

LampLighter

Cooper-Young — Many Voices, One Community

www.cooperyoung.org

THE GIVING SEASON

Cooper-Young for Clean Water

BY GINGER SPICKLER

If the first signs of Christmas appearing in early October cause your stomach to start churning, you're not alone. It seems that instead of a season of peace, joy, and love, the holidays are increasingly more about burnout, exhaustion, and debt. Each year we spend more and more money on gifts that lead to less fulfillment for us as givers, certainly, but also for receivers who have to find the space to store yet another knick knack or sweater. Surely, we think, Christmas was meant for more than this.

In 2006 five church pastors from around the US decided that somewhere along the way Christmas had gotten off track, so they founded Advent Conspiracy. Advent Conspiracy is not an organization that collects or distributes money – it is simply a resource to help those who are looking for more meaningful, authentic ways to celebrate Christmas.

Locally, Neighborhood Church in Cooper-Young has been participating in Advent Conspiracy since 2007 and has seen a major transformation in the way its members experience Christmas. This year the church is asking the entire Cooper-Young community to join with it in a challenge that will make the joy of Christmas last much longer than your grandmother's fruitcake. Read on to find out more about Advent Conspiracy and the tangible ways you can get involved.

The precepts of Advent Conspiracy are simple: spend less, give more, worship fully, and love all.

SPEND LESS

While it may seem that the current economic situation has erased any trace of excess in the average family budget, an October Gallup poll showed that US consumers still plan to spend on average \$715 this Christmas, or almost \$450 billion total. In contrast, the World Bank estimates that the cost of reaching basic levels of coverage in water and sanitation worldwide is about \$9 billion. You don't have to be a math whiz to figure out that's only 2% of America's Christmas budget.



So let's say that we Cooper-Youngians are pretty average (I mean, I know we're above average in many ways, but for the sake of argument). Two percent of our Christmas spending amounts to a little over \$14. Who do you spend \$14 on, and what do you get for that \$14? Maybe a picture frame for your cousin? Or a Starbucks gift card for a co-worker?

Instead of those gifts this year, what if you let them know that you're making a gift in their name to a good cause? (And we happen to have a good cause in mind for you . . . keep reading!) Do you think any of those folks won't appreciate your sincere desire to show your love for them by showing love to the world instead of to American Express? Throw in a bit about "no thank you note required," and you're probably giving them the best gift of the season.

GIVE MORE

Advent Conspiracy talks about giving more in two ways. First, it suggests that the most meaningful gifts we can give are relational. Odds are, dad would rather spend a morning fishing with you than with the fanciest lure you can buy him at Bass Pro Shop. Consider how you can give of yourself – your time and talents.

But it's just not Christmas without a few shiny packages under the tree, so for those gifts get the most bang for your buck by buying fair trade items. And we're not talking about pity purchasing. Fair trade items have come a long way, baby – check out the "Resources" box for shopping ideas. You get to give a gift without guilt, your recipient gets a beautiful, handmade item, and someone on the other side of the world gets a chance to make a living wage doing dignified work. Win, win, and win.

WORSHIP FULLY

Everyone worships something, even if they don't claim any particular faith. The word "worship" itself comes from Old-English words meaning "worth-ship." Whatever it is that we give worth to is what we worship. Not sure what you give worth to? Check your calendar and credit card statement. If you don't like what you find there, the season of Advent (the time of expectation leading up to Christmas) is a great time to reflect on how our lives can better reflect what we truly value as worthy.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Giving thanks

Happy holidays! Although the temperatures in November made it feel more like spring, the holidays are finally here, and with them come opportunities to give thanks and reflect on 2010.

First, join us on Tuesday, December 14 for the annual Holiday and Volunteer Thank You Party. The CYCA Board hosts this annual event for the community from 6-8pm at Circuit Playhouse, 51 S. Cooper St., on the beautifully decorated set

of the hit play *Santaland Diaries*. This event is to express our thanks to the people who help make Cooper-Young the best neighborhood in Memphis, and all are welcome to attend.

Another opportunity to show our appreciation for those who serve our community is on December 24. The CYCA sponsors an annual collection of snacks for the police and fire personnel who spend Christmas Eve on duty, protecting our neighborhood. This year the event will be held at our offices at 2298 Young Avenue from 7-8pm. As you give your energies to thank our public servants, you will also get a preview of the CYCA office building as repairs reach final stages of completion. An Open House/Office Dedication is planned for January 2011.

As we wrap up another year, we are including an article in this issue summarizing the CYCA's 2010 financial statements (see page 4). This annual report to our stakeholders explains how we raise and spend money to make Cooper-Young a more desirable and safer place to live, worship, work, and play.

A sad part of this final 2010 *LampLighter* issue is saying goodbye. Board members Ginger Spicker and Shelley Thomas have completed their two-year term and are stepping down from the board to focus on family and other neighborhood opportunities. Board members Sharron Johnson and Beth Pulliam have also stepped down. In addition, Community Director Maggie Cardwell resigned in November. I thank them all for the contributions to the success of the CYCA.

If you are interested in serving in a volunteer capacity on the Board or wish to submit an application for the Community Director position (see page 21 for a brief job description), send an email to info@cooperyoung.org, and more details will be provided.

Have a blessed December,
John Kinsey

History book

The CY history book, *Cooper-Young: A Community that Works*, is available for purchase at Burke's Books or online at cooperyoung.org.



Contributors

Bobby Allen, Emily Bishop, Jim Brock, Maggie Cardwell, Brad Christian, Angi Cooper, Anne Eikner, Barb Elder, Mandy Grisham, Trisha Gurley, Kerri Guyton, Kristan Huntley, June Hurt, John Kinsey, Betty Lamarr, Crissy Lintner, Lisa Lynch, Matt Martin, Dr. D. Jackson Maxwell, Corey Mesler, Katie Pemberton, Kimberly Richardson, Ginger Spickler, Debbie Sowell, Suzzane Striker, Leslie Thompson, Tamara Walker

inside

4 The CYCA honors volunteers, reflects on 2010, and looks to the future

IN CASE YOU'VE BEEN HIBERNATING ALL YEAR, THIS ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS SOME OF THE BEST MOMENTS OF 2010 IS CY. PLUS IT GIVES AN ACCURATE PICTURE OF HOW THE CYCA MAKES AND SPENDS FUNDS FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

8 CY's bike lane compromise

AN AGREEMENT ON THE BIKE LANE PLAN FOR OUR COMMUNITY HAS FINALLY BEEN REACHED. FOR A RECAP OF WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN COOPER STREET IS RECONFIGURED, LOOK NO FURTHER.

10 CY block clubs rally to support Thanksgiving Food Drive

IN TRUE COOPER-YOUNG FASHION, OUR NEIGHBORHOOD HAS ONCE AGAIN WORKED TOGETHER IN SERVICE TO OTHERS. THIS STORY MIGHT JUST INSPIRE OTHER "UNLIKELY LEADERS" TO STEP OUT AND GIVE YOURSELF TO A CAUSE THAT MATTERS TO YOU.

Meetings & Dates

CYCA Holiday and Volunteer Thank You Party

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 6-8PM
CIRCUIT PLAYHOUSE
51 S. COOPER STREET
ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

Holiday Snack Bags for police and firefighters

DECEMBER 24, 7-8PM
2298 YOUNG AVENUE
DROP OFF YOUR HOMEMADE OR PRE-PACKAGED TREATS TO THANK OUR POLICE AND FIREFIGHTERS WHO WORK THE NIGHT SHIFT ON CHRISTMAS EVE. THANK YOU ECLECTIC EYE FOR DONATING THE BAGS!

Neighborhood Clean-up

JANUARY 8, 9AM-1PM
PLEASE MEET AT THE GAZEBO FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.

CYCA Office Dedication and House Warming

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 6-8PM
JOIN US FOR A FINGER FOOD POTLUCK AND A TOUR OF OUR NEWLY REMODELED OFFICE SPACE.

CYCA Board Retreat

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 9AM-3PM
LOCATION TBD

CYCA Board Officers

President	John Kinsey
Vice-President	June Hurt
Secretary	Andy Ashby
Treasurer	Jason Word

CYCA Committee Heads

Ad Hoc	Shelley Thomas
Beautification	Kristan Huntley
Beer Fest	Andy Ashby
Block Clubs	Ginger Spickler
Building	Debbie Sowell
Code Awareness	OPEN
Communications	Emily Bishop
Festival 4-Miler	Richard Coletta, Michael Ham, Emily Bishop
Finance	Jason Word
Safety	Sarah Frierson
Membership	June Hurt
Volunteers	OPEN

At-Large Board Members

Peter Owen
Amanda Ball
Kevin Ritz

LampLighter

Staff and Volunteers

Founder	Janet Stewart
Editor	Barb Elder
Layout	Corey Owens
Webmaster	Patrick Miller
Business Manager	Chris McHaney
Distribution	Rich Bullington
Ad Manager	Kristan Huntley

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Ad Sales	901-517-3618	ads@cooperyoung.org
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The *LampLighter* is published by the CYCA. The opinions and information presented here are those of the staff and volunteers of the *LampLighter* and do not necessarily reflect the entire Cooper-Young community. The *LampLighter* assumes no responsibility for errors or omissions. However, we commit ourselves to providing current and accurate information.

Deadlines for the February LampLighter

Articles, submissions: January 15

Advertising copy: January 20

Distribution beginning: January 28

Please send all articles and submissions to LampLighter@cooperyoung.org. For advertising rate sheet, or to submit ads electronically, please email ads@cooperyoung.org.

Cooper-Young Organizations CYCA

901-272-2922
info@cooperyoung.org

CYBA

Tamara Walker
901-276-7222
cyba@bellsouth.net

READING BETWEEN THE LINES

What does it take to make a *LampLighter*?

BY LESLIE THOMPSON

At the beginning of every month, Cooper-Young's newspaper finds its way to our front porches and neighborhood businesses. Maybe you see it at your door as you're coming home for the day, or perhaps you're out working in the yard as a kind stranger delivers it right to you. Either way, if anything is certain when living in this neighborhood, it is that a *LampLighter* will pass through your hands 11 times a year, as it has for the past two decades.

We all have our favorite sections. You might go straight to the book review or the society page, while others look forward to the crime map. But as you're turning those pages, do you ever wonder how it came to be? Who made this free newspaper and how?

More than 230 hours are spent creating the *LampLighter* every month. By the time you receive this issue, our editor Barb Elder will have spent approximately 60 hours on this one volume, and that doesn't account for the 40+ hours volunteers have spent writing the articles for this very same issue. The advertisements that border the articles create additional work. Kristan Huntley, our ad manager, spends over 50 hours a month procuring and coordinating those advertisements. Even the billing and collections for the ads that are sold take time. Chris McHaney spends about 12 hours doing that every month. Once all the content has been edited and the ads have been sold and created, an additional 30 hours are spent on the layout, production, and coordination of it all. After that, the *LampLighter* is delivered from the press to our neighborhood and its businesses, which takes more than 13 hours after each publication. Then even more time is spent by volunteers who deliver the paper door-to-door to our residents, which takes 32 people an average of 35 minutes each, approximately 19 hours in total. This figure does not even include the hours volunteers spend formatting the online edition of the paper.

The amount of time it takes to create each *LampLighter* might not seem so astonishing to you. Of course, behind every periodical is a staff that works hard and long to create such a thing, but when you consider that most of the hours spent to make the *LampLighter*

are by volunteers, the time can begin to seem overwhelming, even more so when you realize that the people who actually are paid to produce this are not paid much at all. For such an important job as editing the *LampLighter*, Barb

receives only \$600 for her 60+ hours each month. And for all her time spent, Kristan receives only 20% of the revenue raised from the ads she has sold. An additional \$300 is spent on layout, and the billing manager and distribution manager each receive \$250 for their month's work. The only other funds spent on each issue goes to the printing, and that costs \$1,100 each issue.

Despite its seemingly low cost and free help from countless volunteers every month, the *LampLighter* has been losing money the last few years. And with the CYCA's recent purchase of its building at 2298 Young, the Community Association is watching its budget and finances more closely than ever. Although the *LampLighter* is not at risk of going under anytime soon, now might be a good time to consider what you receive from this free publication. How would you feel if it were to disappear from your porch? Where would you go to gather news and current information about the happenings of this exciting and vibrant neighborhood? Would you be prepared to make a donation to contribute to the ongoing progress of the *LampLighter*? For the small business owners out there, have you ever considered advertising your business or service in this paper? If you're not capable of making a monetary donation, could you spare some of your time to write an article or deliver a paper? Ask yourself these questions, and then ask yourself, "Where else besides Cooper-Young can I receive a free, monthly neighborhood newspaper, one that holds a 20-year-old tradition?"



COMMUNITY SPIRIT

MISSION: Our purpose is to form an association of residents and interested parties to work together to make our diverse and historic community a more desirable and safer place to live, worship, work, and play.



Enclosed is a check for my membership in the Cooper-Young Community Association

New Renewing (Memberships are from 1-1-2010 to 12-31-2010)

Household – \$20 Trestle Tender – \$50 Senior 55 and older – \$5

Name _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I want to hear about volunteer opportunities

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

in honor or/in memory of _____

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____ for the General Operating Fund

Mail this form with your payments to:

CYCA Membership, 2298 Young Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104

You can also join online at cooperyoung.org. The CYCA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

**ARE YOU SIGNED UP FOR OUR EMAIL ALERTS ON SAFETY,
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The CYCA honors volunteers, reflects on 2010, and looks to the future

BY EMILY BISHOP

Each year the Cooper-Young Community Association celebrates the holidays by throwing a party for the community to honor the volunteers who work hard all year. This year, Circuit Playhouse (51 S. Cooper St.) has generously agreed to let us use their party room, decorated beautifully for the holidays. Come celebrate the season and all the fun from 2010 in Cooper-Young. Below are some highlights of the work that CYCA volunteers made happen.

2010 HIGHLIGHTS

Membership Drive –

The benefits of CYCA membership include great discounts to local businesses, so join early and start saving.

CYCA puts down roots –

The CYCA purchased the building at 2298 Young Avenue in March from the now defunct CY Development Corporation.

CY Community Yard Sale –

Everyone loves a bargain and making extra cash, so our neighborhood-wide, annual yard sale in March is always a big hit.

The Art for Art's Sake Auction –

This event, hosted at Young Avenue Deli, celebrates the talents of our local artists and raises funds for the CYCA and the Trestle Art.

Smallest User competition –

This energy conservation contest between Cooper-Young and Evergreen has sparked a green rivalry where everyone wins.

Independence Day Parade –

Friends and families gathered at Peabody School and showed off their red, white, and blue with a bike parade. Kids met local firefighters, who cooled off the hot crowd with a gentle spray from their fire truck.

Cooper-Young: A Community that Works –

The CYCA published this book by Lisa Lumb and Jim Kovarik about our history just in time for sale at the CY Festival.

CY Festival Friday 4 Miler and Festival booth –

Over 1800 runners helped make this year's event the biggest ever. The CYCA Festival booth sold t-shirts, history books, and tickets to the Beerfest.

Neighborhood Night Out and CY Emergency Response –

The CYCA began working on a comprehensive plan for our community in the event of an emergency, such as an earthquake. NNO parties rallied support for CERT training, all while promoting neighborly fun and community safety.

The CY Regional Beerfest –

This inaugural event in October was launched as our newest fundraising effort.

Halloween Safety –

Signs were posted to remind trick-or-treaters to be safe while having fun.

CY Holiday and Volunteer Thank You Party –

The CYCA Board of Directors throw this party for the entire community to honor the volunteers who work hard all year.

Holiday Snack Bags –

Volunteers drop off homemade goods or pre-packaged snacks for the police and firefighters who work the night shift on Christmas Eve.

INCOME

Events (Festival Friday 4 Miler, Art Auction, Beerfest, Festival booth, Smallest User competition, CY history book)

LampLighter (ad sales and email sponsorships)

Memberships and donations

Building (rent from the two commercial spaces)

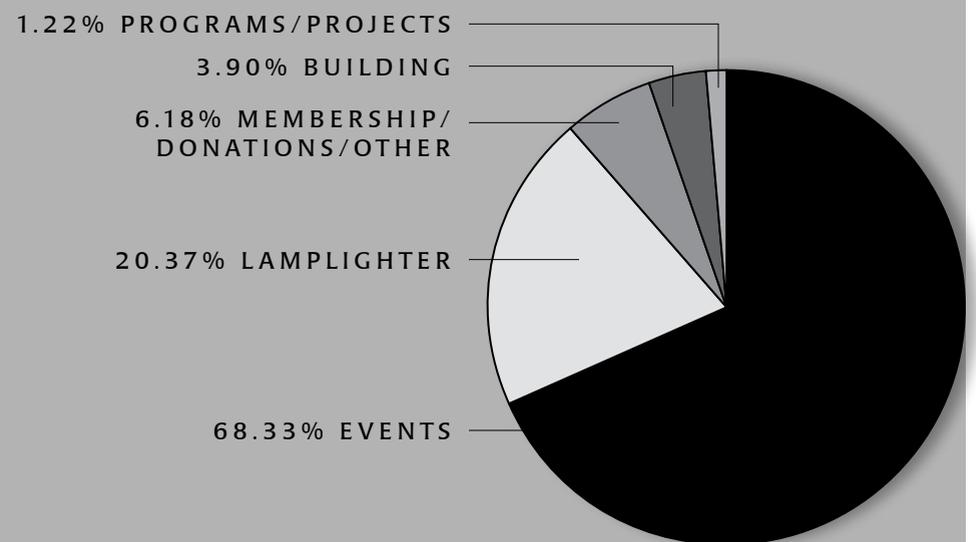
Program/Projects (Mural Fund, bike racks, beautification)

PLANNING FOR 2011

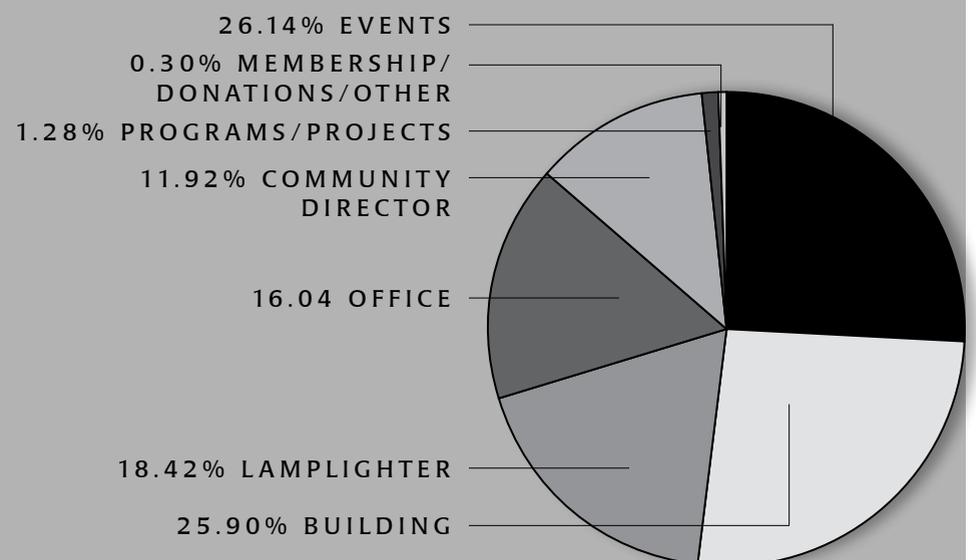
The CYCA Board of Directors will hold their annual retreat on January 22, 2011. This is the time when the volunteer board looks back at what our organization has accomplished and identifies what we still need to work towards. Purchasing the office building in 2010 has given the CYCA an added, long-term financial responsibility. The building has two bays that bring in rental income to help offset the mortgage. However, the office fire in late September brought about some challenges for the CYCA and our tenants. It also brought an opportunity to make some changes in the layout of our space to better serve our organization. The general meeting on January 11, 2011 will be set aside for a dedication and house warming party for the CYCA building to show off the new space.

The charts below show where the CYCA money came from and where it went from January 1 – November 24, 2010. Complete financials are always available by contacting the CYCA office.

2010 TOTAL INCOME - \$132,033.07*



2010 TOTAL EXPENSES - \$137,289.79*



*TOTALS AS OF 11/24/2010

THE MORTGAGE BALANCE IS CURRENTLY \$106,339.00.

EXPENSES

Events (Festival Friday 4 Miler, Art Auction, Beerfest, Festival booth, Smallest User competition, CY history book)

LampLighter (printing, management, production, online support/hosting)

Memberships and donations (campaign supplies)

Building (taxes, insurance, maintenance)

Office (Community Director part-time wages and benefits, insurance, postage, supplies)

Program/Projects (Trestle Art, Neighborhood Night Out parties, beautification efforts, bike racks, Independence Day Parade, Halloween safety, Alexia Hampton Award, Holiday Party, Holiday Snack Bags)

HO! HO! HO!

Santa enjoys his stay in CY

BY KRISTAN HUNTLEY

With 70 degree weather Cooper-Young might not have had the chill in the air associated with Christmastime, but that didn't deter Santa from visiting with all the good little boys and girls, doggies, and their respective families on November 11. Over 30 families joined in the fun, and everyone from the wee month-old newborn to the huge goldendoodle had their photo taken with Jolly Ol' St. Nick. It was a huge success! Overall, \$285 was raised to support the McLean Mural Project.

The Beautification Committee wishes to express their heartfelt gratitude to Santa Claus for his special appearance, to Mr. Lincoln's Costume Rental for the donated elf costume, to Sarah Kyle for her wonderful photography skills, and to all the family, friends, and neighbors who came out to support the fundraising efforts. If you have any questions or comments regarding this event, please contact Kristan Huntley at k.huntle@yahoo.com or 901-517-3618. We hope that you have a very merry holiday. And remember, be good because Santa's got his eye on Cooper-Young!



Beverly Cooper poses with Santa at the gazebo on November 11.

WHAT IS IT WORTH

Become a *LampLighter* Benefactor for as little as \$5 a month!

BY JUNE HURT

What does five dollars buy these days? After a quick Internet search, I discovered a number of interesting items and services available for sale. You can actually go to a site called *fiverr.com* and see an extensive list of things people will offer you for a "fiver". Nikkissue will answer 20 questions about Sydney, Australia. Krystalynn will have her two Boston

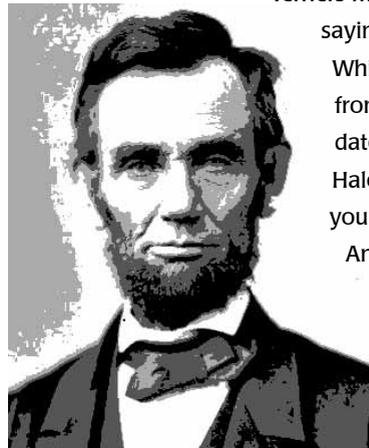
Terriers model or test your product. Lupo1 will hold up a sign

saying whatever you want and take a photo in front of the White House. Neatcolors will translate 500 words or less from French to English. Nicolecomas66 will plan a romantic date for you and your significant other in New York City. Haleyujah will write a short, cheesy rap about a topic of your choice and perform it on video dressed as a hot dog.

And my personal favorite, Movievoiceguy will say anything you want in a perfect Yoda voice for 30 seconds and send you a professional recording of it.

Now if you want to do some good with that five dollars, you also have the opportunity to become a *LampLighter* Benefactor! Just go to cooperyoung.org and click on the Membership tab to learn how

you can become a recognized *LampLighter* Benefactor by making a one-time donation of \$60 or more, or a monthly donation of \$5 or more, to be drafted from your account or charged to your credit card. All *LampLighter* Benefactors will be listed in the paper each month, along with other contributors. If you love reading the *LampLighter*, help us keep this publication going! Your neighbors will thank you!





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SLOW AND STEADY WINS THE RACE

A solution for nuisance properties

BY DEBBIE SOWELL

There was a lot of activity on the southern end of Cox on Monday, November 15. On this day at 1:30pm the Memphis Police Department held a press conference at 1076 S Cox to declare the property a nuisance. What does this mean? Due to illegal activity taking place at this abandoned address, the house has been boarded up with signs posted to warn trespassers to stay off the property or be arrested. The illegal activity here is over by authority of the Blue Crush Task Force. This was a welcome site to many residents who showed up at the press conference to support the police department's efforts.

How did this small victory for CY come about? It began with many residents repeatedly complaining to the police over time, putting the situation on the radar of both the police and the Neighborhood Association. Neighbors have kept their eye on the property and have called in any suspicious activity. There has been a small army working on this problem. Did it happen quickly? No it did not, but it does show our residents that with persistence, we can make a difference.

This also sends a message to all criminals who don't respect our neighborhood. We have power; power to have quiet enjoyment of our properties without the danger of illegal activity. We have power to do something about crime with help from Blue Crush and the Memphis Police.

What do you do if you have a problem property in your area? First, talk to your neighbors! If others are having similar problems, you can work together, vent, and make phone calls. Call 901-545-COPS when you think illegal activity or nuisances are happening. Call Code Enforcement, 901-576-7380, on properties that are falling into bad disrepair by un-attentive property owners and landlords. Contact the CYCA and let them know about the problem. We can't fix them, but we need to know so that we can track what is happening in the neighborhood and share information with the police. Blue Crush works off of statistics, so the more complaints called in the more likely action will be taken.

Is this the end of illegal activity at 1076 S Cox? That is our hope, but it remains to be seen. If not, we know that we can use our power to continue the fight!



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2010 Members

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YOUTHFUL INSPIRATION

CYBA Young Artist Contest winners

BY TAMARA WALKER

The Cooper-Young Business Association is proud to announce the winners of the 2010 Young Artist Contest. This post-Festival event is held annually to encourage the love of art in school age children. The CYBA received 290 entries for the contest which had a theme of "Communities Coming Together." A reception for winners and participants was held at Peabody Elementary on Thursday, November 4.

This free contest is open to children from all over Memphis and the surrounding communities, grades 1-12, and is sponsored by Lenny's Sub Shop. Contestants compete against students in one of three grade level divisions: grades 1-4, grades 5-8, and grades 9-12. Prizes are awarded in each division in the following categories: \$500 first place, \$100 second place, \$75 third place, and \$50 honorable mention. These scholarship bonds were presented to all contest winners on the evening of the reception, where the whole community was invited to view the art and meet the winners.

This year's talented winners are:

Grades 1st - 4th

First Place - Amelia Brittain, Grahamwood Elementary

Second Place - Zaylen Maclin, Westhaven Elementary

Third Place - Diamone Coleman, Westhaven Elementary

Honorable Mention - Samhitha Tirumalasetti, Grahamwood Elementary

Grades 5th - 8th

First Place - Camille Curtis, Colonial Middle School

Second Place - Emma Brick-Hezeau, Grahamwood Elementary

Third Place - Kristian Taylor, Colonial Middle School

Honorable Mention - Kaylun Webster, Peabody Elementary

Honorable Mention - Juan Marin, Colonial Middle School

Grade 9th - 12th

First Place - Jarvis Howard, Kingsbury Career Technology Center

Second Place - Michael Wilkins, Wooddale High School

Third Place - Taylor Mitchell, White Station High School

Honorable Mention - Kelsey Lawrence, White Station High School



Grades 5th - 8th



Grades 1st - 4th



Grades 9th - 12th

KEEPING THE PEACE

CY's bike lane compromise

BY BRAD CHRISTIAN

The Commercial Appeal reported last month that the plan for bike lanes in Cooper-Young have been hammered out by reaching a compromise mediated by Mayor AC Wharton and Bike/Pedestrian Coordinator, Kyle Wagenschutz.

The agreed upon plan calls for continuous, striped bike lanes on both sides of Cooper from Central to Southern. The bike lanes will be traditional, placed between parallel-parked cars and traffic lanes. Cooper Street will be reconfigured to have one traffic lane in each direction, with a middle turn lane.



Cyclists favoring the Revolutions Community Bike Shop plan compromised by giving up their cutting-edge proposal to protect bikes from traffic by placing the lanes between the curb and parallel-parked cars. The Cooper-Young Business Association compromised by giving up five parking spaces on Cooper south of Young to make room for the bike lanes in that narrower two-block section. However, the city will

create five extra spaces by permitting more parking on Young, east of Cooper. Everyone wins!

Thanks to all of you who participated in the CYCA bike lane discussion forum online at cooperyoung.org. Your input was passed along to Mayor Wharton and his staff to help in the decision making process.

School Happenings

SAVE THE DATE

Peabody's Open House coming in January

BY GINGER SPICKLER

Chances are if you have a child approaching the age of five, you have more than once been gripped with panic at the thought of where you will drop him off for his first day of kindergarten. Or perhaps your little tot is still just mastering the art of feeding herself, but you can't help but wonder where she'll end up learning the three R's. Considering everything that you hear in the media about public schools, it sometimes seems that you have no choice but to cancel the cable, take a second job, and plunk down thousands of dollars a year for a private education.

But as the mother of a Peabody Elementary kindergartner, I'm here to tell you that you owe it to yourself and your child (not to mention your bank account) to check out our neighborhood school, and the Open House on Thursday, January 20 will give you the opportunity to do just that. Whether you are researching for the fall of 2011 or 2015, the Peabody Elementary Open House is for you.

Two sessions will be offered – one at 8:30am and another at 6pm. During each session Principal Kongsouly Jones will make a brief presentation about Peabody, followed by parent and teacher testimonials and a demonstration of student work. There will be two separate Q&A sessions – one for parents interested in learning more about Peabody's optional program and the other for those with questions about open enrollment. The open house will conclude with a tour of the school, including the school's CLUE classroom, a demonstration of the Smartboard technology in use throughout the building, and the classroom of Mr. Jerry Sanders, widely regarded as one of the city's best Orff Music teachers.

And for those who have questions about the terms Memphis City Schools use ("optional", "CLUE", and "open enrollment" being just a few of the many that you may not be familiar with), handouts will be available to help parents navigate the sometimes confusing process of making sure that your child is in the right school and class to best suit his or her needs.

Refreshments will be available at both sessions, and for the evening session, free childcare will be offered for children of all ages with an RSVP to eoffjc@msk12.net by January 17. So whether you're a few months or a few years away from signing up for kindergarten, please save the date to come start your own education on this important subject.

JOYFUL NOISE

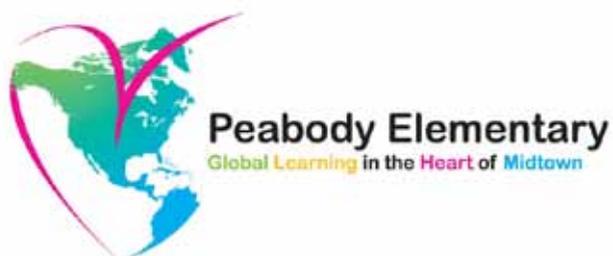
Peabody Winter Concert

BY GINGER SPICKLER

Peabody Elementary would like to cordially invite the Cooper-Young community to an evening of song and dance to celebrate the holidays on Monday, December 13, at 6pm in the school cafeteria.

The concert is free and open to the public. Performers include the Peabody Senior Choir, the Peabody Junior Choir, and the Peabody Dance Ensemble. The program will include holiday songs and dances from many world cultures.

There will also be a short ceremony during the evening honoring Peabody School's new Adopt-a-School supporters.



MUSIC CITY MUSING

Chapman reads new book at Burke's

BY COREY MESLER

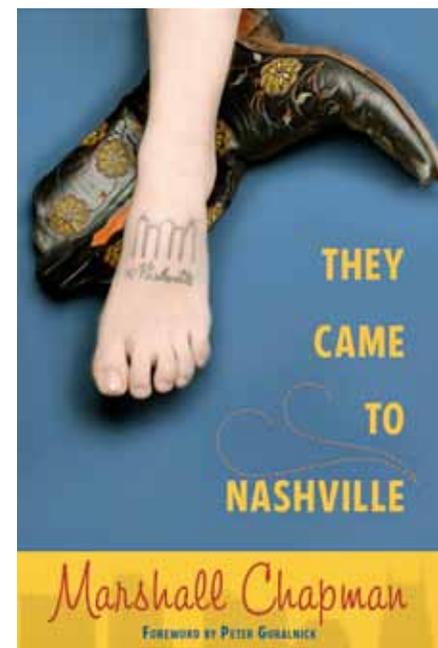
Nationally celebrated musician and songwriter, Marshall Chapman, will be at Burke's Book Store on Thursday, December 9, from 5:30-6:30pm to read from and sign copies of her new book, *They Came to Nashville* (\$25.00 hardcover, Vanderbilt U. Press.) The reading will begin at 6pm.

American music critic, Peter Guralnick, wrote, "Anyone who has ever seen her on stage knows that Marshall Chapman is a force of nature. But then anyone who has ever read her on the page can attest to the same force of impact."

In *They Came to Nashville*, Marshall Chapman captures the personal stories of musicians who have helped shape the modern history of music. Their tribulations and triumphs are revealed against the backdrop of a forever evolving Music City.

Marshall Chapman came to Nashville in 1967 to attend Vanderbilt University and wrote her first song in 1973. Her songs have been recorded by Conway Twitty, Jimmy Buffett, and many others. She is a contributing editor for *Garden & Gun* and *Nashville Arts* magazines and author of *Goodbye Little Rock and Roller*, which was a finalist for the 2004 SEBA Book Award and Book Critics Circle Award.

If there are any questions concerning this event, please contact Corey Mesler at 901-278-7484.



Burke's Book Store

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UPCOMING EVENTS

<p>Thursday, December 2nd Cooper Young Night Out Book Signing with Andria Lisle, Amie Plumley, & Justin Fox Burks <i>Sewing School</i></p>	<p>Tuesday, December 7th Reading and Signing With Neil White author of <i>In The Sanctuary of Outcasts and Mississippians</i></p>
<p>Thursday, December 9th Reading and Signing with Marshall Chapman author of <i>They Came to Nashville</i></p>	<p>this holiday season EAT SHOP PLAY LOCAL!</p>

For more information, events listings, and to browse our used book inventory, go to www.burkesbooks.com



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CY block clubs rally to support Thanksgiving Food Drive

BY SUZZANE STRIKER

If it weren't for block clubs, the 2010 Thanksgiving Food Drive may not have happened. In fact, in the beginning stages, it seemed likely that this important event would not take place at all. This year the food drive lost its primary sponsor. In addition, the originating organizer, Carmen Weaver, as a new mom with a grueling full-time job, decided that it was time to pass on the leadership baton.

Knowing how important this food drive is to the Loaves and Fishes ministry at First Congregational Church, I picked up the baton. Being an unlikely organizer of a community event, it wasn't long before I had my "What were you thinking?" moment. I work from home, and while I have some good friends and acquaintances in the neighborhood, I had no social network to call upon for help - except block clubs.

I became a block captain this summer and our club is still in its fledgling stages. I sent out emails to my fellow block captains pleading for help with the food drive. It took me awhile to stop sending letters and get to the point about what I needed and how people could help. The other captains were patient with me and began to respond to my pleas.

The most daunting aspect of the food drive was getting flyers out. On a map we may look like a small community, but door-to-door distribution is a big effort to coordinate. With help from my block club contacts, the fliers were out to the entire neighborhood one week before the event. Three days before the food drive the pick-up route volunteers were finalized, and I was still receiving emails with more offers to help.

Almost all of the volunteers that made the food drive happen were members of block clubs. Most of them are also volunteers for numerous other Cooper-Young activities. They stay over-booked and extended, yet they rallied to help our neighbors in need.

Block clubs encourage us to get to know one another and form lines of communication that keep us safer. For me it is also about being a participating member of a community family full of interesting and amazing people. It was those lines of communication and amazing people that made this year's food drive not only possible but successful.

Loaves and Fishes benefited from our collective efforts, but the food we collected will help them for a relatively short period of time. I feel I am the one who benefited most from this

experience. The benefit to me for having decided to get involved with block clubs and work with this ministry will last a lifetime. There are no adequate words to express how profoundly blessed I feel or to measure the depth of my gratitude to everyone I've encountered on this incredible journey.

If you do not have a block club, please consider starting one. It may be a little work at first to get people to respond and start participating, but it really is well worth your time and effort. Plus you get to meet some really wonderful people, many of whom may be your immediate neighbors.



Liz Engles, Ashley Hannah and Asuka Yow enjoy hot cocoa and donuts after a soggy drive thru the neighborhood to pick up donations.

Food Drive thank yous

BY SUZZANE STRIKER

I'm proud to announce that this year's Thanksgiving Food Drive was a great success. By rough estimates, despite inclement weather, CY residents donated well over 10 large grocery carts stacked full of food from top to bottom and raised \$55 in monetary contributions, with offers to contribute still coming in. All of this went to support the Loaves and Fishes ministry at First Congo and would not have been possible without the dedicated help of volunteers, who distribute over 1,500 flyers and/or got up early on a Saturday to drive around the neighborhood and pick-up donations in the rain. Many of those who distributed flyers also printed them, which helped offset printing expenses. A big thank you goes to the following volunteers:

**Chad Ahern • Jeremy Childs • Kim Edmaiston • Liz Engles • Jason Elder
Chris Fisher • Joan Foley • Sarah Frierson • Faye Garner
Edward & Beverly Greene • Robert Grisham • Sara Hallum • Ashley Hannah
John Harkless • Whitney Jo • Dianne Lloyd • Peter Owen • Doris Porter
Larry Rutledge • Ginger Spickler • Betty Slack • James Sparks • Mary Smith
Michael Taylor • Carmen Weaver • Joey Weaver • Wes Williamson
Jason & Avery Word • Asuka Yow**

I also want to send a special thank you to Scout Master Burges Budd, Honorary Scout Master Marvin Richardson, with scouts Wm. Chandler Pearce and Gene Gore of Boy Scout Troop 40 from St. Luke's United Methodist Church, who on relatively short notice also got up early to come out in the rain to help unload the cars at the pantry.

In addition, I want to thank Carmen Weaver who started the food drive four years ago, and to John Silberman who sponsored the printing of 1000 flyers. While I can't thank everyone enough for their generosity and support, it is indeed greatly appreciated by everyone involved with or who needs the services of Loaves and Fishes, as well as myself.



Scout Master Burges Budd and Honorary Scout Master Marvin Richardson help with the Food Drive efforts.

Holiday Artist Market offers relaxing shopping with hand-crafted gift selection

BY ANGI COOPER

Looking for that one-of-a-kind item you won't find in a big box store? Want to shop in a place where you're not just a consumer but also a supporter of unique local artisans? Does shopping in general stress you out? The Memphis Arts Collective offers a solution to all these problems at their fifth annual Holiday Artist Market located at 1501 Union Avenue in Midtown Memphis.

The 501c3 non-profit Memphis Arts Collective is five-years-old, and as is our tradition, we offer the holiday shopper a stress-free environment featuring works for sale from more than 25 vendors. Shoppers can enjoy complimentary refreshments while perusing paintings, pottery, mixed media art, fused glass art, stained glass art, vintage collectibles, word stones, fiber dolls, and photography. There's also wearable art including hats, jewelry, scarves, clothing, and other unique handmade items such as soaps, doggie biscuits, and honey bee products. Several artists will also have seasonal items available with holiday themed cards, jewelry, and ornaments. Many of the show artists are nationally recognized and have work in private collections across the United States.

In addition to the great work represented, what makes the collective so wonderful is that there is no one owner. "It's a true collective in that all members play a part in putting on such a fantastic market year after year," says Chuck Parr, president of the Memphis Arts Collective. "And every year we feature a different charity to benefit from a silent auction held at the market. This year our charity is Alzheimer's Day Services of Memphis." Working with charities is also part of the collective's mission.

The Memphis Arts Collective Holiday Artist Market will be open December 3-24 at 1501 Union Ave. Hours for the market are: Monday-Thursday and Saturday, 10:30am-6:30pm, Friday 10:30am-9pm, and Sunday 12-5pm.

TABLE FOR TWO

Double book signing by Neil White

BY COREY MESLER

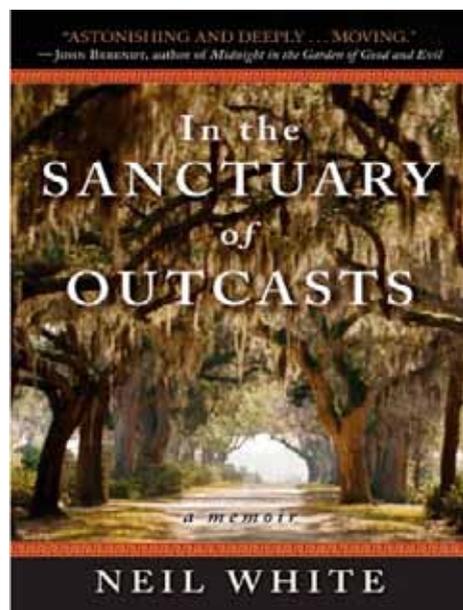
Neil White will return to Burke's Book Store on Tuesday, December 7, from 5:30-6:30pm to sign copies of the paperback version of *In the Sanctuary of Outcasts* (Harper Perennial, \$14.95) and his new picture book, *Mississippians* (\$45.00, hardback).

According to the *Memphis Flyer*, "*In the Sanctuary of Outcasts* is more than a memoir. It's most importantly a testament to the patients at Carville and the life lessons they gave and White took."

John Grisham called this work, "A remarkable story of a young man's loss of everything he deemed important, his imprisonment in a place that would terrify anyone, and his ultimate discovery that redemption can be taught by society's most dreaded outcasts."

Mississippians is a coffee-table book featuring famous and notable individuals from the state of Mississippi. The book will profile more than 300 Mississippians, featuring work from the state's top writers and photographers.

Neil White is the former publisher of *New Orleans Magazine* and *Coast Business Journal*. He lives in Oxford, MS, with his wife, Debbie, where he owns a small publishing company. If there are any questions concerning this event, please contact Corey Mesler at 901-278-7484.



December show at Gallery Fifty Six

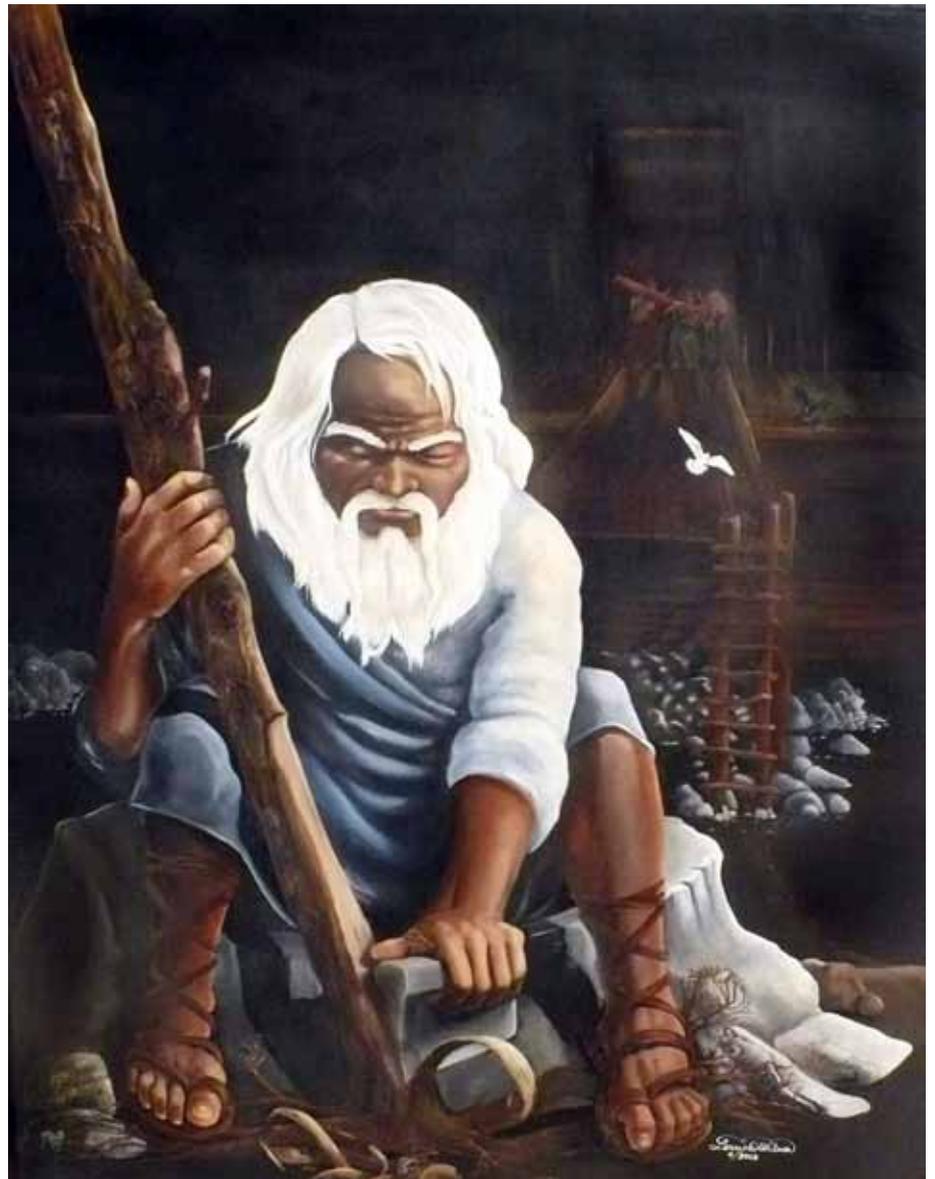
BY KERRI GUYTON

The artists of Gallery Fifty Six are coming together in December to collaboratively showcase the creations inspired by 2010 in a resident exhibition that includes guest artist Lonnie Wilson. *Windows to the World* opens December 3 with an artists' reception from 5-8pm and continues through December 31.

Memphis native and guest artist Lonnie Wilson will showcase works from his series *Scenes from Genesis*, inspired by his love of the Bible and art history. Wilson's piece, *Noah Before the Flood*, depicts Noah at work carving a staff, with the unfinished ark as his background. Noah is draped in garments of blue and white representing loyalty and purity, and Wilson has discretely tucked 26 animals into the work - one for each letter in the alphabet. It is this type of technique that draws fans to Wilson's art. Other works in this series include *Eden Sunrise*, *Noah After the Flood*, *And Man Became a Living Soul*, and *The Guardian*.

Resident artists of Gallery Fifty Six to participate in *Windows to the World* are John Armistead, Mary Bowman, Paul Clarke, Art Covington, J. C. Graham, Emery Franklin, Helen Ingoglia, Rollin Kocsis, Mark Lammie, Jeannine Paul, Bridget Russell, John Sosh, Michael Whitaker, and N. J. Woods.

Gallery Fifty Six is located at 2256 Central Ave. For more information call 901-276-1251 or visit galleryfiftysix.com.



Lonnie Wilson, *Noah Before the Flood*

Camy's expands to offer sit down dining

BY JIM BROCK

If you like Memphis' own Camy's pizza, then you're going to love this! Camy's has opened a dine-in area for customers who just can't get enough. Owner Camy Archer recently announced the expansion of her delivery restaurant, hoping the 700 square-foot addition will offer more to loyal customers and attract new ones as well.

"We've been a delivery restaurant for 18 years," said Archer, who has lived in Cooper-Young for 20 years. "I wanted to diversify."

The new dine-in area has enough seating for 40 customers. Archer says she has applied for a beer license, but she doesn't quite want a sports bar atmosphere.

"I just want people to be able to enjoy a good beer with their pizza," she said. "I thought about getting a wine license, but I will see what my customers want. My customers have always fueled my decisions. If people ask for it, they're going to get it."

Archer also has big plans for the new dine-in area in the weeks and months to come, including using it to give exposure to Memphis-area artists. She would like to decorate the restaurant with original artwork from Memphis College of Art. She also plans to have live acoustic music in the near future. Being a musician herself, she was naturally inclined to do so. In fact, Archer spent her early years as a traveling musician, playing wherever she could. Archer, now 58, has been an active Midtown business owner for nearly 20 years. She doesn't rely on music for a living, but she disciplines herself to play at least once a week to keep her calices and her love of music will always remain.

Camy's restaurant also lends support to the community by serving as the food sponsor for the Gibson 5K Run every year and catering various CY neighborhood events. The decision to get involved in service was a no-brainer for Camy. "I always felt it was my responsibility and my right to support my community," she said.

Camy's dine-in area is now open for business at 3 S. Barksdale St., with an official grand opening scheduled for December 1.

Rock 'n' Roll Christmas Show at Visible School

BY CRISSY LINTNER

On Friday, December 10, get ready for a rockin' and rollin' time as Visible School Music and Worship Arts College presents its annual Rock 'n' Roll Christmas Show. The show will begin at 7pm at Lifelink Memphis, located at 1015 S. Cooper St. in CY (at the corner of Cooper and Walker). This free, family-friendly concert will feature rock, pop, and hip-hop versions of Christmas favorites performed by Visible School students, staff, and alumni.

"Visible School is known for being an edgy music college, and our Christmas show is no exception," said Ken Steorts, president and founder of Visible School. "We're looking to pull out all the stops again this year and will have wonderful surprises in the musical line-up."

Adding to the excitement, *A Visible Christmas Vol. 1* will be on sale during the event. This record is a compilation featuring students, staff, and alumni and includes songs from the 2009 Rock 'n' Roll Christmas Show such as "Christmas in Hollis", "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas", "Carol of the Bells", and many more. Guests are encouraged to support Visible School's mission by purchasing the album for \$10. The CD will also be available in local stores throughout the holiday season.

For more information about this event or to find out where to buy a copy of *A Visible Christmas Vol. 1*, visit visible.edu or call George Baldwin at 901-381-3939.

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Cooper-Young for Clean Water

Continued from page 1

LOVE ALL

Globally, about one in eight people, or about 884 million people, don't have ready access to safe water. Apart from the lost economic and educational opportunities in developing countries (particularly for women who spend up to five hours everyday carrying water), the global water crisis is also lethal – 1.8 million children die every year of diseases caused by unclean water and poor sanitation. That's 5,000 children every day.

But 5,000 is a significant number for another reason – it's also the number of dollars it will take to drill a well in Peru. Last year the Candoshi village on the Upper Amazon in northern Peru was one of many beneficiaries of donations to Living Water International, an organization that trains, consults, and equips local people to implement water solutions in their own countries. See the story of the Candoshi people at ncmidtown.com/water.



THE CHALLENGE

So this year Neighborhood Church is asking the people of Cooper-Young to join in a mission to provide a well to another village in Peru through a project called Cooper-Young for Clean Water (see sidebar for more info). This is where you can divert the money you're saving when you spend less!

Five thousand dollars is a lot of money, and Neighborhood Church is pretty small. Compared to the amount we've raised for this cause in years past, this is a big goal. But we are confident in our community and its generous spirit. We see this project as one village helping another. One village loving another. It's Cooper-Young for Clean Water – water.cc/cy4water.



COOPER-YOUNG FOR CLEAN WATER

COOPER-YOUNG FOR CLEAN WATER

Cooper-Young for Clean Water is a project sponsored by CY's Neighborhood Church to raise \$5,000 to drill a well in a Peruvian village. All money will go directly to Living Water International – no funds go to Neighborhood Church or to Advent Conspiracy.

The church has already committed \$1,000 toward the goal, and individual members are also making gifts of their own. And, of course, the residents of Cooper-Young are welcome and encouraged to join the project.

To donate, visit water.cc/cy4water. Or send a check made out to "Living Water International" with "Cooper-Young for Clean Water" in the memo, to:

Living Water International
PO Box 35496
Houston, TX 77235-5496

ADVENT CONSPIRACY RESOURCES

ADVENT CONSPIRACY RESOURCES

Advent Conspiracy – adventconspiracy.org

- More information about the conspiracy

Neighborhood Church - ncmidtown.com

- /advent - Local AC events and a guide to relational giving and fair trade shopping
- /water – Clean water video and info links

Trade As One – tradeasone.com

- Online shopping for fair trade goods and gift cards

Global Goods – Inside First Congo at 1000 S. Cooper, Memphis

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Rotary Club opens a Midtown chapter

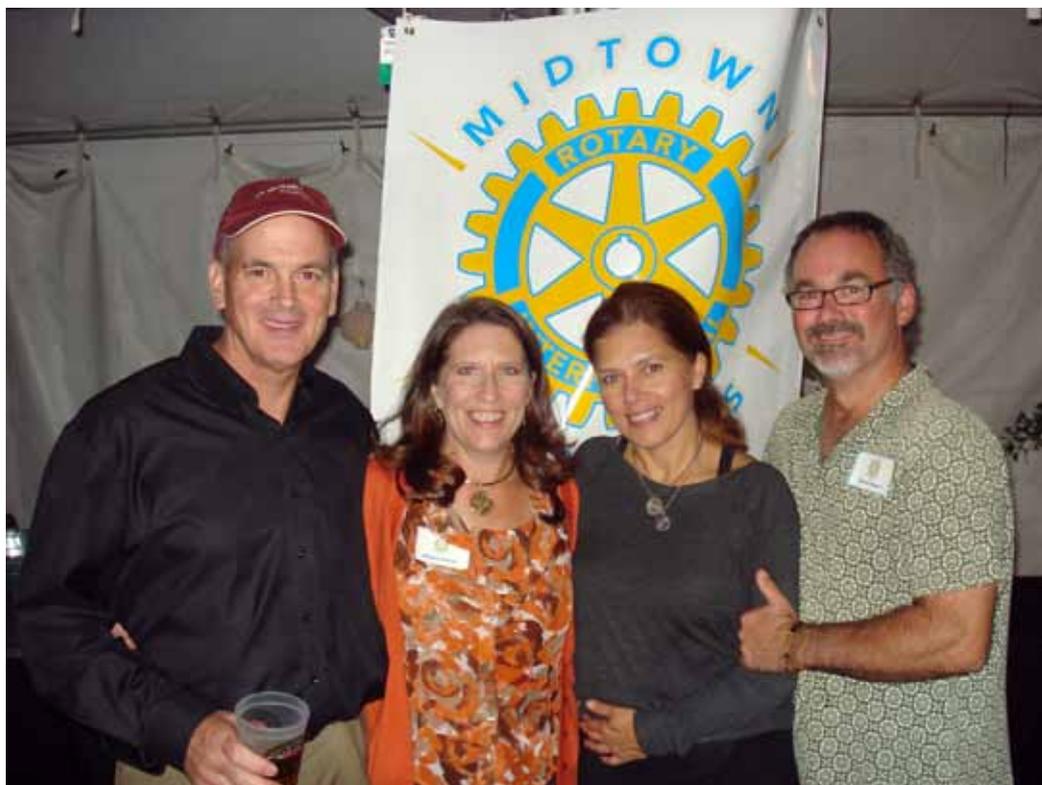
BY ANNE EIKNER

Midtown now has its own Rotary club. The group, which has 29 members, held their charter celebration in a VIP tent at the Levitt Shell. Frank Givens, the Rotary District 6800 Governor, presented the charter from the stage just before a performance by The Dynamites. The club's founding president is Maury Tower, owner of Tower Marketing & Media.

"I joined the Memphis Rotary Club in 1994," Tower said. "I resigned from the Memphis club to start this club. There were a number of us who wanted to go in a different direction."

Instead of having luncheons, the new club meets from 5:30-6:30pm on Tuesdays at The University Club, 1346 Union Avenue. "With some people's schedules, it was hard to get away for lunch," Tower said. "Since we serve hors d'oeuvres instead of a weekly lunch, it's not as expensive."

Membership costs \$150 a quarter. Tower joked that



Midtown Rotary Club members Steve Tower, Maury Tower, Maria Takkas and Steve Smart celebrate at the Levitt Shell.

her motto for the club is "more fun, less funds." Opting to have the charter celebration on a Friday evening at a free concert series in the heart of Midtown went hand-in-hand with that goal. The club's sergeant-at-arms/social director, Steve Smart, grilled all the food.

"We believed there was a need in Midtown for a Rotary Club," Tower said. "Our service projects will be focused primarily on the Midtown community."

Anyone interested in visiting a meeting or joining the club can contact the group by looking for the Midtown Memphis Rotary Club on Facebook or by emailing Tower at president@midtownmemphisrotary.org.

"We want to keep the club at about 50 members, so everybody can get to know each other," Tower said. "Plus, a smaller club makes it easier to host off-site meetings, which also allows for more socializing. In this day and age people are struggling for members, so we'd be thrilled to reach 50 members. The average membership for Rotary Clubs around the world is 40."

The club's other officers are Pan Awsumb, president-elect; Dan Murrell, vice president; Mary Kay Campbell, secretary; and Susan Scott, treasurer. The members of its board of directors are Carl Awsumb, Charlotte Hoyle, Al Harvey, Joyce Springfield-Collins, and Ellen Weirich.

Founded in Chicago in 1905, Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, promote high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. More than 1.2 million Rotarians are members of over 33,000 clubs in nearly 170 countries. The organization is committed to humanitarian service by working to combat hunger, improve health, provide education and job training, and promote peace. For more information, visit rotary.org.



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Holiday movies add magic to winter season

BY MATT MARTIN

In American history the winter holidays contain a vast and ever-shifting series of traditions. Like all cultural traditions over time, some continue stronger than ever (Christmas trees, Hanukkah menorahs, intense gift-giving, gorging on family feasts) and some ebb and virtually disappear (When was the last time you went caroling? I thought not.) And for many people, the religious significance of this season is all but forgotten or was always irrelevant. But beginning at almost the birth of cinema in the early 1900's, holiday films have become an integral part of the season for young and old, religious or not.

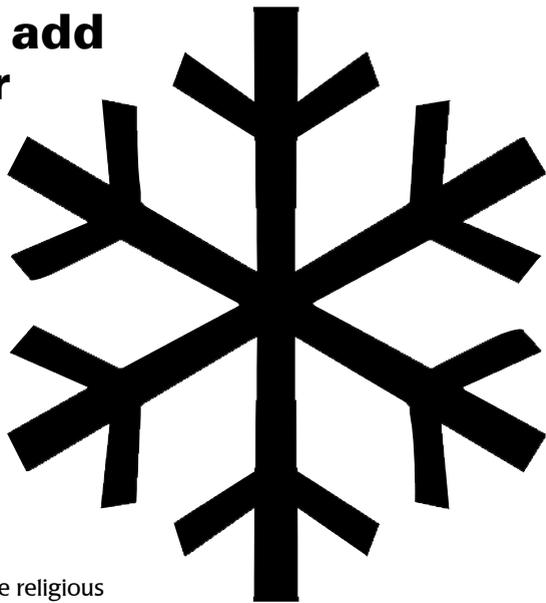
With this in mind it is not surprising to find that virtually all holiday movies have very little to do with one religion or belief structure. Commonly, there is no connection to religious history, and instead, the films generally celebrate the overall feel of winter holidays: the closeness of family, the desire to believe in human good, the innocent faith of children in holiday magic, and the sense of renewal brought on by the beginning of a new year. Among the almost 500 holiday films in American cinema alone, fewer than 5% have any specific religious connections.

Not surprisingly, the earliest known holiday film was a British short film adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* in 1901. It was later expanded into a more complete version of the story in a full length film of the same name in 1908. Since then it has become the most filmed story in history, with over 35 versions to date. Roundly considered the finest adaptation was the 1951 version with Alastair Sim as Scrooge, which in continually aired on cable stations every year during wintertime. Equally fun versions include the 1970 version with Albert Finney (which added a musical element!), the 1988 Christmas Carol parody, *Scrooged*, with Bill Murray, and the eternally pleasing 1992 *Muppet Christmas Carol* with Michael Caine as Scrooge.

The poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas", also known as "The Night Before Christmas" was first published anonymously in 1823 (generally attributed to author Clement Clarke Moore) and is largely responsible for the modern conception of Santa Claus and the mythical details of his life and actions. Like *A Christmas Carol*, it has had dozens of film versions, with the first version showing up in a 1905. These two stories and their various film adaptations encompassed most of the holiday movie cannon until the 1940's.

During World War 2 a single movie set a new standard that would immediately create a new genre: the holiday film. Following the exploits of two struggling entertainers (singer Bing Crosby and dancer Fred Astaire) as they try to open a seasonal getaway in the middle of nowhere, *Holiday Inn* released in 1942 instantly became one of the most beloved films of all time and a massive financial blockbuster. Although the song and dance numbers are all equally impressive, its intense popularity seemed to stem from a single scene in the movie. Bing Crosby sits at a piano in a candlelit den, surrounded by a simple Christmas tree, a raging fire, and the love of his life. Quietly he sings her the legendary Irving Berlin song, "White Christmas", and the definitive holiday moment was created. The film won multiple Oscars, and Bing Crosby's version of the song would become the best selling song of all time, until 1997 when Elton John's reworking of his song "Candle in the Wind" for Princess Diana's funeral eclipsed it.

Immediately, rival studios green lit numerous holiday films, hoping to ride this new cultural obsession. Unlike many attempted Hollywood cash-ins, some of these films would even overshadow their inspiration. In 1944, two major releases took America by storm and further cemented the traditions of the American Christmas. *Christmas in Connecticut* was another instant success: a comedy about a famous writer who lies about her traditional family holiday, only to be forced to fake it when multiple celebrities ask to join her. Aside from



being a funny, charming study in reality vs. fiction, it was the first to consider the pros and cons of the commercialization of Christmas. Soon after, the film *Miracle on 34th Street*, about a department store Santa who may or may not be the real thing, would be released to glowing reviews and adoration.

But the seminal holiday film would not be a sweet, innocent farce. It would be a heartbreaker. On Christmas Eve a kind but hopeless businessman on the verge of financial and familial collapse decides whether to kill himself. An angel appears to him and shows him what life would be like had he never been born. Through flashbacks, he realizes his importance to his family, his town, and ultimately, himself. Released in 1946, *It's a Wonderful Life* became not only the definitive comment on what was best about the holidays but also on what America hoped was the best about itself. Jimmy Stewart's performance would become his most legendary, and the film has played in constant rotation in theaters and on television for over sixty years.

The following decades would be filled with holiday films, with America averaging between six and twenty new ones a year. In recent years two films in particular have become modern classics and are virtually inseparable from the holiday. The 1983 film *A Christmas Story*, which chronicles one boy's search for the ultimate gift (a Red Rider BB gun) in 1940's Indiana, perfectly captures the seemingly lost innocence and inevitable chaos of the classic American Christmas. And the 1989 film *Christmas Vacation* with Chevy Chase shows just how bad a holiday can get. Not surprisingly, both films central comedic tone is on the growing chasm between America's illusion of holiday perfection (which was created by films as much as by reality in the first place) and the sometimes harsher, less magical nature of the modern Christmas.

As time goes by, regardless of religion, politics, and ever-changing family dynamics, America will continue to look toward its arts to enjoy its holidays. In the end that's what we do at holiday time: sit around with family, full from enormous meals, and watch movies and television that reflect on why we did this in the first place. If you are too full of either food or family interaction to decide, here's a handy partial list to keep your cinematic stocking stuffed.

The Classics:

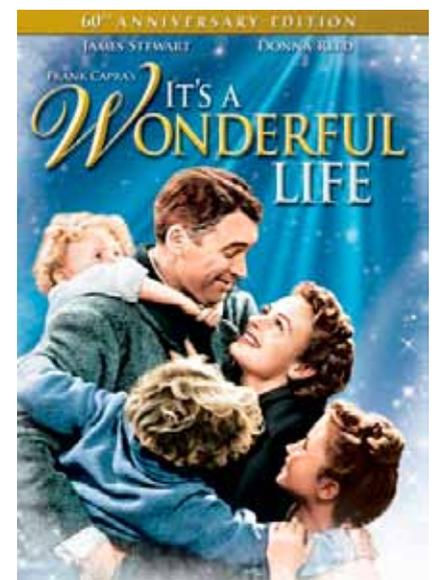
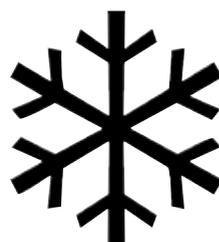
Holiday Inn • Christmas in Connecticut • Miracle on 34th Street • It's a Wonderful Life
The Bells of St. Mary's • The Bishop's Wife • 3 Godfathers • Remember the Night
White Christmas • Babes in Toyland • The Nutcracker • I'll Be Seeing You
The Man who Came to Dinner • Santa Clause conquers the Martians
Twilight Zone episode: "Night of the Meek"

The Moderns:

A Christmas Story • Christmas Vacation • The Nightmare before Christmas
Emmet Otter's Jug Band Christmas • Muppet Christmas Carol • Home Alone
Home for the Holidays • Planes, Trains, & Automobiles • Black Christmas
A Charlie Brown Christmas • Die Hard (yep.) • Ernest Saves Christmas • Diner
Mixed Nuts • The Polar Express • Rudolph and Frosty (the claymation versions)
Santa Claus: the Movie • Silent Night, Deadly Night
• The Ice Harvest • The Ref
Edward Scissorhands • Christmastime in South Park

Ho-ho-ho...now get to watching.

Matt Martin has written movie reviews for the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* and is co-owner of *Black Lodge Video*, located on the corner of Cooper and Evelyn. *Black Lodge* is the largest video store in the eastern US and is a faithful CYCA membership sponsor.



Orphanos and Memphis Symphony Orchestra presents Memphis Messiah

BY KATIE PEMBERTON

The Orphanos Foundation, in partnership with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, will host the fifth annual Memphis Messiah benefit concert, a performance of Handel's *Messiah* at the Cannon Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Memphis on Friday, December 10 at 8pm.

The Memphis Symphony Orchestra will be joined by voices from select local choirs, including the Rhodes MasterSingers and the Independent Presbyterian Church choir. The piece, which will be conducted by Andrew Altenbach, will also feature solos from soprano Awet Andemichael, mezzo-soprano Magdalena Wor, tenor John McVeigh, and bass Derrick Parker. Tickets range from \$15 to \$25 and may be purchased from Memphis Symphony Orchestra by calling 901-537-2525 or visiting memphissymphony.org.

Since 1952, the Memphis Symphony Orchestra has created meaningful experiences through music in the Mid-South. Today more than 400 musicians, staff, and volunteers comprise the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, Memphis Symphony Chorus, and the Memphis Symphony League operating educational programs, organizing community engagement events, and performing concerts.

"This event brings together one of the greatest musical compositions ever written and some of the best talent from our area and beyond in the comfort and acoustic splendor of the Cannon Center," said Ryan LeFleur, Memphis Symphony Orchestra's executive director. "And it's for a very worthy cause – the Orphanos Foundation."

Proceeds from ticket sales of this public performance will fund three special performances, to which Orphanos invites more than 5,000 fourth and fifth grade students from various inner city and Jubilee Schools to enjoy an abbreviated, hour-long version of Handel's *Messiah*. During the week leading up to the concert, participating schools are provided with a curriculum to teach students about *Messiah*, classical music, concert etiquette, music vocabulary, and musical notation.

"Throughout the year our mission is to meet the global needs of orphaned children, but during the holiday season we add an additional focus on the local needs of Memphis' inner city students," said Wayne Sneed, Orphanos' founder and president. "It brings us great



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MEI-ANN CHEN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

joy to be able to share this once-in-a-lifetime cultural experience with children who otherwise might not be exposed to a composition with such a lasting impact on classical music."

Founded in 1997, Orphanos is a Christian organization that seeks to meet the needs of children in developing countries, with a particular emphasis on orphaned children. Orphanos meets a global need with a local response through partnerships with orphanages around the world. Funded entirely by donations, Orphanos raises funds and gives resources, financial and otherwise, to these orphanages. The organization also prays and asks its supporters to pray for these children and orphanage staff. Orphanos organizes on-site projects with these children to change their world and work together to impact the city around them. Hundreds of individuals from churches and local businesses in the Memphis area have traveled with Orphanos to visit these children in recent years. Orphanos has a policy of 100 percent pass-through, which means every penny designated for these orphanages is passed on to meet the children's needs. For more information, visit orphanos.org.

To order tickets by phone with Visa, American Express, or MasterCard, call the Memphis Symphony Orchestra Box Office at 901-537-2525, visit the MSO office at 585 South Mendenhall Road (9am-5pm Monday-Friday and 10am-2pm on concert Saturdays) or visit their website at MemphisSymphony.org. Student and group discounts are available. This concert is open to Arts Access patrons, enabling those with food stamp, TennCare, or Church Health Center cards to secure remaining tickets free 15 minutes prior to the concert.



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Unique winter excursions give boost to 'tween week

BY DR. D. JACKSON MAXWELL

Thanksgiving is now a pleasant memory and the rush is on for last minute shopping, putting up decorations, and making plans to see family for the holidays. While all this is fun, my wife and I have discovered it can be a bit overwhelming. So, every year the week between Christmas and New Year's Day (or the 'tween week as we call it) is set aside to take a trip with just our kids. We make a conscious effort to avoid traditional destinations such as the Colorado ski slopes or Caribbean cruises. Instead, we seek out the paths less traveled and in the process have had some fantastic adventures. Let me share a few of these with you.

My favorite destination for winter travel is the Redneck Riviera. The Emerald Coast has some of the best beaches in America and despite dire reports, I know firsthand that these beaches are oil-free and in pristine condition. While the ocean water can be a bit cool for adults, this does not deter my children from being knee to waist deep. It has been my experience that temps over the 'tween week are typically 60s to low 70s which, with a light jacket and a warming beverage in hand, makes beach sitting quiet comfortable. Being off season, the crowds are minimal and so are the condo prices. There are plenty of activities to occupy your days such as dolphin cruises, pier fishing, state/national park activities, nature trails, biking, and local amusement parks to mention a few. If you are in the Orange Beach, Gulf Shores, or Perdido Key area for New Year's Day, make sure to get the family up early and dressed in their bathing suits for the annual Polar Bear Dip on the Florida-Alabama line at the Flora-Bama Oyster Bar. You will be joined by hundreds if not thousands of others for a synchronized dash into the surf. While definitely chilly that early in the morning, unlike other Polar Bear Plunges, you will not have to contend with ice and hypothermia!

For a closer vacation head to the Nashville area. The Grand Ole Opry and Opryland Hotel have plenty of holiday shows and events including millions of lights, ice sculptures, and the Radio City Christmas Spectacular. The Nashville Zoo at Grassmere is wonderful and spacious. Some of our highlights have been zoo keepers' talks, watching elephants move logs with their trunks, and a huge fort-style playground. The Parthenon, the Adventure Science Center, and Riverfront Park Ice Rink are also popular. Just south of Nashville is Historic Downtown Franklin where throughout the holiday season there are parades, holiday shopping, and the annual "Dickens of a Christmas" along the main street featuring costumed characters from Charles Dicken's classic, *A Christmas Carol*.

Another extraordinary destination is St. Louis, Missouri. St. Louis is home to the incredible City Museum. This artistic, architectural wonder is guaranteed fun for young and old alike. It features indoor and outdoor attractions, so even if the weather is frightful, there is plenty to do. The City Museum boasts tunnels, art classes, creative performances, swinging ropes, a train, an aquarium, a rooftop Ferris wheel, and many other wonders too marvelous to describe. Other St. Louis attractions include The Magic House, Museum of Westward Expansion, the Italian restaurants of The Hill, and let's not forget the famous Arch. A fact which surprises many is that on the outskirts of St. Louis there is a fabulous ski area called Hidden Valley. Large and small slopes abound that are perfect for the whole family, plus for those so inclined, snowboarding is allowed. Hidden Valley rents the equipment, provides lessons, and even has an eatery. They manufacture their own snow, and the slopes usually open the day after Christmas. I highly recommend Hidden Valley—it is tremendously fun!

I hope some of these winter vacation ideas intrigue you enough to check them out. After the rush of the season, I know my family needs a 'tween holiday break. The only problem we have is deciding which destination to choose—they all sound so good!

Dr. D. Jackson Maxwell is a teacher at Downtown Elementary School and a freelance writer. If you have any questions or comments, please contact him at: djacksonmaxwell@gmail.com.

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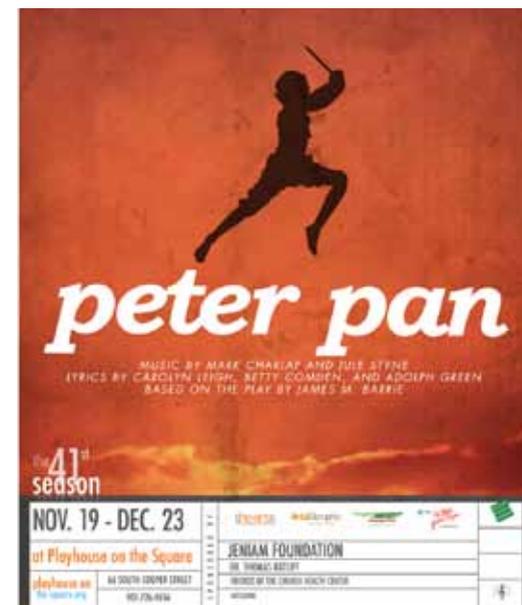
Playhouse on the Square presents *Peter Pan*

BY LISA LYNCH

After several years away, the boy who won't grow up is flying back to the Memphis stage! Wendy, John, and Michael Darling's world is turned upside down when Peter Pan swoops into their nursery. He leads them to Neverland where they encounter the cunning and evil Captain Hook, villainous pirates, a crafty crocodile, and the sprightly fairy Tinker Bell. Featuring classic songs such as "I Gotta Crow," "Neverland," and "I'm Flying," *Peter Pan* promises to touch, inspire, dazzle, and charm all generations.

Directed by Dave Landis, *Peter Pan* stars Laura Stracko (2010 Recipient of the Larry Riley Rising Star Award) and Lindsey Roberts (for her 6th time) in the title role and Bill Andrews (Ostrander Award Nominee for the role of Nixon in *Frost/Nixon*) as Captain Hook. *Peter Pan* also features performances by Carla Olivar in her Playhouse debut as Wendy, as well as Jen Henry, Roland Donnelly-Bullington, Brian Chandler Shaffrey, Luca Conti, Cole Jackson, Ebone Amos, Kyle Huey, and a cast of over 20 lost boys, pirates, and Indians.

Peter Pan runs at Playhouse on the Square November 19-December 23, Fridays at 7pm and Saturdays at 2pm and 7pm. The Pay-What-You-Can performances are Tuesday, December 21 and Wednesday, December 22, at 7pm. There will be an additional performance on Thursday, December 23, at 7pm. Playhouse on the Square is located at 66 South Cooper Street in Midtown. For more information or to make reservations, please call 901-726-4656 or visit our website at playhouseonthesquare.org.



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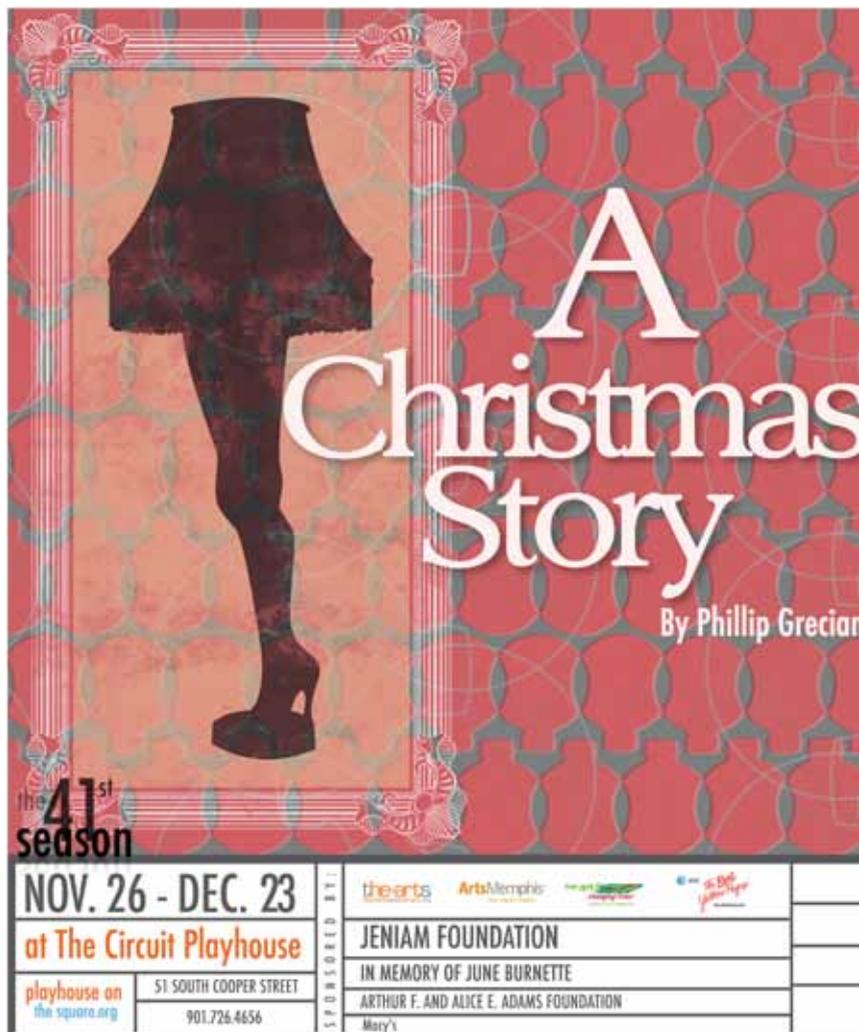
A Christmas Story showing at The Circuit Playhouse

BY LISA LYNCH

This classic Christmas movie comes to life on stage this holiday season! This Christmas Ralphie Parker is consumed with the desire for a Red Ryder BB rifle. A deceptively dangerous playground dare, an unforgettable visit with a department store Santa, and a bizarre, gaudy radio contest prize are among the vivid childhood memories told with warmth and a sleigh-load of laughs. Bring the whole family for a nostalgic, heartwarming, kid's-eye-view of the holidays.

Directed by Cecelia Wingate (*Little Shop of Horrors* at Theatre Memphis and Harrell Theatre), *A Christmas Story* stars Steve Swift (Sister Myotis) as Ralph, Sam Weakley, Jaclyn Suffle, Gail Black, Janie Peacock, Brooks Eikner, Ryan Patterson, Harli Kurdelmeyer, Evan Walsh, Curtis Scott, and newcomer, 11-year-old Jeremy Beloate as young Ralphie.

A Christmas Story runs at The Circuit Playhouse November 26-December 23, Fridays at 7pm (except December 3), and Saturdays and Sundays at 2pm, with an additional performance on Tuesday, December 21 at 7pm. The Pay-What-You-Can performances are Wednesday, December 22 and Thursday, December 23 at 7pm. The Circuit Playhouse is located at 51 South Cooper Street in Midtown. For more information or to make reservations, please call 901-726-4656 or visit our website at playhouseonthesquare.org.



HUMBUG

Crumpet the elf returns in The Santaland Diaries

BY LISA LYNCH

The elf is back by popular demand! Following last season's hugely successful run, Crumpet, Macy's grumpiest elf, and his fellow elves will again be taking over the Memphian Room at The Circuit Playhouse. Don't miss out on the chance to share drinks with friends as Crumpet recounts his training and his hilarious encounters with surly parents and their greedy children! With a healthy dose of sarcasm and snarkiness, Crumpet manages to reveal the shortcomings of the hustle and bustle surrounding the holidays, while gently reminding us of the true meaning of the season. This intimate, cabaret-style performance is a night at the theatre like no other!

Directed by Associate Director Dave Landis (a previous Crumpet himself and director of *Hairspray* and *The Drowsy Chaperone*), *The Santaland Diaries* once again stars David Foster (*Hairspray*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*) as Crumpet the elf. Says Chris Davis of *The Memphis Flyer*, "It's tempting to call Foster a triple threat performer, but that would be unfair. Not only can the man sing, dance, and act, but this Crumpet can dish!"

The Santaland Diaries runs at The Circuit Playhouse December 3-22, Thursdays through Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 7pm. The Pay-What-You-Can performance is Thursday, December 9 at 8pm. The Circuit Playhouse is located at 51 South Cooper Street in Midtown. For more information or to make reservations, please call 901-726-4656 or visit our website at playhouseonthesquare.org.



Become a LampLighter Benefactor today!

The *LampLighter* has brought the Cooper-Young Community together for over 21 years. Dedicated volunteers and a part-time staff work hard 11 times a year to bring you everything you want to know in Cooper-Young.....but times are tough, and the CYCA can use your help maintaining the quality and frequency of the paper.

You now have the opportunity to become a *LampLighter* Benefactor for as little as the price of a Grande Latte per month! Go to www.cooperyoung.org and click on the Membership tab to learn how you can become a recognized *LampLighter* Benefactor by making a one-time donation of **\$60 or more**, or a **monthly donation of \$5 or more** to be drafted from your account or charged to your credit card. All *LampLighter* Benefactors will be listed as "Benefactors" in the front of the paper every month with the other contributors! If you love reading the *LampLighter* every month, help us keep this publication going! Your neighbors will thank you!

A local teacher with a passion for art offers group lessons for children

BY MANDY GRISHAM

In the past few years, I have had the privilege of getting to know a wonderful woman, Regina Boyd, a 4th grade teacher at our neighborhood school, Peabody Elementary. Ms. Boyd and I have served together on the school's Leadership Team for several years, and



I've witnessed firsthand her leadership of the Peabody Picasso Art Club, even though she is not the art teacher! She is a classroom teacher with a passion for art, which has led her to organize the school's annual Family Art Night where she invites local artists from around the Mid-South to share about their artwork with the families of Peabody in an effort to promote an awareness and appreciation of art. She has also taken art into the after-care program where she leads students on art adventures.

Ms. Boyd believes, as Picasso stated, "every child is an artist..." and seeing this vision realized is her life's purpose. Her dream, in addition to traveling to Paris for an art adventure of her own, is to open a community art center to provide creative and artistic opportunities to children who may not otherwise get the chance. Her favorite art styles are Impressionism, Fauvism, and Surrealism, and her favorite artists include Picasso, O'Keefe, Kandinsky, Matisse, and Turner.

Regina's passion for art has developed into a side business she describes as a "traveling art studio." She has named the business "artfully yours!" and states that she "offers hands-on, age-appropriate, discipline-based, art activities for 2-8 year olds."

For the last few months, my church, Neighborhood Church, has asked Ms. Boyd to bring "artfully yours!" to our children once a month. The children, who are all under the age of 6, have loved creating art with her. One month they painted with marbles. Another month they created paintings using symmetry, which just happened to be what the kindergarteners were studying that week! Regina states, "I believe that I am only the catalyst, putting the ideas out there for the children. It's amazing how they take the ideas and make them their own." My own children, ages 2 and 5, have loved her art sessions and look forward to it every time. Ms. Boyd would love to bring this traveling art studio to your playgroup, home school group, birthday party, or any group activity. She may be contacted at boydregina@netscape.net.





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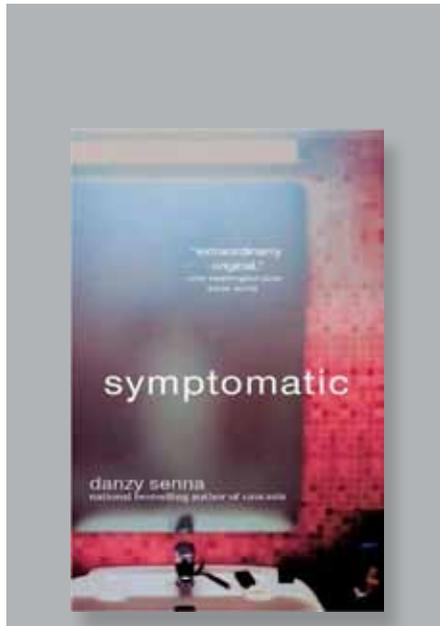
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A fresh new voice

BY KIMBERLY RICHARDSON

Danzy Senna, author of the book *Caucasia*, pulls out all the stops in her novel *Symptomatic*. Not only is this a psychological thriller, but it also addresses racial concerns that are woven well into the tale. The narrator of the story is a young biracial woman from California who moves to NYC for a job. The story begins with her moving in with her boyfriend, Andrew, to escape her room in a dilapidated boarding house. Upon meeting his friends at a party one night, she discovers that they are racist as they make fun of maintenance people from their prep school and African-Americans they see on TV. This encounter is enough to cause her to move out of Andrew's place into an abandoned apartment that she discovers through a co-worker named Greta Hicks, who is also biracial. However, Greta is not all that she appears to be, and in the shocking end the reader learns just how far some people will go in order to deny who and what they truly are.

Through the eyes of the narrator, the reader is subjected to not only the slow downward spiral of events regarding her new apartment, but also her life as a biracial woman and the precarious path she walks with a foot in both the black and white world. At times the narrator appears to be white while other times she appears to be black. She is a chameleon of sorts until the reader learns that not even she knows who she is. Senna spends quite a bit of time explaining the background of the narrator and why she is such a distant person who finds it impossible to love anyone or be loved. Her family was eccentric and seemed to love



on a random basis, while she floated along the currents like a piece of driftwood. When Greta comes along in her life, a fellow biracial person with a supposedly like mind, the narrator makes a halfhearted attempt to befriend the lonely, older woman, only to retreat quickly when Greta begins to show signs that all is not well in her own life.

This was my first time reading Senna, and I thoroughly enjoyed the slim novel. It is a good thing when a writer can grab my attention and make me flip through pages at a rapid pace. As I read this novel it seemed as though I was with the narrator watching the events unfold before her. After reading the first chapter, I immediately checked the Internet to find out more about Ms. Senna, hoping to learn as much as I could from one writer to another. What I discovered was that others who have read her work feel as I do; her voice is fresh, new, and quite unique given her background and the topics she writes about. My admiration for Senna goes beyond literary; to talk of racial matters without browbeating it into the ground is a welcomed breath of fresh air. Senna has the charm to reveal such a world without overdoing it, and for that I tip my hat to her in sincere admiration.

NEWS BRIEFS

BY BARB ELDER

Farmtable philanthropy

Au Fond Farmtable is running two promotions now thru January 31 to help those who could use a little holiday cheer. First, this CY restaurant is offering free breakfast for the homeless and those in need. This togo meal includes scrambled eggs, grits, bacon, and coffee. Second, they are giving free meals to customers who donate new or gently used children's coats. See their Facebook page, visit them at 938 S. Cooper Street, or call 901-274-8513 for more details.

Mama Mia!

In case you haven't heard the buzz, we have new neighbors moving in. *The Memphis News* reported that a new Italian restaurant will be opening on the corner of Cooper and Young at the old Dish location. This restaurant, owned by chef David Cleveland and front-of-the-house manager Leslie Billman, will be called Cortona - the name of the small Tuscan town where Cleveland studied and worked. They hope to be serving up their light, fresh creations by the beginning of 2011. Let's welcome these newcomers to the neighborhood!

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Are you a self starter who can work independently while maintaining key relationships?

The CYCA is looking for a Community Director. The purpose of this position is to manage the business operations of the CYCA. This includes designing and implementing strategies that support the CYCA's mission.

The expectations for this position revolve around 3 distinct areas: community development, Board and committee support, and administrative responsibilities. The community development duties include support of activities, such as membership initiatives and fundraising, and facilitating project or event evaluations. Support of the Board and committees include ensuring compliance of goals and objectives, maintenance of internal controls for the protection of the organization's assets, and attendance of Board and committee meetings. Administrative responsibilities include database support, maintaining a community master calendar, and communicating to the membership.

A flexible schedule with availability nights and weekends is critical. The following are some additional qualifications:

- Minimum one year work experience in an office setting
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Computer skills
- Familiarity with or willingness to learn about local, state, and national government operations as they relate to community involvement
- Working knowledge in nonprofit management, volunteer coordination, and fundraising
- Grant writing skills preferred

For a complete job description refer to the CYCA website, cooperyoung.org.

This position is budgeted for 25 hours weekly and pays \$17,000 annually. The CYCA Board is looking to fill this position immediately.

Cover letters and resumes for the position of Community Director can be sent to info@cooperyoung.org or mailed to the CYCA, Attn: Personnel Committee, 2298 Young Ave. Memphis, TN 38104.

Help protect area rivers, lakes, and streams

BY BOBBY ALLEN

What should you do when you observe someone blocking a storm drain with leaves, someone pouring used motor oil or chemicals into the storm drain system, or any other activity that could pollute our area rivers, lakes, and streams? The City of Memphis Storm Water Program requests that you contact them via their 24-hour Storm Water Hotline, 901-576-6721.

When you observe an illegal discharge, please note the date, time, location, and the identity of the person (if known). If a vehicle is involved, please note the license plate number and company name on the vehicle (if present). With this information the City will contact the alleged offender, explain their violations, and require them to cease the activity and correct the problem as applicable. For serious or repeat violations, the Storm Water Program will conduct an investigation and, if warranted, take enforcement action.

It is illegal to discharge pollutants such as used motor oil, pesticides, insecticides, paints, household chemicals, and sanitary sewage into storm drains. Raking or blowing leaves, grass, or other debris into the streets is also prohibited. It is important to note that storm drains are used only for storm water. Unlike sanitary and industrial wastewater, storm water is not treated before it enters area rivers, lakes, and streams.

For more information on the City's Storm Water Program, call 901-576-4349.



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To Our Readers

The *LampLighter* is working with the CYCA to bring you meaningful crime information. In addition to the crime map, which details crimes within a one-mile radius of the Cooper-Young intersection, we also included a list of crimes that happened within our neighborhood. This list includes the case number, which you can use to contact the police. The crimes were reported from October 24, 2010 to November 28, 2010.

CASE #	ARREST	OFFENSES	DATE	100 BLOCK
1011010237ME		Simple Assault/DV	11/20/10	1000 MEDA
1011009961ME		Theft of Vehicle Parts/Access	11/20/10	800 N BARKSDALE
1011008481ME		Burglary/Residential	11/17/10	1900 SOUTHERN
1011007960ME		MVT/Passenger Vehicle	11/16/10	900 NEW YORK
1011007877ME		Other Theft/Non-Specific	11/16/10	900 NEW YORK
1011007770ME		Theft from Motor Vehicle	11/15/10	1000 REMBERT
1011007132ME		Vandalism/Misdemeanor	11/14/10	1800 SOUTHERN
1011007122ME		Theft of Vehicle Parts/Access	11/14/10	1000 BLYTHE
1011006658ME		Burglary/Residential	11/13/10	1000 TANGLEWD
1011006472ME	yes	Vandalism/Felony	11/13/10	900 S COOPER
1011004497ME		Theft from Motor Vehicle	11/09/10	1000 PHIL. ST
1011004126ME		Burglary/Non-Residential	11/08/10	1000 MEDA
1011004059ME		Vandalism/Misdemeanor	11/08/10	1900 NELSON AVE
1011002926ME		Aggravated Assault	11/06/10	900 S COOPER ST
1011001616ME		Burglary/Residential	11/03/10	2300 OLIVER
1011001614ME		Vandalism/Misdemeanor	11/03/10	2300 OLIVER
1011000578ME		Burglary/Residential	11/01/10	1900 MANILA
1010013801ME		Burglary/Residential	10/26/10	2100 YOUNG AVE
1010013653ME		Burglary/Residential	10/26/10	1900 NELSON
1010013553ME		Burglary/Residential	10/26/10	1900 OLIVER
1010013266ME		Shoplifting/Misdemeanor	10/26/10	2100 CENTRAL

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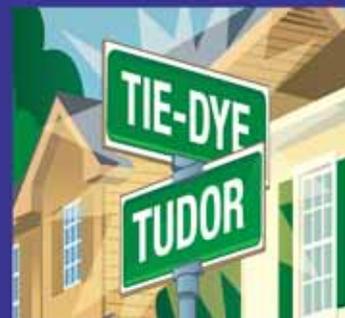
Cooper-Young — Many Voices, One Community



Crime Map

Do you want to know what crime is taking place in our neighborhood? The Memphis Police Department offers a tool on its website (memphispolice.org) that allows you to locate crime information. Crimemapper allows you to input an address and search in quarter-mile increments for a specific type of crime. It then returns with the results of your search for the previous 30 days.

The crime map for this issue was compiled by June Hurt.



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We want YOU...

to send in your pictures!

The *LampLighter* would like to thank Aunt Cicely for her years of service spreading the gossip, we mean "news," of your weddings, fun trips, new babies, parties, anniversaries, and accomplishments. Aunt Cicely has gone on to a higher calling, and while she is truly one-of-a-kind, we are in need of another spunky busybody to continue her good work. If this sounds like you, email LampLighter@cooperyoung.org and let us know of your interest. In the meantime, please continue to send those pictures in to LampLighter@cooperyoung.org.



2



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4

1. In October, the Peabody Elementary kindergarten classes took their first field trip of the year to the Memphis Botanic Garden. In this photo students from Ms. Malland's class learn about bats, while chaperone and parent, Lurene Kelley, looks on.
2. The social folks on New Elzey came out in force for their October Neighborhood Night Out party at the home of Michael Taylor.
3. A sweet baby girl was born to Peabody Elementary school teacher, Lydia Berryman, and her husband, Brian Berryman, on September 28 at 8:22am. Briley Vaughn Berryman was 6 pounds 14 ounces, healthy, and happy.
4. The residents of Millie's Place on Cooper went all out for their annual Thanksgiving dinner. Surrounded by beautiful decorations, these neighbors enjoyed smoked ham and turkey, dressing, green beans, bread, all the trimmings, and of course, some holiday libations.
5. Who knew that ladybugs and bunnies were friends? Madison Lopes and Abigail Engel couldn't be cuter at this Walker Avenue Halloween party.
6. At the annual Halloween party organized by members of the Cooper-Young Parent's Network, a quick picture was taken of all the neighborhood's budding super-heroes, princesses, and animal impersonators. A big thank you goes to Jeremy and Asuka Yow for hosting this year's spirited celebration.
7. Joshua and Ashley Hannah, with daughter Faithlynn, showed their true colors at a Halloween party on Walker Avenue.
8. Photogenic Manila residents smile for the camera as they enjoy themselves at their Neighborhood Night Out party hosted by Sonja Luecke.



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IF YOU ASK ME

Women, children, and government assistance

BY BETTY LAMARR

It is time to address the abuse of government assistance programs, such as welfare. These programs have gone from helping a generation of underprivileged women, to enabling women to make poor choices and stay stagnant members of society. This epidemic of reliance on governmental assistance has to change!



I have no problem with government assistance with healthcare or aid to persons who have lost their job during difficult times. Government assistance can be a good thing when we use it in a responsible way. However, I do have a problem with the growing trend of women bearing multiple children in order to become eligible for welfare.

For reasons unknown to me, our society is afraid to have this conversation. How do we ever expect to fix a problem if we are afraid to admit it exists? If you ask me, much of the silence is due to the fact that this abuse is perceived as a minority issue, and because of this false perception, people refuse to talk about it for fear of being tagged a racist. But this is not a race issue- it is a class issue, and it needs to be addressed.

Rather than trying to get a job, many American women choose to receive food stamps, welfare, and Section 8 vouchers. When did applying for aid take the place of a meaningful career? Welfare was originally designed to move a person from a temporary state of need to a lasting place of independence. It was never intended to become a way of life.

If you ask me, I believe that women having multiple children and expecting the government to be responsible for their care is ridiculous. Abuse of government aid does nothing to help our country progress, let alone the lives of the women who are abusing it! Why should able-bodied individuals rely solely on the government when they could be financially independent? Do they not understand what they must sacrifice in order to receive this aid? There are many stipulations with assistance programs, such as monitoring where you live and who can live with you. You sacrifice privacy and freedom. The government does not owe you money because you made the choice to have a child. You owe it to yourself to make responsible decisions that lead to a life free of crime and full of financial independence so you can be a role model for future generations. You also owe it to the children you brought into this world to provide them with a positive environment where they can learn to be self-reliant, respectable members of society.

The welfare system as we currently know it condemns people to a life of poverty, but we can change it. There are many women currently expending a great deal of energy figuring out how to work the system in order to get the most money. Imagine what could happen if they just spent half that energy making positive, productive changes, such as searching for a job or taking a class to further their education. It would make such a difference in the lives of these women and their children!

If you ask me, the government needs to hold women accountable for their own choice to have children. Perhaps some money could be diverted from welfare programs to educational programs designed to teach women to have greater self-worth. We could divert some of that money to job assistance programs or affordable, over-the-counter birth control. Once we take control of our lives, there really is no limit to what we are capable of.

Betty LaMarr is an advocate for women's issues and concerns. If you would like to contact her you may do so at askbettylamarr@aol.com.



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'Tis the season for animals too!

BY TRISHA GURLEY

Whether or not you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, or Solstice, it's always fun to give gifts to friends and family. It's been said for years that the holidays have become too commercialized and consumption-based. We're now in an era of layoffs and job cuts, combined with a heightened concern for the environment. In short, people have less money to spend and need alternatives to future landfill fodder. Does your uncle need (or even want) that nose/ear hair trimmer? Will that Wii game your kid is begging for be played for a month, then left to languish in a box for all eternity? Do I even need to mention boxy fruitcakes? I think not.

Lo, what light through yonder mall window breaks? It's giving the gift that indeed keeps on giving! No, not the fruitcake that doubles as a doorstop. How about a gift for homeless and abused animals this year? There are countless ways to warm a gift recipient's heart as well as the hearts of animals who are literally and figuratively feeling very little warmth.

If you'd like to help locally, your first stop can be your own computer. The Memphis/Shelby County Humane Society website has a portal for you to donate online, and it can be in honor or in memory of anyone you choose, even a beloved pet. Go to memphishumane.org and click on the "Donate Now" button at the top left of the site.

Mid-South Spay and Neuter Services also permit online donations via their website, spaymemphis.org. Click the "Ways To Donate" link on the main page. They offer multiple ways to give, and your money goes to support affordable spaying and neutering for pets—the number one way to reduce pet overpopulation.

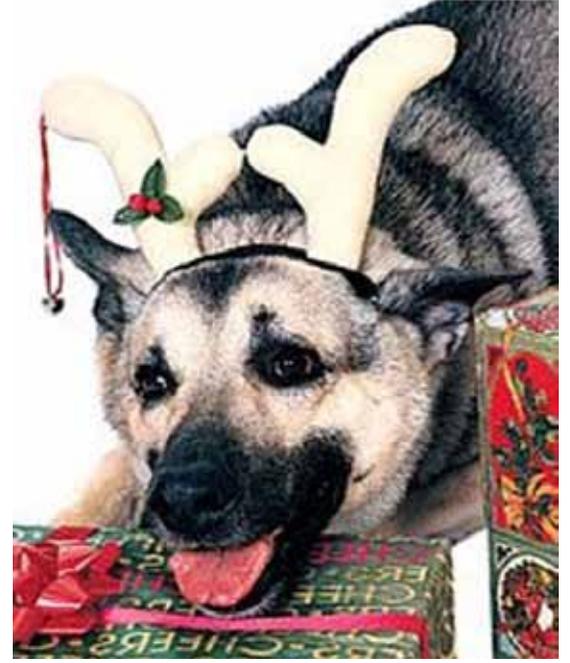
To keep it up-the-street local, log on to houseofmews.com and donate in your recipient's name. On the top right of their main page is an adorable black kitty showing you the way to donate online. All of this is at the click of a mouse and renders nary a carbon footprint.

While a donation-as-gift is lovely, sometimes there's just nothing like watching your relative or friend rip into wrapping paper and marvel at a present picked just for them. Good news, you don't have to choose between a donation and a physical present! Many national animal welfare organizations feature gifts that are a joy for the recipient, the buyer, and animals nationwide!

Check out the site for the Humane Society of the United States, humanesociety.org. Here you will find all kinds of merchandise for any age group. There are t-shirts, hoodies, caps, jewelry, items for the home, and of course, items for your furry friends. They are also offering holiday cards that remind us that peace, joy, and love are for animals as well as humans!

Another great site is petamall.com. This site provides links to literally hundreds of animal-friendly vendors and is organized by category. So if your cousin Christy wants a fur jacket of the faux variety, you can easily find a cruelty-free synthetic mink to keep her warm all winter long. If your brother Bob wants only vegan treats, you can easily send him a holiday box chock full of carob cookies.

However you decide to celebrate the holidays, be sure to show your animal friends—and strangers—some extra love this season. Their love and companionship are truly the best gifts we could ever receive.



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