

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

Monthly Meeting

The next Member Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 25 at 6pm. This is your opportunity to provide feedback into our upcoming activities and to talk about how you'd like to make Flint, MI a truly great community.

Thank you to members using the new online donation system! If you haven't

checked it out yet, [click here!](#)

Thank you to Tony Dearing, Editor of the Flint Journal!

Tony graciously spent the evening with us at the September Meeting. He shared great information on how the Journal is working to meet the needs of area residents and how decisions are made as they report local and international news. He also took time to answer questions and address concerns of Flint Club members.

Community Corner - Community Challenge Update

Websites, fun maps, t-shirts and more. These are only a few of the items that Clio Area (city of Clio, Vienna & Thetford Townships) residents are working on thanks to Flint Club and Community Challenge.

As a part of its role as a core partner of Community Challenge, Flint Club staff and other volunteers facilitated Community Action Planning (CAP) sessions where the residents engaged in visioning and then selected an area of focus. They were then challenged to collaborate on a project idea and begin putting the project into action.

The Clio area selected a comprehensive public relations plan that highlights reasons to eat, shop, play or stay in Clio. They are innovative and hardworking citizens who have involved several different sectors of their community to make these things happen. Debra Force, Asst. branch Manager for National City Bank in Clio is the project Coordinator. Faye Lature, Clio Schools Superintendent and Desiree Londrigan, Mott Community College NTC Director have agreed to spearhead the website efforts. Several other citizens and officials have stepped forward and are committed to seeing this project to completion.

For more information on this project and others that are similar please visit the Community Challenge website at www.thecommunitychallenge.org or call Sonyita at (810) 233-5468 ext. 3.

Give Back

Join a Flint Club Committee

Have fun and make a difference! Join a committee to help Flint Club promote Flint in a positive light, make a difference in our community, and serve our members!

Help out with 2nd Friday Art Walk, Fund Development, Networking Events, Office Work, and more! The Non-local Network committee is also looking for people to assist in planning and coordinating non-local events. Please contact rhoda@flintclub.org for more details.

Did You Know?

You can do your Holiday Shopping and help support Flint Club at the same time? Just visit www.yabbadabbanews.com and the Flint Club page to purchase gift certificates from your favorite local merchants! Many are offered at a discount and Flint Club earns 10%!!

Merchants include Great Harvest Bread, Mr. P's Wash World, Pizza Hut, Big Apple Bagels, Al's Auto Service, Cranberries Café, Fuddruckers, Tropical Smoothie Café, Fazolis, Somerset Salon, Gaines Jewelry, Dixon Construction, and more!

Member Profile By Sean Armstrong

I moved to Flint when I was 10, with my family, in 1985. My father was offered the position of Director of the Gerholz Center for Christian Counseling at the First Presbyterian Church in downtown Flint, and my mom began her teaching career not long after at Pierson Elementary on the North side. I went to school at Walker Elementary, then moved onto Longfellow Middle School and was a student at both Northern and Central as a part of the Magnet Program in Flint. In 1994, I began my collegiate education at the University of Michigan and obtained my first degree, in History, in 1998.

After that, I returned to Flint and worked at Carman Ainsworth High School, as an At-Risk Student mentor for a year. I went back to Mongolia in 1999 on a scholarship and returned to Flint, with my pregnant wife in tow, at the end of 2000 and was offered the position of Director of the Carman Ainsworth At-Risk Student program, which I was engaged in for the year while I began my education in health at Mott Community College for a semester. Ms. Mary-Sue Ross, teacher of English at Longfellow, and Mr. James Beardon, teacher of the Humanities at Central High School, were prominent at both influences and inspirations. Ms. Roth disciplined me as a student and young man and Mr. Beardon made me

believe in my capacity to carry out my dreams as a scholar and fascinated in the topics at hand.

I wanted to be a historian. Ever since I read the book, *March of the Barbarians* at age 14, I wanted to go to Mongolia. I was encouraged and teased regarding my passion throughout high school, even being called Mongolia-boy in Mr. Bearden's senior humanities class, but my interest never wavered. I traveled to Mongolia first as an archaeologist, but after spending time in the hospital there I made up my mind to make a more lasting impact and pursued health, always with the intention of going back and doing what I could for the people in this third-world country.

Nobody was paying attention to Mongolia's declining state of health and having seen what this isolation could do to a community, something I saw a lot of following GM's pullout from Flint, I made up my mind to promote the country whenever I could. In addition, the tolerance and understanding I grew up around in Flint has made my work, often of a delicate nature, more culturally sensitive. Flint served as a model of community that I could draw on in educational or community organizing efforts in Mongolia. Finally, the resilience and flexibility of the community made a believer of the capacity for individuals to adapt to any circumstances, if given the right types of support, something that informs all my work in public health.

I would tell people in Flint to take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way, no matter how challenging or mundane it may seem. You never know where these opportunities will take you and if you remain active and open to them, you will find that the chances of something happening beyond your wildest dreams are within your grasp. Much of my success has been attributed to being in the place where I can maximize access to these random opportunities. Flint remains a city where opportunities remain in abundance, if you remain open.

I am residing for the year in Ulaanbaatar, the capitol of Mongolia, unfortunately separate from my wife and daughter who both live in Ann Arbor. My wife, a Mongolian named Tugsu, is finishing her Bachelors there with a degree in Sociology and the Environment. Our daughter, six-year-old Amina, is in the second grade there at Angell Elementary. My title would currently be researcher, as I consider PhD programs, but I will also never stop being a nurse. While in Mongolia, I am also attempting to promote the efforts of the Health Sciences University of Mongolia internationally by working as a consultant to their International Relations office. I am trying to maintain a blog regarding my time here in Mongolia.

That address is:

<http://mich-mongolia.blogspot.com/>.

HOMETOWN HEADLINES

[Christmas comes in October to Flint via movie shot here](#)

"Jon Russell Cring gestured toward the sunny skies above the Soggy Bottom Bar and smiled. "It's kind of weird making a Christmas movie in October," he said. But Kring is a director on a very tight schedule -- committed to shooting one movie per month for 12 months -- so Flint's relatively balmy weather today couldn't spoil his plans..."

Read the rest of the article - click here
http://blog.mlive.com/flintjournal/newsnow/2007/10/christmas_comes_in_october_to.html#more

CULTURE CONNECTION

Halloween Fun Fest at the Flint Children's Museum. Join us this Saturday, October 27th from 10 AM -- 5 PM **Enjoy a day full of Halloween activities and games! Wear a costume and receive \$1 off the price of your admission!**

Activities include: **Halloween Bingo, Phantom Fishing, Musical Pumpkins, Halloween Crafts, Trick or Treating, Face Painting, Pumpkin Painting.**

The museum is located on the campus of Kettering University at 1602 W. Third Ave. in Flint. For more information call 810-767-5437 or visit www.flintchildrensmuseum.org

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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.