Cooperation Builds New Library

Reading enthusiasts can browse books in a new Little Free Library, thanks to the LGA and the Loring Green East (LGE) and West (LGW) communities.

LGE residents Pali Gall and Odgen Confer told their neighbors that vandals had ripped the door off the original structure on August 21. LGW resident Renee Macomber tapped her building’s resident manager Jim Higgins to repair the broken door.

LGW resident Maryfaith Fox suggested to Pat Davies, a LGE resident and LGA board member, that the repaired library be replaced with a new, more durable version. A two-tiered kit was ordered from the Little Free Library with funds Davies secured from LGA. Higgins assembled the kit and installed the finished product on September 14.

The new library is filled with books culled from LGE’s and LGW’s lending libraries, managed respectively by Gall and Fox, and from other area contributors.

“It’s beautiful,” exclaimed Davies, “What an improvement!”

Music on the Loring Greenway

No Strings Attached

Evening strollers above the playground might hear flute sounds wafting through the air.

The source is Liz Cutter, who has been playing the flute since the 7th grade. Cutter and her seven siblings were required to study piano and a second instrument. She wanted to take up the violin, but her mother thought she should learn the flute on her father’s instrument. Cutter is glad for this choice as she doesn’t feel she would have been good at strings.

Cutter and law school classmates, pianist Sally Scoggin and violist Eric Nilsson, formed Música Ipsa Loquitur almost 15 years ago. Other attorneys and one non-lawyer have joined the group, adding more flutes, strings, a bassoon and a guitar to its ensemble.

During the pandemic, Cutter has had fun performing with Scoggin in the latter’s backyard, but misses giving recitals organized by “fabulous showman” Nilsson.

Currently studying under The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra principal flutist Julia Bogorad-Kogan, Cutter tries to practice every day. Her teacher has noted Cutter’s improvement during their weekly Zoom sessions, praising one tiny passage for being “almost professional.” Said Cutter, “That compliment will keep me going!”

Cutter lives at Greenway Gables with her husband Perry Wilson and their dog Edith.

Musical Happy Hour

Twin Cities favorite musician and sing-along leader Dan Chouinard entertained approximately 40 people at Musical Happy Hour on the Loring Greenway on September 17. The event raised almost $300 for the Simpson Food Pantry, serving the Whittier neighborhood. The Musical Happy Hour was organized by Loring Green West resident Maryfaith Fox.
Memorials Added on the Loring Greenway

Former Loring Green East residents Bette and Homer Goldberg and former 110 Grant resident Alicia Daugherty were remembered on September 24 with the installation of plaques bearing their names. Daugherty’s plaque is on the north side of the pyramid outside 110 Grant’s back door. Lower left: Ben and Zach Kleman watch 1200 on the Mall resident Carl Johnson install an updated plaque honoring their grandparents by the south serviceberry tree in the triangle cluster in the upper yard.

Destructive Worms Invade the Loring Greenway

In 2006, LGA board member Dr. Lee Frelich noticed invasive worms had wrestled hostas from the soil in Loring Park. By 2018, the “jumping” worms spread to wood-chipped and shaded areas of the Loring Greenway. The worms, probably introduced by infested wood chips, threatened topsoil by robbing it of its nutrients. Frelich leads a team of researchers who are determining whether natural substances like tea saponins can combat the destructive species. Read more
The Boundaries of My Small World
Laura Mattson, 110 Grant resident and LGA board member

In the 1957 classic *An Affair to Remember*, Nickie Ferrante and Terry McKay meet on a New York-bound ocean liner. During a five-hour layover at Villefranche-sur-Mer, the two visit Nickie’s grandmother Janou at her idyllic hilltop villa overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. At the end of a magical afternoon, Janou escorts the pair to descending stairs, saying “This is as far as I go. This is the boundary of my small world.”

While not exactly true, the reaches of the Loring Greenway are often the boundaries of my small world. *Especially in a pandemic. Especially in winter. Especially, I dread, in a pandemic in winter.*

Lucky for me, my warm-weather small world rivals the beauty of Janou’s courtyard. From my usual perch alongside the west-facing upper yard berms, I gaze on water flowing from my beloved fountain in the midst of magnificent gardens.

Visitors greet me at my perch. I suspect that for Edward, Josie, Rupert, Zach, Reggie and Edith, it’s more for the treats than my company!

Humans not attached to dogs stop, too. This is how I met Bette (1933-2019) and Homer (1924-2017) Goldberg. After passing me several times, they introduced themselves. I learned about their amazing academic and artistic 61 years together. I was awed by how this petite woman cared for her tall husband as his health declined.

From my perch, I have met other devoted couples who, like the Goldbergs, meet difficult challenges without reservation or regret. Their inspiring commitment and courage are what we are left believing Nickie and Terry share at the end of *An Affair to Remember*.

My world may be limited, but because of LGA volunteers and contributors it abounds with character and beauty. Thank you.