

Art for Art's Sake Auction

LampLighter

Cooper-Young — Many Voices, One Community

ART FOR ART'S SAKE AUCTION

CY Trestle is more than just a pretty sight

BY LESLIE THOMPSON

In 2003, I spent my Thanksgiving holiday in Memphis. This was not my first trip to the Bluff City. I had visited once as a child, but the only thing I can recall from that trip is a hazy memory of the "Jungle Room" at Graceland. On my second trip, I spent the majority of a summer as a sullen teenager on the University of Memphis campus, where I saw very little of the actual city. Even if I had been given the opportunity to explore all I wanted, I still would have preferred to sit by myself in a dorm room while listening to The Smiths on my Sony Discman. I had not yet learned how to appreciate this city and what it has to offer.

On this third trip, I came with my husband. He grew up in Memphis and was eager to show me around, so we drove down the massive tree-lined Parkways, and he showed me Overton Park. At sunset, we sat by the Mississippi, and we followed it with a dinner of Rendezvous ribs. I saw the city from the rooftop of the Peabody, and, afterward, I saw our faces lit from the neon signs on Beale. We drove through Victorian Village, and then he showed me the sprawling mansions of East Memphis.

Back in Midtown, he said we were going to Cooper-Young, a name that sounded so bizarre to me. At the time, I thought "Cooper Young" was a person, but I quickly figured it out when I found myself driving down Cooper Street. Before arriving at our intersection destination, I can remember looking up and seeing something so curious and appealing. "What is that?" I asked in wonder as I pointed up above at what I would later learn to call the Trestle. The image of the backlit miniature row of houses hanging high and proudly over Cooper was unforgettable. At the time, I had no idea who put it there or why, but it spoke to me. I saw it as the loveliest of welcome mats dangling from the sky.

At home, I would recall our trip to Memphis over and over in my head, where the sweet

Continued on page 11

Saturday, April 10, 2010
6-9:30 p.m. • Young Avenue Deli

Artists' Reception
March 28, 2010
from 3-5 p.m.
Otherlands

\$20 entry for refreshments, door prizes, and bidding rights in the silent and live auction for original artwork, photography, pottery, jewelry, and more
Tickets available at www.cooperyoung.org



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Springing forward

Spring is here! Yippee! Outdoor activities are already picking up, like quarterly clean-ups, preparing for the Art for Art's Sake Auction on the 10th of this month, our own spring cleaning at the office....OH BUT WAIT! Have you heard the good news?

CYCA has purchased the building at 2298 Young. Owning our own space will provide a great foundation for us to build our future. All of the board members have worked to make this happen, and John

Kinsey assisted with the financing. We are so excited and hope to make it better and better by doing some improvements. We have lots of plans and hope to make it fun and beneficial for all Cooper Youngians and beyond.

Lastly, there is an upswing in activity at the Fairgrounds. We hope to keep you as informed as we can and may have some calls to action soon. So keep up with the news on our website, and if you have not joined our email list, please do so now to get any alerts direct to your inbox.

Elections are coming up in April, and I want to take this opportunity to say how much I have enjoyed serving our community as President. Enjoy the upcoming warm weather by getting out and talking with your neighbors. Knowing them makes us all a bit more aware, a bit more safe, and, heck, makes it all more fun. THAT is why I love CY!

Debbie Sowell



The CYCA website has a new look that better relates to the *LampLighter* site. Both sites will continue to evolve as we strive to make them easier to use and provide more information that you need. Let us know what you think about these changes at either cooperyoung.org or lamplighter.cooperyoung.org.

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Learn all the tips and tricks for making your yard sale one to remember this year! Join in the fun on April 24th at the CY Community Yard Sale.

11 Art for Art's Sake Auction

Take a look at some of the art that will be up for auction on April 10th, and learn more about the talented artists that donated their artwork for the fundraiser.

19 Local writer, Corey Mesler, releases two new books

Corey Mesler is not just one of the owners of Burke's Book Store; he is the talented author of two new books, *The Ballad of the Two Tom Mores* and *Following Richard Brautigan*.

All of these articles and more will be published online each month at lamplighter.cooperyoung.org.

Don't forget to register!

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Art for Art's Sake Auction

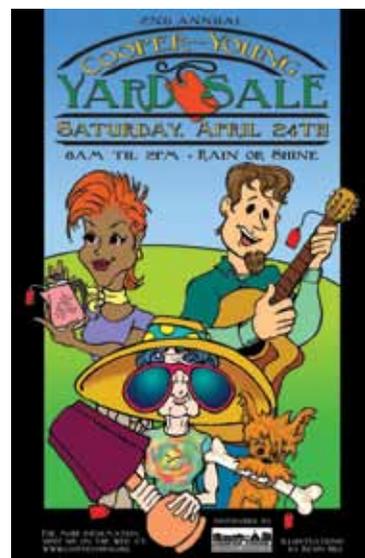
April 10th, 6-9:30 pm
Young Avenue Deli
\$20 entry, \$15 for CYCA members
Bidding rights in the silent and live auction and refreshments

CYCA Annual Meeting and Elections

Tuesday, April 13th,
6 pm Refreshments,
meeting begins at 6:30 pm
2298 Young Avenue
Elections for President and Treasurer
Celebration for purchase of the building at 2298 Young Avenue

CY Community Yard Sale

Saturday, April 24th,
8 am-2 pm (rain or shine)
CYCA members can list their yard sales in the classifieds section
Anyone can join at cooper-young.org



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Deadlines for the May LampLighter

Articles, submissions: April 15th
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Please send all articles and submissions to LampLighter@cooperyoung.org. For advertising rate sheet, or to submit ads electronically, please email ads@cooperyoung.org.

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CYCA 2010 Memberships

BY MAGGIE CARDWELL

The following memberships were received as of February 16th. Memberships received after the 16th will be listed in the next issue. The Cooper-Young Community Association is supported by paid memberships, and anyone is welcome to join and receive the benefits of membership, which include discounts to local businesses. You can join online at www.cooperyoung.org.

Community Memberships

Peter & Wilhelmina Alfonso	Ellen & Sean Faust	Amelia Nowlen
Sandra Bergland	Kathy Fisher	Joye Opfer
Ben & April Boleware	Kyle Gowen	Gina & Mallory Prater
Jim & Laura Brasher	Devin Greaney	Mark S. Rutledge
Adrienne & Ben Braun	Beth Gunn	Ted & Kathryn Schurch
Ly T. Burnett	Ernest & Vickie Hall	Jay & Emily Schwartz
M. Drew Clarke	Jennifer & Chris Hardesty	Margie Smith
Georgina Coker	Pamela Higgins	Naomi Van Tol
Kevin Dean	R Andrew Hutchinson	David Webb
Jennifer Dobbs	Olivia Irons	Tyler White
Mavis Estes	Leslie Jaynes	Ken & Erica Whitehead
		Jeremy & Asuka Yow

Donation In Memory of

Doug Grooms from Bob Isgren
Dr. F.H. Opfer from Joyce Opfer

Donation In Honor of

Mike Parnell & Glenn Althoff from Maggie & Steve Cardwell

Donation for the Building Fund

Jane Davis

Donation to Support General Operating Funds

Frances Walker
Mark Rutledge
Margie Smith

MAGIC IN MEMBERSHIP

Let them know that you are proud to be a CYCA member

BY JOHN KINSEY

"Life is good in Cooper-Young" signs

The CYCA membership committee is looking for members throughout Cooper-Young who will allow us to place a "Life is good in Cooper-Young" sign in your yard. The committee will come on Saturday, April 24th, in the afternoon and place the sign. You might remember the groovy signs designed by member and resident Teresa Franks. The signs will be up from April 24th through June 5th. The committee will come back to remove the signs. All you have to do is send an email and be willing to show your pride in the CYCA!

If you are willing to let us place a sign in your yard, then please send an email to me, the Membership Committee Chair, at info@cooperyoung.org, or call me at 272-CYCA (2922).

Membership is for everyone

Annual memberships in the CYCA are available all year long. The benefits pay for the membership in only two or three uses! Welcome to our newest benefit provider—Café Ole! Visit cooperyoung.org for a complete list of benefit providers.

To run for office or to vote in the officer elections on Tuesday, April 13th, you must be a member in good standing. Memberships can be purchased that night, at the office at 2298 Young Avenue, or via paypal at cooperyoung.org.

Memberships help pay for many of the services we provide you. Please consult your tax advisor on the deductibility of your membership dues.

Prizes become membership perk

The CYCA membership committee wants to thank all the members of our organization with some prizes, including gift certificates to some of our benefit providers among other things. For all members whose applications are processed by June 5th, you will be entered into a random drawing to win a great prize. It pays to be a CYCA member!

Cooper-Young Chili Cook-Off winners

BY EMILY BISHOP

The 3rd Annual Cooper-Young/Peabody School Chili Cook-Off was a huge success, raising almost \$1,800 (twice the amount of last year) for improvements to the community playground at Peabody School and bringing around 300 people to the Peabody cafeteria on February 27th.

Most Unusual Chili - Rene Erickson and the Midtown Chili Bombers
Judge's Choice - Rene Erickson and the Midtown Chili Bombers
People's Choice - John Shoemaker of Houghton Mifflin Publishers for his "Textbook Chili."

Best Vegetarian Chili - Nicole Hogan, a Felix resident and Peabody parent
Best HOT Chili - Mrs. Berryman and the Peabody Cooking Club

For the second year in a row, the block club with the most participation at the chili cook-off was Nelson Avenue (Cooper to Barksdale), and Ms. Magbee's first grade class won a pizza party for having the most Peabody students represented.

Special thanks goes to the "celebrity" judges, Neisey Bobo, Peabody parent and owner of Ching's Wings, Craig Blondis, future Peabody parent and owner of Central BBQ, and Kym Clark, midtown resident and Action News 5 anchor.



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

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 www.cooperyoung.org. The CYCA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

ARE YOU SIGNED UP FOR OUR EMAIL ALERTS ON SAFETY, COMMUNITY EVENTS, AND VOLUNTEERING?

SIGN UP @ COOPERYOUNG.ORG.

Cooper-Young is a \$ellers market

BY HAYNES KNIGHT

Spring is in the air, your windows are open, thunderstorms are rolling across the Mid-South, the jonquils are bursting from their winter hideaways, and you keep on avoiding those boxes at the top of your closet filled with stuff from when you moved in (mumble, mumble) years ago. By the time you read this, the Cooper-Young Community Yard Sale will be a matter of weeks away (Saturday, April 24th, from 8 am–2 pm). Are you getting ready? The way to get started in putting your yard sale together is start with one of those boxes. Just one. The journey of a thousand miles, ya know? Why have you kept all those Mardi Gras beads tucked away in a box for all these years, Blanch?

Although the CYCA will be putting up signs around Cooper-Young, a few signs directing people to your sale in particular are always helpful, especially if you are a bit off the beaten path. Make sure that the lettering is big, bold, and consistent. Something as simple as “SALE!” with an arrow can draw people to your yard. If you put signs up, make sure to take them down after the sale. If you are a Craigslist, post your sale there. I would recommend NOT putting your exact address, however (to avoid someone knocking on your door the day before asking to look through your stuff). Something like “900 block of Meda Street” might be better. Customers will still find you.

Rain or shine—well, if it rains, it rains. Every seller is responsible for deciding if they want to sell or not if we have inclement weather. We are trying to make this an annual “last Saturday in April” event, but as you know in Memphis in late April, rain might fall, so we kind of take our chances.

I could probably fill this *LampLighter* issue with do’s and don’ts of yard sales, but I’m going to give you just a few highlights.

Let me start out by saying that yard sales are hard work. It is like a mini-move. Like a move, don’t wait until the night before to get ready. I’ve put together some notes from my many yard sales past that might be of some help as you get ready.

Be clear on the purpose of your sale. Are you selling things to make money or to get rid of them? Do you really care about that porcelain cat? Is it really worth \$10 to you, or would you take \$2 for it? Pricing things on the high-side to negotiate down might be a good rule of thumb at a flea market, but at a yard sale, you might have only one shot at the woman with the crazy hat who has a collection of porcelain cats. Price that cat at \$3 and sell it to her for \$2. That way, you are both happy. Chances are that next week, you won’t remember you ever owned that silly cat, whereas she’ll be talking to that cat for many years to come.

More stuff draws more traffic, and, trust me, people will buy just about anything. I’ve been amazed at some of the things that have sold at my own yard sales: used mini-blinds, bundles of coat hangers, a rusted-out wheelbarrow and broken lawn chairs (just to name a few). True, I haven’t made much money from these things, but come on, broken lawn chairs!?

Be prepared. Be ready to go the night before so that you don’t have to rush around so much in the morning. You may find “early bird” customers (the “professional pickers”) at your sale as early as sunrise. Most (but not all) early birds will respect a sign in your yard saying “8 am Sharp.

No Early Birds.” If you are setting up at 7 am for your 8 am sale and customers are already starting to pick through your items, be firm, but friendly, and tell them you are not open until 8 am, unless you want to start wheeling and dealing before 8 am. There are lots of early birds in Memphis. I should know. I’m one of them.

If you do set your sale up outside the night before, cover your items with tarps or sheets to discourage easy pickings, and don’t put out any of your more valued items. Note: put out the porcelain cat and broken lawn chairs, but wait until morning to put out the Wii console.

Lay out your items so they are easy to look at. Instead of a box filled with books that people have to pick through, have the book titles lined up. Putting things on card tables is always helpful. Think like a customer. The easier it is to see, the easier it is to buy. My

mantra: If no one knows I have it for sale, no one will ever buy it. Say it with me: If no one knows I have it for sale, no one will ever buy it.

Price things carefully with the price tag easily readable. I have found that the easiest way to tag things is with masking tape. It doesn’t leave a residue, and you can mark it very easily.

Be friendly. Greet people as they arrive—chat if they’re chatty.

Do not bad-mouth your items. It may be trash to you, but if you are looking for a sale, give your customer confidence that your junk really is interesting junk worth every penny. “Hey, how much for this old trunk?” “Wow, that is an interesting old trunk, isn’t it?”

Be honest. If something doesn’t work and you know it doesn’t work, tell the customer it doesn’t work and price it accordingly. As strange as it sounds, people buy broken things. Let your broken things be their project. I repeat: “Broken lawn chairs, rusted-out wheelbarrow, bundles of coat hangers...”

Be willing to bargain, but be less flexible at the start. Those customers who are at your sale at opening time know what they are doing and probably know the value of your items better than you do. If you are okay with making early deals, great. Refer to point #1. Why are you having a yard sale in the first place? Another little thing to keep in mind: an item really has no cash value if no one wants to buy it for what you want to sell it for. You might have been hoarding *Memphis Press Scimitar* newspapers from August 17th, 1977, thinking they’re probably worth \$100 each in 2010. They’re not. Sorry. In Memphis, you’ll get about \$5.00 each (consistently), but if you’re trying to get much more, you may be disappointed.

Do not use a cash box. Keep your money on you at all times. If you find your pockets bulging, go in your house and secure your excess cash.

NEVER let a stranger in your house! You might be sympathetic to the little girl who has to use the bathroom NOW, but remember that this is the oldest trick in the book. Direct people to the McDonalds or other public establishment.

Don’t hold an item without a deposit and a clear understanding of when the customer will be back or you could be stuck with that item until your next sale. This is a lesson I learned the hard way. If an item has sold and the customer can’t pick it up right away, mark it as “sold” and move it out of the traffic area of your sale.

Only accept cash. Do not take a check from a stranger. There are ATM machines throughout our neighborhood. Know where they are, and direct your customers there.

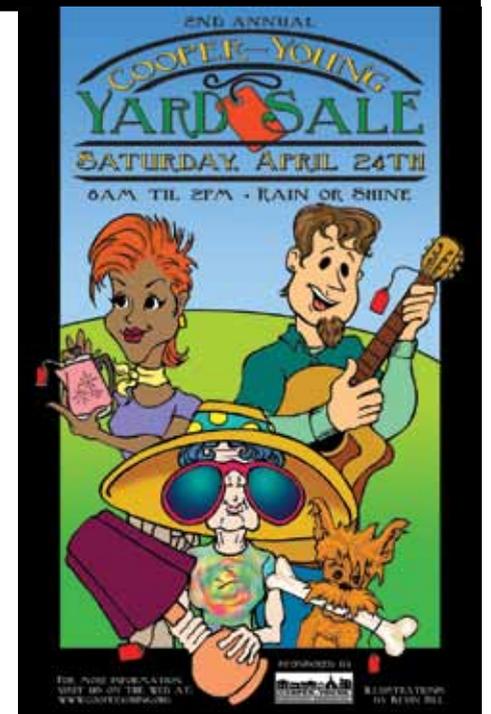
If you are really trying to move stuff, sell in bulk. Instead of a single book/CD/toy/etc, mark a box with a great price on a whole box of books/CDs/toys/etc. Selling bulk boxes is also a way of getting rid of things that you figure no one would ever buy. Let those physics textbooks from the 1980’s be kept in someone else’s garage.

Be careful of distractions, and always try to have more than one person at your sale who can make sure you are not getting ripped off. It is nice to think that everyone is as honest as you are, but that is not always the case.

Last, but not least, wear sunscreen. Do you really want to spend your profits on aloe lotion? I thought not.

After your sale, load up your car with leftover useable stuff and run it over to the Goodwill. You can write it off as a charitable contribution on your taxes. If there are unusable things, they go out on the curb for the “catfish” (as I call them) who will be patrolling the neighborhood until trash day looking for “good trash.” Rarely does anything I ever put on the curb after a yard sale make it to trash day.

By that night, you will hopefully have a pocket full of cash and more space to go collecting stuff that you’ll sell in next year’s sale. Good Luck!



**CYCA Members
can list their
yard sales
for free in the
CLASSIFIEDS
section
cooperyoung.org**

POTLUCK

Celebrate with a party for the Project

BY KRISTAN HUNTLEY

Let's face it—Cooper-Young will get together and have a party for pretty much any reason, be it the annual Night Out, to support the Cooper-Young Festival 4-Miler runners, or whatever other happy occasion comes up. Well, here is a chance to party and hang out with your neighbors while raising money for the community!

I am happy to announce that we have received the green light from the city to proceed with the McLean Mural Project. This is a major milestone in the Mural Project because we can now proceed with raising the funds needed. As stated in the March edition of the *LampLighter*, the anticipated cost of the project is between \$10,000 and \$15,000, with a completion goal of late summer or early fall. With great excitement, we are switching to fundraising mode and kicking it into high gear. We are exploring the possibility of corporate sponsorship and trying to locate local businesses that may be interested in leaving a lasting mark in Cooper-Young (so if you know of anyone or a business that may be interested, please direct them our way!), but, at this time, we are mainly relying and planning on private donations.

So, this is where the parties come in. Everyone knows fundraising is hard work, but that doesn't mean that it can't be fun! One idea that was suggested to the Beautification Committee is to hold progressive potluck parties this coming spring and summer. If you have never had the occasion to attend one of these potluck parties, basically there is one or maybe two smaller dishes at each home along the potluck route, and folks go from home to home enjoying each dish, spend time talking to friends (and making some new ones), and then move to the next home and repeat the prior steps.

For the hosts, the progressive potluck parties are easier than hosting an entire party on your own because you only have to take care of one dish, be it an appetizer, a salad, an entrée, or a sweet treat, and you don't have to create and manage an invite list on your own. Therefore, the host has more time and energy to enjoy friends, neighbors, and the other food (because we all know that food that others made tastes better).

The Mural Project fundraiser would be very similar, but with a Cooper-Young spin. The progressive potluck is still in the planning phase, but we are hopeful that residents of Cooper-Young will volunteer their homes, their front lawns, or even their back decks and yard to host a stop in the progressive potluck. In typical Cooper-Young style, we want folks to make it their own, though. Do you have kids or know what kids enjoy? Feel free to make your stop the place that all the cool kids want to go! Are you musically inclined? We all love good music, so please play away! And you don't have to do it alone—get a couple of friends together, pick a house, and go for it! We will ask the progressive potluck guests to purchase a ticket for the event (right now, we are thinking around \$20), and, with that ticket, they can enjoy all the food, music, and Cooper-Young merriment our neighborhood has to offer.

Interested or want more information? Please feel free to drop me a line at k.huntle@yahoo.com. Also, please don't forget the March poll on the cooperyoung.org site, and let us know through that if you are interested, as well.



BLOCK CLUBS

Captain Happy Hour provides great information

BY GINGER SPICKLER

Thanks so much to everyone who made it to our recent "Captain Happy Hour"! We had a great time and discussed some important information. For those of you who couldn't make it or are still thinking about signing up as your block's captain, here's a recap.

The stats

We now have 28 block clubs in Cooper-Young, seven of which are new in 2010! This is fantastic, and I am so very appreciative of everyone's willingness to take on this challenge. I truly believe you will end up getting more out of it than you put into it.

Why block clubs?

The main reason we have block clubs are to connect with our neighbors. When we know each other and work together, we can have more impact on what is happening in our neighborhood, feel more secure knowing we're watching out for one another, and most importantly, form friendships that are only a few steps away!

What is the job of the block club captain?

This is really up to the individual captain—you can make it as much or as little as you want to. At the very least, we ask that you host (or find someone else to host) a Neighborhood Night Out party, which, this year, will be on October 12th. In order to let your block know about this party, you're probably going to have to distribute flyers. But as long as you're going to have to do the legwork then, why not go ahead and pick a nice, spring day and distribute some info sheet flyers now? These flyers will ask your neighbors for their pertinent contact information that you can use to create an email distribution list to use all year long to communicate with each other. A good block club roster is a captain's most valuable resource.

So, beyond the NNO party, it's up to you. There are some blocks that have lots of casual gatherings throughout the year and at different places on the street. It can be as simple as a spur-of-the-moment front porch happy hour on a nice evening. But in between social events, the captain can serve as the communication link between your neighbors for any emergencies, safety-related issues, or other concerns your neighbors may want to discuss with one another or with the CYCA Board.

What if there are houses I'm not comfortable approaching?

You certainly should not do anything you're not comfortable with. It's likely that the folks you're uncomfortable inviting to your house won't come anyway. And if you're a new club, it may be easier to have your first few gatherings in people's yards instead of inside your home while you get to know one another. But ultimately, the more visible our organization efforts are, the less we'll all have to worry about any shenanigans going on!

Who foots the bill for all the partying?

For the NNO party in October, each block club is allotted \$50 for food and non-alcoholic beverages. Just save your receipts and turn them in to the CYCA office along with your block club roster afterward. New this year, the CYCA has budgeted an extra \$50 for five new block clubs (not just clubs under new management, but blocks that have not had a club recently) to throw a party sometime this spring or summer. Just create your block roster, have your party, save your receipts, and get your cash!

But honestly, the best way to have block social events is just to ask everyone to bring something. Most people are happy to contribute a dish and bring their own beverage, so it often means that all you have to do is straighten up the house or yard a bit and open your front door.

So that's really it. If you are interested in becoming a block club captain, just send me an email (gingerspickler@gmail.com) letting me know which block you represent, and we'll get rolling!

Blocks that need captains

Street—Boundaries

Blythe—Young & Walker
Blythe—Walker & Southern
Bruce—Oliver & Young
Bruce—Young & Walker
Bruce—Walker & Southern
Cooper—Southern & Walker
Cooper—Oliver & Young
E. Parkway—Nelson & Young
E. Parkway—Nelson & Central
Elzey—Cooper & Meda

Street—Boundaries

Evelyn—Tanglewood & Barksdale
Evelyn—Barksdale & McLean
Fleece—Southern & Walker
Manila—Rembert & Barksdale
Manila—Barksdale & McLean
Meda—Young & Walker
Meda—Walker & Southern
Meda—Elzey & Central
Nelson—Cooper & Cox
Nelson—Cox & E. Parkway

Street—Boundaries

New York—North of Evelyn
New York—Nelson & Young
New York—Young & Walke
Oliver—Cooper & Tanglewood
Philadelphia—Young & Walker
Philadelphia—Walker & Southern
Southern—Barksdale to Rembert
Tanglewood—Southern & Felix
Walker—Barksdale & McLean

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Neighborhood Watch still going strong

Last month, I was fortunate enough to attend a Neighborhood Watch retreat sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security. While I can't say I learned a great deal of new information—as I have long been an avid supporter of NW—the experience did renew my resolve to advocate this critical aspect of community. Criminals, like cockroaches, are most active when they think we're not looking, and a well-coordinated Neighborhood Watch is, by far, the best way to keep the criminal element at bay. Get to know your neighbors, share contact information, and, by all means, if you want to play a more active role in CYNW, I encourage you to contact our Safety Coordinator, Kyle Gowen, at khgowen@hotmail.com.

Aaron James

FEATURE ARTIST

Crossing Italy with Croy

BY JANICE NABORS RAITERI

J.M. Croy's trek across Italy last year was the inspiration for her work for the April show at Gallery Fifty-Six. The title, "Crossing Italy," has a double meaning—look for the cross within each painting. Jane's "chunky impressionistic" style with her unique underpainting gives these Italian city scenes and country landscapes a special flavor all her own.

After a sold-out art show, Jane and her husband, Ed, decided to book a European cruise. However, since that took most of their budget, they had to do tons of planning to see what they wanted on fifty dollars a day (or less). Jane says, "And do you know what we found? A delightful train trip through Italy to Pisa that beat the tour buses...meals at out of the way places, early morning open-air flower and fish markets that disappear by the time the tourist taxis arrive. We learned to read maps of Florence and Livorno, we strolled flea markets accidentally found while

wandering side streets, we talked to fishermen near the boat docks, and laughed as we ate at a McDonald's in Valetta, Malta." You can check out their adventures on Jane's blog at janesperspective.blogspot.com.

Here in her hometown of Memphis, J.M. has always lived art, whether teaching in the classroom or organizing artists as curator of her own gallery. Recently, however, her vivacious energy has been directed solely toward her own painting, and all the wonderful art lessons of a lifetime come alive in the rich textures and vibrant colors of these paintings.



Two of J.M. Croy's paintings will be up for a silent auction throughout the month of April, with all proceeds going to MIFA. The public is invited to her opening on Friday evening, April 9th, from 5-8 pm at the gallery, 2256 Central Avenue. For more information, call 901-276-1251 or go online to galleryfiftysix.com.



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CY NIGHT OUT

Anniversary time means good times

BY TAMARA WALKER

Join us to celebrate the second anniversary of the popular Cooper-Young Night Out on April 1st from 5–9 pm. The first Thursday of the month is when independent business owners stay open late and offer live music, discounts, and specials in area shops and restaurants. There is not a better way to kick off your month than with your friends in historic Cooper-Young.

Eclectic singer/songwriter Davy Ray Bennett will be playing at the gazebo at the corner of Cooper and Young Avenue starting at 5 pm. While you enjoy Davy's tunes, stroll the sidewalk and support local artists. Darla Linerode-Henson, Jennifer Hyatt, Chuck Parr, Rene Nickel, Buckeye Hollow, Sandy Marion, and Dinah Makowsky will be hosting an artist sidewalk sale from 5–9 pm on this evening.

The new spring/summer collection of FLAX is available at Loudean's, as well. Sign up for a gift certificate drawing and enjoy free refreshments while you explore their shop. Toad Hall Antiques is honoring Memphis abstract impressionist Jane Eveland with a reception. Be sure to check out their new shipment of spring décor and Easter happies. Artistic Body Movement Studio is offering a free Tai Chi and Nia class at 6 pm, too.

Stash-the Midtown Yarn Shop is having a Knit-In and Secret Sale from 6–9 pm. Enjoy music by Bob and Susie Salley on the patio at Celtic Crossing along with discounts on beverages and the Celtic Sampler. Also, it's buy one, get half off of the second ARTjamN purchase at the 2160 Young studio. Grace Restaurant has discounts on a selection of small plates in their lounge/bar area.



Davy Ray Bennett

Central BBQ has half-off their BBQ nachos and beverage specials. On tap at Young Avenue Deli and SoulFish Café, the kiddies eat free with an adult entrée. Don't forget, it's Open Mic night at Java Cabana or you can join Café Ole for some Happy Hour Margaritas available from 5–9 pm. East on Young Avenue, Underground Art has a buy one piercing, get 1/2 off next piercing special tonight.

There is also a huge clearance sale on men and women clothing at Lux. Enjoy free beer while you browse the new spring and summer designer fashions. Midtown ATA Marital Arts is offering dinner and a safe place to drop the kids for only \$10 for babysitting from 5–9 pm. Molly Crosby will be signing copies of her new book, *Asleep: The Forgotten Epidemic That Remains One of Medicine's Greatest Mysteries* between 5:30 and 6:30 pm at Burke's Book Store.

Also, Inbalance Fitness is offering half-price group fitness classes, and next door at the Painted Planet, enjoy 50% off gallery jewelry and free refreshments while you shop. Stop by for a wine and cheese party at Worlds Apart, located at 2159 Central Avenue or enjoy \$0.35 oysters at The Reef. The patio is open at Do Sushi and Beauty Shop; enjoy food discounts while you sip that martini! Goner Records has discounts throughout the store, too.

There are lots of exciting things happening during this anniversary night! Join in on the fun!



TAKE A TOUR

New artwork to be displayed at Painted Planet

BY DONNA BOWERS

Painted Planet proudly spotlights the artwork of its newest artists on Friday, April 9th, from 8–11 pm. The Planet will spotlight art from many different mediums: acrylic, oil, and watercolor paintings; collages; photography; handmade jewelry; sculpture; and glass. The Planet will serve refreshments and offer live music to add to the festivities. Admission is free, and everyone is invited. Come alone or invite your friends, and dress comfortably. Be prepared to experience the best art, music, and food on the planet... Painted Planet, that is.

Also, every Friday night, from 8–10 pm, Painted Planet will host Saturday Night Live at The Planet. There will be performance art, musicians, singers, painters, dancers, poets, and other types of performances. Refreshments will be available, but BYOB and bring your own lawn chair.

Saturday Night Live at The Planet will run through the end of August. Rain on Saturday evening will cancel the event for that Saturday. If you are interested in performing at Saturday Night Live, please contact me at 901-725-0054.

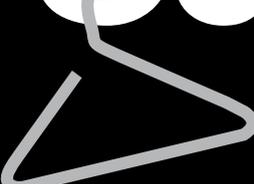
Check out our website, paintedplanetart.com, and look for Painted Planet on Facebook. Painted Planet is located at 798 South Cooper in Cooper-Young.



Painting by Brandon Herbers

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Watson tells of strange tales at Burke's

BY COREY MESLER

Fiction writer Brad Watson will be at Burke's Book Store on Tuesday, March 30th, from 5:30–6:30 pm to read from and sign copies of his new book of stories, *Aliens in the Prime of Their Lives*. Reading will begin at 6 pm.

Aliens in the Prime of Their Lives includes dark and brilliant tales capturing the strangeness of human (and almost human) life. In this, his first collection of stories since *Last Days of the Dog-Men*, Brad Watson takes us even deeper into the riotous, appalling, and mournful oddity of human beings.

Brad Watson teaches creative writing at the University of Wyoming, Laramie. His first collection, *Last Days of the Dog-Men*, won the Sue Kauffman Award for First Fiction from the American Academy of Arts and Letters; his first novel, *The Heaven of Mercury*, was a finalist for the National Book Award.

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

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Local artistry inspires Memphis youth

BY COREY SANDERS

Reported in a recent *Commercial Appeal* article, *Forbes* magazine essentially labeled Memphis as a “miserable” city in which to work, play, or live. It seems that those were fighting words to Memphis advocates, because Mayor Wharton responded with a gentle yet passionate response about the city he loves.

Memphis, like any large city, has problems. Truly, various organizations have begun to tackle the city's issues head on and have sufficiently faced the music concerning the work it takes to change. Speaking of music...and dance, spoken word, and other aspects of artistic expression, my wife, Robin, and I, a dynamic couple and directors of Out Loud Artistry (OLA), have interpreted the issues that plague Memphis as a life calling to impact the youth.

OLA's slogan is “More than just talent.” It is a local link of Lifelink Memphis fittingly located in Midtown. OLA has three segments: Cayerio, a hip-rock band with a fresh sound and an edge; OLAYouth, a mentoring and performance training program for ages 7–18; and Hybrid, a dance, drama, and music performing group. These segments of OLA were created to counteract statistics that show most behavior that negatively impacts the youth of Memphis occurs between 3 pm and 6 pm. Therefore, OLA created a program that focuses on that period of time during the day where students need a place to be. OLA is convinced that if youth can be a part of something that edifies instead of destroys, teaches instead of dulls, and EDUtains instead of entertains, change will come. Art, personal development, career, and education are all priorities of OLA, which has inspired Camp SLAM!

Camp SLAM! Will be an exciting opportunity for youth to meet others, express their artistic sides, and grow as individuals. At the close of last year's camp, which ended with a live performance at Lifelink Memphis, where OLA is housed (1015 S. Cooper), the unity of heart and expressions of delight from each child was remarkable. The theme was “DiverseCity,” and an underlying message of acceptance, appreciation of differences, and confidence resounded via spoken word, hip-hop dance, dramatic skits, and more. Robin Sanders, the artistic director, closed the segment in her typical humorous, yet profound way with tears in her eyes. She cried tears of joy for the significant growth in confidence, skill, and character each child exhibited during and at the end of the camp. Such growth should come to no surprise considering the three distinct areas OLA hopes to affect in the lives of participants:

1. Increased educational growth and performance
2. Increased self-discipline and positive personal behavior
3. Increased acceptance of moral responsibility

These three areas are not only addressed in Camp SLAM! and through year-round mentorship at Lifelink, but OLA is also partnering with schools and community organizations to engage youth in the arts, thereby, targeting the root of youth problems.



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is sprouting up in
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ellenf@cyccfm.org

Be smart about cooking, cleaning, and using water

BY BILL BULLOCK

This is the second in a series of articles on energy use and practical information to help a resident of Memphis make wise decisions regarding ways to lower energy consumption and overall utility costs.

Last month's article discussed how to reduce energy usage and save money when it comes to heating your home. This month's focus is on cooking, cleaning, and water use.

Water Heating

Most of us heat our water with a natural gas-fired tank unit. If you are using electricity for this, you are spending about twice as much as the rest of us to heat water. Some of the energy used to heat the water is lost through the tank wall (standby losses), so more efficient units have not only more efficient combustion, but thicker insulation. Considering an "on-demand" model? While this will eliminate standby losses, it is not necessarily a wise decision for most of us due to water flow issues and natural gas and water infrastructure costs. See life cycle costing of water heaters at: aceee.org/consumerguide/waterheating.htm#fuelsize. Tip: Reduce the temperature to around 120 degrees or lower—the lower the temperature, the lower the standby losses. Additionally, turn it to vacation setting when away from the house for several days (mark the previous setting with a marker so you can return to your optimal temperature when you get home). If you have to mix in much cold water when you are taking a shower, it's probably too hot. If you have an electric water heater, plan to convert it to natural gas. When your water heater fails, you are often more focused on quick repair than energy efficiency. Do some homework now so you know what model to get. For most of us, choose either a high efficiency gas storage unit or a natural gas condensing unit (if you can find one).

Clothes Washing

Most of the energy used in washing clothes is not from the washing machine, but it is the energy used to heat the water and dry the clothes. But don't discount the efficiency of a washing machine. More efficient models use less water to wash, and they remove more water in the spin cycle. Tip: Use cold water whenever you can. When replacing a washing machine, consider front loaders that typically use less water and do a better job of removing water. Use a solar clothes dryer (aka, clothesline) when feasible.

Cooking

While cooking uses a lot of energy to create heat, burners and ovens are usually on for such a short time that they are generally not contributing significantly to most of our utility bills. Tip: In summer, reduce the load on your air conditioner and use the vent hood to exhaust hot air from over your stove. In winter, use the hood less and take advantage of the heat, humidity, and aroma. Consider using timers to automatically shut off the oven or at least remind you it's on. This can save some energy, salvage a pot roast, and give more life to your smoke detector batteries.

Dishwashing

Like clothes washing, the energy here is not so much the appliance itself but the energy used to heat water. When washing or rinsing in the sink, don't let the water run. Put some water in the sink and wash, then rinse. If you use a dishwasher, run it only with full loads. Use water sparingly to rinse dishes before you load the dishwasher. Forego rinsing and see how good a job it does without—you may be surprised.

Water Use

Other activities that use water include bathrooms and irrigation. Modern toilets use a fraction of the water old ones use, and there are models that do well with one flush. If your toilet leaks (you can usually hear this), you are sending water and money down the drain. If it takes a long time for hot water to get to your shower or sink when you first call for it, you are likely wasting a lot of water. Summertime irrigation of lawns and trees can account for a lot of our annual water use. And when you use water, you are also charged a sewer fee that is proportional to use. Tip: Collect the water running when waiting for the hot water to get there and use it for something else like watering plants or pets. If your toilet is leaking, fix it. Often the culprit is a leaking flapper that you can replace yourself. Fix leaky faucets as well, especially hot water drips. Install low-flow showerheads, and even consider the Navy shower: turn the water on and after you get wet, turn it off until ready to rinse. In your yard, as you add plants, choose drought-tolerant varieties. Keep track of rainfall, and only water when necessary.

Log on to mlgw.com and click on "In Home Evaluation Program" to learn of MLGW/TVA incentives for making energy improvements and investments. Look at "Energy Tax Incentives" to see how some of these improvements qualify for Federal Tax Credits. Use "My Account" to track

your energy use, get energy conservation tips, view and pay your bill, or sign up for paperless billing.

Bill Bullock has a degree in Mechanical Engineering, has been working in the energy field for over 25 years, and is a long-time resident of midtown Memphis. If you have questions regarding this information or energy use in general, contact him at bbullock@mlgw.org.



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Combating stress with movement

BY TARA TAYLOR

How do you handle stress? By overeating/drinking, sleeping, exercise? According to many studies, the best way to cope with our stressful world is through physical activity.

For the past 17 years, April has been given the distinctive honor of being "Stress Awareness Month." For April, doctors and health and fitness professionals are teaming together to increase public awareness of how to prevent, handle, and cope with stress. The Health Resource Network (a nonprofit health education organization), sponsors Stress Awareness Month as well as National Stress Awareness Day, April 16th—or the day after income taxes are due! In honor of this "awareness," why not give the exercise thing a shot for a month? After these 30 days, see if your stress coping doesn't become a bit easier.

Merriam Webster defines stress as "a physical, chemical, or emotional factor that causes bodily or mental tension and may be a factor in disease causation." In other words, it is a factor that may cause disease. Our brains come hardwired with an automatic reaction to stressful situations (mental or physical). This reaction causes the release of hormones to initiate the "fight-or-flight" response. The main issue with mental stress is that our body reacts the same way with these fight-or-flight hormones as it would to a physical threat. Without a way to release these hormones, your body is always on red alert. Over time, that level of stress leads to serious health problems, including heart disease, sleep disorders, obesity, depression, loss of memory, and digestive problems to name a few.

Learning to manage stress is crucial because it helps the brain "reset" after this release of hormones. The Mayo Clinic suggests exercise, relaxation techniques, fostering healthy friendships, and getting plenty of sleep as stress management strategies. Exercise (or any type of physical activity) ranks the highest when it comes to your body's ability to cope with stress.

Why does exercise play such an important role in stress management? Physical activity triggers the release of the "happy hormones" (aka, endorphins) in our bodies. The release of these hormones not only relieves stress, it also helps with our ability to endure pain. Below are a few key steps to creating and sticking with an exercise program:

- **Consult with your doctor.** Especially if you have a history of heart disease or other risk factors.
- **Walk before you run.** Build up your fitness level gradually. Excitement about a new program can lead to overdoing it and possibly even injury. Plus, if you begin your program slowly, chances are better that you'll stick with it.
- **Do what you love.** Don't train for a marathon if you dislike running. All forms of movement can increase your fitness level while decreasing your stress. The most important thing is to pick an activity that you enjoy.
- **Pick a time and stick to it.** Carving out some time to move every day helps you make your exercise program an ongoing priority.
- **Set some goals.** It's always a good idea to begin or modify a workout program with a goal in mind. If your primary goal is to reduce stress in your life and recharge your batteries, your specific goals might include committing to walking during your lunch hour three times a week or, if needed, finding a baby sitter to watch your children so that you can slip away to attend a class.
- **Find a friend.** Knowing that someone is waiting for you to show up at the gym or the park can be a powerful incentive. Working out with a friend, coworker, or family member often brings a



new level of motivation to your workouts.

- **Change up your routine.** If you've always been a competitive runner, take a look at other less-competitive options that may help with stress reduction, such as Pilates classes or yoga. As an added bonus, these kinder, gentler workouts may enhance your running while also decreasing your stress.

Don't just take my word for it, Jill Kauker, a loyal Inbalance Fitness class participant uses group exercise to manage stress: "I couldn't do my job if it weren't for step class. I need three days a week of cardio or I just wouldn't feel right...going to the classes at night during the work week forces me to leave work at a decent hour which I might not do otherwise. Inbalance Group Fitness is a life saver."

Basically, exercise = less stress. Make sure that whatever activity you choose is something that you enjoy. Any sort of physical activity, from attending your favorite class at Inbalance Fitness to a stroll around the block, can help you unwind and combat the stress from your day.

For more information about Stress Awareness Month and stress management techniques, visit the Health Resource Network's website at TheStressCure.com or the Mayo Clinic website at MayoClinic.com. To find out more ways to incorporate exercise into your daily life, visit Inbalance Fitness on the web at inbalancefitness.com.

Tara Taylor is an Inbalance Fitness group fitness director and certified personal trainer.

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CY Trestle is more

Continued from page 1.

scent of barbecue, the grand images of Southern mansions, and the whirling current of the Mississippi would shuffle at random, all backed by a soundtrack of blues. But the image of the Trestle and the quaint, but vibrant, neighborhood that sat behind it proved to be the most poignant of my memories. I had never seen such a public display of art before. Perhaps larger cities that I had not yet visited would have something like this—New York, Chicago, San Francisco, these are the cities I imagined to be able to have and to afford such things. Little did I know then that I would call Cooper-Young my home just two years later.

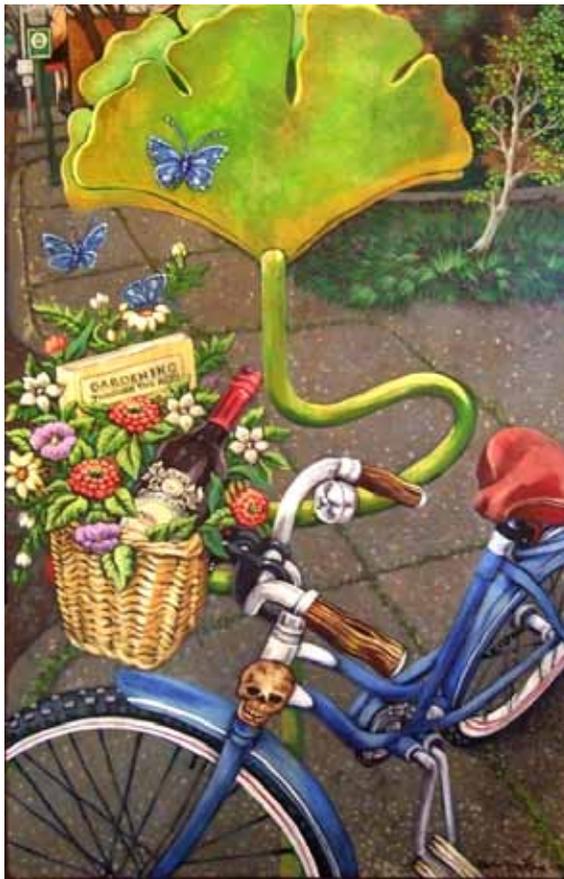
Since moving here, I have learned a lot about our neighborhood and its Trestle. One would not know it by looking at it now, but Cooper-Young was a struggling neighborhood in the 60's and 70's, when families found little reason to stay here, fleeing to newer neighborhoods to the east. Even when people started moving back in the 80's and 90's, the place was still often regarded as an unsafe eyesore. Looking to revamp the neighborhood's image, the Cooper-Young Community Association (CYCA) applied for a grant to revive the abandoned and graffiti-covered train trestle on Cooper, which serves as a gateway to the area. With help from the Urban Art Commission, a Memphis metal-smith, Jill Turman, was selected to create her idea of twelve metal replicas of buildings in the neighborhood. The art installation was dedicated in 2000, and the trestle immediately became an icon of the spirited people, celebrated architecture, and lively businesses of the Cooper-Young community.

Although the Trestle is owned by the CYCA, this art is public. The Trestle is for you and for me and for everyone else to enjoy. It is not just a part of Cooper-Young; it is a part of Memphis. Figuratively speaking, we all own it, but who pays for it?

Any piece of art left out to deal with the elements will need repairs from time to time, and unfortunately vandalism is still a recurring problem in 2010. The cost of the insurance for the Trestle alone is huge. And besides the Trestle, the CYCA provides for many other things in our community we often take for granted. Those pretty Yvonne Bobo ginkgo leaf bike racks were not free. The equipment used for neighborhood clean-ups comes with a monetary cost. The \$50 that each of our block captains receive to give the annual National Night Out Parties does not fall from the sky. The gallons upon gallons of paint needed to cover the ceaseless graffiti in Cooper-Young come with a charge. And the pending crosswalk art will not create itself. Simply put, keeping our neighborhood this awesome is costly, so the annual Art for Art's Sake Auction was started by the CYCA in 2003 to help out with the heavy burden of paying for such maintenance and care.

This year's auction will be held on Saturday, April 10th at 6 pm. Young Avenue Deli will be magically transformed yet again into a bustling, enterprising auction house. \$20 at the door, or \$15 for CYCA members, will get you inside. For that generous donation, you will receive a fun and spirited evening with some of the coolest people in town, including all of the free beer and wine you can drink. You will find a fast-paced live auction hosted by local comedian and actor Dennis Phillippi, and he might even encourage you to get a little tipsy with the hopes of you being more gracious with the contents of your wallet. And even if you are not drinking, you will be more giving with your money because you will be encouraged to bid for the beautiful artwork donated by some of the best local artists Memphis has to offer. If the larger art pieces are too expensive for your budget, then check out the silent auction tables, where many have scored great pieces of jewelry, pottery, gift baskets, and who knows what else for as little as \$5.

For the cost of one night on the town, you can have your night out and do it guilt-free by knowing your money is well spent on something worthy. All you have to do is head south on Cooper Street from Central Avenue to realize this charitable auction truly is for a good cause. Please help us keep Cooper-Young beautiful and inviting by attending this year's Art for Art's Sake Auction. Bring your friends, invite your coworkers, or buy someone special a ticket to the event as a gift. Even if you do not live in the neighborhood, remember that it is your Trestle, too.



Artist: **Mollie Jaye Riggs**

Email: molliejayebirdriggs@gmail.com

Title: Life is good in Cooper-Young

Value: \$900

Description: Acrylic and casien on wood

I enjoy riding my bicycle around the neighborhood. I can carry a party in my basket.

Why I love CY: If I didn't live in Cooper-Young, I probably wouldn't live in Memphis.

Live Auction items shine with local talent

BY EMILY BISHOP

Cooper-Young is what it is today because of the artists. If not for their strong wills and talents, we would not have such distinct representations of the neighborhood, such as the Trestle art and the ginkgo leaf bike racks that are seen around the heart of CY. In fact, the cornerstone of our neighborhood can be found with the dozens of artists that call CY home. In the beginning, they looked past the run-down facades and saw the strong bones of the houses. Today, they show their support by donating to the Art for Art's Sake Auction.

The Cooper-Young Community Association is deeply grateful to everyone who has contributed time, money, and artistic talents to make this event a success each and every year.

Show support for this gorgeous neighborhood by coming to the Art for Art's Sake Auction on April 10th at the Young Avenue Deli. Tickets can be purchased online or at the door (\$20, or \$15 for CYCA members), and good times and great food can be found inside!

Here, you can see a sampling of the local artists and their work that will be available during the live auction. Many more items are included in the silent auction. Visit cooperyoung.org for more information.

Artist: **Brandon Herbers**

Email: Brandon.Herbers@yahoo.com

Google: Charles Blackburn Flickr photostream

Title: The Grapevine

Value: \$400

A new medium created and added to the art world by Brandon Herbers and done by accentuating wood grain with blow torch and dremel.



Also in the Live Auction



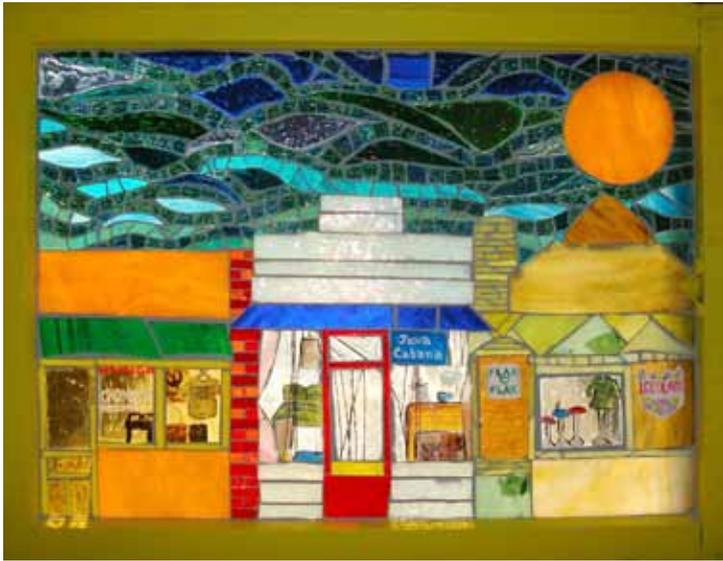
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Vintage Linen Runner,
Handmade One-of-a-kind Cross,
and much, much, more.

More Live Auction Art



Artist: **Lisa Lumb**
 Email: lumb1@bellsouth.net
 Title: Wax, Flax, and Java to the Max
 Medium: Stained glass on found object
 Value: \$1250

I chose to depict three colorful and unique local businesses in CY: Goner Records, Java Cabana, and Loudean's on Young Avenue. Some of these buildings have been around for almost a century now, though the businesses have changed over the years. I love to think that a century's worth of shoppers have strolled down the avenue to windowshop and that CY is still going strong. When some of our restaurants closed recently, people were predicting the worst...but once again, CY has bounced back with a vengeance, with even more businesses coming in to take up the slack.



Artist: **Paul Clarke**
 Website: servogroup.com
 Title: Cooper-Young January 1st 2001
 Description: Photograph taken early morning. Number 8 of 15 prints.
 Value: \$250
I have images in my head—the camera is my medicine—without it my head would explode.

Artist: **John Carter**
 Phone: 901-486-3540
 Email: jcarterstudio@yahoo.com
 Title: Turtle Lake at the Botanic Gardens
 Description: Oil on canvas
 Value: \$250
This painting is based on a photograph given to me by a dear fellow painter, David Wertzberger, who passed away a few years ago from cancer. Why I love CY: All throughout my college years and until 1980 I lived and worked in Midtown. I still work here and will always love the area.



Artist: **Lizi Beard Ward**
 Website: lizi.bward@gmail.com
 Title: Gazebo at Cooper & Young and Fall Trees in CY
 Value: \$250
 Medium: Digitally enhanced photos



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Artist: **Karen Bottle Capps**

Website: karenbottlecapps.com

Title: Elvis' Birthplace

Value: \$575

In this portrait of Elvis' birthplace in Tupelo, Mississippi, you can feel and touch where the King of Rock and Roll began his musical journey. Made from glass, vintage bottle caps, and costume jewelry and made complete with an historical marker. This is a must-have piece. Look! A tiny porch swing. The same one, except different, that little Elvis sat on. A cloudy day with the center of the sun is a pyramid, doves fly away peacefully as Elvis did at Graceland. I found those barrettes at Peabody School Playground across the street.



The foundation stones on the house are made from pottery pieces I found on the banks of the Mississippi River. The river washes away Memphis' early trash dumps with its rise and fall. This one is early 1920's.

Artist: **Carol Robison**

Phone: 901-502-1649

Title: Hawk Over Young Ave. Deli

Medium: Paint on wood

Value: \$600

Carol Robison walks by the Deli every day with her dogs. She notices stuff. Recently, she's been seeing birds. Redtail Hawks flying back and forth among the trees that surround the Deli. No bird collisions here. These Hawks are watching "over" the Deli. Its not the beer your feeling, it's the hawks intensifying your life force. These hawks spread joy and add fulfillment to your bohemian lifestyle.

We can look forward to more bird paintings from Carol as she watches a flock of Yellow Crowned Night Heron's nesting in her trees. They come every spring, build a nest, more birds come, they do mating dances, whooping calls, and make new family members, then fly south again. Ahh. The South, we love it here.



Artist: **Jeanne Seagle**

Email: jeanneseagle@bellsouth.net

Title: Moonrise at Ute Mountain

Medium: Acrylic on canvas

Value: \$1000

Ute Mountain is a sacred site for the Indians of Northern New Mexico. It rises up independently from a vast plain in an area of ancient volcanos and lava flows. I have seen it covered with violent storm clouds when the rest of the sky was sunny and blue. In this instance, vertical clouds rose up as if they were dancing. I was driving in this desolate landscape late at night, desperately hoping to find a motel room, when I saw this beautiful sight. It seemed to be a sign that all would be well.



Artist: **CY Community**

Title: Peace in Cooper-Young

Value: \$250

The entire community was invited by ARTjamN to paint and express their creativity. The result was a group collage of fun and color. ARTjamN...it's Paintertainment. Canvas, paint, easels, and fun. Website: ARTjamN.com

Artist: **Robby Johnston aka Slim**

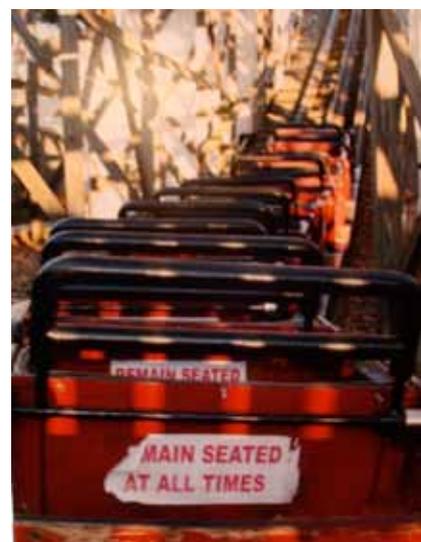
Website: robbyjohnston.com

Title: Winter Night

Medium: Acrylic with mixed media and found art on panel

Value: \$200

I like Cooper-Young's diversity of people and could live at Tsunami!



Artist: **Cat Snyder**

Website:

Title: Remain Seated at all Times

Value: \$200

I know a certain person who is a big fan of Cat's work. Will she be at the auction? Yes. So you better be ready to bid up and often. The Libertyland debacle has caused many a fist fight, and friends have stopped talking to friends. The Zippin Pippin is going to be missed, but the good people in Green Bay will keep it rolling for future fun. Cat Snyder has made some very awesome photos to remember her by. For all those who rode this ride, you know you want it. Beautiful colors and shaded tones. The Zippin Pippin comes alive in her photo. Cat was born and raised in Memphis, TN.

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Huey's celebrates its 40th anniversary

BY SAMANTHA DEAN, WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY MICHELLE CAMPBELL

It's not hard to believe that Huey's Midtown has been around for 40 years. I remember my parents taking me there as a kid, shooting toothpicks at the ceiling as a college student, and sharing a beer with friends after work as an adult. I also had the privilege of working with Thomas Boggs, who taught me the importance of running a cost-effective business. Thomas was always willing to give his support to anyone that asked for his advice on launching a new business venture, especially in midtown. He helped me when I opened Fork It Over Catering, as well as Ben Smith, when he opened Tsunami. Thomas generously helped me equip my kitchen, gave me the knowledge on how to run a business from behind the scenes, and most importantly, showed me the importance of giving back to the community that supports you!

Alan Gary opened Huey's in March of 1970. The name Huey's comes from his childhood nickname, Huey. He came up with the idea of creating a bar that was fun and unique, a place where he and all his friends could have a good time. Of course, no good time is had without a good burger, and he didn't have to go far to find the best meat in town. It was just a block down the road, at John Gray Big Star where he had them grind his secret mix daily. That tradition goes on, with a special blend of beef ground daily at Charlie's Meat Market to make our World Famous Huey Burgers just as special today.

Thomas Boggs became involved in Huey's in 1975 at the midtown location. He always had a knack for the hospitality industry. He started working at the age of 14 for Davis Rexall, who Boggs credits for teaching him the basics of service.

Later, married with children, Boggs went back to school to finish his degree in history. He waited tables at T.G.I. Friday's while in school and went on to work in the corporate offices of Friday's in Dallas, traveling to open their new outlets. After leaving Friday's, he moved back to Memphis and started working at Huey's as a bartender, then moved into management. Two years later, he became a partner with Jay Sheffield. Huey's was a bar then, but because of Boggs' corporate experience with Friday's, he saw the trend coming and began building the menu, transitioning Huey's from a bar to a casual dining restaurant.

Huey's now has seven locations. We opened Huey's Cordova in May of 1994, Huey's Downtown opened in October 1996. Our Collierville location opened in January of 1999, Southaven in February of 2000, Huey's Southwind opened in February 2003, and Huey's Poplar opened in December 2003. Huey's was also one of the first restaurants awarded the Memphis Business Journal Small Business of the Year Award. Huey's also received many awards from various community organizations, including the Memphis City Council, The Tennessee Restaurant Association, and the Memphis Restaurant Association. Huey's has also won the Restaurant Neighbors Award and, in addition, has been featured on the Travel Channel and The Best on Food Network.

Huey's has also been awarded Best Burger in *Memphis Magazine's* reader poll for over 27 years and *Memphis Flyer's* Best of Memphis every year since 1990.



Huey's has blues, brews, and the best burger in town. For over 40 years, Huey's has had the longest continuous jazz ensemble in Memphis. Some of the finest musicians have played at Huey's before they found fame: Robert Cray, Anson Funderburgh and the Rockets, Koko Taylor, Katie Webster, Omar and the Howlers, and many more. Huey's was also voted one of the top three music places to visit.

Perhaps the most exciting facet of Huey's is the stucco wall and the frill pick contest. The wall is plastered with graffiti ranging from small messages in ink to large messages in lipstick. The frill picks are found with your entrée and when put into a drinking straw; they are blown up into the ceiling where they stick until the contest. Management decided to hold a contest after customers wanted to know how many were in the ceiling. The money collected is donated to the Memphis Zoological Society; to date over \$37,000 has been donated. Giving back to the community is very important to Huey's and its employees. Our employees donate hundreds of hours to various nonprofit organizations. Employees actively raise money for the Memphis Food Bank during the Feed the Need week, averaging \$5,000 per year for their cause. Every year, we also donate over 50 gallons of soup to the Youth Village Soup Sunday. Huey's donates gift cards for silent actions and fundraisers, food for many worthy causes, including the University of Memphis, Church Health Center, Christian Brothers High School, Memphis In May, St. Jude, and countless others. In 2005, Huey's established the Huey's Scholarship at the University of Memphis.

Mr. Boggs died in May of 2008, but his children carry on the Huey's legacy and continue to honor the philosophy that Boggs built his business on. Lauren Boggs McHugh is President of the Company, Ashley Boggs Williams is Vice-President, and Samantha Boggs Dean is Marketing Coordinator. Alex and Fulton Boggs work during the summers while continuing their educations, and Wight Fulton Boggs designs and oversees all menu changes.

On Sunday, April 18th, Huey's will be celebrating their 40th Anniversary with a big street party. The corners of Madison and Tucker in front of Huey's Midtown will be blocked off. There will be live music (no cover) and great festivities. This is a family event, so please come join in the fun as the Huey's crew says thank you, Memphis, for 40 great years of food, frills, and fun.

For more information, please contact Branden Canepa at 901-726-9693 ext. 26.



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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 February 19th, 2010 to March 20th, 2010.

CASE #	ARREST	OFFENSES	DATE	100 BLOCK
1003010630ME		Theft of Vehicle Parts/Access.	03/20/10	1000 NEW YORK
1003010387ME		Simple Assault/DV	03/19/10	1900 YOUNG
1003009943ME		Burglary/Residential	03/19/10	1000 FLEECE
1003009927ME		Other Theft/Non-Specific	03/19/10	1000 FLEECE
1003006953ME		Other Theft/Non-Specific	03/13/10	1000 MEDA
1003005614ME		Theft from Building	03/11/10	1000 S COOPER
1003005556ME	yes	Drugs/Narc.Violation/Felony	03/11/10	1000 S REMBERT
1003005137ME		Burglary/Residential	03/10/10	1000 FLEECE
1003004796ME		Other Theft/Non-Specific	03/09/10	2100 CENTRAL AVE
1003004761ME	yes	Drugs/Narc.iolation/Misd.	03/09/10	COOPER AND CENTRAL
1003004543ME		Simple Assault/DV	03/09/10	1100 S COOPER
1003004386ME		Vandalism/Felony	03/09/10	2200 CENTRAL
1003004084ME	yes	Drugs/Narc.Violation/Misd.	03/08/10	1000 BRUCE
1003003959ME		Drugs/Narc.Violation/Felony	03/08/10	WALKER AND PHILADELPHIA
1003003817ME		Robbery/Individual	03/08/10	YOUNG AND COOPER
1003003645ME		Theft from Motor Vehicle	03/07/10	900 S COOPER
1003001643ME	yes	Shoplifting/Misdemeanor	03/03/10	800 COOPER
1003001299ME		Burglary/Residential	03/03/10	2100 EVELYN
1002003773ME	yes	Drugs/Narc.Violation/Misd.	03/02/10	2000 FELIX
1002010967ME		Vandalism/Misdemeanor	02/24/10	2000 WALKER
1002010872ME		Other Theft/Non-Specific	02/23/10	2300 NELSON
1002008897ME		Simple Assault/DV	02/19/10	1100 S REMBERT
1002008688ME		Theft from Motor Vehicle	02/19/10	1000 PHILADELPHIA

Retirement party for Col. Garrett

Join Midtown Security Community for a Celebration of Col. Billy Garrett's Service to Midtown on the occasion of his retirement from the Memphis Police Department.

When: Tuesday, April 6th

5:30 pm: Refreshments

6-7 pm: Celebration of Col. Garrett's Service to Midtown

Where: HopeWorks (basement of Midtown Church of Christ, just west of Channel 5 on Union)

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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 (www.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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Celtic Crossing knows authentic

BY AARON JAMES

Two things that Ireland and the South have in common are a warm, genuine hospitality and cooking so delectable that it's actually called "soul." And no place in Cooper-Young exemplifies both of these traits quite like Celtic Crossing on the northwest corner of Cooper and Oliver.

And it may seem odd, but even though I penned the above sentiment weeks before my interview with Celtic's very busy owner, DJ Naylor, once we finally found a second to talk, this is exactly the feel I got from him. Originally from

Ireland (really?), DJ moved to Memphis in 2001 to join other home-country friends who had found the southern vibe welcoming. Eventually, he and this rowdy band of soccer-loving miscreants decided Midtown needed a fine Irish pub, and man, did they ever give us one!

Opened in 2005, the interior of Celtic retains much of the charm of the original Craftsman-style residence. When I was growing up on Felix, this was the site of Hardwood Arms, a local gun dealer. Instead of a patio, try to imagine the front yard sporting a pole-mounted anti-aircraft gun! No walk to or from Fairview was complete without a bit of WW-II reenactment! Now, no Monday is complete without catching up with friends on the patio at Pint Night!

Lucky for us, DJ, who by his own count has traveled to some 70–80 different countries so far, always makes a point of seeking out the local Irish pub. He has found that good food, warm hospitality, and a little splash for the gullet, are always a certainty. When asked for a quote regarding his philosophy for Celtic, he summed it up nicely by saying, "If I walked in these doors,



what would I want?" Being something of an aficionado myself, I can tell you he has hit the authentic Irish pub nail on the head.

In fact, the only thing bad I can say about Celtic is that it's a shame I don't live upstairs. But maybe that's a good thing, since a quarter century of similar indulgences have already pushed me closer to the edge than is healthy. A life with such a ready access to Guinness and great food (did I mention the adorable wait staff?) would surely send me right on over—but man, what a lovely way to go!

For more information, visit celticcrossing-memphis.com. And feel free to let everyone know your opinion about Celtic Crossing at lamplighter.cooperyoung.org.

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Natural School to host Spring Festival with focus on kids

BY DALILA EARLY

Have you noticed yet? The days are getting longer, warmer, and more colorful with all the beautiful flowers, and our neighbors are out and about running, walking, strolling. It's happening! Spring is coming back to Cooper-Young. It's time to celebrate!

The children, families, and staff of the Natural Learning School are offering something very special to our community this spring: a brand new festival.

Our first Spring Festival will take place at the Peabody Park on Saturday, May 1st, from 10 am until 3 pm.

As a Reggio Emilia-inspired school, we offer our children opportunities to engage in hands-on, meaningful, long-term projects. In February, our teachers and children (ages 2 to 9 years old) started a dialogue about: celebration, festivals... Questions like "What is a festival?" "What makes a festival really fun?" and "How would you like to contribute to our festival?" were asked and answered by the children together with the teachers, and our festival was born.

After many brainstorming sessions, the children came up with some fantastic ideas for games, food, and items to sell. They are now very busy turning their dreams into reality, experiencing the successes and failures that are part of any inventor's life. Any time they encounter an obstacle, our teachers are there, not to solve the problem for them, but to guide their search for a solution. The result of this collaboration between children and teachers is a very rich learning experience for everyone involved. So, every item you find for sale in the children's corner of our festival has been dreamed, designed, and built by one of our children.

Our families are also very involved in every aspect of this festival, from the conception and planning, to the execution, including donating items, creating articles for sale, requesting donations from local businesses, and spreading the word about our festival. We are very grateful for the hard work of all of our members.

Come join us! There will be something fun for everyone! At our Spring Festival you will find music, food, art, games, family fun, a raffle, and a silent auction.

The music will be provided by local bands whose members are moms and dads just like you. The delicious food will feature the best creations from our local chefs and our children. Games will be created and hosted by the children and families of the Natural Learning School.

The raffle and silent auction will feature an exquisite assortment of items donated by local businesses, created or donated by our families, and made by our children.

The income generated by this Festival will be used towards our scholarship fund, allowing us to offer our excellent learning environment to children who otherwise wouldn't be able to join us.

We truly appreciate your support!

Save the date, come play with us, and make some new friends.

If you would like to volunteer, donate an item, have a booth, or sponsor our festival, please contact me at dalila@naturalearningschool.com or at 901-725-9467.

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The Memphis Acoustic Music Association presents Jimmy Robinson

BY JUDY KITTS

Throughout his long career with rock-fusion band Woodenhead and guitar collective Twangorama, the electric guitar has served as Jimmy Robinson's main instrument. But during a month-long Hurricane Katrina evacuation to Memphis, he rediscovered the acoustic guitar, the instrument at the heart of his classical music studies at Loyola University.



Jimmy Robinson

That period of rediscovery motivated Robinson to complete his

first-ever acoustic solo album, "Vibrating Strings." He'll showcase much of it at Otherlands on April 3rd at 8 pm.

On "Vibrating Strings," Robinson's playing is consistently rich, lyrical, and fluent. A Spanish-style detour called "Pepi" and "Brian O'Neal," an elegy for the late Bonerama trombonist, are especially sumptuous. Another highlight is his acoustic re-imagining of Led Zeppelin's ageless "Kashmir." Robinson has written half the songs on "Vibrating Strings" in a voice reminiscent of Richard Thompson and Fairport Convention's Sandy Denny.

Robinson continues to perform with Twangorama and, less frequently, Woodenhead. He also contributes to Cowsill's monthly "Covered in Vinyl" renditions of classic albums at Carrollton Station. And, increasingly, he performs solo.

For more information, call 901-274-1626 or visit mamamusic.org. Tickets for the concert are \$12 and can be bought at Otherlands and Davis-Kidd Booksellers.

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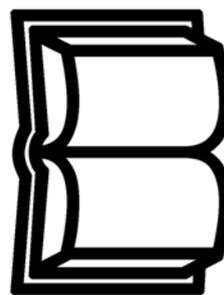
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 5:30 to 6:30 Reading at 6:00
Molly Crosby
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Thursday, May 6th
(Cooper Young Night Out)
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Online magazine looks at home state

BY DEVIN GREANEY

Across Tennessee (acrosstn.com) is a new online magazine about the people, places, things, and ideas of Tennessee. It updates with a new feature every Monday and Friday. It is published right here from Cooper-Young.

This is not Memphis-, or even West Tennessee–focused, as the magazine wants to reach out to all of Tennessee. This is a various, diverse state. We Tennesseans are spread over great distances. Memphis is much closer to the Gulf of Mexico than to Bristol. A flight from Tri Cities airport to Windsor, Ontario, Canada is shorter distance than a flight to Memphis International. The magazine is non-partisan and it is the aim to publish a variety of topics connected by the thread of one common denominator—Tennessee.

We are urbanites of Nashville and Memphis who love the central city and the many stimuli to the senses. We are farmers and small towners who appreciate the outdoors and the “everybody knows everybody” culture celebrated in countless Nashville songs. We have a colorful history to remember. Not always to celebrate, but to remember. And we have a future and the many conflicting visions for the future. There is no prohibition on controversy at this website.

Across Tennessee will cover travel destinations. Be it a backpacking adventure, an amusement park, a bed and breakfast, or a downtown luxury hotel, the variety of destinations calling residents and visitors is something for everyone.

Since going online, the magazine has had stories about Tennessee’s first predominately Hispanic Catholic parish. There is the story of five Tennessee professors who share their knowledge with those who have a love for learning. Jackson’s Mckellar-Sipes Airport is the state’s smallest airport with a big ambition. An article on Tennessee’s weather tells about the blizzard of 1993, the tornado outbreak of 1952, and the day things came together to make Memphis smell like fish.

Expect the familiar and unfamiliar in the story of Tennessee.

Please also check out the local calendars—a perfect go-to spot for what is happening in your part of the state. Big cities, small towns, colleges, and counties local calendars are a click away. And please send an email if a Tennessee local calendar should be included. No, it does not matter how small the community.

I, the publisher of the magazine, am a freelance writer, photographer, Cooper-Young resident, and native Memphian. Neighbors James Traynor, the webmaster, and Kristan Huntley, web designer, have provided invaluable help to make this site possible.

Updates are available by becoming a fan on Facebook and Twitter (acrosstennessee.com). All articles have places for comments. We want to hear from you!

I used to think I was stupid ...

**Now I know
I'm just dyslexic!**



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April 13, 6:30 p.m. Germantown Library

April 22, 1:00 p.m. Collierville Library

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Support for MSGAO will be a “Bark in the Park”

BY TRISHA GURLEY

Spring is here, and it’s time for you (and your dog) to get outside. Your chance to enjoy nature, get exercise, and support animals all at the same time is coming soon! Mid South Greyhound Adoption Option (MSGAO) is holding its first ever Bark In The Park Fun Dog Walk on Saturday, April 17th, from noon–3 pm. The event takes place at Overton Park’s North Parkway Pavilion.

Founded in 1991, MSGAO is an adoption program for retired racing greyhounds. Located in the Southland Greyhound Park in West Memphis, the goal is to find loving, forever homes for these greyhounds. They also have a greyhounds-only boarding program for vacationing owners.

“I don’t like the R-word, rescue,” says Vicki Cohen, the director of MSGAO since 2006.

“My greys are with us until they find a home.”

The facility can house 40 adoptable dogs and

can board up to 20 dogs. Aside from Cohen, MSGAO has two full-time and two part-time staff members. Multiple volunteers fill in the gaps. All greyhounds are spayed or neutered and given veterinary care before being put up for adoption. Contrary to what some may think, greyhounds are very adaptable to a home environment; in fact, they should be strictly indoor pets due to their short coats and low body fat. They are also ideal dogs for apartment/small home dwellers.

As for what keeps MSGAO running, Cohen says “[We’re] partially funded by Southland Park as well as donations from the local kennel operators, race dog owners, gift shop sales, area fundraisers, and from donations, both corporate and private.” While all of these sources are a great help, MSGAO still needs additional funding to keep going. Hence Bark In the Park, which combines a dog walk, bake sale, contests, box lunch, and vendors.

Rock 103’s Bad Dog and Ric will be the celebrity judges for the contests. Committed vendors include Blue Paw Design (collars and accessories), Got Greyhounds (greyhound-themed jewelry), Hollywood Feed, Petworth (dog food home delivery), The Athletic Animal (massage therapy for animals), and Seize the Clay. If you are interested in being a vendor, call MSGAO at 870-735-7317. There is no charge to be a vendor.

Sound like fun? It is! The cost is \$20 per human, which includes a box lunch and t-shirt. Bring your own drinks. Dogs of any breed are welcome but not required. To ensure the availability of your box lunch and t-shirt, go to midsouthgreyhound.com before April 5th to print out an order form to send with your payment. All proceeds will go to raise funds for MSGAO.

Walk-ups may attend with box lunches as available. Rain date is Saturday, April 24th.

Volunteer opportunity

The House of Mews, located at 933 South Cooper, has found loving homes for over 8,000 cats since 1994. They could use donations of bleach, laundry soap, and Friskies Classic Paté Canned Food. If you’d rather donate money instead, go to houseofmews.com or call 901-272-3777.



Cooper-Young resident Jo Chetter, with her Greyhounds, walking in the neighborhood on one of our snow days.

HEALTHY HABITS

Rabies Vaccination Drive held this month

BY HEATHER BURTON REYNOLDS

The Memphis and Shelby County Health Department is hosting a Rabies Vaccination Drive on Saturday, April 17th, and Saturday, April 24th, at various locations throughout Memphis and Shelby County. No administrative fees will be charged during this drive, which drastically decreases the cost of vaccinating your pet. For more information, call 901-544-7384.

Local writer, Corey Mesler, releases two new books

BY KRISTAN HUNTLEY

Many may know Corey Mesler as one of the owners of the wonderfully inviting and cozy Burke's Book Store on Cooper, but others know him as a very prolific fiction novelist and poet. In March, Corey released two new books, *The Ballad of the Two Tom Mores* and *Following Richard Brautigan*, from two different presses. Yes, you did read that correctly—two books from two different presses—which is something almost unheard of in the literary community.

Corey's childhood in the Memphis area coincided with the tumultuous changes and protests present in the 1960's. As Corey grew older, he fell more and more in love with the city and its culture, especially the music and its collection of eclectic but humble artists. Despite its struggles and detractors that would label Memphis an unfortunate city, Corey feels that the city is no worse than anywhere else, and, in fact, because of the people, the artists and the culture is in many ways a better place than other cities.

When he was a teenager, Corey began to write poetry, often at the wee hours of the night after experiencing girl or life issues common to most of us at that age. He was able to channel these experiences into words and found a love of writing. He continued to write poetry for a long time, unsure if he wanted to try other forms of writing, until he read the works of Raymond Carver. After reading Carver's works, Corey was inspired and believed that although he might not be able to complete a novel-sized work at that time, he might be able to write short stories of three to five pages in length. He submitted one of his earliest short stories to The Spirit that Moves Us Press, and it was accepted, another unheard of feat in the literary world. With that encouragement, Corey kept writing.

While still writing and working on being published, Corey began to work at Burke's Book Store. In what could be considered a bookworm's fairy tale, Corey met his wife, Cheryl, while they were both working at the bookstore. In 2000, the same year that Corey began to write his book *Talk: A Novel in Dialogue*, Corey and Cheryl bought Burke's Book Store.

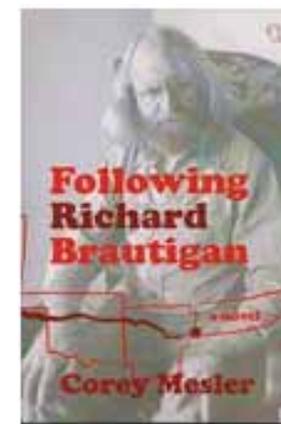
Since mid-life, Corey has been affected by a condition known as agoraphobia, or the fear of public or open spaces. He is quite comfortable at home or in the bookstore, and although agoraphobia has limited his hours of working, it has also allowed for a measure of creative concentration. Up by 5 am, Corey sits down at his computer to write every morning. Inspired by Anne Lamott's book *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions of Writing and Life*, he has conditioned his mind to be creative and ready to write at that time every morning, and so even when he wonders if he has anything to write, the words just flow when he places his hands on the keyboard. Having this time early in the morning, as well as Fridays away from the bookstore, has allowed him to focus on writing his two latest novels, both released this March.

The first novel, *The Ballad of the Two Tom Mores*, was originally planned for release last year, but the micropress experienced some delays, and it was thus scheduled to be released this year. *The Ballad of the Two Tom Mores* is set in the fictional rural town of Queneau, Arkansas. Tom More is a restaurant reviewer who has lived in this small town his whole life and is set in his ways. He is comfortable in the fact that he doesn't have to put forth much effort in life until this ease is unsettled by another man of the same name that moves into the town. This second Tom More brings the allure of "magic from the big city" in the form of VHS tapes to rent. At the same time, something much threatening and ominous is occurring: someone is killing all the male inhabitants of the town! *The Ballad of the Two Tom Mores* is a dark comedy, described by Corey as a blend of Erskine Caldwell and *The Simpsons*. Although some readers may feel that the book is too racy,

since there are frequent explorations of casual sex in the novel, he feels that it is one of his funniest books to date. In fact, he likes to inject a little bit of humor into all the books he writes. Corey laughs that he would much rather hear that his book was funny than being told that his book was very Kafkaesque (though he is a big fan of Kafka!). He hopes that people will take away some good belly laughs and a feel for a really surrealistic, strange small southern town from *The Ballad of the Two Tom Mores*.

Following Richard Brautigan is about a young, disenchanted writer by the name of Jack in the 1980's. He is visited by the ghost of the late author Richard Brautigan, an author that the young writer reveres, after being jilted by a lover in San Francisco. The pair takes a road trip back to San Francisco, the scene of the love affair for Jack as well as the city in which Richard Brautigan called home for much of his life. Corey hopes that the novel is a mix of a little bit of Richard Brautigan himself as well as a bit of his whimsy, but he notes that he did not do in-depth research on the author. Instead, he has relied upon what he has read and has been inspired by in Brautigan's works, which he read during his late teens. In the book, he sees the ghost as a late-career Brautigan, who is known as a writer of his generation in the 60's, but his popularity is starting to wane and so he is saddened as well as a little befuddled as to why he is sent back to Earth to help Jack. If the reader is not familiar with Brautigan, they should not be hesitant to pick up the novel as it is told from Jack's viewpoint, not the ghost's, and the reader should still understand and enjoy the story.

For more information on Corey, or to purchase his works, you may visit his website at coreymesler.com or drop by Burke's Book Store or its website at burkesbooks.com. Also, be sure to check out the online article at lamplighter.cooperyoung.org. There is a video there that has an interview as well as excerpts from the two novels read by Corey. It is a can't miss!



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CASA's Light of Hope Campaign helps the abused and neglected

BY STEPHEN D. SPAINHOUR

What a site it was, over three thousand white stakes with blue ribbons blowing elegantly in the wind across from the Juvenile court in downtown Memphis. A true testament to the heart of our volunteers, over sixty community members came together on the last Saturday in March in 2009 to build an honorarium to the thousands of abused and neglected children in our community who still did not have advocates looking out for their best interests in the Shelby County Juvenile Court. These white stakes were hammered into the ground that day—each representing an abused or neglected child who went through the court system the year before without a CASA volunteer to speak for them. The display—the Light of Hope Awareness Project—was erected as an effort of CASA of Memphis and Shelby County to bring attention to the problem of child abuse and the need for child advocates during National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

In 1986, CASA of Memphis and Shelby County began training volunteer child advocates. CASA volunteers are ordinary people from a wide variety of backgrounds. After training, most CASA volunteers work one case at a time, which is appointed to them by a Juvenile Court judge. They conduct thorough research on the background of the case, review documents, and interview everyone involved with the child: pediatricians, school teachers, neighbors, family members, and others. After completing their research, CASA volunteers summarize their findings in a report for the court and make a recommendation for the placement of the child. Over 97% of the time, the court makes all or part of its ruling based on the CASA volunteer's recommendations.

Ask any CASA volunteer and he or she will be quick to tell you that the most rewarding part of his or her work is in the relationships—not in the courtroom. Very often, volunteers are the only constant a child knows as he moves through the labyrinth of the child welfare system. His parents may abandon him, the system may confuse and dishearten him, but his CASA volunteer is always there for him; that makes a difference, and that is what makes this organization unique and valuable.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. To spread awareness of the problem and enable citizens to help, CASA of Memphis and Shelby County is constructing the Light of Hope project once again. Beginning on March 27th, an ocean of white stakes and blue ribbons will fill the park across from the Memphis and Shelby County Juvenile Courthouse. Each stake will again represent an abused or neglected child who journeyed through the juvenile justice system last year without a CASA volunteer to advocate on his behalf. This year, there will be over 3,300 stakes—the need is that great.

CASA invites you to join them in the fight against child abuse by sponsoring a Light of Hope stake for \$10.00. The funds raised from stake sponsorship will go towards training and supporting CASA volunteers to speak on behalf of the children. You are also invited to assist CASA in hammering the stakes into the ground across from the Juvenile Court on March 27th at 10 am.

Abused and neglected children need your voice—your advocacy—today. Give them a light of hope for the future. Please sponsor or volunteer; call CASA today at 901-522-0200 or visit the website at memphiscasa.org.

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More information found for fixtures in the ground

BY AARON JAMES



Last month's article just didn't provide enough space for everything that needed to be said about trees, so here I am again. First of all, I should explain that I originally contacted Scott Banbury of Midtown Logging because I had heard he provides a rather unique service. During our phone interview last month, he described, "Using a portable sawmill, we save city trees from going to the landfill and give them a second life as beautiful furniture, cabinetry, and millwork." If you are considering having a large tree removed, give Scott a call first, and he will tell you if the main trunk is of a quality sufficient for milling. Also, if you do remove a tree, Scott recommends that you consider planting an appropriate replacement tree in a more life-sustaining location.

On that note, this month's photograph shows trees (A) planted 35 years ago by my dad, originally intended as a hedge between our house and the cantankerous elderly widow next door and (B) planted 30 years ago to commemorate the birth of his first grandson. Both are prime examples of where NOT to plant trees. Example A has destroyed the driveway, not to mention the fact that pines are notoriously damaging to lawns. Luckily, the new neighbors prefer keeping the shade, and the broken concrete drive will soon be replaced with gravel. Example B simply does not provide sufficient ground area for a root system and will need to be removed in the not too distant future in order to avoid the inevitable sidewalk heave. I have always been told that when Cooper-Young was developed, a tree was planted in each section of the front yard, which certainly seems a more appropriate urban setting. In fact, a few of our luckiest neighbors still have these now mature originals.

Another valuable source of information is the International Society of Arboriculture. In watching an interview just the other day on the cable access channel, a local representative shared the following: Instead of simply digging a hole to plant your new tree, you have to prepare a site at least 2–3 times the diameter of the root ball. Also, do not over-water. "Keeping young trees hydrated is important to their survival, but soaking the ground around their root system can be more damaging than beneficial. Over-watering causes leaves to yellow or even drop. Young trees should be watered once a week, unless there is substantial rain. In hot weather, more frequent watering may be necessary. Continue watering through mid-autumn, tapering off as colder weather approaches, which requires less frequent watering."

And a new one for me is that new trees should not be staked. "Studies have actually shown that trees establish more quickly and develop stronger trunk and root systems if they are not staked at the time of planting." (Hmm... Do I see a life lesson in there somewhere?) And last, but not least, if you need help planting a tree, either with labor or borrowed tools, a call to the CYCA office will have me there in a jiffy!

To contact Scott, visit scottbanbury.com, and for more information on the International Society of Arboriculture, visit isa-arbor.com.

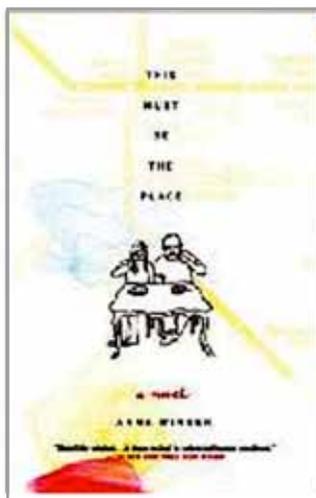
Familiar isolation breeds contempt

BY KIMBERLY RICHARDSON

It has always been the saying that misery loves company. When people are immersed in their own pain, they seek out other people, consciously or subconsciously, who are hurting and who can possibly share in their misery party without actually doing anything about removing it. The two main characters from Ann Winger's first book, *This Must Be The Place*, engage in this ritual, but their lives are forever changed because of it. In a corner of Berlin, Germany resides Walter, a former German teen actor who left his career during its peak to move to California and Disney, only to return with his tail between his legs and to become the dubbed voice for Tom Cruise. He desperately holds onto scraps of his former life for it is all that keeps him going and yet keeps him stuck, preventing him from any kind of advancement. He is everyone, and he is no one, going so far as to blend into his apartment after his much younger lover (and better actress) leaves him. However, it is during one day that he is intrigued by a young man and woman fighting outside of his apartment complex. The couple turns out to be Americans Dave and Hope, who recently moved to Berlin due to a job offer for Dave, the recent destruction of 9/11, and Hope's failed pregnancy.

Hope is a young woman struggling to find her own sense of worth in Berlin, but she is afraid to do so. She has no friends, and her only outlet is her German language class, in which the other students consistently avoid her. Her husband is a chipper and frightfully optimistic man who travels to Poland for long periods of time for his job (pornography), not fully understanding his own wife and giving her what she needs. It is fate, then, that the two sources of desolation finally meet and compare notes on just who is worse off, later realizing that neither of them truly are; they just refuse to let go of their emotional baggage, and that is what makes them so real in the book.

I will admit that I had never heard of Winger until by accident while I visited Sherlock's Bookstore in Lebanon, Tennessee for a book signing event that I was part of. I am glad that I found this book, for now I realize that there are still some damn good authors out there, ones who can tell such a simple story with such depth and detail that one feels they are truly there with the characters. I felt I was there with Hope as she carefully peeled away layers of the wallpaper in her apartment, revealing a treasure both on the walls and within herself. Winger makes the readers want the best for Walter and know that life is not truly at its depressing end for him even though he refuses to stop looking back, not only at his acting career but his problematic family past as well. There is restlessness in both Hope and Walter; there is unfinished business revealed through their friendship, and it is understood that it needed to be completed. It is necessary for Hope and Walter to meet, for each one provides the mirror to reflect on the other person's life followed with the question of, "Just what in the hell are you doing?" The reflections portrayed are not pretty, but they are honest and enough of a catalyst to divert and change what is sorely lacking in Hope and Walter's lives. Winger's writing style is simple, a bit like Hemingway, and yet she has her own voice within these pages, a voice that gave such life to two characters that sorely needed to evaluate and change their own.



More games, more fun for Derby girls

BY COLLEEN SMITH

FunQuest in Collierville was taken over again by the girls of MRD on Saturday, March 13th. The first bout of the night was between the Memphis Hustlin' Rollers and the Hard Knox Roller Girls of Knoxville, Tennessee. These two teams have not played each other since the Tennessee State Championships back in August of last year. Knoxville has lost several of their key players, one of which is Black 'n Blue, who relocated to Memphis. When asked how it felt to play against her former team, Blue had this to say: "I knew it was going to be interesting playing my home team. I love my HKRG's, and I will always remember my roots as HKRG and not just because it's tatted on my arm. But I have to admit, I sure had a blast giving them a beat down this past Saturday!" Despite the change in their roster, they are still a great match up to the Hustlin' Rollers. At no point was the bout boring! At half time, Knoxville held a one-point lead. However, the Hustlin' Rollers came out of the half-time break with fire. They quickly took the lead and held it to the end. The final score was Memphis: 153; Knoxville: 90.

Next up were the Angels of Death of Memphis Roller Derby versus the Springfield Rollergirls of Springfield, Missouri. Now, as most of you who follow the Memphis home teams know, the Angels of Death came into this bout undefeated. Springfield is a fairly new team, but they have clearly been trained well. Their packs are fast, their hits are hard, and, strategically, they were on the same page as the Angels. As hard as it is to believe, they pulled a one-point win over the Angels of Death! One point! Springfield: 88; Angels of Death: 87. Derby just doesn't get more exciting than that. It was a very hard pill to swallow for the Angels, who are still debating much of the bout with the referees. Regardless of the outcome, it was great derby and I wish I'd had a spectator's view of the action. Although playing rocked, too!

We have an update to MRD's search for a new home. While we are still actively looking for a permanent home, it seems that we will remain at the Fairgrounds for a bit longer. We found out recently that the City plans to keep the Pipkin Building for 2-3 more years in order to accommodate MRD and the Flea Market. While we still hate to lose the space and familiar floor of the "House of Bruise" (aka, the Youth Building), we are very happy about this news! Soon, we will know if this building will be available for our next bouts on April 10th, but, as of right now, we haven't confirmed the location of that game. Check out memphisrollerderby.com for updates, or follow us on Facebook.

What **color** do you feel like this week?



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There's more to know about Memphis music than you think

BY DR. D. JACKSON MAXWELL

Memphis is world renowned for its music. People travel here from all over the world to set foot on Beale Street, listen to live music, and to tour Graceland. Unfortunately, too few Memphians take advantage of these opportunities. Recently, I have had the chance to see some local bands perform and soak in a bit of Memphis music history. It was wonderful! Let me share a few of these experiences with you.

A few weeks back, I was thrilled to see a show by the Delta Nomads. Their music is an easygoing style of southern-fried rock-n-roll. The band is led by singer/songwriter/guitarist Bill Walsh. His often-hilarious lyrics relate stories of out-of-control celebrities, love gone bad, old dogs, and gossipy neighbors. In various incarnations, the band has been around for five years playing every bar and juke joint in town. In the last couple of years, the Delta Nomads have settled into their current four-piece line-up with occasional harmonics provided by John Markham. Their second album, *Fully Loaded*, is due out this month. As Delta Nomads bassist, Jeff Rust, states, "We just really found a groove right off the bat." Intriguingly, Walsh describes the sound of their new album as, "L.A. rock meets the Memphis Blues." Be on the look-out for upcoming shows and the locale of their CD release party at deltanomads.com.

Back in February, I walked into Nocturnal (on the site of the infamous Antenna Club) and was blown away by the jangly, retro-sounds of Jeffrey and The Pacemakers. This outstanding cover band is essentially a British Invasion band based in Memphis, playing the flower power good-times tunes of the 1960's. Performing on vintage instruments, this soon-to-be-legendary band performs classics by groups such as the Byrds, Kinks, Beatles, and Rolling Stones. The musicians in Jeffrey and The Pacemakers have honed their chops in a number of popular Memphis bands including The Crime, Daytripper, Zuider Zee, and most recently, Everyday People. Singer/guitarist Jeff Golightly, who fronts the band, states, "We are all in our 50's (baby boomers) and grew up on this music, and we try to capture the sound and energy of these legendary bands." You can learn more about the band, listen to a tune, and discover where they will be performing next at jeffreyandthepacemakers.com.

And last, but certainly not least, if you love music but the club scene is no longer your thing—give Backbeat Tours a try. This extraordinary experience is the brainchild of Bill Patton. A former



Memphis Jones, entertaining and educating on a Backbeat Tour.

lawyer, Patton left his profession to start a music-based company. The tours aboard vintage charter buses are led by professional guitar-playing/Memphis history-knowing guides. The experience is interactive, where participants sing-a-long, play instruments, and write their own Blues songs while learning about STAX, Sun Records, Overton Park Shell, and numerous other sites of musical and historical note as viewed through the bus windows. On my most recent Backbeat Tour, I had the distinct pleasure of having Memphis Jones, a real-life touring musician from the band *Altered*, as my guide. Memphis Jones' love of Memphis music and history is infective. He had the whole bus singing, laughing, and totally engaged, hanging on to every word and song he sang. Memphis Jones (memphisjones.com) states, "There is no way to tell the immeasurably rich history and incalculable ongoing relevance of Memphis music on one sight-seeing tour, no matter what you do. But dang man, why should I let that stop me from trying?" I highly recommend Backbeat Tours for both tourists and hometowners, alike. For more information on how you can take advantage of this unique opportunity, view the Backbeat Tour website at backbeattours.com.

I encourage everyone to take advantage of Memphis' rich musical heritage. As Memphians, we are in the enviable position of not having to travel across country or around the globe to visit the sites connected to the birthplace of Rock-n-Roll (Sun Records) and Soul (STAX), Father of the Blues (W.C. Handy), King of the Blues (B.B. King), Queen of Soul (Aretha Franklin), and King of Rock-n-Roll (Elvis Presley). Join me in vowing to more fully support our local musicians by getting out and enjoying some live Memphis music!

Check out this article online at lamplighter.cooperyoung.org to see more photos of local performers.

Dr. D. Jackson Maxwell is an educator and freelance writer who has had the pleasure of living in Memphis for 20 years. If you have any questions or comments, please contact him at djacksonmaxwell@gmail.com.



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Around-the-block news

BY AUNT CICELY

Hiya, sweeties! As you read this, 'ol Aunt Cicely will either be cashing in my neighbor Gladys' April pension check because Duke went all the way, or weeping over a busted bracket. Frankly, I like my chances—that old biddy has a blind spot when it comes to the Big Ten. But enough about March Madness...we've still got some catching up to do from February!

The 3rd Annual Cooper-Young/Peabody School Chili Cook-Off was a rousing success, raising almost \$1,800 (twice the amount of last year) for enhancements to the Peabody playground and bringing around 300 people to the Peabody cafeteria on February 27th. **Rene Erickson and the Midtown Chili Bombers** ran away with both the "Most Unusual Chili" and "Judge's Choice" awards. The "People's Choice" award went to John Shoemaker of Houghton Mifflin Publishers for his "Textbook Chili." Nicole Hogan, a Felix resident and Peabody parent, won "Best Vegetarian Chili," and Mrs. Berryman and the Peabody Cooking Club won the "Best HOT Chili" honors. For the second year in a row, the block club with the most participation at the chili cook-off was Nelson Avenue (Cooper to Barksdale), and Ms. Magbee's first grade class won a pizza party for having the most Peabody students represented. Whew, that's a lot of prizes! Oh, but we're not done . . . special thanks goes to the "celebrity" judges: Neisey Bobo, Peabody parent and owner of Ching's Wings; Craig Blondis, future Peabody parent and owner of Central BBQ; and Kym Clark, midtown resident and Action News 5 anchor.

And, hey, nothing goes better with chili than beer (though, not in an elementary school). **Joe and Susan Currier** of Nelson Avenue enjoyed their fair share of Guinness while touring Ireland in February in celebration of Joe's graduation from his PhD program last year.

Moving on into March, Young Avenue hosts with the most **Dee and Bob Sanders** held their first Oscar party—guests came dressed to walk the red carpet running down the Sanders' sidewalk or as a character from a nominated movie. Cooper-Younger **Kathryn Schurch** won the winner predictions and tied with Toad Hall owner Dana Whitehead on Oscar Bingo.

And nominated for most prolific CY author of the year...Burke's Books owner Corey Messler! Corey has two new novels out, including *Following Richard Brautigan* and *The Ballad of the Two Tom Mores*. Burke's will be hosting a signing for Corey on May 6th.

Over on Elzey, little **Gray Gowen**, son of Kellen and Kyle Gowen, celebrated his first

birthday on March 10th with a cupcake as big as the kid himself! Hope you shared that thing, Gray!

Here's one 'ol Aunt Cicely missed a while back—**Cora Constantin** was born to Jenni and Andrew

Pappas and big sister Elena of Cox Street on October 29th. She decided to come 3 weeks before her due date but was still a respectable 7 pounds, 11 ounces.

And bringing another baby girl to the neighborhood were Leah and Josh Hillis of Evelyn.

Rebecca Blair was born on March 6, weighing in at 5 pounds, 11 ounces. Welcome home, girls!

And now I've got to go get my face paint on for the first Blue Devils game of the tourney...lucky my hair's already the right color! See ya, sweeties!

Email news of any CY happenings to auntcicely@gmail.com...don't forget the pictures!

- 1 - **Rebecca Blair**
- 2 - **Cora Constantin and big sister Elena**
- 3 - **Joe and Susan Currier**
- 4 - **Gray Gowen**
- 5 - **Corey Messler (photo by Chole Messler)**
- 6 - **Dee and Bob Sanders**
- 7 - **Kathryn Schurch and Ty Legge**
- 8 - **clockwise, Daniel Martinez, Rodney Nash, Haynes Knight, Rex Johnson, Sharron Johnson, and David Merrill. AKA, Stone Soup Social Club**
- 9 - **Rene Erickson and the Midtown Chili Bombers**



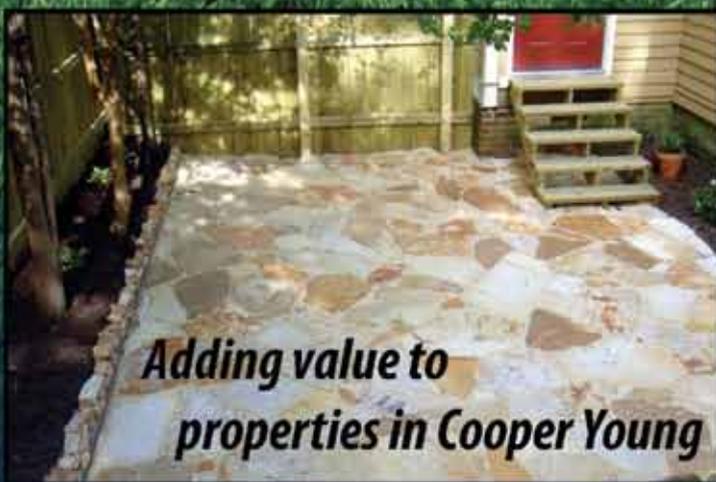
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- **Outback Steakhouse** - Free appetizer with the purchase of an entrée up to \$7.29
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- **Playhouse on the Square** - Buy 1 get 1 ticket free up to four tickets for Thursday or Sunday shows, all year
- **Soulfish** - 1 complimentary Lunch or Dinner Entrée when a 2nd is of equal or greater value is purchased - Up to \$7
- **Tara Taylor, Personal Fitness Trainer** - 10% discount off one training session with Tara at inbalance FITNESS
- **Young Avenue Deli** - Enjoy 30% off any one entree

