



BROOKNOTES

The Newsletter of the Brookwood Hills Community

April 1997, Vol. XI, No. 3

BWH SWIMMER IS NAT'L CHAMP

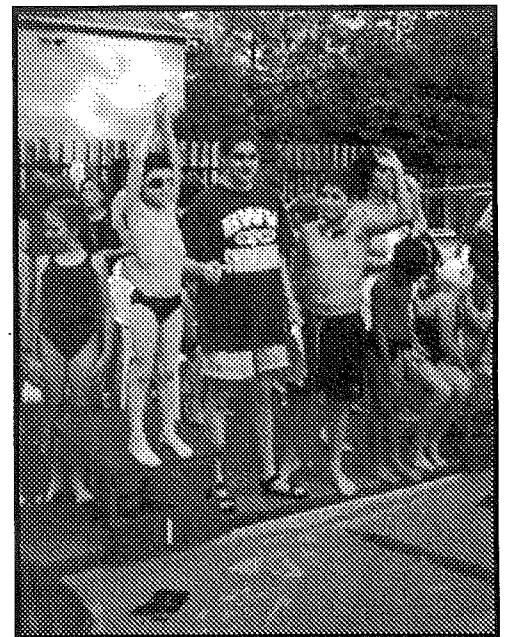


Jessica Stokes (right) with first place finishing 400 Freestyle relay team

Free Relay, placed second in the 200 Individual Medley, the 400 Medley Relay and the 800 Free Relay and finished fourth in the 100 Free and the 200 Free Relay. Thanks in part to Jessica's great swimming, the Williams College team finished second in the meet.

Jessica and younger sister Zibby grew up in BWH, first on Huntington Road and then in the Stokes current home at 129 Palisades. Jessica started swimming at the age of 6 with the Brookwood Hills Swim Team. She later swam with the Dynamo Swim Club and then for Westminster High School. She was the head coach for the BWH Swim Team in 1995 and 1996. Thanks to a grant from the Mead Fellowship which supports work in the public sector, Jessica plans to spend the coming summer working in Public Television. Although she will be missed at the BWH pool this year, Jessica's accomplishment is a great inspiration for all BWH swimmers.

Jessica Stokes, head coach of the Brookwood Hills Swim Team the last two summers and now a sophomore at Williams College, won the 200 meter Freestyle at the NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving Championships March 13th- 15th at Miami University of Ohio with a time of 1:51.77. With her parents Esther and Jim Stokes proudly cheering her on, Jessica also swam on the victorious 400



Jessica coaches BWH Swim Meet 1996



BROOKNOTES

Brooknotes is published monthly for residents of Brookwood Hills on behalf of the Brookwood Hills Community Club, 77 Wakefield Drive, Atlanta, Ga. 30309. Brooknotes is sponsored on alternate months by Patti Junger of Buckhead Brokers and Sarah Hagood of Specialty Homes, Inc.

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Brooknotes welcomes articles, art work, photographs and story ideas.

The deadline for the next issue of Brooknotes is May 16, 1997.

Submissions should be in writing and should be dropped off at Deirdre Stiles' house at 23 Northwood Ave.

Letter to the Editor

Brooknotes received the following letter via BWH Community Club Board president Betsy Crosby. Although addressed to the Board of Directors, this letter brings to our attention a very serious concern that affects everyone in BWH.

Dear Betsy,

Our neighborhood is home to many children, and many adults, all ages. There must be some way that those who drive within our neighborhood could be more caring of all. The speed some cars drive down Huntington Road is absurd and dangerous.

A child could easily be killed if he [or she] stepped from between parked cars. It is too late to say "I'm sorry, the child darted into the street..." If the speed were curtailed, a driver could avoid hitting someone. It is a lame excuse when someone says, "that child/person had no business darting into the street."

If the mothers and fathers who live and drive here would deliberately pace their speed, what a help that would be. We older people must be a living example to our teenage drivers in the neighborhood. People who are merely visiting in the neighborhood would then have to curtail their speed. There has to be some way, other than the death of one of our children, to change the reckless driving that is prevalent in Brookwood Hills.

Humbly and sincerely submitted

Frances Ann Ferguson

Lee King Children's Tennis Clinics

Lee King will be teaching children's tennis clinics at the Brookwood Hills tennis courts again this summer. The clinics will start at 9:30 a.m. and will go for 1 hour. The older kids may go for 1-1/2 hours depending on the response. Please call Lee to sign up or if you have any questions. 261-8643.

June 9-13 4 and 5 years olds

June 16-20 6 and 7 year olds

June 23-27 8 and 9 year olds

June 30 - July 4 10 and 11 year olds

July 7- 11 12 and 13 year olds

The clinics will be \$50 per child per week.

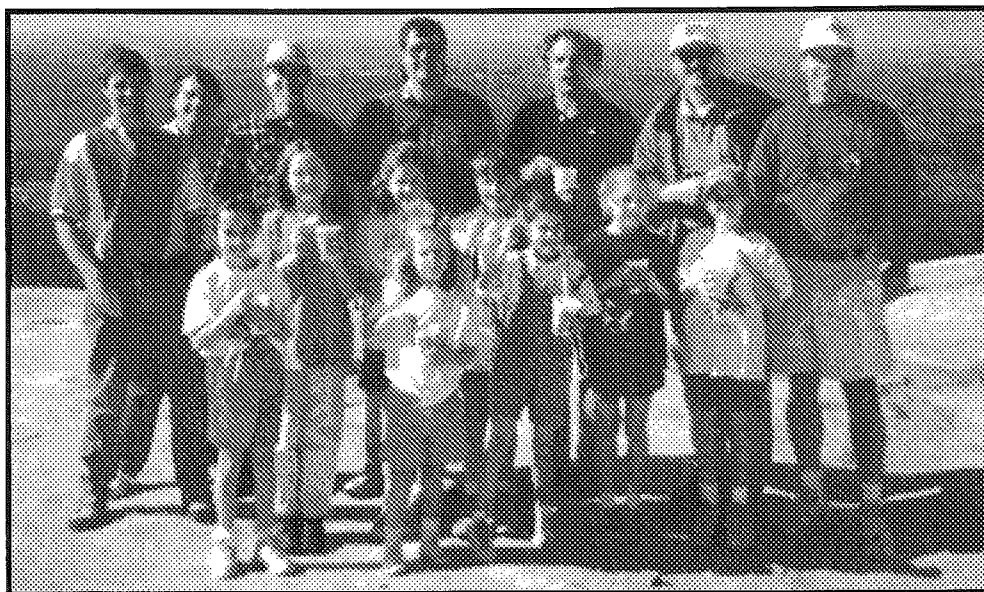
Brookwood Boys Revival

Xavier Duralde

Brookwood Boys is a neighborhood group for boys ages 6-9 and their fathers/adult mentors. BW Boys was organized to allow these boys and their dads a chance to get to know each other and spend one Sunday afternoon a month enjoying different outdoor activities. In the past the activities have included campouts, canoe trips, hiking trips, circus excursions, roller skating, etc...

Brookwood Boys has been a neighborhood tradition for years although the last two years have been quiet. An organizational meeting to revive this great group will be held at the home of Xavier Duralde at 50 Huntington Road on **Sunday, May 11 at 8 p.m.** We will plan activities for next fall and possibly a campout for this spring/summer. To rsvp call 874-7863. Please join us in getting Brookwood Boys back on its feet.

BROOKWOOD GIRLS REACHES NEW HEIGHTS



Back row l-r: Tom Clark, Jeff Bramlett, Lon Simons, Herron Weems, Nick Sears, Xavier Duralde & Scott McCune. *Front row l-r:* Caroline Nadal, Devon Simons, Susanna Bramlett, Caitlin Weems, Megan Feely, Emily Clark, Elena Duralde & Katie McCune.

Elena Duralde

On Sunday, March 23rd, Brookwood Girls went to Stone Mountain. We road the tram up to the top of the mountain and hiked down (we didn't think the dads could make it up hiking). We rode the train around the mountain and flattened pennies on the railroad tracks. Everyone had fun.

The next outing of the BWH Girls is the spring "Hike the Hood" on Sunday, April 27th. For details, see the Bulletin Board - page 7.

BWH POOL HAS NEW LOOK

Kathy McCune

Are you ready for summer vacation and the pool? Well, be prepared for a new "look" when you head down the steps for your first swim of the season in BWH. Robert Brewer Construction Company has been hard at work painting, installing new light fixtures, replacing the bathroom ceilings and generally sprucing things up for the 1997 pool season. Happily, the face lift was completed in record time and the pool is ready for action.

We especially want to thank Georgia Lighting for donating all of our new light fixtures! In addition, new swim blocks and backstroke flags are ready to get the BWH Swim Team off to a great start. The Swim Team also has a beautiful new home for all those trophies thanks the 1996 Swim-a-thon and Karen Mullinax of Harry Norman Realtors.

The official opening of the pool will be Saturday, May 24th at 12 noon with lots of activities including a moonwalk, a clown, games and lots of food and fun. Margarita Nickell will return as pool manager and many of your favorite staff members will also be back. Chad Cook and Sarah Ferguson will be head swim and dive team coaches respectively. So, let's get ready for another great summer at the best pool in Atlanta.

Lessons at the Pool

Peach State Synchro of Atlanta is again offering a series of synchronized swimming classes at BWH pool. This year our own Karen Bernhardt will be teaching. Contact Anita Bryant coach of Peach State Synchro for additional information or to sign up at 404-607-7082.

Also, if you've always wanted to get certified in scuba but thought you couldn't fit it into your schedule, now is your chance. David Jones of Sand Diver Scuba will be offering scuba certification at our pool this summer. Call David at 770-425-2310 to sign up now!

MODERN MASTERS

by Betsy Crosby with Elaine Luxemburger

The home of Merrill Elam and Mack Scogin at 64 Wakefield has been the subject of speculation, admiration, and--in some cases--disapprobation. Is it finished? Yes--and No. Does it fit within the neighborhood? Yes--and No. And is that *really* a swimming pool on the second floor? You bet it is.

Merrill and Mack, an award-winning husband and wife architecture team, moved to Brookwood Hills in the 1980s where they settled into what they irreverently describe as a "monopoly" house across from the pool. The house had been built after World War II as in-fill housing when the double lot next door was divided. A key factor in their decision to move to Brookwood Hills was the neighborhood, which Mack calls "unmatched" in the city. "We travel so much and we've always worked in town--we can't give up the convenience. I can't think of a better neighborhood," pronounces Mack.

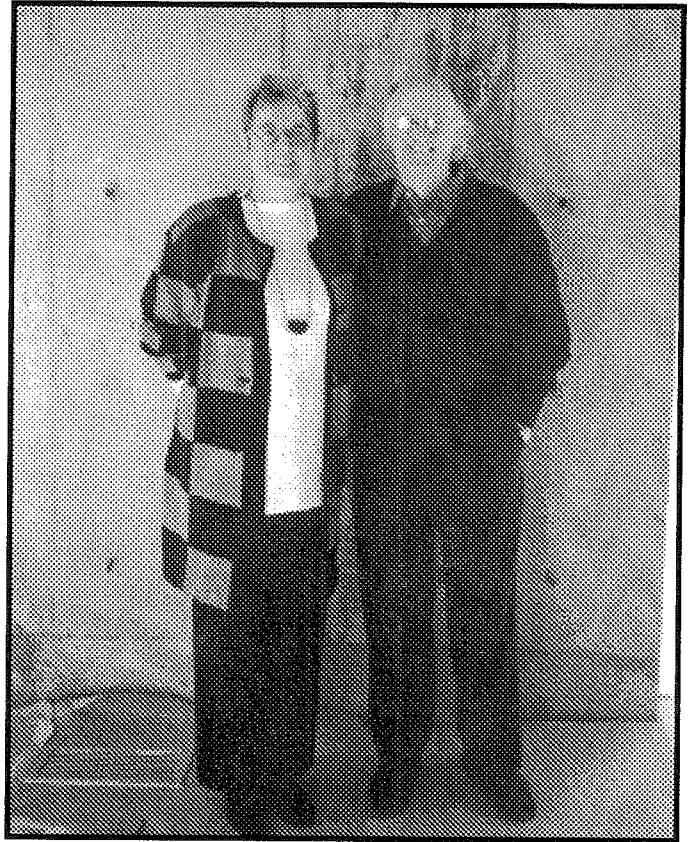
In between Merrill's stints as a visiting lecturer at Yale University and other universities throughout the country, and Mack's obligations as Chairman of the School of Design at Harvard, the couple produce controversial but award-winning designs at their firm Scogin, Elam and Bray. (The third name partner, Lloyd Bray, is brother of Wakefield neighbor Sims Bray.) They have won the prestigious national AIA Honor Award for their design of the Buckhead Library, the Clayton County Library, the Chmar house on Ponce de Leon, and the High Museum at Georgia-Pacific.

Merrill and Mack were attracted to their post-war home not only because it was the "smallest and cheapest" in the neighborhood at the time, but also because of the "privacy" afforded by the community pool. Privacy? Merrill explains that because there is no home across the street, they have a light-filled view of the trees in the pool valley for nine months of the year, making it a perfect "passive solar" house. The three months of the year they spend listening to the sound of "Marco--Polo" echoing from below they view as an added bonus. "It's so much fun to watch people come and go to the pool," says Merrill. The couple even miss the old highboard. "We used to like to hear 'All eyes on the highboard,' then watch the kids disappearing into the horizon," recalls Mack.

The house provided Mack and Merrill with the opportunity to experiment. "We tinkered around with it, tore out some walls and things and never really finished it the first time," recounts Merrill. Like Thomas Jefferson who continued to evolve designs for Monticello throughout his lifetime, both Merrill and Mack were in the habit of constantly re-thinking improvements for their home. When the hurricane force winds of Opal ripped through the neighborhood in October of 1995, it effectively "finished" the house on their behalf. A large street tree caught the chimney and crushed the main roof beam, sending cracks through all the walls and ruining Merrill and Mack's bedroom. Fortunately the couple were out of town at the time.

The extent of damage presented Merrill and Mack with a clean slate and an opportunity for creativity. The two literally passed the design pencil back and forth to create a one-bedroom home with a bridge to a backyard studio that will serve as both guest bedroom and exercise room. When they had finished designing it, they were surprised to find that in all but the exterior it is the same house as before. "I thought we were doing such radical things but there's a huge 'memory' of that house. The floorplan is virtually identical to that of the original," observes Merrill.

The two were careful not to add to the footprint of the house out of sensitivity to the regular set-backs throughout the



Merrill Elam and Mack Scogin with their raw concrete living room wall. The same effect is repeated on the facade of their home.

(Modern Masters continued from page 4)

neighborhood. Mack notes that because their house had always been a one-story home, it had never blended with the scale of the other houses on the street until their recent creation of a two-story front facade. The Urban Design Commission approved their plans, noting that the house had already undergone many changes by the time the neighborhood was designated a Conservation District.

Merrill and Mack admit freely that the architectural style is completely divergent from other homes in the neighborhood. This, to their minds, is an asset. "To have a good modern [home] in the neighborhood makes the neighborhood more interesting," asserts Mack. "I love Savannah and Charleston, but I can get suffocated there after a while." As long as the quality of the design is consistent with the others in the area, then the diversity of style should be welcome, says Mack: "I like to think that we live in an area that accepts diversity."

Though the house is certainly in the modern tradition, Merrill and Mack resist any labeling of its architectural style, preferring instead to discuss how they were guided by the need to create a home that met their constraints. "We took a small house, a small lot, south facing orientation, and Merrill's wish for a lap pool and tried to create a home that was both open and private at the same time," says Mack.

The two designed the house to include many panels of glass. "We like what the light does to the interior surfaces," says Merrill. It is the play of light that the couple believe makes the interior view interesting to experience at different times during the day, as well as during the year. Since neither is fond of window treatments, they created privacy by using glazed glass and a row of strategically placed hemlocks.

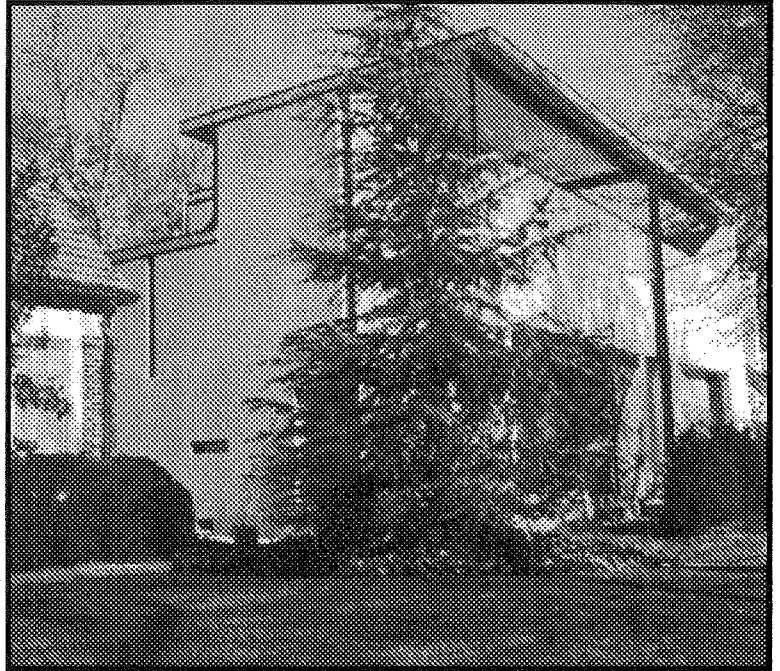
To capitalize on the play of light, the couple will leave the walls white and bare of ornamentation, a design strategy which they believe visually expands the space. The floors are concrete planks devoid of rugs, and the kitchen counter is unpolished steel. The couple eschewed the use of moldings around doorframes, floors and ceiling to allow the sense of scale to vary with the changing light. Narrow metal steps lead to the upstairs bedroom where a vanity made from a fragment of unfinished wood from Africa is a counterpoint to the preference for man-made materials throughout the house. As Merrill points out, this is *not* a house where you should do normal furnishings.

The desire for a lap pool became a central focus in the design. Merrill grew up swimming on a lake and even today enjoys swimming in the rain and at night at their home on Lake Lanier. The couples concern was that, because they are downhill from many of their neighbors, there was no place to put the pool and have it be private at the same time. It was Merrills great desire to be able to swim when she got home late in the evening after traveling, or early in the morning before leaving for work. Having a community pool across the street is of little use to someone who prides herself on being a year-round swimmer.

The inspiration came from a design by the renowned Viennese modernist, Adolph Loos, for the Parisian fan dancer Josephine Baker in the early twentieth century. Though the design was never built, it called for a second story swimming pool with windows into the tank to allow those below a voyeuristic peak at Baker. Merrills version, though it looks to be an indoor pool, is actually not enclosed. The front surface of glass screens her from passersby and allows light in to warm the surface. The overhang from the roof provides protection from rain. And in case you're wondering, there are no peepholes in Merrill's design.

The rough concrete facade on the house with exposed metal ties is repeated inside the house. Mack calls the raw concrete the modern-day answer to marble--the "natural material that we can afford." Merrill and Mack like it for the color variation and patina of age it provides, giving the house texture and depth. Still, they leave open the possibility that they may one day finish the surface, admitting to the Jeffersonian predilection for letting the house evolve over time.

Some of their closest allies are skeptical about this aspect of the design decision. "My mother and father think it's unfinished," relates Mack "At least my father certainly does. My mother says, 'Now Buford, don't criticize your son.'"



The Scogin-Elam home at 64 Wakefield. Glazed glass panels let in light and shield the upper story lap pool from curious passersby.

HOPPING GOOD EASTER EGG HUNT



Top Lft: The "four and under" hunters line up at the starting line; *Right:* Larkin Preston and Richard Cohan with Cecily Cohan, Connor Perkey and Jimmy White hunting for eggs; *Bottom left, l-r:* Palmer Withers, Campbell Gitomer, Thomas Hale enjoy sweet treats.

The Easter Bunny's hard work and spectacular spring weather combined to make the annual Easter Egg Hunt at BWH park a huge success. The clear blue sky and wonderful warm sun brought lots of families to the park to hunt for eggs and enjoy the afternoon. Moments before the hunt began, the ground was speckled with bright wrappers of red, yellow, purple, green, and blue. Children of all sizes and ages arrived, baskets ready and eager to begin. Some were dressed up in Easter attire while others went for the casual park look and all were delighted to see a sea of candy shining brightly just beyond their reach.

BWH neighbor Mal Phillips was the charismatic "Voice of the Hunt" choraling the crowd at the starting line. As cameras clicked, the "four years-old and under" group started their low methodic sweep across the park while the older kids anxiously awaited the signal to begin. When at last their turn came, the "five and older group" made a mad dash across the field and all over the park snatching up candy and searching for three special eggs that would bring a prize. The happy little hunters who unearthed the carefully hidden prize eggs were David Barnhart first prize, Isabelle Potts second prize and Nicole Frederick third prize. Shannon Burbage struck gold as the first prize winner for the five and older crowd with Stephanie Newton and Casey Coates as the lucky second and third prize winners respectively (see the grand prize winners photo on page 8).

Once again a very special thank you to Patti Junger of Buckhead Brokers for sponsoring this wonderful neighborhood event. Thanks also go to Harvey Ross for organizing the hunt and her crew Nancy Putney, Marc Potts, Lomard Puri, Margy Love, Charles Slick, and Trish & Beth Aitcheson.

BROOKWOOD BUZZ

On February 5th, **Marcie and Jay Bowen** welcomed a new baby girl to their home at 53 Camden Road. Born at Piedmont hospital, **Austin DuVal** is named for her two grandmothers. Everyone is doing well and Mom has joined the ranks of the strolling mothers of BWH.

Julie and Bo Heiner with son **Wiley** (16 months) are the newest residents of 57 Camden Road. Julie's mother is Cindy Fowler of Presenting Atlanta fame and Julie is carrying on the family tradition by working there too. Bo is with Clarion Marketing a sports marketing firm. Bo's father was a close friend of the Heiner's new neighbor Tom Player in law school.

Davis McCallum son of Mimi and Robert McCallum of 122 Brighton was awarded the M. Taylor Pyne Prize. Princeton University's biggest general award for undergraduates. The Pyne Prize was awarded to Davis and another Princeton senior because they demonstrated "excellence in scholarship, character, and effective leadership in the best interests of Princeton. A Rhodes scholar (see Brooknotes December 1996), Davis plans to study "Shakespeare and the Drama to 1640" while at Oxford next year.

A very happy (belated) 102nd birthday wish goes to **Mrs. Orr**. Featured in Brooknotes in April 1995 on the occasion of her 100th birthday, Mrs. Orr has lived in BWH for 39 years. Her daughter Barbara Parham is a neighbor as well.

The park committee would like to thank **Mrs. Alice Kehoe** for graciously donating lariope for use in the park. It has been planted along the driveway entrance and was a much needed face lift. Thanks also goes to the neighbors who helped with the on the spur of the moment planting including Katrina Newton, Micki Gambrell, and Harvey Ross.

Attention Graduates (and parents)!! The next issue of Brooknotes is *your* issue. Please let us know your post-graduation plans. The deadline is Friday, May 16th. Submissions in writing may be dropped off at Deirdre Stiles' house, 23 Northwood Avenue.

BULLETIN BOARD

New Neighbors Party

All new residents (within the last two years) of BWH are invited by the officers and directors of the BWH Community Club to an informal gathering at the home of Ann and Bradely Hale, 61 Brighton Road on Sunday, Mother's Day, May 11th at 4:30 p.m. The purpose of the party is to welcome our many new neighbors and provide an opportunity for all to get acquainted. If you are interested in attending please call Diane Kellum (876-8976) or Janet Frederick (897-1440).

Brookwood Boys

An organizational meeting to revive this great group will be held at the home of Xavier Duralde at 50 Huntington Road on Sunday, May 11 at 8 p.m. We will plan activities for next fall and possibly a campout for this spring/summer. To rsvp call 874-7863. Please join us in getting Brookwood Boys back on its feet.

Brookwood Girls

The next outing of the Brookwood Girls is the spring Hike the 'Hood on Sunday, April 27th - meet at the park at 2:00 p.m. then head out to visit the streams, wooded paths, parks and train tracks in SoBuck. BW Girls will end the year with our annual camp-out in BWH park in May.

BWH Board Meeting

The next meeting of the Brookwood Hills Community Club Board of Directors is Monday, May 5th 7:15 p.m. at the home of Kathy and Scott McCune 44 Huntington Road. All BWHCC members are welcome to attend. Please rsvp to Kathy at 872-1177.

Peachtree Presbyterian Preschool's Annual Spring Fling

Don't miss Peachtree Pres. Preschool's annual Spring Fling on Saturday May 3rd from 11 am to 3 pm. with games, rides, shows and lots of delicious BB-Q from Low Country. For more information please call the school at 404-842-5809.

1997 BWH Directory

To have your name included in the 1997 Brookwood Hills Community Club telephone directory, you must renew or join the Community Club by May 31st. At that time we will begin compiling the directory for a June release. The directory is published every two years. Membership labels were sent out to current members with the January billing information. If you did not make a change, it is assumed that no corrections are needed. If changes have occurred subsequent to your renewal, please call Diane Kellum (876-8976) or Janet Frederick (897-1440). In addition, parking decals will be distributed to those who requested them by the security committee in May. Please note that all members renewing their membership after the April 30th deadline will owe a \$50 late charge.



The grand prize winners of the Easter Egg Hunt. *Back row l-r: Stephanie Newton, Casey Cotes and Shannon Burbage. Front row l-r: Nicole Frederick, David Barnhart and Isabelle Potts.*

CLASSIFIEDS

Cottage in Sullivans Island, S.C. Wonderful beach cottage available the month of August (Sat-Sat.) 3 bedrooms/3 baths - sleeps 11. Central air, cable, large family room with pool table. Great location 15 minutes from downtown Charleston. \$1,200/week. Please call Sandra Player 352-9253.

Found: Black and White Cat. Black cat with white paws and stomach. If you are missing a cat that fits this description, please call Kathy McCune at 872-1177.

Wanted: Anyone who has lived in two or more BWH Homes. Brooknotes would like to run an article about the many neighbors who are repeat homeowners in our wonderful neighborhood. If you are interested in being a part of this article or you know someone who has lived in more than one BWH home, please call Deirdre Stiles at 249-9544.



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BROOKNOTES

sponsored by your neighbor

Patti Junger

Broker Associate

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