

# THE Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council BULLETIN



## Capitol Hill & Avenues Mobile Watch Meeting

When: 17 January 2007, 6:00 p.m.  
Where: State Capitol Cafeteria

## Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council Meeting

When: 17 January 2007, 6:30 p.m.  
Where: State Capitol Cafeteria

### Preliminary Agenda:

- 6:30 Opening Greeting by Polly Hart, Chair
- 6:35 Police Report
- 6:45 Reports by Elected Officials
- 7:05 Report by Gwen Springmeyer, Mayor's Office
- 7:15 Condo Project at 213-215 W 500 N, Justin Marty
- 7:30 West Capitol St. Development Project, Jeremy Jones
- 8:15 Nominations for 2 vacant Trustee positions
- 8:30 Adjourn

**NEXT MEETING**  
FEBRUARY 21, 2007 - 6:30 p.m.

### Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council Members

Chair	Polly Hart	355-7203
Vice-Chair	Georg Stutzenberger	510-1603
Vice-Chair	Robert King	359-9992
Secretary/Treasurer	Christine Hobby	328-2684
Historian	Hermoine Jex	364-5326

### Neighborhood Trustees

Capitol	Carol Wood	355-6475
DeSoto/Cortez	Lorille Miller	363-8191
Ensign Downs	...election pending...election pending...	
Kimball	Victoria Collard	595-8575
St. Marks	Nephi Kemmethmueller	359-3936
Swedetown	William Salas	539-0938
Temple	Gene Simmons	364-3830
Warm Springs	Minta Brandon	355-1363
Washington	...election pending...election pending...	
West High	Erlinda Davis	531-1964
Mobile Watch	Robert King	359-9992
Web Site	Nick Burns	<a href="mailto:nick@vanburns.com">nick@vanburns.com</a>

### Bulletin Staff

Editorial Board	Corinne & Stephen Sorenson	364-3838
Mailing/Circulation	Amy & Bentley Mitchell	519-9068
Advertising	Corinne & Stephen Sorenson	364-3838
Layout/Mailing List	Margaret Berchtold	364-2604
Service/Community Events		<a href="mailto:chnc_bulletin@msn.com">chnc_bulletin@msn.com</a>

## Happy New Year from the Chair, Polly Hart

Happy 2007 to all of our neighbors and friends in Capitol Hill. I would like to start by thanking our outgoing Community Council Chair, Peter von Sivers for years of hard work and dedication to protecting and improving of our community. The Capitol Hill neighborhood and adjacent downtown continue to grow and change, sometimes to our collective liking, and sometimes not. While our natural reaction is to resist change, it is our responsibility, as citizens, to get involved and help shape the inevitable changes by reducing our impact and increasing our benefits.

On that topic I am pleased to announce that this coming spring Howa Construction will be breaking ground on the long anticipated Redevelopment block on 300 West between 500 and 600 North. In addition to building 68 condos and row houses, the developer has signed agreements to bring us a Barbacoa, Tsunami Sushi and a local dry cleaner/tailor (there will be more to come!).

But our work is not done. The LDS Church will be investing a great deal of money into the north end of downtown with their proposed City Creek Center, which will occupy the site of the Crossroads and ZCMI Malls. The project will create more new housing, and its retail component will include a Harmons grocery store. The new BYU Salt Lake City campus at the Triad Center will also add more population and vitalization to our neighboring downtown as it develops into full swing.

I encourage each and everyone of you who has the time and willingness to serve on a city advisory board to seriously consider doing it this year. It is one of the best ways to represent your neighborhood and make your voice heard! All of the development mentioned above has had to go through advisory boards, so we do have muscle if we choose to flex it. Boards and committees range in topic (planning, landmarks, housing, traffic, parks just to name a few) and level of commitment (meeting once a month or more). Please see me if you are interested.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank our outgoing Trustees: Mary Solt from Swedetown, Harries Lloyd from Ensign Downs, and a special thanks to Bonnie Mangold from Washington. Bonnie worked tirelessly on our Capitol Hill Masterplan and acted as our traffic "czar" for years! I would also like to thank our outgoing Secretary Christine Wade and Treasurer Kim Fowkes. And I offer a warm welcome to our new Vice Chair, Robert King; Secretary, Christine Hobby; Treasurer, me again (thank you very much!), and Swedetown Trustee, William Salas. More elections to come for Washington and Ensign Downs! With that, I wish everyone a warm, safe, and happy new year! May all of your needs be met and some of your wishes come true!!

## The J. Golden Kimball Home 36 East 200 North

*(Editor's note: this is a reprint from January 2004. Nelson Knight is working on a two part article for February and March.)*

The modest two-story, T-shaped adobe home on 200 North just east of Main Street was for many years the home of J. Golden Kimball, one of the most colorful and best-beloved LDS General Authorities. He and his wife, Jenny Knowlton Kimball, built it in 1880.

*(Continued from page 1)*

J. Golden's father, Heber C. Kimball, was first counselor to Brigham Young for many years and owned block 93 (No. Temple to 200 North, Main St. to State St.) from the time of the first allocation in 1847, and a part of his large family lived here. After Heber's death in 1868, most of Lot 5 in that block eventually passed to J. Golden, his mother Christeen Golden, and his brother Elias. (Heber and others are buried in a small cemetery which was also part of Lot 5, still accessible from Main St.)

The rectangular shape of the home and the T-extension on the east are all original, with one story on the front and two on the rear because the land slopes.

The cobble-stone foundation has been plastered over; the original columned porch with a Corinthian frieze remains. The roof features a raised, decorated gable on the west and a small turret-like bulge on the rear extension roof, with a smaller bulge on the front extension roof.

J. Golden's great-grand-nephew, Jim Kimball, who lives in the Capitol Hill neighborhood, has published two collections of tales and appeared in two PBS specials about his storied kinsman. Although Jim was only four years old when J. Golden died, he states, "I have a memory of meeting him. The specific detail I remember is his voice. It was

very distinctive - way up there! You had to listen closely to hear him." J. Golden was called as a General Authority in 1892, in a day when men in those positions were paid a pittance, if at all.

"They lived in modest circumstances," Jim says. "Jenny loved her gardening and her flowers, and he was very supportive other efforts in the garden and home, but they lived very modestly. There was not a lot in terms of tension or misunderstanding; she was of a disposition just to let him know that they were out of this or that that needed repairing, and somehow they made it work." The home on 200 North, Jim notes, was very convenient because J. Golden could walk the block-and-a-half to work each day and come home for lunch.

J. Golden Kimball died in an automobile accident in Nevada in 1938. At that time the Salt Lake Tribune reported, "He was frank, outspoken, and fearless in his utterances.... There was but one J. Golden Kimball. He was respected, beloved, and enjoyed by all with whom he made contact. His passing is a distinct loss to his circle, his Church, [and] his community." Jenny continued to live in the home on 200 North until her death four years later. The home was subsequently remodeled into apartments.

See photo on page 4.

*(Continued from page 4)*

Esther enjoyed her work. "I learned more about medicine and steroids than I would have if I'd attended the University," she states. She felt privileged to work with post-doctoral fellows from far-flung places – Japan, Israel, Argentina, and India come to her mind immediately – and she has maintained friendships around the world as a result.

Her husband Andrew was a conductor for Union Pacific Railroad for 50 years until his retirement. He passed away in 1978. Esther still lives in and maintains (immaculately) their home on 500 North, and enjoys the company of her daughter and two granddaughters who live in the Salt Lake Valley. Of the immense changes she's witnessed through the years, Esther notes the shifting age demographics of the neighborhood, and notes, "I've always had good neighbors here, all along." (She receives similar accolades, in turn, from everyone who lives nearby.) "I've always enjoyed this area – I really think it's the best place in the city."

She reminisces affectionately about old Capitol Hill friends. "That was the greatest generation to live in. We knew we were all equal, and everyone seemed united. We were all working together in the same situation. Those are good memories I have."

## VOLUNTEER SERVICE & DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

Search the internet for opportunities to serve (No computer? Visit the Salt Lake Library):

- **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Utah**, [www.bbbsu.org](http://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](http://www.crossroads-u-c.org).
- **IHC Hospice**, [www.ihc.com](http://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](http://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](mailto: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/](http://intermountainhealthcare.org/xp/public/primary/)

[public/primary/](http://www.slcoagingservices.org).

- **Salt Lake County Aging Services—** Volunteer! Apply online on their website: [www.slcoagingservices.org](http://www.slcoagingservices.org).
- **Utah Food Bank**, 1025 S. 700 W., call 908-8660, [www.csc-ut.org/foodbank.htm](http://www.csc-ut.org/foodbank.htm) . Donate or volunteer!
- **Utah Foster Care**, 994-5205 or [www.utahfostercare.org](http://www.utahfostercare.org).
- **Volunteer Utah** is Utah's resource for finding volunteer opportunities in your community. Their website ([www.volunteerutah.com](http://www.volunteerutah.com)) features information on volunteering with a wide variety of organizations.

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See website for more details: <http://www.saltlakesymphony.org/vie.htm> or contact the Salt Lake Symphony office at (801) 463-2440.

McKEY

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Do you know who built this home  
and where it is located? See pages 1  
& 2 for the answers.

We sincerely apologize for the  
delayed mailing of this publication.

**FEATURED NEIGHBOR**

*Esther Palmer*

In 1925, when Esther Palmer’s future husband built a home immediately north of the Capitol grounds, the lot cost \$350; the home, \$6,000. (That included, she notes, hardwood floors throughout and gumwood trim.) When Esther was paid for her first week’s work on her first full-time job, the check was for \$7.20 – and that covered six days’ work, eight hours a day. (This was a significant improvement from her part-time job – \$1.25 a week, plus bus tokens, which otherwise would have cost 25¢ for three.)



Esther, now 91, has seen any number of major changes during her life, and she’s seen it all from the vantage point of Capitol Hill. She is one of those rare and lucky people who were born here and have never lived anywhere else.

Her family lived in an apartment at 318 No. Center Street (torn down only in the last two or three years) when she was born. Her father had immigrated from Sweden when he was sixteen, having agreed to work on a farm in Lewiston, Idaho for two years in exchange for his passage. When that obligation was fulfilled, he found work with Utah Savings & Trust on Main Street in Salt Lake City, and saved enough in seven more years to bring his parents to the United States. Esther’s mother was raised in Salt Lake City, but her grandparents were Scotch immigrants. Esther’s parents had their first home on 800 West, but after two children had arrived, moved to the apartment on Center Street; then temporarily to the home on the northwest corner of



*Capitol Hiller*

500 North and Columbus Street while their home was being built at 640 West Capitol Street. It was here that Esther and her siblings grew up (a younger sister and brother were also born on Capitol Hill).

Esther graduated from West High School in the depths of the Depression. She and her sisters had readily accepted jobs doing housekeeping and baby-sitting as they came along, and she had been fixing dinner each evening for the owner of Regal Cleaning while his wife and daughter were in Europe. “It was so hard to find work,” she recalls, so she was thrilled when the Regal owner offered her full-time employment – a job that lasted for the next 20 years.

Esther married Andrew Palmer in 1950, and after their daughter Diane was born two years later, Esther spent the next seven years working at home. She then learned through a friend that the Biochemistry Department at the University of Utah Medical School was in sore need of someone to work part-time and help to re-arrange their library. One late afternoon, the chair of the Department, Dr. Leo C. Samuels, realized that his secretary had left, and was in dire need of someone to type a letter. He asked Esther if she could type for him, offering to speak very slowly while she transcribed the letter. “When he saw that I was taking shorthand,” Esther recounts, “he asked if I could just help out until he found someone else. He didn’t find someone else for 20 years.”

*(Continued on page 2)*

**FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**The Downtown Alliance**  
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**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**  
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205 First Avenue, Salt Lake City, UT 84103  
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**The Cathedral of the Madeleine**  
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