

Holiday Happiness



Photo courtesy of Joe Stoner

Mariemont TOWN CRIER

DECEMBER 2013 • MARIEMONT, OHIO • VOLUME XXXVIII, No. 4

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGE

Kiwanis Club Kicks Off Annual Nut Sale Fundraiser

The Kiwanis Club of Mariemont has kicked off their annual Holiday Nut Sale

to help raise money for local scholarships. Kiwanis is once again offering a variety of items including Honey Cajun and Cocktail Mixes as well as Almonds, Cashews and Peanuts covered in delicious milk chocolate.

Nuts are available in \$5 and \$10 packages and can be purchased at MariElders. Nuts will also be sold at upcoming Mariemont sporting events and holiday concerts as well as in the school offices, or can be purchased from the MariemontKiwanis.org website. For questions contact John Wenstrup at 513-658-9242 or speak with any Kiwanis member.

The Annual Holiday Nut Sale is one of Kiwanis' largest fundraisers with all net proceeds going towards local scholarships. The Kiwanis Club of Mariemont exists to

serve the youth of the Fairfax, Terrace Park and Mariemont communities, and each year raises nearly \$15,000 in scholarship money for graduating seniors of the Mariemont School District.

In addition, Kiwanis works closely with students in the surrounding communities to provide mentoring relationships and support local youth activities. For information about how you can become more involved in serving our youth, visit their website at MariemontKiwanis.org.

The Kiwanis Club of Mariemont meets every Tuesday morning at 7:45 am in the Mariemont Elementary school cafeteria. A continental breakfast is served at 7:15 am. Meetings last less than one hour and always feature a local speaker.

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(Siblings listed together share routes; siblings listed separately have their own routes)

December deadline:

The deadline for the next *Town Crier* is

January 16, 2014.

All camera-ready ads and articles must be submitted by 5 pm to Claire Kupferle at ckupferle@cinci.rr.com. Articles should be sent via email in Microsoft® Word, with photos sent as jpg files of at least 350KB.

Payment and advertising contracts should be submitted to:

Claire Kupferle, 3844 Indianview, Cinti., OH 45227

The Town Crier is published monthly from September through May as "The Voice Of The Village Of Mariemont." *The Mariemont Town Crier, LLC* is published as a service to the residents and organizations of the Village of Mariemont. Articles (typed and double-spaced) and photographs are welcomed. They may be dropped off or emailed by 5 pm on the article due date. Signed Letters to the Editor are accepted as space allows. The *Town Crier* reserves the right to edit letters for length. Letters to the Editor reflect the opinions of the authors and do not represent the views of *The Town Crier* staff. Photographs will not be returned unless indicated. Due to limited space, the editorial staff reserves the right to select and edit articles for both content and space. As a public service to the non-profit organizations of Mariemont, *The Town Crier* does accept inserts for a fee. The editorial staff reserves the right to select and edit inserts. Inserts and ads of a political nature are not accepted.

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Santa's Elves Return to Mariemont Square

A bustling North Pole means Santa's elves are setting up a new workshop right in the heart of Mariemont, Ohio, at 6940 Madisonville Road. The elves are so excited about this latest site they are opening the workshop for public tours. Visitors are welcome beginning November 29 through December 29. Hours are Wednesday through Friday from 2 pm to 8 pm; Saturday and Sunday 10 am to 8 pm; Christmas Eve 10 am to 4 pm. Closed Christmas Day. Admission is \$4, with a portion of the proceeds benefitting the Ronald McDonald House in Cincinnati. Children three and under are admitted at no charge.

Toys and candy canes are coming alive in the 12 animated scenes in Santa's Workshop, which is presented by The Mariemont Inn. Exhibit owner Bill Spinnenweber purchased the display at an auction several years ago and has since searched for the perfect venue to allow for the public's enjoyment. He believes the experience adds to the special holiday atmosphere in the Village of Mariemont that is annually filled with shimmering tree-lined streets and houses aglow with holiday magic.

"Growing up with the Mariemont Inn as I have and now the owner, I get very excited each year anticipating the Village traditions during the Christmas season," Spinnenweber said.



Photo by Ron Schroeder

"Santa's Workshop in Mariemont is a wonderful addition to these activities. I am especially happy we are able to benefit a local charity that serves children and their families."

He went on to say, "This signature year in Mariemont the elves and I are planning a few special surprises, including a mailbox to drop off letters to Santa, and professional photography with Santa every Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and other days by appointment. Santa will be stopping in periodically to check on the elves' work. We look forward to these activities becoming a part of the long-standing traditions here in the Village."

Native Cincinnatians may recognize the new exhibit from years ago, and for good reason. Its origin dates to the Shillito's

Department Store display from 1979 and years following. At that time more than 130 animated figures were created from scratch by local talent to fill 10 interior vignettes, seven storefront windows, and more than 20 other merchandising windows throughout the store.

Each vignette featured a scene of elves in their North Pole workshop helping Santa build toys to deliver on Christmas Eve. The story begins with children dropping off their letters to Santa in an oversized mailbox and ends where Santa's sleigh is loaded with toys to deliver on Christmas Eve. The vignettes were so popular Shillito's continued to display them every season, making slight changes to keep it new and exciting.

Over time and after Shillito's merged with Federated Department Stores and was renamed Lazarus, the elves were all but forgotten. The display was sold to local Boy Scout Troops, and then finally put on auction in 2005, when Spinnenweber purchased the display.

"I am very happy about being able to preserve this Cincinnati tradition and bring it here to Mariemont," Spinnenweber said. "For me it holds the essence of the magic of the season and brings out the child in all of us."

For more information about Santa's Workshop call the Elf Hotline at 513-620-4ELE, or visit www.thesantaworkshop.com.



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Tree Lighting & Luminaria Night Shines with Community Spirit

Mariemont kicks off the holiday season on December 7 with the Annual Tree Lighting and Luminaria Night in the Old Town Square. This annual event is planned by the Mariemont Preschool Parents Group (MPPG) and has become a cherished tradition. The evening will be filled with wonderful activities including caroling, horse drawn carriage rides, Bell Tower Carillon concert, and a visit from Santa! In addition to the evening's festivities, the streets of the Village will be lined with beautiful candlelit luminaria lanterns.

The Annual Tree Lighting & Luminaria event is MPPG's sole fundraiser. Through sales of luminaria kits to residents and sponsorship from local businesses, the money raised funds projects in our community. Most recently the money has been used to help fund the bathroom facilities and new playground equipment at Dogwood Park. In addition, MPPG also donates 10% of luminaria proceeds to a charitable cause voted on by members of the group. In 2013, the donation was used to update the young children's area at the Mariemont Branch of the Hamilton County Public Library with new seating, educational toys, and puzzles. Thanks to all residents and businesses who make this evening such a success.





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Santa Pictures Info

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Hats Off!

...to Mariemont High School students recently named winners of the 2013 Champions for Children: The Next Generation Award. This Mariemont High School student project, which raised over \$12,000 to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT) around the world, is the winner of 4C for Children's third annual Champions for Children: The Next Generation Award. These funds, raised by a 5K race in September 2013, will save the lives of thousands of babies and mothers in Third World countries who would otherwise die each year from MNT.

Project committee chairs included Addie Shelley, Abby Moreton, Holly Huber, Jon Bezney, Olivia Erhardt and Ryden Lewis. Their Key Club faculty advisor was Julie Bell.

The funds raised by Mariemont students go to The Eliminate Project, a joint effort of Kiwanis International and UNICEF to vaccinate 1 million mothers.

"The \$12,000 raised by the Mariemont Key Club certainly makes it one of the leading Key Clubs worldwide in terms of donations to this project," says Amy Zimmerman, coordinator of the Ohio District Kiwanis - Eliminate Project.

VILLAGE

What's Happening at the Library this Month

December

Children

Tales to Tails: Practice your reading with a therapy dog. Thursday, December 12 at 4:30 pm. Ages 5 to 10.

Collect the Button Book Club (CBBC): Each month, the CBBC features a children's book series. Read at least one book from the series then stop in the library to complete an activity and earn a button. Collect three buttons to receive a free pizza coupon from Snappy Tomato.

Movers and Shakers: Wednesdays at 10:30 am. Ages 1 to 4. Bring the little ones for stories, songs and dance as they learn about the library.

Pre-school Story Time: Wednesdays at 1:30 pm. Join us for stories and crafts. Ages 3 to 5.

Crafty Kids: Thursday, December 12 at 4:00 pm. Ages 5 to 10.

Teens

InBeTween Club: Thursday, December 19 at 4:00 pm. Ages 10 to 18.

Anime Club: Saturday, December 28 at 1:00 pm.

Adults

Downloads Class: If you are struggling with downloading ebooks to your Kindle or other device, we are offering an introductory class Monday, December 9 and December 23 at 6:30 pm. Please call to register as this is an individual, one-on-one session.

Which Craft Needlecraft Club: Stop by with your current work in progress for pointers or just to have fun with co-enthusiasts. Knitting, crochet, needlework-- whatever you like to do. Saturday, December 7 and December 21 at 10:30 am.

Technology Classes: Interested in brushing up on computer basics or just starting out with technology? We offer one-on-one instruction Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2:00 p.m. Call the branch and schedule a session.

Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day

Mariemont Branch Library, 3810 Pocahontas Avenue, 369-4467

Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, Noon to 8:00 pm. Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 10:00 am. to 6:00 pm.

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News from MariElders

Holiday Tea

When: Wednesday December 11. Time: 12:00 pm. Cost: \$28 for members, \$32 for non-members. Where: Meet at MariElders. Let's have tea! High Tea for Christmas at the Heritage Tastings at the Cottage, a full-course meal will be served along with tea. Sign up with a paid reservation at the Center front desk by December 6.

Lollipop Craft Show

When: Saturday December 14. Time: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Cost: FREE. Where: Mariemont Elementary School. Do your Christmas shopping here. Over 50 professional crafters and vendors will be on hand selling their items. Food will be available in the cafeteria.

Amy Grant & Vince Gill Concert

When: Tuesday December 17. Time: 6:00 pm. Cost: \$75 for members, \$80 for non-members. Where: Meet at MariElders. The Cincinnati Pops Orchestra has added a "dream team" singing duo to its elite holiday offerings, welcoming back cross-genre superstar Amy Grant along with Country Music Hall of Famer Vince Gill for a one-night-only concert event at Music Hall on Tuesday, December 17. The pair will be performing traditional holiday favorites as well as new classics from their multi-platinum Christmas albums. Sign up with a paid reservation at the Center front desk.

MariElders' Christmas Party

When: Wednesday December 18. Time: 4:30 pm. Cost: \$5 for members, \$7 for non-members, and bring a \$5 gift to exchange. Where: Fairfax Recreation Center. It's time for our annual MariElders Christmas party and you are invited! There will be fun, food, entertainment, and laughter for everyone. The Merry Moore's

will perform some classic Christmas music and funny skits for our enjoyment. Our catered Dinner will be served at 5:00 pm and the entertainment will begin at 5:30 pm. Please sign up with a paid reservation at the Center front desk by December 14.

Breakfast & the Ballet: The Nutcracker

When: Thursday December 19. Time: 8:30 am. Cost: \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members. Where: Meet at MariElders. First we will have breakfast at First Watch and then we will head over to the Aronoff for the ballet. The Nutcracker is a classic and a must see at Christmas time. Sign up with a paid reservation at the Center front desk, space is limited.

Museum Days: The Taft Museum of Art

When: Friday December 20. Time: 10:30 am. Cost: \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members, lunch on own. Where: Meet at MariElders. Join us

as we head to The Taft Museum of Art for Antique Christmas, their special holiday exhibit. Be swept away into the holiday mood by visiting this display of antique ornaments, toys, and decorations. We will have lunch in the Café at the Taft. Sign up with a paid reservation at the Center front desk by December 13.

Megan Hilty/Cincinnati Pops: Broadway

When: Sunday January 26. Time: 12:30 pm. Cost: \$70 for members, \$75 for non-members. Where: Meet at MariElders. Join us as we go see the Cincinnati Pops and Megan Hilty. Megan Hilty returns to the Music Hall stage after a stunning debut with the Cincinnati Pops in 2009 ("Wicked Divas"). The vivacious star of Broadway's *Wicked*, *Gentleman Prefer Blondes* and *9 to 5: The Musical*, as well as the NBC hit television series *Smash*. Megan joins JMR and the Pops for an unforgettable evening of Broadway favorites and songs from her new album, *It Happens all the Time*. Your Pops will round out the program with hits from Hollywood and Broadway. Sign up with a paid reservation at the Center front desk by December 6.

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Resident's Son Takes on Mt. Kilimanjaro to Help African Orphans

BY CLAIRE KUPFERLE, EDITOR

The summit of Mount Kilimanjaro stands 19,340 feet above sea level, but to Rob Pavone, son of Joan Bender (Petoskey Avenue), the real challenge is helping African children orphaned by wars, disease, or famine. Rob and several other hikers tackled both challenges in September of this year.

Rob lives in North Carolina and partnered with ZOE Ministry, affiliated with the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, to raise money to help transform the lives of African orphans. The "Trekkin' Team," as they called themselves, created Trekkin' for ZOE to combine their love for the outdoors and their passion to serve others in need. They had a goal of \$19,340, which they exceeded by bringing in \$20,568. Rob said, "I have personally known Greg Jenks, the executive director for ZOE, for several years now and I have seen his passion for these African



Funds raised are being used to support 108 orphans in the Mwangaza ("light") Liburu Working Group of Kenya.

children. His passion 'rubs off' on a person, and we wanted to help him by dedicating a full year to raising the awareness and funds necessary for ZOE." The team of 5 (Rob Pavone,

John Chambers, Roger and Auston Moore, and David McDowell) summited at 3:20 pm on Sunday, September 22 after a 7-day climb.

The funds they raised are being used to support 108 orphans in the Mwangaza ("light") Liburu Working Group which is in the hilly Mukulu Location of the administrative region of Igembe Central District in Meru County, Kenya. This funding provides training and access to resources in farming, animal husbandry, small business, health and hygiene, HIV/AIDS prevention, housing, education and child rights. The skills these orphans learn will give them the ability to pull themselves out of poverty in 2-3 years and will help to create sustainability in their life and community moving forward.

If you are interested in learning more about Rob's trip or the work done by ZOE, visit: <http://zoetrek.blogspot.com> and <http://www.zoehelps.org>.



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That Aha Moment:

Meet More of the Entrepreneurial Women of Mariemont

BY HEATHER MCGUIRE

Let's imagine you have a child who isn't particularly easy to get ready in the morning. Most of us have at least one. Maybe he says the tags are itchy. Or maybe her favorite color is suddenly blue and she has a closet full of pink. Or maybe he's decided dinosaurs are out and trucks are in. Wouldn't it be great if you could present said child with a top made just for her? What if you could give him a t-shirt in his favorite color with his initial or a red train? Getting dressed just got a whole lot easier! And if your daughter thinks you're suddenly awesome because you give her a t-shirt with a mustache on it, well... then all the better.

Now that your kid is dressed it's time for breakfast. It seems we can't watch the news or read an article without hearing of another preservative or color that we shouldn't be feeding our family. We can't feed our kids a healthy meal unless we are growing our own vegetables, grinding our own wheat, and raising our own chickens. And if it's easy to make, it's definitely bad. Not so fast... don't give up just yet! What if you could give your family an all natural breakfast-- one that would even impress your Pinterest friends-- and all you have to do is rip open a bag?

Speaking of Pinterest, there may be no easier way to doubt your skills as a parent, baker, or friend than by scrolling through your Pinterest homepage. And it doesn't take long before you're overwhelmed by the perfect and flawless images of other people's family photos. Sisters caught in a spontaneous embrace, toddlers in a field of autumn leaves sprinkled with sun, a family posed and yet perfectly natural. We know these moments can exist for us... we know it would be nothing short of spectacular if someone could capture those abstract things that we love most about our family-- but when we try it ourselves, we manage to get half-opened eyes, the blur of someone running away, and



In addition to onesies, Julie Aiello's Emmalou Lane business makes one-of-a-kind personalized items for celebrations and special events.

Photos by Ron Schroeder

awkwardly fake smiles. Or maybe that's just me. Luckily, not everyone is as unskilled as I am with a camera.

I can't solve all your problems. But I can tell you where you can go to get your hard-to-please fashionista's new, one-of-a-kind t-shirt. I'll tell you how to make your family a wholesome, healthy, and delicious breakfast in a few easy steps. And I can help you fill those empty frames on your mantle and the wall space above your couch with the pictures of your family that you always knew were possible. But you're on your own with the hammer and nails.

Julie Aiello didn't start out making t-shirts but she has always been crafty and very creative. So when her best friend, Meredith Gerry, was getting ready to have her first baby a few years ago and saw a onesie online that had a tie on it, Julie had an idea. There were these cute little tie onesies... just a plain old t-shirt with a man's tie on it," Julie said. "And I told her, 'I think my silhouette

machine cuts fabric, let me see if I could do that and make you one.'" They spent a weekend experimenting with different shapes, themes, and fabric. Using her silhouette machine, which she originally used for scrapbooking-- looks a little like a printer, has a blade, and is hooked up to her computer so that it will cut a certain shape-- she was able to cut fabric and heat-transfer material. So what started out as, "a fun weekend where we made all these onesies," eventually turned into Julie's business, Emmalou Lane.

Julie made t-shirts for her daughters with their initials and they wore them to school. A couple of moms asked her where she got those adorable shirts and Julie said, "I made them." In a small village like Mariemont full of moms and kids, that's all she needed to say. Before she knew it, she was off and running! She started out very small, just doing shirts for friends and charging \$5 per item. "You give me a shirt and I'll put anything you want on it for five bucks a piece," she said of when

VILLAGE



Christy White's love of granola led to the birth of her business - Whirlybird Granola.

she first started. "It was like Christmas! I got all these orders, I made a little money, people seemed happy, and that's how it blew up," said Julie. It quickly went from a hobby to something looking a whole lot like a small business. That's when her husband, Marc, got involved. A proud, supportive husband and a skilled web designer, he told Julie that it was time for a business name and a website.

It was a scary moment as she contemplated taking something she simply enjoyed doing and turning it into a real business. "I don't know if I want to be a professional... that seems like a little bit much. This is just my hobby! I'll do it for friends, but I don't know about this," she said with a laugh. As she continued making her one-of-a-kind items, as she got more comfortable with the machine and the technique, and as it turned into a nice little side income, she decided that Marc was right. Her scary moment turned into an "aha moment." She named her business Emmalou Lane, which is a combination of her daughter's names: Emma and Alaina. And Marc helped her with her website: www.emmaloulane.com which will take you to the Facebook page. She quickly expanded to fit the needs of many

different ages, groups, and celebrations. She makes personalized aprons as party favors, can create group t-shirts for a race or a trip to Disney, and can produce a pack of onesies for every month from birth to baby's first birthday. "I love seeing people wear my stuff in pictures... at Disney World and on the first day of school. My stuff is being worn when people are having fun and it's a special occasion and I'm part of their special day," Julie said. When she goes to school pickup and sees kids running around with shirts she made, she has a little moment of big pride. "It's pretty awesome," said Julie. "Someone sees a shirt and asks where you got it. 'That lady over there made it for me – go ask her about it!' I actually get more contacts that way than through my Facebook account." Julie has made a quality product and every time a kid goes zooming by with an Emmalou Lane original, it's like her own little commercial... because they're always cute, they hold up over time, and you can't find them anywhere else. Well... that's not completely true. You can find Emmalou Lane tees and onesies in two retail outlets: The Little Red Gift Shop on Remington Road here in Cincinnati and The Morgan House

in Dublin, Ohio. You'll also find Julie at craft fairs, like the one held every summer in Mariemont and the MariElder's Craft Fair on December 14 from 10-4. Along with the coolest shirts in town, Julie also sports a Masters in Education with a Reading Endorsement and is a preschool teacher at Mariemont Community Church. And somehow she is making it all fit perfectly.

~

Christy White started her business out of her home as well... but she wasn't in a craft room, she was in the kitchen. Christy White loves granola. I mean she really loves it. Like eats-it-several-times-a-day loves it. Early on, she started tinkering with her own ingredients, trying different components and coming up with her own recipes. She started making it "all the time." She fed it to her family, gave it as gifts, and continued to enjoy it herself. Christy knew she had something special when her family kept encouraging her to sell her granola— yep, it's that good. In the spring of 2011, Christy finally agreed and set up a booth at the City Flea in May. "I started doing it for fun and sold out of all the granola at the first market and thought, 'okay, maybe this is something bigger,'" she said. The timing couldn't have been better. She was pregnant with twin boys and she had been looking for a way to step away from her corporate job at GE and find something that would be more "on the side." Christy's "aha moment" came about with surprising effortlessness... everything fell easily into place after she sold out during that first market. "It was meant to happen this way and it flowed perfectly into having something on the side to do," she said.

A friend said that he would design the labels for her so she just needed to come up with a name for her product. The name "Whirlybird Granola" comes from Christy's desire to emphasize that this is a local product with wholesome ingredients. "The granola is sweetened with pure maple syrup from a farm up in Columbus, I really wanted to emphasize that it was local," she said. "The seed of the sugar maple is a whirlybird-- the helicopter seed. The bird on the package looks like it has a helicopter coming out of its head... so it's totally a play on words." When

(Continued on next page)

'Meet More of the Entrepreneurial Women of Mariemont,' Continued:

most of us would have been overwhelmed with the birth of twin boys, Christy was just getting started. She took a short break when the babies were born in October and by January of 2012, she was back in action. Soon Whirlybird Granola was selling in Park & Vine, Jungle Jim's, and Whole Foods. "It was so exciting to me when I got it into Whole Foods!" she said. "There was a moment when I just pinched myself. I see it there now and it's still a weird feeling."

Originally I had this image of Christy in the kitchen all day, every day; apron on, oats and maple syrup covering her kitchen, babies everywhere. But then I realized that's how it would look if I were doing this... Christy is considerably more organized. She quickly outgrew her own kitchen and now rents out kitchen space in Indiana that has five huge ovens and can bake 25 trays at a time. "My family all comes with me," she said. "My dad comes with me every time. My husband and my sisters kind of alternate depending on schedules." Christy and her family head for their day of baking one day a month and make 2,000 bags of granola. Surprisingly, making it is the least time consuming. Christy spends most of her time marketing her product, selling it at different markets around the city, and talking to vendors about selling her granola in their store. She has been so pleased with the small business communities within Mariemont and the City of Cincinnati. "There are lots of small businesses in Cincinnati," she said. "It's really cool to see how everyone supports everybody. The reason it is doing so well and why I love doing it is because I believe in it. It is a very clean, natural granola," added Christy. "I can stand behind it and say 'this is really the best granola I've ever had.' That's really important to me."

Her biggest challenge now is how to balance the business growth so she's not overwhelmed. "I'm taking it very slowly," she said. "My kids are young, so I want the business to be manageable. It's really about controlled growth." Christy recently had another baby. A baby girl-- and just one this time. But as we've seen, having children

doesn't slow her down in the least. Now, in addition to the stores previously mentioned, Whirlybird Granola is available at Pipkin's Market, Keegan's Seafood, Joseph-Beth Booksellers, Carabello Coffee, Anthony's Salon, Aroma's Java & Gelato, and Zip Dip. You can also find her at the "Wrapped Up" City Flea Holiday Market in Washington Park on December 14 from 5-10.

~

Paola Biro doesn't just take pictures of her own children; she takes pictures of everyone's children. A look of intensity on the soccer field, a smile from the baseball diamond, or crouched on the diving block in a swim cap and goggles, Paola has a gift for capturing a moment. That moment... that special moment when you look at a picture of your child and you are speechless with knowledge that that was "it!" That expression you try to hold on to, the you always try to make them recreate -- yep, that's the one she got. When Paola is on the sidelines cheering for her little ones, her camera is part of her uniform. Forget trying to get my kid on a soccer team with a particular coach, I just want my kids to play on the same team as her kids just so she can take pictures of them.

Paola's journey from mom-with-a-camera to photographer was such a natural one. She has always loved taking pictures, but she really started getting serious when her children were born. "I really started loving to take pictures when I had kids and wanted to record all of those little memories of how they're growing up and how they changed," she said. She would get professional pictures, but they never turned out how she had hoped. "I just started getting out there and buying books; got a better camera, a better lens, and started shooting a lot of objects until I got what I wanted."

She took her camera with her on field trips and to sporting events and her pictures just kept getting better. So good, in fact, friends asked if she would take their pictures. "And I love doing it!" she said. Paola's "aha moment" was as clear as the pictures she snaps. The more business she got, the more obvious it became that

she needed to make this more formal. "I wanted the name to be something that was not limited to photography," Paola said. "I wanted to open my doors to other things. So I chose 'Image.' It has a broader meaning to it. 'Image' represents a lot more than just photography... it is more a representation of the memory." Image by Biro was created by Paola with the intention of not just taking pictures, but capturing a memory-- a special moment of which she feels privileged to be a part. She also looks forward to broadening the scope. Eventually she would like to expand and have her own designs for Christmas cards, Valentine's Day presents, and personalized gifts. "So you could give a personalized Mother's Day card or a little Valentine's bookmark with their picture on it, it would be the only one like it," said Paola. She can provide an opportunity for you to give friends, family, even yourself, the gift of something unique and special. "It's nice to find something that is just you-- you and your family," she said. And it's not just the photo sessions Paola loves, she really enjoys going through the pictures and editing them. "The part when I have the most fun is when I get home, the house is quiet, and the kids are in bed... I get a cup of coffee, I turn on my computer, I download the pictures, and I start going one by one," she said. "There are a lot of images I look at that I cannot stop myself from smiling. It just makes me feel so happy... we got it!!"

Paola hasn't done much advertising. So far, she hasn't needed to. "I put the pictures on Facebook, tag them, and hope their friends will see them and call," she said. "And so far it's working great!" This means her work is speaking for itself and people like what they see, which is the best feedback she could have. "When someone calls me to book a session because they have seen my work," said Paola. "That makes me really happy."

As strong as these women are, they don't do it alone. Paola says her husband gave her the courage to take the leap. "I would credit James, he was the one who told me to go for it," she said. "There are a lot of nice cameras out there," he said, "but you have to



Image by Biro represents Paola Biro's passion for photography and the joy of capturing the moment.

have a certain eye for composition and you have it." Whirlybird Granola may not be what it is today without the group effort Christy's family gives to each monthly bake session. And although her husband may not do much with the actual granola, she said, "I don't know what I'd do without him." His support and encouragement have helped her get where she is today. And Emmalou Lane has been very much a family affair. Her mom helps her sew, her dad helps her set up at the markets, and her husband is the one who encouraged her to make this into something more than just a hobby. These talented women would be the first in line to encourage you, if you have the kernel of an idea and you're wondering if it

might pop. "If you don't try, you never know what could happen," said Paola. So keep these ladies in mind this holiday season while you're doing your shopping. You could grab a package of gingerbread granola for a friend, set up a family photo shoot for your mom, and find personalized holiday shirts for the kids. You can even get Julie to make you a shirt with a super hero on the front... because that's just how you'll feel!

Contact information: www.emmaloulane.com and julie@emmaloulane.com; whirlybirdgranola@gmail.com and Facebook; www.imagebybiro.com and Facebook.

Council Creates Advisory Board for South 80



Council representative Joe Stelzer has been involved for almost two years with the revitalization of the part of Mariemont known as the South 80 or Lower 80. Initial efforts focused on clearing brush and making primitive trails. Joe and the other "Axemen" created a trail system that has become very popular with Mariemont residents. Mr. Stelzer says interest continues to grow and residents are coming up with exciting new ideas for using the area, like primitive camping sites and bringing irrigation to the garden area.

Council has formalized the group by creating an advisory board, similar to the ones that help manage the parks, swimming pool and tennis courts. The function of the group will be to report to the mayor and council and bring to their attention any issues that the Village needs to address. The group will also organize volunteers to handle ongoing maintenance of the area, which will save the Village money. Other duties could include implementing or coordinating policies and procedures. There will be 11 members initially appointed to a one-year term. During the first year members would establish policies for board terms and appointments.

All meetings are open to the public and minutes will be kept.



Mariemont's Own Little Free Library

By JOAN WELSH

Driving down Mt. Vernon Avenue you may have caught something out of the corner of your eye. What was that? A bird house? Some sort of lawn décor? No, Mariemont residents now have their own Little Free Library!

Grant and Laura Karnes have placed this Little Free Library on the east side of their property at 6909 Mt. Vernon Avenue. They have volunteered to be the stewards of this library for all who wish to use it. Little Free Libraries have a unique, personal touch and there is an understanding that real people are sharing their favorite books with their community. These aren't just any old books, this is a carefully curated collection and the Library itself is a piece of neighborhood art!

Todd Bol of Hudson, Wisconsin built what would eventually be called the first "Little Free Library" as a memorial tribute to his mother in 2009. Rick Brooks of Madison, Wisconsin and he put together the ideas and strategies that led to other Little Free Libraries being installed in Minneapolis, Madison and other communities. But many of the people most responsible for the success of this movement are the "early adopters" of the idea who purchased Libraries made by Bol and others for their



Laura Karnes hopes that the Mt. Vernon Avenue Little Free Library will help to build a sense of community in Mariemont through the love of sharing books.

front yards. They became the stewards of the tangible and intangible parts of the Little Free Library mission: to promote a sense of community, reading for children, literacy for adults and libraries around the world. Stewards often build the Libraries that serve their communities. They fill them with books, protect and promote them, and come up with new ways to share the goodwill generated by these neighborhood book exchanges.

Todd Bol and Rick Brooks were inspired by many different ideas some of which were:

- Andrew Carnegie's support of 2,509 free public libraries around the turn of the 19th to 20th century.
- The heroic achievements of Miss Lutie Stearns, a librarian who brought books to nearly 1400 locations in Wisconsin through "traveling little libraries" between 1895 and 1914.

- "Take a book, leave a book" collections in coffee shops and public spaces.

The Little Free Library's mission is: To promote literacy and the love of reading by building free book exchanges worldwide and to build a sense of community as we share skills, creativity and wisdom across generations.

Originally the goal of The Little Free Library organization was to build 2,510 Little Free Libraries, which was as many as Andrew Carnegie built. This goal has now

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VILLAGE

been surpassed and by January 2014 the total number of registered Little Free Libraries in the world is conservatively estimated to be between 10,000 and 12,000 with thousands more being built.

The www.littlefreelibrary.org website and a loyal cadre of volunteers made it possible to expand the organizational reach beyond the co-founders to a movement centered in the enthusiasm and commitment of stewards who hosted and often built their own neighborhood Libraries.

And the rest...is history, documented in newspapers, blogs and broadcasts throughout the world. The year 2011 brought local, regional and national media attention to the backyard project that had become a movement. With nearly 400 Little Free Libraries across the U.S. by the end of the year, the founders knew it was time to become a formal, independent organization. In May, 2012, Little Free Library was officially established as a Wisconsin nonprofit corporation with a board of directors.

Laura Karnes earned her Masters degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Michigan. She has worked professionally at the Washington University Library and in the Memphis Public Library system. Laura first learned about the important role of libraries during a summer job position at the downtown branch of the Public Library of Cincinnati Hamilton County. Having a love for libraries makes being a steward for a Little

Free Library a natural choice for Laura.

While reading a Delta Airlines Sky magazine, Laura first learned about the Little Free Library movement. She then suggested to Grant that having a Little Free Library of her own would make a perfect Christmas gift. Grant took the hint and purchased her official Little Free Library. Her library kit did arrive last Christmas and Laura has painted this little library to match her own home's design and color scheme. The Little Library is officially registered as #4261 and will be located on the map found on the Little Free Library website. Our nearest Little Free Library is at a home in Hyde Park which has placed two in their yard.

Laura Karnes hopes that the Mt. Vernon Avenue Little Free Library will help to build a sense of community in Mariemont through the love of sharing books. It's a simple process: If you take a book, you should leave a book. What a wonderful way to share the love of reading and ideas! Both adult and children's books are welcomed. Initially Laura and her daughters, Katie and Anna stocked their Little Free Library with books they loved. There is a small notebook in their library where users can record their thoughts about a special book or ideas with neighbors. If you stop by and the library is "full" don't worry. Laura and her

family will take care of any overflow needs.

There is no "checking out" procedure for borrowing a book. There is no need for a library card. There are no late fines. Open up the front door to the library and if you see a title you'd like to read go ahead and take it. Then your responsibility is to bring another book back to the Little Free Library. Laura hopes neighbors out walking their dogs or going for a bike ride will stop to look through the available titles. Do you have a great book you just finished reading? Why not donate it to our new Little Free Library and select something "new" for yourself? Mount Vernon neighbor, Kim Pipkin says she feels the Little Library certainly "enhances our neighborhood!"

This Little Free Library belongs to everybody---neighbors, friends, and people we don't even know yet. Anyone can use it. That's why we want to take care of it and use it! While the Little Free Library is about reading and books, it's also about sharing ideas with others. Leave a note in a book, read the flyer in the Little Library, introduce yourself and sign up in the journal. We hope to see you on the street!

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Showcase of the Arts – Holiday Shopping at the Barn

***Saturday, December 7 &
Sunday, December 8***

Showcase of Arts is coming back to the Barn! This festive, annual shopping event captures the sights, sounds and scents of the holidays on Saturday and Sunday, December 7 & 8. Over two dozen local artisans display

and sell their handmade arts such as pottery, soap, glass, wood, mosaics, jewelry, fabric & fiber art, baked treats, paintings and notecards in the charming vintage Barn, a delightful spot to shop. Do you love

Pinterest? We now have a page where you can sneak a peek at our artisans' creations. Go to www.pinterest.com and search The Barn (Woman's Art Club of Cincinnati).

Enjoy lunch or a tasty snack at the EAT Food Truck. Free Admission. Saturday December 7 from 10 am – 4 pm. Sunday December 8 from noon – 4 pm.



"Small Treasures" ***Artwork for Gifting - Opens December 10***

Coming to the Gallery on December 10 is the show "Small Treasures," a collection of oils, watercolors and pastels by Active Members of the Woman's Art Club of Cincinnati, a select group of members noted for the fine quality of their work. Find that perfect, unique gift in this show and sale of artwork measuring 8" by 10" or less. The show is open weekdays December 10-13 and December 17-20 from 10 am- 2 pm. Weekend hours are Sunday December 15, and Saturday & Sunday December 21-22 from 11 am-3 pm.

(Continued on next page)

W O M A N ' S A R T C L U B C U L T U R A L C E N T E R

New Art Academy of Cincinnati Classes at The Barn

Registration is now open for several classes being held at The Barn beginning in early 2014, with information below. Remember art lessons make a wonderful gift. The Art Academy of Cincinnati is offering gift certificates for these classes. Follow the community education link on their website for more information.

Mosaics at the Barn with Sandy

Caruso: 6 classes on Wednesdays, January 22- February 26, 9 am-noon.

After-school Art for Kids with

Kelly Langdon: Two 6-class sessions, on Thursdays, February 6-March 13, March 20-April 24, 4-6 pm.

Art for Home-Schoolers: 6 classes, Wednesday, March 5-April 9, 5:30-7:30 pm.

Oriental Ink Painting with Young Hi Lee: 6

classes on Saturdays, April 19-May 24, 9:30 am-noon.

Registration is available at www.artatthebarn.org, follow the link to the Barn and then to classes. Or go to [www.artacademy.edu//community_education](http://www.artacademy.edu/community_education).

"Joan, The Girl of Arc"

Performed by the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park's "Off the Hill" interns - Friday, January 24, 7 pm

Don't miss this special evening of live theater at the Barn, sponsored by the Mariemont Arts Association and coordinated by Nicole Parr, social studies teacher at Mariemont Junior High School. How did Joan of Arc, sainted savior of France, grow to be such a brave inspirational leader, determined to stand up for her beliefs? This powerful and dramatic world premiere adaptation follows Joan as a young girl starting to examine her own beliefs, through her journey of understanding, inspiration and leadership. A brief Q & A session with the actors follows the show. For ages 11 and up.



Free admission. To reserve seats, please pre-register at <https://thebarn.cincyregister.com/joanofarc>.

groups will then come together and perform. Nondancing parents may have just enough time to grab a coffee and return for the performance! \$5/person, please register at <https://thebarn.cincyregister.com/firstsunday>.

First Sunday Family Funday

"Dance Spectrum Workshop"

A First Sunday Family Funday event with the Cincinnati Ballet

The First Sunday Family Funday series has been so popular – both December and January's events have already sold out, so don't delay in registering for February's and the remainder of the season through May. See a photo from November's event, where families had great fun making Kalam Pens and Mandalas with artist Radha Lakshmi.



- Sunday, February 2

The First Sunday Family Funday series, sponsored by the Mariemont Preservation Foundation, offers "Dance Spectrum Workshop" with the Cincinnati Ballet on Sunday, February 2 at 2 pm. In this very interactive event, kids (and parents!) will be split into three groups, each learning choreography for a different style of dance: ballet, modern, maybe even hip-hop! The three



A l'Enfance in Mariemont

By JOE STONER, MFP

Addressing Mariemont residents in the first issue of the Mariemont Messenger (March 19, 1926) Mary Emery asked, "... And the children—do you feel safer about them? Are their faces a little ruddier; are their legs a little sturdier? Do they laugh and play a lot louder in Mariemont? Then I am content."

Although construction didn't begin until 1923, Mariemont had been Mary Emery's vision since 1910 when she was 66 years old. Part of her rationale for founding Mariemont was her love of children, made more poignant by the early deaths of both of her children, Albert in 1884 and Sheldon in 1890. She wanted children of people of modest means to have a happy and safe



The statuary group officially named A l'Enfance (To Childhood) graces Dale Park in Mariemont. Photo by Joe Stoner

place to grow up, away from the pollution and problems of the city.

What the Village needed was a piece of outdoor sculpture to symbolize this vision. Charles Livingood, Mary Emery's chief assistant, found it on one of his trips to Paris. It was a small clay model of a group of three statues entitled A l'Enfance (To Childhood) and depicted three generations of a French peasant family. The prominent French sculptor, Lucien Alliot (1877-1967), had previously exhibited a life-sized plaster

cast of this model in the 1920 Paris Salon where it won a gold medal. He hoped the city of Paris would buy a limestone version for one of its many city parks. Paris declined and the plaster cast was destroyed, leaving only the clay model. Emery was very interested but unfortunately died in October, 1927 before a deal could be arranged for a life-sized limestone version.

At the February, 1928 Emery Foundation Board meeting, Board President Livingood informed the members that for many years Mrs. Emery had been planning a memorial to children in the form of a piece of sculpture by the French sculptor Alliot for Dale Park Gardens. After members of the Board examined pictures of the proposed statuary and discussed the issue, they authorized Livingood to contract for the full-sized limestone sculpture and its base. Paris authorities permitted the statuary group to be made and shipped to Mariemont only if Livingood granted Paris the right to make an "original" from the sculptor's model (which it never did). Accordingly, an inscription was put on the back stating the original of the monument is owned by the City of Paris. Now barely legible due to erosion, it reads:

L'ORIGINAL DE
CE MONUMENT
APPARTIENT
A VILLE DE
PARIS

While the three statues were being produced in Paris, their concrete base was being constructed in Mariemont under the attentive direction of Warren Parks, Mariemont Resident Engineer. Much effort was made to make the base match the French limestone as closely as possible. Various mixtures of cement, sand and marble chips were tried until a fair match

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was obtained. After curing, the base was "bush hammered" (roughened) to give it the desired texture. Dale Park Gardens at that time had elaborately designed formal flower gardens and flagstone walks. To aesthetically integrate the statuary, the site was redesigned by Andrew Dorward, Mariemont Landscape Architect.

The day of the unveiling, Saturday, November 16, 1929, was Alliot's 52nd birthday. It was just two and a half weeks after the devastating stock market crash and the beginning of the Great Depression. But it was a great day in Mariemont with two major dedication ceremonies attended by about 3000 people. The first was the dedication of the Carillon Tower, itself a very major addition to Mariemont. The crowd then moved to Dale Park Gardens for the dedication of A l'Enfance. Three little Mariemont girls (Susan Gallagher, Dorothy Knoeppel, and Sally Trangmer) pulled the ropes that removed the veils from the statues. This was followed by a bell concert from the new carillon.

Through all the seasons of the past 85 years, A l'Enfance has been an iconic Mariemont landmark celebrating family life. It also has been slowly disappearing. Limestone is relatively easy to sculpt but is very susceptible to erosion, especially from acidic rain. Experts have told Village officials there is little that can be done other than cleaning because that is the nature of limestone. Perhaps a new A l'Enfance could be sculpted for the Mariemont Centennial in

Hats Off!



...to Olivia Erhardt, Mariemont High School senior, who recently received the Springer Award and was judged the best of all the writing submissions from the city of Cincinnati by the historic Mercantile Library in downtown Cincinnati. Olivia received a yearlong membership to the Library and a cash prize during the Day Bequest Luncheon on Thursday, October 17.

Each high school in the Greater Cincinnati area nominates a student, but it is the Mercantile Library staff that judges the writing submissions and selects the best piece. Mariemont High School English teacher Cheryl Toepfer nominated Olivia for the award, and the Mercantile Library took it from there.

"Our students are always impressed when they attend the luncheon at the Mercantile Library, and the Mariemont High School English Department is pleased that the library presents this opportunity to our students," said Ms. Toepfer. "All of the students selected by their individual high schools are considered the best writers in their class, so we are very proud of Olivia for her accomplishment."

The guest speaker for the luncheon was Julie Zimmerman, who is an Opinion Enterprise Writer at the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, and is a former contributing editor at *Cincinnati Magazine*.

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Visit: MariemontAlterations.com

Jordan Park Resident Honored with Memorial Bench and Tree

BY CLAIRE KUPFERLE, EDITOR

Ray Colton was one of those people who, if he saw something that needed doing, would just take care of it. When the carrier would drop off a stack of Town Criers at the Jordan Park condominiums, it was Ray who delivered them to everyone's door. It was Ray who would come to the rescue if someone's printer was jammed or a window was stuck. He also tackled big jobs like new doors for the parking garage. As president of the Jordan Park condo association, Ray was very helpful with any problems residents might have in their units.

When Ray passed away, residents felt the loss keenly and wanted to do something so they could all remember his tireless efforts and selfless spirit. Since their building



Ray's wife, Carolyn Colton, and family, including daughter Carole Fahnestock, grandsons Ben and Will Fahnestock, and son Keith Colton gather at his bench.



faces Jordan Park, resident Rosemary Paris suggested planting a dogwood tree, while Nina Rogers came up with the idea of donating an engraved bench. Bob Osman, who took over as condo association president following Ray's death, jumped into action. The group met with Louise Schomburg of the Park Board to be sure they followed Village guidelines regarding the tree and bench. They selected a teak bench

and decided on a Kousa dogwood for the site.

An application was submitted to the Village for approval, and the space was marked. Bob Osman's wife, Esther, coordinates maintenance of the landscape architecture at Jordan Park, and she

contacted the landscape company, Brickman, to talk about purchasing a tree. They immediately offered to donate the dogwood. The condo association purchased the teak bench, made by the only company in the U.S. that makes teak benches, located right in Milford.

On a sunny day in November, residents of Jordan Park gathered for the unveiling

of the bench. Despite the number of people involved in the project, Ray's wife, Carolyn Colton, was completely surprised when her daughter, Carole Fahnestock of Miami Road, took her across the street for the ceremony. After the dedication ceremony, guests were treated to refreshments at Rosemary Paris' home. All agreed the bench and tree are fitting reminders of the wonderful man they were fortunate to have lived beside.

Here is the text of the dedication read by Bob Osmun:

In memory of Ray Colton, our dear friend and neighbor, the residents of Jordan Park are honoring his memory with this Kousa Dogwood tree and the teak bench which accompanies it.

We will remember him forever for the leadership and the service he provided as the first President of the Jordan Park Condominium Association.

He enriched our lives beyond measure and we are grateful for his presence amongst us with his wonderful friendship, humor, goodwill and zest for life.

We will enjoy sitting beneath the branches remembering our times together.

~ Ray's neighbors at Jordan Park



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Kelsey Louise Walker and Alexander Lewis



Cynthia and Greg Kenny, formerly of Mariemont, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter/step-daughter, Kelsey Louise Walker, to Alexander (Lexy) Lewis, son of Sarah and David Lewis of Terrace Park.

Kelsey received her MSN from Xavier with an undergraduate degree in History from Ohio University. She works for Miami Valley Hospital Dayton as an RN in the emergency department. Lex graduated from Warren Wilson College in North Carolina, and became an arborist. He works for Madison Tree in Cincinnati.

Both Kelsey and Lex reside in Mariemont and are graduates of Mariemont High School. A May 31, 2014 wedding is planned at Greenacres in Indian Hill.

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"Village of Mariemont – 17th Century"

This wonderful painting by Mary Lou Holt imagines what the Native American village along the Little Miami River might have been like. The oil painting was unveiled at the Mariemont Civic Association on December 5. Limited edition prints are available to purchase for \$150 each, with proceeds going into a fund dedicated to the South 80 project. The artist said, "This painting tells a visual story about the Fort Ancient Indians that once lived on this land. There are many little stories within the painting that depict their everyday life and how everyone, young and old, depended on one another. Each had an important

role to play to help sustain their village by the Little Miami River. I hope the residents of Mariemont, both young and old, enjoy looking at all the details and learning about the Indians that lived here long ago."

For Town Crier
Advertising Information,
contact Claire Kupferle @
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Mariemont Second Graders Explore Site of Native American Village

The Mariemont Preservation Foundation led the Mariemont Elementary School 2nd grade students through various hands-on learning stations at the Madisonville Site in Mariemont, so the students could learn more about the day-to-day lives of the local Late Fort Ancient Native American tribes. The students built their own cache pit,



to teach local history through presentations about the local Native American tribes, first pioneers and settlers of the area, as well as Mariemont Village government and the history of Mariemont.

If your group or organization is interested in a presentation, contact MPF at admin@mariemontpreservation.org.



Left, Stuart Wells and Magnolia McCoy observing a Native American artifact found in the area. Above, Brynna O'Brien makes a headdress for herself, after painting her face. Right, Gavin Van Scoy and Kayla Nevius discuss tools used by the Native Americans with Mariemont Preservation Foundation volunteer Tom Monger.



ground corn, played a hunting skills game, painted their faces and made headdresses, handled artifacts, played instruments and performed an archaeological "dig." The Mariemont Preservation Foundation's goal is

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Council Notes Available Online

The most recent Council, ARB and Planning Commission meeting notes can be found on the Village website, www.Mariemont.org, or on www.Mariemont.com. Below is contact information for each of the district council representatives:

Council Representative Information

Jeff Andrews:	jeffcandrews@gmail.com	(District 6)
Joe Miller:	jmiller1@fuse.net	(District 2)
Cortney Scheeser:	cscheeser@yahoo.com	(District 4)
Mary Ann Schwartz:	mschwartz@mariemont.org	(District 5)
Joe Stelzer:	jstelzer@fuse.net	(District 3)
Dennis Wolter:	dwolter@airmod.com	(District 1)



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ADVERTISING MATERIAL

Kindervelt 54 Hops for the Heart



From left, Monika Osborn (Event Chair), Maria Borgerding (Kindervelt VP), Burns Blaxall (CCHMC Heart Institute), and Julena Bingham (Kindervelt President).

Fifty West Brewing Company was the home of Kindervelt 54's first annual "Hops for the Heart" fundraising event on November 7. Fifty West, located in Columbia Township, was originally a private residence built in 1827. At the turn of the century the home served as a saloon, a Speakeasy during Prohibition, and

then operated as the Heritage Restaurant for the next fifty or so years. Last week marked the first anniversary of Fifty West Brewery Company's grand opening in this very special place.

Kindervelt members and guests tasted a flight of beer ranging from light to dark, each with a distinctive taste. Ten to fifteen styles of craft beer are served on tap at a time. Each has a whimsical name to reflect the type of beer, the ingredients used to brew the beer or the name may capture a touch of history. "Coast to Coast" is 50 West's IPA which gives a nod to Highway 50 that at one time ran from the east to west coast.

Guests from the Children's Hospital Heart Institute joined in on this fun event and walked away the winner of the raffle! Most members

and guests joined an informal brewery tour located in the original Heritage Restaurant kitchen, and everyone enjoyed an evening of good food, drink and company. The "Hops for the Heart" event was a success. The Kindervelt motto, "Fun while raising funds" was achieved! Many thanks to the terrific host, Fifty West Brewing Company. Hats off to the creative work of Kindervelt event chair, Monika Osborn.



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