



# NEWSLETTER

Friends of Clark Park  
PO Box 31908, Philadelphia, PA 19104  
telephone 215-552-8186,  
web: <http://www.clarkpark.info>  
email: [Friends@clarkpark.info](mailto:Friends@clarkpark.info)

September 2003 Election Edition

Frank L. Chance, Editor  
Andrew W. Cole, Publisher

## CLARK PARK CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Fall 2003:

Board Meeting	7:30 PM	9.02.2003
Woodland Avenue Reunion		9.13.2003
Music & Arts Festival	11:00 AM	09.20.2003
Election Newsletter		9.22.2003
Election Meeting	7:30 PM	9.30.2003
Tree Planting in Clark Park South		10.04.2003
Vitamin D Productions		
World Music Festival	1:00-7:00 PM	10.04.2003
Antioch Fellowship - University City		
Family Fun Fest	12:00-6:00 PM	10.11.2003
Fall Work Day	10:30 AM	10.25.2003
Proposed Fall Newsletter		11.30.2003

## Renovation & Restoration House Tour

by Melanie Lamond

As summer ends, you may want to start thinking about projects around the house - find inspiration at the University City Historical Society's Renovation & Restoration House Tour which will be held on Sunday, Sept. 21st, from 1-5 p.m.

This self-guided walking tour will feature state-of-the-art renovations and restorations at ten 19th- and early 20th- century University City houses in Cedar Park, Garden Court and Spruce Hill. View kitchens redesigned and bathrooms redone. See a spectacular whole-house makeover where a "plain jane" former rental triplex has been turned into a family's contemporary dream house! Visit the private owners suite at a spectacular B&B.

Tickets are \$15 apiece, (\$12 for members of UCHS), and children under 12 may tour for free, accompanied by adults. Tickets will be available on the day of the tour and also on Saturday, Sept. 20th at the UCHS booth at the Cedar Park Neighbors Fair in Cedar Park, 50th St. & Baltimore Avenue. For more information, call UCHS at 215-387-3019, visit the website at <http://www.uchs.net>, or email [Mlamond@aol.com](mailto:Mlamond@aol.com).

## July 29 FOCP Members Meeting

by Tony West

On July 29, Friends of Clark Park held its quarterly Members Meeting outdoors in the Bowl. In the gathering dusk we sat on the SW slope and watched as park users threw frisbees, kicked soccerballs, walked dogs, scrambled over the new tot lot, or relaxed on benches chatting with friends. Mark Krull, who is with Friends of Barkan Park, was our main speaker. Barkan Park, at 49th and Spruce St., is another small park in West Philadelphia. This year we have been systematically reaching out to other park support groups to learn what we can by sharing experiences. Like FOCP, Barkan Park must deal with challenges of design, maintenance, security, and attracting volunteer involvement in its diverse urban environs (Garden Court homes to the south, large apartment buildings to the north). Similarities between Clark and Barkan Parks include sometimes using Penn students as workday volunteers and the desire for more members. The FOCP appreciates Mark's willingness to share his experience through speaking and handouts. Members pelted Mark with questions.

USP wants to have up to 100 incoming students do a work shift in the park on Aug. 24th as part of their orientation. What a great idea, folks! Led by Ann Dixon, we tried to plan enough chores to sop up their energies.

The dramatic success of the tot lot has raised new issues. Members discussed signage and fencing to discourage use by non-tots, a bulletin board to communicate with user families, and a trashcan to promote cleanliness.

What's next on the list of capital improvements? The old tot lot in the North Park is scheduled to be demolished. After that is done, the community can tackle a design plan for the North Park. At the same time, we could proceed with to renovate the basketball court.

Andy Cole, FOCP president, is checking in with the Recreation Dept. to see if it has any input, but they haven't gotten back to us yet.

## **FALL SOCCER KICKS-OFF SEPT. 27**

**by Paul Brooks**

More than 100 girls and boys, ages 5 through 11, are expected to participate again this fall in Clark Park Youth Soccer League, our 15<sup>th</sup> season. The 9-week season of intramural games and skills-development will continue every Saturday through Nov. 22. Field prep. begins at 10am and each session wraps-up about 1:30pm. Cooperation from other park users -- e.g. clean-up after your own dog and fill his holes back in, so players don't trip -- is greatly appreciated. Unfortunately, we expect all teams will be full by Sept. 27. We wish we could take every child who wants to join, but we haven't enough volunteer coaches. Several of our experienced coaches have moved on to other activities or neighborhoods, so if you might be interested in coaching please call us right away (215-552-8186) -- no experience required, we will train.

Financial support for CPYSL comes from local sponsors including: Spruce Hill Community Association, 257 S. 45<sup>th</sup> St.; O'Donnell Real Estate, 4534 Baltimore Ave. (222-2600); Calvary Center for Culture and Community, Calvary Church (386-6494); Reading Terminal Market; Vincent Goffredo Plumbing & Heating (724-3425); Rx Restaurant, Spruce and S. 45<sup>th</sup> Sts. (222-9590); Marigold Dining Room, Larchwood Av. and S. 45<sup>th</sup> St. (222-3699); Jefferson Family Medicine; and Michelle Robinson, Architect (243-2270); and from our "national" sponsors including: Monroe Roth Assoc.; the U.S. Navy, by its friend Charles Larson; and Margaret Brooks. CPYSL appreciates the continuing support of the Philadelphia Activities Fund, and of Councilwoman Jannie L. Blackwell.

Sponsoring a youth soccer team is a great way for a business, professional or organization to benefit local children and strengthen our neighborhood, while gaining recognition as a "good citizen". You can sponsor a team for a year (two seasons) for \$150. Call Nancy Roth (215-382-1550) or Paul Brooks (215-981-3721) for more information.

## **ELECTIONS AND CANDIDATES**

**by Andrew W. Cole**

On September 30 we'll have our annual election meeting. If you are interested in running for office, please send a brief statement of your interests and qualifications to [andrew.cole@ldc.upenn.edu](mailto:andrew.cole@ldc.upenn.edu) or call Dubsides, chair of the nomination committee to make sure that you are listed on the ballot. Dubsides's telephone number is 215.965.4307.

Tony West has agreed to continue his outstanding outreach and membership work and has agreed to run for President. The current treasurer, Bill Moriarty, who has done a great job with our funds, is willing to serve again as Treasurer. Jonathan Snyder, a newcomer to the FOCP, who organized and eliminated duplicates in our substantial

files over the summer has agreed to run as Secretary.

In any event, if you're interested in working with the Friends of Clark Park and are willing to dedicate the time and effort, I've found it to be a rewarding experience and will continue working with the board as the (ex officio) past president. If you wish to run, however, please be aware that there is a lot of work involved. Every member of the board must chair at least one committee or group and all are expected to show up for work days and other Clark Park projects. These are working positions and we need workers to fill them.

The continuing directors are Rolando de Aguiar (interim Secretary this year), Ann Dixon, Dubsides, Anuj Gupta, Mauricio Mendez-Vaz, Todd Sandler, Jackie Slaughter, Darryl Stovall, and Tony West

Fran Byers and Lew Mellman will be up for re-election this year. If Tony West is elected president then we will need to elect four directors total for this year.

## **CANDIDATE PROFILES**

### **Fran Byers - Board**

I have served with the Friends of Clark Park, as director or president, since its founding in 1973. I organize annual events, such as the Bark in the Park and Veterans Day commemoration and co-chair the Christmas Carol Sing and the Dickens Birthday Party. I would be happy to continue to do so.

### **Lewis Mellman - Board**

Hello, my name is Lewis Mellman. I have served on the Friends of Clark Park board for the past few years and I am willing to continue for another 2 year term.

### **Molly Roth - Board**

Molly Roth, husband Michael Hesson, and three-year-old daughter Elinor Roth Hesson bought their current home in West Philadelphia last year. Molly and Mike are both doctoral candidates in Anthropology at Penn. Molly also works at Penn and has extensive experience raising money for not-for-profit organizations both as a professional and a volunteer.

### **Brian Siano - Board**

My name is Brian Siano, and I've been a resident of West Philadelphia for twenty years this fall. I currently work at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center, and I've worked as a free-lance writer, an office administrator, and (for those of you with long memories) the Bulk Foods clerk at the University City Thriftway. More recently, I've been a co-organizer of the Spruce Hill Neighborhood Alliance (SHNA), and I've been working on this year's Clark Park Music and Arts Festivals. I also designed the websites for both of these.

I would like to serve on the board because I want to help maintain a good relationship between the FOCP, the Festival, and other stakeholder groups. I would very much like to assist Tony West in his Outreach initiative, to cultivate greater participation from the park's users, and would work to ensure that their concerns are reflected in Clark Park policy.

## **Tony West - President**

I moved to Philadelphia in 1976 because of Clark Park's charm and have lived within one block of it ever since. Over the years I have participated in the activities of most of the park's user groups -- music festivals, dog walks, playground hours, cleanups, safety patrols, sports, and historical commemorations. I am a block captain and belong to Spruce Hill Community Association, East of West Townwatch, and the University City Historical Society. This year I have chaired the Membership Committee. My goals are to build a strong membership that represents every sector of the community and all uses of the park; to keep an open ear; and to help other people get things done without spoiling the virtues of the park.

## **Open -Vice President**

### **Jonathan Snyder - Secretary**

Jonathan Snyder is new to the Friends of Clark Park but he's already taken on a daunting task and completed it. Last fall I began looking for someone to go through the substantial FOCP files and organize the folders and remove extraneous and duplicate material. Jonathan worked over the spring and summer and recently finished.

Jonathan is a paralegal for a downtown law firm. He and his partner, Alexis live on 46 and Regent and have been in University City for several years.

### **Bill Moriarty - Treasurer**

Hi, my name is Bill Moriarty. I've been living in the University City area since coming to Philadelphia in 1982 to attend Penn as an undergrad, and have been living directly adjacent to Clark Park since moving onto Regent Street with my wife Amanda Benner in December of 1992. I have been working for Pitney Bowes Management Services in Philadelphia since 1988 and currently serve as City Analyst responsible for profitability and competitiveness of our facilities management proposals and contracts.

I served as Treasurer of The Friends of Clark Park from 1995 to 2001 spanning the administrations of three separate FOCP Presidents before taking a year off in 2002 only to return this past year to serve under our latest President Andy Cole. I am excited about the prospect of returning to the Board as Treasurer and the opportunity of continued interaction with so many energetic new members. Thank you very much

## **State of the Park by Andrew W. Cole**

There have been several changes to the park over the past year as well as a number of events. The new Tot Lot was completed and we hope that the City will start the construction on the Big Kids Lot (originally scheduled for August) by much later in the fall. The old Tot Lot is being

removed as I write this but the Turtle and two of the rocking chairs have been saved and the Turtle will probably be resettled by the time of the election - near it's original location in Clark Park north.

We had four general membership meetings over the past year however attendance was quite low. There were also several work days, managed by Ann Dixon, Lewis Mellman, and Ed Rich. The work days had slightly better participation but if we want to keep the park healthy we need to get more of us out and working in the park. On the last work day we had a about thirty volunteers from USP out to help and they made a tremendous difference -- even giving the shed a new coat of paint.

We completed a census of all the trees in Clark Park and Cindy Roberts updated the tree inventory. Unfortunately we don't have access to CAD/CAM software - necessary to update the tree map - although Joe Shapiro is working on locating a sponsor who would be willing to provide access to CAD/CAM for the FOCP. The tree health is good although we have had several trees die over the last few years and need to start replacing them -- which Lewis Mellman is planning for October 4.

Ann Dixon worked with Jim Kietzman to provide two free vintage films in Clark Park and another group provided several recent films for free.

Paul Brooks has the youth soccer program up and running again this fall with the help of his band of volunteers (see the article by Paul in this newsletter).

There were at least three large music festivals this summer, the May Fair, organized by Bob Behr, the Clark Park Music and Arts Festival produced by Cheshire Agusta and Glenn Moyer - among others, and the Woodland Reunion, organized by Allen Diggs. There are at least three more music festivals this fall, the Festival of the Fire Pants Dance this Saturday, September 20, the Festival of World Music on October 4, and the University City Family Fun Festival on October 11. Please see the calendar for times.

Over the summer, the park was kept clean by Barry Bechtel, a Summer Maintenance Assistant (SMA), employed by the Department of Recreation with a bonus from the Friends of Clark Park. Although Barney did an excellent job of keeping the trash picked up we still have trash problems with broken glass and litter left by too many park patrons.

The park was mowed and maintained by Moon Landscaping with funds raised during the Party-in-the-Park and administered by the University City District.

We also had our annual Dickens' Birthday celebration with a three-piece ensemble playing music of the times and of course our Christmas Caroling, Bark in the Park, and Veterans' Day Observance - all managed

# UNIVERSITY CITY



**Moon Bounce - Balloon Sculpting**  
**Live Drama in the Park - Face Painting**  
**Puppet Shows - Petting Zoo - Clowns**  
**Prizes - Giant Slide - Kids Spin Art**

**Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2003**

**rain date - Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Noon - 6:00 pm - Clark Park**

**43<sup>rd</sup> Street & Baltimore Avenue**

additional postage paid by sponsor

by Fran Byers with her usual aplomb.

There was enough snow last winter that we had sledding twice and the FOCP provided hot cider and cookies on both occasions and hopefully we'll have enough snow this year to make this a tradition.

All in all it was a busy year and one that put a lot of wear and tear on the park. So, we still need to work together to make sure that amidst all the events and activities we are good stewards of the park for our own uses and for those who will come later.

### **Tree Planting**

**by Lewis Mellman**

On **Saturday October 4, beginning at 10 am**, we will be planting 4 trees in the vicinity of 45th and Chester. This is a fun activity and a great way to meet your neighbors. There are plenty of digging and mulching opportunities, so put on your boots and come out and help. Mad props to Cindy Roberts for securing this grant and to Paul Bonfanti from Phila Green for all his hard work locating and delivering these new trees.

Cindy Roberts, Joe Shapiro, Paul Brooks, Andy Cole and Lewis Mellman have updated the Morris Arboretum tree survey. Thanks to Chris Blakelock, we will soon have a beautiful, current map of the trees in the park.

### **Movie Nights**

**by Ann Dixon**

Thanks to the generosity of neighbor **Jim Kietzman**, the FOCP had two movie nights this summer. On June 28th, Jim showed "Safety Last", a 1922 silent comedy starring Harold Lloyd, as well as some shorts. On August 2nd, "The Scarlett Claw", a 1944 Sherlock Holmes movie, was featured as well as some shorts. Included was an interview with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, writer of Sherlock Holmes mysteries. Jim is very knowledgeable and passionate about old films and has his own collection.

### **"World Music For World Peace" Festival**

**Vitamin D Productions** presents their 2nd Annual World Music for World Peace event, open to all for FREE on October 4th from 1pm to 7pm. Featuring free prize giveaways, raffle for a Djembe, children performance & over 40 performers. A multicultural event for all! Please visit [vitamindproductions.com](http://vitamindproductions.com) for a complete schedule of events for the day 2 weeks prior to the event

### **Thanks for Gardening Help**

**by Ann Dixon**

Thanks to Friends of Clark Park members Carol Johnson-Martin and passerby Paul for planting and

weeding in the garden bed by the low wall at 43<sup>rd</sup> and Baltimore. June 1st, started out with lots of rain, but then cleared and provided the perfect soil for weeding. This day wouldn't have been possible without the prep work done by members Eric Tomlinson and Glenn Moyer back on April 27th. Glenn and Eric made lots of trips with a wheelbarrow to move mulch. Hostas and sedums for the bed were donated by Mrs. Dorothy Moscatello of Moorestown, N.J. Black-Eyed Susans were donated by the BioPond Garden.

### **Work Day and Saving the Turtle**

**by Andy Cole**

The turtle in the old Tot Lot has been saved, along with the two rocking horses. The turtle will be relocated close to where it was originally (it's too heavy to move very far) and will be available soon for children to play on again.



### **Jonathan Snyder and Crew Work to Save the Turtle**

On August 23, approximately 30 volunteers, mostly from the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, (USP) coordinated by Rachel Yudell of USP, came to work in Clark Park. Under the direction of Ann Dixon, Lew Mellman, Frank Chance, Tony West and others, they mulched a number of trees in Clark Park south, painted the shed, and removed a buried fence line that had been a concern of local runners for some time. When Tony and crew dug up the fence they found large iron points buried as deep as two feet underground.

Other FOCP members who came and helped were Karen Heenan, Margaret Kasschau, Amanda Benner, Janet Lewis (and Beau), Cindy Roberts, and others who I'm probably missing. Thanks to all who came and helped, the park looks great.

Of course no good deed goes unpunished and Lew Mellman has already had to paint over graffiti on the shed.

**Friends of Clark Park  
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**USP Students Painting the Shed**



**USP Students By Newly Painted Shed**



**Tony West Roots Out Buried Fence**