

Newsletter

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Recently Sold in Fitler Square:

-2405 Delancey	-2226 Lombard
-2419 Pine	-2429-41 Locust #218
-2421 Pine	-313 S. 22nd
-608 S. Taney	-625 S. 26th



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



Upcoming events

Annual Meeting
October 21
8pm
Markward Center
26th & Taney Streets

Halloween FunFest
October 26
2 to 5pm
Pumpkin Hunt
DJ Patty Patt with games and prizes for the kids and a Kiddie Karaoke!
Opportunity to buy FSIA Long sleeve shirts and other items from local businesses

Holiday Tree Lighting
December 14
5pm

Become a fan of Friends of Fitler Square

400 South Croskey Street
 Philadelphia, PA 19146
www.fitlersquare.org



The Weiner-Fox Family: Three Generations in Fitler Square

Reba Weiner had just celebrated her 100th birthday. The day before I visited with her and her daughter Patty (who lives next door and is a long-time Board member and supporter of FSIA) who had co-hosted in Reba's cozy Fitler Square home a full day of friends and relatives coming from as far away as Texas, stopping by to wish Reba a Happy Birthday.

For 70 years Reba has lived in the neighborhood, long before dry cleaners and coffee shops anchored every corner. She and her husband Milton settled into their Van Pelt Street home and raised two girls, Lenore and Patty. Milton worked for the famous N.W. Ayer & Son advertising agency, and Reba was Director of the Saturday School at the University of the Arts, then called the School of Industrial Art.

With so few people raising families in Center City at that time, she was one of the few young moms in the neighbor-

hood, but just like today, they socialized with their children in Fitler Square. (Only then, Patty remembers, there was one big pink turtle to climb on where the three turtles stand now.)

At some point, the ladies formed a sewing group, and Reba would complain that she would have to travel all the way to Broad and Chestnut (the old Woolworth's) just to get a spool of thread. The idea hatched in her mind for a neighborhood store where one could buy notions and gifts; and when a change in administration at The College of Art occurred in 1960, it was an opportune moment for her to open The General Store on 20th Street.

Much like today, 20th Street was the local shopping avenue, and when Reba opened The General Store (with 6-year old Patty dodging in and out of tables of wares), what is now 20 Manning was a florist, D'Angelo's was a grocery

(Continued on page 3)

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

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Message from our President

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

This has been a year of highs and lows at Fitler Square. While we have brought on some new enthusiastic board members, we have lost some longtime, dedicated friends. While we have finally achieved lighting the fountain, we could not turn it on all year while awaiting parts. While our good Fitler Square partner "Dmitri's" restaurant closed, we are looking forward to a new relationship with "Tria on Fitler Square."

Lolly LaGreca, a 25-year board member and pioneer in Women-owned business, (Midtown Realty) passed away this year, as well as Joe Schwartz. His wife Lynn is on the board, but Joe was always willing to take on the heavy duty tasks such as transporting holiday trees to the fountain every December and unloading the plant delivery at the Spring Fair. Our loyal member Patty Fox had to resign (see article) as well. They Will be missed! We welcomed new members Katy Orlando, Sharon Ross, Amanda Cooperman and Monica Freed.

We are very thankful for all your support and want you to be aware of the recent expenditures and ongoing maintenance. Besides the cost of \$3,500 for maintaining the trees inside the park, recently the board voted to take on the task of maintaining the trees on the periphery sides of Pine, Panama and 24th Streets as well. Also this year we have spent approximately \$4,400 in landscaping costs, \$1,800 in snow removal, and \$1,340 for our popular holiday events. All membership dues and donations, including proceeds from the Spring Fair, go directly towards these expenses.

I also want to again thank Councilman Kenyatta Johnson and staff, not only for the beautiful new benches he facilitated for us, but also for their continuous support throughout the year.

Lastly, thank you, members, for your love and support for our "gem" of a park!

Judy Romano Zimering

Tree and more trees...

By Amanda Cooperman



Did you ever wonder what becomes of your generous donations and membership fees? All of it goes to the park for upkeep, seasonal and holiday events, lighting, plantings and fabulous new benches. You also support the care and maintenance of the approximately twenty trees inside Fitler Square.

The yearly cost for each tree is between \$500 and \$1,000 depending on size, age, condition and type of tree. Pruning and feeding are absolutely necessary, not only for the health of the trees, but also, for our safety as we enjoy the shade and exquisite beauty they provide.

And now we have assumed that same responsibility for the twelve trees which exist on our park's perimeter on Pine, 24th and Panama Streets. That number may increase with additional plantings. Our duties will also include creation and maintenance of the "pits" which are the sidewalk openings for each tree at additional costs of several hundred to a thousand dollars for each pit.

As you can see your generosity helps your volunteer Board continue to make FS a lovely haven we can all enjoy. We appreciate greatly your contributions and support. We could not do it without you!

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(Continued from page 1)

store, Cook was M. Finkle Apothecary, Lee's Hardware was in business, and Paul's Pizza was Amsterdam Trusses.

In 1962, when neighbor Marie Wilson established the Fitler Square Improvement Association and began to hold the Annual Spring Fair on Mother's Day weekend, Reba recounted how it was always her busiest weekend at the store so she was only able to donate items for the Fair. But she remembers well her favorite Spring Fair, when in 1967, 13-year old Patty volunteered at the White Elephant Booth. She also noted that there were no booths dedicated to children's items as there were so few kids in the neighborhood.

Fast forward to 1999, when Patty Weiner, now Patty Fox, living next door to the house she grew up in and raising two daughters of her own, became an official Board member of FSIA. While she was still working with her mom at The General Store, she first met Joanne Downes, a volunteer from the Spring Fair, who came into the store to buy cellophane and sundry items to put some baskets together as there were no donations for the raffle. Patty volunteered to help out, and the following year she

became chairperson of the Raffle Booth, revamping the format, adding a Silent Auction, and turning it into one of the most profitable booths at the Fair every year.

Patty then turned her sights on the Bake Booth, where she was chairperson for several years, also increasing its profits. By this time The General Store had closed, and Reba was finally able to volunteer at the Fair, helping Patty in the Bake Booth, taking money and making change when she was well into her nineties. Patty's two daughters, Lindsey and Jesse, were also by their mom's side at the Fair, and were always willing to lend a hand wherever needed.

Patty served as Vice-President of FSIA and Co-Chair of the Spring Fair from 2001 until 2012, when, for health reasons, she had to resign. She is sincerely missed by our Board members, especially during annual events where Patty was always a reliable, energetic volunteer. (Check out Mrs. Claus!)



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An update from Julian Abele Park
By Cliff Eyster

Your friends and neighbors from Julian Abele Park (22nd & Carpenter Streets) had a busy summer relaunching their "Jazz @ Julian" series of concerts. There were four in all, spread over June, July, and August. The Friends of Julian Abele Park also sponsored an Open Mic musical event in May and participated in "Make Music Philly Day" in June with eight hours of musical performances.

Informally, there were lots of birthday parties held in the park, including a terrific princess-themed party. They "Loved Their Park" in May and had several weeding and watering events. Going forward they hope to do a bike rack installation and some garden replenishment of shrubs, grass, and ground cover materials.

If you'd like to know what they're up to, check out :

www.julianabelepark.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FOJAB>

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