

ravenswood manor community newsletter winter 2002



Published by Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association (RMIA) P.O. Box 25486, Chicago, IL 60625
RMIA Hotline (312) 409-3213 - Newsletter Online at www.ravenswoodmanor.com

Thanks to Manor Volunteers

Manor/Wilson Garden Cleanup - Seeing an opportunity to beautify this corner, **Sue Davenport** with help from **Anne Rozmin, Elaine Taylor, Brian Basler, Pat and Erin Straky** took a few hours on a Saturday afternoon to pull weeds and get the garden ready for winter.

Manor resident **Bonnie Takehara** took it upon herself to distribute information packets to every bungalow in Ravenswood Manor to help get the word out on the City's **Historic Chicago Bungalow Initiative**. This program provides financial incentives to owners who rehabilitate their bungalow.

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RMIA Adds to Holiday Decorations

Two new snowflakes add a festive touch to street lights on Wilson Avenue to complement the decorations near Ravenswood Manor Park. Safe and happy holidays to all from the RMIA!

Manor Crosswalks Almost Done

The RMIA has worked with State Representative John Fritchey, Alderman Mell and the Chicago Department of Transportation over the past 2 years to add to the charm of Ravenswood Manor with new cobblestone crosswalks along Manor Ave.

The crosswalks at Eastwood and Manor are complete and look great. Part of the installation process is dependant on warmer weather for good results. We are committed to getting the job done right so work will resume in the Spring when 50 degree weather returns.

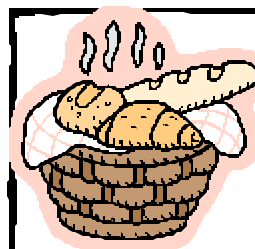
Ravenswood Manor Resident Hosts Coffee, Tea and School Awareness

Recently, I began the difficult school selection process for my soon-to-be-preK-son. Feeling overwhelmed, I decided to host a cozy "School Coffee" in early November. I invited two groups of parents: those who had already gone through the selection process, and those like me who had to start making decisions. Twelve different preschools and elementary

of Angels (pre-k through elementary), Blaine (magnet cluster), Bell (neighborhood gifted center), LaSalle Language Academy (magnet), InterAmerican Magnet School, Hawthorne Scholastic Academy (magnet), Newberry Math and Science Academy (magnet), Near North Montessori (private), Rogers Park Elementary (private), and North Park Elementary (private).

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schools were represented, all by parents in our neighborhood: North Park Church Pre-K, Cardinal Bernadine Early Childhood Center, Queen



Interested in a delicious home cooked meal?
Call home café by 9:00am, order your meal for pickup, and take home after 4:00 p.m. (773) 866-0345

...Coffee, Tea and School Awareness

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Parents representing these schools graciously took the time to share their experiences the pros and cons of their picks, and answered MANY questions. As you might guess, each parent was overall extremely pleased with their choice. As one parent of a public magnet school student put it, "I can't BELIEVE I don't get an invoice at the end of each month for this education!"

The Coffee was successful and so informative that other residents have volunteered to host another for other new parents nearing the school selection process. The next Coffee will probably be hosted

in late winter

or early spring. This next one is, again, intended to inform new school-searching parents about their options, but also to increase awareness of how we, in Ravenswood Manor, could get more involved in Waters elementary and see it become a neighborhood school. Wouldn't that be awesome?

If you are interested in attending an upcoming School Coffee, either as a "need to be informed" or a "happy to inform" parent, contact Hollis Russinoff at 463-4420, e-mail hollisr@uic.edu OR Terri Versace at 509-1656, e-mail ttatting@earthlink.net.

By Terri Versace

Pokorni Ad Here

Hultzen Ad Here

The *Ravenswood Manor Community Newsletter* is published by the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association (RMIA), a non-profit group of Ravenswood Manor residents formed to implement the will of its members. All those who live or do business in Ravenswood Manor are eligible to become board members. The Board meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Horner Park field house. Meetings are open to all members.

To join the RMIA, volunteer or make a suggestion, call the RMIA hotline at (312) 409-3213 or send us an e-mail at rmiaboard@ravenswoodmanor.com

....Thanks

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More information available by calling 312-642-9900 or by visiting www.chicagobungalow.org

The **Arthur LaPointe family** renovated the raised planter in LaPointe Park. The decaying railroad ties have been replaced by beautiful stonework and features a sundial statue. The LaPointe family gathered for a memorial on October 30, Arthur's birthday. Arthur LaPointe lived in Ravenswood Manor for 34 years and served as RMIA President. Arthur and his wife Kittie started the first dance studio at the corner of Francisco and Eastwood.

By Brian Basler

2002-2003 RMIA Board Members

Congratulations to the following 2002-2003 RMIA Board Members:

- Nic Acciari
- Brian Basler
- Deb Bombka
- Julie Gelfond
- Geoff Gieske
- Dan Kyle
- Tim McCarthy
- Anne Marie Mitchell
- Alan Mueller
- Paul Ogden
- Hollis Russinof
- Susan Siegert
- Josh Silverman
- Gary Smith
- Pat Straky
- Don Valentin
- Eileen Valentin
- Terri Versace
- Scott Wheeler

The entire RMIA Board is looking forward to an exciting year of meeting the needs of our community.

Get the latest news via e-mail

Our newsletter is delivered quarterly but there are many times when there are important neighborhood meetings, social events or alerts that pop up between newsletters. Stay informed by subscribing at www.ravenswoodmanor.com You are able to unsubscribe at any time.

Time to Renew Your RMIA Membership or Become a Member

For only \$10, you can enjoy the benefits of a 2003 RMIA membership.

The RMIA is a volunteer organization that seeks to achieve the following on behalf of Ravenswood Manor families and businesses:

- To maximize the safety of our families and property;
- To promote a sense of community among

neighborhood residents;

- To maintain/increase property values;
- To ensure consistent delivery of city services; and
- To preserve the beauty of our trees, parks and parkways.

To get involved and support RMIA activities, just complete the form below and send it in with a check for \$10. Thanks for your support!

RMIA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please consider renewing your membership today by filling out this membership application. Your membership fee will be invested in the ongoing improvement of our neighborhood.

Thank You!

RMIA Membership
P.O. Box 25486
Chicago, IL 60625

Membership Duration November 2002 — October 2003

Membership Fee \$10

Contribution \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

We're always looking for volunteers for various neighborhood activities. Let us know if we may contact you. Yes — No —

Which RMIA activities are most valuable to you?

Gov.-elect Heads List of Famous Manorites

November election results provided Ravenswood Manor with its newest celebrity resident Illinois Gov.-elect **Rod Blagojevich**, who joins an impressive list of prominent people who have lived in the Manor since 1913 when the subdivision opened.

Public officials who preceded Blagojevich in the Manor include Republican State Reps. **Elroy Sandquist Sr. and Jr.**, Aldermen **Dr. Joseph C. Ross** and **Samuel Gurman** of the 40th ward Municipal Court Judge **Jay A. Schiller** and Chicago Fire Commissioner **Michael J. Corrigan**.

National fame attaches to sports figures **Abe Saperstein** and **Sid Luckman**, both longtime Manor residents. Saperstein, born in London and reared in Ravenswood, founded the Harlem Globetrotters in the 1920's when he had a "day job" as physical-education instructor at Welles Park. Luckman was the T-formation quarterback of the Chicago Bears from 1939 until 1950, a proud era that brought NFL championships in 1940, '41 and '46.

Among lesser known sports figures who lived among us was **Randy-Ransom "Handsome Ransom" Jackson**, third baseman of the Chicago cubs for five years in the 1950's.

A special fame attaches to Army **Capt. Oberlin M. Carter**, who

served as an engineer in charge of rehabilitating harbors in Southern ports in the 1890's. After opening harbor channels clogged since the Civil War, Carter won appointment to a commission that led to building the Panama Canal. Capt. Carter was tried on charges of bribery before a court-martial that sent him to Leavenworth Prison for five years. Known as the "American Dreyfus," Carter claimed the charges were trumped up and spent decades trying to exonerate himself. He served as president of the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Assn. for four years immediately before his death in 1944.

Educators who lived here included **Dr. George C. Brook**, research director of the Chicago Public Schools; **Dr. John Byrne**, North Side district superintendent of schools, and **Arthur J. LaPointe**, an administrator in the technical department of the school system.

Central Scientific Company, a major producer of educational and laboratory equipment in Ravenswood, housed its president in the stately house on the southeast corner of Manor and Eastwood. Churches that owned houses here for their **clergy** included the Buena Memorial Presbyterian Church, Albany Park Methodist Church and the Salvation Army.

Among numerous Manor lawyers are **Darryl DePiest**, general counsel of the American Bar Association, and his wife, **Colleen Connell**, Illinois director

of the American Civil Liberties Union, as well as assistant state's attorneys and lawyers in private practice.

Members of the **Bach family** lived here among bricks fashioned at their Bach Brickyard on the site of Horner Park. **Richard Savage**, a longtime resident, descends from a pioneer Chicago family that in the 1840's opened Savage Brothers, kettle makers for the candy trade.

The medical profession has also been well represented. Honorary street signs at Sunnyside and Mozart memorialize **Dr. Frank Newell**, world-class ophthalmologist who took a hand in civic affairs. Oncologist **Dr. Robert Griffin** waged a losing battle to save the Ravenswood Hospital Medical Center from liquidation by the Advocate Health Care conglomerate.

Nor does the Manor lack for residents who ply unusual and exotic occupations. **Alaric "Rokko" Jans**, a former RMIA president, is composer in residence at the Chicago Shakespeare Theater at Navy Pier. Then there's **Steven Borgstrom**, who pilots Wendella Yachts, long operated by his family on the Chicago River and along the Lake Michigan shoreline. During winter months, he accompanies his wife, **Karen**, as she stages promotional events for Playboy magazine's beautiful and famous Playmates. "They're tough jobs," Borgstrom shrugs, "but somebody's got to do them."

By Richard C. Bjorklund

Francisco Train Station Renovation

On November 18, the CTA presented their plans for the Brown Line renovation which will expand the station platform to

accommodate eight car trains. The next planning meeting will be held in January and is open to the public. Further information about the Brown

Line project can be found at www.transitchicago.com. E-mail comments and questions to brownlinecomments@ctacipm.com.

Support Ravenswood Manor Businesses

One of the unique features of our neighborhood is our central retail district. Here is a listing of the businesses that make Ravenswood Manor their home. Each local business depends on our regular support and patronage.

Le Ballet Petit School of Dance

4630 N. Francisco
773-463-3385

Non-for-profit organization dedicated to providing quality dance education and performance opportunities for children age 3 through adult. This year marks their 46th anniversary. They have many levels of Ballet, Pointe, Tap, Salsa, and HipHop classes plus other offerings.

NEW

David Turrentine E.A.

4636 N. Francisco
773-509-1798

Income tax preparation, business taxes, consulting and book keeping.

***NEW* Gary Gissler Interiors**

4634 N. Francisco
Interior Design – Chicago / New York
773-583-1566

Family Health Alternatives

4638 Francisco Ave
773-509-1116
Offering Chiropractic services, massage therapy, acupuncture, nutrition counseling, and psychotherapy counseling.

Go Coffee Etc.

4642 Francisco
773-866-1394
Boutique coffee house and internet café. Now featuring samosas (Indian pastry filled with potatoes, peas and spices).

***NEW* Home Café**

4664 Manor
Brunch café open weekends 9:00-2:00
Catering for special occasions
Offers take home meals on weekdays
Call 773-866-0345

AEL Catering

4664 Manor
773-588-4549
Catering and personal chef services for corporate and social events. Distinctive fare for any occasion with attention to every detail.

***NEW* 21st Century Arts and Entertainment**

4668 Manor Ave
773-583-2100
Book music and entertainment for your next special event. 21st Century musicians perform a range of styles— Chicago blues to Kansas City swing; from the 40's to the 70's to the 90's and beyond. Visit www.funtwentyone.com

Chicago Shimpo Japanese Newspaper

4670 Manor
773-478-6170 (Bob or Yoko)
This office produces a Japanese biweekly newspaper that is circulated throughout the U.S. They have called Ravenswood Manor home for over 20 years. Try their classified advertising section to reach their Japanese speaking readers.

Manor Cleaners

4663 Manor Ave
773-478-4848
Dry Cleaning and Expert Alterations.
Hours Mon-Fri (7-7) Sat (8-6)

Law Offices

4669 Manor
773-583-8016
Attorneys: Margaret Byrne, Judith E. Fors, Leslie A. Wallin

Wheeler Multimedia Consulting

2724 W. Montrose Ave
773-866-2438
www.wheelermmm.com
Use Wheeler Multimedia for all your internet and interactive CD needs. Their services include DVD video production and interactive programming for web games. Specialists in Shockwave and Flash, they also offer training and support for technical issues and problems.