



Garden District News

Roseland Terrace, Kleinert Terrace and Drehr Place Historic Neighborhoods

Fall 2012

What wonderful things come out of her kiln

By: Mindy Piontek

When Jaime Miller was growing up in a house in Shaker Heights, Ohio, she was fascinated by the neighbor who lived across the street. Jaime's neighbor, Mrs. Lalli made pottery in her basement, and at Christmas time she would give her friends and neighbors a gift of her work.

"I started going across the street at five or six years old to watch Mrs. Lalli," says Jaime. "I just loved it!"

For many years, Jaime continued to love pottery only as a buyer. "I would go to craft fairs and have to buy myself a piece. I was always very intimidated by the process."

One of Jaime's favorite pottery haunts was behind Frame Works, off of Highland Road, that held sales just twice a year. After dragging her husband there for several years, Paul came up with a different way for Jaime to add to her collection. "For Christmas one year, Paul handed me a check and a book and told me to take a leisure course at LSU."

That was fifteen years ago. Although her first attempts were clumsy and messy and left her envying another student with more experience on the wheel, Jaime was committed to learning and she was prepared, as she says, "to suffer. Ceramics is such a slow process—no instant gratification."

Although she claims to have started selling, "before I should have," Jaime has



Jaime Miller with a few of her creations in her pottery studio on Drehr Avenue

Second in a series of articles that spotlight business owners from our neighborhood.

See News Briefs for more details.

developed into an impressive artist, even teaching classes through Southern Pottery, an experience she loved because it allowed her to share the experience of making pot-

tery, or as she puts it, "what it feels like to sit at a wheel and feel the clay go round and round."

Jaime still enjoys the process, now working from a garage studio surrounded by a lovely courtyard style garden behind her home on Drehr which she shares with her husband and their son, Michael Paul, whose own designs and artwork appear

See **HER KILN**, page 3

Garden District Gears up for Another Fall Picnic Party!

By: RAY MACK,

If you made it to last year's Garden District Picnic, you might recall having a wonderful time visiting with your neighbors while sweating in the stifling August heat. This year's Garden District Picnic has been moved, to what we hope will be a cooler October day. It will be held from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM on October 14. Once again, the Pergusons, Jim and Blair at 2522 Kleinert Avenue, are welcoming us to their lovely lawn that boasts plenty of shade if the day should be unseasonably warm.

The Garden District Civic Association is sponsoring the picnic and will again provide plenty of fried chicken,

There will be an assortment of door prizes ... and the kids will have fun, games and prizes geared just for them!

cold lemonade, and bottled water. Please, bring a pot luck side dish or a dessert to share. If your last name begins with A-I bring dessert, J-R salad, S-Z a vegetable dish.

There will be an assortment of door prizes; once again we will hold contests for best savory pot luck of-

fering and most popular dessert; and the kids will have fun, games and prizes geared just for them. If we're lucky, there will be live music to accompany lively conversation with your neighbors.

If you have yet to pay your membership dues, a table will be set up to collect them. You will also be able to purchase Garden District t-shirts bearing the live oak logo and the neighborhood cookbook, a great gift idea for the ever impending holiday season.

Please join your friends and neighbors for an evening of fun and food, and maybe live music. Much fun is expected in the (hopefully) cooler October weather.

For continuing information please check the GDCA website.

Volunteer Spotlight

A Special Volunteer Spotlight

WE THANK YOU FLO

By Willie Fontenot

For those of you who have not heard, Flo Ulmer will be leaving the board of the neighborhood association where she has been inspiring the residents of the Garden District with her leadership, generosity, thoughtfulness and positive energy for many years.

Flo's husband, video photographer Bill Rodman, needs her help in an expanded project they have started, and she leaves the board feeling very good about our neighborhood.

During her years of service to the neighborhood, Flo has always fostered a sense of conviviality among the residents. She had us dancing in the street years ago, the first time she was president of the GDCA. The street was blocked off so we could all enjoy good food and live music. Many neighbors also remember the Tour of Homes from the 1990s and revived for the Centennial celebration this past year, which Flo first organized and which were very successful at introducing the neighborhood's historic treasures both to its own residents and to Baton Rouge. Flo rallied her neighbors to volunteer assistance with these tours, and everyone who visited the area left with a greater appreciation for the homes that grace it.

Halloween at Flo's has always been a real treat for hundreds of youngsters and their guardians. Other neighbors were happy just to pass out candy to the Trick-or-Treaters, but Flo gave them a haunted adventure to go with the candy.

Flo has hosted countless meetings, parties and gatherings at her home in the belief that a neighborhood filled with friends watching out for each other is less attractive to criminals. Anyone who had the chance to participate in these get-togethers left them better acquainted with their neighbors and feeling that they lived in a real neighborhood.

Flo, we offer you and Bill many thanks for all of your leadership and support over the years, and we hope that you will continue to enjoy being our neighbors. You have left the board, the Civic Association, and the neighborhood better for your involvement. We will all miss you.

NEWS BRIEFS

Thanks for Hurricane Help!

A big thank you to all who reached out in a spirit of cooperation both face to face and through the GD email list to help in the aftermath of Isaac. A special thank you goes out to Matt Swanner for starting the wave of community spirit that quickly moved through the neighborhood. From everyone who borrowed a chainsaw, ax, tree saw, pruning shears to everyone who lent them—THANK YOU!

Support Your Neighbors!

This issue continues the new regular feature highlighting neighbors who have opened their own businesses. Our intent is to showcase the talent and entrepreneurial spirit of residents while encouraging our readers to patronize their neighbors' shops, restaurants, and businesses.

If you own your own business and would like to be featured in an upcoming issue, contact the editor, Mindy Piontek, by email: mmpiontek70@yahoo.com. Although the stories will be written on a first come, first served basis, we reserve the right to make final decisions with an eye to showcasing the variety of talents in the neighborhood.

Spotlight a Volunteer!

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



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.

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2nd Annual Champagne Stroll

By: RAY MACK

The champagne glasses will chime once again on the streets of the Garden District during the 2nd annual Champagne Stroll on September 16.

At 5:30, as the sun dips into the oak trees, you pick up your commemorative glass at the first house on the stroll, 2277 Kleinert, and have it filled with champagne.

Meander with neighbors and friends to the next two houses in the neighborhood where you may refill your glass: 2438 and 2258 Terrace Avenue.

As the sun is setting, reach the final destination on this year's Champagne Stroll, 2121 Terrace at the corner of Camelia. Turn the corner and enter from Camelia to find the lights on and the tables set for light refreshment, live music with Ben Bell and the Stardust Boys....and of course more champagne.

There are only 60 tickets available for this year's stroll. You may purchase a \$20 ticket from Circa 1857 now and from the Garden District Nursery beginning September 1, both on Government Street.

HER KILN

Continued from Page 1

throughout the home and studio, arranged carefully on window sills and with pride of place on several walls.

Having her studio behind the house allows her plenty of flexibility in her work hours, a boon to any mother running her own business. As she says, "I can run outside at 11:30 at night and take something out of the kiln."

Jaime's work is always available at the monthly Art Market associated with the downtown Farmer's Market, from her studio at 614 Drehr, and through her website, alittlepotteryshop.com. Keep an eye out for her black and red signs announcing an Open Studio sale.

The pieces Jaime makes share a look—softly mottled colors and nature inspired shapes—which, she explains, is the result of conscious effort: "When I look at my palette, I specifically tend to coordinate with my work. I find these colors and these pieces are a happy combination with what people already have."

Another unifying element in her work are the delicate birds that grace several of her serving pieces which in turn harmonize with the lovely ceramic robin's eggs that she makes. "When people who have seen my work at the downtown art market come to my studio, they'll say, 'So you're the bird lady!'"

Jaime strives to create "forms, textures, colors that are beautiful and functional. You can set a really pretty table with it."

Although Paul might want to reclaim some space in the garage for their cars and his woodworking shop, Jaime said they have shelved the idea of renting warehouse space in another location. For now, she is a Garden District artist through and through.

For information about properties SOLD in the Garden District
www.GardenDistrictNews.com

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Before

by MINDY PIONTEK

As I write this, we are all waiting for Isaac. It seems that every parent in the Garden District has shooed every kid outside to burn off the energy raised by the drop in the barometric pressure.

Dog owners are taking one last lap around the neighborhood since it will be a couple of days before the dogs get out again.

People are traipsing from porches to sheds and garages with armloads of pots, flags, signs, anything the wind could let fly. The last water, battery, gas run has been run.

The pantry is full of canned food no one would ever eat willingly, with the exception of my brother-in-law, a SPAM devotee. The skies are clouding and the wind is up and we wait.

And After

Once again, people are out with their dogs that are eagerly sniffing the downed branches.

Children are now splashing through the pools that collect on so many of our streets and they are encouraging cars to drive fast to soak their already drenched bodies.

Isaac was definitely not Gustav.

Neighbors help neighbors cut up the downed branches. Families collect green clusters of oak leaves and acorns, untimely ripped from the trees.

This time the hum of generators will be silenced sooner, and we will put away the board games, books, radios and return to our electric life.

LOVE IT!



Bet-R

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