

May 2010
Issue No. 224

Kraus Gift Proposals: So Many Good Choices!

Here are brief descriptions of the proposals submitted to the Madrona Community Council (MCC) in response to the \$50,000 gift left to Madrona by long-time neighbors Martin and Mimi Kraus. The Kraus' only stipulation was that their donation be used for Madrona neighborhood recreational areas and parks. All proposals are currently under consideration by the MCC and your input is welcome! The entire proposals have been posted to the MCC page of the Madrona community web site at www.madrona.us/page/Madrona+Community+Council. It is not required that all the money be spent right now; the MCC can elect to keep some in reserve for future projects.

Art in Madrona Playfield: This project proposes the creation and installation of custom art pieces, including pavers, hanging ornaments, and tree-shaped sculptures at the Madrona Playfield. The art will make use of color, texture, and interesting "found objects". Materials that will be used are concrete, metal, styrene, paint, river rock, silk flowers, and shells. The pieces will be created by local artist Tamara Drain. Amount requested: \$4,500.

Children's Gathering Fund & Indoor Toilet at Madrona Playfield Shelterhouse: Funding is requested to partner with the Garfield Community center to launch children's activities and functions at the Madrona Playfield and in the playfield shelterhouse, and to upgrade the shelterhouse toilet facilities. The existing shelterhouse bathrooms are closed during the winter, making it difficult to hold children's events there. We propose adding a door from inside the shelterhouse into the existing women's restroom, and renovating that toilet. This facility improvement along with seed money will make it possible to bring children's programming to Madrona. Amount requested: \$2,500 for Gathering Fund and/or \$10,000-\$15,000 for toilet renovation.

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Madrona Community Council President's Corner

By Cynthia Stross, 35th Avenue

A restoration of Madrona Beach? Cleaning up the Harrison Ridge Greenbelt? Art in the park? These are just a few of the ideas that were presented at the May Madrona Community Council (MCC) meeting. We hope you will take some time to look at the proposals and contact us with your comments. On June 1, the MCC will meet in special session at 6:45 in the Madrona Playfield shelterhouse—just before the general MCC meeting—to vote on funding. The public is welcome to come and present

comments at the special session.

We are very fortunate to have some very talented and generous residents in Madrona. Many go unnoticed but sometimes, they make the news! Last month, the *Seattle Times* mentioned a recently published book, "I Like Being Old: A Guide to Making the Most of Aging" by a 91-year old first-time author Eileen Allen. Given her failing eyesight, Eileen needed help and enlisted Judith

(continued on page 2)

One Swingin' Duo

Spring Street residents and internationally recognized trapeze artists Ben Wendel and Rachel Nehmer, aka Duo Madrona, are collaborating with 5 other circus artists to form a new circus troupe, Circus Syzygy. For the troupe's inauguration, the seven members of Circus Syzygy will take part in an artist-in-residency May 24 to June 23 at the School of Acrobatics and New Circus Arts (SANCA) in Georgetown.



Over the course of the month-long col-
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• **June 12** •
• **Community Garage Sale Day!** •
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laborative project, the artists will commingle their diverse talents, tastes and ideas to create an original circus production, *Just Add Water*. Drawing from their personal experiences as traveling artists, the performers will not only showcase their jaw-dropping skill but also illuminate the lesser-seen human side of their chosen métier: the instant connections formed backstage, the elaborate pre-show rituals, the comedic lost-in-translation moments of cultures coming together, the tough goodbyes and the touching reunions.

For the first three weeks, the resident artists will collaborate and rehearse daily. At the end of each week the artists will hold free demonstration sessions for SANCA students and members of the community. The residency artists will also hold low-cost master classes available to the public in a variety of circus disciplines, including trapeze, aerial rope, clown, juggling, and hand-balancing to name a few.

The final week of the residency will be devoted to a week-long run of *Just Add Water*, which debuts on June 17 at SANCA in Georgetown, and will run nightly at 8:00pm June 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, and 23. Matinees will be held at 3:00pm on June 19 and 20. For more information regarding *Just Add Water* tickets, enrollment in master classes, or sponsorship opportunities, check out www.sancaseattle.org or email Ben Wendel at duomadrona@gmail.com.

President's Corner... (cont'd from page 1)

Starbuck, who many of us know from her tireless work to restore Madrona Woods. Judith took down Eileen's words and helped produce this sweet story.

Another hero of Madrona Woods was also recognized recently. Landscape architect Peg Gaynor won two (!) of the top three design awards from the Washington chapter of the American Association of Landscape Architects. One was for her twelve-year collaboration with the Friends of Madrona Woods.

More wonderful news: The CleanScapes Thursday collection area won the 2009/2010 Neighborhood Waste Reduction Rewards competition! During the three-month competition, residents in the Thursday collection area, which includes Capitol Hill, First Hill, Madison Valley, Madison Park, Denny-Blaine, Madrona and Montlake, reduced their garbage, recycling and yard debris by 19%. In other words, we cut an average weekly haul of 177 tons down to 142 tons. The six communities will share a \$50,000 prize for community improvement projects such as a public benches, playground equipment, neighborhood kiosks or community garden structures that will be accessible to the public. CleanScape is accepting ideas through July 31. Visit www.cleanscapes.com/seattliewastereductionrewards.html for more details.

We hope you will be able to join us at the next MCC meeting, in special session at 6:45 pm on June 1, or for the general meeting at 7:15. As always, all the MCC officers are interested in receiving your comments by telephone or email as well about any of the issues or opportunities in our neighborhood. Our contact information is always on the back page of the *Madrona News*.



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A Fond Farewell to Precocious Toys

By Clare Einberger

A couple of years ago when I found out that a toy store was opening in Madrona, I was quite excited, even though I'm in middle school now and so getting a little old for most toys. But on May 1 Precocious Toys closed. Monica Coulter, the owner, said in an email to Business Owners of Madrona "the economy has taken its toll and we cannot afford to stay open any longer."

Many Madrona residents have paid a visit to Precocious at least once. My family found gifts there for all of my younger cousins for the holidays several times. Others are more regular visitors. One such customer, Sabrina, came once or twice a month. "It's a local store... not just a big chain." Supporting local businesses has become even more important in Madrona recently in the bad economy, causing many businesses to shut down. Sabrina's daughter Juliana, 6, knows Precocious deserved the support of the neighborhood. "All the toys here are really cool," she says. Well said, Juliana! Her favorite purchase? "Probably the really big bubble blower." Now that sounds like fun!



As if it were never there...

I think there is a kid in everyone." I know she accomplished this goal with my family because the game I purchased at Precocious called Pit was a huge success at our family reunion. She took this idea to Madrona because of its strong community and abundance of kids, and we were all very grateful for her choice! Monica looked for unique or wood toys. "Wherever we see something cool, we buy it," says her husband Gavin. The Coulters were specifically interested in local street- or craft-fairs. "I even found a few younger artists in Madrona," Monica said. What did Monica like best about owning Precocious? "I really enjoyed all the new friendships that I made, and the kids and parents that came in every week. Not always to buy something, sometimes just to hang out. I will really miss all the kids." And I'm sure Madrona will miss her and Precocious too.

Monica doesn't know what's next but she's sure it will be fun. I know I can speak for most Madrona residents when I say that we will miss Precocious very much, and we really enjoyed having it here! Good luck, Monica!

Monica started Precocious so it could be "a neighborhood toy store where not only little kids could find something but also older kids and even adults could find something they like.

Ale House Hosts Trivia Night

By Jeremy Hudgeons, 29th Avenue

Every Wednesday evening at 8:30pm, the Madrona Ale House at 34th and Union hosts a team Trivia Night contest. The last one this Trivia Addict attended was typically enjoyable.

8:05pm – I saunter into the warm and inviting pub, the wonderful aromas of pizzas and soups surround my senses. Slowly but surely, the place transitions from the dinner crowd to the Wednesday night grit-your-teeth-I-want-to-win-beer-money crowd as teams of 3 to 6 players filter through the door.

8:08pm – The friendly waitress takes my drink order. From the selection of Northwest microbrews listed on the chalkboard, I choose the special – the Tamerlane Brown Porter from Black Raven Brewery.

8:23pm – Trivia-master Worth arrives. He begins passing out score sheets and explaining the rules, including the unique handicap scoring method that can make or break your score. The cost is \$1 per person; the house chips in \$25; tonight's pot - \$65.

8:25pm – It appears that our neighbors bailed on our team tonight. It is just me and the wife...our chances of winning, doubtful.

8:32pm – Round 1 of 4 begins (8 categories per round). Some questions from this night's game:

- Which is the only country that borders the United Kingdom?
- In which town was Charles Dickens born?
- Which national team was the first to win 3 FIFA World Cups?
- Which Italian pasta's name translates to 'little worms'?

9:40pm – The rounds have ended, and we trade answer sheets with our neighbors. Wow, we did all right for a team of two! Third place with a score of 107 out of a possible 144 points. Our Trivia-master announces the winner: Corey Feldman's team, with 128 points.

Maybe we'll do better next week. Come join us some Wednesday for a convivial and brain-challenging evening at the Ale House.

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GARAGE SALE DAY!

JUNE 12 is Madrona Community Garage Sale Day!

We encourage everyone in the neighborhood to host a sale on that day. Your sale will then be put on a map that will be given out for free at the Madrona shelterhouse that morning. There will be a bake sale, and coffee available at the shelterhouse the morning of the sale.

It's very easy to participate. Email your address and a 1-2 sentence description of your sale to organizer Janna Pekaar at jannalp3@hotmail.com. We are also asking for a \$20 donation to participate; all funds will go to the Madrona Community Council (MCC) to pay for future neighborhood events. Mail all checks to: MCC Treasurer Steve Orser at 833 33rd Avenue.

All advertising will be taken care of. We are also arranging a pick-up for left over items. A Northwest Center truck will be available at Grocery Outlet on Sunday.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR THIS EVENT. Email Janna or call her at 323-0553 if you have questions, wish to list your sale, or want to volunteer.

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Friday July 9th 7pm-9pm
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\$15 at the door Indulge in appetizers; live music; mini assorted readings; Reiki; massage. Cash bar. Bid on fabulous Silent Auction items as well! Supporting TheOneGathering.com coming 10/3/10.

Work Toward Community Center Continues

By Kimberly Larson, Madison Valley

The Seattle School Board has yet to decide the fate of the now-closed M.L.King Jr. Elementary School in the Madison Valley neighborhood. Closed in 2006 and surplus in 2008, there are now three entities vying for the property: Citizens for a Community Center at MLK (CCC@MLK), First A.M.E Church, and The Bush School. Hamlin Robinson School, which was originally part of the competition, has since agreed to an extended lease of the former TT Minor school on Union.

CCC@MLK wants to turn the former school into the M.L.King Jr. Community Center where we would offer a public playground and programming for children, families and "life-long learners." Partners would include Spectrum Dance Theatre, African American Veterans Group of Washington State, and Creative Beginnings Childcare & Preschool. Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association would manage the Center.

Under the rules set out by the School District, the School Board makes the final decision on who will lease or sell the property. CCC@MLK and its supporters are also very concerned that the School District is primarily seeing dollar signs and will not equally weigh the longer-term non-fiscal benefits of having the school go towards community use, not the highest bidder.

They delivered dozens of cards at the April 7 School Board meeting to send the message that the community needs gathering space. For more info or to get involved visit www.mlkcommunitycenter.org.

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Kraus Proposals... (cont'd from page 1)

Harrison Ridge Improvement: This project seeks to improve an essential east west corridor along 32nd Avenue, just south of Denny and perform ecological restoration. People drive through this greenbelt when traveling from Madison Valley to Lake Washington. The area is currently beset by invasive plants, a lack of access, and a dangerously broken sidewalk. Amount requested: \$10,000.

Madrona Beach Restoration: This project will restore the existing community resource to the thoughtfully crafted natural recreation area created by Madrona neighbors in 1995. The original installation included clean beach sand, a polished rock slide, a hollowed log play nook, a long bouncy log, and a "river" fed by a hand-driven pump running down to the shore on a bed of tiles made by local children. This project assumes the majority of labor will be provided by members of the neighborhood. Amount requested: \$20,000.

Madrona Business District Enhancement: The Business Owners of Madrona (BOOM) requests funding to improve the corner of 34th and Union by removing bushes, and installing benches and a neighborhood walking map. The walking map will include directions to the Madrona Woods and the Madrona Playfield, encouraging full use of the public areas of Madrona. Amount requested: \$5,000.

Madrona Ravine South Slope: The ultimate goal of this project is to improve the quality of the native plant understory and tree canopy of the Madrona Ravine's south slope. We want to accomplish this by removing noxious weeds and replanting native plants, and pruning and/or replacing aged, diseased trees. Before this work can move forward, the Madrona Ravine neighbors must determine the public/private boundaries in the ravine. We are asking for funding to pay for a survey to locate and map those boundaries. Amount requested: \$5,000.

Madrona Woods: The Friends of Madrona Woods seek funding to repay debt accumulated during the creek day-lighting phase of the woods restoration project. We also seek funds to hire professionals to restore those portions of the Madrona Woods that are above Lake Washington Blvd and too steep and dangerous for volunteers to work themselves. Amount requested: \$26,243.23.

29th Avenue Street End Improvement: This project seeks funding to clean-up the area at the intersection of 29th Avenue and E. Union, by the stairway behind Grocery Outlet. This includes picking up trash, placing and maintaining trash cans, and ensuring regular trash pickup. To sustain these green space improvements, we also propose removing blackberries and underbrush, and replacing them with low maintenance landscaping. Neighbors commit to helping to maintain the area. Amount requested: Not specified.



John Platt of St Clouds welcomed the Madrona Dining & Sipping Society, including diners Sue Ann Allen, Susan Roberts, and Marty Liebowitz in April. In May, the MD&SS members raised the funds necessary to sponsor the fan-favorite pony rides at Mayfair. In June, the group visits Madrona's newest restaurant June. All are welcome!

It's Madrona Market Time!

If shopping at the Friday Madrona Farmers Market is part of your weekly routine—and why wouldn't it be?—you can now check on-line at the market's blog to see what goodies will be offered each week. Get a head start before you stop on foot at: <http://madronafarmersmarket.wordpress.com>

The What's Fresh Now! list is constantly updated with information about what you can find at the market. The blog also offers news about the market vendors, and a calendar of cooking demonstrations featuring Seattle's top chefs. Like any blog, this one is an active and ever changing resource, with new posts added every week. If you looked at the blog right now you'd see this upcoming event:

- May 28: Cooking demo with Chef Kristi Brown-Wokoma, of That Brown Girl Catering, www.thatbrowngirlcatering.com

The Madrona Market is open on Fridays from 3:00 to 7:00pm in the parking lot of Grocery Outlet at MLK & Union.

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Madrona Woods Philosophizing

By Members of the Friends of Madrona Woods Board

A couple of people have been disturbed by recent trail maintenance in Madrona Woods. We believe these complaints point to a larger issue—the overall look and feel of the woods.

Many of us who have been working since 1996 to restore this park also cherish the woods as an urban wilderness. We started out with the simple goal of getting rid of the ivy climbing trees and choking out growth in the understory. We soon learned that if we didn't undertake more serious restoration, this would become a virtual invasive desert in 50 years. So we got grants and developed plans, which were approved by the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation. We agreed to follow their procedures and guidelines.

There's no question that the nature of the woods has changed.



Where the ivy, laurel, holly, and blackberries once provided a lush, green, and private look, now there are open, cleared areas covered by brown mulch around relatively small trees and shrubs. The new

trail leading down to Lake Washington Blvd at the dance studio and daylighting the stream have markedly changed the landscape.

We know there are people who liked the old way better. We're sorry not everyone can be pleased, but we have done what seemed best. We're committed to keeping the trails safe and comfortable for most people to use. This means removing leaves in the fall so they don't decompose and speed the break-down of the surface.

Though much of the restoration is too far along to change now, other details are decided day by day. Let us know what you want Madrona Woods to be. In the meantime, try to imagine what it will become. As small plants grow in, the green lushness will return to the spaces that now seem too open. We look forward to that day too and want every day in Madrona Woods to be beautiful.

Hungry for Hope, Part II: The Delivery

In February, Madrona News readers learned about “Hungry for Hope” - a pancake breakfast fundraiser put on by a group of local girls to raise seed money for an internet cafe in Ethiopia. Having spent the winter studying challenges girls face around the globe, 20 local elementary and middle-school girls had connected with an Ethiopian woman, Truework, and the five children she adopted when they were too old to stay in their orphanage. Truework had told the girls of her and her family's dream of an internet cafe business that would allow them to support themselves - and perhaps help other orphans as well.

Thanks to the generosity of local individuals and businesses, “Hungry for Hope” raised more than \$6,000 to help that dream come true. One of the study group participants, Betelhem Muno, and her father, Kevin Alexander, traveled to Ethiopia in March to deliver the proceeds from the fundraiser. Truework met them at the airport, and over the course of several days they discussed the best way to invest the funds. Some obstacles were identified in the business plan for the internet cafe, and the group worked together to modify it.

After much consideration, Truework and her family decided to leave the capital city of Addis Ababa and return to her village – where in July they will open their internet cafe. The village offers a lower cost of living, safer environment for the children, and less competition for their business. Touched by benefactors from the other side of the world, the family is creating a “Seattle Room” in their new establishment. In it they will proudly display the banner they made to commemorate their relationship with 20 girls from Madrona and the generous donors who made their dream of a business a reality.



Betelhem Muno (in hat) with Truework's children and their banner.



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New On-Line Local Parent Resource

Where do people find authentic community in this age of digital networking and over-scheduling? Madrona mom Karin Richard took her time thinking about this question as she transitioned from her career as a community design architect to a stay-at-home mom of two living at 31st and Marion. Karin wants what most parents want: connection with other families with young children, familiar faces at the playground, and a network of people to help her keep her children safe and entertained.

After watching several close friends move away from Seattle to smaller towns or to be closer to extended family, Karin considered moving, too. She also started talking to people who have built relationships with their neighbors and to look around for places where the community she was seeking already exists. What she found was a lot of other people looking for community, but not knowing how to make the connection.

Karin loves Madrona and decided she couldn't bear to move. So, with the help of a small group of volunteers, she created a framework around which the local parenting community could strengthen the network: The Central Seattle Parent Resource (CSPR).

CSPR is a fee-based membership service modeled after the Mercer Island Preschool Association and a handful of other successful clubs in California. CSPR has been tailored to meet the needs of the Central Seattle community. It is designed to better connect neighbors with each other face-to-face through monthly Moms' Nights Out and Dads' Events. Educational Members Meetings also provide opportunities for parents to make a deeper connection with other families in the area. CSPR hosts an open play date at T.T. Minor Playground (1700 E. Union St.) every Friday afternoon from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. All are welcome. Also in the works are Pre-K Meet-ups in July and August as a way for families with children entering the same public schools to meet before the first stressful day of kindergarten. The group also keeps a valuable on-line list of local preschools, activities and kid-friendly businesses.

The motto of CSPR is: "Give what you can, take what you need." Membership for 2010 is free through May, and is not required to access the on-line resource list. Visit centralseattleparentresource.com for more information, event schedules, and resources.



Neighborhood Summer Art Classes

Lots of parents want their kids to experience art—hands on. This summer there are several great opportunities right here in Madrona! Moms and dads need to consider the age of their child, her attention span, and his previous art experience. Once you figure out the basics—get signed up soon as spaces fill up well before the first day of class.

Richard Marshall Summer Art Camps. Montlake School's art teacher offers four one week summer art camps for either young children or school-age children. The camps have engaging themes like Bugs, Landmarks, and Animation, with plenty of creative time; field trips, relaxing social time and an end of week celebration. Campers explore media and ideas, learn art techniques and how to express themselves, and complete several pieces. *Dates:* June 28 through August 6, 9:15am to 2:00pm. *Location:* In Madrona at Jackie's School or Epiphany Church. *Registration:* Richard Marshall, rimarshall@msn.com, 619-8655. Classes limited to 12 students.

Arts Aloft Summer Camp. Arts Aloft offers week-long camps for kids 4 to 10 or 5 to 10 with different themes throughout the summer. The age range of the camps vary depending on the focus of the camp. Themes include sculpting flying farm animals, building and painting pirate ships, painting wild things, and exploring the fantastical world of make-believe. *Dates:* Monday- Thursday, 9:00am to 1:00pm. *Location:* Arts Aloft Studio, 3302 E. Spring St. *Cost:* \$220 per session. *Registration:* Betsy Erving at betsyerving@comcast.net.

Coyote Central. Studio Coyote has lined up 82 week-long half-day workshops for kids 10 to 14. That's 20 hours of creative action from Filmmaking to Fashion, Welding to Glassblowing, Cooking to Robotics, Fine Arts to 10-minute plays and lots more. Talented professionals meet the kids in professional work settings where participants will have a great time and learn lots of sophisticated, creative, technical, and problem-solving skills. *Dates:* June 28 - August 27, mornings or afternoons. *Location:* Various, including the Madrona Playfield shelterhouse, Pratt Fine Arts Center, Northwest Film Forum and other professional work spaces on Capitol Hill and in the U-District. *Cost:* \$200-\$300, scholarships available. *Registration:* www.coyotecentral.org

Expressive Acrylic Painting with Jacqui Beck. This class is for students ages 10 to adult, at all levels of experience. Students will work on individual projects so this is a great class for beginners, or for people who have been painting for a while and want to take a new creative step forward. It's a great class for children and adults to take together, or for artists who have been away from painting for awhile. *Dates:* July 19 - 23, 10:00am to 12:30pm. *Location:* Central Area Senior Center, 500 30th Avenue S. *Cost:* \$195, all materials included. *Registration:* Jacqui Beck, www.jacquirebeck.com; jacqui@jacquirebeck.com; 325-7267.

Heavenly Pet Care at Immortal Dog

By Rita Sheckler, 24th Avenue

Nicole Bemby had been working for a major coffee empire for 11 years. After getting laid off she decided to fulfill a dream of owning a pet supply and bakery. The result? Immortal Dog opened in February 2009 at 1712 S. Jackson St.

Immortal Dog is firmly committed to pet nutrition: they want your pet to live their best life. Nicole has always been very passionate about pets and their well being and had developed a following for her hand-baked dog biscuits. Made from wholesome organic oat flour from a local mill and human grade ingredients, these biscuits were a favorite for dogs of all breeds.



She loves to “geek out with customers on the best food and supplements for their pet.” The store carries all the basics and lots of fun stuff, too. Contrary to the name, Immortal Dog carries supplies for a wide range of other pets. Nicole can also recommend training, boarding, grooming, and pet sitting/walking services. You can find her blog on the store’s web site: immortaldogpetsupply.com.

Nicole partners with Under-Dawgz Rescue to hold adoption events at least once a month to rescue dogs from high-kill shelters and give them a chance to have a new home! They set a record of 35 dogs adopted in one event!

Immortal Dog is open 6 days a week; closed on Mondays. Nicole is usually there with her pups. Stop on by and introduce yourself. You’ll be glad you did, and your dog will be too!

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Play Madrona Mutt Matchup

By Melissa Baerwald, 30th Avenue

Who says people always look like their pets??? To play Mutt Matchup, match the people to their dogs. The answers are on page 9 .

What’s your dog’s Superpower?



Collin Sprenkle

Knocking wine glasses down with a single tail swoop.



Rosie

35th Avenue



John Jardine

Acquiring dog treats!



Suki

30th Avenue



Tonja Campbell

Opening almost any door or gate.



Emmy

37th Avenue

Attention Pet Owners! Did you know that May 8 was National Animal Disaster Preparedness Day? For tips on how to prepare your pet for the unexpected, visit www.ready.gov/america/downloads/pets.pdf.

Here are just a few things you can do:

- Keep at least 3 days of food in an airtight, waterproof container.
- Store at least 3 days of water specifically for your pet, in addition to water for your family.
- Keep an extra supply of medicines your pet takes regularly in a waterproof container.
- Your pet should wear an ID collar at all times. Include a back up leash, collar and ID tag in your pet’s emergency supply kit. Consider permanent identification such as micro-chipping.
- Plan with neighbors, friends or relatives to make sure someone will care for or evacuate your pets if you can’t.

We Welcome Two New Principals

When change comes, it often comes wholesale. Madrona is about to be blessed with new heads of its two major schools: Madrona K-8 and The Valley School.

Madrona K-8: Seattle School Superintendent Maria L. Goodloe-Johnson has announced the appointment of new principal Ms. Farah Thaxton. She replaces principal Kaaren Andrews, who moves to the Interagency Academy. After receiving extensive input from the community, the school, and the candidates, the Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer conducted final interviews and made the appointment. Dr. Goodloe-Johnson said, "We believe Ms. Thaxton to be an excellent principal choice for Madrona. She has an ability to connect with students. She also has successful experience working with diverse populations."

Farah Thaxton's recent experience includes three years as a lead kindergarten teacher at Seattle's Whittier Elementary, one year as a K-12 curriculum and instruction specialist for Victory Schools in Philadelphia, and two years as assistant principal at Philadelphia's Southwest Leadership Academy. Her professional preparation includes a Bachelor's Degree in sociology/elementary education from Seattle Pacific University and a Master's Degree in educational leadership/principal certification from the University of Delaware.

The Valley School: After an extensive national search, our Board of Trustees has announced the appointment of Robert Schultz as Head of School. Six-year incumbent Barry Wright is departing to pursue other educational opportunities. Valley School development director Gail Mensher noted, "Rob's interest in children and his previous experience in teaching, teacher training, and school administration will serve the school well."

Robert grew up in West Seattle and graduated from Washington State University with a B.A. in Human Development. He earned his Master's in Education at the University of Guam. More than 12 years ago he moved to Saipan in the U.S. Territory of the Northern Marianas to work in the English as a Second Language program in the public schools there, and eventually he was appointed the director of the program. In 2007 he was recruited by Brilliant Star, a Montessori school based in Saipan, to be their principal. Rob, his wife and three children will move to Seattle in June.

St Therese Performs "The Courage of Nine"

Middle school students at St Therese invite the neighborhood to their performance of "The Courage of Nine," a play written and directed by local playwright Cheryl L. West. The play describes the trials of the nine African-American teenagers who were selected to integrate Little Rock Arkansas's Central High School in 1957.

The curtain goes up at 1:00pm on May 23. Join us!

Madrona K-8 Does the WASL

By Madrona K-8 PTSA

We have less than seven weeks of school left, and plenty to keep us busy at Madrona K-8 through the end of the year.

Teacher and Staff appreciation week ended with a lunch for all wonderful people who teach and care for our children and our school.

All our 3rd through 8th grade students have been preparing to take the upcoming MSP/ WASL testing. We'll kick off our test with the much loved tradition of a sit down catered breakfast with our families. The breakfast, which occurs over two days, has upwards of 450 people in attendance, and includes performances by members of our Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade classes, plus several guest speakers.

Recently, several of our students had an exciting time at the Math Olympiad. A terrific time was had by all. The Middle Schoolers are playing Volleyball, Soccer and Track and the 8th graders are planning for graduation.

We're excited about our new principal, Ms. Thaxton, and we all hope to meet her soon. The PTSA gives a special thank you to all the parents and staff who participated on the hiring committee.

Mutt Match-up Answers: Collin Sprenkle & Emmy, John Jardine & Rosie, Tonja Campbell & Suki



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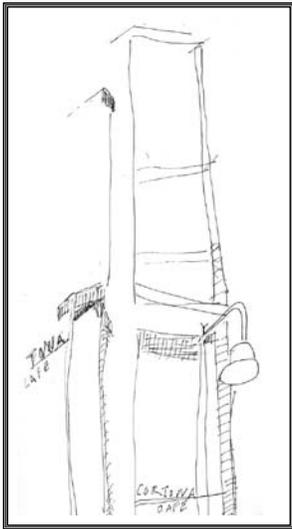
...one smile at a time...one smile at a time...one smile at a time...

Madrona Bike-to-Work Day Station

Madrona and Leschi residents are hosting the second annual Bike to Work Day station for cyclists on May 21 at Madrona Park on Lake Washington Bl. We'll set up again near the rest area at the park and will be beckoning passing cyclists in for fresh-baked goods, OJ, coffee and some time by the lake. We had about 70 cyclists stop by last year and hope for more this year.

People love to soak in the scenery during their lakeside commute. One of our visitors last year said, "This is the best Bike to Work Day stop. It's so beautiful and zen. Everyone should come hang out by the lake in the morning like this." Come join us with your baked goods, juice and other breakfast goodies. Contact Bridget Quigg at quiggles98@yahoo.com for more info.

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Law for All: Purchasing a House Together

By Rob Morrison

Hello Madrona! My name is Rob Morrison and I live in the neighborhood with my partner and our son, who is a first grader at St. Therese. I've worked as an attorney for over 20 years and am currently a Partner with Short Cressman & Burgess. My specialties are Estate Planning, Trusts, and Domestic Partnership Agreements. I'd like to share this information with you.

Your home is probably your most valuable asset. During good economic times the growth in its value can be a significant source of financial security. Purchasing a home together can be a source of great satisfaction for a couple. But it also requires careful legal planning. After finding the right home and arranging financing, the next important decision buyers must make is how to take title. There are three basic options:

Joint Tenants with Rights of Survivorship. This means that if one of you dies, the survivor becomes the sole legal owner of the home as a matter of law without going through probate. All that is required to have the interest of the deceased spouse/partner transferred to the survivor is to record a death certificate in the county property records. If you purchased your home together, consider it owned equally, and want the survivor to receive full ownership, this method probably makes sense.

Tenants in Common. This means that each of you owns an undivided interest in the home—it doesn't have to be 50/50—and if one of you dies, his or her ownership passes according to his or her Last Will and Testament. This requires probating the Last Will, but makes sense if you do not own your home equally, or if you want your share of your home to go to someone other than your spouse/partner.

Community Property. You can take ownership of your home as community property if you are married or Washington Registered Domestic Partners. This means you own the home equally, but ownership does not pass automatically if there is a death. It still requires probating the deceased spouse/partner's Last Will.

Rob can be reached at 223-3920, rmorrison@scblaw.com or www.Morrison-Legal.com. Nothing contained herein is intended to give legal advice. You should consult an attorney.

**Adoptions
Domestic Partnerships
Estate Planning & Probate
Wills**

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Robert P. Morrison
Attorney At Law

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MADRONA COMMUNITY CALENDAR

WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS:

- WEDNESDAYS 5:45 PM Weight Watchers Meeting**—Central Area Senior Center in Leschi, 500 30th Ave S., 726-4929.
- WEDNESDAYS 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM Bible Study** – Christie House Library, Epiphany Episcopal, 1805 38th Avenue, 324-2573.
- WEDNESDAYS 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM Free Open House & Wine Tasting** –With small plates and special retail pricing. Dulces Latin Bistro 1430 34th Avenue, 322-5453.
- THURSDAYS 7:30 PM AA/ALANON Meeting**—Great Hall, Epiphany Episcopal, 1805 38th Avenue, 324-2573.
- FRIDAYS 7:30 AM Madrona/Leschi Citizens Against the War**—Quiet demonstration, 23rd & Union, letter-writing and coffee afterwards at Touga on 18th. Kathy Barker kbarker715@gmail.com.
- FRIDAYS 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM Madrona Farmers Market**—Grocery Outlet parking lot, MLK & Union. <http://madronafarmersmarket.wordpress.com>

- May 20 11:30 AM Children's Story Time**—Madrona Library, 33rd & Union, 684-4705.
- May 20 6:30 PM Madrona Dining & Sipping Society Dinner**—3-course dinner for \$30 per person (tax & tip included) at Dulce's Latin Bistro. Everyone is welcome! Reservations required, Audrey Seale, audreyseale@qwest.net.
- May 21 2nd Annual Bike to Work Day**—Join us with your baked goods in Madrona Park. Bridget Quigg, quiggles98@yahoo.com.
- May 22 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM Madrona Woods Work Party**—Last formal work party until September. Meet at Spring & Grand. Deidre McCrary, deidre_jaymccrary@msn.com.
- May 22 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM Central District Garden Tour**—Tour of private gardens and P-Patches. Plant sale and \$5 tickets at 23rd & Union. Proceeds go toward a CD public art project in 2011. Jean Tinnea jean_tinnea@hotmail.com.
- May 22 6:30 PM East Precinct Crime Prevention Coalition meeting**—A neighborhood forum with community members and police. Seattle Vocational Institute 2120 S. Jackson St., www.seattle.gov/police/precincts/east/prevention.htm.
- May 23 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM Bicycle Sunday**—Lake Washington Bl. closed to cars from Mt. Baker Beach to Seward Park.
- May 23 1:00 PM "The Courage of Nine"**—A play written and directed by local playwright Cheryl L. West about the trials of the African-American teenagers who integrated Little Rock's high school in 1957. Performed by St. Therese middle school students. St Therese School.
- May 27 11:30 AM Children's Story Time**—Madrona Library, 33rd & Union, 684-4705.
- May 27 6:00 PM Tango Night!**—Sweat and smolder to the sounds of live Latin music. Reservations recommended for the special \$30.00 three-course Argentinean dinner. Dulces Latin Bistro, 322-5453.
- May 27 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM Spring Release Party**—Taste the new and the best wines of the season. Wilridge Winery, 1416 34th Avenue, 325-3051.
- May 30 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM Bicycle Sunday**—Lake Washington Bl. closed to cars at Mt. Baker Beach.
- May 31 Memorial Day** — Madrona Library closed.
- Jun 1 7:15 PM Madrona Community Council Meeting**—Madrona Playfield shelterhouse, Cynthia Stross, cynistr@gmail.com.
- Jun 2 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM Leschi Community Council Meeting**—Featuring a speaker on streetcars. Central Area Senior Center, 500 30th Ave. S., Diane Snell, jdsnell1@comcast.net.
- Jun 4 9:00 AM BOOM (Business Owners of Madrona) Meeting**—All Madrona business owners are welcome; membership applications available from Barbara Banon (Edward Jones, 3304 E Spring St) or from Nikola Davidson, Nikola@earthsystemsnu.com. Amara Office, 34th & Union.
- Jun 5 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM Neighborhood Cooking for the Homeless**—Bring fresh ingredients, if you can. Madrona Presbyterian Church, Darren Pritt, darren@neighborhoodcooking.org.
- Jun 6 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM Bicycle Sunday**—Lake Washington Bl. closed to cars at Mt. Baker Beach.
- Jun 6 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM Neighborhood Cooking for the Homeless**—Bring fresh ingredients, if you can. Madrona Presbyterian Church, Darren Pritt, darren@neighborhoodcooking.org.
- Jun 10 6:00 PM Central Area Neighborhood District Council Meeting**—Douglas Truth Library. Max Liebowitz, maxliebowitz@gmail.com.
- Jun 12 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM Madrona Neighborhood Garage Sale Day**—Contact Janna Pekaar to get your sale listed on the neighborhood map! jannalp3@hotmail.com.
- Jun 12 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM Leschi Community Book & Rummage Sale**—Proceeds benefit the Leschi Elementary music tutoring program and the Washington Middle School environmental program. Central Area Senior Center. Diane Snell, jdsnell1@comcast.net.
- Jun 13 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM Bicycle Sunday**—Lake Washington Bl. closed to cars at Mt. Baker Beach.
- Jun 16 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM Neighborhood Cooking for the Homeless**—Drop off/bring fresh ingredients, staples, or flavor bursts; we take care of the protein. St. Clouds Restaurant, John Platt & Paul Butler. john@stclouds.com or 726-1522
- June 17-20, 22 & 23 8:00 PM Circus Production: Just Add Water** — Featuring Madrona trapeze artists Ben Wendel and Rachel Nehmer. School of Acrobatics and New Circus Arts in Georgetown. Tickets at www.sancaseattle.org or duomadrona@gmail.com.

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production editor Susan Steele at sjsteele24@yahoo.com.

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Mailing List Additions: Contact Kim Herber (see above).

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Treasurer	Steve Orser	423-1412	steveorser@yahoo.com

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