

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

Volume 15, No. 1

Grand to Gustine

Arsenal to Utah Place

Winter 2004



Trivia Night Promises to be Bigger and Better This Year

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By Tom Rhodenbaugh

Saturday, March 13th...Remember that Date!

The second annual Tower Grove Heights Trivia Night has been scheduled for Saturday March 13, 2004. This annual event is expected to once again bring together more than 150 neighbors, friends, and the extended Tower Grove family for a great evening of winter fun, great prizes and community building. This year's Trivia Night is projected to be even bigger and better than last year's event. Yes! We are moving to a new and larger venue at nearby St. Elizabeth's Academy, and, yes, beer as well as soda will be available to wash down provided munchies and all your home-cooked

special snacks.

And YES! Even with all this the price stays the same ; ONLY \$80 per table, \$10 per person!

And PRIZES! Prizes for the best table, the worst table and door prizes, though too numerous to mention, will include gift certificates from your favorite restaurants and stores, sports, theater and event tickets, books, and hair grooming. All prizes are generously supplied by our area merchants and businesses.

Start recruiting your neighbors, friends, co-workers, church members and family members, and get in on the fun.

Trivia Night is the premier fundraising event for our Neighbor-

Continued on page 2

Neighbors Shine at Holiday Party

By Carrie Samsel

I came away from the November Neighborhood meeting with a renewed enjoyment of our community. We celebrated the holidays by feasting on Hodak's luscious fried chicken and

enjoyed chocolate fondue, kindly shared by the 3600-3800 blocks of Hartford, winners of the membership drive.

Though food makes all things more fun, the rest of the evening was informative and enjoyable as well. Sharon Mertzlufft from the Botanical Garden told us the benefits of being members at the Garden, and let us know of the upcoming holiday events that the Garden was hosting. She brought some attractive door prizes from the Garden's Gift Shop as well. Captain Magnan, the newest addition to our police force, filled us in on changes he was making to increase security in our neighborhood, especially during the holiday shopping season.

The highlight of the evening for me was the Good Neighbor Awards

presentation. What a treat to hear how many people in our neighborhood take time out of their busy lives to make our

Continued on page 7

TGH Neighborhood Association Meetings

February 24

March 23

April 27

May 25

7:15 p.m.

First Church of Divine Science

3617 Wyoming

Please join us!



Maureen Burton, a Good Neighbor Award Recipient and door prize winner at the party.

**The Tower Grove Heights
Gazette is brought to you by the
following people:**

Founding Editor: Janice Nesser
Editing Team: Sara Langan, Doug
Samsel, Carrie Samsel
Business Managers: Mark Berry and
Julia Engelhardt
Contributing Writers: Daryl Brach, Kim
Cole, Sara Langan, Erin L. O'Reilly,
Adam Pashea, Tom Reitenbach, Tom
Rhodenbaugh, Carrie Samsel
Proof Readers: Sara Langan, Suzanne
Brach
Photography: Carrie Samsel

*Thanks to all for your time and
contributions!*

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Your letters and comments are always
welcome at the Gazette. Mail them to:
The Gazette/TGHNA, 3735 Connecticut,
St. Louis, MO 63116 or email
cesamsel@swbell.net.

TGHNA General Meetings are held at
7:15PM on the 4th Tuesday of each
month (except December) at the First
Church of Divine Science, 3617 Wyo-
ming. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**New Email Group Keeps
Residents Informed**

By Tom Reitenbach

Are you "in-the-know?" Wanna
be? It's easy. Next time you're online
point your browser to
www.towergroveheights.com and join
our new email distribution list. This
great tool enables the Tower Grove
Heights Neighborhood Association to
keep residents informed of related
news and events. We even have the
ability to host surveys, maintain a
calendar and post pictures or other
files.

All you need is an email address
to join. Should you later wish to
unsubscribe, you'll find instructions for
doing so at the bottom of every post
you receive.

Take a minute to sign on through
the neighborhood website or by visiting
the group directly at:
[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/
towergroveheights](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/towergroveheights). Like most things
in a community, this group will improve
with your participation. Your sugges-
tions are most welcome.

TRIVIA Continued from page 1

hood Association. Last year's event
allowed us to hang new banners, fund
the newsletter and sponsor neighbor-
hood events such as Neighbors Night
Out and the Holiday in the Heights
Neighborhood Party.

If you were there last year, you
know how much fun it was, and if you
weren't, don't miss out this year. If
you want to volunteer for the event,
have general questions or need addi-
tional information please contact
TRIVIA night committee chair, Joe
Ogier at 773-8563 or
3734Humphrey@sbcglobal.net. To
register your group or groups, use the
form on this page of the Gazette and
mail it to the office, or contact Sara
Langan at 776-3506 or
Langans@sbcglobal.net.

We look to see you on Saturday
evening, March 13, at St. Elizabeth's
Academy!



Kurt E. Wolfgram
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TGHNA Trivia Night

to benefit the:

**Tower Grove Heights
Neighborhood Association**

Saturday, March 13, 2004

Game begins at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

St. Elizabeth's Academy

3401 Arsenal St. (Just east of South Grand)

Enter parking lot from Louisiana St.

Cost: Table of 8: \$80

Refreshments: BYO Snacks (Popcorn provided)

One beverage ticket provided.

Additional Soda/Beer available for sale.

Prizes for winning tables, as well as attendance prizes.

This event is smoke-free.

For more information,

Call Joe Ogier at 314-773-8563.

Or see us at our website:

www.Towergroveheights.com

REGISTRATION FORM:

Make payment to:

**Tower Grove Heights
Neighborhood Association**

Mail to:

TGHNA, 3735 Connecticut St.

St. Louis, MO 63116

Or put in TGHNA office mail slot:

@ 3735 Connecticut & Spring

Name _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (____) _____

Table of 8: ____ @ \$80 = ____

Individuals: ____ @ \$10 ____



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For more information about getting your ad into the next Gazette, contact Julia Engelhardt at 314-771-5885, or email GazetteAdvertising@towergroveheights.com.

The Tattler

By Sara Langan

When the ice melts check out the improved Playground areas at the Pool Pavilion at Tower Grove Park. With help from the Trio Foundation a new engineered wood fiber surface that meets all codes set by the Americans with Disabilities Act, child-friendly fencing, two new play structures and two new double-bay swing sets have been installed.

The St. Louis Met. Police Dept. has started a new program called H.E.A.T. (Help Eliminate Auto Theft) You can register your car in the program, display a decal in your rear window, and authorize the police to stop your car if on the roads from 1 a.m. to 5 a.m., a time many of us are sleeping and car thefts are happening. If you are driving your car, you can show identification and go on your way. Call 314-589-8168 to request a registration form.

Speaking of the police, we are proud to claim Officer Gabriel Keithley as a Tower Grove Heights resident and wish him a speedy recovery.

Tune into Channel 9 at 8 p.m. on Feb. 24 to see the documentary on the Capistrano building being rehabbed by Susie Guthermuth.

Grand Happenings: Qdoba, a new Mexican grill, has opened at the corner of Arsenal and Grand leaving a small storefront available from the Streetside Record space. Possible tenant is an ice creamery. I & I Gallery has expanded into their new location next to the Wyoming Barbershop. Futon Express is closing. The old Anderson garage is finally leased to SAIC, a high tech mapping agency with around 50 employees. To make room for parking, 3 residences are being torn down west of the building with the blessings of the Shaw Neighborhood Assoc.. The former YMCA will become the Spiritual Healing Center formerly known as Living Insight, located on Clayton Road.

Continued on page 8



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(314) 771-7097*

**Tower
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Everything Old is New, Tasty, and Cheap Again

By Adam Pashea

TGH Resident & Proprietor at Erato,
A Wine Bar & Shoppe, Edwardsville,
IL

Many of us have become aware of the tremendous values available from the new world wine regions of Australia, New Zealand, and South America. But did you know that there is yet another wine-producing region that parallels the vibrancy and creative spirit of these new world regions, while holding on to the history and mystique of old world winemaking?

Like France, Germany, and Italy, Sicily has been involved in making wine for thousands of years. Prior to the last decade, Sicily has not been recognized by the modern wine world as a premier region for producing quality wines. But Sicily's reputation as a bulk producer of ordinary table wine is quickly fading. The quality and the unique character of the wine that has emerged from Sicilian vineyards within the past few years have caught the attention of both wine savvy consumers and wine critics alike. Currently, the wine production of Sicily is roughly equal to that produced in Australia.

Sicily's best and most common indigenous grape is Nero d'Avola. Not unlike Sangiovese in Italy, this grape provides the backbone of most Sicilian wines, and blends exceptionally well with the nonnative Cabernet, Merlot, and Syrah vines, which have been planted on the island within the last

twenty years.

Many of the best Sicilian wines, which also happen to be among the best values, are those wines that blend local and nonnative grapes. Two great examples of these blends are the La Segreta wines from Planeta. Planeta's Rosso is a blend of Nero d'Avola, Merlot and Syrah. The Bianco is a blend of Grecanico, a native Sicilian grape, with Chardonnay, Viognier, and Sauvignon Blanc. Both of those wines sell for about \$15.

The Rosso is a big wine for the price. I would characterize this one as being a fruit forward wine, with rich plum, and dark fruit flavors. The Bianco is crisp with prominent spice tones, and lots of tropical fruit flavors.

If you are looking to completely indulge yourself into the ways of the old Sicilian winemaking culture, I recommend trying the Colosi Rosso, which sells for \$12. This blend of 90% Nero d'Avola, and 10% other indigenous grapes is somewhat cool, and has deep cherry fruit flavors that are similar to grenadine. This wine practically bursts forth with sweet fruit flavors, although the finish is completely dry.

These wines stay true to the typical Sicilian winemaking process, a process that requires aging and fermenting of the ripened fruit in stainless steel bins, allowing all the bright fruit flavors of the hot Sicilian climate to shine through--the perfect medicine to soothe us in these chilly months.



Trivia Night

Friday, April 23rd.



Prizes for first and last place teams! Door prizes!
Register now to reserve a table.

St. Elizabeth's Academy ▪ 3401 Arsenal Street
Doors open at 6:30PM ▪ Questions at 7:00PM
\$160 per table of 8. ▪ Admission includes beer and pretzels.

For information, or to register, call (314) 771-8626 or email mattnsus@earthlink.net
Individuals or groups less than eight: contact us and we'll match you with other players.

Make checks payable to Fifteenth Ward Democrats. 3624 Juniata, St. Louis, MO 63116.

Proceeds to benefit the Fifteenth Ward Democrats. Admission is not tax deductible.

2004 Meetings of the 15th Ward Democrats

April 19: Candidates' Forum
April 26: Candidate Endorsement Meeting
June (Date TBA): Town Hall Meeting
with Mayor Francis Slay and Alderwoman Jennifer Florida
August 9: General Meeting
October 11: General Meeting
December 13: General Meeting

2004 Election Dates

April 6: Municipal Election
June 8: Supplemental Election
August 3: Democratic Primary Election
November 2: General Election

Resident Profile:

Chris & Georgiana Grant

By Erin L. O'Reilly

Chris and Georgiana Grant have lived in TGH for 1½ years now. They and their cat, Mustafa, live on Humphrey Street in one of the single-family homes. They moved here from Illinois. Their courtship began in a Chicago bookstore where they both worked: Georgiana shelved books in the religion section and Chris shelved the history books (we all know how religion and history go hand-in-hand!). Then it evolved into activism when they both participated in unionization of the bookstore employees, and that solidified their relationship.

Georgiana is originally from Muskegon, Michigan. She moved to Indiana to earn a degree in religious studies. Then she lived in New Orleans for a year and Ann Arbor, Michigan for a year before relocating to Chicago where she met Chris. They both moved to Champaign-Urbana to attend the University of Illinois, and Georgiana received her master's degree in Library Sciences.

Chris was born and raised in St. Louis. He moved away to Minnesota to get his undergraduate degree in political science from Carleton College. He also lived in Ann Arbor around the same time as Georgiana, but their paths did not cross there. Then he moved to Chicago for the "big urban experience" in 1995. From there he moved with Georgiana to Champaign-Urbana and earned his law degree from the University of Illinois. After they completed their education, they married in 2001. They were attracted to St. Louis where Chris found work in his specialty area, which is Labor Law.

Chris works for the law firm Schuchat, Cook, and Werner in downtown St. Louis where he represents many different types of unions. He says that although as a whole fewer people are unionizing these days, which is unfortunate, St. Louis still has a fair number of unions. He also handles employment discrimination and employment benefits cases.

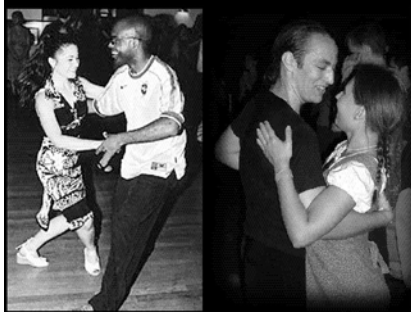


Georgiana works at Washington University in the Medical School Library and the Children's Hospital Family Resource Center. She is learning a lot about health, illness, and health care research.

Maybe Georgiana's knowledge about health/illness is why she and Chris "have vegetarian tendencies." Cooking is one of their hobbies. Georgiana is the baker and makes breads, pies, cakes and, according to Chris, delicious breakfast bars. Chris likes to cook southern Indian food. Music is another hobby; Georgiana plays the dulcimer, and Chris is playing the piano after years of playing the saxophone.

Meet Chris and Georgiana at the TGHNA meetings that they regularly attend!

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Holiday Party Continued from page 1

community a more enjoyable place to live! Sara Langan awarded handsome certificates, produced by Don Hardin, for each recipient, and honored each person with a short description of their contribution. It reinforced my belief that this neighborhood is a treasure—definitely for its beauty and history, but equally for its deep feeling of community.

2004 Absolutely Grand House Tour to Showcase Connecticut and Hartford Houses

By Kim Cole

The 2004 Absolutely Grand House Tour is Saturday and Sunday, April 17 and 18, from 11 am to 5 pm. Tickets for Absolutely Grand will be available for purchase during tour hours at the corner of Grand and Juniata.

Absolutely Grand features gracious homes in four south St. Louis neighborhoods: Tower Grove Heights, Compton Heights, Shaw, and Tower Grove East. The historic character and diversity of housing stock in these neighborhoods promises to make Absolutely Grand a unique house tour.

The architectural variety and unique decorating styles of Heights' residents will be showcased by several homes. Confirmed residences include homes in the 3600 block of Connecticut and 3800 block of Hartford.

Would you like a free ticket to Absolutely Grand? Then volunteer to help out the House Captains on the day of the tour! Volunteer responsibilities are nominal and shifts are short. If you're interested in volunteering or have questions, please contact Kim Cole at kimcole313@hotmail.com.

Proceeds from Absolutely Grand benefit The Water Tower and Park Preservation Society.

Holiday Party Pics:

Top Left: Susie Gudermuth admiring our Neighborhood Holiday Cards illustrated by resident Roy Smith.

Bottom Left: Hodak's chicken and fixings were enjoyed by all!

Right: Sara Langan presents one of the Good Neighbor Awards to Kim Cole for her organization of the "Urban Oenology" event, a unique wine tasting and fundraiser.



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Report from the Capital:

Identity Theft Addressed

State Sen. Pat Dougherty, D-St. Louis, has presented to the Committee on Judiciary and Civil And Criminal Jurisprudence a measure that would provide stiffer penalties and civil lawsuits in Missouri for identity thieves.

"Identity theft is America's fastest growing financial crime," Dougherty said. "The harm caused by identity theft goes beyond monetary damages. It affects families and their ability to protect their livelihoods."

SB 913 creates a range of offense levels according to the financial damage inflicted, and the bill lists various forms of identification that are to be considered the subject of identity theft.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, one in four U.S. households have been a victim of identity theft, costing individuals \$5 billion, an average of 30 hours resolving the problem, and substantial damage to their credit.

"Cases of identity theft often go unreported because of weak penal-

ties and an uncertainty of the proper avenues for reporting the crime," Dougherty said. "People often don't discover they have been victims of identity theft until months or years after the theft occurs."

Missouri ranks 18th among reported identity theft victims in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

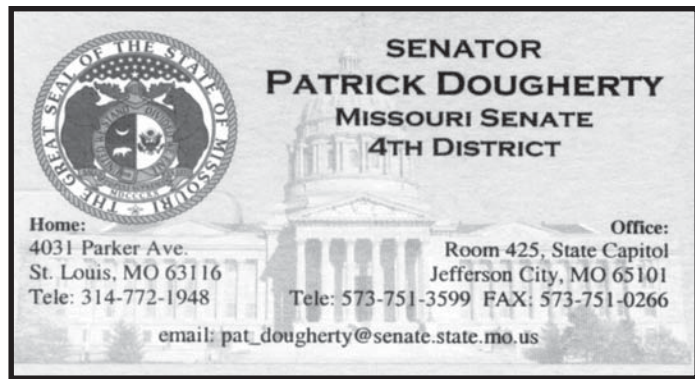
Currently a misdemeanor in Missouri, identity theft of less than \$500 would be a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year in jail. Identity theft of more than \$100,000 would be a Class A felony carrying a sentence of ten to 30 years in prison.

The Federal Trade Commission found that almost 10 million Americans were victims of identity theft last year — an increase of 41 percent over the year before — at a cost to the U.S. economy of approximately \$53 billion.

There were 161,819 new cases reported to the federal government in 2002, almost double the previous year's total. The most common amount of fraudulent charges reported was \$6,000.

The measure would also allow victims to sue identity thieves. This act allows any person who commits identity theft to be liable to the victim for up to \$5,000 for each incident or three times the amount of the actual damages in addition to criminal penalties. If approved by the committee, the measure will advance to the full Senate for debate.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my capitol office at 573-751-3599 or home at 314-772-1948; or email me at Patrick_Dougherty@senate.state.mo.us.



Tattler continued from page 4

What do you think of the cobblestones on Gustine Ave.? We've heard some SUV's are speeding up to go over them quickly, while other cars are slowing to a standstill. Nearby houses are rattling, and the cobblestones may be on the way out.

Hartford Coffee Company opened February 14 at Roger and Spring.

Mark your calendars for Operation Brightside on Sat., April 17, the 23rd annual Project Blitz. It's a wonderful time to clean the alleys AND to clean out your basements and attics. Please have your items out by 10 AM for pickup. To volunteer to help out or have questions answered, please call 772-4646.



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Qdoba and Not just big burritos. Big flavors. are registered trademarks of Qdoba Restaurant Corporation ©2003.

MAP Plays Critical Role in Nuisance Abatement

By Kim Cole

The Management Assistance Program (MAP) is a collaborative approach to neighborhood stabilization where professional property management plays a critical intervening role in the nuisance abatement process. The abatement process begins with city residents, neighborhood stabilization officers, aldermen, the police, and city counselors working together to identify problem properties. This team focuses on identifying properties where residents persist in illegal behavior, especially if the behavior involves drugs, prostitution, or peace disturbances.

After the team identifies a nuisance property, they contact the owner, describe the recurring illegal behaviors, and state a timeline for resolving the problems. If the problems persist, team members, with the owner, create an action plan. Because action plans typically recommend the use of professional property management, the MAP offers free property management services to nuisance property owners. MAP property managers work with owners to institute codes of conduct, evict problem tenants, and screen prospective tenants.

If MAP's property managers are
Continued on page 11

Letter from the President

By Daryl D. Brach

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has". - Margaret Mead

Here are some ways to get involved in our exciting and architecturally diverse neighborhood:

• Tower Grove Heights

Neighborhood Association: For details on volunteering to support the association and your neighborhood please call 772-5982.

• Block Representatives:

Serve as a liaison between the neighborhood association and the people on your block. For more information contact: Tom Reitenbach at treitenbach@yahoo.com or 771-0870.

• Grand South Grand House

Tour: Volunteer to help introduce Tower Grove Heights to people from throughout the region on April 17 & 18, 2004. Contact: Kim Cole at kim313@hotmail.com or 772-4361.

• **The Gazette:** Write articles, take pictures, proof-read or sell/buy ads for our fine neighborhood publication. Contact: Carrie Samsel at cesamsel@swbell.net.

• South Grand Community

Improvement District: Build bridges between the neighborhood association and the business district and help South Grand thrive as an urban destination. Contact: Susan Anderson at sgrandcid@sbcglobal.net or 772-5750.

• Grand Oak Hill Community

Center: 4168 Juniata St. Louis, MO 63116, 865-5530. *Seniors* contact Judy Moore at 314-865-5530, ext.2. For information on the *Housing Initiative* contact Alderwoman Jennifer Florida at 622-3763. The center also offers a *Management Assistance Program* that screens

Continued on page 11



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TOWER GROVE HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Monthly meetings 7:15 PM on 4th
Tuesday (except December), First Church
of Divine Science, 3617 Wyoming St.
President: Daryl Brach
President Elect: vacant
Past President: Robin Vannoy
Secretary: Diane Hurwitz
Treasurer: Tom Rhodenbaugh
NSO: Joe Thele, 773-0664,
email: thelej@stlouiscity.com

Committee Chairs

Block Representatives: Tom Reitenbach
Fun & Fundraising: Cheryl Jones
Gazette: Carrie Samsel
Membership: Paula Ashton
Neighborhood Improvement & Safety:
Joe Ogier
Telephone Inquiry Service: Jean Iezzi
(314)772-5982
Webmaster: LeAnne Lis
www.towergroveheights.com

Block Representatives

3600/3700 Arsenal: Dennis Fortna
3800 Arsenal: Charles Khan
3600/3700 Hartford: Bobbie Ohmer/
Sue Stefanski
3800 Hartford: Ross Hammond/ Joe Thele
3600/3700 Juniata: Lynne Casey
3800 Juniata: Kim Cole
3600/3700 Connecticut: Don Clark
3800 Connecticut: Virlene Reichert
3600/3700 Wyoming: Creston Ragan
3800 Wyoming: Pat Strawhun
3600/3700 Humphrey: Sue Freedman
3800 Humphrey: Erin L. O'Reilly/
Cathy Vanderheyden
3600/3700 Utah Place: Mary Duggan
3800 Utah Place: Susie Gudermuth

President's Letter continued from page 9

tenants, and partners with the
neighborhood stabilization officers,
alderpersons, problem property
police officers and city counselors to
stop recurring nuisance behaviors.
Contact: Kim Cole at
kim313@hotmail.com or 772-4361.

Of course, you can always
make up your own project that's not
on this list. Commit random acts of
kindness. Pick up trash on your
block. Make a point to learn your
neighbors' names and say "hi."

You can reach me at
brach@direcway.com.

MAP Continued from page 9

successful at addressing the problem,
the abatement process is stopped
before a hearing. The city then avoids
the expense and uncertain outcome of
a hearing, the property owners con-
tinue to produce income, and TGH
residents are able to enjoy their
community again.



Clip & Save Events Reminder

Neighborhood Association Meetings

February 24
March 23
April 27
May 25

7:15 p.m.
First Church of Divine Science
3617 Wyoming

Everyone is welcome!

March 13:

TGHNA Trivia Night Returns
St. Elizabeth's Academy
7 p.m.

To register send the form on p. 6 to the
neighborhood office or contact Sara
Langan at 776-3506 or
Langans@sbcglobal.net

April 17

**Operation Brightside: Project
Blitz**

Clean out your alleys, basements,
attics, and have items out for 10 am
pickup. To volunteer to help out call
772-4646.

April 17 & 18:

**2004 Absolutely Grand House
Tour**
11 am-5 pm

Tickets are available for sale on the
days of the tour at the corner of
Grand & Juniata.

Contact Kim Cole (865-5530 ext. 5
or kimcole313@hotmail.com) if you
would like to volunteer your home or
suggest someone else's home to be
on "tour". House captains who staff
each home's volunteers and hosts &
hostesses for tour days are also
needed. Earn a free house tour pass
and help showcase our
neighborhood!

It's time to renew your membership! Membership runs one calendar year--January to January, unless you are a "life" member. The TGHNA is the one thing that best illustrates the Heights' commitment to community. It is the place where we come together:

- To find out what is happening in the neighborhood.
- To make the Heights a cleaner and safer place.
- To have a liaison with City Hall and other agencies.
- To make the neighborhood a more interesting and fun place to live.
- To better protect our property values.

However, the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association can only be YOUR Association if you join. We need your participation if TGHNA is going to be a reflection of what YOU want the Heights to become. So please don't delay in joining or rejoining. **Tower Grove Heights NEEDS YOU!**

Please indicate your membership level choice:

____ Individual (1 vote) \$10/yr ____ Household (2 votes) \$15/yr
____ Business (1 vote) \$25/yr (Includes 10% discount on Gazette Ads for 1 year)
____ ****NEW**** Life Membership (1 vote) \$100 for LIFE

Please PRINT:

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

**Your name & address will be listed in the buzz book. If you do not want your phone or email listed, write "NO" next to your information..*

Return this form and payment to your block representative or send to the **Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association, 3735 Connecticut, St. Louis, MO 63116**

**I have found
that, among its
other benefits,
giving liberates
the soul of the
giver.**

-Maya Angelou

Please remember the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association when you are making donations this year. 100% of your donation to TGHNA is tax deductible and the money will be used to improve the neighborhood. If you would like to donate, send a check made out to "TGHNA" to Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association, 3735 Connecticut St., St. Louis, MO, 63116.



**3735 Connecticut
St. Louis, MO 63116**

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*Non-Member
Join the Tower Grove Heights
Neighborhood Association today!*