

Flint Diaspora

“SPREADING THE NEWS ABOUT FLINT”



Mission

“To connect people across boundaries and create channels of action to make Flint, MI a truly great community!”

Flint Club Highlights

Member Meeting

The August member meeting is slated for Thursday, August 23 at 6:00pm. Bring a friend - new members welcome!

5th Annual Homecoming is Sept 14-15

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend this fun-filled weekend! We still are still making plans and would love your input! Contact support@flintclub.org to help.

Executive Director Note

Thanks to all of you who shared your condolences upon the passing of my Mother. Whether you called, sent a card, dropped an email, or just shared encouraging words in person – please know your kindness will never be forgotten.

Yours in Flint,

Rhoda

Community Corner Community Challenge Update

Summer Civic Engagement Training has just ended. Residents throughout the county continue to learn and practice tools they can use to facilitate community discussions to create change in their community as area community visioning sessions begin this month.

Volunteers are needed to help with events such as the upcoming Youth Summit on September 17. Call 810-233-5468, ext. 3 for more information.

Continue to check www.thecommunitychallenge.org for more information on these and other activities. Flint Club is a core partner of Community Challenge.

Give Back

Volunteer Here

Flint Club will be open on **Saturday, Aug. 25** for the Crim road race. We need help sharing information about Flint Club, selling T-shirts, and helping with kids' craft activities. We need volunteers between 9am and 2pm.

Every month, Flint Club hosts a family event during the 2nd Friday Art Walk in downtown Flint. Volunteers are needed to help plan activities and to volunteer that evening from 6-9pm.

Are you a writer? Would you like to contribute to our monthly Newsletter! We need brief articles about the Flint area, including reviews of local books, movies, music, events, and more.

To volunteer, please call 810-233-5468 or e-mail support@flintclub.org.

Thank you so much! Because of your dedication and commitment to Flint, we are able to make a difference and promote a positive image and attitude.

HOMETOWN HEADLINES

Kettering University has retained its #1 ranking for Industrial/Manufacturing Engineering in the country and is ranked in the Top Twenty in the 2008 edition of "America's Best Colleges Guide," announced by U.S. News & World Report. Kettering is also ranked #3 in Mechanical Engineering and #11 in overall rankings.

"Programs To Look For: Internships" -- one of only 14 in the nation!!! "Kettering University continues to enjoy the reputation as an institution offering some of the best undergraduate engineering programs in the country. Built on a tradition of co-operative education and preparation of future leaders for a global society, Kettering provides an unparalleled undergraduate engineering work integrated learning experience," said Kettering President Stan Liberty.

http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/usnews/edu/college/rankings/brief/enns08_brief.php

Did You Know?

Genesee County offers FREE recycling for your events. Attractive bins are available—they will even bring them out to your event and pick up the bins and the recyclables after the event! Visit www.gcmpc.org or call 762-7744 for more information.

Member Profile By Tina Nies

I was born and raised in Flint and attended Walker Elementary, Whittier Jr. High, spent time at each of the then four high schools through the magnet program, then earned a business degree at U of M – Flint. From an early age, I have loved learning and am always thankful for the wonderful educational foundation I received in Flint.

I continue to have an amazing and full life and am thankful to have grown up in the diverse, urban environment of Flint. I was blessed to have two loving parents who taught me that every person is equally important and lovable. I like to think that the fact that each one of us is different is what makes us really all the same. Growing up in Flint, I really didn't understand what discrimination was. I grew up with, knew and loved people of different and mixed races, gay couples, people with physical handicaps, people with mental health problems, even people completely unable to care for themselves. Of course, I have learned that discrimination exists

in many ways and on many levels. I am proud to be from Flint where I learned the importance of embracing diversity.

Since then, I have traveled, completed two Masters degrees, and lived in many places. Whenever I say I'm from Flint, Michigan, the first response is often, "isn't it cold there?" Then I spend about 15 minutes with my Flint/Michigan plug – I tell them that we do have 3 other seasons, about the great Middle Eastern food at Badawest and Taboon, the Farmer's Market, the quality colleges and universities, the Flint Institute of Arts, Cultural Center, the Buick Open, and the best Great Lakes beaches!

I returned, part-time, to the Flint area last year and now divide my time between Flint and Northern California. I am a consultant and coach and work with a diverse group of clients. I'm very fortunate to have the flexibility to do what I love and give back to my community through the American Cancer Society, Project Smile,

Community Challenge, Flint Club and participating in other local events. I am grateful everyday for my family and life. But I know it's not due to just fortune or luck, it's gratitude, diligence, and faith - things I learned in Flint.

When a baby is born, many people exclaim, "she is perfect and beautiful and amazing" and she is – no matter any problems. So, why don't we feel the same way later in life? We are born "perfect" with everything we need to be successful in our world – the only thing we have to do is to create the world we want.

It can be that easy when we focus on the bigger goal of creating our life of joy and not let negative attitudes and experiences bog us down. If we focus on the negative, that is where we stay, frustrated, tired, wishing we could change or had time to do what we love, etc. BUT if we change our focus, live in gratitude for all that we do have, and *believe* that we can create our ideal life or community – we can!

CULTURE CONNECTION

EXPERIENCE AND EXPLORE THEATRE AT FYT OPEN HOUSE ON SEPTEMBER 6

Flint Youth Theatre is hosting an Open House on Thursday, September 6 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Community members of all ages and interests are invited to experience the joy of a drama class, the thrill of an audition and the wonder of a backstage tour. This free event will take place at FYT, located at 1220 East Kearsley Street in the Flint Cultural Center.

Guests can participate in or observe activities such as auditions, improvisation performances, drama classes and backstage tours highlighting FYT's broad range of performance and education opportunities. Brochures and flyers about FYT programming will be available for guests to take home. The information will include details about productions in the 2007-2008 SIGNATURE SERIES, RAZZLE DAZZLE SERIES,

OFF THE PRESS SERIES, LEARNING THROUGH THEATRE SERIES and Special Events as well as FYT Drama School classes, the InterACT program and special ticket packaging. FYT staff, students and parents will talk with guests about the various programs and about their experiences at FYT. Refreshments will be provided.

Questions may be directed to FYT by calling 810.237.1530 or emailing info@flintyouththeatre.com.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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Flint Club is a virtual, community-based network for Flint, Michigan. The Club is a 501(c)(3), nonprofit organization with more than 600 members that aims to link people to the life of the city no matter where they live. Contact Rhoda Matthews, Executive Director, Flint Club at (810) 233-5468 and or rhoda@flintclub.org for more information.

Send correspondence to Flint Club, P.O. Box 7604, Flint, MI 48507. Visit Flint Club World Headquarters, Capitol Theatre Building, 134 E. Second St., Flint, MI 48502. Call locally (810) 233-5468 or toll-free 1-866-54-FLINT. Fax 810-233-5556.
