

Newsletter

FITLER SQUARE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

Fitler Spring Fair - Friday, May 12th & Saturday, May 13th

Friday	
1-3:00pm	STAR Band
4-4:30pm	The Phila School a cappella chorus
Saturday	
10:00am-1:00pm	City Lights Band
10:00am-2:00pm	Bounce Castle open for kids
12:30pm	Performance by Philadelphia Dance Academy
2-4:00pm	DJ Patty Pat
3:00pm	Silent auction closes and Raffle winners picked



Booths:
New and gently-used books, plants and garden flowers, children's clothes games and toys, White elephant, raffle and silent auction items, food and baked goods and Fitler Square t-shirts, hats and notecards.

Antique vendors surround the Square selling all sorts of valuables, keepsakes and surprises.



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



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THANK YOU!!

Become a fan of Friends of Fitler Square

P.O. Box 30067
Philadelphia, PA 19103
www.fitlersquare.org

Join us at our Spring Fair - Friday, May 12th & Saturday, May 13th



Join us on the Friday and Saturday preceding Mother's Day at Fitler Square Park's Annual Spring Fair. Surrounding the fountain, get in on the raffle of goods and services from local restaurants and shops. Throughout the park are treasures for everyone: flowering plants and herbs for your garden; gently used books and children's clothing; delicious baked goods, foods and drinks; Fitler Square T-shirts and stationery; and great inexpensive white elephant items. Music is performed on our stage by local talent. Around the perimeter of the Square, over 30 vendors create a vibrant craft and flea market. Admission is free, and the Fair is held rain or shine.

All proceeds of the Fair benefit the year-round maintenance and greening of the park. We at FSIA realize how lucky we are to have generous neighbors who support our Square through membership dues and the funds raised at the Spring Fair. We do not ask for City funding that we believe is needed in less fortunate areas.

Helping is a great way to connect with the Fitler Square community!

Volunteers - We Need your Help!

We need volunteers to help with the preparations to the Fair, and we especially need help on the two days of the Fair. Booths and tables at the Fair are staffed by friends, volunteers, and board members of FSIA. Your help for even as little as two hours on Friday and/or Saturday at the Fair would be great! You need not have any experience or special skills. Below is a list of some of the booths/tables at the Fair where we could use your help:

- Garden Flowers and Plants
- Children's Clothing, games, toys, and baby gear
- White elephant booth (inexpensive household items)
- Raffle table (gift certificates, gift baskets, and auctioned items from local restaurants and shops)
- Gently-used Books
- Food – Hot and Cold foods
- Baked Goods booth
- Fitler Square T-shirts, Hats, and Notecards
- Roving volunteer
- Tent Set up Thursday
- Clean-up Saturday

Please send an email to sross212@gmail.com if you can assist us in our preparations and running the Fair.

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

Board of Directors

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Judy Zimering
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- Lenore Millhollen
- Maria Obropta
- Robin Parke
- Mark Willie



Message from our President

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I'm a big believer that when the temperatures start to rise, everyone craves a jolt of fun, especially in their own backyard! By the time you read this we will have held our 16th Annual Easter Egg Hunt, and turned up the burners for our 56th Annual Spring Fair. We are trying something a little different, keeping it casual, but want to invite neighbors to come for Fitler Square Fair "Evening in the Square" on Friday, May 12th from 6 to 8pm. We will have live music, so come out and BYOB, bring your own basket of goodies, and we'll gather in our favorite place, Fitler Square.

This is my 15th "Letter from the President" and most likely one of the last. I took the time to review some past letters I've written and they all have the same theme: Please volunteer! You can volunteer in your own way; help weed the garden, bring your trash home and ask others not to throw garbage in our trash cans. We have no daily service for trash pickup. Please remember that our grass is a dog-free zone, green space for people to enjoy, with two dog parks a mere two blocks away. Keep our pretty park clean and welcoming!

We have several big projects in the works and any help or feedback would be appreciated. Our wish list for the Square has always included the shed and reforming it into something as special as the park it occupies, but we need architectural guidance as we navigate the Historical Commission's mandates. We do have some funds that have been earmarked for the shed, including donations in memory of Helene Morlok, a former president of FSIA. This is a daunting project for all of us.

So whether you are a new neighbor or an old friend who has finally got some time to be involved in tending the best little park in the City, we welcome you! It's time you won't regret. Who knows, some day you may be the person writing the "Message from the President"!

Warmest regards,

Judy Romano Zimering



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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

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I look forward to being of service!

Lora H.



Lora Hemphill
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Your Fitler Square Real Estate Expert



"Thank you for all the work you have put into selling our Fitler Square home. We were really impressed with your dedication and feel that the single most important decision in the entire process was to ask you to be our agent. I'll be recommending you to anybody interested in selling/buying in the city. Thank you again, and we'll keep in touch."

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2414 Lombard	2507 Naudain	2421 Pine	2411 A Delancey	600 S 24 th , #406

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Fitler Square Farmers Market

One of the oldest farmers market in the City, Fitler Square has had an ongoing farmers market for over ten years. Sponsored and originated by The Food Trust, an organization dedicated to partnering local farmers and city neighborhoods, farmers markets are now a common site in many city parks.

The Fitler Square Improvement Association Board of Directors was approached in 2005 with the idea of a weekly farmers market every Saturday from April to October by a representative of the Food Trust. At first, the concept was met with concern about traffic, litter, congestion, the usual issues most ideas concerning any park event bring, but eventually there was a unanimous decision to go ahead with the idea and we have had our lovely little market ever since.



The oldest stand, Highland Orchards, has been with us since inception. Vida (pictured above) has been bringing seasonal fruits, vegetables, baked goods, and has now contracted with local farms to also provide dairy products and meats, direct from the farms around Wilmington, Delaware. She leaves her home at 6:10 a.m. every Saturday to bring Fitler Square these fresh foods 8 am to 2 pm, except Thanksgiving weekend, Christmas weekend, and the weekend of the Annual



Fitler Square Fair on Mother's Day Weekend.

Vida says her biggest sellers, depending on the season, are the apple cider, apple cider doughnuts and handmade pies, and the delicious summer strawberries.

Brogue Hydroponics has had a stand at Fitler Square for the past five years, traveling two hours all the way from Southern York County, with fresh beautiful seasonal vegetables and herbs.

If you haven't stopped by on a Saturday morning, you don't know what you are missing!

A Special Citation from Councilman Kenyatta Johnson



Our volunteers are just that, not looking for special accolades or acknowledgement, but as we all know, it feels good to be appreciated. That is just what our Councilman Kenyatta Johnson achieved when he honored our female Board members at his Women on the Move luncheon.

From left to right, Cathy Nino, Board member for 25 years, Lenore Millhollen, Board member for 40 years, Lora Hemphill, Amanda Cooperman and Sharon Ross, all Board members for 5 years.

Thank you to everyone who joined us on Earth Day to help make Fitler Square more beautiful!

We swept, we weeded, we planted, we pruned and then it rained! Fitler Square has never looked more beautiful! Take a stroll through and enjoy...



Your membership dollars go a long way...

As you know, the Fitler Square Improvement Association preserves, protects, and beautifies Fitler Square, leading all efforts for major improvements to and continual maintenance of Fitler Square. A few of our accomplishments over the past several years funded by your donations include:

- Holding our many children and family events, including our Easter egg hunt, Christmas Tree Lighting, Menorah Lighting, Halloween event and Spring Fair.
- Overhauling the East and West Gardens, purchasing many new plants and contracting on an ongoing basis to maintain these community gems.
- Investing thousands of dollars into our urban forest, planting and caring for trees.
- Contracting for path and square cleaning year-round and snow removal in the winter.



Your support now will enable us to continue our programs and improvements in 2017. We hope you will join us to ensure that the vision of an improved and maintained Fitler Square continues to be realized well into the future. It only takes one person to make a difference in Fitler Square. It is our hope that you will be that person by making a tax deductible contribution today.

Become a FSIA Friend or Renew your Membership Today!

Annual membership dues and other individual donations fund major improvements to and the maintenance of Fitler Square.

Your membership dues and donations support all of these efforts. We could not realize our mission to improve and maintain our charming Fitler Square without your support.

Please become a member today!

Membership Levels:

Fountain	\$500
Bear	\$300
Ram	\$200
Turtle	\$100
Family	\$50
Individual	\$35

Membership

FSIA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Contributions to the Fitler Square Improvement Association may be made at FitlerSquare.org by using PayPal or mailing a check payable to:

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

Thank you for your support!

Get to know our Board Members: 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 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.

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 that 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 unexpected donations that have found their way to the tables. Cathy was asked to name the following three categories:

1. Craziest/weirdest thing ever donated to the 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 who 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 12 and 13, 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!

Some changes happening in Fitler Square this Fall.....

The Fitler Square Improvement Association, which is the party primarily responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of Fitler Square, has approved the removal of a large London



Plane Tree in the southeast corner of the park, at 23rd and Pine. The removal of the plane tree is based on recommendations we recently received from Bartlett Tree Experts. We have had Bartlett conduct quarterly reviews of our trees for the last ten years or so, and we trust in their judgments. While we love our trees and shrubs, we are also aware that the safety of our friends and fellow park users must take precedence. Thanks for your understanding as we proceed with this necessary process.

Philadelphia Dance Academy Summer Dance Programs JUNE 12 - AUG 18

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