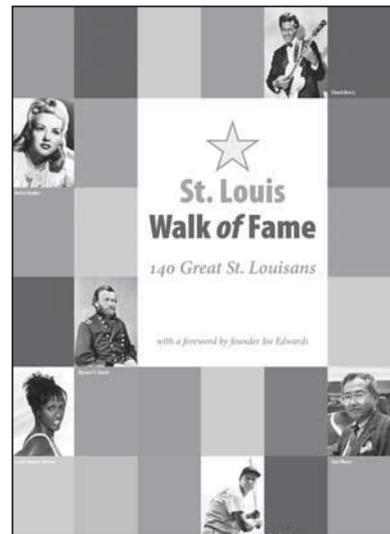
## New Walk of Fame Book

A new St. Louis Walk of Fame book spotlights 140 great people who have made significant contributions in shaping the culture of St. Louis, the nation and, in many cases, the world. These individuals have been honored with a star and biographic plaque on the non-profit St. Louis Walk of Fame, which is located on the sidewalks along Delmar Boulevard. To be considered for the Walk of Fame, inductees must have been born in the St. Louis region or spent their formative or creative years in the metropolitan area. Their accomplishments must have had a national impact. The St. Louis Walk of Fame is donating copies to all junior high and high school libraries throughout the greater St. Louis region in Missouri and Illinois, in keeping with its mission of promoting knowledge, education, career inspiration and community pride.

This book lets people know what an amazing influence St. Louis has had on our national culture – possibly more than just about any other city in America,' said Joe Edwards, founder of the St.

Louis Walk of Fame. It's clear that America's two great migrations – from south to north and east to west – collided right here in an explosion of creativity unlike any other."

The new hard-cover book is available in The Loop at Blueberry Hill, 6504 Delmar; the Moonrise Hotel gift shop, 6177 Delmar; and Subterranean Books, 6275 Delmar, as well as in bookstores and gift shops throughout St. Louis. The cost is \$25 per copy with proceeds going to the non-profit St. Louis Walk of Fame organization.



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## The DeBaliviere Strip

by Jo Ann Vatcha

DeBaliviere in the 50's and 60's was known as the 'DeBaliviere Strip', partly because it was home to some strip clubs, notably the Stardust Club, whose sign advertised boldly 'Evelyn West and her \$ 50,000 Treasure Chest.' West advertised that she was actually insured by



The Stardust at 309 DeBaliviere (where the strip mall is now), in a photograph from the *Globe Democrat* archives, courtesy of the Mercantile Library at UMSL.

Lloyd's of London (according to pop culture expert Joe Edwards, her "treasure chest" was insured for lightning strikes, so she could get a \$10 annual premium!)

Evelyn West's Stardust Club gave the DeBaliviere Strip a kind of Las Vegas fame. Writing her obituary in March 13, 2005, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, John McGuire said "In St. Louis in the 50's and 60's, her name was as familiar to male adolescents and young adults as that of Stan Musial, though, of course, the two inspired different forms of adulation... In many respects, West was a kind of crossover artist. Burlesque... included music, dance, and comedy, with the stripping just one aspect." Among other entertainers who appeared with her on stage was Rodney Dangerfield, who went on to stand-up fame, with his memorable tag line, "I get no respect".

There were as many as five strip clubs on DeBaliviere, including Little Las Vegas at 317, but no one as famed as Evelyn West. Evelyn's husband Al Charles noted in a *Globe-Democrat* interview that, "in our block there were a couple of bookie places, gambling places, and Little Las Vegas... it was a live street. A beautiful street." But St. Louis Circuit Attorney George Peach (himself later disgraced for similar behavior) charged that the Stardust was being used as a "bawdy house" and Al Charles eventually pled guilty to "receiving the earnings of a prostitute" in 1977. Joe Edwards recalls going to the Stardust in that year, attending the auction of the contents and touring the somewhat seedy back rooms of the Stardust. But McGuire's obit mentions that retired deputy police chief James Hackett, "a St. Louis police legend,

admired West's moxie and her moves. He called her the 'Babe Ruth of stripteasing'."

There were many restaurants focused on fine dining and great music, including the Mural Room at 401 and Sorrento's at 341, on opposite corners of the west side of Waterman. The Mural Room hosted classical programs; Sorrento's jam sessions were legendary. The dining there was that of famed St. Louis restaurateur Al Baker, who bought Sorrento's in 1959 and moved to Clayton Road in 1966. The beautiful Garavelli's at 301 was a landmark restaurant, and a future article will cover the history of it, as well as the music venues.

Co-existing with the music and fine dining scene were the strip clubs, and there was lots of trouble and over a decade of pressure to "clean up the strip". As early as February of 1959, 'eleven persons, including two women dancers, were arrested ...by special police squads in a crackdown on night clubs in the 'DeBaliviere Strip' area and on two West End taverns.' At the Tic Toc, Miss Sylvia Albana, 'advertised as the Flame of New Orleans' was arrested suspected of performing an indecent dance.' At the Stardust, 'Consuelo Marchbank,



Poster courtesy of Bill Christman, artist and neighbor, photographed by King Schoenfeld. The poster is displayed in his "Joe's Cafe" on the 6000 block of Kingsbury.

who is advertised as 'Miss Chelo, tiny mite of the Argentine,' was suspected of performing indecent dances.' The raids were 'directed by Captain John Doherty and carried out by 15 officers of the intelligence and morality squads'.

Then in 1962 the owner of the Tic Toc, Edward G. Brown, was shot to death on the sidewalk outside the front door at 419 DeBaliviere by a notorious gangster who owned the Ace Cab Company, Joseph Costello. Costello had been implicated in the theft of half of the \$ 600,000 Greenlease kidnapping ransom a few years before, together with St. Louis policemen Louis Shoulders and Elmer Dolan, after the execution of the actual kidnapers Bonnie Heady and Carl Hall, who had

the streetcar shed and a firehouse. At the other end was the Jefferson Memorial with its trophies and firetrucks, and the bridge over the Wabash railroad tracks. In between were such enjoyable restaurants as the Toddle House, an archtypical diner... and the Parkmoor, home of the pedigreed hot dog."

The diversity of the strip was reflected in the hundreds of businesses which thrived there in this period, and we'll have much more in future issues. Our next installment will take us back to the 20's, as we imagine DeBaliviere's rich history. If you have memories or memorabilia, let us know: [jvatcha@gmail.com](mailto:jvatcha@gmail.com).



K.O. Koverly's Mural Room had the prominent corner spot in the Dorr Zeller Building in the mid 50's. The famed bakery, ice cream shop, and caterer had closed in 1951, three years after the death of Oliver Dorr. In business since 1887, Dorr and Zeller moved to DeBaliviere in 1922, hiring prominent architect Preston J. Bradshaw to design their new bakery and banquet facility. They advertised 'weddings and parties on short notice,' and Edith Dorr's obituary later recalled her role in designing the interior, especially the ornate patterns in the ceiling ('hundreds of sundae dishes, each with three scoops of ice cream'). The building has been home to many businesses since that time, including the Central West End Savings and Loan and current occupant Pulaski Bank. Photo courtesy of Missouri History Museum, the Irv Shankman Collection.

been riding around the city drunk in an Ace Cab for days, with his bags full of money. By 1961, at the Tic Toc, Costello wanted exclusivity for his cabs at the "cabstand" in front of the Tic Toc. Brown shot back, and the wounded Costello was indicted and scheduled for trial in the killing. However, he died of a heart attack before going to trial.

Throughout the 60's, police raids on the strip were frequent, and the neighborhood pressure on city government played a role as well. Alderman Peter Simpson in 1963 asked for the cab stand to be shut down altogether, and in 1966 proposed renaming the street to Eliot Plaza to change the image!

*Globe* writer John Friedman wrote about the "Street of Broken Dreams" in 1969: The raunchy 50's were a time when DeBaliviere was paradoxically a daytime paradise for kids. At the north end were ice skating at the Winter Garden,

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# IN YOUR EAR

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

Well, there's no doubt that we are not alone. No, I'm not referring to those people who live in the county, the denizens who reside west of the 1876 artificial political divide.

Despite their zip codes and car choices, they already count. They're here.

Further, I'm not even referring to people in different countries who speak languages that are foreign to those of us who are English uni-linguists. I'm not even talking about folks who eat remarkably strange foods - insects, tofu, and rabbit. (It's pretty bad when I don't even list sushi among strange foods!) And you guessed it, our lack of aloneness doesn't speak to people who live in very strange environments - on ice, under the canopy of a rain-forest, or in 63124.

Rather, and, yes, Captain Kirk, you knew where I was heading, I'm referring to life forms which inhabit other planets. Yep, no doubt about it, Spock, we are not alone. Granted, it was easy to think that there weren't any other life forms when all we had to consider was our tiny solar system. Whether we have eight or nine planets as neighbors (oh, Pluto, where have you gone?) along with myriad asteroids and comets, we didn't see much out there. Powerful telescopes have failed to identify a Ted Drewes, a red-light camera, or a Great Wall on any other heavily body.

Sure, we have some evidence that there's someone out there, likely someone out there who is peeking at us. The debris from the spaceship crash in Roswell, NM has never been made public but I have it on very good authority that the downed craft contained elongated skeletons of two things (a technical term), a half-smoked Cuban cigar, some uneaten Hostess Twinkies, and a Playboy Magazine featuring E.T. No wonder they were lost. Other evidence that we are being peeked upon is also strong. Consider Peking Duck.

And now we have incontrovertible evidence that our universe is popping. Just recently NASA announced that the Kepler telescope had discovered 719 new planets. No, I am not making this up. Altogether, we now know that there are almost 1,800 other planets revolving around other

suns which have been identified. Like our Earth, all of these planets are part of multi-planet systems, two or more planets orbiting a single star. They also all orbit in the same approximate flat plan as occurs in our solar system. This ain't no coincidence.

There are lots of technical explanations for how we know that a planet is a planet and not a non-planet, but the one which resonates most with me is whether or not there is evidence of Groupon use on the planet. If there aren't any Groupons being used there, I question whether life exists there, or at least life with which I would want to have dinner. For that matter, Groupon use comforts me that the life existing there wouldn't want to have ME for dinner.

In previous columns, dear reader, I've written about the under-the-rug connections that I have with a nearby university. You may recall that this was how I learned about the dog collar which enabled me to read my pooch's thoughts. 'Arf! It's time to go out,' says Onyx. Well, and please keep this confidential, an astronomer friend from that nearby university - I'll refer to her as Dr. Quark - has given me the inside skinny (another technical term) on what we've learned about these 1,800 planets. You see, there are telescopes that are so secret that even Edward Snowden doesn't know about them!

That's, like, way deep. OK, so let's be Earth-centric here and see if we can identify a planet with folks like us.

I'm not interested in life forms which are way behind us, those who are still living in trees and picking insects from one another's fur, and I don't care about the life forms that are way ahead of us, those who all look like an iPhone. I'm not looking for planets with Republicans. I want to find doppelganger planets, filled with new friends with whom we can party.

According to Dr. Quark, only 613 of the 1,800 planets have evidence of Groupon use.

Ratcheting up the criteria for a friendly and compatible life form a bit more, of those 613, only a third keep another species as a pet, arf again, and only a third of that number have mechanisms for buying Girl Scout cookies. Thus

we know that there are 68 planets with life forms that use Groupons, don't vote Republican, and sell Girl Scout cookies. This sounds like nirvana to me!

The bad news is that none of these 68 planets are close to us. Most are farther, even, than Kansas. So what to do? Well, here's another secret. Scientists, yes, scientists at that same nearby university, are also working on condensing carbon life-forms. That could be us! Elephants have already been shrunk to be no larger than the period at the end of this sentence. Watched under a microscope, the elephants act as normal as possible, unaware, it seems, of how their environment has grown bigger. And this is just the first step. Within two years, I'm told, elephants will be microscopic; they'll still be elephants, still act the same, but be too small to be seen by the naked eye. Think of the possibilities that this will open. Rather than taking a medicine to unplug your intestines, you can take a pill with a pack of elephants and let them roam through your colon. Is this exciting or what?

And as other life forms get tinier and tinier, yep, we will also become microscopic in size. Once that happens, we'll be loaded into a tiny, light-weight rocket, the equivalent of a modern-day Noah's Ark, and millions of us will travel at near light-warp speed to one of these 68 planets. KA-ZOOM! Think of the fun reception we'll get. Now it's possible that our telescopes are much stronger than theirs, so they may or may not know of us. Consequently, we need to give some thought to that first encounter and how to let them know of our peaceful intentions so they will see us as friends, not as possible adversaries. Let's learn from Christopher Columbus. It's critically important that these life-forms see us neither as a threat nor as a possible snack.

What to do? It's simple: We all exit our ballpoint pen size spaceship while wearing love beads, holding hands, and singing 'I Got You, Babe.' That will raise their eyebrows and knock their socks off! Or maybe it will raise their socks and knock off their eyebrows?

Either way, I have no doubt that we'll be embraced. Within hours we'll all feel like Charlie Lindbergh as we are welcomed by a ticker-tape parade made from expired Groupons. Start meditating on shrinking. I can't wait!

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