



The Valley View

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 138

June 2006

Neighborhood Announcements

Valley View Summer Fundraiser!

Dear Readers:

In response to last month's plea, a group of volunteers has stepped forward to save the newsletter! The volunteers are planning a new summer fundraiser: a "Potluck Barbeque." The proposed location is the MLK elementary school playground. The proposed date for this event is Sun., August 13th. This will be a brand new, community-wide event and all are welcome! You have the option to bring your own BBQ grill and food. We provide food and beverages, along with entertainment, prizes, activities for the kids, and food contests for the adults.

If you would like to help organize or staff this event, please contact Heather Scarsee at heathers@speakeasy.net or Lindsay Zaccara at lindsayzaccara@yahoo.com. Have a great summer and see you again this fall with the next issue of the Valley View.

Next Community Council Meeting:

Wednesday, June 21st, 7:30 p.m.

MLK Elementary School

In the Portable Classroom (the small structure next to the playground) 3201 E. Republican Street

Topics:

- 2006-2007 Community Council officer elections
- Future of newsletter and summer fundraiser plan

One of Our Neighbors

Music is the Magic

By Cathy Nunneley

Did you know that two of Seattle's most acclaimed jazz musicians live right in our neighborhood? The musical duo is singer Kelley Johnson and pianist John Hansen. They have lived in Madison Valley since 1998.

Kelley has always been a singer. She fell in love with jazz as a high school student in Milwaukee, WI. "One day I heard a recording of Miles Davis and I knew that was the music for me." Milwaukee was a great place to grow as a singer. "There was a lot of inter-generational music making, and I was able to sit in and learn a lot." She graduated from the Wisconsin Conservatory of

Music and moved to Seattle to live near her mother, Gayle Bard, a Bainbridge Island artist.

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Kelley Johnson and John Hansen with their cat "Nana."

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Council business, agenda requests, inquiries, concerns

*

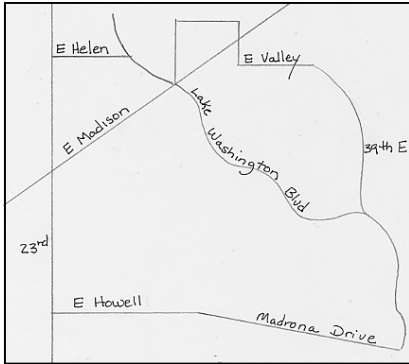
Valley View Newsletter: Heather Scarsee

Email: heathers@speakeasy.net or 206-388-2389

Article submissions, suggestions, volunteers

GMVCC P.O. Box 22278 Seattle, Washington 98122

Greater Madison Valley



Support *The Valley View*

The Valley View staff cheerfully works countless unpaid volunteer hours to bring you this newsletter. The printing and postage costs are \$1000 per month. We must have financial support from the community to continue the newsletter. **Please** make a contribution. Everything helps!

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Community Council Minutes

Minutes of GMVCC Meeting

May 17, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. Introductions were made.

Crime in the Neighborhood: During the first hour, a police officer, Sergeant Shin, along with Crime Prevention Coordinator Sonja Richter from the East Precinct Police Dept. addressed the issues of neighborhood crime, police response, and what residents can do to discourage crime on their block.

In the last 25 years, there has been a significant increase in population but minimal increase in additional police patrols, due to budget constraints. The 911 responses may be delayed due to police patrols being spread thinly.

In order to minimize potential theft activity (i.e. smash and grab) in your neighborhood, it is important to keep your windows closed at night, monitor your alarm systems, do not leave anything in your car, organize as a neighborhood for block watches, and be alert to any people roaming your neighborhood.

A number of concerned neighbors from the Madison Valley Blockwatch Yahoo group were at the meeting. To join the block watch Yahoo group, send an email requesting an invitation to: madvalleywatch-subscribe@yahoo.com.

Treasurer's Report: The GMVCC Treasurer will pay three outstanding bills.

MLK Painting: A proposal was approved that Gary Emslie and Jerry Sussman will take possession of the Bill Cummings painting at MLK School prior to its closing. A future home for display will be discussed at next month's meeting.

Elections: Elections for Community Council Officers will take place at next month's meeting, Wed. June 21st, at 7:30pm in MLK Elementary portable classrooms.

Valley View Newsletter: A number of volunteers have stepped forward to continue the Valley View newsletter and will present a plan at next month's meeting, along with a plan for a summer fundraiser to fund the newsletter. The proposed fundraiser is a "Potluck Barbeque" at MLK Elementary playground to be held in August.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.



Spring Art Walk

Art Walk Draws Enthusiastic Crowd

By Cathy Nunneley

Our 4th Annual Spring Art Walk and Sale was held on Saturday, May 13th—our traditional date, the day before Mother’s Day. The warm, sunny weather encouraged throngs of happy Seattleites to stroll along Madison and view works by local artists. The event specifically strives to support our established community artists and to give exposure to emerging talent.

This year, we were able to host an especially diverse group of artists’ works: paintings, ceramics, glass, jewelry, collage, photography and sculpture were all represented. Sixteen Madison Valley businesses hosted one or more artists within their shops, offering the visitors generous refreshment trays of cookies, crackers, cheese and drinks.

Coyote Central, an art, music and humanities school for middle school youth, located in Madison Valley, was the recipient of 5% of the artists’ sales. Coyote Central provides small classes in various disciplines such welding, furniture making, cooking, poetry jams, animation, and swing dancing. **For more information about their varied classes, please visit www.coyotecentral.org.** We were pleased to support the work of this valuable resource.

The Spring Art Walk is a cooperative event of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council and the Madison Valley Merchant’s Association. Karrie Baas, of the Baas Gallery, organized the artists and assigned them spaces in the businesses. Fury donated shoes to mark the participating shops, and Izilla Toys donated the helium balloons. Cathy Nunneley helped organize from the Community Council.

The Art Walk has become a much anticipated event as a celebration of the warm spring weather and sunny days ahead. We anticipate an even larger event next year. **Anyone with suggestions are welcome to contact us at cjnunneley@yahoo.com.**



Artist Mary Coss and Fast Frame owner Molly Baird Van Nostrand with one of the artist’s unique umbrella creations.

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The Story of "Solar I"

The First Passive Solar Home in the Valley

By Cathy Nunneley



Before and After shots of "Solar I" built in 1980 in Madison Valley.

In the late 1970s, George Guttman, general contractor, became very interested in energy efficient housing. Although ideas about sustainable resources were beginning to attract attention in those days, solar heating was still an undeveloped option. George attended many educational seminars and believed that the concept was feasible. He aspired to enter a design contest for a passive solar home, but could not find a willing client.

Undaunted, he and his wife decided to build a "spec" house in partnership with architect Andy Van Horne.

The couple bought a very old, dilapidated, one bedroom house in Madison Valley and created the amazing transformation known as *Solar I*.

The new house was a two bedroom, two bath wonder. The house created a sensation in Seattle with over 200 visitors in one weekend, and many accolades. It received highest honors from *Western Sun*, was named Home of the Month by *The Seattle Times*, and was featured on many television shows.

Twenty-five years later, George's daughter, Ilana, and her family happily reside there. The lot to the south of the house is home to a garden and Ilana's honey bees. Their heating costs are about \$200 per year!

Necessary Elements for Solar Design

1. Quality design: Open spaces for good air circulation and southern facing windows with no or few windows to the north.
2. Adequate insulation and use of concrete, tile, and brick to collect heat.
3. An understanding of the sun's path.
4. An unobstructed southern exposure to allow for heating. Deciduous trees can provide shade in the summer months for cooling.

For more information regarding this house and solar design, check out Sound Home at <http://www.soundhome.com> and click "Topic Index" and then "Energy/Heating/Cooling."



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Andy's Cycling Tips

Eat Your Handlebars!

By Andy Goulding

Madison Valley is a great place to bicycle, with a regular street grid, great sidewalks for kids to learn, and relatively flat terrain. The Lake Washington Bike Route goes right through our neighborhood to connect with the rest of Seattle and beyond. There are reasonable traverses to avoid busy, steep streets like Madison, John, and Aloha. Riding the back streets is a treat! If you take the Bike Bypass extension of MLK Jr. — just east of Bailey Boushey — to connect with UW, you can avoid Lake Washington Boulevard.

I do architecture at home, so I bike to client meetings and project sites in the Seattle area. I can be at a meeting at Starbucks, the UW, or downtown in twenty minutes, without parking or traffic hassles! On the way home, I can stop at the bank, Madison Market, or MLK Jr. Elementary to volunteer. On a hot summer day, I can zoom out to Foster Point, jump in the lake, and be back at my desk in one hour.

I've developed a few clothing tricks: lightweight nylon trousers I can roll up that will look okay when I get to my destination; a smashable yellow vest or jacket for visibility; black shoes with Shimano cleats so I can walk fairly comfortably; absorbent underwear - no cotton; yellow garden gloves from City People's; black lycra knee-high socks from hospital supply. I'm fond of LED lights that use rechargeable AA batteries and safety pin to my handlebar bag and helmet. Winter gear: same, except over-mitts and Buff on my bald head. I also carry a hanky for sweat. The outlaw messenger mentality is hard to resist. Sometimes the temptation is overwhelming to run red lights and pass on the right. Very bad. At 62, I've started to take it easier, and enjoy stopping and catching my breath at intersections.

My wife, Barbara Culp, is Executive Director of the Bicycle Alliance of Washington, a statewide advocacy group for safe bicycle routes, transportation, and fun. They have great programs for Bike Buddies, to get started riding, and to promote Safe Routes to Schools for kids. They also partner with King County Metro Lost & Found for bikes left on buses - you'd be surprised how many are left behind. Their office is downtown Seattle at the Bike Station, 2nd Ave. at Jackson. **For more information, go to their website, www.BicycleAlliance.org, or call (206) 224-9252.**

Risks? Yes. Be nimble; wear a helmet; take care of your gear; anticipate at intersections; communicate with drivers; be highly visible at all times, including daylight. I think of myself as a YIELD sign, bright yellow-green. It's all about seeing and being seen. I rely on our neighbor, Neil, for repairs, at Montlake Bicycle Shop, 329-7333.

Call me about supporting the Bicycle Alliance: 329-6350. We have an auction with wonderful, bikey things this fall on Saturday, November 4th.

Gardening Notes from City People's

Organic Weed Control

By Kyra J. Butzel

I enjoy weeding: sitting in my garden all day, digging into the dirt, experiencing the satisfaction of getting out the offending plant by the roots. My Hori Hori is my preferred weeding tool, with its pointy steel blade and menacing serrated edges. It is no match for even my dandelions.

The most environmentally friendly approach to weeding involves first removal and then prevention. Mulch is perhaps the most important method of organic weed control. Applying several inches of mulch suppresses weeds by excluding light. Some weed seeds will eventually find their way into the mulch via the wind or the bottom of a shoe, but these can easily be pulled out if caught before established. A "weed fabric," placed around plantings and topped with a layer of mulch, can also be very helpful.

If, however, you are up to your ears in weeds already, and you are not a fan of spending hours trying to keep up with them, there are some relatively safe herbicides on the market. BurnOut Weed & Grass Killer combines clove oil, vinegar and lemon to kill weeds. Blackberry & Brush Block, a highly concentrated vinegar solution, can even be used on woody plants, but one must be especially careful to apply it only onto unwanted plants, because it is not very forgiving.

Natural herbicides often need repeated applications to be most effective, but the energy put into using them instead of weed and feeds or other chemical herbicides such as Round Up is well worth the effort — for our own health and the health of our neighbors, children, and pets.

For more information on organic weed and pest control, visit the Washington Toxics Coalition at www.watoxics.org.

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Kelley's career took off and she began to sing at a variety of venues. She sang with The Roadside Attraction Big Band and formed her own group with the young, swinging jazz pianist, John Hansen. As musical colleagues, they performed at places like The Pink Door and the Victoria International Jazz Festival.

Kelley also has a number of recordings. Her debut CD recording, *Make Someone Happy*, was charted in the top 50 jazz recordings. When she won the 2002 International Jazzconnect Jazz Vocal Competition, the prize was being recorded live in performance at the famous New York City club, Birdland, resulting in her second CD, *Live at Birdland*. Her latest CD, *Music is the Magic*, has been released to rave reviews, hitting #15 on the national jazz radio charts.

Kelley also keeps a busy schedule as a popular teacher. One of her former students, Elizabeth Vaughan, describes Kelley as "really warm, thoughtful and observant."

"Kelley taught me that the music tells a story, and that the lyrics convey the meaning of the song. She cared so much that I always wanted to give my best." Kelley teaches all ages and levels of proficiency at her home in Madison Valley, at Cornish College, and MusicWorks Northwest in Bellevue.

While he's always considered himself a musician, John Hansen didn't always know he would be a pianist. As a youth, he was more interested in playing outside than practicing his piano scales. Around age 8, he bonded with his trumpet, and eventually played the principal chair in his school's concert band, the Tacoma Junior and Youth Symphonies, and in the Washington All-State High School Band. Besides classical music, John was an avid jazz listener and during his sophomore year he began studying jazz pianists like Herbie Hancock, Bud Powell, and Wynton Kelly. Before graduating from high school, John switched his attention to jazz piano.

After being accepted to the competitive UW Business School, John was still casting about for a career path. When he realized he was practicing piano more than studying, he decided to play music full time. Now, after 17 years, he is a first-call pianist in the region. John plays regularly with multi-instrumentalist Jay Thomas and his Quartet, with world class composer Jim Knapp and his Orchestra, and of course, with Kelley Johnson. His favorite venue is the jazz club, Tula's, downtown on 2nd Avenue. John is a featured artist on many recordings, and in the late 1990s, he won 5th place in the John Lennon Songwriting Contest.

John Hansen is a well-loved accompanist. Sax player Roxy Coss describes her experience: "John is so fun to play with, because he is such an astute listener and quick thinker. His responsiveness and creative additions to others' solos make his accompanying stand out. His own solo work is just as amazing; his playing possesses a forward-thinking edge which many players lack. All around, John's great technique, deep knowledge and understanding of the music, along with his versatile and unique sound and style, make him one of the best musicians around."

Like Kelley, John keeps a busy teaching schedule. His students particularly enjoy his ability to transcribe their favorite music for piano.


In 2004, John and Kelley were chosen to tour Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia for the U.S. State Department, under a Jazz Ambassador cultural exchange program. This is a similar program to the one that sent Dizzy Gillespie and Seattle's Quincy Jones to Europe, the Near East, the Middle East, and South America in 1956, and sent Benny Goodman to the Far East in 1956-57, and to the Soviet Union in 1962. Getting a chance to see the world by playing music was the fulfillment of John and Kelley's dreams.

Kelley Johnson and the John Hansen Trio are giving a free concert in the park at Madison Park on Thursday, August 24th from 6:30-8pm.

To learn more about Kelley Johnson and John Hansen, visit their web site at www.kelleyjohnson.com.



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Fast Frame

By Jennifer Karkar Ritchie

June summons the beginning of summer and for many, recognition of their dads during the one-day celebration of fathers everywhere. If you fall into this category, I've found the perfect gift for that guy in your life.

Several months ago, I found some old posters my husband had saved from a concert. They were rolled up and one even had a spill on it. I

immediately saw an opportunity to turn them into art, and considered ironing them and putting them into a frame myself, but due to fire risk, decided to seek professional help in my endeavor. Enter Fast Frame - my June find.



Jon and Molly Von Nostrand

Located at 2800 East Madison, on the corner of 28th and Madison, owners Jon & Molly Van Nostrand were extremely helpful, knowledgeable and flexible when it came down to cost. Unrolling my posters, Jon deftly recommended two or three options for mounting or framing the posters. Based on time (I needed a two-day turnaround) and budgetary limits, he suggested I mount them onto a fabulous, inexpensive foam board. Just a few days later when I picked up the posters, they were flat, wrinkle free, cleaned up, and carefully mounted onto the board with a very professional hook attached on the back. And the cost for both was less than \$25.00!

My husband loved his gift and was so surprised at the resurrection of his otherwise 'lost' posters. We've since worked with Molly and Jon to frame a painting we received as a wedding gift, and another piece of art we'd previously hung without a frame. Each time, we received the same courtesy, helpfulness, and cost-conscious service.

So, if you're wondering about a gift for the guy in your life, definitely get a little creative. Find that fabulous picture, poster, or piece of art, and give it an added lift with the help of our neighborhood framing pros.

See you in September with another great find!



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