



Garden District News

Roseland Terrace, Kleinert Terrace and Drehr Place Historic Neighborhoods

Winter 2011

Walking Down Wisteria Memory Lane

By: JANETH MCCARRON MORESI

The year was 1943, the year I moved to Wisteria St. The war was ever on everyone's minds, even children. I remember patriotic tunes like "Over There" and "Anchors Away" and a navy blue wool sailor suit and an army officer's uniform, complete with belt and gold buttons. I remember the newsreels shown at the Ogden on Government St., FDR and how bad he looked with those ominous dark circles under his eyes, and then Truman and V for Victory.

On the very day I moved to Wisteria St., I turned and spotted a father holding the hand of a tall young boy looking at me and the house I was to live in until the early 1950's. The grey haired man was Dr. Francis Robichaux, or "Dr. Roby," as I soon knew him. That boy turned out to be his son, Gerry, "the boy across the street," a fast partner in cowboys and Indians, a fellow swimming chum, and a fan of everything Western from cap guns to chaps, and of course, Saturday Serials at the Louisiana on Third St. Gerry and I nearly always met up with the Drehr Ave. and Oleander St. boys, Warren Watson and Bobby Barnard, respectfully. The Persac boys, Gordon and Mackie, of Wisteria St. were also my childhood friends and classmates.



A peek at Wisteria Street today.

My distaff pal was Millie Wagner of Oleander St., right off 22nd. You could find me at her house every day after school playing with our Sparkle Plenty dolls (the first doll whose hair we could wash and cut and comb), and we were always spying on her three younger sisters, Patty, Kay and Sharon.

With no air conditioning, we took to the streets on our bikes. Skates came in handy even on icy streets every few years when it sleeted. Every house had a screened porch, providing another room to be lived in, especially in summer. Swings were

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Get Involved with the District Civic Association

By: MINDY PIONTEK

People choose to live in the Garden District for a variety of reasons. These vary depending on who you are and mine are different from those of my neighbors. Many people appreciate the location, architecture or the landscaping. Others enjoy the sense of neighborhood community that comes from being part of something bigger than an address and a structure.

The Garden District Civic Association

strives to strengthen our community by providing opportunities to socialize, a newsletter to keep us informed and maintaining an off-duty police patrol to increase the security of our homes. The annual dues we pay go to support these services.

Join your neighbors in strengthening our community—pay your dues and get involved. The Garden District community grows when we work together and are respectful of each other. The most effective "Neighborhood Watch" is when your neighbor watches out for your house and

you watch theirs. Get to know the people around you, come to an event, and don't be afraid to talk to someone in the street – chances are...they live on the next block.

Pay annual dues of \$120 online with PayPal at: www.gdcabr.org

Garden District Civic Association

P.O. Box 4113

Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Get connected on the Garden District Email List: Send our list administrator an email with your name and street address to: gdca_br@hotmail.com

NEWS BRIEFS

Call for New Board Members

Looking for a way to get involved in the Garden District? Want to see something happening that isn't? The Garden District Civic Association is looking for a few people willing to work, to fill spaces that are being vacated after the 1st of the year. If you are interested, please call Flo Ulmer at 225-938-4646.

Louisiana Marathon

The Louisiana Marathon is coming to the Garden District on Sunday, January 15th. The route will traverse Park Blvd and Kleinert Ave. both coming and going. Check out the entire route at: www.thelouisianamarathon.com. This will be a great opportunity for us to show off the Garden District. Please check the GDCA website for information on activities associated with the marathon.

Lighting Security Tip

Inadequate lighting is a magnet for criminal activity. If you or a neighbor has a street light or alley light that is out or not working properly please report it to Entergy directly at 1-800-368-3749.

They will instruct you to mark the light in some way to help them identify the problem. Please check your block at night and call. A well lit neighborhood is less appealing to criminals, which benefits us all.



District Council Woman Tara Wicker with Garden District Civic Association Board Member William Fontenot.

Metro Council Recognizes The Garden District Centennial Anniversary

At the Metro Council meeting on October 12, Tara Wicker, our District 10 representative, presented the Garden District with a certificate in recognition of the centennial anniversary of the founding of Roseland Terrace, the first of what would later come to be known

as the Garden District. Board member Willie Fontenot accepted the award on behalf of the neighborhood. The certificate just makes official what we all already know—the Garden District holds a special place in the history of Baton Rouge.

Thanks Andy and Friends!

Thank you to Andy Johnson, Beth and Steven Floyd, and Denise Prather who rode around the entire Garden District to identify malfunctioning street lights.

Their evening's work identified 16 street lights that needed attention. Steven

wrapped each one with white tape, and Denise and Beth made a note of the locations. The next morning, Andy submitted a complete list to Entergy and has promised to follow up to ensure the lights are repaired.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
www.GardenDistrictNews.com

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Prolific Drake Elm in the foreground of this home in the Garden District

Time for planting new trees

By **MINDY PIONTEK**

It has been over three years since Gustav devastated the two beautiful poplar tulip trees in our front yard and the water oak on the side of the house. Like many of you, we have yet to decide on worthy replacements. According to Randy Trahan, formerly of the Office of State Parks, the good news is that during the time since the hurricane, the microbes in the soil should have finished decomposing the root systems left behind by fallen trees, a process that locks up a lot of the oxygen in the soil. This winter is an ideal time to replace lost trees, since there will be more oxygen in the soil to aid new trees' growth.

Since I did not want to spend another hurricane watching fifty year old trees succumb to the wind, I asked Trahan to recommend hardy tree varieties. Trahan suggests planting Shumard oaks and other red oaks, or Drake elms—a relatively quick growing species. Another possible choice is that stalwart of our medians, the live oak. Although one of the most beautiful and long-lived species of oaks and one that gives the Garden District much of its charm, the live

oak, like the crape myrtle, is not a friend to grass.

Whichever tree species you select, the time for planting is now!

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Holiday Lighting Contest

We are pleased to announce that the Garden District Civic Association is once again sponsoring the annual Holiday Lighting Contest. Judges will be driving through the neighborhood on Monday December 19, after 7 PM, looking for winners in the following categories:

- Judges' Choice
- Most Original
- Best Children's
- Most Religious
- Best Door
- Best Lighting

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Champagne Bubbles and Falling Stars

By CAROLYN SCHWARZHOFF

I would like to extend a big THANK YOU and kudos to the many neighbors who organized and helped with the wonderful champagne stroll centennial celebration event on Sunday, September 25, 2011, from 6-8 p.m.

Many people were involved in making the champagne stroll happen. Organizers were Cindy Elliott, Marianne Fry, and Marge Campana. Sally at Circa 1857 and Gordon at the Garden District Nursery helped tremendously by selling tickets for the event. And of course, we very much appreciate the friendly neighbors who welcomed us to their lovely porches and patios: Ray & Beryl Mack, Vicki & Dennis Swain, Marge Campana & Craig Colten, and Rene' & Martha Salomon.

Everyone strolled from one house to the next, sipping champagne and eating delicious hors d'oeuvres, and visiting with neighbors. Participants also received a

specially designed champagne glass, embossed with a Garden District Centennial commemorative logo.

As an unexpected bonus, several of us saw what looked like a flare shooting over the Garden District during the stroll. We weren't sure at the time what it was, but the nightly news confirmed it to be a meteor falling into the atmosphere. The shooting star was such an amazing sight that at first I wondered if I had had too much of the bubbly stuff!

After all houses were visited, Ben Bell and the Stardust Boys entertained neighbors (pro bono) at Ray and Beryl Mack's home. Ben is Ray & Beryl's son, and he and his wife Maureen own a home on Terrace Ave. Ben Bell and the Stardust Boys play rockabilly and roots type music, and you can catch them playing at Chelsea's under the overpass on the first Thursday of the month. They are also working on a music CD.

The champagne stroll made me very,

very proud to be a part of the Garden District. It was a perfect opportunity to enjoy the sights of the neighborhood, see old friends and meet new ones.

Thank you again to all who contributed to a wonderful evening!



GARDEN DISTRICT
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Garden District News

The Garden District News is published quarterly by the Garden District Civic Association and is edited by

Mindy Piontek

If you have comments or story ideas that you would like to submit to the publication contact Mindy Piontek at mmpiontek70@yahoo.com.

You can also mail submissions to:

**Garden District News
Garden District Civic Association
P.O. Box 4113
Baton Rouge, LA 70821**

WISTERIA MEMORIES

Continued from Page 1

good for a little breeze and a high platform from which to belt out the top tunes from the latest song book we could buy at the drug store next to the Ogden. I could hear the Weil girls, Doris and Janice, I think, singing from their upstairs windows on Drehr at Wisteria. We didn't know Mr. Gottlieb, but we knew his long driveway, his goldfish pond, and especially his majestic trees as well as we knew our names. There was nothing like a Gottlieb tree and still isn't. Nothing!

In the morning our family woke up to radios announcing the latest winners on *The Breakfast Club*. Mama listened to the *Guiding Light* in the afternoon, and we had *Gangbusters* in the evening. What a lineup! Don't forget *Inner Sanctum* and the Friday night fights.

Back then, movie stars were "Stars," and boy, did I want to be one! I yearned to be "discovered," as so many were, even Oleander Street's Liz Cole, aka Elizabeth Ashley, who went to Hollywood and made it big on the stage in *Barefoot in the Park* with Robert Redford. I wrote to just about every star asking for their glossy, black and white pictures which I collected. The first one to send me an autographed picture was Bing Crosby.

Roseland Terrace is not just a place to me. Somehow it is always with me, a part of my wonderful childhood and its memo-

ries. I fall back on those days when I need a life raft to keep me afloat. I remember the people with such fondness, especially "the boy across the street" and his family who were the staples of my world. Gerry is still my brother and fellow traveler on this Garden District Odyssey. Who ever knew we would come again to revisit Roseland Terrace and Wisteria Street? We can't let go. Not ever.

UPDATED PHONE NUMBERS FOR GARDEN DISTRICT SECURITY

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, or if you see a crime in progress, call BR Police Dispatch at 389-2000, or call 911.

If a GD security patrol officer happens to already be in the area, Dispatch will call them.

TO DISCUSS ONGOING SECURITY CONCERNS regarding criminal activity, Sgt. Don Stone, BRPD and head of the GD security patrol, is available at 389-3361 (office) or 571-7244 (cell). Please begin all messages with your name, address, and phone number.

Sgt. Stone is happy to talk about security concerns, but he should not be called for emergencies, traffic or parking violations, or other non-threatening matters. For those concerns, please call BR Police Dispatch or the appropriate EBR agency.

If you would like to inform the GD Security Patrol that you'll be out of town, you can submit a house vacancy notice at the Garden District website: http://www.gdcabr.org/form_outOfTown.php

Centennial Cookbooks on Sale Now!

As part of our yearlong celebration, the GDCA recently published a Garden District Centennial Cookbook. The cookbook brings together an eclectic array of 141 recipes from past and current Garden District residents, many submitted by their adult children and grandchildren. From Chatham Artillery Punch to Lentil, Lemon and Ginger Soup, Crawfish Leah, and Mama's "Stacked Sandwiches," there are so many delicious recipes to try.

Besides recipes, the cookbook provides

a glimpse into the naming of the Garden District and pictures both current and from the early days of Roseland Terrace. Helpful maps define the boundaries of the neighborhood, and there is even a reproduction of an old map showing unsold lots. The easy wipe cover and lay flat binding are helpful, especially if you are a messy cook like me.

With its glimpses of history and the variety of recipes reflecting the diverse interests of Garden District residents, the cookbook

provides a snapshot of where we came from and what we have become.

All proceeds from cookbook sales will be used to support the Garden District Civic Association. Cookbooks are \$15 each; to purchase contact Heather Westra, gdcookbook@gmail.com. Special thanks to the cookbook committee: Marge Campana, Cindy Elliot, Ellen Rooney, Liz Spaulding, and Heather Westra.

CONNECTING WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS

Encourage New Neighbors to get a Welcoming Packet from us!

If you are new to the Garden District (or know someone who is), we would like to make sure you get a proper "Welcome!" You can request a "New Neighbor Packet" on the Garden District website (gdca.org) - click on "Neighborhood Information" on the left), or by contacting a GDCA board member.

Subscribe to the E-mail List Serve

Get all the news about Garden District events, security, issues the civic association board is working on, and much more--delivered right to your inbox!

You can notify the neighborhood about a lost pet with one email or put everyone

on the alert about prowlers! Just some of the benefits of the Garden District email list.

Moderated and open only to Garden District residents and property owners--so no spam, only GD-related messages.

To subscribe, email your full name and address to the list administrator, Carolyn Schwarzhoff, at gdca_br@hotmail.com.

Sign Up online for the Newest Neighborhood Phone Directory!

Won't it be nice to grab an up-to-date directory and find the neighbor you want? If you haven't yet entered your info, there are three ways you can do it.

First, and best, go online at http://gdca-br.org/hood_members_signup.php and fill in whatever info you wish to list. Or, send it to me at mufont@cox.net, or call me at 288-1950.

There are volunteers going door-to-door collecting data for the newsletter. Please help us by giving us your information one way or another. If you do not wish to be in the directory please let us know.

Keep the Garden District Pet Friendly with a little etiquette

The Garden District is a very pet-friendly neighborhood. Here are some "canine etiquette" tips to help us all keep it that way:

- It's not courteous to let your dog walk on people's front lawns, or urinate on their landscaping. Instead, walk your dog on the sidewalk and allow access only to "rough" areas to eliminate.

- Don't leave your house without a plastic bag for picking up after your dog! Or try one of those handy refillable bag dispensers that attach right to the leash.

- And don't forget to use it, even if your dog eliminates in the space between the sidewalk and the street. Remember, people DO walk in those areas to get to their cars. You wouldn't like a "surprise" stuck to your shoe when you're hurrying off to work; why would anyone else?

- When approaching another person walking their dog, tighten up on your leash to make your dog walk by your side, especially if the other person is already tightening up as a courtesy to you and your dog. This is usually a sign that their dog likes to pull toward oncoming dogs.

If you allow your dog to remain on a long leash and run into the path of a dog that is restrained, you are risking a confrontation.

- Most people out walking their dog are interested in allowing their pet to socialize with other dogs, but be sure to gauge their interest before approaching.



Centennial Cookbooks Ready For Christmas

Many, many thanks to the current and former residents of the Garden District who submitted 143 recipes for the Centennial Cookbook.

The cookbook has been published and is available for purchase for holiday gift-giving. Please contact Heather Westra at gdcookbook@gmail.com to purchase. Cookbooks are \$15 each.



Merry Carolers of Christmas in the Garden District

By: CAROLYN SCHWARZHOFF

On Sunday, December 4, around 15 neighbors gathered at the home of Willie and Mary Fontenot to enjoy some Christmas cheer and to begin our annual Garden District Christmas caroling.

First, we enjoyed some wonderful food and drink kindly provided by the Fontenots.

Then, after a quick run-through of "Rockin' Round the Christmas Tree," we set out caroling at several houses in the neighborhood, wherever we could find friendly faces to carol to!

We especially enjoyed caroling to out-of-towners and children, some of whom had never experienced Christmas carolers at their house before. Despite the occa-

sional barking dog, sirens on Government Street, and even a few raindrops, the carolers found several appreciative listeners at home and had a wonderful time.

As usual, the caroling was led by Carolyn Schwarzhoff. Thanks to all who organized the event and thank you to all who participated or welcomed us!



John Westra, Heather Westra, Nancy Grush, Rita Kemp, Neill Terry, Bennett Franz behind him on left, Sandy Franz behind him on right, Mary Fontenot, Carolyn Schwarzhoff, Sunny Day, Mystery singers behind Mary & Carolyn are Walter Massie and Heather Sewell.

GDCA's new phone directory and dues 'nice' list

Won't it be nice to grab an up-to-date directory and find the neighbor you want? If you haven't yet entered your info, there are three ways you can do it.

First, and best, go online at http://gdca-br.org/hood_members_signup.php and fill in whatever info you wish to list. Or, send it to me at mufont@cox.net, or call me at 288-1950.

There are volunteers going door-to-door collecting data for the newsletter. Please help us by giving us your information one way or another. If you do not wish

to be in the directory please let us know.

Coming Soon to the newsletter

Beginning in the new year, the newsletter will begin acknowledging those mem-

bers-in-good-standing who have paid their dues.

So take yourself off the "naughty" list and join the "nice" list* with prompt payment in January.

CHOCOLATE TOFFEE CAKE

6 (1-oz.) squares Baker's unsweetened chocolate

6 eggs, separated
6 tbs. granulated sugar
2 sticks butter
2 cups confectioners' sugar
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 tsp. almond extract
1 ½ cups toasted chopped pecans
1 cup graham cracker crumbs
Whipped cream, if desired

1. Melt chocolate slowly and set aside to cool.

2. Beat egg whites until stiff, gradually adding the granulated sugar. Set aside.

3. Cream butter, confectioners'

sugar and egg yolks. Add vanilla and almond extracts. Add cooled chocolate. Gently fold in egg whites.

4. Butter a pan (10-inch springform) pan. Combine the toasted pecans and the graham cracker crumbs. Place half of the crumb mixture in the bottom of the buttered springform.

6. Add chocolate mixture and spread evenly in pan. Top with remaining graham cracker crumb mixture. Chill for at least 5 hours before serving. Top with whipped cream, if desired.

Serves about 12.

Recipe is from Helene Kantrow Blitzer, who lived in the Garden District from the 1920s until her death in 1999.

If you have a favorite recipe that you'd like to see here, email it to mmpiontek70@yahoo.com. Also, don't forget to submit recipes for the Garden District Centennial Cookbook. Contact Heather Westra at 2335 Oleander St., 344-5634, or email your recipe to gdcookbook@gmail.com.

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