



Garden District News

Roseland Terrace, Kleinert Terrace and Drehr Place Historic Neighborhoods

Fall 2011

Summer Social Hot but Still Fun For All!



Front row: Susan, Murphy Carley and child-Fairfax Noland. Back row: child-Jack Noland, Elizabeth Noland, Jay Noland, Blair Purgerson, and Jim Purgerson

By: FLO ULMER

Great music and great party!! Two descriptions for this year's Annual Garden District Summer Social which I heard over and over from folks who attended. The weather was warm, but it didn't keep over 200 neighbors from coming and enjoying the pot luck dishes and fried chicken. It was the perfect afternoon to just sit around and visit.

Living here for almost 25 years – first on Olive and now Oleander – I have been to my share of picnics. This year I noticed a shift in the demographics of folks attending. It was obvious at the Easter Egg Hunt in April and the trend was evident at the picnic - we have a bunch of kids in the Garden District! What a gift. Along with beautiful trees, unique homes with character, accessibility and a plethora of other adjectives we can now add "It's a great place to raise kids."

It's at social events like the Annual Picnic that we have the chance to meet the folks who live around us – those with and without kids. A strong neighborhood is built on a solid foundation of relationships. And how do you build those relationships? One way is with social events. That's why the Garden District Civic Association holds picnics, tours and Easter Egg hunts, because they are opportunities for us to meet each other. So next time we go Christmas caroling or hide eggs, look at it not only as a way to socialize but also as a way to continue building on what we already have, a strong neighborhood.

Special Thanks to:

Blair and Jim Purgerson – Host House

Andy Vaughan (Cherokee Street), Adam Breidenbach and Joel Dicharry – The Band

Billy Heroman's – Dessert Contest Prize

Yvette Maries – Door Prize

Bistro Byronz – Door Prize

Ch2MHill – Sponsor of the Bounce Houses

GDCA Board Members

Low GDCA Membership Could Mean Less Security Patrols

By: FLO ULMER

Unless membership increases immediately, security patrols will be soon be cut!

It's up to you. If you are not a member, join now. Last year 96% of the dues were spent on security patrols. The Garden District Civic Association (GDCA) membership is open to all residents of the Garden District including owners, renters, leasers, students, and those occupying for others.

While the GDCA maintains security patrols according to the amount of association dues we receive, we also allow for short term increases in patrols when crime appears to be on the up-swing, often around holidays and summer vacation. Security patrols deter crime against property and persons--you, your family, your friends, your neighbors.

Currently the GDCA membership levels are one-half of last year's levels -- possibly

the result of a mail box error. If you were a member last year, check your records and if you have not paid your dues, do so right now. If you were a member in 2009 and did not continue, please reconsider and join now. If a check you sent was returned to you or has not been cashed, please check with the Treasurer, Rosary Beck, contact information below.

See MEMBERSHIP, page 4

Volunteer Spotlight

MARTHA SALOMON

Martha Salomon and her husband Rene have lived in the Garden District since 1984. Over the years there have been many positive changes in the neighborhood that are the direct result of Martha's involvement with the Garden District Civic Association Board and other organizations. Martha has served on the Board a few times, first in the late 1980's and most recently from 2000 to 2006. In the late 1980's, Martha, Flo Ulmer and others worked closely with Baton Rouge Green to clean up and improve the medians on Park Boulevard.

As a member of the GDCA Committee to Improve the Quality of Life, Martha, Ferrel Ann Coates, Mark Upton, and others, reached out to areas around the Garden District, such as Ogden Park and Capital Heights to create the Government Street Neighborhood Coalition. This coalition was also involved with the Dufroq School Improvement Team, which was established to save and improve Dufroq, by renovating and expanding the school. Martha worked with several neighbors on this endeavor, such as Bill and Gail O'Quinn, and Ferrel Ann Coates. The quality of life committee was also instrumental in establishing the historic preservation guidelines for Drehr Place, as a way to address concerns about conditions outside the Garden District, by increasing the stability of the neighborhood and increasing property values. Today, Martha serves as the "at-large" representative on the city's Historic Preservation Commission. This is a voluntary position, for which Martha volunteers her time and expertise.

Martha and her husband Rene, son Roth and daughter M'Elise, have hosted the annual fall picnic a few times at their beautiful home.

We thank you Martha for your active involvement in efforts that have made a tremendous improvement in the quality of life in the Garden District.



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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NEWS BRIEFS

Calling All Kids - Face Painting!

On Saturday, October 15th, the Garden District will bring the Centennial Celebration to the residents who know how to party—the kids! There will be lots of kid friendly activities like face painting, bounce houses, and kid approved snacks. Keep an eye on the GDCA website for more information!

Open House For Art

Therese Knowles and a few artist friends will have an open house at 520 Park Boulevard from 6-9 on Friday, November 18. Support your artistic neighbors, and make it one of your stops during White Light Night.

Garden District Centennial Cookbook To Be On Sale Soon

Sales begin in November, just in time for the holidays! Cookbooks may be purchased at Cottonwood Books on Perkins.

Champagne Stroll Weeks Away

Join your neighbors for the Centennial Champagne Stroll on Sunday September 25. Tickets are \$20 per person and are available at the Garden District Nursery on Government Street.

Reaching The Board

To get in touch with the GDCA Board members see the GDCA website at gdcabr.org for a list of board members and their contact information.



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 mmmpiontek70@yahoo.com.

Together in The Garden District, A Love Story

By: MINDY PIONTEK

On a warm but beautiful Saturday evening, Maureen Joyce, a thirteen year resident of the Garden District, married Ben Bell, the son of her neighbors, Ray and Beryl Mack on the steps of the Mack's home on Terrace Avenue. The Macks with the help of neighbors like Jenny Zell, Becky Moppert and Liz Spaulding, set up a tent under one of the two large oaks on their property and decorated the tables with natural flower arrangements and delicate lights.

According to Ray Mack, he and Beryl hadn't planned to move to Baton Rouge until they saw their current home. "We drove by the Bologna home at Terrace Ave. and Camelia and saw the two large oaks in front of the house and the large B on the chimney. My wife's name is Beryl and as soon as I saw that 'B,' I knew that we would buy that house. We made an offer the next day. As it turned out both the house and the Garden District are great; but, it is the people in the Garden District that we particularly love."

The wedding brought together family, friends, and neighbors to celebrate a Garden District romance. The ceremony was



Maureen Joyce and Ben Bell are attended by Louis and Sophia Mouk, Maureen's children, as Rev. Randy Nicholls officiates.

even presided over by a neighbor, the Reverend Randy Nichols, who lives across Camelia from the Macks. As the happy couple

can attest, there is something wonderful about living in the Garden District.

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Garden District Centennial Cookbook for Holiday Giving

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

The cookbook is being published and should be available for purchase in mid-November, in time for holiday gift-giving. Please stay-tuned for information about purchasing a cookbook.

Resident Publishes New Book

By: MINDY PIONTEK

Congratulations to Garden District resident, Dr. Allison Graham Bertolini, on the September publication of her book, *Vigilante Women in Contemporary American Fiction*.

The book explores circumstances in which the justice system or society fails to protect women who then take matters into their own hands. The book covers works by authors such as Zora Neal Hurston, Alice Walker, Maxine Hong Kingston, William Faulkner, Toni Morrison, and Bharati Mukherjee.

Bertolini moved to the Garden District

when her husband, David, was hired to teach architecture at LSU in 2004. For seven years, the couple has lived in a house on Cherokee, where Bertolini did most of the revisions that turned her dissertation into *Vigilante Women*.

Although Bertolini's current post doctoral position at Tulane is temporary, she hopes to find a tenure track position that will keep her in the area.

When not teaching or thinking about her next book, "I love walking with my son in the Garden District." Look for Bertolini and son, William, walking in the mornings under the oaks of Kleinert Street.



The Ghost of Halloween Past

By: MARLENE LITTLE

Growing up, Halloween was always a fun event in my home. My father hid outside and scared everyone while my mother hollered for him to stop and tried to herd the kids back for treats. My friends and I went from house to house collecting treats and greetings from all the neighbors. As we aged and got too "old" to trick or treat we had house parties; we would still try to sneak a few house visits in anyway. The neighbors always knew when we were past the designated age, told us so, but still gave us a treat. I always looked forward to Halloween each year. As an adult, I've tried to create for others the memories my parents and neighbors created for me.

I have lived in the Garden District over 35 years. Sometime ago on a Halloween night, a young man came to my house. After the crowd left he introduced his wife and children, and then told me a story. He used to trick or treat at my home as a kid and he always enjoyed the decorations, treats, and kind words to "be careful" and "enjoy the night." He did not live in the neighborhood then or now, but always loved how everyone was always friendly and kind to him then and to his children now. I did not particularly remember this young man, but we share common memories made years apart. He reminded me of the positive impact my "old" neighbors had on me when I was growing up, and although I did not realize it at the time, the impression a few words and a treat can make on a youngster. Even when it is not Halloween I try to remember that each of us can have a positive impact on someone, especially kids.

Memories of Back to School Shoe Shopping

By: ANDY JOHNSON

Moving to the Garden District has called to mind the old Tic Toc Shoe Store on Government Street. Tic Toc was dimly lit and antiseptic, like a hospital in a brownout. Presiding over the entrance was a larger than life cut-out of Buster and his dog, Tige. I recall a sales force of middle-aged men who wore short-sleeved dress shirts with ties, PermaPress slacks, and well-kept Hush Puppies. These were sensible men in sensible footwear.

Neurosurgeons do not operate with the level of care Tic Toc men used in fitting shoes. When the call was close, it wasn't

unusual for the salesman to solicit a second opinion from a colleague. In such cases, the salesmen would crouch around my little stockinged feet, measuring and re-measuring, scratching their heads and conferring as though deciding whether to launch a nuclear missile.

Incredibly, the Tic Toc men also provided fashion advice. Even as a child, this amused me. Without hesitation or sense of irony, these Brill-creamed, Hush Puppied, Ward Cleaver knockoffs offered shoe style tips. Their innocence was beautiful. And, more often than not, Buster and Tige watched me leave the store wearing polio-ugly shoes that fit perfectly.

wine with him and his wife, Liz. Milton, we will miss you, and we will honor your memory by extending your spirit of hospitality and humor to our neighbors, since we do not know how long we will have to enjoy them.

Missing Milton

*I wanted to know,
whoever I was, I was
alive
for a little while.*

From "Dogfish" by Mary Oliver

This summer the Garden District lost a member who may not have lived here the longest but who embodied the spirit of the neighborhood. If you saw Milton Spaulding walking the oak shaded boulevards in the morning, chances are he engaged you in a conversation full of gentle and wry intelligence. And if you were lucky enough to stroll by his house on Terrace Avenue in the early evening, chances are he welcomed you onto his deeply shaded porch to share a glass of

MEMBERSHIP

Continued from Page 1

How are your dues used?

Security patrols -- 96% in 2010.

Social events-- We buy eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt and fried chicken for the picnic. Social events are useful in bringing neighbors together so we can meet and get to know each other which improves our safety and quality of life.

Flyers to notify residents of upcoming events.

Any newsletter costs not covered by ads.

The Garden District directory, Centennial edition available soon

The Garden District e-mail and website, gdcabr.org.

How to Join the Civic Association

Dues may be paid through Pay Pal using the GDCA website: <http://www.gdca-br.org/index.php>. You can use your credit card, and you do not need a PayPal account to make a payment.

If you prefer to write a check, just send your name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address along with a check made out to the Garden District Civic Association to

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

Dues may be paid quarterly (\$35/quarter paid in Jan, April, July, & Oct) or yearly (\$120/year). Well over 80% of GDCA Membership dues go toward off-duty police security patrols.

Questions? Contact Rosary Beck, Treasurer via e-mail (robeck3@gmail.com) or phone 387-3967.

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