



April 2013
Issue No. 252

Maureen Bekemeyer Wins the 2013 Nora Award

Some fondly refer to her as “the mayor of 38th Ave.” while others think of her as the “ultimate good neighbor“ who organizes Night Out block parties and other dinners throughout the year, welcomes newcomers, manages an email contact list for neighbors from Olive to the end of 38th, and looks in on those who are ill or in need. But like the many Madrona residents who agree to be interviewed by *Madrona News*, there are many dimensions to Maureen Bekemeyer. As a young couple she and husband Denny lived in Freiberg, Germany for a year where she taught English and he completed a law fellowship. Their move to Madrona occurred after a November visit to green and lovely Seattle coincided with an early and cold winter at their Champaign-Urbana home. The couple settled in Madrona in 1970 with a rental that seemed expensive then at \$200 a month. They liked the neighborhood and except for a two-year stint in the other Washington, Maureen and Denny have lived in Madrona for over 40 years.



Maureen Bekemeyer

Maureen describes a different Madrona in the 1970s than many experience today. The block where they originally rented contained several HUD houses that were in bad shape, and while Madrona’s business district had a pharmacy, a grocery store, and other businesses, most were neither busy nor vibrant in the early ‘70s. Further, there were many more crimes in the middle and late ‘70s than occur in Madrona today. But on the flip side, there was always a friendly mix of young and old and black and white. Maureen believes that then and now Madrona could attract a certain type of good neighbor who wants to be friendly and reach out to others; their qualities include intelligence and integrity such as keeping their word to neighbors.

Maureen notes that when bussing began in Seattle, the dynamics within the school district altered rapidly, forcing parents to reevaluate schools each year. Although

(continued on page 3)

Meet MCC’s Newest Contributor—You

In recent months, this feature has introduced you to some of the many individuals who serve on the MCC Board as officers and members. And we’ll resume that habit in the May issue of the newsletter. But as we head into spring and summer activities, this feature invites you to become involved with the MCC because opportunities abound. On April 20, MCC and other volunteers will partner with the Leschi Community Council and their volunteers to clear the James St. stairway of debris. Meet on the James Street stairs at about 9:00am; bring working gloves if you have them. On 10:00 on that same day, other volunteers will meet at the corner of 34th and Spring to work on the circular garden found there at the entrance to the Madrona Playfield. If you can help out, please contact Holly Smith, MCC President who can be reached

(continued on page 2)

Mayfair is Coming!! Sneak Peek at the Schedule on Page 6!!

Community Council Meeting Draft Agenda, April 2

7:15pm at Madrona Playfield Shelterhouse. All Welcome!!

- Shelterhouse renovations are on the horizon; Garrett Farrell from Seattle Parks will attend to describe the plans
- Report on March 23 Neighborhood Appreciation Awards
- Dine out for Madrona K-8 set for April 9
- Mayfair update
- Treasury update
- Round garden maintenance/ clean-up and joint venture with LCC to clean James St. stairs set for April 20
- Decide when and where to sponsor the financial workshop
- A summary of the March 5th Madrona K-8 meeting and next steps

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MCC Contributors... (cont'd from page 1)

at ho2lye@yahoo.com or simply show up at the upper end of the stairs on 38th Ave. E. or at the Madrona Playfield entrance at 10:00am.

Mayfair— scheduled for May 18—provides many opportunities to help out whether for an hour or for the morning. Join the fun for the parade that starts at about 9:15 at Al Larkins Park. Often there is a need to hand out treats and help there, then it's always a delight to walk with parents, children, and grandchildren to the Madrona Playfield where volunteers are needed to help with all sorts of activities. Included among volunteer fun are cooking and selling hot dogs for MCC, wrangling little ones for pony rides (or entertaining parents and children as they wait in line for those much sought-after pony rides), managing the bouncy houses, painting faces, or simply helping to maintain general order. If you can arrive early or leave later, volunteers also are needed to help set up tents and make sure the Playfield is safe and clean throughout the day. If you can help with any of these activities, please contact Nikki Lundin at nikki.lundin@comcast.net or 403-6536.

There are always opportunities to work with *Madrona News*, and on special projects throughout the year such as the fall wine tasting fund raiser event, wreath sales, etc. If any of these appeal, contact madronanews@gmail.com.

The Madrona Community Council meets once a month from Sept.-June, and may meet for organizing meetings during the summer months. Regularly scheduled meetings take place on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:15 at the Madrona Playfield Shelterhouse. [Shelterhouse renovations in coming months may require finding a new venue for a short time; check the MCC website for updates.] MCC meeting time is used to facilitate dialogue on issues important to the community and organize activities that benefit the community. Board members commit to attending most of those meetings to offer their input and many also volunteer to work on projects for which they have time, interest, or expertise. The MCC website at www.madrona.us provides a great deal more information about the MCC and its activities; have a look to see if there's a role YOU can play now or in future months.

Dine Out for Madrona K-8 on April 9

April 9 is the 5th annual Dine Out for Madrona K-8. All restaurants and cafes along 34th Avenue open on April 9 will participate in supporting Madrona K-8 by donating a portion of their sales that day to the Madrona K-8 PTSA. All you need to do is eat! Donations from Dine Out are used directly to support arts and enrichment programming at the school. This year the featured program supported is Arts Corps, which brings two full-time artists-in-residence to Madrona K-8. Arts Corps is the largest non-profit arts education program in Seattle, and it was awarded the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award from First Lady Michelle Obama in 2012. PTSA members and Madrona K-8 are excited to showcase students' work and celebrate the creativity flowing from Madrona K-8. So eat up and dine out on Tuesday, April 9 at participating restaurants: Bistro Turkuaz, Bottlehouse, Cupcake Royale/Verite, Hi Spot Cafe, Madrona Eatery and Ale House, Naam, Pritty Boys Family Pizzeria, Restaurant Bea, and St. Clouds.

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Maureen Bekemeyer... (cont'd from page 1)

she believed in the importance of integration, in practice what it often meant was that children from the Madrona neighborhood were farmed out all over the city. For example, as a kindergartner the Bekemeyer's older son Scott was supposed to wait at the same corner with three other Madrona boys, each of whom was bussed to a different school. The cost to the boys was that they didn't really get to know each other; parents also bore that cost, feeling they were pretty much stuck with what the school district decided to do. Maureen and Denny's two sons attended several Seattle schools. Later they also made a home for a boy who was a fellow classmate to their sons.

In the early 1980s, Maureen had an opportunity to combine her undergraduate degree in English with MBA skills to buy a bookstore that operated principally in Rainier Square. She loved the opportunity, especially wonderful customers such as those from the office tower above the bookstore who frequented the bookstore. She enjoyed the books, getting to know people via their book and reading interests, and her great staff. But like had happened for schools, the dynamics of the book industry and of downtown also were changing. Although Maureen hated to close the bookstore, she felt that she had to look at the hard facts her MBA had taught her to examine.

But as often happens, when one door closes, others open. Maureen found new time to welcome and assist neighbors, to help her mother in Oklahoma, and to aid a former MBA colleague and his Japanese-born wife who needed help when their twin baby girls were born prematurely. Maureen happily took over mom duties for the baby who came home first so the parents could devote the next six months to spending time with the still hospitalized baby. The relationship grew from there; the now 14-year-old twins enjoy frequent contact with Maureen to whom they refer as Mama Mo. Maureen and Denny also enjoy making frequent visits to their children and grandchildren in California and North Carolina, and traveling to other locations such as a 2012 trip to Bhutan. For over a decade Maureen has served on the board of Genesis House. For these and so many other reasons, Maureen was nominated for and named the winner of the MCC's 2013 Nora Award which is given to a Madrona resident who over time and in ways both small and large has left a personal mark on the community.

Madrona Woods is Always Changing

By Judith Starbuck, Grand Ave.

Madrona Woods offers an ever-changing display for us to enjoy. During this Earth Day month, we can all take pleasure in the last of the early-blooming skunk cabbage and Indian plum, and in the salmonberry, thimbleberry, fringe-cup, and trillium. We can admire the thousands of new plants that have been put into the final area of our active restoration in the south end of the park and be thankful for the hard-working volunteers who have put them there.

The entire restoration has been, and continues to be, an ongoing venue for learning and discoveries. Even after the last plants are put in this spring, there will be a need for continuing maintenance and, of course, sources of money to help deal with the expected and unexpected. Many of us in Friends of Madrona Woods (we hope with continuing community support) will stick around to watch the results of our 16 years of labor become more and more beautiful as the plants mature.

An example of how the Woods is always creating new challenges is Madrona Creek. Volunteers in two work parties spent their time repairing a section of the Creek that was disappearing into a large sink hole just east of the Spring Street bridge. They filled the hole and diverted the creek for a month while a new channel set up. Then they put gravel and rocks of several sizes in the new streambed and released the creek. As of this writing, the water was going above ground on both sides of the park's first small island. Admire it from the bridge.

Our next monthly work party is scheduled for April 27, from 10:00am-1:00 pm. If you want to do your Earth Day bit then, know that a large group from Amgen will be coming as well. Join us at the entrance at 38th and Marion to pick up gloves and tools and get your assignment. You might want to bring your own trowel and boots if you want to help with putting little wetland plants into the creek corridor. To sign up ahead, go to cedar.greencitypartnerships.org and click on CEDAR. Put in Green Seattle Partnership and select Madrona Park. Indicate that you'll be attending.

You can find work party announcements and all kinds of interesting information and photos on our website: www.madronawoods.org. And we have a Facebook page too.



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Free Native Plant Stewardship Training this Spring

Become a Washington Native Plant Society Native Plant Steward and help save Seattle Parks. The WNPS and the Green Seattle Partnership are offering free stewardship training this spring. Applications are due April 8 and you can sign up now. For details and a class schedule consult wnps.org/npspl/king/program.html. If you have questions about the training, contact Joy Wood, WNPS Stewardship Coordinator at nps@wnps.org or 527-3210.

Help With Income Tax Returns

Many organizations help people prepare their income tax returns. In turn, those organizations are powered by volunteers. So whether you need help to file your income taxes or are willing to provide the help others need, here are your sources:

- United Way of King County. Check days and hours (many at Yesler Terrace) at www.uwkc.org/ways-to-volunteer/ongoing-campaigns/free-tax-services/tax-site.html
- UFCW21 This tax preparation service is available to anyone with a household income of less than \$50,000. Office location is: 500 First Ave. S., 436-0210 or 800-732-1188. Check to see what papers to bring at www.uwkc.org/ways-to-volunteer/ongoing-campaigns/free-tax-services/tax-site.html
- AARP offers tax preparation help, often at the Douglass-Truth Library at 2300 Yesler Way; call 684-4704 to make an appointment, or check times and days at www.aarp.org/taxaide

Walk With Us to Carry 5 Walk For Water On May 5

by Jen Norling, 37th Avenue



What would it be like if we didn't have water at our homes? Imagine women and children in Madrona, Leschi, the Central District, Madison Valley, Madison Park, all walking down to Lake Washington to collect water for our families -- only to find that hundreds were already there, watering their animals, bathing and washing clothes in our only water source. Imagine filling your 5-gallon container with that contaminated water, strapping it on your back and your daughter's back and hauling it back home to use for drinking, cooking, and washing dishes - four times a day.

Not having clean water at the turn of a tap makes for a tough, limiting life. Around the world, 100 million girls cannot go to school because they are carrying water, 5,000 children die from water-related diseases every day, the poor of the world spend \$80 million each day on treatments for water and sanitation-related illnesses, 40 billion work hours are lost each year in Africa alone to time spent carrying water let alone sick days from dirty water.

The good news is this is preventable; the world doesn't have to be this way. A clean, convenient water supply would prevent 80% of the world's illnesses, save children's lives, give girls the opportunity to go to school, allow women time to invest in earning an income, food production and education, save families money and allow people to simply relax -- all setting communities on a path out of extreme poverty and making our world a more equitable place.

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Walk for Water... (cont'd from page 1)

Join more than 600 people, including dozens of Madrona families, in the CARRY 5 Walk for Water on May 5 at Seattle Center. For just one day, walk with us to experience what more than one billion people do every day. Carry up to 5 gallons of water for 5 kilometers - or as much as you are able - in support of communities that need clean water. Rally your family and friends - from your school, workplace, sports team, scout troop, place of worship - to walk with you. Proceeds benefit Seattle-based Water 1st International and sustainable water projects in Ethiopia, Bangladesh, India and Honduras. Every \$75 you donate or raise provides a child with clean water, a toilet and hygiene education FOR LIFE. Your contributions will transform lives! To register and learn more contact water1st.org.

The Stranger At the Door

Police offer the following advice for dealing with an unknown person who comes to your house:

- Answer, but talk to the person through a closed door.
- Do not give the person cash.
- For someone claiming distress, offer to call 911.
- If you are suspicious, call 911 and give the best description possible (height, weight, body shape, skin tone, hair, age, clothing, any associated vehicle) as well as the direction the person went when they left your home.
- Alert neighbors to the person going door to door so they are aware and can be watchful.

Play Madrona Mutt Matchup

By Andrea Matus-Magee, Randolph Place

Who says people always look like their pets??? Match the people to their dogs. The answers are on page 10.



Jan - 36th Ave



Buster



Lindsay & Lisa - 37th Ave




Chuy Ramon



Marisa - 31st Ave



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Mayfair Approaches May 18

Next month's *Madrona News* will provide a full agenda of planned Mayfair activities. But get this event on your calendar now to be there for the kick-off Pancake Breakfast at Madrona K-8 at 8:00am. The parade will line up at Al Larkins Park around 9:15 to be followed by lots of fun at the Madrona Playground including pony rides, face painting, bouncy houses provided by Garfield Community Center, and an obstacle course supplied by Seattle Gymnastics Academy. Charles the Clown will perform at 10:00 in the Shelterhouse, followed by The Reptile Man at 11:00. The entire event will be capped off by a 12:00 live performance by Recess Monkeys. Come enjoy food provided by Pritty Boys, Restaurant Bea, and St. Clouds, along with hot dogs, baked goods, and Italian sodas.

The MCC gratefully thank sponsors who include:

- Cambium Landscape
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- Hi Spot Cafe
- Lakeview Kid's Dentistry/Dr. Riolo
- State Farm/Emily Hawkins
- Contractor Law on 33rd
- Trophy Cupcake
- Madrona Dining and Sipping Society

A special thank you goes to Hannah Wygal of Monster Design for her complimentary design work on Mayfair marketing materials. T-shirts for the event are on sale now at <http://mayfair.spreadshirt.com>. All proceeds benefit the Madrona Community Council. Additional volunteers are needed to assure this event's success; please email Nikki Lundin at nikki.lundin@comcast.net to volunteer.

Mayfair T-shirts Are Available



Show your support for Mayfair and the Madrona Community Council by donning your Mayfair T-shirt on May 18 and beyond. Profits benefit Mayfair and the MCC. Colorful purchases for adults and children can be made online at mayfair.spreadshirt.com.

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Neighborhood News and Notes

Golden Wheat Bakery opened at 2908 E. Cherry on March 1, and judging by the turnout on a recent Sunday morning neighbors are excited to have a bakery/coffee spot nearby. The place was hopping and the reason was clear: good coffee and other drink options and a wide range of baked goods including savorys and sweets such as brownies, cookies, croissants, and scones. This family-owned business is currently open from 7:00am-7:00pm daily, but hours may be adjusted in coming weeks. In between trips to the kitchen to check on the ovens, baker Angel said that once the family can establish their pace they hope to offer weekend brunches as well as lunch options. Angel also bakes breads and rolls from Fri.-Sun; also on offer in the case or to order are options for home entertaining such as caramel/pear or lemon tarts, cheesecakes, and chocolate confections.

In response to comments they received concerning the No. 2 bus stop and shelter located westbound at E. Union S. and 33rd Ave., Metro reversed course and decided to keep the stop open. Critical variables leading to the decision were that parents wait for the No. 2 bus at this stop after escorting their children to school; students can be easily monitored after school while they wait for the bus; and the stop is conveniently located near the library and low income housing. According to emails sent to those who commented "Metro does not have plans or proposals for major changes on the Route 2 corridor at this time; if proposals are developed then you will have an opportunity to participate in a public process that will include community meetings and other venues for commenting." Questions about bus stops in the neighborhood can be addressed to Mary Bemowski at 263-6154 or mary.bemowski@kingcounty.gov.

In related news, there's a mighty good reason Metro so frequently announces bus stop closures and revisions: they face a 17 percent service cut next year because King County lacks the authority to tax itself to fund the transit system. Representative Jessyn Farrell is sponsoring HB 1959 to remedy this problem by means of a \$40 fee for car tabs and a 1.5 percent excise tax on vehicles. But it is by no means certain that Olympia will pass this law. Contact your representative to provide your point of view.

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Neighborhood News... (cont'd from previous page)

being the case, when you visit establishments who advertise, please let them know you saw their ad in *Madrona News*.

The Hitchcock Madrona duo of Dustin Nelson and Erica Nelson-Sheehan (yes, duo...Erica can't do everything in four inch heels), are opening a new boutique called DAVENPORT in the former Cameos & Crowns location on 34th Ave. While the concept is still being fine tuned, what is definitive is that it will be mostly items for the home. Dustin and Erica will let us know more once they figure it out themselves, but they suggest the mystery can be just as enjoyable as the reveal. They are aiming for an early April opening, and the duo use aim with great emphasis.

Madrona Sipping and Dining Society is planning a joint venture dinner to help launch a Madison Valley counterpart organization. The dinner is planned for Café Flora for 7:00pm on April 30. As always, those on the MDSS distribution list will receive an email invitation; to get on the list contact Audrey Seale at audreyseale@comcast.net.

The competition for young female dancers is fierce, but young Madrona dancer Dakota Wear has again attracted attention to her dancing skills by being selected to attend a 2013 summer intensive of the American Ballet Theatre. Dakota and her family are fundraising to help pay for travel, tuition, and expenses for this most recent step in Dakota's journey to become a professional dancer. Be looking for the various car washes, bake sales, and odd job opportunities that will help fund Dakota's Dream to Dance, or contribute directly to Dakota's "Fundrazr" Paypal account at <http://fnd.us/c/8RJu8>. Alternatively, you can access the yellow fundraising link in the header on the "Dakotadance" page - www.facebook.com/DakotaDance. "Like" her page and you can follow her efforts to raise the money.

The April 3 meeting of the Leschi Community Council will feature Cathy and Jake Jaramillo who will present a slide show of their favorite stairway walks as featured in their recent book, *Seattle Stairway Walks*. This event will kick off LCC's project of helping to maintain the 31 stairways in Leschi and its first project: a collaboration with the Madrona Community Council, maintenance on the James St. stairway on April 20. The LCC meeting will take place at 7:00pm at the Central Area Senior Center, 500 30th Ave. S.

Construction at 1126 34th Ave. is expected to begin in coming weeks, resulting in a building that will offer a range of both small and large private office spaces designed for technology, wellness practitioners, dreamers, software developers, lawyers, tinkers, artists, beauty professionals, and anyone who wants a work refuge in Madrona. Aptly called Madrona Refuge, the anticipated move-in date for this building is Nov. 2013. The ground floor space could be used for a restaurant. To see the plans or contact owners for additional information, consult www.madronarefuge.com.

USPS letter carriers for Madrona and nearby neighborhoods moved their operational bases to 2460 4th St. on Feb. 19. In future, vacation hold mail can be picked up at this location between 10:00am-3:00pm weekdays. The retail location at 23rd and Union is expected to close at the end of 2013, but it is not at all clear if that will happen or where retail service will be available thereafter. Neighbors can contact the Seattle Postmaster at 381-6640.

A Garden Grows in Madrona

When Madrona Playfield renovations were coming to a close over a decade ago, Mary Gallwey volunteered to help out with the raised garden located at the 34th and Spring entrance to the Playfield. She'd recently retired as Washington State University's ombudsman, moving to Madrona because of its diversity. And she was ready to become a hands-on community member by helping the MCC with the garden. On her first volunteer day at the garden, what she found was a pile of construction debris, poor soil, plants but no plan for them, and few other volunteers. She soldiered on that day and in the decade to come: requisitioning appropriate plants, amending soil, borrowing water from the Bowling Green building until the Parks Department activated the garden's watering system, writing a request to MCC to purchase just the right center tree, and myriad other tasks. In the process, the garden flourished, and Mary has had the opportunity to meet many neighbors who stop to talk with her about the garden as she works. Mary received the MCC's 2013 Local Hero Award for this work. Because Mary is finding it increasingly difficult to manage the garden, she and the MCC are searching for someone (singular or plural) to take over garden maintenance. Among tasks involved are pruning and weeding, occasional replanting, and infrequent interactions with the Parks Department. Now that the garden is well established, the time

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Garden Grows... (cont'd from previous page)

commitment might average an hour a month, although there is greater need in spring through fall than in winter months.

If you can volunteer garden time, please contact the MCC at madronanews@gmail.com for details. Mary is very willing to help volunteers learn about the garden's needs. In the meantime, the MCC plans to undertake spring garden tasks at 34th and Spring, meeting there at 10:00am on April 20; join us there to help spruce up the garden prior to Mayfair.

Madrona Author Shannon Polson Launces Book

Shannon Huffman Polson's book *North of Hope: A Daughter's Arctic Journey* will be in bookstores April 9. Madrona friends and neighbors all are invited to join Shannon at the book's launch party at 5:00, April 13 at Elliott Bay Books. Called "soulful and brave," by Terry Tempest Williams and "daring, perceptive and eloquent" by Scott Russell Sanders, the book is a memoir following her parents' death in a rare grizzly bear attack. Turning to loves she learned from her father, Polson explores the perilous terrain of grief through music, the natural world, and her faith. Her travels take her from the suburbs of Seattle to the concert hall where she sings Mozart's Requiem, and ultimately into the wilderness of Alaska's remote Arctic and of her heart. Readers who appreciate music or adventure narratives and the natural world or who are looking for new ways to understand loss will find guidance, solace, and a companionable voice in this extraordinary debut. Shannon can occasionally be found at Verite or the Madrona playground, and always at www.aborderlife.com.

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Neighborhood School News

Madrona K-8

1. On March 5 the PTSA hosted a well-attended meeting to hear from Seattle School Board President Kay Smith Blum, Phil Brockman, Executive Director of K-12 Operations for the school district, and Nancy Coogan, Executive Director of School's in the Central Region. PTSA President Barney Mansavage moderated the meeting, explaining that its purpose was to discuss Madrona K-8's future relating to enrollment, capacity, services and potential changes. Among specific items addressed were three:

- Inadequacy of the attendance area boundary: The existing attendance boundary makes it numerically impossible to fill Madrona K-8 to full capacity. Since a school's annual budget is based in large part on the numbers of student enrolled, it is important to redraw attendance boundaries to capture sufficient numbers of public school students to fill Madrona K-8 seats each year.
- An unstable year-to-year funding model results when positions and services for the school depend on enrollments that can change each year. Specifically, the positions of Assistant Principal, School Nurse, Librarian, and Counselors have fluctuated greatly each year at Madrona K-8, resulting in staff turnover and instability. Stable funding for a baseline of school positions and services is essential to maintain staff and provide continuity of services to students. Thus it is imperative to change the budget/funding model to address needs and not just numbers.
- District communications raised the possibility of Madrona K-8 becoming a K-5 school in 2017. This possibility has not been vetted by the Madrona community, but needs to be, particularly in view of the fact that Madrona K-8 has won grants for nearly a half million dollars in annual funding that are predicated on serving middle school grades. Let Madrona K-8's grassroots planning with outside partners and the use of committed levy funds play out - and allow the school the chance to stabilize as a successful K-8. Include Madrona K-8 community and its partners on any potential decision to become a K-5.

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School News... (cont'd from previous page)

District representatives agreed that with continued stability Madrona K-8 will continue to thrive beyond expectation. They said there will certainly be boundary changes in coming years within all the central region schools, and that in the short term there should be better support from district enrollment services to fill vacant seats at Madrona K-8. In particular, there is a need to make it known to parents that middle school seats are open to students who have not previously attended the school. Representatives also agreed that reliable annual support from the school district for essential services are important and thanked the school for holding the district's "feet to the fire" in making these needs known. Lastly, district representatives noted that any change to program or grades at Madrona K-8 would be vetted with the community before any decision is made.

If you would like to learn more about this meeting and the outcomes and next steps, please visit the Panther Partner PTSA web site madronapantherpartners.org.

2. March and April are Shop at the Madrona K-8 Mall months! Open one portal door to hundreds of retailers including Alaska Airlines, Macy's, Nordstrom's, Ikea, Amazon, restaurants and more at <http://shopping.escrip.com/cgi/shop.plx?pid=5400&s1a=5000401&sid=G8564366>

While you are there, sign up for AutoEarn. Each time you shop, you contribute to the hardest working PTSA and benefiting the best K-8 students in the Seattle school district! So easy,

why not? This initiative is sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's Madrona K-8 Project Committee.

3. And don't forget to Dine Out for Madrona K-8 on April 9 at participating Madrona restaurants listed in the article on page 2.

St. Therese Catholic Academy

The Academy will hold their largest community event of the year: the annual Fundraising Dinner and Auction. This exciting event takes place April 27 at the Hyatt, Olive 8 Hotel, and promises to be a night filled with spirit and enthusiasm for our school and our community.

St. Therese would not be the success it is without the support we receive from our neighbors in the Madrona community. We are grateful to all our families, friends, and community neighbors whose generous support allows us to continue offering important academic, athletic, and art programs and services for our children.

We invite you to continue supporting our kids by attending the auction, becoming an auction sponsor or volunteer, and/or donating an item or service to the auction. Visit <http://sttherese-seattle.maestroweb.com/> for complete details and registration. Questions? Contact Kat Freeman at kat@katfreeman.com or 992-0815 for additional details.



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Return from Kenya

By Maggie Aspland, Kenya and Madrona

I've served in the Peace Corps in Kenya since June 2011. My site was located in the central Kenyan highlands about five hours from Nairobi and one and a half hours from Nakuru, Kenya's fourth largest city. Kenya held general elections on March 4 and by the time you read this the outcome will be known and more importantly how peacefully elections were conducted. Five years ago at the last general election more than 1,000 people died as the result of inter-tribal violence and more than 6,000 Kenyan citizens are still living in IDP (internally displaced persons) camps as an aftermath. As a result of violence during and following the previous election, now newly elected Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and his Vice-President William Ruto were indicted for crimes against humanity and face trials beginning next month at the International Criminal Court in the Hague. Having won the election, there is speculation that Kenyatta and Ruto will not deign to show up at The Hague. This and other matters related to Kenya are close to my mind and heart because of my Peace Corps assignment in Kenya.

I lived in the bush on a farm owned by a Kenyan Member of Parliament who was running for his second term. At the end of January as the election season moved into overdrive, Peace Corps Kenya decided that I had to move from my site and I consequently cut short my Peace Corps service by a few months. Some of my projects were not completed but I left them in the competent hands of Kenyan colleagues to continue.

I was a Community Enterprise Development Volunteer and one of the IGAs (Income Generating Activities) I was developing was the production and marketing of washable sanitary pads. Along with this IGA, I was also teaching workshops and classes to women and girls on how to make washable sanitary pads. There was a great deal of enthusiasm for this project as disposable sanitary pads are available but expensive and girls would often miss school when they had their periods. There were many challenges that we ran into in making and producing the washable sani-

tary pads but the real issues lay in the marketing. Even though people were enthusiastic about the idea, the actual washing and drying proved to be too much for many of the Kenyan women. Kenyans are very conservative and one of the issues that was quite hard to overcome was drying the sanitary pads, this could not be done outside because of embarrassment and of course all washing is done by hand because there are no automatic washers and dryers. Even washing was an issue because in the dry season all the water had to be fetched, sometimes from as far away as 5 kilometers. So having enough water to wash the sanitary pads was an issue. Additionally, the water contained a lot of brown sediment that stained the cloth we originally used to make pads; later we switched to black cloth so the staining was not as noticeable. But pricing was also a challenge with production costs running about 65 cents per pad versus buyers who could only pay 40 cents per pad. I did get a grant to subsidize the cost and develop the market, but it is too early to say whether this IGA is a success or failure.

Another product that the women developed in my community was a waterproof baby blanket that was based on construction of the sanitary pad. This was immediately popular and sold at a small profit for three dollars. Regardless of the success or failure of these IGAs as businesses the experience was invaluable as a teaching tool to show impoverished, rural women how to set up and run a business. More about these and other Kenyan experiences appear on my blog maggieaspland.com/kenya.

I am looking forward to being back in the Peaceable Kingdom, on March 25.

Mutt Match-up Answers: April Fools! All dogs belong to Lindsay & Lisa

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MADRONA COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Please send your calendar items for the next month to madronanewscaledar@gmail.com

WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS:

- MONDAYS** Tom Bennett and the Rolling Blackouts—Playing every Monday evening at St. Clouds. www.tombennettmusic.com
1:00pm – 3:00pm Let's Play Seattle!—Playgroup for kids under 5. MLK Community Center, Jennie.burton@gmail.com; meetup.com/letsplayseattle
- MON & THURS** 6:00am – 7:00am Bootcamp Class – Get up early and get fit! Meeting at Conscious Body Pilates. Nikki Lundin www.nikkfitt.com
- 1st & 3rd TUES** 8:00pm Song Writer's Salon—A not so-open mic at Bottlehouse; contact comalrkin@gmail.com for information about performing
- WED & FRI** 8:40am – 9:00am Meditation—Guided silent meditation led by Peter Drummond. Epiphany Chapel, pieter@stonegroundmeditation.com
- THURSDAYS** 10:00am – 12:00pm All Threads Together—Conversation, knitting, crocheting, needlepoint. Epiphany Library, Trish Stone, twallstone@yahoo.com
11:00am Family Story Time—Bring your preschoolers and toddlers to enjoy stories, rhymes, songs. Madrona Library, 684-4705
6:00pm – 8:00pm Wine Maker Reception & Free Tasting—Support our local winemakers at Bottlehouse, 1416 34th Ave www.bottlehouseseatle.com
7:30pm AA/ALANON Meeting—Great Hall, Epiphany Episcopal, 1805 38th Avenue, 324-2573
- FRIDAYS** 7:30am – 8:30am Madrona/Leschi Citizens Against the War—Quiet demonstration, 23rd & Union, Kathy Barker kbarker715@comcast.net
- SATURDAYS** 2:00pm – 4:00pm Free Wine Tasting at Madrona Wine Merchants—1127 34th Avenue. For more information consult www.MadronaWineMerchants.com
- WEEKENDS** 9:00am – 5:00pm Donate Used Goods—Northwest Center Big Blue Truck. Grocery Outlet parking lot. www.bigbluetruck.org

- Apr 1-30 Onyx Fine Arts Collective presents "A Wider View"—Visit Seattle City Hall for exhibit celebrating artists of African descent residing in the Pacific Northwest and beyond. Exhibit runs through May 1
- Apr 2 6:30pm Madrona Community Council Meeting—Everyone welcome! Madrona Playfield Shelterhouse. Holly Smith, ho2lye@yahoo.com
- Apr 3 3:30pm – 4pm BOOM (Business Owners of Madrona) Meeting—Bottlehouse 1416 34th Ave. Officers meet from 2:45-3:30 with an open forum from 3:30-4:00. Contact Soni Dave-Schock at madronabusineses@gmail.com
- Apr 3 7:00pm Leschi Community Council Meeting—Featuring Cathy and Jake Jaramillo's slide show of sites featured in *Seattle Stairway Walks*. Central Area Senior Center, 500 30th Ave. S.
- Apr 5 9:30am – 10:15am "Fridays with Farah"—Madrona K-8 coffee chat with Farah Thaxton, Principal. For information, call 252-3100
- Apr 5, 6 Made in Seattle: Homegrown Documentaries—Rainier Valley Cultural Center, 3515 S. Alaska St. See www.facebook.com/SEEDArtscinema
- Apr 6 9:00am – 3:00pm Neighborhood Work Party for the Leschi Natural Area—Rain or shine we will meet at the Park entrance at 36th Ave and East Terrace. Gloves and lunch provided for participants. Contact Bunny and Fran Wood 323-2296 or Diane Morris 322-7648
- Apr 7 Daughters of the Pioneers of WA Annual Tea—Program by Rhinestone Rosie. For info or to join the org email newsletter@wapioneers.org
- Apr 13 5:00pm Book Launch—Shannon Huffman Polson's new book *North of Hope: A Daughter's Arctic Journey*, Elliott Bay Books, 1521 10th Ave
- Apr 17 9:00am – 1:00pm Homeless Cooking Wednesday—Bring a knife and a cutting board. Donations of fresh food (no protein) and money always welcome. St. Clouds Restaurant. Contact John Platt, john@stclouds.com
- Apr 20 9:00am MCC Work Party—Clean the James St. Stairs; meet at the top of the stairs at 9:00; bring gloves. Email Holly Smith at ho2lye@yahoo.com
- Apr 20 10:00am MCC Work Party at 34th and Spring entrance to Madrona Playfield; bring gloves
- Apr 25 6:00pm Seattle Police East Precinct Advisory Council Meeting—Seattle University, Chardin Hall, Room 142. Free parking in the Broadway and East Columbia campus parking garage. www.eastpac.org
- Apr 27 10:00am-1:00pm Friends of Madrona Woods Work Party—Meet at Spring and Grand, or contact Deirdre McCrary deirdre_jaymccray@msn.com
- Apr 27 St. Therese Catholic Academy Gala and Auction at Olive 8—Contact Kat Freeman at kat@katfreeman.com or 992-0815 for details
- Apr 30 7:00pm Madrona Dining and Sipping Society—With Madison Valley counterparts, dinner at Café Flora. Contact audreyseale@comcast.net

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April 9, 2013 Next MADRONA NEWS DEADLINE

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