



FITLER SQUARE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. NEWSLETTER

FALL 2009

7TH ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARTY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24TH



GET YOUR FACE PAINTED,
HUNT FOR PUMPKINS,

AND CREATE A HALLOWEEN CRAFT,

ALL TO THE TUNE OF SPOOKY LIVE MUSIC.

FUN STARTS AT 3PM

PUMPKIN HUNT STARTS AT 3:30PM SHARP!

BROUGHT TO YOU BY FITLER SQUARE AND THE ROSENBACH MUSEUM & LIBRARY



WE REMEMBER...

A long time friend and neighbor, Sara March passed away on September 26th. She was a FSLA board member and Spring Fair Flower booth chair for over 20 years. Sara was also an active member of Trinity Memorial Church. We will miss her.

GET TO KNOW OUR BOARD MEMBERS:

PAT HENNINGSEN, GROUNDS CHAIRMAN

One of the unsung heroes of Fitler Square, Pat Henningsen has been on the Board for over 20 years. She grew up in Fitler Square, at 416 South 23rd Street and lived there until 1970, when she moved a couple of blocks away to Croskey Street. She met her husband Chris, who is also a wonderful asset to our Park, playing Santa at our tree lighting and helping at the Fair, at the Gables in Margate in 1967, and they were married a year later. They moved to Croskey Street when she was pregnant with her first son, Christian.

Their second son, Eric, was born in 1975. Her immediate family now also includes two daughters-in-law and four grandchildren, with one more on the way.

Her early career was with Bell Telephone, now called Verizon, where she worked as a draftman in the Engineering Department, and after her sons started school she returned to Verizon traveling the Northeast Corridor teaching drafting to Verizon employees.

Pat can't recall exactly when she was appointed Grounds Chairman but says it was approximately 5 or 6

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**FITLER SQUARE
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(Fitler relative)

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For information
and deadlines,
please email Amy at
AmeliaRiley@
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

As I write this letter, my fellow Board member Pat Henningsen has just returned from a Steering Committee meeting of the Philadelphia Horticultural Society and has reported a dismal situation for all City parks. Fortunately for Fitler Square, we have the generous support of our friends and neighbors and don't rely on the Recreation Department/Fairmount Park as much as our fellow neighborhood parks.

Unfortunately, the funding for our fountain renovation has been put on "hold" but we haven't lost hope. Our beautiful fountain was featured in the book "Fountains of Philadelphia" and is still the focal point of the Square.

On a more optimistic note, this year's Halloween event promises to be very special with the collaboration of the Rosenbach Museum's famous "Dracfest". There will be music, face painting, puppeteers and, of course, our Pumpkin Hunt. A schedule of events will be posted on our website and on the Square's bulletin board.

Our 48th Annual Fair was our most successful ever thanks to our loyal Board members and volunteers, raising over \$8,000. We can always use help at the Fair, our biggest fundraiser, so please consider volunteering next year. The Fair is always the Friday and Saturday of Mother's Day weekend.

*A special thanks to Councilwoman Anna Verna and the Philadelphia Activities Fund for their \$1,000 grant. As a part of our Grounds Report, I am proud to announce **Fitler Square has been awarded first prize** in the 2009 City Gardens Contest from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. Special thanks to Maureen Chambley, our gardener, who was recently featured in the CCRA Newsletter. Our gardens look more splendid than ever. Unfortunately, the dog waste is still a problem. Please help us curtail those neighbors who refuse to curb their dogs and boldly utilize Fitler Square as a restroom and playground when there is a dog run two blocks away.*

Just to remind you, our Farmers Market is at the 23rd Street side of the Square on Saturday's through the winter, weather permitting.

Our friends at our neighboring park, Schuylkill River Park will be holding their Fall Festival on Saturday, October 17th. Please stop by to share in the festivities.

With the City in financial crisis and the State withholding funding, your support is more important than ever, and to our members, we thank you. If you would like to become a member, please visit us online at www.fitlersquare.org.

Warmest regards,

Judy

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Pat Henningsen

years ago "when I must have expressed too many opinions about what should be done that I was told to do it myself." But it has become obvious that under her stewardship the park has surely been its best, and one of the reasons Fitler Square has won First Prize in the Horticultural Society's Best City Gardens contest.

For many years, Pat was the Chair of the Flower Booth at the Annual Spring Fair, but in the past few years, along with her neighbor and fellow Board member Marlene Blume, has run the Food Booth, which is always the most challenging booth to manage.

When asked what her favorite thing about the park is, Pat says it's the years of memories that she has from the time that I played there as a child, and then her boys playing there. It is a magnet for all the other young parents to gather each day enjoying the park with their families, just like she did.

A NEIGHBORHOOD GEM

Since you live in the Filter Square neighborhood, you have probably been to the 7-Eleven at 22nd and Lombard. Whether you need a gallon of milk, a loaf of bread, or a late night pint of ice cream, the 7-Eleven is the place to go. Owned by Mohammad Chuthtai since 1992, the 7-Eleven has become our neighborhoods' very own corner grocery store. Chuthtai is one of the friendliest and well known faces in the area and he genuinely cares about his neighbors and neighborhood.

And, just like an old fashioned corner grocery store, all of the employees know your name and often times, your needs. It may have been the first place that your children learned how to make a fiscal transaction, or the first place that they were allowed to walk to on their own. The two Marys behind the counter are always smiling and happy to see you. When you walk in, they ask about your kids who are away at college or your new business venture or even about your thoughts on the Eagles new picks. The guys are always jovial; all are very helpful and especially, everyone has a smile for you. A business entrenched in community is a breath of fresh air in a world full of big box businesses.

In addition to being a friendly one stop shop for essential groceries, the newspaper, or a quick cup of coffee, it is a safe haven for police in the 17th district. Captain Washington of the 17th district has told Mr. Chuthtai on multiple occasions that his business is the safest place in the neighborhood at night. In fact, officers on the squad are present at the 7-Eleven every 30 minutes all day every day. It is a well lit spot and at night,



you can usually find an undercover policeman hanging out in the store even though we don't know who he is!

Chuthtai and his employees have always been extremely generous to Fidler Square. For the past ten years, they have consistently donated hundreds of dollars worth of coupons for coffee and slurpees

and other 7-Eleven staples for the raffle booth at our fair. This past year, in fact, when, due to an early morning electrical emergency, we were unable to brew coffee for the fair, Chuthtai graciously filled our urns with fresh coffee! And the 5 dozen donuts and muffins they donated to the bake booth were very much appreciated as well.

The Fidler Square Improvement Association wants to thank Mohammad and his staff for their gracious service to the community and wish them continued success in their business. Please continue to support our local businesses; the 7-Eleven has and always will be here for the residents of the Fidler Square neighborhood.

3rd & Catherine Streets • 215.625.0556

DMITR'S

23rd & Pine Streets • 215.985.3680

**WE'D LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES
THAT GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED THE 2009 FAIR.**

7-Eleven	Gusto Pizzeria	Rittenhouse Nails
Balkan Express Restaurant	Mama Palma's	Seafood Unlimited
Betty's Buttons	Maryann Conheim	South Square Market
Lance Brusilow	Meme Restaurant	TasteBuds Market
Cafe Lutecia	Philadelphia Federal	Laura Violet
Dmitri's	Credit Union	The Windowbox Flowers
Giovanni & Pileggi	Pooch's Choice	Women's Wellness Center
Good Karma Cafe	Rescue Spa	Woven Treasures
	Rim's Cleaners	

And a HUGE thank you to all of our donors and tireless volunteers who support us year after year!!

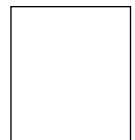
Would you like to contribute to this newsletter?

We are in need of people to write articles for our newsletter. If you are interesting in writing an article or would like to submit photos of the Square, please contact Amy Riley at AmeliaRiley@yahoo.com.

WE NEED HELP AT NEXT YEAR'S FAIR...

Would you like to donate something or volunteer at the Fair? Friday and Saturday of Mother's Day weekend. Please contact Judy at Judyro1957@aim.com.

FITLER SQUARE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. ❖ 400 South Croskey Street, Philadelphia, PA 19146 ❖ www.fitlersquare.org



FSIA MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

If you would like to become a member of the Fitler Square Improvement Association, please fill out the form below. The organization has two primary sources of funds: revenue from the Spring Fair and membership dues.

The membership underwrites the cost of major park improvements and takes an active role in the planting and preservation activities needed to improve its appearance. Association funds provide for professional care for the trees and grass areas, planting of seasonal flowers, replacing shrubs, installation and care of a sprinkler system, general maintenance, custodial supervision, an annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony with gifts for neighborhood children, and an Easter Egg Hunt. Visit our website at www.FitlerSquare.org to learn more.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

Individual membership.....	\$25
Family membership.....	\$35
Business/Sponsor membership.....	\$50
Patron membership.....	\$100
Benefactor membership.....	\$500

We thank you very much in advance for becoming a member of the Fitler Square Improvement Association!!

The Fitler Square Improvement Association is a 501-c3 non-profit organization. All membership fees and donations, including those made in-kind, are tax-deductible.

MEMBER INFORMATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

(Help us stay in touch with you - our email notices keep you informed of events and campaigns)

Enclosed is \$ _____

Renewal _____

New member _____

General donation _____

PLEASE HELP US HELP YOUR PARK!

_____ I WANT TO HELP WITH UPCOMING EVENTS (SPRING FAIR, ETC)

_____ I WANT TO HELP WITH MAINTENANCE (PLANTING, TRIMMING, ETC)

WHAT I MOST ENJOY ABOUT THE SQUARE IS:

WHAT WOULD MAKE THE SQUARE MORE ENJOYABLE TO ME IS:

(Business members contributing at the BUSINESS level or above are featured on the Fitler Square website)

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND SEND IT WITH YOUR CHECK TO:

**FITLER SQUARE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.
400 SOUTH CROSKEY STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19146**

www.fitlersquare.org

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