

neighborhood. She shares some photos and her memories beginning on page 5.



Hawthorne Place
Neighborhood Association
June 1, 2008

**MAYOR'S PRESERVATION
AWARDS**

**LIFE IN HISTORIC
HAWTHORNE**



Karen Hasara at 1408 Whittier

Karen Hasara, mayor of Springfield from 1995-2003, was a frequent visitor at 1408 Whittier. Her grandparents, George and Flora Feldhausen, moved into the American foursquare in 1923. Her aunt, Annabel, continued to reside there until 1984. Karen Hasara has many fond recollections of the

The Yoder family and their home at 1409 Whittier were on the front page of *The State Journal-Register* on April 30. They were cited as the recipients of the Mayor's Award for Historic Preservation for the restoration – and re-restoration - of their home in Hawthorne Place. Mayor Tim Davlin made the presentation.

Marcel and Deb Yoder also restored the house at 1401 Whittier and a Mayor's Award was given to its current owners, Randy and Jennifer Paswater.

Congratulations to the Yoders and the Paswaters. The labor, devotion and the resources that are required are extraordinary. These efforts and the city's recognition help to preserve the historic nature of our neighborhood. We are all grateful.



1409 Whittier

ANNUAL MEETING

This year's annual meeting (April 24) was an opportunity to consider the merits of our neighborhood association. What did residents want of their neighborhood? What were their expectations of a neighborhood association? What Hawthorne events are important to them and are they willing to volunteer to insure their continuation?

Beth Trojahn (1314 Lowell) organized and hosted the evening at the Laurel Methodist Church. Those who attended sat at round tables and discussed issues of mission, core values, and vision. The meeting was a positive reinforcement of why we all live in Hawthorne Place. It may come as no surprise that our neighbors put high value on so many of the same issues: neighborhood pride, historic preservation, the camaraderie amongst neighbors, well-preserved older homes in a green-friendly environment, and an ideal place to raise a family.

There was a table display that identified many of the activities that the association has sponsored. The evening was an opportunity to sign up as a volunteer. What activities were most important? Who would be willing to organize the event? The number of signatures were, in effect, an endorsement of what activities neighbors wanted to see continued.

Beth Trojahn and her husband Mike then hosted the next Board Meeting at their home on Tuesday, May 13. Those who attended scheduled the next Board Meetings and prepared a calendar of events for the rest of 2008.

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PLANNED EVENTS FOR 2008

August 5 (Tuesday): National Night Out

This year marks the 25th anniversary of this national event. The intent is to bring neighbors closer together with local law enforcement in their joint efforts of crime prevention. Various activities are typically planned. Hawthorne Place usually has an ice cream social for this family event. It is scheduled for 6-8 PM.

Coordinators: Marcel & Deb Yoder

Fall Festival : date to be determined

A last opportunity to enjoy the out-of-doors together with neighbors. There will be games for children and a potluck dinner to be shared by all in Hawthorne. A street will need to be closed for this event.

Coordinator: Randy Stieren

December 14 (Sunday): Holiday Party

A holiday open house. Neighbors are encouraged to bring a dish. Site: 1314 Lowell in the mid-afternoon.

Hosts: Mike and Beth Trojahn

December 24 (Wednesday): Luminary Display

Hawthorne Place has had a luminary display on Christmas Eve for many years. It creates a festive and welcoming impression throughout our neighborhood.

Coordinator: Karen Newbold

**Call the above coordinators now
and volunteer to help!**

NEXT BOARD MEETINGS

June 3 (Tuesday) – 7 PM – Room 303

July 29 (Tuesday) – 7 PM – Room 201

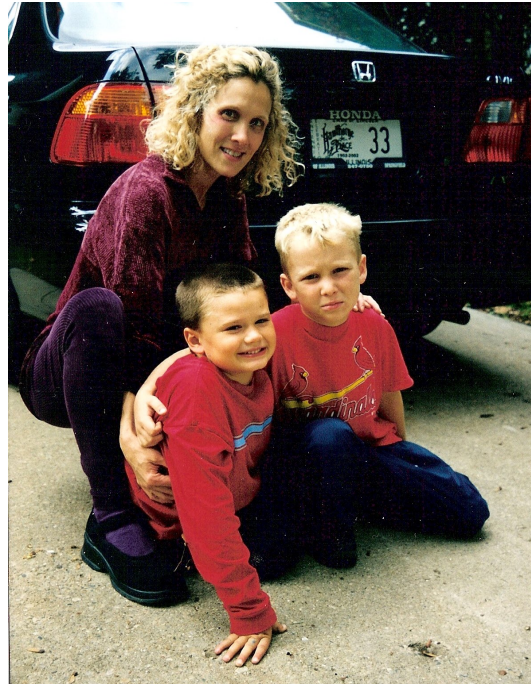
September 9 (Tuesday) – 7 PM – Room 201

**These meetings are scheduled at Laurel
Methodist Church (S. Grand & Walnut).**

All are welcome. Please join us!

ADIEU

We reported in the last newsletter that Bob and Janet Scott (1317 Lowell) were selling their home and leaving Hawthorne. Here are a few more neighbors – and dear friends – who are also moving. We remember how much they mean to us.



**Anne Craig with Thomas and Robert
(1433 Holmes)**

Anne is pictured above with her two sons. The year was 2002, the time of the Hawthorne centennial. It is too faint to notice but the license plate was created for the centennial. It was one of Anne's contributions for the event. In addition to beautifully restoring one of the signature houses of our neighborhood, Anne contributed tirelessly to all Hawthorne endeavors. She was president of Hawthorne Place Neighborhood Association for the past five years and hosted most of the board meetings in her home.

The Swanson family moved into Hawthorne in 1977. They were just the second owners of 1520 Lowell. At the time they had one daughter, Meridith. A son, Gregory, was born after the move.



Carolyn & Brad Swanson (1520 Lowell)

Brad served on the board when our neighborhood association was first organized more than a dozen years ago. Throughout those years both Brad & Carolyn would attend meetings, volunteer for clean-up duties, and donate for our various projects. Their hospitality was something special. Kenneth Kiesler (conductor of the Illinois Symphony), Nicholas Lindsay (Vachel's son), and a U. S. Senator (Carolyn's uncle) could claim 1520 as a second home. But to everyone there was an open door – a home of unfailing good cheer and welcome.

Dusty Rhodes and her family moved into Hawthorne in 2002. She came to Springfield to join the *Illinois Times* after a decade of journalistic experience in Dallas, Texas and Anchorage, Alaska. Her recognition in the Springfield community was immediate. A prize-winning journalist, her stories and her essays are anticipated with each issue of the *Illinois Times*. Fortunately, she will be only a few blocks away in her new home and at her job.



Dusty Rhodes (1405 Whittier)
absent in the photo: Randy Skalicky
and their sons, Milo and Evan

THE ANNUAL HAWTHORNE PLACE GARAGE SALE (and a morel)



**May 11 : Lori Reimers and her son Andy
(1512 Holmes)**

It had already been decided that the association would not sponsor the annual neighborhood garage sale. But Lori Reimers stepped forward and volunteered to get one organized. She felt that the event was too important both for Hawthorne spirit and for bringing people into the neighborhood. And Saturday, May 11 – the day of the garage sale – was a perfect day. Our streets buzzed with activity well into the afternoon. Our thanks to Lori.

In the above picture, Andy Reimers is proudly displaying a morel that he discovered. An edible mushroom with a honeycomb design, it is highly prized by gourmet cooks. There had been a recent cover story on morels and morel-hunting in *The State Journal-Register* (May 1). And in early May, Maldaner's Restaurant was offering a Morel Mushroom Pie for a limited time on their menu. Andy may have had a pie in mind.



The daylily walk along Laurel is slowly expanding. Now is that time of year for weeding and new planting, and, as always, there is a need for volunteers. If you can help with this project please call Edward Russo (414-0052) or Jim Huston (528-5256). A weekday evening will soon be planned to work on these daylily beds. We will be weeding and filling in the empty spaces.



THE CARE OF THE BOULEVARD

There is currently no contract with any company or any individual to maintain the Lowell Avenue boulevard. Also, there are no volunteers who are willing to assume such a formidable responsibility. Neighbors – and visitors – can see that there is an unevenness to the attention that this long stretch of property is receiving. Formerly, when Bob Scott was here the boulevard was mowed with reliable consistency.

We ask that each resident along Lowell maintain that section of the boulevard that fronts their own property. That was how it was managed in the past.

You may have noticed that some residents have been mowing for neighbors and that other neighbors have been sharing the responsibility. It's just what neighborliness is all about.

THE DAYLILY WALK



LIFE IN HISTORIC HAWTHORNE



Flora (Brittin) Feldhausen (1886-1969)

Among Karen Hasara's earliest memories is a house at the north end of Whittier. She was born in 1940 and when her father went away to war, her grandmother's house at 1408 Whittier became her second home.

George and Flora Feldhausen moved into their American foursquare on Whittier in 1923. They were the second owners of the home. Their family included three children: Annabel (b. 1909), Theresa (b. 1914) and Edward (b. 1922). Both of the Feldhausens had come from farming families. In the late 1800s their families had been in North Dakota. By the early 1900s, after George and Flora had married, they had moved to rural Rochester, Illinois, and started a family. In time, Flora desired a home in the city, which prompted their move to Springfield in 1923.

The Feldhausens moved into a subdivision that was still relatively new. Many of their immediate neighbors on Whittier remained their neighbors for years. They included the Shrivvers (at 1319), the Bellersheims (1320), the Burkes (1334), the Woods (1404), the Shands (1409),

They all resided in Hawthorne for decades. It was a stable neighborhood and the Feldhausens lived there for sixty-one years.



George Feldhausen (1883-1958)



Theresa Feldhausen (1914-2005)

This photo dates from about 1923 when the family moved to Springfield. Theresa was 9.



Annabel (age 16), Flora, and grandmother Brittin in 1925

The Feldhausen children attended public schools and each graduated from Springfield High School: Annabel in 1928, Theresa in 1932, and Edward in 1940.

the Beckers (1412), the Taylors (1417), the Flentjes (1424), the Blankmeyers (1425), the Maddens (1428), and the Fastchs (1429).



**Theresa (left) at 16. It is August 1930.
She is posing with two friends,
Lois and Mary Jane, outside the family**

home with its large awnings for summer.



**Edward Feldhausen (b. 1922) and Harlington
Wood, Jr. (b. 1920) with unidentified dog.
Early 1930s.**

The house in the background of the previous photo was the home of the Harlington Wood family. They lived at 1404 Whittier for thirty years. The father of the family had been elected to four terms as Sangamon County judge. His son, Harlington Wood, Jr., would enjoy an even more illustrious legal career. After serving in the Army during World War II and rising to the rank of major, Harlington Jr. and his father practiced law together for ten years. In 1958, President Eisenhower appointed Wood U. S. Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois. Over the next twenty years, he would receive four Presidential appointments from three different U. S. Presidents. President Ford appointed him to the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in 1976. It was a lifetime appointment.

Two significant episodes in his career are also worth mentioning. As a military officer Wood witnessed the Japanese surrender in the Philippines. He attended the war crimes trial of General Yamashita in Manila and was critical of the lack of judicial independence. In 1973, Wood was the chief negotiator during the siege of Wounded Knee and was credited for its peaceful resolve.

Lean and tall – at 6-foot-4 – Wood was also an amateur thespian who often portrayed Lincoln at New Salem.



Theresa Feldhausen's graduation picture – SHS, 1932

By 1941, Theresa Feldhausen had married Joseph Churchman. They had two children, Judy (b. 1937) and Karen (b. 1940), and were living in Peoria where Joseph worked for the Internal Revenue Service. Their life turned upside down with the outbreak of World War II. Joseph joined the Navy and Theresa and her two daughters moved back to Springfield. Theresa's brother, Edward, was also in service. And their parents, George and Flora, were about to separate. The home at 1408 Whittier became a refuge for Flora, Annabel, Theresa, Judy and Karen throughout the war.

Young as she was, Karen Hasara remembers air raid practice, food rationing, and the intense study of world maps as the family tried to pinpoint where Joseph, Edward and other loved ones were stationed around the globe. And like many children born at that time, Karen did not have the chance to know and bond with a father during the earliest years of her life.

During the war, Mrs. Churchman rented an apartment located across from the Esquire Theater on South MacArthur. But much of the time the family gathered at the Whittier home.

In 1946, Joseph Churchman acquired a bungalow for the family at 1505 South Walnut. It was just three blocks from grandmother Feldhausen's home. The easiest way to get there was to cut across yards. Typically, the quickest route was through the Gietl's backyard at 1509 Holmes.

Karen attended Blessed Sacrament. She spent a year at Ursuline and graduated from Sacred Heart Academy in 1958. These were years when mom-and-pop stores dotted the periphery of Hawthorne Place. Just a half-block from the Churchman home was the Ernest Galli Market at 1344 South Walnut where the family had a charge account. George Strutz Groceries at 300 West Cedar was closer to grandmother Feldhausen's. It was a grocery that would deliver their produce. And many of the kids at Blessed Sacrament would gather at Bart's. "Breakfast at Bart's!," they would say. Bart's, located on Laurel near Walnut, was a popular hangout for the kids and a worry to some parents. Further east on Laurel was the Rolling Pin bakery (at 206 West Laurel). It was known for its butter cake. But Karen remembers that every Friday after the 8 AM mass at Blessed Sacrament, the students headed to the cafeteria and enjoyed butter cake from Rechner's, a bakery on the north side of town.



Karen is lying down on the sled.
 Her sister Judy is on the right.
 Joey Patton (1330 Whittier) is in the
 center with an unidentified dog.
 It is February 1944.
 The photo is shot looking
 north on Whittier.

Growing up so close to Hawthorne Place –
 and having a grandmother who lived there –
 Karen Hasara developed numerous
 friendships in the neighborhood during her
 student years. They included Louis Gietl
 (1509 Holmes), Mary Ann Stephans (1512
 Holmes), and Margaret Casey (1508 Holmes).
 She particularly enjoyed the Casey household
 with its energy, activity, and interaction.
 When Karen was married in 1960, Margaret
 Casey was one of her bridesmaids.

There is in this story a core group of women.
 There is the grandmother who never worked
 outside the home. There are her two
 daughters who graduated from high school
 eighty years ago and into the early stages of
 the Great Depression. Karen Hasara has said
 that, back then, there were three career
 options open to women: secretary, nurse and
 teacher. Aunt Annabel worked most of her
 life as a secretary. Theresa trained as a nurse.
 Karen Hasara's first job was as a teacher in
 the elementary schools. And when she
 entered politics two of Karen's staunchest
 supporters were her mother, Theresa, and her
 aunt, Annabel.



Theresa Churchman at 1408 Whittier
 January 1944



Karen & Judy Churchman
 August 2, 1944

In the mid-1950s Judy Churchman went to college in Florida and subsequently made that state her home. Karen completed her college education in Illinois, raised a family of four, and followed a career path from education to real estate to politics.

Karen Hasara was appointed to the Sangamon County Board in 1975. She was the only woman among its 29 members. She then ran for circuit clerk, won the election and served from 1980-1986. Next, she was appointed to replace Josephine Oblinger as the state representative from the 100th district. She was reelected and served in that capacity for three terms from 1986-1993. In 1992, she won election to the State Senate, replacing Senator John Davidson. She won election to a second term as State Senator. Then in 1995 came the opportunity to run for mayor of Springfield. She became the first woman elected to that position, serving from 1995-2003. Her administration was responsible for many achievements, including downtown revitalization efforts. (She was also a faithful friend to the older neighborhoods.)

Karen Hasara served as an elected official for 28 years and never lost an election.



Annabel Feldhausen
1956

Annabel Feldhausen (1909-1984), Karen Hasara's aunt, lived at 1408 Whittier for almost all of her life. She was fourteen when the family moved to the home on Whittier in 1923. Her mother, Flora Feldhausen, died in 1969, and Annabel continued to live there

until her own death in 1984. Karen Hasara has always credited the support and encouragement she received from her mother and aunt. The Whittier neighbors who had known Annabel still speak of her with great affection.

Edward George Feldhausen (1922-1995) also remained in Springfield. He married, raised three sons, and served as vice-president of Phillips Brothers Printing.



A footnote: In her fifth year as mayor of Springfield Karen Hasara became the owner of a 2001 PT Cruiser. It was cranberry colored and was immediately noticed. The mayor explained her attraction for this retro car. It reminded her of the 1947 Oldsmobile that had been handed down to her from her grandmother Feldhausen. That Oldsmobile was Karen Hasara's first car.

AND A RECIPE:

Vienna Opera Squares

Karen Hasara shared this recipe with *The State Journal-Register* in 2005. She remarked that whenever she ran for elective office her mother, Theresa Churchman, was there to support her. These particular treats are ones that Mrs. Churchman made for her daughter to take to high rises and nursing homes when she was campaigning.

Vienna Opera Squares*

½ cup butter

2 tablespoons sugar

1 cup sifted flour

1 ½ cups brown sugar

2 eggs

2 tablespoons flour

1 cup nuts

¼ cup coconut

1 teaspoon vanilla

Mix the butter, sugar and the 1 cup of flour with your fingers. Press into 9-inch greased pan. Bake 15 minutes at 350 degrees.

While the crust bakes, mix the remaining ingredients. Pour the filling over the crust and bake 30 minutes at 300 degrees. Cut into bars.

Makes about 20.

*** There is a variation for Vienna Opera Squares. It uses a cup of black walnuts. The coconut is increased to 1 ½ cups.**

A WORD OF THANKS

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HAWTHORNE PLACE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

What is it? – The Hawthorne Place Neighborhood Association is an organization for residents of Whittier, Lowell and Holmes between South Grand and Laurel – the boundaries of the 1902 Hawthorne Place subdivision. The organization advocates for the neighborhood, sponsors social activities, and is a forum for working on neighborhood issues.

History – The Hawthorne Place Neighborhood Association held its first meeting at Laurel Methodist Church on October 27, 1994. The organization grew out of the effort to get a stop sign installed at Holmes and Cedar. Neighbors discovered the benefits of a group effort and a group voice.

How to join - Membership is \$20 per family for a first time membership and \$10 per family for a renewing membership. To join, contact Membership chair Burnell Heinecke at 522-3842. Also, let Burnell know if you do not want to be listed in the neighborhood directory.

Directories – Neighborhood directories are available to members. Contact your block captain if you need a directory.

Neighborhood Officer – Hawthorne Place is protected by the Springfield Police Department. Mike Vogel, our Neighborhood Police Officer, can be reached at 741-0988. If there is an emergency situation call 911.

Alderman – Hawthorne Place is in Ward 6. Our alderman is Mark Mahoney. He can be reached by phone (544-7944), email (mmahoney67@hotmail.com), or regular mail (1916 Whittier).

The following is a list of the current block captains.

S. Holmes
Eva Hawley – 1524 Holmes

N. Lowell
Beth & Mike Trojahn - 1314 Lowell

S. Lowell
Jim Huston – 1524 Lowell
Edward Russo – 1612 Lowell

N. Whittier
Martha LeMay – 1421 Whittier
Lindsey Trojahn – 1317 Whittier

S. Whittier
Linda Riebling – 1500 Whittier
Marty Vandiver – 1528
Whittier

Be a block captain.

Elections are held at the Annual Meetings.

Newsletter – The neighborhood newsletter is published quarterly. And the newsletter is self-supporting – thanks to our advertisers. Three cheers to them! Rates are \$10 per issue for a business card space or \$40 per year. Interested? Call Marty Vandiver.

- jah

Block Captains – The neighborhood is divided into six “blocks,” with block captains elected to represent each block on the association board. The blocks consist of the north or south section of a street, separated by Cedar Street. Three block captains are elected each year to a two-year term at the annual meeting in the spring.