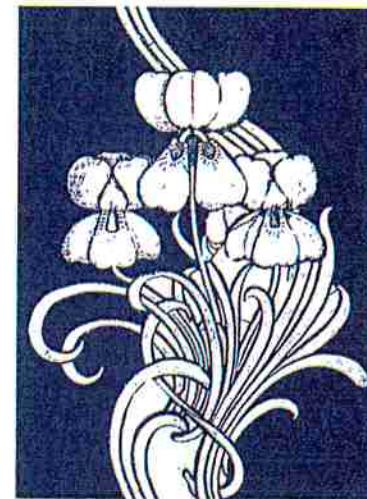




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26th Annual
Mt. Lebanon Public Library
Garden Tour



Sunday, July 10, 2016
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July 10, 2016

Dear Library Friends,

Welcome to the 26th Annual Mt. Lebanon Public Library Garden Tour! We are confident that you will be delighted by the six gardens on this year's tour. We are grateful to the gardeners for graciously opening their outdoor spaces to us and taking the time to share their labors of love. As you stroll through the varied gardens we hope that you not only renew your enthusiasm for gardening, but also glean ideas for your own landscapes. Please feel free to ask questions; the owners will be happy to share their knowledge.

Be sure to visit the lower level of the library today, where tour activities include the annual plant sale, free consultations with gardening experts, and special promotional offers at The Book Cellar, the library's used bookshop.

As the owners have carefully tended their gardens, so have the residents of Mt. Lebanon nurtured the library. Proceeds from the previous twenty-five Garden Tours helped build the new library and the outdoor courtyard, and have provided thousands of books, audio-visual materials, magazines, and programs for patrons of all ages. This year's proceeds will be used to purchase computer equipment, new titles for our collection, and fund building improvements.

We offer heartfelt thanks to the Garden Tour and Garden Party Committees and the many volunteers whose efforts are critical to the success of the tour. We also thank the advertisers, gardening experts, and all the sponsors of the Garden Tour. Their support provides that margin of excellence to our community library. Please let them know that you appreciate their involvement.

Finally, we thank you for supporting the 26th Annual Garden Tour. Your donation will help ensure continued excellence in our library's services.

Enjoy the Garden Tour!

Sincerely,

*Kathy Mays
Beth Evans*

Kathy Mays
Beth Evans
Garden Tour Chairs

Robyn E. Vittek

Robyn E. Vittek
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Cherie H. Moshier

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There is always music amongst the trees in the garden, but our hearts must be very quiet to hear it.
- Minnie Aumonier

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Salute the Garden Tour



The Friends is a non-profit, volunteer organization helping the library provide a wide range of services—from programs and books to computers and furniture.

The Friends also raise much-needed funds through The Book Cellar, the Library's used book shop, and membership dues. Anyone may join the Friends and support the library's mission. Your time, talent and enthusiasm will keep our library vital.

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BOOKS

Raised-Bed Gardening: How to Grow More in Less Space | Simon Akeroyd | 635.967 Ake

Gardening with Less Water: Low-Tech, Low-Cost Techniques: Use Up to 90% Less Water in Your Garden | David A. Bainbridge | 635.9 Bai

What's Wrong with My Houseplant?: Save Your Indoor Plants with 100% Organic Solutions | David Deardoff and Kathryn Wadsworth | 635.965 Dea

Gardening Like a Ninja: A Guide to Sneaking Delicious Edibles into Your Landscape | Angela England | 635.1 Eng

Japanese-Style Gardens | Brian Funk and Sarah Schmidt | 712.60952 Jap

One Magic Square Vegetable Gardening: The Easy, Organic Way to Grow Your Own Food on a 3-Foot Square | Lolo Houbein | 635.0484 Hou

Backyard Wildlife: How to Attract Bees, Butterflies, Insects, Birds, Frogs and Animals into Your Garden | Christine and Michael Lavelle | 639.92 Lav

The Magical World of Moss Gardening | Annie Martin | 635.9 Mar

Grow Your Own Wedding Flowers: How to Grow and Arrange Your Own Flowers for All Special Occasions | Georgie Newberry | 635.9 New

Container Theme Gardens: 42 Combinations, Each Using 5 Perfectly Matched Plants | Nancy J. Ondra | 635.986 Ond

Practical Rose Gardening: How to Place, Plant, and Grow More than Fifty Easy-Care Varieties | Inger Palmstierna | 635.933734 Pal

Essential Perennials for Every Garden: Selection, Care, and Profiles to Over 110 Easy-Care Plants | Sally Roth | 635.9 Rot

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Fine Gardening www.finegardening.com

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GreenFile Database www.mtlebanonlibrary.org

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• THE OWNERS DESCRIBE THEIR GARDENS •



Garden of
Rose Court Condominiums
Roselawn Avenue

Rose Court Condominiums is a late 1920's development in Central Square. The main courtyard, which fronts on Roselawn Ave., is bounded on three sides by red brick

buildings. The fourth side of the courtyard opens to the northwest and is enclosed by a low stone wall and stairs. The courtyard is divided into four quadrants by sidewalks in a cruciform layout. The walks meet at a central position which is anchored by a raised garden bed with a fountain. The bed is filled with roses, white cone flowers, and purple mums.

The courtyard consists of two levels: the upper level contains the fountain and three sections of the sidewalk, and the second level is reached by a staircase curving around the central feature.

The walkway between the two courtyards is lined with a variety of hostas, orange coral bells, blue delphiniums and miniature lilac bushes. This will lead to a lower courtyard facing wisteria. In the middle of this area is a wishing-well and a personal hanging basket filled with pansies of various colors.

There is always something blooming during each season in both courtyards. We have 20+ varieties of perennial flowers. A big thanks to the master planner, Sue Hnath, who has transformed the area from just green bushes to a beautiful garden.

Spring flowers: crocuses, daffodils, tulips, hyacinths, primroses, followed by rhododendron, azaleas, weigela and spirea bushes

Summer flowers: roses, hydrangeas, a large variety of perennials, including cone flowers (white & pink), red cardinal lobelia, pink & coral phlox/tall, salvia obedient plants (dragon head), yarrow, stokes aster, shasta daisies, Russian sage, black-eyed Susan

Fall flowers: mums, asters, lavender, and butterfly bushes, and last to bloom will be the montauk daisies

Our new addition: As you go down to the parking lot, you will notice a rock garden consisting of bugleweed, sedum (many varieties), creeping Jenny, thyme, Mexican heather, phlox, back-eyed Susan, and Russian sage.

We are thrilled that the Rose Court Condominium Gardens have been included in this year's Mt. Lebanon Public Library Garden Tour.



Garden of

Kathy & Dave Root
78 Hoodridge Drive

"Perfect is the enemy of good"**... is one of our favorite expressions and this is how we garden. We're 'perfection isn't necessary,' trial and error, do-it-ourselves gardeners. Well, we mostly do it ourselves. Greg Henk, a friend who has a landscape business, cuts our grass, mulches, and redid our front yard hardscape in 2014. We think he has a great eye for gardening.

Front

- We prefer to plant annuals because they continually bloom.
- We like to buy deer-resistant annuals using Rutgers University's "Landscape Plants Rated by Deer Resistance" chart as guidance, but for insurance, we also spray deer repellent. One summer, we successfully thwarted the deer by covering every front yard plant with green tulle each night, and taking it off the next morning. Never again!
- Last summer, we harvested Nasturtium seeds from our plants and tried to cultivate them this March using a mini greenhouse – major fail. The humidity created using the lid supplied was too high and the soil developed a white fungus. We bought Nasturtium seeds, replanted, didn't use the lid, and the seedlings successfully germinated. They're scattered throughout the yard.

Back

- Our rear yard and deck are dog proof, not deer proof. Leo, our 8-year-old Border Collie, has idiopathic epilepsy and suffers frequent unpredictable seizures. The outside deck and lower yard are entirely fashioned to protect Leo from hurting himself when he has a seizure. Every plant, pot, chair, and tchotchke is placed to try to keep him safe. There's chicken wire in front of the balustrades on the deck because Leo once had a seizure there, ran between the balustrades, and fell into the lower yard. The swinging gates are able to confine him to the upper deck. Very few plants are placed on the deck floor because Leo tends to eat them.
- We've overwintered our standard roses for 3 years.
- When our neighbors moved last fall, we inherited their 10-year-old geranium which started out as a center plant in a Jim Jenkins basket.

Happy Gardening!

**popularized by Voltaire*



Garden of

Anne Neel
401 Neulon Drive

Moving from the flat topography of the Washington, DC area to the hills of western Pennsylvania to begin gardening all over again has been a challenge. The hills, the deer, a different agricultural zone, and a smaller yard with which to work, seemed daunting obstacles to creating a tranquil retreat.

The first job was to remove the overgrowth of ivy and other invasive weeds, dying shrubs, dead tree branches, and plants placed too close to the foundation of the house. I discovered a stone wall in the back that was hidden by ivy; digging in another area revealed more than a dozen Belgian blocks scattered throughout the hillside.

So, I had a patio laid, hammock supports set in concrete, a tiny shed built to keep tools in the summer to avoid the trek around the house and down to the garage for storage, a rain barrel installed, and stone walkways set all the way around the house. I've discovered that the bees love the catnip, which thrives and the deer don't enjoy; Scarlet Pimpernel volunteers are hardy and colorful, and volunteer asters hold back the soil on a hillside—all without any effort on my part. I've had the good fortune to receive advice and assistance from a landscaper, someone who has understood my attitude about organic methods and 'if it grows, is pretty, and is not invasive, let it be.' (Well, maybe the thistle and the dandelions have to be pulled.)

Some of my initial plantings didn't survive or the deer enjoyed them too much and thus it feels that the garden is in its toddler stage after nine years. Of course, as any gardener will admit, the job is never finished. There is beauty here throughout the seasons, and that includes daydreaming with the seed catalogues in January, just before the Witch Hazel opens its sweetly scented blossoms and spring arrives. The soil is healthier, the birds, the butterflies, the bees, even the squirrels and chipmunks are at home here. And, so am I—my sister lives next door.



Garden of Trish & Carl Orangis 1041 Larchdale Drive

Garden renovations began shortly after the house was purchased in 1984. The landscape plan designed by Carl, an engineer, terraced the steeply graded property. Typical of the 1980s, tiered wood decks were bordered by walls made of brick and railroad ties. A stone barbecue, picnic tables and large planting boxes were built by Carl's father, Mike, a retired carpenter who assisted with the renovation project. Plantings were mostly annual flowers – 50 flats each year – with a small variety of perennials and several ornamental trees.

When the time came to restore the walls and decks many years later, Trish and Carl decided to replace them with permanent materials but keep the original project footprint. The walls are now manufactured stone and the decks are flagstone patios. Due to the steep natural contours of the property, construction materials could not be driven onto the site. Instead they were dropped in with cranes, providing entertainment for many of the neighborhood children.

While they still plant some annual flowers, Trish and Carl leave the "heavy lifting" to the professionals. Their garden updates have been extended to the front of the house and feature a mix of rose bushes, verbena, creeping juniper, Japanese maple trees, ornamental evergreens and the couple's favorite, a weeping larch which is nearly as old as the house. A dappled willow tree, which leans permanently as a result of a microburst that hit the tree shortly after it was planted, sits at the edge of the property.

A row of arborvitae trees lines the driveway pulling you back to the patios where you'll see a stone fireplace, two fountains and a mix of holly bushes, boxwoods, a magnolia tree, and a host of potted flowers including petunias, begonias and vinca. The end product is a peaceful oasis where Trish and Carl retreat with family and friends.



Foster Elementary School Children's Butterfly Garden & Nature Trail 700 Vermont Ave.

The Foster Butterfly Garden and Nature Trail are maintained and supported by PTA members and families. Throughout

the school year Foster students use the garden and trail to positively supplement their educational experience. The trail was rejuvenated in 2015. Outdoor classroom seating was added, new gravel was spread, and tree and plant overgrowth was removed.

Our garden is a full sun Butterfly garden. The majority of our perennial plants are sun loving and drought tolerant. While exploring our garden, in addition to student annuals you will find mint, lavender, butterfly bushes, bee balm, perennial sunflowers, and several varieties of cone flowers.

Every Spring Foster First Graders plant zinnia, marigold, nasturtium, and cosmos for their butterflies. As part of their science curriculum, First Graders release butterflies into the garden. The following Fall, as Second Graders, these students study the lifecycle of a seed. Students thresh the flower seeds, store them, and replant them in the garden in the Spring. The art projects throughout the garden are generously created annually by our talented Fifth Grade students and our art teacher Mrs. Switzer.

As a children's garden we encourage the children to enter and explore the garden and its plants as much as possible. You will often find them checking on their flowers, building fairy houses, and skipping through the garden on the stepping stones. The children especially love the Caterpillar café, which is planted with host plants such as dill, parsley and oregano. Throughout the Spring and Summer children and school visitors are excited to spot Painted Lady Caterpillars, several varieties of Butterflies, and Humming Birds. In the Fall, plant and flower seed heads are not cut back so students can watch the Black Capped Chickadees and Golden Finches feasting on the seed heads left behind.

Thank you for visiting our garden and nature trail. We hope you enjoyed your visit.



Garden of Margaret Hamstead 209 Mohawk Drive

Over the last 10 years or so, I've transformed our sloping backyard from a lawn with small gardens into a space in which the only grass is ornamental. A dear friend calls it "a gardener's garden" because—with the exception of the low earth-retaining walls—neither the design nor the garden work has been outsourced; there are plenty of surprises!

A couple of years ago, a heavy snowstorm broke many of the trees and shrubs in the backyard. That became a turning point for redesigning both the layout and plant material, and an opportunity to begin re-thinking how to incorporate a wider variety of perennials.

Features of the garden reflect my whimsy mixed in with practicality. It has repeating patterns of colors and shapes that draw the eyes up through the curving granite block paths that I finished installing last year. My husband has helped me weave trellises, gates and other barriers around the perimeter to deter deer. This has made it possible to grow a few more types of plants, both perennials and annuals. Thankfully, the open fencing is quickly becoming interlaced with nearby shrubs and vines, making it less visible. The space includes a meditation area, a shed, and a fenced-in vegetable garden, all built with the help of my sons, my sister, a carpenter friend, and a neighbor.

Plantings include lilies, hosta, peonies, amaryllis, herbs, and much more. Recently, I've become interested in growing native plants and have added Chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*) and Viburnum (*dentatum 'Christom'*) shrubs; I have always encouraged the native wildflowers: Solomon's Seal, Virginia Bluebells, Toothwort, Jack-in-the-Pulpit and more. These won't be blooming in July, but many other plants will. Although the garden is slightly uphill, there are no steps for you to climb.

I hope your visit will bring you feelings of joy, excitement, pleasure and peace. Welcome!

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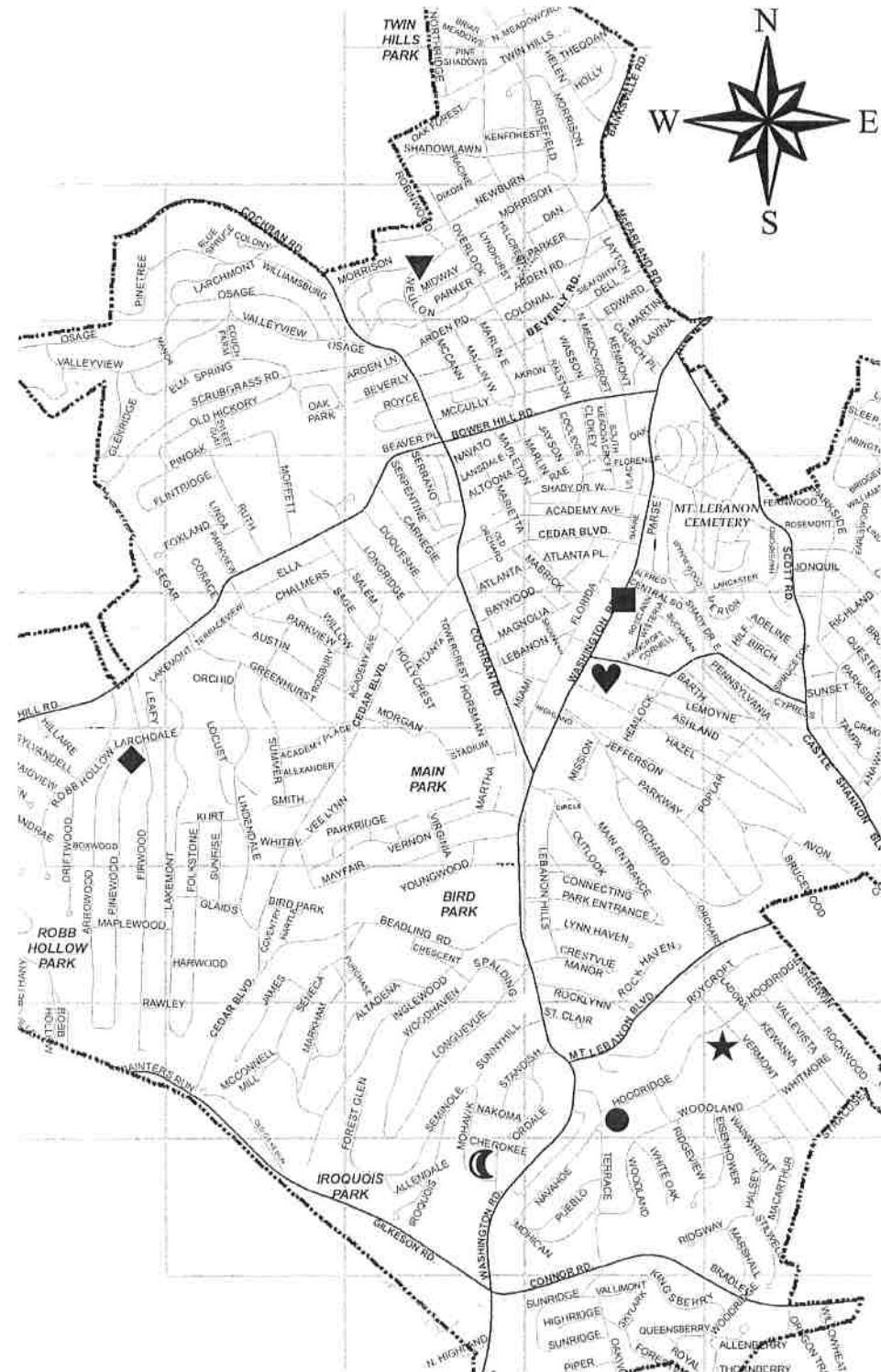
The attorneys of Tucker Arensberg, P.C. salute the staff and volunteers of the Mt. Lebanon Public Library for keeping open thought alive in our community.

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DIRECTIONS TO THE GARDENS 2016

The following directions start from the Library ❤ at 16 Castle Shannon Blvd. (just off Washington Rd.) and guide you to the first garden you choose. There is no particular order that is recommended. The Garden Hosts/Hostesses will have a map at each garden if you need assistance or more details to help you find your next destination.

While you're shopping at the Library's Annual Plant Sale and The Book Cellar (our used book store), be sure to visit the Library's award-winning courtyard.

■ Rose Court Condominiums Gardens – Roselawn Avenue

— West Court Community Center (Drive 0.4 miles, 5 min.; also a short walk from the Library)

Make a right onto Washington Rd. Turn right onto Central Square. Turn right onto Roselawn Ave. Gardens will be on the left.

● 78 Hoodridge Drive

• **16 Nescarage Drive**
(Drive 1.5 miles, 5 min.)

Make a left onto Washington Rd. Turn left onto Terrace Dr. Turn left onto Hoodridge Dr. Garden is on the right.

▼ 401 Neulon Avenue

(Drive 1.6 miles, 8 min.)

Turn left onto Washington Rd. Turn right onto Cochran Rd. Continue to Morrison. Right onto Morrison. Right onto Neulon Ave. Garden will be on the left.

◆ 1041 Larchdale Drive

(Drive 1.9 miles, 7 min.)

Make a left onto Washington Rd. Turn right onto Cochran Rd. Make a left onto Bower Hill Rd. (pass St. Clair Hospital). Make a left onto Firwood (near Post Office). Garden is on the corner of Firwood and Larchdale.

★ Foster Elementary School – 700 Vermont Avenue

Wester Elementary
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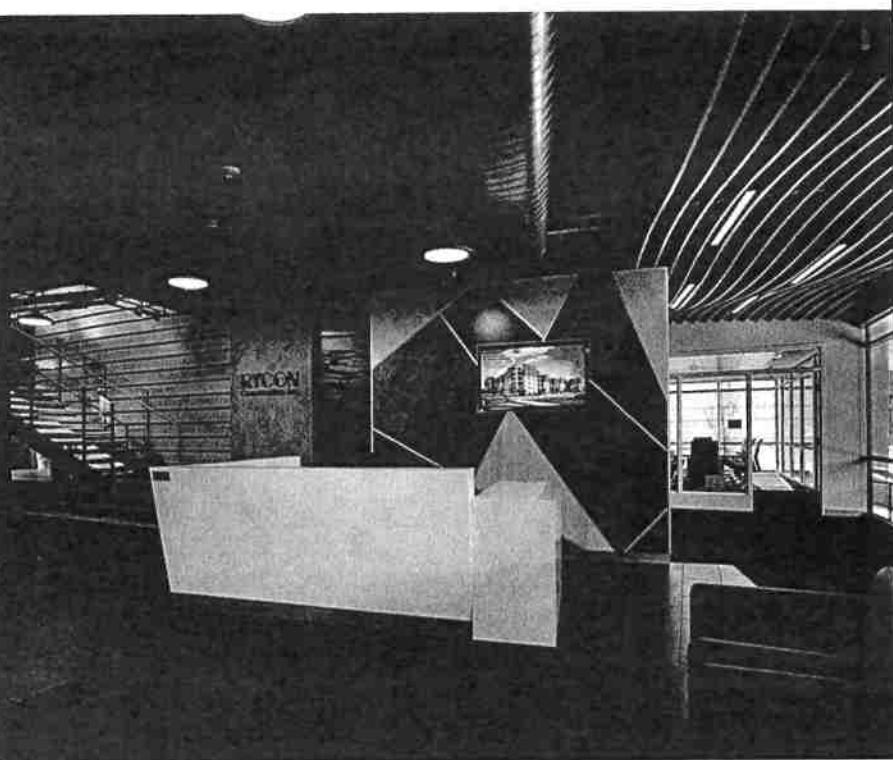
Make a left onto Washington Rd. Turn left onto Mt. Lebanon Blvd. Make a slight right onto Roycroft Ave. Turn right onto Vermont Ave. School will be on the right.

C 209 Mohawk Drive

(Drive 1.6 miles, 4 min.)

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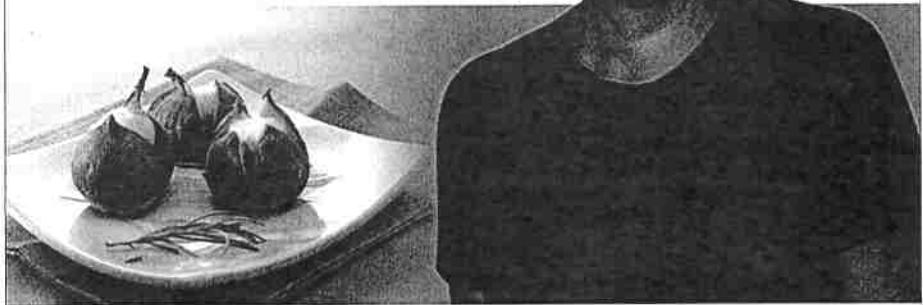
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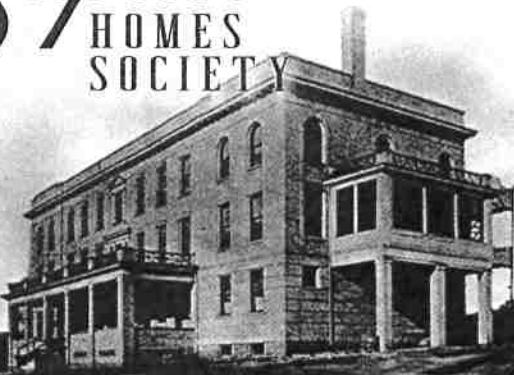
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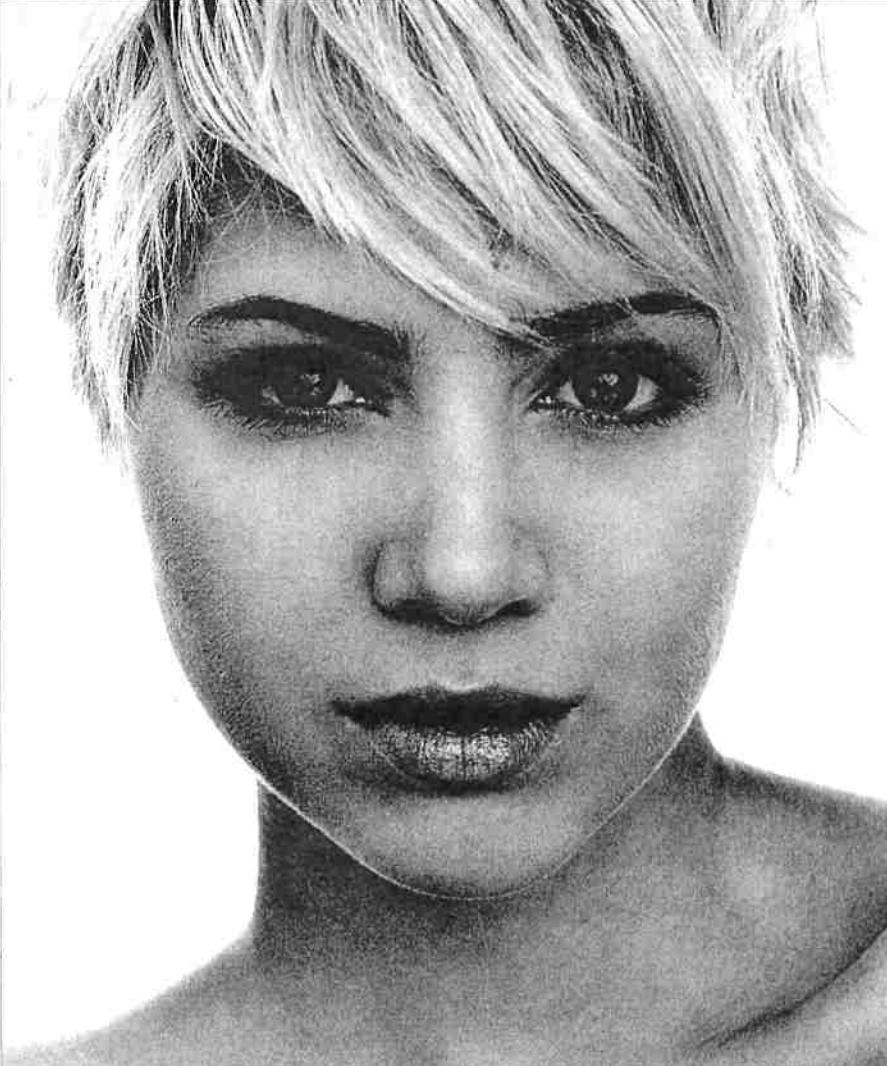
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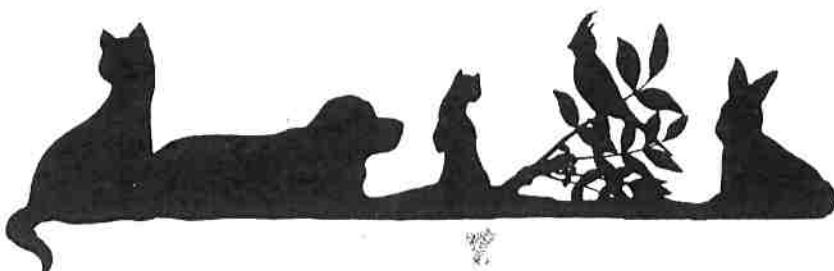
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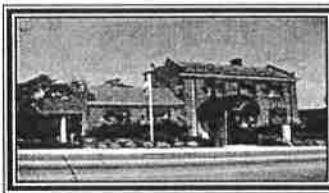
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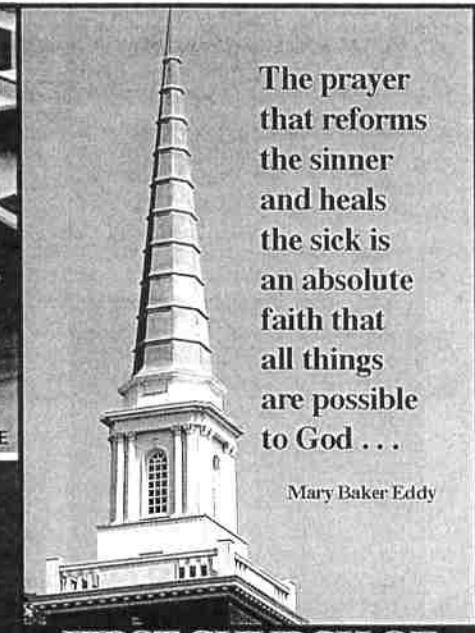


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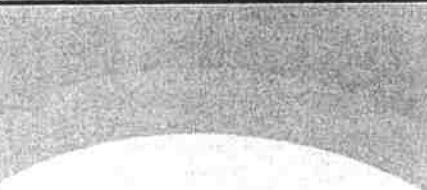
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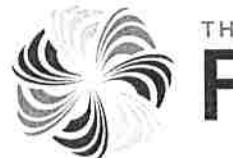


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