

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 44, No. 5

February - March, 2015

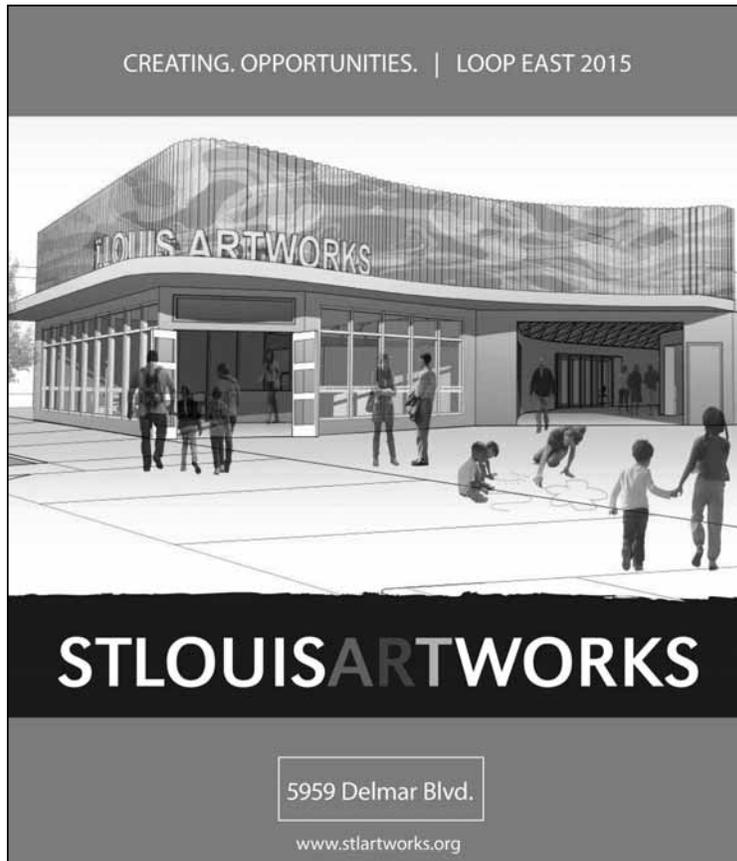
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St. Louis ArtWorks Plans New Center on Delmar



At Noon on Tuesday, February 3, 2015, the Delmar Commercial Committee of SDCC will host a presentation by the leaders of St. Louis ArtWorks regarding their plans for a new center at 5959 Delmar, originally Waldman Glass and most recently used for Able Key. It is a large two-level building with a large parking area and lots of potential. The building is owned by Felix Fegelman of Loop Automotive, and St. Louis ArtWorks has started its fundraising for a full renovation and plan for this site.

Founded in 1995, St. Louis ArtWorks has served over 2,800 youth from the St. Louis Metropolitan Region. It's an innovative job training program for under-resourced youth ages 14-19, which provides contemporary arts education, job training, financial literacy, and college readiness. ArtWorks impacts the

region through economic investment and by providing human capital through our teens who earn stipends, collaborate with local business, and learn entrepreneurship through art and business development. Our programs have spurred urban renewal through partnerships with local government, creation of jobs, public art, and activated community members. For Information Contact St. Louis ArtWorks, 3547 Olive Street, Ste 280, St. Louis, MO 63103. 314.289.4181. priscilla.block@startworks.org

Neighbors and local business owners are always welcome at the meetings of the Delmar Commercial Committee. Contact SDCC at 862-5122 or committee chairman Jo Ann Vatcha at jvatcha@gmail.com.

Neighbors Day at Washington University Basketball Games

Washington University's Neighborhood C.A.R.E. program is hosting the annual Neighbors Day at the Basketball Game. Join with your neighbors on Saturday, February 28th at 1:00 p.m. to cheer on the Washington University Bears vs. University of Chicago. The Women's game begins at

1:00 p.m. and the Men's game will start at 3:00 p.m. Both games will be played at the Washington University Field House.

Admission is free, and the day includes fun half-time performances, free snacks, a balloon artist and other family friendly fun.

Police and Firefighter Appreciation Luncheon



All Skinker DeBaliviere residents are invited to participate in the 20th Annual Police & Firefighter Appreciation Luncheon taking place on Friday, February 13 from 11am-3pm at the SDCC Office, 6008 Kingsbury. One of the principal organizers of this annual event is Ruth Johnson, who received one of the 2015 MLK Day awards presented recently at Grace United Methodist Church.

Come join us and share a meal with some of the men and women who protect and serve our neighborhood. If you are interested in donating a dish or volunteering with setup or teardown, please contact the SDCC Office.

Fresenius Opens on Delmar

A new dialysis center has opened at 5901 Delmar, in the new building at the northwest corner of Delmar and Hamilton, in the commercial part of the Gotham apartments. Parking is available in front, and in a secure lot to the rear. Phone number is 862-2138.

Fresenius Medical Care North America is a major provider of kidney dialysis services and renal care products.

The staff is there every day for clients, providing products, dialysis care services, education and support for Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD), including treatment options for later stage CKD.

If you are a dialysis patient and would like additional information, stop by and tour the facility and meet the staff.



Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

"The Danger of Complacency"

Although we may be caught up with the headlines regarding terrorist actions, we must always keep our eye on what is happening in our neighborhood. Skinker DeBaliviere has a unique history. It is one of a number of neighborhoods in St. Louis that are integrated. It was the first that did not lose all of its white residents when blacks began to purchase homes here in 1964. The Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council was set up by neighbors and neighbor institutions to stabilize the area, fight crime, and maintain diversity. Those early years were ones of strong neighbor involvement. Threats were real and people banded together for the common good.

And, by and large, they were successful. We have achieved a good mixture of stability and diversity. Without the threats of past decades, people have become less involved--in block units, Rosedale Neighbors, and the SDCC. There are fewer volunteers and few in the audience at SDCC meetings. If things seem good, is it necessary to be involved?

Important decisions about the funding of the SDCC are in the offing. It is not the time to eschew neighborhood involvement. If you are not involved, you forego representation and a voice in the decisions being made. In addition, we must not forget that our relative stability can be a fragile thing. We cannot be complacent. We must bring our voices to the arena and work to keep this neighborhood the very special place that it is.

Don't forget to vote on March 3! Candidates for President of the Board of Aldermen are Democrats Lewis Reed and Jimmie Matthews, Green party Jeffrey Schaefer and Republican Erik Shelquist. Candidates for 26th Ward Alderman are Democrats Frank Williamson and Rodney Norman, Green Party Frederic Raines. Candidates for 28th Ward Alderman are Democrats Lyda Krewson and William Haas, Green Party Jerome Bauer.

Keaveny to lead Senate Dems

From Collin Reischman

St. Louis area Senator Joe Keaveny has been elected Minority Floor Leader for senate Democrats. Keaveny said he had very strong working relationships with Republican Senate Pro Tem Tom Dempsey and Senate Majority Floor Leader Ron Richard, and that he anticipated more across the aisle bargaining in 2015. Last year, Republicans and Democrats in leadership struck a deal to kill 'paycheck protection,' 'Right-to-Work,' and voter ID bills in exchange for Democrats agreeing not to filibuster a controversial measure tripling the mandatory waiting period for abortions.

Keaveny said compromise was the only way the senate functioned properly. 'I think you can expect to see more bargains like that,' Keaveny said. 'That's how the senate functions, sitting down with Republican leadership and hashing

out some agreements. That's what's in everybody's best interest.'

Democrats elected St. Louis area senator Gina Walsh as Assistant Minority Floor Leader, Sen. KiKi Curls of Kansas City was chosen for Caucus Chair, Sen. Maria Chappelle-Nadal will serve as Minority Whip and Sen. Jason Holsman was selected as Caucus Secretary.

Keaveny said he remained optimistic on Medicaid Expansion, a flagship issue for Missouri Democrats. Keaveny said he hoped to be able to negotiate 'some form' of Medicaid expansion. 'I'm going to put a lot of work into that,' Keaveny said. 'I'm still very optimistic that there is room for some kind of agreement on expansion. And if [Dempsey] is not of that mindset, and I'm not aware that he is, then we need to talk about that.'



A capacity crowd at the Cross Art Studio celebrated winter and raised more than \$ 1,000 for the TIMES!

Dear Readers,

Our newspaper--all volunteer--relies on the generosity of its readers to remain viable. We wish to thank those who answered our year-end appeal and those giving at our fundraiser. In turn, we promise to keep providing neighborhood news of people, events, and policy decisions.

Special thanks to Andy and Linda Cross for use of the studio for the Times party, to their daughter Emily, to Dan Hudspeth for donating libations, to Marj Weir for the fabulous slide show down memory lane, and to all who donated food. Door prizes were T shirts donated by Joe Edwards and SDCC, Angie Meara's Kambuka Probiotic Drink, and wine from Parkers Table. *The TIMES* took in nearly \$ 1,000 at the door. Together with our paid-up advertisers and the donations received in the mail, we have \$ 9,210 in the bank, a nice cushion. Thanks to all who sent donations or attended the party. Following is the most recent contributor list. THANK YOU ALL!

- | | |
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Gerstner Electric putting finishing touches on the new lampposts along Skinker, from Forest Park to Delmar. Washington University's ambitious lighting project has been accomplished with demos and discussions with neighbors on both sides of Skinker. The full effect at night is a well-lit Skinker Boulevard. Our full story on the lighting project from the Summer 2014 issue can be viewed on the TIMES website: <http://sdtimes.org/index>.

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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 The Times, 6060 McPherson, 63112, or call 726-6974.
 Readers are welcome to send us e-mail or letters commenting on any of our content. Send to JVatcha@gmail.com or Maxlana@sbcglobal.net.

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. .

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

Deadline for next issue: March 15, 2015. Please send copy by e-mail to jvatcha@gmail.com or by disc to 6117 Westminister, St. Louis, MO 63112.

News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

Here we are in 2015, so let me start off with greetings for a healthy and happy new year to all of our neighbors in Skinker DeBaliviere. Here in the neighborhood 2014 came to an end with another successful and wonderful Wintermarkt enjoyed by neighbors and people from all around St. Louis. And another tradition continued on the 6100 and 6000 blocks of McPherson with an annual Christmas Caroling event that originated close to 40 years ago (no one knows the date for certain). You have to love a neighborhood that honors tradition!

St. Louis has been making a lot of headlines this year, certainly not all good, but one that allowed gay marriage brought great happiness to a lot of people including Skinker DeBaliviere's own Beth Bender and Shauna Cunningham. Beth and Shauna tied the knot in a small ceremony in Forest Park on the Monday, November 10th in the presence of family and



a few close friends. The intimate event was then celebrated at Three Kings in The Loop. Congrats to Beth and Shauna of the 6000 block of Kingsbury!

Congratulations are most certainly in order for Skinker DeBaliviere's Colette Morton of the 6000 block of Pershing. Colette, is a teacher at Gateway STEM High School, and was awarded the Dr. Gerald L. Early Middle/High School Communication Arts Teacher of the Year Award! To earn a Teacher of the Year award, nominees must explain their teaching philosophy and approach to teaching; provide examples of classroom lesson plans; and be recommended by an administrator and a professional colleague. A panel of retired SLPS principals and teachers review the applications, conduct interviews and decide the winners. The hard work of teachers can be easily overlooked in today's busy world, so it is fantastic that Colette has been recognized for her efforts and dedication to her career!



Speaking of educators, we received news from New City School. Tom Hoerr has announced that this year, his thirty-fourth as Head of School, will be his last, and that he will retire on June 30, 2015. Patricia Nuernberger, the current Assistant Head of School for Academics at New City School, has agreed to assume the role of Interim Head of School, effective July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Tom has been at New City since 1981 and in his 34 years at New City, the school has experienced significant growth, including more than 1,000% increase in the amount of need-based aid given to students, the renovation of the school's building and grounds, including

acquiring land for playgrounds and creating the world's first multiple intelligences library, the addition of a financial aid endowment fund, and more. We wish Tom the best as he finishes his career at New City and hope he enjoys retirement! Tom is a resident of the 6100 block of Kingsbury and of course, long time columnist for *The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere!*

Sadly, Skinker DeBaliviere suffered some losses in the final months of 2014. On September 17th, Parkview resident, Adrienne (Renni) Shuter passed away. Renni was a Realtor for over 40 years, was an early owner of and writer for *The West End Word*, served on the St. Louis Board of Education, was a member of the Desegregation Committee and was active in her church. Beyond all that, she was a loving grandmother and is survived by her children and grandchildren and her husband of 56 years, Dr. Eli Shuter. Our condolences go out to the entire Shuter family.



The 6100 block of McPherson lost longtime resident William Taylor on October 26th. Mr. Taylor had a long career with the YMCA

in Annapolis, MD, Canton, Ohio, and in St. Louis. He joined the Marines in 1944 but wasn't allowed inside the traditional boot camps at Parris Island, SC or San Diego because he was black and the Marine Corps was segregated. He did his basic training at Montford Point, in Camp Lejeune, NC and was one of about 20,000 African-Americans who entered the Marines through the black only training center. President Barack Obama awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to Mr. Taylor and other surviving Montford Point Marines. Our condolences go out to his wife Mary Bracey Taylor and their children.



Helen Hull Hitchcock died suddenly on Monday, October 20. Helen, who with her husband Jim, lived on the 6100 block of Kingsbury for 47 years, raising their children and enjoying the visits of grand children in recent years. An accomplished artist, musician and avid gardener, Helen also had a strong interest in religious issues. She was a founder and president of two organizations - Women for Faith and Family and Adoremus Society for the Renewal of the Sacred Liturgy. She edited two journals *Voices and Adormus* - and two books - *The Politics of Prayer* and the *Adoremus Hymnal*. Her work attracted a good deal of national and international attention. She met Pope St. John Paul II several times and also met the future Pope Benedict XVI. Our deepest sympathies also go out to Jim and the entire Hitchcock family.



Gwen Shields, of the 6100 block of Westminster, passed away, on November 9, 2014. She retired from Principia School and College after many years there. She was preceded in death by her husband Ray and three of her five children, Aaron Berry, Jr., Joy Berry, and Laris Shields. Our condolences to her two remaining sons Kenneth Lewis and Michael Berry and her nine grandchildren, great-grandchildren, friends and loved ones. Gwen was a Westminster neighbor for nearly 50 years and will be missed by all who knew her.



Calling all St. Roch Alumni (or students who attended at some point)! It's time to talk about the good old times and tour the old school. It's time for the St. Roch Alumni Mass and Mingle. Mass will be celebrated at 4:30 on Saturday, March 7th, followed by light food, beer, wine, and soda. Current St. Roch families will be on hand to give tours to the school. Food and drinks are being provided by St. Roch graduate Ryan Pinkston, one of the owners of Three Kings, and former parishoner, Tony Ellerson, who owns The Kitchen Sink! RSVP to Linda Oldani at linda@strochparish.org. Questions? Email Cristina Fleener McGroarty at mcgroarty@sbgglobal.net.

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". We love to hear about neighbors accomplishments, awards, travels, weddings, anniversaries, births, and more!

News from the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council

By Mary Pat O'Gorman, Vice-President

At end of December, SDCC bid farewell to Kelcy Siddall, the Community Engagement Coordinator. We appreciate his dedication and hard work over the last year in support of the Council and the neighborhood.

As a result of the anticipated \$35,000 budget shortfall in 2015, the full-time Community Engagement Coordinator position has been eliminated and will be replaced by a part-time administrative assistant position. The hiring process is currently underway and we hope to welcome the new part-time staff member by the middle of February.

As previously reported, this is due to a reduction in grant funds from the federal Community Development Block Grant program, traditionally a large funder of SDCC. This is in part the result of a city-wide change in CDBG funding priorities. In addition, as a result of the revitalization efforts over the years, the percent of the neighborhood that is classified as low-to-moderate income has dropped below 50%. This means the Council is no longer eligible for the same level of federal funding and it is forcing the board to rethink not only our funding model, but the



Wintermarkt, 2014. Photo by King Schoenfeld.

role of SDCC in the neighborhood. At the SDCC board retreat on Saturday, January 31, the board had the opportunity to think about and discuss the role of SDCC



SDCC table at Wintermarkt.

and the Council's priorities going forward. The board retreat is the beginning of the conversation and SDCC will provide many opportunities for community feedback on SDCC priorities and funding in the coming year. While it is never easy to lose what was once a reliable source of funding for an organization, we recognize this as an opportunity for SDCC to take a new look at who we are, what we do and why we are here. We look forward to a lively conversation at the board retreat and over the next year.

Also in December, SDCC hosted the first Community Conversation at Hamilton School, where residents had an opportunity to come together to discuss their feelings and thoughts about Ferguson and Shaw and racial relations in our community in general. There was a good turnout, with close to 40 people in attendance contributing to an open and thoughtful discussion. At the meeting there were many calls for follow up and a plan for action. Another meeting will be scheduled in early 2015

and we encourage everyone to come and be a part of something proactive and positive in our part of the city.

At a special December board meeting, SDCC passed a board resolution for the 2015 CDA Contract to conduct an Aging in Place Program. Planning is currently underway in partnership with the Neighborhood Services Committee to implement up to 10 workshops and events on topics of interest to neighborhood seniors such as health, finances, and home maintenance.

Each issue of the TIMES features a report from SDCC, but including the full minutes had proved to take up too much space, so, starting this month, SDCC has now added a feature to their webpage where the monthly minutes are posted, as a way for neighbors to keep up with what's going on at the Council. <https://skinkerdebaliviere.wordpress.com/sdcc-board-meeting-minutes/>

To stay informed of the latest SDCC news and events, please call or visit the office, 6008 Kingsbury. SDCC office hours are Monday through Thursday, 10am-4pm. Sometimes staff will have to step out for a meeting or lunch, so we recommend calling before you stop by to make sure someone is here. Our phone number is (314) 862-5122. You can also visit our facebook page or website (www.skinkerd.org) or join our email list by emailing us at sdcc@skinkerdebaliviere.com.

St. Roch

by Amy Zimmerman

They gather at the corner of Waterman and Rosedale from the city and county, from diverse ethnic backgrounds, various family structures, and different religious affiliations. Students come from 28 different zip codes throughout the St. Louis metropolitan area because they want the same thing: a top-notch, faith-based education.

St. Roch Catholic School began in 1913 when the Sisters of Saint Joseph began teaching 45 children at what now serves as the lower grade building. Since then, the school has evolved into one of the finest primary schools in St. Louis. According to standardized test

results from the 2014-15 school year, more than 50 percent of the students tested scored very high or above average. Graduating eighth graders are almost guaranteed admittance to their high school of choice, thanks in part to St. Roch's reputation for rigorous academics and outstanding character development.

St. Roch serves children in preschool through eighth grades, with one classroom per grade and a total student population of 210 students. Part of St. Roch's success is its continuity of leadership. Several teachers, including the principal Tim Cummins, have been on staff for 10 years or more and some families have attended the school for generations.



Sister Leo Ann Bub, principal at St. Roch's from 1967-1991, and her sister colleagues Sister Charles, Sister Dorothy, and Sister Herbert, were nuns from the Sisters of St. Joseph.

The dedication and involvement of families is another factor in the school's success.

"When you choose St. Roch Catholic School, you aren't just sending your child to school. You become part of the community that supports the education and development of our children," says Reverend Monsignor Sal E. Polizzi, pastor of St. Roch Church.

Along with academics, St. Roch students compete in various athletics, including baseball, basketball, track and volleyball. The school offers a wide range of extracurricular activities such as band, book clubs, yearbook,

robotics, Bellarmine speech and Girl and Boy Scouts.

Thanks to the generosity of current school families, alumni and other benefactors, tuition assistance is available at St. Roch. The Archdiocese of St. Louis also offers scholarships to St. Louis area Catholic schools.

"St. Roch has been a vibrant part of the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood for more than a century, providing a comprehensive, high quality educational experience for families. We plan to continue to grow and serve families in this neighborhood and throughout St. Louis," says Polizzi.

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Kids Corner

by Susanne Knese

Featured this Month:

February 17th is Presidents Day. Test your presidential knowledge below.

1. 16th US President who signed the Emancipation Declaration and was shot dead in Ford's Theatre.
2. He was elected to 4 terms as President of the United States.
3. He was a movie star for years, California's governor and the oldest President of the US.
4. He was a general in the continental army, the 1st President of the US, and face is on the dollar bill.
5. He was the only President not elected.

Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss, March 2nd

"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the guy who'll decide where to go." - Oh, the Places You'll Go

Kid Friendly Events around our Neighborhood:

Who doesn't love to ice skate or at least sit by the blazing fire, drinking hot chocolate and watching people ice skate? Steinberg Skating Rink is open and ready for people of all ages through February 26th. Sunday - Thursday 10am - 9pm, Friday & Saturday 10am - midnight; \$7 per person, \$5 skate rental (sizes toddler 6 - adult 15) Note: They only accept CASH, but have an ATM onsite

Science Center - Inquisitive of the human body? Then the St. Louis Science Center has an awesome class for you. Spend a morning at the Saint Louis Science Center with a human anatomy and physiology expert from the Adventures in Medicine and Science program of Saint Louis University Medical School. Learn about how the human body works through a visual tour of the major organs and body systems utilizing a fully dissected human cadaver. Recommended for grades 5 and up accompanied parents. The 1st class of the 4 class series starts Saturday, Feb 7 from 10:00am - 12noon. Reservations are required 314-289-4439.

Third Degree Glass Factory - Every 3rd Friday of the month (February 20th, March 20th, etc) Third Degree Glass offers a free family night between 6 - 10pm where you can watch glassblowing and bead making demonstrations and sign up for a guided glass activity. Food trucks are on site for your dining pleasure.

University City Library- Don't forget to check out the library for free activities, story times and movies! Charing Cross Branch Library is back on Skinker and has lots of kids books.

Question for April Kids Corner:

April 22nd is Earth Day. What do you do to help Mother Earth? Recycle? Reuse? Walk? Use public transportation? Pick up trash? Plant trees?

Please submit drawings and answers to kidscorner@sdtimes.org or drop them at the SDCC office at Four Corners by March 10th! Kids share with us activities of your school, club, play, scouts and sports teams. This is YOUR corner, so make it what you want!

Answers to Presidential Quiz: 1. Abraham Lincoln 2. Franklin Delano Roosevelt 3. Ronald Reagan 4. George Washington 5. Gerald Ford



Andy Cross assisted Girl Scouts with painting planters.



2014 Halloween Party Winners - Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council - Friday October 31, 5:30-6:30pm, St. Roch Catholic School, 6040 Waterman Ave.
 (Adults in photo: Dan Hudspeth (red jacket on left) and Art Santen (blue jacket on right). List of 2014 winners pictured from left to right: James Robertson (pre-k) - Thomas Train; Travuss Hollowood (grade 4) - Karate Kid; Tibka Carr (grade 5) - Devil; Olive Meara (grade 2) and Van Meara (pre-k) - Elves; Cal Kreuter (grade 4) and Wil Kreuter (grade 2) - Lego mini figures; Maddy Boxdorfer (grade 4) - Soul Seeker; Jenna Tiede (grade 2) - Cowgirl; Alaura Taylor (pre-k) - Blue Butterfly; Alex Faerber (kindergarden) - Ant with a Cicada in a wagon.

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Bobo-dacious

by Cristina and Sean McGroarty

You might not have noticed Bobo Noodle House before. The odds suggest that when you typically pass the northeast corner of Skinker and Forest Park Parkway on your way to or from work. In either case, thoughts more pressing than your palette probably command your attention.

If you have a chance, however, ignore your automobile for an evening. Open your door, and step out. Stroll down to Skinker, and head towards the intersection of Skinker and Forest Park Parkway. Look up, and you will see the Bobo banner hanging outside of the space just north of Kayak's. This unique spot is the creation of longtime St. Louis restaurateur Zoe Houk and her chef Ny Vongsaly.

If you wait until spring, you might overhear bits of conversation from diners seated at the sidewalk tables. You might see some of the neighborhood dog owners walking past, gently leading their pets to the water dishes on the sidewalk.

Even if you cannot wait for warmer weather, the inside of Bobo's will welcome you with soft lighting, gentle music, and a smiling host or hostess. You order by the entrance, and then said smiling

host or hostess shows you to your table.

While you wait for your meal, you can pass the time watching the chefs and cooks work in the



kitchen, or simply soak in your surroundings. The light fixtures pleasantly diffuse their light with paper notes and drawings arranged in globes around their bulbs. The tables march in a serpentine pattern, letting the server and other guests walk close to you without forcing you to continually pull in your chair.

We would have loved to spend the rest of the evening enjoying the surroundings, or at least until we were sure that our oldest boys

had put the younger ones to bed. But alas, the server brought our sustenance presently.

For appetizers, we ordered the chicken summer rolls with hot and sour peanut sauce, and the crispy vegetable spring rolls with honey chili sauce. The chicken summer rolls make you think of summer, no matter what season is outside. The soft outer shell contrasts nicely with the fresh vegetables it contains. The crispy vegetable rolls reverse this dichotomy, with the crunchy shell encasing the steamed vegetables. Both sauces complement the rolls beautifully, and tempt you to finish them off with a spoon. But that might be awkward.

For Cristina's main course, she ordered the mixed greens with mango and ginger vinaigrette. The bitterness of the mixed greens draws out the sweetness of the

mangoes perfectly, and the ginger vinaigrette tantalizes your taste buds, drawing you back for bite after bite.

Sean ordered the grilled salmon fillet with egg noodles and bok choy, with extra salmon. The grilled fish perfectly, enough to provide a firm texture, but not so much that it lost its moisture. Something in the egg noodles and bok choy made Sean sweat profusely, but then again, Sean sweats profusely whenever the temperature rises above 60 degrees. He can't help it; he's Irish.

Just to make sure you are smiling when you leave, Bob gives you a fantastic sesame seed ball with bean paste after your meal. It really is fortunate that they did not bring those out once we were seated-if that had happened, we likely would have just demanded an unlimited supply and refused to order anything else.

So, the next time you are in the mood to take a stroll for dinner, try Bobo Noodle House. Or don't stroll anywhere, and just give them a call. They deliver.

New on Delmar

Roosevelt Pratt has opened a new shop at 5860 Delmar called Fashion Afrique. He plans to feature African Fair Trade goods, including clothing, jewelry, art, natural hair and skin products, even special African spices.

There will be entertainment, too, with African drum lessons and performances, and even African culinary events. The small shop is colorful and .

Stop by or visit their website, www.fashionafrique.net or call 217-691-5176.



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MLK Day 2015

By Elizabeth Krasnoff Holzer

Five neighbors were honored as Neighborhood Stewards at the 23rd Annual Skinker DeBaliviere Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration on Sunday, Jan. 18, 2015 at Grace United Methodist Church.

Friends and family gathered in the afternoon to pray and sing together, pay tribute to King, and to recognize Ruth Johnson, Bill and Rogerene Kinds, Lana Stein and JoAnn Vatcha for their service as volunteers, community activists, long-time residents and devoted friends within the community.



Rev. Thurman Williams of Grace and Peace Fellowship.

"These are people who share a love of neighborhood, a love of neighbors and a love of diversity," said Liz Johnson, chair of the SDCC MLK Committee.

During the awards portion of the event, each profile revealed that the honorees exemplify King's dream.

A 30-year Skinker DeBaliviere resident, Ruth Johnson was

honored for her 30 years of dedication to the neighborhood, as well as her work in the community. She served on the

Kingsbury Square Board of Directors as Vice President and President of the Board of Trustees, she was a member of the Hospitality Committee, and the Entertainment Committee. She also served in various capacities on the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board of Directors, including chairing the popular annual event "The Police and Firefighters Luncheon" to be held this year on February 13.

Also long-time residents, Bill and Rogerene Kinds have lived on DeGiverville Place since 1963. Along with their active involvement in the St. Roch Church, the Kinds have participated in neighborhood progressive dinners and other activities. There was one of the first homes to participate in the neighborhood house tour in 1972. Avid gardeners, the Kinds were featured on ABC News in 2008 for their role in the creation of the McPherson Community Garden.

Throughout her 25 years as a resident of the area, Lana Stein has volunteered with Rags to Riches, bake sales, and other community events. She represented Nina Place, served on the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board of Directors, among other posts. She has worked on the Delmar Commercial Committee for many years and on *The Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere*, serving as editor, co-editor, writer and columnist since 1992. Her career as a political science professor brought her to St. Louis, where she feels she found



Liz Johnson, Jo Ann Vatcha, Rogerene and Bill Kinds, Ruth Johnson, Lana Stein, and Alderman Lyda Krewson. Photo by King Schoenfeld.

her true home.

Like Stein, JoAnn Vatcha has many years with the newspaper. Vatcha has served as co-editor of *The Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere* since 1999 and hosted fundraisers to finance it. Working with neighbor Marjorie Weir, she wrote *Celebrating Skinker-DeBaliviere: History and Comeback*, a book marking the neighborhood's centennial in 2008. A resident of the neighborhood for 50 years, she has led the Delmar Commercial Committee since 1989.

Each honoree was awarded a framed certificate and given a standing ovation for their efforts

and devotion to the community. After the awards, the New Cote Brilliant Church Choir sang *Let There Be Peace On Earth*. Rev. Yolanda Villa, pastor of Grace United Methodist, and Pastor Miki Merritt of New Cote Brilliant Church, also spoke.

Keynote speaker, Rev. Thurman Williams, pastor at Grace and Peace Fellowship, recounted the biblical story of the Good Samaritan, he noted that people should open their hearts to others.

Liz Johnson said King's message applies today, quoting him: "The time is always right to do what is right."



We shall overcome.

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

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IN YOUR EAR

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

At first, there was universal approval and applause at what science could do for us. Every network proclaimed that mankind would never be the same. The giant headline on the front page of the New York Times said "Technology Trumps Genetics." Dr. Pery Pita was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and the U.N. Humanitarian Medal in the same week. That honeymoon was brief and far overshadowed by the violence that followed.

Of course, technology wasn't trumping genetics; technology was using genetics to make a more perfect man - and woman. According to Dr. Pita, the genetic hybrid creator, his inspiration came at a conference held in London on April 19, 2032 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Darwin's death. A presentation, "Has technology stopped evolution?" set Pita's mind afire with possibilities.

The premise of the presentation was that for much of the past 200,000 years we humans evolved to survive, largely in response to physical settings and challenges to human safety (think lions!). There is a significant difference in the remains, either skeletal or DNA, from people who lived thousands and thousands of years ago than us today; that's evolution. But that evolution ceased, really, a few thousand years ago. We began to invent and modify artifacts to compensate for our physical shortcomings and to protect us. Physically, we are virtually identical to people who lived 2,000 years ago because we have made the necessary changes in our environment rather than it causing us to evolve. The written word, eyeglasses, and fire are some obvious examples. Without them, we would be different today. So evolution for humans has ceased; fair enough.

But Pita began to wonder if we shouldn't be proactive and pursue the changes we want, rather than changing in response to nature - or not changing at all. A geneticist, he realized that it wouldn't be all that hard to insert DNA in eggs and sperm, thus changing the characteristics of the un-yet born. What began back in the 20th century with the nuclear transfer that cloned and created Dolly,

the sheep, could be kicked up several levels. Rather than picking the DNA of someone who was bright or attractive, Pita mused, why not step out of our species? How could humans benefit from selected DNA of other life forms?

Ever sensitive to public opinion, Pita's first experiments were done in a remote lab outside of Roswell, NM. The experiments focused on combining other species and were done surreptitiously. No one noticed the squirrels that burrowed into the ground like raccoons, and Spot, the family dog, was also kept out of sight when visitors arrived so that there wouldn't be questions asked about the fact that he ate while standing on his back two legs.

After fifteen years of experiments - Pita had been awarded a MacArthur Genius Grant for his earlier research on the relationship of the Internet to global warming, so didn't need employment - Pita made the leap. He ruled out taking DNA from another phylum, so no bird, reptile, or fish genes would be used, and began looking at what other mammal characteristics might work well with humans.

An obvious source was from our closest relatives, other primates. Working with a fertilization clinic in Juarez, Mexico, Pita sampled and combined, measured and refined, time and time again. Finally, in 2051 a baby was born that looked human and tested human. When given the APGAR, the test to determine the health of newborn children (looking at Appearance, Pulse, Grimace, Activity, and Respiration), the infant excelled. She began walking at three months and was running and climbing before her first birthday. Pita could recognize the bodily-kinesthetic skills of a chimpanzee in much of what she did, but her appearance was normal, and her smile befriended everyone. She began to talk at a year, expressed interest in books, and loved being read to. Bananas were her favorite food. Pita was very nervous when he took her for cognitive testing at age, three, and was elated when he learned that her IQ was 118.

By now Pita knew that his dream, combining the genetic pools of humans and other species, was do-able; indeed, he had done it! But he understood that this was such a departure from human history that he would be faced with many doubters and cynics. Perhaps the last such revolutionary position, he thought, was taken by Galileo in the 1500's. Pita decided to circumvent the argument by unveiling the proof in such a magnitude that there could be no escaping what he had done.

Seventeen years later, in 2071, Pita invited reporters and television commentators to what he called The Hybrid Circus. There was no further explanation, but his reputation - along with the rumors of life-forms he had as pets that looked a bit different - brought over a crowd of 200 media people to his lab in Roswell. Pita had rented a circus tent with portable stands erected inside, and had a popcorn machine aside the door to the tent. Best, he was dressed in a ringmaster's outfit, complete with top hat and whip!

"Ladies and gentlemennnnnnn," he announced to the seated crowd, "you are about to witness a new chapter in human potential and possibilities. As you'll see, we can determine exactly what we want to be!" He stood back and the tent was illuminated as eight young men and women charged to the center ring. Ropes dropped from the tent roof, and they began climbing them, hand-over-hand, quicker than seemed humanly possible. Once at the top, they began to fly on trapezes - no net below - jumping incredible distances and catching one another with one hand and, seemingly, no effort. The show continued for five minutes and the performers left the tent by walking

on their hands. The crowd was stunned, too shocked to applaud or, even, to write.

No sooner had this happened when three horses charged in from the other side of the tent. They circled once and then stopped, rising on their hind legs in unison for what seemed like a very long time. As they dropped to standing, it became obvious that these weren't horses at all, at least not the kind anyone had ever seen. They had human faces! And then the center horse began to talk. "Greetings, and welcome to the Hybrid Circus," he said in a very deep voice. "By now, you're probably wondering what I am." No one said anything at this point; the two faces on the adjacent horses were silent, and the reporters were stunned. Then the trapeze artists began to re-enter the tent, walking to the center of the ring as did Dr. Pita, still in his ringmaster's outfit.

(to be continued)

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