

Sonny's Recollections: The Gingerbread House

In 1944 when I moved to Isle of Hope from Ardsley Park, I met Sonny, who had grown up on Isle of Hope. Sonny was several years older than I, so we were not close friends, but we did play some softball together on the old Isle of Hope Softball team. Sonny lived in the "Gingerbread House" at 15 Bluff Drive with his family, including his brother, Jack, and sister, Nan. This house is known as "The McLaughlin House." Unfortunately, Sonny died in 2013, and our renewed friendship was cut short. - Noel Wright



(15 Bluff Drive - the "McLaughlin house on the bluff" on far left)

I'll take my memory back almost 80 years. The present house at 15 Bluff Drive was known as the "McLaughlin house on the bluff." Mail was delivered to mail boxes identified by name only, no zips, no street names. I.O.H., Sav, GA was the only necessary identification needed.

This house with the "Gingerbread" and the porch running around it was easily recognized. Back then, everyone knew everyone and most of their business too. A big green swing was located up the front stairs, near the front door. The three of us kids loved that swing and used it for hours, in the cool breeze coming off the river. Second best was swinging on the Wisteria vines out by the road and covering most of the front yard. I remember the spring blooming of the Wisteria as well as the large Japanese Magnolia up by the front steps.

Across the road was our swimming hole. Leading to the water were stone steps. Dad had a big rope swing hanging between two pilings. Sometime 6 or 8 people would be sitting there on near high tide. Marg and her friends from town would swim with us on the weekends. The three of us kids learned to swim at a very young age. Our good friend, Anna Beckman, had the kindergarten on the island and held swimming lessons for her pupils here.

A few years later, I was about 10 or 12, Dad would send me down to Barbee's to get a couple Eslinger beers, 2 for a nickel and Mom a coke, called a dope in those days. He always seemed to have empty bottles in the car. Bottle coke was a nickel.

Back to the house

Front steps to front door. First floor, hallway led to upstairs on the left.

To the front left was a large room which covered from the front to the back of the house. This is where formal dining was held. On special occasions, holidays, etc. Christmas and Thanksgiving, a big turkey, ham, or both were on the table. There was a large table with seating for 10 or 12, with high-chairs for the kids.

A model "Sailship" was on a shelf on the south wall, it was about two feet long. We were told it was built by Uncle Frank. There was always a big gathering of Family, Aunts and Uncles. On one occasion, I couldn't eat all on my plate and "Poppa Mac" told me, "Your eyes are bigger than your stomach!" On every occasion, a plum pudding was served, a specialty of Moma Mac's. Everyone bragged about how good it was. I was too young to enjoy it. Moma Mac had a very good helper, named Dealia. She lived in Sandfly (cont. on p.4)

Editor's Note:

Well, 2017 is in the books and it has been quite a year. A favorite Christmas song, "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas" starts like this:

"Have yourself a merry little Christmas, let your heart be light
Next year all our troubles will be out of sight
Have yourself a merry little Christmas, make the yuletide gay
Next year all our troubles will be miles away"

I used to listen to it and dream about next year when my life would be trouble free. But, unfortunately it never worked out that way. This year, as I heard the words, I thought "no they won't, but that's okay." So I guess I have reached that point in life (48 years old) where I am starting to get how life really works. I now realize that every year is filled with highs and lows and just mundane stuff you have to trudge through.

So now I try and slow down more, especially during Christmas and the New Year and take it all in. My kids are no longer little. I have one in

college, one who is a senior in high school, and one who is a sophomore in high school. They aren't giddy about Christmas like they used to be and sometimes I miss that. I see the old pictures and videos and remember watching them sit on Santa's lap and bounce all over the house the week before he came to town. I'm sure some of you are there now. My advice: enjoy it! The toys will be thrown in the trash or attic as the kids get older, but the memories will stay in your mind for a lifetime.

But, I am determined not to oversentimentalize the past. Instead, I try to pay attention to what is going on right now — today. This year an Isle of Hope man died as the result of a random tree falling through his house. I also watched a close friend get diagnosed with cancer and deal with the real possibility of not living a long life and enjoying all the things that go with it. But...I have also experienced the joy of watching my sons run a cross country race and my daughter building a new, independent life at college.

Many other things seem small and insignificant, but are the stuff that life is made of — a walk with my wife on Tybee or the Bluff on a beautiful Savannah day, a hot cup of coffee on a quiet morning before anyone else in the house is awake, and gatherings with family and friends to celebrate birthdays and holidays or simply be together for a few hours over good food and drink.

I'm not a big "New Year's Resolution" guy. I've failed too many times for that. But, I hope — even though all our troubles are not "miles away" — we will all resolve to say it has been a good year and raise a glass to this sometimes bitter, but sweet experience called life.

Cheers and Happy New Year!
-Chris Brantley, Editor Isle of Hope News (chris@isleofhopenews.com)

The Isle of Hope News is a bi-monthly publication serving Isle of Hope area residents and advertisers. It was started by Isle of Hope resident Ed Yannett in 2011 and mails to 2,400 residents in Isle of Hope, Dutch Island and surrounding areas.



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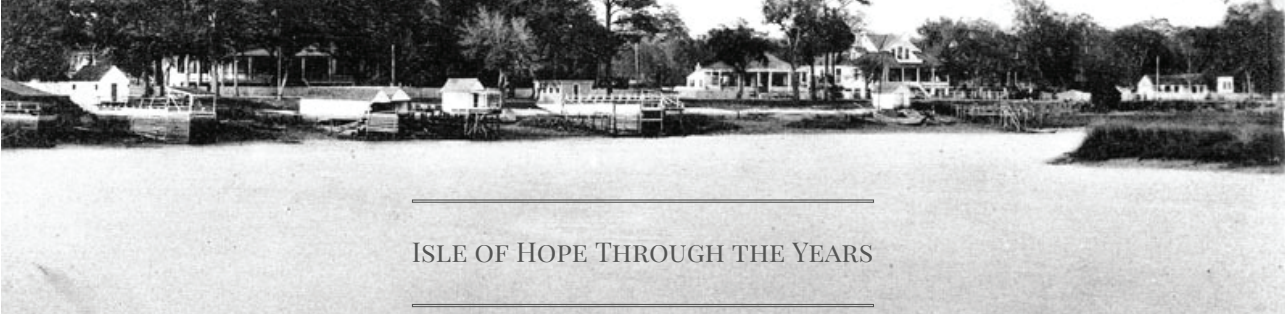
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Sonny's House

(cont. from p.1)

and came to work on the streetcar every day. She was with Grandmother for many, many years. She called Grandmother "Miss Maisey", so did some family and friends.

On the other side of the house was the front room. It was used mostly during winter a big fireplace was in the back, right side of the room. Behind that was the everyday dining room. This reminds me of watching Moma Mac, at the table, checking the grocery receipt, after going to town.

When I was older, and big enough to carry bags of groceries, I would take the streetcar with Moma Mac and Dealia to town. Dealia always sat in the back seat, I often wondered why. We got off on Broughton Street and walked several blocks west. We shopped at the Groceteria and the "City Market" for vegetables. Each of us, carrying 2 bags, would walk back down to catch our ride back home.

We would check out the department stores' show windows. One day, I spotted a toy racecar in one of the windows. I wanted it badly, but it cost too much. Every time we went, I stopped to admire that racecar. I got so attached to it, they wanted to walk on the opposite side of the street. I resisted, so they let me have my way.

Time went by and Christmas came. Under the tree was a box with my name on it. You can imagine what was in it. It was the best present I ever had! I played with it for years.

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Oops! I inadvertently left the Catholic Chapel off of our church list last issue. Thank you to Marie Bryant who brought this to my attention. The Chapel which has been around since 1784, still celebrates Mass the first Sunday of each month at 8:00 am and on major Holy Days. It is located at 16 Rosenbrook Avenue.



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A Walk in the Neighborhood - Tom Parrish

We lost another of our neighbors recently. She was my friend. I've known her for 24 years, yet still called her Mrs. Dearing. Addressing her as Angela just seemed so informal to me. Besides, she was my elder, and I felt she deserved that respect.

I met her first while walking my old dog Duke. I walked Duke on the same route every day. Down Colonel Estill to the end of Richmond Drive. It never varied. I now walk Izzy on that same route. I think familiarity and consistency is important in dog training. The beauty of this particular stroll and the fact that I'm more than just a little OCD I fear also contributes to this habit.

So here's this beautifully coiffed lady standing in her driveway in her housecoat holding this huge Boxer with both hands by a leash. That

dog could have pulled her clear to Sandfly if he so desired.

We chatted awhile, and it soon became a daily custom.

Occasionally, my lady will join me on my strolls. A much more private person, she'll often ask "do you have to talk to everybody"? Yeah, I kinda sorta do. I tell her. Particularly if they're my neighbors. My walk is a huge part of my day, something I look forward to, something that gets me away from myself and into the neighborhood.

So while taking my walk today, the first since Mrs. Dearing's passing. I was ruminating about the others I've known and loved and lost here on my walk.

There was Patty's mom, and Jerry from across the street. David's dad,



Mrs. Dearing and Izzy

Carr and Augusta, Billy Myers and then later Dot. Ray Miley's wife, Mr and Mrs. Byrd, and Ann's husband John. (cont. on p. 11)

So Much Planning Goes into Retirement.

Have You Thought About Taxes As Well?

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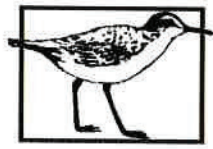
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www.thehabershamschool.org



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Why Winter is a Great Time to Sell Your House

Recently, a real estate company named Redfin studied over 7 million home sales and made a discovery that may surprise you.

Winter is the best time to sell your home except for Spring.

They broke four years of home sales down into the season they first went on the market --- and checked out how they did based on two criteria:

Selling for more than list price
Going under contract in less than 30 days

Here's what they found:

Spring barely beat Winter as the best time to sell your home. So the numbers (see table above) debunked what a lot of prospective homebuyers think about Winter being a slow season for

Season Home First Listed	Percentage Sold Above List	Percentage Off Market Within 30 Days	Proportion of Homes Listed This Season
Winter	17.5%	46.2%	23.7%
Spring	18.7%	48.0%	32.6%
Summer	15.1%	43.6%	26.7%
Fall	14.7%	40.9%	17.0%

selling a home.

Why Winter is a Great Time to Sell

Most people looking for a home in Winter are serious buyers --- not tire kickers. They usually need to move so they're motivated to get the deal done fast and usually don't care to haggle over price.

Plus, Winter sellers face less competition than Spring sellers. Typically you'll see a glut of homes hit the (cont. p. 13)



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A Walk in the Neighborhood - (Cont. from p. 6)

Betsy who fed the bluebirds, Arthur's mother and then his lovely wife Candace. Hughie. Chip's wife who I called Rocky's mom. The loss of John Harrelson. Sax, Jessica and the weightlifter who lived next to Dennis. The guy in

the Pink house at the end of Richmond and his coffee drinking buddy.

Many more have passed, I knew some by name, some by face and some by the dog they walked. I miss them all, and grieved their passing

just as I do now Mrs. Dear ing's. Time passes and new people move in, and a cycle of sorts continues, not only in life but also in our neighborhood.

It's important not only to embrace and welcome our neighborhood as it evolves, but I feel its even more im-

portant to remember those who came before and made it what it is.

And I continue to walk, and I continue to talk.



Wishing you the Happiest of Holidays and a Prosperous New Year!

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Make Learning Fun With These Toys and Games

It's not always easy to find toys and games that are good for your children. I put together this guide of toys and games for those who want their kids to have fun as they develop valuable skills including imagination, creativity, problem solving, and confidence.

When selecting educational toys and games, it's best to buy gifts that are age-appropriate and engage your child's specific interests.

Research shows that children who regularly play are more likely to be emotionally, mentally, and physically fit. At an early age, infants use play to develop motor skills, recognize shapes and colors, as well as improve hand-eye coordination. As they grow, they become more interested in formal games with rules, opponents and explicit instructions. Children need

to engage in a variety of play activities to foster learning, but parents also play an important role. Sylvan recommends families set regular times for play. For example, a weekly game night teaches that playing is a part of everyone's routine, and instills the basic rules of fair play and teamwork.

Pre-School Students

- Puzzles help build critical thinking and reasoning skills.
- Magnetic letters and numbers, flash cards or games like See 'n Say or A to Z Puzzles™ encourage pre-school students as they begin to recognize colors, letters, textures, and sound.
- Activity mats, building blocks, and Tinker Toys help develop motor skills.
- As infants advance, you should find more challenging games and activities and recognize when it's time to retire certain toys.
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Dino Papadopoulos, Owner & Executive Director Sylvan Learning

or Imperial™ Kids - Go Fish! Card Game help children learn to match pictures/shapes and practice counting.

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(continued on p. 14)



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Winter A Great Time To Sell (cont. from p. 10)

market during the Spring so your home can get lost in the shuffle. In the Winter, your property can stand out much more easily.

As you know, Fall is full of distractions which can delay home sales. Schools start, Holiday season ramps up, and this year in Savannah we even faced a destructive Hurricane.

But at the first of the year, most of that will be behind us. And unlike

some parts of the country, we don't have to deal with hardcore weather like snowstorms that can keep people inside during the winter months.

One More Reason You Should Not Wait

Recently, mortgage rates hit their 2016 high and are expected to keep climbing so buyers are ready to act now. They have a sense of urgency to buy before their purchasing power is eaten up by rising interest rates.

Bottom Line

If you plan to sell in the next 6 months, do it now. Otherwise, you risk losing the advantage you'll have over other sellers. By Spring, everybody will be doing it. Call me today 912-844-9000 and we'll get the process started.

The study used the astronomical seasons (Winter: Dec. 21 – Mar. 20; Spring: Mar. 21 – June 20; Summer: June 21 – Sept 21; Autumn: Sept 21 – Dec. 20).



Get Clean in 2017

"I haven't felt this good in my entire adult life!" said one of the participants who just completed a clean eating program at Savannah Power Yoga. She, like so many of us, had simply gotten used to feeling "not great." Best-selling author and physician, Dr. Alejandro Junger also found himself feeling fatigued, bloated, and worst of all, depressed, during his time in medical school. His personal journey to healing ultimately resulted in the development of a clean eating program and a best-selling book, "Clean." His program changed his life and the lives of folks all over the world including Savannah.

The Clean Program is a 21-day detox program. The premise is that many have unknown toxic triggers in their diets and homes. The build up of these triggers results in a low-level inflammatory response in our bodies. Inflammation can present itself as fatigue, bloating, sleep disturbances, brain fog, skin irritation, and other symptoms. The Clean Program gets to the root of the problem instead of treating the symptoms individually.

Before starting the formal 21-day detox, participants spend a few days eliminating possible toxic triggers. During this "Elimination Diet" participants eat three meals a day, eliminating certain foods. After the Elimination Diet, participants begin the structured 21-day Clean Program. During the 21 days, participants eat a liquid meal (cont. p. 15)

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Toys and Games (Cont. from p. 12)

- Younger children can get overwhelmed easily, so parents should rotate toys regularly, and limiting the number of toys at playtime.

Elementary School Students

- Elementary school-aged students are beginning to understand and use strategy and probability skills. Board games and computer games (Connect Four®, Scrabble, Monopoly® and The Game of Life®) can foster this development.

- Science kits, chemistry sets, and telescopes help develop critical thinking skills.

- Games like Talkin' Tango®, Blurt!® and Petcha Didn't Know® encourage children to pay close attention and practice listening and concentration skills.

- Parents need to recognize their child's personal learning style, strengths and weaknesses. If children struggle with math, parents can encourage math games and activities to further develop their math skills. If science is a challenge, make science fun with a chemistry set.

- To build, boost and bolster self-esteem, play The Self-Esteem Game™. Model airplanes, ships or jewelry kits help improve fine motor skills while teaching children to follow instructions and work on a project that lasts a few days.

- Make playtime a regular part of a child's routine – at school and at home. Teachers make time for playtime at recess, and parents should make sure playtime is incorporated into their child's day.

Middle and High School Students

- Teenagers don't like to think of it as playtime, but they still need to learn through play as they enter their high school years.

- Science kits become more advanced for older children – and provide an opportunity for children

to experiment, create and follow directions.

- Balance team sports (baseball, soccer, etc.) with individual activities like reading, scrap booking or journal writing.

- Board games like Dictionary Dabble® and Buzzword® help children improve vocabulary skills.

- Pay close attention to your child's habits and hobbies (music, reading, painting, etc.) so you can match toys to your children's interests.

For additional educational resources for children in grades pre-K through 12, please visit SylvanLearning.com or call 912.355.2267.

Dino Papadopoulos is the owner at Sylvan Learning of Savannah, the leading provider of tutoring to students of all ages, grades and skill levels. With 30 years of experience and more than 900 centers located throughout North America, Sylvan's proven process and personalized methods have inspired more than 2 million students to discover the joy of learning.



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Clean 2017 (Cont. from p. 13)

in the morning, a solid meal at lunch, and a liquid meal at night, with the option for a mid-morning and mid-afternoon snack. Participants observe a twelve hour window between the

liquid meal at night and the liquid meal in the morning so that the body can rest and detoxify properly.

At the end of the 21-one day cleanse

participants begin the "Re-introduction Process." This is the linchpin of the Clean Program. Re-introduction allows participants to discern what foods leave them feeling their best and what foods cause unfavorable reactions. Re-introduction entails adding one possible toxic trigger at a time and recording the reaction. This process often surprises participants; very often something that they thought was innocuous has been making them sick for years.

What are the ultimate results of all this effort? The countless success stories are amazing and varied. The top five results reported are mental clarity, weight loss, improved digestion, increased energy, and improved mood. All of these incredible results are possible without a magic potion or pill. The Clean Program invites all of us to consider that food is information for our body and by changing what we eat, we can gain control over how our body reacts.

If you are interested in doing the next Clean Program, Stephanie Mobley is leading a free information session at Savannah Power Yoga on Monday, January 9th, at 7:30 PM. The next 21 day Clean Program will begin at Savannah Power Yoga on January 23rd. For more information please visit <http://savannahpoweryoga.com/detox-programs>

Stephanie Mobley, MSW, is one of 14 Certified Clean Coaches in the world. She is a certified yoga teacher and proud wife and mother of two.



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