



# Garden District News

Roseland Terrace, Kleinert Terrace and Drehr Place Historic Neighborhoods

Summer 2011

## Local artist 'comes home' to Garden District



*"Coming Home" by Therese Knowles depicts birds guiding a woman home.*

By: MINDY PIONTEK

When Flo Ulmer asked Therese Knowles to design the cover for the Garden District's centennial Tour of Homes, she had no idea what to expect. Then, when Knowles showed Ulmer the finished painting, Ulmer was at a loss to interpret the work of art facing her. But as Knowles explained the painting and the themes behind it, especially the sense of home coming she felt the first time she entered her house on Park Boulevard, "I had tears in my eyes," says Ulmer.

Knowles began her painting with a map, as she says, "representing our search for home." The woman pictured is being guided by the birds, because "birds always seem to know their way back home, but often we as people can't find that way," says Knowles. "'Coming Home' is about the human need we have to travel the path and, finally, arriving home."

For Knowles, home had always meant New Orleans, where she grew up with her family in a bungalow in Mid-City. For college, Knowles moved to Baton Rouge to accept an art scholarship from the Louisiana Arts and Artists' Guild (LAAG). When the opportunity arose to teach at a women's college in the United Arab Emirates, she rented her house for a year and went to the Middle East. Knowles returned to Louisiana to resume residence in Baton Rouge with a job teaching at a downtown charter school--open to all but heavily populated by students expelled from Valley Park. For the past six years, Knowles has taught at the University Laboratory School at LSU.

In 1998, when Knowles first saw her house on Park Boulevard, she recognized it from her memories--and dreams--of her childhood home. Although the porch on Park was enclosed, it echoed the porch in New Orleans. The front door had the same transom windows above it and sets of four panes flanking the wide door.

"I walked in and there was the same fireplace, the dining room,

See **COMING HOME**, page 5

## Recipes needed for Garden District Centennial Cookbook

By: HEATHER WESTRA

Do you have a fantastic dish you always serve at Thanksgiving? Would you be willing to share the recipe? What about something you traditionally make for Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa or for New Year's Eve or Day? What about a special dish you prepare for your St. Patrick's Day parties? Something you made for one of the neighborhood get-togethers? We would love to

include them in the Garden District Centennial Cookbook.

As you know, 2011 marks the 100th Anniversary of the founding of Roseland Terrace. To celebrate this milestone, the Garden District Civic Association is supporting a number of events over the next year, including the development of a Garden District Centennial Cookbook. We are asking all neighbors to support this endeavor by sharing one (or several!) of your favorite

recipes. If you have any interesting stories to go along with your recipes or photographs of neighborhood events, where your dishes were being served, we would love to include them in the cookbook as well. The recipes do not have to be original; you can include source information if you like. Just send us something you like to prepare for family and friends.

See **COOKBOOK**, page 6

# Volunteer Spotlight

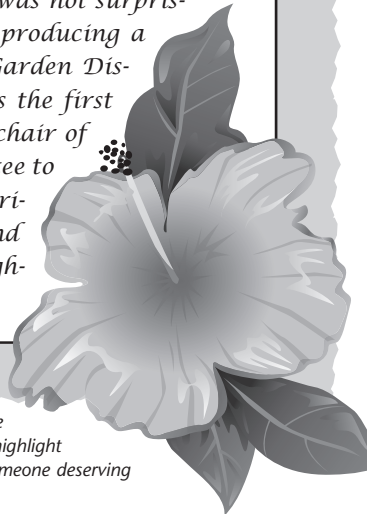
## HEATHER WESTRA

*A neighborhood advocate for historic preservation, coordinator of GDCA social events, and an active board member for several years, Heather Westra is an all-around great neighbor! She is the kind of individual who helps neighborhoods thrive and flourish as she is civic-minded and civically engaged!*

*John and Heather Westra and their two sons, Ben and Sam, moved into the Garden District in the summer of 2002. Since that time Heather has been an active member of various committees to enhance our quality of life in the Garden District. Whether she is volunteering for membership recruitment, stuffing dozens of Easter eggs, providing welcome packets to new residents, or organizing special social events enjoyed by so many in our neighborhood, Heather is always there to lend a helping hand.*

*One of her first GDCA volunteer efforts, and one that continues to date, is coordinating the Annual Holiday Lighting Contest with Cindy Elliott and Judy Atkinson, an event that was revived for our neighborhood in 2003. In 2004, Heather co-chaired the Social Events Committee with Randy Nichols, during which the Fourth of July celebration yielded many wonderful Red, White and Blue food creations.*

*Though busy as an independent environmental consultant with a focus on Native American environmental issues and even busier as a mom, Heather still finds time to serve our neighborhood, giving freely of her time and expertise. It was not surprising that, when presented with the idea of producing a cookbook with a historical flavor for the Garden District's Centennial Celebration, Heather was the first to volunteer for this daunting project. As chair of this endeavor she is working with a committee to coordinate recipe submissions, gather historical information about our neighborhood, and turn this idea into a reality as one of the highlights of our yearlong celebration.*



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.

Find Information about Property SOLD in the Garden District:

**www.GardenDistrictNews.com**

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E-mail address: margaretbush@cox.net



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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Join to Help Prevent Crime

Please join the GDCA. 96% of the GDCA dues were spent on security patrols in 2010 and the GDCA is spending more on security than it is receiving. This is the time of year when crime in the Garden District increases. Your dues will help to protect your family, your property, and your neighbors. Your dues may be sent to Treasurer GDCA, 2164 Tulip St., Baton Rouge, La 70806.

### Annual Picnic Announces

One of the best times of the year to meet other Garden District neighbors is at the annual picnic, and this year will be no exception. Thanks to Full Circle Communications our picnic will be partially sponsored. Full Circle is the public relations firm for the city-parish SSO Project. So bring a lawn chair for each family member and plan to spend the afternoon visiting. Watch the website (gdcabr.org) for more information and finalized dates.

### About those PO Box Returns!

Many of you have received dues payments which were sent to the Garden District post office marked: Return to Sender/Undeliverable. The problem was that the rent on the mailbox was inadvertently not paid this year which resulted in the returns by the post office. Please accept our apologies if this has caused you any inconvenience. Please re-send your dues to the following address:

**Garden District Civic Association**

P.O. Box 4113

Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Or go online and pay through PayPal.

See link below:

[http://www.gdcabr.org/board\\_join.php](http://www.gdcabr.org/board_join.php)

Thanks so much for supporting the Garden District.

## AFFORDABLE WEBSITES & COMPUTER GRAPHICS FOR BUSINESS



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## Get \$25 by helping with study

Tulane Bone Density Study at 3870 Convention St., Baton Rouge is seeking participants. You will get a detailed bone density report for your doctor and a \$25 gift certificate to Wal-Mart. Phone numbers are 381-2721 and 381-2727. Ask them to send you the forms. The study took two hours total for two people.

The Louisiana Aging Brain Study (LABrainS) is working to determine the factors that regulate the rates of brain aging and the factors that contribute to the development of dementias. LABrainS participants, and a diverse team of Pennington Faculty members, are working together to understand how lifestyle, diet, physical activity, sleep, stress, and other factors alter the rates of brain aging and incidence of Alzheimer's disease.

Contact IDRP, Pennington Biomedical Research Center; 276-8306 or E-mail: [dementia@pbrc.edu](mailto:dementia@pbrc.edu).

## MJ's Cafe

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Learn how at  
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# The Centennial Champagne Stroll

**SAVE THE DATE - An Upcoming Centennial Celebration Event - SAVE THE DATE**

**Sunday, September 25, 2011**

Get ready to stroll and sip champagne! Another Centennial Celebration event is being planned with you and a bit of the bubbly in mind! The Centennial Celebration Committee is busy planning The Centennial Champagne Stroll to be held on Sunday evening, September 25, on what will no doubt be a memorable event for our neighborhood! The champagne stroll will take place under the beautiful oaks throughout the Garden District.

As you stroll from one designated champagne home to another, you will enjoy the company of neighbors, friends, and family! Nibble on hors d'oeuvres and sip a bit of the bubbly to celebrate 100 years of our great neighborhood! Tickets will go on sale

in late summer. Each ticket will provide you with several glasses of champagne, a souvenir champagne glass with the GDCA centennial logo, tasty treats, and an evening to remember!

Marianne Fry is the Event Coordinator and reminds us to look for additional details on the website and in an informational flyer to be distributed later.

## A Neighborhood Wonderland

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# COMING HOME

*Continued from Page 1*

and my Mama's kitchen," says Knowles. Both houses share high ceilings that "allow you to breath."

The memories continued collecting as she moved through the house. There was the same windowless interior hall that acted as a refuge for her family in New Orleans during Hurricane Betsy.

"I could see my mother in the corner saying the rosary," says Knowles. Sometime during that hurricane tossed night, she fell asleep and woke the next morning in her brother's room.

"I went out and saw the devastation," Knowles says.

Perhaps her memories have been too synchronous, with the Garden District after Gustav paralleling New Orleans in the aftermath of Betsy. Both tragedies, however, provided an opportunity for kindness between neighbors, and the most important impression she has taken from each is the communal recovery effort filled with

shared work, shared barbecue, and shared time away from the routines that limit our interaction.

Knowles always thought that she would return home, meaning New Orleans, but now, she realizes that she already lives there. For Knowles, home is more than just the house on Park Boulevard and its resemblance to her memories of childhood. It is also a neighborhood that is open to differences. It is a neighborhood where gardeners share pass-a-long plants just as the old ladies did in Mid-City New Orleans. It is a neighborhood where acquaintances share a cup of tea or a glass of wine on a wide front porch. It is a neighborhood where people remember how important it is to make others feel good about who they are. It is a neighborhood for making friends and making art.

For those who are interested, the painting itself has found a good home—it was accepted for the Venus Envy show at the Baton Rouge Gallery and has since been purchased by a lucky art patron.



*The front door of Knowles' home echoes the door of her family's house in Mid-City New Orleans.*

## Drehr Place Historic District committee formed

By JAY NOLAND

In the coming months, there will be more detailed articles relating to the Drehr Place Historic District, including information about how it works, why, and what may merit changes.

Flo Ulmer, our current GDCA president, is also our neighborhood representative on

the Historic Preservation Commission.

At our last civic association board meeting, a subcommittee of board members was formed to help review Drehr Place applications pending with the HPC, so that our representative will have the benefit of more input to bring to the HPC hearings.

In addition, this subcommittee will continue to gather information from Drehr

Place residents and other Garden District neighbors as to the strengths and weaknesses of the historic district designation.

If you have comments on the Drehr Place historic district designation, good or bad, please e-mail:

Flo Ulmer at [flo@billrodman.com](mailto:flo@billrodman.com)

### 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 389-5247 (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](http://www.gdcabr.org/form_outOfTown.php)



### 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](mailto:mmpiontek70@yahoo.com).

# Tour of Homes breaks sales records

This year's enormously successful Tour of Homes, with a record 400 attendees, could not have happened without the hard work of many people. We extend our warmest gratitude to a group of volunteers who worked diligently—sometimes frantically—to ensure that this signature event presented our neighborhood in the best possible light.

To Beryl Mack with her endless phone calls, emails and follow-ups making sure we had enough docents. She gathered over 60 volunteers in one week—no mean feat

To Cheryl Singer who hosted the reunion of past Tour homeowners and volun-

teers, put up 20 posters in establishments around town, got up to be at WAFB for the morning show at 4:30 AM to talk about the Tour, and performed a seemingly endless string of chores to make the Tour as professional as possible.

To Therese Knowles who shared her wonderful painting, "Coming Home" for the brochure front cover.

To Chad Chenier for the lovely photographs of the houses on the Tour.

To Erin Brush who designed the poster and tour brochure and got it printed for the price of the advertisements.

To the Tour's Homeowners who opened their doors to the public and put their love

of the Garden District where their houses are.

To all of the neighbors who made sure their houses, gardens and lawns were ready for the great numbers of people enjoying our neighborhood as they walked from house to house.

And especially to Flo Ulmer, the Tour's organizing djinn who cajoled people to open their homes, hawked advertisements to cover the Tour's costs, and gently twisted the arms of everyone whose cooperation turned the Tour into a marvelous success.

To all of you: thank you, thank you, thank you!

## 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 ([gdcabr.org](http://gdcabr.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--de-

livered 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 [gdcabr@hotmail.com](mailto:gdcabr@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://gdcabr.org/hood\\_members\\_signup.php](http://gdcabr.org/hood_members_signup.php) and fill in whatever info you wish to list. Or, send it to me at [mufont@cox.net](mailto: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.



### Order your Garden District T-shirt today at [gdcabr.org](http://gdcabr.org)!

Green T-shirts with GDCA crest on the front, and a drawing of Park Boulevard by neighbor Jon Emerson (pictured above) on the back.

Order online at [http://www.gdcabr.org/board\\_tshirts.php](http://www.gdcabr.org/board_tshirts.php) or call Alex at 267-5408; \$12 each.





## Tour brings back happy memories

In a May 5th letter to Katie Alexander, Louis McHardy shares memories of Oleander Street.

"The recent Advocate article about your home attracted my attention and many recollections of Oleander Street. I enclose images of my children from photos taken in December of 1964 as they visited their great Aunt Juliet Knox in your home on their way to Sunday lunch at the Baton Rouge Country Club. Mrs. Knox was residing there during the construction of her new home at the west corner of your block. She was the widow of King Harding Knox and had sold the landmark house on City Park Lake. I believe your house was formerly owned by Juliet Carter Dougherty Draughan, the sister of Hugh Carter, my late wife's father. Juliet Knox's sister, Mary Bell Carter, lived just



Louis McHardy's children posing on their great aunt's staircase in 1964.

across the street from her.

Oleander is and was a lovely street. I lived close by on Camelia Avenue while growing up and courted my late wife,

who then lived with her mother at 1911 Oleander in an apartment owned by Juliet Knox."

## Movies and music on the Baton Rouge Gallery lawn

Once again our neighbor, the Baton Rouge Gallery, will offer its Movies and Music on the Lawn series in which local bands provide music to accompany classic silent movies. This year's lineup includes Charlie Chaplin's *The Kid* and Harry Langdon's *The Strong Man* accompanied by Righteous Buddha, Harold Lloyd's *Safety Last* and a trio of Laurel and Hardy shorts accompanied by The Incense Merchants, Buster Keaton's *Sherlock Jr.* and Mel Brook's *Silent Movie* accompanied by the (New) Zeelanders. The Mel Brook's movie will mark the first time Movies and Music has included a movie filmed after 1950.

According to Jason Andreasen, execu-

tive director of the Baton Rouge Gallery, Movies and Music on the Lawn first started in the late eighties with about fifty or sixty people attending each show. Now the program boasts between 100 and 250 attendees, who begin arriving a little before 8:00, equipped with blankets, picnic baskets, and the \$5 per person entry fee to cover both the movie and a bag of popcorn. The movies begin at dark, more or less 8:30, depending on the date—later earlier in the summer and earlier later in the summer.

With a giant inflatable screen and the Gallery's broad lawn, everyone has a good view. For more information about this program call 225.383.1470.

**May 28** - Buster Keaton's *Sherlock Jr.* [score provided by The (New) Zeelanders]

**June 25** - Charlie Chaplin's *The Kid* [score provided by Righteous Buddha]

**July 30** - Harold Lloyd's *Safety Last* [score provided by The Incense Merchants]

**August 27** - Harry Langdon's *The Strong Man* [score provided by Righteous Buddha]

**September 24** - Laurel & Hardy's *Liberty, Big Business* and *The Battle of the Century* (a trio of shorts) [score provided by The Incense Merchants]

**October 29** - Mel Brooks' 1976 film, *Silent Movie*

## Angel Nut Pie

The summer issue recipe comes from Mimi Riche, 615 Camelia, and sounds, dare I say it, heavenly!

### BEAT STIFF:

- 3 egg whites
- ¾ teaspoon vanilla
- ¾ teaspoon baking powder

### ADD SLOWLY:

- 1 cup sugar

### FOLD IN:

- 1 cup finely chopped pecans
- 1 cup graham cracker crumbs

Bake 30 minutes at 350 degrees in a 9-inch pie pan (Spray with Pam to reduce sticking). Chill in refrigerator over night. Top with whipped topping – Cool Whip or whipped cream.

*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.*

## COOKBOOK

**Continued from Page 1**

Please help us make the Garden District Centennial Cookbook a success by sending in your contributions right away.

Please send your recipe by July 1 to the address or e-mail box below. Remember – there is no limit on the number of recipes you can submit! And thank you in advance!

**Heather Westra**  
2335 Oleander Street  
344-5634  
gdcookbook@gmail.com