

The Valley View

Newsletter of the Greater Madison Valley Community Council

Issue 108, December 2002/January 2003

E-mail: gmvcc@hotmail.com

Guest View

World Peace starts in the Neighborhood

by Bob Edgerton

A neighborhood group has formed to support the efforts of the www.SNOWCOALITION.org to encourage people to express to their government representatives how they feel about the events that have been occurring and are continuing to occur.

It all started when a NO IRAQ WAR sign showed up in the neighborhood. The sign was made by a local group called SNOW. SNOW stands for (Puget) Sound Nonviolent Opponents of War and is a growing coalition of about 30 local peace groups. SNOW has an organizational meeting once a week. A local neighborhood group has formed which meets also about once a week to develop and support the decisions that are made at

the SNOW meetings.

SNOW has been involved in the demonstrations of support for the alternatives to a US initiated war in Iraq. The neighborhood group has been supporting these demonstrations by letting our friends and neighbors know about them and inviting them to join us in a public expression of our point of view.

Contact me at 206-325-0757 for information about where and when the neighborhood affinity group meets or where and when the SNOW coalition is meeting. When the media says that the public overwhelmingly supports the President on the subject of initiating a war against Iraq, I get quite excited and say "Not me, not in my name," and then get busy and express myself as best I can to my representatives. ▼▼



School News

"Reflections" on Meany

Reflections is a theme driven arts contest sponsored by the National PTA to instill a positive creative atmosphere for students and give students recognition for participation. Meany's PTA sponsored this year's theme: Signs of Courage.

Meany had 60 participants enter their projects this year in the Visual Arts and Literature aspects of the program. This year, Meany sent 18 projects to the citywide contest for the first time in many years; including 9 Literature entries and 9 visual arts entries. These projects will be on display through the winter break in the Center House at the Seattle Center. The work of Talia Clewis, an eighth Grader at Meany, appears on page 2.

Meany thanks Talia and all the Reflections participants for adding to the life of the school and sharing her talents with the whole community. ▼▼

Neighborhood News

Homer Harris Park Named for Fine Doctor by Jerry Sussman

On a prize piece of ground overlooking our valley and the Cascades, Seattle's newest park was dedicated last month. The city's leaders and Dr. Homer Harris's friends and patients of many decades came to honor him. The place is at 24th and East Howell, a stone's throw from the Mathews East Madison YMCA. Speakers like Ron Sims, Stimson Bullitt, Carver Gayton, and Mayor Nickels lauded the good doctor who was a talented athlete at Garfield High School and the University of Iowa. Later he earned a medical degree and carried on a flourishing practice in Seattle until his recent retirement. He is now 86, and certainly a hale figure of a man.

An anonymous admirer donated \$1.3 million to the Seattle Parks Foundation in Dr. Harris's name for acquisition of the best site. Their choice is a rare level plot with excellent views that will be developed into a lovely retreat where people can play or meditate as they like. The county gave an additional \$350,000 from proceeds of the Conservation Futures Tax, which

helped leverage funding from the Seattle Pro Parks levy. All together, these funds combined to complete the purchase and help with the planting and furnishing of the new park. Karen Daubert, director of the foundation, said the design and installation work may take up to two years.

Dr. Harris watched the proceedings, smiling modestly. The Garfield marching band played with verve, a girls' chorus from T. T. Minor School sang beautifully, and the day was blessed with sunshine. Governor Locke sent a proclamation declaring November 13 Dr. Homer Harris Day. There was hearty applause for him and the moment of civic harmony we had all shared.

Afterword: We were reminded of the little book we reviewed here a few years ago: Tribute: Seattle Public Places Named for Black People, by Mary Henry, a former school librarian and mother of our neighbor in Florence Court, Bob Henry. This delightful book was illustrated by Marilyn Henry, the author's daughter-in-law; it gives interesting lore about gardens, parks, and libraries named for personages like Langston Hughes, Frederick Douglass, Jimi Hendrix, and Edwin Pratt. Tribute was published in 1997; will there be a new edition to feature places like Homer Harris Park? ▼▼

We Are Courageous

We couldn't vote but as women we overcame it.
We couldn't speak for ourselves but as a whole we overcame the tribulations.
We pushed ourselves to our highest limits and came out on top.
We are courageous.

But as a whole we still sit on the bottom.
We dream good dreams and hope hoped hopes; sometimes we lived what we dream.
And change our lives to make everyone else's better.
We are courageous.

We took the time and learned ways to be patient.
Learned ways to hold back tears and heavy fears
And now it's our time to shout to let everything out and be free.
We are courageous.

— Talia Clewis

Talia Clewis is an eighth grader at Meany Middle School.

More School News

News from Martin Luther King School

December was a busy month at the school. December 4 and 5 were career days, and on the 11th the school sponsored a Winter Festival that featured performances by the students as well as pizza for all. The 19th is scheduled for a schoolwide holiday celebration, all leading up to early dismissal on the 20th for winter break!

As we look forward to the rest of the academic year and on to next year, the school is surveying parents and guardians concerning a proposal for uniforms next year.▼▼

...and from Garfield

The Annual Fund Committee happily reports a gain of \$30,000 for this year's campaign. A goal of \$100,000 has been set.

PAASE: Parents for African American Student Excellence is up and running this year. The general meeting is held on the third Tuesday of each month and runs from 7.00 to 8:30 pm at the school.

Betty Lau, chair of the English as a Second Language program is urgently requesting tutors for math, language arts, and Washington State History. Please contact her at belau@sesattleschools.org.

In another volunteer activity, adults willing to lend expertise to students for their senior projects can contact Marta Trimble at mltrimble@seattleschools.org.

And an arts note: the orchestra will be performing at Meany Hall with the Sanyo Wind Orchestra from Okayama, Japan on December 17. The popular waltz concert at Benaroya Hall will be on January 26.▼▼

Neighborhood News

November's Annual Spaghetti Dinner: A Good Time Had by All

by Eli Stahlhut

November brings many good things, not the least of which is our annual GMVCC Spaghetti Dinner, traditionally held the first Friday in November. This year a good turn out of friends and neighbors arrived at ML King School anticipating good food, good company and a good time. As always, all were welcome. The dinner is not a fundraiser for the council, rather it is intended as a "friend-raiser." The organizers promote the dinner as an opportunity for neighbors to bond with one another as a community. We feel that the fragmentation of modern life often isolates us from our neighbors furthering a breakdown of community unity.

For a very reasonable fee (\$4), the assembled ate lots of spaghetti with either savory meat or vegetarian sauce, crisp green salad, oven-fresh garlic bread and an array of delicious home-baked desserts.

Entertainment this year was fabulous! The talented Garfield jazz musicians Roxy Coss, Kendall Becker, Will Squires, and Ryan Batie provided music throughout dinner. The Garfield Jazz Vocal Ensemble serenaded us during dessert. To top it all off, a group of Bush School students thrilled us with their trick unicycle riding! Face painter Rachel Sofian and her friends proved very popular with the kids. Several diners received door prizes during a mid-dinner drawing.

New teen volunteers Micki Towler and Vanessa Goodell attended the drink table. Miranda and Claire Levy organized a volunteer sign up. Thank you girls! Several members expressed interest in helping next year and will bring new ideas to the dinner. Our M.C., Bob Crittenden, kept the evening flowing smoothly with his usual panache and eloquence. A big round of applause to all the volunteers who helped pull this evening together!

Miss the fun? Never fear! The first Friday in November 2003 will be here in no time! Hope to see you next year!▼▼

Call to Writers and Artists

The Valley View is gearing up for a banner 2003. Your participation is key to the quality of this paper!

Please call Miriam at 206.325.8126 if you'd like to research and write news stories, share your creative writing (essays, poems, and the like), send us digital photos, or even simply offer up a good story idea. You can also email us at gmvcc@hotmail.com.

On the Docket

Monthly Round-Up of Top Issues

- Planning for February's Free Pancake Breakfast
- Cooperation with Martin Luther King Elementary School, our local public elementary school
- Traffic, traffic, traffic
- And whatever YOU care about.

Please alert the Council if you have issues of concern – our email is gmvcc@hotmail.com. And if you want to get involved, come to our meetings and/or write for this newsletter!▼▼

Community Council Minutes

GMVCC Meeting of November 19, 2002

Gary Emslie called the meeting to order at 7:30. A motion was made to approve last month's minutes; the motion passed.

Jerry Sussman then brought us the treasurer's report.

The GMVCC has four bank accounts at the moment. The first is our checking account, which holds \$5,522.55. (As of the 11/19 meeting we had not yet received the bill for the use of King school for our spaghetti dinner.)

There are also three dormant accounts. The first is the traffic circle account, which held money to the creation of a traffic circle in the neighborhood. A balance of \$900 remains in this account. This money will be transferred to the GMVCC account and the \$400 that the council donated to the project will be kept while the remaining \$500 will go towards upkeep of the traffic circle. The original "traffic circle account" will be liquidated.

The second dormant account holds \$1,943. This money is left over from the Village Schools Project. This was a cooperative project between Meany Middle School, MLK, and The Bush School. Before anything is done with this account the founders of the project will be consulted.

The third dormant account holds \$13,000 left over from a computer teaching project that is no longer in operation. This money will be invested in a short-term interest bearing account.

Barry Dorsey, Principal of Martin Luther King Elementary joined our meeting to update us on how we can get involved in helping out the school. He reported that although enrollment is down by forty students, he is confident about the future of the school. One thing neighbors can do to is to help improve the external appearance of MLK. He also has plans to purchase a reader board to inform parents and neighbors about community and school events. The council considered a

Valley Business Highlight

SANTOSHA YOGA STUDIO

2812 E. Madison, 2nd Floor in the Courtyard

Enter the courtyard marked with the Rovers awning and leave the bustle of Madison Street behind. A short flight of stairs enables you to enter a sea of tranquility, which is the Santosha Yoga Studio. Delightfully delicate music, muted colors and beautiful design greet the visitor and engender a sense of peace even before the classes begin.

Santosha is a Sanskrit word for contentment. Owner/teacher Rebekkah Dinaburg feels that from this inner quietude strength and ease can lastingly grow. Rebekkah with her experienced and supportive staff are committed to create an environment that supports each individual's unique practice, hence their motto: Yoga for Everyone.

The studio offers a full array of yoga classes for all levels of experience including prenatal, postnatal Mom and Baby, and children. Additionally, an open, free group meditation is offered every Sunday evening. The classes begin at 6:15 AM and flow throughout the day until 8-9PM. Individual, private sessions may be arranged. Specialty workshops with guest teachers are available several times each month.

Beautiful clothing and yoga inspired music, books and props for purchase adorn the reception area. Rebekkah encourages the community to use the area as a refuge resource for reading or relaxing with friends. On site massage and acupuncture are added attractions.

Upcoming opportunities include a retreat to Paradise, Mexico with Rebekkah in Spring 2003.

Santosha Yoga Studio is a wonderful addition to our neighborhood community! Why drive all over town when we have an oasis of calm right here? To find out more, contact the studio at 264-5034, info@yoga4everyone.com or www.santosha-yoga.com. Detailed brochures also are available in a basket at the foot of the stairway.▼▼

donation towards the reader board project and will vote on it at the next meeting in January. Visit the MLK website at www.seattleschools.org/schools/mlking.com.

Our next neighborhood event is our Neighborhood Appreciation Day Pancake Breakfast (FREE!) Come and meet your neighbors! Date is to be announced.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.▼▼

Minutes prepared by Claire Levy, GMVCC co-secretary.

THE VALLEY VIEW
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Greater Madison Valley
Community Council
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Newsletter Staff
Miriam Roskin, Editor
Jerry Sussman
Cathy Nunneley
Eli Stahlhut

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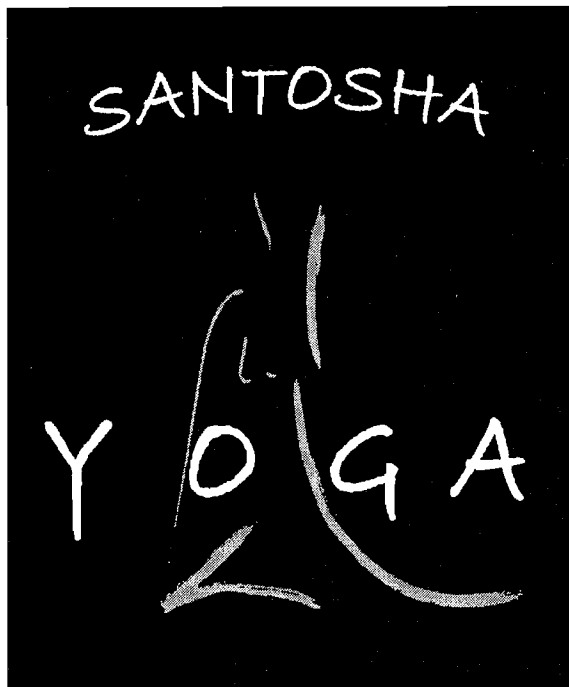
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Mail to the address above.

2002-2003 Officers

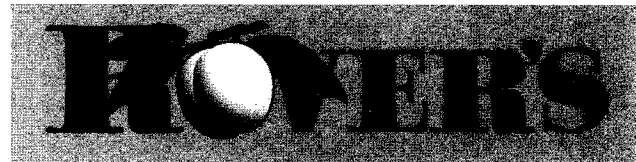
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Treasurer - Candace Poncedeleon
Site Council Rep. - Adrienne Bailey
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Next Community Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 21, 2002, 7:30 p.m.
Martin Luther King Elementary School Portables
3201 E. Republican Street
(parking available on playfield)



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