BEAUMONT-WILSHIRE
Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association www.bwna.us April•May 2009

Neighbors Gather for a "Taste of Beaumont"

By Al Ellis

With Easter and Passover observances scheduled for the same week in April this year, it's only fitting that BWNA's own spring gala add to the week's festivities. Held annually on the second Monday in April, the "Taste of Beaumont" event, featuring a variety of cuisine samples from neighborhood restaurants, is not so coincidentally planned for the same evening as BWNA elections. In addition to the gastronomical and political activities, entertainment will be provided by band leader Cynthia Plank and her talented musicians from Beaumont Middle School. Mark your calendars now: April 13th, 7:00 p.m., in the Bethany Lutheran Church's "Fellowship Hall," which is a basement activity room, located on the corner of 37th and Skidmore, across from Wilshire Park. (To get to the activity room, enter from the Skidmore side of the church. There will be a sign indicating the pathway to the room.)

A wide range of businesses have contributed this year to insure the Taste of Beaumont is a success. This year's participants include Alameda Brewhouse, Amalfi's, Beaumont Florist (providing floral arrangements for the tables), Beaumont Market (providing soft drinks, in celebration of their 20th year in the neighborhood), Bumblekiss, Cha! Cha! Cha! Taqueria, Ottoman Klasik, Parisi's, Ristretto Roasters (supplying freshly ground coffee), Rose's Ice Cream, Round Table Pizza, and Tuk Tuk Thai Restaurant.

The food, drink, and entertainment are all free of charge, and there's no obligation to volunteer for BWNA positions. With that being said, the expectation is that a few dedicated souls will emerge from the crowd to allow their names to be put into nomination for newly-vacated Board positions. A Board member serves a two-year term (with the possibility of being re-elected up to 6 consecutive years) and is obligated to attend Board and General Meetings on the second Monday of each month. The Board responds to residents' concerns, sets the agenda for General Meetings, and directs BWNA activities and projects. Along with the Newsletter and Web site, the Board of Directors is the lifeblood of our neighborhood association.

Thus, with a unique blend of dining, music, and community activism, this is one BWNA General Meeting you don't want to miss!

Thank You!

Alameda Brewhouse
Amalfi's,
Beaumont Florist
Beaumont Market
Bumblekiss
Cha! Cha! Cha!
Ottoman Klasik
Parisi's
Ristretto Roasters
Rose's Ice Cream
Round Table Pizza
Tuk Tuk Thai Restaurant

This year's participants for The Taste of Beaumont

Business Focus

rosabode: Fabulous and Functional

By Jenny Andrews

Walk into rosabode on NE 42nd Avenue, and you'll feel wrapped in luxury and comfort.

Touch any item in sight – be it a faux-fur and chenille throw, a silk and velvet wrap or a floaty faux-feather purse – and you'll find the texture to be, in a word, addictive. You'll want to pet, to wear, and to snuggle. This is all part of owner Rose Bonomo's plan. She wants you to have a completely tactile experience.



rosabode is an independent retailer specializing in luxurious home and fashion accessories. Rose says she is proud that everything in the shop is designed and handmade in Portland. Fabric is her inspiration, and the creations that result are diverse and luxurious.

Her new spring line includes velvet and faux fur throws that are the perfect weight for spring and summer evenings.



Another item, the Sassy Skirt, embodies the "fabulous and functional" nature of rosabode's merchandise. Beautifully crafted from linen, the skirt is functional enough to ride your bike in.

A collection of wraps that pair velvet and silk are fabulous with jeans or for a formal event, Rose says. Elegant pillows and shams are eye-catching accents for a bedroom or living room.

A single mom of two teenagers, a volunteer and breast cancer survivor, Rose also uses her creativity to serve the community.

In the back of the shop, her desk is piled with luxurious throws pattered in small, velvety rosettes. Rose will deliver the blankets to cancer patients in our area.

"I believe that being soothed is part of the healing process," she says.

The forthcoming "pink" section of her website will allow people to suggest others who might benefit from the healing comfort of a rosabode creation.

Visit rosabode at 4225 NE Fremont Street or online at www.rosabode.com





Don't forget…

The Taste of Beaumont
&
BWNA Board Elections
Monday, April 13, 2009, 7:00 PM



President's Message

A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood

By Al Ellis

Spring seems especially welcome this year. One has only to think back a few months ago to our shoveling, slipping, and sliding during a record snowfall--and the numerous dark, chilly days that followed--to appreciate the increasingly longer daylight hours, warmer temperatures, and colorful blossoms coming our way. It lifts the spirits, and everything seems more hopeful. In fact, this is the perfect time to reflect on and be thankful for the positives in our lives--like the neighborhood we live in, for instance!

These thoughts were imprinted on my mind after attending the first meeting of BWNA's newly-constituted Newsletter Team. Editor Dan Johnson had organized the gathering at his house, and his living room was full of volunteers--some Newsletter veterans, some first-timers. As we became acquainted and got into discussions, I marveled at the diversity of personalities, talents, and skills on display. Many of these people had lived in the neighborhood for decades--some even growing up nearby--and one had just recently moved here from another state. To a person, they echoed each other on the good fortune of living where they do and took pride in contributing to the Newsletter--writing articles, assisting with production, and distributing copies to our porches every other month. The "distributors" were particularly enthusiastic about their role, citing both their enjoyment in getting to know the neighborhood on a house-to-house basis and the walking exercise involved. What struck me about everyone on the team was not just how much they loved the neighborhood and its environs, but also, and particularly, the pleasure they derived from actively contributing to it. (By the way, Newsletter Distributor Director Marsha Mahon is on the lookout for a couple more volunteers to be distributors on her team. If you're interested, please give her a call at 503.284.1859.)

So, put your worries aside and celebrate the new season by taking a walk around the park, along 42nd, up and down Fremont, in and around side streets--all the while keeping in mind how great it is to call this place home. Better yet, bring yourself and your family to the most entertaining and tastiest BWNA General Meeting of the year--"A Taste of Beaumont"--featuring free cuisine samples from some of your favorite neighborhood restaurants and music from the Beaumont Middle School band (see article on page one). And while you're at it, consider volunteering to become actively involved in BWNA--as a Board member, on the Newsletter Team, or as a member of a committee.

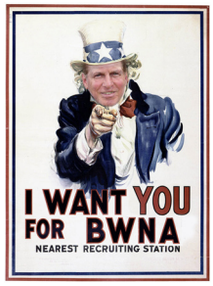
There's no better time of the year to begin contributing to the well-being of this neighborhood.

Al Ellis

Spread the Word

By Isaly Murrell , Age 14

Hi, my name's Isaly Murrell and I am the daughter of Marsha Mahon. She is the Newsletter Distributor. I'm sending out this note to say that we need more reinforcements; more people to deliver newsletters. This is a great way to be part of the community, and see and smell the neighborhood. You can also feel great about yourself for helping out and you might even lose 135 pounds from just delivering the newsletters.
Please contact Marsha at mahonmurrell@gmail.com or 503.284.1859.
Please volunteer and thank you for your time.



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Mario Caoile & Helen Koba 503.288.2568
Newsletter Distribution
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Newsletter Editor
Dan K. Johnson 503.505.5612
BWNA residents may submit articles (limit 350 words). Articles are subject to editing. Send ads and articles to. dkjohnson@jhnetwork.com or by mail to
Dan K. Johnson, Financial Advisor
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Ad Rates: Business card size (3½ x 2 inches), $90 for 3 issues or $180 for 6 issues.

Please send other correspondence to Al Ellis 503.287.0477 or ApeLainJoy@aol.com
BWNA is part of Central Northeast Neighbors. 4415 NE 87th Avenue. 503.823.3156.
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Letter from the Editor

By Dan K. Johnson

A Season of Change

As a Financial Adviser with the John Hancock Financial Network, I am able to hear first-hand the anxiety and frustration that people are experiencing during these tough economic times. During difficult times, it is important to recognize and appreciate the people and events in our lives that bring us joy. Joy is contagious, and I encourage you to take action and share your appreciation for our community with others. In this issue, you will find many activities and events for little or no money that you and your family can enjoy. Your participation in community events builds strong relationships with others and also demonstrates the strength of our community. This strength is evident in the volunteer board members, committee members and entire newsletter staff who work so hard to sustain our community. Is it time for you to help? Join us on April 13th for the "Taste of Beaumont", and find out more information on how you can make a difference. This is a perfect event to demonstrate your commitment to our community while you enjoy many free samples from restaurants in our area. The history of our community is a wonderful journey of individuals and their unique life paths, and I encourage you to share yours.

Traffic & Land Use Concerns

Transportation and Land Use Committee meets every 3rd Monday of each month, 7:30 PM at Vicinato, 4605 NE Fremont.

Open to all Beaumont-Wilshire residents and business owners.

Calendar

Monday, April 13, 2009, 7:00PM
BWNA Community Meeting
Bethany Lutheran Church basement
NE 37th & Skidmore

Friday, May 11, 2009, 7:30PM
Deadline for ads and articles
for the June•July 2009 newsletter

Monday, May 8, 2009, 7:30PM
BWNA Board Meeting
Bethany Lutheran Church
NE 37th & Skidmore

Monday, June 6, 2009, 7:30PM
BWNA Community Meeting
Bethany Lutheran Church basement
NE 37th & Skidmore

BWNA's calendar is on the web!
Go to www.bwna.us and select BWNA Calendar





All residents, property owners, government agencies, business licensees, and non-profit organizations located within the boundaries of the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association may consider themselves members of BWNA. Membership is free. Members are welcome to attend any BWNA business meeting.

Making Contact

By Dan Johnson

Did you know that BWNA has an email list for anyone wanting to communicate with other neighbors to review and discuss general interest topics? This list is used to discuss and share information like the pending closure of bus line 33 on Fremont or the recent coyote sightings. Don't let this valuable resource go unused.

To subscribe to the BWNA Community List, simply do the following.

1. Go to the BWNA Web site at www.bwna.us
2. On the bottom right of the home page click, "Subscribe to BWNA email discussion list"
3. Type your email address, name and password

When someone sends an email to the list, you will automatically receive a copy of the email. This is a great way to communicate with several neighbors at one time, stay current on the issues that concern our community, as well as keep our community safe and vibrant.

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Native American Art Empowers "Invisible People"

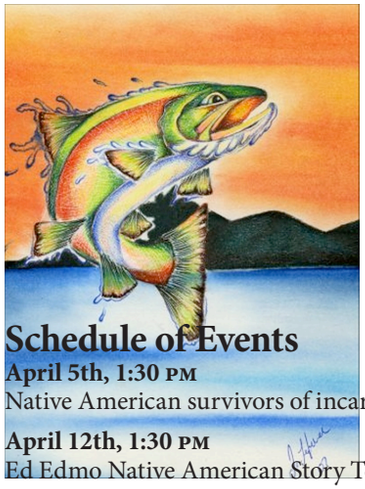
Red Lodge Transition Services Native American Prisoner Art Show

Northeast Community Center
1630 NE 38th Ave
Portland, OR 97232





The 2009 Native American Prison Art show is opening in Portland on April 1, 2009 and runs, through April 30, 2009. Each Sunday from 1-4 there will be Native American speakers, drumming and Red Lodge community members there to share information about Red Lodge. Over 50 artists, whose work will be displayed, are incarcerated in Oregon prisons. They have donated their artwork in support of the Women's Transition House Fund. Nine Oregon prisons have participated in this project. Specialty crafted artifacts made within the prisons will be offered for educational and display purposes. Approximately 100 pieces of original art will be displayed for over a five week period. Reproductions of the art work will be offered at affordable prices. Admission is free of charge. This is a great family opportunity to experience Native American culture.





Schedule of Events

April 5th, 1:30 PM
Native American survivors of incarceration

April 12th, 1:30 PM
Ed Edmo Native American Story Teller

April 16th, 6-9 PM
'Third Thursday – Hollywood at Night"

April 19th, 1:30 PM
Robert Miller Native American Law Professor and author

April 26th, 1:30 PM
Elizabeth Woody Native American Poet

Schedule of Events (will be updated through out the show)

Questions: Please contact Carma Corcoran at 503.422.3970 or doncarma@aol.com

In Hard Times, Help Keep Our Neighborhood Vibrant

By Carolyn Buan

In these difficult times, it's easy to stop buying, stop going out to eat, stop worrying about anyone but ourselves. But with a little planning, each of us can do small things that make a difference for our neighbors and our neighborhood.

As the mega stores struggle to stay afloat, reducing their workforce as they go under for the third time, we can make sure to buy the necessities and gifts needed from stores in our immediate area. Keeping the Northeast vibrant benefits us all.

That goes for eating out. Let's not let our wonderful neighborhood restaurants suffer. We may need to go less frequently, skip dessert, cut corners in one way or another, but we should try not to stop going entirely. You deserve it, and we have great restaurants, cafes and wine bars that need your support.

And we need to remember those who have trouble putting enough food on their tables or, even worse, no longer have tables on which to put it. If you're planning a birthday party or other get together, if you own a business, or if you are a member of a group that meets regularly, put out a box or barrel in which to collect food for the Oregon Food Bank. Then ask folks to bring donations. It's fun and it helps. For information, call Allison Hoffman at the Food Bank, 503.282.0555 x 245. Together, we can make a difference.

Five or ten years from now, when the Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood is still a great place to live, we can be proud that we help to keep it that way by our actions today!

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Coyote Sightings

By Dan Johnson & Al Ellis

Over the past several months, many residents have expressed alarm about coyotes roaming the neighborhood. There have been a number of cats attacked, but thankfully, there have been no attacks on humans (a rarity in cities, based on USDA data). We have run a few articles about the problem, and following a presentation given by Kevin Christiansen and Mike Foster of the USDA about wildlife in urban settings at the BWNA General Meeting, we have posted a number to call on the BWNA Web site to report sightings and/or concerns. If you have questions about coyotes or other wildlife wandering the neighborhood, please call Wildlife Services at 503.326.2346. With spring coyote breeding season coming soon, we encourage residents to phone in sightings and/or stories of attacks immediately to Wildlife Services so that the situation can be professionally monitored.

Opening Doors to the Past, Present and Future:

The 27th Annual Irvington Home Tour

Each year, on the 3rd Sunday in May, a thousand plus people flock to North East Portland to par take of one of the city's premier events—The Irvington Home Tour. Founded in 1967 when the residents of Irvington were faced with the continuing demolishment of the areas historic houses, this very first "tour of homes" that Portland was to experience led to the coalescing of a neighborhood and the awakening of the value of preserving the grace and the grandeur, as well as the humility and the heart of the past.

Once again this spring Irvington opens its doors and celebrates the importance of the rich legacy of historic neighborhoods with eight homes of architectural distinction offered to tour, inviting visitors to see for themselves how the past informs the present and provides direction for the future. In addition, a lecture on home restoration will be held in the afternoon at the Central Lutheran Church-(Lecture details available on the IHT web site below).

The 27th Annual Historic Irvington Home Tour will be held on Sunday, May 17th, 2009 from 11AM to 5PM. The tour ticket price is $20 with proceeds going to fund local charities, programs and neighborhood projects.

Tickets will be on sale after April 1st directly from the web site at www.IrvingtonHomeTour.com, as well as many local merchants after April 10th like Broadway Books, Caffe' Destino, New Seasons Market as well as the The Architectural Heritage Center.

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Clean Up, Recycle and Provide on April 18th

By Kathy Fuerstena

Clean out your closets, basements and yards and bring it to the Cully Association of Neighbors Earth Day Spring Clean Up on Saturday, April 18, 2009 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church and School located at 5520 NE Killingsworth.

Acceptable items: Yard debris (not compost), branches, wood, bulky items, furniture, appliances without cooling units, mattresses, tires, carpets, rubber and metal.

NON-Acceptable items: Hazardous waste, gasoline, chemicals, oil, paint, tar, animal waste and liquids of any kind or under the sink garbage. Also these landscape and building materials: concrete, asphalt, dirt, sod, cement, sand, gravel, roofing and asbestos materials.

Fees: Car-$7, Van or SUV-$15, Pickup Truck-$20 and up with additional fees for oversized loads or trailers. Tires are $3 on rim and $2 off rim. We will again have an express lane for those bringing two or three items. This event is for residential vehicles only.

Recycle reusable items at the "You Price it" miscellaneous drop-off area and/or find items you like, then price it, pay and take it home. Let's lessen the burden on the environment! The NE Emergency Food Program and clothing center will be on hand to accept cases and cans of food, packaged dry food and gently used clothes.

Students can earn community service credit by participating in this event. For more information or to volunteer to help, call Kathy at 503.252.0749.

Sponsored by: Cully Association of Neighbors, Metro and Portland Office of Sustainable Development with support from SOLV, Trinity Lutheran Church and School and AGG Enterprises.

Carnaval Mazatlan

On March 7, over 370 guests and volunteers came together at Montgomery Park for the 9th annual school auction. This event celebrates the Alameda Elementary community and raises much needed funds to ensure the continuation of a quality and enriching education for the children of Alameda and for other schools under the Portland Public Schools umbrella.

The theme was Carnaval Mazatlan – In Celebration of Children. Carnaval Mazatlan is a celebration of artistic and literary talent of adults and children. Guests embarked on a virtual trip to Mazatlan, complete with metaphorical sunshine, vibrant colors, and a break from the cold, gloomy Portland weather. What a nice treat, right before it snowed that night.

We'd like to express our gratitude to the following businesses and individuals who have made significant contributions to underwrite the cost of the auction despite this year's economic challenges. They understand the importance of investing in neighborhood schools and helped make our auction the success it was.

Steven Richeson, Remax Signature Properties
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Diageo – Steven and Jennifer Sciborski
Mollet Printing
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We can never thank you enough!
Gracias,
2009 Auction Committee, Alameda families, teachers, staff and foundation

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Neighborhood Support Intensifies for Line #33

In an effort to shore up its budget, TriMet is considering reductions in service--including a proposed removal of the Bus #33 "Fremont" route that runs through the heart of the Beaumont-Wilshire business district and school transport areas. Predictably, many neighborhood residents and businesses have protested the elimination of Line #33 by testifying at TriMet "open house" forums and sending e-mails and letters to management. Additionally, Bob Ueland, Chairman of Central Northeast Neighbors--on behalf of CNN's coalition of eight neighborhood associations, including our own--wrote to TriMet "strongly objecting" to any curtailment of #33 service.

The TriMet response has also been predictable. Jenny Jones from "Customer Satisfaction" replies that consideration of service reductions is undertaken "with great reluctance and only because we see no other viable alternative. . .It remains our goal to provide quality transit service. . .in a financially sustainable way during these difficult times."

Amidst the controversy, the presidents of BWNA and the Beaumont Village Business Association-- prodded by phone calls and e-mails from concerned constituents--garnered unanimous support from their respective Boards of Directors for the drafting of the following letter to TriMet General Manager Fred Hansen:

Dear Mr. Hansen,

On behalf of the Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood, we strongly urge the full retention of Bus Line #33, which is a lifeline for many businesses and residents represented by our two neighborhood associations--the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association and the Beaumont Village Business Association. As presidents of these associations, we have received numerous e-mails and phone calls imploring us to get the message across to decision-makers at TriMet that the #33 bus line is an essential contributor to the economic and social well-being of the neighborhood it serves.

Our residents say it best. Here is a sampling of their comments on the issue (via e-mail to us):

". . .Canceling the #33 would effectively take our retail corridor off of the transportation grid and could have a devastating impact on the small business community that our neighborhood relies on. . .This is a popular line that is essential to the vitality of our neighborhood."

". . .It would be a travesty if #33 were cut. Many students attending Beaumont Middle School rely on the service. . .there is no direct line other than the 33 to Emanuel Hospital for residents of Irvington, Alameda, Beaumont-Wilshire, and Rose City Park. . .(and) many disabled riders depend on that direct access to get to needed services. All alternatives require at least. . .two transfers."

"#33 is a vital part of our neighborhood of young families and small businesses. . ."

If there were ever a bus line to spare from the budget ax, this is it.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Al Ellis--BWNA President Kate Fischer--Beaumont Village Business Association President

This is the letter Al Ellis received from Fred Hansen in reply to the above letter. . .

"The list of service reductions is proposed, not final. Your comments will help us develop the final service reduction plan. TriMet will hold a public hearing on April 7 from 4:00PM to 7:00PM in the Portland Building auditorium, second floor at 1120 SW 5th Ave. Public comments are accepted through April 10, 2009. I will make final recommendations after public hearings, for consideration and action by the TriMet Board in April and May."

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A Story of Connection through Church

By Bob and Colby Westhead

A year ago, I was walking in our Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood, and took notice again of a quaint brick church with a tall white steeple standing on the corner. I've probably passed Bethany Lutheran Church a million times on the way to the Wilshire Park playground with my five and six year old children. Having been loosely raised Lutheran, but not having attended church since my late teens, I decided to "check it out" one Sunday. I wasn't looking for any big commitment since our family is already busy with a myriad of activities on weekends, but I did want my young children to have the benefit of some exposure to religious and ethical teachings.

That first Sunday, we wandered into the 11 AM Contemporary Service (figuring that would be the better of the two services for young children) and were surprised by the warmth of the people who greeted us and the genuine feeling that we were truly welcomed. The service featured great contemporary music played "live" by Pastor Jeff Bethke on bass guitar, Aivars Saukants on lead guitar, and Midori Suzuki joining them on vocals. Needless to say, it was a far cry from the hymns I remembered from my childhood, and the sermon itself seemed relevant and meaningful to our modern lives. Over the next few months, we kept going back and came to enjoy the sometimes very funny input from the kids during the Children's Message, and always, the very real sense of community we felt there. My six year old has even "joined the band" and now accompanies the adults up front playing the bongo drum. A budding percussionist in the making! (He now even refers to Bethany as "the bongo church, as in, "Mom, do we get to go to bongo church this weekend?)

In order to promote growth and participation, and develop a broader connection and service to the Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood and beyond; Bethany has recently re-written its vision statement "We are a growing multicultural mission church with a heart for reaching out to our community with the good news of Christ Jesus". The church has also received a new grant that will enable them to hire a Community Involvement Director and a Children's Ministry Director this spring. A slate of ideas for family-oriented programs is in the works - including of course, the 4th annual Easter Egg Hunt in Wilshire Park. The church couldn't have a more perfect and relaxed atmosphere for parents with children who don't want to "shush" their way through a solemn and tedious hour. In a nutshell, from this mom's perspective, Bethany and the 11 AM service rocks!

In hindsight, this past year of reconnecting with the church and our community has been a surprising and happy addition to our busy lives. There truly are a lot of hidden gems in this Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood, and I'm glad I stopped that Sunday a year ago, and "checked it out".

Bethany Lutheran Church Upcoming Events

By Pastor Jeff Bethke

1,000 egg Easter Egg Hunt•Saturday, April 11 - 11 AM

Bethany Lutheran Church will host a 1,000 egg Easter egg hunt at Wilshire Park beginning at 11 AM This event is free to the public. Toddlers and small children are encouraged to bring a parent or guardian to help in their collecting of eggs. Ask for directions to the egg hunt site when you arrive at the park. We look forward to seeing your Easter egg hunter there

Easter at Bethany

Bethany Lutheran Church will offer two services on Easter Sunday, April 12 - 9:30 AM **Traditional**; 11:00 AM **Contemporary**.
Bethany Lutheran is located at NE 37th and Skidmore.
For more information, please call 503.284.3836.



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Take a Legitimate Shortcut

By John M. Carson

Isn't there an easier way? Those who have had occasion to laboriously memorize songs, poems, or scripture verses could well ask that question.

Try this to take the pain out of the process: Last thing when you retire at night, read the verse out loud at least three times. Then lights out! Don't think about it or use any effort; just sleep on it. Do this for three or four consecutive nights, and you might be surprised how it sticks.

Share this method with your children and get compliments from their teachers!

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