

# LampLighter

Cooper-Young — Many Voices, One Community



NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

## Happily ever after

BY KIM COOK AND BARB ELDER

It seems that every cause under the sun has a month or day dedicated to its awareness. Did you know that November is National Peanut Butter Lovers' Month or that November 15 is National Clean Out Your Refrigerator Day? Don't get me wrong. I love peanut butter as much as the next person, and I am all in favor of cleaning out the fridge (hopefully more than once a year). But at some point these celebrations become absurd. Certainly November also plays host to some significant and serious awareness campaigns such as National Diabetes Month and Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month. But for this cover story, I would like to pay tribute to a cause that is near and dear to my heart. For me November will always primarily stand for National Adoption Month.

My husband, Jason, and I have been on the road toward adoption for what seems like a lifetime. Although many celebrities are doing it, adoption is still a mysterious process to the outsider, fraught with media misinformation. As we began this journey we wondered, "Can we afford adoption?" "If we want to adopt a US baby, won't we be waiting forever?" "If we do adopt domestically, will the birth parents show up years later and demand the child back?" The answers to these questions were not what we expected.

As we became more comfortable with our decision to adopt, I encountered another surprise. Everyone I met seemed to have a story of some friend or cousin whose adoption had gone terribly wrong. I'm sure they all meant well by telling me their horror stories, probably wanting to prepare me for what might lie ahead. But I began to wonder if this process was really going to require my heart to go through a blender. In response, we went in search of people who had actually been through the adoption process. While I know that adoption includes a fair share of risks, I have never spoken with an adoptive parent who had a nightmare story to tell (and trust me, I've spoken to a lot of them). This has given me great comfort as we await the end to



Continued on page 13



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

## Rising from the ashes

The rest of 2010 will be a challenge for the CYCA. Our building at 2298 Young caught fire on September 27. Luckily no one was physically injured in the fire.

Nevertheless, the fire changes activities for these final two months of the year. The last quarter of the year is normally a time of rest after the success of the 4 Miler race and CY Festival, as well as a time to plan ways to thank our cadre of volunteers and supporters. But this year it has become a time for dealing with insur-

ance and planning for repairs.

But be assured, the CYCA is still serving the community. Although not in our official office space, Community Director Maggie Cardwell is working remotely and addressing concerns via email and phone. The board continues to meet on a monthly basis to make sure that all committees continue on their course to make CY a more desirable and safer place to live, worship, work, and play. Committees continue to meet at their chairperson's discretion and continue their missions.

In the meantime we are working with insurance and contractors to repair the building. We had been in the process of drawing up plans to renovate the interior. Now, thanks to the fire, the timetable is accelerated and the time to renovate is now. If you have spent time in the building and have any ideas, ranging from a new layout of the interior to paint colors, please share your thoughts by emailing [info@cooperyoung.org](mailto:info@cooperyoung.org). Now is the time to have your say about how to improve the building!

Finally, we are planning on new ways for you to show your support for the CYCA in 2011. Be on the lookout for information in your membership renewal letters in January 2011.

Have a thankful November!

John Kinsey

### Beerfest bliss

Drew Barton of Manilla embraced the morning of preparations for the Cooper-Young Beerfest with a smile and open arms. He needed those stylin' shades on the sunny Saturday of October 9. Almost 400 visitors enjoyed the event and helped raise over \$6,000 for the CYCA. Plans are in the works for next year's event to be bigger and better!



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# inside

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We need your two cents! Read this brief update on the *LampLighter's* needs and participate in a poll to give us feedback to plan for the future of the newspaper.

## 7 First Congo increases food ministry with help from neighbors

Have you ever wondered about the ministries at First Congo? This article outlines all of the church's programs to fight community hunger and lists ways that you can get involved this holiday season and beyond.

## 14 Opportunities abound to support our neighborhood school

What a busy month for Peabody Elementary! Since we all love this school, this article will give you plenty of ideas for how to express that love in November.

### 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).



# Meetings & Dates

### November General Meeting

Tuesday, November 9, 6 pm  
Peabody School Cafeteria  
Come find out what is happening at our community elementary school and the new chapter of Stand For Children.

### Photos with Santa at the gazebo

Thursday, November 11, 5:30 pm  
Gazebo at Cooper and Young  
Pay a small fee to have your photo taken with Santa as a fundraiser for the CY Mural Project. See the article on page 5.



### CYCA Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 16, 7 pm  
Location TBA  
Contact [info@cooperyoung.org](mailto:info@cooperyoung.org) for more info.

#### CYCA Community Director

Maggie Cardwell

#### CYCA Board Officers

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

#### CYCA Committee Heads

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

#### At-Large Board Members

Peter Owen  
Amanda Ball  
Kevin Ritz

WEIGH IN

## LampLighter polling for support

BY EMILY BISHOP

The *LampLighter* celebrated 21 years in publication in September. The CYCA is very proud of this accomplishment which would not have been possible without the dedicated support of advertisers and volunteers. The *LampLighter*, like many print publications today, is struggling financially. The paper is operating at a deficit for the third straight year. While the *LampLighter* staff continues to look at innovative ways to increase revenue through advertising we also want to explore what financial support community members would be willing to offer to maintain the frequency and quality of the paper.

Let us know what you think by taking the poll on the home page of [cooperyoung.org](http://cooperyoung.org). Scroll down to "This months poll."

We also welcome your comments on the *LampLighter* post at [cooperyoung.org](http://cooperyoung.org).

Got a great idea on how the paper can better serve our community or increase our revenue? We would love to hear from you! If you don't have access to the internet then please send us your comments to The *LampLighter*, c/o CYCA, 2298 Young Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104.

### This Month's Poll!

Ad sales do not cover the operating costs for the *LampLighter*. Are you willing to contribute to the CYCA to maintain the frequency and quality of Cooper-Young's monthly newspaper?

→ Yes (86%, 65 Votes)

→ No (14%, 11 Votes)

Total Voters: 76

→ Polls Archive

At press time, the results above were on the [cooperyoung.org](http://cooperyoung.org) website.

### Volunteer now

We have immediate openings for writers of regular columns.

- CYCA Meetings
- Council News
- CY Society

Email: [lampighter@cooperyoung.org](mailto:lampighter@cooperyoung.org)

TRICK-OR-TREAT

## Great Pumpkin winners and more

BY SHELLEY THOMAS

Samantha and Jeremy Palazolo, of 2077 Oliver, are the 2010 Great Pumpkin contest winners! Congratulation to the spirited couple who, along with bragging rights, are enjoying a special Halloween cake, designed, baked, and donated by Suzzane Striker.

We appreciate all who participated, including second place winners Kristan Huntley and Patrick Miller at 1956 Nelson, third place winners Sally Miller-Vondran and Jenna Vondran at 2106 Felix, and all others including Summer Burkes at 2011 Evelyn, Sara Hallum and Ben Baker at 910 Blythe, and the residents of 2061 Evelyn.

D&D Signs also got into the CY Halloween spirit this year. With over 20 years experience, Doug and Debbie Campbell opened D&D Signs about four years ago. Although small in size, they have big hearts and generously donating yard signs which were used to encourage a fun and safe Halloween. Thanks so much D&D Signs!

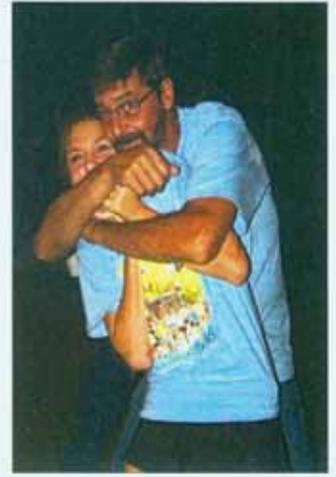


## October Memberships

BY MAGGIE CARDWELL

As many of you know, the Cooper-Young Community Office experienced a fire on Monday, September 27, 2010. To secure personal information and records, everything was stored or transported quickly. In the spirit of CY and to keep moving forward, we began operating from various satellite locations. We apologize to all that joined as members during this time, and we will list those that joined during this period in a future *LampLighter* publication. We appreciated your membership and your patience during this period.

If you have not received your membership card, please let us know by contacting [info@cooperyoung.org](mailto:info@cooperyoung.org).



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Brett Rena

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### COMMUNITY SPIRIT

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



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

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

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

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Mail this form with your payments to:

CYCA Membership, 2298 Young Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104

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

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**SIGN UP @ [COOPERYOUNG.ORG](http://COOPERYOUNG.ORG).**



DRINK UP

## CY participates in Pop-Tab-Palooza fundraiser

BY PETER OWEN

It has been another successful year for CY in the Ronald McDonald House of Memphis' (RHM) Pop-Tab-Palooza fundraiser. This is the second year that Cooper-Young has participated in the efforts to support the children and families of RMH by collecting pop-tabs to be cashed in with a recycling company.

The Evelyn crew (Cooper to Tanglewood) took home the gold, along with \$100 courtesy of Beth and Steve Pulliam, in this year's CY competition to collect the most tabs. This group turned in a whopping 17,580 tabs! Coming in a close second and receiving \$50 courtesy of Jason Word, was the Oliver gang (Barksdale to Tanglewood) with 15,560 tabs. Third place went to the folks on Nelson (Barksdale to McLean) with 1,940 tabs, who won \$25 also courtesy of Jason. The money awarded will be used to defray the cost of block parties and events.

Cooper-Young had a total of 7 block clubs participate and collected 39,720 pop-tabs. Thank you all for making Pop-Tab-Palooza such a success! If you are interested in participating and competing for block party funds next year, start collecting now!



TALLY HO

## Smallest User competition on the home stretch

BY DEBBIE SOWELL

Cooper Young is still working hard for a win in the Smallest User Contest. This sculpture, located at the CYCA office at 2298 Young, is a prototype of the larger sculpture that will go to the winning community. We are still wanting to hear what you are doing to conserve energy for an array of prizes. Look to [smallestuser.com](http://smallestuser.com) for all the details.



Cooper-Young and Evergreen compete to save energy, win big & become



[www.smallestuser.com](http://www.smallestuser.com)

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[smallestuser.wordpress.com](http://smallestuser.wordpress.com)



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## IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

## Preparing your home emergency kit

BY SARAH FRIERSON

If you attended a Neighborhood Night Out party, you might have noticed the Family Communication Plans that were distributed. (If you haven't received one, please visit [cooperyoung.org](http://cooperyoung.org) to download a copy.) The first step in preparing for a disaster or emergency is making a plan for your family. Where will you meet? Who will you contact? What information should every family member carry with them? By making these decisions and filling out the form, you have completed the first step in preparing your home and family for an emergency.

So, what's next? Now it's time to prepare your kit. Every home should have an emergency kit in the event that assistance takes several days or weeks to arrive.

### First, the essentials:

- Water: one gallon of water per person, per day, for at least three days (for drinking and sanitation)
- Food: a three-day supply of non-perishable food (Don't forget the pet food or baby formula, if needed.)
- Can opener
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA weather radio, plus extra batteries
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First Aid kit: two pairs of sterile gloves, sterile dressings, adhesive tape, antibacterial cleansing agent, antibiotic ointment, burn ointment, adhesive bandages, eye wash solution, thermometer, prescription medication and supplies, scissors, tweezers, petroleum jelly, medications (aspirin, antacid, laxative, antihistamine, hydrocortisone cream, calamine lotion, antidiarrheal medication, etc.), sunscreen, goggles, turkey baster, instant cold packs, first aid manual
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask and heavy work gloves
- Adjustable wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Heavy-duty plastic bags, moist towelettes, plastic ties, and a bucket for sanitation
- Cell phone with charger
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Cash

### Additional items to consider:

- Prescription medications and glasses
- Copies of important documents such as insurance policies, bank account information, etc.
- Blanket or sleeping bag
- Plastic sheeting, duct tape, and utility knife for covering broken windows
- Tools such as a crowbar, bungee cord, hammer, nails, etc.
- Unscented liquid household bleach and an eyedropper for water purification. When diluted nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. You can also use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Remember! Do not use bleach that is scented, color safe, or has added cleaners.
- Fire extinguisher
- Local maps
- Paper and pencil
- Disposable camera
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, utensils, plates, and cups
- Books, games, or other activities for children

Of course, when everything is written down it looks like a lot, but then you realize that you already have most of these things scattered around the house. It's just a matter of putting it all together and checking things off the list. And it can't hurt to have separate mini-kits around the house, since certain parts of the building might not be accessible in a disaster.

We're sure that other great suggestions and ideas for what to include in your emergency kit will be presented during the CERT training program on January 15 and February 12. If you haven't registered yet, please send an email to [sarahfrierson@yahoo.com](mailto:sarahfrierson@yahoo.com) to reserve your spot in the class. If you signed up at a NNO party, please send a confirmation email.

For more information on emergency preparedness, please visit [readyshelby.org](http://readyshelby.org), [ready.gov](http://ready.gov), and [fema.gov](http://fema.gov).

## GAZEBO PHOTO SHOOT

## Santa is just around the corner - literally

BY KRISTAN HUNTLEY

On Thursday, November 11, at 5:30pm, come by the Gazebo and have your photo taken with Santa Claus! Good St. Nick has a special place in his heart for Cooper-Young, so he is making time out of his busy holiday schedule to make a one-night guest appearance. As a fundraiser, he has offered to take his photo with you and your family for a small fee, all of which goes to the Mural Project. Now that's getting into the holiday spirit!

For \$5 per sitting you may take your own photo of you, your kids, your pet (yes, Santa is animal-friendly), or any combination of the above. For a small \$8 fee per sitting a volunteer photographer and Santa's helper elves will take the photo for you and e-mail it to you

afterward. Since the elves like to keep things simple, they will be accepting only cash or check.

Remember to bring your camera, your kids, your friendly pets (4-legged, slithery, and feathered all welcome), and your holiday cheer! Ho ho ho!



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

## New local coordinator for St. Jude Marathon aid station

BY AMANDA BALL

This year I am happy to be working as coordinator for the St. Jude Marathon aid station at the intersection on Cooper near Nelson. As a Cooper-Young resident and CYCA board member, I invite you to join me and other neighbors to cheer on marathon participants as they run through Cooper-Young!

The St. Jude Marathon is scheduled for Saturday, December 4. Every year the Cooper-Young community supports this great event by manning an aid station. Anyone who is interested is warmly welcome to participate, whether you are a CY resident and supporter or a marathon fan. You may sign up for a 2-hour shift anytime between 8am-1:30pm on race day. Volunteers will hand out water and PowerAde to race participants, assist in minor medical care, and help with station set up and clean up.

To volunteer please contact Amanda by calling (901) 595-4797 or emailing [amanda.ball@stjude.org](mailto:amanda.ball@stjude.org). Volunteers will receive a race day t-shirt, snacks and beverages, and will enjoy a fun time with CY and marathon folks.



FOR THE LOVE OF ART

## Young Artist Contest show and reception

BY TAMARA WALKER

The annual Young Artist Contest is hosted by the Cooper-Young Business Association to encourage the love of art in school age children. This year's theme is "Communities Coming Together." A reception for winners and artists will be held at Peabody Elementary located at 2086 Young Avenue on Thursday, November 4, from 6-7pm.

This contest is open to children from all over Memphis and the surrounding communities and is sponsored by Lenny's Sub Shop. Contestants compete against students in one of three grade level divisions: grades 1-4, grades 5-8, and grades 9-12. Prizes will be awarded in each division in the following categories: \$500 First Place, \$100 Second Place, \$75 Third Place, and \$50 Honorable Mention. These scholarship bonds, awarded by Cooper-Young Business Association, will be presented to all contest winners on the evening of the show at 6:30pm.

While the deadline to enter artwork is past, it is not too late to see all of the fine work, support these young artists, and be inspired. For additional information, call (901) 276-7222 or go to [cooperyoungfestival.com](http://cooperyoungfestival.com).

Tamara Walker is the Director of the Cooper-Young Business Association.



2009 1st place art by Robert Igle, 9-12 grade division.

CY NIGHT OUT

## Art, music, and holiday previews

BY TAMARA WALKER

At Cooper-Young Night Out, local antique, specialty, and retail shops, as well as more than a dozen award-winning restaurants and bars, stay open late to offer discounts on everything from sushi to sweet potato fries. Come enjoy a night out on Thursday, November 4, from 5-9pm.

Rocking the gazebo at 6pm is earthy and edgy alternative folk band, The Passerine. Raised on a steady diet of bluegrass and Bob Dylan, Minnesota native Hilary Anderson leads the band with raw vocals and a provocative message. Maryland percussionist Corey Yoder joined forces with Hilary in 2010 adding the texture and depth of mountain rhythm to Hilary's prairie soul. Adopting the name from the Latin word for songbird, The Passerine, seeks to bring songs of truth and hope to a thirsty world. The Passerine is a refreshing new face on the folk scene that we know you will love.

A half-block west of the gazebo at Peabody Elementary, we will be celebrating the love of art at the reception for the winners and participants of this year's Young Artist Contest. Come and view art on display in the school's cafeteria created by Memphis area students. The reception will be held from 6-7pm and is sponsored by Lenny's Sub Shop. Enjoy free refreshments while you take in some great art.

There will be a book signing at Burke's Book Store from 5:30- 6:30pm for *A Taste of Memphis Music: The Cookbook*. A number of musicians and other contributors will be on hand including Johnnie Walker, Executive Director of Memphis and Shelby County Music Commission; Will Phillips, graphic designer; Nancy Apple, singer/songwriter; Lila, jazz violinist; and Sherry Misner, co-director of Live at the Garden. Musical performances by Vickie Loveland, Lila, and members of Lila's School of Performing Arts make this a must stop for the evening. The funds raised from the sale of the cookbook will support the Musicians Healthcare Plan, providing free healthcare services for Memphis musicians.

Other highlights for the evening include Painted Planet, where refreshments and a pianist will accompany their big sale of 25% off handmade jewelry and 50% off all the gallery jewelry. Toad Hall Antiques is bringing back Memphis Designer Mike Taylor for two classes beginning at 6pm and 7pm. Come and spend time with Mike and learn how to decorate your home with style and sass on a budget! While you're there get a sneak preview of the holiday décor and gifts available at Toad's Annual Holiday Open House that starts on November 12. David Perry Smith Gallery will be featuring new paintings by Greg Gustafson, Andy Reed, and Laura Painter Stafford. Bob and Susie Salley will be on the patio at Celtic Crossing and DJ Eggroll will be at Café Ole starting at 9pm. The Reef is serving up their \$5 martinis, it's Mic Night at Java Cabana, and Fortunate Insights has discounts throughout the store! There is truly something for everyone at this month's Cooper-Young Night Out on November 4!



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## First Congo increases food ministry with help from neighbors

BY NANETTE DAVIS

The Thanksgiving holiday is just around the corner, and many of us are thinking about food. Not only about what will be on our table but what will be on our neighbor's table. First Congregational Church's Food for Families ministry provides food for households in the 38104, 38111, and 38114 zip codes.

They are currently serving 165 households distributing 3 to 4 tons of food each month. First Congo orders this food from the Memphis Food Bank, and it generally cost about \$600 a month, or less than 10 cents a pound, including delivery! The congregation pays for this ministry through personal donations and dedications, because it costs more than their operating budget can afford. According to Julia Hicks, Director of Mission at First Congregational, "Because we serve the local zip codes, this really is an example of neighbors helping neighbors. More and more of our neighbors are suffering in this tough economy with high unemployment rates."

Hicks offers several ways for the community to help and stresses that any assistance is appreciated and goes far. She added, "Canned goods can be donated, but money definitely goes further. If neighbors would like to dedicate a whole month, that's about \$600 these days." If giving time is how you would like to help Food for Families, you can volunteer to unload the pallets of food that generally are delivered on the Wednesday morning before the 4th Sunday. Help is also needed on 4th Sundays as the food is distributed and rides home are offered to folks without transportation. Hicks shared that, "One neat fact is that many of our volunteers are also recipients of the food. It's clear that they appreciate the opportunity to work side-by-side on this."

First Congo also utilizes their purchasing power at the Food Bank each week to pick up food for the Loaves & Fishes ministry. On Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30-3pm, whoever comes to their door is served a snack and has the opportunity to shop for clothes. They serve about 50-75 people per week and generally spend \$15-30 per week. According to Hicks, "We also have a church member who cooks individual meal servings to offer on Thursdays; soups, casseroles, and yummy hot, healthy food that they can take away or eat here at the church. The cost of that runs about \$40 per week."

To contribute food, money, or time contact Julia Hicks at (901) 278-6786 ext 3 or send an email to [julhicks@hotmail.com](mailto:julhicks@hotmail.com). You can also mail donations to First Congregational Church, 1000 S. Cooper, Memphis, TN 38104.



**Give food, money, or your time.**

**Food For Families – 4th Sunday of each Month**

**Loaves & Fishes – Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30-3pm**

First Congo, 1000 S. Cooper, [www.firstcongo.com](http://www.firstcongo.com)

## Eroica Ensemble offers free classical concert on November 6

BY WESLEY RIDDLE

The Eroica Ensemble, one of Cooper-Young's newest cultural amenities, is playing another free concert this month at First Congregational Church on South Cooper. Eroica Ensemble continues to promote classical music in Memphis by making high-level, professional performances accessible to everyone. Eroica is returning to First Congregational Church on Saturday, November 6, at 7:30pm to perform Sibelius' Violin Concerto in D Minor and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4, featuring acclaimed guest soloist Saeka Matsuyama.

Ms. Matsuyama is renowned as a violinist for her excellent technique and artistry. She is the recipient of many international competition and audition awards and has appeared with many of the leading orchestras in Japan. Ms. Matsuyama began her violin studies at the Juilliard School of Music at the age of nine and now holds a Bachelor's, Master of Music, and an Artist Diploma from Juilliard. She is in high demand as a soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician for her ability to create an inspiring, introspective, and invigorating musical experience.

Eroica Ensemble is conducted by Memphian Michael Gilbert, who founded the orchestra in 2007 to give back to the community that first fostered his family's musical aspirations. Gilbert is descended from a family of Tennessee musicians and was trained as a violinist by his father, prominent Memphis musician Noel Gilbert. Michael later studied at the Juilliard School of Music and has served as concertmaster of the San Antonio Symphony, the Santa Fe Opera, and the American Symphony Orchestra. Gilbert also enjoyed a long career with the New York Philharmonic.



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## Paintings by Kay Robinson and Art Covington on display

BY KERRI GUYTON

The rich colors, fantasy subjects, and dream-like backgrounds of the paintings featured in Gallery Fifty Six's November art show, *Eclectic Visions: Paintings by Kay Robinson and Art Covington*, bring fashion, music, and life in the natural world to the forefront of the artistic imagination.

Kay Robinson's paintings are inspired by the exotic worlds of both contemporary and vintage fashion. Her subjects flaunt a stylish sophistication that is drawn from her many years of experience as a fashion illustrator for Goldsmith's and Gerber's department stores in Memphis. *Dinner at Eight* portrays a fashion beauty cloaked in classic black and white, bearing a little skin and the hint of a smile beneath her wide-brimmed Fedora hat.

Art Covington's music-inspired paintings display the same passion as the works of his mentor, Memphis artist George Hunt. Covington also shows a softer side with pieces that feature the people and wildlife of the natural world. Visually stunning subjects highlight his talent for dimension, his sometimes psychedelic presentation of music interpretation, and his ability to capture an intimate human moment. *Inside My Music II* melds together elements of music and a musician's human anatomy into one being, as if neither could exist without the other.

*Eclectic Visions: Paintings by Kay Robinson and Art Covington* will be on display at Gallery Fifty Six beginning Friday, Nov. 5 with an artists' reception from 5-8pm, and running through Tuesday, Nov. 30. Gallery Fifty Six is located at 2256 Central Ave. For more information call (901) 276-1251 or visit [galleryfiftysix.com](http://galleryfiftysix.com).



Kay Robinson, *Dinner at Eight*.

## Discounted microchipping services offered by Central Animal Hospital

BY APRIL BOLEWARE

Just as vets and doctors send out notices to remind patients of upcoming appointments, I want to send out a reminder to all CY pet owners so that you don't forget about the discounted microchipping services being offered by Central Animal Hospital (2192 Central Ave) on November 13, from 1-4pm. This is a simple way to keep your pet safe in the event that they are lost or stolen. The process involves inserting a microchip between your canine's shoulder blades via a small syringe, and at this special event this service will cost only \$40. The microchip will contain a code that houses all of your pet's vital information, including the pet's name, owner, and veterinary information. All veterinarians, shelters, and the Humane Society have microchip scanners to check for microchips in the event that a dog is brought in as lost or stolen, increasing the likelihood that your four-legged family member will be positively identified and returned to you quickly.

I've heard from a lot of you who are very excited to finally be getting your dog microchipped and to shed light on the issue of lost pets in our community. It will be a fun afternoon so tell your friends and neighbors, and we'll see you there! For questions, email April at [benapril1@gmail.com](mailto:benapril1@gmail.com).

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# LampLighter

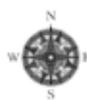
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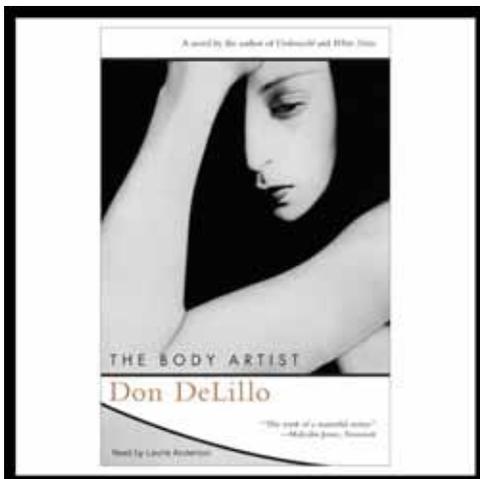
## DeLillo: the master of American modern fiction

BY KIMBERLY RICHARDSON

"Time seems to pass. The world happens, unrolling into moments, and you stop to glance at a spider pressed to its web. There is a quickness of light and a sense of things outlined precisely and streaks of running luster on the bay. You know more surely who you are on a strong bright day after a storm when the smallest falling leaf is stabbed with self-awareness. The wind makes a sound in the pines and the world comes into being, irreversibly, and the spider rides the wide-swayed web."

From that masterful opening paragraph we are invited into the world of Rey, a filmmaker married to a young artist named Lauren, in the surrealistic, stream of consciousness novel *The Body Artist* by Don DeLillo. At that moment we see them enjoying their breakfast in their coastal rental home, but the attention lies with how the two interact with one another. Do they love or hate each other, or are they experiencing an emotion that none of us have felt yet? This is the last time we see Rey, for once he finishes his breakfast and grabs his keys, we later learn that he commits suicide, leaving Lauren alone in their rental house. Or is she? Strange noises are heard in the house followed by strange feelings wrapped in loneliness, anger, and sadness. Suddenly an ageless man appears, speaking in riddles while mimicking her and her dead husband's tone of voice and movements. Was he always there spying on the couple, or is he something else? Through the interaction between Lauren and Mr. Tuttle, as she calls the man, she questions her self, her sanity, and even her relationship with her late husband.

This was my first time reading Don DeLillo, and for the most part I was impressed. I have heard people call him the master of American modern fiction, and now I understand why. While I enjoyed this slim work, I felt that perhaps the surrealistic moments and stream of consciousness thoughts that Lauren felt and Mr. Tuttle spoke of seemed forced and heaped on to a level that not even the most discerning reader could enjoy and process. Surreal fiction is hard to pin down and enjoy unless one has the mental patience for it, and I could honestly see how many people could not enjoy *The Body Artist*. I even struggled between liking and disliking the book while reading it in two days. Although I am glad I read it, I wonder just why I did. Nevertheless, I do recommend this book, for Mr. DeLillo does a fine job in answering the question of what happens when a person is confronted with their inner shadow self. It is how he answers the question that makes me wonder somewhat.



## Fall is a great season for household projects

BY MIKE TAYLOR

Fall is definitely in the air here in the Mid-South. For many this is a time for new beginnings as things come to a close and another year ends. Instead of being closed up in the house all winter living the same humdrum existence, perhaps it's time to remember those decorating updates you've been putting on the back burner. It's time to make those ideas a reality! Why wait another year for something you can do now?

There is a word for what you need. It's called alchemy. This is the power to transform something common into something special, and each of us possesses this power. Why live through one more year with the same wall color that you've wanted to change for a while? Painting a room a more exciting color can change not only the mood of the room but your mood as well. Simple projects around your home don't have to cost much. To save money go to the "oops" section of your favorite paint store and grab a gallon of paint mixed by mistake. The cost is usually around five bucks.

In addition, perhaps you don't need to wait for spring to do that cleaning. Why go through another year parking your car on the driveway or street because the garage is full? We are the only country in the world where a person would park a \$45,000 car in the street in order to store a bunch of junk in the garage. Take charge and get a productive project going that will make a positive change in your life. I promise it will make you feel better and will give you a huge sense of accomplishment, even if you take one drawer or closet at a time and clean it out. Do you even know what is in the back part of your linen closet or what all those extra pieces of junk are in your junk drawer?

There are a thousand examples I could give, but you know better than me what needs to be done around your house to add a little kick to your decor or to organize your life. Fall is a great time to start this. Let's not make any more excuses.

Michael Taylor is a freelance Interior Designer living in CY. To learn more visit MichaelTaylorInteriors.com.



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## Musical pirates descend upon Nelson Avenue

BY KRISTAN HUNTLEY

You may be aware that some pirates, who go by the last name Taylor, marooned their ship in the front lawn of 2027 Nelson during the Cooper-Young Festival Friday 4 Miler. Pirates, being an inherently enthusiastic group, cheered on the runners of the 4 Miler and came away with 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the Light the Way contest. Well apparently pirates tend to attract more pirates, because on the first of October more pirates came to visit, but this time they were musical pirates!

Ok, so there could be far worse things than musical pirates, especially when said musical pirates are members of the local band Star & Micey, comprised of Joshua Cosby, Nick Redmond, Geoff Smith, Jeremy Stanfill, Adam Woodard, and Jessie Munson. In full pirate regalia, the members of Star & Micey donned their instruments and boarded the Taylor's boat to film a music video for their song "Back to the Night." According to Star & Micey the song already had an innate seafarer-like quality that made them envision a pirate-themed music video to accompany the song, and by happenstance one of the band mates saw the ship after the Cooper-Young Festival and told the others. The Taylor's ship was just what they had hoped for and the stage was set for some good fun, Star & Micey style.

Now if you have never seen Star & Micey perform, there is one thing you should know: they are quite an energetic and enthusiastic bunch, and that energy is contagious. Neighbors and passers-by from all around were drawn in by the filming, the music, and their energy. It was great fun to just sit and watch, and it truly reminded me of why I love Cooper-Young and Midtown.

The filming, directed and shot by local musician and actor Billie Worley, took two fun-filled evenings. The first day the entire band had a role. With the music playing back over and over again, the band did several takes to make sure that their infectious energy and showman (and woman) ship was captured on film.

The second evening included a damsel in distress and a water balloon fight between the British army and the pirates. Yes, you did read that last part correctly. Geoff Smith accompanied by his fearless crew of three local kids led the British forces with the wife of Nick Redmond held captive. It was up to the leader of the pirates, Nick Redmond, and his brave band of balloon throwers, played by several other local children, to overturn the British rule. Fun and water balloons were had by all, and many parents agreed that this was one entertaining playdate.

Find out a little more about these mischievous musical pirates by checking out their website at [starandmicey.com](http://starandmicey.com). Keep your eye on [lampighter.cooperyoung.org](http://lampighter.cooperyoung.org) and we will post the video as soon as it is available!



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RUN FOR THE CLAWS

## The House of Mews holds 5K Run/Walk and Silent Auction on November 20

BY BONNIE HAUB

Use your two legs to help those with four. The House of Mews, a nonprofit cat sanctuary, will hold its seventh annual Meowathon on Saturday, November 20. The event includes a 5K run/walk, silent auction, refreshments, and door prizes.

The House of Mews is located in CY at 933 S. Cooper and is a no-kill feline sanctuary, adoption agency, and cat lovers' gift shop. For the past 15 years they have cared for countless cats, with 8,600 successful adoptions, and they exist solely on support and donations from individuals, corporations, and volunteers. In addition, retail pet supplies, gifts, and art items are sold to help defray expenses. Profits go to support the wellbeing of the cats in their care, which is currently over 115.

The Meowathon is a major fund-raiser for The House of Mews, with 425 participants last year. The race is sanctioned and coordinated by Memphis Runners Track Club and is held at Overton Park (enter off of East Parkway, between Poplar and Sam Cooper). Registration for the race begins at 7:30am and the race starts at 9am. Pete Pranica, TV Announcer for the Memphis Grizzlies, will serve as event emcee, and Dennis Phillippi, radio personality/actor/comedian, will start the runners off at the starting line. Ninety medals engraved with The House of Mews cat logo will be awarded to the top finishers.

Through November 14, race fees are \$18 (\$17 MRTC), and the cost is \$25 from November 15-20. Race fees are considered tax-deductible charitable donations. The registration form can be downloaded from [houseofmews.com/meowathon](http://houseofmews.com/meowathon). This form along with check or credit card information can be mailed to The House of Mews, 933 S. Cooper, Memphis, TN 38104, or you may register and pay in person at the store or over the phone at (901) 272-3777. Store hours are generally Tues./Wed. 1-5 pm, Thurs. 6-9 pm, Fri. 1-5 pm, and Sat. 12-4 pm. Online registration is also available at [racesonline.com](http://racesonline.com). For those who cannot participate in the race, there is an option to sponsor a cat for the day for a tax-deductible contribution of \$15. Runner's bags and T-shirts can be picked up Friday, November 19, at The House of Mews from 1-8pm, as well as on race day at Overton Park.

Event sponsors to date include Platinum Paw Sponsors Counterpart Communication Design, Service Assurance Corporation, and S & S Striping. Silver Paw Sponsors are AutoZone, Pinnacle Airlines Corp., Morgan Keegan & Company, Inc., "In Honor of Rowan," "In Memory of Callie, Sammy, and Tiger," "In Memory of Goofie and Spook," and "In Memory of Annie."

In addition to the 5K, there will be a silent auction taking place on race day. Visit the Meowathon website, [houseofmews.com/meowathon](http://houseofmews.com/meowathon), for a continuously updated list of silent auction items.

Bonnie Haub is serving as volunteer race director for the fourth consecutive year. Haub is a Cooper-Young resident and CYCA member.

\*\* The 2010 event logo was designed by Associate Creative Director, Mike Powell, of Counterpart Communication Design.



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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 September 23, 2010 to October 23, 2010.

CASE #	ARREST	OFFENSES	DATE	100 BLOCK
1010011727ME		Burglary/Residential	10/23/10	800 TANGLEWOOD
1010011621ME		Aggravated Assault/DV	10/22/10	1900 EVELYN
1010011005ME	yes	Drugs/Narcotics Vio/Misd	10/21/10	1900 WALKER
1010010404ME		Vandalism/Misdemeanor	10/20/10	2100 YOUNG
1010009560ME		Vandalism/Misdemeanor	10/19/10	1000 NEW YORK
1010009329ME	yes	Drugs/Narcotics Vio/Misd	10/19/10	900 NEW YORK
1010009102ME		Simple Assault/DV	10/18/10	1100 S COOPER 3
1010008946ME		Vandalism/Misdemeanor	10/18/10	1000 BRUCE
1010008049ME		Burglary/Non-residential	10/16/10	1900 FELIX
1010007547ME		Other Theft/Non-Specific	10/15/10	2000 SAULSBURY
1010005907ME		Burglary/Business	10/12/10	900 SOUTH COOPER
1010005578ME	yes	Theft & Recovery/Vehicle	10/12/10	CENTRAL AND COOPER
1010005559ME		Shoplifting/Misdemeanor	10/12/10	2100 CENTRAL
1010005034ME		Theft of Vehicle Parts/Access	10/11/10	2100 EVELYN APT
1010003875ME		Other Theft/Non-Specific	10/08/10	700 TANGLEWOOD ST
1010002855ME		Burglary/Residential	10/06/10	900 PHILADELPHIA
1010003244ME		Burglary/Residential	10/06/10	900 PHILADELPHIA
1010001012ME		MVT/Passenger Vehicle	10/02/10	2000 EVELYN
1010000998ME		Burglary/Business	10/02/10	700 S COOPER
1009016630ME		Burglary/Residential	09/30/10	2000 YOUNG AVE
1009016574ME		Burglary/Non-residential	09/30/10	800 SOUTH COOPER
1009016273ME		MVT/Other	09/29/10	2100 YOUNG AVE
1009015979ME		Burglary/Residential	09/29/10	1000 NEW YORK
1009015978ME		Burglary/Residential	09/29/10	1000 S COOPER
1009015812ME		Burglary/Residential	09/28/10	2200 NELSON
1009014757ME		Burglary/Residential	09/27/10	1000 PHILADELPHIA ST
1009014332ME		Aggravated Assault/DV	09/26/10	1900 SOUTHERN
1009013593ME		Burglary/Residential	09/24/10	1000 BRUCE ST
1009013031ME	yes	MVT/Other	09/24/10	2100 FELIX
1009012638ME		Vandalism/Misdemeanor	09/23/10	COOPER AND YOUNG



## 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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## Gallery Fifty Six announces new curator

BY KERRI GUYTON

Gallery Fifty Six in Cooper-Young recently announced the promotion of Rollin Kocsis to curator of the gallery. Kocsis, previously the assistant curator at Gallery Fifty Six, will take on the role as curator – focusing on artwork sales, communication with gallery artists, scheduling and planning of monthly art shows, and recruitment of new artists.

A South Bend, Indiana native, Kocsis graduated from Indiana University in Bloomington with a Bachelor of Science in art education. During his 37-year teaching career with Memphis City Schools, he also earned a Master of Teaching in art education and a Master of Fine Arts in painting from Memphis State University (now The University of Memphis).

Kocsis has been an involved member of the arts community for more than three decades, holding membership and leadership positions on advisory committees for the West Tennessee Art Education Association, the Tennessee Arts Commission, The University of Memphis Department of Art Education, and the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art's education department. He is currently a member of the international arts organization, Energy Art Movement, and is involved in The University of Memphis Alumni Association and the Indiana University Alumni Association.

"We are thrilled with Rollin accepting the leading role at Gallery Fifty Six," said Frank Roberts, owner of The Palladio Group. "His enthusiasm is contagious, and his formal art education and years of experience well qualifies him for the position of curator."

Gallery Fifty Six is a fine art gallery featuring a large selection of artwork created by artists from around the Mid-South. With almost 3,000 square feet of exhibit space, visitors to the gallery discover an assortment of original two- and three-dimensional artwork. Guest artists' shows, which are held monthly, feature both nationally and locally known artists, as well as up-and-coming artists working in all styles and media. Opening receptions for each guest artist show takes place on the first Friday of each month from 5-8pm. For more information about Gallery Fifty Six, its artists and shows, visit [galleryfiftysix.com](http://galleryfiftysix.com).

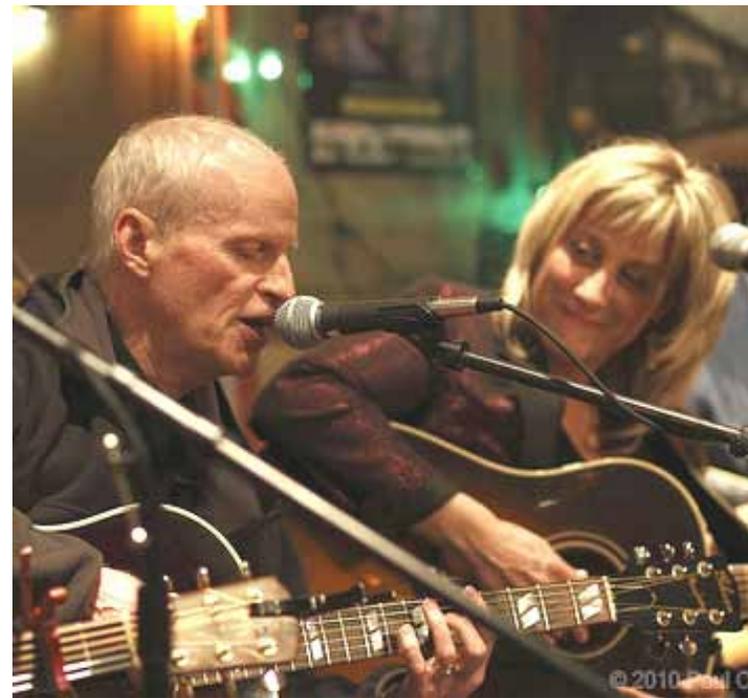


## Sid Selvidge and Amy Speace in concert at Otherlands

BY JUDY KITTS

On Saturday, November 6, at 8pm at Otherlands Coffee Bar (641 S. Cooper Street) Memphis Acoustic Music Association (MAMA) is presenting Sid Selvidge and Amy Speace in concert. Memphis' Sid Selvidge and Nashville's Amy Speace, both acclaimed acoustic singer-songwriters, teamed up in 2010 to record the CD, *I Should Be Blue*, which is receiving rave reviews. Houston Press wrote, "Amy Speace is the perfect torchbearer for the unconscious cool of true Americana." Jerry Wexler, with his famed eye for musical talent, understood "Sid Selvidge is a national treasure, an irreplaceable resource—a southern patrician who sings the rootest American music like a natural man..."

Tickets for this event are \$20 and are on sale at Davis-Kidd Book-sellers and Otherlands. For more information call (901) 278-4994 or visit [Mamamusic.org](http://Mamamusic.org).



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# Adoption

continued from page 1.

our adoption story.

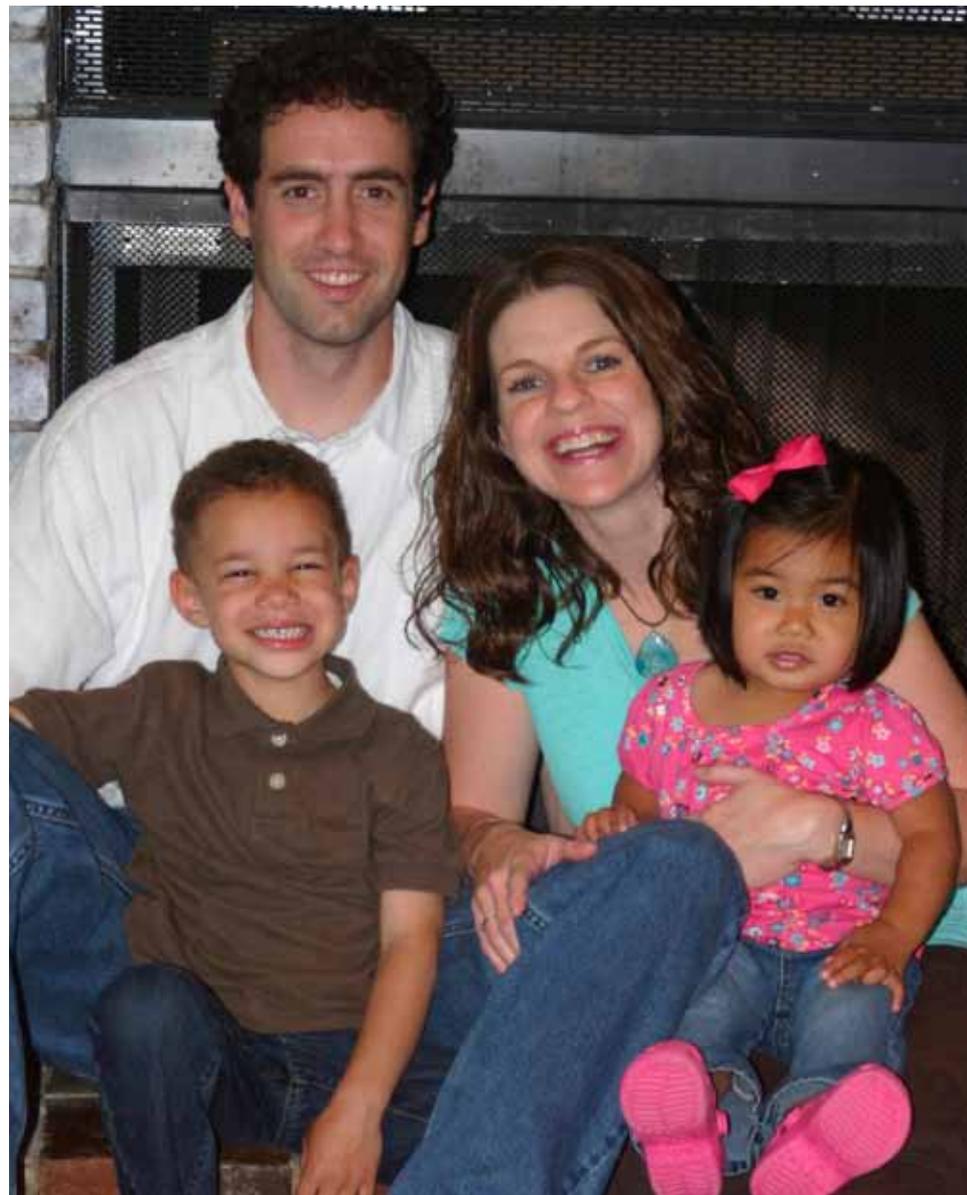
So for this Nation Adoption Month I asked one of those adoptive parents who has given me hope to share her adoption story with the rest of you. Kim Cook is a Midtowner, and she and her husband have adopted both domestically and internationally. But wait, before I say too much, let me have her tell you her story in her own words.

I vividly remember the first time I ever heard the word orphan. It was 1985 and I was nine years old. The We Are the World Campaign was directing national attention to the famine that was taking place in Africa. Those of you who are children of the 80's probably remember hearing Michael Jackson, Lionel Richie, and others sing as photos showcasing the famine's devastation were shared through our television sets. I remember learning about the number of children who were orphaned by the famine and begging my parents to adopt. Though my parents never gave in to my pleas for an adopted brother or sister, a seed was planted in my heart. I knew that when I grew up my family would include adopted children.

My husband, Nathan, and I married in 2001. When we were ready to add children to our family we began researching adoption. Nathan and I are Christians and strive to follow the words of the Bible with our lives. In the Scriptures there is a very clear mandate for followers of Christ to care for orphans. We knew nothing about the adoption process when we began, but through research, talking to friends, and prayer we both felt a desire to adopt a bi-racial little boy and a little girl from Thailand.

The adoption of our son Caleb came first. We connected with Life Choices, a local agency, and started working through the adoption process with them. Caleb's adoption process was unusually quick. We had our orientation with Life Choices in mid-January and turned all of our paperwork into them at the end of March. In mid-May Life Choices called to let us know a bi-racial little boy had been born two days earlier. His birth mom made a choice to place him for adoption and chose us to be his parents. We were thrilled but also a little overwhelmed. Most people have nine months to prepare for their first child. We had two weeks. Thanks to the labor and gifts of many friends we actually had everything that new parents need on the day that we brought him home. I immediately fell in love with this little one and continue to look at him daily in amazement. I can't believe that I get to be his parent!

Our second adoption happened a little differently. Through a series of events Nathan and I felt like we should begin the process of researching a Thai adoption. Caleb's adoption had happened very easily, but the thought of an international adoption completely overwhelmed me. We began researching organizations and connected with Holt International. It seemed impossible to work through the mounds of paperwork and to somehow come up with the money needed for a Thai adoption. Once again, Nathan and I relied on our faith in God to guide us through this process. After two years, tons of paperwork, and the miraculous provision of all of the money we needed, we traveled to Thailand and brought our daughter Grace home in February 2009. She was sixteen-months-old when she arrived home, and our adjustment was much different than with Caleb. It took a couple of months for her to get comfortable with all of the members of our family and even a little longer before she seemed to feel at home. Our precious girl just turned three-years-old. She has adjusted beautifully and is thriving. She loves to make up stories about the things she did in Thailand and still reminds us every time we have rice how much she loves it.



I am currently seven months pregnant with our third child. People often tell me "now you are having your own child." This offends me because it creates the impression that adoption is a lesser alternative to having biological children. I don't believe this is true. Families are created in different ways and we have had the privilege of adding children to our family through both adoption and biological means. I cannot imagine my life without Caleb and Grace. They are completely my own and such a gift to raise. Adoption has been one of the greatest gifts of my life. I think back to the childhood dream that began when I was nine. I feel like I am living the life of my dreams, and I am incredibly thankful.

*Barb Elder is editor of the LampLighter. For more information about adoption, to ask questions, or make comments you may contact Barb at [bstocklas@hotmail.com](mailto:bstocklas@hotmail.com) or Kim at [kimberlysimmonscook@gmail.com](mailto:kimberlysimmonscook@gmail.com).*

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## Opportunities abound to support our neighborhood school

BY GINGER SPICKLER AND SHELLEY THOMAS

November should perhaps be called "Peabody Elementary Month" in Cooper-Young. Besides giving us an opportunity to take in some culture at the Young Artist Contest on Thursday, November 4, or volunteer a little time on Thursday, November 11, at ThinkShow! (see accompanying articles on pages 6 and 14), this month will also offer up three other chances for CY residents to learn about and support our neighborhood school.

On Monday, November 8, parents who have a child starting kindergarten in 2011 are invited to a neighborhood home for a discussion with other parents interested in hearing more about Peabody. Principal Kongsouly Jones, one of the school's kindergarten teachers, and a few neighborhood parents of current Peabody students will be on hand to answer questions and share their experiences for the first part of the meeting. However, time will also be reserved for parents of prospective Peabody students to have a more candid conversation among themselves.

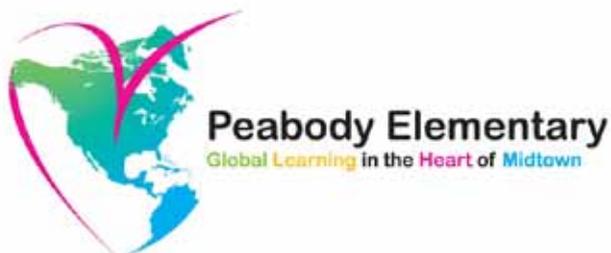
The kindergarten parents' discussion will be held from 6-7:30pm. Childcare and food will be available with RSVP to Shelley Thomas ([mrsghenthomas@yahoo.com](mailto:mrsghenthomas@yahoo.com) or (901) 237-9104) by November 4. Please plan to bring \$5 per adult for pizza and \$5 per child for pizza and babysitters.

The very next night, on Tuesday, November 9, the rest of the community is invited to the Cooper-Young Community Association's general meeting, which will be held in the cafeteria at Peabody. After a time of socializing at 6pm, Principal Jones, along with Parent Teacher Association co-president and CY resident, Mandy Grisham, will give us some ideas about how we can support the students of Peabody with our time, talents, and treasure. Fifth grade teacher, Liz Forbes, will also share briefly about the new Stand For Children chapter at Peabody.

Finally, to cap the month off right, the PTA is inviting the whole community to join them at a Family Fun Night and Silent Auction on Thursday, November 18, at 6pm to raise money for the rejuvenation of the school's library book collection. A \$5 ticket will get you a catered dinner by Central BBQ (provided by Peabody parents and co-owners of Central BBQ, Craig and Elizabeth Blondis) and entertainment courtesy of the first graders and the Peabody Dance Ensemble.

Parents from each classroom will be preparing themed baskets for the silent auction. Donations for the auction can be given to PTA co-presidents Mandy Grisham ([mandygrisham@gmail.com](mailto:mandygrisham@gmail.com)) or Tiffany Richmond ([trich0812@yahoo.com](mailto:trich0812@yahoo.com)). Any kind of merchandise, services, collectibles, art, or gift certificates would be welcome as donations for the auction. Community members can purchase tickets to Family Fun Night on the CYCA website [cooperyoung.org](http://cooperyoung.org) starting November 3.

In this season of thanks, the staff, students, and parents of Peabody are so very grateful to be part of the thriving community of Cooper-Young where education is valued and nurtured!



## Memphis City Schools' Think Show! exhibition

BY LURENE KELLEY

So, you think education in elementary public schools is all about coloring in worksheets and filling in test bubbles? Memphis City Schools (MCS) wants you to think again. November will mark the second Think Show! exhibition presented by the school district. The event is an opportunity for MCS schools, like Cooper-Young's own Peabody Elementary, to showcase student creativity and teacher innovation. The idea is for students and teachers to take a break from the pressures of test preparation to unleash artistic and critical thinking skills. Projects include everything from original books, sculptures, and essays to paintings, computer programs, and choreographed dance.

Peabody Elementary teacher Jenifer Eoff says that's exactly what happened when her 5th grade class prepared for last April's Think Show!

"I taught math last year, and my class designed dream homes. We went out into the school's backyard and measured out 76-feet for our walls and flagged the perimeter. We used fractions and scales. The kids produced pictures of what they would build. Then we actually built a scale model of the dream home. The kids had so much fun on this project – some even wanted to skip recess so they could work on their homes!"

For the fall Think Show! Peabody Elementary will build projects around the 100-year anniversary of the school. One of the school's 5th grade classes will create a quilt-like display depicting major events in Memphis and the US from the past century. Pre-K students will produce a project about all things "Peabody" including the school's namesake George Peabody, the Peabody Hotel, and communications they've had with pen pals from other elementary schools named "Peabody."

Aside from allowing students to flex creative muscles, Think Show! has a second purpose – to invite Memphians inside MCS for a first-hand look at what students are learning. School board president Martavius Jones believes these showcases allow citizens to see a side of MCS schools rarely shown in local media.

"Unfortunately for most Memphians, their perception of MCS has been formed by the media, which more often than not, portrays the district in a negative light. What Think Show! has done is welcomed people into the schools who may not have otherwise visited and allowed them to form a more accurate view of what's taking place in our schools."

Everyone in Cooper-Young is invited to view Peabody's Think Show! pieces, and you are encouraged to play an active role in the event as a juror. The goal is to attract 7,000 citizen jurors district-wide to judge student projects. On the day of the show, jurors will spend a few hours at the school evaluating projects for creativity, demonstration of knowledge, and quality of work.

Kindergarten teacher, Olivia Malland, says jurors who came to last year's Peabody Think Show! left with a different idea of the school.

"I think there was surprise. Surprise at the quality of work in the show and what the kids put into it. People often have a bad image of what's going on in public schools. I think they leave here pleasantly surprised."

If you'd like to sign up to be a juror for Peabody, just go to [thinkshow.org](http://thinkshow.org) to apply. For those who would just like to see the pieces produced by Peabody Elementary, the school will be open to the public all day, Thursday, November 11.

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## The juvenile delinquency film (1951-1959)

BY MATT MARTIN

When World War 2 finally ended, Americans were ready to face a hope-filled future, which they thought meant vacations on the moon, teleportation, and nuclear-powered everything. No one had considered the rise of Rock'n'Roll, an endless cold war, and the domination of entertainment by a growing youth culture. From this grew a new kind of film for a new breed of teenager: the juvenile delinquency film.

Films about teenage lifestyles go back to the twenties. These early films were cautionary propaganda aimed at the increasingly worried working class parents. Usually, these were simplistic and direct, often in a fake documentary tone, aimed at drug scares (like *Reefer Madness* or *Cocaine Fiends*) and sex panic (like *Sin in the Suburbs* or *Bad Girls go to Hell*). However, it wasn't until the fifties that these juvenile delinquency films (or as they are known to the kids, J.D. flicks) were marketed to the teenagers themselves.

To most Americans at the time, youth crime was an urban problem, safely locked away in larger inner cities far from growing suburbia. That all changed when a young, sneering, indifferent Marlon Brando led a vicious gang of bikers to destroy a small Midwestern town just for the hell of it in the 1954 film *The Wild One*. Suddenly juvenile delinquency could happen anywhere. Kids were fascinated, and parents were appalled, even terrified. In addition, as parents overreacted, their kids had new "bad boy" images to emulate.

While *The Wild One* got the ball rolling, it was Richard Brooks' gritty, disturbing *Blackboard Jungle* that gave it speed. Portraying the collapse of an inner-city school from gang warfare and featuring Sidney Portier in one of his first roles, it faced constant public criticism and became one of the earliest films to be deemed "dangerous" with an all-too-familiar rallying cry: the film will actually cause crime. Many powerful figures of the time, including U.S. ambassador Clare Booth Luce, publicly fought to bury the film when it was accepted to the Cannes Film Festival. Of course, one of their main objections was the film's use of the song "Rock Around the Clock" in the opening scene, making *Blackboard Jungle* the first film to ever contain Rock'n'Roll. Not surprisingly, it became a smash with young audiences everywhere, making MGM an unexpected

massive profit and cementing in the major studio's minds the rising importance of teen-marketed films – a trend that dominates the studio system today.

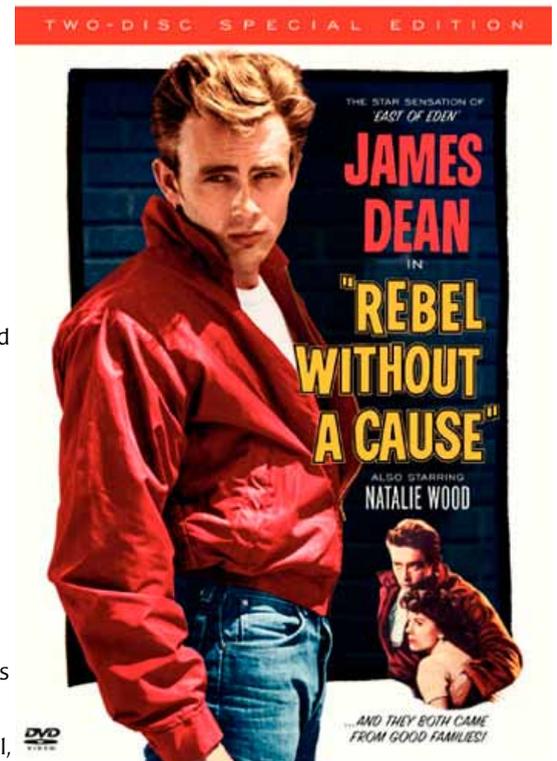
Then came the cultural mushroom cloud that was *Rebel Without a Cause*. It's elements are legend: James Dean's heartbreaking performance of a juvenile delinquent in the making; Nicholas Ray's tight, almost theater-like direction; the suburban, conformist, wasteland setting; the condemnation of the collapsing American family. Moreover, it virtually created the classic car death-race known as "chicken".

Teenagers embraced the film like gospel, copying it's every detail, further blurring the line between media and culture. Even though James Dean would make only two more films before his untimely death, he would forever be one of cinema's most well known personas because of *Rebel*. He would become the face of '50s disaffected youth.

Finally, the J.D. flicks had a rapt audience, and teenagers flocked to the literally hundreds of imitators that followed. Elvis Presley would soon embody the Southern version of the juvenile delinquent as a rockabilly criminal in the 1957 film *Jailhouse Rock*, further merging J.D. flicks and Rock'n'Roll. This, and other films, fed the growing youth discomfort, both reflecting and creating the discontent and fear they felt in post-war America. As fifties idealism became sixties radicalism, these very same teenagers would embrace the counterculture as an escape from the suburban doom and decay they saw on the screen.

Check out these other fun, violent, angst-ridden films that helped shape the rebellion of the Baby Boomers: *High School Confidential*, *The Cool and the Crazy*, *Hot Rod Girl*, *High School Hellcats*, *Teenage Doll*, *Juvenile Jungle*, and Ed Wood's low-budget masterpieces, *Jail Bait* and *The Violent Years*. Have a blast, Daddy-O.

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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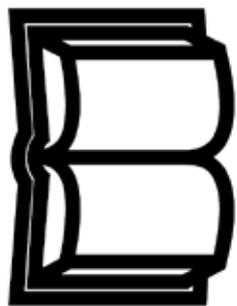
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CERT is a two-day program that provides hands-on training in basic disaster relief, from fire safety to search and rescue. Cheryl Yarbro, Manager of Operations and Training with the Shelby County Office of Preparedness HLS/EMA/UASI, has set aside two Saturdays for Cooper-Young residents to complete their CERT training as a group: January 15, and February 12, 2011.

To sign up email Sarah Frierson at [sarahfrierson@yahoo.com](mailto:sarahfrierson@yahoo.com).



**January 15, 2011 and February 12, 2011**

## The vision to succeed: meet Yolanda Grisham

BY DR. D. JACKSON MAXWELL

In the eight years since its inception, Downtown Elementary Optional School has been repeatedly recognized as a model for educational excellence. The school was opened under the leadership of Marcia Wunderlich who retired last year. After an extensive search where more than 50 applicants were vetted, Downtown Elementary now has a new visionary principal to lead this outstanding school to even greater heights. Her name is Yolanda Grisham.

Ms. Grisham's administrative experience includes assistant principal at both White Station Elementary and High Schools. Previously she served in the United States Navy as an Air Traffic Controller. Her top priorities as principal for Downtown Elementary are "ensuring academic rigor, fostering a community of learners, developing character, and preparing students to compete in a global society." Additionally, it is her belief that "success is not based on where a student originates, but rather it is contingent on the effectiveness of the educators who interact with the students on a daily basis." When not at school, Ms. Grisham enjoys reading and spending time with her family. "I am very honored and excited to serve the students, staff, and community of Downtown Elementary. I believe I have a lot to offer this awesome school," states Ms. Grisham. "I look forward to great things and progress this school year."

Downtown Elementary in its short existence has a rich history. In 2003, the school opened its doors to welcome 540 students from 120 different public, county, private, home, and out-of-state schools. Today the school boasts of nearly 700 students along with 70 faculty and staff members. The school has six adopters and countless sponsors. These groups provide dozens of volunteers who tutor approximately 100 students through the Downtown Elementary Tutoring Program. The University of Tennessee provided funds to create the school's science lab and sends doctors and scientists to the lab to conduct hands-on experiments with students. The Memphis Grizzlies



established a Reading & Learning Center in the library. The Fogelman YMCA across the street from the school offers numerous programs for the Downtown Elementary children, including extended care, soccer, swimming, and water safety courses. These partnerships have helped Downtown Elementary to become one of the most acclaimed schools in the state.

Student academic progress has been impressive. Coming from divergent schools and backgrounds, the students have developed a cooperative spirit reflected in a school environment that values academic achievement and assuming personal responsibility. These values have led to Downtown Elementary students receiving innumerable awards and recognitions. A few of these are; 1st place at the West Tennessee History Day, dozens of ribbons from both the MCS and the Mid-South Science Fairs, student artwork regularly featured on the cover of *Downtown Magazine*, six students selected by the Grizzlies to appear on NBA Stuff, and a 1st place student award in Senator Bill Frist's "Sixth Grade Essay Contest." Seven teachers have earned their National Board for Professional Teachers Certification and there are six current candidates. Additionally, six teachers have received the prestigious Rotary Award for Teacher Excellence. All teachers at Downtown Elementary are rated NCLB Highly Qualified and 70% of the faculty have advanced degrees.

So to give credit where credit is due, Ms. Grisham is the new force guiding Downtown Elementary to attaining even greater achievements. Her enthusiastic dedication to making Downtown Elementary a model for educational excellence is readily apparent from the moment you meet her. Ms. Grisham works tirelessly to extend school-community relations seeking out and securing resources, adopters, and volunteers. Her emphasis on maintaining the highest quality faculty and developing students both socially and academically is extending the school's tradition of being an enviable success. Yolanda Grisham is a remarkable visionary, committed community leader, and outstanding educator. Under her direction Downtown Elementary is "Rising Above the Rest."

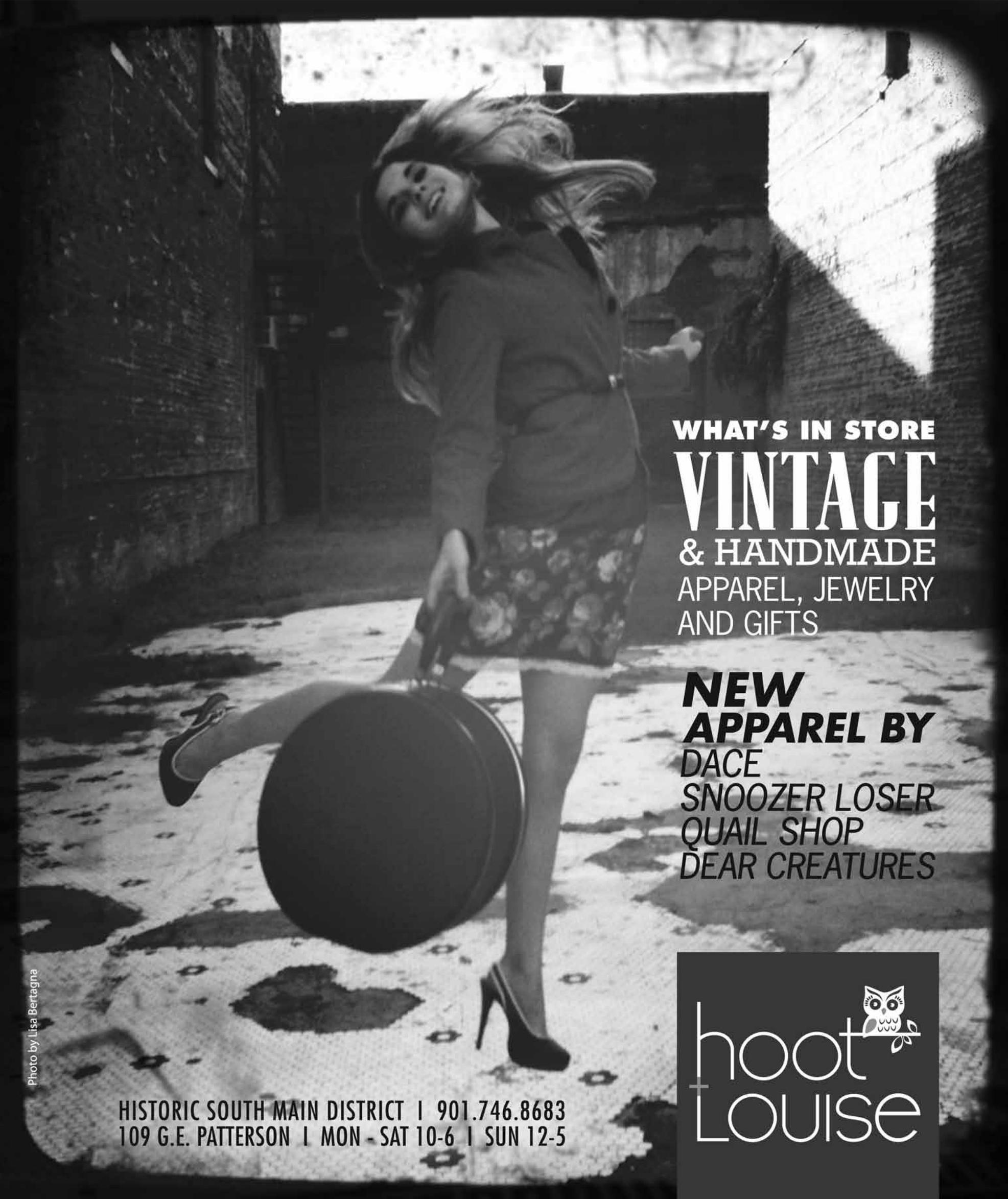
*Dr. D. Jackson Maxwell is a National Board Certified Teacher and an Educational Consultant. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Dr. Maxwell via email at [djacksonmaxwell@gmail.com](mailto:djacksonmaxwell@gmail.com).*



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### Allergy 101 for pet owners

BY TRISHA GURLEY

In the past month I've had conversations with people considering giving up their pet due to allergies. Sadly, it seemed to me that those who were having this debate were looking for a convenient, guilt-free excuse to have a pet-free home. In every case the pet had been around for several years, but all the sudden their pets were just too annoying and allergenic. Hmm.

When I called a certain individual out on this (it was time to get rid of her cats, she said, because of allergies and their baby walking soon), she snapped back with, "Well, my husband has asthma, so I'd love to hear your suggestion on how to handle it." Good thing I have plenty of suggestions, and it's time to pass them along!

It bears mentioning that I know what I'm saying when it comes to allergies and asthma. I spent my entire childhood allergic to grass and most plants. I received allergy shots weekly for years. I was given medicine to treat the symptoms, only to become allergic to the medicine. As I grew into my 20s, the allergies lessened, but asthma came to replace them. I inhale a steroid medication twice a day to keep my lungs functioning and have a rescue inhaler on me at all times. There have been multiple instances when that inhaler has stopped a deadly attack. I know the dangers of allergies and asthma. Trust me.

I knew I had asthma when I adopted my cat Milton. Milton is family. The notion of placing him in another home because of a condition I knew I already had is inconceivable. To me he is worth any sneeze or wheeze, and fortunately he seldom causes them.

Before considering re-homing your pet, see an allergist and be tested for specific allergies. Too often pets are immediately blamed for allergies when they may not be the cause. To re-home a pet is a drastic measure. Why not take these steps listed by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) to help the allergic and allergenic stay happy and healthy?

- If your child has a minor pet allergy, make their room a pet-free zone.
- Use HEPA air filters in your home. This was recommended to me by my asthma specialist. They are available at any major retailer for a wide range of prices.
- Vacuum and dust frequently. This includes couch covers, curtains, and even pet beds.
- It's fine to bathe your pet once a week, provided you use a pet-appropriate shampoo. Yes it's true, most cats don't like being bathed, but over time a cat can adjust to a quick bathing.
- Take advantage of treatments available to you. Taking an antihistamine or an over-the-counter medicine is worth keeping your family, four-legged and otherwise, happily intact.



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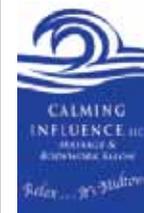
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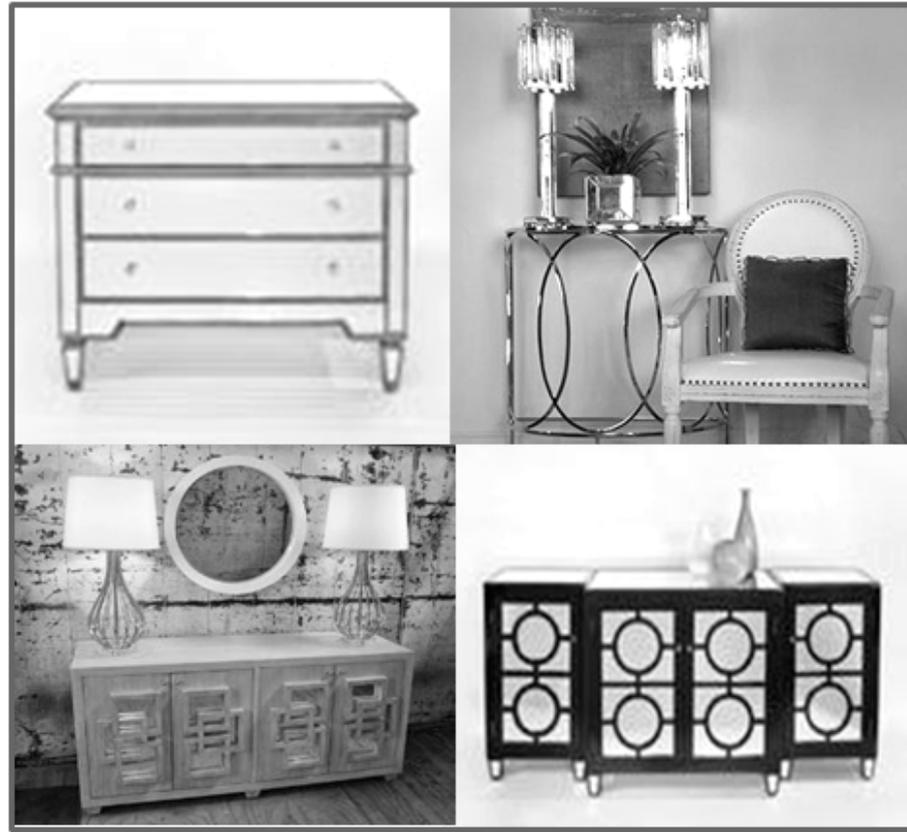
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- **Fork It Over** - 5% off food in the deli case or freezer all year (not valid with other discounts)
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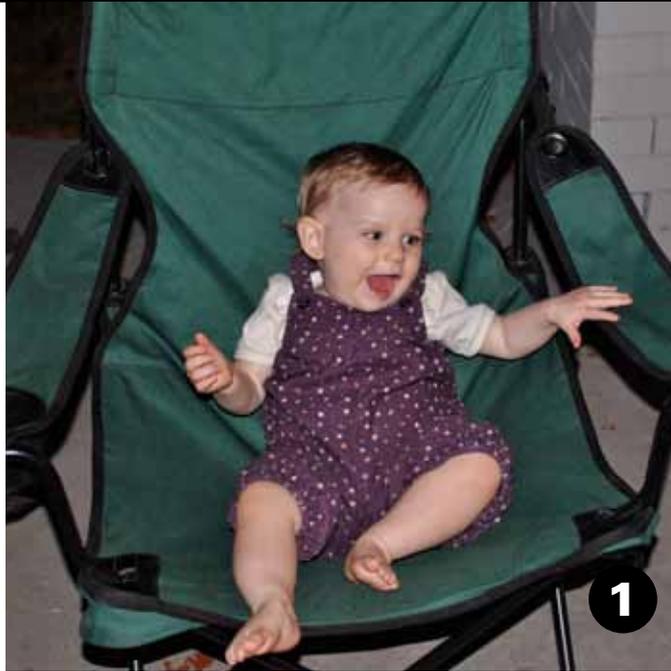
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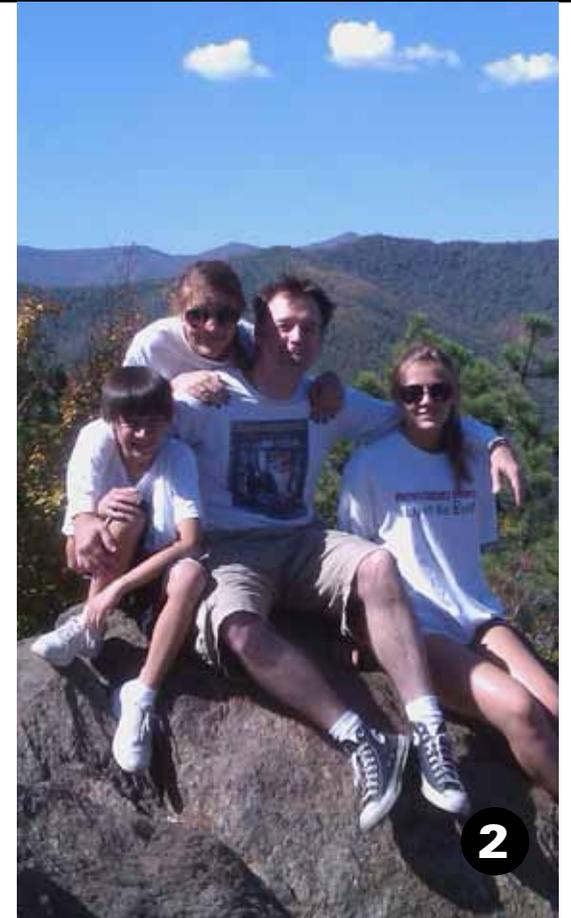
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# We want YOU... to send in your pictures!

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



1



2



3

1. **CY infants sure know how to party!** Cecilia, daughter of Adrienne and Ben Braun, displays her joy after eating her fill of corn chips and chocolate milk at a Cooper Street Neighborhood Night Out (NNO) block party.

2. **Alex, Rachael, Patrick and Jessica Miller of Nelson Avenue recently traveled to North Carolina to admire the fall foliage. Here they pose on top of Lookout Mountain on what looks like a gorgeous day.**

3. **Heading into the home of NNO party host Patsy LaVelle to score some dessert, Oliver Avenue party goers stop for a picture. Photographed (left to right) are Diana and Elek Owen, Jeanne Reynolds, Kristina Preslar, and Sharon Ammons.**

4. **At a Nelson Avenue NNO block party, hosted by Suzzane Striker, CY residents share laughs and good food. Pictured here are neighbors (left to right) Noah LaBelle, Kevin Thomas, and the hugging couple Holli Weatherington and boyfriend Chip.**

5. **Elzey residents show their solidarity as they gather for their NNO block party hosted by Kate and Ted Schurch.**

6. **Tony and Vicki Hall hosted a large Nelson Avenue NNO block party. Captured in this photo (left to right) are Andy Ashby, Tom Leitzell, a party crasher from Philadelphia St., Karen Werstein, Ty Browning, Vicki Hall, and Kirkland Thompson. Chip Sneed paid this rowdy group a visit and spoke to them about disaster planning.**



4

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5



9

9. Complete with balloons and big smiles, Fleece party goers had a wonderful time at their NNO block party hosted by Chuck Pitts. Shown here (left to right) are: top row, Sarah Kron, Chuck Pitts, and Krissy Pitts; second row, Michelle Stuart, Jessica Lindley, and Anne Lindley on the far right; third row, Jeremy and Evan Yow, Ashley and Ward Bianchi, Ed Bianchi, and Katie Lambert; and bottom steps, Asuka and Vincent Yow, and Maggie Ginn.



6



7

7. Happy Nelson Avenue NNO party hosts, Larry and Sandy Rutledge, smile for the camera as they welcome their neighbors to join the celebration.

8. The Nelson Avenue party goers at the Striker home are a photogenic group. Ray Rico, Chris Fisher, and Tammy Laxton give the camera a big thumbs up as they enjoy a night of neighborly fun.



8



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8pm The Vine's – Friday Night Dance Party  
8pm Neil's – Country Music featuring Eddie L Smith, Buddy Church, & Terry Bailey

## SAT OCT 30

8pm Friends for Life – Shipwrecked Halloween Party Fundraiser  
Where: Bridges, 477 N 5th St, Memphis  
Shipwrecked is the theme of the 2010 Halloween fundraiser benefiting Friends for Life. This October 30, 2010 extravaganza will feature costume contests, food, drinks, entertainment and dancing – all supporting the life-changing programs of Friends for Life.

9pm Neil's – Halloween Party Featuring Blackberry Wednesday and 714

## MON NOV 1

9pm Neil's – Monday Night Folk Ups Acoustic Singer Songwriter Showcase

## TUE NOV 2

6pm CYCA – Beautification Meeting  
Come join your fellow CYCA residents that are interesting in making Cooper-Young a clean, beautiful community. E-mail Kristan at [k.huntle@yahoo.com](mailto:k.huntle@yahoo.com) with any questions.  
9pm Neil's – Open Mic Comedy Night

## WED NOV 3

9pm Neil's – Wednesday Night Bar Stars feat: Jeremy Stanfill, Nick Redmond, Grace Askew and Dave Cousar

## THU NOV 4



5pm Cooper-Young Night Out  
7pm Neil's – The Memphis Blues Society

## FRI NOV 5

8pm Neil's – Country Music featuring Eddie L Smith, Buddy Church, & Terry Bailey  
8pm The Vine's – Friday Night Dance Party

## SAT NOV 6

9pm Neil's – The Van Duren Group

## SUN NOV 7

12pm Neil's – Studebaker's Reunion  
8pm Neil's – Michael Morales and The Mo Boogie Band

## MON NOV 8

9pm Neil's – Monday Night Folk Ups Acoustic Singer Songwriter Showcase

## TUE NOV 9

6pm CYCA – General Meeting  
Please join us this month at Peabody Elementary to discuss the topic of education. This is an important topic for the community, whether or not you have school-aged children.  
9pm Neil's – Open Mic Comedy Night

## WED NOV 10

9pm Neil's – Wednesday Night Bar Stars feat: Jeremy Stanfill, Nick Redmond, Grace Askew and Dave Cousar

## THU NOV 11



5:30pm CYCA – Photos With Santa!  
Come have your photo taken with the one and only Santa at Gazebo at Cooper and Young. \$5 per sitting with your camera, \$8 if we take it. All money goes to the McLean Mural Project.

## FRI NOV 12

8pm Neil's – Country Music featuring Eddie L Smith, Buddy Church, & Terry Bailey  
8pm The Vine's – Friday Night Dance Party

## SAT NOV 13

9pm Neil's – The Reba Russel Band



## SUN NOV 14

5pm Neil's – The Gilda Bramble Memorial Benefit feat: The RT Scott Band, Chris Rutledge, The Wolf River Rednecks, Brian Johnson, Tiffany Bramble, and many more.

## MON NOV 15

9pm Neil's – Monday Night Folk Ups Acoustic Singer Songwriter Showcase

## TUE NOV 16

7pm CYCA – Board Meeting  
9pm Neil's – Open Mic Comedy Night

## WED NOV 17

9pm Neil's – Wednesday Night Bar Stars feat: Jeremy Stanfill, Nick Redmond, Grace Askew and Dave Cousar

## THU NOV 18

7pm Neil's – The Memphis Blues Society

## FRI NOV 19

8pm Neil's – Country Music featuring Eddie L Smith, Buddy Church, & Terry Bailey  
8pm The Vine's – Release for Party Marcela Pinilla

## SAT NOV 20

9am House of Mews Benefit: 5k Run/Walk Meowathon and Silent Auction benefiting The House of Mews at Overton Park  
Registration begins at 7:30am. For more information, please see the race website at [houseofmews.com/meowathon](http://houseofmews.com/meowathon)  
10pm Neil's – Ashley McBryde and Chelley Tackett

## SUN NOV 21

7pm Neil's – KWEST Jazz

## MON NOV 22

9pm Neil's – Monday Night Folk Ups Acoustic Singer Songwriter Showcase

## TUE NOV 23

7pm CYCA – Communications Meeting  
Interested in becoming a part of the CYCA Communications meeting, the guiding force behind the Cooper-Young and LampLighter websites? Please e-mail us at [cybishop@comcast.net](mailto:cybishop@comcast.net)  
7:30pm CYCA – Safety Meeting  
Come make Cooper-Young a safer place.  
For More Info, e-mail [info@cooperyoung.org](mailto:info@cooperyoung.org)  
9pm Neil's – Open Mic Comedy Night

## WED NOV 24

9pm Neil's – Wednesday Night Bar Stars feat: Jeremy Stanfill, Nick Redmond, Grace Askew and Dave Cousar

## THU NOV 25

9pm Neil's – The Chosen View

## FRI NOV 26

8pm Neil's – The Amazing Rhythm Aces  
8pm Neil's – Country Music featuring Eddie L Smith, Buddy Church, & Terry Bailey  
8pm The Vine's – Friday Night Dance Party

## SAT NOV 27

9pm Neil's – MoJo Possum - Bump and Blow Out!

## SUN NOV 28

5pm Neil's – Benefit for Huey featuring many bands.

## MON NOV 29

9pm Neil's – Monday Night Folk Ups Acoustic Singer Songwriter Showcase

## TUE NOV 30

9pm Neil's – Open Mic Comedy Night

## WED DEC 1

9pm Neil's – Wednesday Night Bar Stars feat: Jeremy Stanfill, Nick Redmond, Grace Askew and Dave Cousar

## THU DEC 2

5-9pm Cooper-Young Night Out

## FRI DEC 3

8pm Neil's – Country Music featuring Eddie L Smith, Buddy Church, & Terry Bailey  
8pm The Vine's – Friday Night Dance Party

## SAT DEC 4

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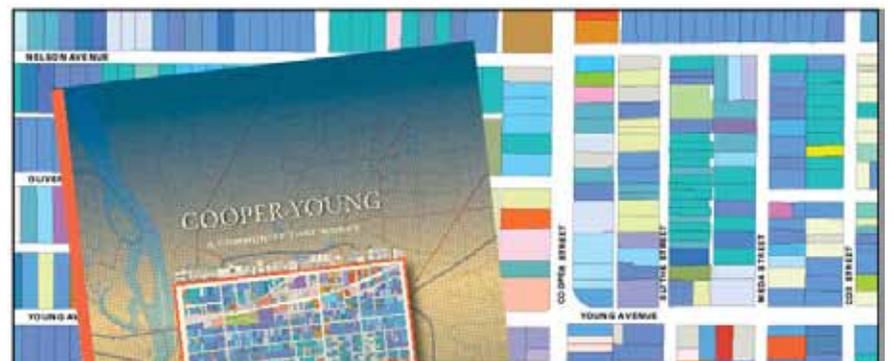
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