

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!”

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Flint Club Highlights

Fourth of July Festival

Flint Club is pleased to sponsor a checkers tournament during the Fourth of July festivities at Atwood Stadium this year. If you would like to volunteer for this event, please contact support@flintclub.org.

May Member Meeting Cancelled

There will be no member meeting for the month of May. Get a head start on your holiday weekend!

Give Back

Vote Online for Civic Park School

Flint Club members near and far can make a difference back home through a few clicks of a mouse. Civic Park Elementary School is one of four schools in the nation selected to participate in the Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) 2007 Literacy for Life Makeover Contest. Please go to www.literacyforlife.com, "vote for your favorite RIF site", click vote now and vote for Civic Park.

The school receiving the most votes will be awarded \$15,000 for a library makeover. Arctic Light Elementary in Fort Wainwright, Alaska, the Dallas Independent School District in Texas, and KIDCO Child Care in Miami, Florida, are the competing schools.

The contest ends **May 31, 2007**, so hurry and cast your vote. Only one vote per person is allowed. Let's cast our vote for the library makeover for Civic Park. Remember, the web address is www.literacyforlife.com.

Community Corner

Flint Pride Day Reminder

Bring your rakes, brooms, shovels, and other equipment to help plant flowers and clean up Riverbank Park. Meet for Flint Club and other community members for coffee and donuts at the surface lot located at Saginaw & Kearsley Streets on Saturday, May 19 at 8:30 a.m. Drop a line to support@flintclub.org if you plan to participate.

Member Profile

By Jeanne (Schulz) Ambrose

Born in McLaren Hospital, I lived on the Northwest side and attended St. Agnes Schools through 10th grade when my family moved away. Since I am a writer/editor with a rather vivid imagination, I have many teachers to thank for encouraging my writing abilities and creative mind. They allowed me to stretch beyond their writing assignments because I rarely turned in a "typical" book report, bio, or writing assignment. In fact, I've been trying to hunt down Mrs. Erickson who taught some of my favorite high school English classes and really encouraged my writing. So if anyone knows Mrs. Erickson who taught English at Flint St. Agnes around 1969-70, tell her "thanks" from me!

My parents also were amazingly supportive and influential. My dad, the late Louis Schulz, was the first principal of Mott Adult High School. He and my mother, Catherine Schulz (she's 91 now and living in Flushing), both worked for the Mott Foundation and helped create many of the first English as a Second Language (ESL) books teaching adult immigrants to read. They would occasionally let me write basic stories to be included in those books during my teenage years.

Currently, I am the editor of Heart-Healthy Living magazine, a publication of the Better Homes and Gardens group (headquartered in Des Moines, Iowa). It's a fairly new publication, but you can find it at most bookstores and even at your neighborhood grocery stores. Prior to launching this new magazine, I was an editor at Better Homes and Gardens magazine where I focused on health, nutrition, and food stories. I've also worked at newspapers in Guam, Honolulu, and Grand Rapids. I've had many amazing adventures and travels. Last year I was able to interview First Lady Laura Bush at the White House. I love the journalism gig.

Although my greatest accomplishments are yet to be achieved, I'm proud of the many people who attribute their success, or their health to something I've written or produced. I recently got a letter from a woman who had gone to the emergency room with certain symptoms that the doctors attributed to stress....and sent her home. The next day she saw a copy of Heart-Healthy Living with a story that described all of her symptoms. She took the story to her doctor who confirmed the diagnosis and prescribed an appropriate

treatment plan. I hear those kind of stories all the time, so it makes my job worthwhile.

I also am a single parent with a college-age daughter who inherited the writing gene. We're working on a book project together right now. It's so much fun. As a child, I always wanted to be a writer. Or an actor. Or a singer. (Since I hate performing before an audience, I became a writer by default, I guess). I'm hoping to someday mentor young people in writing and achieving their goals.

I think many of us who grew up in the '60s in Flint are nostalgic for the same things: the old Capitol Theatre, Balkan Bakery, Forest Park Ice Rink. I still have family in Flint. I get back frequently to visit and to get my favorite Flint fixes: Angelo's Coney Island; Halo Burgers; and Vernors. If I could offer any advice to my fellow Flintstones, it would be that passion, persistence, and pluck often counts for more than talent. But when you combine talent with passion and persistence, Wow! The places you can go!

Flint Club Note: The Balkan Bakery is still open at 1315 W. Dayton!

CULTURE CONNECTION

Flint Film Festival

The Fourth Annual Flint Film Festival will take place at the Mott Regional Technology Center – 1401 E. Court St. The festival will feature films from around the world. Dates and times are as follows:

May 17 6pm-9pm
May 18 12pm-10pm
May 19 12pm-10pm
May 20 12pm-9pm

Tickets are \$10/day or \$25/3-day pass. For more information call 810-238-FILM or visit www.flintfilmfest.com

HOMETOWN HEADLINES

Flint School Board Appoints First Woman Superintendent

The Flint Board of Education picked longtime school employee Linda Thompson, a Flint native, to be interim school superintendent. Thompson is the first woman to hold the superintendent's seat. Read the complete article at:

<http://www.mlive.com/flint/stories/index.ssf?/base/news-43/1178808646303210.xml&coll=5>

Land Bank kicks off 'Adopt A Lot'

The Genesee County Land Bank is doing its best to help clean up the city of Flint through a new program aimed at getting citizens to take responsibility for vacant properties through an initiative called 'Adopt-A-Lot'. Read more about it or view video coverage at: <http://abclocal.go.com/wjrt/story?section=local&id=5313752>

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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.