



WASHINGTON SQUARE WEST CIVIC ASSOCIATION

THE POST

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

September 2002

Issue 8

FALL CLEAN-UP, NOVEMBER 16TH

Do you sometimes wish that our neighborhood were a bit cleaner? Here's your chance to make it happen and meet your neighbors too. This year's fall clean up is scheduled for Saturday, November 16th. Volunteers are always welcome and your help will be most appreciated. You can volunteer for just a few hours to work on pre-event coordination or help with the actual clean-up on November 16th. To volunteer, contact Joe Brazino at

REP. BABETTE JOSEPHS TO SPEAK AT OCTOBER 8TH WSWCA MEETING

State Representative Babette Josephs will present a State of the District report at the next WSWCA meeting, scheduled for October 8th at 7:30 pm at the Thomas Jefferson University Alumni Center, 11th & Locust Streets. Ms. Josephs is expected to address issues of concern to neighborhood residents.

This meeting will also include the election of WSWCA board members for the coming year. Four board of director incumbents, Judith Applebaum, Jason Menegakis, Alex Rice and Kathy Cushing will run for a second term. (See

candidate statements, also in this issue of the Post.) All dues-paid members are encouraged to participate in this election.

Note: On October 29th, Representative Josephs will also co-sponsor a town meeting on the Center City Parking Crisis in conjunction with WSWCA. The meeting will take place in the auditorium at the Thomas Jefferson University Alumni Center, 11th & Locust Streets at 7:30 pm. Mark your calendar for what promises to be a lively and informative meeting!

WSWCA Candidates' Statements: PLAN TO VOTE ON OCTOBER 8TH

On October 8, 2002, the Washington Square West Civic Association will hold its annual membership meeting. The main purpose of this meeting will be the election of one-third of the Board of Directors.

The meeting will be held in the Thomas Jefferson University Alumni Hall, 11th & Locust Streets. Voting will begin at 7:00 pm and the meeting will begin at 7:30 pm. Only those Civic members whose dues are current are allowed to vote.

If you have not paid your 2002 dues, you may pay them at the Civic office or at the Annual Meeting on October 8.

Anyone wishing to run for a seat on the Board, please send a letter of intent and a small statement saying why you wish to run to the Civic office ASAP.

To date, the following individuals have prepared statements outlining their interests and goals:

Sarah Batcheler:
As a Washington Square West resident for the past eleven years—but not a homeowner—I have chosen to remain in this neighborhood for its charm, its friendliness, its convenience, its affordability, and its diverse mix of residents. As a long-term renter, the order of my concerns and interests differs somewhat from those of homeowners. For me and other

renters, livability is the primary issue, rather than property value. By livability, I mean the availability and affordability of well-maintained apartments, the cleanliness and safety of the streets, the vitality of neighborhood businesses, among other considerations. While these must also be concerns and interests of homeowners, I believe that I can bring a new, valuable perspective to the Washington Square West Civic Association. I would welcome the chance to serve.

Alex Rice:
I currently sit on the Board of the Washington Square West Civic Association. I have been on the Board since 1999 and would like your support for another three-year term.

For the past two years, I have served as the Chairperson of the Governmental Affairs Committee. My colleagues and I have made every effort to further the Washington Square West community as a beautiful neighborhood in which to live and work. I look forward to receiving your vote on October 8.

Judith Applebaum:
I believe that one has a responsibility to become involved in the community. I have been a resident of Wash West for the past four years and a member of the board for three years. I was elected to the position of Secretary of the board, a position I

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From the Desk of the President: STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF BILL 490

WSWCA President Judith Applebaum made the following statement at City Council Hearings on September 25th. The hearings concern recent property tax reassessments and the bills being offered to address the property tax issue.

I am here today representing property owners and tenants living in Washington Square West. Others are speaking to you about neighborhood percentage-increase inequities and are presenting examples of inequities even within a given block. While examples similar to these also exist in Washington Square West, I would like to address the problem from a different perspective.

Who are we in Washington Square West? We are teachers and students, lawyers and accountants, small business owners, architects, stay-at-home moms and dads, office and government workers, service industry employees, retired persons, old and young, gay and straight. We are the ones who pay our wage and school taxes, clean our streets, maintain our homes, plant community gardens, call the police when we see problems on the streets, and work hard with our neighborhood schools to help our children excel. We shop at local stores to help support the small businesses in our neighborhood. We are the ones who stop to help lost tourists and who take the time to volunteer for community organizations. Are we really the people you want to force out of Philadelphia by making it economically impossible for us to stay?

Let me elaborate.

Most of us purchased our homes using an economic formula that we were raised on: that one should spend 1/4 to 1/3 of their monthly income on housing costs. To the homebuyers in Wash West, that cost includes principal, interest, taxes and insurance. We carefully selected homes that we could afford given that formula. Now, none of us were so naïve as to think that our taxes wouldn't increase over time. However,

we believed that they would rise incrementally and reasonably, at a rate that roughly corresponded to the rise in our incomes and that property tax hikes would also rise in a reasonable rate and perhaps be tied to cost-of-living increases.

Older adults in our neighborhood planned their retirement incomes with the same expectations in mind and up to a few weeks ago, our expectations were accurate. Then the envelope from the Board of Revision of Taxes arrived.

Allow me to use my husband and myself to illustrate what is happening. We are both teachers and over the last two years, we have received pay increases of between two- and four percent. The Board of Revision of Taxes however, believes that we can afford (in this same period of time) an increase of 28% in our property tax (which is one of the more modest increases in the neighborhood). Why does the board think this? They tell me that on paper, my house is worth a good deal of money and theoretically, that may be true ... if I sell my home. However, I am not selling it and in fact, could not afford to buy it at its current estimated value. The formula for property tax must take into account how long people have lived in their homes as well as the realistic economic status of the current homeowners.

If these increases are allowed to stand, you will be making it difficult, if not impossible, for many of us to continue to support the cultural and civic organizations, the restaurants, theaters, museums and small businesses in the city. For others, in particular our young families and fixed-income retirees, this kind of increase is equivalent to an eviction notice. I ask you again: are we the people you want to force out of Philadelphia? Do you want to create a city of the poor and the very rich? I sincerely hope your answer is "no" and strongly urge you to support Bill 490.

WSWCA Candidates' Statements continued from page 1

held for one year. For the past two years, I have had the privilege of serving as President of WSWCA. I seek a second term in order to see projects that I have been working on come to fruition.

Jason C. Menegakis:

I have enjoyed the opportunity to combine my enthusiasm for improving our neighborhood with my skills as an attorney. I believe I have been a valuable member of the Board of the Washington Square West Civic Association and the Safety and Security

Committee and have made worthwhile contributions to the Board's discussions. In particular, I have worked with Joe Brazino on organizing the Spring Cleanup and continue to work with him on long-term goals for the Safety and Security Committee.

Don't forget: WSWCA ANNUAL MEETING
- OCTOBER 8, 2002 - THOMAS JEFFERSON
ALUMNI HALL - 7:30 PM

NEW ITEM

Classifieds: Buy, Sell, Trade or Give It Away ... Right Here!

Introducing—a new feature of the Post for neighbors looking to swap services, sell a basement treasure or find a bargain. To place an ad, e-mail the editor at or telephone Joyce Brazino at 215-985-0860. Each ad: \$5.00

For Sale: Solid round teak table (48inch) with self-storing leaf; seven-shelf and three-shelf bookcases, oak finish dresser and cherry double futon (like new). Best offer. Call 215-875-9232.

For Sale: DP Gypac 2000 Exercise Wall Unit. Great weight machine for the price. Easy to use and folds up easily. Only \$75. Call 215-546-8636.

GENERAL ELECTION DAY: NOVEMBER 5TH

Election Day is approaching quickly. The Committee of Seventy, a non-partisan, non-profit watchdog organization, reminds you that the last day to register before the November election is October 8th. In addition, the last day to apply for a civilian absentee ballot is October 29th. Beginning this year, all voters must have appropriate picture ID to vote.

**REMEMBER TO VOTE —
NOVEMBER 5:
POLLS OPEN AT
7:00 AM**

WASH WEST TRUST ISSUES REQUEST FOR GRANT PROPOSALS

Do you have an idea for a community project that can make Wash West an even better neighborhood? You can make your idea a reality, with the help of The Washington Square West Trust, a non-profit organization. The Trust provides funding for the improvement of the Washington Square West Community and is now accepting grant proposals.

Current Trust grants support Kahn Park's summer concert series, the community gardens,

Seger Park and the South Street Police Mini Station. The Trust also provides reimbursement of up to \$75 to homeowners for the installation of exterior lighting as well as monies for the planting of new and replacement neighborhood trees.

If you have an idea for enhancing life in our community, e-mail the civic association at wswca@juno.com or call 215-545-3260 so that we can work with you to create a proposal.

WSWCA Committee Profile

The Greening Committee: Creating an Urban Oasis in Wash

If you enjoyed our neighborhood's foliage this summer, you have Virginia Trosino and the members of the Greening Committee to thank. Since its inception in 1993, the Greening Committee has spearheaded an investment of over \$500,000 in the Washington Square community.

Whether they're pruning trees up and down Pine Street, tending to trees in stress from the heat, or gardening in one of the beautiful Washington Square West community gardens, you'll always see Virginia or her co-chair, Allison Weiss hard at work. The Committee has received numerous grants through the years and was honored at the 2002 Philadelphia Flower Show for their dedication to neighborhood greening.

This Committee and its core of faithful members and volunteers have made a significant contribution to the quality of life in the Washington Square West neighborhood. Here are some of this highly active committee's accomplishments over the past years:

- Planted more than 525 trees planted at an average of \$300 each;
- Removed dead trees;
- Ongoing pruning program of neighborhood trees by certified pruners;
- Restored Seger Park's antique wrought iron fence;
- Maintained three flourishing community gardens: South Street Garden, Waverly Gardens, and Sartain Gardens. Recent projects have included the installation of new fencing and tool housing for Waverly; new fencing in

Sartain and an in-house watering system in each garden;

- Landscaping of parking lot at 13th and Pine Streets;
- Advised the new Independence Branch Free Library on the purchase of urban gardening books;
- Published the Tree Walk brochure, a self-guided tour of the trees in our community;
- Landscaped Re-Development Authorities Maintenance Depot on 13th Street, north of Spruce Street.

When the City decided that the 800 block of South Street was prime for development, Allison and Virginia swung into action. The Committee organized enough neighborhood and citywide support to fight City Hall and successfully save the South Street Gardens from the threat of development. Thanks to their efforts, the garden will be preserved as a neighborhood garden—as long as gardeners are available to maintain it.

If you would like to become involved with the Greening Committee, contact Virginia or Allison at the Civic office, 215-545-326-, or e-mail them at wswca@juno.com. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at the Civic office, 1209 Locust Street. Newcomers are always welcome!

Keeping Washington Square West green and clean: Thank you, Virginia, Allison and all the members of the Greening Committee!

THE POST HAS A NEW EDITOR

The Washington Square West Civic Association is pleased to announce that Joyce Brazino, of Joyce Brazino Marketing Communications, is the new editor of The Post. Your thoughts, observations, editorials, poetry and news are always

welcome. Don't be shy: speak out!

To submit news items, contact Joyce at: joybraz@aol.com or (215) 985-0860

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOSTS "HARVEST OF BOOKS"

What do the American Revolution, housewives and a captain of industry all have in common? Find out by joining three local authors who have harvested the treasures of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's collections for their research. The "Harvest of Books Show" will be held at the Historical Society, 1300 Locust St., Philadelphia, Wednesday, Oct. 9, at 5:45 p.m. Admission is free.

The authors will discuss and sign copies of their recent books: Francis Fox, *Sweet Land of Liberty: The Ordeal of the American Revolution*

in Northampton County, Pennsylvania; Janet Theophano, *Eat My Words: Reading Women's Lives Through the Cookbooks They Wrote*; and Herb Ershkowitz, *John Wanamaker: Philadelphia Merchant*. A reception at 5:15 p.m. will precede this program.

To register, call 215-732-6200 ext. 412 or email events@hsp.org. For more information call 215-732-6200 ext. 207 or visit the Society's Web site: www.hsp.org.

AUTHOR PROGRAMS AT THE FREE LIBRARY'S INDEPENDENCE BRANCH

An exciting new series of author programs is coming to the Independence Branch Library. These programs are free. All programs will be in the Branch's Community Room.

October 26th Martin Yan, author of *Martin Yan's Chinatown Cooking*. Mr. Yan, a renowned television chef, will present a cooking demonstration. Program begins at 2:00 p.m.

October 28th Kenn Kaufman, author of *The Focus Guide to Butterflies of North America*. Often called "today's Roger Tory Peterson", Mr. Kaufman will also lead a bird/butterfly walk in

Fairmount Park the following morning. Program begins at 6:30 p.m.

November 6th Dai Sijie, author of *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress*. This internationally acclaimed and award-winning novel is a story of romance and humor set in Mao's China. Program begins at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, contact:

Independence Branch Library, 18 S. 7th Street Philadelphia, PA 19106, 215 686-1633

WSWCA September Meeting Highlights:

Frank DiCicco has circulated letters regarding how to respond to the recent tax assessments. If you have not received a letter, visit www.phila.gov for tax assessor's information and appeal forms, or call 215-686-6442. Pine Street was cited in Philadelphia Magazine's Best of Philadelphia issue as "Best Shopping District."

Board changes

Alan Nochumson, resigned; Annette Earling,

new member:

Government Affairs

1008 Pine Street: owner proposes three-story addition fronting Waverly Street.

1221 Rodman: owner proposes addition
Proposed new restaurant on Spruce Street: hearing continued and will be discussed the upcoming Government Affairs meeting on October 8th.

MORRIS ANIMAL REFUGE: DON'T FORGET OUR FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS

The Washington Square West neighborhood is the home of one of the oldest and best managed animal shelters in the United States; The Morris Animal Refuge. So many of the area's pets were adopted from this fine institution.

There is currently a need for towels, blankets and new dog and cat toys for the Morris's resident population. If you can help out, please drop your donation of any these items to the Shelter at 1242 Lombard or bring it to the October 8th Civic Meeting. Thanks for helping.

WHEN AN EMERGENCY ARISES, DIAL 911

If you see trouble brewing on the street or have any kind of an emergency, dial 911 to get help you need. When you call 911, response to your call is triaged based on other concurrent police district demands. In addition, the district uses logs of these emergency calls to plan ongoing resource allocation.

Neighbors are urged not to call the South Street mini station or the WSWCA office. Your cooperation is most appreciated by the officers of the district.

**Act Now to Appeal Your Property Taxes
Appeal Deadline: October 8th**

Washington Square West Fall Clean-up Day

Saturday, November 16, 2002



- ✦ **Park your car(s) on the opposite side of the street** on Friday evening, November 15, after 6 p.m. where posted
- ✦ Sweep your yards, alleyways, sidewalks & gutters
- ✦ Bag your leaves and trash
- ✦ Place bags at major intersections on Locust, Spruce, Pine and Lombard where they cross numbered streets, by 1 p.m. Saturday
- ✦ Re-park your car by 3 p.m. Saturday

**Questions? Call the WSWCA
at 215-545-3260**

North Boundary: Locust Street / South Boundary: Up to South Street
East Boundary: 7th Street / West Boundary: Up to Broad Street

Rain or Shine!

2002 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	\$15.00
Address _____	Household	\$25.00
_____	Individual Patron	\$100.00
Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____	Small Business (1-15 emp.)	\$25.00
Email _____ Fax _____	Medium Business (16-35 emp.)	\$50.00
	Large Business (36+ emp.)	\$100.00
	Contribution	\$ _____

WSWCA BUSINESS MEMBERS

1108 Spruce St. Condo Assn.
12th Air Command
12th Street Gym
310 Juniper Associates
Accent on Design
Alexander Inn
All Occasions Flowers Ltd.
Allison Moore Decorative Designs
Amer. Postal Workers House
Antiques & Interiors
Apt. and Townhouse Rentals
Arden Sales
Benjamin Cobrin & Company
BLEND0 Past and Present
Bill Grubb/Prudential Fox Roach
Cecil Baker & Associates
Center City Animal Clinic
Center City One
Chancellor Associates
Church of St. Luke & The Epiphany
Circle of Hope Church
Columbus Property Management
Community Pet Care
Cosmopolitan Apartments
DAS Associates
Daedalus Group
Danny's Bookstore
David Slovic Associates
Dee Paper Company
Delancy Clinton Associates
Deux Cheminees
Dirty Frank's

Drew House Partners
Fineman Realty Group
Foodery
Franklin Medical Building
Gallery 1233
Geekgirl Graphics
Giovanni's Room
Grier House
Hair Extraordinaire
Harold S. Levin, Inc.
Happily Ever After
Haute to Trot
Henry George School
Hellenic Center Travel Inc.
Hello World Fine Gifts
Henry George School
Historical Society of PA
Holiday Inn Express-Midtown
Horizon House Inc.
Interactive Antics
ISO Menswear
J.E. Roberts Company
John C. Clark Company
Karlyn Rosen Design
La Buca Ristorante
Lenny's Shoe Service
Logan's Restaurant
Lunacy Antiques
M. Finkel & Daughter
Maggie Oswald, Chiropractor
Max Beckhoff Locksmith
Mercy Hospice

META5 Inc.
Metropolitan Bakery
Mid-City Realty
Mitchell & Ness Sporting Goods
More Than Just Ice Cream
Nash Real Estate, Inc.
New Century Guild
Pennsylvania Hospital
Philadelphia Credit Union
Philadelphia Design Associates
Philadelphia International Records
Philadelphia Mental Health Center
Photography by Patrick Mattera
Pine Street Pizza
Planned Parenthood of S.E. PA
Plastic Club
Portico Row Unit Owners Assn.
Reese's Antiques
Rodman Street Condo Association
Russakoff Book Store
Show of Hands
Seraphin Gallery
Signatures Gentlemen's Club
Silvio Modafferi, Attorney at Law
Sisters
Sketch Club
Sorger & Schwartz
St. George Senior Housing
Stephenson Bros. Printers
Steven Fries Chiropractor
Taco House
The Hairdressers

The Inn on Locust
The Inn Philadelphia
Thomas Jefferson University
Transgender Health Action Coalition
Tree of Life Reiki and Massage
Two-Four Club
Uncles Bar
Uncles Upstairs Inn
Uniquely Philadelphia, Inc.
University of the Arts
Valanni Restaurant
Venture Inn
V.I.P. Market
Walnut Street Theatre
Walsh & Recker, P.C.
Washington Court Condo Assn.
Washington Sq. Chiropractic Center
Washington Sq. Paint and Hardware
Washington Sq. Real Estate
Wein-Reba Investment Group
William Penn Realty Company
William Way Community Center
Wills Eye Hospital
Woodys
Women of Hope
Xernon Technology Solutions
Young's Pharmacy



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