

THE Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council BULLETIN

Living on Capitol Hill by Paul A. Hanks

Living in the Capitol Hill area is a wonderful experience. Having been born and raised “on the Hill,” and having returned to the area in 1971, I have seen many changes and differences. This has been a close-knit neighborhood from its inception. There has always been a diversity of people as well. It has allowed me to work with all kinds of people, from the newest immigrant to long-established, wonderful long-time residents. We have been able to welcome all and to see many of them become established in this country and move to other areas where they could progress.

One of the key elements has been the school system which has provided excellent education for all students. Washington School has been the foundation for the neighborhood. Although in my elementary days most of my friends went to Lafayette School at the foot of State Street, we still shared family, friendships, and educational growth together. Then to Horace Mann Junior High School and West High School. Some went to other schools, but we were all friends regardless of our backgrounds.

Sports was particularly a favorite for all the young people. The old Capitol Grounds provided a large lawn for football games and a large parking lot for other games. The old greenhouses and the landscaping around them provided a place to hold outdoor ice-cream-and-cake socials in the summer for everyone in the neighborhood. The “triangle” now serves as a gathering place. LeGrand Olsen provided the coaching for so many young men, assisted by Reed Ashton and the Lloyds. The Lloyds were the football players and wrestlers, and still provide medical and coaching support. What was also unique was that all the neighbors were concerned about the children in the neighborhood. They looked out for each other and helped one another when there were problems or concerns.

Leadership was another quality developed by the families in the neighborhood. Talents were developed and opportunities given to use them. Student-body Leaders, Board of Education Members, State Legislators, City Council Members, Business Leaders, to name a few, have all come out of this neighborhood.

People from other lands have always been welcomed into the neighborhood. After World War II, several families emigrated from Germany. We had Japanese families, some of whom had been sent to relocation camps during the war, come into the neighborhood. There was another wave after the Vietnam War with Vietnamese, Hmong, Laotian, and Cambodian refugees finding their first residences in the neighborhood. They were welcomed in and assisted in obtaining education and work. Our Russian-speaking group came next and now the Latino groups and other refugees from Africa and Europe. We welcome them all.

NEXT MEETING
JANUARY 17, 2007 - 6:30 p.m.

Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council Members

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Layout Editor/Mailing List	Margaret Berchtold	364-2604
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Editorial Board	Corinne & Stephen Sorenson	364-3838
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The challenge comes today, not to become reclusive in our homes or apartments, but to reach out and share the common goals of our neighborhood. We have a great place to live, a great place to play, and a unique opportunity to maintain and build our neighborhood, whether “on the Hill” or “off the Hill” – it is the same. Our Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council developed out of the need to work together that was led by Glen Lloyd, Hermoine Jex, Lorille Miller, J Heslop, and many others. We thank them for their contributions to us, and to Peter and Polly and the Council for their current leadership. Capitol Hill is a great place to live, with a heritage that we need to foster and maintain. It is up to us to take part and keep it THE place to live in Salt Lake City!

This Old House by Nelson Knight

The Susannah Baker Morrison House—345 W Reed Avenue

One of the recurrent themes of this column is that everything old is often new again, insofar as Capitol Hill is concerned. It is now in vogue in urban planning and architecture circles to tout “mixed-use” and “not-so-big house” designs. But like so much in these fields, these ideas are not new. Examples of such principles may be found all over Capitol Hill; the subject of this month’s column is one such example.

This house sits on Reed Avenue between Third and Fourth West streets. The land on which the house stands was once part of property owned by Christopher Stokes. Stokes initially named the street Rosella Street for his wife, Rosella Nebeker Stokes. In 1916, Salt Lake City changed the name of the street to Reed Avenue, as part of a larger street-renaming process to establish uniformity in the

(Continued on page 2)

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city's hodge-podge street naming system. According to 2001 research by architectural historian Korral Broschinsky, evidence indicates that New Zealander Thomas Henry Morrison built this house for his plural second wife, Susannah Baker, in 1891. Thomas was an 1882 immigrant to Salt Lake City – He married Susannah, also an 1882 immigrant, in 1884. Susannah was a native of England and was the mother of four children with Thomas. She moved to this house from a home in the Avenues neighborhood, and continued to maintain a separate, household from Thomas, his first wife Emily Carbine, and their eleven children, who lived in the house just east of Susannah's until 1905. The front door of Susannah's house faced east, toward the larger Morrison family structure. This orientation gives the house an especially narrow profile from Reed Avenue.

Although the red brick home is sparingly decorated with Victorian-era details, such as contrasting brick arched headers above

the front windows, the hall-parlor floor plan of the house is actually a much



earlier type, more popular with the vernacular Greek revival style of Utah's early Mormon settlement period. Small additions were made to the original four-room house around 1900 and in 1961.

Susannah's family is known as the founders of the Morrison Meat Pie Company, which even today bakes and distributes the familiar comfort food. The Morrison Meat Pie factory was located less than a block away from this house, on the property at the southeast corner of Reed and 300 West currently being redeveloped by the Salt Lake City RDA (That building was the subject of a previous column in the October 2003 issue). But meat pies weren't the only venture of the Morrison family. Thomas was also a produce peddler, a baker, and restaurateur. Sometime before 1900, the family started an ice cream business. A factory was built at the rear of this property, one of many such small industries in this neighborhood that would now be termed as "mixed-use." The factory was demolished sometime during the 1920s, and the site now serves as parking for the house.

Susannah's sons Daniel and Wilford continued the baking and meat pie



ventures of their father after his death in 1910. In 1911, Susannah was given the deed to her home. She died on March 11, 1921 in Long Beach, California while visiting her oldest son. She was buried in the Salt Lake City Cemetery.

After Susannah's death, the house remained owned by the Morrison family and maintained as a rental. By 1925, the home was rented

by John and Sarah Greenhalgh, who purchased the property in 1943. John worked for the Oregon Short Line Railroad and later as a pumper for the Utah Oil Refining Company. Sarah passed away in 1955; John married Lily Chapple in 1958. They lived in the house until their deaths: Lily in 1968 and John in 1969. The Greenhalgh family also maintained the house as a rental until it was sold in 2001.



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- **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Utah**, www.bbbsu.org Being a Big Brother or Big Sister is about sharing simple, magical moments with a child.
- **Crossroads Urban Center**, 364-7765 or www.crossroads-u-c.org.
- **IHC Hospice**, www.ihc.com They provide care for the terminally ill and their families. You'll help provide companionship, help finish projects, give respite care and much more.
- **Kiwanis Club (Capitol Hill)** Join us at the State Capitol Cafeteria, Thursday mornings at 7:00 a.m. Call 328-1325 for more information.
- **Operation Kids** www.operationkids.org You'll serve Utah's children in various ways.
- **People Helping People Garden Tour** is considering the Capitol Hill Neighborhood. They're looking for 12 beautiful gardens now, before the snow sets in. Nominate your neighbor's yard (or your own)! For more information, contact Kim at 355-5538 or kim@phputah.org. The event is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 9, 2007.
- **Primary Children's Medical Center**, call 588-2446 or intermountainhealthcare.org/xp/public/primary/.
- **Salt Lake County Aging Services—** Volunteer! Apply online on their website: www.slcoagingservices.org.
- **Utah Food Bank**, 1025 S. 700 W., call 908-8660, www.csc-ut.org/foodbank.htm . Donate or volunteer!
- **Utah Foster Care**, 994-5205 or www.utahfostercare.org.
- **Volunteer Utah** is Utah's resource for finding volunteer opportunities in your community. Their website (www.volunteerutah.com) features information on volunteering with a wide variety of organizations.

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 Our sincere thanks to LDS Hospital for printing this bulletin.

Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council
c/o Salt Lake Association of Community Councils
PO Box 522038
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join us!

FEATURED NEIGHBOR

Polly Hart — Historic Preservationist, Neighborhood Council Chair

(Editors' note: Elections were held in the November meeting of our Neighborhood Council, and long-time officer and neighborhood advocate Polly Hart was elected as the new Chair of our Council. This is an updated version of an article on Polly which originally appeared in the September, 2003 issue of the Bulletin.)

When Polly Hart was growing up in a Chicago suburb, her family repeatedly came to Utah to ski because “when you live in the Mid-west, it’s just as easy to go west as east, and the snow is so much better.” She fell in love with Utah skiing – so much so, that it was the skiing that ultimately drew her back to make Utah her home.

Polly graduated from Colgate University in upstate New York with a degree in fine arts, then lived in New York City for the next eight years. Among other jobs she worked for three years for the famed Sotheby’s auction house as the administrator of their old master paintings department. She also designed and made jewelry. Finally the lure of the slopes was too strong, and she moved to Utah.

Here, Polly continued her work as a jeweler and, in 1997, completed work on a master’s degree in historic preservation at the University of Utah. She lived in Sandy for the first year and a half “because it was only three minutes from the bottom of Little Cottonwood Canyon,” but when the time came to buy a



house, “I couldn’t bear to invest in Sandy.” This led her to West Capitol Street where she had “the best of all worlds – a modern home in a historic neighborhood.” In 1994, Polly bought the historic Thomas Quayle home on Quince Street from the Utah Heritage Foundation, restored it, and has lived there since (see January 2002 *Bulletin* pp. 1-2). “I absolutely love the neighborhood,” she says. “Living on Quince Street is like having a second family.”

In the early 1990's she became concerned and involved in opposing a proposed development on Almond Street. That, and the discovery “that I couldn’t make a living doing” historic preservation full-time, served as catalysts to her involvement in politics (Polly has worked part-

time for the Democratic Party and has been a candidate for the Salt Lake City Council) and in the community. She continues to be a mainstay of our Neighborhood Council where she was just elected as the new Chair.

Polly continues to love skiing and Utah’s other outdoor life. She shares her historic home with Sitzmark, her twelve-year-old German Shepherd/ Labrador, and Bingo, her nine-year-old ten-pound “Chihuahua grande,” who loves to back-country ski with her. (Bingo hikes up but gets a free ride down in Polly’s jacket.) Her love for jewelry-making also continues – her work is sold through the Sundance Catalog.

FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Madeleine Choir School

205 First Avenue, Salt Lake City, UT 84103
(801) 323-9850 www.madeleinechoirschool.org

Dec. 15, 22--Ceremony of Carols, 12:15 pm
Dec. 25 ----The Solemnity of the Nativity, Noon Mass

The Cathedral of the Madeleine

331 East South Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84111
(801) 328-8941 www.saltlakecathedral.org
Dec. 18, 19--Christmas Carol Service, 8:00 pm
Dec. 24 ----Christmas Carol Service, 4:00 pm