



# FITLER SQUARE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2011



## FITLER SQUARE FAIR - 50 YEARS OF "FUN" RAISING

This year, charming Fitler Square will hold its 50th annual Spring Fair, Friday and Saturday, May 6 and 7, 2011. Since its inception in 1961, this event has been bringing neighbors together to raise funds to support and maintain the lovely park at 23rd and Pine Streets.

There are a few original Board members of the Fitler Square Improvement Association who recall its original concept of "theme" fairs, such as an Irish Festival in 1967, where the Trilby String Band played, Irish step dancers performed, and Mayor James Tate cut the ribbon at the start of the Fair, or the Italian Festival, attended by Consul General Gian Piero Nuti of the Italian Consulate and City Council President Paul D'Ortona and Italian style hot dogs were sold.

Over the years there have been many different booths that have come and gone. Many of us still remember the kitschy Coca-Cola truck that would be wheeled into the park and people would line up at the tiny window for hot dogs and (usually flat) Cokes. At one time there was even a Cheese Booth, with blocks of cheeses that volunteers would slice down to buy.

Of all the booths at the Fair the most daunting has been the Food Booth. In the early years, with Andrew Farnese as Board president, restaurants

such as the old Pagano's at 38th and Chestnut have donated pizza, and more recently the Association has sought the help of Bacchus at 23rd and Spruce. But generally, the delicious food is homemade by the hard-working Board members.

Though the different booths have morphed into their present day designations, there has always been a White Elephant Booth, where the neighbors donate everything from antique silver mugs to how-to-potty train-your-cat kits. The most exciting time is at the very end of the Fair on Saturday when all remaining items are sold for 10 cents!

With more and more children being raised in the City, the Fair has added a Moon bounce and face painters and a kids games booth. There is also a kids clothing booth chockfull of gently worn clothes and toys.

The most important aspect, as with any outside event, is the weather. Over the past 50 years, dedicated Fair volunteers have sometimes worked in torrential downpours and tent-ripping winds. This is one aspect of the Fair that will never change.

Stop by this year for a small-town experience in a big-city neighborhood and enjoy a 50-year tradition, as Fitler Square celebrates its Jubilee Fair.

*Reprinted from the March 2011 Issue of the Center City Quarterly, Center City Residents' Association's quarterly newsletter.*

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**Our Mission:**

The mission of FSIA is to preserve, protect and beautify Fitler Square and we work in a partnership with Philadelphia Department of Parks and Recreation.

## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

*Dear Friends and Neighbors:*

*Do you ever sit in Fitler Square? Do you bring your toddler to play in Fitler Square? Do you wait for a table at Dmitri's in Fitler Square? Or maybe the Route 12 bus? Maybe you just walk through on your way home and think how lovely the park looks on the first snowfall in winter or the first peek at flowers blooming in the spring.*

*If your answer is yes to any of these questions, perhaps you would consider becoming a member of FSIA. We have the least amount of members in recent history and our costs are higher than ever. Our current members have been very generous, but it takes a community to maintain a park.*

*Our close-knit neighborhood surrounding Fitler Square and the park itself enable us to enjoy city living at its best, but due to fiscal restraints and shortages, we cannot depend on the City of Philadelphia to take care of Fitler Square. We must depend on each other. We need your help to tend to the park, whether through membership in FSIA (form included in the newsletter), or volunteering at our Spring and Fall clean-ups or attending and supporting our Annual Fair.*

*FSIA's expenses for the year 2010 were almost \$30,000. This, of course, did not include the \$35,000 fountain renovation to change the old wasteful fountain into a recirculating fountain, saving millions of gallons of water a year. Annually, we pay the costs of cutting the lawn, snow removal, tree tending, and for the services of our resident gardener Maureen Chambley, who has been integral in our winning PHS's Best of City Gardens Contest (small parks), for the past two years. We make any repairs necessary, including the sprinkler system and brickwork; and we also sponsor the holiday events that so many of the neighborhood children enjoy, including our latest Easter Egg Hunt!*

*During these times, charitable donations are limited and we at Fitler Square Improvement Association appreciate that, but please consider the importance of keeping our local park beautiful for the sake of the community and our own neighbors and families.*

*Regards,*

*Judy*

### ADVERTISE IN THE FITLER SQUARE NEWSLETTER

Our newsletter is published  
2 times a year - Spring and Fall.

**Ad Rates**

Full page	\$100.00
1/2 page	\$ 50.00
1/4 page	\$ 25.00

For information and deadlines,  
please contact us at  
AmeliaRiley@yahoo.com

### WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE!

A great big thank you to Sally Frazza  
who redesigned our website  
and added a ton of new  
information and features.

And you can now update  
your membership or become  
a new member by using PayPal.

**Visit us at [www.FitlerSquare.org](http://www.FitlerSquare.org)**

## GET TO KNOW OUR BOARD MEMBERS: CATHY NINO, SECRETARY



Cathy Nino

Any time there is an event in Fitler Square, especially at the Fair, you may have noticed Cathy Nino, our secretary of the Fitler Square Board. She is most recognizable by her by platinum hair color and is generally seen at the Easter Egg Hunt doling out juice boxes or at the tree lighting handing out candles, but at the Annual Fair you can find her at the White Elephant Booth, where she has volunteered for 20 years and has been the Chairperson for 10 years.

A Fitler Square neighbor for 34 years, Cathy has been involved with the park, serving on the Board for 19 years and as secretary for over ten. She works full time as a manager at the Philadelphia Federal Credit Union who contributes as a sponsor each year at our Fair.

The White Elephant Booth at the Fitler Square Fair is notorious for the inventory of wild and crazy donations that have found their way to the tables over the years. Cathy was asked to name the following three categories:

1. Craziest/weirdest thing ever donated to booth?

**False Teeth**

2. Brought in the most money for the park?

**Silver Mugs**

3. Junkiest thing ever donated?

**Pots and pans with food still in them!**

Cathy's favorite time of the year in the park is springtime right before the Fair, and her favorite part of Fitler Square is our fountain. In the future she would like to see the children that have grown up in Fitler Square volunteering and hopefully someday serve on the Fitler Square Board.

She is looking forward to our 50th year Anniversary celebration of FSIA, as are all of our Board members, and hoping all our neighbors will come out for the special party.

When asked what she likes most about our neighborhood, she replied, "the feeling that the community really cares about the neighborhood, our park, area restaurants and the Schuylkill River path."

Come out Friday and Saturday, May 6 and 7, and say hello to Cathy at the White Elephant Booth, and you may want to stick around for the special blowout sale late Saturday afternoon!



23rd and Pine  
3rd and Catherine  
944 N. 2nd Street

215.985.3680  
215.625.0556  
215.592.4550

# Trinity at 22nd

2212 Spruce Street • 215-732-2515

## Trinity Memorial Church

([www.trinityphiladelphia.org](http://www.trinityphiladelphia.org))

### Gounod's Stabat Mater

Sunday, April 10, 10:30 a.m. Special Lenten music worship service.

### Palm Sunday

April 17, 10:30 a.m. Gather in Rittenhouse Square for the Ecumenical Liturgy of the Palms with choirs and trumpets. 11:00 a.m. Trinity Memorial Church. From loud Hosannas to the cries of the Passion story with special music.

### Maundy Thursday Agape Supper

April 21, 6:30 p.m. Potluck supper and Eucharist in the sanctuary. All welcome.

### Good Friday

April 22, 7:30 p.m. The solemnity of the Good Friday Liturgy.

### Easter Day

April 24, 10:30 a.m. A glorious celebration with lighting of the new fire and special music by our Chancel Choir, a brass choir, and the organ.

### Jumbo Jumble Sale

Saturday, April 30, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Books, clothing, small appliances, household goods, toys, everything. Drop-off the week before.

## Trinity Center for Urban Life

([www.trinitycentercity.org](http://www.trinitycentercity.org))

### Orchestra 2001

Friday, April 8, 8 p.m. Celebrate Paris and Philadelphia. Tickets at [www.orchestra2001.org](http://www.orchestra2001.org).

### The Philadelphia Chorus

Sunday, April 10, 4 p.m. A community chorus led by Raquel Garcia with accompanist Judith Large. Tickets at the door.  
[www.philadelphiachorus.org](http://www.philadelphiachorus.org).

### Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture

Saturday, April 30, 8:00 p.m. Classical music.  
[www.albustanseeds.org](http://www.albustanseeds.org)

### Dolce Suono Ensemble

Wednesday, May 11, 7:30 p.m. with Eric Owens, Bass-Baritone. Conversation with composers 6:00 p.m. [www.mimistillman.org/dolcesuono/](http://www.mimistillman.org/dolcesuono/)

### Will Stutts as Frank Lloyd Wright

Saturday, May 14, 8 p.m. Adults \$20; Seniors \$15; under 12 \$10.

### Astral Artists' Concert

Wednesday, May 18, 1 p.m., Philadelphia Senior Center, 509 South Broad Street. Free.

### Ice Cream Social

Sunday, June 19, 2–4 p.m. Trinity Center's Annual Ice Cream Social on the sidewalk.

## Community OutReach Partnership

([www.communityoutreachpartnership.org](http://www.communityoutreachpartnership.org))

### Sustainable 19103 series

Thursday, April 14, 5:30–7:30 p.m. Green, White, and Blue Roofs. Panel discussion. BYO wine and cheese.

### Annual Fundraising Dinner

Monday, May 2, 6:30 p.m. Salento Restaurant, 2216 Walnut Street. \$65/person, \$100/patron.

### LifeCycle ReCycle Collection Drive Sorting Day

Saturday, May 7 10–12, for children's and maternity items. New and gently used clothes and toys, not-to-be-used-again maternity clothes.



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## We Thank all of our 2010-2011 Members!

### **Bear (\$300 or more)**

Connelly Foundation  
Paul and Constance Dry  
John G. Fischer  
Ken and Sue Frank  
Matthew Nelson

### **Ram (\$200 - \$299)**

Patty Fox  
Christopher and Jessica Kohles  
Arthur and Kathy Miller  
Beth Shapiro and Austin Lavin  
Delores Zimering

### **Turtle (\$100 - \$199)**

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Marlene and Joe Blume  
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David and Nancy Colman  
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Matt and MaryKate D'Annunzio  
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Terry and Lyle Murley  
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### **Family (\$50 - \$99)**

Louise Bradford  
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Patricia Kimmelman  
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Marianne and Barry Promos  
Mark and Kate Randall  
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Richard Rutherford  
Sandra Shuman  
Karen Stabenow and Charles Carr  
Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church  
Trinity Play Group

### **Individual (\$35 - \$49)**

Betsy and Burnell Alexander  
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Lloyd and Merrill Brotman  
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please email them to fsia1962@gmail.com.*

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## List with Kate & Kathleen

## BECOME A FSIA MEMBER OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY

Your membership, working with Philadelphia's Department of Parks and Recreation, underwrites the cost of major park improvements and takes an active role in the planting and preservation activities needed to maintain and 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.

The Association gets its support from membership dues and the proceeds from the annual Spring Fair. If you are not now a member, we urge you to join with us in this worthwhile endeavor.

*(Business contributors of \$100 or more will be featured on the Fitler Square website)*

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

Individual Membership.....	\$35
Family Membership.....	\$50
Turtle Membership.....	\$100-199
Ram Membership.....	\$201-299
Bear Membership.....	\$300 or more

Please mail check payable to:

Fitler Square Improvement Association  
400 S. Croskey Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19146

or make a payment with PayPal on [FitlerSquare.org](http://FitlerSquare.org).

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 are tax-deductible.*



## Securing the future of our community is just as important as securing the future of our clients.

That's why we're a proud sponsor of Fitler Square Improvement Association

John Fischer is pleased to support the important work of Fitler Square Improvement Association. A strong partnership in making our community a better place to live and work.

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## PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE SQUARE...



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