

The EVERGREEN NEWS

A Neighborhood Newspaper Working With Vollintine - Evergreen Community Association

Memphis, Tennessee

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VECA OFFICERS ARE RE-ELECTED TO SECOND TERM

By Krissie Heuer
VECA Recording Secretary

VECA President Rebecca Smith and Vice President Mark Lindstrom were re-elected to serve another year in those capacities by the VECA general membership body March 26. No other nominations for those offices were made and about 25 people attended the annual election meeting, which was held at Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian Church.

The position of recording secretary was filled by Krissie Heuer, who is also assistant advertising manager for the *The Evergreen News*.

Also at that meeting under the heading of old business, the rough draft of the brochure promoting the VECA area was discussed and Smith stated that one-fifth of the monetary commitment was on hand and that plans were being made to solicit the remainder.

The Cypress school situation was discussed briefly — the plans to depair Vollintine and Snowden giving the optional school to Snowden and redistricting the Cypress school. These plans are again in committee to re-evaluate by the school board and we will keep abreast of the situation as it develops. Along these same lines it was mentioned that an education committee formed of VECA members would be an asset to the community.

The transportation corridor study continues and the City Council met April 2 to discuss the study.

Under the heading of new business, Vince Culetto, a graduate student at Memphis State University discussed a program to give free in-home hypertension screening to approximately 1,000 persons in our community. There will be a four-hour training session for volunteers and each person will commit about 20 hours to taking blood pressure tests on area residents. These volunteers will be identified by badges with their photograph and certificates stating their qualification to give the tests and all information will be confidential. There will be a follow-up with VECA members upon completion of the study.

The Evergreen News is still in need of carriers and writers for community news.

TELEPHONE COMMITTEE REVIVED

VECA is attempting to formulate a telephone committee to contact VECA members reminding them about general meetings. We will attempt to create a chain calling system and when you are contacted to phone three of your neighbors, please do so. In this manner we should easily be able to contact all our members when reminding them of a meeting or advising them of a special event.



MAY VECA MEETING

The general membership meeting of the Vollintine Evergreen Association will be at 7:30 p.m. May 28 at Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1663 Tutwiler.

LOOK!!

SECOND ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

The second annual *Picture Your Neighborhood* photography contest sponsored by *The Evergreen News* is underway. This year, color photographs will be accepted, as well as black and white.

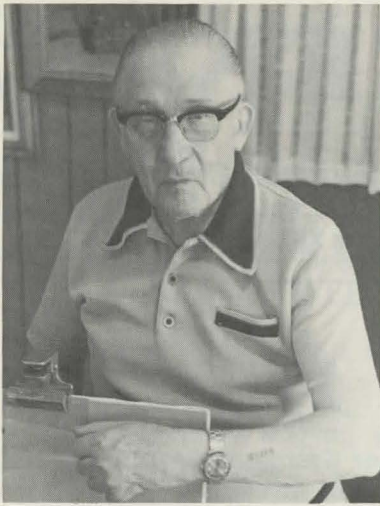
Contest rules are simple. Anyone living anywhere with any type of background can enter. The pictures must be taken within the area we call VECA which is bordered by the former I-40 right-of-way on the south, Cypress Creek on the north, Trezevant/Springdale on the east and Watkins on the west. The Overton Park area is included.

Most importantly, we want the photographs to represent a sense of neighborhood. Last year's first place winner's photograph depicted black and white children playing together on a neighborhood playground. Second place's photograph pictured long-time VECA residents taking pride in a magnificent blooming dogwood tree. The third place's photo's subject was a graduation ceremony at Southwestern College.

Deadline for the pictures is June 30, 1984. Winners will be published over a period of time in *The Evergreen News*, beginning in August. Because of the expense involved in reproducing color photographs, the winning photographs in this category will be reproduced in black and white. Prizes will be given. Watch for future articles in *The Evergreen News* for more information.

LOOK AHEAD TO AUGUST

Instead of the July 23, 1984 general meeting of the Vollintine Evergreen Community Association, there will be a party at the Southwestern pool on Friday, August 3, 1984 at about 7 p.m. We will have beer, swimming, music and lots of fun! Each person should bring an appetizer of some type and their swimming suits. This should be a great way to meet your VECA neighbors and renew everyone's interest in our community association. Please call Krissie Heuer at 452-5264 for further details.



Jack Zwirz

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR RELATES EXPERIENCES

By B. J. Connor

Jack Zwirz comes to the door of his brick home looking much like any other VECA resident. Except that he seems remarkably robust for a man in his mid 70s. And his short-sleeve shirt reveals a number tattooed by the Nazis 40 years ago.

The retired shoe repairman introduces me to his present in the form of his many colorful oil paintings. Subjects range from favorite fishing spots to Presidents Lincoln and Kennedy (on leather), to scenes from "Fiddler on the Roof."

On to the past.

Newspaper clippings he spreads on a table give a quick overview of his background. Polish-born athlete, salesman and soldier, he helped smuggle fellow Jews to safety as part of the underground. After his arrest in 1942, he survived three years of concentration camps, including the 1,100-mile bitter cold "Death March" from Auschwitz to Zweiberga. Expected to do carpentry work there, the starving Zwirz was too weak to hold a hammer.

His life was spared by the lack of a crematorium at Buchenwald. "The camp had been bombed," he explains.

This sensitive gentleman has dug graves and written poetry. He has been beaten and had his face burned with a cigarette; he has received Belgium's highest medal for heroism. He traces a recent stroke

back to the swelling in his legs during the march.

Survival required constantly-alert senses and sharp thinking. His stories sound so much like a fictional spy thriller, he hesitates to elaborate. "You will not know and believe me," he says.

Once started, however, his eyes behind the bifocals and the voice that speaks six languages become intense. He tells of another prisoner confiding to him that he planned to escape. Zwirz hushed him and told him, if that were so, the best time would be the changing of the guard at night. The man succeeded in escaping by jumping over the barbed wire.

The next night there was a line drawn in front of the fence. Zwirz knew the guard was to shoot anyone who crossed the line. The young guard barked, "Shoester!" to Zwirz and asked him if he knew anything about the evening before. Then he ordered him to cross the line.

Zwirz says he disobeyed the order. "If you want to shoot me, shoot me here," he recalls, demonstrating how he stretched out his arms to call the guard's bluff.

"Those two seconds seemed like a million years," he says, before the guard walked away.

The septuagenarian does not avoid books or shows about the Holocaust. "I like to find out if other people's experience was the same as mine." He met Mr. Van Daan, mentioned in Anne Frank's diary, at Sacro, a German camp near the Polish border.

Zwirz says that regardless of how many thousands of pictures a person looks at, the whole truth will never be known. "Vere the truth will come from, dead people?" he asks.



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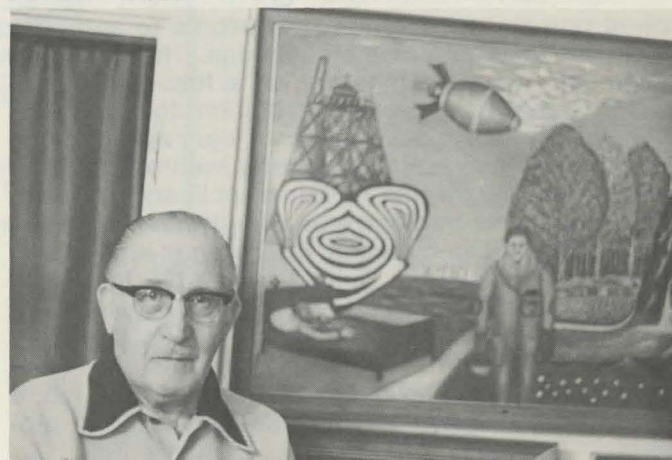
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He says it is true that prisoner orchestras played in the camps. The memories have squelched his love of music.

He sometimes has flashbacks and if it is dark when he wakes up, he thinks, "Am I dead?" — a question he often wondered at Auschwitz.

What does he remember about the day of the tattoo? He gives a "no big deal" shrug. "They called you by number, not by name."

His wife Rosa and son George survived by hiding in a Belgian church. The family, reunited after the war, came to Memphis. A Congressman they had met (the late Clifford Davis) arranged for the 16-year-old son, who was a Belgian citizen, to come live with the late Abe Waldauer and his wife. As Polish citizens, the parents could not emigrate for three years until their papers were cleared.

In 1952 Zwirz opened the Hollywood Shoe Shop at 1397 Hollywood. His wife worked for Julius Lewis. She died in 1979.

Having studied painting with Paul Penczner, Zwirz continues to develop his art, of which he has had several exhibits. His other passion has been speaking (in Yiddish) at memorial programs at the Jewish Community Center.

There is much more to ask but he says, "That's enough questions. I don't want you to have nightmares."

The beefy forearm with the number stills my scribbling hand.

"If you want to write this, you need to write a book."

Photo by B.J. Conner
Developing and printing by Shelly Fingerett

SOUTHWESTERN'S EVENTS CALENDAR MAY

- 10-13 Theatre**, "The Taming of the Shrew," directed by Julia "Cookie" Ewing. Performances 8 & 17-20 p.m. nightly as well as one Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. the 20th. McCoy Theatre. Admission \$6 Adults, \$3 Students.
- 13 Senior piano recital** featuring Laura Hollandsworth; Shirley M. Payne Recital Hall in Hassell Hall, 8 p.m. FREE
- 18 June Senior Art Exhibit** featuring student works. Clough-Hanson Gallery. Weekdays 9 to 5 p.m. Saturdays noon 5 p.m. FREE


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On May 25th Springdale Memphis Magnet will participate in a multi-cultural experience.

As a culmination to a year long study of various countries, Springdale Memphis Magnet will present a World's Fair. Each classroom will be representing a different country and will have their room set up to reflect that country.

Visitors will be greeted at the classroom door by two students who will show them around the room, while other students will be showing various projects they have done on their particular country.

In addition, from 7:30 a.m. until 9 a.m. each classroom will be serving breakfast indigenous to their country to parents and volunteers who have helped in the school during the year.

From 10 a.m. until noon, the visitors are in for a real treat as each class presents a dance that is representative of their country.

The day will end with olympics in which children will participate in various outdoor activities.

**DR. JAMES BUCHANAN NAMED RECIPIENT
OF \$10,000 FRANK E. SEIDMAN
DISTINGUISHED AWARD
IN POLITICAL ECONOMY**

Dr. James M. Buchanan, a world-recognized economist known particularly for his pioneering work in the area of public choice, has been selected to receive the eleventh annual Frank E. Seidman Distinguished Award in Political Economy from Southwestern At Memphis.

Dr. Buchanan, a native Tennessean, will accept the \$10,000 award on September 20, 1984, at an award banquet at Memphis Country Club co-hosted by the Economic Club of Memphis, the Board of Trustees for the Seidman Award and Southwestern.

The 64-year-old author and academician presently heads the Center for Study of Public Choice at George Mason University (Fairfax, Virginia) where he is also a professor of economics. The current president (1983-84) of the Western Economic Association, one of the most prestigious of the regional economic associations, Dr. Buchanan is often cited for his work in applying economic analysis to political science decisions.



**FILM AT BROOKS
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"3,000 Years of Art in Mexico" treats viewers to an unprecedented look at Mexican art and culture. The show utilizes state of the art audio-visual equipment. Twenty-four projectors provide a constant flow of images and ideas.

The free documentary will be shown in the Museum's auditorium from May 15-31. The program is 35 minutes long. Please call the Museum for specific show times. It is sponsored by Buckeye Cellulose Corporation; assistance from Fomento Cultural Banamex, A.C.

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SUMMER ARTWORKS FOR KIDS!

Brooks has planned two stimulating sessions for children this summer. The programs will explore line, form, and color with emphasis on various media techniques. Classes will be taught by Darla Linerode, assistant curator of education. The sessions will meet on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Session I, "Discovering Materials & Design", will meet from July 9 - 20 and is open to students having completed grades 3-5. Session II, "Exploring Drawing & Painting", will meet July 23 - August 3 and is designed for students having completed grades 6-8. A \$5 materials fee is the only cost in-

involved in participating with the program; however, advance registration is required as classes are limited to 15. For further information, please call the Education Office at 726-5266.

SHOW TIME

The Memphis Park Commission's Children's Theatre will be presenting "The Importance of Being Earnest" May 10-13 and May 17-19, at 7:30 p.m. and at 2:30 p.m. Matinees on Saturday and Sunday.

Tickets are \$1 for children under 12 and \$2 for adults. There is limited seating, so please call ahead for reservations.

For further information and to make reservations please call 452-3968 after 2 p.m.

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INCREASED POOL FEES MEAN LONG, HOT SUMMER FOR MANY

New fee policies for memberships at Southwestern's swimming pool this summer have cooled off many area resident's plans of joining.

For several years now, Southwestern has allowed non-alumni and non-staff people to apply for pool and tennis court memberships. These limited community memberships are on a first-come, first-served basis. Last year, in addition to the basic membership fees, pool applicants were asked to buy tickets to Southwestern's sporting events. The more tickets one bought, the more an applicant's request for a pool membership rose in priority.

Basic pool membership fees for non-alumni and non-staff this summer ranged from \$125 for an individual to \$150 for two-parent families, plus \$40 for each child age four and older. In addition this summer, Southwestern required applicants for pool memberships to contribute \$100 to the Lynx Club, a booster organization for the college's athletic program.

Those who wanted to sign up for tennis memberships were required to make a \$50 booster club contribution. If a swimming and tennis membership was desired, the contribution to the booster club was \$150, in addition to the basic fees.

George Lapidés, Southwestern's new director of athletics, explained the new fee policy.

"The basic membership fees only cover life guards' salaries and day-to-day maintenance, but it doesn't cover capital improvements," Lapidés said. The booster club money will be used to finance capital improvements in the athletic department, including the swimming pool, he said.

"Our only alternative (to the booster club fee requirement) was to close the pool to the community and keep it open strictly to students and alumni," said Lapidés.

A big expense already this year was the replacement of a \$5,000 swimming pool tank, Lapidés said.

"The more people you have coming to the pool, the more wear and tear you're going to have. And we didn't feel like Southwestern should lose money in keeping the pool open to the community," Lapidés said.

Lapidés said the pool is open to a limited number of non-alumni and non-staff as a "good will community gesture."

He said the number of community memberships this summer amounted to the same, if not a little more, than last year. He estimated there were 75 community memberships this year, which represent about 250 people.

"I still think it's a good deal," Lapidés said of the membership prices.

Few alternatives exist in the immediate VECA area, but families may want to check out the YMCA's program. A family membership at the facility at 3548 Walker, near the Memphis State Campus, is \$180 for a year. That includes in-door swimming, a gym, steam room and sauna and a fitness center with weights. Members are also allowed to use the out-door swimming pool at the YMCA on Quince.

VECA NEWS

By Krissie Heuer
Recording Secretary

The meeting of the Vollandine Evergreen Community Association Executive Committee was held Tuesday, April 17, at the P&H Cafe on Madison Avenue.

The predominant issue of the meeting was the on going discussion over the proposed street lights on which the Midtown Council of Neighborhoods is attempting to come to an agreement. A meeting to discuss this issue was held April 18 at the home of Mary Taylor. Representing VECA were Rebecca Smith, Mark Lindstrom and Tom Kepple. Our position, was to be stated by Rebecca Smith, will be that we would like to hold to the prior agreement of a uniform, as in the Cooper-Young area, type pole throughout the Midtown area or with another mutually agreed upon uniform pole for the entire area. VECA will be open to listen to any new information as long as it will be for all neighborhoods in the Midtown area.

Also at this meeting elections for new officers of the Midtown Council were held and Mark Lindstrom was nominated to the position of vice president of the council.

Mark Lindstrom raised the question of how VECA felt about the city tearing down the Overton Park Shell for a parking lot to be used by Brooks Art Gallery. Minor enthusiasm for fighting this issue was shown and comments were made in favor of the parking lot to promote greater attendance at the gallery, but no active involvement by VECA was encouraged.

CLASSIFIED AD

Sam Archer needs a vocalist for acoustic guitar group. Call me at 396-8700.

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