

# MONTREUX News

September 2011

Landscaping thanks to  
Grounds & Landscaping Committee  
Myrt Nelson, Chairwoman



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September 2011

Montreux Web Site – [www.montreux-hoa.org](http://www.montreux-hoa.org)

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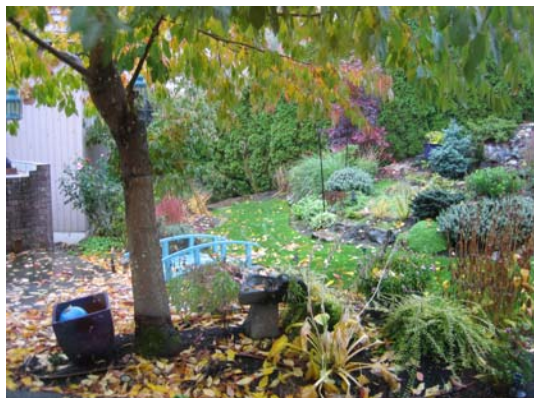
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### **REAL ESTATE**

**Keller Williams Real Estate Ad**

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# The Fall Garden



This may not have been the summer of our dreams with regards to temperatures. But, the milder days produced some benefits: lower water bills, less stress on trees and shrubs, and once we got past the very wet spring, thriving conditions for most annuals and perennials. Thank goodness, because last winter was tough on area gardens. In my own garden this past spring I was faced with numerous damaged or dead plants. Talking with nursery people around area, I've heard similar stories... plants that have historically been good to grow in our area are no longer hardy enough for our winters. Hopefully, with a little care this fall (and some help from Mother Nature this winter), our gardens will look good next spring.

Cleaning up the garden in the fall is a good first step. OK, fall clean-up is not nearly as much fun as spring planting, but alas, it is necessary. Removing fallen leaves and other debris not only keeps the garden looking neat, but it also prevents the spread of diseases and helps control undesirable pests. With some preventive maintenance this fall, next spring we will not have the epidemic slug population that we experienced this year. And getting rid of those weeds now prevents them from reseeding next spring.



One thing NOT to do in the fall is pruning, because that will stimulate new growth, which makes trees and shrubs more

susceptible to frost and freeze damage. On the other hand, this is a good time to plant trees and shrubs, and area nurseries typically have them on sale. Additionally, many perennials can be divided in the fall.



If you have annuals in your garden, remove them before the first freeze. Otherwise, you will be cleaning up the slimy remains and gardening when it's uncomfortably cold!

Finally, this is a great time to add mulch to your garden. Think of it as an insulating blanket for your plants with the added benefit of weed control.

Once the garden is tidied, it's time to sit back and enjoy the fall color show. It's the last hurrah in the garden before winter descends upon the Northwest.

Now, if you've got a solution to controlling those ravenous rascal rabbits that have been eating everything in sight, please share it with the rest of us!!

Happy gardening!  
Your Neighbor, Lynn Mack

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

*By Peter Roppo*

We hope that everyone has had a good summer and that you had a chance to enjoy our sunny days,, even though they were more scarce than we would have liked.

Weather forecasters are promising warm, sunny weather for Saturday to help ensure that everyone enjoys **the Annual MONTREUX BBQ on Saturday, September 10th**. We hope that you and your children will join us for this festive event. The children's bicycle and scooter parade starts at 4 PM; food and beverage service begins at 4:30 with Marty and Jay at the grills and Lance & friends tending the wine bar.

**New this year will be the Children's Writing Contest Awards which will be at 5:30.** Sixteen Montreux family children submitted delightful stories. The stories were judged by Doris and Duane Burke, Judy Fenyk-Melody and Joe Preston. Every child will get an award and a prize. First, second and third prize winners in each age category will get bigger prizes. This will be a very special event at the BBQ this year. We hope that you are there to enjoy it.

**At 6:30, as the food service ends, Bob Keilin will be holding a drawing for a lot of great door prizes for which everyone qualifies.**

*A special thanks to Judy Fenyk-Melody for chairing the BBQ this year when Joseph Nee's work kept him from completing the task. And our thanks to Joseph for his contributions.*

In closing, I would like to thank all who have kept your yards nice this summer. Our joint efforts in keeping our yards attractive is a big part of what makes Montreux such a special place to live.

## EDITORS' NOTE

*By Doris & Duane Burke*

Our thanks to all of the children who submitted stories for the Children's Story Writing Contest! There were 16 entries. All of the stories were very entertaining to read and showed great imagination and creativity.

Our thanks also to you parents who helped and encouraged your children. You may have helped spark a continuing interest in writing. In any case, the ability to write well will help them with all of their school and career endeavors.

**Prizes will be awarded to all of the writers on Saturday, September 10th, 5:30 PM at the BBQ. See all of the stories in this edition of the MONTREUX News!**

# **A big hello to all from the Netherlands!**

*From Marie, Stephen, Taylor and Alden Gwinn*

We are now in our beautiful home and after a month in the country, we are settling in nicely to our new life. Our daughter Taylor and son Alden started school three weeks ago and are enjoying their European education and adventure. Our dog Reggae's arrival was delayed nearly three weeks, but he joined us last week and our family is complete again! There is so much to do – learning Dutch, banking, immigration, home furnishings, car purchase... constantly converting to Euros/Celsius/Kilometers/Millimeters and the list goes on. All of these are a bit more challenging in Dutch as well.

Alden has made the school soccer team where he was faced with some stiff competition. He will share the role with the son of Edwin van der Sar (recently retired Manchester United keeper). Alden is also the primary keeper for another team here in Holland. Taylor is playing on a basketball team where the average height of her teammates is 6' tall. It is impressive to see our 5'5 daughter hold her own against the exceptionally tall Dutch.

There is so much new to us. The most common mode of transportation is the bicycle. While at the World Trade Center in Amsterdam we noticed the parking garage full of bicycles; not cars. There must have been thousands of bikes in the garage. It was quite the sight to see a man in a suit and tie strapping his brief case to the back of his bike to head home for the day. We find ourselves taking Reggae not for walks; but bike rides. He runs alongside our bikes until he tires and then jumps in the saddle bags. The beach and the North Sea are just a block away from the house, so rather than head to the park for Reggae's run we cycle to the Dunes for him to play instead.

We are quickly settling into the Dutch lifestyle and now ready to be tourists on the weekends. There is so much to do and see two years may not be long enough. We are working on our European vacation schedule and have a long list of places to check off before returning to the states. We believe we will catch the train to Paris next month for October break and are already set for ski and snowboarding in the Swiss Alps this winter.

In a short time we have made many new friends from so many countries – Spain, Sweden, Denmark, Scotland, Switzerland, Germany, UK ... although we are enjoying these relationships our friends from Issaquah are missed. We have our first friends from home coming to visit in October and are very excited to see some familiar faces.

We miss you all!

Fondly,  
The Gwinn's



# GOATS GONE WILD

*By Jerry Mack*

Retirement can be a lot of fun, and you can learn new skills by just being at the right place at the right time.

I was driving up our long hill this afternoon, and found an Issaquah policeman in need of help. The city had "rented" 30+ goats to "mow" down

some long grass and blackberry bushes (on the corner of Village Park and

Champerly behind the arbor vitas). One of the goats found an opening in the make-shift fence and the others followed. The policeman and I herded the goats out of the way of traffic until help arrived on the scene to assist. Marty and Myrt Nelson, as well as several others, came to the aid also. One lady called the city and asked, "who in the heck is responsible for these goats!"

The four of "Issaquah's finest" appreciated the citizens' help, as

they said, they didn't have goat herding training at the Police Academy! One said he had dealt with a bear before, but never a goat (They really were nice guys).



The "escapees" were put back in their "cell" and now are in lock-down until further notice.

Now I can add goat herding to my resume, in case there is ever a shortage of goat herders.

Goat herders, Myrt Nelson & Jerry Mack



## WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS

August 2. 6:15 PM

Watering flowers in our back yard tonight at 6:15. I was within 15-20 feet of the bobcat as he walked through our yard. Much bigger than I thought a bobcat would be. We live at 18310 NW Marseille Ct. Thank goodness our Golden was very quiet and just watched!! Kathy

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August 2. About 9 PM

We spotted what appeared to be a small cougar this evening walking into a neighbors yard on the corner of Montreux Drive NW and Konigs Court. It looked to be about 45-55 lbs, golden color. Thought it was a bobcat at first and then looked them up on internet and clearly was not a bobcat. Flat coated, golden, solid thick body. Debbie

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August 7. 1:30pm

We had a bobcat sighting today! Around 1:30pm a bobcat came out of the woods, walked through our backyard, hopped up on our neighbor's fence, went through their yard, and went back into the woods.

I got about 5 seconds of video of the bobcat. It was about the size of a large housecat. I'm guessing it weighed about 25 pounds.

Very non-threatening. We were up on our deck and he didn't see us.

I hope people are not alarmed by bobcat sightings. Just make sure to keep small pets inside. Thanks, Jim Minervino, 18402 Montreux Dr

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August 12. 8:15pm

My husband and I just saw a bobcat walk through our backyard with a dead rabbit in it's mouth, headed out into the green belt. We live at 18210 NW Montreux right on the greenbelt, this happened at around 8:15 (Friday night). Just wanted to let you know.

We actually have no problem with the bobcat, just looking out for people with small children or pets! Kelsey and Ronnie

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August 12

Lots of deer and rabbits sighted in MONTREUX by Sam Barrett of Lakeside Landscaping, our lawn service provider, who also sees wildlife in the yards of others for whom he provides service in MONTREUX. Doris&Duane Burke

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The Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) rep we spoke with recently said that they will not take any action on bear, bobcat, cougar, coyote or deer reports unless there is aggressive behavior in relation to adults or children. They do advise keeping pets and small children inside or closely supervised especially during the evening hours.

# **The Greening of Montreux 2011**

*By Constance Gardener*

Months later, summer is finally upon us! Some sun, some heat, instead of cloudy days and "showers turning to rain" as our local weather persons like to phrase it.

And that means we all enjoy this lovely neighborhood by doing a little yard work, replacing faded old bloomers with new fresh ones, trimming and mulching to keep weeds at bay; "Taking Pride in Ownership", is what Mom and Dad called it.

It's proven that those who garden lead longer, happier, and healthier lives. Bending, stretching and whiffing fresh air as you vanquish errant dandelions so they don't infect others' annuals gets you in tune with nature. And did you know (unsprayed and washed) dandelion greens are quite tasty and nutritious in a salad?

Otherwise, ask your neighbors who they employ for yard work. If you can't or don't want to do it yourself, this peak growing season demands at minimum, weekly mowing and bi-weekly weeding. Letting your grass go brown is also not attractive. According to city water conservation recommendations, every three day lawn watering of one inch either early in the morning or late afternoon is enough for a healthy lawn.

When we all make the choice to buy and live here, care and maintenance of landscape is part of everyone's package to enjoy life in Montreux. So let's all keep up!

## **CC&R's REMINDERS**

### **Checking Your Light Sensors**

A couple of months ago I wrote about the importance of maintaining our yard lights. At the time I mentioned my yard lights were not working and not being an electrician started to scratch my head. After dismantling the lamps and checking all connections were correct I came to the conclusion that I should consider the light sensor may not be working. I made a trip to Loews and found, much to my surprise, the sensor 'element' only cost \$8.00!

### **Yard Maintenance**

I am looking for two or three volunteers to help me develop a plan that can be presented to the board that will outline a set of guidelines, (for example: requirements for pruning shrubs, trees, hedges and edging lawns etc) to determine the standard of yard maintenance that can be approved by the board, published on the web site and uniformly enforced by the CC&Rs committee. Here's your chance to help set the bar!

Contact me, John Bryon, CC&R Chairman at 425 747 0709



# LAKES & WATERFALLS REPORT

All systems are currently working as they should in all three lakes and at both falls at the bottom of the hill. The ponds are being treated again this summer by Northwest Aquatic Eco-Systems, Inc. from Tumwater, WA. The lakes were treated on 6/17, 6/23, 7/14, and 8/31. We are still searching for a contractor to help us fix the leak in the small side pond

on the west side of the large falls along Newport Way. Until the leak is fixed we will keep the temporary dam in place that prevents water from flowing into this side pond.

The new waterfall control panel (see photos below) was recently installed, but the contractor is not quite finished with the work. Still to be completed is to install the water level sensors in each pond



and construct the building that will shield the control panel from view and protect the control panel from graffiti and vandalism. The building will be hidden in the trees and painted to match the colors surrounding it. If necessary, we may install some evergreen plantings to further shield this structure from the street.

In the photo below on the right you will see a small antenna that will transmit

information on the system to a web site so we can monitor the status of the system remotely via the internet. We are also hoping to install flow meters on the auto-fill pipes to keep tabs on the water usage for each falls. The contractor has estimated that the remaining work should be completed by 15 September.

Jerry Lilly, Chairman, 5266 NW Village Park Drive, (206) 972-6919 (cell phone)

Montreux HOA Board Meeting  
Tuesday, August 2, 2011  
7:00 p.m.  
Susan Gardner's House

In Attendance

Peter Roppo, Joe Preston, Myrt Nelson, Jerry Mack, Duane Burke, Jay Willenberg, Jerry Lilly, Charles Hayden, Joseph Nee, Bob Keilin, Judy Fenyk-Melody, Susan Gardner

Peter Roppo, HOA President, conducted the meeting. The meeting started at 7:15 p.m. and adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Jay made the motion to approve the minutes from the July 12, 2011 meeting, and Duane seconded. All board members were in favor.

PRE-MEETING DISCUSSION

- Duane said he noticed that another Montreux house is up for lease. We want to make sure that rental property yards are in keeping with Montreux standards. Duane suggested that we should try to help the renters feel like they are part of our community. He has invited renters to take part in the children's writing contest. The Board was in agreement that other ways to do this will be to make sure they have our directories, newsletters, and the Montreux web address. Duane mentioned we have seven rentals; now there will be eight.

- A homeowner has communicated to the board her concern about houses with neglected yards on Alpen Glow and Village Park Drive. Duane said that Sam Barrett of Lakeside Landscaping has gone to look at these houses (not going on the properties) to estimate what needs to be done. We were in agreement of the importance of addressing landscaping issues as soon as they arise, otherwise small problems may turn into larger ones.

- An ongoing concern is abandoned/bank-owned houses. Bob suggested that we may want to ask our attorney to draft letters to the banks involved.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Finances – Budget YTD (Jay)

Jay distributed a current financial statement through the end of July. This year we have saved some money because of the lower water bills; this is a decrease of around \$6,000 over last year's water expense.

The accountant has told us to write off any old debts that are over 1.5 years old (of abandoned or foreclosed houses.)

Joseph has noted that a light on Village Park Drive is continually on. Jay said the sensor is probably now hidden by a bush or the sensor could be failed. Myrt will ask Marty to look into it.

Judy asked about F.D.I.C. insured investments, and Bob is looking into this, possibly transferring funds from Vanguard into a regular bank. Another option is to purchase C.D.'s, although they lock up your money and the rates are very low right now.

#### Landscaping (Myrt)

Irrigation should be back on at the waterfalls tomorrow. The new control panel is now in, but the cover is not on yet.

We have an irrigation leak at the corner of Newport Way and Village Park Drive, and it may take digging around 6' down to repair it.

Someone drove over a valve box and broke off a coupler. We had to replace the box, value, coupler, etc.

When we had the backflow test, it was determined that we would need to replace two backflow valves at a cost of around \$1,200.

Joe received a call from the HOA president of Sammamish Hills condos. There is a giant dead evergreen tree that could threaten the condos, and the president feels it may be on Montreux property. The board was in agreement that the tree should be taken down. Jay motioned that Joe be given the authority to ask the city about it and then to have the tree taken down, Duane seconded, and all were in favor.

Myrt is going to have another weed-whacking done.

Bob received an email from someone who is a sub-contractor with Comcast regarding the electrical wire damage of the irrigation system that happened a number of months ago. Bob composed an email highlighting the timeline of events, which gave evidence that a Comcast crew may have damaged the electrical wire, and the amount of money (a little over \$2,000) that our HOA spent to repair it. A Comcast subcontractor will be coming out this week to look into it.

#### Montreux Directories

Many of the directories have been delivered. All board members committed to have the rest of them delivered by September 1, 2011.

#### Website (Charles)

Charles will be including in the website the dates of board meetings, and the homeowners who will be hosting. He will refer them to the Montreux directory for addresses. The September meeting will be at John Bryon's, the October meeting at Jerry Mack's. Judy was unable to find the announcement about the amendment to the CC&R's on the website. Charles suggested that Judy write her question on the Website's FAQ's.

#### Ponds and Waterfalls (Jerry L)

Jerry L said that the ponds are in good shape. The Pond Captains alert him when anything is needed. However, Myrt said that the pond behind her property is brown; Jerry will talk to the person who helps with the ponds to see what is needed there. The waterfall is still off. Someone has moved Jerry L's dam; Jerry will reinstall before the water goes back on. Highbridge has not responded to Jerry L regarding if they would be able to help fix the leak (Highbridge had built the original waterfall.)

#### Social (Joseph N)

Linda Willenberg has applied with the city. We will reserve the block from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on September 10. Joseph will be contacting Susanna Wilkin for planning information.

#### ACC (Jerry M)

Six roofs in Montreux have now been replaced with composite roofing material. Homeowners must continue to consult with the ACC/Jerry M before choosing any type of roofing other than wood shakes or shingles.

#### Newsletter

Duane is hoping that a lot of children will be involved in the writing contest; at this point we have four. All children, ages 5 to 18, can participate. We want to encourage children to write and to have the enjoyment of seeing what they have written published in the newsletter. There will be prizes, and a special prize for twins! Duane asked all board members to let him know of neighbors with children so that he can contact them.

Judy is an "advisor" to the newsletter.

Submitted by:  
Susan Gardner  
August 2, 2011

# MONTREUX CHILDREN'S STORIES

stories that we received for the Children's Story Writing Contest are shown below. The stories are in alphabetic sequence by child's first name within the age groups of 4 to 8; 9 to 12; 13 to 15; and 16 to 19. Last names have been omitted since the MONTREUX News is accessible on the Internet through the association web site.

Contest winners will be announced and prizes awarded to all story writers at the annual MONTREUX BBQ on September 10th at 5:30 PM.

Our thanks to the children who submitted these delightful stories and to the parents who helped and encouraged them.

We hope that you enjoy the children's creativity and admire their intelligence as we do.

Best regards,  
Doris&Duane Burke and Judy Fenyk-Melody

## AGE GROUP 4 to 8

### The Duck at the Animal Carnival

*By: Daniel 6 years old*

The duck meets some friends. The duck says hi to a frog. The frog was named Jack. The duck and the frog went on a ride together. The ride was a roller coaster. Then the duck met another friend. It was a pig. The pig and the duck went on a ride. The ride was a race car ride. They raced and they raced. They got some cotton candy afterwards. The duck went on a jeep ride by himself and then the duck played golf with a wolf. The duck had a great day at the carnival. He had to leave and went to the carnival again when he woke up. He then met new friends. He got ice -cream. His new friends were a bird, eagle and a turtle. They went on more rides. He had a really fun time at the carnival for the 2 days.

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### A Big Rabbit Won The Race

*By Eden age 6*

Long, long ago, and far, far away, there was a big white girl rabbit named Cornflower with blue eyes and pink ears. One sunny Saturday she invited many animal friends from second grade. She then made carrot ice cream for her friends to eat after the race. They raced in the woods. After cornflower won the race. They flew kites and played games. Finally they went to rabbits house and played Wii, Candyland, and tic-tac-toe. They ate and drank lots of things. They went home with goodie bags and ate carrot ice cream all the way home. Cornflower was so tired, and she took a nap. Later that day Cornflowers friends also took a nap.

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# **The Amazing World of Limbo**

*By Matthew Age 8*

One day a boy woke up in the forest. He got up and ran as fast as he could and then he got on a boat and sailed. He got to an island and climbed up a tree over a swamp and then he jumped off. The boy ran into a huge spider. But then the spider got one of his legs stuck in a bear trap. The spider ran away with a chopped off leg. The boy followed the spider. The boy was now in the amazing world of limbo. The boy got into the spider's den. The spider tied the boy into a cocoon. The boy got out of the cocoon and kept walking. The boy ran into two men that were throwing rocks. The boy climbed up a ladder and chased them. One of the men dropped a rock. The boy picked it up. Then there was a fake big spider. The boy threw the rock at it. The men ran away. The boy started running. Then the boy saw the big spider with a man stuck to its foot. The spider chased the boy to a hill where the spider fell off a ledge. The boy got to a jungle when he heard something behind him. The spider was back with one leg. But the spider almost smashed the boy. Then the boy ripped off the spider arm and rolled him in the lake. The end.

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## **A Witch's Troubles**

*Written and Illustrated by – Sage Age 8*

A witch rides to Pumpmont town on her magic broomstick. She had mysterious plans to cast spells and scare kids on Halloween night. But the kids knew that the witch was coming and they had their own plans. When she reached the first house it was very dark and she could not see the trap hiding in the pumpkin. The witch loved eating pumpkins. She reached out to grab the yummy pumpkin, her foot got stuck behind the pumpkin. She yelled oowwwwwwwwwwwwee! She tried to untangle her foot but she tripped and fell headfirst into the pumpkin. She tried to get the pumpkin off her head but then she tripped and fell into a prickly bush and a cage came down on her. Help! Help! She yelled. The kids came running out and said we will only let you out if you promise not to scare us anymore. The witch apologized for being mean and promised not to ever do it again. The kids helped her out and they went trick – a- treating together in Pumpmont town. All the Pumpmont kids received their choice of gifts from the witch. All the kids are looking forward for the good witch to come back next year.

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## **The Pig**

*Written & Illustrated by Simar Age 6*

The pig lay in the sun at the farm resting in the afternoon sun, dreaming about rolling in the mud. He saw the farmer feeding the chickens. His tummy was rumbling too. So the pig went to his bowl, where his piggy munchies should have been. But there were no munchies! The pig snorted loudly to get the farmers attention. It did not work. The farmer was too busy, so the pig tried again. But

he wasn't successful. He had another idea. The pig leaped over the fence and rushed to the farmer's house. He sneaked inside and Pizza and ordered 6 told the pizza the farmer. Then friends who lived the pizzas arrived, friends gobbled up had a piggy pizza after all this work in the sun.



farmer's house. He called Piggy Hut large pizzas. He company to charge he called his piggy next door. When he and his piggy all the pizzas and party. He was tired and went back to lie

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## THE JOURNEY OF A GOLDEN RETRIEVER

BY TAYLOR ( age 8 )

It was an early morning when it had happened. Rufsy was sound asleep in his bed, Demina and Leslie were in their "Fluffy" beds, and Uncle Bliss was snoozing away in his bed. I was the first to rise from my blue bed labeled Calvin in gold letters. Demina and Leslie are my "sisters". Demina is soooo pretty and her voice sounds like la la la la. As for Leslie, she's well ....dumb. That's pretty much all I'm allowed to say, says Uncle Bliss. Speaking of Uncle Bliss, he's not actually my uncle, he's just a dog. I just like calling him uncle. Rufsy is awesome! He knows all these cool things to do in the "Big Box Fruit".

That's what we call the place we meet at night. It is a box. That's why it is called the "Big Box Fruit". Rufsy keeps on saying he got it from looking over at the sign on the super market by the pet shop. I have to constantly tell him it's called Knock's Fruit. But still he's half right about it. Box Fruit is real. I've seen the owner of the pet shop buy some of that stuff. She uses it to decorate the room apparently. They're very bright. "What are you doing there Calvin?" asked a rather rumbling voice. It was Uncle Bliss. "Just dreaming," I said. "Say, you woke up pretty early today, sonny. You know when I was a kid" "just like me, you would always think about what it's like to be free," I cut in. Uncle Bliss just ruffed. He's like that in the morning. But I don't blame him. I don't like mornings myself. Anyway, a bunch of new dogs had come in. The leader of the troop seemed to be named "Rex". His henchman I heard were named Sabor and Scare. They are all pretty much humongous. Uncle Bliss says to be nice to them but I'm not so sure. Some other pets came too. Huffle, a tiny, tiny dog that is sort of shaved. Ramona, a black hamster with white spots, and Squeaky, a very judgmental guinea pig that always fights with Ramona. "Hey you!" barked a sudden voice, Rex had been up behind my back the whole time! Everyone scooted back. Even Uncle Bliss slid back a little. I was all alone in the middle with Rex and Sabor. Scare must have been sleeping. Then before I knew it, everyone was yelling: 'Fight, fight, fight!' At the last second, Uncle Bliss butted in and saved my butt. His exact word were: "Okay, okay, settle it down guys." I noticed Squeaky was beside him for backup.

Right then someone came in! Everyone stood in their cutest pose. I even waved at the family that would come out of this shop with a pet! They resisted. I dotted my eyes very cute, "I want that one!" said a little girl. "No, no sweetie, we have to look at all of them," said her mom. "Please, mom. Pleeese", "Okay, Sally". Yes, Can it be true? I was being bought! Good bye Uncle Bliss, Good bye stupid pet shop! Most of all, bye Squeaky" "I also want that little hamster!" "Honey, that is a guinea pig" "Good bye, Demina" I softly barked. We went to their "house". It's like a pet shop but bigger. The girl's name is Sally. She had a big brother named Riley. On yeah, and about Squeaky, he's actually Riley's pet. Riley has snakes.

Then, it hit me! Riley wasn't keeping Squeaky as a pet; he was going to feed him to the snakes! Okay, so I don't like Squeaky, but I urged myself that I had to save him! I ran into Riley's room and grabbed Squeaky by the fluffy tail! "What are you doing" Squeaky demanded to know. "Saving your life" I squirmed with his tail in my mouth. "I don't need to be saved. I was perfectly fine where I was." Oh well, that is a big whoop! I am so mad!

A few days had gone by, Sally is a nice kid, you know. Bu-bu-but okay, they are selling me!! How could this happen!!?

I woke up. I just remembered I was sleeping. But it wasn't a dream. Apparently I was in a box. I noticed the box has air holes. I peeked out of one, I checked the calendared. Oh yeah, it was Chris Mas day! I've looked that up before but I keep coming up with this guy named Christmas or X-mas. Uncle Bliss said on Chris Mas day humans get presents. It

turns out **I'm** the present. The box was very tight. Suddenly, I heard footsteps! Someone was coming! A description of the girl who came in would be a tall blond-brown haired girl with pink pajamas on. Mommy, Daddy, Lila, Santa came!" I just remembered something- I'm a dog and dogs aren't made by Santa. She quickly opened the first package.

It was a Bar-B doll. I noticed there was a decorated tree above me and ornaments everywhere! Wreaths and bells and eaten up donuts where scattered everywhere! Gee, Chris Mas must be really famous. I wonder what he did... Then- right then, she opened the package I was in. "A doggie! Thanks mom!" I heard her yell.

Over time I really got to know Fiona. That's the girl who got me as a Chris Mas present. She had another dog named Anna. She is very nice. Fiona also has a sister named Addie. Can it be? At last I am home! Now my story ends.... And another begins.

The End

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## **AGE GROUP 9 to 12**

# **THE CAVE ADVENTURE**

*By Catherine Age 9*

Once upon a time there was a bunny named Coconut. She was brown as chocolate and her nose was pink as peppermint. Her friend was a butterfly named Waterfall. She was all the colors of the rainbow. Waterfall and Coconut

played together all the time. One thing they always did at their play dates was explore. It was January 15th and they were planning to explore farther and longer. One thing they didn't know was that there was a cave in the middle of the forest and that was where bats, bears, and rats lived. They still went into the forest to explore. They saw waterfalls, trees, and then they saw the cave.

Waterfall said "Let's go in!" and Coconut agreed, so they went in. They found lots of cool rocks. When Coconut was picking up one, she saw something gleaming in the wall. Coconut said "Look over there!" to Waterfall and Waterfall saw it too. But when Coconut went to pull it out of the wall, she heard a loud ROAR! "What was that?" she asked very frightened. "I don't know," said Coconut "but it doesn't sound good. Let's get out of here!" But they were too late. Right in front of them was a big grizzly bear. What would they do next?

Then Coconut took a step forward and said "What do you want?" to the grizzly bear. "I want a nice bunny breakfast." said the grizzly bear. "I'll make a deal with you. If you let us free, I'll catch a bunny for you to eat." said Coconut. The grizzly looked surprised, but said "What a wonderful idea. I'll take it." But when they walked toward the door, they stumbled over lots of rats. "You can't get past us." said the rats. "Yeah we can." said Waterfall. "How?" asked the rats. Just as Coconut was about to answer, the rats were gone and she was lying in bed with Waterfall fluttering above her. She said "Come on. Let's explore." And that's when Coconut discovered it was just a dream and the two friends had a fun time exploring and it was animal free except for them.

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## **The Darkness Upstairs**

*Emily Age 11*

"Emily!" called my mom, "It's time for bed!" I was just in the middle of the story Coraline, and was totally FREAKED OUT by it already. "Mom," I asked, "can you come upstairs with me?"

She sighed and said, "Did you read another scary novel again?"

"Of course not! How could you think such a preposterous thing?" I said. But that was a big, fat, lie.

Ever since I was little, I was always afraid of the dark. To me, the dark was a monster. Lurking in the shadows, sending shivers up and down your spine, waiting for the perfect moment to strike.

In fact, it was always the same routine over and over again. I read a scary novel or see a scary movie, I become afraid of the dark. A few weeks pass and then I'm not afraid anymore. But then I see another scary book or movie and before I know it, I'm scared all over again. Tonight I was exhausted and sore all over my body, so I had no choice but to gather up all my strength, and go to the stairs.

There they were. The stairs. I gripped the handrail as tight as I could. "Here goes nothing", I thought to myself. I took my first step. I thought to myself, "Only thirteen steps to go." I took two more steps. Three more. Four more. Five more. Soon, there was only one more step.

"Come on, Emily," I thought to myself, "just one more step! You can do this!" At last, I took the final step. As fast as I could, I turned on the lights. Immediately the dark hall turned into a really lit up hall. It didn't look scary at all anymore. "Hey," I said to myself, "this isn't so bad. Well, not anymore." I walked into the bathroom.

Chapter2: FLUFFMUFFIN369



There was another brilliant, white, light. "Oh, not again!" groaned Bob. Joe and Bob were on Fluffmuffin 369, with Joe's color-changing dragon, Flamethrower, and Bob's Blue-Tailed T-Rex, Bop. Jim

Zabernovasandweeeniamdumbzapzipzoomcrack welcomed them. Then, Sir Pete Ridiculousbobbyers came running. "EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY!" he yelled. "WE ARE UNDER ATTACK BY DEVILHEAD. OH, AND HELP ME STOP SCREAMING!" A Devilhead confusion missile exploded next to Jim. "I Jim Zabernovasandweeeniamdumbzapzipzoomcrack am hypnotized by a confu-HALALUWAI!" said Jim as his speech was interrupted by Flamethrower's Fire Breath.

Back in Devilhead 527, the BOSS ALIEN (Commander Zapzing Destroyer) realized that their Time/Space warp generator could go crazy and destroy the Devilhead planet, unless they had the Crystal of Timexis and the Jewel of Vestraya. Research by the Bodyguard Aliens (who all had noticeable lacks of wits) showed that the Crystal of Timexis and Jewel of Vestroy would lower the randomness of the Time/Space Warps.

But these were found in an unknown planet filled with aliens. It had some kind of inhabitants, for example, "people" (us). The planet was so far away they could never reach it-without the Time/Space warp generator. So he sent out the chief ship in the scout fleet, Eaglory to find it. However, they forgot the Ukas (gas) and it couldn't even go 1 micron. 20 years before, on earth, an eagle-shaped ship was sighted in North America.

#### Chapter 3

They GOT to earth on accident with the Time/Space warps. DEVILHEAD aliens finally got to earth and they did that using Triship, a U.F.O. that split into 3. The Jewel + Crystal were found during an incident involving a jungle of angry time-traveling monkeys and a shape shifting volcano. When they got to earth, one part of the Triship nearly got destroyed by flying, mutant bananas thrown by the monkeys, one part nearly got crushed flat by a rock crab spewing lava (the shape-shifting volcano), and ONE part's crew snuck and stole the crystal and jewel from Lord Fraghugstinkyasasdfkonehead Bigbigbigbigbigguy of the fabric chairs, who realized what happened after he woke up from his nap, 5 hours later. Then, while going back to DEVILHEAD 527, the Triship crashed into Ceres in the Asteroid Belt, where they were rescued by other aliens. Anyway, the ALIEN BOSS put the Jewel and Crystal in the warp generator and.....

#### Chapter 4

Success of the Fail, because of the Success of the Success

.....THE MACHINE EXPLODED. There was a brilliant flash of - well, it doesn't really have a name but it was something pretty similar to booger - yellow. DEVILHEAD 527 was destroyed instantly. The (Dim - Witted) Bodyguard Aliens made a miscalculation. The Diamond of the Wise Ones made things less crazy. The Crystal of Timexis and the Jewel of Vestraya made the Time/Space Warp more POWERFUL. FLUFFMUFFIN was only a 30 million miles away from DEVILHEAD, and not because of that FLUFFMUFFIN was not harmed. But BECAUSE of that, FLUFFMUFFIN also got the effects. FLUFFMUFFIN 369 and the DEVILHEAD aliens were engulfed in a HUGE, SWIRLING MASS OF TIME/SPACE WARP ENERGY.

#### Chapter 5

Arrival/Return to Earth

Earth, 3156 A.D.

Joe was in his mom's C. A. R. again. "Oh not again!" he wailed.

Earth 5000000000 B. C.

“Hey, whoo! I’m – huh? WUHH? OF FOR PETE’S SA-Auggabllbrrrr....” (Bob was in the river again).

Earth 2012 A.D.

The Devilhead aliens were floating around earth. The boss madly yelled at the Bodyguard aliens for 30 minutes then stopped. “HmMMM, I think this planet is primitive enough.....” said Zapzing evilly.

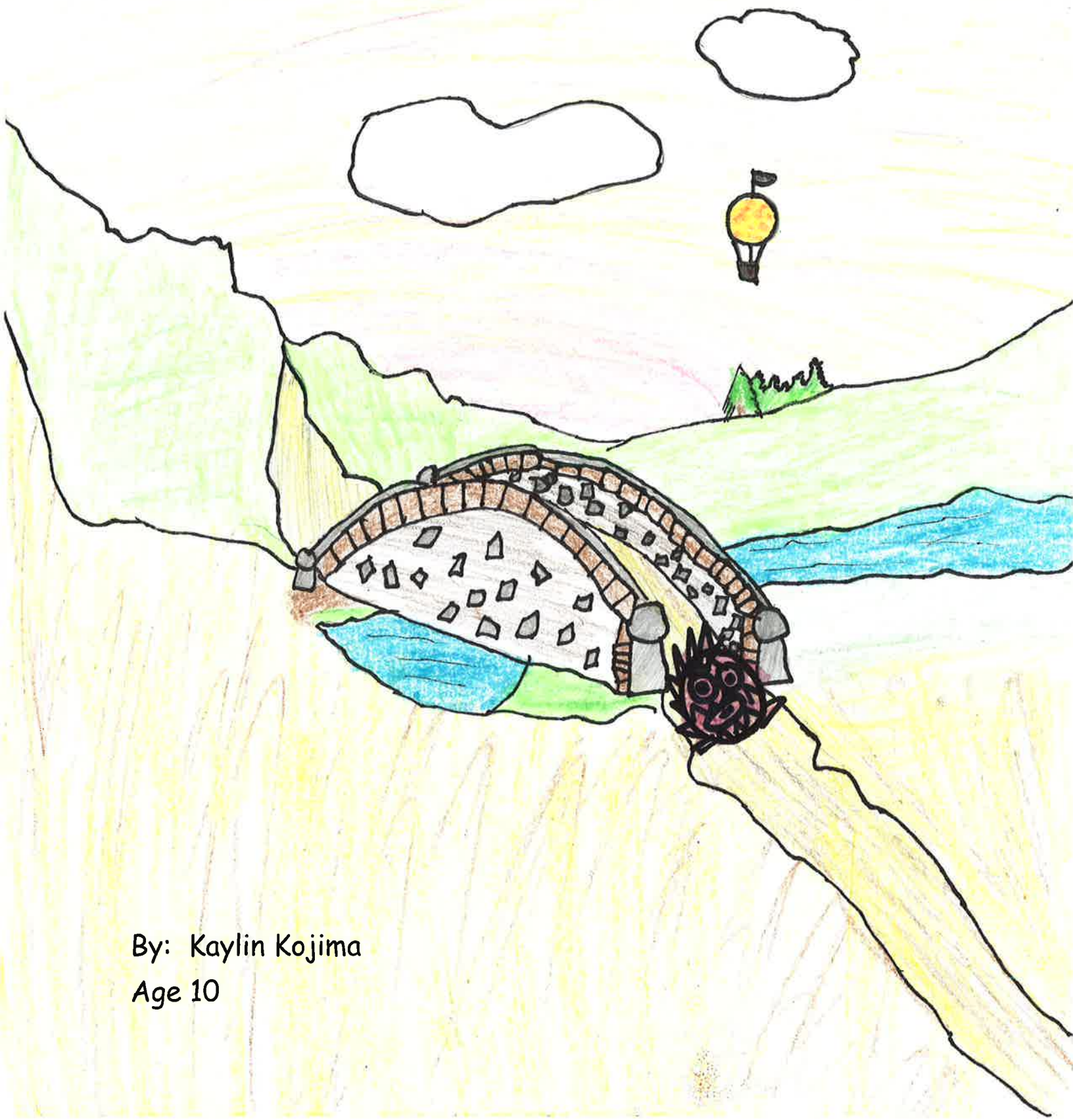
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TO BE CONTINUED

Sneak Peek: Story 2: It was destiny that Joe and Bob got to Devilhead. We shall not let Joe and Bob destroy our fleet! Patrol aliens! Bodyguard Aliens! Diver, Spy, Hypno, Tech, Sonic, Scout, Boat, Spike, and my 2nc in command. THE MULTIPLYING (like me) ARM ALIENS, we will INVADE earth! The primitive, small, clueless, blue, green, icy, hot, windy, (pant, pant), wet, mild, dry, molten,magne - (gasp) - tic,electric,featured – in - mythology, fables, and morals, techy, sometimes - sleeping,some - EARTH!!!The invasion of Earth will begin, starting with 2012 A.D.! – Zapzing Destroyer--P.S.: Joe and Bob are going to manage to hold us back and that’s as far as my future vision goes. WAIT! BOOT THIS THING UP, Tech aliens! Ah, yes, my vision shows Spiderinvader and the Spikeship can defeat them!- ONCE IT GETS BUILT!! HURRY UP DEVILHEADERS! OH FOR DEVILHEAD’S SAKE!!!!!! – End of Transmission.

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# ADVENTURE TO FRIENDS



By: Kaylin Kojima  
Age 10

Kyline is 10 years old and lives in a small town called Wonder.

Wonder is located a million miles away from other cities and doesn't have a lot of people. And, there isn't a lot of kids her age to play with.

One day Kyline heard her parents talking about a place called Friends. She thought to herself, Friends, with a name like that I can meet new people and make new friends! Later that night, Kyline started to plan her adventure.

The next day there was no school. Kyline thought that would be a great day to go to Friends. So that night she got her backpack ready for her big trip. She started filling it with cookies and candy and something to drink. She also tossed in her very special two good luck pennies. There! I'm all packed and ready to go.

The next morning after breakfast, she tells her mom and dad, Good Bye! I'm off on an adventure! "Okay sweetie", her mom replied,

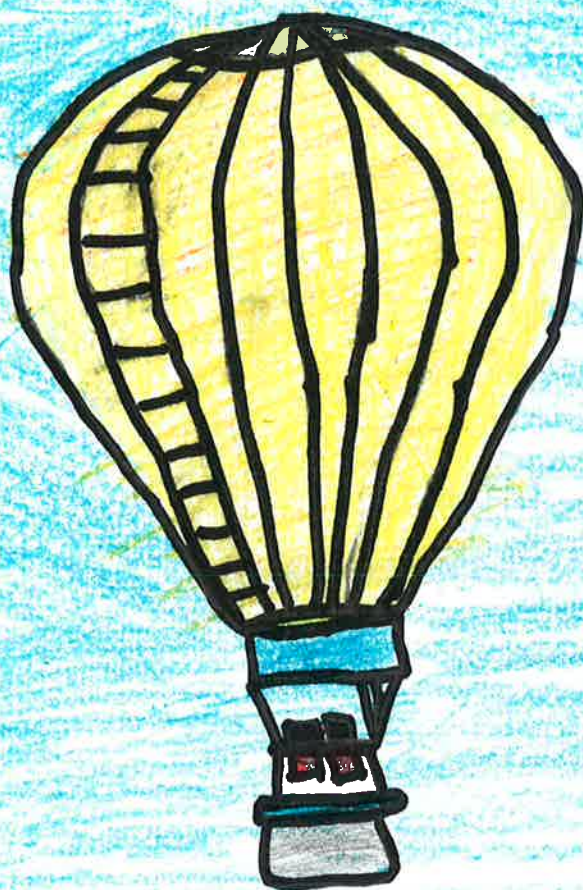
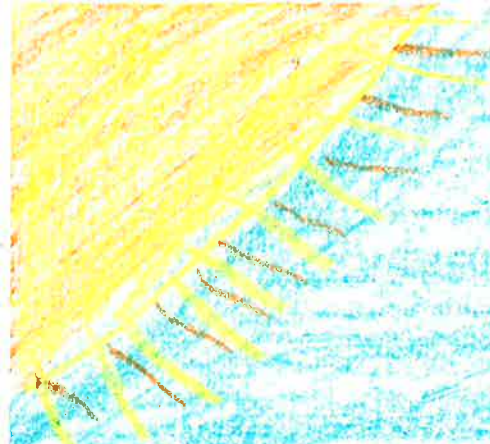
"have fun and be home by lunchtime". Of course, her parents thought Kylene would be playing outside the house, as she normally did.

Kylene started walking. After walking a gazillion miles (five minutes later), she came across a bridge. She started to cross the bridge, but was stopped by a big, ugly puffer fish. HALT! Who goes there! I am Puffer, and I guard this bridge. No one is allowed to cross it unless you give me all your riches. Kylene showed Puffer her backpack and took everything out. The only thing that matters the most to her is her special lucky pennies. She doesn't want to give him that. So she asks the guard, how about some cookies? candy? something to drink? You must be thirsty guarding the bridge all day. Puffer said "NO", I see those coins. Give me the coins and you can cross the bridge. Kylene was sad. She couldn't give up her pennies. They were very special to her. She had no choice but to turn around and head home, getting back just in time for lunch. Mom was none the wiser of her little adventure.



As the days go by, Kylene is thinking of ways of how she can cross the bridge. She so desperately wants to go to Friends and meet some new friends. One day, she comes up with a brilliant plan, as soon as school is over she heads home and gets to work. First, she finds a huge blanket, gathers a large basket and some string. Tying the string to the blanket and basket, she creates a hot air balloon. Kylene was very excited about her plan, keeping it a secret, waiting for the perfect day to adventure. Finally, the perfect windy day comes along right as she gets out of school. She packed some snacks in a basket along with her lucky penny. Finally she's ready. The wind starts to pick up so she jumps into her balloon and it takes off into the air. She keeps going higher and higher and as time goes on, she knows that she has to move sideways so she can get to the town. Then all of a sudden, the wind shifts and blows her in the right direction and she can see the bridge, hoping the wind doesn't stop and she won't have to see the mean old puffer fish. Luckily, Kylene sails past the bridge and safely lands into the town. Kylene was so happy to be on the other side of the bridge and







excited to meet new friends. After Kylene lands the hot air balloon, she sees a mysterious path that is all pink. She follows the path and comes across a house. It was the biggest and the prettiest house Kylene has ever seen. The house was painted pink with butterflies all over. The front door was a bright green. Kylene's favorite colors are pink and bright green, and she absolutely loves butterflies. She fell in love with this mysterious house. She walked slowly to the house and carefully opened the door and saw a staircase. Kylene was scared at first but her curiosity got the best of her. She slowly crept up the stairs. Halfway up Kylene came across a girl who seemed to be her age. "What are you doing in my house?" the girl asked.

"I'm Kylene and I am here to meet new friends, would you like to be my friend?" asked Kylene. "Hi Kylene, I'm Kendall and I'd be delighted to be your friend, come on I'll show you my room!" As Kylene went into Kendall's room, she knew that Kendall was going to be Kylene's best friend!



"Now, I want to see your house Kylene!" said Kendall. "Sure let's go." Kylene agreed. Kylene explained to Kendall how she got to her house as they got closer to the hot air balloon. As they reached it, Kylene and Kendall hopped into the hot air balloon giggling while the wind blew them towards Kylene's house. They passed over the bridge and Kylene pointed to Kendall the puffer fish that was guarding the bridge. They continued on until the balloon landed right in front of Kylene's front door. When they entered the house they saw Kylene's parents cooking dinner. She introduced her parents to Kendall and they went to Kylene's room. Surprisingly their rooms were exactly the same, bright green walls and a pink ceiling. At that point, Kylene and Kendall look at each other and smiled, both said at the same time "we have the same room colors"

The girls sat and talked, played and laughed, and learned that they have a lot in common. Kylene takes out her backpack, reaches in and takes out both of her good luck pennies. She hands one over to Kendall

and says, "I'm giving you one of my good luck pennies, will you be my friend? As time goes by, Kylene and Kendall become the bestest of friends.

THE END

# Scrintinia

Chapter One

By Nikelle Age 11

I woke up on a bright morning with my memory gone. I'd tell you more, but I can't. I know how to walk, how to talk. I know how to do stuff. I just don't know what I've done. I don't know if the police are searching for me. What I do know, right now, is that I'm in the sky, in a comfy bed of clouds. And I know I'm not dreaming. Nobody else is around me. I stay still, not wanting to fall to my death, when a dog runs in the air up to me (Runs! In the air! My first memory is getting stranger and stranger!) and turns into a human girl as it-she-reaches my bedside. If I hadn't been frozen with fear, I would have screamed. Trust me, I still have memory of how loud I can scream and you don't want to hear it.

"Welcome to Scrintinia," she said. I guess she was about 16. I felt I was 12. But I didn't know for sure. Honestly. "The people are over there," she pointed, "And you might want to go there soon to get your A.F., which is your animal form." I say she took things a bit fast. I mean, it's hard to digest that much info at once.

"Uh, um, h-how do you, uh, move," I managed to stammer before she ran away.

"Walk, move, whatever," she said as she floated away. Great, I thought. Now I was on my own.

I climbed out of bed, realizing (to my relief) that I have clothes on. A blue t-shirt and faded jeans. I stood on the cloud-rug, doubting my ability to float. I jump, thinking, it's now or never, and curl my body up into a tight little ball, waiting to get squashed against the ground. The moment never comes. I slowly uncurl myself and open my eyes. And I'm floating! I'm honest-to-goodness floating! So I start walking in the direction where, according to dog-girl, all the people are. I break into a run, breaking into a sweat as I do so. I have to say that's a relief, because you can't sweat in heaven. That means I'm not dead.

So when I walk up to this big structure, I realize something. Something important. This building isn't made of clouds, as I initially thought it was. It's just a normal, white building. And it's floating.

And, I guess because of all the other surprises this morning, I'm not surprised by that.

Not one bit.

I sprint inside, and run straight into a woman dressed in all purple.

"Come with me," she says, so I do. I tell myself that I'm dreaming, yet a strange part of me knows this is real.

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## A Seal Changed My Life

By Sarah, Age: 12

"The peaceful sounds of birds in the morning, the rolling of the waves, and the occasional cold splashes of water shocking my skin. This is why I love kayaking!" said 14 year old Maddie, the youngest of the Beal family. "Hey! Do you see that? Turn your head to the left! I think it's a harbor seal."

"Where? I want to see!" shouted 16 year old Anna, Maggie's older sister. "Oh, never mind. I see it. It's adorable!"



"It's funny; they usually hang out in a pack. Hey, let's go back and tell Dad!" Maggie suggested.

|||

"Dad, you are not going to believe this! We saw the cutest harbor seal today! It was all alone, without a mother. Isn't that sad?" Maggie said.

"That's strange; they're usually in a pack." Mr. Beal mumbled.

"Maggie! Look at the beach! Doesn't that look like the same seal we saw kayaking? It has the same spots." Anna said in amazement.

"Let's see. Hmmm, the dark brown spot on the top of its head in the shape of a heart and the big caramel blob on his stomach; yeah, that's him all right!" Maggie said. "We should probably walk down and see if he is okay."

Mr. Beal led his two girls down to the beach to check on the seal pup. When they arrived, the baby seal was lying on the beach and making screeching noises.

"Do you think he's okay?" Anna wondered aloud. "I'll call the vet and ask her to come take a look at him."

|||

"How is he?" Maggie asked nervously.

"Blind. He can survive, but not in the wild." Dr. Durtes sighed. "He will have to live in captivity for the rest of his life."

"Can we keep him? We can take care of him! Right Dad?" Maggie begged.

"Sorry. You would have to have a license. But you both look old enough to volunteer." Dr. Durtes suggested hopefully. "Mr. Beal could you please call the American Wildlife Foundation to tell them we have found an injured seal? Girls, can you fill this tub with seawater so I can transport this seal to the Foundation?"

The girls rushed into the water with the tub and filled it. They also assisted Dr. Durtes in lifting the seal into the tub and then into her truck.

"Girls, if you are really interested in volunteering, you can go to the American Wildlife Foundation and fill out a form. They would really appreciate it." Dr. Durtes said hopefully. "Thank you! Goodbye."

|||

"I don't think I'm going to volunteer. I'm too busy. Plus, all we are going to do is clean up after the animals and raise money in front of stores." Anna sighed.

"Dad! Can I volunteer? I would really like to. Plus, it's summer, I'm not doing anything." Maggie begged.

"I guess. But, I'm not driving you there. You'll have to ride your bike each day." Mr. Beal sighed.

"Great! I'll go pump up my tires and check my breaks!" Maggie yelled while racing out the door.

|||

"Thank you for volunteering! Please follow me and I'll give you a tour!" Miss Young said. "Now, there are a lot of ways you can help us. I think the best jobs for teens are helping the veterinarians in the clinic, or leading our community lectures. You could educate people on the importance of this job, and tell them how they can help wild animals and the ecosystem."

"That sounds great! Is there any way I can do both?" Maggie asked eagerly.

"Sure, but you would need to spend about 20 hours a week here. Plus, you would have to be trained before you could start working. It would take at least a couple of weeks before you start."

"That's fine with me! Can I start training today?"

|||

"Wow! I'm impressed. You did such a great job on your talk! I can't believe how calm you were when handling the bald eagle. Did you even get nervous?" Anna asked.

"Thanks! I really had fun with it." Maggie replied. "Tomorrow I get to start my job as an assistant right?"

|||

"I'm ready to start my job as an assistant!" Maggie said.

"Great, we could really use your help! Someone hit a seal with their boat. It is pretty serious and I need your help!" Dr. Martin said. "Hurry! I need you to disinfect my operating table!"

Maggie hurried to the operating table and disinfected it. She grabbed Dr. Martin's tools and set them near the table and disinfected them too.

"It's coming in!"

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"Are you okay?" Anna asked Maggie.

"No. I quit today. A seal got hit by a boat. We had to operate on it, and it died on us. I volunteered to be with animals and help them survive through tough

situations, not to watch them die right in front of my eyes! I don't think this is for me. I don't want to watch animals die." Maggie sobbed.

"I know you don't, no one does. You joined to help, and that's what you did. Help. Think of how many more animals you are going to save. You will feel so much better if you stick with it. Plus, that seal would've died no matter what; at least you helped to try and save it."

iii

14 years later

"I am so sorry, I screwed up! I forgot your tool pouch! You couldn't save that eagle because of my mistake!" Lisa, Maggie's new assistant, sobbed.

"We all make mistakes. Please stick with it. I know you will do great! You know when I was your age; I panicked during my first surgery and dropped a whole tray of surgical instruments on the floor. The veterinarian lost precious time and I thought because of my mistake a seal bleed to death. I almost quit, but I tried again. If I had quit, I wouldn't have become Dr. Beal, Veterinarian for the American Wildlife Association of San Juan Island."

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## **A Very Hot Continent**

*By: Vaughn age: 10*

This summer my family went on a trip to Europe. I visited several countries and had a chance to see all kinds of scenic views, explore different cultures, and taste and smell many mouth watering delicious gourmet food. I had an extravagant time in Europe, though sometimes I wish I never went. There were times when it was hot and we were all tired and grumpy from walking miles in the sun. But overall this trip was one I'll never forget.

We started our trip from Seattle when we boarded a plane for Amsterdam, Netherlands, then transited to Venice, Italy. I listened to music, read, watched TV, slept, and did homework on the plane. It was chilly then but I would soon discover how hot Venice was. In Venice I felt so hot and sticky it must have been 105°F! It was extremely uncomfortable. Our hotel room was so small my dad had to purchase an additional room. Plus the elevator was so little we could barely squeeze in with one luggage.

The next morning was time to get on the cruise ship. I was amazed by how large the Voyager of the Seas ship was. I found out that it was the third largest cruise ship in the world. The brunch was wonderful as we were hungry. The ship was so big it had a street inside. We had two cabins and I loved it. We attended a drill and watched a first night show after supper.

In the morning, we did some Kumon and ate breakfast. Our first port was Koper, Slovenia. We visited several recommended places. All had amazing ancient mosaics. Mosaics are made from small colorful tiles. Some walls were covered with these colorful tiles. It was so hot we drank 7 bottles of water in addition to one Popsicle and gelato each. It was wonderful.

The next port was Ravenna, Italy, a mildly noisy countryside. We bought a pair shoes for dad since his feet hurt from walking. We visited the market. It was sunny and hot. Many people sold lavender and potpourri. We visited a church that used to be a hospital for mental patients.

The next day we arrived in Bari. We rode a train-like bus to visit a church. We walked up an alleyway and saw people making ravioli. The tour guide told us most ravioli companies bought from them. When everybody was wine tasting, we ate ice cream to cool off.

When the ship landed at Dubrovnik, Croatia, I found it was a beautiful bay with white sand and crystal clear blue seawater that dazzled so brightly. The houses' color coordinated and matched perfectly with orange roofs and white walls. My sister stayed in the kids club, and we took a taxi to visit a war museum and the city. We also went to the old town and stopped at a beautiful bay. We saw lots of little fishes because we could see 5 feet deep into the sea.

On board, we shopped, ate dinner and watched shows. We played golf and Ping-Pong on the top deck, but it was very hard and annoying because it was windy. The balls never went where I wanted it to go. On the sea day, we watched a fruit carving, skated on the ice rink, competed Sudoku, did origami, towel and napkin folding, and swam.

When the ship returned to Venice, we took a water bus to Murano Island. We bought pendants with glass miniature goldfish and two pretty toads. I loved the beautiful pieces of glass, big, small, interesting, and amazing in all kinds of glass shops. We saw big roosters, cats, lambs and many of the other beautiful, colorful, creative lights, and tiny animals. There was even a gigantic blue piece of art taller than my dad! It had many points, twists and twirls.

After the last cruise ship day, we took a fast train to Rome. On the way to Rome, I saw the countryside which was green with many different cows. We saw the most beautiful sunset. While I was playing with my toys, suddenly everything was dark! I was so surprised one of my toys dropped. Seconds later I found out our train went into a tunnel. We passed through many tunnels. In Rome we found a very good restaurant and enjoyed the most delicious Italian food. However, it was a hot night, and the air conditioning was not cold enough. Dad opened a window. Strangely I was the only one stung 17 times by vicious mosquitoes. Next morning, we took a tour of Rome on a big bus. We saw the Trevi fountains, a market, and an art museum, stopping finally at St. Peter's Square. There we saw many dead embalmed popes who still looked amazing. At the same time they looked like they they could suddenly become alive and touch you. We saw the pope's blessing as it was Sunday. He could talk in nine or ten languages! We also visited the Sistine Chapel. It was so hot there they gave us fans. We saw the painting of the whole bible on the ceiling. We saw many statues. My 5-year old sister kept asking: "Hey! Why are those statues naked!" It was pretty embarrassing.

We left Rome for Florence by train. In Florence we took a tour to visit a square where we had pizza and gelato. We rode a horse carriage around the town. We

visited Uffizi museum, and saw many works of art. I enjoyed it so much that we were almost late for our train back to Venice.

We flew back to Seattle very tired. I loved this trip because it was a historical, cultural experience and I saw very ancient and beautiful objects. It was definitely both fun and interesting. There were so many interesting things and places but I liked Rome, Dubrovnik and Murano best.

I would never forget this trip.

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## **AGE GROUP 13 to 15**

### **Buckle Boy's Heroic Adventures**

*By Carinna Age 13*

The heroic Buckle Boy (who happened to be the number one superhero in the world) stood outside a dreary, eerie brick building where a ragamuffin-like child was standing precariously near the open window, several floors above.

He watched as the child suddenly tottered too close to the edge and flipped acrobatically out the window and plummeted to his sure death.

Buckle boy leapt into action. He whipped out his cape, tied it onto his back, and soared aerodynamically up towards the falling child.

He caught the child in the nick of time, just inches from the hard pavement that was just inches below.

Authorities were rushing to the scene, along with news reporters and paramedics. Buckle Boy sighed and reached into his tool belt to pull out his Memory-B-Gone powder. He tossed the pink powder to where all the bystanders stood, erasing their memories of the event. He liked to keep his identity a secret. Then he heroically flew back to his lair. But, there were two cloaked figures there waiting for him.

When he arrived he came face to face with Helga Horse and Frilly Frip Frop, the second and third most powerful superheroes in the world.

"Why is it that whenever something bad happens and I save the day, you two show up?" asked Buckle Boy. Then he reached into his tool belt and pulled out a brown cupcake, his prime essence of power.

Helga Horse met his accusation with cold eyes. "How can you have the audacity to insinuate that we are here to cause evil?"

"But, isn't that what you came here for?" Buckle Boy asked.

"Precisely – we are here to cause trouble," snorted Frilly Frip Frop, smirking,

"We are here to destroy all of your brown cupcakes since they are the only things that give you power, and become the number one superheroes in the world!"

She then knocked over a container of vile looking green liquid, knowing that in 5 minutes it would explode. "Oh, maladroito me," she said, to avoid suspicion.

Then Helga Horse each grabbed one brown cupcake and bolted towards their transportation and escape. It was their dirty dump truck. They drove away quickly, just nearly missing a tum tum tree on the way out.

Seconds later, they heard a blast. They turned around and saw Buckle Boy's laboratory exploding just as planned, and they knew that Buckle Boy and all his brown cupcakes were destroyed. And they knew that they were now the greatest superheroes in the world!

And that is the conclusion of one of the only stories where the villains end up winning in the end.

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## **Under the Desert Sun**

*By Mathew Age 13*

My name is Alexandro Perez. I am 10 years old and I am Mexican. I live with my mother. Ever since my grandpa went through surgery, the thought of moving to America was always in my mother's mind. We lived in Mexico, my dad had run away when I was 2 and left my mom empty and heartbroken. We lived in a small apartment with another family and their story was relatively similar. The fact of crossing through a desert frightened me. I thought that mother wasn't seriously considering it until one day, a tall man walked into our cramped apartment. He told us about all the opportunity that was waiting for us on the other side of the desert. He also told us about the dangers such as the high surveillance cameras that overlooked the desert terrain. It shocked me how the Americans didn't want us in their country. I didn't get why they just didn't let us in. They were wasting their money to keep us out. After a long talk, the man collected 100 Pesos from my mom and left. Later that night, my mom told me that we were going to America with 3 other families. We were going to set foot to Arizona in the early of the morning. We set out at night to buy supplies. When I finally arrived home, I couldn't go to sleep because I was both scared and excited about going to the desert. I finally got some sleep. Early the next morning my mother woke me up and we both walked to the street where a van full of people ready to brave the desert was waiting for us to board. After a while, the van stopped and we all started to roll out of the van. The driver said good luck and drove away. We stood there for a bit, looking at the massive desert with no idea where to begin. We got in a line and started walking. No one said a word. This happened until the sun went down. The temperature dropped unbelievably fast and so we decided to stop for the night and create a shelter. I gathered wood with another boy about the same age as me. When we got back, we heard a shout and a flashlight shined at us, and then everyone started running. I dropped the wood I collected and met my mom and we started running. We had no direction in where we were going. We went deep into the desert and found a place to sleep. I was exhausted from walking so I slept instantly. We set out again early in the morning. My feet were killing me but I didn't want to make my mother angry. We walked and walked through the scorching heat against our skin. The vultures seemed to be watching us while we were walking. After about 2 hours, we met a group of drug traffickers. They were armed and lacking supplies so they threatened us and stole our supplies. After raiding our bags, they left leaving us there to die. We had no choice but to continue over the hellish terrain where opportunity waited. We walked and walked, I got really thirsty and started getting very tired. At that moment I thought I would have died if I walked another step so my mom carried me. That night, I found myself begging for this to be over. It was painful. We walked very slowly because both of us were very drained of energy and the heat wasn't helping. Miraculously, we found an abandoned shelter with 4 water bottles. We drank all those water bottles in a matter of seconds and started to feel a bit better. We kept on walking. We went over a massive mountain overlooking the land. We saw a blessing. We saw the city. We had made it.



by Sheila

Ninety-two percent of Americans know nothing about our world's largest humanitarian issue: modern slavery and human trafficking. Unfortunately, the main victims are women and children. Eighty percent of trafficked people are female, half of which are under the age of 18. We have 27 million slaves and at least 100,000 American children trapped in today's slave trade.

Slavery is not legal anywhere, but it happens everywhere – maybe even in your own backyard.

Cheap, disposable people.

Kevin Bales, President of Free the Slaves, states the average price of a slave today is ninety dollars, but can be as low as twenty dollars. Traffickers find it more affordable to buy a new slave than maintain an old one due to the accelerated rate of globalization. The dramatic increase of our world population includes an increase in poverty-stricken people everywhere. Traffickers manipulate the poor to their advantage and promise them a better life – when in reality, these unfortunate women and children are shipped off to work in different countries as slaves.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Educate yourself



Humanity's most powerful tool is knowledge. It's not hard to be an activist – the minute you share this article with a friend or co-worker, you've already made a difference. Visit these websites for more information on the crimes of slavery: Free The Slaves, The CNN Freedom Project, CAST, Call + Response.

## 2. Join the Movement

Be a part of an anti-slavery organization in your community or school to contribute to the cause. If you want to take your activism a step further, live in LA for the summer and intern at CAST LA.

The coffee trick.

Many coffee shops have hidden slave-free drinks. The next time you order your coffee, just ask if they have fair trade coffee – believe me, it even tastes better and you're making a difference!

## 3. Spread the Word

Raise awareness to family members and friends. Write about it as a school essay topic or host an event for your community.

## 4. Make your voice heard to your producers.

"Citizens can help too, by encouraging companies to root out forced labour throughout their supply chains by visiting [www.chainstoreaction.com](http://www.chainstoreaction.com)." – Hillary Clinton.

Ever wonder how on earth that shirt from your favorite brand name store could be ten dollars? It's not even on sale! What if I told you an 8-year old girl made it?

As sad as the truth can be sometimes, the majority of material products are made by slaves. Over twelve million children and adults work under forced labor. The list of slave goods is unfathomable: coffee, chocolate, electronics, shoes, makeup, skin – care items, clothes. As a consumer, you have the ultimate power to stop this – and it's easy. The anti-slavery organization campaign, Product of Slavery, and Justin Dillon's campaign, Chain Reaction Store, created an easy outlet to connect consumers with companies. Take 20 seconds out of your day and send a pre-made letter to your favorite companies. Because of your voice, they've received responses from numerous brands such as J. Crew, Michael Kors, Toyota, Old Navy and Fruit of the Loom. However, there's still a lot of work to be done.

## 5. Give back.

I spend at least \$4.00 a day on my morning coffee at Starbucks. A couple of months ago, I challenged myself for thirty days. I got up a little earlier in the morning, made a fresh cup of coffee and donated the \$4.00 that used to go to my Starbucks fix to my "Anti-Slavery Jar." At the end of the month, I raised \$121.00.

I'm not saying everyone should give up and donate their daily Starbucks Coffee, but challenge yourself and give back. Check out the 'How You Can Help' section on The CNN Freedom Project Blog. This is your world – shape it, or someone else will.

He who does not learn from history is doomed to repeat it.

We can't help it that history repeats itself. However, it's about time our generation starts raising awareness on the biggest worldwide humanitarian issue. It's disturbing to think that slavery can be present in our neighborhoods or that our clothes are manufactured by a starving, lost thirteen-year old. This is why we need to prove society's status quo wrong; history does not always have to repeat itself and it can be prevented. Ladies, we just need your help.

End of Stories

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*Who to Call for Help*  
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Joe Preston  
Past President & Advisor  
425-641-1670  
[jpreston562@comcast.net](mailto:jpreston562@comcast.net)

## RECOMMENDED SERVICE PROVIDERS

One or more Montreux residents have recommended the following service providers

### **Yard Maintenance**

Sear An, tel. 206-434-9684

Sam Barrett, Lakeside Landscaping, tel. 425-652-5534

Lotus Landscape Design, tel. 425-378-7789

<http://www.lotuslandscapedesign.com/review.php>

RB Landscaping, tel. 206-293-7769, 206-251-5436

### **House Numbers**

Matt Ditmar, 253-886-0190

Curb Address numbers - "\$25 and it's done"

### **Gutter Cleaning**

Wayne Whitney, tel. 206-354-9406  
Chad Sullivan, 425-444-2423, [unclechaddy@yahoo.com](mailto:unclechaddy@yahoo.com)

### **House Cleaning**

Brenda's Home Cleaning, tel. 206-293-7547, Brenda Aguilar - owner  
[Homecleaningmakeover@gmail.com](mailto:Homecleaningmakeover@gmail.com)  
Norma Palayo - owner, tel. 253-486-7172

### **Carpet Cleaning**

George Andrew Sedlack, owner; office: 206-283-9915, cell: 206-730-5825

### **Dog Walking**

Austin Melody, tel. 425-283-6480  
Kate Rhodes, tel. 425-533-7720

### **Garage Doors**

All City Door, Inc., tel. 425-865-8188  
Ric's Garage Door Repair, tel. 425-827-6257

### **Electrical**

WE Electric Contracting, tel. 425-508-6382, Jake Longfellow, Owner

### **Sprinklers Systems & Backflow Testing**

Alpine Sprinklers, tel. 425-391-8701

### **Painting**

Antonio Roman, tel. 425-443-8590

### **Granite Countertops**

Costco, tel. 425-313-0965

### **Roofing Contractors**

CERTIFIED CONTRACTORS, INC.  
1551 127th Place NE, Bellevue, WA 98005  
(425) 646-9441 (425) 451-3904 (Fax) (888) 206-3676 (Toll Free)

### **Medical & Dental Services**

Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, tel. 507-284-2111  
Dr. Robert L. Frye, Cardiologist

Overlake Clinic & Hospital, Bellevue, tel. 425-688-5000  
Dr. Joseph W. Doucette, Cardiologist  
Dr. Allen J. Geltzer, Internist

Overlake Clinic, Issaquah, tel. 425-313-0151

University of Washington Medical Center, Seattle, tel. 206-598-3300

Dr. Michael Rizen, Ophthalmologist, Eye Clinic of Bellevue, tel.425-454-7912

DD. Kris Swanson, Dentist, Overlake Clinic, Bellevue tel.425-454-4434

### **Accounting**

Laurel Rich, Bettinger, Mifflin, Rich CPA Group, tel. 425-827-8771

### **Athletic Clubs**

Bellevue Club & Hotel, Bellevue, tel. 425-454-4424

Sue Henderson, water aerobic instructor, 425-637-4610

### **Landscape Improvements**

Lakeside Landscaping, Sam Barrett, owner, Tel. 425-652-5534

Legacy Landscaping, Tel. 425-391-3134

# **REAL ESTATE**

## **Summer's Home Sales Looking Better**

Major progress has yet to be made in the housing recovery, but we can keep believing in it, since the data isn't all negative. For example, Pending Homes Sales (contracts on existing homes) were down 1.3% in July, but were UP 2.4% in June, so Existing Home Sales should be up for August. In addition, July's reading was UP 14.4% over last year. The National Association of Realtors chief economist said, "rising rents, record high affordability conditions and investors buying real estate as a future inflation hedge" bode well for real estate.

The latest Case-Shiller National Home Price Index reported home prices UP 3.6% in the second quarter compared to the first, though still down 5.9% from a year ago. This puts home prices at the level they were in early 2003. The 20-city composite index was UP 1.1% for June, but down 4.5% versus last year. Best of all, none of the 20 cities posted monthly declines in June and 19 out of 20 showed increases. Also, data aggregator and analytics firm CoreLogic reported home prices up in July for the fourth month in a row. August now ranks as this year's best month for both pending and closed sales around Washington state, according to the latest report from Northwest Multiple Listing Service. Last month's volume of pending sales was the highest number of mutually accepted offers since April 2010 when the homebuyer tax incentive expired.

Northwest MLS brokers reported 7,632 pending sales during August, a gain of more than 26 percent from the same month a year ago when they notched 6,037 pending sales. Last month's total for the 21 counties in the MLS service area surpassed July by 450 transactions. In King County, last month's median selling price was \$315,000, down nearly 9.9 percent from a year ago. A year-to-date price comparison shows a decline of just under 8.4 percent.

Montreux sales in the past 6 months have sold at 97.3% of their listing value in an average of 47 days. The average sale price is \$694,000. Of the 3 homes that are actively listed for sale in Montreux, 2 are foreclosure properties and one has been for sale over the past two years. The average listing price for current listings is \$619,967. Interest rates remain near 4% making this an opportune time to purchase a home. Many homeowners are upside down with their mortgage but are unwilling to lose any investment or equity they might have due to a difficult sales situation. Some of these potential sellers have decided to put their homes into the rental market rather than lose their credit. Renting your home is one way to maintain your ownership in hopes of a returning real estate market.

My company Sterling Northwest Properties was formed to help owners rent their homes rather than sell. We provide professional management services to include recruiting and screening prospective tenants, collecting rent and providing maintenance services to the home while it is rented. If the owner decides that they want to sell we offer a 20% discount off of our listing services and list the property to sell. Our motto is: "Give us the keys and we'll do the rest" and we make it easy for a homeowner to rent their home.

D. Marty Nelson is Broker-Owner of Sterling Northwest Properties and is a Board member of the Montreux Homeowner's Association. He has lived in Montreux for over 10 years.

*Article courtesy of Marty Nelson*

## **Your Yard Increases The Value & Marketability of Your Home**

For years, the conversation about strengthening your home's value has revolved around interior projects. However, by keeping the focus inside, you might be ignoring one of the most effective ways to bring your property value up: the garden.

When discussing home value, "garden" means more than just flower beds. It includes your lawn, gathering spaces on your property, paths and walkways, in addition to the trees, shrubs and flowers that decorate the space. In a housing market where it's still difficult to stand out, turning your attention and efforts to these areas might be just the thing that will attract buyers.

It's a simple concept: A more attractive house is a more valuable house. And since your yard and garden are often what buyers see first, it's your best opportunity to set the tone as they consider your property and what they're willing to pay for it. In fact, well-designed landscaping was shown to raise perceived residential property value by as much as 18 percent, in a study recently released by Swedish power tool maker Husqvarna. In terms of return on investment, maintaining an attractive lawn and garden was shown to return \$1.80 per dollar spent. For those who want to improve their home's value but can't afford to hire contractors for major interior repairs, garden improvements can be an affordable alternative.



Armed with the right tools, most homeowners are capable of tackling garden projects that can improve their property value, and at a relatively low cost. To get a better understanding of what lawn and landscaping equipment would be most beneficial to your yard, visit an outdoor power manufacturer website like [www.husqvarna.com](http://www.husqvarna.com). Simply edging your yard with a string trimmer helps create a clean, finished look outdoors and can be achieved for less than \$200.

While many Americans are reluctant to spend much on their yards – some 65 percent of people spent less than \$400 on it annually – keeping return on investment in mind can help you make better smarter decisions. If you want to call in the pros, consider projects that are highly sought-after, like in-ground irrigation systems. Those not sure where to start can look to the wide variety of gardening websites, television programs and magazines for inspiration and practical tips. Some of the top-ranked garden attributes for improving home value included:

- A well-maintained lawn
- An inviting social area
- Stone paths and walkways
- Decorative trees, bushes and shrubs
- Well-kept hedges
- Nicely designed flower beds

Gardening season and the high real estate season coincide for a reason: Houses look their best surrounded by growing plants and blooming flowers. As the warmer months progress, remember that not only can investing in your garden give you a good return, it could also be the deciding factor in drawing a buyer to your property.”

*Article referred by Judy Fenyk-Melody*

# Montreux Real Estate Update – September 2011

## ***CURRENTLY FOR SALE:***

<u>List Price</u>	<u>Sq. Feet</u>	<u>Address</u>
\$699,950	2,720	18506 NW Montreux Drive
585,000	3,370	4906 Alpen Glow Pl NW
559,000	3,500	4948 Alpen Glow Pl NW
574,950	3,040	4995 Alpen Glow Pl NW



## ***PENDING:***

<u>List Price</u>	<u>Sq. Feet</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Pending Date</u>
None			

## ***SOLD (June – August, 2011):***

<u>List Price</u>	<u>Sq. Feet</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Sold Date</u>	<u>Sold Price</u>	<u>Cumulative Days on Market</u>
\$699,950	3,290	5820 NW Lac Leman Dr	07-22-11	\$685,000	25
699,995	3,230	18145 NW Village Pk Dr	06-27-11	700,000	12
850,000	4,160	5555 NW Konigs Court	09-02-11	805,000	88

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***Getting Ready to Put Your House up for Sale?*** In this market, buyers are shopping with a critical eye ~ Here are a few Selling Tips to help catch their attention: (1) Provide your realtor with a bullet-point list of your home's upgrades so he or she may add them to the back of your home's flyer. This list will help buyers remember specific details, and will help your house stand out from the others. (2) Is an outstanding floor plan one of your home's best features? If so, ask your realtor to have a floor plan professionally drawn and then showcased on the MLS and other major real estate internet sites. (3) Many realtors can provide your property with its own website ~ This will be a helpful way to promote your listing on social sites such as Facebook. I have other tips that might help in the sale of your home ~ Contact me anytime!

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**Susan Gardner**

**Keller Williams Realty Bellevue**

**425-635-8088**

***Your Neighbor and Realtor***

***~ Feel free to call with real estate questions ~***

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# EVERYONE'S DREAM GARDEN

Butchart Gardens

Victoria, BC

Back page courtesy of Lynn & Jerry Mack