

ROCK-TALK

The Gibraltar Neighborhood
Association, Inc. Newsletter



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GNA Dues are Due!

At the last regular meeting of the Gibraltar Neighborhood Association in January, it was decided that in order to simplify bookkeeping, dues would need to be paid between January 1 and March 15th of each year. Even if dues are paid later in the year, they still represent only that calendar year. Therefore, paying \$25.00 dues in July would still result in another fee of \$25 for dues being payable by March 15th of 2012.

Dues are important, as they go to pay for welcome baskets for new neighbors, sympathy cards and memorials, costs incurred for the newsletter, the Christmas party, dues to the DNA, and any other costs incurred for grant applications. ■

New Clubs Forming — Take Part!

Garden Club

Spring is coming!!! A few of us have been talking about starting a Garden Club. The first one in Council Bluffs was started right here in this neighborhood by Mrs. Cutler, who lived on the corner of Clark and Turley. Right now the concept is to meet maybe once a month to share ideas, tips and of course plants. If interested, contact Paulette Brandt at 328-7399 or e-mail pbrandt45@yahoo.com.



Walking Club

Interested in Exercise?? How about a walking club/group. We would meet at Kirn Park at the top of 5th Ave. (the old Kirn Field) between 4 and 5:00, 2 or 3 days a week. This would not be regimented; just come walk, chat and breathe the fresh air. The track right now is a bit iffy, so we would wait until the weather warms, maybe the end of March, when they have smoothed the surface a bit. If you are interested, contact Paulette Brandt: 328-7399, or just show up. Everyone is welcome.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- March 4-5
Restore Omaha Conf.
(see article for locations)
- March 8, 7:00 p.m.
GNA general meeting
Dave/Amy Adams' house
528 Clark Ave.
- March 16, 7:00 p.m.
Book Club
Cory Peters' house
241 5th Ave.
- May 10, 7:00 p.m.
GNA general meeting
Dave & Paulette's house
130 5th Ave.

RESTORE OMAHA Conference and Exhibition, March 4-5

Inspiring and teaching attendees to become responsible stewards of older properties is the theme for the sixth annual Restore Omaha Conference, Saturday, March 5, 2011 at Metro's South Campus at 27th & Q Streets.

Keynote speaker is Rudy Christian, executive director of the Preservation Trades Network in Burbank, Ohio. Christian will expand on the theme by speaking on the importance of building for permanence and sustainability by valuing restoration and honoring the place of the trades in our culture.

"People who are stewards of historic properties care, if they realize that maintaining them requires the same skills as building them in the first place," said Christian.

While in town, Christian will visit area community colleges to explain the importance of training the next generation of craftsmen.

"The world we live in has, for the most part, has become like living in one giant big-box store. We have become accustomed to our manufactured world and have lost our

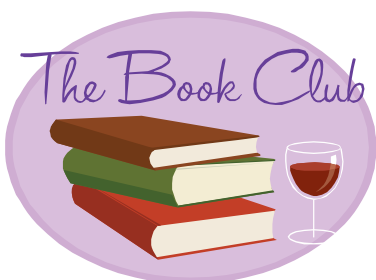
memory of what the world was like when everything we saw or came in contact with was handmade," Christian wrote in a Dec. 14, 2010 blog.

An opening reception at the Ambassador Apartments, a 1928 building designed in a Spanish Colonial Revival style at 111 S. 49th Ave., Omaha, will take place Friday, March 4 from 7 to 10 p.m. The building's owners are working to bring the historic property back to its original glory. Attendees will view one of the two-story, 2,800 sq. ft. penthouse suites and tour several of the planned apartments during the evening. Reception cost is \$15. Go to www.ambassadorundee.com and visit the gallery page under amenities for a sneak peek inside the building.

At the Conference, attendees can select from 16 sessions to attend. Topics include historic hardware, lead removal, Bradbury and Bradbury wallpapers, researching the history of your house, rehabilitating historic storefronts, roof restoration and high velocity systems for older buildings, along with the opportunity to hear about the trans-

formation of a 1901 Colonial Revival home overlooking Omaha's Hanscom Park and the Opera House in Fremont. Morning and afternoon breaks, live demonstrations by craftsmen along with a Restoration Jam at the end of the day will allow opportunities to network and to gather ideas and solutions from other restoration-minded property owners and from the 25 businesses and organizations exhibiting at the event. **(Note: The GNA will be represented as part of the Downtown Neighborhood Alliance, the only Iowa organization asked to participate!!)**

Cost to attend the March 5 conference is \$35. Admission includes the keynote lecture, three educational sessions, lunch, demonstrations and the Restoration Jam reception. Visit www.restoreomaha.org for full details. Call 402-968-3349 or e-mail Nicole Malone at nmalone@thearchitecturealoffices.com with any questions. ■



Like to read? Join in the GNA Book Club! We have a great time visiting one another's homes and building friendships as we discuss books while enjoying a glass of wine or a soda. Recent books we've read have been "To Kill a Mockingbird" and "Catcher in the Rye." We're now moving on to a newer novel, "The Help" by author Kathryn Stockett. Considering the raves this book has received, it should be a wonderful read! We'll be discussing this book at our next meeting, March 16, 7:00 p.m. at Cory Peters' house. Contact Patti Han-
nan for more information at 323-8600. ■

GNA News from Member and Board Meetings

The first meeting of 2011 was held January 25 at the home of Steve and Chris Gorman. The top priority at the meeting was to determine our new board of directors. Five board members served their one-year term: Paulette Brandt: Secretary, Cory Peters, Steve Gorman: President, Gary Lopez: Vice President, Mary Madison: Treasurer.

Cory Peters stepped down to concentrate on the newsletter. Gary Lopez also stepped down. The new GNA officers are as follows: Paulette Brandt: President, Susie Dew: Vice President, and Mary Madison: Treasurer. The position of secretary is yet to be filled. Sheila Graham, Roland Lynch, Pam Bogardus and Marge Leaders will continue their term on the board for another year. Pam will also continue as our DNA liaison.

It was decided that meetings will increase from

quarterly to bi-monthly. **Meetings will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of the odd months.** We will also change the meeting location to Members' homes. See the calendar on page one for upcoming meeting locations.

Additional meeting discussion involved the brick street project and how we might be able to work with the DNA to incorporate the project into the plan for a historic walking route from the 100 block of Broadway up Glen, past Kirn and down 5th Avenue to Haymarket and/or the Dodge House.

It was also agreed that the board would meet monthly on the 3rd Monday of the month, to allow for feedback from the DNA and to plan events and keep on top of issues. ■

Things a Burglar Won't Tell You

Watch for more tips in future issues. Thanks to Ann Walters for this helpful info!

1. Of course I look familiar. I was here just last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new refrigerator.
2. Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.
3. Love those flowers. That tells me you have taste... and taste means there are nice things inside. And those yard toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what type of gaming system they have.
4. Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.
5. If it snows while you're out of town, get a neighbor to create car and foot tracks into the house. Virgin drifts in the driveway are a dead giveaway.
6. If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if it's set. That makes it too easy.
7. A good security company alarms the window over the sink. And the windows on the second floor, which often access the master bedroom - and your jewelry. It's not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there too. ■



Get to Know Your Neighbors: Ann J. Walters, by Cory Peters

We're lucky enough to have some long-time residents in the Gibraltar neighborhood, and Ann Walters is in that category. Ann lives at 220 5th Ave., a home built in 1900 by architect Johannes "John" Myrtue. Within six months of the home's completion, it was purchased by Ann's grandparents, Clara and William McConnell. Her family has owned it ever since. Ann's daughters, Cathy and Ann, also live with her, making them the fourth generation to live in the house.

Ann went to school in Council Bluffs (with Bill Cutler) and graduated from A.L. in 1942, going to Monticello Junior College and then on to Nebraska where she received her teaching degree. "I always knew I wanted to be a teacher," she said.

Ann taught first graders in Council Bluffs, starting at Pusey (for 18 years), then one year at Dodge and finishing her career at Washington Elementary, retiring at age 70. Think how many young minds she has molded over the years!

Some of Ann's favorite memories from growing up in the neighborhood include playing on the Gibraltar hill. "We dug elaborate caves at the top of the hill and played in them all the time. We especially loved having dirt clod fights!" she recalled, laughing.

Another funny memory is how the neighborhood kids would sled all the way down Fifth Avenue in the wintertime. "There weren't that

many cars back then," she said. "We'd position people at all the intersections so we could stop traffic if a car did happen by. I remember one time my friend made it all the way to St. Francis Church!" (which is where the Court House is now).

"One of the obstacles we frequently had to sled around was when neighborhood eccentric Julia Officer would come outside and empty her chamber pot right in the middle of the street! We tried to cover it with snow, but you wanted to be sure and avoid it!" she chuckled.

Other favorite pastimes were tag, hide and go seek, and all the fun climbing and games on Gibraltar.

Friends will recall Ann's love of swimming and sailing. She was on the swim team at Monticello Jr. College and loved it. Many Bluffs residents remember her antics at the Lakeshore Country Club, where for years she would regularly do hand-stands off the diving board, organize Esther Williams-style water ballets, and otherwise entertain all the kids with water games.

At age 50, Ann got the sailing bug. She took some classes and honed her skills from a tutor who was a former student! She towed her sailboat all around the Midwest, enjoying the variety of lakes and scenery.

Ann's love of sports doesn't stop there, however. Many know her as an avid Nebraska Husker fan. Starting when she was quite young, her father, Dr. Best, would take Ann and

her brother on the train to Lincoln for football games. "We packed a fried chicken lunch and tailgated before the game, although it wasn't called tailgating back then!" Ann recalled.

Ann may be best known, though, for her love of the College World Series (CWS). She has been going to the Series for 58 years, 50 of them as the Series' longest season ticket holder. She appeared in a documentary about the CWS, as well as being featured in Sports Illustrated and on ESPN. She already has her tickets for next season at the new stadium!

Watch for Ann on the front porch when the weather gets warmer, and be sure to stop by to say hello. She has some wonderful stories I'm sure she'd love to share with you! ■



Your Newsletter Staff

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We welcome your input!
Please contact any of us with suggestions on content you want to see covered in future issues, or if you'd like to contribute an article! ■

RECIPE Corner:

Savory Baked Stew *provided by Patti Hannan*

- 2 lbs lean stew beef, cubed
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 Tblsp onion soup mix (1 pkg)
- 6 med. potatoes, quartered
- 4 carrots, sliced
- 10-1/2 oz. can cream of celery soup
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 cup sherry

Put meat in heavy casserole or Dutch oven; sprinkle with salt, pepper and onion soup mix. Add potatoes, carrots and onion. Combine celery soup, water and sherry; pour over meat. Cover, and bake at 250-300 degrees for 5 hours. Serves 5-6. Patti doubles the soup, water and sherry, as they like more of the gravy.

And, of course, serve with Old Market Sourdough bread!



We're in need of your recipe ideas, news tidbits, information on individual or family accomplishments, deaths, illnesses, etc.!!

Please contact any of your Rock-Talk staff to share your news & info!

Would You Consider Being Our Historian?

What do you think about GNA having a historian? Someone to chronicle the history of the Gibraltar Neighborhood and the GNA, maybe keeping copies of all the newsletters, the minutes of the meetings and any pictures of events, etc. If anyone would like to volunteer, contact one of the board members or bring it up at the next meeting in March.



Gibraltar Neighborhood Association: Membership Registration Form

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Become a Gibraltar Neighborhood Association Member!! Yearly dues are \$25 *per household*. In order to be eligible to vote for board candidates and other issues, you must be a paid association member. Make checks payable to and mail payment to:

Gibraltar Neighborhood Association ■ P.O. Box 1971 ■ Council Bluffs, IA 51502-1971