

# SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 55, ISSUE 1

*Serving the Smoke Rise Community since 1968*

April, 2022

www.smokesignalnews.com



*The Smoke Signal Staff wishes our neighbors a very Happy Easter and a Blessed Passover!*

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### \*\*\* Take Care of Mother Earth \*\*\*

The Smoke Signal Staff reminds you:  
Earth Day is April 22 – marking the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970.

National Arbor Day is April 29 - the 150th anniversary of the tree planter's holiday

Georgia Arbor Day is celebrated on the third Friday of February (during planting season).



*Ribbon cutting for new season of paving starting in Tucker*



### **Promises Kept**

*By Gaye Auman, First Lady of Tucker*

Two years ago, a friend, Laura Smith, and I stood on the old Sears property and looked at a tall, scraggly ginkgo tree. The property had been bought and the old buildings were soon to be demolished. But what would happen to the ginkgo? (I'd had a love affair with ginkgo trees since childhood, playing underneath those glowing golden leaves outside my Nana's apartment in Virginia-Highland.)

Laura and I went directly to the Mayor (who happens to be my husband) and told him to save that tree! Frank put us in contact with Branch properties, the developer for the new Hugh Howell Marketplace. Branch management came to Tucker and met with us on the property to research the mighty ginkgo. We soon discovered our beloved tree was diseased and would not be able to be saved. So sadly, the tree would be removed.

But our story doesn't end there.

Branch Property made a promise to the Mayor. Frank told them "within two years, he wanted the landscape to look very mature, as if it had been there a long time." Branch landscape architect AJ Cunningham developed a plan using 24 varieties of trees to provide visual interest, screening, color and overstory to combat heat from the parking lot pavement. More than 300 mature trees were planted on the property. Branch actually planted more trees than they removed. Maples, Oaks, Redbuds, Service Berries, Magnolias, Hollies and Cedars fill the landscape, and ginkgos! As a promise to me, they not only replaced the one ginkgo, they planted SIXTEEN ginkgo trees to line both entry points from Mountain Industrial Boulevard and Hugh Howell Road. In addition, there are installing a Princeton Century Ginkgo tree at the Park Plaza on the corner of the property.

Take a stroll around, and through, the Marketplace. I hope you'll be as pleased as I am with the new tree canopy. And just maybe, you'll join Laura and me in the fall, playing in the golden ginkgo leaves!

### **Smoke Rise Civic Association Update**

*By Michael J. Huerkamp, SRCA President*



The Smoke Rise Civic Association (SRCA) annual membership renewal campaign mailing was distributed via the USPS in early March. We are grateful to those who responded and invested in Smoke Rise. For our members, and particularly those that may be on the fence uncertain of supporting the association, this article focuses on the synopsis of the SRCA calendar year 2021 finances. Relative to the start of the year, the SRCA ran a deficit of \$5,912.89 for calendar year 2021.

Balance, 1/1/2021....\$42,333.42  
Dues, income, and donations...\$25,854.99  
Expenses...\$31,767.88  
Balance, 12/31/2021...\$36,420.53

The association's expenses in rank order from greatest to least were landscaping with related electrical and irrigation (\$14,825); donations to Smoke Rise Elementary School (\$6,000), Bill Rosenfeld Park (\$350.00 donated directly from board members), THS Foundation golf tournament (\$250), and Smoke Rise Sharks (\$250); insurance (\$4,848); operating expenses including website and postal charges (\$3,463); and utilities, maintenance, and property taxes for the community garden (\$1,782).

Analysis shows that 74% of expenses were invested directly and tangibly in the neighborhood and in having a great elementary school, and the remaining 26% were to operate with mandatory insurance. As the operating costs are mostly fixed and are expected to decline with changes in our website subscription costs, increased income from members would go wholly to tangible benefits of landscaping at more chimneys and greater investment to benefit the schools and our community. For our donors, 100% of payments to SRCA are tax-deductible under our status since 2018 as a 501(c)3 charitable organization. Your all-volunteer board is not compensated. Anna Ogletree provided the data and assisted with this report.



## Smoke Signal

P.O. Box 763, Tucker, GA 30085

A non-profit service organization devoted to furthering neighborhood cooperation with the aid of good neighborhood communication.

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### Preferred Formats for Smoke Signal Submissions

When sending articles and photos to the *Smoke Signal*, it is helpful if articles could be sent in .doc or .docx format. Articles sent in .pdf format cannot be edited or changed in any way. Also photos sent in .jpg format can easily be opened and formatted to fit a particular space, so that is also a preferred method. Thanks for helping us make your neighborhood paper the best it can be!

Digital copies of the *Smoke Signal* are posted to the archives at [www.smokesignalnews.com](http://www.smokesignalnews.com).

You can also visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/SmokeSignalNews](http://www.facebook.com/SmokeSignalNews) to view postings of newsletter pictures and stories throughout the month.

## Smoke Signal Deadlines

### APRIL 13

Please e-mail articles to:  
**staff@smokesignalnews.com**

(Word documents or text file attachments preferred)  
 PLEASE DO NOT SEND CLASSIFIED ADS TO THIS E-MAIL ADDRESS

Extra copies may be picked up at  
**The Smoke Rise Community Garden on Hugh Howell Rd.**

Deadline for classified ads is **APRIL 10**

### SMOKE SIGNAL FLYER INSERT POLICY

Cost: \$150 by check to *Smoke Signal*  
 Deadline to Receive: 6:00 p.m. on 19th of month  
 Flyer inserts should be 8 1/2" x 11" (flat, not folded)  
 Please provide 2,300 copies  
 Reservation Required:  
 Contact Barbara Luton, (770) 491-6711 by 15th of month.

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### GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club

salutes its members for their dedication to community service:

*13,069 volunteer hours  
 \$49,400 funds donated  
 \$29,293 value of goods donated*

*In support of organizations and individuals in Stone Mountain, Tucker, and the greater East Metro area.*

<https://www.stone-mountainwomansclub.org>

### ATTENTION GRADUATES, NEWLYWEDS, AND HONOREES

Please send in your picture and a brief article for publication in the *Smoke Signal*.  
 Email submissions to [staff@smokesignalnews.com](mailto:staff@smokesignalnews.com)



### DID YOUR PAPER GET WET?

EXTRA COPIES OF THE SMOKE SIGNAL ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE COMMUNITY GARDEN  
 Look for the wooden box labeled *Smoke Signal*.



### ATTENTION ADVERTISERS:

The *Smoke Signal* has reached its ad-space limit and we are now keeping a waiting list for future advertisements.

Please send your ad-size requests to Frank Luton, [luton@mindspring.com](mailto:luton@mindspring.com), and your ads will be included as space becomes available, in the order requests are received.

## Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Connecting in New Ways During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dr. Chris George: Senior Pastor  
 Bart McNeil: Associate Pastor of Administration, Ministry Support and Congregational Care  
 Becky Caswell-Speight: Minister of Families, Faith Formation and Connection  
 Jim Smith: Pastoral Care Associate  
 Amanda Coe Burton: Ministry Director for Children and Families  
 Harrison Litzell: Co-Director of Weekday School  
 Stacey McNeil: Co-Director of Weekday School  
 Telephone: (770) 469-5856  
[SmokeRiseBaptist.org](http://SmokeRiseBaptist.org)

### SUNDAY

9:45 a.m. Attend Sunday School through Zoom or In-Person  
 Schedule Available at [smokerisebaptist.org/streamingatsmokerise/](http://smokerisebaptist.org/streamingatsmokerise/)

11:00 a.m. Attend Worship via Live Stream or In-Person  
 Live Stream Available at [smokerisebaptist.org/streamingatsmokerise/](http://smokerisebaptist.org/streamingatsmokerise/)

5:00 p.m. Children and Youth Activities In-Person

### MONDAY

7:00 p.m. Journeys Racial Justice Study Group  
 Zoom or In-Person

Schedule Available at [smokerisebaptist.org/journeys/](http://smokerisebaptist.org/journeys/)

### WEDNESDAY

5:00 p.m. Dinner  
 6:00 p.m. In-Person Programing for all ages, join the Adult Bible Study via Live Stream

Live Stream at [smokerisebaptist.org/wednesday-evening-activities/](http://smokerisebaptist.org/wednesday-evening-activities/)

## Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Pastor ~ Rev. J. Caleb Clarke III  
 Director of Spiritual Formation ~ Jeanine Fulton  
 Director of Family & Outreach ~ Mark Sauls  
 Interim Director of Music ~ Ben Holcomb  
 Organist ~ Carole Mitchell  
 Financial Coordinator ~ Jan Zababar  
 Director of Weekday Ministries ~ Celeste Sears  
 Office Coordinator ~ Christina Wetzel-Sizemore

5801 Hugh Howell Road ~ Stone Mountain, GA 30087  
 770-469-4881 ~ [www.eastminster.us](http://www.eastminster.us)

April 10th Palm Sunday (In-Person and Streamed Live)

Adult study at 9:15 AM & Children's study at 9:30 AM

Passion Sunday Service at 10:30 AM

April 13th Wednesday Night

Dinner (by RSVP only) at 5:30 PM & Program at 6:30PM

April 14th Maundy Thursday (In-Person Only in Founders Hall)

Dinner at 5:30 PM (by RSVP only)

Contemporary Fireside Service 6:30 PM

April 15th Good Friday - Virtual Only Service (see our website)

April 17th Easter Sunday

Family Program & Breakfast at 9:15 AM

Easter Celebration Service at 10:30 AM - (In-Person and Streamed Live)

Sunday School Zooms and streaming information can be found on our website at <https://www.eastminster.us/sundays>.

## MC3 Church

Senior Minister: Art Stansberry  
 Outreach and Family Life Minister: Gerardo Mancilla  
 (770) 783-1035 ~ [www.mc3.life](http://www.mc3.life)  
 4415 Stone Mountain Hwy., Lilburn, GA 30047

Sunday Schedule\*:

8:30 a.m. Coffee and donuts  
 9:00 am. Worship service (in person and online)

\*Worship time will move to 10 a.m. beginning on Sundays in March.

Life groups throughout the week  
 check out our website for times and addresses.

Business Address and Hours: 1316 Rockbridge Rd, Suite M  
 Stone Mountain, GA 30087  
 Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Mailing Address: 1227 Rockbridge Rd., SW, STE 208-251  
 Stone Mountain, GA 30087

## First Moravian Church

Pastor: Rev. Elroy Christopher  
 Congregational Acolyte: Bill Hitz  
 (770) 491-7250, (770) 755-8289  
[www.gamoravian.org](http://www.gamoravian.org)

Sundays: 10:00 a.m. Sunday School-Adults & Children  
 11:00 a.m. Worship  
 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time

## Incarnate Word Lutheran Church

Please join us for worship on Sundays at 8:45 a.m.  
 at the First Moravian Church sanctuary  
 4950 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain, GA 30087

## Mountain West Church

Pastor: Mo Huggins  
 (770) 491-0228 ~ [www.mwchurch.com](http://www.mwchurch.com)  
 4818 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain  
 Sunday Services: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  
 Thursday Neighborhood Bible Study with Pastor Mo: 10:00 a.m.  
*All Welcome!*  
 In-person and streaming online on Facebook and [mwchurch.com](http://mwchurch.com)

**Main Street Theatre Performs 'Laughing Stock'**  
**April 22 - May 7 at Tucker Recreation Center**

In the light comedy, "Laughing Stock," everything that can go wrong does go wrong, from outrageous auditions to disastrous opening nights.

Tucker's Main Street Theatre presents the Charles Morey play at the Tucker Recreation Center, 4898 LaVista Rd., Tucker, the weekends of April 22-24, April 29 - May 1 and May 6 and 7.

A play within a play, the story takes place at a rural New Hampshire summer stock theatre that has scheduled a repertory season of "Dracula," "Hamlet" and "Charley's Aunt." But as the season progresses, it becomes obvious that the well-intentioned company is clearly — and comically — over-matched.

"'Laughing Stock' is a very funny play and a heart-warming homage to the theatrical arts," says director Bob Winstead. "Audiences will get a sneak peek into the challenges of putting on a play — and also what happens when things don't go quite as planned."

Laughing Stock's large ensemble cast is composed of Rick Adams, Tijuana Agnew, Charles Bohanan, Sabrina Chambers, Drew Crecente, Ross DeMocko, Tanya Gilmer, Evan Greene, Katie Green, JR Langwell, Jonn McDaniel, Sharyn McHenry, Perry McWilliams and Kenya Andrew.

"Community theatre gives audiences the chance to see plays they might not get to see in a professional setting," Winstead notes. From an actor's perspective, "you have to do the same work as a Broadway actor, memorizing the same lines, learning the same or similar blocking, delivering compelling dialogue with other talented actors and diving deep into the psychology of your character along with the physical demands of playing a role from beginning to end, without a safety net, night after night."

Showtimes for the Friday and Saturday performances are 7:30 p.m., and on Sundays, 2:30 p.m. Tickets are required. (Seniors, students and children do receive a discount.)

Masks are optional, subject to CDC guidelines. Seating capacity has been reduced to 100 audience members per show to facilitate social distancing. Concessions that can be consumed outside the theatre will be available.

For tickets and more information, please visit [www.mainstreettheatre.org](http://www.mainstreettheatre.org).

**Art of Nature Garden Tour** *By Barbara Luton*

The GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club will present the Art of Nature Garden Tour on Saturday, May 21. Please plan to tour between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

The tour will feature six gardens in our Smoke Rise area. Spring plants, water features and natural elements will be featured in the designs of the garden. Garden tour tickets are \$25.00 and available from members of the Woman's Club or online at [www.stonemountainwomensclub.org](http://www.stonemountainwomensclub.org).

GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's club is recognized throughout the state for its volunteer activities. Last year, the 64 members donated 9,673 volunteer hours, gave \$18,437 in monetary donations and gave \$16,108 in donations of goods.

Money earned from the garden tour will go back into the community through the charitable organizations that we support, including Side by Side Brain Injury Clubhouse, Ronald McDonald House, local schools, domestic violence shelters, the arts community, veterans, and disaster relief.

**Georgia Iris Society Meeting**

Saturday, April 9, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.  
 St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church  
 1790 Lavista Road, NE  
 Atlanta, GA 30329

Ken Duke, Georgia Iris Society member and Landscape Design Professional will present "Preparing your Iris for the April 2022 Show."

Meetings are free to the public! All are welcome to join in the education, beautification, and recreation.

For more information, contact Quill Duncan at (770) 414-4766.

**Georgia Iris Society Iris Show**

"The Iris Forecast" is the theme for the Annual Georgia Iris Society Iris Show to be held on Saturday, April 30, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church 1790 Lavista Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30329.

Admission to the show is free and all are welcome. 100+ potted iris will be for sale.

For more information, contact Quill Duncan at (770) 414-4766

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**ARBITRAITOR:**  
*A cook that leaves Arby's to work at McDonald's*

**AVOIDABLE:** *What a bullfighter tries to do.*

**RUBBERNECK:** *What you do to relax your wife*

**PARASITES:** *What you see from the Eiffel Tower*

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*We'd Enjoy Connecting With Our Smoke Rise Neighbors.*

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**April is Poetry Month**

by Victoria R. Crosby

“Oh to be in England now that April’s there,” to quote poet Robert Browning. You are invited to join me, Victoria Crosby, for a little bit of England, at the Smoke Rise Country Club April 14 at 3:00 p.m. for Afternoon Tea and Poetry.

A traditional British afternoon tea consists of cups of tea served with small sandwiches, with no crusts, followed by small, sweet pastries. Just enough of a midafternoon snack, but not too much to spoil dinner.

In April, we celebrate Poetry Month, Earth Day and Arbor Day, as we welcome the blooms of Spring.

You may have read some of my poems in the Smoke Signal, the DeKalb Our Town or on social media. Some of my poetry books are available at the Art Station gift shop. It was an honor to have my Black History Month poem included on the City of Tucker website.

Since I grew up in England and was exposed to children’s nursery rhymes and British poets, I write mostly in rhyming verse, poems that are humorous and inspirational. Sometimes, if I hear or read a good joke, I will retell that story in rhyming verse. Some of them are a little naughty, or as one of my friends put it, bawdy!

I also write poems about my local community and sometimes world events. I was Poet Laureate of The City of Glen Cove, Long Island, New York, for more than 25 years. Some people have recognized that my email name, PoeticVic is an anagram for Civic Poet!

Afternoon Tea and Poetry is from 3:00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. and is open to everyone; members and non-members. Tickets are required. Seating is limited.

You may wear a hat or fascinator if you wish, and bring your own favorite teacup to use. If not, cups will be provided.

SRCC is located at 4900 Chedworth Drive.. For more information, or to RSVP; call (770) 908-2582 or email Michelle at mbroadwater@smokerisecc.com.



**Swim Team Registration Now Open**

Summer is quickly approaching, and the Smoke Rise Sharks Board Members are very excited for the upcoming season.

Registration opens April 1. Get more information on the Smoke Rise Sharks Swim Team registration, practice dates/locations and other updates on the new website; <https://smokerisesharks.swim-team.us/>

Meets will be held on Tuesday 5/31, 6/7, 6/14, 6/21, and Monday 6/27. The 2022 Championship Meet will be at Georgia Tech 6/29 – 7/2 (exact days/times TBD).

**BIG Things are Happening at Smoke Rise Country Club** By Susan Gilbert

You may be wondering what’s up with the nearly constant parade of trucks, trailers, and contractors’ vehicles driving down Chedworth Drive toward Smoke Rise Country Club? Over the coming months, you are going to be seeing a lot of activity as movies are filmed on the club property and as a major renovation takes place.

One movie is being filmed at the club in March and others will be shot later this year. With Atlanta becoming such a movie mecca, crews love the 175-acre property with its rolling hills and almost no homes visible to obstruct the view of trees and manicured greens.

The other BIG news from the club is the new era launched on February 27, when more than 200 members attended a presentation of SRCC Vision 2.0. Opening remarks by Chairman, Geoff Weirich were followed by invigorating words from incoming Chairman, Art Wood. The presentation included what V 2.0 will deliver, including:

1. Addressing the aging infrastructure of the Clubhouse, facilities, and golf course,
2. Elevating the consistency of service and quality in the dining experience,
3. Enhancing offerings including member events, fitness classes, and pickleball,
4. Expanding programming for younger families and children,
5. Enhance casual dining offerings at Clubhouse, Tennis, and Pool areas.

There will be a small dues increase, and there will be major increases in initiation fees as the various projects get completed, making now a great time to join! Members have already raised half of the budgeted project funding, and fundraising is still underway.

If you have interest in joining or becoming an owner in the club, talk to Paul Carey, General Manager, or one of his staff to get more information. [pcarey@smokerisecc.com](mailto:pcarey@smokerisecc.com)



Jody Purser  
*owner*

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**Olivia Thomason's Fine Art Brings Life to Nostalgic Americana  
In the ART Station Galleries through May 22**



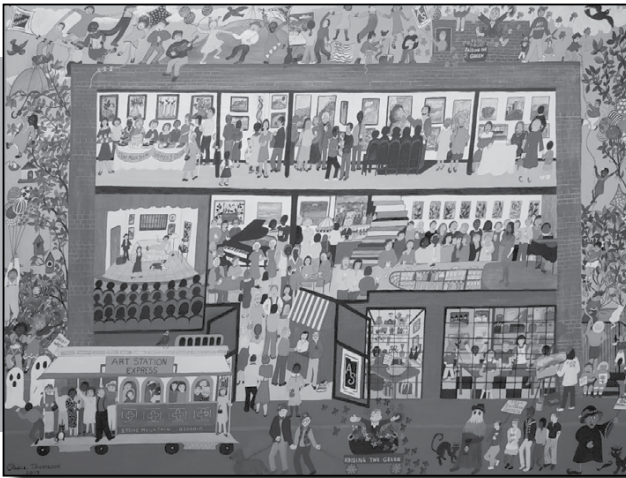
*By Robby Owenby, Guest Services and Marketing Manager, ART Station*

A native of Hendersonville, North Carolina, owner of "The Primitive Eye" art gallery in Decatur, and award winning artist, Olivia Thomason is showing her work at ART Station Contemporary Arts Center and Theatre in Stone Mountain. Her work will remain on display through March 22, 2022.

Thomason's work is a stunning example of Southern Americana at its finest. Each of her pieces reflects on specific moments in time, iconic places, or perhaps most interestingly, the feelings that emerge when our memories of yesteryear resurface. Bruce Shelton, one of Tennessee's highly respected art collectors and critics has praised her work as "some of the best examples of memory painting we have today."

For many years now, Thomason has called Stone Mountain home and has continued her work right here in our backyard. She has created murals, her pieces are featured in numerous public and private collections across the country, and her gallery has been awarded the title of "Gallery of the Year" on numerous occasions by multiple publications. One of her most beloved pieces "Angels over Atlanta" commemorates the glory days of our Atlanta Braves and their World Series win in 1995.

Plan your visit to ART Station today! Gallery admission is free and open to the public Tuesday-Friday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Saturday 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. For ticket info on upcoming plays and other events, go online to: ARTStation.org or call (770) 469-1105.



*(A Day in the World of ART Station)*



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**Out the Window**

by Beth Henson

Spring was finally upon us with its pleasant, warm days but still cool evenings. The yard had become an explosion of color with graceful, cascading yellow bells and varieties of pink, purple and fuchsia azaleas bordering the small ravine that transversed the front lot. As I surveyed my happy kingdom out the window, I noticed Squeaky (one of my resident squirrels) and several of his buddies were busily frolicking on the front lawn, checking for their hidden treasure buried last fall. Suddenly, I noticed something unusual in the playful group. To my amazement, one of the happy playmates was much smaller, and had a bright red coat. Had he somehow fallen victim to the staining Georgia red clay? And what about his small size? Grabbing my trusty birding binoculars to get a closer look, I noticed his fiery fur was shiny and pristine and he had a creamy, white underbelly. Not a speck of mud to be found. It seems I had come upon my first American Red Squirrel! Normally living nearer the mountains in the conifer (cone bearing) trees, this mini-forest squirrel had obviously decided to travel to town to make a home among my stately pine trees.



Welcome to the city, little one. I'm glad Squeaky and his friends included you in their gang.

**techtalk** by Susan Gilbert

*A Wearable Garden*

While visiting an art festival in Sarasota last month, one booth with colorful silk scarves blowing in the wind caught my eye. As I stepped into the tented area and spoke with the artist, Kathleen Lang, I was struck by the natural beauty of how she was making a new scarf. The whole process was intriguing.

She had spread a finely woven solid-white silk scarf on a long table and sprinkled it with green leaves, bright red berries, brown twigs and other items she collected on a nature walk. She then rolled it up snugly around a wooden stick and bound it tightly with twine. Doing that held all the colorful materials in place while she simmered it in hot water causing leaves, berries, and wood to bleed their various colors onto the silk. After some time, she unwound the twine and unrolled the scarf revealing the most beautiful, naturally colored scarf. Discarding the spent materials, she then rinsed the scarf and let it dry.



Kathleen calls her business The Wearable Garden, and if you would like to see her work or watch a video of her making the scarves, check out the website [TheWearableGarden.com](http://TheWearableGarden.com) where you can see a wide variety of her work along with pricing. Something like this might make a great gift for a gardener or nature lover. Like any piece of handmade artwork, they are not inexpensive, but with proper care, they will bring a lasting memory to the owner.

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**Spring**  
by Victoria R. Crosby

As the fertile earth yields  
to the warming orb of light  
the life force resumes its annual rite.  
It is wondrous feeling, warming, melting healing.  
Buds gently revealing  
the soft colors of their hearts.  
Birds returning joyfully, noisily,  
back from distant parts.  
Chirping early in the morn as the sun rises,  
a springtime day is born.  
Lying in the green grass gazing at the sky,  
watching clouds go drifting by,  
I can almost taste the freshness of the pleasant breeze  
as it transports the fragrance  
from the flowering trees.  
As the day grows warmer the perfumed blossoms swell  
the bees are intoxicated by their sweet, sweet smell.  
Feeling one with the universe lying here  
I may just stay until all the stars appear.

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## Honoring a Generous Man with a Passion for Trees

By Susan Gilbert

Dan and Ruth DeBow moved to their spacious split-level home on a large lot in Smoke Rise in 1972. Dan was a sales professional, covering the greater Atlanta area. Ruth held down the fort focused on raising their two children, Stephan and Vanessa. They both fell in love with Smoke Rise with its large, treed lots and beautiful rolling hills.

When he wasn't working, Dan's passions included gardening. His favorite tree was the Bloodgood Japanese Maple. He loved the beautiful colors of its leaves that start out purple in the spring, turn a deep burgundy in the summer, and crimson in the fall. Adding to their color variations, they take on a greenish tone during hot weather. The fine, feathery-look of the leaves, the beautiful round shape of its crown, and the fact they only grow to be about 20 feet in height made it the perfect tree for placing in a prime position near their mailbox at the driveway entrance. That position made it the first thing you see when coming to or going from their home, and what an impression it makes. An added advantage is these trees are extremely hearty, take little maintenance, and don't have to be pruned.

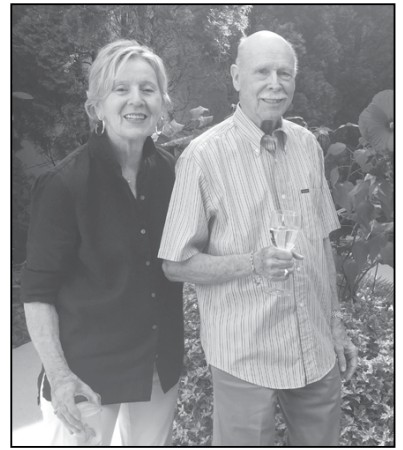
The "Mother Tree" was planted mid-80's, close to 40 years ago. Ruth calls it the Mother Tree because each year when it dropped seed pods, Dan collected them, sorted out the best ones, and planted them in pots where he nurtured them and got them started.

Many did grow creating a new dilemma: What to do with them?

In conversations with neighbors, he learned that many of them would love to have a tree like his in their yard, so problem solved! By the time Dan shared the maples, they were young trees. Over many years, Dan gave his seedlings to friends, neighbors, and family. If you look carefully as you drive around Smoke Rise, you will see the product of his passion. Besides the Mother Tree at the DeBow home at 4972 Mountclaire Road, there are three others on that street alone. More can be found in the Forest

and as far away as Buckhead and Canton.

Sadly, Dan passed away last year, leaving Ruth and their two children to enjoy the trees he treasured and so lovingly nurtured. Because this issue of the *Smoke Signal* is dedicated to trees in recognition of April 29 being Arbor Day, Ruth agreed to help with this article to share the story of Dan's legacy that lives on in Smoke Rise and beyond.



*Pictured here are Ruth and Dan DeBow visiting my garden that many of his other baby plants call home.*



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**HEALTH NOTES:**

By Patricia Baumann, MD

**Non-Surgical Pain Management**

The list of non-surgical options for pain management is long. Previously, I have described pain management with the appropriate use of hot and cold treatment, effective use of non-prescription pain medications, and the use of various knee injections for the control of pain and improvement in function.

Physical therapy is an important non-surgical pain treatment. I frequently prescribed physical therapy in my pain management practice, and for good reason: physical therapy's effectiveness in pain management has been documented by numerous studies. Physical therapy does require a physician's prescription. Often, when I prescribed physical therapy, patients would respond that they didn't need physical therapy, because they already got plenty of exercise. This is a common misunderstanding of physical therapy and its purpose.

Physical therapists diagnose pain arising from movement dysfunction. They analyze the painful structure, and the surrounding muscle, tendon and bone function. They evaluate patients and select exercises to strengthen and/or stretch the structures involved in creating and sustaining the pain. These targeted therapies are how physical therapy relieves pain and restores function.

Physical therapy is not the same as chiropractic, although some forms of chiropractic therapy may use some of the same principles. And then again, they may not. There is a wide variation in the practice and philosophy of practitioners. When my patients would ask about chiropractic, I would always ask about the therapy being done. If it was helpful, I was all for it!

Physical therapy is considered the first line of therapy for many painful conditions. In addition, most insurance companies will require a trial of physical therapy, before they will pay for other therapy. Your doctor has to document in the notes that physical therapy has failed. Then that note has to be submitted to the insurance company. Then, and only then, will the insurance company pay for more expensive, non-surgical intervention, such as injections and other therapy.

Another non-surgical pain management method is the use of prescription drugs. If over-the-counter medication has failed, prescription medication may be added. There is a wide range of non-narcotic prescription pain medication. These can be as effective as narcotics, and should be used before narcotics are used, or along with narcotics to effectively control pain. It is important to remember that different types of meds have different mechanisms of action. Using a combination of different types of pain medicine has synergistic effect, meaning each drug helps the other to work better. That also means the effective dose is lower. You can take less medicine, have fewer side effects, and still relieve your pain. Another important concept to remember about medication is that if you take it, and it doesn't relieve your pain, that does not mean the drug does not work. It may mean the dose needs to be increased. Titrating meds to find the effective dose is an important part of non-surgical pain management. Pain medication like gabapentin (Neurontin) comes in 100mg, 300 mg, and 600mg because the effective dose varies so widely. Higher doses are required for people who metabolize the drug faster, or for people with higher levels of pain. Finding the effective dose requires that you communicate and collaborate with your physician.

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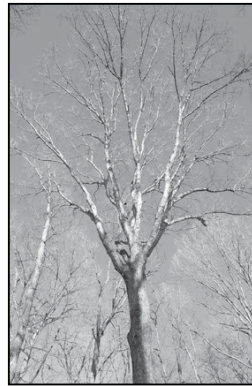


**NEWS YOU CAN USE** by Aviva Hoffmann

**Establishing Roots in Smoke Rise**

During April, we celebrate both Earth Day and National Arbor Day. And, you may have noticed a slight theme regarding nature and trees in this month's edition of the Smoke Signal. I'm grateful my husband and I decided more than two decades ago to put down roots in this picturesque, wooded countryside known as Smoke Rise. We truly live in a forest of beautiful trees, flowers, and wildlife – yet we're not far from the concrete jungle that is Metropolitan Atlanta.

Our local leaders in the City of Tucker also agree our trees are a pretty big deal. In fact, our elected officials passed ordinances early on that deal directly with trees. "The City of Tucker Mayor and city council hereby finds that the preservation of existing trees is a public purpose that protects the public health, safety, general welfare and aesthetics of the City of Tucker and all its citizens." (Land Development Ordinance adopted, July 11, 2016)



With all this praise about our area trees, it must be mentioned there are times when trees need to be removed. There are regulations regarding tree removal in Tucker. Dead, diseased, insect infested, or hazardous trees may be removed at any time. (The condition of the tree(s) should be determined by a certified arborist.) Other types of tree removal, other than small saplings, will require a permit with the City of Tucker. Check out the city's website for details. [Tuckerga.gov](http://Tuckerga.gov) (search "trees")

If you are going to cut down a healthy specimen tree, you'll need a permit for that too. Additionally, you'll need a permit, if you are a homeowner intending to remove more than five (5) non-specimen trees on your property per calendar year. Be sure to check with the City of Tucker, if you need to apply for a permit or have additional questions

about what the standards are for the identification, preservation, and protection of specimen trees. The permits are obtained by you or your contractor and help to protect you, making sure that the contractor has the appropriate insurance etc.

The City of Tucker defines a tree as "any living, self-supporting, woody perennial plant which has a trunk caliper of two (2) inches or more measured at a point six (6) inches above the ground and which normally attains a height of at least ten (10) feet at maturity usually with one (1) main stem or trunk and many branches."

Owners who cut down trees without a permit may be subject to fines or tree replacement. This is because trees are so important to our environment and quality of life - from the oxygen we breathe to the temperature of the air.

The Georgia Urban Forest Council is a great resource to help you keep your plants and trees thriving. Check out the website at: [urbanforestrysouth.org](http://urbanforestrysouth.org).

Another good site for tree information is: [www.treesaregood.org](http://www.treesaregood.org). Tree Removal Guidelines ([tuckerga.gov](http://tuckerga.gov)) [https://www.tuckerga.gov/departments/building\\_permitting/tree\\_removal\\_guidelines.php](https://www.tuckerga.gov/departments/building_permitting/tree_removal_guidelines.php)






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**Dudes on Food**

**Episode 11: Papi Ali's**

Wait. What!!! A plant-based restaurant with Southern and Latin influences in Tucker? We guess that many of you have walked past Papi Ali's, maybe looked at the menu, but didn't give it a shot. Well, you missed out for not stepping inside and trying it. So, the dudes finally made their way over to Mainstreet to check out the place for lunch. Spoiler alert!!! We were blown away.

A quick backstory. Chef Mikail Ali started with a food truck in 2020 to bring amazingly fresh food to underserved communities and a handful of outdoor events. Tucker is lucky enough to now be home to this unique restaurant. The place itself is quite small and has but a few two-top tables. So, it may not be the right place to show up, with a party of 10, for a fancy dinner. We're also not sure it would be our restaurant of choice for a romantic evening. But, certainly a winner to go grab some lunch or pick up something to go and entertain a vegetarian crowd with some awesome plant-based catering.

Not being all too familiar with vegetarian menus, it was a bit tough to decide what to get. If we didn't have a deadline, we'd probably have gone back two or three more times for a more in-depth look into the menu, revolving around, sandwiches and wraps, grain bowls and Papi Ali specials. Or, you can also build your own wraps, tacos, or bowls, choosing from a variety of proteins and constituents.

We finally opted for a "build your own Bowl" and the "Papi-rito" with the clever name. The steps to get your bowl just the way you want it are as follows: 1-The base, 2-the protein, 3-the toppings, 4-the sauces. We went with Quinoa as base, tried the Chipotle Jackfruit as the must-have protein, went crazy with beans, lettuce, tomatoes, slaw, roasted veggies, kale, and almonds for the topping, and brought it all home with Cilantro Pesto and Red Pepper Crema. The combination of all these fresh, mostly local ingredients, nicely presented in a bowl, was simply fantastic and stood out from some other plant-based options we have had elsewhere. The sweet, smoky flavor of the Chipotle Jackfruit (show of hands if Jackfruit is a staple in your diet) sets this bowl apart. We ordered a side of plantains just for good measure, perfectly sweet and excellent with really anything.

You all had a burrito before? Right? How about a Papi-Rito? When this thing hit the table, it seemed like the size of a VW Beetle. OK, we're overly dramatic, but this rollup was serious. A lightly toasted, somewhat flaky wrap, rolled perfectly around a lentil and walnut protein with garlic Aioli, lettuce, tomatoes, onion slaw, black beans, avocado slices, and a plant-based sort of queso. This thing was the proverbial bomb!!!! Take the word of an experienced burrito connoisseur; I'd put this one up against any meat-based burrito, and the odds for it are favorable, even if you are a carnivore.

The already impressive menu is supported by fresh-pressed juices and smoothies, with names like Pleasing Papaya, Orange Sunrise, and The Aztec. You know that goodness and smiles await. There is also a solid kid's menu. Of course, chef Mikail also has an awesome looking catering menu to dazzle your guests.

Don't take our word for it (but you should). While Sam Worley from the AJC says, "Amazingly Good!" we go further and call it an "Ambrosian Delight!" So next time you say to yourself, "we need to try Papi Ali's," make it happen. If you have already been, then you certainly know where we are coming from.

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*Have an idea or a suggestion for the dudes? We would love to hear from you. Send comments to staff@smokesignalnews.com. Thanks for tuning in! The Food Dudes*

**With Love to Our Loyal Best Friends, Our Dogs**

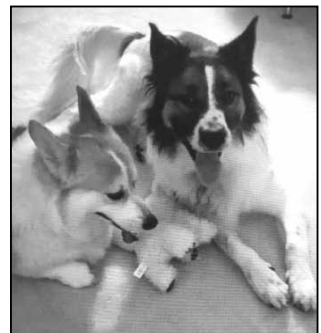
*By Barbara Bruschi*

This is a tribute to our loyal and loved dogs, no matter where they are in this amazing world of ours.

For centuries, dogs have formed an unbreakable bond with mankind. They serve in peace and war. While the bombs are raining down on the Ukrainian people and horrendous atrocities are being committed, they are bravely rescuing their pets. Dogs provide and serve in many capacities. During disasters, they help locate people buried under the rubble of buildings. Whenever there is danger in a warzone, they risk their lives to prevent explosives from killing soldiers. They also carry out many law enforcement operations, detecting drugs and apprehending criminals.

The benefits of our four-legged friends are many. They help fill the lives of many people, especially those living alone. Dogs help us increase mobility, reduce stress, loneliness, help us deal with crisis situations, and make us more social - as well as help us reduce heart attacks and give us a sense of security in their role as watch dogs. During COVID-19, many families adopted dogs, a great service to those dogs that are in a shelter and a very worthy cause.

Our last three dogs were Pembroke Welsh Corgis, after losing our precious Duke which came to us after my parents in-law moved to Florida. He could not tolerate the heat. He was without a doubt an amazing animal, almost perfection.



*Julietta and Dutch*

The only flaw Duke had was that every spring he would disappear for a three-day honeymoon period. A search party would ensue for those days. After he dragged back, we put him into veterinarian care, and he quickly recovered. He died in the night, after we returned from Houston, where my 37-year-old most beloved sister, died of complications from diabetes.

For many years on my previous visits to Houston, I admired her little Corgi, Wiggle. Her father in-law had a large cattle ranch. He had imported six Pembroke Welsh Corgis from England to be used as herding dogs. Mr. Parker had a bad fall from a horse and Stormy, his Corgi, ran one mile to find help. Corgis are very intelligent and deal well with crisis situations. They are independent, yet playful and extremely attached to their family members.

In my sister's memory, we decided to give three Corgis puppies a forever home. The first one was Pavi, short for Pavarotti. Like his namesake, he was rather statuesque and had a gourmet palate. He had a strong herding instinct and a tendency to nip people on the ankles when they left our house. Some of my drapes became the object of his affection. Pavi was rather cantankerous at the veterinarian clinic, and it was always a show to take him for his visits. He died at the age of 16 1/2 and was a great watchdog and a most loving and precious pet. He loved the ocean and enjoyed floating along in his little boat in the pool. Corgis are not too anxious to swim: however, they like to wade in the ocean.

Isabella, my little Corgi girl, was a beautiful, attentive, low maintenance dog. She was very special in every way. Like Pavi, she died at home and her ashes and footprints etched in stone are still being honored at home. Pavi's ashes floated out to sea to become part of the eternal ebb and tide circle.

Our last puppy, Julietta, came from South Carolina. From the beginning she was a quiet, devoted little pet. She loved everyone she ever met, whether people or other dogs. She was like a little Shakespearean Julietta - a little innocent, passionate dog. She had a boyfriend, Dutch, my

*...Continued on page 10*

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**Dogs...continued from page 9**

daughter's dog. They spent many happy hours together. She was a great companion and loved taking walks with my husband. Juilletta was a little shadow, ever present and eager to comfort. She was a great watch dog and always alarmed us to happenings around the house. Full of wonder for everything around her, she lived a very full and happy life. Whenever I was sick, she would be there to cheer me up, and every night, I told her that I loved her. It was how we ended our day, content, to look forward to a new dawn.

In November, on a Sunday, she was playing with Dutch when she suddenly died at the age of six in good health without warning. One minute she was here, then gone. It was a rather traumatic event. It also made us aware of the frailty of life and reminded us of what really matters and how to conduct our day-to-day interactions with those we come in contact with.

Now, as seniors, we are left with an empty house, nobody to greet us at the door and the heartache that still lingers. It has been suspected, not verified, that Juilletta died of EIC (exercise induced collapse), a genetic disease.

We have been in contact with the southeastern Corgi rescue team and our veterinarian to adopt an adult Corgi to be part of our family. We can give a dog all the love and attention it deserves. So far, the search has been unsuccessful.

Our pets, not only dogs, become our responsibility upon giving them a forever home, and the mutual partnership is something to treasure forever.

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**No Shame in Taking the Easier Route (Part 3 of 4)**

*By Joel Gilbert*

It was the second year of our marriage and the second family ski trip with my wife. She was excited that we were going to Snowmass, Colorado, her all-time favorite ski area. I once again took a lesson the first day just to be sure I got back into the rhythm of things, and on the second day, we skied the mountain together.

Susan had spent her first day "scouting" the best intermediate runs and was so excited to share her research. We started down the first run and things were going fine. Because I ski slower than almost anyone (remember, I don't like speed), she would naturally ski to the brow of the next hill and wait for me. But, when I caught up with her this time, I could tell by the look on her face that something was wrong.

She sheepishly said that this one seemed easier than it now looked. It was far steeper than anything I had skied before. She can fly down the slope... she is not afraid of speed, and her balance is instinctive. I side-stepped a few yards to the brow of the hill, looked down, and I think I blurted a phrase or two that don't deserve repeating.

As I caught my breath, I observed the landscape and considered my options. I watched skier after skier stop at the brow of the hill, look down, many expressing my same concerns, but all of them forging ahead bravely. That's because there was no alternative route. About half of them made it safely to the bottom. Watching the wipeouts was enough data-collection for me to know my odds. I told Susan I would see her at the bottom, and she watched anxiously to see how that would go. I then skied to the side edge of the trail, removed my skis, sat down, and slid gracefully to the bottom of the slippery slope on my butt.

Another group of novice skiers like me arrived at the brow of the hill and expressed concern about how they were going to get down it. They asked Susan, who was watching me slide down the hill on my bottom, "Is there another way down this hill?" She responded, pointing to me "Well, you could do what he is doing!"

They chose to ski it and did fine. I guess they either had more skill or more pride than I had. I met Susan at the bottom of the hill, reassembled my equipment, and we skied on for a lovely day.

One lesson I took away from this experience is, there is no shame in admitting you are in over your head. I knew that if I pressed on, I would likely fall, possibly hurt myself, and would certainly perform what skiers call a Yard Sale. That's where skis and poles all go in different directions strewn across the slope, and you have to crawl back up the slope to retrieve them.

Another lesson I took away is that sometimes, going the obvious route is not the only option. Thinking outside the box, and not accepting that you must do one thing or another to keep up appearances, is an alternative.

Stay tuned for the final issue in this four-part series, Going the Extra Mile.

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**Morning Glories Install New Officers for 2022-2024**

*By Quill Duncan*

Every other March, the Smoke Rise Morning Glories install new officers, to fill the key roles in the club. That is to say in a normal club cycle. President Joyce Ray served for three years, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and despite that challenge kept our club rolling along. During Joyce's term, we continued to find ways to serve the community at large. The club met via ZOOM for a number of meetings, due to the various restrictions. Once those restrictions were lifted, the club began to meet at the Smoke Rise Country Club.

During Joyce's tenure, the club donated toys and purses, created Christmas-themed décor at the historic Wells Brown House in Stone Mountain, sent holiday cards to Veterans, donated to Drop their Drawers to GA Regional Hospital patients, donated to Helping Mamas and to Wellroot, and helped many other civic and garden related organizations. We had educational



*Standing R to L: Janet McGinnis, Kim Fair, Glenndolyn Hallman, Joy Zaidan, Allison Reeves and Quill Duncan  
Seated R to L: Joyce Ray and Betty Curlee for Peggy Youngblood*

speakers and workshops and joined fellow garden clubs with Redbud District and DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs in their many activities.

Many thanks to Joyce Ray for her leadership and grace under pressure. President Janet McGinnis was installed by Joyce Ray at the March meeting, along with the following other officers:

1st VP Kim Fair, 2nd VP Glenndolyn Hallman, Recording Secretary Quill Duncan, Co-Corresponding Secretaries Allison Reeves and Peggy Youngblood, and Treasurer Joy Zaidan. Janet served as President in the club's early years, and has also served on the National Garden Club

Board, Garden Club of Georgia Board and as a former director of the Redbud District where she still serves as an advisor. Janet's love is floral design, and she plans to offer a club flower show as part of her term as President. Janet's creative spirit and fun outlook will keep the club hopping during her term. Congratulations to our officers!

As you can see in the photo, each officer is holding a small acrylic painting depicting a special flower. Joyce Ray painted the floral tributes and noted that each flower has special meaning for the office that each woman will hold. What a lovely treasure and how inspiring for each officer!

The April 12 meeting of the club will be held at Hall's Flower Shop and Garden Center at 5706 Memorial Drive Stone Mountain, GA 30083 at 10:00 a.m. The speaker will be owner Ken Hall who will provide a demonstration of new and tried-and-true plants for the garden. If you wish to join us on this field trip, please contact President, Janet McGinnis, at (404) 326-0530.



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**Mountain Mums**

*By Cheri Schneider*

The Mountain Mums March 9 meeting was held at Dr. Pat Bauman's home in Smoke Rise. The Mountain Mums held elections for the new 2022-2023 year, electing Co-Presidents – Rita Maloof and Gaye Auman, Vice President – Kathy Rhinehart, Treasurer – Lisa Armistead, Recording Secretary – Ann Purr, Corresponding Secretary – Connie Henry, and Parliamentarian – Jean Weathers.

Whit Whitmeyer of Shades of Green Permaculture, ([shadesofgreenpermaculture.com](http://shadesofgreenpermaculture.com)) spoke on creating a smart landscape that utilizes the natural characteristics of the land to plan its design. Soil characteristics, root length (varied is best), and sunlight conditions should be considered and intentionally used in the landscape.



*Mountain Mums' March Meeting Hostesses: Pat Baumann, Lynn Malone, Jean Weathers, Kelley Samaras & Connie Henry*

Oh, did you know that 85% of rainwater "sheds" off the lawn and does not soak in? On a slope, this means a lot of water is flowing downhill! Planting plants with various depths of roots will help hold the soil, will break up the ground/clay, and will allow air and nutrients to mix.

Whit also talked about planting a "rain garden." This type of garden consists of plants that do well when the landscape is dry, but also do well with lots of surface water. Again, planting plants with varied depth roots will help the water soak in and not "run through" and off the surface.

Permaculture design mimics nature. Recycling, regenerating, and recycling--- are part of the permaculture "culture." We all need more of this in our landscapes.

If you would like to come join a great, fun group of ladies in Smoke Rise, come to our next meeting: We meet on April 13 At 9:30 a.m. Our membership chairman, Mary Jacobson, will give you information. Her number is (770) 979-7848.

*Clever Words for Clever People:*  
**RELIEF:** *What trees do in the spring.*



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## Amen, Let's Eat!

by Joyce Ray



**SHRIMP!** Shrimp is a most versatile shellfish that can be the star of the dish or have a supporting role. Research shows that Shrimp is healthy, highly nutritious, and it is fairly low in calories and provides high amount of protein and healthy fat. Shrimp is packed with vitamins and minerals, including vitamin D, vitamin B3, zinc and iron. However, it should not be eaten raw, due to bacteria that might be present. One of the most basic Lowcountry shrimp dishes is Shrimp and Grits. When checking through many recipe books, I found that to truly earn the name of "Lowcountry," the dish MUST also contain some bacon, cheese and creamy grits. (Cooked with milk). This one has all that and more:

### Shrimp and Cheesy Grits with Bacon – serves 4

- 1 ½ cups chicken broth
- 1 ½ cups whole milk
- ¾ cups quick cooking grits – not instant
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1 cup raw bacon cut in pieces (about 6 strips)
- 2 tablespoons bacon drippings
- 1-pound uncooked medium shrimp, peeled and deveined
- ½ cup diced green onion
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1 Tablespoon Old Bay or other brand of seasoning

Bring chicken broth and milk to a boil over medium heat in large saucepan. Stir in grits and salt and return to a boil. Reduce heat to low. Cover and simmer grits until thick, stirring often (about 5 minutes). Add 1 cup cheddar cheese and stir until melted and well blended. Cover and keep warm. If using stone ground grits, refer to package for cooking time.

Cook bacon in a large skillet over medium heat until crisp, 8-10 minutes. Remove bacon and transfer to a bowl. Remove all but 2 Tablespoons drippings from skillet and add shrimp (in one layer) and onion to bacon drippings. Add 1 Tablespoon seasoning. Cook until shrimp are bright pink and begin to curl to a "C" shape. Add bacon and combine all ingredients. Transfer grits to a serving bowl and add shrimp to top or serve on individual plates. Garnish with more cheese and chopped green onion tops.

Tips on cooking shrimp: One chef suggested that the correct test for doneness when you are cooking shrimp is remove from heat when it is a perfect "C" shape. If you cook it to a "O" shape, it will be overcooked. When boiling shrimp, it is done when it floats to the surface of the water, and it should change color at that time also. When cooking large quantities, begin removing the shrimp when they just begin to float. Don't wait until all float before removing them.

*"If you cook your shrimp too long it will have the consistency and flavor of a dried-out pencil eraser!" —Paula Deen*

### Let's eat cake and fruit!

With the many fresh fruits available to us in the Spring, it is a good time to feature them at your Easter Table to accompany a luscious Southern Pound Cake. Strawberries, blueberries or nectarines can be served individually or combined for a great topping, complete with a dollop of whipped cream. Don't forget to repeat the recipe when the Georgia peaches get ripe! Almond extract, instead of the traditional vanilla in the cake, really brightens the flavor of the fruit. Many recipe books also call this a "Cold Oven Pound Cake," as it is started in a cold oven and temperature increases as it cooks:

- 1 stick butter
- 2 ½ cups sugar
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- ½ cup Crisco
- 6 large eggs, room temp.
- ½ pint whipping cream

Grease and flour a Bundt or tube pan. Cream butter and Crisco together. Add sugar and beat until fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating after each. Sift flour and add alternately into the batter with the whipping cream, starting and ending with flour. Add Almond Extract. Pour batter into prepared pan and place into cold oven. Turn heat to 300° and cook for 1 hour and 15 minutes. Increase heat to 325° and cook 15 minutes more, or until wooden skewer comes out clean. Remove from oven and cool for 10 minutes before transferring to a plate. Enjoy!

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