

# Newsletter

FITLER SQUARE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.



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 FSIA Board Member

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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

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I look forward to being of service!

*Lora H.*

### 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         |

*"Lora handled the sale of our property in Fitler Square last April. Throughout the different phases of the sale, she proved herself to be a wonderful professional. We valued her counsel and knowledge of the market. We recommend her most highly."*

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**Fitler Square Improvement Association, Inc.**  
 P.O. Box 30067  
 Philadelphia, PA 19103



### Have any donations for the Fair?

White Elephant (frames, vases, furniture, housewares items), kids' clothing and toys or baked goods (cookies, cakes, pies)

Please drop them off anytime between **Friday morning and early Saturday afternoon.**

**Thank you!**

Become a fan of Friends of Fitler Square

P.O. Box 30067  
 Philadelphia, PA 19103  
[www.fitlersquare.org](http://www.fitlersquare.org)

### The Fitler Square Spring Fair is coming! Friday, May 8th & Saturday, May 9th

You know it's springtime, when you can hear the lovely sound of water bubbling from the fountain. Each year on the Friday and Saturday preceding Mother's Day, the FSIA hosts The Annual Spring Fair.

Surrounding the fountain, tables are arranged for a silent auction of goods and services from local restaurants and shops.

Under the trees, booths are set up with flowers, herbs, baked goods, gently used books, children's clothing and games, a white elephant booth and Fitler Square memorabilia, which are all available for sale.

Around the perimeter of the square, outside vendors rent space for a vibrant flea market.

Activities for children on Saturday include a moonbounce and everything is surrounded by music performed by local bands and an a cappella youth groups.

Booths and tables are staffed by friends, volunteers and board members, who are on hand to answer questions about the park, FSIA and membership.

**The Entertainment Schedule for Friday and Saturday is listed on our website: [FitlerSquare.org](http://FitlerSquare.org)**

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

#### Board of Directors

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- Katy Orlando
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- Lynn Schwartz
- Margaret Tobin
- Mark Willie



## Message from our President

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

*After a terribly harsh winter, it's so inspiring to see the several hundred bulbs we planted in 2013 pop their flowering heads out from under the dead leaves of the past season, especially from the windows of our newly opened neighborhood hot spot, Tria Fitler Square.*

*As a member of the Fitler Square Improvement Association for 25 years, I, along with my fellow volunteers, concluded every Spring Fair with a toast to our park and our neighborhood sitting in that same eatery, whether it was O'Malley's (with no windows), Café Piazza, Stix, or Dmitri's. We were always surrounded by the familiar faces of our neighbors. But this new watering hole is different. It is filled with young couples, new families, and I realize that our little microcosm of a neighborhood has expanded west and south, adding new energy and fun.*

*With this expansion comes an opportunity for me to reach out for volunteers to serve on our Board at Fitler Square. Volunteerism is a luxury, but like most luxuries, it is enjoyable, especially when you help out in your neighborhood park. Our Board is aging, not only in years but in ideas, and would love an infusion of energetic, enthusiastic members who love their neighborhood and park as much as we, and are willing to give up some of their time for the rewarding work that we do. Our biggest effort is the Annual Spring Fair. If this is something you think you would like to help with, please contact me personally, by emailing me at judyromano0102@gmail.*

*Along those same lines, our Treasurer, Marlene Blume is resigning after 50 years on the Board. We have reprinted a little bio about her from a past newsletter. When you read it you will understand the dedication and satisfaction that come together when you are involved in something you dearly love and appreciate. Our Councilman, Kenyatta Johnson, hosted a luncheon for 31 special women in his district (for each day of Women's History Month), and I was so honored to be a part of it, to meet women of all races and ages who work so hard to keep their own neighborhoods as best as possible.*

*As always, I am very grateful to my fellow Board members, as well as the annual members who give every year, and the opportunity to be a part of the best neighborhood in the City.*

*Sincerely and warmest regards,  
Judy Romano Zimering*

## Get to know our Board Members: Marlene Blume, Treasurer

A member of the Fitler Square Improvement Association for over 40 years, Marlene Blume has seen Fitler Square evolve into the charming and welcoming site it is today.

An original "Working Girl," she first moved to the neighborhood in 1963 where she lived with two roommates at 2515 Waverly Street. The Fitler Square Improvement Association was just beginning to develop the park at that time, and there was no grass, no fence, and a lonely cement turtle.

In 1965, she and her roommates moved to 400 South 24th Street, and her next-door neighbor, long-time FSIA Board member and former president, Connie Williams, recruited Marlene to bake goodies for the Bake Booth and become more involved in the park. In 1965 another important event in Marlene's life occurred; she met her husband Joe Blume at a New Year's Eve party at a friend's apartment above the Oliver Bair funeral parlor. At the time Joe lived at 2317 Delancey Street. They were married in 1969 and moved to their picturesque house on the 400 block of Croskey Street.

A member of FSIA since 1970, she has been Treasurer for 25 years, keeping track of our expenses and income, a daunting task that her fellow Board members

will "not permit" her to retire from. While tirelessly volunteering on the Board during this time, and prior, from 1955 until 1999, she also worked full time in virus research, first at Children's Hospital and then at Wyeth Laboratories, retiring from there in 1999.



Marlene Blume

Marlene has had many duties at the Fair, but she always seems to end up at the Food Booth, most likely due to her great cooking. When asked what is the one Fair that stands out in your mind, she replied "last year's, because we had two FULL days of sunshine."

When asked what is your favorite thing about Fitler Square, she responded "what I enjoy most is when I walk by and see people enjoying themselves in the park." She was also asked what her favorite thing about the neighborhood is, and she replied "My street and my neighbors. I call it a village."

Look for Marlene at the Fair this year, where she will be once again our chief cook, along with Pat Henningsen, at the Food Booth.

## Constance Williams 1935 - 2014



Connie truly loved Fitler Square. She lived across from it for many years. It was her front yard and she treated it that way. Connie was on the Broad of Directors of the Improvement Association since the total redo of the Square in the early 1960s and was president during the '80s and 90's. She was particularly fond of the turtle sculpture which she helped create and install. She could actually see them from her window.

After growing up in Moorestown, New Jersey, graduating from high school there and going on to Centenary College, she found her lifelong neighborhood here. For years she was a member of the vestry at Holy Trinity on Rittenhouse Square and later attended Saint Mark's Episcopal Church. Her business resume included manager of the Philadelphia Ramblers, a minor league ice hockey team, acting secretary of the Liberty Bowl football team as well as secretary of CCRA and active in the management of the Civil War Museum on Pine Street.

She was a delightful and dedicated part of the Fitler Square family. Everyone's friend and always there when needed. In her final two years she resided at Watermark on Logan Square and in late November was relocated to Annapolis nearer to relatives, where she died on December 6, 2014 of complications from dementia and Parkinson's disease.

### Event Permit Notice!

**Please be aware that if you plan to host an event in any city park in Philadelphia, including Fitler Square, you will need a permit. Please contact the City to obtain that permit. Thank you!**



**Your neighborhood playground.**

**We are a family membership club** offering kids classes, a kids salon and boutique, snack café and indoor playground. We host birthday parties and special events throughout the year, many to benefit local charities. Though membership has its privileges, non-members are welcome to explore and enroll in any one of 40 classes from music to movement to dance.

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