President’s Letter
By Alexis Baum

Congratulations to us!
We’ve completed our “start of year” sprint.

During these first four months, we’ve activated so many events and initiatives with great precision and participation. Through this busy time, we’ve seen new leaders emerge, new communication channels come to life, and new neighbors step out of their shells to find a surprising amount of new friends and memories awaiting them.

Fostering community is my joy. Connecting with everyone has been exceptional within these early months. Furthermore, I’m thrilled to announce that we have more contributing members this year than any other year in HKNA history. As we continue to grow our membership and coordinate our volunteers, we see more opportunities for the energy and excitement of our first third to infiltrate our remaining two-thirds of the year. With this in sight, my duty as a leader goes beyond connecting with all of you. I will continue to relentlessly connect all of you with each other. This I see as my greatest service to the community and thankfully my native superpower. Be prepared for “pairing and sharing” to continue to be my preferred mantra.

If the first third was about sprinting, the second third is about pacing. We now have more than 30 active leaders in our association. Many of us have felt the reward of being instrumental in catalyzing the kinetic energy of Kenwood after two years of unexpected dormancy. However, some of us, myself included, have also come up against our personal edge a few times as we’ve run full speed ahead. Almost every week, a resident asks me if I’m worried about burning out. My response to them usually contains two points.

1) Most of what I do in this role gives me energy rather than takes from it.
2) I’m very good at designing systems of support, both social and technical, for anything in the latter category.

I encourage all of our leaders to reflect on what gives them energy and what does not. If any aspect of volunteering in Kenwood is not empowering and positive, it needs to be revised. Nothing we do here must happen, and nothing must happen in the way it always has, or by the person who’s currently doing it. If we need to redesign the less rewarding aspects of our efforts, we will do so. This is our neighborhood, our community, our association, and our design project.

Alexis

Historic Kenwood Neighborhood Yard Sale
Saturday, May 21 – 8 AM to 1 PM

Are you seeking to sell off a few items or wishing to clear your whole home of contents? Consider joining your neighbors in this clutter-free community event.

If you would like to have your garage or yard sale included on the neighborhood map, the charge is $5. Maps will be made available the day before the event. The deadline to be included on the map is Wednesday, May 18.

Please submit your information and payment via this online form. If you have any questions about the event or challenges submitting online, feel free to contact the team at yardsale@historickenwood.org or call Alexis at 201-681-3077.
Historic Kenwood Artist Enclave Spotlight: Martha JOY Rose

By Martha JOY Rose

I came to Florida with the dream of building the first ever Museum of Motherhood (MOM) in the world, right here in St. Pete. After considering some family ties to the Tampa Bay Area and a lot of research, I perceived that this was an awesome place for art and for museum-making, so I came with a ton of passion and enthusiasm.

After purchasing my home in Kenwood in 2016, I immediately joined the Artist Enclave of Historic Kenwood and have been exhibiting with the Studio Tour since 2017. I've also slowly been building out my space to better present the concept of a Museum of Motherhood to the community.

The essence of MOM has to do with creating a place of inspiration and education while elucidating the art, science, and **herstory of womyn** with a special focus on **mothers and family**. We embrace the idea of reproductive identity (everybody has one) and the ways in which this intersects with all areas and aspects of human life.

Along with a small team of volunteers and a group of international interns, we’ve kept our presence active online throughout the pandemic, hosting our 15th annual academic and arts conference in March with a special highlight on local artists - Sallie Hackett Brown, Luci Westphal, Amy Wolf, and musician Deb Ruby - who are all Kenwood neighbors.

We are currently forming a community group for MOM, and I can't wait to see how we grow. Please do take time to write or schedule a visit: INFO@MOMmuseum.org

Left - Some of the art inside MOM, a social change museum invested in countering narratives in history which have kept women less visible.

Above - Martha JOY Rose speaking at the April HKNA General meeting

April HKNA General Membership Meeting Highlights

By Catherine Vogel, Secretary, HKNA Board of Directors

The Historic Kenwood Neighborhood Association General Meeting was held on Wednesday, April 6 at 7:00PM. Close to 50 people were in attendance. A moment of silence was held to honor longtime past resident Laura McGrath who had passed away earlier that day. Laura will always be remembered as a valued neighbor and friend.

Many announcements were made regarding events that are coming up as we open up after Covid restrictions. We can only hope this can continue. Officer Osvaldo "Ozzie" Sicarios gave the public safety report. There were no new patterns of crime, mostly auto accidents and a few car burglaries. Officer Ozzie reminded everyone to lock their cars. Then we had two speakers - Councilman Richie Floyd and Museum of Motherhood Director and Owner Martha JOY Rose.

Once again we had a great time getting together and learning more about Historic Kenwood. Join us for the next meeting, which is always held on the first Wednesday of the month.

Find more information, including the monthly newsletter, on our website: www.historikenwood.org for further updates.