



BrookNotes

November 2009

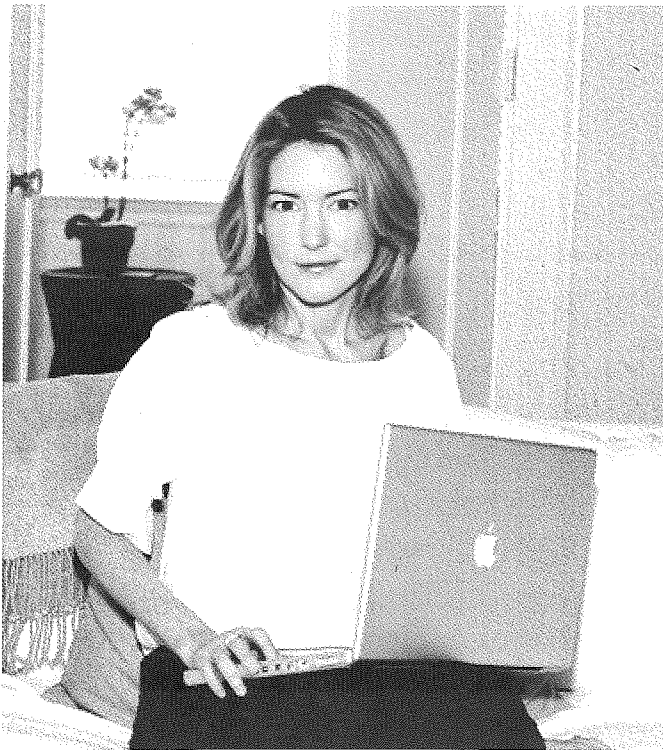
The Newsletter of the Brookwood Hills Community

Volume XXII, No. 9

Community Celebrates Stockett's Success

By Maureen Zent

Earlier this month Brookwood Hills resident and current best selling author Kathryn Stockett visited with the Brookwood Hills Book Club to talk about her hit novel *The Help*. The book has touched an emotional chord for many people and a large neighborhood group gathered to meet Kathryn and ask her about her work.



Kathryn charmed the group with stories about growing up in Jackson, Mississippi, writing *The Help*, and her experiences since its release last February. To date *The Help* has spent 30 weeks on the *New York Times* best seller list, has been marketed in 30 countries, and has had movie rights optioned.

The Help, set in Jackson in the first half of the Sixties, is a story about black maids and their relationships with their white employers. Into this setting comes Skeeter, a white, recent college graduate and one of the only single women in her circle of friends. To further her ambitions as a writer, she embarks upon a secret project to chronicle the real experiences of the black maids in Jackson. Skeeter starts by enlisting a friend's maid Aibileen, and Aibileen's smart-mouthed, trouble-prone friend Minny.

Although Kathryn is a generation younger than the women in *The Help*, she says that in many ways Mississippi hadn't changed during her childhood. For example she wasn't allowed to watch the television show *The Jeffersons*. One of the relationships she took for granted as a child was with her grandparents' maid Demetrie.

After graduating from the University of Alabama, Kathryn moved to New York where she worked in the publishing industry for 16 years. "I was a willing, naïve Southern girl," Kathryn says, "and they worked me like a dog." After years of long hours, she persuaded her boss to let her have a month to work on a writing project. She started on September 9th, 2001. Then came the September 11th attacks. In the days that followed, unable to do much of anything and unable to even call her family to let them know she was okay, Kathryn turned to
(Cont'd. on Page 3)



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 Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage and Sarah Hagood of Specialty Homes, Inc.

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Security Alert Signs

When you see the **Security Alert signs** posted at the entrances to our neighborhood, please call the **Brookwood Hills Security Information Line at 404-325-5114** for details concerning a recent security incident. These signs are a signal that an incident has occurred in the neighborhood and the information has been recorded on the hotline. The cell phone number for the neighborhood security patrol is **404-242-3321**.

Trees Atlanta Annual BWH Tree Planting

Every year now for a number of years Trees Atlanta, the volunteer organization since 1985 responsible for the planting of more than 75,000 trees in Atlanta, has organized a tree planting day in Brookwood Hills. Trees Atlanta has about 4,000 volunteers who are invited to plant trees virtually any Saturday between October and March in neighborhoods all across the city. You will see these volunteers in Brookwood Hills soon, on Saturday, December 5th.

Frankly, it has been pretty embarrassing how few residents of Brookwood Hills have pitched in to help on the Saturday when we are the beneficiaries of the Trees Atlanta planting. We are hoping to turn that around this time, building on the momentum gained from the terrific turn-out to the First Annual Clear Creek Clean-up held on October 24th. Please join us! And remember, teens needing service hours can get credit for helping with this effort.

What: Annual Tree Planting in BWH

When: Dec. 5, 2009, 9 a.m. to noon

Where: Meet at the Park Pavilion

BrookNotes welcomes articles, art work, photographs and story ideas. The deadline for the next issue of *BrookNotes* is Wednesday, December 9th, 2009. Submissions may be e-mailed to brooknotes@brookwoodhills.com or dropped off at 200 Camden Road.

Calendar

- **Sunday, November 15, Upper Camden Block Party**, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., on the street
- **Saturday, December 5, Trees Atlanta Tree Planting**, 9:00 a.m. to noon, meet at the Park Pavilion
- **Monday, December 7, BWH Board of Directors Meeting**, 7:15 p.m., at the home of Ramsay & Molly Battin, 55 Montclair Drive
- **Sunday, January 24, Community Club Annual Meeting**, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., at the Rich Auditorium, Piedmont Hospital
- **Monday, January 25, BWH Book Group**, time and place TBA

Stockett Shines (Cont'd. from Page 1)

the voices from her past for comfort, especially the voice of Demetrie. This is how she began writing *The Help*. She found she "could hide under the guise of these characters to write about what we were trained never, never to discuss."

When Kathryn sent out her novel, she got rejection after rejection. Kathryn continued to revise and finally she found a publisher. The first copy editor, one in Connecticut, took out all the dialect. When Kathryn protested, the publishers found a copy editor in New Orleans who better understood what she was doing in recreating the voices. When the book was published earlier this year, the runaway success took Kathryn by surprise. As she was writing the book she hadn't expected anybody to read it, so she'd picked some of the names right out of Mississippi phone books. She says that some people in her family won't read it. Kathryn's next book will be set in Depression-era Mississippi and is due to the publisher by January 2011.

The Brookwood Hills Book Club's selection for the January meeting will be *Delta Wedding* by Eudora Welty. For more information or to get on the Club's e-mail list, please contact Maureen Zent, mzent1@bellsouth.net.

Editor's Note: Thanks to Kem Lee for the photo of Kathryn on Page 1.

New Faces



Welcome to New Neighbors Stacey and Don Leebern, who have moved from Columbus (GA) to 105 Wakefield Drive. Don is President of Georgia Crown Distributing Company, a wholesale beverage distribution business. Stacey is a stay-at-home mom with daughters Lilly (10) and Lawson (6), both students at Lovett.

Clear Creek Property Update

By Eve Goldstein

The Clear Creek Committee has been meeting on a regular basis since early summer to consider the optimal use of the Clear Creek land. Based on its recommendations, the Board of the Brookwood Hills Community Club authorized expenditures for several new projects.

In 2006 the Community Club granted a conservation easement to the City of Atlanta in exchange for approximately 1.7 million dollars. As a result, development of the property is largely curtailed and any im-



*Thanks for a great turnout of neighbors on October 24th to help with the First Annual Clear Creek Clean-up. Much fun was had by all.
Photo by Kay Summers.*

provements must be consistent with the easement agreement. In 2007 the Board entered into a multi-year contract with Terry Sutton for the removal of invasive species. We are now into the third year of the contract; Terry has successfully tamed much of the area by removing kudzu, privet, wisteria, and other non-native plants which had rendered the area largely impassable and threatened existing hardwoods. As a result, the area is now quite accessible by foot. Access has been further enhanced by City sewer contractors who cut a "trail" through a portion of the property paralleling the creek behind Huntington Road.

There are 2 entrances to the property on Huntington – one at its intersection with Palisades, and one behind the swing erected by the Garden Club on a Community Club lot. The "trail" roughly connects those two points, and a walk along it transports you into a wooded area that feels miles from the City, with picturesque views of Clear Creek. The "trail" and the entire area can be an ideal place for dog walking, bird watching, nature study, or just plain relaxation. Brookwood Hills is unique in having such a privately owned amenity.

December 5th we expect to plant new hardwoods in cooperation with Trees Atlanta (see page 2 for details). These plantings will help replace trees lost to age and erosion, and also, we hope, will help control the ongoing erosion from Clear Creek. They are designed to stabilize the area, so that the urban forest can flourish again. In addition, the Board has approved funds for landscaping and plantings at the two Huntington Road entrances. These will be low key and low maintenance, but serve to beautify the entrances and the streetscape generally. Funds were also approved for additional mulch and to demolish an existing cement wall at the entrance behind the swing.

On October 24th approximately 40 neighbors, including teenagers, spent a productive morning removing trash that had accumulated on the Clear Creek property over the years. They can testify to what an amazing resource our urban forest is. You and your family should go and find out for yourself.

Halloween Fun Despite the Rain

By Stephanie Brown

Ghosts, goblins, witches! It was a spooky afternoon in Brookwood Hills, and not even the rain could stop the fun this Halloween. Neighbors gathered with umbrellas and rain boots, ready for whatever weather might come their way.

As in years past, a few children showed up a bit early, just to be first in line for the famed fourth annual haunted house! It was skillfully constructed once again by Debby Moorman who has a flair for the frightening, aided by her crafty assistant, Amanda Szwest. The haunted house has clearly become the most anticipated part of our Halloween party. When one encounters the dreaded slimy eyeballs, it is no wonder why!

There was a Halloween costume parade, graciously judged by Lesley Carroll, Freddie Simon, Kathleen Waldrop, and Mary Brannen (crutches and all). Every costume winner was awesome this year, but the stand-out category had to be "Most Creative." This year's winners were Emma Dixon as "Smarty Pants," Evie Monroe as a Starbucks cup, and Savannah Lee, as a leafed lawn bag.



Social Co-chair Wendy Granot and I would like to say a special thank you to our long-time sponsor, Joe Noah, of Noah and Associates. We greatly appreciate his continued support of this neighborhood party. We would also like to thank Chris and Michael at Papa John's Pizza on Collier Road, and Jeff Terry with Peachtree Tents and Events for providing discounted rates for this large event.

Finally, thank you to all the families that came out in the rain, and our wonderful friends who stayed afterwards to help clean up. You are all reminders of why Brookwood Hills is the most magical neighborhood in Atlanta! *Photos by Stephanie & Shannon Brown.*

Security Bonus Time

By Lisa Barnhart

Once again we will be collecting a year-end bonus for our security officers. Thanks to our patrol, our neighborhood has continued to be safe when crime all around us has been on the rise. Often their work goes unnoticed and unrewarded, and this year our officers were all affected by the City of Atlanta furloughs. Please let them know the families in Brookwood Hills value their ongoing efforts on our behalf. Checks should be made payable to Brookwood Hills Community Club, with "Security Bonus" in the memo line. Drop them off at my house, 310 Camden Road. Thank you in advance for your thoughtfulness and support.

Huntington Road's 2009 Party

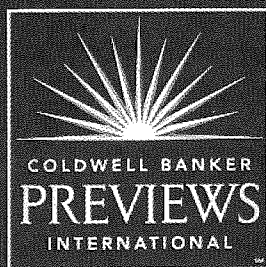
On Sunday, October 25th, neighbors from Huntington Road gathered once again for their annual celebration. For many years the traditional event required the closing of Huntington Road to traffic. Now the neighborhood has the wonderful party space at the Pool Pavilion for such events. Thanks to Kathleen Waldrop for the photo.



C L A S S I F I E D S

Shop For A Cause. Holiday showing of over 100 uniquely designed cultured pearl necklaces, bracelets, earrings and rings for sophisticated, casual or fun wear. Great gifts for you, your family or friends. Affordable prices from \$25 to \$350. 15% of all proceeds will be donated to The Atlanta Children's Shelter for Homeless Children. Join Peggy Rayle Gunning at 88 Brighton Road, November 19th-20th and December 1st-2nd from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Or by appointment at 404/355-2077 (day) or 404/367-0807 (evening).

Prescription Sunglasses Found. Someone put a pair of prescription, bifocal, sunglasses in my mailbox at 226 Camden Road about a month ago. They have a thin tortoise frame. The owner can call me (Genna Brown) at 404/355-6280 or email me at gennabrown@comcast.net.



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