



IMPROVEMENT

ASSOCIATION

Les Amis de Marigny

Helping to make Marigny a better place to live, work and play

The 44th Annual FMIA Spring Home Tour

Sunday, May 15th, 2016, Noon to 4 p.m.

By Lisa Suarez, FMIA President

This will be a terrific Home Tour! Got a surprise last week. An owner of one of the homes on the wish list (for three

months!) got in touch with us, and so now we have another pièce de résistance, the Dr. Nut House. The World Bottling Company made this unique beverage called Dr. Nut, with its intense almond flavor, first at 600 Elysian fields, and then at 2121 Chartres Street.

The Gomila family lived at 817 St. Ferdinand. I have not been able to find any records of what the house looked like before the World Bottling Co. was a success, but during the renovation, a small area of remaining plaster crown molding was discovered that looked Creole or Greek Revival center hall is more likely, and maybe a Creole cottage that was completely renovated and expanded. We may find out more before the Home Tour Booklet is finalized.



HOME TOUR
Sunday, May 15th, 12-4
Begin by Press St.
Gardens. See
townhomes by La
Companie des
Architects, 1830's;
Creole Cottages,
& Shotguns,
"Living Together."
faubourgmarigny.org

By the time you get this, we may still need more volunteers for the Tour. Hope to see you there, and don't forget to tell your friends in other parts of town!

Tickets are \$20.00 (\$15.00 for members) are only available the day of the Tour at the Ticket Tent, beginning at 11 a.m. at the corner of Dauphine and Press, across from:

1. Press Street Gardens

The NOCCA Institute will be selling water & discounted iced coffee.

2. 2830 N. Rampart, Newly built Side Hall Cottage.

3. 2818 N. Rampart, Early 20th Century Shotgun, Ridgewalker Glass Art Studio.

4. 2815 N. Rampart, Creole Cottage with lovely garden.

5. 817 St. Ferdinand, 5-Bay Shotgun, previously owned by the "Dr. Nut" family.

6. 2727 Dauphine, Side Hall Gallery, Single Shotgun Camelback.

7. The Marigny Opera House, formerly Holy Trinity Church.

8. Lazarus Project Gardens with Fountain and Labyrinth. Enter, 2700 block of Royal, lakeside. Residents will be selling refreshments.

9. 2606 Royal, 1830's 2 ½-story La Compagnie des Architects Creole Townhouse, with mantels from the 1820's Tchoupitoulas Plantation.

10. 2701 Chartres, 1830's 3-story La Compagnie des Architects Creole Townhouse.

11. 4 to 9 p.m. After Party, Den of Muses, 51 Architect Place. Music, snacks and beverages, included in the price of the Tour

**What's Inside this edition of
 Les Amis de Marigny**

Marigny Green

Speaking Volumes

Marigny Mosaic

NONPACC . . . and More!

Learn more about Project Lazarus on page 2!

The Gardens of Project Lazarus on “The Tour.”

Haven’t you always wondered, “What’s on the other side of those tall walls?” The FMIA Home Tour is very fortunate to have The Gardens of Project Lazarus, whose mantra is “Living in the Positive,” as part of our “Living Together” theme. Residents will be on hand to greet guests and give brief grounds tours and refreshments will be available for donations.

The mission of Project Lazarus is to help heal and empower people living with HIV/AIDS by focusing on wellness, providing housing, and offering important support services. It is a place of healing - physically, emotionally and spiritually. Programs are designed to help current and former residents learn to believe in themselves and their ability to achieve personal well-being.

From the website: “Lazarus Project was established in 1985 in response to the devastation that was being wreaked by HIV/AIDS. The Archdiocese of New Orleans responded by offering the upstairs of an old convent (originally built as a school in 1871, associated with Holy Trinity Church, also on the tour as the Marigny Opera House), for the purpose of housing homeless people with AIDS, thus creating the first “Residence House.” At that time, the agency primarily provided hospice care to persons with AIDS who were homeless.

Expanded from its initial setting as a portion of one building, today’s campus of buildings and serenity gardens that span nearly a city block. The historic buildings that are used to house residents are over 130 years old. The structures lend a tremendous degree of quality, charm and historic relevance to the program. Those involved in the organization are constantly reminded of, and strive to uphold, the beauty and rich history that exists in New Orleans culture.

Project Lazarus strives to be a sanctuary of healing: physically, mentally, and spiritually. The gardens are the physical core of that healing environment and provide residents a safe space to transform their lives.

Serenity Gardens, with its calming and inviting spaces, provides opportunities for healing through socializing and reflection. Meditation ponds, flowering bushes, water features, and the beautifully detailed landscaping with

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Commercial Advertising

Per-month Rates (1-2 times/year)

	Full Page	1/2 Page	1/4 Page	Business Card
FMIA Member	\$110	\$55	\$40	\$25
Non-Member	\$113	\$58	\$43	\$28

Per-month Rates (3 or more times/year)

	Full Page	1/2 Page	1/4 Page	Business Card
FMIA Member	\$90	\$45	\$30	\$18
Non-Member	\$93	\$48	\$33	\$21

Ads should be photo ready, or in jpg, tif or pdf format.

All advertising must be received by the 15th of each month for publication in the next month’s issue. For information regarding advertising, contact the business manager at ads@faubourgmarigny.org.

Classifieds Now Available

The newsletter is now accepting classified ads. Personals, however, are not being accepted. Contact ads@faubourgmarigny.org. Classified Rates: \$5.00 per each 25 words.

About the Newsletter

Les Amis de Marigny is the newsletter of the Faubourg Marigny Improvement Association, a 501(c) non-profit, all-volunteer organization committed to the preservation of the unique architectural and cultural heritage of our historic district, and to improving the quality of life in our diverse community.

Contents, editorials and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the official views of the FMIA, its Board or its members. The FMIA does not warrant the legality of any business advertised in its newsletter.

Contents of Les Amis de Marigny are copyrighted. Permission to reprint any of the newsletter, including photographs and original artwork, must be obtained from the editor and/or byline columnist.

Manuscripts, photographs and articles dealing with topics of interest to the Marigny neighborhood are encouraged. The editor reserves the right to reject submissions including editorial and advertising content.

Submissions must be received by the 7th of the month for inclusion in the next month’s issue. Send contributions to:

FMIA Newsletter
2401 Burgundy St., Box 10
NOLA 70117

or editor@faubourgmarigny.org.

The newsletter is published each month except August and January. Back issues are available online at www.faubourgmarigny.org.

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Lazarus continued from page 2

the superb labyrinth all serve to produce an environment conducive of physical, mental, and spiritual healing.

The vegetable garden, known as Michael's Garden, provides opportunities for resident involvement which leads to a sense of purpose and ownership here at Project Lazarus while promoting health through light physical activity and healthy eating."

Over 1,200 people have been served by the agency in its history with hundreds who breathed their last breath at the agency. In the early years and through the 1990's, Project Lazarus was a place where people with AIDS came to die. As the treatments for the disease have evolved, so has the agency as it is now a place where people with HIV/AIDS come to live.

In addition to being the oldest, Project Lazarus is also the largest residential facility providing assisted living to people with HIV/AIDS and, when needed, hospice care, in the Gulf Coast region. It is also the only such housing facility



that provides medical care to its residents through the services of a nurse and certified Personal Care Attendants. During the course of a year, approximately 70 persons will be served by the agency and a waiting list is usually maintained due to 100% occupancy.



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Support Services

Support services are designed to meet the unique and individual needs of each resident: 24-hour assistance; Personal Care Attendants; Home-cooked meals; Hospice services; Case management. Many services are available to others in the community, not just current residents: Substance Abuse Counseling; Pastoral Care, Wellness University; and Therapeutic activities.

There are many opportunities for you to become involved too.

Volunteer Today!
Email Lily Hannigan at lhannigan@projectlazarus.net
or call 504-949-3609 ext. 503

Graffiti, It's So Seventies.

By Lisa Suarez, FMIA President

At the General Meeting on Monday, April 18th, I made a little presentation about graffiti, after getting a couple of letters from a resident on N. Rampart Street. The resident is frustrated that where he lives is COVERED with vandalism, and no surprise here, he has gotten no satisfaction from any of our civil service or elected officials.

In my view, graffiti has been seen, for a few decades now, as a type of art expressing the culture of urban areas, and the frustration of the social ills of bigotry and poverty. Graffiti Art is not vandalism. So what's the difference?



Both of these houses are boarded up.



Exciting "Kidney Bean" Lettering



The difference between murals on the exterior of buildings in our historic cityscape and the vandalism of tagging, sadly, is the bureaucratic red tape of the Permitting Process. Of course, it used to be that St. Claude Avenue was so run down, nobody cared. Now, people care, but they get no support from Civil Service, or the elected officials who tout "culture," but are unprepared to enforce the law. Hmm. Sound like New Orleans?



We find ourselves submerged in un-permitted ugliness, while real artists suffer the indignities of "Stop Work Orders." BTW, I think the Trumpet Black mural on Claiborne is terrific. The "White or Black Kidney Bean" lettering is awful, and city-wide pervasive.

Here are some photos of places around St. Claude and St. Bernard Avenues, technically McShane Place, but there's not a sign to be seen with that name.

I have a two-part challenge: #1. Take pictures of all the tagging you see in Marigny, and submit the photos to me, president@faubourgmarigny.org. I will provide a prize to the best photograph, with some artists helping with the judging. #2. If you know any artists who want to do murals, tell them their neighborhood association wants to help them get through the paperwork: FMIA or NFB.

Hey !! Y'all ever think of Writing for our Newsletter???

Seeking new or experienced writers who can provide some food for thought.

Any and all subjects of neighborhood or local interest can be included in our newsletters. Monthly submissions, a random once-in-a-while column or essay, letter to the Editor?

How about a restaurant or movie review...critique of performances at local venues...a book review? Anything of interest to you probably interests other members too. Try your hand, be a published author!



Contact Steve: editor@faubourgmarigny.org



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Calendar of Events

May 2016

Board Meeting

May 4, 7 pm,
2509 Burgundy St.

Meet the Neighbors

No MTN for May

General Meeting

May 16, 6:30 Pot Luck, 7:15 Meeting
St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2624 Burgundy Street

June 2016

Board Meeting

June 1, 7 pm,
2509 Burgundy St.

Meet the Neighbors

June 8, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Venue TBD

General Meeting

June 20, 6:30 Pot Luck, 7:15 Meeting
St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2624 Burgundy Street

NONPACC MEETINGS

*5th District — Wednesday March 9, 6 pm,
3900 N. Claiborne*

*8th District — 4th Tuesday 6 pm,
location varies between 334 Royal
and the Healing Center*

*If you have an event for the calendar
please send it to
editor@faubourgmarigny.org*

FMIA Dues

Not sure when your FMIA dues were paid? The date you paid is conveniently located on the mailing label of your newsletter. Just one more service from your friendly neighborhood association.

April 18th General Meeting Recap

For those who missed the FMIA General Meeting, here's a quick rundown of the issues that were discussed.

President Lisa Suarez welcomed new guests, then Sergeant Luster from the 8th District spoke to the group about crime in the neighborhood. There were three armed robberies in one night in the triangle, and police are looking for the perpetrators. Sergeant Luster said that security cameras can be very helpful in finding suspects, but unfortunately many are not functioning. He also addressed the "teen bike gang", saying they had made two arrests and had not had any recent reports of activity, probably due to school being open.

The Architects for Robert's Grocery did not show at the meeting, but apparently there was nothing much new to report anyway.

Rae Jean Carroll from Bishop Perry Community Center spoke to the group about activities at the center. Since Father Maestri has retired, she wanted to make clear that they were not going to become a homeless shelter, rather they would continue their outreach to those in need in the community. The next Bishop Perry Monthly Marketplace will be Saturday, June 18th, rain or shine: All persons interested in selling goods may donate \$50 to the Center as a charitable deduction and receive a table

space at the market for selling your goods. If interested in selling contact Rosemary James at faulkhouse@aol.com or call Rae Jean Carroll before 4 pm on Friday at 227-3272. Another way: just show up with your check and goods on Saturday and they will put you in a selling space. Sellers are free to keep part or all of their sales, having made the \$50 donation.

Lisa then spoke about progress being made for the Home Tour. This is an important fund raiser for the Association. Date for the event is Sunday, May 15, all the homes on the tour have been confirmed, and there will be an after party at the Den of Muses.

There was then discussion of the problem of graffiti in the neighborhood. For more information see articles on pages 4 and 16.

The ruling from concerning Cafe Istanbul was then discussed. Details were sketchy. Also discussed was the Collapsed House on N. Rampart.

Finally it was reported that the warehouses in Bywater near Press Street were being used for illegal concerts. Thank you to 5th District Police for listening to neighbors' complaints and shutting them down.

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Faubourg Marigny Improvement Association

May 2016

Report on the 5th District New Orleans Neighborhood Police Anti-Crime Council (NONPACC) — April 13, 2016

By Ronnie Brink

FMIA members attended NONPACC at the 5th District Station , 3900 N. Claiborne Avenue. Crime statistics are similar to last month. Manpower is now 85 officers. For the past two years, 5th District Manpower has been 77 officers. Currently there are five shifts with staggered hours to handle all calls for service during shift changes, and “response times” have been reduced substantially.



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Caroling	Education	Volunteer
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Development	Membership	Web Site
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For comments — email info@faubourgmarigny.org

Do You Receive Our Weekly E-Blast?

FMIA sends out an email blast every Sunday with important news about what's happening in the Faubourg Marigny and surrounding area — news that you need to know! To sign up for this service, email secretary@faubourgmarigny.org to be put on the list.

IMPORTANT NOTE: You may need to change your email settings to allow news@faubourgmarigny.org as an approved sender or add it to your contact list.



Did you ever wonder who these people are? 

Find out at the next Meet your Neighbors!
And if you have a favorite place in the neighborhood that you think would be interested in hosting an upcoming event, let us know by emailing editor@faubourgmarigny.org.

Meet the Neighbors

We would like to thank the wonderful people at **Shank Charcuterie** at 2352 St. Claude for hosting our April Meet the Neighbors.



Master butcher Kris Doll and Carolyn Kolbe served up some terrific appetizers (see photo at right) — it's a shame if you missed this, the food was amazing.

We got to see the fantastic mosaic work of Lauren True, and several members brought wine to share, so we all passed a good time.

Shank is a full service butcher shop and charcuterie, with an ever-changing lunch menu for dine-in or take home. Their hours are Tuesday - Sunday 10 am to 7 pm.



Some (yes, just some) of the appetizers.



The MTN gang.

SHANK
CHARCUTERIE

Menu

Lamb Ragú <i>Braised, smoked lamb over pasta with gremolata</i>	\$10.
Charcuterie Board <i>Selection of Shank's charcuterie, sausage, headcheese, cheese, accouterments and crostini</i>	\$15.
Chicken & Waffles <i>Smoked, shredded chicken over buttermilk waffle with cane molasses gravy</i>	\$10.
Pimento Cheese Burger <i>Half-pound beef patty topped with pimento cheese</i>	\$9.
Pulled Pork Sliders <i>Two Carolina-style sliders with white BBQ sauce and pickles</i>	\$9.
Meatballs <i>Crushed Roma tomatoes and fresh grated Parmesan</i>	\$8.
Grilled Chicken <i>Half-free-range chicken with Thai chili-lime-garlic sauce</i>	\$10.
Baked Sweet Potato	\$5.

Check out the menu.

Are you a person who likes to walk around the neighborhood eating and drinking at all the different bars and restaurants?

You can keep doing that, but at the same time you can tell your neighbors where they eat and drink every second Wednesday of the month.



Become FMIA's Meet the Neighbors Coordinator and pick the local places where we meet. Its easy, fun and fattening!

Contact info@faubourgmarigny.org



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LEJ's Yours Truly in a Swamp

Pete Seeger in New Orleans and Lafayette

By Leonard Earl Johnson - www.LEJ.org

"Yours Truly" is a blog by Leonard Earl Johnson, a member of our Katrina Diaspora presently residing in Lafayette and spending much time in New Orleans. He is an FMIA member and planning to return to NOLA in the near future. His venue is the figurative Great Mother Swamp including Lafayette, New Orleans and adjacent areas. His column had been published in Les Amis for several years and we are glad to have him back where he belongs. This is his latest column.

(A version of this story previously appeared in Les Amis de Marigny)

Pete Seeger appeared on stage the first week of the 2009 New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, and turned ninety the next week.

He passed away in 2014, at ninety-four. I meant to make mention of his death earlier but other funerals and weddings, Summer parties, heart attacks and Hurricane remembrances littered the path. Seeger was a friend of mine and two, three million others.

He opened back in 2009 on the Acura Stage, with *Midnight Special*, a song made famous by Louisiana native, Huddie "Leadbelly" Ledbetter, of Mooringsport, and the Louisiana State Prison at Angola. Leadbelly was a man who literally sang his way out of both Louisiana and Texas state prisons.

Seeger told a story as we walked across festival grounds, about an invitation to sing at "A little music festival in Lafayette," back in the daze of the House UnAmerican Activities Committee, circa 1955.

HUAC was a witch-hunting committee born in the heady afterglow of World War Two, and fed by politicians driven to keep on fighting and throwing themselves victory parades. Thought was regulated by these politicians, and poet/troubadour Pete Seeger became their natural HUAC prey.

Offended at being forced to appear before HUAC, Seeger testified to the

tune of his Constitutional right to think anything he wanted without telling them what those thoughts might be.

This was in the middle-late 1950s, remember, when Seeger was a very popular figure in the popular

American folk music revival of the day. His group, The Weavers, recorded such huge Louisiana hits as "Shrimp Boats are Coming," on the back-side of the Billboard bestselling 78-RPM "On Top of Old Smokey."

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*A Big Thanks to Becky Allen &
Gene Murman for wonderful shows at Mag's*

Swamp continued from page 9

He was a famous artist with famous principles that caused him to hold Congress in contempt for, he said, such un-American activities as HUAC. They indicted him for his contempt, and smeared his reputation. His exact sentence was soft. He served no time, and paid no fine.

("He was convicted in a jury trial of contempt of Congress in March 1961, and sentenced to ten one-year terms in jail — to be served simultaneously, but in May 1962 an appeals court ruled the indictment to be flawed and overturned his conviction." ~ Wikipedia)

"Who wouldn't be locked up today?" L. A. Norma asked. "Even our scrubwoman holds today's Congress Critters in contempt!"



A black and white photograph of a business sign for Wilson Bourg Lumber. The sign is framed by decorative scrollwork. The top part reads "Wilson Bourg" and "LUMBER" in large letters. Below that, it says "and Building Supply Renovation Materials". Underneath, it provides address and contact information: "2737 North Peters Street at St. Ferdinand 947-6678 or 947-6679 Monday-Friday 7:30 - 4:00 Saturday 8:00 - 1:00". At the bottom, it lists payment methods accepted: "Visa, Mastercard, AmEx, Discover Accepted". It also mentions "Closest Lumberyard to the French Quarter - Best Weatherboard prices in town!" and "Free delivery in the Bywater-Marigny area with \$150 minimum order". There are three small icons at the bottom: a bear, a truck with "FREE DELIVERY" on it, and a person working on a ladder.

Seeger got fewer gigs after HUAC. And less radio time. Television was new and mattered little. Ironically it later played a huge role in bringing Seeger back on stage ~ more on that in a moment.

The next few years he spent almost camping in a log cabin without running water or electricity that he built near Beacon, in New York's Hudson Valley.

For Every Season

A few generations later, Seeger lost his signature instrument, a long-neck banjo he had designed and built in 1945. It was made to accommodate his long arms and vast voice and set a new standard for banjos that came to be known as The Pete Seeger Banjo.

The lost banjo was found near Seeger's upstate home, in the case he'd painted with his name and phone number. It had fallen from the roof of his car and was sitting poetically alongside a state roadway.

"Waiting for Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger to catch up,"

L. A. Norma said.

The young man who found and returned it told reporters that he did not know who Seeger was.

Some years before that, Pete and his wife, Toshi were in New Orleans for an earlier Jazz Fest, and staying in the Faubourg Marigny home of the late Shirley Jensen, across from Washington Park. It was my good fortune to interview and photograph him and his long-neck twelve-string guitar.

Afterwards, we walked back to Squalor Heights, my garret apartment, to hear Sweet Emma Barrett records. Seeger loved her cover of Jelly Roll Blues, "I Ain't Gonna Give Nobody None of My Jellyroll," available through George H. Buck Records ("Sweet Emma Barrett and Her New Orleans Music," GHB-141). Later Seeger wrote about her in *Sing Out!*, the sixty-year-plus folk song magazine publishing still today, where he wrote the column, "Appleseed."

That day, on our way to Squalor Heights, Seeger wore a Medieval looking cap with a long peacock feather that dipped and bobbed behind us as he stepped his long body across Faubourg Marigny curbs and stoops. I was thrilled and wondered if anyone seeing us would recognize I was walking in the company of the great Pete Seeger.

continued on page 11

Swamp continued from page 10

Our Sails Grow Distant

In New York City that following Fall, a New York University student on a downtown subway listened to my gush about lunch with Pete Seeger ~ we met on Fifty Seventh Street for crab cakes and tofu ice cream! I was on my way back to the East Village, and the student was showing this out-of-towner where to get off. He listened politely to our boast of touching greatness, then said, "I don't know who Pete Seeger is."

One thing Seeger is/was is political, in the candid way of a troubadour. His early days were spent roaming America with Woody Guthrie, whose own guitar famously boasted his slogan: "This Machine Kills Fascists." Guthrie wrote and sang significant songs, like "This Land Is Your Land." Both men were union supporters and candidates to someday lock horns with reactionary Washington Congress Critters.

'It's America, I have a right to think anything I want, but I don't have to discuss it unless I want to.'

In the 1950s, Seeger's group, The Weavers, had enormous record sales and radio play. Their first Billboard hit was "On Top of Old Smokey," with perennial Gulf Coast favorite, Shrimp Boats are Coming on the backside. That was followed by "Goodnight, Irene," written by Texas / Louisiana prisoner, Leadbelly. The Weavers' cover of "Irene" stood as the nation's number-one Billboard hit for thirteen weeks. Seeger is also said by many — though not by him — to have written the civil rights anthem We Shall Overcome.

"All that I did was change 'will' to 'shall', " he told us, that first Jazz Fest day in New Orleans.

In Washington, the House UnAmerican Activities Committee charged Seeger with contempt of congress for not telling them his thoughts. An odd situation, given

that Seeger was a man who spent his entire life telling the world what he thought.

The resulting smear led Seeger to being banned from music clubs and over the air. Fear spread worry that the smear might smudge them, too, and their clubs and media might themselves be pushed off the national stage.

Seeger made his living during those days doing small gigs at mostly upstate New York camps for mostly New York City children. At our lunch, years later in Manhattan, we were stopped in every block by middle-aged handshakes from grateful former camp kids.

Seeger's media ban was lifted in 1967 with his appearance on the sometimes brave, sometimes compromised but always cutting-edge, trend-setting and important CBS Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour.

The Lafayette Story

Pete Seeger: "It was 1955, The House Committee on Un-American Activities had questioned me about my political beliefs, and I said,

'It's America, I have a right to think anything I want, but I don't have to discuss it unless I want to.'

"They said, 'That's not sufficient.'

"I had been asked to come down (to Lafayette) and sing some songs at a new little festival. They (festival organizers) said, 'Mr. Seeger, this evening we're going to have a little party, so you can hear some of our local music.'

"Well, at the door, they said, 'Pete Seeger, meet Congressman Edwin E. Willis'."

(Edwin Edwards Willis was the Louisiana Democrat, from nearby Arnaudville, who served as chair of the Un-American Activities Committee, 1963-69.)

"Well, he did a double-take, and I did, too.

"They said, 'Let's get some singing going,' and Willis glowered in the corner.

"Later, he (Willis) said, 'Mr. Seeger, it's a small world. How did you get here?'

"I said, 'Well, I was invited.'

"He said, 'Who invited you?'

"I said, 'The Chamber of Commerce.'

"Willis was not amused, or appeased. He said, 'Well, you're not welcome.'

"I went on to California. I didn't want to make trouble for anybody."



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Speaking Volumes

By Sara Jacobelli, Assistant Branch Manager, Alvar Library

Alvar's **Edible Book Festival** on April 2nd was a resounding success! The entries were colorful, creative, eye-catching and tasty. Titles included "Slaughterhouse Five," "The Hunger Games," "The Illustrated Old Possum," "Geronimo Stilton's Volcano of Fire," "The Gold French Fry by Donna Tartt," and "A Moveable Feast by Ernest Hemingway."

New Orleans poet and performer **Valentine Pierce** is conducting a five-part Poetry Workshop for beginning, intermediate, and advanced poets. Ms. Pierce will offer instruction and critiquing, as well as advice on reading and performing poetry. This free workshop is sponsored in part by a grant from **Poets & Writers**. Participants are encouraged, but not required, to attend all five sessions. You may sign up for the workshop at the Circulation Desk.

May sessions:

Saturday, May 7th

Saturday, May 14th

Saturday, May 21st

All sessions are from
1:30-4:00 pm.

Ms. Pierce and the workshop participants will read from their work at the last workshop on May 21st. Light refreshments will be served.

On Saturday, May 7th, we're going to have an all-ages, Zine Club show featuring Gland, which is an all lady punk band. The event will be held from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

On Thursday, May 19th, we'll be holding an **Every Child Ready to Read Workshop** for children and families at 5 pm. Refreshments will be provided.



Regular Programs at Alvar:

- Story Time for Littles: 0-5, Tuesdays, 11:00 am
- Story Time and Craft for Bigger Kids: 5 and up, Saturdays, 10:30 am
- Teen Activity, Saturdays, 2:00 pm
- Computer Tutoring, Thursdays, 11:00 am-1:00 pm
- Book Club: third Saturday of the month, May 21st, 3:00 pm
- Movie Night for Adults: date TBA
- (with popcorn, bring your own beverage) Movie: TBA

Local Author Birthdays:

Poppy Z. Brite, (also known as Billy Martin), was born May 25th, 1967, in New Orleans. Known mainly for writing horror/vampire novels such as Lost Souls and Drawing Blood, he has also written Wormwood: A Collection of Short Stories, the restaurant-themed novel Liquor, and a biography, Courtney Love: The Real Story.

"If you're a freelance writer and aren't used to being ignored, neglected, and generally given short shrift, you must not have been in the business very long."

~ Poppy Z. Brite

Walker Percy was born May 28th, 1916 in Birmingham, Alabama and was raised in Greenville, Mississippi. His novel The Moviegoer, earned the National Book Award for fiction in 1962. Other novels include Love in the Ruins and The Second Coming. Percy is also credited with discovering John Kennedy Toole, because Toole's mother Thelma dragged her late son's manuscript of A Confederacy of Dunces to his office and pleaded with him to read it. Percy moved to New Orleans in 1946 and fell in love with the city. He eventually settled in Covington.

"New Orleans is both intimately related to the South and yet in a real sense cut adrift not only from the South but from the rest of Louisiana, somewhat like Mont St. Michel awash at high tide." ~ Walker Percy

References:

Notable Biographies: <http://tinyurl.com/zb4vrlt>

Goodreads: <http://tinyurl.com/jqxpuw9>

Mississippi Writers & Musicians: <http://tinyurl.com/hjzywca>

Literary New Orleans: <http://tinyurl.com/zhynaua>

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# Marigny Green

By Deborah Oppenheim

I have been buying eggs at the Green Market from Peeps Farms LLC. They are delicious and not what I am used to paying for eggs. They have a sign at their booth that reads Non-GMO. This prompted me to learn more about why I was buying these eggs.

Since inception, there has been controversy over foods that have been labeled GMO, genetically modified organisms. The first product, slow-ripening tomatoes was placed in grocery stores in 1994. Research indicates that 75-80 percent pre-packaged food in the U.S. today contains genetically modified organisms. According to the Food and Drug Administration, GMOs

have been considered to be safe. That really means that the long term effects take a lot of time to evaluate. It is important to the consumer to know what is in food they are purchasing. However, the biotech lobby has succeeded in keeping most of the information from the consumer.

That is why the Non-GMO Project, a non-profit organization offers third party verification and labeling for non-GMO food and products. Their mission is to educate, build sources of non-GMO products and provide verified non-GMO choices. For a current list of the non-GMO verified product code spreadsheet, download

[www.nongmoproject.org](http://www.nongmoproject.org). Products will have the label NON-GMO Project Verified.

In the stores, products can also have the label USDA Organic. The National Organic Program is regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It requires the producers to follow approved methods in order to receive organic certification. The producers must prove that they are not using any products that are genetically modified as well as other specific requirements. For more information, read USDA's Organic 101 Blog.

The more transparency in labeling products will help promote a sustainable and safe food system. Check out these resources for more information:

[usda.gov/about-ams/programs-offices/national-organic-program](http://usda.gov/about-ams/programs-offices/national-organic-program)

[nongmoproject.org](http://nongmoproject.org)



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# Marigny Mosaic Artist works and teaches around the world

By Nicolas S. Lambert

For the last 25 years Laurel True of True Mosaics Studio, has made beautiful mosaics in New Orleans, Oakland,

California and around the world — France, Chili, Argentina, Costa Rica, Mexico, East and West Africa, and long neglected Haiti, still suffering from the massive 2010 earthquake.

Currently working on a half-dozen large public projects internationally, and many others locally and nationally, Ms. True's objectives are to share her art, and the techniques required to produce it, with people throughout the world.

Trained by internationally recognized mosaic artist Isaiah Zagar in Philadelphia in the early 90's, before moving to Oakland, California, where she plied her trade and founded several businesses including the Institute of Mosaic Art, which she sold in 2010 (so she could move to New Orleans full time after splitting time between the two cities for four years.)

continued on page 17



Offering **hope** and providing **opportunity**  
for those most in need.

*Project Lazarus helps heal and empower people living with HIV/AIDS by focusing on wellness, providing housing and offering important support services.*



## Mosaic continued from page 10

Today, she is the driving force behind the Global Mosaic Project, a non-profit established to train youth, adults, trades people and artists around the world, paying particular attention to youth in Haiti. There, the project's focus is the facilitation and creation of community-based, participatory art in public spaces, hospitals and on the street with a special focus on professional development training and fostering well-being through creative expression.

Ms. True offers Mosaic Workshops from her studio, 2801 Chartres Street, when she's not globetrotting. Her next major workshop "Tools for Creative Place Making: Sculptural Mosaics," is in New Orleans October 10-16. Additional workshops are scheduled in France, Mexico and the Archie Bray Foundation event in Helena, Montana.

To see a stunning display of Ms. True's work with community participation (our black & white photo doesn't do it justice) see her couch in the Community Chess pocket park at the corner Mandeville and St. Claude, across from

KIPP/Colton School. Learn more at: [truemosiacs.com](http://truemosiacs.com), [globalmosaicproject.org](http://globalmosaicproject.org) and [info@truemosiacs.com](mailto:info@truemosiacs.com)

Recently, one of Ms. True's works in the Bywater section of St. Claude Avenue, was cited with a Stop Work Order from HDLC (Historic Districts Landmarks Commission,) for not having a "Mural Permit." FMIA has a good reputation for reporting work done with no permits (at least we have a good reputation for something,) the coverage of our precious Historic District by graffiti vandalism, seems to have strangled much of our Cityscape. Neighbors First for Bywater have taken up Ms. True's cause, and with help from FMIA, will be advocating for her upcoming appearances before the Architectural Review Committee, and then the full HDLC Commission on June 2, 2016.

So how can we advocate for art without prosecuting the vandals in our midst? There is more discussion on that topic in this issue of Les Amis de Marigny.

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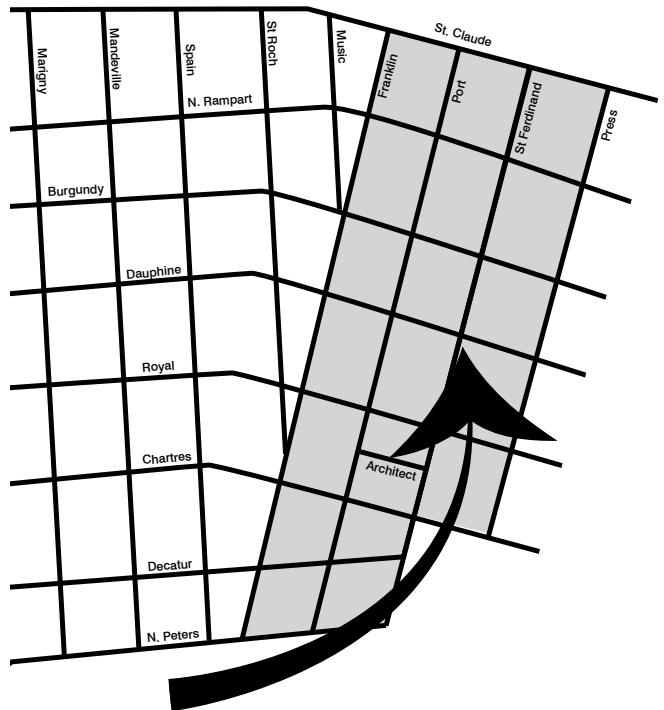
# FMIA 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Home Tour

Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>  
Noon to 4 p.m.

This year in the Rectangle from Franklin Avenue to Press Street, St. Claude to the River.

**Don't Miss it!**

Email [info@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:info@faubourgmarigny.org) to volunteer your time for our community's showcase event.



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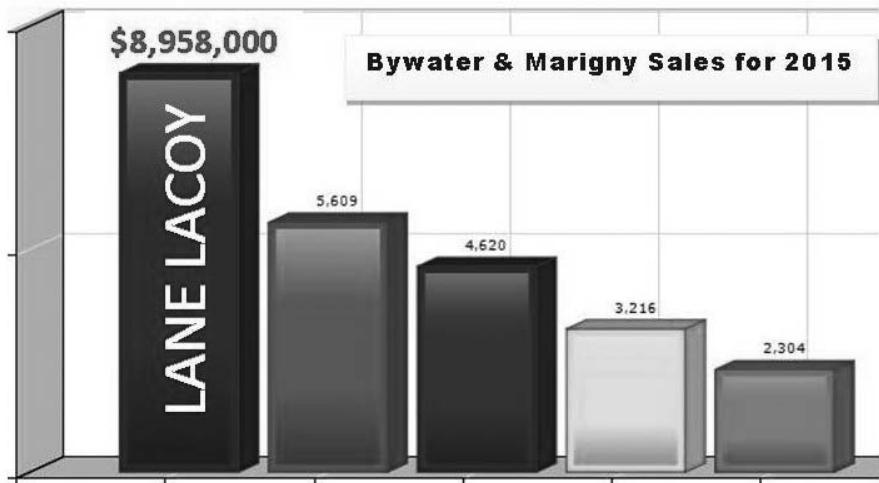
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