



WASHINGTON SQUARE WEST CIVIC ASSOCIATION

THE POST

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

November 2004

Issue 8

CALL FOR WRITERS

Are you a Wash West resident interested in:

- Neighborhood development
- Local business
- Noteworthy neighbors
- Parenting in Wash West
- Quality of life issues
- Architecture and local history

or any other topics that may interest your neighbors?

If so, please consider becoming a writer/reporter for the WSWCA Post. A great neighborhood deserves a great newsletter, and we need your help to make it happen.

Contact Annette at 215-545-5853 or earling@zaza.com

WSWCA Meeting Highlights November 9, 2004

Present: J. Applebaum, C. Baker, M.J. Barrett, S. Batcheler, A. Earling, E. Ferry, I. Gold, B. Hornsby, J. Jordan, J. Matteo, J. Menegakis, L. Metzger, M. Schultz, H. Wittich
Absent: K. Cushing

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Judy Goldberg presented an overview of the new "Center City Schools Initiative" aimed at enhancing the quality and customer focus of Center City's public schools and increasing the number of parents choosing public education for their children. The initial focus is on eleven downtown elementary schools targeted for a series of initiatives designed to strengthen curriculum, improve facilities and offer cultural enrichment opportunities, to name a few. A Program Administrator has been hired to work closely with a soon-to-be-established neighborhood advisory Board. Details can be found on the Initiative's web site at: www.CenterCitySchools.com.
- Larry Huston, a local expert on Neighborhood (and Business) Improvement Districts (referred to as NIDS and BIDS) will attend the Civic's December or January meeting to discuss such options for funding WSWCA's street lighting initiative and future projects.
- A New York firm, hired by the City Planning Commission to study parking issues, met with representatives of Center City's various civic associations whose input included the need to re-evaluate parking meter locations/hours, no-parking zones, handicapped parking, etc.

II. BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Last month's minutes were unanimously adopted.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report was unanimously adopted.

IV. WATER DEPARTMENT RESPONSE

At the request of WSWCA, representatives

from the City's Water Department gave a presentation tonight and heard from residents whose homes were flooded from rainstorms on August 1st and September 28th. Volunteer residents surveyed 100 Wash West households and received 60 affirmative responses, 50 of those located between Pine & Lombard, 12th & 13th Streets --- the majority flooded for the first time. Residents provided the Water Department with survey details, a list of written questions and the rationale for an official investigation of drainage systems. The Water Department attributes the flooding to the storm's severity --- a rare occurrence which inevitably overwhelms the system---rather than particular drainage problems. However, they agreed to provide a written response to the list of queries, a time-frame for their investigation of water drainage in affected areas and follow up on customer service complaints.

V. WSWCA OFFICER ELECTIONS

The Board elected its Officers tonight as follows:

Judy Applebaum, President
Mary Jane Barrett, Vice President
John Jordan, Treasurer
Iris J. Gold, Secretary

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Government Affairs

1231-1239 Walnut Street / 139 S. 13th Street
Owner seeks a use variance for a take out restaurant with 8 tables, no dispensing window and no liquor license.

Motion: *The Board voted unanimously not to oppose variance for use as long as exhaust vent is relocated away from the street.*

736-738 Pine Street

Owner seeks legalization of (an existing) parking lot as part of a condominium conversion.
Motion: *The Board voted unanimously not to oppose legalization of the parking lot providing the size of parked cars is limited to the actual depth of the space with no projection into the sidewalk.*

308 S. Camac Street

Owner proposes a subdivision of the apart-

continued on page 2

WSWCA Meeting Highlights, *continued*

ment building into two townhouse units with a 3rd story rooftop. Owner anticipates refusal for 100% lot coverage. Motion: *The Board unanimously voted no opposition to the proposed project.*

B. Awareness

At Committee's recommendation, the Board agreed to start mailing The Post in envelopes (rather than folding, labeling and using a wafer seal). Envelopes will be provided gratis resulting in a total incremental cost of \$35/ mailing.

C. Safety and Security

Annual Spring Street Cleaning in the works

for 2005. Questions were raised as to whether this committee has too much on its plate and would be better served by subdividing.

D. Greening

WSWCA Greening Committee currently manages three community gardens on land owned by the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority (RDA). WSWCA has asked the Washington Square West Trust (WSWT) to assume ownership of that land and lease the land to WSWCA, free of charge, order to ensure their status as Wash West community gardens. The WSWT has agreed to such ownership subject

to certain written reassurances from the RDA and WSWCA. A letter will be sent by WSWCA to the RDA requesting such assurances. If granted WSWCA can go forward with the lease agreement with WSWT.

Michael Schultz will take over as Chairman of the Greening Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Iris J. Gold
Secretary

Holidays on Pine! Don't Miss the Fun

WEEK ONE

Most stores will be having in store parties on Friday, December 3rd until 10pm that evening!

Friday, December 3rd, 6pm to 10pm

Homemade Cookies With Mom

Matthew Izzo

928 Pine Street, 215-922-2570

Friday, December 3rd, 6:30pm to 10pm

Christmas / Jewelry Party

Twist

1134 Pine Street, 215-925-1242

Friday, December 3rd, 6pm to 8pm

Decorating Your Table For The Holidays

Linu

1036 Pine Street, 215-206-8547

Friday, December 3rd, 8pm to 11pm

Live Greek Music Despina

Effie's

1127 Pine, 215-592-8333

Friday, December 3rd, 6pm to 10pm

Gingerbread Houses

Happily Ever After

1010 Pine Street, 215-627-5790

Sunday, December 5th, 12pm to 2pm

Macabee For Kids

SOTA - Spirit Of The Artist/Linu

Sunday, December 5th, 1pm to 3pm

Arbel Jewish Choir

SOTA - Spirit Of The Artist

1022 Pine Street, 215-627-8801

Sunday, December 5th, 4pm to 6pm

Folk Music With Andy Mar & Treats

Sophie's Yarn

918 Pine Street, 215-925-5648

WEEK TWO

Friday, December 10th, 6pm to 10pm

Homemade Cookies With Mom

Matthew Izzo

928 Pine Street, 215-922-2570

Saturday, December 11th, 11am to 2pm

Children Ornament Making

Paper On Pine

1008 Pine Street, 215-238-0385

Saturday, December 11th, 11am to 2pm

Santa Claus

Accent On Design

1032 Pine Street, 215-733-0703

Sunday, December 12th, 1pm to 3pm

Talk With Master Knitter Judy Okcuglu

Sophie's Yarn

918 Pine Street, 215-925-5648

WEEK THREE

Friday, December 17th, 6pm to 10pm

Homemade Cookies With Mom

Matthew Izzo

928 Pine Street, 215-922-2570

Friday, December 17th, 8pm to 11pm

Live Greek Music Despina

Effie's

1127 Pine, 215-592-8333

Saturday, December 18th, 12pm to 5pm

Holiday Treats with Pfeffermuse The Elf

Happily Ever After

1010 Pine Street, 215-627-5790



Saturday, December 18th, 4pm to 6pm

Mummers

Giovanni's Room

345 South 12th, 215-923-2960

Most stores will be open from 10am to 8pm on Friday and Saturday from Thanksgiving to Christmas. Plus **Sophie's Yarn** will be sponsoring a Hats For Homeless Children all through December. Please ask people who wish to participate to pick up their kits free of charge from Jennifer at Sophie's Yarn.

Look forward to Kahn Park being light throughout December!

Finally the shops are planning to decorate their windows for the holidays with a Holiday Theme Song. For example rocking chairs circling a tree = "Rockin Around The Christmas Tree." Play the game while strolling down Pine! **Happily Ever After** will be featuring a list of naughty and nice people in their windows until the end of the year.

2004 Membership Form

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

Name _____	Seniors and Disabled	\$7.00
Business Name _____	Individual	\$20.00
Address _____	Household	\$30.00
_____	Individual Patron	\$100.00
_____	Small Business (1-15 emp.)	\$30.00
Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____	Medium Business (16-35 emp.)	\$60.00
Email _____ Fax _____	Large Business (36+ emp.)	\$100.00
	Other Contribution	\$ _____

ACCOUNTANTS/ SUPERHEROES NEEDED

The Washington Square West Civic Association is in need of a neighborhood accountant willing to give some time to help out with tax form preparation. If you'd like to donate a few hours towards your community, please contact Judy Applebaum at 215-875-9232.

The Cross Philly Walk

The Cross Philly Walk is conceived as an East-West pedestrian path across Center City using historic rights-of-way through the Society Hill, Washington Square West, and Rittenhouse - Fitter Square neighborhoods, connecting Penn's Landing on the Delaware River to the Schuylkill River Trail, Fairmount Park and University of Pennsylvania campus in West Philadelphia.

The path will follow Front, Delancey, Addison, Panama, Waverly, Green (Court), and Pine Streets, which like so many of our scenic, serene and historic "lanes", make strolling here such a sublime experience, with easy access to cafes, restaurants, galleries, cinemas, concert halls, bookstores, historic sites, charming neighborhoods and parks of a quality that make our town such an urban gem.

The Cross Philly Walk anticipates the reconstruction of the South Street Bridge with a new and separate pedestrian section. With the other Schuylkill bridges, the new South Street Bridge will tie our sophisticated downtown and our world-class university more closely together. Hotels at either end of the walking route in Center City and West Philadelphia are even contemplating offering bicycle-powered rickshaw service in their respective neighborhoods!

The Cross Philly Walk Project will produce attractive ceramic signs to guide walkers along its 28 turns; pocket pamphlets with maps and list of attractions, slide shows at local cinemas, print and broadcast advertising.

Steve Hammell, a Penn-trained Environmental Planner, who practices in the Philadelphia metropolitan area, and who lives in Powelton Village, got the idea for the Cross Philly Walk while working on other greenway projects in and around the city, and while jogging between Philadelphia's two rivers on weekends.

Federal, state, and foundation grants, and corporate contributions will finance the project. A recognized non-profit organization will oversee its completion. Security and maintenance are already provided by the Philadelphia Police and Streets Departments.

How better to celebrate our unique blend of landscape, cultural and recreational amenities, commercial, corporate and industrial strengths, intellectual power, amenable location, rich history and polyglot population than by establishing Philadelphia as the Walking Capital of America!!

Steve Hammell, APA, AICP
ENVIROPLAN, 3619 Baring Street,
Philadelphia, PA 19104

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Thomas Jefferson University Choir & Orchestra Perform Free Holiday Concert

The TJU Choir & Orchestra will celebrate their 35th Annual Holiday Concert on Friday, December 10th at 8pm with a presentation of J.F. Bach's "Magnificat." Also included on the program is music of the season. The concert will be held at St. Luke and the Epiphany Church, 330 S. 13th Street.

**1209 Locust Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107**



**215-545-3260
215-545-9150 (fax)
info@washwestcivic.org**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**PRESIDENT
Judith Applebaum**

**TREASURER
John Jordan**

**SECRETARY
Iris J. Gold**

**Cecil Baker
Mary Jane Barrett
Sarah Batcheler
Kathy Cushing
Annette C. Earling
Edward Ferry
Bob Hornsby
Joseph Matteo
Jason Menegakis
Lisa Metzger
Michael Schultz
Hillary Wittich**

The Washington West Civic Association Calendar of Events

Arts/Culture

**The Titanic Artifact Exhibition at
The Franklin Institute**
July 10, 2004 through January 2, 2005

Library Events:

**Independence Branch
18 S. 7th Street
Phone: 215-685-1633**

Baby Story Hour
Tuesdays at 10:15 am

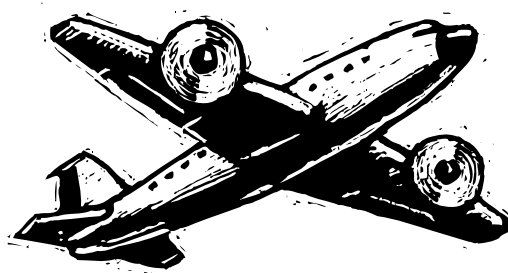
Toddler Story Hour
Tuesdays at 10:45 am

Chinese Film Series - Mon, November 29
at 6:30 pm
In Mandarin.

Gay Men's Book Group - Wed,
December 01 at 6:30 pm
Discussing Portrait of a Marriage, by Nigel
Nicholson.

Holiday Stories - Wed, December 01 at
7:00 pm
For preschool children and their families.

Arranged Marriage in South Asia - Wed,
December 01 at 6:00 pm



Anime Film Fridays - Fri, December 03 at
3:15 pm
For teens age 13 and up. Come join your
fellow otaku to see anime!

Fiction Book Group - Mon, December 06
at 6:30 pm
Talks about The Master Butchers Singing
Club, by Louise Erdrich (rescheduled).

Joy Harjo, Native American Poet - Mon,
December 13 at 6:30 pm
A reading and video screening by Susan
Thomas.

Narrative Non-fiction Book Group - Wed,
December 15 at 6:30 pm
Delves into Devil in the White City, by Erik
Larson.

Holiday Concert With the U.S. Postal Choir
- Wed, December 15 at 1:00 pm

Holiday Craft Activity - Fri, December 17
at 3:00 pm
Angels

ASIAC (Aids Services in Asian
Communities) - Tue, December 21
at 10:00 am