

# THE Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council BULLETIN

## Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council Meeting

When: 20 October 2004, 6:30 p.m.  
 Where: *Utah State Capitol Cafeteria, new east wing of State Capitol*

### PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

A majority of those present in the September meeting voted to continue meeting in the State Capitol. For some citizens without means of transportation, this new meeting place might cause hardships. If this is the case, I am asking all those who used to walk to Washington Elementary School, the former venue of our meetings, to assemble there between 6:00 and 6:15 PM. I will pass by the school at 6:00 PM to pick up anyone needing transportation. And I am calling on people with cars to do the same at 6:15 PM, picking up anyone waiting there at this later time. Peter von Sivers

- 6:30 Welcome by Peter von Sivers, Chair
- Minutes of July and September
- 6:35 Republican Candidate for Governor, Jon Huntsman: Q&A (tentative)
- 7:00 Police Report
- 7:15 Presentation by Tim Brown, Green Space Design
- 7:30 Democratic Candidate for Governor, Scott Matheson: Q&A (tentative)
- 7:55 UDOT Representative, Update on Columbus Traffic Lights Project
- 8:15 Open Forum for Community Matters
- 8:30 Adjourn

**NEXT MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 17, 2004, 6:30 p.m.**

### Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council Members

Chair	Peter Von Sivers	364-3310
Vice-Chair	Polly Hart	355-7203
Secretary	Christine Wade	918-0114
Treasurer	Kim Fowkes	521-0104
Historian	Hermoine Jex	364-5326

### Neighborhood Trustees

Capitol	Carol Wood	355-6475
DeSoto/Cortez	Katherine Gardner	328-1724
Ensign Downs	Dean Larsen	575-8135
Kimball	Victoria Collard	595-8575
St. Marks	Shauna Davenport	363-1905
Swedetown	Mary Solt	355-8507
Temple	William Call	364-1758
Warm Springs	Minta Brandon	355-1363
Washington	Bonnie Mangold	363-4634
West High	Erlinda Davis	531-1964

Mobile Watch	Joan Legge	355-8396
Bulletin	Kevin & Margaret Berchtold	364-2604
Web Site	Cassandra VanBuren	

[www.capitolhillcc.org](http://www.capitolhillcc.org) [capitolhill@aros.net](mailto:capitolhill@aros.net)

## What Happened to the Trees?

### The Capitol Preservation Board Responds

At our Community Council's September meeting, David Hart, the Executive Director of the Capitol Preservation Board, addressed one of the most noticeable aspects (so far) of the Capitol's restoration, one that has raised some eyebrows in the neighborhood – the recent removal of 63 mature trees from the south lawn and other areas of the Capitol grounds. (Hart informed the Council a year and a half ago, when he presented the Capitol restoration plan, that some of the trees would have to go, but the removal came as a surprise to many who did not hear that presentation and had received no reminder of the fact.)

"This was a heart-breaking decision because it involved some of the oldest and nicest trees in the excavation area," stated Hart. A blue-ribbon panel worked with the Board, he said, to determine which trees had to come down, and indeed, some design aspects were modified to preserve as many trees as possible (for example, no trees will be removed in planned retention-facility areas.) But the space necessary for base isolation of the Capitol and other project features dictated that some trees go. Also, a number of trees had been damaged in the 1999 tornado, and the effort since that time to save them had proven unsuccessful, so these ailing trees were also taken down.

In approximately one year, the Board will begin to plant more than 300 Yoshino cherry trees (now being grown in Oregon) along pathways south of the Capitol, as well as more than 100 trees of over 20 varieties, at various locations on the grounds. "It's impossible to replace 100-year-old growth, although we wish we could," Hart noted. But the new trees will have trunks about five inches in diameter, be 20-36 feet tall when they arrive, and usually have heads about 20 feet in diameter.

Excavation for the near future may be noisy at times in daylight hours as crews gradually dig beneath the Capitol to provide seismic upgrading. The grounds will remain in their current condition for about a year, Hart said, and then the fence will come down and the landscaped area will begin to be returned to public use. "We're trying to turn the Capitol grounds into a park, not back into a parking lot." David Hart is happy to respond to concerns or questions about the construction at [dhart@utah.gov](mailto:dhart@utah.gov); and an overview of the restoration and updates on progress are available at [www.utahstatecapitol.utah.gov](http://www.utahstatecapitol.utah.gov).



**This Old House**  
**Belmont Terrace Apartments**  
**445-447 Center Street & 452-452 Quince Street**  
**By Nelson Knight**

You may have noticed that most of these columns focus on certain types of people in our community. Most of the time, the owners of these homes have been male, of European origin, and, more often than not, early members of the LDS Church. These people lived in the neighborhood for many years, were leaders of their community, and were found often in the sources that we consult in compiling histories of buildings. Like Capitol Hill today, there were many who passed through this neighborhood and lived here for only a short time. It is much more difficult to find information on these people because they may not have owned their houses, and other records marking their presence are limited or non-existent.

This month, we have the opportunity to learn a little about one of these short-time residents of our neighborhood. I was recently contacted by a woman from southern Utah looking for the biological parents of her father, who had been adopted at birth. Her research had located her father's birth certificate, which showed he had been born in 1916 and listed the names of the father and mother – Kristine

*(Continued on page 2)*

## VOLUNTEER SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

### Food, Clothing, and other Donations

- **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](http://www.theroadhome.org).
- **Crossroads Urban Center**, 347 S. 400 E., helps feed the homeless in our neighborhood. This month they have a special need for **crackers and snacks suitable for homeless people**. 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 LDS 19<sup>th</sup> 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

### Literacy, Reading, and Children

- **Washington School** needs volunteers to read to a child one hour a week. Call Ann Pendall, 578-8140, for details.
- **Become a foster parent** and strengthen a family! Right here in our Capitol Hill neighborhood **Utah Foster Care** 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](http://www.utahfostercare.org) or call 994-5205. Volunteer opportunities are also available.
- **English Skills Learning Center** is seeking volunteers to teach English to adult refugees and immigrants. Training is provided. Call Barbara or Denise at 328-5608.
- **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.



Utah Foster Care  
FOUNDATION

### Service Activities

- Help the **Neighborhood Watch** for two hours or more monthly. To help, or for more information, please call Joan Legge, 355-8396.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **TreeUtah** needs volunteers to water seedlings at the Audubon Site AND also help in their demonstration garden. . For more information, visit [www.treeutah.org](http://www.treeutah.org) or call 364-2122.
- **Primary Children's Medical Center** needs volunteers for its information desks, gift shop, and other areas. Call 588-2446 for more information.

(Continued from page 1)

Sorenson and Sam Bruno. The certificate also listed an address for Kristine, 459 Center Street. She was looking for information on the house at that location.

A quick review of the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps from 1911 showed that 459 Center was part of the Belmont Terrace Apartments, located between Center Street and Quince Street just south of 500 North. The complex now has different house numbers, 445-447 Center Street & 452-453 Quince Street. According to research prepared by the Utah State Historical Society, local builder Rutherford S. Hansen constructed the Belmont Terrace in 1909. The first owner was Annie Pierce Bywater. Bywater was head of ZCMI's clothing manufacturing division and wife of William H. Bywater, Salt Lake City Fire

Chief. Polk City Directories show that the apartments had many tenants, with many occupations. The Belmont Terrace apartments were skillfully rejuvenated in the late 1980s by architect and Capitol Hill resident Dan Bethel, after the building fell on hard times in the preceding decades.

Christina Sorenson is listed as the resident of 459 Center only in the 1916 directory. Her occupation is listed as a housekeeper at the Newhouse Hotel, which stood until the 1980s at the southwest corner of 4<sup>th</sup> South and Main Street. Aside from this entry, we found little on Kristine (or Christina): quick checks of more directories and obituary indices revealed no woman who would have been this Kristine Sorenson.

The birth certificate yielded another Capitol Hill connection. The physician who delivered the baby, Dr. Thomas J.

Howells, lived with his family at 339 N. Center Street for several years before moving to the Avenues in 1917.

Some additional information we found on Sam Bruno yields more clues to this story. Samuel Bruno is found in the 1917 directory as a shoemaker boarding at 14 W. 400 South. Perhaps he worked at Alphonse Bruno's shoe shop around the corner at 368 S. Main. The shop was right up the street from the Newhouse Hotel, where Kristine worked. One can easily romanticize the story into one of two people meeting on the street, falling in love, finding themselves over their heads, realizing that their child would be better raised by other loving parents, and parting because of circumstances beyond their control. The real story is probably far less romantic, and remains a mystery.

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**PLEASE TAKE NOTE:**

**October Meeting in State Capitol**

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Peter von Siviers

**FEATURED NEIGHBORS**

*Vanja Watkins*

It all started when Vanja was a little girl and she and her four brothers would drift off to sleep listening to her parents play the piano and violin. "Those are some of my best memories," she says. "They really instilled a love of music in our souls." A wonderful teacher at Ben Lomond High, Edward A. Sandgren, later guided her musical inclination toward teaching. "Because of him I knew that's what I wanted to be." And Lue Groesbeck, a teacher at BYU who also became a beloved mentor, convinced Vanja that elementary music teaching would be the most rewarding of all.



After receiving her master's degree in music education with an emphasis in elementary music teaching, Vanja was hired as the primary grades music coordinator for the Ogden School District. The district at that time had its own TV station, KOET (channel 9), and for three years Vanja's assignment included teaching a "Singing Time" class on television for each grade, kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup>, once a week. (Local, live productions were less predictable in those days. Once while teaching the song "I'm Riding on an Elephant," Vanja noticed a cat in another part of the barn-like studio, playing with a dead mouse and repeatedly tossing it into the air.) During the third year, she taught the classes on KUED-TV to schools statewide.

She had met Jack Watkins, then chief of surgery at Primary Children's Hospital, on a blind date. They liked each other very much, and as Jack visited hospital patients on his morning rounds he would switch to channel 7 to see a few minutes of Vanja whenever time permitted. They were married in May, 1964, and Vanja left teaching for twenty years to raise their son and four daughters. (Their youngest daughter, Emily, has followed in Vanja's footsteps and teaches physical education and coaches

*The "Singing Time" Lady*

softball in a Las Vegas high school.)

Vanja was then invited to fill in for a teacher at BYU for a year; that eventually extended into five years of teaching at the university. She next taught music in the public schools in Salt Lake City (including Washington, Lowell, and Lincoln Elementary Schools) for six years, and finished with another five-year stint at BYU. She retired this past spring. (Jack passed away in 1994.)

During their first married year she and Jack lived in Los Angeles where he was on sabbatical at UCLA. Then they found their home on Capitol Hill where Vanja lives today. "This is such a good place - I still love being here," Vanja states. "I love my neighbors and the neighborhood." Her mother died about a year and a half ago, and Vanja spends a good deal of time with her 93-year-old father, Milton Yorgason, former state senator, tax commissioner, and Salt Lake County Assessor. He is "very inspiring to the family," according to Vanja. "He's never stopped studying, even with some age-related handicaps, and he still always has questions in mind to discuss."

Vanja's music has opened great realms of service for her, both in the classroom and elsewhere, including nineteen years' service on general committees for the LDS Church (where, among other things, she helped to compile the LDS hymn book currently in use), private teaching, and leading many choirs (for example, a woman's choir for a session of LDS General Conference last April.) New horizons still beckon. One area of continuing lively interest is writing music. She has two songs in the LDS hymn book, about twenty in the Primary Children's songbook, and no doubt many more to come as her deep love of sharing music with others remains.

**FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS — OCTOBER**

**Gallivan Center**

Lunch Bunch Concert Series - Weekdays - Noon to 1 pm  
Come Alive Concert Series - Wednesdays - 7 pm to 10 pm



**Temple Square\***

Sundays: Tabernacle Organ Recitals, 2:00 pm to 2:30 pm  
Monday-Saturday: Tabernacle Organ Recitals, noon to 12:30 pm  
Oct. 15 Temple Square Chorale with the Orchestra at Temple Square Concert, 7:30 pm



**Temple Square (continued)**

Oct. 15-16 Celebration VI, Shaping Hearts to Play, Suzuki Association of Utah, Friday 5:00 pm & 7:30 pm, Saturday 1:00 pm & 7:30 pm  
Nov. 13 Luz de las Naciones, celebration of Hispanic culture, 7:30 pm  
Nov. 14 An Evening of Friendship featuring Dr. Ravi Zacharias, 6:00 pm

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