



Housing & Community Development Department  
 PO Box 27210  
 Tucson AZ 85726-7210

DUNBAR/SPRING NEIGHBORHOOD



December 2009



*Kwanzaa Folktales and  
 Pre-Show Activities*

**Dated Material**

- DSNA President:** Ian Fritz  
628-4318 ~ sprocket@riseup.net
- Vice President:** Natasha Winnik  
327-1814 ~ nateroma@juno.com
- Secretary:** Lisa Scoblink  
792-6377 ~ lisascoblink@yahoo.com
- Treasurer:** Sky Jacobs  
322-0285 ~ skyjacobs@gmail.com
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400-7517 ~ pawlowski@ultrasw.com
- Newsletter:** Turtle  
628-4318 ~ mydogellen@greenbicycle.net
- Dunbar Coalition:** Lisa Scoblink
- Ward One,  
Councilwoman Regina Romero**  
791-4040 ~ regina.romero@tucsonaz.gov
- Dunbar/Spring Online:**  
www.dunbarspring.org  
groups.yahoo.com/group/DunbarSpring
- Upcoming DSNA Meetings:**  
*General meetings are held the third Monday  
of each month from 7-9 p.m. at the Dunbar  
auditorium (325 W 2nd St).*  
**Next meeting: December 21**

**Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**

*Maureen Milazzo, Southern Arizona Coalition*

Are you a grandparent or a relative who has taken on the role of a parent for the second time? Would you like information or support to help you through this sometimes overwhelming and difficult transition? If so, the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) program can help! GRG is designed to help fulfill the needs of grandparents and relative caregivers who are raising children other than their own in southern Arizona. GRG strives to explore and address the core issues and concerns of grandparents who are raising their grandchildren through the development of a resource notebook. The GRG resource notebook is an extensive informational guide designed to give grandparents and caregivers the knowledge they need to help themselves and their children. The notebooks are available in both English and Spanish and include detailed information regarding numerous topics such as legal issues, financial facts, education and advocacy, nutrition tips, child development, and much more.

Funding for the notebook is provided by a Community Services Block Grant given by the Pima County Community Action Agency to the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, in cooperation with the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Southern Arizona Coalition. For this reason, the notebooks are no cost for those living in Pima County. This is an excellent resource for anyone involved in kinship care, and we encourage grandparents, relative caregivers, and service providers to take advantage of this unique tool.

If you would like a copy of the resource notebook, or would like additional information about the services provided by Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, please call Maureen at 626-5161 or visit [cals.arizona.edu/grandparents](http://cals.arizona.edu/grandparents).



*The* spirit and soul of Kwanzaa honors the importance of culture. Barbea Williams Performing Company demonstrates Kwanzaa principles in its exciting "Folktales with Friends" 2009-2010 season opener. This series offers dance, story dance, and other activities based on tales from the old Mali Empire of Africa. Barbea M. Williams will direct and Brian Alshaun Hairston of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity will jointly choreograph this production.

Highlights include "Rain's 1st Rhyme" that tells a story about the science of evolution followed by "The Boy and the Tree of the Animals," a narrative of courage and tenacity, featuring insight into the nature of forest animals and the positive difference one boy can make on life.

Come early and enjoy the Pre-Show Activities: Kwanzaa information and projects, face painting, and African games. This intergenerational performance involves interaction, audience participation, and educational enrichment with members of the Barbea Williams Performing Company, students of the Dunbar Dance and Art Academy, and special guests.

**Ticket Prices:** In advance, groups of five or more are \$5. Individual advance

tickets are \$6 and \$8 at the door. Call: 628-7785 for tickets, information, and reservations. Show Dates: Friday through Sunday, December 11-13 and December 18-20. Show Times: Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday matinees, 3 p.m. Pre-Show Activities open one hour prior to performances and close fifteen minutes before show time. For your holiday shopping, the Kuumba Market vendors are

available Saturday, December 12 and 19. Located at the historic Dunbar Cultural Center, 325 W. 2nd St. (two blocks south of Speedway at Main).

The Barbea Williams Performing Company is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization and the first African Dance Company in Arizona. Regular



classes are offered in ABC (Africana Ballet and Creative), Africana, Ballet, Belly Dancing, and Hip Hop. The Barbea Williams Performing Company's Studio Space in the Dunbar Cultural Center is available to use for meetings, classes, and lectures. For more information, contact PO Box 2775, Tucson, AZ 85702; 628-7785; [dancebmw@cox.net](mailto:dancebmw@cox.net).





# MINUTES FROM DUNA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF NOVEMBER 16, 2009

## I. Call to Order; Introductions

Treasurer's Report: Same as before, with the addition of \$300 to the account earmarked for the upcoming Dunbar/Spring Home Tour. This was given by the Tucson Historic Commission.

## II. Announcements

- James Bohlman mentions that the Westside Coalition Weed & Seed monies end in December. The final neighborhood cleanup is the week (Thursday-Saturday) of December 17. The program was a great resource and brought the community together through projects. He also handed out the 2009 Westside Coalition Business Directory & Resource Guide.
- Maria LaGarra asked if there will be any programs that could replace Weed & Seed. Jim said not really; there is no funding.
- Karen Greene announced the new and improved tentative date for the neighborhood fundraising Home Tour as Sunday, February 21. We are still looking for volunteer homes and guides. You may contact Karen at [kgreene5050@yahoo.com](mailto:kgreene5050@yahoo.com).
- Lisa Scoblink reported in Regina Romero and Diana Rhoades' stead that everyone is invited to the first annual Ward 1 Tamale Contest and Holiday Celebration on December 10 from 4-7 p.m. at the Ward 1 office (Alameda and Grande). The art opening and holiday buffet featuring David Tineo begins at 5 p.m. Call 791-4040 or email [ward1@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:ward1@tucsonaz.gov) for more information.
- Deborah Campion asks where the police representative at our meetings has been. It has been months. James will check into it.
- Ian Fritz said that the 7th annual Desert Harvester's Mesquite Pancake Breakfast and Milling Fiesta on November 7 was a wildly successful event. "Tons" (more than 1,000 lbs.) of mesquite pods were ground into flour and 2,000 pancakes were made.
- Ian informed us that the re-stripping of Main St. won't be happening soon. The \$18,000 needed is not there, but the project is on the list.
- Natasha Winnik announced the upcoming 2009 Mercado Holiday Bazaar from December 18-20 at 100 S. Avenida del Convento.

## III. Pima County Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant Update

•Karen requests that the neighborhood write a letter in support of the overall program in general (we are the recipient of a grant) in time for the upcoming (November 20) Bond Advisory Committee Meeting. Ian moved to authorize the support letter; it was seconded and unanimously approved.

## IV. Salvation Army Update

•James reports that he met with Ann Vargas and that there are still many definitions that haven't been cleared up. He's trying to make sure that we won't need to go back to the drawing board. He also suggests that we check out the city-built stucco houses at 22nd St. and 10th Ave. as examples of design options for the six or seven affordable single-family units slated to be built at the current Salvation Army building site (11th Ave.). Natasha says there are many designs at that intersection; James will specify which at the next meeting. The existing alley will be taken up in the Salvation Army new build, but they will add a buffer or private drive behind the homes (taking yard space from the lots).

## V. TEP Update

•Check the neighborhood coalition site [www.safepowerlines.org](http://www.safepowerlines.org) for

details on our preferred route for the high-voltage power line that TEP is considering constructing from the DeMoss Petrie substation (I-10 and Grant Rd.) to the Tucson substation (11th Ave. and 4th St.).

- The date for the third and final Community Working Group meeting with the Environmental Planning Group (EPG) has not been nailed down yet but should happen soon. Following that, the last open house will be held. Since EPG hasn't responded with dates, it is hoped that we get some advance notice of what will be covered at the next meeting so that we have time to prepare, research, and fact-check to give educated comment.
- Ian did hear from an engineer assuring us that the replacement of the old leaning poles in disrepair on 15th and W. Grant Rd. are nothing to worry about.
- In the talks with ADOT, the engineer mentions that our preferred route "seems promising." Armando Vargas (president of the NW Neighborhood Association) said that at the OARP (Oracle Area Revitalization Plan) October meeting, the TEP/ADOT negotiations were positively referenced. Nothing is off of the table yet.

## VI. TPAC Artists Richard Posner and Joe O'Connell

- Their main focus will be the proposed deck that is to be erected approximately at the "Railroad Park" location (9th Ave. and the tracks – currently fenced).
- Joe showed us photos of examples of some of his recent "human-scale interactive" works, notably the "Desert O" (Alameda near Presidio Park), the "Bike Church" along with Blessing Hancock (Main and railroad), and the "Griffin" (on Scott Ave.). Please check out his company's website, [www.creativemachines.com](http://www.creativemachines.com), then click on public art to see his art. His company also makes portable water filters for third world countries. For Joe, art must be popular and enjoyed by the public. You may also go to [www.downtownlinks.info](http://www.downtownlinks.info) to see all four of the artists.
- Richard's presentation projected on the wall and showed many of his past projects, as well as some other artists' works with deck-adaptable ideas. His "Barcode Crosswalk" (at the FDA Seattle building), "Hope Diamond Softball Field," "House of Cards" (Watts), temporary "Recycled History Gardens," and mural at the VA hospital in Seattle were among the many visuals. He also showed a couple of photos of the Mesquite Pancake Breakfast. For the past few months, he has been walking our streets with neighbors to get collective deck ideas. Richard feels the cup is half-full, and he looks forward to continued work with us.
- Ian and others commented on the depth and uniqueness of the Bike Church. Joe expanded on many of its symbolisms.
- The artists want our input. Some of the suggestions from our fellow neighbors include: chimes, stained glass, desert vegetation (landscapers will handle most of that), area for the All Souls Procession finale (probably not large enough), recycled rainwater feature, shade, interactive art, a durable ping-pong table (rich-light or concrete?), useful and recycled, and BICAS related. Sue Johnson suggests they also contact our neighborhood artists.
- Just a note: John Spring (the school/neighborhood's namesake) was Maria La Garra's grandfather.
- Mary Ellen Wooten (w/ TPAC) said that in the near future, they'll bring all four artists back together to see where everyone is going with the project and to discuss additional small projects. The other two artists are Cork Marcheschi and "Living Lenses."

## Want to help make free pruning workshops and free mulching happen in Dunbar/Spring?

by Brad Lancaster

A local company has offered to help provide free pruning workshops for our neighborhood this winter, then follow up the workshops with their chipper/shredder to mulch all the prunings for those who desire it. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn how to prune, to clear up our neighborhood walking paths so folks can walk without facial punctures, and to recycle the biomass into soil-building/water-conserving/dust-abating mulch.

The chipping service would cost about \$350 for a weekend, which is an incredible deal if a lot of folks have prunings for chipping. Hopefully, we can find a way to cover this fee to make the service free or very low cost for those who participate. It may be best to schedule the pruning and mulching a couple of weeks prior to our neighborhood's brush and bulky pick up (likely early February). That way if anything is missed by the chipper/shredder, then brush and bulky will get it.

To make this happen, we need a few volunteers to help organize it so it will happen. Are you interested? If so, email Brad at [bradlank@gmail.com](mailto:bradlank@gmail.com).

*Special thanks to the volunteers who helped clean up our community garden and playground prior to the pancake breakfast, those who helped run the event, the Rosales family for use of their yard and power to run one of three hammermills, Vince Pawlowski for the use of his truck and yard for many random logistics, and Ian Fritz for photographing the event.*

•Maintenance will not be covered with this bond; must look for other funding.

## VII. Downtown Links Update

- Natasha reports that the 8th Ave. drainage culverts were discussed, but that no action items or new information came about at the last meeting. There won't be another meeting until the new year.
- Two university students attended our meeting in order to become more informed with the Downtown Links project. Natasha gave an overview of the Links history. She also noted that rather than attempt to buy out Benjamin Supply, they are trying to re-work the access, entrance, and parking for the business via 7th St.
- The construction is set to begin in April 2010 with drainage and landscaping (Davis School area). The 4th and 6th Ave. streetcar project (in preparation for the streetcar maintenance facility) will begin after the spring 2010 street fair. Frontage Rd. to Church is next. 2012 is the estimated completion date.

## VIII. Committee Reports

- DNARC: Karen informs us that Robert Sheinaus spoke at last meeting; he is with a new graffiti abatement group called "No Tag Tucson" that provides training sessions with new methods of getting rid of it, considering inviting him to speak at one of our meetings. Karen also mentions that Kathy Wooldridge spoke at the meeting, the director of Skrappy's (Tucson Youth Collective) at Toole and 6th, and is in dire need of socks, canned goods, and financial donations due to the increase in the number of homeless teens. They have many free classes for kids: sewing, karate, breakdancing, etc. No real meeting again until February.
- WAMO: Natasha notifies us that many of the downtown warehouses on Toole (Rise) are up for sale and that two buildings have already sold. Zee's has been sold to Peach Properties and Solar Culture to Steve Fenton (who has put in other bids). Buildings on Stone, north of Mat Bevel Institute (barber shop, transmission shop,

## OUR NEIGHBORHOOD GETS GREENER

A number of wonderful neighborhood volunteers helped make our 14th annual Dunbar/Spring tree planting a success. About 50 trees were planted, resulting in more than 1,200 trees total in the hood since 1996. Special thanks to Nicole Koch for her organizing and all those who helped neighbors plant their street trees.

Studies and experience have found that these trees (if well placed between street and walkway) can cool our neighborhood streets by up to 10 degrees in the summer once mature. And if planted within or beside water-harvesting earthworks that capture street runoff, they also help reduce neighborhood flooding while conserving water and producing more food (like mesquite pods and ironwood seeds).

Thanks for planting those living pantries, living air conditioners, and living cisterns! And keep in mind we will be doing it again next fall.

–Brad Lancaster

etc.) have just gone on the market. The Steinfeld warehouse, the Tool Shed, the Citizen's and Skrappy's buildings are up for a RFP (request for proposal) process, non-profit/art entities only may apply for management by Nov/Dec before mayor and council (then a 90-day process). Many more on Toole have been given a 90-day notice and are about to go on the market as ADOT is looking to unload them. The IDA (Industrial Development Authority) is looking to give loans for buying properties. Mr. Ahn's buying up properties on Congress is causing current lessees (Dinnerware, Metropolis, Tooley's, and other galleries) to look for new locations by April, and hopefully they will stay downtown. WAMO, Skrappy's, and Steve (w/ gallery at Stone/Speedway) are hoping to go up for "master leaseholder" status to help control rents.

•Community Garden: Susan Hutzler gives thanks to Brad for the successful Mesquite Pancake Breakfast and for trimming and cleaning up the garden to prepare for it. We have several new gardeners and still have plots available. New bench is coming soon.

•Dunbar Coalition: Lisa says that the demolition and construction of the building is ongoing. They are looking to frame the large Dunbar history mural returned by the TCC currently in the dining room. The Juneteenth 40th anniversary will be a three-day event June 18-20. They are soliciting sponsors. More information to come. The memory tile samples may be available to display by the Dunbar Reunion. Will see about bringing samples to an upcoming DUNA meeting. Lisa and Hester van Heemstra still have "Ain't Misbehavin'" tickets for sale for the December 12 performance at the Temple of Music and Art. Please call Lisa at 792-6377 or email [lisascoblink@yahoo.com](mailto:lisascoblink@yahoo.com). Sky Jacobs informed Lisa that the light switch at the basketball courts is actually broken out. Lisa will bring it up at the Dunbar Coalition meeting.

•Approval of the minutes for the October meeting was postponed due to the disappearance of the copies passed around the room and the changes made by Natasha and Karen. In the future, make announcement that minutes are to be returned to Lisa.