

The EVERGREEN NEWS

A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine - Evergreen Community Association

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ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Peri Motamedi's huge "bubble machine" waits for its commission, but Peri Motamedi waits for no one. This painter-sculptor-stained glass designer describes the United States in terms that could be applied just as appropriately to herself—active, vital, powerful, free. She has much to give her adopted city and refuses to wait until she is past her busy and exciting years of youth to get involved in the needs of her community.

Peri came to the United States sixteen years ago to study art, a passion long-fostered by her family in Iran. Not happy with the quiet corner required for the Persian miniatures she is often expected to produce, Peri revels in the glory and power of western technology and the exuberance it inspires in her work. She vividly remembers the well-manicured field, the flood of lights, and the awe of the bright flag at her first American baseball game and the tears that came streaming down her face in response. Her days here, rife with such glorious moments, fill her with the enthusiasm to teach art, to create her fascinating (and copyrighted) "bubble sculpture" and her studies in cracked glass (to be shown at National Bank of Commerce next year), and to contribute her skills and energies to worthy causes.

Stained glass door panels in need of restoration drew Peri to the artist's job at Lowenstein House, a workshop at Manassas and Jefferson for the mentally disabled. Once there, she says, "I decided it was time that I gave something," so she suggested that she train the students to restore stained glass. The progressive management of Lowenstein House accepted her offer and soon began holding classes for

the public through various continuing education programs. Peri, overjoyed by her local support, delights in her students and professionally guarantees the quality of the stained glass work they do under her supervision. She also insists that their work in her training program is much less expensive than one would pay at traditional establishments and encourages local support of this employment opportunity for the disabled.

VECA residents are recipients not only of Peri's commercial expertise in stained glass, but also of her love and concern for underprivileged children in our area. She has bought a house in a low-income neighborhood and hopes to start a school there when she is financially able. "If cities are works of art unto themselves, their ghettos must be considered unfinished canvases," she states in a grant application for support of the neighborhood station she would develop. Rather than trying to make artists of the children she taught, she would try to provide them with ground to share in common with children of higher economic levels. Exposed to Peri's "Memphis Sesame Street," they would no longer be strangers to the world of art, to the zoo, to the daily tasks of spending money, sewing, refinishing furniture, and to the kind of learning that makes one receptive to other kinds of learning. Peri exclaims, "They will begin to see with new eyes—to really see beauty, and feel beauty." Such children, she hopes, will see their neighborhood as a better place to live and will work to make it so.

Peri sees with the "new eyes" she would give the children she loves. Alongside the fresh oranges, grapes, and plums in the still life subject she sets out for her students are a dried lemon, a shriveled and marred pepper, and a rotten apple. Her artist's eyes see beauty in the imperfect, in the aged, in the cracks and wrinkles of maturity and experience. There is beauty in all that she sees. Her work has been recognized by her fellows and has won coveted awards, but she says, "That is not what is important; that is nothing. Tell them to get involved with other people." Caring motivates Peri Motamedi. And it's the Peri Motamedis who make VECA what it is.

by Debbie Monroe

NEXT VECA MEETING

November 23, 1981, at 7:30 p.m. at Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian Church. The program will be a presentation by Memphis in May.

The first meetings of 1982 have been scheduled for January 25 and March 22. VECA members are reminded that the March meeting's program is the election of officers.

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VECA NEWS

The VECA Executive Committee met on September 21 and October 20 and the General Membership met on September 21 and discussed the following topics:

Security Patrol. Tom Givens of Universal Security and Investigative Service reported on the success of the service in the neighborhood. Hein Park went from eight burglaries a week in the spring to none in the 13 weeks of the service. Givens now lives in the VECA neighborhood and is proud of the two-minute response time achieved by his staff.

Ice Cream Contest. The Ice Cream Contest to be held in October was cancelled due to a lack of interest. The Executive Committee decided to try it again in the spring.

Memphis 2000. President Dennis Heitzmann attended a Memphis 2000 meeting September 23 to help make long range plans to improve the lifestyle of Memphis and Shelby County.

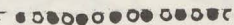
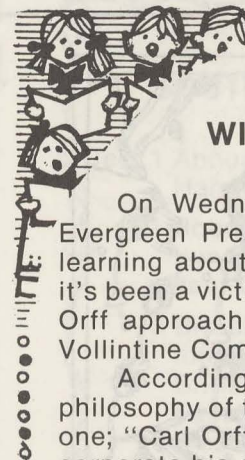
Vollintine Courts Fund. Heitzmann reported that a letter will be sent to those people who contributed to the Vollintine Courts fund to determine if they want their money back or if they want to donate it to VECA or the E/News.

Snowden Community Partnership Committee. The committee has requested a member to represent VECA, and several names were suggested.

Jobs Conference. Carl Holmes suggested that a letter be written suggesting VECA participate in future Jobs Conferences.

Next VECA Meeting. The next General Membership meeting was set for November 23 at 7:30 p.m. at Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian Church.

By Dorinda Smith



A CHORUS

WITH MORE THAN SINGING

On Wednesday afternoons over the gym at Evergreen Presbyterian Church, young people are learning about music in an unusual way. Although it's been a victim of cuts in many public schools, the Orff approach is alive and well at the Evergreen-Vollintine Community children's chorus.

According to director Gina Kelley, the Orff philosophy of teaching music is a very unstructured one; "Carl Orff believed that the teacher should incorporate his or her own ideas into a broad system. In fact, he borrowed many of his own ideas from other sources. All this makes it hard to define very simply what we do in our classes. There is no book that details a set system."

However, there are four areas that are very important to the Orff philosophy. The first is speech. This includes rhymes and jump rope chants which help students learn to regulate rhythm.

Secondly and obviously, there is singing. Children begin with tones that they naturally use, so and me, and eventually all the other notes are added. Most of the songs that are used are in the pentatonic scale. Gina explains, "There are five notes that sound good together. They may be played in any order and they are always harmonious."

The third important area is instrument playing. "The Orff instrumentation is wonderful. Many of the instruments were designed by Orff himself and range from great big bass xylophones to small glockenspiels."

The last area is movement. The philosophy behind this is that the student needs to feel rhythm with the whole body. "Before someone can be expected to play, to sing, to recreate music, he has to know something about experiencing rhythm with the

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whole body. Harmony, musical form, tonality can all be felt through body movement." relates Gina.

"Rhythm and imitation underlie everything we do," she continues. "The hardest thing to teach kids sometimes is creativity and rhythm which is interesting because children are naturally creative and rhythmical when they're little." To help preserve natural abilities, Orff students learn four body instruments: snaps, patches, claps and stomps. The teacher sets a pattern and the students imitate or repeat it. Eventually they learn a question and answer format where the teacher beats a rhythm and the students respond in the same number of beats, but in a different pattern.

With the Orff approach, a young person learns much more than a group of songs. He learns to play instruments, to move to rhythms and combinations of certain beats, and eventually even learns a traditional music vocabulary. It's an exciting, fun way to spend an afternoon.

Classes for grades 3-6 are on Wednesday at 3:45 and for grades k-2 at 4:30. The two groups practice together for fifteen minutes. For more information, call the recreation office at Evergreen at 278-4430.

By Tina Egge

E/NEWS REORGANIZATION

The *Evergreen News* is in dire need of active help. After a period of financial problems which have now been resolved, a large number of the staff has asked to be replaced. Anyone interested in writing, layout, art, typing or distribution is urged to attend the meeting January 7, 1982, at 7:30 p.m. at the Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian Church. If you enjoy the *E/News* and want to continue receiving it, it is up to you to do your part.

MARK HACKETT VISITS VECA

Mark Hackett of the Mayor's Action Center was the speaker for the VECA General Membership meeting September 21. Hackett reported that his office is available to receive complaints and help with any problems occurring within the city.

One of the pet peeves cited by the group was weed growth on vacant lots. Hackett explained that everything possible would be done to help with this problem. He reminded residents that limbs and brush will only be picked up if put on the front property line. He informed the group that cans will no longer be emptied; excess garbage should be placed in disposable containers. Grass clippings can be put into the carts.

The Mayor's Action Center promises to keep the identity of anyone with a complaint anonymous. Hackett was interested in a neighborhood clean up day when anything put on the curb will be picked up.

All complaints voiced were recorded by VECA Secretary Sandi Chando. On Wednesday, September 23, she and Hackett toured the neighborhood checking out the problem areas. During their tour, Hackett discovered several other problem areas to report, and they have been reported.

A meeting was planned for September 24 between Hackett and Claude Pearson of the sanitation department to discuss problems pertaining to garbage pick up, etc.

Any additional complaints about city services should be directed to Mark Hackett, Mayor's Action Center, 125 Mid America Mall North, Memphis. Hackett promises to provide an interested and helpful ear in which to air your complaints.

By Dorinda Smith

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NEWS BRIEFS

Santa Claus will park his sleigh and reindeer outside when he visits Little Flower School, 1666 Jackson Avenue, on Saturday, December 12, 1981, from 9 to 11 a.m. The one dollar admission price provides all sorts of good eats, door prizes and a marvelous chance to have pictures taken with Santa.

★ Snowden Community School will begin its winter series of programs and classes on Tuesday evening, January 12th, with a new series called "Young Peoples' Theater." Debbie and Levi Fraser, who are well-known in the city for their work with theater youth groups as well as for original productions of their own, will conduct a 10-week series of instruction in theater work for young people aged 10 to 14. Classes will meet from 6:00 to 7:30 on Tuesday nights for a cost of only \$20.00 per child for the entire 10-week series. For further information on Snowden Community School's winter term, call Madelyn Conrad at 278-9559.

★ Harriet Smith, a native Memphian now living in Hein Park, will take over the duties of business manager for the *Evergreen News* effective in January. A former social worker, she is married and has two children.

★ Congratulations to Brad and Carolyn McMillan, 711 N. McLean, who have a new son, Patrick Timothy, born August 1 and weighing in at 6 pounds, 3½ ounces.

NO E/NEWS

The *Evergreen News* will not be published again until after a staff reorganizational meeting January 7. The next projected edition will be March 1982.

SOUTHWESTERN CALENDAR

- Dec. 1 Annual Student Performers' Contest, Hardie Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. Free.
- 1 Robert Merhle, guest lecturer, International Studies, East Lounge, Briggs Student Center, 10:30 a.m. Free.
- 3 British Studies at Oxford tea for anyone interested in Oxford or the summer British Study abroad program, 9:30 a.m., East Lounge, Student Center. Slide presentation of Oxford, 3:30 p.m. in Room 200, Clough Hall.
- 5 Southwestern Singers' Christmas Concert, Campus Refectory, 6 p.m. Free.
- 7 Memphis Trio Concert with John Wehlan, violin; Joan Gilbert, piano; Peter Spurbeck, cello; Hardie Auditorium, 8 p.m. Free.

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