



Spruce Hill Community Association

Summer 2009

257 S. 45th St., Phila. PA 19104

www.sprucehillca.org

215-349-7825

Community Calendar



Arts League Gallery

What: Steven Martin paintings

When: July 10- Aug. 9

Where: 4226 Spruce Street

Info: 215-382-7811 or

www.ucartsleague.org

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Philly Orchestra Tickets

What: Free Philadelphia Orchestra tickets

When: All concerts are at 8 pm. July 21, Hollywood Classics; July 23, Scheherazade and Other Tales; July 24, All Gershwin; July 28, Verdi and Rachmaninoff; July 29, Tchaikovsky with Fireworks; July 30, Herbie Hancock and Lang Lang

Where: The Mann Center, 5201 Parkside Avenue

How: Send a self-addressed stamped envelope to SHCA/Orchestra Tickets, 257 S. 45th St. Philadelphia PA, 19104. Max of 2 tickets per concert.

Info: www.philaorch.org (Or to buy extra tickets)

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Cathedral Concerts

What: Organ Concerts

When: Each Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. from July 8-Aug. 12

Where: Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral, 3723 Chestnut St.

Info: 215-386-0234 or

www.philadelphiacathedral.org

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Paul Newman Movies

What: Newman classics: Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Aug. 5; The Hustler, Aug. 12; Hud, Aug. 19, The Sting, Aug. 26

When: All screenings at 8 p.m.

Where: International House, 3701 Chestnut St.

Info: 215-895-6546 or www.ihousephilly.org



Exhibit on Historic West Philly

A very special exhibition titled "West Philadelphia: Building a Community" is on display at the Arthur Ross Gallery of the University of Pennsylvania.

The exhibit documents the neighborhood's 19th-century architectural and urban development while also highlighting today's dynamic, multicultural community.

The earliest works in the exhibition include watercolors by self-taught Scottish immigrant, David J. Kennedy. He depicts West Philadelphia houses, institutions, and streets between 1836-1898. His paintings are complemented by city land maps, early photographs, and post cards that show the neighborhood's rapid expansion

and growth.

This project, which includes web and video pieces, is co-sponsored by the Arthur Ross Gallery, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and the University of Pennsylvania's archives and records center.

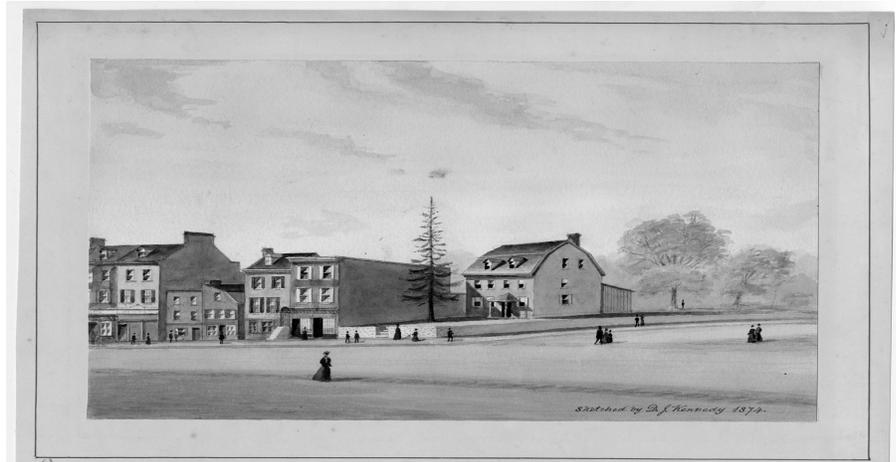
After the grand opening on July 7, a series of free public lectures will be offered in September and October. A free Family Day will be held on Sept. 26 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with events for children.

What: Exhibit, "West Philadelphia: Building a Community"

When: July 7 – Oct. 11

Where: Arthur Ross Gallery, 220 S. 34th St.

Info: www.upenn.edu/ARG or 215-898-2083



David J. Kennedy's 1874 sketch of the corner of Market St. and Darby Rd.

TreeVitalize Your Street

In University City, West and Southwest Philadelphia, property owners may request new street, yard or public space trees provided by TreeVitalize. There is no charge, and the trees will be planted by community volunteers organized by UC Green as early as Spring, 2010.

Go to www.ucgreen.org and complete and submit the Property Owner's Request for a New Street Tree. You can also call (215) 573-4684 or email info@ucgreen.org to get a copy of the request form mailed to you.

May Fair: Good Weather, Bad Financial Times

Weather data have been kept since 1869, and according to the folks who currently collect that information, the first quarter of this year was the driest ever. They said we had an enormous 19-inch rainfall deficit.

That was hard to believe in the days leading up to our 51st Spruce Hill Community Association May Fair. A regular monsoon descended on us, with torrential rains falling every day for a week before the fair – and rain predicted for the fair day.

We took a gamble that we would luck out and somehow, miraculously, we did. On Saturday, May 9th, the sun was shining. People were able to get outdoors without getting soaked, to meet neighbors, hear live music and have a good time. The pollen count was high and a few sneezes were heard, but it was great to look over at the vendor tables, the book sale, and the association's table where we offered free memberships for the balance of this year. We hope that neighbors who accepted the memberships will join us as dues-paying members next year.

But I suspect the people who had the most fun at this year's fair were the kids. Despite the economic downturn, we decided to go all out for the youngsters. In addition to the usual games and face-painting, we brought back our friends from the Spiral Q Puppet Theatre, and our neighborhood juggler. The kids had a terrific time.

A disappointment for this year's fair had to do with what someone tactfully described as a "new paradigm" for food service. Too late, we learned from city health officials that the days of selling home-baked goods at a community fundraising event is a thing of the past; only commercially baked goods can be sold. We had to give away rather than sell the goodies that were graciously and generously baked by our members -- and the city's Department of Public Health didn't even like that idea. We were also informed about "sneeze bars" and various bureaucratic hoops that made some of our food vendors back away. All these regulations are in a 149-page publication that the health

department issued in January 2009. The problem, of course, was that we didn't know about them until too late. We learned a lesson for the future.

Thanks to everyone who made the May Fair a success. Although we certainly didn't raise as much money as we hoped for -- the poor economy and the uncertainty it portends has hurt fundraising of just about every non-profit entity -- we have high hopes for the future.

Enjoy a happy and healthy summer!

Ed Halligan
SHCA President



Thanks to May Fair Supporters:

Up to \$50

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Spotlight On...

Demetri's Pizzeria & Mediterranean Cuisine

As I write this, I'm salivating. It's Pavlovian. I'm thinking about the new restaurant at 45th and Chestnut.

Imagine chicken with artichokes and capers in a white wine sauce over angel hair pasta. Roasted lamb with potatoes and a vegetable medley. Mussels, shrimp and scallops woven with spinach over rice.

Demetri's Pizzeria & Mediterranean Cuisine also has the requisite cheesesteaks and pizzas, but this is *not* just another University City greasy spoon catering to the indiscriminate taste buds of college kids.

We're talking white tablecloths, beige suede banquettes, wainscoting and hardwood floors. And yet the prices are a bargain (entrees \$11 to \$18), especially considering the portions are so huge you'll leave with a doggy-bagged meal for the next day.

The building, which used to be a block-long disgrace, sat vacant for almost two years before Demetri bought it. He and his son Michail spent a year gutting it and transforming the prison-like gray exterior with white stucco, big windows, and bright blue awnings.

Living a block away, I cheered them on. So did my neighbors.

However, when the opening date kept getting pushed back – New Year's became March which dragged on to Easter, then Mother's Day – the cheering squad got worried. As re-

porter Melissa Dribben recounted in her June 28 story in The Philadelphia Inquirer, we wondered whether the dismal economy had taken a bite out of Demetri's plans. (Full disclosure: I'm an Inquirer reporter, but the story wasn't my doing.)

Anyway, good things are worth waiting for. The grand opening was at the end of May. I, for one, have been cooking less ever since.

Demetri, a former butcher, moved to the U.S. from his native Greece in 1988. Over the past 25 years, he has run seven pizzerias in the Philly area. Those, he told me, were "small potatoes" compared to the new place.

He retired from the pizza biz in 2004, planning to relax with his family, including two grandkids, at home in Upper Darby. But Demetri is a can't-sit-still type who needs little sleep.

Retirement? Fuhgeddabowdit. The restaurant is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, seven days a week, with take-out and delivery. (The menu has been pared down, however, from the original 10 pages to six.)

Despite long hours, Demetri is managing to spend a lot of time with his family: Michail is in the kitchen, while Michael's wife Jasmine manages the dining room staff. I haven't yet met Demetri's wife, but I can vouch for her homemade Greek desserts, especially the baklava.

By the way, Demetri actually spells his name the conventional way — Dimitri. As Melissa's story explained, the city has so many places named Dimitri's, he couldn't get a business license until he came up with a unique sobriquet.

The restaurant's official name also



seems to be flexible. Contrary to the menu, the awning says Demetri's Mediterranean Bistro and Pasta.

Whatever. It gets my vote for the best all-round family restaurant in University City.

Marie McCullough
Editor, SHCA News

Where: 4438 Chestnut St.

Hours: Mon-Thurs, 11 am-11 pm; Fri, 11am-midnight; Sat, 9 am-midnight; Sun, 9am-10pm

Phone: 215-386-1246 (Take out and delivery available.)

Baltimore Ave: Let There Be Light!

On June 25, University City District celebrated the installation of 71 new pedestrian lights along Baltimore Avenue from 45th to 50th Street.

The \$1.1 million project was funded by generous grants from the City of Philadelphia, INTECH, PennDOT, the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation and the William Penn Foundation.

At the dedication, Mayor Nutter

greeted governmental officials, partners, friends and neighbors – while they enjoyed complimentary Rita's Water Ice, soft pretzels and bottled water.

The lighting project is part of a comprehensive strategy to improve the Baltimore Avenue commercial corridor. UCD has invested more than \$1.3 million in greening, public murals, lighting and grants to upgrade building facades.



(May Fair donors - continued from page 2)

Sharon and Jim Smith
 Richard Stoy & Doris Dabrowski
 Mary Goldman
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\$100-\$249
 Apartments at Penn
 Frank and Linda Chance
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 Central City Toyota - Max Paul
 Makkah Market
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 Spruce Hill Homes in University City -Tom Lus-senhop
 Arthur (Chip) Staddon and Marcie Robb
 University City District - Lewis Wendell
 Vincent Goffredo Plumbing - Eric Kassab
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 University City Science Center -Curtis Hess
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Turning Teens Into Leaders Down on the Farm

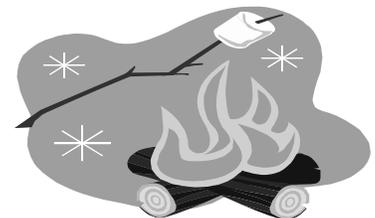
If you know a Spruce Hill teenager who is looking for something fun, free and constructive to do this August, pass on this item about Fellowship Farm's Leadership Academy Summer Camp.

The farm, established in 1931 near Pottstown, has received a special grant for teenagers from the 19104 zip code.

The Leadership Academy, which will run from August 9-14, is looking for 30 teenagers, ages 13 through 17. They will stay overnight at the farm, located on 120 beautiful acres that include woods, a pond, a swimming pool, hiking trails, and buildings for lodging and gatherings. A professional cook on staff serves healthy and delicious meals.

The experience is designed to bring together young people of varying backgrounds and cultures from all over the Philadelphia region. They will join in team-building activities and physical challenges; develop communication, conflict resolution and negotiation skills; and work on art and service projects. There will also be games, campfires and swimming throughout the week.

All expenses are covered by support from the Comcast Foundation and the Jaime Loeper Memorial Fund. There is no income requirement, and no charge to participants or their families.



What: Leadership Academy Summer Camp at Fellowship Farm, 2488 Sanatoga Rd, Pottstown.

Application: email camp director Nathan Swanson at office@fellowshipfarm.org

Info: 610-326-3008 or www.fellowshipfarm.org.

Masterman Students Research Lives Beneath the Stones

Thanks to Jean K. Wolf, executive director of Woodlands Cemetery, for writing this article about the historic burial ground's annual educational program, "The Lives Beneath the Stones."

Last October, 14 teams of juniors from Masterman High School visited the Woodlands Cemetery for a Victorian picnic and to select a grave marker with a legible male name of someone born in the 19th century.

On June 7th, visitors filled William Hamilton's grand entertaining space -- the "Saloon" in the Woodlands Cemetery mansion -- to hear and see the results of the students' seven months of research into "The Lives Beneath the Stones."

Each team gave a power point presentation backed up by three-ring notebooks full of documentation. The students also read fictional stories they had written about the deceased to fill in the gaps of history.

Afterward, the students took balloons to the gravesites of the Civil War veterans, ministers, lawyers, doctors, industrialists, organ builder, upholster, and banker they had come to know in a personal way.

The students' intriguing reports -- and their own comments -- are available to visitors to the Woodlands mansion,

Monday to Thursday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., or by appointment. Call 215-386-2181 or see www.woodlandspg.org

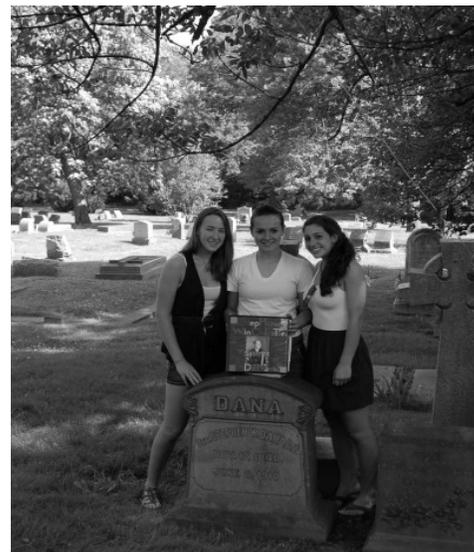
Here are some of their discoveries:

* *Luther Stedman Bent* (1829-1915), a Civil War general, moved to the west after the war and became involved with railroads. He married Mary Felton, daughter of Samuel Felton, president of Pennsylvania Steel Company. Upon Felton's death, Bent was elected president of the company, which he brought to new heights. He devoted himself to philanthropy after retirement.

* *Charles Randolph Mattson* (1844-1922), grew up in Lower Merion Township and enlisted in the 118th Infantry Regiment. He fought in the Wilderness Battles of the Civil War. At the relatively late age of 41, he entered Thomas Jefferson Medical School and became a physician.

* *William S. Price* (1817-1912), born in Philadelphia of British parents, was initially interested in journalism but decided to study law. After admission to the Philadelphia Bar at age 25, he won notorious cases, and was the first to successfully use an insanity plea. He practiced until his death at age 95, and was the city's oldest lawyer of the day.

* *Samuel Gustine Thompson* (1837-1909), was born in Venango County to one of Pennsylvania's oldest families.



Masterman students at Woodlands

Like his father, he graduated from law school at the University of Pennsylvania and went on to become a judge. He served on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, as director of railroad companies, and on the Fairmount Park Commission.

* *Ethelbert Watts* (1845-1919) was born in Philadelphia, but spent his youth in Paris. He attended the University of Pennsylvania, enlisted in the Civil War, and then went to Germany for further studies. He ran his father's iron works until moving into banking. Impressed with Watt's foreign studies, President Grover Cleveland appointed him to the consular services. He held posts around the world until failing health brought him back to Philadelphia.

Center Space Available for Meetings

The board of SHCA voted in June to make its meeting room at the center at 257 S. 45th Street more available to SHCA members who need a place to meet.

For instance, if you want to meet with a group of neighbors to hash over an issue, the center is available to you at no charge. Also, members who are active in other groups that need a regular meeting space may apply for a key and reserve the center. Currently, we have such arrangements with an AA group, Town Watch and a Torah class.

In lieu of rent, groups will be encouraged to make a voluntary dona-

tion to SHCA's Community Trust. There will be a \$25 deposit for a key to the center.

Groups using the SHCA center must have at least one person who is an SHCA member and who will assume the responsibility for locking up and ensuring the building is used in a responsible manner.

For one-time meetings, contact Pauline Borkon at the center (215-349-7825). Pauline will maintain a calendar of scheduled meetings to avoid any conflicts. To use the center on a more regular basis, e-mail Mark Wagenveld (Vice President/Operations) at ma.wa@verizon.net.

Get Involved in SHCA!

The Spruce Hill Community Association is always looking for members to get involved on our committees. The Education, Safety and Membership committees are particularly in need of a few good men and women. For more information about the committees check out our website or email board member Monica Ferguson at mferguson@sprucehillca.org

Summer 2009



Spruce Hill Community Association
257 South 45th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104



Spruce Hill Community Association News

Clip N' Mail Clip N' Mail

Name:

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Check the mailing label for your membership expiration date.

Membership (2 year membership--deduct \$5)

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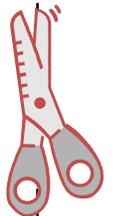
Senior/Student \$10

Business \$35

Sponsor \$50

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Make checks payable to SHCA and mail to:
SHCA, 257 S.45th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104