



# HISTORIC MONTCLAIR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

founded 1907 Denver, CO

Spring 2006

[www.historicmontclair.org](http://www.historicmontclair.org)

[info@historicmontclair.org](mailto:info@historicmontclair.org)

## HMCAI Has Big Plans for 2006

The Board decided it was time to re-examine the way we have operated as an organization and the events that we organize each year for the neighborhood.

We are undergoing some house-cleaning with our bylaws, which have not been updated in nearly 25 years. Those changes will be complete in time for the May general meeting (see below).

HMCAI has long strived to service the neighborhood in terms of keeping all our residents informed about the key issues of the day as well as organizing a variety of community events for all neighborhood residents. One key step in that process occurred about a year and a half ago when HMCAI began mailing this newsletter to all 2,300 homes and businesses within our boundaries. Thanks to the generous support of our local advertisers, we are able to continue to distribute each quarterly newsletter free of charge.

This year, HMCAI has decided to expand the number and scope of the community events we organize. Below is a calendar of the planned events. As the time gets closer for each of these events, be sure to check [www.HistoricMontclair.org](http://www.HistoricMontclair.org) for more details.

Easter Egg Hunt at Montclair Park - April 15  
Independance Day Celebration (Montclair Park) - July 4th  
Outdoor Drive-In Movie (Montclair Park) - August 9th  
Septemberfest Cocktail Party (Molkery) - September 8th  
Snacks with Santa (Molkery) - December 17th  
Flowerplanting Event (Molkery) - TBD  
Holiday Decorating Event (Molkery) - TBD

General Meeting (Molkery) - May 17th  
General Meeting (Molkery) - October 18th

## HMCAI General Meeting - May 17, 2006

Our next general meeting will be held May 17th at the Molkery at 7:00 pm. At this meeting the membership will elect the new HMCAI board. Also, the current board has been undertaking a revision of our bylaws and will make a presentation to the membership detailing the changes.

## Feast on the FAX

The East Denver Colfax Partnership (EDCP), in conjunction with The FAX Business Association announces "The Feast on The FAX". This inaugural event will be similar to the "Uptown Sampler", a very successful event that has been held for 18 consecutive years in the Uptown neighborhood

The event is a self-directed tour and sampling of par

ticipating restaurants along the East Colfax corridor. Transportation will be provided. The "Feast on The FAX" is scheduled for the evening of Tuesday, May 16th, just prior to the first annual Colfax Marathon on Sunday, May 21st.

For more information regarding participating restaurants and to purchase tickets, please visit [www.FeastOnTheFAX.com](http://www.FeastOnTheFAX.com).

# Montclair School News

*by Shannon Hagerman, Montclair Elementary Principal*

If you find yourself gazing out over frozen gardens, mulling over where you'll plant the tomatoes and petunias this spring, you're not alone! At the Montclair School of Academics & Enrichment, the PTA is planning its second annual Plant Sale for Saturday, May 13th - rain or shine. Mark your calendars! Last year's customers remember our great prices and wide selection of healthy annual and perennial plants. This year, we're also accepting advance orders for those who require large quantities of a particular variety (one full flat or more). Catalogs will be available soon. If you would like to receive one, please contact Plant Sale Coordinator Amy Johnson, at 303-393-7265

Historic Denver is sponsoring wonderful project this year called: Reviving Colfax: Main Street Colorado. Using the Colfax Marathon scheduled for May 2006 as a culminating event, the goal is to involve middle and elementary school students in efforts to research and present the history and heritage of this important street. Montclair Elementary's third grade class, as part of their study of Denver history, will be working to research a location somewhere between Monaco and Fitzsimmons. As part of their research, they would like to interview residents who have lived in the area for many years and would be willing to share their stories of how they remember Colfax. If you would

like to help with this project, please contact Juliana Serafini, third grade teacher or Rae Harris, enrichment coordinator at Montclair Elementary. 303-333-5497.

It's been a busy few months at Montclair. With the implementation of our Schoolwide Enrichment Model (Renzulli), we have focused our efforts on the integration of topics from various subject areas. One of the most exciting parts of our program has been the Enrichment Clusters. During Enrichment Clusters, small groups of 12-15 students (K-5) came together for 90 minutes a week to explore a topic of common interest. Some cluster topics from the first round included quilting, magic, pets, puppetry, earthquakes, and breads around the world. In each instance, the cluster group completed a special project. The quilting cluster made a beautiful quilt (with the help of a parent) to tell the story of our school. The magic cluster learned about different kinds of tricks and then held a magic show at Aspen Village. The pet cluster learned about different kinds of animals and how to care for pets. Their cluster ended with a trip to the Dumb Friends League, where they presented the organization with a calendar for new pet owners. The Enrichment Cluster is something unique to Montclair and has been a powerful addition to our instructional program.

## **IS IT TIME TO UNSEAL MONTCLAIR'S TIME CAPSULE?** *By William J. Hansen*

The completion of the award-winning restoration of the Molkery or Montclair Civic Building has sparked renewed interest in Montclair's fascinating history dating back to the Richthofen era. Next year, HMCAI will celebrate its own centennial as a formal community organization.

Buried beneath the Richthofen Fountain is a trove of Montclair ephemera dating to the turn of the last century. It contains artifacts from the Baron's legacy and was the product of the very earliest roots of a Montclair neighborhood organization. Perhaps it's time to disinter this town treasure.

In 1898, the "progressive people of Montclair" organized the Montclair Fountain Club. Supported by the Temperance Union, the Montclair Fountain Club lamented that travelers "... often sigh for the good old days of Jacob where there were wells dug by the wayside." It was observed that there were few such amenities available to laboring men or bicycling excursionists other than those associated with unsavory road houses and saloons where a man was presented with the unenviable option of drinking with his horse from the trough or being lured inside for more decadent libations. As its first project, the Montclair Fountain Club urged the erection of a handsome fountain in the center of town that would serve as a "playground for the people".

The November 15, 1898 Denver Times reported that, after addressing the town's fountain, "the plan of the Club is to become sort of an improvement society to further the interests of Montclair." *(continued next page)*

## IS IT TIME TO UNSEAL MONTCLAIR'S TIME CAPSULE? *(continued)*

This is the very first hint of a Montclair community association.

The Montclair Fountain Club raised funds and had the Town of Montclair contribute a .1 acre triangular tract of land at what was then the intersection of Geneva Street and Concord Avenue. However, when resident subscriptions floundered, the Baroness Von Richthofen stepped forward with a \$1,000.00 gift conditioned that the fountain commemorate her late husband and be named the "Richthofen Fountain".

Montclair's premier architect and shortly-to-be-elected Town Mayor, Harlan Thomas, agreed to design the fountain gratis. It was to be constructed of pink Pikes Peak granite with a central block and curved side arms supporting ornamental lamp posts. The original architect's drawing is shown above. Steps leading to the fountain above were intended for people to drink from and a lower pool was included where animals could seek refreshment. Encircling the street level trough was a line from Samuel Taylor Coleridge's "Rime of the Ancient Mariner":

"He prayeth well who loveth well, both man and bird and beast."

On January 7, 1901, the massive 9000 pound granite center block was laid and the fountain was dedicated. Former

Montclair Mayor Sylvester G. Williams gave an eloquent speech to the gathering throngs:

"While the genius to whose memory the fountain was dedicated had not lived to see his hopes realized in the growth and development of Montclair, most of those present will one day see the fountain the beautiful centerpiece of one of the most charming suburban communities."

Beneath the central granite monolith was placed a hermetically sealed copper box. In it were carefully compiled statistics of the town, the names of the subscribers to the Fountain Club as well as the names of the architect and town officials, a copy of the New Testament, copies of the town tabloid, the Montclair Mirror, and other Denver newspapers, as well as a photograph of the Baron and Baroness. That time capsule remains undisturbed and its actual location elusive.

The Molkeny's walls remain relatively barren and beckon historic ornamentation. Perhaps a coalition of the Parks Department, HMCAL and the neighborhood could seek out the rusty remnants of the long-buried copper cache for preservation, review and eventual display in Montclair's showpiece public structure. Now would seem to be the ideal time. Please call the author with your thoughts.

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## Restaurant Review

### Joe's West of Memphis

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Denver, CO 80220      Dinner for Two: \$25.00  
Ph: 303-333-5278      Lunch for Two: \$15.00

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Aubrey Shockley (Joe) has had a life long dream become a reality. Owning a restaurant, one that is impeccably clean, which provides "GOOD CUSTOMER SERVICE and GOOD QUALITY FOOD" while introducing the community to genuine old style barbecue. Joe grew up in West Memphis, Arkansas, just next door to Memphis, Tennessee and has been exposed to different methods and recipes for barbecue his whole life. Southern hospitality is evident the minute you walk in the door. Whether is it Amy or Cocoa greeting you or the Motown music; you know your welcome and that something good is about to happen.

Joe's hot and mild barbecue sauces are homemade from an old style recipe, consisting of 13 different ingredients. The hot sauce is just hot enough without overpowering the meat, which is a sign of a barbecue master! The dry rub on the lean slab of ribs is another sign of the master. Perfectly cooked, I ate everything but the bone! Corner these ribs with cole slaw, southern fried chips (served hot from the kitchen!) and Texas toast. There are straight platters and combo platters. Joe also offers a super sized sampler platter which is just huge; just meat and double meat combo platters for those of us who are strict carnivores. Beer and wine, sodas, water and teas.

Joe's has it all. Main courses include: ribs, rib tips, brisket by weight, catfish, shredded pork by weight, chicken (whole and half) and hot links. Side orders include baked beans, green beans, cole slaw, potato salad, collard greens, French fries, southern fried chips, sweet potato fries, corn nuggets and Texas toast! Lunch or diner Joe's is fast becoming a Colfax institution of southern hospitality and honest cooking.

Reviewed by Jerry Malia, March 2006

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## Milestones

We extend our condolences to the family of **Joyce D. Marx**, 74, a former board member, who died at home Dec. 15. Joyce, a licensed clinical social worker, and her late husband, Dr. Johann R. Marx, were Montclair residents for more than 35 years. She was a generous donor to HMCAI and especially enjoyed watching the restoration of the Molkery from her home across from Montclair Park. Joyce, a harpist, loved classical music, books, politics, science, religion, physics, psychiatry and history. She enjoyed hosting family gatherings, flying with her pilot-husband, and frequenting the theatre, the Colorado Symphony and the Santa Fe Opera. She is survived by her son John, four stepdaughters, five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and three great-great grandchildren.

Our condolences go to former board member Bernice Bown on the Jan.14 death of **Jack Bown**, 73, her husband of 48 years. The Bowns were longtime Montclair residents and members of HMCAI. They were involved in the celebrations and accomplishments of thousands of Colorado families, companies and organizations through Butler Rents, a small company Jack bought 36 years ago and developed into an employer of more than 100 today. The Glendale-based firm provides fine china, crystal, folding chairs, serving utensils and other equipment for all social and business occasions, especially weddings, graduations and other outdoor affairs requiring garden-party tents. In addition to his wife, Jack is survived by a son, two daughters and three grandchildren.

Our condolences also go to the family of **Robert Leonard Ekland**, who died of lung cancer on March 9, 2005. Robert moved to Montclair in 1963. He is preceded in death by his wife Darleen Rene Ekland in 1982, and is survived by his son, Aaron Leonard Ekland, 37, and his daughter Bergen Rene Ekland, 30. Robert was a man of many accomplishments: an undergraduate degree in electrical engineering from LSU in 1955, a Master's degree in Public Finance from the University of Colorado in 1971 and a naval career as a Lieutenant on a destroyer from 1955 to 1960. He worked for the Denver Research Institute as an overseas surveillance data collector in 1962 and 1963, traveling to Norway, Iran, Pakistan, Fiji, Spain and American Samoan Islands. He found a nest mate and built a cabin in Silverthorne, Colorado in 1966, where he currently lies. He retired from the Public Utilities Commission, where he worked as an expert witness in utility rate increase cases from 1980 to 1994. He remained busy in retirement, playing tennis, gardening, reading, stock trading and socializing with friends and family. His most rewarding and perhaps most challenging accomplishment was his role as a highly devoted single father. The following excerpt is taken from the last paragraph of the memoir he wrote in 2001. "I have come to the conclusion that the world we live in is the sum total of our experience. We live and make hell or heaven out of it, that's it. I don't continue to exist in those ashes of mine wherever they may lie nor in the here-after; my eternity is as a progenitor of the children I fathered and nurtured, and the living souls I have stirred, however minimally. The good and the bad likewise live forever, and I found heaven on earth. You know I died in peace because I know you (my children) will do your mother and me honor."

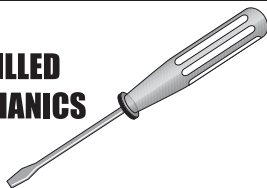
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## WATERING OF LANDSCAPE PLANTS

by Gail Barry

As you are aware, we had a very dry winter in Denver despite the huge snows in the mountains. What little snow we did receive did not yield much moisture. It has also been unseasonably warm, and we've had quite a bit of wind. All of these factors tend to dry out the soils and stress the plants.

Stress is a precursor to plant diseases and insect problems. Plants may die or become sick and frail. Sometimes symptoms do not show up until later in the year, as plants often have stored food that they can rely on in the spring. Newly planted plants are particularly susceptible to water stresses.

Hopefully you have already been out watering your trees and shrubs. Don't forget your perennials. They have shallower root systems and will dry out more quickly. Before watering, it is always best to test the water content in your soil by using a soil probe, or by sticking a screwdriver down 4-6" into the soil or to at least 8" for trees, and pulling out a sample of soil to test. The first few inches of the soil dry out quickly and will not tell you the moisture content where the roots are located. When you roll the soil between your fingers, and it holds together, then you don't need to water. If it breaks apart, you do need to water.

You should only water when the temperature is above 40 degrees F, and there is no snow cover. If you have kept a thick mulch on your plants, your soil may not have dried out. Those who do not mulch and tend to clean up their leaves in the fall instead of leaving them on the beds, are likely to have drier soils.

When watering established plants, especially trees, keep in mind that their roots often extend beyond the space they occupy above ground. For trees, water should be applied deeply and slowly within the dripline and beyond. As a rule of thumb small and medium size trees require 10 gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter, measured at knee height. Trees larger than 10 inches in trunk diameter will need 15 gallons per inch of trunk diameter. For more specific information on water application for trees by size, watering device, and season go to: <http://www.watersaver.org/saveourshade.asp>

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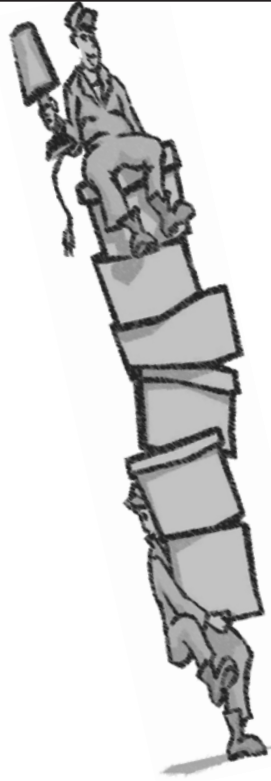
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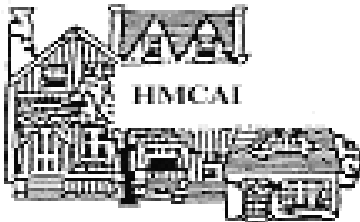
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