



REGENT SQUARE CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER, 1988

VOLUME 8 NUMBER 4

RSCA BOARD ELECTION AND HOLIDAY PARTY

Wednesday, November 30 at 7:30 p.m.
Wilkins School Community Center

Just when you thought the election process was over... There are six positions open for the Board of Directors. The prerequisites for running for the RSCA Board are slightly different than those needed to occupy the Oval Office. Funding is minimal (at least \$50 million less), negative campaigning is non-existent (all other candidates are nice people), and the time commitment is small (the entire campaign consists of attending the public meeting). As far as ideology is concerned, all that is required is a

belief that Regent Square is the finest neighborhood in Pittsburgh.

If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact Jean Gallagher at 244-9163 by November 23. Jean will be able to answer any questions that you may have.

After the public meeting will be a chance to usher in the holiday season. So come and join your neighbors for an event which proves again that Regent Square is someplace extra special!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Put Your Money Where Your House Is"

It has been an active year with the Civic Association. I don't think it's my imagination, but it seems Regent Square is becoming a very popular place to be. This newfound popularity has prompted the Civic Association to undertake active new roles in the community. Many of these require money.

In April of this year, the Pittsburgh School Board announced the reopening of the Regent Square Elementary School. Acting on behalf of concerned parents, the Civic Association met with School Board officials in an effort to open lines of communication. Several other neighborhoods were also involved, including Park Place, Swisshelm Park, and East Hills. The RSCA published a special newsletter dedicated solely to the school opening, and distributed it to city residents of Regent Square, as well as to leaders in the other neighborhoods. This newsletter was the primary contact for many of these parents. The RSCA also sponsored a public meeting and provided refreshments for parents and School Board officials at the WSCC, donated food for the school's Community Day, and bought flowers for the school's new staff. This is just one example of how your membership fees are put to good use.

Another example concerns "Union Centre", the new retail and office development at the former Union Switch and Signal property. In August the Board of Directors were invited to a meeting with Edgewood officials and members of

the development company. At that meeting, and subsequent public meetings at the Edgewood Borough Building, it became apparent to many RSCA Board members that the concerns of our neighborhood were not being adequately addressed. We, the RSCA Board, hired our own traffic engineer to review the developer's study. The results of our report were read at a public meeting in Edgewood. Our ability to hire this traffic engineer, again, is an example of the flexibility we have when you continue your support through membership fees.

Contributing your membership fees allows us the ability to expand our influence. However, much of what the RSCA does is not controlled by dollars and cents, but by the time and energy. The Board of Directors serve on various committees that monitor the events around us. These committees are listed in the newsletter. Committee work ranges from initiating projects to reacting to outside developments. For example, the WSCC Committee is involved this year in the future of the Wilkins School/Shady Lane property.

During the year, the WSCC and Shady Lane School approached the Civic Association to monitor the negotiations of a long term agreement that would enable the ownership of their building to be transferred from the Swissvale Borough to them. This would be an obvious benefit to these two fine organizations, as they would be able to own their facility,

rather than lease it. However, the main thrust of the involvement of the RSCA was to insure the continued existence of community-spirited activity on that site. Part of the new agreement may include a long-term provision for the WSCC to operate regardless of the ownership of the building. The RSCA will be assisting in the presentation of this proposal to Swissvale officials.

These three examples--(the Regent Square Elementary School, Union Centre, and the Shady Lane/Wilkins School) all occurred this year. The benefits of the RSCA's involvement is apparent. We would not have been there had it not been for your support. However, these examples, like many others, are ongoing. Your continued involvement is needed.

Past activities that are sure to continue within the RSCA are those that have long been the mainstay of our organization. The most notable being the quarterly newsletters, bimonthly Board meetings, the Picnic, the Run Around the Square, Public Meetings, and of course, the Pink Flamingo.

The future of the RSCA directly hinges on its membership. Your ongoing commitment will allow us not only to continue our past projects, but develop new ones. For several years the Board has discussed the possibility of forming a Welcome Wagon Committee that will distribute packets of information and favors to new neighbors. We are also in the progress of formalizing an extensive neighborhood map for distribution that will list pertinent block watch safety information.

Now is the time when your support is needed. As Regent Square grows, become involved in guiding its growth. Become involved as a member of the Board or at the least, fill out the enclosed membership application. For three dollars, you can really make a difference. Our neighborhood is worth it!

Finally, as this is my last newsletter, I'd like to thank all those Board members and neighbors who made my last two years as President very enjoyable. It has been a personal pleasure to be involved with the Regent Square Civic Association.

— Daniel Rothschild

REGENT SQUARE CIVIC ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Daniel Rothschild, President.....	1111 Lancaster	242-9778
George Pearth, Vice-president ...	1207 Lancaster	241-4617
George Danko, Secretary	1140 Lancaster	242-5081
Jean Gallagher, Treasurer	7422 Trevanion	244-9163

LIAISON

Ed Wells, Pittsburgh	963 Milton	731-6080
Kathy West, Swissvale	7506 Trevanion	244-8362
Nevin Rodes, Edgewood	311 West Hutchinson	371-5233
Alice Collins, Wilkinsburg	904 East End Avenue	243-5447
George Pearth, Business Dist. ...	1207 Lancaster	241-4617
Nevin Rodes, Business Dist.	311 West Hutchinson	371-5233

COMMITTEE

Membership and Block Captains

Michael Plunkett	1127 Savannah	242-7713
George Pearth	1207 Lancaster	241-4617
Ellen DeBeneditti	718 East End Avenue	242-6650
Nevin Rodes	311 West Hutchinson	371-5233

Frick Park

Sarah Wymard	1005 Lancaster	243-2833
Daniel Rothschild	1111Lancaster	242-9778

Wilkins School Community Center

Cindy Bahn	1005 Milton	241-2550
Daniel Rothschild	1111lancaster	242-9778

Historical Committee

Nevin Rodes	311 West Hutchinson	371-5233
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HOW US CITY FOLKS CELEBRATED A COUNTRY FAIR IN THE SQUARE

August 28 dawned cloudy and threatening and the weatherman predicted rain for the day. So we crossed our fingers and hoped it would hold off at least until 6PM because we had a picnic planned. Mother Nature thankfully complied (it didn't rain until 5:30) and we had a great day!

The petting zoo was a hit with the kids ... and the adults. I especially liked the 56 pound turkey and couldn't help thinking that Thanksgiving isn't that far away. The square dancers danced circles around the crowd and the juggler and magician kept everyone on their toes. Because of the uncertain weather, the I.C. Lite Balloon could not go up that day. But the balloon pilot and crew did take the balloon ride winners up for an aerial tour only a few weeks later.

We would like to sincerely thank the businesses in the Square that donated their products and services for our raffle at the picnic: D'Amato Jewelers, Dunning McNairs Ale House, Dr. David Sultanov, The Wild Goose Antiques, Regent Pharmacy, Regent Square Theater, Lou's Quality Market, and Clippis.

Thanks also to our sponsors: Citiparks, Foodland, Mihm's Rental, McBroom's Beer Distributor, First Seneca Bank, and Iron City Beer.

Lastly, but hardly leastly, thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this picnic another great one!!

— Jean Gallagher

REGENT SQUARE HOUSE TOURS

Regent Square is planning its first Community House Tours to take place next spring. As with other community house tour events, ours will give us the opportunity to work together to promote the importance and specialness of our Square. Regent Square has many types of houses whose unique architectural features reflect the times in which they were built.

If your home has been renovated, is in the process of being renovated, or remains much as it was when it was built, please consider participating in our community's newest adventure. A variety of large and small homes furnished in modern and/or antique pieces would make our tour more interesting.

If the idea of Regent Square House Tour sounds intriguing, please consider participating. You may decide to volunteer to open your home, serve as a guide in someone else's home, or volunteer in some other way. Whatever your interest, we need your help to make this a real community event.

Please contact Nevin Rodes at 371-5233 or Ruth Broadbent at 242-2147 if you would like to participate or want more information.

Regent Square has almost a century of history in its homes. Our Spring House Tour will be a delight to all of us in the neighborhood and to our Pittsburgh history-buff friends.

— Ruth Broadbent

NEW BUSINESSES

We welcome to the Regent Square business district Daniel Rothschild and his firm - Rothschild Architects, Patrick Omalia Attorney-at-law, and Dr. R. Gwendolyn Ross all at 1112 S. Braddock Avenue. We also heartily welcome: Jackie and Shirley Nathan of the Bridal Connection; Bill Knowles of the Squirrel's Nest (doll houses and furniture); Mossie Murphy, Bill Cauley and Bob White of Murphy's Taproom; Mario Petrilli of Mario's Pizza (formerly Ferrogonio's); Drs. Samuel Golden and Paul Kahl, and their office manager Joyce Post.

AN INTERVIEW WITH MS. JUDY WERNER

(This is the first in a series of interviews with various teachers from the Regent Square Elementary School. It is the intention of this series to strengthen the bond between the school and the Regent Square Civic Association.)

Ms. Judy Werner is the science teacher at the Regent Square Elementary School. Ms. Werner has been teaching for twenty-seven years, and in Pittsburgh since 1967. She has taught at every level from kindergarten through sixth grade.

Q: What do you find most special about teaching at Regent Square?

A: "Being next to Frick Park."

Q: How do you take advantage of that?

A: "We have special programs that enable students to learn through first-hand experience. For example, every Friday each of my classes engage in a "woods walk" program. I've geared different lessons for each level. My kindergarten class may be learning colors by the changing leaves and my fourth graders may be learning about metamorphosis. We've also started a "hug-a-tree" program, where each student selects a specific tree and gets to know it personally."

Q: Does the school have special equipment that enhances your science programs?

A: "Besides typical science equipment, we are currently requesting from the School Board sets of binoculars and magnifying glasses to better examine specimens in Frick Park. We are also planning to have an exhibit at the city-wide science fair entitled The Bird Population of Frick Park."

Q: How does Regent Square differ from other schools you have taught at?

A: "This is the first time I was ever able to walk to work, and that's a dream. Also, since this is a new school, there's a very optimistic and energetic atmosphere among the staff. It's been very cooperative, with everyone is working together."

Q: Are the parents involved?

A: "There seems to be a core of some very active and vocal parents. We held our first parent/teachers meeting recently, and hope to vote on officers in the near future."

AROUND THE WORLD (WOULD YOU BELIEVE MONROEVILLE?) IN EIGHTY DAYS (WOULD YOU BELIEVE 40 MINUTES?)

It finally happened! After 3 years of buying raffle tickets, hoping against hope, I'd won it--the coveted ride in the Iron City hot air balloon. The weather, however, proved uncooperative, and the balloonist was even less encouraging. We won't be going up today and I have a waiting list nearly a year old."

I was amazed by a phone call a few weeks later. It was the balloonist, Tom Pflasterer, asking if I was busy the following Friday. Somehow (I was afraid to tempt fate by asking) my name came up on his list. Friday arrived, however, as dreary as the day of the picnic. Tom called to give me the bad news and reschedule. We agreed on the following Wednesday.

Wednesday turned out to be one of those rare, perfect days, the sky a brilliant shade of blue seen only in September, punctuated by little white puffs of clouds. I sat by the phone waiting for a confirming phone call. It came, but the news was bad: "Too windy," Tom said. Once again we rescheduled.

The weather on the day of our third attempt was beautiful, temperature in the mid 70's, sunny, not too windy. In fact, not windy enough. When I met Tom at the Pittsburgh Brewery, he told me we'd have to drive to Monroeville, in hopes of catching a little more breeze.

After picking up crew members Mike and John, we drove to a field near the Executive House, not far from the turnpike. It took about 20 minutes to inflate the balloon. I climbed into the basket and began examining the flight instruments. When I looked up, we were at treetop level. The ascent had been so effortless, I never even noticed it!

So what's it like to ride in a hot air balloon? First of all, it's peaceful. There's little noise except for the occasional roar of the burner heating the air in the balloon. The landscape below is beautiful, tidy little rows of houses in the middle of neat little squares of grass look more orderly than they appear at ground level. Tom said that even the most unattractive landmarks look great at 2300 feet.

As we slowly drifted north-northwest (I was keeping an eye on the compass!), Tom became more and more concerned over the lack of wind. We were passing over a strip mine when he contacted his crew, who more or less followed us on the ground with the van. They began discussing potential landing sites, and agreed on a field just on the other side of the mine.

The closer to the ground we got, the more apparent it became that the field was composed of more stone than grass. I braced myself for a jarring thud as we landed. By the time Mike and John arrived, we had attracted quite a crowd. A nearby sign indicated that we had landed in Universal, somewhere near a U.S. Steel plant. We packed up the balloon, then opened a few local brews and toasted my first hot air balloon trip:

The winds have welcomed you with softness.
The sun has blessed you with his warm hands.
You have flown so high and so well,
that God has joined you in your laughter.
And He has set you gently back again
Into the loving arms of Mother Earth.

— Cindy Bahn

HISTORY COMMITTEE

The History Committee is now finalizing its chapters for the forthcoming booklet on the history of Regent Square proper. A layout is being prepared to show to the skeptics and possible advertisers to prove that work has been and is being done to complete this challenging project. We still need trivia items from anyone.

— Nevin Rodes

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Alice Leeds is a resident of Regent Square, with 12 years experience as a teacher of children. She is providing after school care for a small group of children at her home, two blocks from the Regent Square School. The program includes creative activities, tutorial help, and outdoor play. There are still several spaces available. For information, call Alice at 371-6845, best time to call 4:00 - 6:00 weekdays.

PINK FLAMINGOS

Our Pink Flamingo has been extremely busy keeping up with all the new neighbors in the Square. Welcome to: Jeff Kurland, the Angelones, Maddens, Kaplans, McDonalds, Reidbords and Birds on Trevanion; the Rollinses, Myers, and Sebaks on Richmond; the Berkowitzes on Lancaster; the Richters, McVeighs, and Ernsts on Macon; the Burgers, Seppis, and Meyers on LaClair; the Lotts on Milton; the Georges on Braddock; the Schneiders, Sonsons, Berthas, and Conways on East End; the HARRISES and MURPHYS on Savannah; the Hollands on Mifflin; the Willimses and Djelloulis on Trenton; the Shawa and Schaffers on W. Hutchinson; and the Koroskies on Biddle.

Congratulations to Greg and Amy Cribbs on Lancaster on the birth of Samuel Louis.

RSCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I, _____ wishing to become a member of the
REGENT SQUARE CIVIC ASSOCIATION for the year 1989 enclose the sum of . . .

\$2.00 Individual

\$3.00 Family

Address _____

Phone No. _____

Signed _____

I would be interested in working on the following committees:

_____ Business Liaison

_____ Wilkins School Community Center

_____ Pittsburgh Liaison

_____ Edgewood Liaison

_____ Swissvale Liaison

_____ Wilkinsburgh Liaison

_____ Membership

_____ Picnic _____ Race

_____ Block Captain

Make checks payable to: Regent Square Civic Association

Send to: Post Office Box 8273, Pittsburgh, PA 15218

(If you want a membership card, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with application.)

Printing courtesy of: Nevin Rodes of Northwood Realty Co./Better Homes & Gardens

RSCA
P.O. BOX 8273
PITTSBURGH, PA 15218

Place
Stamp
Here

NEIGHBOR
PITTSBURGH, PA