



HISTORIC MONTCLAIR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

founded 1907 Denver, CO

4th Quarter 2005

www.historicmontclair.org

Snacks With Santa

The HMCAI annual Snacks with Santa will be held on Sunday, December 18th, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the historic Molkery in Montclair Park.

This is a great opportunity for Historic Montclair families to have a pre-holiday get together. Crafts will be available for parents and their children to make together. Kids can talk to Santa in a fun, relaxed environment. Santa will give each child a small gift. Light refreshments will be served. Parents, please bring a small, wrapped gift (approximately \$5.00) for Santa's big gift exchange box - 1 gift for each child you bring. Gifts should be appropriate for any age, girl or boy.

Please join us for snacks, Santa, and crafts. We look forward to seeing you!

HMCAI General Membership Meeting / Inagural Beer & Wine Tasting

By Jerry Malia

HMCAI held a general membership meeting at our historic Molkery on Saturday, October 22nd. The membership meeting, from 3pm-4pm, was followed by a Colorado-brands beer & wine tasting courtesy of Mayfair Liquors. The event was catered by Serioz, while a string quartet from Johnson & Wales University filled the Molkery with sweet sounds. All dues-paying HMCAI members were invited to the beer and wine tasting event. The event was free for all members and was the first adult-oriented event HMCAI has hosted in a long time.

Many community members, several HMCAI Board members, along with Marcia Johnson, our District 5 Councilwoman, were in attendance. Marcia's informative presentation concerned many community issues, such as the East Colfax redevelopment plans, the re-naming or branding of East Colfax, the Westerly Creek beautification program, the inaugural Colfax Marathon and a new zoning proposition for property along and adjacent to Colfax Avenue. We also discussed the recent successes at Montclair Elementary, the current real estate market and the tremendous changes Montclair is experiencing.

We will continue to offer a wide variety of events for the community and our members (4th of July celebration, Snacks with Santa, Easter Egg Hunt, etc.) and hope to build on the success of our first adult-oriented event. If you have suggestions for other events HMCAI can host, please email us at info@historicmontclair.org.

Christmas in Old Montclair

by Fred Jeffries

Oh what a joy it was to go to the post office and find an invitation in your box to a party at Richthofen Castle! In the old days the holidays were celebrated locally and with much enthusiasm. Especially significant was Christmas.

A tree was almost impossible to get on the cheap. The only nearby source was in the mountains or up in the Black Forest to the southeast. Wood crews would bring one back for a price. In the days of cooking and heating by wood, the wood cutters had to go farther each day to harvest the timber. Shade trees were off limits at the edge of the Great American Desert.

In the farm community the activities included blocking off the lower part of the hill and sliding down Lake Ave. (E. 12th) from the Baron's castle across Geneva Ave. (Oneida) and as far as Newport Ave. (Newport was the only street left with its original name on the double alphabet system of using a place first, and a tree, shrub, or bush next.)

A few lakes were around and some skaters used the irrigation ditches. A hay ride with Mr. Tirsway was always a great social event, but the invitation most looked for was to the Richthofen Castle Parties for Children.

The Baron's first wife went back to Europe with their two daughters and Louise Ferguson Davies, his second wife, had no children. The couple felt that it wasn't Christmas without some children in the castle. Since she was a divorcee and tinted her hair, the neighbors ignored any invites to couples but liked the gifts the children brought home. Everyone baked a tin or two of cookies and made some hand-made gifts, but the Baroness went out and bought some top-notch items, many of them from Europe. The Baron was born in Kreisewitz, Silesia (Eastern Germany) and liked the traditional Christmas which always included a tree even though the candles made it a bit risky. He loved to tease the little girls and even let them pull on his red beard just to prove it was real. The boys were more interested in seeing the bears in the pit and all the wild game running loose in the Baron's zoological park. An ordinance in Montclair was made to protect his many pairs of birds and as late as the 1940s the citizens were careful not to harm a song bird that belonged to the Baron. A plan to introduce pairs of lions, panthers, and tigers was nixed by the new Baroness since she complained about all the noise the animals made at night.

As the town prospered in the late 1800s, the parties became more lavish. Musicians came out by street car to play at the Montclair Casino (northwest corner of E. 8th Ave. and Monaco) and the Molkery in the center of the new park became a focus of social activity. During Christmas the whole town was decorated and neighbors sent hand-written invitations to each other and tried to have the "grandest party of all." But it was impossible to out-do the children's Christmas parties at the Baron's castle.

(Reprinted from the Dec. 1998/Jan. 1999 Historic Montclair newsletter.)

Milestones

HMCAI board member Katy Saunders, and husband Rod, welcomed daughter Sarah Mackenzie, their first child, on Nov. 16th. Born at home, she is a true Montclair native. Sarah is the third baby born to a member of our board in the last 12 months, which says something about the youth and vitality of our board.

News From The Molkery

By Joan Wilson and Gail Barry

As you may already know, the Molkery restoration project has won several awards including the Stephen H. Hart Award from the Colorado Historical Society and the Community Preservation Award from Historic Denver, Inc.

Use of the newly renovated Molkery is soaring. Nearly 50 % of the weekends are booked for rentals. Approximately 20% of the rentals have been community related and 30% have been non-profits. In 2005 there were three weddings and 8 wedding receptions. The mayor hosted a barbecue for his cabinet at the Molkery (apparently now officially called the Montclair Civic Building) in July of 2005. Over 175 people attended the ReMax-sponsored Halloween party held at the Molkery. And, of course, HMCAI holds its monthly meetings at the Molkery. All of this was accomplished with only \$20 worth of promotional materials. One part-

time staff person has been hired to staff evening and weekend events. Another may be hired in 2006. A new phone number, 303-331-4039, has been added to handle reservations for the Molkery.

Joan Wilson, Program Manager for Volunteers and Community Development, Tina Romero, Volunteer Coordinator, Audra Scott, AmeriCorps Promise Fellowship staff and Anya Nystrom, a Metro State Student Intern, make up the daily staff at the Molkery.

A group of seven or eight volunteers has adopted Montclair Park and have accomplished 3 projects this past year including tree planting, cleanup of the periphery of the tennis court and mulching.

The HMCAI board has agreed to provide annual flowers in pots, as needed, for the Molkery. If anyone is interested in helping with this project please let me, Gail Barry, know. I can be reached at 303-355-8486 or via email: gail@landmarkdesigninc.com



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Restaurant Review

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www.SeriozPizza.com

Rating: 9.9
Dinner for Two: \$47.00
Lunch for Two: \$21.00

Darren and Chase, the owners of SERIOZ Denver Style Pizzeria, have been shining stars of the Denver restaurant scene for 7 years. Again and again they have had one success after another and, in my book, Serioz should be their flagship. The atmosphere is lively and contemporary; the service is quick, polite and engaging.

Smack in the middle of the new Lowry Town Center, Serioz is the hub of activity. Romantic couples out for dinner, families in for the holidays, the daily office gatherings, you name it, they are at Serioz! The food is as fresh as fresh can be, made to order when you order it. Bruschettas. Antipasti. Lasagnas. Raviolis. Pizzas. Calzones. Noodles. Denver Style Sub sandwiches on your choice of bread! The menu can be as light as the Pomodoro; thin slices of ripe tomatoes, fresh mozzarella and basil leaves drizzled with balsamic vinegar and E.V.O.O. or as full bodied as the Mountain Asparagus Ravioli; freshly made egg and spinach ravioli stuffed with

asparagus, ricotta, cream cheese, artichoke hearts, Swiss cheese, parmesan cheese, lemon zest, herbs and spices. Wow! Make sure you check out the dessert case before dinner because there are no finer confections, pastries and cakes to be found anywhere. You should save room for dessert! To complement this fine meal, Serioz stocks wines from around the world. Moreover, the bar at Serioz is always hopping with activity and is situated nicely in the restaurant. The cocktails and service are awesome.

Lunch at Serioz is equally impressive. My favorite is the Serioz Spinach Salad; baby spinach leaves topped with a hint of red onion, crisp bacon and aged gorgonzola cheese. Add the creamy gorgonzola dressing or the balsamic vinaigrette and enjoy! Also, the Subserioz -artichoke hearts, portabello mushrooms, roasted red bell peppers, baby spinach, fresh basil, provolone cheese and garlic aioli - is a vegetarian delight.

Serioz will exceed your expectations, whether sitting on the patio for a quiet dinner for two or reserving their private dining room for the whole family or business meeting. Dine in; carry out, catering events and delivery. Serioz does it all and they do it very well.

By Jerry Malia
December 2005

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St. James Hosts Regional Student Art Exhibit

Some 400 selected artworks by elementary school students are on exhibit at St. James Catholic School, 1250 Newport St., through Dec. 11, in celebration of children's art. The works were created by students from preschool through eighth grade at St. James and five other parochial schools in Denver and Aurora: Christ the King, Good Shepherd, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Pius X and St. Therese.

The exhibit includes acrylic paintings, drawings, charcoals, pastels, sculpture and pottery, among other art forms. The young artists' works will be judged by a rotating panel of volunteers for "Golden Brush Awards" that will be presented to participating schools.

The exhibit debuted Dec. 5th and is free and open to the public. It can be viewed in the St. James student gallery, located on the lower level of the school's eastern wing, below the gym. Visitors should enter through doors on the parking lot at the southwest corner of 13th and Oneida. Weekday hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

During the weekend instrumental music will be provided from 10 a.m. to noon by Mrs. Stephanie Moore on harp and Mrs. Amy Schouten on recorder, both St. James parents.

Artworks are not available for sale. Additional information at 303-333-8275.

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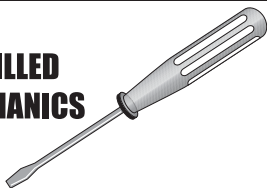
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Parents Take the Lead by Shannon Hagerman, Montclair Principal

Over the last several months I have been keeping you apprised of all the great things that are taking place at Montclair. In just a short amount of time we've seen our enrollment increase, introduced a new instructional program and welcomed students from the Historic Montclair community. As you may be aware, the registration process for the upcoming school year begins in January. Over the recent weeks we have been hosting a variety of events and attended 2 school choice fairs to help get the word out about Montclair. There is a renewed vitality at Montclair and I thought it might be interesting for the community to hear about the experiences of some of our newly enrolled parents.

"Great neighborhood schools are at the heart of every successful community. We sent our son Evan to Montclair Elementary because we met the teachers and the principal and experienced firsthand their passion for education and their level of commitment to each and every student at the school. Montclair offers an educational framework for success and provides opportunities for parents like us to be involved in the education of their children. This is a powerful combination and one that we feel has served us very, very well." ~ *Anne Kerlin*, Kindergarten Parent

"After looking at various private and public schools in Denver, we are so glad we chose Montclair. Our daughter spent a year of kindergarten at another DPS school, one that is rated "excellent" but was not in our neighborhood. This year we walk to school and are making great new friends in our neighborhood. Our daughter is thriving socially and academically; she works well above grade level in her Early High Strides class and loves school. I urge you to check out the free and fabulous, nurturing school that's right around the corner from you!" ~ *Sharon Kelly*, 1st Grade Parent

We couldn't be more delighted that we decided to send our son Kohl to kindergarten at Montclair. It was a traumatic decision to pull him from another school and take a leap of faith to a "poorly" rated school. The experience has been 100% positive. Our son's classmates are great, his teacher is exceptional and the principal has been a true leader. The new academic program and the extra enrichment activities create a great environment for the kids. It is truly great to participate in our community and at a great school. ~ *Robert Mandeau*, Kindergarten Parent

We will be hosting another Open House for prospective parents and children on Friday, January 20, 2006 from 9:30-3:30. If you're curious to learn more, please join us. By pulling together, Montclair will continue to improve and truly become the little school that could!

Happy Holidays!

Jerry Malia **Coldwell Banker Residential**

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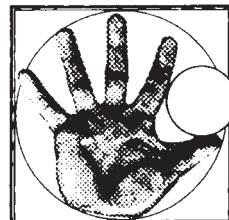


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Membership Form

Please complete form (block letters) and mail with check to:
HMCAI Treasurer, P.O. Box 200125, Denver, CO 80220-0125.

Annual dues per household \$ 15.00 (\$10.00 for seniors)
Voluntary donation \$ _____
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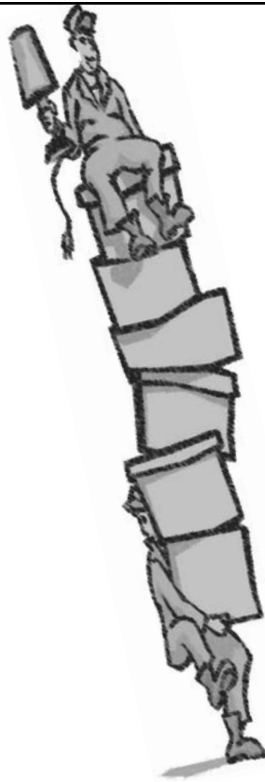
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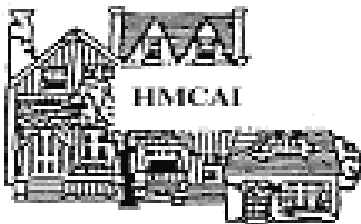
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