

The Inman Park Advocator

Atlanta's Small Town Downtown News



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Newsletter of Inman Park Neighborhood Association • 245 North Highland Ave., N.E. • STE. 230-401 • Atlanta, GA 30307

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Regina Brewer

My, oh, my, was that a great festival or what? Everyone basked in the beautiful weather (thank goodness!), listened to fantastic music, watched a terrific parade, and ate/drank festival food and beer. On Sunday night, we ended the festival at Delta Park. No one wanted to leave; it was such a special weekend. Many, many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to throw the best street party in the southeast.

The May meeting highlights include a presentation by **Fred Yalouris**, Director of Design for the Beltline. Fred will be briefing us on what is new and exciting on the Beltline front. Additionally, we'll wrap up our discussion on the proposed By-Law revisions. Finally, we'll vote in our new board members for the 2011-2012 IPNA Board of Directors. A slate of candidates has been identified by the nominating committee and I am very excited to work with all of these talented neighbors.

I would like to take a moment to thank the outgoing board members, Adam Stillman, Amy Higgins, Cameron Childress, and Bob Sandage. They have worked incredibly hard these last two years and we are a far better neighborhood because of their efforts. It's very time consuming to serve on the IPNA Board and they more than met the challenge and I am very grateful for their service.

I close with the information that, as I write this article we have only 200 people who have renewed or joined IPNA and less than that have joined the security patrol. I'm hoping that by the time you read this article, many more of you have joined/renewed. Last year at this time we had 489 members of IPNA. We are stronger if our numbers are larger and we are safer when we have our patrol watching our homes and our families.

I urge you to join IPNA and the Security Patrol and ensure that our neighborhood has the extra protection we need. You must be a member of IPNA to be listed in the annual Directory. Do it today!



**WE NEED YOU TO JOIN
INMAN PARK
SECURITY PATROL
AND IPNA**
www.inmanpark.org

BRONZE LEVEL: \$200

1. The Inman Park Patrol car is staffed with uniformed off-duty Atlanta Police officers. Your membership fee will help us expand the services, patrol hours, and give us the ability to track patrol routes via a GPS unit.

SILVER LEVEL \$250 (includes all Bronze level features plus):

1. Vacation patrol – complete and submit an application to notify the patrol of your vacation plans. The officers will make extra drive-by patrols to insure the safety of your premises. They will diligently watch for any suspicious activity at a member's residence or business.
2. Assistance from the patrol if a member is unable to drive or needs an escort from the street to their residence.

GOLD LEVEL \$300 (includes all the Bronze and Silver Level features plus):

1. Gold Members will have access to a cell phone number to reach the patrolling officer in case of an emergency.
2. We are considering the possibility for this number to be one of the numbers called when a security monitoring company receives an alarm from a member's residence or business. This could greatly reduce response time to crime incidents which trigger an alarm.

MAY PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS

by Bob Sandage

Inman Park VP of Public Safety

I have to admit that, with the rush of Festival preparations and getting ready to open a new business, I have not been able to do a summary of crime data for April. However, I would like to cite one example of the work of Inman Park Public Safety.

Just after midnight on April 27, three people were held up at gunpoint by two black males in the 484 Moreland Avenue parking lot in Little Five Points. They were able to flag down a passing Inman Park Security Patrol car and Officer Ari Bleifeld was able to locate the suspects. A car and foot chase ensued, with Bleifeld and other APD officers jumping fences and bushes in Inman Park yards. One suspect fired on the officers and a perimeter was set up. Unfortunately, the thugs were not caught this time, but there would not have even been a chance to catch them or instill fear without the Inman Park Security Patrol.

The online payment utility is up and working for new and renewing Security Patrol members. **Only 137 members have joined or renewed so far. This is well short of the 300 members we had last year.** Security Patrol has been able to reduce the contribution burden from IPNA and become more self sustaining during the last 2-3 years. This reduction in membership is definitely a step in the wrong direction – we need to be increasing our patrol hours, not worrying about cutting back on hours or relying too heavily on IPNA (i.e., a good Festival!).

I urge you to go to the website and join online if you have not already done so. Also, talk to your neighbors and encourage them. Residential memberships are the largest component of our Security Patrol budget and we need your assistance.

This is my last *Advocator* article as your VP of Public Safety. I have enjoyed being your Public Safety guy and think we accomplished much during the past two years. I encourage you to vote for nominee Greg Scott as my successor. He has the patrol relationships and a “budding” team in place to build on the momentum of the last two years. Thanks, and stay safe!

| CALENDAR OF EVENTS | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|---|-----|--|
| DATE | DAY/TIME | EVENT | Pg. | LOCATION/PHONE NUMBER |
| May 15 | Sun. | Sign Up For IPNA MEMBERSHIP And SECURITY PATROL <u>NOW!</u> | | www.inmanpark.org |
| May 16 | Mon. | Check out the By-Laws Revisions | | www.inmanpark.org |
| May 17 | Tues. | | | |
| May 18 | Wed. 6:30 PM 7:30 PM | Meeting on APS Demographic Study IPNA MEETING | 17 | 130 Trinity Street (APS Center for Learning and Leadership) Inman Park UMC, 1015 Edgewood Ave. |
| May 19 | Thurs. 7:30 PM | Meeting with Atl Bd of Ed District 1 Representative, Brenda Muhammad | 17 | Inman Park UMC, 1015 Edgewood Ave. |
| May 20 | Fri. | | | |
| May 21 | Sat. | | | |
| May 22 | Sun. | | | |
| May 23 | Mon. | | | |
| May 24 | Tues. | | | |
| May 25 | Wed. | Book Club, <i>Three Cups of Tea</i> and <i>Stones into Schools</i> | 15 | 12 First Avenue (Kirkwood) |
| May 26 | Thurs. 7:00 PM 7:00 PM | Joint IPNA Board Meeting NPU-N Meeting | | 200 N. Highland Ave. (Grinnell Lofts) L5P Community Center, 1083 Austin Ave. |
| May 27 | Fri. 7:30 PM | Porch Party | 15 | 242 Elizabeth Street |
| May 28 | Sat. | | | |
| May 29 | Sun. | | | |
| May 30 | Mon. | Memorial Day (Observed) | | |
| May 31 | Tues. | | | |
| June 1 | Wed. 10:00 PM | ADVOCATOR Deadline | | theadvocator@bellsouth.net |
| June 2 | Thurs. | | | |
| June 3 | Fri. | | | |
| June 4 | Sat. | | | |
| June 5 | Sun. | | | |
| June 6 | Mon. | | | |
| June 7 | Tues. | | | |
| June 8 | Wed. | | | |
| June 9 | Thurs. | | | |
| June 10 | Fri. | | | |
| June 11 | Sat. | | | |
| June 12 | Sun. | | | |
| June 13 | Mon. | | | |

“The *Advocator*” is the newsletter of the Inman Park Neighborhood Association, Inc. (IPNA). In addition to the reports by the IPNA Board of Directors, Officers, and Committee Chairs, the *Advocator* publishes letters to the editor, press releases, articles deemed of interest to the community, and paid advertising. Publishing of display advertisement/classified ads, articles, letters, or notices, does not constitute an endorsement by IPNA, its Board of Directors, and/or the *Advocator* and the *Advocator* staff. The content and opinions of a published article or letter represent the opinions of the author and not the opinion of IPNA, its Board of Directors, and/or the *Advocator* and the *Advocator* staff unless it is expressly stated. IPNA reserves the right to edit all items submitted for publication and to reject any material or ads submitted for publication. Material submitted anonymously, including Press Releases, will not be published.

FESTIVAL 2011 RECAP

*By Nick Franz
Festival 2011 Chairperson*

Thanks to all the wonderful neighbors and friends who volunteered to make Festival 2011 a fantastic event. Our 40th rendition exceeded expectations. We were honored to have so many Pioneers come out and see what Festival has become; thank you for beginning the tradition. This is your legacy and we are proud to carry it on year after year.

The key element of the whole weekend was the weather. We were blessed to have near perfect days which brought out the crowds. Our new website had so much traffic that it crashed midday on Saturday! We tweeted upcoming events and reminders throughout the weekend. The social media element will become a great tool for us as we move to future Festivals.

The parade shows why Inman Park is Inman Park...nothing is too out of bounds for this crowd. It is a great reflection of the diversity and uniqueness of our little part of Atlanta.

As we reflect on our 40th version of the best Festival in Atlanta please let me know if there are things we can improve. The final financial results will not be available for several weeks, but I am optimistic that they will be very strong. Committee chairs are already planning for next year.

If you are interested in becoming a Committee Chair or Festival Chair for 2012 please let me know so we can give you all the details. We need all the help we can get and we need to get as many new faces involved as possible so we can pass down the tradition to the next generation.

I was honored to serve as Festival Chair for the last two years. A successful Festival has little to do with who is Chair and much to do with the Committee Chairs who execute their roles flawlessly. Festival would not happen without the dedication of all the Committee Chairs. A special thanks to each of you who ensure that all details are handled and our visitors experience the best of Inman Park. *Viva Inman Park!!*

BUTTERFLY BALL

By Megan Holder – Chandler

It is hard to believe that Butterfly Ball 2011 (and our 40th Festival) is already over. Thanks to all of you who came out to enjoy the night in the Big Tent. Judging by the crowded dance floor, a good time was had by all.

Butterfly Ball would not be possible without help from you and the local businesses that support the event. Before I get to my official 'thank you' list, I would like to recognize three local businesses that contributed: **Rathbun's, Atlanta Cupcake Factory, and the Intown Business Center.** Please return the love by supporting them.

Thank you to Inman Park for honoring my enthusiasm for this neighborhood with a Joel Award. I was surprised and excited. It turned an already great night into one I will never forget. You are what makes this the place that Dan and I want to call home.

Thank you to **Richard Westrick and Diane Floyd** for their help with ticket orders.

Thank you to **Laura Salazar and Karen Heim** for help with tables... and getting me to the 40 tables for 40 years goal.

Thank you to the set-up crew. They were all there, ready to go at 2:00 (even though the tent was not ready for us). They were fast. They were patient. They were fun. **Danny Feig-Sandoval, Cory Feig-Sandoval, Bill Goodman, Rick Bizot, Regina Brewer, Stephanie McCaa, Erin Kane, Doug Miller, Robbie Whyte, Cooper Pierce, Dan Chandler, Karen Heim, Kelly, and, to the 'suckers' Greg Scott and Chuck Reese.** This would not have been possible without you.

Thank you to **Stephanie Tobben** for helping cut-out the 600+ butterflies needed for the centerpieces, and then helping me put them together.

And last, but not least, THANK YOU to **Dan Chandler** for being a fabulous treasurer, partner in crime, and the unpaid therapist of the Butterfly Ball Chair. I love you.

Butterfly Ball 2012 will be here before you know it! Let me know if you would like to help.

INMAN PARK FESTIVAL PARADE

By Karen Heim

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Parade this year! The winners of the Float competition are:

First Prize: Disgruntled Gnomes (Krewe of the Grateful Gluttons)

Second Prize: Inman Park 10,000 B.C.

Third Prize: Bridesmaid Brigade

Honorable Mention: Area51 Funk Pirates, Streetela, Turnin' TriXXX

A special thanks goes to:

Linden Taber for leading the parade as our beautiful Butterfly princess and gathering all the little butterfly ladies-in-waiting in her Monarch Court. **Genevieve Brewer, Regina Brewer, Ginger Lyon, and Jay Tribby** for being the banner carriers. **John Lewis**, our Grand Marshal. **Amy Leavell Bransford, Deborah Bursa, Sebrina Bush, Gary Capelouto, Susanna Capelouto, Kharis Ellison, Shonda Lewis, and Jim McKinney** for keeping things flowing as parade marshals. **Ward Bradshaw and Lauren Justice** (celebrities in their own right!). **Jay Tribby and Kwanza Hall** for securing the Street Sweeper.

Curt Wilson for lettering the Holly Mull banner. **Norman Narmore** for the Holly Mull buttons. **Hal Lilly** at IFO Signs for your patience. **Southern Culture on the Skids** for taking time out of their tour schedule to be in the parade. **Bill Goodman (and Fritz), John Hetzel, Leslie Kipling, Richard Lindsey, C. Matthew Nelson, and Norman Powell** for providing/driving your convertibles, **Julie Bookman and Barry Wright** for being on stand-by. **Grady High School Mock Trial Team** for crowd control duties. **Jane Kourkoulis, Susan Murphy, Andy Rhodes, Phil Tardif and Alyson West** for judging the floats. **Terry Sagedy** for "grand standing" and hosting the parade judges all these years.

An extra special thanks to **Joyce Sayle** for her hard work locating, contacting and hosting the "Pioneers," Inman Park residents of 40 years ago (of which she is one!). Last, but not least, thank you to **Wendy Patterson, Bob Patterson, Lynn Watson-Powers and Paul Powers**; this parade would not happen without them!

Finally, thank you, Inman Park neighborhood, for giving me this opportunity and for showing how gracious you are. Until next year—let's march!!!

* * * * * **2011 JOEL AWARDS** * * * * *

TERRY SAGEDY

Some folks win a Joel Award and are
never seen again;
Others, like you, give bigger and better
parties and increase their volunteer mo-
mentum.

Your Festival challenges have ranged
from PR to MC,
From Production to Organization,
And from Art to Copy.

You taught us how to social network
(thereby finally weaning us away from
the print media.)
Narrated the Parade from your Grand
Reviewing Stand,
Gave the theatres the appropriate theat-
rical introductions,
Inspired artists to capture our Spirit on
posters,
And occasionally nagged the house tour
copy writers to
**WRITE FASTER SO THE TICKET
WON'T BE LATE!**

We've shared your joy in finding true
love,
And from Edgewood to Edgewater, en-
joyed your legendary hospitality.
We thought that you and Paul would be
here to hug for much, much longer.
But wherever you roam, never forget
that Inman Park is your forever home.
Thanks for the wonderful memories,
Terry Sagedy

BRETT LAUTER

This Inman Parker
Will not stand for apathy or ignorance
For those rooted in "NIMBY,"
He will show no tolerance
Green space goals and calming roads,
Victory by encounter and clash
So he sweet-talked the neighbors
And baffled bureaucrats.

He then pushed, pleaded, prodded,
And probed in his labors.
Now he's done his part so well
And the City's shown it favors.
Springvale Park is far the better,
New humps and bumps will say
That 'Edgewood Motor Speedway'
Has become Brett Lauter Way!

ADAM STILLMAN

In 2007 you said "Later, Decatur"
And bought 350 Sinclair.
From a plain house you renovated and
polished with care
Into one that was lovely and fair.

Alas, a big fire took your dream house
away
And swept 2 more along with it.
You didn't give up; instead you built
up!

And made 3 homes that beautifully fit!

Next you agreed to serve on the board
To be our preservation guru.
Little did you know that those two years
in tow
Would turn out to be quite a lulu.

You took on cell towers and immediate
neighbors
You took on the UDC
You took on our regulations and han-
dled them all
Ordering chaos, you did it with glee!

If that is all you did, that would be quite
enough,
These house designs superb in detail
But you had a vision of amazing, great
stuff.
Each so special, each one we hail.

Inman Park is more beautiful and special
Because of these new infill additions.
We walk by them and smile, wishing
others as skillful
Would make such great building decisions.

So, thank you Adam for all that you
have done,
But don't think your job done, nor can
you rest.
While being your neighbor is so much fun.
Just around the corner is a new IPNA
quest.

AMY HIGGINS

It started with trees,
Who would have known?
But from there deep affection for
Inman Park was grown.

An arboretum perhaps?
A placard or two?
Need a tree?
Our dear Amy Higgins
will take care of you.

As VP of Zoning this gal's been the
best,
But endless hours of meetings have
been a real test.
Handing out flyers - where is 300 feet?
If you're in the circle with her you shall
meet.

Springvale Park is her project of late,
Visioning, playground and clean ups to
date.
She's pulled some dead fish from that
little pond
And next time be careful or she'll bring
you along!

Faithful to the hood, a good friend is
this dear,
Now stand up and give Amy a really
great CHEER!

GREG SCOTT

While we slept peaceably
in our beds at night
Dreaming of festivals, balls,
and other delights
Our IPP Crown Vic made its
countless rounds
From Inman Mews to Elizabeth
and all in our bounds.

Such enforcement wasn't easy,
nor was it cheap.
Members paid dues, but the costs
were too steep.

Up stepped a wizard, energetic
and adept.

He sold, he serviced,
and he collected the debts.

Inman Park prides itself on peace, love,
and some Woodstock
But the fangs in our famed butterfly are
thanks to Greg Scott.

HOLLY MULL

In the spring of 1974 Holly Mull was presented with this whimsical poem by Inman Park Restoration (as it was then known) for her serious work on reversing the industrial zoning designation of Inman Park back to residential zoning. Had that not occurred, Inman Park would be blocks and blocks of industrial buildings.

*Good golly Miss Holly
At times we thought it folly
But time and meetings
And meetings
And meetings
And your confidence never fleeting (s)
Have gotten Inman Park again
Back to what it was back then.*

But that was just the beginning of Holly's contributions. She conceived the Inman Park Parade and guided it ever since, bringing in the quirky folks who make it so festive. She also helped spearhead the Festival, drawing people from all over to come celebrate Inman Park. As a 40-year resident, extraordinary volunteer and maker of celebrations, Holly was indeed a pioneer who stayed to make Inman Park a better place until her untimely death last fall. As John Sweet said, "Holly was the yeast that allowed this neighborhood and city to rise." Good Golly Miss Holly, how we'll miss you.

MEGAN HOLDER

A new breed of Inman residents has been popping up lately. They are young, driven, urban professionals. They pride themselves in their short commutes and their ability to stumble home after having several too many. They fill our coffee shops, go to the restaurants many think are "too loud," and can recite the King of Pops menu from memory. They have dogs they treat as if children, and have been known to call "dibs" on any chance they might have to get into a larger house in the neighborhood they love.

But will any of them get involved to prove this love?

How about attending the mind numbing NPU meetings every month, or an easy task like finding a spot for a community garden? Ever wonder who helps update the CDP to allow what we want in the neighborhood and keep out what we don't, when most of us don't even know what a CDP is? How about planning for the details of our little festival like the seat you are sitting in now?

She is the next generation, and she is certainly getting involved, and now she is getting a Joel Award... Megan Holder.

* * * * * CANDIDATE STATEMENTS FOR MAY ELECTIONS * * * * *

VICE PRESIDENT FOR COMMUNICATIONS LEIGH HAYS

I was standing in my yard on Sinclair when Regina Brewer waived me over to her car. Standing in the middle of the street – she asked if I might consider a spot on the board – like the VP of Communications. "Yes," I said. "I would love to be involved in the neighborhood in a more active role." And here I am – candidate for the newly formed VP of Communications.

I have lived on Sinclair since 1998 and volunteered for the neighborhood and Festival over the years in a variety of roles.

In addition to being a resident - I have had the pleasure of selling houses in the neighborhood and being involved in the development of several projects including Inman Park Village.

As a proud owner of a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Performance – I have always been passionate about connecting with people and hearing their stories. The strong sense of community and friendship is the heart of Inman Park. Now we are just on Facebook as well as in our yards. I am excited to be able to use my marketing and my social media skills in the role of the newly formed VP of Communications. And I can't wait to hear your stories.

TREASURER CAROLYN STINE McLAUGHLIN

May is the month for elections, at least here in Inman Park. I have been asked to run for treasurer of the IPNA Board and as part of the run I have also been asked to write an introduction of myself and why you should attend May's IPNA meeting and vote.

I am a native of Atlanta and have lived in Inman Park since the winter of 1997. My husband Doug and I came to Inman Park because of friendship. Having lost the lease on our apartment in Buckhead, we moved in with our good friends who had just bought a house on Austin Avenue, and were renovating it. Well, after four months with five cats, one bathroom and no kitchen, we were hooked. (Yes, this was BC: before children). We are now on our fourth address, have two children and only one cat, and the main reason we stay in Inman Park is friendship.

A part of friendship is service; we care for the people and the things that we love. Since I am not great at taking notes and don't know all our fair City's zoning ordinances, but can manage a spreadsheet, sign my name, and be willing to listen, I hope to serve the neighborhood I love, as treasurer.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ZONING:

ALAN TRAVIS

I have lived quite happily on Sinclair Avenue in Inman Park for nearly all of the 12 years I have lived in Atlanta, after marrying my wife Jill in the Trolley Barn in 2001. It is interesting that I share the good fortune of having celebrated nuptials in the Trolley Barn with the esteemed outgoing VP for Zoning Amy Higgins. I hope this is an auspicious omen for the neighborhood, since she has accomplished much and leaves big shoes to fill!

I am currently the Director of Planning for the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, working with our 35 state colleges and universities on a broad variety of strategic and capital planning issues. In past career lives I have done commercial real estate research and analysis, as well as local government planning for a diverse variety of communities, including writing zoning ordinances and making recommendations on development plans, subdivisions, and zoning changes. I believe strongly in balanced and ethical land use and development practices, and in the importance of effective community communication, participation, and advocacy as critical elements of local government policy. I look forward to serving you, my friends and neighbors, if you see fit to provide me the opportunity!

VICE PRESIDENT FOR HIS- TORIC PRESERVATION

ERIN KANE

When my husband James and I bought our house on Sinclair Avenue (the Westrick's old house) six years ago, we had no idea what an amazing neighborhood Inman Park truly is. We were initially drawn to the historic homes, the miles of sidewalks, and the incredible number of restaurants and shops that were all within a short walk. Over the past few years we have grown to love and respect our neighbors and the sense of community that such a close-knit group of people have developed in Inman Park.

I have to admit I am somewhat ashamed that other than a few festival beer shifts over the years I have only recently started getting involved with the neighborhood. Unfortunately my job as an architectural historian with a large cultural resources consulting firm required a substantial amount of travel. For several years I probably spent more nights in small towns that most people have never even heard of than I did in my own home. So, after six long years I left that position in the fall of 2010 to focus more on local and personal interests. Since then I have been doing some independent historic preservation consulting, spending more time volunteering, planning a house renovation project, spending more time with my family, and actually enjoying this wonderful neighborhood instead of living out of a suitcase.

I am excited and honored to have been asked to run for Vice President of Historic Preservation and hope my background in history, architectural history, and historic preservation will help Inman Park continue to honor the past while making sensitive changes that will preserve our historic neighborhood for future generations.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

GREG SCOTT

My wife Sandra and I have lived on Sinclair Avenue for eight years with our killer attack Welsh Corgis and can't imagine living anywhere else. In 2007, angered by the recent murder of Terry Williams on my street, I contacted our newly elected VP of Public safety, Bill Hagan, to see what I could do to help. I was intrigued with his idea of owning our own Patrol Car and manning it 24/7 as a way of making our Security Patrol more effective and I was excited by the challenge. I joined his volunteer fundraising effort, taking on the arduous task of convincing our neighborhood businesses to contribute to the Patrol and helping put together collateral for residential fundraising, writing crime reports for the *Advocator*, and basically sticking my nose in everything and anything that had to do with the safety and security of Inman Park.

In four years time we've seen the Patrol go from Officers patrolling a few hours a week in their own unmarked cars to a model of community-based policing, functioning 10-12 hours a day, seven days a week, thanks to the leadership of Bill, Bob Sandage, and Lt. Brent Schierbaum. Working closely with them, as well as the other talented and motivated volunteers in the Public Safety world, the IPNA Board, and our Patrol Officers, has given me a good working knowledge of combating crime in our neighborhood.

As VP of Public Safety, I want to continue to expand and improve our fundraising efforts; increase our communication with the residents, managed properties, businesses of Inman Park, and with the Public Safety arms of our surrounding neighborhoods; improve the technological and mechanical (read: new patrol car) abilities of the Patrol; and work toward that ultimate goal of 24/7 dedicated community policing and a safe and secure Inman Park for everyone.

Oh, and if you haven't joined the Patrol or renewed your membership yet, go to www.inmanpark.org and please do so. Thanks and be safe!

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 16, 2011 IPNA MEETING

By Barbara Black, Secretary

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Regina Brewer welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. The members of the IPNA Board introduced themselves.

NEWCOMERS

Teresa Wolf introduced herself as the new children's minister with the Inman Park Methodist Church.

Steve Roos introduced himself as a civil engineer with Watts and Browning who is interested in the upcoming work in Springvale Park.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

A motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting was made, seconded and carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Oreon Mann announced there will be no Book Club meeting in April, but there will be two books in May; Three Cups of Tea and Stones into Schools. The meeting will be on May 25 at Linda Dunham's at 12 First Avenue in Kirkwood.

Families are invited to the Egg Hunt at the IP United Methodist Church at 9:30 Easter morning.

Regina Brewer reminded folks to look in the *Advocator* for street closings for Festival and remember people cannot park in the MARTA lots. There will be signs posted.

A question was raised about Beltline Tours and parking for the tours. The tour director is having a baby, but tours are still happening. There is no specific parking for the tours.

Regina announced Paula Kupersmith as the new Education Chair. She is very knowledgeable about APS, and Regina is thrilled she is taking this on.

POLICE OFFICER'S REPORT

Officer John Chafee reported on the robbery-pistol-whip incident in Inman Park Village. Tips are coming in. There was a laptop theft incident, and the perpetrator was caught. On North Highland IPP and APD caught a male entering a house. They got the call from a neighbor who saw a suspicious person. It is important to be looking out for your neighbors.

There was an incident at Caribou Coffee on Edgewood; a laptop was stolen and employee chased and caught the individual. It was a juvenile from College

Park.

Reminder---the new number for the Security Patrol is 404-414-7802. Always call 911 first and then call the Inman Park Security Patrol.

Officer suggests downloading an app for tracking a Smartphone if it is stolen or involved in an incident.

A question was raised about a beating on MARTA. The officers had very little information. They noted that MARTA has a very good camera system and that MARTA has its own investigators.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

No elected officials attended. Jay Tribby asked folks to send e-mails to him with any questions.

IPNA OFFICER'S REPORTS

PRESIDENT: Regina Brewer

Regina Brewer announced a quirk associated with the street food alliance and Fulton County's rules that do allow street food vendors if there is a non-profit sponsor. A motion was made to support IPNA as a non-profit sponsor for food trucks. The motion was seconded and carried. A corrective vote was made to amend the agenda to add the food truck sponsorship vote.

The changes to the By-Laws were reviewed including clarification on the definition of Immediate Neighbors, V.P. of Communications, increase in threshold of budgeted expenditures, terms of board members, and deleting the amount for neighborhood dues.

Diane Floyd noted a modification to donor-restricted funds.

Security Patrol funds can roll over from year to year.

Approved budgeted items in amounts up to \$5,000 do not require re-approval by the neighborhood.

48 hours notice will be needed for Immediate Neighbors Meetings. Adam Stillman commented that they will always try to give five days notice, but the minimum will be 48 hours.

Diane Floyd commented on the use of more electronic communications, not just the *Advocator*.

Discussion ensued regarding the increase for spending budgeted items from \$500 to \$5,000 without going back to the neighborhood for additional approval to spend the money. Pat Westrick expressed concern for the possible need to change

priorities during the year. Regina responded that the budget could be revised. There was additional discussion around budgeted spending verses unbudgeted spending.

Pat Westrick proposed that the vote on the By-Laws be postponed. Regina Brewer agreed but asked people to go ahead and make their \$10.00 membership dues payments.

Revised version of By-Laws will be posted online.

Regina Brewer requested a vote for those in favor of all things in the budget over \$5,000 must come back to the neighborhood for approval. Regina counted 29 in favor.

Richard Westrick asked about the opportunity to suggest minor changes to the By-Laws. Suggestions can be made on the Yahoo Group or e-mail to Regina.

PLANNING: V.P. David Laube

David Laube reported on the CDP; all updates will remain except for the update of the section on Moreland. It has been struck out of the CDP. David reported that the updates were outlined in last month's *Advocator*, and he would like to have the updates voted on. A motion was made that the updates from Inman Park go on to the NPU. The motion was approved, seconded, and carried.

NPU: Megan Holder

Megan Holder and Jonathan Miller did not attend the meeting and there was no report.

ZONING: V.P. Amy Higgins

Amy Higgins reported that the review of the Parks'Edge liquor license did not go well. The Owner had new representation. The Board asked how they got their temporary license. The License Review Board will reach a resolution in June.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION: V.P. Adam Stillman

820 Lake Avenue is a Type II request to enclose roughly 120 sq. ft. for an office on the second floor. No one attended the Immediate Neighbors Meeting on April 4. The enclosure will not be visible from Lake but will be visible from Montag Circle. A motion was made to approve the application, seconded and carried.

418 Sinclair is a project Adam is working on so Tamara Jones made the presentation. An Immediate Neighbors

Meeting was held on Monday for a Type III application. The current owners are Erin and James Kane, and this is the Westrick's old house. The project will raise a non-historic portion of the roofline by increasing the roof slope slightly to create more useable upstairs space. There is no change to the front of the house.

A motion was made to support the application, seconded and approved.

Adam reported the revisions to the ordinance would be ready for a vote in May.

PUBLIC SAFETY: V.P. Bob Sandage

Bob Sandage reported the online payment for Security Patrol is going a bit slow. A comment was made that it is hard to find on the website.

Regina Brewer commented she belongs to some surrounding neighborhood groups and they have more crime. The Security Patrol makes a difference. The goal is to make the patrol 24/7 and it will make a huge difference.

Bob reported on the upcoming events; the Dine-Out event July 26 and 27, the combined 5K and Beer Fest Sept 10 and 11, and the Safety Dance March 2012.

TREASURER: Cameron Childress

Cameron Childress could not attend, so Regina Brewer announced the expenses as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Public Safety. | \$12,310.00 |
| Beautification. | \$2,295.00 |
| ----- | |
| Total Expenses. | \$14,605.00 |

SECRETARY: Barbara Black

Barbara announced she has the banners and flags as well as copies of the directories.

COMMITTEE REPORTS Festival Committee:

Pat Westrick said House Tour tickets are for sale; contact Pat. Also please volunteer. Volunteers are needed for late beer shifts.

Springvale Park:

Amy Higgins presented the Visioning Plan. The purpose of the Visioning is to identify everything the neighborhood wants for the Park and create a conceptualized plan.

Restoring the Lake is the top priority; therefore a hydrology study is needed. In the visioning process they worked to balance the attention to the north and the south side of the Park.

Planned sequencing is necessary so work does not have to be undone in the process. The first steps are a hydrology study, an erosion control study, and a site survey.

The goal is to make a better connection of the two parts of the parks. The graphic shows a staircase. Pedestrian access is needed. It is premature to design the staircase. Survey information with elevations and trees is needed. The connectivity can take many forms.

Again, the highest priority is to restore the lake. Other main components include expanding the playground with new equipment, site furnishings on the north side and a gravel parkway on the south

side. Medium priorities include a lakeside pavilion with water and power, an engineered lawn that is not soggy and a drinking fountain. Lower priorities include gateways, landscape on Waverly Way and an outdoor classroom on the south side. IPNA approval is needed, then the plan will go to the NPU and then to the City.

Concern was raised for the use of the south side of the Park, former school use of the park, the gravel parkway and the park remaining quiet. Amy reiterated that the bridge is not a part of the plan. Amy expressed concern for security since the south side of the Park can only be accessed from Edgewood Avenue.

Question was raised about the historic nature of the park. Amy responded the plan will need UDC approval.

A motion was made to approve the Visioning Plan as presented, seconded, and carried.

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

Regina Brewer reported the new board nominees: Eric Kane for V.P. of Historic Preservation, Alan Travis, V.P. of Zoning, Leigh Hays, V.P. of Communications, Carolyn McLaughlin as Treasurer, and Greg Scott, Security Patrol.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

The next meeting is Wednesday, May 18 at 7:30 p.m.. Regina Brewer adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

INMAN PARK SECURITY PATROL APRIL 2011-ACTIVITY REPORT

By Lt. Brent Schierbaum

INMAN PARK CRIME REPORT FOR APRIL 2011 2011

By Greg Scott

If you are thinking of moving to Inman Park and are reading this report, don't despair... Inman Park is an active and pro-active neighborhood and a wonderful place to live. We take our safety seriously and work in partnership with neighbors and the police to keep our neighborhood safe. If you already live in this great place, be aware and use this information to change your behavior so we can all be safe.

The best news on this report is the arrest of one of the burglars that have plagued the North Highland area. Hopefully with his arrest we will see a drop in the burglaries in that part of the neighborhood. It is imperative that we all watch out for one another. Let your neighbors know when you are going to be out of town and ask them to keep an eye out, call 911 if you see suspicious activity around your neighbors' houses, or even better, become a Silver Level member of the Security Patrol and take advantage of the Vacation Patrol. The arrest of this criminal all started with an alert citizen calling 911, and teamwork between the APD and IPP got the job done!

The worst news is the robbery at Inman Park Village. Unfortunately, the vermin that perpetrate these crimes like to prey on their victims late at night after folks have been enjoying themselves at our local bars and restaurants. Please exercise extreme caution if you are out late and particularly if you have a long way to walk. Once again, please look out for each other; and if you see anything suspicious or feel like you are in danger, call 911 immediately.

"Snatch Thefts" have become all the rage among the criminally inclined so please also be aware when walking with your phone or iPod or working on your laptop in public. The cretins that are perpetrating these acts are quite brazen, which hopefully doesn't bode well for their long-term freedom.

Until next month, be safe!

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------|---|
| Directed Patrols | 410 | Roadway/ sidewalk Obstruction | 4 | Larceny | 1 |
| Drop Ins/ Park and Walks | 283 | Injured Person | 3 | Hit and Run | 1 |
| Suspicious Person | 35 | Damage to Property | 2 | Reckless Driver | 1 |
| Alarm Activation | 20 | Auto Accident w/ Injury | 1 | Person Armed | 1 |
| Noise Complaint | 10 | Larceny from Auto | 1 | Fire | 1 |
| Fight/ Disturbance | 8 | Deceased Person | 1 | Shots Fired | 1 |
| Parking Complaint | 5 | Disorderly Juvenile | 1 | Wanted Person | 1 |
| Robbery | 4 | Abandoned Auto | 1 | Suspicious Vehicle | 1 |
| Enforcement Activity | Arrests: Noise Ordinance Violation | | | | 2 |
| Association Member Contacts | | | | 18 | |

| DATE | TIME | CRIME | BLOCK LOCATION | NOTEWORTHY |
|-----------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 3/17-3/20 | 11:00 AM-6:00 PM | Burglary | 400 Block N. Highland Ave. | Victim returned from out of town to find 2 laptops stolen from her apartment. |
| 3/23 | 5:30 AM | Burglary | 400 Block N. Highland Ave. | Apartment burglarized while victim was out of town. Witnesses saw 4-5 very young black males leave the apartment and drive off in a green Dodge Caravan. |
| 3/22 | 12:55PM | Burglary | 400 Block N. Highland Ave. | Citizen witness a prowler at house. APD responded and witnessed suspect on second floor deck of house removing the screen from a window and attempting to pry open the window. Suspect was taken into custody at the scene. |
| 3/23 | 8:00 AM-11:00 AM | Theft from Auto | 900 Block Edgewood Ave. | Car window smashed and suit stolen. |
| 3/27 | 10:30 PM | Theft from Auto | 400 Block N. Highland Ave. | Victim witnessed suspect, young black male, entering his unlocked vehicle. Suspect had stolen victim's cell phone but dropped it when victim gave chase. |
| 3/30 | 2:00 PM | Theft | 400 Block N. Highland Ave. | Victim was walking on N. Highland when suspect snatched his cellphone out of his hand. |
| 3/30-3/31 | 6:30 PM-8:00 AM | Auto Theft | 900 Block DeKalb Ave. | Car stolen from parking lot. |
| 4/2 | 2:00 AM | Robbery | 800 Block Inman Village Parkway | 3 victims were walking back to their vehicles from a bar when approached by a black male with a gun. One victim was struck on the back of the head. Suspect fled with victims' wallets and cellphones. |
| 4/7 | 3:30 PM | Theft | 200 Block N. Highland Ave. | Suspects entered coffee shop and snatched a laptop from victim. One suspect was unable to get into the getaway vehicle (gray Mercury Sable) and was taken into custody. |
| 4/14 | 2:30 PM | Theft from Vehicle | 100 Block Waverly Way | License plate stolen from vehicle. |

Porch Party! Porch Party!

MAY PORCH PARTY

Friday, May 27, 7:30

at the home of

Chuck Reece

242 Elizabeth Street

**BRING A DISH TO SHARE
AND YOUR FAVORITE
BEVERAGE**

Does your porch want to host a porch party? It's easy and fun!

Call Richard or Pat Westrick, 404-523-4801

Porch Party! Porch Party!

2011 BOOK CLUB CALENDAR

The Book Club meets on the 4th Wednesday of every month unless otherwise noted.

All meetings are at 7:00 p.m.

Bring a covered dish

May 25, 2011

Three Cups of Tea and Stones into Schools

by **Greg Mortenson**

Hosted by Linda Dunham

12 First Avenue (Kirkwood)

June 22, 2011,

What is the What

by **Dave Eggers**

Hosted by Tara Burdeslaw

548 Wimbledon Road (Piedmont Heights)

July 27, 2011

Major Pettigrew's Last Stand

by **Helen Simonson**

Hosted by Pam Gannon Parker

469 Carter Ave. (East Lake)

August 24, 2011

Lost Boys of Sudan:

An American Story of the

Refugee Experience

by **Mark Bixler**

Hosted by Cathy Cook and Jim McKinney

337 Drexel Avenue (Decatur)

For Information: 404-688-7330

ATLANTA URBAN DESIGN COMMISSION (AUDC) UPDATE

By Adam Stillman, Vice President for Historic Preservation

historic.preservation@inmanpark.org

Please note: If you wish to perform any construction work (beyond routine maintenance) on the exterior of a site, home, or building in the Inman Park Historic District, you must contact the AUDC to begin their review/approval process. Please contact me at the email address above as early in the project as possible to schedule meetings and be placed on the monthly IPNA meeting agenda, or for any questions related to the historic regulations or approval process.

| UPCOMING APPLICATION DEADLINES | APPLICATION DEADLINE | HEARING DATE |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| | May 17 | June 8 |
| | May 31 | June 22 |
| | June 21 | July 13 |

Recent AUDC actions on applications for Certificates of Appropriateness:

- **188 Waverly Way** - Application for a Type II Certificate of Appropriateness to allow window replacement - approved
- **796 Ashland Avenue** - Application for a Type II Certificate of Appropriateness to allow replace side and windows - deferred to May 4 due to lack of quorum
- **1122 Austin Avenue** - Application for a Type II Certificate of Appropriateness to allow for exterior renovations - deferred to May 4 due to lack of quorum

Applications scheduled for AUDC:

May 11

- **418 Sinclair Avenue** - Application for a Type III Certificate of Appropriateness to allow for an increase in the existing roof pitch and height
- **820 Lake Avenue** - Application for a Type III Certificate of Appropriateness to allow a second floor addition, porch enclosure
- **240 N. Highland Avenue** - Application for a Type II Certificate of Appropriateness (HD-11-069) to allow the installation of signage
- **1080 Euclid Avenue** - Application for a Type II Certificate of Appropriateness (HD-11-077) to allow the installation of signage

Please see the agenda on the back cover for applications scheduled for this month's IPNA meeting.

| AUDC CONTACT INFORMATION | | | |
|--------------------------|--|-----|--------------|
| Website | www.atlantaga.gov/government/urbandesign.aspx | | |
| Address | Atlanta Urban Design Commission 55 Trinity Ave., Suite 3400 Atlanta, GA 30335-0331 | | |
| Phone | 404-330-6200 | Fax | 404-658-6734 |

The Music and Arts Explosion
at Inman Park Church
Wednesday nights this Summer 2011
June 15, 22, 29, July 6, 13, and 20
Concert and Art Gallery with Reception:
Sunday, July 24th
All Creatures Great and Small!

Does your child love the arts? Wednesday nights this summer will offer students (rising Pre-K through 7th grade) the opportunity to study under George Arrington, Certified Music Educator, and some of the most talented Visual Artists of Inman Park.

Join us each Wednesday night from 5:30 p.m.-8:15p.m. We will study sacred choral music together and journey through the worlds of textiles, sculpture, watercolor and acrylic painting, culinary arts, and carpentry. We will explore how Holy Scripture has inspired some of the most beautiful musical and artistic creations of all time—and then we'll respond in our own unique ways.

We will also enjoy dinner together as well as free play and fellowship!

Cost:

\$30 for the 6-week semester

2 children per family - \$50

3 children or more per family - \$65

Fees pay for all supplies, t-shirts, and snacks.

Contact the church (404.522.9322)

for scholarship information.

REGISTER ONLINE @ www.inmanparkumc.org

Mail tuition checks payable to IPUMC

(with MAE in the memo line) to:

IPUMC, 1015 Edgewood Ave NE Atl, GA 30307

EVERYONE'S INVITED!

MEETINGS REGARDING THE FUTURE
ENROLLMENT FOR
ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
by Paula Kupersmith, Education Chair

As questions arise regarding potential rezoning within and around our Grady Cluster, IPNA would like parents and all neighbors to know how they can get involved:

May 18: Informational Kickoff for Second Phase of
Demographic Study

All stakeholders are invited to an informational kickoff meeting to launch the next phase of a comprehensive demographic study of Atlanta's public schools. The purpose of the meeting is to ensure that parents are engaged and aware of how to provide input into decisions that will result from the demographic study. The Bleakly Advisory Group, Cropper GIS and McKibben Demographics, LLC will provide an overview of their communications plan and a timeline for community and public engagement. The kickoff meeting takes place at the APS Center for Learning and Leadership (130 Trinity Ave SW) at 6:30 p.m.

May 19: Inman Park Neighbors Evening with Atlanta Board
of Education District 1 Representative, Brenda Muhammad

An evening with your representative who will explain how Atlanta Public Schools operate, how school zones are created, and how the budget process impacts the students. This is the opportunity for Inman Park residents to ask questions and become better informed about their neighborhood schools. The meeting will be held at 7:30 pm. at Inman Park Methodist Church.

If you have any questions, please contact Paula Kupersmith at rdhdbnrnis@hotmail.com.

INMAN PARK PRINCIPAL PRIDE

by Sue G. Collins

Inman Middle School Principal, Dr. Betsy Bockman has been named winner of the 2011 Professional Achievement Award from the University of Georgia College of Education. The Alumni Awards Selection Committee received a nomination from an Inman Middle School parent and honored Bockman for the outstanding contributions made throughout her career in the field of education. Congratulations to our wonderful principal for this prestigious honor!

Dr. Bockman has been an educator for 17 years, serving as an elementary school principal, Montessori Head of School, high school and elementary school assistant principal, elementary school physical education teacher, and high school coach. She holds a Bachelor's in Education degree from Georgia Southern College, Masters of Education degree in sports management from the University of Georgia and an Educational Specialist degree in educational leadership from the University of Georgia.

She earned her Doctor of Philosophy degree in educational studies from Emory University.

Before beginning her career in education, Dr. Bockman worked in public relations, stadium operations, and radio for the Atlanta Braves. She is a native Atlantan, attending Garden Hills Elementary School, Sutton Middle School, North Fulton High School and graduating from Northside High School (now North Atlanta High School). Dr. Bockman is an Adjunct Professor at Mercer University and graduate of the Midtown Atlanta Leadership Program. She is the adoptive mother of five beautiful children ages 11, 9, 8, nearly 4 and nearly 3. Dr. Bockman serves on the Emory University School of Law Barton Family Law and Policy Clinic Advisory Board and on the School Renewal Review Team for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). We are so proud to call her Inman Park's own!

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

FROM YOUR EDITOR

By Diane Floyd

The following article was sent to the *Advocator* on Sunday of the 40th Inman Park Spring Festival. It serves as a reminder that the history of Inman Park is far more complicated than we generally remember.

The last several months were marked by a great deal of discussion about the Inman Park “Pioneers,” the people who moved into Inman Park in 1970 and 1971 and organized the very first Festival. And in 2008 Sharon Foster Jones published a book primarily about the early history of Inman Park. This letter reminded me of another part of the history of our neighborhood that I thought had gotten lost in 1993 when Inez Dulaney died.

When John and I moved to the neighborhood in the Fall of 1979, at first we felt sure that everyone who lived here at the time had been here since those almost mythical days in 1971. It was true that, on Waddell Street where we lived, our next-door neighbors were the Gilliam family, complete with cars on blocks in the front yard and the most incredible vegetable garden in the back yard. The across-the-street neighbors were the Moore family, another vestige of an earlier time, complete with the most wonderful collection of bearded iris you can imagine that filled their front yard. Why would we have thought that time started in 1971? Call it the arrogance of youth. (And yes, we were VERY young.)

The true depth of that ignorance and arrogance was brought home by my very first volunteer activity in Inman Park: I became the IPR representative to the Bass Community Council. That organization dated to the 1930's and was founded in response to the Depression. It brought together the business, church, and community leaders of the area served by Bass High School to discuss solutions to the deep problems affecting the area. (Someday I'll write the story of this organization and how Bass High School had a truly revolutionary principal but that is not the story for today.)

However the organization included two women from Inman Park who gave me a new insight into what had really happened in this little piece of the city I now called home: Mrs. Gordon and Inez Dulaney. Both had lived most of their lives in the neighborhood and were a powerful reminder that “we” were latecomers, although welcomed for what we could bring to “their” neighborhood. Mrs. Gordon was in her 90's when I first met her and I never got to know her well. (It didn't help that she was absolutely devoted to the Bass Community Council and I was the person who “killed it” in the end.) However, I came to know, and love, Inez Dulaney. (An effort was made in the 1980's to record the “oral histories” of some of the “old-timers.” Those have made it into the Archives of Inman Park and need to be shared.)

When Inez died, I somehow assumed that she was the last of the residents who had “weathered” the 1930's and 40's. A chance visit with Midge Sweet in mid-April in which we talked about the “Pioneer” stories published in last month's *Advocator* brought the astounding revelation that there were still people in the neighborhood who pre-dated those “Pioneers.” I contacted one of them, Eugene Bales, who has lived his entire life at the corner of Lake Avenue and Hale Street and he graciously sent me 13 pages of his memories of his life here which can be found on page 22 of this *Advocator*.

And then, a chance check of my e-mail on that Sunday, brought another wonderful surprise. Yes, the history of Inman Park IS complicated but it is not entirely too late to make up for the opportunities we have missed to record, understand and share that history. This is just the beginning of the story!

THE “TRUE GUARDIANS” OF INMAN PARK

By Susan Wade, Virgil Street

It's all well and good for those of you who have only lived here five, ten or forty years to congratulate yourselves on what a wonderful thing you have done revitalizing our neighborhood. But, aren't you forgetting those of us who rode out the storm of apartment-alized homes, transients and crime?

My grandfather moved his new bride here in 1906 to work, with his brother, in the Atlanta Stove Works on Krog Street. That's where my mother was born in 1909. In 1917, he moved the family into the house on Virgil Street.

My handy grandfather, Oscar May Morgan, built a playground for the neighborhood kids in the then-vacant lot across the street at the corner of Hale and Virgil. During the Great Depression, he started a neighborhood garden on the lot that is now Gordon Park at Ashland and Virgil.

My mother and her brother grew up here, as did my brothers and I. My mother used to play tennis in Springvale Park and basketball in the Car Barn. She was a member of the Lake Avenue Garden club and her letter to a women's magazine initiated the Yardville Project in the late 40s that built the long retaining wall between the houses on Virgil and Lake.

I attended Moreland Elementary where Horizon Theater is now. I remember the great homes and the church that used to be along the Freedom Park paths. My Mother and I were there when we defeated the Stone Mountain Freeway initiative that tore down those stately homes.

I remember my mother telling me of the lake that used to be on the property that Inman Park Village now occupies. That's how Lake Avenue got its name.

I remember the great field in front of the Montag (later Mead) plant of that same stretch of Lake Avenue and how it was a favorite location for Easter Egg hunts. The woods adjacent to the Inman Park Village was where we built our playhouse and where I got my first kiss. I learned to drive in the parking lot that is now the Inman Park Village pond.

I remember walking anywhere in my neighborhood and hearing “Hello” or “Good Afternoon” from everyone I'd pass.

There are a few remaining original residents who refused to succumb to the “White Flight” of the 60s and stayed in our beloved homes in our beloved Inman Park. We have stories and photographs of our life here in Inman Park. We are a part of the history of this neighborhood.

MEMORIES

*Readings from the Memorial Tree Planting held
during the 40th Inman Park Spring Festival on
Sunday, May 1, 2011
in Freedom Park*

Robert Griggs, written and read by Carrie Austin

Robert Griggs' love affair with Inman Park began when he was sent to appraise the stained glass windows in Judge Pye's home here in the right-of-way. While driving to this appointment he passed 866 Euclid Avenue where the front doors were nailed open and one could roam through the house to the back yard, with glass shards and burned out cars everywhere. There were many apartments – one in the parlor where men slept on one side and women on the other separated by a sheet attached to the single light bulb hanging from the ceiling. There were babies sleeping in dresser drawers and tenants eating on a wooden picnic table stolen from Springvale Park. Mice ran around the picture moldings with NO fear of being thrown out – Griggs loved all creatures, large and small. Robert assumed 5 mortgages and moved in with Eva Braun (his German shepherd) and Yetta the poodle – all transported in the 1966 Black Cadillac convertible. Tenants stayed on – quite amazed I'm sure! Robert's parents, Virginia & Emory Griggs, came to get a look at the new place, christened Belle Wretch for good reason. Virginia broke down and cried, Emory just "looked up" – in need of heavenly support!

Many people were very important to the early residents of Inman Park...one in particular was the neighborhood "Saint," Louise Rivers, who came around early in the morning leaving bread and rolls on the doorstep of those she thought were in need. She fed us, encouraged us and believed in us like no other! At an Inman Park Restoration celebration, in our Methodist church, Louise asked Robert Aiken to "spice up" the punch for the festivities. He obliged with a good douse of Vodka. All went well until "Miss Inez" Dulaney had a bit more than two cups... well, she was happy to be taken home by one of her admirers.

Edith Hills Coogler, Women's Editor for the Atlanta Constitution was a dear friend of Robert's and managed to get the paper to do a Christmas special on Inman Park. The only thing was it had to be photographed in July. Virginia Griggs and other friends rose to the occasion, dressed in period costumes and endured the heat to get the Christmas issue ready – they were probably wishing for some of Aiken's "refreshing" punch about then! The feature was a big hit and people began to come see what was going on in this forgotten downtown soon-to-be-again neighborhood.

We pioneers survived and thrived! At one of our local eateries, Ma Hull was washing the chickens in the bathtub

and serving them fried as usual at her Hurt Street boarding house...until eventually someone thought better of it and closed her down. Trying to maintain her business, she explained that she ALWAYS rinsed the tub out after her bath before putting the chickens in. God bless our blind faith and good immune systems!

Miss Gertrude Lozier was another important part of life at Belle Wretch. She had lived there with her aunt & uncle, the John R. Dickeys (early owners of the house). She came back to be the hostess for a house tour, sitting on the front porch in her wedding gown greeting the visitors. She remembered how they would go to ride on Sunday afternoon in a carriage pulled by "Charlie" the horse who was kept in the backyard. The carriage house later burned down when Mrs. Dickey's electric car caught fire.

And Christmas! Was there ever too much Christmas for Robert Griggs – NO! His renowned Christmas parties drew friends, relatives and neighbors from far and wide. One year he hired a restored calliope to meander through the neighborhood playing Christmas music. Guests with lanterns walked along beside singing carols 'til our hearts rejoiced and were filled with the Christmas spirit. Just as Griggs had hoped!

Well, Inman Park did become a neighborhood again – a tight knit, caring, supporting neighborhood unlike any other - all the initial vision of Robert Griggs. Some major contributions to Belle Wretch were Bo Bradshaw's masterful and elaborate chimneys, gorgeous refinished floors by Michael Purser, Rosebud Co. and the handiwork of John Sweet in the sheetrock ceiling of the master bedroom – after a joyful party above caused a small crash. Neighbors helping each other...that's how we thrived then and now!

Neither Robert Griggs nor Robert Aiken ever really got over leaving their beloved "Belle Wretch" but times they were a-changing and they moved on. Health issues and retirement time called for a less hectic pace in the country. With preservation in their blood, they continued to live out a life calling, putting their hearts and hands to the stewardship of their magnificent historic properties for the benefit of generations to come. Since they were inseparable – The Roberts – the Austin children distinguished them as "Plain & Fancy." At home we usually referred to Griggs

as "Robert" and Aiken as "Robert Aiken." Once when Robert Griggs called our house, our daughter Lane (about 7 or 8 at the time) answered the telephone, said "It's for you, Mom" and when I asked who it was, her answer was "Plain Robert." Well, you can imagine the indignation at the other end of the telephone! "So, what does that make Robert Aiken - Fancy Robert??" The answer was Yes, forevermore! Thank You, PLAIN & FANCY, for your monumental contributions to all our lives.



**Jeff Dees, read by his daughter,
Anna Kate Dees Brown**

Mom and Dad were newlyweds when they purchased 897 Edgewood Avenue. They left their bungalow near Brookwood Station and moved to the slums. They chose that house because the front door was standing open, Dad could see the staircase and he had to have that house. And, being newly married, Mom was still in the "Yes Dear" "Whatever you say, dear" mind set.

Dad was a CPA, but he could wire and plumb and paint and hang light fixtures with the best of them. They closed on the house in February, 1972, and worked diligently every evening after work on one upstairs room to get it clean and liveable. During the time they were working on this room the other "apartments" were still weekly rented...one had to have people living in the house to prevent someone from stealing the mantles and windows. Then in March, 1972, they vacated the tenants and moved in.

Mom and Dad would work every night on the house, then get up in the morning, go out the front door, step over the winos passed out on their sidewalk, get into their car and drive to Five Points and go to their yuppie jobs and be like "real people." They would come home, go through the house and sweep up all the dead mice (they went through a case of De-con) and then start stripping wood, sanding and painting. Dad was like an "energizer bunny" ... he just kept going and going and going.

While homes were being sold and weekly tenants moving out, apartment buildings still catered to the derelict weekly furnished rental folks. So, Mom and Dad bought the Elizabeth Terrace (quickly nicknamed "The Lizzie T") and began renting to single young professionals who agreed to restore the apartment with my parents supplying the materials. Then there was the Salvation Army building on Delta Place which was a halfway house for men that honestly were less than "halfway," so they bought that also and rented to more young professionals. So now they were working on three locations and Dad was keeping track of where the ladders and tools were at any given moment. Dad kept it all going.

The early pioneers are family, bonded together even today. When Dad died two years ago, there were many Inman Park friends and one Lizzie T tenant who went all the way to Flat Rock, NC for his service. They knew Dad, they respected him, and we all miss him.

Mary Singleton, written and read by Bonnie Dees

Mary Singleton was a visionary realtor who had the ability to show a filthy, derelict house and focus her attention on the "glorious crown molding." Many young couples bought homes after Mary, wearing her rose-colored glasses, sold them on Inman Park. Mary was petite, had an hour glass figure, wore 4" stiletto heels and would sweep into a slum lord's Victorian house and see only the potential. She was one of a kind. Eventually Mary bought a home here (940 Waverly Way) and moved to be among us. She could be so sweet and genteel, a real Southern lady and then turn around on a dime and swear like a sailor if someone crossed her. She was a special lady and a real character (as were MANY of the early folks who lived here). A little bit of craziness was needed to survive. We miss you Mary.

**Rodney Eaton, written by his wife, Pam Eaton and
read by his son, Ulysses Eaton**

Rodney was a friend of Robert Griggs and, back in 1969-70, Robert talked Rod into buying 872 Edgewood Avenue in Inman Park. He soon bought 876 Edgewood Avenue next door. Pam moved in and restoration started. Back then there were only about 10 other families that had bought houses to restore, thanks to Robert Griggs, so it was a close knit group. Inman Park Restoration, Inc. was formed and we were on our way.

The planning for the very first festival started in Rod's living room along with Marydith Chase and others. Lots of discussion took place. The original idea was to have an event to create interest so other young people would move to this neighborhood to help save it and buy and restore the old houses. Part of the plan was to get Edgewood Avenue closed from Delta Place down to Hurt Street so we could have a parade. A meeting was held with Sam Massell who was the mayor of Atlanta at that time to talk him into letting us close the street. I have a photo of Rod, Robert Griggs and Marydith Chase talking to the mayor.

This goal was accomplished, so excitement was in the air. We then built a small stage across from the car barn on the other end of Edgewood Avenue. The purpose of the stage was for the officers of Inman Park Restoration to sit on in their festive attire of red and white stripped vest and straw hats to welcome everyone and watch the parade go by. The very first festival had a parade with the Salvation Army Band, a street sweeper with Holly Mull riding on it as our first trash queen, Robert Griggs as our grand marshal, and any other of our members who wanted to participate.

We also had different vendors selling their wares plus food vendors. To everyone's surprise the festival brought lots of citizens throughout Atlanta and we made money. We didn't know what to do with this money so it was hidden under mattresses that night until an account was set up. This was the beginning of a great annual event. Our logo became the "butterfly" and banners were made to hang on each house under restoration. We also established the Butterfly Ball which became an annual event and "Joel awards" were given out each year at the Ball to individuals for their dedication to the restoration movement. We truly were afraid of nothing back then and accomplished just about anything we went after to fulfill the dream of saving this neighborhood.

Margie Veneziale, written by George Veneziale, Jane Kourkoulis, Judy Clements and Cathy Bradshaw

Margie was such a valuable Inman Park neighbor that she received three Joel Awards.

It was Margie's idea to make use of the tent on Saturday night during festival. What began as the fun, lively and open-to-everyone Saturday Night Street Dance, with Daddy G as dee jay, became too lively and too much to dance all night at Butterfly Ball, get up early to put on Festival and have our houses on tour, then dance again on Saturday night.. Margie thought it would be a better idea to have a quieter event and at the same time raise money for our local theatres. Margie helped start Theatre Night 21 years ago and was a vital part of the committee which continues to raise much needed funds for four theatres within walking distance of our homes in Inman Park. Theatre Night was dedicated to Margie last year.

Margie loved Fats Domino, Leonard Cohen, AND Andrea Boccelli. She loved to dance, had been a fan of American Bandstand when she was growing up in New Jersey, and was often the first and last on the dance floor at neighborhood dances.

Margie also loved the ballet. She once danced a vintage evening gown to shreds at Butterfly Ball.

Margie looked stunning in a designer suit, a Navajo skirt, or jeans and a crisp white shirt...particularly while tooling around in that Cutlass convertible.

George and Margie moved to Inman Park in 1974. She worked for Davison's, then Rich's, which was eventually bought by Macy's. Margie had a great eye for clothes and was the personal shopper for more than one husband who needed help selecting a gift for his wife. She loved to hunt for special items at flea markets and antique shows. She was often responsible for finding the "perfect" item for a friend's home or wardrobe. Her homes in Atlanta and the North Georgia mountains were a testament to Margie's good taste and decorating skills.

Margie was honored by Macy's not only for her incredible work ethic but also for her invaluable and tireless volunteer efforts. She lead teams with the "Christmas in April" program and helped the elderly in Intown neighborhoods, especially the Old Fourth Ward with painting, cleaning and landscaping their old homes. Margie was involved in the Inman Park Habitat for Humanities project when an old home was adopted and renovated by a huge crew of neighbors. In 2008, Margie led the effort to furnish an apartment for a Bhutanese refugee family being resettled by RRISA, a local organization where Margie served on the Board of Directors.

Margie was a much-loved and loving daughter, sister, aunt, wife and friend. And some have said Margie was a saint. We all know how much she loved George. She was heard to say, after yet another emergency room visit in yet another state, "Well, life with George is never boring."

If you knew Margie more than casually, you probably loved her too. Margie was the best friend one could hope for.

Margie adopted the mantra "Life's journey is not to arrive at the finish line safe in a well-preserved body, but to slide in sideways, totally worn out, shouting 'WOW, what a ride'."

We will always miss Margie, but we can remember and celebrate our love and appreciation for Margie Veneziale with this tree.

Holly Mull, a poem written and read by Willie Williams

Faithful witness at our Lord's nativity scene
Sacrificial red
Gold
Forever faithful green
Holly Tree
Gave us love and hope
To live out loud our dreams
Provided shade through Hotlanta's summers
Mackinac's crisp, brisk breeze
Branches bend, but never broken
Holly Tree
Gave us love and hope
To live out loud our dreams
Perpetual joy
Unconditional love
Your banner waves
in the
Festival of festivals and parade of parades
Holly Tree
Gave us love and hope
To live out loud our dreams

Werner Sahling, written and read by his wife, Clare White Sahling

This tree is planted in memory of my husband, Werner Sahling. Werner was not a pioneer of Inman Park. He arrived in 1975, 5 years after I'd arrived. By that time, I had at least managed the worst of the ickies on that little house on Ashland Avenue. Werner came to a party of mine the night before the 1975 Festival and, essentially never left.

He became a contractor rather by default but happened to be very good at it. Although he worked on other people's houses, our house was his test lab. He rethought everything and worked it out in our home. And, it needs to be stated, that when he moved in, I had done pretty much all I could manage by myself. There were some big-deal structural issues that he indeed tackled and rescued. I was forever grateful. He worked a lot around the neighborhood before his company got really pretty big-time and went off to conquer new worlds.

But at home, he put in a dishwasher. It sounds so straightforward, but it certainly wasn't. The installation was unlike any before or since. It is complicated (I only discovered what all he'd done when I had to replace the dishwasher a few years after his death), but I assure you, no one has ever managed an installation like that. For me, and others, those became "Wernerisms" – repairs unlike any instruction manual. And they worked, which was almost annoying.

Besides the dishwasher, he built this marvelous fence around the back garden on a couple of hot, summer weekends. He dug post-holes 7 feet deep, muttering that they rotted from the bottom and he never wanted to do it again. So he and the kitten we had just acquired, dug those holes for days. The kitten was tiny and she would squeak from down at his feet; he would pick her up, give her a pet, and then let her run on her way. She would return every 15 minutes. This was the pattern throughout the building of that fence.

He added a basement to our house. This was a little Victorian house on brick piers with a 3'-0" maximum height crawl space. He bought himself a God-awful dump truck, arranged to put the dirt behind the local bar, and made arrangements with our next door neighbors who were only 8' away. He rented a bobcat and went to work. He hauled 92 truckloads of dirt from under that house. Our street became a dusty, dirt road for months afterwards. To me it is still a remarkable deal, for one person. He hired help when it was critical, but essentially, he was on his own. He helped around the neighborhood as needed, receiving panicked calls at all hours. When Holly Morris wrote his obituary for the *Advocator*, she said it was like having Zeus up the street. I can think of no better way to think of him. He was a kind and gentle man. I miss him still.

Do YOU have stories of your time in Inman Park that you would be willing to share? Don't delay. Write them down and send them to: theadvocator@bellsouth.net.

I will publish some in the "paper" *Advocator*, some in the on-line version of the *Advocator*, and make sure that all of them are put in the Inman Park Archives.

INMAN PARK: GROWING UP

By Eugene Bales

ROOTS

I came to Inman Park in 1937 and have never moved; I'd have to clean out the attic! I still sleep in the bed I was born in. My great uncle was a physician and they *really* did make house calls. My brother John was born at Georgia Baptist and mama always did claim that his behavior indicated that he had been "swapped out;" she did not have the same excuse for me.

My grandmother had insisted that my parents move in with them as the time for my birth drew close. My maternal grandmother [Lucy DeVoe Austin Cox] was an Austin whose uncle had property in the area and her older brother [Arch Avery Austin] had gone to work as a pharmacist for Pendergrass and Poole Drug Store [at the intersection of Moreland and Seminole]. When my mother was born they had lived with the "Widow Benning" in Candler Park. When my grandmother's father died, she and her brother began to subdivide and sell off lots from the family farm which was on present-day Lindberg Drive [at \$300 to \$600 per lot]. This income made the purchase of the house in Inman Park possible. They paid \$1,250.

LAY OF THE LAND

At that time most of the wealthy people had or were moving to Druid Hills and Inman Park was becoming more middle class. Some fairly well to do and/or influential folk still lived in the area and continued to do so into the late 50's. I remember the widow of the chief-counsel for Coca-Cola still lived, along with her maid and butler, in the house at the corner of Waverly Way and Euclid. When I was throwing papers as a teen she would have the butler drive her to our house with a tip at Christmas.

Others I recall were J.M.C. Townsend, a Justice on the State Court of Appeals lived at 1117 Austin. Judge of the Superior Court, Durwood Pye lived on Poplar Circle. The Sheriff of Fulton County, Leroy Stinchcomb lived in the large house at Hurt and Euclid. His chief deputy, Mr. Maxey, lived on Waverly Way. There were also the owners of several small business: DeJarnet [Construction], Ledbetter [Roofing], Johnson [Sheet Metal]. Professionals included physician and several attorneys and teachers.

Our house is at the corner of Lake and Hale. Until Montag began to build their headquarters in the early 60's the land from Lake to Highland and from Small Carpenters at Large to Montag Circle was a primeval forest. The topography sloped from Lake down toward a small creek running from a spring near Montag Circle down to where the lake is currently located. From the creek the land rose sharply to level out at Highland. There was a flat cleared area on Highland where the Inman Park Lofts currently stand. This was used annually by the Ringling Brothers Circus for their midway and big top. A smaller flat area was on Lake where Montag Circle joins and it was used to house the performers, circus mess, etc.

Headed towards downtown on Lake from Elizabeth, on the right hand side there was a small one story brick building housing Our Way Machine Shop then three houses similar to the ones on Austin. The next structure was a two story brick building that housed Mr. Sajem's dry cleaners and laundry. On the opposite side of Elizabeth at Austin was Mr. Huggins grocery, a couple of small shops, the Austin Avenue Buffet and lastly, Mr. Gordon's barbershop. The Gordon's lived at 193 Hale Street. The area of the small park at Elizabeth and Lake was the site of Mr. Merrill's Sundry and Dry Goods store. On Highland where Soto Soto is now located was one of the neighborhood kids favorite places- the

Popsicle Redemption center. If you collected so many Popsicle wrappers [sort of messy in the summer] you could redeem them for all sorts of things. Rather like Montag Paper did with "Blue Horse" coupons you could cut from items and redeem.

Going up Austin towards Little Five Points across from where Sinclair intersects, there were three houses which sat very far back from the street. They were up on the side of the hill towards Euclid and the lower yards were subject to flooding. After those was a two story dark brown cinder block house owned by Mr. Barksdale who taught at Bass. Two house further were the Fluker's [who always gave away candy apples for Halloween], then Mrs. Howard and her grandson [my cousin, Howard Parris]. The corner house at Euclid was, I believe, the parsonage from the Presbyterian Church which sat on Euclid slightly west and across from where Alta Ave intersects. Continuing west [back towards town] on Euclid there were two or three large two story homes.

There were several businesses including Mr. Hutchenson's butcher shop, a beauty parlor and at least one other business on Euclid between Poplar Cir. and Hurt. The corner of Hurt and Euclid, where the play ground is presently, was occupied by a brick apartment complex similar in construction to the ones on Highland between Washita and Colquitt. They occupied a rather deep ravine and had multiple basements. I believe the bringing of this area to street level took place at the time of the bridge construction in Springvale Park.

There were two or three cottage-type houses on the left along Hurt Street going towards Edgewood. They were followed by the Inman Park Baptist Church, then four or five two story houses, one of which belonged to Mrs. Crespo, who rented apartments. Dr. Waller's drug store was at the corner of Edgewood and Hurt. It was a favorite "quick stop" for teens between Sunday school and church at both the Baptist and Methodist churches. Its most notable incident was an article in the *Atlanta Journal* about "Oscar." Oscar was the dog belonging to my paternal grandfather who lived across the railroad tracks on Walthall Street. [At the time, Hurt Street continued across the railroad tracks and became Walthall Street.] "Mr. Joe" got off the streetcar at the end of the line in front of the drug store and each day would walk up to meet him. Oscar was particularly inclined to like ice cream so Mr. Joe set up a charge account with the pharmacist and Oscar was served a bowl of ice cream every day while waiting for the streetcar.

Past the drug store was a Piggly Wiggly grocery and a dry cleaners/laundry. Several very large and grand houses, including one in white marble and with a swimming pool, stood along Edgewood. There was a "filling station" at the corner of Elizabeth and Edgewood and another at the corner of Hurt and DeKalb. Further down Edgewood, just past Waddell, were three two-story wooden houses with smaller houses at the back of the lots which they had constructed for rentals after World War II.

Where Euclid branches off Edgewood were three churches: The Church of God [Rev. Harp] on one side of Druid Circle, a Lutheran congregation [?] on the other corner and next to it a community non-denominational church [Rev. Paulk] later sold to the Lizzy Chapel congregation.

Little Five Points was the focus of the community. Since transportation was limited virtually everything one needed was located there. There were two grocery stores, A&P [Rag-O-Rama] and Red Dot [Bike shop], a fresh chicken market [American Apparel] where you could pick your chicken.. they would kill it, dip it in hot water, throw it into a tumbler sort of like a clothes dryer and, presto, fresh chicken. Of course this cost extra so most people took them home and wrung their neck or used an axe then threw a large wash tub over them to keep them contained until

they bled out . The disadvantage was you had to dip them and pluck the feathers and wet chicken feathers smell awful!

We had three movie theaters: Euclid, Little Five Points and another whose name I cannot recall facing the end of McLendon Avenue. Euclid Avenue Baptist Church [Rev. Niger] which had split off from Inman Park Baptist was in the house now behind Vinnie's. The Sweet Lime building held a Kidders Grill. There was a bank, a library, Little Five Points Bakery [where you could buy a bag of yesterdays brownies or cookies for a nickel, a five and dime store, Zesto's, Adamson's Beauty Salon, Harmon Cleaners, a Miss Georgia Ice Cream store and two pharmacies, Pendergrass and Poole and Euclid Drug [Dr. Dekauph]. A filling station was located where the triangle park is currently. At that time Euclid continued straight through forming a triangle. There were a couple of liquor stores on the west side of Moreland. These were very profitable since Moreland divided wet Fulton from dry DeKalb. My daddy always said that then there was a movement to make DeKalb wet, most of the money to keep it dry came from the liquor dealers along Moreland. The current Elmar's housed Barfield's Gym. The next building was the post office. It and the next door filling station there belonged to Mr. Hallyburton.

LIFE

Life revolved around the family. Most families were multi-generational partly due to custom and partly to the depression. During wartime this was made doubly important since the men were off at war and the women were working. Having someone to care for the children was critical. Our family, the Mullinax's [853 Lake], the Wilson/Hopkins [209 Hale], the Johnsons, [203 Hale], the Gordon's The Hardin's who lived in the Hurt cottage, and the Ledbetter's [230Elizabeth] all had grandparents and/or great-grandparents living with the core family. Virtually every room in a house was in use. I can think of only two families I visited who had a formal dining room; everyone ate in the kitchen. With few exceptions, the entire family ate at the same time, followed by school work, radio or, after 1948, television .

We had only one radio and it was on most of the day. At breakfast we usually heard the LaFevers, a gospel music program, followed by The Breakfast Club, a variety program which also included Kate Smith [a singer]. From about eleven until two, programming was aimed at women with soap operas such as *Stella Dallas* and *John's Other Wife*. From four thirty until six there were kids programs which were mostly adventure oriented such as *The Lone Ranger*, *Tom Mix* or, *Sky King*. Six o'clock was Walter Winchell with the news ["Good evening Mister and Mrs. America and all the ships at sea..."]. Later there was *Suspense Theater*, *Nick Charles* [detective story], *Amos and Andy* or, *The Phantom*. Saturday morning favorites were the dramatizations of stories by Mother Goose or Hans Christian Anderson. Since everyone was "compelled" to listen to everyone else's choices we grew up with a wide world view, especially with the news and talk among the grown-ups of the war and the progress of the troops.

My grandmother bought the first t.v. in the neighborhood for my eleventh birthday. It was a whopping twelve and a half inch Philco console. Since it was the only t.v. for blocks, our house became very popular for watching Howdy Doody, The Ed Sullivan Show and, on Saturday night, the wrestling match. Nothing but a test pattern was on from about eleven at night until four the next afternoon on *both* channels. Most folks read the *Atlanta Journal* [afternoon], the *Atlanta Constitution* [morning] or, for a time, the *Georgian* to get the news.

We were fortunate enough to have a telephone. It was [still is] as heavy as an anvil and early on I remember talking to an operator to make a local call and, for many years if you wanted to make a long distance call you had to go through an operator. On long distance people raised their voice volume. Our number was 8550, then as Atlanta grew it became JAcKson 8550. It eventually became JAcKson5-8550 and everyone wondered how we would remember all those numbers.

Everyone knew everyone else. My mother could practically name every occupant of the houses on Lake, Hale, Virgil, Elizabeth and Austin. People did not relocate, not even the renters, and there was a great deal of visiting going on. People did not have a lot of things so tools and household items were often borrowed from one another.

Everyone knew most of everyone else's business. People knew that M got falling down drunk. If a neighbor found him they would help him home, ring the doorbell and politely leave before it was answered. Mr. B was "not quite right" and no one paid much attention when he would walk down the middle of the street yelling. The "funny" fellow up on Lake near the railroad was tolerated but off limits to kids. Adults were not afraid to ask a child into their house for lemonade and kids thought nothing about accepting. In this same way people helped one another when they could, Mrs. Wilson liked to enter contests if she did not have to pay anything. One year she won a case of tuna fish. She [probably happily for her family] shared it around among the neighbors. My father and grandfather kept a Victory Garden across the street in an area cleared from the woods. Neighbors were welcome to stop and pick something if they needed it but most would stop at the house and speak to someone who most likely was sitting out on the porch. The produce from the garden, supplemented with other vegetables from the State Farmers Market on Lee Street in the West End, were canned in the summer. With much sweating, the items were prepared, par-boiled, placed in sterilized glass Bell jars and placed on shelves in the closet. My Grandmother always had to do extra jars of pickled peaches because the maid's husband, who did the yard, often wanted a jar of them for his lunch in lieu of anything else..

The men mostly being at war meant that most families were single mom types. It was always a tense time when someone got a telegram and neighbors rallied for bad news. We were always interested in hearing war stories from those on leave but they often did not want to talk about it. There were family members and friends who remembered both the Spanish-American War and the American Civil War and they were more prone to tell stories. My paternal great grandmother [Delilah Brassell Cox] and a lady born into slavery [Sally Solomon] would tell us family stories when they while keeping us. Sitting quietly on the porch and just listening we heard the oral history of various family members.

During wartime many of my friends lost fathers and uncles. We were too small to appreciate the impact of those events but occasionally they connected. I recall my grandmother receiving a telegram while we sitting on the porch one morning. My uncle [John H. Cox] was missing in action. He was later recovered but her reaction to the news is still imprinted on me. When Mac Gordon was shot in France while hanging from a parachute, folks reacted as they did when someone in the neighborhood died. They cooked and visited.

Death came only rarely since most of the people in the neighborhood were young and relatively healthy. When it did come people went into "support mode." Hams, fried chicken, casseroles and cakes were common items to take to the family making sure they had enough for visitors and relatives coming for

the funeral.. Since insurance was an extra expense people often did not have it, so if there was a death someone would go door to door taking up contributions.

My grandfather, Mr. Wilson next door, and Mr. Gordon all had cars. "Uncle Will" Mullinax [853 Lake] had a battered old car he used in his painting business. People mostly walked or hitched a ride or, if they had to go to town, took the street car.

Uncle Will and his brother had a sideline during the winter to make up for no painting work. They sold Christmas trees from the triangular lot now the side yard of 853 Lake. Most of the trees were cedars and cost from \$1.50 to \$3.50. A six footer or more was \$1 a foot.

Childhood diseases were a real concern. From what my mother said, I suspect this was because the parents lived through and remembered the pandemic of the 20's. Some people still gave purgatives in the spring to "clean you out" but my family did not. Measles, mumps and Scarlet fever were common and you might find yourself quarantined by the Health Department if you had one of them. Polio was probably the most feared and FDR's popularity kept it fresh in peoples mind. In April of each year they would take an intermission at every movie theater and pass a basket for contributions to fight polio: The March Of Dimes. Colds were treated with a dose of Castor Oil mixed into a glass of orange juice. [It was years before I could stomach orange juice!]. Cuts were treated by a kiss and band-aid or, if worse, the application of an ointment called Oil of Sol. One rarely went to the Doctor and if one were needed you called and they came to you.

Houses were still largely heated by coal. Furnaces were rare and most people supplemented the coal with space heaters. Gas lines had been brought to the house but was used mainly to replace the kerosene ceiling fixtures. By the time I came along the fixtures had been changed to have gas on the top and electric lights on the bottom. In the winter my grandmother would heat a brick, wrap it in newspaper [I can still summon the slightly scorched smell] and put it in the bed to warm the sheets and your feet.

Otis [we children always pronounced "So-dee"], an elderly African-American brought coal in his mule drawn wagon in the winter and in the summer he delivered ice. It was considered great fun to "steal" the chips left after he cut off the portion he was delivering from the 100 pound blocks. He was so proud when he bought a truck in the mid 1940's. Bread and dairy products were delivered door to door several times a week.

The street car line came down Irwin St, turned left onto Sampson, made a sudden turn to the right and went through a tunnel under the railroad track onto West Ashland. It then picked up Lake and the tracks ended at Elizabeth. At this point the conductor got out, pulled the trolley connector arm down from the wire, went to the other end of the car and raised the arm at that end of the car. The big excitement about riding the street car was that it paused on a double track just before the Sampson St turn to allow the car going in the other direction to pass and this was the time to change the seats. The caned bottom and backed seats flipped: You could move the back from one side of the seat to the other. If you could get the conductor to let you "help" and you flipped one on each side of the aisle at the same time, it made a wonderful racket.

The trolleys were, of course, segregated and even if my sister and I were going to town with the maid, we sat in the front and she had to sit in the back. This made it difficult to supervise us but if we didn't sit perfectly still and "be good" we knew what was in store when she got us off the trolley. Segregation did not apply to play situations, however. The school for African-

American children was located on Boulevard and those who lived in Candler Park had to walk past our house in the afternoons. We got to know some of them and my mother arranged with their mother for them to stop and play on occasions and then someone one would drive them home if it was late. Sometimes in the summer the maids would bring their children or grandchildren to play also.

All the children played with each other over a wide age range, except for some kids who lived on Virgil. We were not allowed to play with them. Otherwise we could roam far afield. I had a friend, Phillip Heisler, who lived over what is currently American Apparel in Little Five Points. If I were going to visit him or Godfrey Hardin on Elizabeth I had to check out and in but otherwise was pretty free to explore. However, the grapevine was so good that you had better not misbehave. I recall walking up to the Highland Bakery one day and I did something thinking I couldn't get found out. An African-American lady sitting on her porch said "I'm callin' your grandma!" Bad news indeed.

Punishment was usually having to sit in a corner, getting "fussed" out or a swift swat on the seat with an open hand. For a really serious offense you got a "switchin," usually with a switch from the privet hedge. These are very limber and sort of wrap around your leg and sting like the devil! To make it worse, you had to cut your own switch and "It'd better not be too little or I'll make it worse."

Roller skates, scooters, jump ropes, hop scotch, cops and robbers, or war games were popular. Girls had dolls, and boys had cowboy pistols and toy guns. The only two boys I knew who ever had a B-B gun were Leon Hopkins and Linwood Cochran. Bikes were pretty rare but if you got one you were at least twelve or thirteen and about to go to high school. Tricycles were pretty common even the larger ones that could carry an adult. If no adults were around we sometimes played mumbly peg [played by throwing a pin knife at a target, preferably between your opponents' feet]. We chased "lighting bugs" in the spring and any time we could get out after supper played dodge ball in the middle of Hale Street until we could no longer see or when Leon's dad whistled three times. Then we knew the game was truly up and we had best get home or else. Working on your reading list of ten books [minimum to get a certificate from the Library] was considered obligatory during the summer.

We had puzzles, cards, and board games such as Monopoly to entertain us on rainy days. Fantasy games were popular with fighting Germans, Japanese, watching for enemy aircraft being tops among the boys. Since there were cards in bubble gum that showed the silhouette and specs on enemy planes. We were well prepared to defend the country should any of the Germans prisoners of war at Ft. McPherson escape and happen to have a plane. There was a large heavy duty swing set in the yard that daddy had made. There was also a big sand-pile for making frog houses or burying your sister. There was a Cub Scout troupe sponsored by one of the churches but I'm not sure about a Girl Scout group. Sometimes Godfrey Hardin and I would look for bullets and shrapnel from the Civil War which could still be found, often just from digging in a garden. There was a persistent rumor that a canon was buried where the apartments stand on the hill at Alta but we could not find it.

We were not allowed to play in the woods since hobo's had been seen near the railroad track and, of course we were not supposed to walk the tracks that became the Beltline---but we did. I recall hobo's coming around to the house looking for work. We never employed them but they were always given something to eat. Everyone knew the times were hard and sharing was the

thing to do. Of course, when the gypsy's came to town, or the circus folk for that matter, we were kept in the yard since they might "kidnap you and sell you," especially if you were dark-haired and dark-skinned.

Saturdays were reserved for the movies. Both the Little Five and Euclid theaters ran double features on Saturday plus a "continued story" film which was most often science fiction or cowboy. It cost ten cents and popcorn was the same. One Saturday my sister and I, along with Willie Florence Clark who lived with Uncle Will and Aunt Mamie, went to see "The Thing," a monster movie. Willie Florence was, well, fat. When the film got to the scary part she turned in the seat and put her head down. The only problem was that the seat tilted and her head became stuck. We could not get her loose so I had to run home, get my father and he went back, got the manger to turn on the lights and had to take the seat apart to get her out. We absolutely refused to go to the movies with her for months!.

The cost for the movie, popcorn, etc. came out of our allowance of \$1.00 or \$1.50 as we got older. From that we were expected to make our church offering, save some, and "make it do" until the next Saturday morning.

Since all the adults were busy with working and grown-up stuff, family outings were limited pretty much to weekends. Going grocery shopping on Saturday was big. We would drive all over town to get the best prices and freshest food; Hapeville for eggs, Grant Park for the bakery stuff, the old Farmers Market in West End for vegetables, and finally Harvey's Grocery store on Highland at Colquitt for staples. Sunday afternoon drives were to my paternal grandparents, to see friends, or to watch the planes land at Atlanta Airport, and, if we were good, a stop at Zesto's for an ice cream cone.

In the summer there were trips to Mooney's Lake [Candler Road near present day I-20]. It must be the coldest water in existence---ten minutes and you were blue! Stone Mountain was free and a good place for picnicking. My father's people were from North Fulton County and we would go to see them sometimes. Since they lived on Roswell Rd at Holcomb Bridge it was an all day affair. We got up early, drove up, ate lunch, visited a while and then hurried to get home before it got too dark. Same for visiting my grandfather's farm in Fayetteville. Once or twice we went to Panama City, once by train and once by car.

There was a lot of visiting. Often after supper, which was about 5 to 5:30 p.m. for most folk, Mrs. Borton, a friend of my grandmother's, who lived where Babbet's is now, would walk to the house. She would visit until dark and then thought nothing about walking home alone. The porch was the gathering place in the summer. Many families kept potted plants and had railings built over the banisters to hold the pots. Of course, in the winter they all had to be toted inside to with the rest of "the family." The shelling of beans, peeling peaches, shucking corn and other such prep chores were often done on the porch. Everyone present was expected to pitch in so you'd find Albertha [the maid], my grandmother, and whatever neighbors had happened by all talking and working. Sometimes the neighbors would bring their corn or whatever along.

Since mama and daddy both worked, my grandmother was in charge of food. Breakfast was a big meal every day: eggs, sausage or bacon, or occasionally salted fish [which my granddaddy liked], grits, usually red-eye gravy [but sometimes "sawmill"], biscuits ["Light bread is a waste of money"], syrup and butter when it was available since it went to the soldiers. Margarine had been introduced and it came in a block looking like lard. It had a small bubble pack attached filled with a coloring agent. You

kneaded the coloring into the block to get something sort-of resembling butter.

Dinner, what we now call lunch, was the main meal. It involved vegetables, some meat [limited due to rationing] biscuits, etc. It was filling and it was considered "correct" to cook extra in case someone dropped by and you could invite them to eat. To not do so was grave breach of manners. It was different on Saturday when my grandmother cleaned out the ice-box and put a big pot of soup on to cook while we went grocery shopping. Supper, usually eaten about 5:30, was a light meal of left-overs, maybe with some fresh tomatoes, if in season, a "pone" of fresh cornbread, and sometimes a sweet. Dessert was always served on Sunday at dinner and often was banana pudding, boiled custard or a cake, pies rarely.

We were taught to always say "sir" and "m'am" to everyone, including the maids, and to use please and thank you frequently. Even the kids on Virgil knew how and when to use them. Reading was encouraged and someone often read to us until we could read ourselves. Books were hard to come by [cost and lack of book-stores] but my mother's childhood books had been saved and all of them were read maybe two or three times. When we were ill there was a special box of trinkets from Cracker Jack boxes that we were allowed to play with. When I had Scarlett Fever and was confined to bed I got to use the scissors and magazines and constructed a scrap book. I had a radio and listened to Sergeant Preston of the Yukon at 4:45, Tom Mix at 5:00, Sky King at 5:15. I was listening to the programs on April 12, 1945, when they announced that President Franklin Roosevelt had died. I yelled it to my grandmother who was finishing up cooking supper. She said, "It can't be true," turned off the stove and came to listen. We ended up eating a cold supper with little enthusiasm that night. Some memories remain etched in our lives forever.

There were four main employers for the neighborhood, Grinnell, Atlanta Stove Works, the Clorox Company [near the current Rathburn's] and the Pullman Company. Daddy worked at the Pullman Company as an air conditioning repair man since Pullman was the first major user of air conditioning. When the War broke out the healthy men went to the army. My father had a deferment so he continued at the Pullman Company. When Bell Aircraft opened in Marietta to build the B-29 bomber both he and mama went to work there. My grandfather went to work at Grinnell [which had switched from pipe to war materials] as a watchman. He also served as the neighborhood Air Raid Warden.

Occasionally there were exciting happenings. One of those was when Papa [my grandfather] went off to work about six o'clock one winter evening. He was back in about half an hour all bloody from having been attacked with brass knuckles as he walked through the woods to work. Albertha charged out with a large butcher knife to "kill 'em" and my daddy had to restrain her. The police came and several shots were fired.

Another time involved the escaped elephant. The circus was in town and settled in on Highland. Mama and Daddy were going to town to a movie. While Daddy closed the door Mama walked down the front steps and then came screaming back up yelling "There's an elephant going up the street!" Well, indeed there was, as a small elephant had broken loose, come down through the woods, stomping Papa's garden in the process, and was now going up Hale. Mama called the police who responded, "Yeah, and what color?" The baby had gone up Hale and somehow got under the high porch of the house at Virgil and Hale and was there when the trainers came with his mother to retrieve him. His mother spanked him with her trunk all the way back to the circus grounds.

The Sunday the circus came to town was the one Sunday we were allowed to miss Sunday school. The trains stopped at the top of Lake Avenue and the animals walked or their cages were pulled down Lake, up Elizabeth to Highland to the circus grounds. It was quite a parade. My parents got to know several of the permanent circus hands when neighbors were asked to sit with some elephants that had been poisoned one year. For several years thereafter when the circus came, the men would visit and eat with us and tell wonderful stories.

As far as I know all of us in the neighborhood went to Moreland and Bass. Moreland had a stable faculty under Miss Mary Standard. Kindergarten was in the basement with a large window that pushed up to allow children out onto a small self contained playground. The kindergartners got fresh popped popcorn on rainy days and it drove the rest of us crazy from the smell. At the beginning of each school year each student got a free Blue Horse writing tablet from Montag Paper and a pen or ruler from the Coca Cola Co. Each room had a set of large push up doors in the back which hid the coats and lunches, etc. Teachers administered drugs, as needed, to students, including some unlucky souls who got a dose of Cod Liver Oil every day, always unwillingly.

One of the big excitements of the fourth grade was when the teacher distributed ink pens and filled the ink well in your desk with ink. You had "grown up!" We had been practicing writing in cursive for weeks, making circles and practicing "i's." The pens were a staff and a separate metal point which you had to carefully insert into the staff. Not getting ink on your clothes was a real problem at first. I didn't know about ball point pens until I was in the seventh grade.

Teachers were strict but ranged from stern [Miss Blackwell, 5th grade] to nice, Mrs. Perry [4th grade and the daughter-in-law of Admiral Perry]. The school was crowded with some classes meeting in the auditorium [whose entrance hall contained a huge reproduction of Raphael's *Madonna and Child*.— so much for separation of church and state]. Students needing special help were pulled from their regular class [there were no Special Ed Classes] and met with individual specialists in the projector room of the auditorium. Some of the crowding was relieved with the construction of the new cafeteria which freed up a large area for the art and music teachers. However, there were still a lot of children and when I was in the 7th grade our class met in the Library.

Recess was free play for about 20 minutes after lunch. There were monkey bars, a swing set, some type merry go round that made you sick really quick, and balls for pick-up games of softball or basketball. There was also tether ball and a sand box or you could just sit on the huge tree root that, with a little imagination, could be alligators, and visit with your friends.

Every day began with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance and the Lord's Prayer, which "Happy" [Samuel Meltz], our only Jewish student I knew of, recited along with the rest of the class. Reading always came first. We began with the *Dick and Jane* Series and practiced as a class reading in unison from large flip charts. Math came next, then lunch/recess. Science and Social Science came next. Art and music met two times a week. Atlanta was one of the few systems in the nation that provided free half day kindergarten. Elementary school ran from K-6 until the junior high/senior high system was replaced and then from K-7. Once a year there was an assembly for "science" where some fellow demonstrated that you could use certain gases to freeze a banana hard enough to drive a nail. Another yearly assembly was

a play, usually modified Shakespeare done by the Barter Players, an acting troupe from Virginia [I think].

Fund raising has always been necessary for schools and each year we sold "pullin' candy." This was a type of soft taffy which came in "sticks" about six inches long and an inch in diameter. It came in vanilla, chocolate, and strawberry and cost ten cents. It was hard to sell since everyone in the neighborhood had a kid doing the same thing. The Halloween carnival was popular with adults as well as the children. The school had a savings bank and we were encouraged to save a dime a week which, when accumulated, we could use to buy Saving Stamps or War Bonds.

Bass was a Junior High School until about 1948 but by the time I was graduated from the seventh grade [ceremony held in the Presbyterian church] it had become a high school with grades eight through twelve. In retrospect it appears to have been one of the Superintendent's [Dr. Ira Jarrell] favorites since she had several teachers assigned there who were close personal friends. She often brought distinguished visitors to Bass to show off her schools; I remember greeting both Adlai Stevenson and John Foster Dulles. The principal was Wilber Joe Scott, one of the early exponents of year-round-school. When he could not "sell" the idea to the Board of Education he ran a very extensive summer program with typing, shops, Home Economics and recreational programs. Total cost to a student was \$3.00 per course and they lasted five weeks from 8:30 to noon.

The school was divided into "little schools," one for each grade level, each with its own leadership team. There were two counselors and a full time nurse. There was a room containing dental chair and a dentist came several times a year to check everyone and perform services free for those needing the service. *[Editor's note: this clinic was funded by the Bass Community Council and was one of their proudest achievements.]*

During the regular school year, aside from English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Science, students were offered options of Printing, Electric Shop, Wood Shop, Mechanical Drawing for the boys and Cooking and Sewing for the girls. Everyone had to take Art and Music Appreciation for at least one quarter. Band, ROTC [again boys only] and a full range of sports, including golf and tennis, were available. During football and volleyball seasons there were often dances after the game. All-in-all the instruction was good, with many of us going to college to become architects, military officers, physicians and nurses, teachers, and other professionals. Some became skilled craftsmen and, so far as I know, none went to jail.

Church going was expected behavior although the work schedule during the war gave a lot of people excuses. Almost all the children went to one of the local churches for Sunday school, services in the morning, youth activities on Sunday night followed by more church. During the week, Wednesday had additional youth activities and usually a supper and, naturally, a service: Preachers earned their salaries. If you were in the choir there was rehearsal on Thursday night. During the summer there was Vacation Bible School and the churches coordinated their efforts. The Baptist were one week, the Methodist, the next, the Community church another followed by the Presbyterians. The order changed from year to year but it kept us busy and out of our parents hair—plus we learned a lot of Bible stories and I can still recite all the books in order.

We belonged to Inman Park Baptist which stood at the back of the Marta Parking lot. It was a large red brick with six massive columns across the front, suitably raised over a first floor so that there was a long staircase to reach the sanctuary. If you look at a

picture of the church you can get an idea of the grandiose thinking of the founders since this was to be the chapel!

Inside there were three sets of pews in walnut, a suspended balcony that ran on three sides. The front was dominated by a huge stained glass depiction of a waterfall flowing into the baptismal pool with pipe organ chambers on each side. The wall to wall carpeting was dark wine-red wool. There were stained glass windows on all three outside walls. [These were salvaged when the building was torn down. The smaller ones may be glimpsed as you drive towards Inman Park on Auburn at Haugerbrook's Funeral Home.] The choir loft was in front of the pool and organ pipes. Sunday School rooms, offices, etc. were behind the sanctuary. When space became a problem the lot to the left of the church was purchased and a three story brick Sunday School building constructed. It had a circular drive with a three tiered iron fountain in the center. The front foundation of the building is still visible.

Probably because I was young I did not notice the change to the neighborhood until it was pretty far gone. As prosperity returned and housing began to expand, folks started to move out in the late 40's, early 50's, but not too far, often to Kirkwood. The road construction and the stadium forced the poor out of the Washington Street area and many moved into the large houses in Inman Park, many of which had been sub-divided during the war.

The church had a mission program and when we would go visiting [which I hated] we began to see entire families living in one or two rooms with a bath room down the hall to share. This was the first time I guess I really saw the change. More people in need started to come to the church for help. By the time I was graduated from Bass in 1955, leaving the neighborhood was accelerating. Most of my friends would soon be disbursed all over the area. Our corner of Lake and Hale was pretty isolated with no real neighbor except Mrs. Wilson next door and when she got ill her daughter moved in so there was still continuity. Uncle Will and Aunt Mamie, who lived across Hale, were still there as were the Gordon's and the Johnson's. There was the forest across the street and the folks on Elizabeth were separated by a large back yard--so we stayed. From time to time we would look elsewhere especially when they talked about the highway coming and the church decided to sell. We visited various properties from Southwest Atlanta to Druid Hills and Decatur but never got the "right vibe." We were conveniently located, everything was paid for and no one was bothering us so we just sort of never took any action to leave Inman Park. My sister and brother did decide to move elsewhere but I stayed and the house remains still the gathering place for the tribe for holidays and special occasions. Glad I did: God moves in *really* strange ways.

AGENDA ON NEXT PAGE

Inman Park Neighborhood

Association Website:

www.inmanpark.org

Inman Park Festival Website

www.inmanparkfestival.org

Inman Park Security Patrol

Call: 404-414-7802

IPNA MEETING

**Inman Park United Methodist Church
1015 Edgewood Avenue**

**WEDNESDAY
MAY 18, 2011**

**BUSINESS MEETING STARTS AT 7:30 p.m.
Babysitting available during the meeting starting at 7:30 p.m.**

REPORT ALL CRIMES

CALL 911 and

L5P MINI-PRECINCT

404-658-6782

L5P

Business Association.

Bob Sandage, President

Call: 678-523-5214

MAY AGENDA

- I. Welcome and Introduction of Newcomers**
- II. Minutes of Last Meeting**
- III. Announcements**
- IV. Police Officers' Reports**
- V. Elected Officials' Reports**
- VI. IPNA Officers' Reports:**
 - A. President**
 - 1. Presentation of By-Law Revisions - Vote**
 - 2. Vote on new IPNA Membership Dues**
 - 3. Presentation on New Developments for BeltLine**
 - B. Planning**
 - 1. Traffic Study**
 - 2. Census Project**
 - 3. NPU report**
 - a. Park's Edge Update**
 - a. Beltline Minute**
 - C. Zoning**
 - 1. Inman Village Townhomes-Update**
 - 2. 1126 Euclid Avenue Liquor License**
 - D. Historic Preservation**
 - 1. 936 Austin Avenue**
 - 2. 360 Sinclair Avenue**
 - E. Public Safety**
 - 1. Membership Renewal**
 - 2. Violent Crime Update**
 - 3. Managed Properties**
 - 4. Events**
 - F. Treasurer**
 - 1. Report of Regular Expenditures**
 - G. Secretary**
 - 1. Flags and Banners**
- VII. Committee Reports**
 - Nominating Committee - New Officer Elections**
- VIII. New Business**
- IX. Old Business**
- X. Adjournment**