**Druid Hills Day A Winner!**

By Chad and Lacy Henderson

Druid Hills Day 2009 was a huge success, thanks to the contributions of several neighborhood organizations. DHCA, as always, provided a rock climbing wall, moonwalk, and other fun activities for the kids, as well as snacks, popcorn, and beverages. St. John's Lutheran Church grilled hot dogs and loaded them up with all the fixins. And OLPA (Olmsted Linear Parks Alliance) gave guided tours of the new-and-improved Deepdene Park, along with free trolley rides between Deepdene and Dellwood Parks, plus free ice cream from Jake's. Thank you to everyone who contributed to a great day in the park, and to everyone who came out and enjoyed some of the best weather we've seen in Druid Hills all year!

---

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

The DHCA Annual Meeting is not until February 21 of the New Year, BUT the Nominations Committee has to begin preparing ahead of time (and this is the closest newsletter to the deadline).

Nominations for Officers and Board Members of the Civic Association are needed and welcome. PLEASE think about people who love the neighborhood, care about the future of the neighborhood, and would set aside a little time (or already have been) to do something for the neighborhood. (Yourself included!)

E-mail your nomination (name and address, even if only street, phone number) to adminvp@druidhills.org. Deadline: January 15.

The Nominating Committee is appointed by the DHCA President. Board Members serve three years. For descriptions of the duties of Board Members, as well as all Officers, go to www.druithills.org and click on "ByLaws."

---

**Wet Weather Creates Camaraderie**

By Becky Evans

A group of more than 30 hardy souls gathered together under tents, braving the rain, on Saturday morning, October 31, to celebrate the re-opening of Burbanck Park, at the corner of Clifton and N. Oxford, after completion of Phase I development.

Drew Schwartz, a Druid Hills High School ninth grade guitarist, led the group in a spirited rendition of “This Park is Your Park,” with apologies to Woody Guthrie. Ciannar Howett, the Chair of the Burbanck Park Development Committee and Emory’s Director of Sustainability Initiatives spoke of the three-year project and praised all the members of the Development Committee. She recognized volunteers Connie Brillhart, Becky Evans, Sally Sears, and Tim Ralston with gifts of lovely framed photos of Burbanck Park.

Dick Shuey, President of Druid Hills Civic Association, Lois Berthaume, President of Alliances to Improve Emory Village, and Robert Rodriguez, Associate General Counsel of Emory University, all thanked the volunteers and the Emory staff who worked in partnership to develop the park and spoke of the park’s value as a beautiful communal natural place of reflection.

Becky Evans paid tribute to Revival Construction’s owner Wright Marshall, whose company won the competitive bid and completed the Phase I development of the park, and to James Johnson, the Emory landscape architect who designed and monitored the project through the Emory and DeKalb County approval process. She also expressed her appreciation to the Co-Chairs of the newly formed “Friends of Burbanck Park,” Mark Goldman and Perry Mitchell, the key organizers of the celebration who have already led workdays in the park. She praised the 200 community donors, who raised over $53,000 for development of the park over the past three years, and pointed out the Donors Plaque Proof, listing all the donors whose gifts totaled $250 or more.

Steven Darcy, Music Director of Glenn Memorial Methodist Church, closed the program with a moving rendition of “This Park is Your Park, this park is my park” from the Fernbank Forest, to the Peavine waters. This park was made for you and me.

---

This park is your park, this park is my park. From Emory Village, to Clifton and Oxford, From the Fernbank Forest, to the Peavine waters
This park was made for you and me.

As I was walking a ribbon of sidewalk
I saw above me the endless tree tops
Isaw below me the shaded valley
And all around me a voice was sounding

This park was made for you and me.

**This Park is Your Park**

(with apologies to Woody Guthrie)

For Burbanck Park Celebration

Oct 31, 2009, 9 to 11am

Chorus:
This park is your park, this park is my park.
From Emory Village, to Clifton and Oxford,
From the Fernbank Forest, to the Peavine waters
This park was made for you and me.

Chorus:
I've named and numbered and I've followed my footsteps
to the sparkling mica of her slippery stepping stones
And all around me a voice was sounding
This park was made for you and me.

Chorus:
The sun was shining as I was strolling
The trees limbs waving and the fall leaves rolling
The fog was lifting a voice came chanting
This park was made for you and me.

Chorus:

---

Druid Hills News

Volunteer of the

President’s Column: Pg 3
DHCA Board Briefs: Pg 3
DHCA Parents Network: Pg 4
Neighborhood Ombudsman: Pg 4
The Menorah: Pg 4
School News: Pg 5
Book Club News: Pg 7
Farewell to a Friend: Pg 7
Origins of the Christmas Tree: Pg 7
Fall for a Japanese Maple: Pg 8
Ontario: Pg 8
Treemendous: Pg 9
DHCA Membership Application: Pg 11

**CONTENTS**

**PRESIDENT’S COLUMN** Pg 3
**DHCA BOARD BRIEFS** Pg 3
**DHCA PARENTS NETWORK** Pg 4
**NEIGHBORHOOD OMBUDSMAN** Pg 4
**THE MENORAH** Pg 4
**SCHOOL NEWS** Pg 5
**BOOK CLUB NEWS** Pg 7
**FAREWELL TO A FRIEND** Pg 7
**ORIGINS OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE** Pg 7
**FALL FOR A JAPANESE MAPLE** Pg 8
**ONTARIO** Pg 8
**TREEMENDOUS** Pg 9
**DHCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION** Pg 11

Continued on page 10
DHCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Past Presidents

Officer
Deborah Bichner
Sam Biggs
Steve Misner
David O’Brien
Scott Shulman
Jennie Richardson

Ex Officio
Civic Association Network (CASW)
Barbara Morey
DHCA News
Marcia Fair

Let Us Know!
The post office is changing its bulk mailing software, which may cause problems. If your home is not receiving the Druid Hills News in the future, please contact us.

Sign up for complimentary E-Alerts for news, events, neighborhood updates, and more, at editor@druidhills.org.

How is here to sign up for E-Alerts – the civic association’s current means of keeping you up to date about current and impending events in Druid Hills.
The alert system replaces the paper notices you used to get in or on your mailbox. It is less expensive and more efficient.

2. Click the “sign up today” button & complete the form.
3. Click “subscribe” button. There, you’ve done it!

Subscribing to the Druid Hills News

While residents of Druid Hills receive the newsletter each quarter by bulk mail, those who leave the neighborhood often want to stay in touch. How can they do that? It’s easy—take out a subscription.

This is what you do: Find the membership application—in this issue it’s on page 10. Fill it in, joining at whichever level you choose. The least expensive is $25. In the section entitled Membership Involvement and Interest, in the columns of the application, write “DHCA subscription” in the line “Other—specific.”

Send the application and your check to the regular post office box address (see the bottom of the application) and you’ll continue to know what’s going on in your neighborhood.

To get the Most Out of Your Advertising Dollars

The Druid Hills News is published in April, July, September and November. In each, thousands of people who live, shop, and work in Druid Hills. With thousands of copies of each issue distributed in the area, the publication’s advertising rates are a bargain for businesses that want to reach Druid Hills customers. For information on ad sizes and pricing:

404-525-3422 (DHCA)
www.druidhills.org/news/advertise.htm
email: admin@druidhills.org

The Druid Hills News
Newsletter of the Druid Hills Civic Association
P.O. Box 563, Decatur, GA 30031-0363, Voice-mail: 404-523-DHCA
Published by Volunteers
NEWSLETTER EDITOR Mary Angela Whyte
BUSINESS MANAGER Barbara Moyer, admin@drcitizens.org, 404-523-DHCA
MANAGING EDITOR Jennifer Richardson, jrichardson@bellsouth.net
TYPESETTING & DESIGN Julie Edwards
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE
Faye Andresen, Tammy Carroll, Becky Evans, Ken Gibson, Lucy and Chad Henderson, Susan Merritt-Jordan, Paula Refi, Merl Reid, Dick Shuey, Alida Silverman, Donna Toullme, Leila Whipple, Mary Angela Whyte

YOUR LETTERS ARE WELCOME
President’s Column

by Dick Shuey

The Board of Directors of the DHCA has for a long time considered establishing a master plan for future development of the neighborhood. The thought has been that it would be better to be proactive than to reactive to the development plans of others. Finally, at the August 2007 board meeting, it was agreed to begin work on such a plan and Max Creighton agreed to be the point person and lead the Master Plan Committee. One of the first issues to be addressed by the committee was the scope of the plan.

By the March 2008 board meeting the committee had been formed and met, and reported that they planned to bring something to the Board in the near future. At the July 2008 board meeting, the committee presented a comprehensive approach to developing a master plan that would require the assistance of a consultant. They reported on their progress in identifying the areas that a consultant should address, including a review of all DHCA policies concerning land use, legal issues surrounding zoning/land use inconsistencies, differences in County and City zoning and land use, traffic, transportation, and community involvement and oversight. Hiring a consultant to produce professional results would require a significant financial commitment.

During the ensuing discussion, it was acknowledged that a master plan would make a good internal document, but it was questioned how useful it would be. It was emphasized that before any substantial amount of money is committed, we need to have a reasonable assurance that the development of such a master plan would be welcomed by the DeKalb County Commission and the State government, and that they would be likely to adopt it as an integral part of their respective comprehensive planning processes. It was also agreed that we must be ready to proceed before we solicit proposals from consultants.

The committee went back to the drawing board to find ways to accommodate the board’s concerns. In subsequent meetings with the executive committee during 2009, the master plan committee was urged to break the development down to phases that could be funded over a period of time, and most importantly, to obtain input from County officials before proceeding. At the September 2009 board meeting, the committee reported on a draft master plan that was taking a different direction to accomplish the original objectives, while responding to the concerns of the board and suggestions from Commissioner Jeff Rader.

Committee members had met with Commissioner Rader, who was supportive of the process and sympathetic to the zoning needs of our community. He emphasized that development outside the Druid Hills Historic District threatens to affect the Druid Hills community. For example, the Emory Commons and Sage Hill areas are especially in need of LCI (Livable Community Initiative) grants from the Atlanta Regional Commission for transportation improvements. The master plan committee acknowledged that the transportation parts of its plan also needed some adjustments.

It also became apparent that the most effective way for Druid Hills to establish a master plan for future development that would be supported by the County is to work with the other non-LCI designation. To that end, the committee decided to finish the task of establishing the Historic District with the designation of character areas (areas that share common characteristics). Six character areas currently exist: Divisions 1 & 2, Emory Grove, Parkwood, University Heights, and Chelsea Heights.

The purpose of establishing additional character areas and having them adopted by the Historic Planning Committee is to strengthen our Historic District as a shield against inconsistent or inappropriate zoning and development. If we have guidelines for all areas, it will be easier to preserve these areas in an appropriate way. With more specificity, protection measures like an overlay area become more valid. The costs of creating guidelines can be spread out over time by working on one area at a time.

The Chelsea Heights Guidelines are a successful example of defining appropriate characteristics of one area. There, the residents of the area had direct input in establishing the characteristics of their neighborhood. This process should be the model for establishing new character areas and revisiting the existing six character areas, as needed.

The Master Plan Committee is now beginning work on identifying Historic District character areas, developing a corresponding zoning overlay, becoming a stakeholder participant in the LCI for Sage Hill—Clairmont/Emory Commons corridor, and addressing other non-LCI transportation issues. This is one project in which the entire neighborhood can and should play a role.
Bill Gryboski, Neighborhood Ombudsman

By Alida Silverman

Ombudsman, noun – 1. A man who investigates complaints, reports findings, and mediates for settlements, especially between aggrieved parties such as consumers or students and an institution, an organization, or a company. 2. A government official, especially in Scandinavian countries, who investigates citizens' complaints against the government or its functionaries.

Bill Gryboski, a 12-year resident of Druid Hills, came to Emory University in 1979 from Connecticut as an undergraduate. He liked Emory’s neighborhood. I first heard about him from someone who called him “the mayor of Oakdale Road,” so I was intrigued since I live on Oakdale. As I learned more, I could see how the description came about, but, really, I think ombudsman describes better what Bill does. Good communication skills, knowing what needs to be done, and a clear expectation that government will do its job of properly notified have resulted in quite a record.

A partial listing of a few of Bill’s recent projects:

• historic streetlights on Oakdale Road effort (with Dekalb County- ongoing)
• identification and coordination of In Bloom’s adoption effort (with Dekalb County- ongoing)
• storm sewer maintenance by both Dekalb County and City of Atlanta
• clearing/cleaning of bywalks by Dekalb County-City- ongoing
• repair of the historic bywalks – all in County by County/City - ongoing
• grinding/removal of tree stumps in ROW  in Dekalb County- ongoing
• repair of sidewalks/curbs along Oakdale Road in County/City - ongoing

Next?

As a Druid Hills neighbor, I say “THANK YOU!” (just as Bill thanks the various commissioners and section heads as they deliver).

DHCA Parents Network

Halloween and Other Happenings

by Tammy Carroll

The fall colors and beautiful weather were the perfect setting for the 2nd annual Parents Network Halloween Party on Sunday, October 25. The committee hosted a fun gathering with delicious pot-luck dishes, a candy corn guessing game, piñatas, and pumpkin decorating. Around 40 families came out to support the Parents Network effort to develop friendships, discuss neighborhood changes, and build enthusiasm for more events throughout the year.

The Parents Network committee would ideally like to host a family-friendly gathering each season. They are currently discussing the idea of a holiday cookie decorating event that would include a visit from Santa. They are also exploring options for a volunteer/charity experience that they could coordinate and sponsor. The network is always looking for additional ways to bring Druid Hills’ parents together. If you have any suggestions for what the Parents Network could do for the neighborhood, please email the committee at community@druidhillsparents.org.

Another way to bring Druid Hills’ families together is the Parent Network’s new web-based forum. The committee would like to extend appreciation to David Hill, the DHCA’s VP of Communication. He has worked diligently to create a new secure online Parents Forum, where members can post discussion topics, ask questions, or easily reference other neighbors’ recommendations. It can send emails of each post or simply remain a favorite online site for sharing thoughts with other Druid Hills parents. The committee hopes this new tool will encourage membership and motivate parents to share more questions and ideas.

If you’ve been meaning to join the Parents Network but aren’t members of the DHCA, you can join online at the DHCA website: www.dhca.org.

For more information about the DHCA Parents Network or about any of the events listed above, please email communication@druidhillsparents.org.

The Menorah

On each night of Hanukkah, the menorah is lit to commemorate a miracle which occurred after the Jews proclaimed victory over the Syrian armies in 165 B.C.E. When Jews came to redecorate the Temple—which had been defiled by the Syrians—they found only one small flask of oil with which to light the menorah. This flask contained only enough oil for one day, yet the lamp burned for eight days (by which time a fresh supply of oil was obtained).

• In Israel, the Hanukkah menorah is called the Hanukkiah
• Menorahs come in all shapes and sizes. The only requirement is that the flames are separated enough so that they will not look too big and resemble a pagan bonfire.
• Ancient menorahs were made of clay. They consisted of small, pearl shaped vessels, each with its own wick, which were arranged side-by-side.
• Today’s menorah, which stands on a base from which the branches sprout, resembles the holy Temple’s menorah and started to appear towards the end of the Middle Ages.

Source: www.history.com/content/hanukkah/hanukkah-traditions

Save money never goes out of style.

Treat your friends and family to a year of wonderful experiences with a gift membership, gift tickets or a one-of-a-kind gift from our Museum Store.

Visit fernbankmuseum.org for details.

Give the gift of family fun!
The Beginning of Druid Hills School

By Lella Dillard Whipple – Forwarded by Jack McFarland from Frank Albertson

(A letter written by the first principal as the request of Mr. W. D. Thompson at the time of the dedication of the second building.)

Druid Hills School, with its lovely pagan name, had its beginning in the three small rooms behind the stage of Emory University's chapel, in late September 1919. This chapel or assembly hall was a temporary wooden building used for gatherings of all kinds on the campus.  The anterooms to the stage were designed perhaps for dressing rooms for gatherings of all kinds on the campus.  The anterooms to the stage were designed perhaps for dressing rooms.

The school was first called Emory Grammar School. It was in the DeKalb County System with Mr. Carroll, the county school superintendent at the time. The first teachers were Lella Dillard, principal, and Ethel Pike, of LaGrange, and Eugenia Cassidy, of Tennessee, as assistants. Emory University furnished the building and DeKalb County paid the salaries, which were $75.00 a month. The school session began at 8:30 in the morning and closed at 12:30 so as to give Miss Pike and Miss Cassidy the afternoons for their classes at the university. Both were graduate students majoring in education.

There were 43 pupils enrolled that fall, spread out over seven grades. Miss Pike taught first and second; Miss Cassidy, fifth and sixth; and I, the principal, taught third and fourth and the one girl in the seventh. These children had widely diverse backgrounds, coming from homes of professors in the School of Liberal Arts who had just moved up to the new university and were living on the campus (some of the faculty had settled in Atlanta); from homes of the postmaster, stoker, carpenter, and from home that were already there when the university began building. Some of the faculty children had lived abroad and knew more than one language. Then there were the four "millionaire children" from the home of Mr. Walter Candler, on Lullwater Road, near the entrance to Emory, among them the little boy who signed his name "Aa Candler IV." All forty-three of these children were sweet and well behaved, as I remember them.

This temporary wooden assembly hall, set in the midst of Emory's marble buildings, was nearest the Anatomy Building. I remember clearly, for I can still see the children turning up their little noses, as they passed it every day, and commenting on the "awful smell" of disinfectant that always seemed to be blowing our way.

The immediate reason for organizing the Emory Grammar School, which later became Druid Hills School, was the "mud-up-to-the-hubs" on the roads leading to the campus in the early days. There was not a foot of paving beyond Lullwater, and North Decatur and Clifton Roads had the heavy traffic of trucks loaded with building material. These trucks churned the mud in wet weather which left deep ruts when the mud dried. Getting the children in to Atlanta schools seemed almost impossible.

One morning I had a phone call from Dr. Howard Odum, president of the university. He wanted me to come to his office to discuss the possibility of organizing a grammar school for the Emory University children. Several professors who had children were at this meeting. They offered me the place as principal. I had an AB degree, also music and vocal expression degrees, and had done post graduate work at two schools. Following this I had taught for three years. After these years of strenuous work, I was planning to take a year off during 1919-1920. When Dr. Odum offered me the Emory school, I accepted at once. I guess it was my pioneering instinct, for those were indeed pioneer days.

We opened the school the following Monday morning with a large group of parents and children present. After that, the school was completely turned over to the three teachers. There was no interference from anyone, nor even any suggestions. Mr. Carrell visited us frequently to bring supplies, and he always praised the school. Yes, it felt like a pioneer in a covered wagon that first fall at Emory. Everything was new and life was difficult. No wonder the parents didn't interfere - - - they also were too busy just trying to exist. There was not a colored person for miles around, it seemed, so there were no cooks or washwomen, and most of us had never done without these two commodities. There were no "home-wash" laundries then, or if there were, it was too difficult for their trucks to get out to Emory. The nearest grocery stores were at "Little Five Points" and out at Decatur. Kamps was better, it seemed to miles around, it seemed, so there were no cooks or washwomen, and most of us had never done without these two commodities. There were no "home-wash" laundries then, or if there were, it was too difficult for their trucks to get out to Emory. The nearest grocery stores were at "Little Five Points" and out at Decatur. Kamps was...
1202 SPRINGDALE ROAD
Historic estate home built in the timeless Georgian style, featuring a breathtaking oval formal reception hall, grand sunken living room with 13 ft. ceilings and ornate plaster moldings, 4+2 bedrooms, 3.5+1.5 bathrooms, elevator, pool, and 3BR/2BA carriage house, all on .9 acre lot in Fernbank school district. $2,295,000
Niki Paris & Kevin Steward 404.377.2869

956 WAVERLY WAY
Circa 1919 Leila Ross Wilburn 2-story home on gorgeous acre lot on one of Inman Park’s very finest streets, a quick walk to many shops and restaurants. Features over-sized rooms, high ceilings, 6+2 bedrooms, formal LR, banquet DR, library, kitchen overlooking lg. family room, front porch, screened porch overlooking lush yard, 3 rentals and more. $1,295,000
Niki Paris & Kevin Steward 404.377.2869

1005 SPRINGDALE ROAD
Approx. 5,000 sq. ft. of great family space, plus wonderful pool, 2-car garage and 2 legal rentals, all on one of Druid Hills very nicest streets. Features double LRAs, formal DR, wonderful eat-in kitchen/family room overlooking the pool, huge playroom, 5 upstairs bedrooms, 5 1/2 BAs, and sought after Fernbank/Druid Hills. $1,150,000
Niki Paris & Kevin Steward 404.377.2869

1303 BRIARCLIFF ROAD
This designer’s own home is a perfect “10” and it’s priced to sell. Great common areas perfect for entertaining, LR w/fplc, formal DR, sunny den, cooks kitchen, fabulous master w/loft, sizeable Master BA w/steam, rainfall shower and body massage, soothing colors, central vac, and additional office/workspace in the barn. Druid Hills High, $699,000
Niki Paris & Kevin Steward 404.377.2869

1374 HARVARD ROAD
This 3 BR + den (or 4th BR), 2.5BA mid-century brick home on quiet neighborhood street, is a real delight, featuring great open spaces, wonderful master BR/BA w/ walk in closet, big playroom basement, 4 car garage, and large flat private yard all in Fernbank School District. $599,000
Niki Paris & Kevin Steward 404.377.2869

455 CLAIRE DRIVE
Brick 1930’s Lake Claire bungalow, restored by its architect/owner. Features LR w/fplc, sep DR, sep den/TV room, 3BRs, 2BAs, eat in kitchen, hardwoods, designer colors, fabulous oasis like backyard w/pool and patio area, plus lots of yard space and 2-car garage. $575,000
Niki Paris & Kevin Steward 404.377.2869

1350 BRIARCLIFF ROAD
This spacious 2-story Dutch colonial home is move-in ready with updated kitchen, owner’s suite with 2 in-bedroom closets and dressing room off bedroom, all new hardwoods on main level, freshly painted, traditional charm will delight upon entry. $469,000
Thomas Winn 404.358.3548

435 PAGE AVENUE
Enjoy 2030’s lifestyle in this classic 3BR/2BA Candler Park bungalow, walk to neighborhood shops, eateries, grocery and park, private master bath with stand-up shower, remodeled kitchen with adjacent breakfast room, guest bath features tumbled stone tile, jacuzzi tub and beadboard wainscoting, attractive, landscaped yard. $459,000
Thomas Winn 404.358.3548

1687 EAST CLIFTON ROAD
SOLD!
Thomas Winn 404.358.3548
BOOK CLUB NEWS:
Out in the World and Here at Home
by Faye Andreason

Books of foreign lands, other times, and different ways of life have always provided book clubs the types of reading experiences that spur spirited conversation. Then again, reading about close to home offers insight into the normal (and maybe not so normal) of our lives.

Arnchair travelers all, the Beer and a Book Club members were carried to WWII and post-War Hong Kong in The Piano Teacher by Janice Y.K. Lee. Although written along the lines of a screenplay, it is rich in history and introduced strong characters. In The Lemon Tree, by Sandy Tolan, the club joined a young Palestinian man who returns to his Israeli homestead after his family had fled 19 years earlier, only to find it occupied by an Israeli college student whose family had fled Europe for Israel during the Holocaust.

Deepdene Book Club enjoyed troopings to WWII France with a young girl in Sarah’s Key by Tatiana de Rosnay. Although the ending seemed a bit contrived, the book was well received. Again, starting in WWII but moving to China, Deepdene read Shanghai Girls: A Novel by Lisa See. This book, about two sisters from 1937 until 1957, gave the readers an opportunity to discuss the plight of the Chinese people during and after the war. Then they moved to the East Coast, first to Maine with a crowd-pleaser, Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout, and on to Charleston with Pat Conroy’s South by Broad. Olive, they decided, is a memorable and fascinating character and the book worthy of its recent Pulitzer Prize. Pat Conroy’s book is a bit contrived but easy to read.

Wine Women & Words last Tuesday’s Book Clubs traveled the same path, reading Girl with a Dragon Tattoo by the Swedish author Stieg Larsson. A page turner, the book drew high praise from both clubs. They then traveled to the oh-so-close to home 1960’s Mississippi to read Katherine Sockett’s The Help. The book chronicles southern family maid’s and their decision to record their personal stories. It was rated well written and readable. W W & W moved on to Shelters Me, the debut novel by Juliette Fay with the story of a Massachusetts woman’s year of transformation after the death of her husband, while Last Tuesday moved to WWII’s The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. This is a delightful story of how a book club during Nazi occupation changed the lives of every island member.

Harvard Book Club chose to partake in Charlie Wilson’s War by George Crile and Larry Frey with Nancy Horton. Loving Frank is the fictional account of Mamah Borthwick Cheney and her involvement with Frank Lloyd Wright. Then the club was lucky enough to join not only Kat, the eleven-year-old heroine of The Caucasian General Runs North in this great coming-of-age story, but host the author, Amanda Gable. Drawing high praise from all quarters, Gable’s first book was 15 years in the making and many were fortunate to hear this Decatur resident at the Labor Day Book Festival.

Not only do we have local writers close to home, but Cathy Boring of Proud Mary Book Club recently spotted Salman Rushdie at the local Public. Mustering the nerve to introduce herself and profess her love for his books, she was asked to help select her book for a recent reading. It was an ideal opportunity because Mr. Rushdie would have appreciated the club’s choice of Vanished World by Christ Lowrey: a book about Muslims, Christians, and Jews living together in medieval Spain. The club then chose a most appropriate follow-up, People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks. Tackling a shameful chapter in our history, local writer and Pulitzer Prize winner Douglas Blackmon’s book Slavery by Another Name chronicles the enslavement of black Americans in forced labor camps after the Civil War until WWII. The club agreed the book was both shocking and heart-breaking in its factual accounts of brutality and injustice during the era.

Reading can be one of the best ways to travel, to experience new and different worlds and to see one’s own world a bit differently. Local book clubs are fortunate to have local writers willing to share their personal journeys and give us insights into their process. So, take the time to appreciate such a wonderful learning community. And remember — next time you make your grocery list, be sure to jot your reading list on its back side. You never know when you might bump into the likes of Salman Rushdie in the produce aisle.

The Origin of the Christmas Tree

Germany is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition in the 16th Century when devout Christians brought decorated trees into their homes. The Christmas tree customs then became popular in other parts of Europe. In England, Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria, made Christmas trees fashionable by decorating the first English Christmas tree at Windsor Castle with candles and a variety of sweets, fruits and candies, in 1841. Of course, soon other wealthy English families followed suit, using the tree to display extravagant items as decorations. Charles Dickens described such a tree as being covered with dolls, miniature furniture, tiny musical instruments, cosmetics, sweets, cookies, fruits, and candies in the 1850s.

Most of the 19th Century Americans found Christmas tree trimming to be the exact opposite of one being displayed in the 1830s by the German settlers. Beginning in 1851 a tree was set up outside of a church. The people of the parish would bring a star and a return to paganism and asked the minister to take it in. Christmas ornaments were arriving from Germany and Christmas tree popularity was on the rise around the U.S. Electricity helped introduce Christmas lights, making it possible for Christmas trees to glow for days on end. With this, Christmas trees began to appear in town squares across the country. All important buildings, private and public, signaled the beginning of the Christmas holiday with the tree ceremony.

Early Christmas trees had, in place of angels, figures of fairies — the good spirits, through horns and bells were used to frighten off evil spirits. In Poland, Christmas trees are decorated with angels, snowflakes and other birds as well as many, many stars. In Sweden, Christmas trees are decorated with brightly painted wooden ornaments and straw figures of animals and children. In Denmark, tiny Danish flags along with mobiles of bells, stars, snowflakes and hearts are hung on Christmas trees. Japanese Christians prefer tiny fans and paper lanterns. Lithuanians cover their trees with straw bird cages, stars, and geometric shapes. The straw sends a wish for good crops in the coming year. Czechoslovakians display ornaments made from painted egg shells.

A Ukrainian Christmas tree has a spider and web for good luck. Legend has it that a poor woman had nothing to put in her children’s tree woke on Christmas morning to find the branches covered with spiders who turned at silver by the rising sun.

source: www.theholidays.com/christmas/history/xmas_tradition

The Piano Teacher: _______________________

Charlie Wilson’s War: ____________

Potato Pie Society: __________________

Wine Women & Words: ____________________

The Help: ____________________

Deepdene Book Club: ____________________

Harvard Book Club: ____________________

The Caucasian General Runs North: ____________________

Sisters of the Book: ____________________
Obituary

Lauretta McKenna Miller died unexpectedly at her home on July 23, 2009. The cause was a heart attack. She was seventy-seven years old.

Lauretta and her husband Stan moved to Atlanta in 1979. They purchased their home in Druid Hills in 1985. Both previously were teachers at private preparatory schools in Virginia. In Atlanta, Stan, a computer analyst, taught computer information systems at Clayton State College prior to his death in 1993. Both were avid outdoors people and campers. Stan’s ashes were taken to the Georgia mountains.

Lauretta received her undergraduate degree from Radcliffe University and later earned two Masters degrees, one in political science. Besides her teaching experience, Lauretta worked in the State of Georgia’s Computer Department until her retirement after twenty years of service.

She had strong interests in both local and national issues. They included loyal support of the Druid Hills Civic Association as a Director and as a Division Chair. She became an avid champion of public radio and Atlanta station WABE. She was also a life-long Democrat. In retirement, she attended Elder Hostels in Poland and Ukraine. Lauretta was a regular contributor to “Letter” column, in the Druid Hills News (DHN), and participated in the Community Alliance to Improve Emory Village. Some of these issues. They included support of the Druid Hills Computer Department until her retirement after twenty years of service.

She was seventy-seven years old. On Saturday, September 5, 2009, The Rev. John L. Roddy, Rector of St. Hilda of Whitby Parish of the Anglican Catholic Church, conducted a brief service in her back yard, where friends witnessed the scattering of her ashes. She is survived by a brother, Fred McKenna, of Altamont, Florida.

Fall for a Japanese Maple By Paula Refi

Few species incite plant lust as surely as a well-grown Japanese maple (Acer palmatum). Every gardener wants at least one, and more acquisitive gardeners turn into dedicated collectors. With their extraordinary form and outstanding foliage, Japanese maples are stunning four-season landscape features. Winter reveals their elegant branching, almost like living sculpture. Delicate leaves emerge in spring in a range of colors from pale green and pink, to red or burgundy. Their brilliant foliage is most effective in fall, which is an ideal time to plant (some would say enthusiastic) one in the garden.

Choosing from among the hundreds of named varieties can be a daunting task. Determine the tree’s desired mature size, shape and color before making a selection. The five- to nine-lobed leaves are delicately tapered, creating the remarkably fine texture that is the signature of the species. Some varieties have palm-shaped leaves (hence, the palmatum designation), while others are more thread-like, with finely toothed margins (the dissectum group). The largest can mature to 20 feet. Others remain like weeping shrubs, more broad than they are tall. Consider all these characteristics before deciding on a tree’s placement.

With age, a Japanese maple becomes an important focal point. A single specimen creates an especially elegant effect sited near water, where the reflection magnifies its beauty. Several may be grouped as understory trees at the edge of a woodland. In a postage-stamp patio garden, a tall variety can function as a major landscape element, even casting a little shade. A weeping threadleaf selection works well on a slope. Surprisingly, a small Japanese maple will thrive contentedly in a container for many years.

The more brilliant Japanese maples garner the most attention, but there are situations where varieties with pale green and chartreuse foliage are better choices. This is the case if the plant is seen against red brick, a dark fence or in the shade, where the pale foliage provides more vivid contrast. What grows beneath the tree is important as well. Avoid distracting annual color; a tidy groundcover that forms a green carpet is all that’s needed. Possibilities include mondo grass, liriope and Japanese pachysandra.

Several Japanese maple cultivars have proven themselves in Southern landscapes over the years. Among the reliable performers, ‘bloodgood’ is widely available and matures to more than 20 feet. It has a reputation for displaying the deepest red foliage and retaining that color in the heat of summer. ‘Oshio beni’ is shorter and has orange-red leaves that turn to flame in autumn. ‘Sango kaku’, the corall bark maple, is prized for the unique winter effect of it red branches. Its fall foliage is clear yellow.

Among the red dissection cultivars, ‘Red Dragon’ and ‘Tamakem yama’ are recommended. ‘Viridis’ is the industry standard in the green-leaved category. ‘Waterfall’ is similar in color, but more pendulous. Both have yellow fall foliage. Many gardeners believe that Japanese maples are always expensive. While it is true that mature “museum quality” trees can bring a princely sum, small trees are very reasonably priced. They are exquisitely beautiful at any age, and there is much enjoyment to be had in nurturing a young tree whose loveliness improves with time. Plants labeled as seedlings are sometimes available. They lack the pedigree of named cultivars, but they do have majestic structure and pretty foliage.

The color sequence from spring to fall will be unpredictable but invariably pleasing. Seedlings are a good choice for gardeners who like to be surprised. Japanese maples thrive in ordinary well-drained soil in a range of exposures from sun to light shade. Avoid locations in wind and baking afternoon sun that will damage the delicate leaves. They suffer from few significant pests or diseases, although Asian ambrosia beetle has been observed in recent years. The beetles bore into limbs and inoculate them with a fungus, for which there is no effective treatment. Every gardener, regardless of its size, has a spot for a Japanese maple, and there is a candidate for every gardening budget. Don’t be afraid to lose you heart to one this fall.

Savers’ Sanctuary

Atlanta’s Choice for Self Storage
First Full Month FREE!
*
* humidity & temperature controlled
* 24-hour automated access
* Over 30 security cameras
* Clean indoor environment
* Small to large spaces
* Covered loading area
* Secure locking systems
* Packing supplies available
* FREE truck rental at move in*

Three convenient locations near you!

Atlanta 404.985.8729
540 Northside Drive NW, Atlanta, GA 30318
*Located near Emory University, just off Clairmont Rd*

Decatur 404.292.0606
780 N. Decatur Rd, Decatur, GA 30030
*Located near Agnes Scott College*

Emory/VaHi 404.888.9688
1248 Zonolite Road, Atlanta, GA 30306
*Located near Emory University*

Atlanta’s Choice for Self Storage
First Full Month FREE!
*
* humidity & temperature controlled
* 24-hour automated access
* Over 30 security cameras
* Clean indoor environment
* Small to large spaces
* Covered loading area
* Secure locking systems
* Packing supplies available
* FREE truck rental at move in*

Three convenient locations near you!

Atlanta 404.985.8729
540 Northside Drive NW, Atlanta, GA 30318
*Located near Emory University, just off Clairmont Rd*

Decatur 404.292.0606
780 N. Decatur Rd, Decatur, GA 30030
*Located near Agnes Scott College*

Emory/VaHi 404.888.9688
1248 Zonolite Road, Atlanta, GA 30306
*Located near Emory University*

Please support the Paideia School Varsity Baseball Team by recycling your Christmas Tree!

Saturday, January 2 • 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Cost: $15.00 for regular trees • $20.00 for trees over 6 feet tall

To schedule a tree pickup, email paideiavrecycling@gmail.com or call Scott Metzloff at 404-538-2877.

The baseball team would like to thank Marcia Weber and Gardens to Love for their support of the tree recycling effort!
The Druid Hills News…continued from page 5

Druid Hills School…continued from page 5

the only grocery that delivered, and it added a whopping price for doing so, which was perfectly legitimate. Not all the families had cars in those days, and those who had them would get stuck in the mud in bad weather.

The street car line stopped at Emory’s entrance gate and turned back to Atlanta. The 20 minutes schedule often lengthened to nearly an hour. The car stop was so isolated we ladies did not like to wait there alone, and we always telephoned for someone to meet us on our return home. There was not a building from Mr. Candler’s cream brick home on Lullwater Road to Mr. W. D. Thompson’s red brick home on the corner of North Decatur and Clifton. Other houses on Clifton Road were Dr. Edgar Johnson’s, the Gordon Stipes’, the Howard’s, the Coopers’ and the Arthur Tufts’. My mother and I lived with my sister and her husband, the Gordon Stipes, across from the site of what is now the Emory Hospital nurses’ home.

The two outstanding events of that first fall at Emory Grammar School were the Thanksgiving and Christmas programs. All the parents came. I remember that Marie Goodyear sang, and Eva Rumble, Lellita Stipe, Rachel Johnson, and Melissa Jack recited, and these and all others were in the plays. I hesitate, though, to begin naming personnel for fear of leaving out some.

At Christmas time my bachelor beau, from Hawkinsville, came to Emory to see me and he persuaded me to marry him during the holidays. Perhaps I should have made him wait till the school term ended - - - but he had already waited. I regretted giving up the school, but I was not under contract, I was just helping out in an emergency. When I called Dr. Odum he very understandably granted me a release from my job. He assured me he had other graduate students from which to draw. Miss Ruth Calhoun was the one who took my place.

A few days later, on the last day of 1919, ours was the first wedding in the beautiful marble chapel in Emory’s School of Theology. There had been one marriage ceremony there with only a witness or two, but ours was the first wedding with guests and “all the trimmings.” Mrs. W. P. Melton and a group of other faculty wives decorated the chapel, and Emily Melton sang. Mildred Eakes played the wedding music, my brother Fielding gave me away, and my Uncle Walter Dillard performed the ceremony. My husband, Lucian Whipple, known as “Colonel,” or “Lawyer Whipple,” throughout these parts, brought me back to South Georgia to “live-happily-ever-afterward.”

A few years later, on one of my visits back to Emory, the three little Stipes proudly took me to see their new school. And there was the magnificent brick building with its imposing new name of Druid Hills School, not on the Emory campus now but near enough to seem always a part of the university, someway. Then later, another fine building was erected.

The beautiful, level grounds are indeed a contrast to that slanting, rocky, scrub-oak hillside of the first school. When I think of the makeshift beginnings in the crowded little rooms of the big wooden shack of Emory’s temporary chapel, I am proud of how the school has grown to more than 2000 students now in the splendid, big buildings, and I am very proud of having been associated with its pioneer days. May Druid Hills School go on to greater glory, always keeping in view the building of character and high ideals along with its material growth and its imparting of knowledge.
2010 Druid Hills Home and Garden Tour & Artist Market -- April 16, 17, 18 --

Mark Your Calendar Now!

With the end of a beautiful fall, planning for the 2010 Druid Hills Home and Garden Tour & Artist Market is well underway! Next year's event will take place April 16 - 18 and promises to be a visual treat for all participants. Make plans now to tour some of the most beautiful homes in one of Atlanta's oldest and most distinguished neighborhoods. Look forward to attending the Artist Market with an array of outstanding artists from around the country.

Plus, there are still plenty of opportunities to participate in the 2010 event! The Tour & Artist Market committee welcomes anyone interested in volunteering to join us in planning, as well as those who would like to become a sponsor or docent. The Planning Committee meets on the second Wednesday of each month, from 11:45am – 1:00pm, at St. John's Lutheran Church, with attendees bringing a brown bag lunch. We welcome and need new volunteers of all backgrounds - whether you are new to the neighborhood or a veteran resident looking for new ways to connect and give back to the community. Several chair and committee positions are open. The Druid Hills Home and Garden Tour & Artist Market promises to provide a fun and rewarding experience for all involved!

• To become a volunteer on the planning committee, contact Dick Shuey at rps@springspring.com

• To become a sponsor, contact Bonnie Wolf at bonnie.wolf@harrynorman.com

• To serve as a home docent or as Artist Market staff, and receive a free ticket to the 2009 Tour, contact rps@springspring.com

So, don't delay…mark your calendar for April 16-18 and plan to sample the splendor of some of Druid Hills’ most stunning homes! Plan for a full day of enjoyment for yourself and friends, have lunch with us, and attend the Artist Market, as well! For more information, please call the tour hotline at (404) 524-TOUR or visit www.druidhills.org/tour.

Look for more information and exciting Tour home previews and Artist Market highlights in the spring edition of The Druid Hills News!
Druid Hills Civic Association

Not yet a member of DHCA? Use the form below and join today!

Join online at www.druidhills.org/join/memberform.htm

DRUID HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION—MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please [ ] enroll me [ ] renew me as a member of the Druid Hills Civic Association (DHCA).

PLEASE PRINT:

Name(s): _____________________________________________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________________________________________

City: ___________________________ State: _______ ZIP: ______________

Home phone: __________________ Work phone: __________________

Mobile phone: __________________ Fax: __________________

E-mail: ________________________ Occupation: ______________________

Membership Involvement and Interests

Please indicate your level of interest in the following areas on a scale from 0 to 10.

(0 = Not at all interested  5 = Neutral  10 = Very interested)

____ Public Relations/Communications   ___ Newsletter

____ Historic Preservation   ___ Membership Planning

____ Traffic/Urban Design   ___ Land Use/Zoning

____ Tour of Homes   ___ Flyer Distribution

____ Peavine Watershed   ___ Other—specify ______________________

[ ] Please feel free to contact me for help

Annual Dues (Check one:)

____ Individual/Family Member $25 - $49 Amount Paid: $___________

____ Sustaining Member $50 - $99

____ Druid Member $100 - $249 Please make checks payable to Druid Hills Civic Association.

____ Olmsted Member $250 or more Mail to: P.O. Box 363, Decatur, GA 30031-0363

"RESERVED"

A small tract including the interior of a block off Ridgewood Dr has recently been put up for sale. The site includes an area designated as "Reserved" on the original subdivision plat map. Nearby neighbors have approached DeKalb County about purchasing the "Reserved" portion for Green Space. The DHCA Board supports the designation of this area as a Conservation Park, and has nominated the site for inclusion in the County’s Greenspace Program. A conservation park would be historically accurate, given the original parcel designation. To our knowledge, this is the only such parcel in the neighborhood in private ownership. All the others are either in public or non-profit ownership. The site development could be similar to that of Emory’s Burbank Park, which DHCA also supports.
NATALIE GREGORY
Welcome to Your New Home

1411 MONTEVALLO CIRCLE, OAK GROVE
Every detail in this 2005 six bedroom showplace (home of an architect/designer) sings. Custom stainless steel appliances in the gourmet kitchen overlook an eating area with fireplace and family room with built-ins. Enjoy fresh air on the vaulted ceiling screened-in porch, read a book in the library and entertain in the formal dining room. You won’t be able to resist the owner’s suite with not only a double vanity/separate shower bathroom, but also a separate dressing room/closet and two additional his/her closets. Thoughtful storage throughout, including a mudroom off the double garage. Located in established Oak Grove neighborhood with excellent schools and walking distance to neighborhood restaurants and pool/tennis club. $860,000

159 VIDAL BOULEVARD, DECATUR
Located on one of the most sought-after streets in Decatur within walking distance to award winning Clairemont Elementary School. This classic bungalow offers five bedrooms, three bathrooms plus a nursery/office. Main level includes formal living room with fireplace and built-in bookcases, formal dining room, kitchen and spacious family room with views of the beautifully landscaped, private backyard. Upstairs accommodates a sitting area, owner’s suite, two other bedrooms, large hall bath and a nursery. Spacious owner’s suite offers built-ins, walk-in closet and elegant bathroom with double vanities, jetted tub, towel warmer and separate shower. Full basement with interior/exterior entrance plus two car garage offers ample storage. $760,000

412 PONCE DE LEON PLACE, DECATUR
Short stroll to downtown Decatur, this home has been renovated and expanded to offer a floor plan perfect for entertaining. This four bedroom and three-and-a-half bathroom home features a formal living room with fireplace, library with built-in bookshelves, separate dining room and screened porch. The light filled kitchen features ample counter and cabinet space opens to the spacious family room. Owner’s suite located on main level offers a private bathroom with Garden tub and separate steam shower. Second level provides two bedrooms, each with a private bathroom, and a media/playroom. Hardwood floors, crown molding throughout, and large brick patio complete the package. $675,000

209 CHELSEA DRIVE, DECATUR
Ideally situated between Emory and downtown Decatur, this five-bedroom four and a half bathroom home will wow you with its elegant renovation. You won’t find a prettier kitchen (including beautiful white cabinetry, granite countertops and stainless steel appliances) opening to the spacious den and overlooking a private slate patio, perfect for entertaining. Winner of the 2002 City of Decatur Design Award, this light filled home features special details such as lovely custom windows, built-in shelving, gorgeous hardwood floors and fabulous crown molding. Unwind in the master bath, which includes a whirlpool tub, separate shower and double vanities. Also includes a teens in-Law suite on the terrace level. $650,000

2001 WESTMINSTER WAY, DRUID HILLS
Located in the desirable Emory Grove neighborhood that offers two parks with many amenities, this charming three-bedroom, three-bath home is situated on a hill-top lot. The inviting floor plan is perfect for entertaining with an entry foyer, living room with fireplace and separate dining room leading to a screened porch. Den off of the kitchen leads to a large deck and level backyard that adjoins the park. Upstairs features a bonus room with bedroom, nursery and full bathroom. Special features include breakfast bar, built in shelving, hardwood floors throughout, crown molding and plenty of storage. One car garage and mudroom entry to the kitchen are a plus. Located in the enviable Fernbank Elementary school district. $399,000

1160 PROVIDENCE PLACE, TOCO HILL
Providence Place is located in the popular Druid Hills and Toco Hills area, within walking distance to shops, restaurants, entertainment and a short drive to Emory and CDC. This executive townhome is sited in a quiet location with views of the pool and lush landscaping. Home offers three-bedrooms, three-and-a-half bathrooms and an attached garage with room for storage. The open floor plan features kitchen with views to the living room with fireplace and a rear private deck. Spacious owner’s suite features a spa-like bathroom with garden tub, separate shower, double vanities and walk-in closet. $310,000

NATALIE GREGORY, Your Home Marketing Specialist
404 550 5113 direct • 404 564 5560 office
Natalie@NatalieGregorySOLD.com • NatalieGregorySOLD.com
315 West Ponce de Leon, Suite 100, Decatur, Georgia 30030