

40

HOMEWOOD

Community Newsletter

April, 2013



March 25 to April 2, 2013



A fool and
his money
are soon
parted. The
rest of us
wait until
income tax
time

Pet of the Month



Midnite



Meet Midnite

I remember after a particularly debauched night and walk of shame home

opening the front door of my condo and finding my black bunny:

Midnite
Polish Dwarf

patiently waiting and staring at me
loving me with his non-judgemental
expression-less face

"Honey, I'm home..."

Cammy Lee-Bostwick



Don's Movies For April

**All movies at 7:30pm in
Recreation Room**

Thursday, April 4
YOUNG AT HEART (1954)
Doris Day, Frank Sinatra

Friday, April 5
TEACHER'S PET (1958)
Doris Day, Clark Gable

Thursday, April 11
THE BIG HEAT (1953)
Glenn Ford, Gloria Grahame

Friday, April 12
THE MONEY TRAP (1966)
Glenn Ford, Rita Hayworth

Thursday, April 18
HONDO (1953)
John Wayne, James Arness

Friday, April 19
THE SONS OF KATIE ELDER (1965)
John Wayne, Dean Martin

Thursday, April 25
BODY AND SOUL (1947)
John Garfield, Lilli Palmer

Friday, April 26
**THE POSTMAN ALWAYS RINGS TWICE
(1946)**
John Garfield, Lana Turner

Street Proofing and Safety

After February's article, several other suggestions were forwarded to the Newsletter as tips for safety on the street, especially late at night.

1. Walk at the edge of the street, just off the sidewalk, as this gives more maneuverability in the case of danger.
 2. Put credit cards and cash, possibly in a wallet, into a body-pouch and not in your purse; if your purse is stolen, you'll still have your cards and money.
 3. Don't walk on the street with your earphones in: they will impede your ability to hear the approach of anyone from behind.
 4. Wear a whistle on a string around your neck to call for help.
-
-



The Metro and 24 Hrs. newspapers are brought into the building by several residents who go out early. Thank you to those residents who do this for us. They do this so house bound residents including seniors, will have a chance to read them. These papers will no longer be kept on the counter in the lobby but will be available from a table in the All Purpose room.

Would the people who bring them in please put them in the All Purpose room instead of the counter in the lobby.



Heaven And Hell In Potosi: The Mint

This is Part IV of a five-part journal of travels in Peru and Bolivia by resident Kirby Go. The fifth part will run in the next Newsletter.

I woke up in the company of Jesus (so to speak). The hotel I was staying at is called Hotel Campaña de Jesus, a former Carmelite Monastery. The cute boutique hotel has an elaborate wrought iron fence as decoration in the garden courtyard. I woke up to imaginary voices of monks singing and said a word of prayer, thanking the good lord for getting me safely to Potosi late the night before.

I had broken one of my own basic rules of backpacking: "Avoid getting into a new city late in the evening." Without thinking, I pre-bought my bus ticket out of Uyuni to Potosi right after my wilderness trip. My arrival time was midnight. It is always unnerving to arrive in a new city late at night at the bus station, where most criminal elements lurk, and the taxi drivers are of dubious moral character, and worst of all, most of the good affordable accommodations are already taken by early birds, but so be it, the dice have been rolled.

Inside the bus departing Uyuni for a four-hour ride, almost a quarter are backpackers. That's when my years of backpacking skills come in handy: instead of storing my backpack in the under-bus storage space, I took it onboard and crammed it into the overhead bin. When we arrived at Potosi, while the rest of the backpackers were waiting around for the bus driver to get their sacks, I was already hailing a cab.

I pre-selected my hotel from a dozen listed in the guide book as Hotel Campaña de Jesus got rave reviews. I knew it would be the first choice of many backpackers. As my taxi pulled up to the hotel curb, I saw another cab with a backpacker pull up. I had my change ready, paid my fare and ran to the front of the gate, "Amazing Race" style. A groggy old lady opened

the door and I asked for a room. She said yes, I have one room left! And that's how I found myself safe in the company of Jesus that Potosi morning, but little did I know that by the time I left the city, I would literally be running away from the Devil in the depths of Hell.

The city of Potosi is charming and easy to love. I walked along narrow hilly streets and saw evidence of 400 years of wealth from silver mining in its architecture, more than 80 churches with elaborate facades, mansions, colonial buildings. The backdrop is the imposing conical brown and bald mountain, Cerro Rico.

Potosi is a UNESCO world heritage city. It was founded by the Spanish after the discovery of silver. Pretty soon the amount of silver being mined there was bankrolling the Spanish empire. Potosi grew and — at its peak — was the biggest city in all of the Americas. The silver ore dried up eventually and the city went into decline. Present day Potosi is kept afloat on zinc and the mining of other minerals.

On my last day in the city, I visited the number one attraction: Casa Nacional de Moneda or the national mint. Like a fortress with walls one metre thick, it took up the entire city block. An English-speaking guide took us from room to room with different historical views of the mint's work. There was a room with a big assembly of wooden clogs being driven by mules to flatten the silver. Then there was an entire room filled with monster, steam-powered machinery brought from Philadelphia in the 18th century. Another room had huge bulky machinery, powered by electricity, bought in New Jersey in the 19th century. The last coins minted there were in 1953.

There was also a collection of hundreds of different minerals mined in Potosi, neatly displayed with their scientific names and chemical composition. One was a unique mineral that can only be found there, called Bolivianite; it is both purple and yellow, quite stunning. Another room was just filled with items made from silver, from furniture to religious items and every day silverware; it was also quite overwhelming in beauty.

The only other person enjoying the English tour with me that morning was Bruno from Johannesburg. He was raving about the mine tour he did yesterday and told me not to miss it.

"Good Eats, Cheap Eats, Sweet Spots"

by Cammy Lee-Bostwick

The Best Beef Brisket Sandwich I've Ever Had!

What: *Leslieville Pumps General Store
& Kitchen*

What You Get: Beef Brisket Sandwich

How Much: \$7.74

When: 7am - 9pm. 24/7/365 ☎ 416-465-1313

Where: 929 Queen Street East, at Carlaw,
across from Shoppers

Why I like it: Tastiest Beef Brisket I've ever had, with just the right amount of smokiness. Comes on a firm and chewy white bun with sweet crunchy onions and grainy mustard. With the perfect amount of BBQ sauce, this is also probably the cleanest sandwich I've ever eaten: there were no drips or globs of sauce. For drinks, you'll find a nostalgic selection of Pop Shoppe pops, including old time favourites like Lime Ricky and Black Cherry. Four tables and four chairs at each means that this place is usually packed, so it's better to get it to go. If it's the summer, take it down to Cherry Beach, a short ride/drive away. They also get rave reviews for their pulled pork, which we also had, but in my opinion, it is the Beef Brisket that stands out.

cammy.lee@esuite.ca



Energy- Saving Tips

Boiling water

The most energy-efficient way to boil water is by using an electric kettle with an auto shut-off. This uses less energy than boiling water on a stove.

Computer "off"

You always save energy when you turn your computer off when it's not in use. During very brief periods of inactivity, enable the sleep function and avoid using "screen savers" as they will cause a monitor to consume the same amount of power as when it runs normally.

When purchasing a new computer, look for one that is ENERGY STAR qualified. According to Natural Resources Canada, these models use 70% less electricity than a computer without power management capabilities.





Library Space Update

The library committee met in early March. We welcomed Helen Knight as our 6th volunteer member. Much time at our meeting was used to tackle the backlog of donations. Items were sorted, processed and shelved.

Thanks to everyone at 40 Homewood for their ongoing contributions.

We are disappointed that a previously donated title may have been vandalized. This incident involved a lesbian short story collection. The cover was torn off the book and left on a shelf.

A reminder, a printed copy of the **2012 Reserve Fund Study** was added to the library collections recently. It is on the bookshelf next to the Board Minutes binders. All binders contents are for reference. They are to remain in the library. Thanks.

We receive books in **duplicate and sometimes triplicate!** We really do not have space for multiple copies of titles. We will set these aside in boxes marked 'charities'. If you are a member of a church or community organization that has fundraisers like rummage sales or book sales, and you would like a charity box, please contact one of the library volunteers.

Magazine donations are a recent challenge. A large number have been received. It was decided by the committee that current issues will be retained. These will be placed in the laundry television room. As our library space is limited, donated older issues will be recycled. A best example is the National Geographic. We received many issues with dates going back many years. Anyone with older magazines may wish to donate to other organizations or contact

a used bookstore. For suggested bookstores have a look at this Blog Toronto article.

Go to:

http://www.blogto.com/toronto/the_best_used_bookstores_in_toronto/

There is a small shelf of **French books** available to borrow. If you have French language books to donate, we have a space for them! On Sundays, the 40 Homewood French conversation group meets in the library at 7 pm and they really appreciate that the French section is growing.

As previously mentioned in our last library column, we had selected art for the library from our personal collections. In mid March, Mary and John worked on the installation of a number of **art pieces**. These are now on the walls and add another dimension to the library space. A bulletin board is also in place. This board will be used specifically for notices about library procedures, book related items, and book reviews. There are other bulletin boards in the building that serve different functions.

For residents visiting the library with a computer laptop, a computer notebook or hand held computer device, remember there is **WIFI access available**. The password is listed on Channel 13. This connection can be useful for book related questions that you might have while you are actually in the library. Sign in to the internet and search Google, for example, to find reviews and reader comments relevant to the books on our shelves.

We have had a question about '**readalikes**'? Websites exist that help find authors who write like other authors. Use the WIFI while you are in the library to find a readalike site. A great example is the 'Read-Alikes at BookBrowse'.

Go to: <http://www.bookbrowse.com/read-alikes/>

While many of these websites have limited Canadian content, well known Canadian writers are usually covered.

If you have a Toronto Public Library (TPL) card you can sign on to their website. They have a number of free online sources available to registered library users. There is a long list of databases available.

Go to:
<http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/databases/>

One useful library online source for books is called *NoveList Plus: Your Guide to Reading*.

It includes:

- recommendations, articles, and lists for fiction and nonfiction books
- expert reading recommendations from professional librarians
- read-alikes for every title, author, and series

If you are a member of a **bookclub** it also includes:

- book discussion guides
- thematic booklists

If you have any questions about the library or the French conversation group, please feel free to ask any of the library volunteers.

All in all, thanks for your help in incorporating the new library into the daily life at 40 Homewood.

The library committee members :

Martha MacLachlan, Mary Oakley, Christine Leask, Helen Knight, John Whelan, Brian Beagle

Board of Directors

Our Board consists of five directors, each elected for a two-year term. Elections overlap, so two directors were chosen last year and have another year in their terms. Three directors were elected two years ago, and those seats are now up for election at the Annual General Meeting on June 12.

If you are considering putting your name forward for election to the Board, you must meet only three qualifications, according to the Condo Act (1998):

- * You must be at least 18 years of age

* You must not be an undischarged bankrupt

* You must be capable of managing property within the meaning of the Substitute Decisions Act, 1992 (this one means you're mentally competent)

Note that there are no requirements for a Director to be an owner, or to be a resident of the building, or to be pretty or smart.

If you wish to take some time and think about what being a Director of the Board entails, try these things:

1. Look at the Condo Act and the Bylaw #1 of YCC75, the sections pertaining to the duties, responsibilities, and activities of the board. These documents are readily accessible at the website, governing documents page.

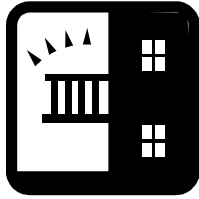
<http://40homewood.org/administration/governing-documents>

2. Check the binder(s) in the Library for the Board minutes. Peruse them and find out what are the content areas of monthly Board meetings.

3. Talk with current or former Board Directors to find out what's involved, what are the "rewards and punishments."

When the preliminary notice of the AGM is mailed in early May, there will be a form soliciting nominations for the positions of Director.





Balcony Etiquette

Whether we believe it or not, spring (and maybe even summer) is on its way.

It's time to remind everyone of the rules and good manners that apply to balcony use. The rules applying specifically to balconies are geared to the general appearance of the building and — more importantly — safety issues. One rule is that nothing should be thrown or dropped from balconies, nor should anything be placed in such a way that it might easily fall.

Astoundingly, some residents continue to throw cigarette butts (LIT!) from their balconies. Already by the first day of “official” spring, at least two reports have been received about cigarette butts, one of which burned a hole in a chair cover on a lower balcony.

It is strange that some people seem not to realize that butts and other debris do not necessarily fall straight down. There is such a thing as wind. There are drafts. There are backdrafts. And even if it were to fall straight down, are you aiming your butt at the lawn below?

Beyond rules and beyond safety, there are things like courtesy, good manners, consideration for others that would prevent — ordinarily — people from making consistently noisy use of their balconies so that others are unable to enjoy some peaceful enjoyment. This includes those who insist on loud cellphone conversations (how often are cellphone conversations quiet?) on their balconies. Whether they care about their privacy or not, neighbours may not wish to be privy to another's private life.

A comment about rules and admonitions: some people think there are too many rules and that they are being nagged by management and board to follow the rules. Other people think that some people are inconsiderate and that there need to be more rules, more strictly enforced. If

you have some thoughts on this subject, please write to the Newsletter (newsletter40homewood@gmail.com) and we will compile thoughts for another issue.



Wi-Fi Access & Password

Wi fi access is provided for us at no cost by eSuite internet services. The wi fi signal reaches the lobby, the multi-purpose room, the laundry/TV room and the library.

The password will likely change each month. To access the new password on the 1st of the month, check channel 13 on your TV.

MAD MEN

Who's Mad?

One of our new, included-in-maintenance channels, AMC (channel 44) will be showing Season 6 of the popular and critically-acclaimed cable series, “Mad Men,” beginning Sunday, April 7, at 9.00 pm.

AMC also shows “The Walking Dead,” very popular with some viewers.



Q & A

Questions and Answers from to the Board and Management

Question: Remind me which rooms or common areas can be reserved for private events.

Answer: Only the Recreation Room is “bookable” or able to be reserved for a private party or event. There are forms on the website and in the office for such reservations with details about conditions and prices. As most people know, the Recreation Room is (1) large (2) has a projection screen for slides (3) has many chairs and tables (4) has a kitchen and (5) has floors that can easily be cleaned from food spills. When you hold your event, you may put a sign on or near the door indicating it’s a private event to keep the uninvited out.

The Recreation Room can also be booked, at no cost, for events that are free, open to all residents and that do not conflict with a rental agreement by another party.

The other common areas (library, multi-purpose room, pool, gym, etc.) are open to all residents and may not be reserved except for board and official committees which may book the multi-purpose room for meetings.

Question: Who did the paintings in the multi-purpose room? Do the paintings have names?

Answer. The painting on the south wall is by Jackson Pollock, famous American abstract expressionist. The painting is called “Number 30.”

The painting on the north wall is by one of the Canadian Group of Seven, which artist is not exactly known. The painting is called “Trees.”

April Fool!!!!

Question: Is the front lawn the right spot to place an old bath tub?

Answer:. No. Where did you get that idea? Bulk debris from renovations is to be taken OFF the property by the owner or resident or contractor.



Haha—they have “days” for everything don’t they? I thought cats have every day off.



Keep Smiling. It makes everyone wonder what you’re up to.

Workers, Service Providers, Contractors, Etc.

Listings of any services or service providers here are initiated by individual owners or tenants, and in no way does the Condominium Corporation (YCC75) or the Board of Directors suggest, recommend, promote, guarantee, underwrite or otherwise endorse any of the services or service providers. Individuals are urged to do their own research and due diligence.

Owners and tenants, however, are encouraged to share the names and contact information of service providers so others might use them, too.

This list is kept up-dated on the website, www.40homewood.org/informatio/bulletin-board

Plumbers:

Mike the Plumber (works independently and also for Ways Plumbing)
416-856-0113

Adam the plumber: call 416-902-0090 and ask for Adam

Locksmith

Greg at 416-406-0909

Floor work

Falcon Flooring: Perry Mifud, telephone
416-252-4907

Painter and handyman

John R. Peirson, Inside Job Painting Co., tel
647-864-4464
email jrpeirson@gmail.com

Painter

On-a-roll Painting, email
dave_elliott89@yahoo.ca, tel 416-406-5743

Electrician

"Danny" (Artan Bushi) tel 905-237-5351; cell
416-823-5489;
email eco.stream@yahoo.ca

General contractor/electrician

Mike Ponte, Elite General Contracting, tel
416-859-1543
email elitegeneralcontracting@gmail.com

General contracting/Complete home
renovation

Ridpath Interiors: From concept to
completion, full condo remodeling
Free consultation, estimates
William 647-523-3776; email
Will@thunders.ca
20 years in the building

J. K. Contracting—Renovations
tiles—kitchens—bathrooms—drywall
For estimate, please contact:
John Kotsaridas & son, Tim
cell 416-520-8370
tel 416-686-0272

Johnny Marreri, S & G Toronto Contracting
Limited
Bathrooms, kitchens, quality condo renos;
familiar with building
office tel 416-653-9508
direct (cell) line Johnny 416-456-8642
email to.generalcontracting@hotmail.com

Contractor — all purpose

Daniel Yu, tel 416-929-7861, email
danielayu333@hotmail.com

Carpentry, renovation work, kitchen, baths,
framing, drywalling, painting, flooring, tiling

Handymen

Handyman Will

Any small job you need done: anything, anytime

Call Will at 647-523-3776; email

will@thunders.ca

Many years of helping out in the building

Small Jobs Al

(electrical, plumbing, carpentry, locks, ceiling fans, cable wiring)

tel 416-944-0611; email

smalljobsal@rogers.com

Yener Sanchez, painting, general labour, cleaning

email yenerick00@hotmail.com

Pet Care

Kathleen Fox, Your Best Buddy

Dog walking, cat sitting, other tailored pet care services

Pet First Aid Trained, Insured and Bonded, References

647-740-4369, email

kathleen@yourbestbuddy.ca

Girl Friday

Jac(queline)k-of-all-trades

(Cleaning, pet care, fixing, typing, changing, hanging, organizing, laundering, delivering, windows, or.....?)

Jacqueline, tel (416) 889-1741, email

girlfridayatyourservice@live.com

Computer repairs, service and training

* Siavosh, technician, working for the company, Onasys.

tel 416-622-3780

* Ryan Taylor, 647-990-3279, website

www.computersmadeeasy.ca ;

email Ryan@computersmadeeasy.ca

Computers Made Easy: Training, Lessons and Service

* Mark Hanson, 647-800-4121, reasonable repairs

Appliance repair and service

Khushru Patel, Pat & Son's Major Appliances

(416) 725-4922, email

applianceguru@hotmail.com

Dragon

(416) 616-3774 (stoves, fridges, dishwashers, etc.)

Air conditioner installation and repair

Roy Carlton, 416-444-0045

Mortgage broker

Cindy Pusateri, Invis Company

416-926-0529, 6 Wellesley Place, Unit 28

Massage

Shin Lee, RMT (Registered Massage Therapist)

email shinleermt@hotmail.com; website

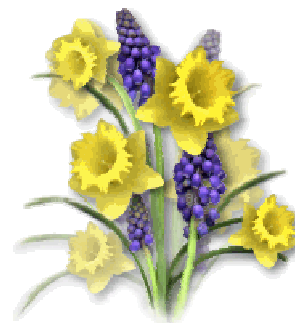
www.shintorontormt.com;

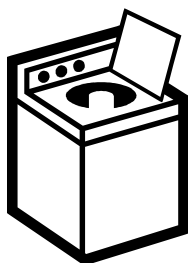
phone 416-578-0414; 40 Wellesley Street East, Ste 301

Marcos Carajol, RMT (Registered Massage Therapist)

email marcos_carajol@hotmail.com; phone

416-732-6883





Laundry Etiquette

When doing your wash, please pay attention and remove your clothes from the washer or dryer in a timely fashion. If you intend to go out and leave them there then do your laundry some other time when you can keep an eye on it.

It is extremely frustrating when other residents go down and find that a washer or dryer cycle is finished and the clothes are just sitting there and stay there for an hour or so. If you habitually tend to forget that you have laundry down there, why not take the time and sit down there. You risk the chance of someone else removing your clothes.

Bring a book, or take one of the ones that are in the library just across from the laundry room. There is also a TV for people's enjoyment. Respect your neighbours.

**2013 GREEN LIVING
SHOW APRIL
12-14**

The Green Living Show is free if you show your April, 2013 TTC Metropass or are dropping off a piece of electronic waste.

See the list on the Green Committee's bulletin board in the mail room for a list of electronic waste items.



Does Your Pet Want Publicity?

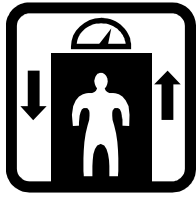
We are always looking for new candidates for Pet of the Month. Let Charles or Martha know or write to the email shown on the bottom of this newsletter.



The Social Committee is planning a **Volunteer Appreciation Evening** on April 27th, 2013

This event will be by invitation only.

The Social Committee and the 40 Homewood community is enhanced by our wonderful volunteers who work on the committees, help set up social committee events and our board members who give selflessly on our behalf.



Get Ready For A “Lift”

The elevator modernization project is going ahead, beginning with the hiring of Ayling Consulting Services, Inc. (ACSI Elevator Consultants). ACSI will initially prepare a “request for proposals,” that is, an outline of the job specification to send out to potential bidders on this large job. This is already in the works, and it is hoped that bids will be received in the next couple of months so that the board can choose a contractor before the AGM.

ACSI’s role will continue as a project manager, and the work is expected to begin in 2013 and be finished in 2014. The main reason for the two-year time frame is so that the costs can be divided between two of our fiscal years.

More details will be shared as they evolve and become clear.

Fire Exit Doors From The Garage

A lesser project than the elevator modernization, for sure, but the Board has also approved a contractor to replace the fire exit doors (there are 12) from the garage levels. The doors themselves will be replaced, the floors will be levelled so the doors open and close properly, and the frames of the doors, in some cases, will be straightened.

This will move us into compliance with fire regulations. Better-fitting doors should be a general asset, of course, as well as limiting access by squirrels to our underground parking. The cost, from the Reserve Fund, will be in the low- to mid-\$30,000 range.



Ward 27

Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam and City of Toronto’s Solid Waste Management team invite you to the annual Ward 27 Environment Day on Saturday, April 21st at the Ramsden Works Yard (1008 Yonge Street – across from Rosedale Subway Station) from 10am to 2pm.

Environment Day is an opportunity to drop-off household items and waste such as electronic items, old clothing, household hazardous waste, and unused medications for safe disposal. Compost for gardening and green bin containers are also available for pick-up.

This year, Councillor Wong-Tam has invited non-profit organizations from across Toronto to share information about sustainable living in the city.

Donate to Goodwill for reuse:

Sporting goods (e.g. skates, hockey equipment, bikes, rackets, etc.); Books (excluding school/university curriculum books); Medical equipment in good condition (e.g. eyeglasses, walking aids, hearing aids, etc.); Small household items (e.g. dishes, ornaments, kitchen utensils, artistic drawings, games, etc.); Textiles in good condition (e.g. clothing, linens, etc.); Non-perishable foods will be donated to a food bank

Donate to schools for reuse:

Art supplies (e.g. pencils, markers, crayons, etc.); CDs and cases; Children’s books, clipboards, corkboards; Costume jewellery including broken/old watches, dress-up clothing; Fabric pieces, yarn,

buttons, keys, etc.; 35 mm cameras and equipment

Products Available - Fees may apply:

Backyard Composter; Green Bin; Kitchen Container

Pick up for FREE:

Leaf Compost (limit one cubic metre per household); Green bins and Kitchen Containers (bring damaged bins for exchange)

Get new bins - bring proof of residence in the last 90 days

President's Report

Correction to last month's President's letter:

Just to clarify a mistake in last March's President's letter the following statement was in error.

"Managing this work around the need for a move-in and move-out elevator time will be the challenge and we know we'll all work together to make this as inconvenient as possible for everyone once work begins".

The correct wording was meant to say

"Managing this work around the need for a move-in and move-out elevator time will be the challenge and we know we'll all work together to make this as convenient as possible for everyone once work begins".

I regret the error

Brian Brenie

SPRING IS ON THE WAY!



Oz the Great and Powerful

By Jeffrey Amos

The Wizard of Oz was one of my favourite films as a child; apparently I'm not alone in that respect. The scene in the film where the Wicked Witch of the West first appears in a cloud of smoke scared the bejesus out of me and a million other kids. Tampering with the Wizard of Oz universe is a very difficult and dangerous task indeed. So along comes Oz the Great and Powerful, Disney's prequel of sorts to the Wizard of Oz, that tells us the story of the Wizard and how he got to Oz, and the background story of the Wicked Witches of the West and East, and Glinda. It's directed by Sam Raimi, who helmed the recent Spiderman trilogy. Unfortunately the result is a major disappointment all around.

In all honestly, it is hard for me say much that is positive about this movie. I do admit that the idea of have the opening scenes in Kansas filmed in black and white at an aspect ratio of 4:3 as in the original film was very smart. For the scenes in Oz, the film is also very beautiful and exquisite to look at – special effects have come a long way since 1939 and it shows (as it should for a reported budget of \$215 million!). Unfortunately, this continues a disappointing trend towards movies with incredible special effects and computer generated imagery with lousy, pedestrian stories. You'd think they'd take a few million from the special effects budget and divert it to hiring a half decent screenwriter, as this is where this movie takes a wrong turn.

Oscar, nicknamed Oz (played by James Franco), is a small time con-man magician in a travelling circus in Kansas. Of course, he's a womanizer who woos various women with music boxes, which he claims are originals (owned by his grandmother, naturally...) As can be expected, he's caught and in a scene reminiscent of the tornado scene in the original movie, flees from a jealous husband (who wants to break his kneecaps, or something like that...) in a hot air balloon which naturally gets caught up in a tornado and whisked away to Oz.

Upon arrival, he meets a witch by the name of Theodora (Mila Kunis) who advises him that there is a "prophecy" – where have we heard this before? – that a Wizard will arrive with the same name as the land that he arrives in and, since we now have an Oz in Oz (what a coincidence!), she feels that he is the Wizard prophet and brings him back to the Emerald City. Of course as soon as he learns that he will rule a kingdom, inherit a gigantic chamber of gold, and may have the opportunity to woo both Theodora and her sister Evanora (Rachel Weisz), he's in for the long haul. Who cares if he doesn't have any magical powers? He'll wing it!

Of course we all know that he will have his comeuppance and will learn a lesson...while saving Oz from evil. Do you think it's possible that those two witches will turn out to be the Wicked Witches of the West and the East? I'm not giving anything away...although you know the answer. Along his journey he picks up a couple of sidekicks (just like Dorothy in the original film), including an extremely irritating talking, flying monkey (played by Zach Braff) and a creepy little china doll, and meets Glinda, the Witch of the South. (This didn't really make sense to me. In the first movie she was the Witch of the North...do the poles reverse themselves in Oz before Dorothy comes along in a few years?)

This movie doesn't seem to know who its audience is. On the one hand, by making the Wizard a sleazy womanizer, the movie seems to be giving a nod to the adults out there and the interactions between the Wizard and the monkey (who becomes his indentured servant) are straight out of a comedy club. However, the movie tries to mix this with moments for the kids. The results are extremely inconsistent.

Also, many aspects of the Oz universe were left out. Although the original Oz books by L. Frank Baum are in the public domain, a lot of the elements from the 1939 film are owned by Warner Bros., including the ruby slippers and the appearance of many of the characters and Disney was not allowed to use them. This led to a lot of expected aspects (such as the origin of the slippers and their power) being left out. I can't for the life of me understand why Disney didn't just team up with Warner Brothers to make this movie as the missing elements of the original film would not have had to be omitted. Perhaps the executives at Disney wanted the profits all for themselves and didn't want to share?

In closing, Oz and Great and Powerful is neither great nor powerful. After more than two hours in the theatre, I walked out with my fondest memory of the film being a CGI chase with three of the main characters in bubbles. Enough said. Oz the Great and Powerful gets 1 ½ stars out of 4.



Join the members of the Green Committee in viewing **"Garbage! The Revolution Starts at Home"**.

Date: Tuesday, April 23rd, 2013
Place: Recreation Room 1B
Time: 7:00 PM

Garbage! The Revolution Starts at Home is a feature documentary about how the family household has become one of the most ferocious environmental predators of our time.

After the film, join the Green Committee for muffins, an assortment of teas, including herbal and a chance to talk **"Trash"**

Some discussion topics are:

- Would you consider yourself an environmentally responsible person?
- How can we reduce trash?
- How is 40 Homewood doing?

Hope to see you there!

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