

# Join the GDCA Board and make a difference

The Garden District Civic Association board is searching for 7-8 new members to fill expiring terms and expected vacancies. To nominate yourself or someone you know, please send name, address, phone number, and a short resume that includes reason for wanting to be on the GDCA board, to Ray Mack at mackwr@yahoo.com or call 382-0609. Nomination deadline Feb. 1, 2011.

Board members attend six meetings per year and participate in deciding how the board can best serve residents of the Garden District. The GDCA provides the following services:

- Security patrols--the vast majority of annual dues pay for GD security patrols, with extra patrols during peak crime periods and Halloween;
- Garden District News quarterly newsletter;
- GD email listserve, website, and neighborhood directory;
- Coordinating with local officials and service providers, e.g. Metro Council rep and Mayor's office to solve problems such as garbage pickup, alley ways, potholes, etc.;

- Beautification – Park Blvd. cleanup, neighborhood signs, coordination with Baton Rouge Green;
- Centennial Celebration – funding, coordination, and volunteering;
- Tour of Homes;
- Neighborhood parties, Easter Egg hunt;
- Addressing resident concerns.

Join the GDCA Board and make a difference for your family, your neighbors, and your neighborhood.

Elections for the Board will be held at our annual meeting on Feb. 13 (see page 2).

## Call for Centennial Cookbook Recipes

Do you have a fantastic dish you always serve at Thanksgiving? What about something you traditionally make for Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or New Year's? Would you be willing to share the recipe? We would love to include it in the Garden District Centennial Cookbook, which the Garden District Civic Association is supporting as part of our centennial celebration activities.

If you have any interesting stories to go along with your recipes, or photographs of neighborhood events where your dishes were being served (for example, at a Block Party Progressive Dinner (see page 1), we would love to include them in the cookbook.

We are also looking for volunteers to be sub-committee chairs to help organize the recipes (such as appetizer sub-committee, side dish sub-committee, etc.), as well as someone to help us write a history of the Garden District.

Please join us and help make the Garden District Centennial Cookbook a success. To volunteer or submit a recipe, contact Heather Westra, 2335 Oleander Street; call 344-5634 or email your recipe to gdcookbook@gmail.com. Thank you!

### OPEN POTTERY STUDIO!

You're invited to visit the studio and shop for great gifts each Friday (3-5), Saturday (10-5) and Sunday (12-5) till Christmas... and the week of Christmas I'll be in the studio regularly so call or email to visit!

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# Garden District News

Roseland Terrace, Kleinert Terrace and Drehr Place Historic Neighborhoods

Winter 2010

## Centennial Celebration kicks off in January

By: CINDY ELLIOTT

2011 marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of Roseland Terrace, and Centennial Celebration events are set to occur throughout the year!

We'll kick off our celebration with Block Party Progressive Dinners in January and February. It's up to the individual neighbors on each block or street to organize their own event; as the name suggests, neighbors walk from home to home enjoying a different course of the meal at each, for example cocktails and appetizers at the first home, soup or salad at the next, the main course at another, and dessert at the last home.

Later in the spring, we plan to publish the new Garden District Directory, our third one. This handy reference will allow you to easily look up a Garden District neighbor's phone number, email, or street address. If you haven't yet submitted your directory information, please do. Chairpersons Greta Corona and Mary Fontenot will begin contacting those who have not submitted information after the beginning of the year.

You can submit your information on the Garden District website at [http://gdcabr.org/hood\\_members\\_signup.php](http://gdcabr.org/hood_members_signup.php); fill in



Foundation of Boehringer house on Goldenrod Ave., now Park Blvd., 1912. Photo: EBRP Library.

whatever information you would like printed in the book. You can put in a separate entry for each person in your household you'd like to list, whether they have the same or different last name. The directory will be organized alphabetically by name and then by address, just as it has in the past. You can also contact Mary (mufont@cox.net) or Greta (gretacorona@cox.net).

Other centennial events coming up in-

clude the Garden District Tour of Homes (see page 3), Movie Under the Stars, Easter Egg Hunt, Champagne Stroll, Neighborhood Cookbook with a Historical Flavor, and Parade of Dogs Under the Oaks.

We still need a coordinator for the Children's Event. If you are interested, please contact Cindy Elliott (343-6900 or celliott@selu.edu).

## Holiday Thanks for some of our Great Garden District Neighbors

The two antique street lamps atop the brick pillars at Drehr and Government have graced the entrance to Drehr Place since the neighborhood was developed circa 1925. While the lamps lit that corner for decades, a time came when nearby houses were moved and underground electric cables were cut, leaving the lamps without power. Nighttime saw two dark globes sitting atop dark brick pillars.

In 2000, Rusty Wharton, who then headed the GDCA beautification committee, decided to get those lamps re-lit. Rusty worked with Entergy and with nearby residents to restore electricity to the lamps. It took over a year, but those lamps are shining again thanks to Rusty and his committee who had new cable installed; and to nearby residents Sue Sims and Nick White,

who agreed to have a dedicated electric box added to their property, and the electricity charged to their bill.

Every Christmas, Robert Singer, Joe Zietz, and Mike Schexnayder climb ladders to hang the Christmas wreaths on the pillars. So when you see those lamps shining, especially during this holiday season, give a nod to Rusty, Sue, Nick, Robert, Joe, and Mike--neighbors working together is what makes our neighborhood a wonderful place to live!

Also, thanks to Willie and Mary Fontenot for once again hosting the annual Garden District Christmas Caroling event, which took place on Saturday, December 4. Mary prepared the food for the pre-caroling social and rehearsal, after which the carolers headed out to serenade the neighborhood.

## History Series: Going to preschool in the Garden District

By: BEATRICE WINKLER

During the first half of its history, the Garden District was home to at least three preschools: the Laura Callaghan Kindergarten, Mrs. Platt's Playschool, and Mrs. Fortenberry's Kindergarten.

"Miss Laura" Callaghan and her sister-in-law Mrs. John M. "Bea" Callaghan started their school in 1928, then relocated to a new stucco building at the corner of Cherokee and 18th Street in 1938.

Sally Stephenson Manuel lived next door to the Callaghans in the early 1960's. As a

young stay-at-home mom with three small children, whose husband was a student at LSU, she couldn't afford the kindergarten fee. Sally fondly remembers Miss Laura seeing her children playing in the back yard on the other side of the school's fence, and insisting they come to her kindergarten at no cost.

Attorney Mark Mese first attended Miss Laura's school at age four, but only briefly. His mother would stay at the school to keep him from crying, but after two weeks Mrs.

See HISTORY SERIES, page 3



# Volunteer Spotlight

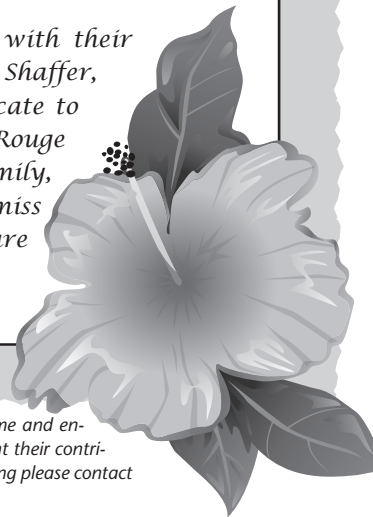
## SONYA PICKENS

We'll soon be saying goodbye to Sonya Pickens, a member of our Garden District family. You may know her as a neighbor, or as a gardener, but all of us know her as the Garden District Civic Association Treasurer—something of which we're reminded once a year when we pay our dues. Sonya volunteered for this position in 2005, so she took care of GDCA finances on our behalf for over five years: preparing dues notices, financial position statements, paying the security patrol, and doing the banking and a myriad of other necessary and time-consuming chores.

Sonya also started the Garden District Green Thumbs Garden Club, which blossomed until Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, when all our lives were turned topsy-turvy. Garden Club members recalled enjoying the meetings because they started with each member saying what was good and what was bad in their yard. Membership was open to anyone in the neighborhood.

Being a Master Gardener, Sonya had a row at the community garden on Oleander and St. Rose, which often stood out because it was ablaze with all sorts of flowers. She could just throw a handful of mixed seeds in the dirt and soon there would be flowers of all kinds to enjoy and share because she always invited others to cut what they wanted.

Sonya and her husband Jason, along with their three furry children Jasmine the rescue, Shaffer, and Greta (aka "the dogs") will soon relocate to the Gulf coast. Their move from Baton Rouge is motivated by a desire to be closer to family, which is good for them, but we will surely miss the superb way Sonya has always taken care of us, even when we didn't know she was.



To help thank those Garden District neighbors who volunteer their time and energy to our neighborhood, we're presenting this regular feature to highlight their contributions. If you would like to submit a name or story about someone deserving please contact Greta Corona at gretacorona@cox.net.

## The Dufrocq School Academic Magnet Program Accepting Applications

The application period for The Dufrocq School Academic Magnet Program began on October 25, 2010 and will end on January 10, 2011. The Garden District was included in the Dufrocq attendance zone in May of 2009. Living within the attendance zone of The Dufrocq School is one of the criteria used to assign students to the magnet program. Each year the Academic Mag-

net Program has 40 openings at the Kindergarten level as well as other openings in grades one through five. Honey East, Garden District resident and coordinator of the Academic Magnet Program at Dufrocq, urges parents to call her for a tour and information about this excellent program. She may be reached at 334-7653 or by visiting her at the school.

## Mark The Date for the Annual GDCA Meeting

The Garden District Civic Association Annual Meeting is tentatively set for Sunday, February 13th at 3:00 p.m. Elections will be held for 7-8 seats on the GDCA board; other agenda items and the location will be announced later. Watch the GD listserve and website at <http://www.gdcabr.org/> for more details as the date gets closer.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### New Board Member Announced!

Flo Ulmer became the newest board member after volunteering to fill the last remaining vacancy in September.

Board member Rosary Beck is the new Treasurer, taking over for Sonya Pickens who is stepping down after more than five years in this position.

### Welcome Packets Available

New to the Garden District? Request your "New Neighbor Welcome Packet" at [http://www.gdcabr.org/form\\_newNeighbor.php](http://www.gdcabr.org/form_newNeighbor.php).


### Annual Holiday Lighting Contest

It's easy to participate! Just make sure your lights and other holiday decorations are ON when the judging takes place Thursday, December 16 from 5:30 - 10:00 p.m.

A prize or gift certificate donated by businesses in our community will be awarded to the winner in each of these categories: Judges' Choice, Most Original, Best Children's, Most Religious, Best Door, Best Lighting. Judges' decisions are final and winners will be notified the same evening. Questions? Contact Cindy Elliot at [celliott@selu.edu](mailto:celliott@selu.edu) or 343-6900.

## GARDEN DISTRICT REALTOR

### AND NEIGHBOR



**Pat Penton, GRI**  
Randall Davis Real Estate, LLC  
225.907.6156 | [pat@patpenton.com](mailto:pat@patpenton.com)

## HISTORY SERIES

*Continued from Page 1*

Callaghan told her she couldn't do that anymore because all the other children started asking to have their mothers stay too. So Mark's mother took him out of school and waited a couple more years before sending him back to kindergarten.

Mrs. Platt's Playschool started out in Mrs. Platt's house at the corner of Drehr and Broussard, then moved in 1950 to a big, L-shaped building in her backyard that was probably her garage that she had converted and enlarged. Gail O'Quin remembers "we had little desks, everything that a real school had."

Neill Terry attended Mrs. Platt's in the early 1950's and would walk down the alley to visit with her even decades later. Neill's mother quipped that to ensure a spot in Mrs. Platt's school, "you almost had to enroll your child while it was still in the womb."

Mrs. Fortenberry's kindergarten was on Broussard Street between Drehr and St. Rose, and was also attended by many



Miss Laura Callaghan leads her pupils down Park Boulevard for her school's annual St. Patrick's Day parade in 1963. The children are riding stick horses and though not seen in the picture, Miss Laura is pulling a wagon float. Photo courtesy of Sally Stephenson Manuel.

(Front Page) This advertisement for Miss Callaghan's kindergarten appeared in the August 24, 1938 edition of the State-Times, an afternoon newspaper published under that name in Baton Rouge from 1904-1991. Courtesy of John Sykes, Louisiana State Museum--Baton Rouge.

people who still live in the Garden District. The school was in a small building behind

the house. Mrs. Fortenberry passed away in 1950, sadly right before graduation.

## 2011 Garden District Centennial Tour of Homes

By: FLO ULMER

The first Garden District Tour of Homes took place in the spring of 2005. It was to be a public relations event with a private hidden agenda: keeping property values up. And the tours have been successful on both counts.

However, for me, the people have been the best part. This has made me realize the tours are about more than the houses; the attraction is not the furnishings or the architecture. It is the neighbors who are generous enough to open their homes and the volunteer docents who make sure everyone meets someone new. In its truest sense,

this is a tour of friends who happen to live in the same neighborhood.

Next year marks our neighborhood's 100th anniversary, and we will celebrate that milestone in the spring with the 2011 Garden District Centennial Tour of Homes. The following neighbors have graciously opened their homes for this commemorative event:

Katie & Chris Alexander, 2247 Oleander  
Barbara Gray, 2201 Myrtle  
Mark Kantrow, 1229 Drehr  
Sandi Lucas, 2172 Cherokee  
Lisa and Albert Pellisier, 2231 Cherokee  
Liz and Milton Spaulding, 2161 Terrace  
Martha and Mark Upton, 1921 Myrtle

Maxine and Greg Watts, 718 Camelia  
Each house is charming and interesting, yet with a uniqueness that adds to the ambiance of the Garden District with each home reflecting the individuality of its owner.

Watch the GD email list, website, and spring newsletter for the date to be announced soon! Then make it a point to buy a ticket or volunteer to be a docent. Yes, let's keep those property values up, but more importantly the Tour of Homes is the perfect venue for us—the residents—to enjoy our greatest asset, our friends and neighbors.



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