

THE BULLETIN

CAPITOL HILL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



December 2003

*Very Best Wishes
for a Joyous
Holiday Season
and a Prosperous
New Year*

*from the Officers and
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Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council

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Remember – No Community Council meeting in December

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

6:30 p.m.

Washington School Library

Ballet West – Nutcracker and Beyond!

by Deborah Dobson

Hopefully you have heard or read that one of the nation's leading professional ballet companies is celebrating its 40th anniversary! That company is Ballet West. It is based in Salt Lake City and performs regularly at the Capitol Theater.

Yes, it's the company that does the Nutcracker in December every year, as well as performing such world class contemporary ballets as Ghost Dances, Artifact II, Ancient Airs and Dances and many Balanchine works, in addition to full length classics such as Giselle, Swan Lake and Sleeping Beauty.

We have been working with this "jewel in the desert" for just over six years. I am principal teacher at the Ballet West Academy on State Street and my husband, Jonas Kåge, is artistic director of Ballet West. We moved here after 22 years as professional dancers in Germany, Switzerland, England and Sweden.

Presently the Ballet West staff and dancers have offices and limited studio space at the Capitol Theater. One of our immediate goals is to get the new building in Sugarhouse started. Perhaps you've seen the empty lot at Campus Commons by Hidden Hollow with the sign reading "future home of Ballet West." Instead of occupying three separate buildings, the staff, costume and scenery department, the dancers, and the academy will all be under one roof. This will be a monumental improvement for everyone, increasing efficiency, improving communication and better serving the public. We can hardly wait! Starting the building is at the top of our Christmas wish list!

Did you know that Ballet West serves more than 80,000 children, faculty and individuals with special needs each year through extensive outreach and education programs? Dance can be a life changing experience, whether through participation or through being a member of the audience.

We are proud to be able to contribute to this organization and be part of a community that values the arts. Jonas and I started dancing as young children, just about 40 years ago -- Jonas in Sweden, and I in California. As with all art forms, we did not choose dance -- it chose us. And why have we found it challenging and rewarding for so long? I quote, "Dance can give the inarticulate a voice," and when that happens, it is magical! What more could one ask for?

(Deborah Dobson is the principal teacher for Ballet West Academy, a guest Professor of Ballet at the University of Utah, and former principal dancer, Zurich and English National Ballets)

This Old House

by Nelson Knight

The Ebenezer Beesley Home – 80 West 300 North

The holiday season approaches, and like any neighborhood in Utah, Capitol Hill can lay claim to dozens of brightly lit homes festooned with strings of lights, garlands, and other holiday bric-a-brac. But how many neighborhoods in Salt Lake City can lay claim to a home built by Ebenezer? No, not Scrooge, but Ebenezer Beesley, whose house sits at 80 West 300 North.

Ebenezer Beesley was born in Bicester, Oxfordshire, England, in 1840. He was a member of a musical family, and sang in the Wesleyan Methodist Choir in his home town in his early years. The Beesley family was converted to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in 1849, and Ebenezer immigrated to Salt Lake City in 1859. Shortly before moving to the United States, Beesley married Sarah Hancock, also an English native, from Wooburn Moor, Buckinghamshire.



Sarah Beesley in front of her home

[continued next page]

[**This Old House, continued**] In Salt Lake, Ebenezer put his musical talents to use in the city's Nineteenth Ward as ward choir director. Beesley also began to study the violin, and joined the Salt Lake Theater Orchestra in 1863, later serving as its leader. He was also a regular performer on his own at the Salt Lake Theater and at the "Old Folks Days" that were once regularly held in Salt Lake City. A 1967 Utah Historical Quarterly article noted that for the City's celebration of Independence Day, bands led by Beesley and others awakened city residents at 5 a.m. No mention is made of how popular this made him with those he woke.

In 1869, he married Annie Frewin Breckinridge. With his two wives, Beesley had sixteen children: ten with Annie and six with Sarah. Ebenezer also worked as a shoemaker, but was able to work exclusively as a musician later in his career.

Ebenezer is perhaps best known as director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and as the composer of the music of many LDS hymns. He served as director of the Choir from 1880 to 1889. Eleven of Ebenezer Beesley's hymns are still in the LDS Church hymnal, including perennial favorites "Tis Sweet to Sing the Matchless Love," "Sing We Now at Parting," and "High on a Mountaintop," inspired by Capitol Hill's Ensign Peak.



The Beesley home in 1995

Beesley built his house at 80 W. 300 North in 1872, after purchasing the land from Heber C. Kimball. The building was constructed of adobe bricks, stuccoed with lime mortar. The two-story, central-hall-plan house is commonly called an "I-form" house by architectural historians. The form was popular nationally and throughout Utah, but relatively few examples have survived, especially within Salt Lake City. The building has classical and Victorian architectural features, including a wood porch with intricate scrollwork.

The Beesley family resided in this house for many years, except for four years when they lived in Tooele, and two years in Lehi. Other members of the Beesley family built homes near this one.

In 1904, Ebenezer and his sons Adelbert, Frederick, Alvin and Lorenzo founded the Beesley Music Company, long a fixture on downtown Main Street. After Ebenezer died in 1906, Sarah Hancock Beesley remained in the house until her death in 1921. Their son, Leland Beesley, then lived in the house, and took in a wide variety of boarders. The house left the Beesley family's ownership in 1935 and was split into apartments. It was restored in the early 1980s and is now a single-family home again. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Salt Lake City Register of Cultural Resources in 1979.

The Beesley family is still musical and still prominent in the Capitol Hill neighborhood. Generations of Bryant Jr. High and West High choirs have been anchored by Beesley voices - something their ancestors Ebenezer, Sarah, and Annie would be proud of.

Volunteer Service Opportunities — December

Service Activities

- **LifeCare** (1025 S. 700 W.) needs volunteers to help homebound seniors and persons with disabilities by delivering food boxes and/or helping shovel snow. For more information, call 978-2452.
- **TreeUtah** has ecological projects to finish this year, weather permitting. Visit www.treeutah.org or call 364-2122 if you do not have internet access.
- **Utah Food Bank** always welcomes volunteers to help sort food at their warehouse at 1025 S. 700 W. Please call Christine Thomas at 908-8660.
- **Primary Children's Medical Center** needs volunteers for its information desks, gift shop, and other areas. Call 588-2446 for more information.
- **Capitol Hill Kiwanis Club** continues its service to our community. There will be bell ringing for the Salvation Army on December 12 at Crossroads and ZCMI Malls. For more information, call Moyle Anderson at 364-7294. Join us each Thursday at 7:00 a.m. for breakfast and a speaker at the Inn at Temple Square.
- Help the **Neighborhood Watch** for two hours or more monthly. To help, or for more information, please call Joan Legge, 355-8396.

Food, Clothing, Other Donations

- **The LDS 19th Ward Relief Society**, located at 225 W. 500 N., sponsors a **clothing exchange** on the second Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. *Everything is free!* Come and look, or bring something along to pass on to someone else. All are welcome!
- **Crossroads Urban Center**, 347 S. 400 E., helps feed the homeless in our neighborhood. This month they have a special need for **canned vegetables and tomato base pasta sauce**. Their **Thrift Store**, 1385 W. Indiana (850 S.), needs dishes, silverware, pots and pans, and small groups for sorting. Please call Linda Hilton at 364-7765 for more information.
- **The Road Home** is in need of volunteers at its community shelter, 210 S. Rio Grande St. Donations of personal **hygiene items**, socks, underwear, diapers, and **any other** items are needed. Call 359-4142 or go to www.tasslc.org.

Literacy, Reading, and Children


- **Washington School** needs volunteers to read to a child one hour a week. Call Ann Pendell, 578-8140, Tuesdays or Thursdays, for details.
- **Literacy Volunteers of America-Wasatch Front** is seeking volunteers to teach English to adult refugees and immigrants. Training is provided. Call Barbara or Denise at 328-5608.
- **Become a foster parent** and strengthen a family! Right here in our Capitol Hill neighborhood are children in need of safe, stable, loving homes while their families heal. You can be married or single, with or without children, renter or homeowner. Visit www.utahfostercare.org or call 994-5205. Volunteer opportunities are also available.
- **The Children's Museum of Utah** needs energetic, fun-loving seniors, and others to volunteer for work in the galleries, at the front desk, and behind the scenes. Call 328-3383.

BULLETIN BOARD

- ❖ Interested in helping set up a **Community Council Web Site**? Please contact Peter Von Sivers at 364-3310.
- ❖ Charles Shepherd, the Historical Architect for the Capitol Restoration Group, is looking for **old or historic pictures of the Capitol**, particularly of the interior. He hasn't been able to locate any historic photos of "typical" offices in the Capitol. If you have access to any historic photos of the Capitol, please contact Mr. Shepherd at 355-9901.



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The Capitol Hill Community Council Bulletin
December 2003 - Issue No. 32
 Published monthly by the Capitol Hill Community Council
 c/o 606 DeSoto Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84103

If you have items for the Bulletin or questions about the mailing list, or would like to help produce the Bulletin, please call Illona Stuehser (533-0678), Autumn Cook (596-9729), Christine Wade (918-0114), or Stephen or Corinne Sorenson (364-3838).

Children's Theatre of Utah

Tom and Joanne Parker

(Part 1 of 2) It's December, and that means another new holiday production – this time an adaptation of Leo Politi's *The Little Angel of Olvera Street* – at the Children's Theatre of Utah (at 638 So. State.) For the past 18 years, the Theatre (formerly known as City Rep) has offered quality children's productions; this year it will present eight plays, adaptations of classic works for children, to about 30,000 elementary school students in morning performances and 15,000 patrons of all ages in the evenings. An additional 500 to 600 children will participate in the Theatre's School.



Joanne and Tom Parker are the heart and soul of the Children's Theatre, Joanne as founding artistic director and Tom as president and producer of all productions. Nationally the average life-span of a children's theater is seven years – so why would anyone sign on long-term for an enterprise this hectic, physically and emotionally demanding, and financially risky? "It's about a chance to teach good principles," Joanne says simply. "The Children's Theatre is dedicated to reaching more children and families in Utah through the performing arts."

The Parkers bring a broad range of talents to the task. After graduation from East High (where he met and dated Joanne), Tom served in the Army

and played the French horn in the 23rd Army Band (he also excelled in keyboard instruments, and is still a very accomplished organist.) After an LDS mission to Germany he studied music composition at the University of Utah with famed Utah composer Leroy Robertson. With a broad range of other interests, however, Tom decided against a music degree and shifted to the University of Washington where he graduated in history, and later to the University of Seattle for a juris doctor degree. In the meantime he had started work with the Boeing Corporation in Washington, beginning as an office boy and completing his career as a staff executive, 18 years later.

Tom and Joanne were married in 1965 and have three daughters, two sons, and twelve grandchildren. Each of their children is active in communications, as an artist, director, or writer.

The Parkers took their first major plunge into theatrical production when they accepted an invitation to write and produce a pageant for the dedication of the LDS Seattle Temple, involving 700 children. That success led to an invitation to establish a family theater in Bellevue, Washington, which they operated successfully for two years. Then came a job offer for Tom to manage the Promised Valley Playhouse on State Street in Salt Lake City. They accepted, and moved here in 1981.

That job ended with the decision to close the Playhouse three years later. Tom and Joanne then faced an even greater plunge into community children's theater. [Continued next month]

FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS – DECEMBER

Temple Square Christmas Concert Series*
(Performances throughout the month)

Conference Center*

11, 12, 13 - Choir and Orchestra Christmas Concert
Savior of the World performances throughout the month.

*Certain programs require tickets. For more info., call 240-0080, or visit www.lds.org/calendar/

Main Library Auditorium - 7:30 p.m. (210 E. 400 So.)
15 - Jubilate Choral Christmas Concert

The Cathedral of the Madeleine

- 19 - Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* - 12:15 p.m.
 - 21 - Christmas Carol Service - 8:00 p.m.
 - 22 - Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* - 12:15 p.m.
 - 22 - Christmas Carol Service - 8:00 p.m.
 - 24 - Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* - 4:30 p.m.
- For more information, call 994-4663.

The Downtown Alliance - 6:00 p.m.

- 31 - FIRST NIGHT 2004 (minimal charge)
- (For specific events, visit www.downtownslc.org/events)

Tuesday, December 23 - 6:00 p.m. – Community Christmas Caroling – Meet at the LDS 19th Ward (225 West 500 North) for caroling around the neighborhood, with refreshments after. All invited!

Wednesday, December 24 - 5:00-5:45 p.m. – Capitol Hill Christmas Eve Community Carol Service at the LDS Capitol Hill Ward (413 North West Capitol St. – the rock chapel west of the Capitol) for all in the Capitol Hill community and their friends.

Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council
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Ebenezzer Beesley (second from left) and the Salt Lake Theater Band (see "This Old House")