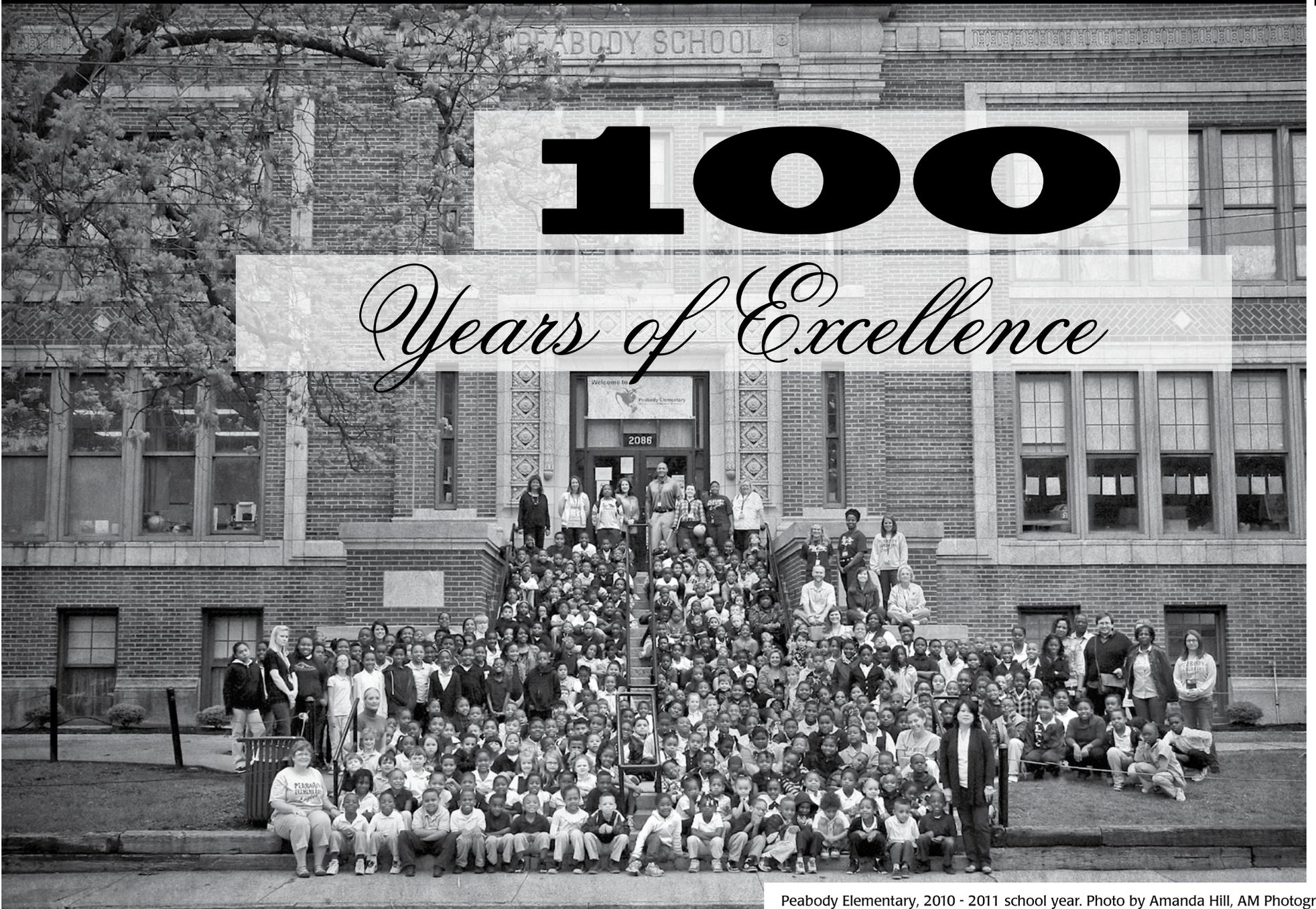


# LampLighter

Cooper-Young — Many Voices, One Community

# 100

*Years of Excellence*



Peabody Elementary, 2010 - 2011 school year. Photo by Amanda Hill, AM Photography.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

## The past, present, and future of Peabody Elementary

As our community celebrates Peabody's 100th anniversary here at the end of the 2010-2011 school year, three moms of Peabody students reflect on the school's past, present, and future.

### Peabody Past

BY LISA LUMB

Peabody Elementary has been an anchor for the neighborhood since 1910 when the current building at 2086 Young was constructed. Parts of this fast growing streetcar suburb had

only recently been included in the city limits in 1909. However, growth continued, and by 1918 portable classroom additions were needed for all the extra children flocking to the school.

Through the years the school has been a focal point for CY. It was a temporary shelter and hospital for flood victims in 1937. School attendance peaked in the 50s when the school also had its own band and orchestra. In the last decades of the 20th century, its fortunes waned. With the problem of white flight, these decades saw school numbers decline, though there have always been some local children attending the school every year.

Continued on page 16



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

## Thank yous, elections, and animal awareness

Thank you to everyone who donated items, volunteered, attended, bid, and purchased art at last month's Art for Art's Sake Auction. The event was a rousing success with over \$13,000 raised to fund maintenance for the Trestle Art as well as other community enhancement projects. We are truly blessed to have such support in CY and Memphis!

The month of May is a great time to be in our yards. Perhaps you love gardening and yard work. Perhaps you prefer to have someone else take the yard work responsibility. Either way, the CYCA will be on the lookout for yards that are worthy of the "Yard of the Month" moniker. Households receiving this award will be featured in the *LampLighter*.

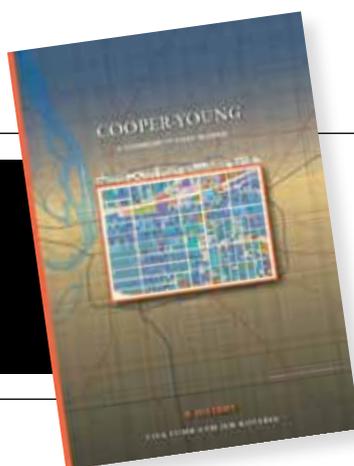
Congratulations to June Hurt and Andy Ashby for their re-elections to CYCA Vice-President and Secretary, respectfully. I thank them for their continued dedication to our mission of making Cooper-Young a safer and more desirable place to live, work, worship, and play. They are serving two year terms. If you are interested in running for either office in 2013, consider joining the Board of Directors and get involved at a leadership level.

Although March was pet month in CY, let's continue to be mindful of our pets as the weather heats up. It's hotter inside parked vehicles than we might realize. Any pet left in a car, even if the windows are open a bit, are still subjected to high levels of heat. Please consider leaving your pets at home on hot days versus leaving them in your car. That five minute errand could be deadly for your pet.

John Kinsey

### History book

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



## LampLighter

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

# Inside

## 4

### Treasures await at the CY Community Yard Sale

May 21 is fast approaching. Don't miss this opportunity to make some extra cash or snag some sweet deals. This article contains all the info you need to participate, as well as helpful tips for a successful and safe yard sale.

## 5

### Playful fabrics and edgy toys on display at CYCA

Come see the first art show to be held in the recently renovated CYCA offices. The work of two Memphis area artists, Jean Holmgren and Paula Kovarik, will be on display in a show titled *Parallel Lives: Art from 2 Minds, 4 Hands*.

## 11

### CY resident moved to action by Japan disaster

Be inspired and challenged by the story of Asuka Taga Yow, a Japanese neighbor who is responding to the heartbreak in Japan with strength and activism. If you are looking for ways to get involved with relief efforts for Japan, look no further.

# Meetings & Dates

### CYCA GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 10, 6-7:30pm  
2298 Young Ave.  
During this meeting the CYCA will play host to other not-for-profit organizations in the neighborhood. Come learn what is happening in the CY area, be inspired, and get involved.

### COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, May 10, 7:30pm  
2298 Young Ave.

### CYCA BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, May 17, 7pm  
2298 Young Ave.

### PARALLEL LIVES OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, May 20, 6-9pm  
2298 Young Ave.

Come celebrate two extraordinary artists, Jean Holmgren and Paula Kovarik, in the first show to be held in the CYCA offices.

### CY COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Saturday, May 21, 8am-2pm  
It's not too late to organize a sale in your own front yard and turn those unwanted items into cash. For shoppers, you can check out the [cooperyoung.org](http://cooperyoung.org) classifieds for more information on specific yard sales and their offerings.

### SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, May 23, 7pm  
2298 Young Ave.

### Deadlines for the June LampLighter

Article submissions: May 15

Advertising copy: May 20

Distribution beginning: June 3

Please send all articles and submissions to [LampLighter@cooperyoung.org](mailto:LampLighter@cooperyoung.org). For advertising rate sheet, or to submit ads electronically, please email [ads@cooperyoung.org](mailto:ads@cooperyoung.org).

### Cooper-Young Organizations CYCA

Kristan Huntley  
901-272-2922  
[info@cooperyoung.org](mailto:info@cooperyoung.org)

### CYBA

Tamara Walker  
901-276-7222  
[cyba@bellsouth.net](mailto:cyba@bellsouth.net)

### CYCA Board Officers

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

### CYCA Committee Heads

Beautification	OPEN
Beer Fest	Andy Ashby
Block Clubs	April Boleware
Building	Debbie Sowell
Code Awareness	Amanda Ball
Communications	Emily Bishop
Festival 4-Miler	Richard Coletta, Michael Ham, Emily Bishop
Finance	Jason Word
Safety	Sarah Frierson
Membership	June Hurt
Volunteers	Kevin Ritz

### At-Large Board Members

Dan Atlas  
Demetrius Boyland  
Renee Massey

MEMBERSHIP SPONSORS

# CYCA members benefit from discounted pet supplies and free notary services

BY RENÉE MASSEY

You've probably read all the great reasons for being a member of the Cooper-Young Community Association on our website, *cooperyoung.org*. You know that your annual membership dues fund great things in the neighborhood like clean-up events, security notices, beautification, meetings, and Cooper-Young advocacy throughout the greater community. But what about the extra benefits? Did you know about those? Your membership also gets you some exciting discounts from sponsors within our community.

The first of this month's highlighted sponsors is Hollywood Feed on Union Avenue. Did you know that Hollywood Feed on Union generously allows our members to receive a 5% discount on each and every purchase made during the year? We asked Justin Hartledge, the manager of the Hollywood Feed Union store, a few questions about their sponsorship. Here is what Justin had to say:

"We sponsor the Cooper-Young Community Association because we love this area. We love the people and the diversity, and we are a community-oriented company. The Cooper-Young area is so unique and special, and we are glad to be a part of it! Being a membership sponsor has positively affected Hollywood Feed in many ways. It has brought new faces through our door and continues to keep the community shopping together. We are so pleased to gain any new customer, especially ones that are also neighbors. We always welcome you and your pets to come visit in the store. Mention this article for a free Pig Ear."



Another benefit that comes with a paid CYCA membership is free notary services, which are provided by June Hurt. June is also the CYCA Vice-President, so she is serving her community in more than one valuable way. We asked June the same questions, and here is what she said:



"I became a public notary through my work a few years ago, and offering free notary services is my way of saying thanks to everyone that supports the CYCA by purchasing their memberships. Most of the time when someone needs a notary it is for something time sensitive, and not everyone can take off work. I am available most nights and weekends and will come to your house if necessary. I love everything about Cooper-Young, especially the people. I joined the CYCA board a couple years ago because I wanted to take an active role in the great things going on in our little 'hood. Public art, bike racks, breezy patios to enjoy good food and visit with friends...what's not to love? Since offering my services, I have had the privilege of meeting many residents, helping them buy houses, start businesses, apply for government assistance, and even make final arrangements for loved ones. It has been one of the most rewarding aspects of working with the CYCA. I'll be around if you need me, and I encourage everyone to be a member, because we are all part of something wonderful here in Cooper-Young that needs your support."

If you haven't already renewed your membership for 2011, there is still plenty of time in this year to take advantage of all the extra benefits and support your community at the same time. At only \$20 for a household membership and \$5 for seniors, the membership benefits make it a real bargain. Join online at *cooperyoung.org*, stop by the community office at 2298 Young, or mail in the membership form today. As the slogan goes, "Life is good in Cooper-Young!"

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

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



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

- New  Renewing (Memberships are from 1-1-2011 to 12-31-2011)  
 Household – \$20  Trestle Tender – \$50  Senior 55 and older – \$5

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I want to hear about volunteer opportunities

Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

in honor or/in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mail this form with your payments to:

CYCA Membership, 2298 Young Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104

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

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

## Treasures await at the CY Community Yard Sale

BY KRISTAN HUNTLEY



Saturday, May 21, from 8am–2pm will be the annual Cooper-Young Community Yard Sale, rain or shine. The annual yard sale is a great time to do some spring cleaning. Haven't worn that pair of shorts for two years? Don't know where to put that piece of "artwork" that your mom gave you? Kids declare that they are too old to play with "little kid" toys? Yard sale it, give it a new life, and give yourself a few more bucks in your pocket!

### THE COOPER-YOUNG COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION'S ROLE

This year's Cooper-Young Community Yard Sale is taking on more of a grassroots feel. The CYCA will help get the word out about the event by way of *The Commercial Appeal*, Craigslist, Facebook, and if time and weather permits, signage. The best form of advertisement is always word of mouth though, so

remember to tell your friends and colleagues and encourage them to attend.

There is no fee for participating in the yard sale, though if you like the event, we encourage you to purchase a membership to support the CYCA's work. This year there will not be an official listing of households participating, so there is no deadline by which you must decide to have a yard sale.

The CYCA is again making the online classifieds at [cooperyoung.org](http://cooperyoung.org) freely available for your use. Feeling daunted about posting online? Don't be! It's quite simple and will help your yard sale stand out when you have something special. A short online tutorial is available at [cooperyoung.org](http://cooperyoung.org) to help.

### SOME HELPFUL TIPS

If you are new to the world of yard sales, here are some helpful hints to keep you sane and safe:

- **Yard sale shoppers like to find a price easily. Use stickers or, for a bunch of items like books or stuffed animals, place them in a box labeled with a price (i.e. \$1 per item).**
- **Remember to leave room for bargaining when you set your price. Yard sale shoppers like to haggle.**
- **You will be up early the day of the yard sale, so remember to get change before hand so you can sleep in a bit longer.**
- **Be honest. If an item doesn't work, be truthful and reflect that in the price.**
- **Instead of having your yard sale alone, invite a friend to share your yard. You increase safety and can alternate refilling each other's coffee. The buddy system is great for swimming and works for yard sales too!**
- **Keep your money on you at all times. A money belt or fanny pack works well.**
- **Close your front door, shades, and garage door so that the contents of your house are not visible to yard sale shoppers.**
- **Decline the use of your restroom unless you know the individual.**

If you have questions, email [info@cooperyoung.org](mailto:info@cooperyoung.org) or call the CYCA offices at 901-272-2922. Best wishes for a prosperous yard sale!

YARD OF THE MONTH

## Residents from New York City excel in southern gardening

BY SYDNEY ASHBY

One of the first things one notices when passing by 1972 Evelyn are the gorgeous, multi-colored tulips that line the shrubbery in front of the house. After that there are an array of bushes, trees, flowers, and potted plants to enjoy. Evergreens by the steps welcome visitors to Libby and Jonathan Flynt's house, where they have lived for a little more than one year. They have done an excellent job taking care of the holly, daffodil, iris, lady banks rose, and tiger lilies. And they have added potted basil, mint, chives, and rosemary on their steps. The yard is anchored by a magnolia tree, which is the perfect southern touch for a couple who moved from New York City. Libby says that they moved to Cooper-Young because, "We wanted a house with a lot of character and a neighborhood where we could be friends with our neighbors and walk to dinner." That is why Cooper-Young is the ideal place to live, worship, work, and play. Libby agrees, stating that, "CY is the perfect spot for us!"



SAY CHEESE

## Photographer gives back to Cooper-Young

BY AMANDA BALL AND BARB ELDER

The *LampLighter* would like to thank Guillermo Umbria for repeatedly volunteering his photographic skills in service to the CYCA. His photos of artwork donated to the Art for Art's Sake Auction were featured on the April *LampLighter* cover, as well as on page 2 of the same issue.



Guillermo is from the vibrant, metropolitan city of Barcelona, just a few miles south of the French border on the Mediterranean Sea. Guillermo's childhood inspiration began with his father, a professional photographer and film director. During his career in Barcelona, Guillermo worked as a drafter and photographer at an engineering and architectural firm, studied at three photography institutes, shot the Gaudí Moda Fashion Runway, freelanced as a fashion photographer for modeling agencies, and worked in some of the most reputable photo labs in the city.

Now in Memphis, Guillermo continues to evolve and grow as a photographer. One of Guillermo's specialties is helping local Memphis artists by producing images of their paintings, sculptures, ceramics, tapestry, and other mediums. His images of artists' work have been submitted to galleries and competitions across the country, enabling artists to place in contests, books, and museum exhibits. Guillermo also currently serves as an architectural photographer for some of the local architect firms and does the occasional fashion shoot, which is his real passion. Guillermo's modest studio is located in his home here in Cooper-Young. To see examples of his work, go to [guillermoumbria.com](http://guillermoumbria.com).



We are lucky to have a photographer of Guillermo's caliber giving back to his community. Thank you!

ARTSY DEBUT ON YOUNG AVENUE

## Playful fabrics and edgy toys on display at CYCA

BY NANETTE DAVIS

Textures, toys, and stories will be on display at the CYCA offices from May to June. *Parallel Lives: Art from 2 Minds, 4 Hands* captures the spirit and sense of two Memphis area artists. Jean Holmgren and Paula Kovarik met at Craft B, a gathering of women artists sharing their work for reflection and inspiration. After meeting, Paula started a doodle which she shared with Jean, who took that image, expanded it, and returned it to Paula to continue the creative expression back and forth. This experiment led them to making art together.

Jean Holmgren and Paula Kovarik have both worked as graphic designers but find art in odd and different directions. The show includes *Toys from the Other Side* by Jean Holmgren, art quilts from Paula Kovarik, and *Conversation Piece*, an installation revealing their collaborative process.

Jean Holmgren has worked as a freelance illustrator, an instructor at Memphis College of Art and the University of Memphis, and as an award winning graphic designer. Her collection of sculptures and mixed media pieces are inspired by Tom Waits lyrics and life's lessons on how to be a woman. Jean says that in *Parallel Lives* she and Paula are, "exploring the issues of women in transition, the duality of societal roles, personal growth, and the pressures we place on ourselves as women of a certain age."

While Jean Holmgren may be a new name to many in Cooper-Young, Paula Kovarik is well known. Her hands have touched our community in many ways. Paula lived in CY for over 20 years with her family. Her graphic design business, Shades of Gray, was located on Cooper Street where Midtown Acupuncture and the Barefoot Bride now reside. She created the self-guided walking tour brochure for the Trestle Art in 2000 and the 1997 CY Festival poster. Most recently she updated the historic map of the neighborhood and designed the book, *Cooper-Young: A Community that Works*, written by Lisa Lumb and Jim Kovarik, Paula's husband.

Paula's medium is fabric and thread. Her nationally recognized quilts reveal a quirky doodle-strewn DNA. She surfaces what lies beneath in streams of threads, colors, and patterns. In the new medium of art quilts, her work is a storyboard of complex cities, gardens, and global systems.

*Parallel Lives* can be viewed May 20 to June 11 at the CYCA offices (2298 Young Avenue) on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from noon–5pm and Tuesdays from 12:30–6pm. The opening reception will be held from 6-9pm on Friday, May 20, and all are welcome to attend. To book a private showing, please call 901-725-0308.

*Parallel Lives* is the first show to be held in the CYCA offices. This is just what the organization had in mind when they redesigned their office space after the fire in September 2010. If you are interested in holding an art show in this space, please call 901-272-2922 for more information.

PARTNER UP

## CYCA May General Meeting showcases neighborhood nonprofits

BY JOHN KINSEY

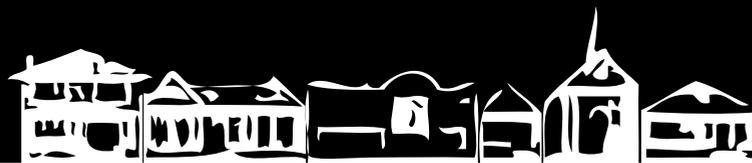
Are you aware of how many not-for-profit organizations call Cooper-Young home? Join us on Tuesday, May 10, at the CYCA offices (2298 Young Avenue) to learn more about some of the other not-for-profit organizations in our neighborhood. The Cooper-Young Community Association will be hosting an informal information fair so that residents can mingle with representatives of other not-for-profits, ask questions, and learn more about their programs.

CY is fortunate to have such active and diverse individuals and groups wanting to make our neighborhood, Memphis, and the nation better. Come meet some of these great folks and find new ways to get involved in our neighborhood. Doors open at 6pm, and the information fair will end around 7:30.

PARALLEL LIVES

PALLA KOVARIK  
 JEAN HOLMGREN

## MEMBERSHIPS



### HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIPS

Travis Acton  
 Ric & Josephine Chetter  
 Kathy Fisher  
 Sandy Furrh & Walter Wallace  
 Michael Ham & Michelle Naef  
 Debbie Heath  
 Jacqueline Johns  
 David Kmet  
 Chloe Perkins  
 Christine Sinnock  
 Terry & Shanda Wells  
 Randle Witherington

### TRESTLE TENDER MEMBERSHIPS

Audrey May  
 Barbara Wishinsky

## LAMPLIGHTER BENEFACTORS

Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to the following people who have shown their support of the *LampLighter* by contributing financially toward our operation costs. These benefactors have made a contribution of at least \$60 either by making a one-time donation or a monthly donation of \$5 or more.

**Glenn Althoff and Mike Parnell • Chip Armstrong  
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 Beverly Greene – in memoriam • David Huey  
 June and Justin Hurt • Chris and Jill Kauker  
 Terry and Cynthia Lawrence • Shannon Maris  
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 Doris Porter • Jacques and Joi Samson • Ronnie G. Smith  
 Betty Slack • Kobie and Bianca Sweeten  
 Joyce and Jerry Turner • Tura and Archie Wolfe**

If you love reading the *LampLighter*, please join us so that we can maintain the quality and frequency of the paper. Go to [cooperyoung.org](http://cooperyoung.org) and click on the Membership tab to learn how you can become a recognized *LampLighter* Benefactor.

*Thank you for your support!*

These memberships & donations were received as of April 24. Donations received after the 24th will be listed in the next issue. Email [info@cooperyoung.org](mailto:info@cooperyoung.org) for corrections or additions.

ART FOR ART'S SAKE

# Auction sizzled in April for CY art

BY EMILY BISHOP

The second Saturday in April was a hot day in Cooper-Young. Temperatures reached over 80 degrees and everyone was out enjoying the weather. The Art for Art's Sake Auction kicked off at 6pm, and just as the temperature cooled off outside, it heated up inside the Young Avenue Deli for another great fundraiser for the Cooper-Young Community Association. Ric Chetter, local radio personality and CY resident, opened the bidding on 21 items in the live auction. The silent auction tables simmered with action as bidders checked on their items throughout the evening. The tally for the event is \$13,758, with \$7,040 raised in the live auction. Expenses for the event were \$526.74 for a net of \$13,231.26 for the CYCA. These funds will be used to support the Trestle Art as well as other community enhancement projects in Cooper-Young. Thanks to everyone who came out to support our Art for Art's Sake Auction.



Camy's added a sweet touch to the event by providing dessert, Southwestern Distributing and Budweiser Memphis provided the beer, and Bluff City Sports Prints provided the t-shirts for our volunteers.

**A special thanks to the following volunteers who put in an amazing number of hours preparing for and working at the auction.**

Susannah Acuff • Andy Ashby • Sydney Ashby • Amanda Ball • Emily Bishop • April Boleware Ben Boleware • Leslie Boone • John Browning • Ty Browning • Karen Capps • Nick Canterucci Tristan Causey • Scott Cooper • Joan Foley • Sarah Frierson • Edward Greene • Amanda Hill Jonathan Hill • Kristan Huntley • June Hurt • Sharron Johnson • Jill Kauker • Chris Kauker John Kinsey • Scott Massey • Renee Massey • Tripp Mazurek • Chris McHaney Patrick Miller • Chuch Parr • Bill Pritchard • Beth Pulliam • Steve Pulliam • Kevin Ritz Carol Robison • Chaderlee Roy-Shellabarger • Lekha Samuel • Joe Samuel • Kate Schurch Ted Schurch • Debbie Sowell • Buzz Shellabarger • Judi Shellabarger • Guillermo Umbria Lizi Beard Ward • Tim Ward • Jason Word • Jennifer Word

**Thanks to the artists who donated work for our live auction:**

Judy Vandergriff • Allen Portner • Donna Blackard • Mollie Jay Riggs • Mary Long-Postal Duane & Pamela Dunaway • Maria Parham • Kelly Gourds • Alex Warble • Lisa Lumb Rollin M. Kocsis • Jeanne Seagle • Carol Robinson • Kyl-el Comix • Karen Bottle Capps Paul Clarke • John Browning • Lee Phenix

The vendors from the Cooper-Young Festival, local businesses, and local artists all contributed to the success of the event. Thanks again to Otherlands Coffee Bar for hosting the Artist's Reception and Fork It Over Catering for providing the food for the reception. The Auction couldn't happen without the support of Tiger Bryant and Phillip Stroud from the Young Avenue Deli in providing the space and the food for the event, and the staff of the Young Avenue Deli was phenomenal!



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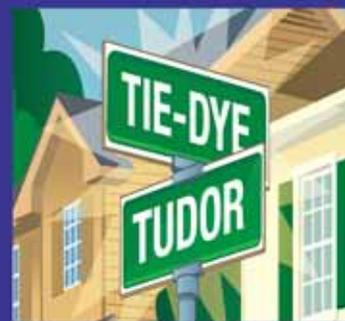
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## Business booming in CY

BY BARB ELDER

Hardly a month goes by without an exciting, new business opening in Cooper-Young. For those of you who desire to shop locally, here are a couple more homegrown options to consider.

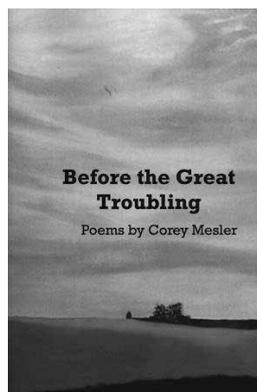
Imagine Vegan Café is open for business at 2156 Young. According to *The Memphis Daily News*, their name is fitting. They offer a creative variety of vegan entrees, sides, and desserts in a casual, family-friendly environment. Even if you aren't vegan, this is a welcoming place to come, have a beer, and try something new.

The Barefoot Bride held its grand opening in early April. They are located at 917 S. Cooper on the second floor of the Midtown Acupuncture Building, directly across from Celtic Crossing. The Barefoot Bride carries new and consignment gowns at 30-80% off retail with a wide selection in all sizes and colors. They also take consignments of gently worn wedding, prom, or formal gowns.

## New book of poems from Corey Mesler of Burke's Books

BY CHERYL MESLER

Corey Mesler returns with his second full-length collection of poetry. This time he explores interior landscapes as they relate to life and love, feelings and family, and the perpetual process of growing up. *Before the Great Troubling* (\$16.00, Unbound Content) features cover art by local artist Rebecca Tickle.



## Five CY residents participate in the MCS ArtsFest

BY JOAN FOLEY

The Memphis City Schools ArtsFest is designed to celebrate the power of Arts education and the positive effects they can have on a student's life and the community. Cooper-Young residents who participated in the Memphis City Schools 2011 ArtsFest were Karleen Gardner, Curator of Education at Memphis Brooks Museum of Art; Kathy Dumlao, Associate Curator of Education at the Brooks; Joan Foley, a Brooks Docent; Nancy Beard, music teacher at Kate-Bond Elementary School; and Francie Beard, music teacher at Belleview Middle School. CY boasts many arts education advocats, who plead the case for young people to have access to high quality arts instruction.

## Facing History and Ourselves nominations

BY RACHEL SHANKMAN

The Memphis office of Facing History and Ourselves is seeking nominations for Mid-Southerners who have chosen to take a positive stand to act on behalf of others in the Memphis area or elsewhere in the world. The top nominees, a total of approximately 25, will be honored during Facing History's *Choosing to Participate* event in Memphis this fall. The honorees, who will be called Upstanders, will be part of the *Choosing to Participate* exhibition. The Upstanders will have their story and photograph displayed during the exhibition which will run from September 6 to November 30 at the Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library at 3030 Poplar.

To nominate someone for Upstander, Mid-Southerners are asked to describe in 300 words or less how their candidate has made, or is making, a difference in the Mid-South or elsewhere in the world. Nominations may be made online at [facinghistory.org](http://facinghistory.org) or mailed to: Facing History and Ourselves, Campus Box 354, 650 East Parkway South, Memphis, TN 38104. To learn more, visit [choosingtoparticipate.org](http://choosingtoparticipate.org).

## Virtual Dementia Tour

BY CINDY METCALF

There are nearly 15 million Alzheimer's and dementia caregivers in the US. Caring for a person with Alzheimer's disease or dementia requires a special kind of caregiver – one who is empathetic, patient, and kind. As a caregiver, how can you understand what the person with dementia experiences?

On Thursday, May 26, Alzheimer's Day Services of Memphis, Inc. (ADS) will host their annual Virtual Dementia Tour (VDT) workshop. The aim of the VDT workshop is to place professional staff, caregivers, and family members in the minds and feelings of a person with dementia, thus enabling them to understand the daily emotional, mental, and physical struggles a person with dementia experiences. You can register for a 30 minute training session that will take place from 9am-3pm at Dorothy's Place, 3185 Hickory Hill Road. The cost is \$10 per person to participate. For more information, please contact Cindy Metcalf at 901-372-4585.

## Memphis lands two of the best record stores in the US

BY SHERMAN WILLMOTT

According to rock 'n roll tastemaker *Rolling Stone* magazine, Memphis is one of only 5 cities that landed 2 record stores in the Best Record Stores in the USA listings. Shangri-la Records on Madison, Memphis' oldest new and used record store, and Goner Records in CY, begun by former Shangri-la Records' manager and buyer Eric Friedl, were both singled out in this year's National Record Store Day proclamation. Just one more thing for Memphians to brag about. Congratulations!

## Senior Expo at Agricenter

BY CINDY METCALF

The Senior Expo, presented by the Professional Network on Aging (PNA), will take place from 9am–3pm, on May 11, at Agricenter International, 7777 Walnut Grove. This free event includes health screenings, 100 vendors with informative exhibits, informational speakers, educational workshops, live entertainment, cooking and dance demonstrations, a ladies fashion show, hands-on activities, and an afternoon tea dance. Document disposal and prescription drug take-back services will also be available. Call 901-515-2066 for more information.

## Open your home to a foreign exchange student

BY CATHY MARCINKO

Hosting an exchange student from another country is a good thing to do for your family, your community, and the world! PAX (Program of Academic Exchange) is a nonprofit foreign student exchange program. PAX students, ages 15 to 18, come from more than 40 different countries and live for 10 months with a PAX host family. For information on hosting, contact PAX community coordinator Cathy Marcinko at 901-596-8149 or [cathy.marcinko@gmail.com](mailto:cathy.marcinko@gmail.com), or visit [PAX.org](http://PAX.org).

## HIV/Aids' photography exhibit

BY JEFF HULETT

Award-winning professor and theologian Kimberly Vrudny will speak about her photography exhibit, *30*



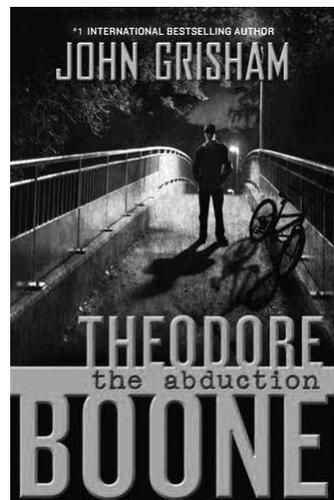
*Years/30 Lives: Documenting a Pandemic* at 4pm on Thursday, May 12 at Methodist Healthcare's Center of Excellence in Faith & Health at 1265 Union Ave. An artist reception will follow at

5:30pm at Church Health Center Wellness, 1115 Union Ave. The *30 Years/30 Lives* exhibit marks HIV/Aids' three decades and will run simultaneously at the Church Health Center, Methodist Healthcare, and St. John's United Methodist Church April 15- July 31. For more information call Rachel Thompson at 901-272-7170.

For a full listing of Church Health Center events, classes, and activities, many of which are free to the public, visit [churchhealthcenter.org](http://churchhealthcenter.org).

## John Grisham 20th anniversary special offer from Burke's

BY COREY MESLER



Burke's Book Store is now taking orders for signed copies of John Grisham's newest young adult novel, *Theodore Boone: The Abduction* (Penguin, \$16.99), due out in early June. This is the second book in his young adult series.

2011 marks the 20th anniversary of John Grisham's first book signing at Burke's Book Store for his

breakthrough legal thriller, *The Firm*. In celebration of this, we are offering a special promotion for his 2011 books. Until May 31, if you pre-order at least one autographed copy of the new Theodore Boone title, you may pre-order Grisham's forthcoming adult legal thriller at a 20% discount. This as-yet-untitled book will be published in November. We will also host a drawing for various autographed John Grisham memorabilia. Orders for signed copies may be placed online at [burkesbooks.com](http://burkesbooks.com) or by phone at 901-278-7484.

## Plug into Mid-South Peace and Justice Center at monthly community potluck

BY JACOB FLOWERS

Join us on Tuesday, May 10, from 6-8pm at our office (1000 S. Cooper) for a delicious meal and some meaningful conversation. Hear about upcoming events, tell us what

you're up to, and meet some new friends. We have had to move the May potluck due to a scheduling conflict, but future potlucks will be held on the first Tuesday of each month, so mark your calendars now!



## Free prom night makeovers allows students to look their best

BY FRANK WOLFF

High school students want to look their best on prom night, but not everyone can afford the cost of a trip to the salon. That's why Remington College-Memphis Campus is offering complimentary salon services for local high school students.

The event is called Prom Night Makeover. Staff and students in the Remington College Cosmetology Program are offering several complimentary services including haircuts, updos, manicures, pedicures, and makeup. High school students in the Memphis area can visit The Student Salon located at the Remington College-Memphis Campus (2741 Nonconnah Blvd.) from May 6 through May 14. Appointments are recommended and can be made by calling 901-396-8625.

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# School Happenings

GET YOUR PASSPORT

## Peabody Elementary annual International Studies Festival open to all

BY GINGER SPICKLER

On Friday, May 13, the students and staff at Peabody Elementary will host the school's annual International Studies Festival. Students in each grade level study a different country throughout the school year: kindergarten – United States; first grade – Kenya; second grade – France; third grade – Mexico; fourth grade – Russia; and fifth grade – Japan.

During the International Studies Festival, guests will enjoy a program featuring traditional songs and dances from each country. The program begins at 8:15am. After the program (around 9:15am), guests will travel throughout the building viewing projects, presentations, and skits and tasting traditional cuisine from around the world. The festival ends at 10:45am and is free to guests. Community members who join us annually for sushi in Japan and coconut in Kenya always enjoy this exciting event.

If you have any questions, please contact Jenifer Eoff at [eoffj@mcsk12.net](mailto:eoffj@mcsk12.net) or 901-416-4606.

FUEL FOR THE FIRE

## Reflections from *Parenting* magazine's Mom Congress

BY MANDY GRISHAM



Back in February a friend, formerly of Cooper-Young and currently of Pasadena, CA, forwarded an email telling me about a competition a magazine was holding to send moms involved in education to Washington, DC. Susan's e-mail said, "Mandy, this is totally last minute, but I saw this and immediately thought of you. You'd be perfect! But you have to apply today." What would I be perfect for? Apparently my dear friend thought I should join moms from across the country that are involved in educational advocacy and be part of *Parenting* magazine's Mom Congress.

I really appreciated my friend for thinking I could do this. But I read the instructions and sighed at the required 300 word essay. I'd worked all day, and I had two kids to feed and do homework with. I just didn't have time to write an essay. Later that night my husband was gone, and I was fiddling around on Facebook at 10pm and remembered that e-mail from

Susan. Before shutting down the computer, I wrote out three short paragraphs describing my amazing journey as a community and parent advocate at Peabody Elementary over the last several years. I hit send, and along with it said a short prayer. "God, if this is supposed to be part of my journey, make it happen." Then I went to bed and didn't think much of it again.

Three weeks later, as I was with my family at the zoo, my phone buzzed telling me I'd received an email. I had been chosen to be the Tennessee delegate at Mom Congress in April, which included a 4 day, all-expenses paid trip to Washington, DC. I was stunned. Then I opened the attachment with the itinerary. In the world of education, the names of the speakers were the All-Stars: Arne Duncan, Michelle Rhee, Jamie Oliver, The Gates Foundation, and so many more. Each forum would be a panel discussion with Q&A time on topics like school nutrition, bullying prevention, early childhood education, early literacy, rallying

parents, and finding funding. I've been to conferences before, but this would be different.

It is hard to put into words what I experienced during my week at Georgetown University. Each experience was priceless. The 51 moms I met all shared amazing, unique journeys of advocacy. I felt anger when I heard from the Idaho delegate that her schools can only afford to run 4 days a week and have cut all arts programs. I felt compassion when I heard the Iowa delegate's sold out passion for the foster care children in her city. I felt nausea when I saw pictures from the anonymous Mrs. Q, who ate a school lunch every day for a year and blogged to tell about it. I felt delight eating a Jamie Oliver-cooked school lunch! I felt giddy when a Kennedy walked in the room (Mark Kennedy Shriver of Save the Children). I felt the burden and intensity of educational leaders who are trying to change the systems. I felt inspired as we dreamed of what could be! I felt humbled as I toured the Capital Building and sat on the House floor where our nation's leaders have been passing laws for 150 years. I felt empowered as I walked across the street to the Longworth House Office Building to meet with my own Congressman, Steve Cohen, asking him to vote for the Family Engagement in Education Act that was to be presented to Congress that week. I felt validated as Mr. Cohen listened to my story and concerns and offered his encouragement and support. The emotional list goes on and on.

I am still overwhelmed and inspired. I wish our entire community could have experienced Mom Congress with me. My advocacy story is not just mine; it belongs to all of us. We are part of a neighborhood renaissance in our little corner of the world, and our neighborhood school is benefiting from partnerships within our community. As I teach full-time at two other schools in our city, I know that our advocacy efforts cannot stop at one school. After experiencing Mom Congress I am more fueled than ever to challenge parents, neighbors, and businesses to partner with schools to see education reform happen in our nation. In a day when teachers are told to teach longer and work harder, we must be their cheerleaders and encouragers. It is a difficult time to be a teacher, and they must know that we appreciate them. And most importantly, we must be advocating for children at every level on every issue. As I heard from our nation's top educational leaders over and over again, "Moms and dads need to be running the show." We need to be the loudest voices representing our most precious citizens. They are our future.



Charm Boutique is an upscale, quality consignment shoppe new to the Cooper-Young area. Items currently being showcased are women's apparel, handbags, jewelry and shoes. We have designers such as Gucci, BCBG, Trina Turk, Michael Kors, and many, many more.

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## Spies and secret agents take the Circuit Playhouse stage

BY LISA LYNCH

Hitchcock meets hilarious in this madcap, comic thriller – a juicy spy story mixed with a dash of Monty Python mayhem. A young man bored with his life falls in with a mysterious woman claiming to be a secret agent, and soon he's the target of a cross-country manhunt with a shadowy organization called "The 39 Steps" on his trail. Four actors take on over 150 roles in a plot packed with intrigue, international danger, an on-stage plane crash, old-fashioned romance, high-spirited comedy, and a death-defying finale.



Michael Gravois and Jenny Christoffersen, photographed by John Horan.

*The 39 Steps* is directed by Kevin Shaw (Disney's *High School Musical*) and features Company Members Michael Gravois (Ostrander winner: *The Seafarer*) and Jenny Lynn Christoffersen (*The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Speech & Debate*), and local actors Ryan Kathman and Matt Reed.

*The 39 Steps* runs at The Circuit Playhouse May 13-June 5, Thursdays through Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 2pm. The Pay-What-You-Can performance is Thursday, May 19. The Circuit Playhouse is located at 51 S. Cooper in Midtown. For more information or to make reservations, please call 901-726-4656 or go online to [playhouseonthesquare.org](http://playhouseonthesquare.org).

REAL LIFE ROMANCE

## CY spouses perform at Theatre Memphis

BY RANDALL HARTZOG

*Picnic* by William Inge will open at Theatre Memphis April 29 and run through May 15. An American stage classic, *Picnic* follows the events of a young, handsome drifter who promises romance and happiness and becomes involved with two sisters. His magnetism drives a wedge between them that may ultimately tear the family apart. Suspicion, lies, and jealousy create tension during an otherwise celebratory Labor Day weekend.

Lead roles at Theatre Memphis in *Picnic* are played by John Moore and Melissa Walker Moore. Husband and wife and Cooper-Young residents in real life, they portray the star-crossed lovers Hal Carter and Madge Owens on stage. "The show is about the moments in life that change who and where you are," says husband Moore. "The attraction felt between Hal and Madge the moment they meet speaks to the romantic in everyone. It's that kind of passion that must be acted upon, even though it's so startling and new that neither character knows its reasons, origin, or even what to do with it. And it's most certainly a realistic pull, because it's exactly the kind of chemistry that Melissa and I experienced when we met."

Walker Moore admits the tension is all too familiar. "Being married makes depicting the roles of strangers more of a challenge," she says. "But emoting a mutual feeling of immediate attraction that cannot be denied is something to which we can definitely relate. I think that the sort of passion we share is rare and radiates into our roles. Audiences are drawn to couples on stage in a similar way that we are all drawn to examples of love and passion blooming in real life. I think audiences will appreciate the depth we bring to Hal and Madge knowing that the love we share is real."

Director Jerry Chipman says he cast the roles blindly. "It just so happens they are married. Maybe their audition was so good because they were comfortable with each other." He continues, "In the play, they're strangers meeting for the first time and feeling an undeniable attraction. So maybe the chemistry they brought to their auditions did provide an advantage. But on stage, they completely step aside from themselves to delve into the characters of Hal and Madge, and the characters are nothing like John and Melissa – except they're attractive, vibrant, and have distinctive personalities. It all works for them and makes for a great dynamic on stage."

Performance dates for *Picnic* are April 29 – May 15. Shows are at 7:30pm on Thursdays (and Wednesday, May 11) and 8pm on Fridays and Saturdays, with matinees on Sundays at 2pm. Tickets are \$23 for adults and \$15 for students with a valid ID. Call 901-682-8323 to purchase tickets or go online to [theatrememphis.org](http://theatrememphis.org). Theatre Memphis is located at 630 Perkins Extended, at the corner of Perkins and Southern.

ENCORE!

## Ragtime returns to Playhouse on the Square

BY LISA LYNCH



Jarrad Baker and Claire Kohlheim, photographed by John Horan.

At the dawn of a new century, everything is changing and anything is possible. Set in the volatile melting pot of New York City at the beginning of the 20th century, *Ragtime* weaves together three distinctly American tales – that of a stifled, upper-class wife; a determined Jewish immigrant; and a daring, young Harlem musician – united by their courage, compassion, and belief in the promises of the future. *The New York Times* calls this "the kind of musical that brings audiences to their knees in adoration."

*Ragtime* is directed by Dave Landis and features Carla McDonald, David Foster, and Michael Detroit reprising their roles as Mother, Father, and Tateh, respectively. Also featured are Company Members Irene Crist as Emma Goldman, Laura Stracko as Evelyn Nesbit, Drew Hampton as Younger Brother,

Nick Echols as Harry Houdini, Josh Bernaski as Henry Ford, local actors Thomas "TeKay" King as Booker T.

Washington, and Claire Kohlheim as Sarah. Special guest artist Jarrad Baker, who has worked professionally in New York and most recently, in Baton Rouge, LA, is featured as Coalhouse.

*Ragtime* runs at Playhouse on the Square May 6 – May 29, Thursdays through Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 2pm. The Pay-What-You-Can performance is Thursday, May 12. Playhouse on the Square is located at 66 S. Cooper in Midtown. For more information or to make reservations, please call 901-726-4656 or go online to [playhouseonthesquare.org](http://playhouseonthesquare.org).

DOUBLE THE FUN

## Gallery Fifty Six hosts two shows in May

BY ROLLIN KOCSIS

Gallery Fifty Six will present two art exhibitions during the month of May. A *Spring Group Exhibition* will be showing from May 6 through May 14, with an artist's reception on May 6, from 5-8pm. The reception is free and open to the public. Participating artists will include John Armistead, Paul Clarke, Emery Franklin, Rollin Kocsis, Bridget Russell, Madison Sherman, John Sosh, Mary Bowman, Giorgio Vaselli, and others. The gallery is located at 2256 Central Ave.



For the second event in May, Gallery Fifty Six and the Humane Society of Memphis and Shelby County will present *Paws for Art*. Over 40 Memphis-area artists will each create an 18 x 24 inch canvas depicting an animal of some kind. The paintings will be auctioned off at a special event on May 26. All proceeds will go to the Humane Society of Memphis and Shelby County.

The gallery will have an artists' reception open to the public on Friday, May 20, from 6-8pm. Works to be auctioned will be on display at the gallery from May 20 through May 26. The gallery will be open on these days, including Monday and Tuesday, but closed on Sunday. Please call 901-276-1251 for hours.

The live auction will be held at WaterWorks located at 741 Cox Street (off Central Ave.) on Thursday May 26, from 6-8pm. There will be a wine reception with light hors d'oeuvres. Tickets to the event are \$25 and will be available online at [memphishumane.org](http://memphishumane.org) or by calling 901-937-3903.

## CY resident moved to action by Japan disaster

BY SUSANNAH ACUFF

Asuka Taga Yow, a Cooper-Young resident since 2004, has organized local resources for Japan relief since March 11, when Japan was devastated by a magnitude 9.0 earthquake that triggered a 25-foot-high tsunami. Yow watched as her home country lit up in red on the television screen that morning. Feeling as if her hands were tied so far from home, she has sought out avenues to provide assistance to Japan. She plans to send her profits from the Cooper-Young Community Yard Sale on May 21, including monies from a donation box, to the Japan-American Society of TN, where 100% of the donation will go directly to Japan relief. Yow encourages other Cooper-Young and Memphis residents to visit the yard sale at her home, located at 2095 Walker, and give to the cause. Yow will also host a Japan relief booth at the Cooper-Young Community Farmers Market, at 1000 S. Cooper, on the first Saturday of every month from 8am-1pm, beginning May 7. The Japan relief booth will house a box for donations and information, in addition to offering origami creations and t-shirts for sale to benefit the cause.



Yow moved to Memphis from Nara, Japan when she was a junior in high school. The Japanese company her father worked for has a location here, which facilitated her family's move to the area. After her father finished his time in Memphis, her family returned to Japan. But Yow stayed and married in 2003. She and her husband moved into their home in Cooper-Young in 2004. She is the only family member that remained in Memphis. The rest of her family returned to Nara, with the exception of her sister who works in Tokyo.

On March 11, Yow watched her television with dismay as the satellite image of Japan showed the entire country lit up, a sign of the danger level the tsunami had reached. For the first time, she truly feared for the lives of her family. She clamored to track down her loved ones. It took a few days, but luckily, she got in touch with all of them and confirmed that they were unharmed. Yow's sister reported that she wore high heels to work that day in Tokyo. Her office is on the 8th floor of a 55-story building. The trains, transportation, and electricity stopped, so Yow's sister (a 27-year-old computer systems engineer) walked home for four hours in her high heels. Yow is thankful that it wasn't much worse.

Yow is concerned that the US media coverage, ample when the earthquake and tsunami first struck, has slowed down. In response, she is spreading awareness that Japan is still struggling and that assistance is still desperately needed. It may come as a surprise to some that there have been an alarming 400 aftershocks of 5.0 magnitude or greater in northeastern Japan since March 11. These quakes have resulted in widespread cases of nausea and anxiety, comparable to seasickness. Yow says that people are staying put in the cities, partly because there's nowhere else to go, but also because of the sense that they can pull through this disaster together.

Despite the peoples' strength, there are not enough supplies in some areas. There is not enough electricity either. In Tokyo it is still dark. Electricity alternates around the city in three-hour intervals. This greatly affects families and companies alike. Yow's sister, for example, says the trains suddenly stop when the electricity switches. Understandably, this creates a feeling of unease for the young woman, suddenly stuck in the dark to find her way home. People are unable to work regularly. The economy is immensely affected. Tourism is gone. Farmers and fisherman that survived have been financially wiped out. They lost their land, houses, and boats.

Many people who were evacuated to shelters are still there. *The New York Times* reports that as of April 25, over 130,000 people remain housed in temporary shelters. Water is in short supply due to nuclear contamination. People in shelters are unable to bathe and personal space is incredibly limited. The elderly were evacuated to the shelters without their

medicine in numerous instances, resulting in embolisms and other health calamities on top of the emotional ramifications of the disaster.

Yow points out that there is comprehensive preparedness training throughout Japan for earthquakes and tsunamis alike. The Japanese are taught to ultimately focus only on getting themselves as individuals to a pre-agreed upon safe place. Individuals can reunite with

their families once they arrive. The far-reaching effects of the earthquake and tsunami are not due to lack of preparation of the Japanese. The buildings are very strong and reinforced to survive such natural disasters. The magnitude of the quake and tsunami were simply beyond the scope of what anyone expected. Yow, the mother of two young children, found herself questioning her own preparedness for an emergency after witnessing what happened in Japan. She realized she was simply not as prepared after living here. Her children are very young, but since the disaster she has discussed the what-ifs of an emergency with them and encourages others to question their own preparedness. She emphasizes the importance of knowing and practicing the exact steps to take with your loved ones: what to grab, which way to go, and where to meet.

Yow's determination to help is inspiring. She has organized several resources to make it easy for Cooper-Young residents to aid Japan. Yow feels like she is the closest source that many of her neighbors have to the disaster. She has banded together with other Japanese moms in the area to do what they can to raise money. She has also garnered the support of Pastor Tom Kyle at Lifelink Church, 1015 S. Cooper, where there is a donation box for Japan Relief. Robert Grisham, pastor at Neighborhood Church, 2181 Union, has also pledged assistance for the cause. Yow urges anyone to contact her who might already be involved in Japan relief efforts, or who may have more ideas for fundraising. She is grateful for the generosity shown by the Cooper-Young community so far, and comments that, "many people have called, emailed, prayed, and donated. They have been kind and touching with their support and love. I just want to say thank you."

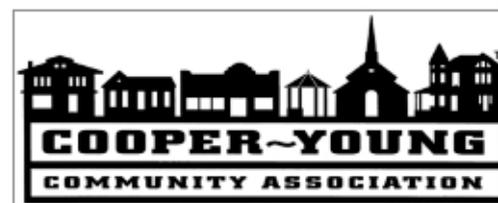
To get involved with relief efforts for Japan:

- Visit Yow's booth on Saturday, May 7, (and every first Saturday of the month) at the CY Community Farmers Market, 1000 S. Cooper, from 8am-1pm
- Shop at Yow's house (2098 Walker Ave) during the CY Community Yard Sale on Saturday, May 21. There will be plenty for sale, as well as a donation box, and 100% of funds raised will go to Japan relief.
- Donate to the Tennessee Tomodachi Fund (Tomodachi means "friend"). 100% of donations go directly to Japan relief. Simply make out a check to the "Japan-American Society of TN," with "Tennessee Tomodachi Fund" written in the memo. You can take your check to any First Tennessee Bank to deposit the money with no fee and to receive a receipt, just mention the Tennessee Tomodachi Fund account. Or mail your check to: TTF c/o JAST, PO Box 190476, Nashville, TN 37219.
- Write a check to "Consulate-General of Japan," with the memo, "Earthquake Aid," and mail it to: Consulate-General of Japan at Nashville, 1801 West End Ave, Suite 900, Nashville, TN 37203.

Asuka Taga Yow welcomes your comments, questions, and suggestions via email at [asukataga@hotmail.com](mailto:asukataga@hotmail.com).

### Office Space for Lease

The Community office at 2298 Young Avenue has space available for a small business or non profit. Rent would include use of wireless internet, shared conference room, and access to a copier.



300-600 sq.ft. available Call 272-2922 for more info.

## Fun and fundraising with The Natural Learning School

BY DAVID EARLY

What better way to celebrate the glorious arrival of warm days and shiny new feathers on trees than an outing with family and friends. The Natural Learning School will host its second annual Spring Festival on Saturday, May 7, from 10am-3pm at Peabody Park. Part field day, part "Minute to Win It", come experience a day of old-fashioned fun and games. Challenge your friends to a sack or three-legged race, make a cape or rain stick from natural materials in one of our art centers, beat the clock in a skill game, and for the ultra daring take a spin on the humiliating, I mean hilarious, Wheel of Destiny. Other activities for all ages and abilities include a bubble station, a scavenger hunt, and a Nick Cave-inspired parade as the Grand Finale. Admission is a budget-friendly \$5 per person, and food and beverages are available for purchase. All proceeds benefit The Natural Learning School located in Cooper-Young. For more information visit [naturallearningschool.com](http://naturallearningschool.com).

During my Thursday morning walks I am thrilled to see how many folks in our neighborhood are staunch recyclers, typically favoring an overflowing recycling bin each week while allowing the green cart only a supporting role. For those who haven't yet taken the plunge into recycling (it's easier than you think) or for those who want to channel your resources toward a worthy neighborhood cause, The Natural Learning School invites you to donate your aluminum beverage containers to our "Aluminum Is More Precious Than Gold" can drive. The funds generated will support our Scholarship Fund, Teacher Development Fund, as well as aid in realizing our vision of a new campus in the community. Each Saturday a resource-hungry trailer will be parked in front of the school at 1992 Nelson Avenue awaiting your bagged or loose cans. Any quantity is appreciated and rinsing is preferred. Each week the cans will be redeemed and the amount earned will be posted on our website, so we can collectively celebrate the effort. For more information call 901-355-6516.

## National Bike Month celebrations

BY KYLE WAGENSCHUTZ

In case you haven't heard, May is National Bike Month. To celebrate, Revolutions Community Bicycle Shop is hosting a series of events to get people pedaling!

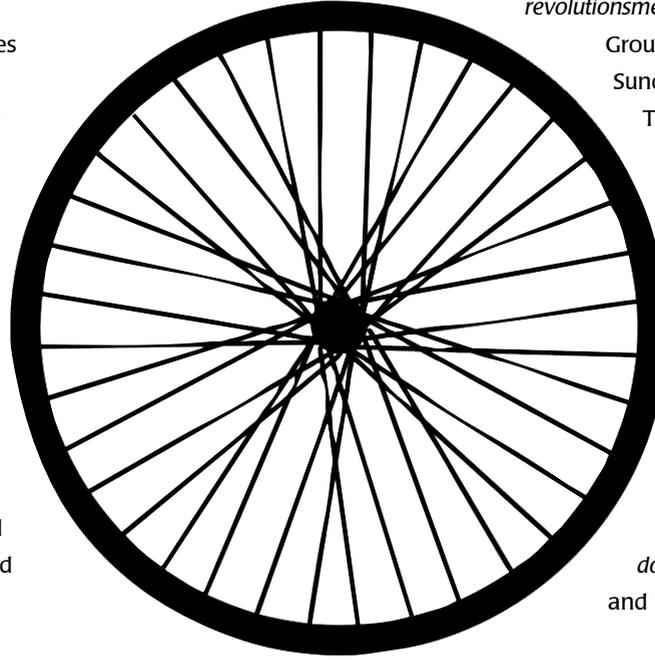
Classes titled "Bicycle Safety in the Streets" are being held in numerous locations throughout the community. Midtowners can catch the course at the Church Health Center Wellness (1115 Union Ave) on May 2 or at Revolutions (1000 S. Cooper) on May 23. Dates, times, and details can be found at

[revolutionsmemphis.wordpress.com/classes/](http://revolutionsmemphis.wordpress.com/classes/).

Group bike rides will be held every Sunday at 5:30pm around Midtown.

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## R.I.P. director Sidney Lumet (1924-2011)

BY MATT MARTIN

To be honest, I'm guessing there's a good chance you just asked "who?" Had the name above read Steven Spielberg, Woody Allen, or Martin Scorsese, I imagine that would not have been the case. And although he was one of the most prolific and celebrated film directors in the history of cinema, having directed over 70 movies and shows, Sidney Lumet's death from lymphoma on April 9 at age 87 came with far less fanfare and adoration than the passing of many of his contemporaries over the years. We just lost a legend here, people. And to loosely quote his award-winning film *Network*, "we...will...atone."

Sidney Lumet began his career in early childhood, following in the family tradition. Both his parents were prominent in New York theatre circles in the 1920s, and by age 4, he was already taking small roles on Broadway and on radio. He made his film acting debut at age 15. After spending three years in the army during World War 2, Lumet returned to New York City to begin his adult career, immediately creating an Off-Broadway group and becoming its director. After many successful shows, he began working in the new medium of television in 1950, becoming an assistant to his friend and then-director Yul Brynner. He developed a lightning quick style of shooting due to the constrained schedules and high turnover required by television, and in turn, made over 200 episodes of various popular shows of that time, including *Playhouse 90* and *Danger*.

Lumet's fast paced approach to shooting combined with his refined ability to instruct actors (learned in the theatre) made him a natural filmmaker. In 1959 he directed his first movie, an adaptation of the play *12 Angry Men*, starring Henry Fonda. The film, taking place entirely in a cramped courthouse jury room around a single table, chronicles the showdown over a murder case between Fonda's cool-headed, logical juror and the bitter, selfish, and irrational jurors around him. It was an alarming and tense examination of both the flaws of the legal system and the faults of the individuals who control it. Lumet's call for rational humanism over reactionary anger was radical for conservative, Eisenhower-era America, and the film was nominated for three Academy Awards.

From that point forward, Lumet literally never stopped directing. He averaged almost a movie a year for the rest of his life, finishing his last film in 2007. Called "every performer's dream" by actress Ali MacGraw, his talent with actors led him to work with some of the biggest names in cinema history, including Marlon Brando, James Mason, Ingrid Bergman, Richard Burton, Sophia Lauren, Paul Newman, William Holden, Katherine Hepburn, Sean Connery, Al Pacino, Dustin Hoffman, and Faye Dunaway. Roger Ebert called his book, *Making Movies*, one of the most important ever written on the subject of directing. Throughout his career no fewer than 14 of his films were nominated for various Oscars – a rare achievement. In 2005, he was given the Academy Award for Lifetime Achievement. Jane Fonda said of Lumet, "He was a master. Such control of his craft. He had strong, progressive values, in both his approach to life and his approach to art. He never betrayed them."

As in all art forms, masters come and go. In cinema great directors break ground and pave the way for future directors. Sidney Lumet leaves us an amazing body of work that will be examined, debated, and loved for decades to come. He once said, "While the goal of all movies is to entertain, the kind of film in which I believe goes one step further. It compels the spectator to examine one facet or another of their own lives. It stimulates thought, gets the mind flowing, and starts deep conversations among people." And so it shall be. Here's a quick list of 8 more landmark films from this cinematic legend that should not be missed. Watch. Discuss. Repeat. Sidney would want it that way.

**LONG DAYS JOURNEY INTO NIGHT (1962)** – Based on Eugene O'Neil's award-winning play about a young writer dealing with his drug-addled, dysfunctional family, the film won multiple awards, including an Oscar nomination for Katherine Hepburn as the self-destructive matriarch.

**THE PAWNBROKER (1964)** – One of the first films to address the problems of survivors of Nazi concentration camps of World War 2, the film follows the emotional and professional collapse of a Jewish pawn shop owner as flashbacks from his wartime traumas begin to spill over into his New York ghetto life. Rod Steiger is heart-breaking in the title role, and Morgan Freeman makes his first film appearance.

**FAIL-SAFE (1965)** – Often overshadowed by Stanley Kubrick's anti-war satire, *Dr. Strangelove*, released the same year, Lumet presents a searing and bleak portrait of an accidental nuclear holocaust. American planes have been sent to bomb Moscow, but it's all a mistake due to an electrical malfunction. Henry Fonda stars as the American president who

desperately tries to avert an all-out war.

**SERPICO (1973)** – Al Pacino gives an explosive performance as Frank Serpico in this true story about the one honest New York cop who blew the whistle on rampant corruption in the police department only to find his former comrades turn against him. One of the definitive films of the 1970s which set the standard for the harsh realism that filled cinema of that decade.

**DOG DAY AFTERNOON (1975)** – This film features Pacino in the best role of his career as a desperate New York bank robber who gets in over his head, turning a hostage situation into a full blown media circus. Based on the true story and often considered one of the definitive comments on New York, the film was nominated for 7 Oscars, including Best Picture. Pacino screaming "Attica! Attica!" at the growing crowds outside (in reference to mistreatment by police officers at Attica prison) is considered one of the greatest lines in movie history, and it was completely improvised!

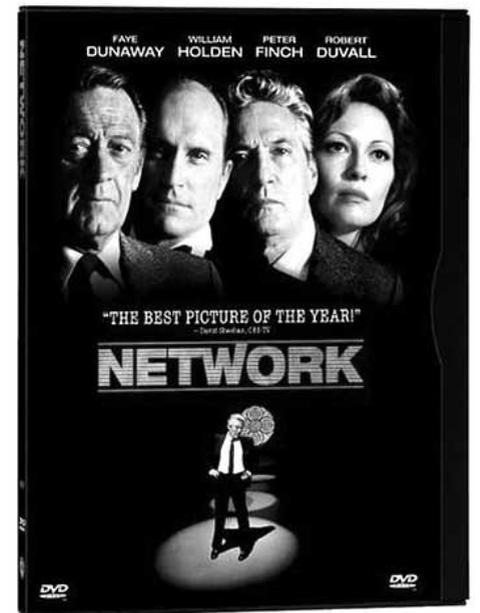
**NETWORK (1976)** – Often considered Lumet's masterpiece, the film is a devastating look at media corruption. When TV anchor Howard Beale becomes deranged and begins delivering apocalyptic rants and revelations on the air, the network cynically exploits him for profit and ratings. Literally decades ahead of its time, Lumet presents a nightmarish television landscape, where truth is irrelevant, enlightenment is sold between commercials, murder is good business, and terrorism has become entertainment. Sound familiar? Nominated for 10 Oscars, it won acting awards for Peter Finch, Faye Dunaway, and Beatrice Straight, and was unfairly beaten by *Rocky* for Best Picture. Chilling and brilliant.

**THE VERDICT (1982)** – Paul Newman stars as a drunk, down-on-his-luck lawyer, who after years of dodging court through settlements, sees a chance to salvage his career and his self-respect when he decides to take a medical malpractice case to trial. Nominated for 8 Academy awards, the film set the standard for the now common court procedural and directly inspired the creation of *Law & Order*.

**BEFORE THE DEVIL KNOWS YOU'RE DEAD (2007)** – Lumet's final film is also one of his best, as Philip Seymour Hoffman and Ethan Hawke play brothers who, out of desperation, decide to rob their own parents' jewelry store with disastrous results. This film is haunting, disturbing, and breathtaking, with an incredibly fearless performance from Marisa Tomei.

Rest in peace, Sidney Lumet. You made celluloid magic.

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



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## The history of Mother's Day

BY DR. D. JACKSON MAXWELL

As most of us are aware, Mother's Day is just around the corner, and we will spend the day being thankful for our mothers and mothers everywhere. However, I would be willing to bet that few of us know the history of Mother's Day and how we have come to celebrate it as we do. The following is a brief history about the origin of Mother's Day.

The origins of Mother's Day are ancient. The Greeks and Romans worshipped Rhea and Cybele as mothers of the gods, holding annual festivals in their honor. Early Christians recognized the Virgin Mary and the Mother Church during the religious celebration of Lent. These evolved, becoming a part of today's Mother's Day events. The fourth Sunday in Lent is called Mothering Sunday or Mother's Day in Great Britain. This celebration dates from medieval times when workers were given time off to travel home to visit their mother. On this holiday people throughout Great Britain spend time with their mothers, attend special church services, and give presents such as notes, cakes, homemade gifts, and flowers.

In the United States, beginning in the 1850s, Ann Jarvis organized Mother's Work Days to promote and improve health conditions throughout Appalachia. She continued these sanitation efforts during the Civil War and beyond until her death in the early 1900s. In remembrance of her mother and as a memorial for all mothers, her daughter Anna Jarvis organized the first Mother's Day in 1908. Anna campaigned for a national Mother's Day celebration.

Julia Ward Howe, a poet and pacifist, wrote the Mother's Day Proclamation to encourage women to demand world peace. This further promoted the idea of a special day for mothers. In 1914 President Woodrow Wilson made Mother's Day official, declaring it a national holiday to recognize women who had lost a son in World War I. Ironically within a few years, due to excessive commercialization, Anna Jarvis regretted her decision to seek a nationally recognized Mother's Day. In the United States Mother's Day is held on the second Sunday in May. Over time the holiday has become a celebration where children show appreciation for their mother with cards, flowers, candy, doing extra chores, and dining out.

Around the world there are many holidays that commemorate mothers. Each spring in France on Fete des Meres children present cards, poems, a special meal, and a cake to their mothers. Durga Puja is a 10-day festival in India, honoring the Hindu "Divine Mother." Although the Catholic Church plays a prominent role on Mother's Day in Spain and Portugal, children still take part by offering their mothers chocolates and homemade gifts. Mother's Day in Sweden is a family celebration where money is raised to help mothers and children in need. In Thailand Mother's Day celebrations coincide with the queen's birthday. On March 8, International Women's Day recognizes the collective power of women, seeking to inspire women everywhere to achieve their full potential.

While globally these events fall on different days, they all share the common thread of honoring women. These special days recognize women, and in particular mothers, for notable achievements, contributions to the community, and their importance to every family. As the old saying goes, if it were not for our mothers, none of us would be here today!

*Dr. D. Jackson Maxwell is a National Board Certified Teacher and freelance writer. If you have any questions or comments, please contact him at [djacksonmaxwell@gmail.com](mailto:djacksonmaxwell@gmail.com).*

## Learning from the Memphis Animal Shelter tragedy

BY TRISHA GURLEY

March was a sad month for the Memphis Animal Shelter. Twenty-five dogs had to be euthanized due to a distemper outbreak at the shelter. Distemper seems to be one of those things that we've all heard of but can't define. When I talked about the depressing situation with people, I'd usually hear, "Distemper? That's awful! Uh...what is distemper, exactly? Can cats get it too?"

Canine distemper is caused by a paramyxovirus and is not limited to domestic dogs. Wild canines such as wolves, coyotes, and foxes are also at risk. Domestic dogs tend to contract distemper in the fall and winter seasons, but wild animals tend to be affected in the spring and summer months, because younger animals are less resistant to the virus.

Distemper is highly communicable. It is transmitted via air or direct contact. Even contaminated objects and materials can transmit. The virus is also present in animal wastes. Given the close quarters of the shelter, the distemper transmission was extremely difficult to contain. Once distemper has manifested itself, the mortality rate is close to 100%.

How can you tell if a dog has distemper? Symptoms include vomiting, coughing, diarrhea, refusal to eat, and eye discharge. Central nervous system disturbances can be present as well. Distemper, like rabies vaccine, is required for domestic pets. Whether or not your dog has been vaccinated, get him to a veterinarian ASAP if these symptoms are present in your dog!

Feline distemper is different from canine, in that it is caused by a parvovirus. Like canine, it is also extremely contagious and deadly. Ferrets, weasels, raccoons, and skunks can also contract it. The virus is transmitted in the bodily wastes and saliva of an infected animal and can be transmitted for months after a cat recovers. Fleas and shared cat bedding can spread the virus too. Insects that come in contact or consume infected matter can spread feline distemper as well. Inhalation or consuming the infected material is the main means of feline infection.

A cat with distemper has similar symptoms of canine – refusal to eat, vomiting, diarrhea, and dehydration. As with dogs, get to a veterinarian if your cat displays any of these symptoms. Feline distemper can kill cats in 24 hours or less if no treatment is sought, and it is a wrenching death. Treatment involves blood transfusions, vitamin injections for electrolyte balance, and antibiotics.

Simple preventive veterinary care and common sense will keep your pets safe and well. As unfortunate as the recent Memphis Animal Shelter case was, it certainly does not mean shelter pets are unsafe to adopt. I have adopted shelter animals and know multiple people who have shelter pets, and none of us have had to deal with distemper or any shelter or kennel illnesses. Adopting a shelter animal will help ease overcrowding and lower disease risk! If you can't adopt, help all animals by having your own pets spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and indoors.

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## Children's fantasy book provides inspiration for young and old alike

BY KIMBERLY RICHARDSON



In March, I was a literary guest at the sci-fi convention, Coast Con, in Biloxi, MS. At the convention I picked up a copy of the delightful children's book *The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norton Juster. The story is of Milo, a bored young boy who one day receives a gift in the form of a tollbooth. Using the tollbooth, he is transported to the Kingdom of Wisdom where he takes part in an adventure rescuing twin princesses, Rhyme and Reason, from the Castle in the Air. Juster uses English idioms and common phrases in a literal sense, adding a quirky charm to this fast paced book. While reading the book, I thought about how Milo learns to use his imagination and discovers that true magic exists all around him when he takes the time to look.

As a dark fantasy author, I too use my imagination to create characters for my stories and novels as well as to enjoy the world around me for what it is and what it has to show me.

How many of us take the time to enjoy flowers in a garden or a gnarled, majestic oak tree in the backyard? How many of us take the time to travel to distant lands and cities to explore their customs, food, and history? I often find many people ready to throw off their imagination and settle into an adult life. Too often we forget what made us laugh when we were six or seven, when the world was fresh, new, and filled with wonder. In reading about Milo and his magical friends traveling through the Kingdom of Wisdom, I smiled thinking about the similar emotions I felt when reading *Harry Potter*, or *Alice in Wonderland*, or even while playing the MMORPG (massively multiplayer online role playing game) *World of Warcraft*. Sometimes we need our imagination to relieve us of our daily stresses and frustrations; to take a step back from this world and rediscover our childhood past. In rescuing the princesses, Milo understands that he has his imagination to lead him through future journeys. After finishing this book, I was glad I still had mine.

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# The past, present, and future of Peabody Elementary

Continued from page 1

An attempt to close the school by the Board of Education in 1983 was quickly shelved by the protests of older CY residents; most of them school alumni themselves. Many of these same residents had worked to place the school on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982, which precipitated some



Peabody Elementary, 1910 - 1911 school year

large-scale renovations of the school. These advocates kept working to designate the school as optional in 1989. Clearly the school is a beloved institution

for neighborhood residents who have worked hard to improve and support the school through the years.

Our family's own experience with Peabody has been very good. All three of our sons attended the school (from 1997 to 2010), and they received an excellent education from compassionate, caring staff. My oldest son is a freshman at UTK, my middle son is an 11th grader at White Station High School, and my youngest son just entered White Station Middle School this year. Their Peabody experience prepared them well to make the jump to other good optional schools in the MCS system.

## Peabody Present

BY MANDY GRISHAM

At this 100th anniversary milestone, Peabody has many charming qualities to boast about. The 330 preschool through



Current Peabody Principal, Kongsouly Jones

5th grade students study in large classrooms with low student/teacher ratios. At a time when standardized testing seems to take attention away from the fun of learning, Peabody students are receiving a well-rounded education that isn't found at every school in our nation these days. Students participate in art, Orff music, PE, and library for one hour a week with experienced, certified, caring teachers. An energetic team of Russian language teachers is providing thirty minutes of classroom Russian lessons for every student, every day.

The international studies focus that makes Peabody a unique optional school allows teachers to use the



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countries they study throughout the year as a thematic unit through which many other concepts are taught. In kindergarten the focus all year is the United States. When they began learning to count money during math, they also studied the presidents and landmarks represented on each coin. My child could have created a documentary on the topic; he was so enthralled! And this creative learning through international studies happens at each grade level with Kenya, France, Mexico, and Russia. The fifth graders study Japan, which has been particularly meaningful in light of the tragic earthquakes and tsunami. Students were moved by the disaster to take on the mission of raising funds for the Red Cross to benefit Japan relief.

Of course, the technology students use today could never have been fathomed a century ago. Today students learn on computers in their classroom or in the computer lab at least once a day, and every teacher uses SmartBoard technology, one of the most advanced pieces of equipment in classrooms today. Teachers are writing grants for digital recorders to help students gain confidence as early readers and iPads to bring the world to their fingertips.

After school students have the option to join a wide variety of extra-curricular activities such as: art or folk art club, chess club, baseball or soccer club, Beta club, Dance Ensemble, choir, strings, spirit squad, majorettes, drummers, science club, computer club, Peabody Press, crafty kids club, Russian club, and international cooking.

And parents of Peabody students are continually stepping out and showing support by volunteering as room parents, becoming PTA members, participating in fundraisers, and speaking at Career Day. This year parents have created a "Friends of Peabody" Facebook page and Twitter account (@PeabodyFriends) to communicate goings-on at the school. Peabody is a great example of the success students can have when teachers, administrators, parents, businesses, and community members all partner together for the education of an amazing group of kids.

## Peabody Future

BY GINGER SPICKLER

As wonderful as the school is now, I think that all Peabody stakeholders would agree that enjoying a great today doesn't preclude dreaming of an even better tomorrow. In that spirit, here is what I see for Peabody's future.

**Peabody as a community center.** Nationwide there is a growing trend toward thinking of school buildings not just as centers of learning from morning until early afternoon, but as community hubs that have something to offer all neighborhood residents

Continued on page 18

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well after the school staff heads home. Why should classrooms or the aptly named “cafetorium” sit empty in the evenings when they could be utilized for various community meetings; classes on health, finances, or parenting; and academic or artistic enrichment for adults and children alike? Not only would it be a more efficient use of a great neighborhood facility, but it could potentially enhance Peabody students’ readiness to learn by supporting their families more holistically.

**Peabody as a bridge between two communities.** Some may hear talk of Peabody being a neighborhood school and think the neighborhood being referred to is Cooper-Young. In fact, CY is one of two neighborhoods that are zoned for Peabody. The other is Rozelle-Annesdale – a lower-income, more heavily African-American neighborhood and a strong community in its own right. While Rozelle-Annesdale has in recent years sent its

children mainly to Peabody and Cooper-Young has not, that is beginning to change as more CY families choose the school their kids can walk to. If trends continue, Peabody has the possibility of becoming one of the more diverse neighborhood schools in the city – a vibrant racial and socioeconomic mix of children (and the adults who love them) who all have much to gain from growing and learning with one another.

**Peabody as an equalizer.** Above all, my greatest dream for Peabody is that through the hard work of teachers, administrators, community members, parents, and the students themselves, Peabody would find a way to close the persistent achievement gap that is present in most every school in the nation between economically disadvantaged students and those with more resources. Peabody is already doing better on this score than the district and even the state as a whole, and I know

from regular conversations with Peabody’s staff that it is something they have in their sights everyday. But that vision can’t stop with them. As a parent and community member, I must fight for a great education for every child like I do for my own son. It’s easy to say and hard to do, I know. But ultimately, it’s up to all of us to make Peabody a model of student success so that on Peabody’s 200th anniversary our city, nation, and world will have been changed for the better by those who have walked through its doors.

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## Keeping safe in spring

BY WES WILLIAMSON

The days are getting longer, the clocks have been moved forward an hour, and all of this winter's snow is gone. We are starting to open our windows to let the fresh air in, and we are all getting that itch to begin our spring cleaning! During the winter, snow is not the only thing that accumulates. Somehow stuff seems to work its way into our houses, and yard waste manages to grow too. As we get started on our spring cleaning, there are always safety tips to employ to avoid a disastrous situation.

### Cleaning Safety

- Household and pool chemicals, paints, and poisons should be properly marked and stored under lock and key, away from children's reach. Dispose of any that are leaking, expired, or that look bad. If you don't know how to dispose of them, seek outside advice. Never put them into the trash or pour down the drain.
- Visit [cityofmemphis.org/framework.aspx?page=870](http://cityofmemphis.org/framework.aspx?page=870) for a listing of hazardous wastes the city properly disposes or recycles.
- When cleaning up hazardous chemicals, wear rubber gloves and follow the safety direction on the packaging. Never mix chemicals in the same container.
- Make sure gasoline and cleaning fluids are well marked and stored in a cool, dry place away from the house and out of the reach of children and pets. Use only approved containers for gasoline storage.
- Never use gasoline to clean skin, clothes, auto parts, or floors.
- Clean up work areas. Put dangerous tools, adhesives, matches, or other work items away from children's reach.
- Check your barbecue grill for leaks and cracks, and be sure to store any propane tanks away from your house and garage.
- Remove all fire hazards, including stacks of rags, newspapers, and magazines. Pay special attention to the spaces around your furnace, hot water tank, fireplace, space heaters, and dryer, as well as under the stairs.

### Yard Work Safety

- Limber up. Yard chores may seem easy, but they involve muscles you probably haven't used in a while.
- Always wear protective clothing when you handle pesticides and fertilizers.
- More than 60,000 people are treated in emergency rooms each year for lawn-mower injuries.

Rake before you mow to prevent any stones and loose debris from launching into the air.

Never operate a mower in your bare feet and avoid wearing loose clothing.

Never start a mower indoors.

When refueling your mower, make sure the engine is off and cool. Don't spill gasoline on a hot engine, and don't smoke while pouring gasoline.

Never leave your mower operational while unattended.

Don't use electrical mowers on wet grass.

- At least 55,000 people each year sustain injuries from trimmers, lawn edgers, pruners and power saws.

Read the manufacturer's instructions carefully before using the tools.

Inspect the product for damage, and don't use it if there are problems.

Use proper eye protection.

Make sure blade guards are in place on all cutting equipment.

Don't let tools get wet unless they are labeled "immersible."

Unplug all tools when not in use.

Make sure the tool is in the off position before you plug it in.

Store gasoline-powered equipment away from anything that uses a pilot light.

Make sure you use the right saw for the task, and always wait for the saw blade to stop before pulling away from a cut to avoid kickback.

When pruning trees, be careful not to let metal ladders or trimmers contact overhead wires.

- Before you do any hands on weed removal, make sure you know how to identify poison ivy, sumac, oak and similar toxic plants. Find out ahead of time how to treat the rashes they cause to reduce the irritation.
- Be aware of wildlife in our area too, and be cautious around storm drains, old stumps, and places where yard waste has been piled up for a few months. We have raccoons, rats, poisonous and nonpoisonous snakes (I have already found several snakes in my yard this spring).

I hope these tips help to keep you and your family safe this spring! For reference visit [kimbertonfire.org/firesafetySpring.htm](http://kimbertonfire.org/firesafetySpring.htm) or [cityofmemphis.org](http://cityofmemphis.org).



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EMAIL PICTURES AND INFO OF YOUR WEDDINGS, FUN TRIPS, NEW BABIES, PARTIES, ANNIVERSARIES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND MORE TO [COOPERYOUNGSCENE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:COOPERYOUNGSCENE@GMAIL.COM). IF IT'S GOOD NEWS IN COOPER-YOUNG, WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT!

Evelyn resident Sophie Perry, daughter of Eddie and Kolleena Perry, is more interested in looking cool than finding eggs this Easter.



The Miller/Huntley family of Nelson Avenue took a vacation to Black Mountain, NC. Notice Kristan is wearing her Smallest User t-shirt!



Mandy and Micah Grisham relax in the hammock during a cookout at Josh and Ginger Spickler's house on Nelson.



Neighborhood kids turned out in droves at the Neighborhood Church Easter Egg Hunt at Peabody Elementary on Saturday, April 23.



Nelson neighbors Josh Spickler and Jeff Mize shoot the breeze during a cookout at Josh's house.



**Violet, daughter of Jason and Barb Elder of Felix Avenue, prepares to blow out her candle at her fourth birthday party with family in Mississippi.**



**Felix Avenue residents Graham and Charlotte Blondis, children of Craig and Elizabeth Blondis, pose with the Easter bunny.**



**Peabody students Charlotte Blondis and Lea King, joined by little sister Adelle King, dig through their Easter egg hunt spoils.**



**Oliver residents Peter and Elek Owen celebrate Easter with Elek's Gran (Peter's mother), Peggy Owen.**



**Young Avenue resident, Georgene Cachola, and granddaughter, Cleo Kelley, enjoy themselves at the Neighborhood Church Easter Egg Hunt at Peabody Elementary.**

# Betty's World

## Income tax abuse

BY BETTY LAMARR

April is such a wonderful month. It is when the flowers really start to bloom, when the chilly weather starts to become a warm breeze, when Easter reminds us all of God's love (or at least how much we like chocolate), and of course, when we get to file our taxes. Taxes may not bring a smile to your face like the thought of newly arriving spring, but they make some people in our community jump for joy.

Income tax abuse is more rampant than many of us would like to admit, and it brings in a flood of money to some very undeserving people. Sure, some of us get tax refunds for well deserved reasons. Many people buy a house, pay for tuition, donate to charity, or put money away in their 401(k). However, some take this wonderful time of year to pawn their kids off faster than an iPad at a Whitehaven yard sale. It is these particular individuals that I would like to focus my discussion on in the hopes that it brings awareness to the issue of income tax abuse.

Every year I am approached by at least one mother who asks me if I want to put her child on my taxes in exchange for part of the money I would receive on my tax refund. If they simply ask for \$500 in return for the \$1500 you could get back from the government, women who have multiple children can really benefit. If a woman has five kids and pawns them off for \$500 each, it adds up to some decent cash. This is the same cash that most of us have to work for day in and day out.

Income tax abuse seems to reward the wrong people for the right things. It is not bad to have children, and it is good that the government understands that it takes money to feed those hungry mouths and clothe those fast growing bodies. However, it is not right for women to have children that they are unable to care for properly simply because of the financial benefit. It takes a certain amount of self-control (and birth control) to stop and think before you decide to get pregnant. Women need to discern what is best for their own life and for the lives of any children they bring into this world.

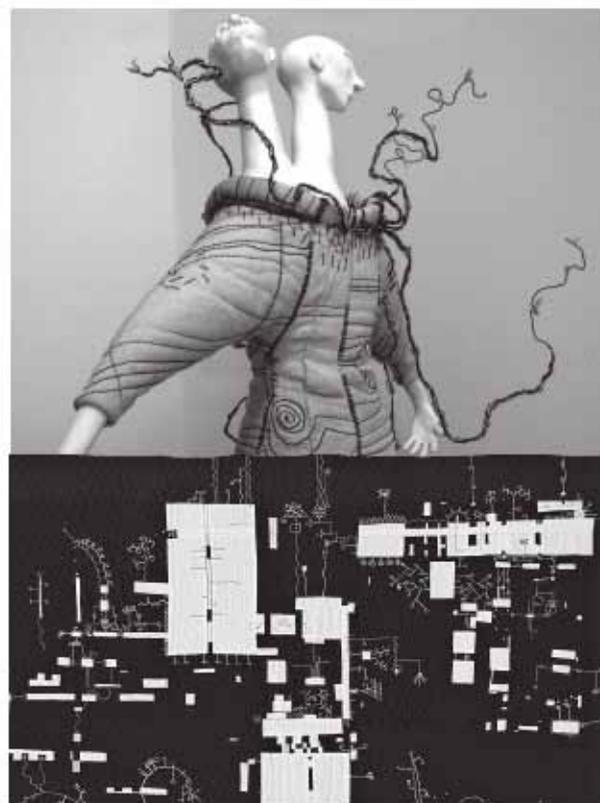
Women are not the only ones at fault. One might wonder suspiciously why the government does not see this flagrant abuse and cause it to cease. There is clearly a fault in the system that rewards people who cheat on their income taxes, whereas people who pay their bills on a regular basis are not awarded any type of similar benefit. Reward those who

try to get off welfare by getting a job; don't punish them by taking away their benefits as soon as they get one! All the current governmental system does is give people a reason to do something wrong, and punish those who try to do something right.

Those of us who work hard to earn a living should stand up for what we believe in. Don't take these women up on their offers to use their children for financial gain. Instead, understand the true value of your integrity and stay honest while you strive to make constructive changes in the system. It may not be easy, but it is possible, and it is honorable.

Speaking of honesty and integrity, look out for next month's article where I will discuss why women falsely accuse the wrong man for being the father of their children. This topic, highly requested by my male readers, should make for an interesting debate. Keep reading and discussing and know that I appreciate your great feedback. For

questions or comments email me at [askbettylamarr@aol.com](mailto:askbettylamarr@aol.com) or visit me at [askbettylamarr.blogspot.com](http://askbettylamarr.blogspot.com). You can also find me every Tuesday at midnight on Comcast Channel 17.



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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 March 24, 2011 to April 23, 2011.

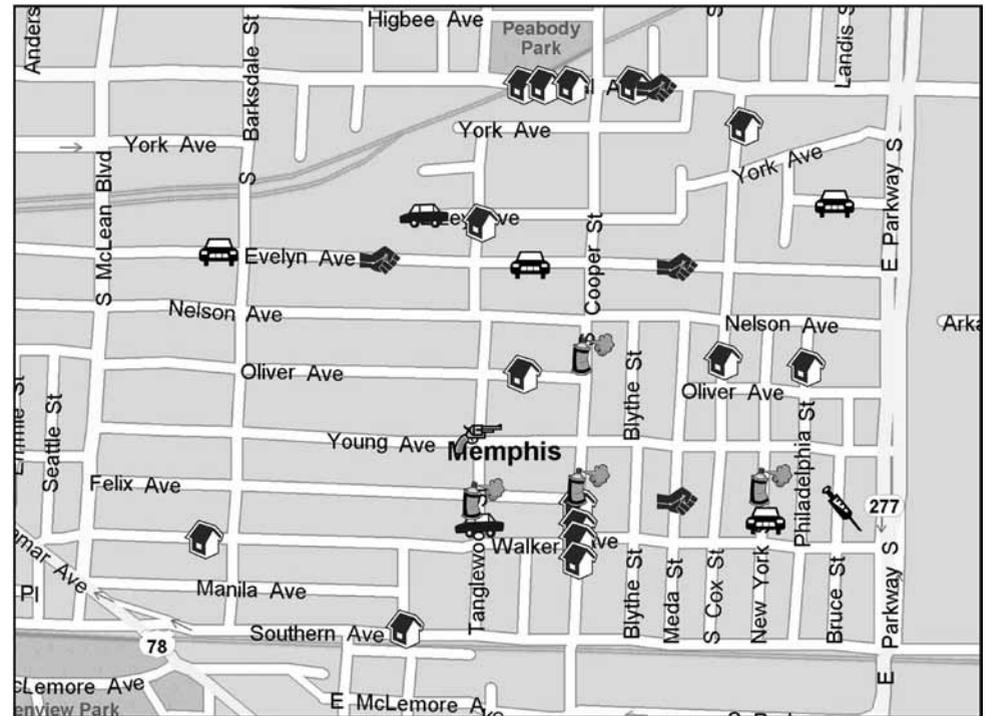
CASE #	ARREST	OFFENSES	DATE	100 BLOCK
1104016497ME	n/a	Burglary/Business	04/23/11	2200 CENTRAL
1104015943ME	n/a	Vandalism/Felony	04/22/11	1000 NEW YORK
1104015819ME	n/a	Other Theft/Non-Specific	04/22/11	1000 S COOPER
1104012218ME	n/a	Shoplifting/Misdemeanor	04/17/11	2100 CENTRAL AVE
1104011242ME	n/a	Theft from Motor Vehicle	04/16/11	1900 EVELYN
1104009053ME	n/a	Theft of Vehicle Parts	04/13/11	2000 ELZEY AVE
1104007954ME	n/a	Other Theft/Non-Specific	04/12/11	2100 CENTRAL AVE
1104007841ME	n/a	Theft from Building	04/11/11	1000 S COOPER
1104007764ME	n/a	Burglary/Residential	04/11/11	1100 S. REMBERT
1104007563ME	n/a	Simple Assault/DV	04/11/11	2000 EVELYN
1104007554ME	n/a	Burglary/Residential	04/11/11	1000 S COOPER
1104007550ME	n/a	Vandalism/Misdemeanor	04/11/11	1000 S COOPER
1104007493ME	Arrest	Burglary/Residential	04/11/11	1000 S COOPER
1104007037ME	n/a	Simple Assault/DV	04/10/11	2200 EVELYN
1104005389ME	n/a	Theft of Vehicle Parts	04/08/11	Tanglewd & Walker
1104005250ME	n/a	Theft from Building	04/08/11	700 S COX
1104003718ME	n/a	Other Theft/Non-Specific	04/06/11	2100 OLIVER AVE
1104003506ME	n/a	Other Theft/Non-Specific	04/06/11	900 PHILADELPHIA
1104003379ME	n/a	Simple Assault/DV	04/06/11	2200 CENTRAL AVE
1104004057ME	n/a	Theft from Motor Vehicle	04/06/11	2300 ELZEY
1104001417ME	n/a	Theft from Motor Vehicle	04/03/11	2100 EVELYN
1104001258ME	n/a	Robbery/Individual	04/02/11	YOUNG & TANGLEWD
1104001034ME	n/a	Other Theft/Non-Specific	04/02/11	900 S COX
1104000957ME	n/a	Vandalism/Felony	04/02/11	1000 TANGLEWD
1104000890ME	n/a	Vandalism/Misdemeanor	04/02/11	900 COOPER
1104000060ME	n/a	Simple Assault/DV	04/01/11	1000 MEDA
1103023147ME	n/a	Burglary/Residential	03/31/11	800 TANGLEWD
1103022142ME	n/a	Other Theft/Non-Specific	03/30/11	2100 CENTRAL AVE
1103001176SH	Arrest	Drugs/Narcotics/Felony	03/29/11	1000 BRUCE ST
1103021191ME	n/a	Other Theft/Non-Specific	03/29/11	1900 WALKER
1103020155ME	n/a	Theft from Motor Vehicle	03/27/11	1000 NEW YORK



**Crime Map**

Do you want to know what crime is taking place in our neighborhood? The Memphis Police Department offers a tool on its website ([memphispolice.org](http://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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