



WASHINGTON SQUARE WEST CIVIC ASSOCIATION

# THE POST

Serving the Community from Broad to 7th and Walnut to South Streets since 1935

May 2003

Issue 5

ATTENTION

WSWCA

BUSINESS

MEMBERS: SEND

US YOUR URL

WSWCA is in the process of updating the Civic's Web site, [www.washwestcivic.org](http://www.washwestcivic.org). Business members are currently listed on the site; however, if you send us your url, we will create a link to your website.

Please check out the revised Web site! It contains enhanced information for Civic members and residents.

## WSWCA Board Meeting Summary May 2003

Present: J. Applebaum, J. Arneith, S. Batcheler, K. Cushing, A. Earling, I. Gold, J. Hofer, J. Jordan.

### Treasurer's Report

John Jordan summarized the treasurer's report which was unanimously adopted. Highlighted were two expenditures — \$180 paid for computer maintenance and a \$3,450 sub-grant made to HARBA derived from a DCED grant to WSWCA via the office of State Representative Babette Josephs.

### President's Report

President Judy Applebaum reported the following:

A coalition of 11 Civic Organizations representing neighborhoods around Penn's Landing has hired a consultant to evaluate development alternatives for Penn's Landing.

A May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the South Street Advisory Council is planned. Judy Applebaum will attend and report back to the Board at our June meeting.

Malcolm Lazin and Judy Applebaum will address issues emerging from the Equality Forum's recent barbecue at Kahn Park in anticipation of next year's annual barbecue. The Board raised issues to explore, such as moving to a larger venue and improving traffic management during the event.

### Governmental Affairs *Will's Eye Hospital*

Representatives from Will's Eye Hospital attended tonight's Board meeting seeking WSWCA's support for four zoning variances and one use permit for its new building at 9th and Walnut Sts. The variances concern plans for four different signs - three elevated and one at street level—each exceeding the city's size limit for signage which is 100 square feet. The use permit seeks permission to maintain the hospital's two new 24-foot wide curb cuts off Walnut Street in order to accommodate a combined entrance and exit and to reduce congestion on Walnut Street, as requested by the Streets Department. The width limit for a curb cut in this location is 16 feet. Proposed details were presented to the Board.

Motion: The Board unanimously voted not to oppose granting variances for Will's Eye Hospital's proposed signage and curb cuts.

### Safety and Security

Joe Brazino announced that the community service program participants are ready to work in Wash West—rain or shine. However, volunteers are needed to supervise them during the hours of 9-5, Monday through Sunday. Even an hour per month or every other month would be welcome. Volunteer supervisors need to be present to actively monitor the community service workers who are initially charged with painting neighborhood light poles, utility boxes, etc.

Also announced were successful efforts by the "Alliance for A Better Community" to remove unattractive flowerbeds used primarily as garbage receptacles at the corner of Broad and Spruce Streets. Next, a request to install improved lighting at this corner will be made to the buildings' owner.

The community is invited to request removal of other neighborhood eyesores by taking a photograph of the object(s) and submitting it to Joe Brazino, Chairman of the Safety & Security Committee of WSWCA.

The city sanitation department, led by Brian Davis, is focusing on improving small street cleaning. Violations are also being issued to buildings with fewer than six units who put out more than 12 bags of trash at any one time. And, efforts are underway to change the community's garbage collection from evening to mornings.

### PECO Presentation

Councilman DiCicco initiated a PECO presentation to WSWCA regarding plans to re-open the power station at Juniper and Waverly in order to increase power capacity in the community. As detailed by PECO's Ed McBrien and the project's manager, two options under review are to replace the current power station with an entirely new structure or to take the roof off the existing structure and lower in the necessary equipment. Proposals are

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## Calendar of Events

Henry George School Saturday Topical Programs – “Tom Paine, Ahead of Our Time” (June 14); “Land Tenure and the American Legacy” (June 28); “Growth without Corporate Welfare” (July 12). All programs are free and begin at 10 a.m. 413 S. 10th Street. Call (215) 922-4278 to register.

**New Century Guild** – Photo exhibits: “The U.S. Naval Home,” at the Guild 1307 Locust Street through mid-June; “Risky Business” a photo exhibit at the Library Company, 1314 Locust Street. Portrait of American economic life from 1780-1850. Also, “The Schuylkill Renaissance” a presentation by Louise Turan, Ed Hammell and others, at the Guild, 1307 Locust Street, June 12th, 7 p.m., following a dinner at 5:45 p.m. Call (215) 735-7593 for reservations.

**Independence Branch Library** – 18 S. 7th Street. Upcoming programs include:

Edward Tenner, Monday, June 16 at 6:30 p.m., “Our Own Devices: The Past and Future of Body Technology”

Spirituality Book Group, Monday, June 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Toddler Story Time, Tuesday, June 17 at 10:30 a.m.

Using the Free Library Catalog and Web Pages, Tuesday, June 24 at 11:00 a.m. An in-depth look at [www.library.phila.gov](http://www.library.phila.gov).

All American Evening on the Mall, Wednesday, July 02 at 5:30 p.m.

The Independence Branch helps celebrate the Grand Opening of the Constitution Center with a performance by the United States Postal Choir at 5:30 p.m. and the songs of Woody Guthrie and Americana, performed by folk signer Jackie Pack, at 6:30 p.m.

Fiction Book Group, Monday, July 7 at 6:30 p.m. Call the library at (215) 685-1633 for more information about any of these programs.

**Thomas Jefferson University Hospital** – “When Bad Things Happen To Good People” a presentation by Neal Flomenberg, M.D., Division of Medical Oncology. Is their divine justice or cosmic justice or bad things simply happen randomly? Examine this question more thoughtfully in a quest for cosmic order. Thursday, June 19, Noon to 1 p.m. TJUH, 10th and Chestnut Streets, Suite 1990, Gibbon Bldg. Call 1-800-JEFF NOW to register.

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## Living History: Camac Street Resident Compiles Account of Block

Do you know who your neighbors are? One resident of the 400 block of South Camac Street knows his neighbors dating back to 1880.

Jimmy Calnan, a resident of 400 block of South Camac Street, recently wrote what he calls A Short History of “Biggest Little Street in the World.” Dedicated to Veronica James Berry, who was born in 418 S. Camac Street on May 23, 1913, the work is a fascinating peek into the past. It includes a listing of the block’s resident’s by name, occupation and country of origin. Also included are copies of fire insurance survey’s dating back to 1832, and neighborhood photos from the 1920s through the 1960s. “It’s fun to read the insurance policy descriptions of the structures when they were built and to see who actually lived in the rooms we now call home,” says Jimmy.

The book is the result of research he was doing on the genealogy of his family. “Using census data, I was able to research inhabitants of the

block dating back to 1880, which was the first census to include addresses.”

Later, in September of 2002, Jimmy and his partner Rob Baker hosted an afternoon tea for Veronica Berry and her family. The guests told them about the former residents of 418 S. Camac as well as stories about the neighborhood in general. “Veronica inspired me to want to know more an area that I have lived in for more than a decade,” says Jimmy. “We are a close knit community of people sharing each others lives in what has become a large metropolitan area.”

Jimmy says the book may be read and enjoyed by inhabitants of all of the original houses and by anyone else interested in the “biggest little street in the world.”

Congratulations on a job well done to Jimmy, who has provided his neighbors with a poignant link to their homes histories.

**WAVE IT WIDE**

**AND HIGH:**

**WSWCA FLAGS**

**FOR SALE**

**Now that spring has finally arrived, it’s time to fly the flag – the Washington Square West flag! Flags measure three feet by five feet and come in a striking “Old Glory” red with a white Civic Association logo. The design is visible on both sides of the flag.**

**This is the same flag that is displayed at our monthly board meetings at Jefferson Alumni Hall. And the attractive design – sprigs of ivy bordering a Federal style doorway – is the same one that appears on the Post masthead.**

**The flags are not just for Civic Association members. They bear the wording “Washington Square West; Philadelphia, PA” and are appropri-**

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## FLAGS

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ate for anyone in the neighborhood to display.

Flags are priced at \$40, which is actually below cost. Six-foot poles are \$7.00. Metal brackets are \$3.00. To purchase, please make your check payable to: WSW Civic Association and send to the Civic office at 1209 Locust Street, Philadelphia, 19107.

Arrangements will be made for delivery or for you to pick up your flag at the Civic office.

## WSWCA Board Meeting Summaries *continued from page 1*

in preliminary stages but PECO detailed the issues for the Board in order to get community feedback early in the planning process. The time frame for either option is roughly estimated to be 3-4 years from design to completion. The next steps will result in an engineering plan that PECO will present to the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Iris J. Gold, Secretary

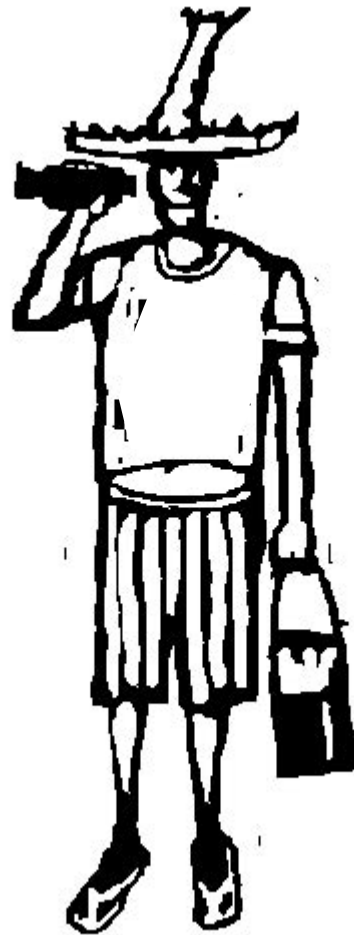
## Walk Philadelphia: Not for "Tourists Only"

You don't have to be a visitor to love these Center City District tours which began in April and continue through December; are led by highly trained, dynamic volunteer guides who are passionate about architecture, design and the many merits of our hometown.

Check out these new and "back by popular demand" tours:

**Reel Philadelphia:** new this year, this bus/walking tour includes locations that have appeared in Philadelphia based movies: Sixth Sense, Rocky, Trading Places, Witness and Philadelphia. Footage of the movies are shown on the bus.

**Philadelphia Illuminated:** a guided evening bus tour that shows how light transforms the city in dramatic, powerful and fun



**Urban:** tour participants visit restaurant spaces, sampling drinks along the way.

**Secrets:** a tour of tiny, often-overlooked spaces.

**Old and New:** a tour explores the city's old squares and a walk down Philadelphia's grand boulevard, the University and Franklin Parkway.

**Neighborhood tours** explore areas like Queen Village, Northern Liberties, Germantown, Frankford and Center City. Walk Philadelphia also offers group bus tours, special events tours, illustrated lectures and private group tours for businesses.

For more information or to register for a tour, call 215-545-WALK.

### 2003 Membership Form

Washington Square West Civic Association  
1209 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107  
215-545-3260, Fax 215-545-9150, email [info@washwestcivic.org](mailto:info@washwestcivic.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Seniors and Disabled	\$7.00
Individual	\$15.00
Household	\$25.00
Individual Patron	\$100.00
Small Business (1-15 emp.)	\$25.00
Medium Business (16-35 emp.)	\$50.00
Large Business (36+ emp.)	\$100.00
Contribution	\$ _____

# WSWCA IS ONLINE!

check out our updated website:

<http://www.washwestcivic.org>

## WSWCA BUSINESS MEMBERS

1108 Spruce St. Condo Assn.  
1130 Spruce St. Condo Assn.  
12th Air Command  
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Max Beckhoff Locksmith  
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Mitchell & Ness Sporting Goods  
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New Century Guild  
Pennsylvania Hospital  
Philadelphia Design Associates  
Philadelphia International Records  
Philadelphia Mental Health Center  
Photography by Patrick Mattera  
Pine Street Pizza  
Planned Parenthood of S.E. PA  
Portico Row Unit Owners Assn.  
Quince-Lombard Parking Corp.  
Rodman Street Condo Assoc.  
Russakoff Book Store  
S&S Properties Cherry Hill  
Show of Hands  
Seraphin Gallery  
Signatures Gentlemen's Club  
Silvio Modafferi, Attorney at Law  
Sisters  
Spruce Street Video  
St. George Senior Housing  
Stephenson Bros. Printers  
Steven Fries Chiropractor  
Taco House  
The Hairdressers

The Inn on Locust  
The Inn Philadelphia  
Thomas Jefferson University  
Two-Four Club  
Uncles Bar  
Uncles Upstairs Inn  
Uniquely Philadelphia, Inc.  
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Urban Genesis Institute  
Valanni Restaurant  
Venture Inn  
V.I.P. Market  
Walnut Street Theatre  
Walsh & Recker, P.C.  
Washington Court Condo Assn.  
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Center  
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Hardware  
Washington Sq. Real Estate  
Wein-Reba Investment Group  
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William Way Community Center  
Wills Eye Hospital  
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Women of Hope  
Xerom Technology Solutions  
Young's Pharmacy



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