



HISTORIC MONTCLAIR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

founded 1907 Denver, CO

3rd Quarter 2007

www.HistoricMontclair.org

info@HistoricMontclair.org

Join HMCAI

Historic Montclair Community Association is celebrating its 100th year in the Montclair community this year. Throughout its long life in Montclair, HMCAI has worked diligently to provide information and special events for adults and children alike. In addition to the special May weekend activities celebrating HMCAI's centennial, Historic Montclair provides an annual July 4th picnic with free food, children's bike parade, games and live music, children's Easter egg hunt (weather permitting!), Christmas Treats with Santa, a members only adult cocktail reception with live jazz and numerous General Meetings per year. The quarterly newsletter keeps the neighborhood informed on a broad range of topics. If you would like to see additional events or be a volunteer, please let us know. (Contact information is listed below.)

In response to neighbors' requests, we have recently updated our mailing list for the newsletter to make sure that all residents within our borders (6th Avenue to Colfax; Quebec to Holly) are included on the mailing list. And members can now see that the newsletter is personally addressed to them and the HMCAI membership expiration date is included on the label.

Although many of HMCAI's activities are free to the community, the addition of the popular annual cocktail reception is a members-only event. HMCAI also contributes to the community in many additional ways, including annual donations to Montclair School and INC.'s annual dictionary drive for 3rd graders through Denver Public Schools.

If you are already a member of HMCAI, thank you. If your membership has lapsed or you have not yet joined HMCAI, please consider doing so. It is only \$15.00 annually (\$10.00 for seniors). It is easy to join and a great investment in your community. Just complete the form on the back page of this newsletter and mail, along with your check, to HMCAI; P. O. Box 200125; Denver, CO 80220. If you believe you are a member but are not listed on the address label, please contact Gail Barry (303-355-8486) or via email at gail@landmarkdesigninc.com. Also, please include your email address on your membership form. HMCAI sends out event reminders, plus community information that may be of interest to you, via email. (And never provides the membership email list to third parties.) If you are a member and would like to provide an email address, contact HMCAI at info@historicmontclair.org.

And for HMCAI members: the 3rd annual adults' members-only cocktail reception is scheduled for September 28th. (Please see the announcement below.) Mark your calendars. This newsletter announcement and an email notice will be the only reminders you receive.

Historic Montclair Community Association

Invites its members to the

3rd Annual End of Summer celebration
at the Molkery (12th and Oneida)
Friday, September 28th - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Visit with your neighbors and enjoy

Live jazz

Light refreshments

Wine and beer

Historic Montclair Community Association

General Meeting

Wednesday, October 17th

The Molkey (12th and Oneida)

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Topics to include:

A discussion about the Denver at Work bonds projects initiative
Update from 5th District Councilwoman, Marcia Johnson
Emergency preparedness
Real estate overview/property values
HMCAI Board elections

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us.



A Great Montclair Fourth of July Celebration Had by All *by Rod Saunders*

Great summer weather, music, food and fun were again the order of the day at this year's neighborhood 4th of July celebration. With one of the largest turnouts in history, neighbors of all ages enjoyed a fun and relaxing day reuniting with friends and making new ones.

This year's Bike Parade saw more than 50 kids participate in fantastic color and costume. Thanks to all the kids (and parents) who put so much time into decorating bikes, scooters and wagons and showing your patriotic spirit!

With the help of numerous and wonderful volunteers, everyone was able to partake in a good 'ole American cookout with burgers, hotdogs and more as well as many exciting games for kids and even the adults. In fact, this year's balloon toss drew almost 150 kids and adults alike, stretching almost the entire width of the park!

As always, we want to extend a warm thanks to the Dixieland Express band for providing the festive music everyone enjoyed and to the Firemen from Fire Station 14 for truck tours and the annual fire hose fountain for the kids. Finally, we want to thank all of you, the neighbors and volunteers of Montclair, for making this annual celebration such a wonderful event. THANKS!



The Birth of the Montclair Improvement Society *by Bill Hansen*

The citizens of Montclair did not want to ". . . go to the officials of Denver as cringing slaves to ask for a pittance." So declared the first President of the Montclair Improvement Society, Mr. T. J. Anders. Since 1903, Montclair had been subsumed within the vast sprawl of the newly formed City and County of Denver. The City Charter had created a strong Boss Mayor in Robert Speers and had weakened the locally elected City Council members. Mayor Speer's "City Beautiful" dream embraced islands of spectacular public monuments interconnected with wondrous green parks and boulevards. Montclairions legitimately feared that, despite substantial tax dollars being sent to the City coffers, local affairs would be neglected and basic City services would not be extended to the newly annexed suburban neighborhoods.

Montclair's streets were still called "trails" that were impassable in the mud of winter snows and spring rains. Gas mains had not yet advanced beyond York Street to replace coal for cooking and heating. Sewers were nonexistent. The locally coveted school district had been dismantled. While Park Hill would soon have a new firehouse with modern fire engines, Montclair would not replace its horse-drawn fire equipment until 1924.

Moreover, there was a local nuisance that had to be addressed. Ms. Luella M. Thomas's asylum for "nervous people" was still being operated out of the old Molkery building despite years of neighborhood protests and court battles that had gone all the way to the Colorado Supreme Court. Now, there was a criminal investigation of a beating murder of one of Ms. Thomas's more unruly cuffed and straight-jacketed patients. The neighborhood had had enough.

In March, 1907, the neighborhood formed the Montclair Improvement Society to meet these growing concerns. T. J. Anders, who had lived in the big house at Colfax and Poplar Street since 1890 (torn down in 2004), and was a former Town Trustee, was elected the first President. Dr. Stephen Parsons, who also ran the local pharmacy in the commercial block that stood at 14th and Oneida Street, was made Secretary and Treasurer. Even the Baroness von Richthofen joined.

(continued on Page 4)

Sarah Hopkins




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Kittredge Park Playground

This summer, neighborhood children have been enjoying the newly redesigned and installed playground in Kittredge Park at 8th Avenue between Olive and Oneida.

Kittredge Park is built on a block of land that once included a mansion constructed by Denver businessman Charles M. Kittredge in 1891, called Kittredge Castle. It later served as the Clifton Hughes Training School for Girls; Holland Hall, a home for teenage girls; and the backdrop for several scenes from the motion picture, *The Glenn Miller Story*. The castle was demolished in 1955 and was acquired by the city for a park in 1977.

According to Denver Parks & Rec, the design concept for the new playground included utilizing the historic footprint of the old Kittredge Castle as playground cornerstones, seating areas that recall the old "porches" of the original castle and sandblasted language in the playground's concrete edging. The neighborhood wanted to have a slide similar to the one in the previous design. The playground also includes accessible walkways leading to the equipment. The asphalt walkways along 8th Avenue are slated to be replaced with concrete.



Some of you know that the old spiral slide was a prized play element for many neighborhood children and parents. The parks department saved the slide with the idea that someone in the neighborhood would like to have it but no one ever came forward and eventually the slide was hauled off by the contractor.

The playground was designed by Mundus Bishop Design Inc. and Hydrosystems-KDI, and funded by the City and County of Denver's capital improvement budget.

Birth of the Montclair Improvement Society *(Continued from Page 3)*

An ingenious compromise was engineered with the City. Ms. Thomas could not be evicted but the neighborhood convinced the City to condemn the property and add it to Montclair Park as a community center. Condemnation proceedings began in July, 1908 and the Molkey's patients were finally removed. By April, 1910, the old Molkey was completely renovated and reopened as the "Montclair Civic Building" and the City turned its operation over to the Society. The Montclair Improvement Society was soon renamed the Montclair Improvement Association.

The Association has now celebrated its centennial as one of the oldest neighborhood organizations in the City. History does not record the number of pants legs Mr. Anders and his successors have worn out in groveling before City officials and protecting Montclair's interests.

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Community Announcements

Just moved into the neighborhood

Children's Music Academy (CMA) at 1508 Locust Street

Our educational philosophy at CMA is to teach music in a fun, positive, non-pressured and creative environment. We teach children ages 4 - 8. CMA provides a holistic music education involving keyboard and the music basics (theory) which are taught in story and game form, singing, composition, ear training and ensemble, which involves the children playing multiple instruments, and lastly, guitar and recorder. CMA is opening its first Central Denver Studio for fall classes. For program information and online registration go to www.SoundFun.org.

New restaurant opening in Cherry Creek

Montclair neighbor and board member, Ted Reece is opening *French 250* at 250 Steele Street. Chef Thomas offers a culinary paradise of market-fresh, healthy French food. French 250 is open Tuesday through Sunday for lunch and dinner. Also serving Sunday brunch from 10 am to 3 pm. Sounds like we'll all be tipping our glasses at French 250 soon. Good luck, Ted and bon appetit!

More preschool options for neighborhood families

Montessori Children's House of Denver has opened 2 new locations and has openings for children this fall. Their original location is 1467 Birch Street. The new locations are 2600 Leyden Street and 690 Colorado Blvd. Call 303-322-8424 for more information.

Montclair preschool at Montclair Academy opened its doors this fall to 3 year olds. Located at 212 Syracuse Street. Call 303-366-7588 for more information.

(continued on Page 7)

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or email us at info@historicmontclair.org

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Montclair School Happenings *by Shannon Hagerman, Principal*

Another great year has begun at Montclair! Our enrollment continues to blossom with many families from the Historic Montclair community now attending. In fact, the last of the families who participated in the Revitalization process that began 3 years ago are now attending the school. That gives us 100% participation and our dream of building a better school together has become a reality. Additionally, the instructional program and school climate at Montclair has become a popular choice for families outside of our boundary area and as such, many families from nearby neighborhoods are choosing into Montclair. This is a true testament to the hard work of the staff, parents and community members who have helped us come a long way from where we were just a few short years ago.

With approximately 370 excited, eager learners walking through the doors of our school each day, we look forward to taking their education to the next level with the many unique enrichment activities we offer. And while we wait for additional funding from the District for our Learning Landscape, I am happy to report that we have raised enough to begin Phase I of our plan in the upcoming weeks. The money raised from the Mingle for Montclair and the Plant Sale helps us reach our goals, so we thank you for supporting these events. Be sure to mark your calendars for the fourth annual Mingle for Montclair at the Hamling residence on Saturday, October 6th at 6:00 p.m. This event is not to be missed!

Please feel free to stop by the school at 1151 Newport Street any time. I invite you to come and experience the wonderful learning opportunities that take place every day at the Montclair School of Academics & Enrichment.



Please help support our neighborhood elementary school,
the **Montclair School of Academics & Enrichment**

When: **Saturday, October 6th, 2007**

Where: **The Hamling's, 765 Olive Street**

Time: **6:00 PM**

Please join us for a delightful evening at this charming Historic Montclair home. There will be delicious food to eat, wine to taste, and great items to bid on. For more information, please visit us on the web at <http://montclair.dpsk12.org> or call 303-322-3494.

\$25 donation per person

Make checks payable to Montclair PTA. Please come and mail your donation to:

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St. James Catholic School Happenings *by Terri Loiselle, Principal*

St. James Catholic School begins the 2007-2008 school year celebrating 60 years of continued success in the education of children rooted in Catholic tradition. The Montclair area saw great growth during the post World War II era, which included the founding of the school which was first staffed by six Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. St. James Catholic School, an elementary school in the Archdiocese of Denver, serves students in Kindergarten through 8th grade. We are particularly proud of the ethnic and socio-economic diversity of our school, and we are recognized and accredited by the North Central Association, Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement for meeting quality standards in the program of education we offer our students. St. James also offers an Early Childhood Program for 3 and 4 year olds. If you would like more information regarding our programs please visit us at www.stjames-denver.org, or call us at 303-333-8275.

Montclair area mom's group

Want to get to meet more moms' in the neighborhood? Get together for playtimes and mom times, too! Visit us at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/80220Moms>. Or call Katy Saunders at 303-521-9065 for more information.

Saturday morning Chi Kung classes

Been wondering what they're doing out there in the park? Join people of all ages for this class of meditative movements similar to Tai Chi. The movements are great for body, mind, and spirit. Class meets on the south side of Montclair Park from 9-10am. Classes are \$5. Contact Eric Imbody at 303-355-1239 for more information.

HMCAI Needs You!

Volunteers of all shapes and sizes needed. Please consider finding a way that you would like to help. Volunteer for one event, or as a regular contributor. It's a great way to feel a part of the neighborhood and meet new friends.

Some of the special volunteering opportunities are:

Volunteer Coordinator An outgoing person to stay in touch with volunteers, recruit new volunteers, and coordinate volunteer activities.

Welcome Wagon Someone to send a welcome card and recent newsletter to new residents. Great for staying at home but still helping out.

Newsletter Contributor Once or regularly.

Newsletter Editor Our dear Kathy Lamos has decided to pass on the torch to someone new.

Fourth of July Games Organizers One per game, so everyone can enjoy the picnic.

And many more opportunities out there! Please contact Katy Saunders at 303-521-9065 or Katy@HopkinsSaunders.com if you'd like to help. To those of you that expressed interest on your membership forms, we'll be calling you soon.



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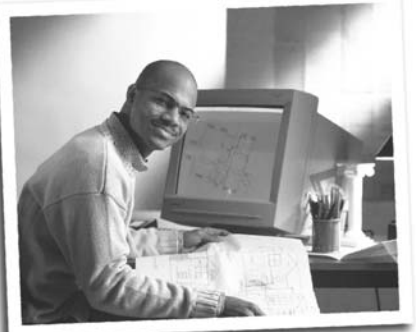
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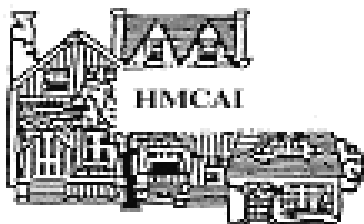
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Please circle your area(s) of interest: Family/social activities Future board membership
Montclair School 4th of July Celebration
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Sept 2007



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