

The DILLAGER

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Edmonds starts Institute for Children's Mental Disorders

GLORYUS GOINGS ON



BY GLORY WEISBERG

Centennial resident and man about town, **Stephen Edmonds**, hosted a "Brunch, Baubles and Better Brains" party last week at his townhome to organize support for The Institute for Children's Mental Disorders. Edmonds is its executive director, a position he took after retiring as the University of Denver Chancellor **Dan Ritchie's** right hand man.

Edmonds' event was held to formally start Key Research Partners for the ICMD, a guild-like arm that

offers several membership levels, starting at \$45 a year.

Edmonds knows his way around a kitchen. We met Dr. **Robert Freedman**, chair of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Colorado Denver. Freedman is Scientific Director for Children's Mental Disorders, and he knows how to tailor a talk to the audience at hand, something not every researcher "gets."

Mental illness strikes one in seven Colorado families and his goal with the institute is to treat the disorder before a high-risk infant is even born.

"We don't do well treating them later. We think about what we inherit," and a certain type of mental disorder malfunction begins in the expectant mother's third trimester. They already know that the mother's diet should include eggs, specifically egg yolks, liver, broccoli, pinto, black and kidney beans, which are high in choline, which is important to formation of a healthy brain. Also, they already know that babies nursed on breast milk have healthier



Host and ICMD Executive Director Stephen Edmonds with Dr. Robert Freedman
Photo by Glory Weisberg

mental functions than those given formula instead.

Tests have already been done on lab mice and more importantly, tested on wives of Fort Carson soldiers whose husbands are stationed at battle sights. These particular mothers and mothers-to-be have a high level of stress that triggers the brain malfunctioning gene.

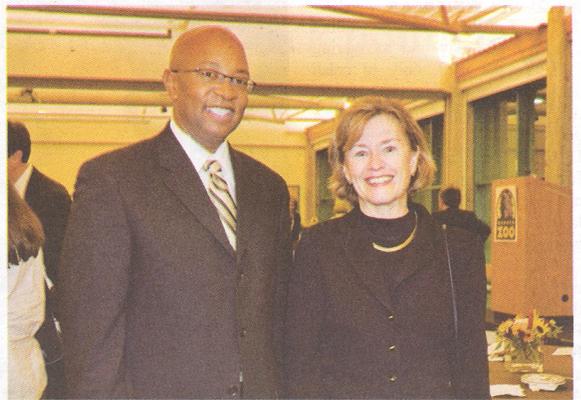
"We're working with choline pills and foods, giving mothers instructions" on the regimen and to date 20 children have been born of these blind study subjects and they are showing a higher level of normal functioning than those babies born to mothers in a control group. "Colorado women are the first to get this treatment," Freedman said.

The choline tests are also being done in Israel where Sephardic families have higher than average abnormalities in brain function and Freedman noted that one local rabbi's wife stated that the Biblical figure, Saul, had psychosis.

The Institute for Children's Mental Disorders is at the Anschutz Medical Campus and pregnant women can get choline tests free of charge.

The institute can be reached at 303-724-4955.

Among those at the brunch were **Cindi Burge, Jaylene Smith, Adrienne Ruston Fitzgibbons, Lyn Schaffer, Faye Washington, Gail Johnson, Deb Smith, Debbie Gradishar, Dr. Elaine Scholes and Louise Richardson.**



Will Taylor and Nancy Arcetta, daughter of Erna Butler and the late Brad Butler
Photo courtesy of the Denver Foundation

Oh, and the "Baubles" part of the brunch was provided by **Kathleen Farrell**, who designs and makes costume jewelry. She brought a small truck full to sell with part of the purchase going to the institute.

Leaders recognized

The Denver Foundation Fall Tribute to Philanthropy Celebration at the Denver Zoo recognized four local leaders. The Swanee Hunt Individual Leadership Award went to **Leslie Foster**, The Gathering Place president and CEO; the Swanee Hunt Youth Leadership Award went to **Cheyenne Hughes**, the Colorado Progressive Coalition Racial Justice Organizer; and the Judith M. Kaufmann Civic Entrepreneurship Award went to Dr. **Steven Poole**, executive director of The Colorado Children's Health Access Program and vice chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the CU School of Medicine.

Will Taylor accepted the first John Parr and Sandy Widener Civic Leadership Award, named for the couple that perished in a December 2007 auto accident, which also killed one of their daughters, Chase. Surviving daughter, **Katy** attended the award ceremony. Taylor is East High School's long-time Music Educator.

For information on the Denver Foundation, go to www.denverfoundation.org.

Vessel Dinner

More than 500 people attended the Christian Living Communities Earthen Vessel Dinner recently.

Former Denver Bronco **Karl Mecklenburg** held forth about his glory days on the team, noting he'd begun his career as a 12th round draft pick. At one game he played seven different positions.

"True leadership demands that the leader puts himself in a position to serve his teammates and the team," he said.

The Rocky Mountain Children's Choir performed under the direction of **Leslie Britton**. This is an ethnically diverse choral group, performing more than 100 concerts in its last five years.

The Earthen Vessel Award went to **Clarence**, a.k.a. **Clix**, and **Alyce Meines** of Littleton. The dinner raised funds for the Clement Park Community Redevelopment effort.

Among those at the dinner: **Lowell and Mona Palmquist, Allen and Beverly Keesen, Diane Cliff and Jeff Paliesen, LaFawn Biddle, Dr. Gary and Phyllis VanderArk, Jerry and Sandy Wischmeyer and Jim and Lauri Mellor.**

La Sandia

World-renowned tenor **Placido Domingo** is involved in La Sandia, which is a Mexican restaurant opening in the Park Meadows Vistas outdoor mall area this weekend. What this area really always needed was a good quality Mexican café and here it finally is. Keep your eyes on the Fleurish section next week for photos and opinion on the samples they'll be serving us, prepared by chef **Richard Sandoval**.

Call 303-586-5511 or go to www.modernmexican.com.

Pulmonary Hall of Fame

Drs. **Paul Bunn, Peter M. Hanson, Jeff Wagener and Marvin Schwartz** are being honored, Nov. 6, at the Colorado Thoracic Society Pulmonary Hall of Fame event at the Seawell Ballroom. Dr. **Henry N. Claman** is keynote speaker and his address is "Paul Klee-His Art and His Autoimmunity." Claman is a CU Medical School researcher who has an interest in art history. Few people knew that Klee had a fatal case of scleroderma.

The Thoracic Society information line goes to the American Lung Association office. For information on the event, call 303-847-0270 or e-mail aobholz@lungcolorado.org.

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