

# Under the Oaks

OCTOBER 2013

NAKOM A N E I G H B O R H O O D N E W S



## Nakoma Park Playground

We broke ground in early September for construction of the new playground in Nakoma Park. Local children and Thoreau school students kept a careful watch on park crews, making sure everything went according to plan. The crew helped matters by delivering a fantastic new playground, complete with plenty of new play structures to explore.

While the kids waited it out, the adults did their best to speed things along in terms of getting the project off the ground. This spring we worked through parks department meetings, surveys, countless emails, fundraising efforts and pamphlet drops by the Nakoma Park Playground Committee all to make this dream a reality. We appreciate everyone's patience with the process and truly enjoyed working with such a motivated group of committee members. It's been interesting to learn about how, why, and when parks renovate, and it's been wonderful to have so much input in the process. All of

your feedback has helped build a really enjoyable playground as well as identify potential neighborhood opportunities!

Thanks to the generosity of many neighbors and local businesses, we raised over \$21,000 for the playground. With the help of the Madison Parks Foundation matching funds, and the cooperation of the Parks Department, we were able to secure equipment for the two to five year old children and a highly requested "spinney seat." In addition, we expanded the size of the five to twelve year old child structures.

Sadly, "spinney seat" is much smaller and will never truly replace the thrill of the late merry-go-round. And though we no longer have the piece, we'll always have the memories. All of upgrades and play structures would not have been possible without such tremendous support from so many people. We send a huge thank you to everyone who made it possible!

*by Karen Faller,*

*Nakoma Park Playground Committee*

### Mark Your Calendar Nakoma Events 2013-2014

#### Park Playdate Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>

##### Nakoma Park

Celebrate the new children's area in Nakoma park with a neighborhood playdate. Bring a picnic lunch or simply come as you are to see what's new. We'll have warm apple cider and snacks to share. See you there!

11:30AM - 1:30PM

#### Halloween

##### Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>

##### Nakoma Park

Before you head out to trick-or-treat, come down to Haunted Nakoma Park for our Halloween festivities. Snacks provided! More details inside.

4:30PM-6:00PM

#### Fall Gathering

##### Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>

##### The Sattins'

Join your Nakoma neighbors for this annual Fall Gathering. See inside for more details!

6PM - 9PM

#### Twelfth Night

##### Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>

Join your Nakoma neighbors for this beloved annual event or even better, don a costume and launch the acting career you've always dreamed of!

*More details in UTO December!*

# Fall Gathering Time!

Fall is a wonderful time of year. The leaves turn bright colors; lattes turn pumpkin spiced; and light turns to dark before your evening walk. Wait, why is this last point so wonderful? Because you can walk around Nakoma and peer into the windows of the lovely home next door. (You know you want to.) Or you can come to the Nakoma Fall Gathering and see fabulous neighborhood homes while meeting great people.

This year's Fall Gathering will be held on Saturday, November 2nd at 3726 Nakoma Road from 6-9pm. We are grateful to Justin and Natasha Sattin for graciously opening up their home for this cherished annual event. We look forward to sharing a few drinks and hors d'oeuvres with our hosts and Nakoma neighbors, old and new. Please plan to bring a dish to share or consider helping to set up or clean up the event.

In the spirit of giving back to the community, we will once again encourage neighbors to donate funds to the Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin. It's as much of a Nakoma fall tradition as the event itself. Details are on your event sign-up. Donations will be accepted at the event.

We're looking forward to meeting new neighbors and seeing old friends. Happy Fall!

*by Rachel Dignan*



## Clip me for Fall Gathering

Please send your event registration form and check, payable to the Nakoma League, by **October 31st** to Brittney Keesey 4157 Cherokee Drive.  
Email [brittney.keesey@gmail.com](mailto:brittney.keesey@gmail.com) with questions.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending (\$10 per person) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Second Harvest Donation amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- I will bring hors d'oeuvres.
- I will help with setup.
- I will help with cleanup.
- I will help by bussing for a 30-minute shift—drink refills, light clean-up.
- I am new to the event.

## Who Cooks for You?

*by Keri Schlecht*

Residents of Cherokee and Hiawatha near Thoreau School have been treated to a rare wildlife occurrence as of late. Over the summer, at least two Barred owls have taken up residence in the oak trees above. Barred owls are one of the more common owls and are quite large. They hunt mainly at night and enjoy squirrels, mice and rabbits, which would explain their affinity for Nakoma! Though owls are nocturnal, some neighbors have reported hearing their who-who-cooks-for-you-all call during the day. To hear what the owls sound like so you can keep an ear out for them, visit [www.tinyurl.com/NakomaOwl](http://www.tinyurl.com/NakomaOwl). Happy owl hunting!

# Halloween Parade & Costume Party

Calling all ghouls, pirates, and fairies! Come out before trick-or-treating begins and join us for a late afternoon parade and party in Nakoma Park on Thursday, October 31st. The eerie event begins at 4:30pm and will wrap up by 6pm. Enjoy hot cider, pizza and goblin-y treats as you watch a parade of witches, young Jedi masters and other imaginative creatures go by. Everyone is invited to participate in the parade. Nakoma Park is located by the tennis courts between Nakoma and Cherokee roads.

In order to make the event a spooky success we need volunteers. The set-up

begins at 2pm and tear down starts at 6pm. The formula is simple: more people helping means a better event! Please clip out your sign up form and return it today. Even if you don't sign up, you're still welcome show up on the day of to assist and participate in this frighteningly good event.

Please send your registration and recommended donation of \$4 to Yvette Hernandez at 4106 Hiawatha Drive, no later than Tuesday October 25th. Day-of registration will be \$6. Join in on the fun, and you'll be sure to have a scary good time!

*by Yvette Hernandez*



## A Perfect 4th of July !

The Nakoma League once again organized this year's annual Independence Day celebration, which took place during a picture-perfect summer day in July. Over 500 neighbors attended the family-friendly event, held on the grounds of Thoreau Elementary School. The party started with some patriotic music and the bicycle parade, which was re-routed up and down Chippewa Drive due to road construction on the regular route of Cherokee Drive. Thanks to all the volunteer parade monitors, who cordoned off key traffic intersections to allow the parade to flow through. After the parade, things got busy in the carnival area, with games being played in the shade of the oak trees. Thanks to all the older kids, who created and staffed these games for the younger kids, who won every time! What better way to spend your winnings than on a Sno-Cone or—new this year—cotton candy? Later on, the food tables saw steady business as more neighborhood volunteers served up brats, hot dogs, cold soda, and beer. Did you know that more brats than hot dogs are sold that day? A big "Thank You!" goes out to the grilling crew, led by the mighty duo of Melissa and Steve Deller, who set-up early and cleaned up late. The music really added to the event, with a shout-out to Jim White for his sound equipment and Spencer Roehre for his DJ skills. Thanks to Nakoma League members Mark Consigny, Robin Gray, Brittney Keesey, and Erica Meier for taking the lead on planning this event. Finally, thanks to all the neighbors and friends who were contacted by the League and gave their time freely to help ensure we continue this long-standing event that is a highlight of every summer for many of us. What a great way to celebrate our Nakoma neighborhood!

*by Mark Consigny*

Clip me for Halloween Parade  
Please send your event registration  
form and check, payable to the  
Nakoma League, by **October 25<sup>th</sup>**

to  
Yvette Hernandez  
4106 Hiawatha Drive

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

# of Kids \_\_\_\_\_

Ages \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$4, per person \_\_\_\_\_

*I will...*

- Help at the food/drink table.
- Help with registration.
- Share a small plate of treats.
- Help with set up at 2PM.
- Tear down at 6PM.

## A COMMUNITY GARDEN...

*by Jeanne Grist*

Calling all green thumbs! A group of Nakoma neighbors and friends are considering installing a Community Garden in our neighborhood to grow vegetables and flowers. Neighbors would have access to small garden plots. The space would be west of the bike path and shared with the adjacent neighborhoods. It would provide an opportunity for neighbors to work side by side. If you are interested in helping to develop this project or would like to have a plot in the garden, please contact [JeanneGrist95@gmail.com](mailto:JeanneGrist95@gmail.com) for more information.

# Adopt-a-Family

It's the time of year when we get into the spirit of giving back. Nakoma neighbors will once again be sponsoring the Adopt-a-Family program and we need your help! Working with the YWCA Third Street Residence Program, we aim to provide happy holidays for a group of single mothers, each with a young family. Our goal is to provide gifts and stockings for each family member. In the past we have collected gifts for 12 families from over 60 Nakoma households. Kathy Andes has been coordinating this event for many years and couldn't do it without your help.

Please consider one of the ways to help. **Donate a gift.** Email [kandes@charter.net](mailto:kandes@charter.net) with the subject header "Nakoma Adopt-a-Family Wish List Request [*select one: for a family, mother, or child.*]" A shopping wish list will be emailed in return. You may also call if email isn't preferred, though it does enable us to easily track those who participate. **Donate money.** Donations will be used to buy gifts for individuals that aren't "adopted" while surplus funds are used to purchase something that will benefit all residents. **Donate time.** Assistance is always needed to help shop for gifts, stuff stockings, and deliver the packages to the YWCA. In years past, our neighborhood has donated very generously and so we could really use more hands to make the work lighter this year. Advancing planning is essential to the success of this work! To volunteer, or for more information or questions, contact Kathy at 233-6286.

## Clip me for Adopt-a-Family Donations

Send check, payable to 'Nakoma League Adopt-a-Family'  
to Megan Gibson 4211 Wanetah Trail.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

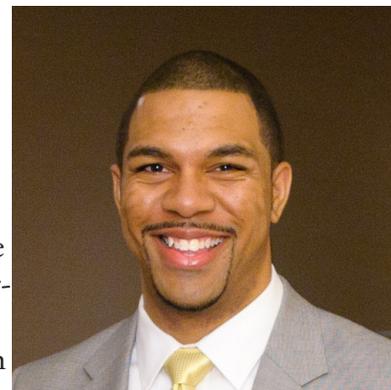
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Meet Your Alderman: Maurice Cheeks

It is my honor to formally introduce myself through Nakoma's Under the Oaks newsletter, as your Alderperson representing Madison's 10th District. My wife, Melissa, and I, moved to Nakoma last year and are enjoying being part of such a wonderful neighborhood. Thanks to all of you who have taken the time to reach out to me since the April election.



I sincerely appreciate all of the questions, feedback, and words of encouragement. You can look forward to occasional updates from me in the future. Here are just a few things that I have been focused on lately:

**Rising to Address Emerging Opportunities.** The Common Council understands the need to quickly address community needs, as well as financially support unanticipated neighborhood opportunities as they arise. Accordingly, we have established an Emerging Opportunities Program for 2013 and funded it with \$200,000. Right away we saw neighbors step up and submit applications that would benefit our neighborhoods. I was very pleased to co-sponsor this initiative, and I hope that my colleagues on the Council can continue to commit to being proactive when it comes to neighborhood strengthening efforts such as these. With 75 submissions in only three weeks, and requests for funds totaling over \$2.5 million, there is certainly no shortage of opportunities to creatively support our neighborhoods.

**More Verona Road Construction.** As promised, the Seminole Highway interchange and bridge are currently being improved. The bridge is currently closed and should re-open after the ramp work is completed in November. By now you may have noticed work done on Nakoma and Yuma Drive. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is collaborating with the city as it installs a red-yellow-green traffic signals at this intersection. Installation is scheduled for completion this fall. WisDOT is overseeing and funding the multi-year Verona Road project. For Nakoma residents who want to keep up to date, WisDOT provides weekly updates on <http://projects.511wi.gov/web/veronaroad-18-151>.

Please feel free to contact me directly with any feedback or city related questions at [District10@cityofmadison.com](mailto:District10@cityofmadison.com) or 608.620.1994.

*Alderman Maurice Cheeks*



# Nakoma Kids Clubhouse Summer Fun, Once Again

by Annemarie Banas and Deborah Still

For the second year in a row, more than three dozen children, ages 4-11, gathered in Nakoma Park on Wednesday afternoons for wacky water games, arts and crafts, sports and other managed activities. The Clubhouse wouldn't be possible without the commitment of KEVA Sports Center and our neighborhood junior coaches who volunteered to assist staff. Many thanks to Allie Chandler, Clare Chandler, Nora Ghandi and Megan Walsh for helping out.

Next summer hopes to bring some exciting new additions with possible activities such as archery, a science workshop, and tween adventure challenges. Make sure to "like" Nakoma Friends on Facebook for all the latest information. We welcome your feedback so please email us with suggestions at [dstill@jacksonconsultingpr.com](mailto:dstill@jacksonconsultingpr.com).



## Sustainakoma

Fall 2013

by Jeanne Grist

A few years back, [Myfairlakes.com](http://Myfairlakes.com) began a movement to encourage residents to improve the quality of Madison lakes. The *Love Your Lakes Don't Leaf Them* campaign, which encourages people to keep leaves out of streets and gutters, has grown. We want you to join the movement. Help by regularly managing your leaves so they stay out of the neighborhood streets and out of Lake Wingra. Don't know what to do with them? Here are a few simple suggestions for leaf management and garden maintenance. This information is brought to you by Myfairlakes and [cleanwaterbrightfuture.org](http://cleanwaterbrightfuture.org)

- Compost your leaves if possible. Mix leaves with other compostable items and spread it on your garden next year.
- Chop up leaves with your lawn mower. Leaf fragments won't kill your grass, and this replaces one fertilizer application.
- Use leaves as mulch for gardens. Leaves provide nutrients and winter protection to vegetable and flower gardens.
- Keep the street clean. If you do pile leaves for collection, don't put them in the gutter. Be neighborly and help rake up leaves that fall into the street.

**Having trouble staying on top of leaf raking this year?** See the Bulletin Board for an posting regarding local school students looking to help residents keep on top of falling leaves while gaining valuable life skills in return.

# The Community Board

## Yoga in the Park

Over the summer, many Nakoma neighbors have enjoyed a Vinyasa style yoga practice in the park. Amy Kruger has been leading the group on Saturday mornings at 9am. As the weather gets cooler, we are looking to move our practice indoors. If you are willing to open your home for yoga or would simply like to join us, please contact Amy or Nakoma League contact, Lindsay Suttin at [lindsay.suttin@yahoo.com](mailto:lindsay.suttin@yahoo.com). Additional updates will be posted on the Nakoma Facebook Group. We hope to see you on the mat!

## Saris Gala

The Saris Gala is will be held on Friday night **October 25th** at Saris headquarters off of Verona Road. Come out and show your support for cycling in our community. Don't miss this largest single night bicycle advocacy event in the country! Saris' biggest bicycling bash of the year will feature special guest Phil Liggett, live and silent auctions, fabulous food and drink, and a Hollywood Glam Costume Contest. We promise it will be a night to remember. For tickets and details visit [www.sarisgala.org](http://www.sarisgala.org).

## Help for the Ice Rink

For the last three years, Nakoma has come together to provide an active winter playground in our neighborhood Ice Rink. And when Mother Nature cooperates, families enjoy many weeks of skating through the long winter months. While the city helps with the larger maintenance tasks, none of this would be possible without volunteer efforts from neighbors like you. Paul and Annemarie Banas have volunteered as Ice Rink Coordinators for the last three years by advocating with the city, helping to get the rink off the ground, and working with other neighbors on maintenance and social activities. Unfortunately this year, they will not be able to devote the same level energy as in years past. So we are looking for a couple of eager neighbors that can take over some rink coordination responsibilities. If you have an interest in helping to make this neighborhood tradition a possibility this year, please contact Anne Marie or Paul at [ampmb@sbc-global.net](mailto:ampmb@sbc-global.net) for more information.

## Student Volunteers Available

Andy Tonies, a teacher with alternative programs at Cherokee Middle School, wants to help you this autumn—and in return you'll be helping others. She and her students are looking to connect with residents of the Nakoma Neighborhood who may have difficulty raking the fallen leaves. They seek to develop the life skills needed for responsible citizenship and personal fulfillment, while also benefiting our community. If you are interested in learning more about their mission and program, contact Andy Tonies at 204-1285 or email [aatonies@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:aatonies@madison.k12.wi.us).

## Arboretum News

Fall is the time to make sure you rake your leaves onto your terrace for pickup. Leaves that make their way to the lakes via stormwater runoff are a source of phosphorous, which adds to the nutrient overloading of our lakes. This in turn contributes to algal blooms which can suffocate aquatic life. Even easier than raking and piling your leaves is to allow them to stay where they fall in your yard or plant a woodland or savanna garden that will thrive in the natural conditions. Think of all the food and shelter you'll provide for butterflies, songbirds, and other creatures that you can also enjoy.

If you see smoke coming from the Arboretum, there is a good chance it's because we are doing a fall-prescribed burn. Prairie burns are an important growth-management tool in our restorations, and they can have spectacular results. Many invasive species are set back by fire, and prairie grasses grow taller and flower more in the growing season after a burn. Learn more about UW Arboretum prescribed fires, tours and other events at [www.uwarboretum.org](http://www.uwarboretum.org).

*Nakoma residents are encouraged to use the board as a way to communicate with one another. To post information, we ask that you are current on your dues. You are welcome to advertise goods and services, offer homes for sale or rent, and post information about volunteer opportunities. Newsletter publication dates are timed around neighborhood events and exact dates of delivery cannot be predicted. To place a notice, please contact the editor at [keri.schlecht@yahoo.com](mailto:keri.schlecht@yahoo.com) or a league member. Additionally, please advise us if your information is no longer current.*





# Sitters

## Children

Hannah Chandler, 16, St. Mary's Certified Babysitter. Energetic, experienced, and fun. Call 236-0074 or 333-6675.

Connie Ellis, Adult Nakoma resident. Available evenings and weekend days. CPR certified and has transportation. Call 277-0170.

Tierney Grist, 16, Red Cross Certified Babysitter. Experienced with children 3 months to 12 years. Available evenings and weekends during the school year. Responsible and energetic. Call for references, 228-2513.

Ellie Hodgson, 15, Red Cross Certified Babysitter. Responsible, energetic, and loves all ages. Call 218-9240 or email [ellie.hodgson8@gmail.com](mailto:ellie.hodgson8@gmail.com).

Kate Martin, West High School Senior, St. Mary's Certified Babysitter. Experienced and loves to sit for all ages. Call 298-0049.

Grace Peterson, 15, Red Cross Certified Babysitter. Good with any age. Call 233-2436 or email [peterson3099@sbcglobal.net](mailto:peterson3099@sbcglobal.net).

Meghan Pfau, 14, Red Cross Certified Babysitter. Experienced with kids of any age. Call for references, 276-9294 or email [sarahpfau@me.com](mailto:sarahpfau@me.com).

Emma Stoehr, 17, Red Cross Certified Babysitter. Loves all ages. Call 212-3012 or email [e.stoehr22@yahoo.com](mailto:e.stoehr22@yahoo.com)

Rachel Viersta, 18, St Mary's Certified Babysitter. Experienced and loves to play. Call 238-0624 or email [chzhd5@yahoo.com](mailto:chzhd5@yahoo.com).

Carrie, 18, and Kate Zellmer, 17, St Mary's Certified Babysitters. Carrie is a certified lifeguard, as well as first aid and CPR. Call 467-4079 or email [zellmer@mac.com](mailto:zellmer@mac.com).

Kayla Baggs, 24, CPR, AED, and first aid certified. Enthusiastic, honest, and 12 years of experience. Well-rounded and dependable, available evenings and weekends. Clean driving record and own car for getting to Nakoma. Loves to cook! Call for references, 669-3288.

## Pets, Homes, and Plants

Judy Schrader, Adult pet sitter. Eight years of experience and loves pets. She will walk or board dogs and will care for cats and other pets. Call 274-4835.

Aileen Zebrowski, 17, Pet sitter and yard work. Can feed and walk pets on a regular basis while you are away. She is also available for yard work. Call 231-1375.

Liliana Re will take good care of any pet. She is also available for yard work, any season. Call 630-8336.

Rachel Vierstra, Pet and plant sitter. Will pet sit, water plants, and manage mail and newspapers while you are away. Experienced and loves to walk and play with animals. Call 238-0624 or email [chzhd5@yahoo.com](mailto:chzhd5@yahoo.com).

Emma Stoehr, 17, Pet sitter. Will take care of pets will you are away. Regular walks, feedings and TLC. Call 212.3012 or email [e.stoehr22@yahoo.com](mailto:e.stoehr22@yahoo.com).

## Calling All Providers!

If you are interested in offering your services, let us know! We can post child, pet, plant, and home sitters as well as offers for leaf and snow removal, yard work, and odd jobs. Many neighbors young and old take advantage of the board to find a reliable, local neighbor to help them out!

Under the Oaks strives to keep the list of sitters as current and accurate as possible. Over the next few months, we will update the list. If your name is incorrectly listed above, or if it is not listed and you would like it to be, please email the editor at [keri.schlecht@yahoo.com](mailto:keri.schlecht@yahoo.com) to update your announcement, or to add a new one.





## 2013-2014 Nakoma League Board

### President

Lindsay Suttin..... 4109 Hiawatha Drive ..... 665-3962

### Vice President

Erica Zander Meier ..... 4030 Council Crest..... 698-1983

### Treasurer

Megan Gibson..... 4211 Wanetah Trail..... 772-2514

### Cherokee Reps

Sara Tokheim ..... 4133 Hiawatha Drive ..... 612-730-2363

Brittney Keesey ..... 4157 Cherokee Drive ..... 772-8256

### Chippewa Reps

Yvette Hernandez..... 4106 Hiawatha Drive ..... 916-765-7679

Meagan Coates..... 4105 Yuma Drive ..... 303-913-8001

### Iroquois Reps

Melissa Cheeks..... 3545 Nakoma Road ..... 609-1252

Amy Bina..... 4006 Manitou Way..... 278-8406

### Oneida Reps

Rachel Digman ..... 701 Oneida Place ..... 920-904-1631

Mark Consigny ..... 809 Huron Hill..... 233-9395

### Ottawa Reps

Leanne Morris..... 826 Hiawatha Drive ..... 338-3620

Taryn Schwartz..... 4038 Cherokee Drive..... 576-1227

### Seminole Reps

Tara Siders..... 4154 Nakoma Road ..... 467-7211

Volunteer Opportunity Available!.....

### Newsletter Editor

Keri Schlecht..... 4042 Cherokee Drive ..... 415-238-7687

### Ice Skating Rink Coordinator

Annemarie & Paul Banas..... 938 Waban Hill..... 231-3014

### SustaiNakoma Coordinator

Jeanne Grist ..... 3805 Council Crest..... 238-1570

### Adopt-a-Family Coordinator

Kathy Andes ..... 4150 Manitou Way..... 233-2438

### Gift-of-Reading Coordinator

Robin Gray ..... 4109 Chippewa Drive..... 246-0267

### 12<sup>th</sup> Night Coordinator

Betty Buchanan..... 3918 Nakoma Road ..... 233-5476

### Webmaster

..... Alice Grevet

# Editor's Notes

When I moved to Nakoma a little over two years ago, I didn't know much about gardening. I'd taken a class on composting and growing vegetables, and longed for a little patch of dirt. And here, I finally had space to grow. Unfortunately, I lacked sufficient sun to grow food under the oaks. So if I was going to garden, it was going to be for ornamental purposes, an activity that, truth be told, didn't excite me much.

A couple of growing seasons later, I'm not eating homegrown veggies, but I am eating my words. I love my garden. And I no longer call it dirty names like *ornamental*. It's just a place where I retreat after a long day, jabbing my hands into the wet earth and pruning wiley plants with reckless abandon. I've come to realize that gardening is as much about what you put in, as what you get out. So I put in my long days, stresses, and worries. And out comes green, green oxygen for me to breathe and recharge.

Recently I spent an unseasonably warm October day cutting back the final, floppy remains of my garden. And though it's not essential, it feels beneficial to its rebirth—symbolic even. I imagine the earth breathing a sigh of relief, and looking forward to a rest before starting fresh again next spring. And fresh starts are nice. In the next few issues of Under the Oaks, you'll see some changes. And like many changes, some will be great and some will be okay. If you have feedback or an idea for the newsletter, share it! I welcome your thoughts, good and well, not-so-good. But I'll keep working at the roots. And perhaps together, we will grow something great.

by Keri Schlecht  
Editor