The view from here

Please vote “YES” this fall to incorporate the University Grove Homeowner’s Association as a non-profit corporation.

A bit of history: The question of incorporation was put to a vote of Grove residents in 1994, and failed due to lack of a quorum. The matter was never brought to a vote again. There is no good reason NOT to incorporate (call me right away if you are aware of a reason – 651-646-2925).

There is, however, one compelling reason TO incorporate: it limits liability for directors, officers and members.

Since a non-profit corporation is a legal entity different from the actual persons involved, there is a key distinction between the non-profit’s assets and the assets of the people associated with it. Non-profit incorporation would protect both members and those serving in governance roles in the Grove from being held legally responsible for legal action directed at the Association. Personal bad acts (i.e., entering into an unauthorized contract) are not excused.

Madame Picasso

Immersed in painting and oblivious to time, Dorothea Smith would be roused at day’s end by her husband, Ross, affectionately calling, “Madame Picasso.” Fortunately for both, he loved to cook. And Dorothea loves to paint. Her home and studio are filled with colored etchings and canvases painted in oil, acrylic or pastel.

A spry octogenarian, Dorothea Smith is well known in artistic circles. Her work can be found in more than 50 public and private collections in the United States. Her art ranges from impressionism and expressionism to abstraction. She also creates sculpture, jewelry and shell art.

Ross and Dorothea discovered the Florida Panhandle in the early 1980s after he retired as arts coordinator for Northrop Auditorium. They wintered for 15 years in Port St. Joe, Florida’s oyster region. Rustic fishing villages, shrimp boats, marshes, sunsets and the water gave Dorothea unlimited material. She was selected as one of 50 artists featured in Coast to Coast: The Contemporary Landscape in Florida.

Born in Iowa, Dorothea majored in studio art at Pasadena College in California and later studied at art schools in Utah, Minnesota and Indiana. In California in the 1930s, she was a fashion model, an actress and taught modeling. In Minnesota she modeled for Young Quinlan, Dayton’s and United Airlines.

Dorothea and Ross went to the same Iowa high school and they became friends at an art show where she had two paintings exhibited. They were married in 1940 while Ross was a graduate student in theater and directing the former Punchinello Players Theater in Coffey Hall on the St. Paul campus. After Ross received his master’s degree in painting and directing, they decided to stay in the Twin Cities. Dorothea was selected as one of the 50 artists featured in Coast to Coast: The Contemporary Landscape in Florida.
Soccer by the sea
By Mary Zimmermann, contributing editor

Grove Park is just a hop/skip away from the Georgiou’s house on Folwell and a convenient place for Katerina (15) and Thomas (nearly 12) to practice their finely honed soccer skills. However, it’s another field - literally a world away - where these two really get their kicks. That field is in the seaport town of Oropos, Greece. The town is north of Athens where the kids’ parents, Efi Foufoula and Tryphon Georgiou, met while attending the National Technical University of Athens. Today, Efi is a professor of civil engineering and Tryphon a professor of electrical engineering at the U.

The Georgious have made annual summer pilgrimages to Greece since before they moved to the Grove in 1993. For two months each summer, Katerina and Thomas play soccer, swim and hang out with friends in Oropos. The family also spends time in Athens (Dad’s birthplace) and on the island of Milos, where they lived before they moved to the Grove in 1993.

For two months each summer, Katerina and Thomas Georgiou (15 and 12) get their kicks. That field is in the seaport town of Oropos, Greece.

Madame Picasso continued

further by the sea, the Smiths moved to Indiana where Ross was arts coordinator, theater director and the football game announcer for Purdue University. For the next 25 years they raised their two children, Deborah and Brian, and were active in Lafayette’s community theater and arts. Dorothea held fashion shows for charity, taught ceramics and gardened wildflowers. For five summers, the family lived in Michigan while Ross directed the Dunes Art Foundation Summer Theater. In 1963, the Smith’s lived in Paris on sabbatical. They traveled Europe and Ross studied with some of France’s finest theater directors.

After returning to Minnesota in 1968, the couple bought a Close-designed home on Folwell where Dorothea still resides and for 19 summers boated on the Mississippi River in their houseboat, “The Madame Picasso.” At the U, Ross managed the Minnesota Orchestra (its home was then at Northrop), created the Northrop Dance Series, brought the Metropolitan Opera to Minnesota, staged “Loyce Houlton’s Nutcracker Fantasy,” and taught theater. Ross died of cancer in 2003.

Dorothea continues to paint, occasionally exhibits and collects antique marbles. Her wildflower garden, Japanese inspired-home and a vivacious life color her world.

Kudos:

Tom Taff, son of Steve Taff and Susan Hoyt graduated from RAHS and will attend the U this fall. In high school, he played first chair trumpet in the concert and jazz bands and in a brass quintet. Tom was on the honor roll all four years.

Kelly Voorhaar, daughter of Richard Voorhaar and Ellen Worlund-Voorhaar graduated from RAHS with a focus in arts, science and fencing where she earned two letters. She will attend the Minneapolis Community Technical College this fall. This summer she is working an internship at Northern Clay Center.

Monika Chandler and Kristen Swanson organized the first annual neighborhood perennial plant swap on a rainy Saturday, May 21.

Kevin Silverstein initiated the garbage hauler changes now in effect.

Dawn Hudoc coordinated the 8th Annual University Grove Families with Young Children Picnic on June 5 (unfortunately rained out).

Dudley Riggs was featured in the Variety Free Time section of the Star Tribune on April 29. A lengthy article profiled Dudley and alumni on the history of Brave New Workshop, a Twin Cities institution for stand-up and improv comedy founded by him.

Stephan Kistler is our new bluebird housekeeper. His job is to keep intruders from infiltrating the birdhouses located in the green space by the tennis courts.

Dues paid

49 households have paid their annual dues for 2005. If you have not paid, please send a $10 check made out to the University Grove News to Gary Wright, 2129 Hoyt. Thanks.

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