

THE *Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council* BULLETIN

There will **not** be a Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council Meeting in December.



Best Wishes for a Happy and Prosperous Holiday Season!

From the Officers and Trustees of the Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council



Please join us for Friday, December 24 (Christmas Eve), for the: "Annual Capitol Hill Neighborhood Christmas Carol Service" at 5:00-5:45 p.m.

at the LDS Capitol Chapel (413 N West Capitol Street, rock chapel west of the Capitol).

All neighbors in our Community Neighborhood Council and their friends are invited!



NEXT MEETING
JANUARY 19, 2005, 6:30 p.m.

Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council Members

Chair	Peter Von Sivers	364-3310
Vice-Chair	Georg Stutzenberger	510-1603
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Treasurer	Kim Fowkes	521-0104
Historian	Hermoine Jex	364-5326

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Warm Springs	Minta Brandon	355-1363
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Mobile Watch	Joan Legge	355-8396
Bulletin	Margaret Berchtold	364-2604
Web Site	Cassandra VanBuren	capitolhill@aros.net

Kris Hopfenbeck and the Center Street Market

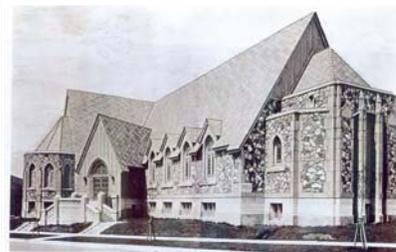
Kris Hopfenbeck grew up in Sugarhouse. Her family's love of the outdoors took them on frequent backpacking and camping trips to southern Utah. Their favorite places included Moab and Canyonlands, where they would often spend time with their good friend Edward Abbey, who would later become a nationally reknowned writer. In 1968 the family moved to Missouri, where Kris finished high school before going to the University of New Hampshire. After a few years of skiing on New England ice, the Wasatch Mountains and southern Utah desert beckoned Kris back to Utah in 1978. Two years later she and her friend Pam Stone opened "eclectic" a popular thrift store at South Temple and "E" Street. Kris bought a warehouse building at the corner of 400 West and Pierpont Avenue, where she lived and eventually moved the shop, which closed in 2000.

At age forty-three Kris met and married Cary Jones and adopted his two young daughters. Cary lived in the Country Club neighborhood, which didn't suit Kris, so they found a house at 333 N Quince Street in the fall of 1994. The house had previously been restored by Dennis Glass, but it remained a duplex. After renovating the brick dwelling into a single family home they moved in in early 1995. That year Kris leased part of warehouse to Emily Gassmann who opened Em's Restaurant. Trained as a nurse in the Midwest, Emily decided to go into the restaurant business after working as a chef on private yachts.

As she prepared to close "eclectic" in 1999, Kris began to look for her next project. Feeling the need for a neighborhood gathering spot, a golden opportunity appeared. The long-abandoned Center Street Market became available. The adobe house on the north side of the property was built in 1860, and the store attached at the south was added in 1927. For at least the last fifty years the store was owned and operated by one family. Clara Burke had been the proprietor before passing the store on to her sister Melva Shober. Melva and her son Tom ran the store until finally closing it in 1986. Melva lived in the attached house until her death in 1999, when Tom sold the property to Kris and Cary.

According to Kris, tree trunks in the basement held up the main floor, and piles of garbage had not been removed in decades. Leaks left water stains, and walls were crumbling. After years of planning and ten months of restoration, Kris opened the new Center Street Market in January 2003 in the residence. Emily and her partner Jennifer Jensen, who had studied cooking at the Cordon Bleu in Paris, re-opened Em's Restaurant on the market side.

This Old House Capitol Hill LDS Meetinghouse 400 North Wall Street By Nelson Knight



This month's building marks its 75th anniversary of its completion this December. The Capitol Hill Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church) was formed from several wards in the Salt Lake Stake on April 19, 1925.

Initially, the church met in the former McCune Mansion carriage house, which was located on Hillside Avenue, now the location of the mansion's parking lot. The first bishop of the ward was George S. Ashton.

Work soon began to find a permanent home for the ward. Eventually the ward settled upon this site, located at the top of 400 North at Wall Street. Bishop Ashton led the effort. With his brother Edward, George Ashton owned Ashton Brothers, builders and general contractors. The partnership was the general contractor for many of Utah's large construction projects, including the Utah County Courthouse, the Park Building at the University of Utah, the Murray smokestacks, the LDS Church Administration Building on South Temple, and the State Capitol. George contributed his considerable expertise to the project, and also utilized his connections. George's cousin, Raymond J. Ashton, was a principal in the architectural partnership, Ashton & Evans, known for the 1926 Saltair Pavilion and several buildings along the U of U's Presidents Circle. Ashton & Evans were hired to design the ward meeting house, and conceived a building in "a modern adaptation of the gothic style," as noted in an October 19, 1928 Salt Lake Tribune article.

The building's richly colored rock walls can also be directly attributed to Bishop Ashton. He found a source of split rock in the mountains north of the Capitol and selected it for the build-

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

ing. The rich colors of the walls are echoed in the diamond shaped roof tiles of the building, which were cast of cement with liberal amounts of asbestos added for strength and fireproofing.

Construction proceeded through 1928 and 1929. The first event held in the building was a Reception, Grand Ball & Vaudeville Show on May 9th and 10th, 1929. The church was completed in time for church services on December 15, 2004. At the time, each LDS ward was responsible for the construction of its building, and the building was not dedicated until the notes for construction were paid off. Completion of this building occurred shortly after the 1929 stock market crash; depression economics made it difficult to pay the debt incurred on the building. Finally, eight years later, the building was formally dedicated on April 25th, 1937 by LDS Church President Heber J. Grant.

The Ashton family's mark on the neighborhood was not limited to the ward building itself. Bishop Ashton constructed seven houses in the neighborhood for members of the Ashton family. These houses will be covered in detail in a future column. Ashton Brothers and its outgrowth, the Ashton Improvement Company, also had a prolific influence on Salt Lake City. Thousands of

homes, mainly in the western and southeast sections of the city, were developed and/or constructed by the company.

In 1967, architect Glen Ashton Lloyd, grandson of Bishop George Ashton, designed an addition for the north side of the building. The interior of the building was also remodeled at this time to accommodate offices and meeting space for an additional ward congregation. Glen carefully integrated the new wing into the old building, and respected the architecturally sublime character of the original chapel and social hall.

Recently, the building was once again renovated. Concerns about the seismic stability of the unreinforced rock walls prompted a structural upgrade and remodel. Capitol Hill architectural firm Cooper Roberts Simonsen provided design services, led by project architect Joseph Rose. The building was the first use in Utah of wall coring seismic reinforcement, in which holes are drilled through the existing walls and structural steel and epoxy reinforcement is added in the holes. This allows for a cost-effective means of seismic stabilization that also preserves the original historic fabric of the building.

A careful restoration of the building was made possible through the serendipitous discovery of

Paul and Jean Hanks. While cleaning out the old George S. Ashton garage, they found the original 1928 construction receipts and invoices, which contained a wealth of information regarding the specifications and original finishes of the meetinghouse.

The project was not without its controversy. The multicolored roof tiles, which had weathered to mellow tones, were replaced because of their condition and asbestos content. The replacement shingles were based upon the original specifications for the shingles from 1928. These colors were much brighter than anyone remembered, and much less subtle than the weathered roof before the restoration. Thankfully, the hues have mellowed a bit since the work was completed in 2002. The reopening of the building was marked by a party and open house. Scott Christensen noted that "refreshments for the open house were patterned after the refreshments offered at the grand opening party of May 9-10, 1929, including green punch and several less-typical varieties of cookies: Rainbow bars, macaroons, vanilla wafers and Bonnie Lassies. Unfortunately, Saltair Creams were no longer available."

Special thanks to Center Street resident Scott Christensen, who provided the research and photos for this article.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Food, Clothing, and 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 12 noon. *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 **small jars of peanut butter**. 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.theroadhome.org.

Literacy, Reading, and Children

- **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.
- **English Skills Learning Center** seeks volunteers to teach English to adult refugees and immigrants. Training is provided. Call Barbara or Denise at 328-5608.
- **Washington School** needs volunteers to read to a child one hour a week. Call Shauna Levitt at 578-8140 for details or stop by the school.

Service Activities

- **Capitol Hill Kiwanis Club** continues its service to our community. Join us each Thursday at 7:00 a.m. for breakfast and a speaker at the Inn at Temple Square. For more information, call Moyle Anderson at 364-7294.
- **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.
- Help the **Neighborhood Watch** for two hours or more monthly. To help, or for more information, please call Joan Legge, 355-8396.
- **LifeCare** (1025 S. 700 W.) needs volunteers to help homebound seniors and persons with disabilities by delivering food boxes. For more information, call 978-2452.
- **TreeUtah** will be wrapping up at the Jordan River restoration site sometime in Dec. For details, visit www.treeutah.org or call Vaughn Lovejoy at 364-2122.



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APPTS. AS EARLY
AS 7:00 A.M.



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 Salt Lake Arts Academy (SLAA) is accepting applications. SLAA is a public charter school offering an integrated curriculum richly enhanced by daily arts instruction in visual arts, dance, drama and music.
 Located in the heart of downtown Salt Lake on Library Square, SLAA serves students in 5th through 8th grades. Applications to fill the incoming 5th grade class, and a few spots in 6th and 7th grades for fall 2005, will be accepted now through the "open enrollment" period of the Salt Lake City School District, which ends January 31, 2005.
 For applications and further information about SLAA, contact the principal's office, amy@saltlakeartsacademy.org or 801-531-1173, and the website, ww.saltlakeartsacademy.org.

FEATURED NEIGHBORS

Mickey Hansen

The Senator's Daughter

Of the wonderful mix of people who live in the Capitol Hill neighborhood, our widows and widowers contribute the greatest depth of experience and character. Mickey Hansen, for example, the daughter of a U.S. Senator, was born and has lived most of her life here; raised eight children in a wonderful old family home; and continues to help make the area a wonderful place to live.



Mickey – her given name is Edna, but as a little girl, she went around singing a then-popular jingle, "Mickey, Mickey, can you blame anyone for falling in love with you?", and the nickname stuck – is the youngest of the three daughters of Elbert and Edna Harker Thomas. Their family home at 137 North West Temple still graces the community (see *Bulletin*, August 2001); it has "about 25 rooms if you count the cubby-holes," Mickey states. Her grandmother and two aunts lived on the second floor. "My daddy took care of everybody, as always."

Her parents served an LDS mission in Japan from 1907 to 1913, and her father then taught Oriental culture and political science at the University of Utah. In 1932, as the Democrats swept national and local elections, he was elected to the U.S. Senate, garnering more votes in the state even than Franklin D. Roosevelt. In his eighteen years of service, Senator Elbert D. Thomas was prominently known for, among other things, successfully advocating the creation of modern-day Israel, the admission to the United States of refugees from Nazi persecution, and the creation of the G.I. Bill of Rights.

Mickey moved with her family to Washington, D.C., remembers "riding the streetcar, nice and cheap, running around the Senate Office Building and acting silly," graduating from the capital's Western High School with other Congressional offspring, and attending two years at American University. School assignments often included interviewing key public figures, and she recalls visiting with legendary Louisiana Senator Huey Long in his office, about a year before his assassination. She asked him what he thought of FDR's National Recovery Act, and he replied, "I think it's rotten as hell!" She also met the Roosevelts at a reception and was immediately impressed with the President's "charisma – I mean real *charisma!* I know Eleanor was self-conscious about her looks, but I thought she was lovely."

Back in Salt Lake City, where she graduated in 1939 with a history major from the University of Utah, she met Lawrence Hansen. "After a whirlwind courtship of seven years," as Mickey describes it, they were married and eventually raised three daughters and five sons in the old home on West Temple. Lawrence, a banker and later bank examiner for the State, died in 1980. Mickey then went to work at the Deseret Gym on North Main Street ("It saved my life – it gave me something to do") until her retirement.

Mickey now lives in a condominium on Capitol Hill. She stays very active and continues to brighten the lives of her large family and group of admiring friends in the neighborhood.

FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS — DECEMBER

Temple Square*

Cathedral of the Madeleine**

1-23 Christmas on Temple Square programs of music performed by high school, college, and community choirs:

20, 21 Christmas Carol Service—8:00 p.m.
 Annual carol service presented by The Choir of the Madeleine
 17, 22 A Ceremony of Carols - 12:15 p.m.-
 The choristers of The Madeleine Choir School accompanied by harp.
 24 A Ceremony of Carols - 4:30 p.m.
 **For ticket info., please call 994-4663.

- Tues.- Sun. evenings on Temple Square &
- Mon. - Sat. afternoons at Joseph Smith Memorial Building

- 10 Sandy City Orchestra
- 11 Salt Lake Symphony
- 16-18 Tabernacle Choir Christmas Concert
- 31 First Night Gala on Temple Square
- 31 First Night Youth Concert - *A Great and Marvelous Work*, A musical concert for the young and young at heart.

*Certain programs require tickets; please call 240-0080.