

THE Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council BULLETIN

Capitol Hill & Avenues Mobile Watch Meeting

When: 19 September 2007, 6:00 p.m.
Location: **Washington Elementary School**

Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council Meeting

When: 19 September 2007, 6:30 -8:30 p.m.
Location: **Washington Elementary School**

- 6:30 *Greeting by Chair, Polly Hart*
- 6:35 *Police Report, Roger Williams*
- 6:45 *Mobile Watch Report, Robert King*
- 6:55 *Elected Officials*
- 7:05 *Historic District expansion presentation, Korral Brochinski*
- 7:35 *Public Safety Bond presentation, Officer Hatch*
- 7:55 *Gwen Springmeyer, Mayor's Office*
- 8:05 *Marmalade update, Dru Damico*
- 8:25 *Other Business*
- 8:30 *Adjourn*

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

Abandoned Shopping Cart Hotline 446-7984
Graffiti Busters 972-7885

Salt Lake City Police Crisis Intervention Team
Detective Roger Williams 799-3314
roger.williams@slcgov.com www.slcpcd.com

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	Shirley McLaughlan	328-4182

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Washington	...election pending...	
West High	Erlinda Davis	531-1964
Mobile Watch	Robert King	359-9992
Web Site	Nick Burns	nick@vanburns.com

The Bulletin

Mailing List chnc_bulletin@msn.com
Featured Neighbor Stephen Sorenson 364-3838

Many Different Strands by Stephen Sorenson

When I was a youngster growing up in the Capitol Hill neighborhood, my grandmother lived in a little stucco home across the street from Washington School (now the parking lot for the Salt Lake Acting Company), and on some days I would eat my lunch there. One of the things I remember about Grandma's house is the beautiful old homemade rag rugs. These were made by sewing pieces of many different materials into long strands, then braiding them together in long ropes and skillfully sewing the braids together in a spiral pattern to make rugs of all sizes — small and round like a dinner plate, or oval and big enough nearly to fill a room. They always had a more substantial feel to them than the manufactured carpets, and their random combining of color and pattern made them much more interesting.

Our Capitol Hill neighborhood reminds me in a way of those warm old rag rugs — lots of variety, many different small strands of varying content and origin, strong and substantial when braided and sewn together. The *Bulletin* has tried over the past years, in its modest way, to highlight both the historical richness and the robust modern diversity of the area we all enjoy.

One upcoming anniversary of local LDS history may be of interest to the community. October will mark the 160th anniversary of the formation of the Salt Lake LDS Stake. (A stake in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the basic local administrative unit, made up typically eight or ten individual congregations known as wards or branches.) The first pioneer companies arrived here in late July 1847, and by October, with additional companies arriving, the population had swelled to a little over 2000. The pioneers had built a log bowery (40 feet by 28 feet, logs and poles held together with pegs and rawhide and topped with branches) for meetings at what is now the southeast corner of Temple Square. Here on October 3, the Salt Lake Stake was organized with John Smith as its first president. "Father John", as he was sometimes known, was the uncle of Church founder Joseph Smith and had served as the president of three previous stakes in Missouri, Iowa, and Illinois before the Mormons were expelled.

To commemorate this and some of the great things that have happened in the intervening 160 years, the Salt Lake Stake will host an open house on Friday, September 22, at the stake center at 142 West 200 North, for all residents and former residents of the Capitol Hill area. Please plan to drop by that evening between 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. for some fascinating historical exhibits, refreshments, and re-acquaintance with old friends.

In the meantime, of course, much has changed. The current boundaries of the Salt Lake Stake, which once encompassed the whole of the western states, are now just about the same as those of our community council. The place, though, remains significant, and the residents of this unique neighborhood wonderful — like the old rag rugs, many individual strands woven together in something greater than the sum of the parts.

This Old House by Nelson Knight Fred & Nettie Palmer House 222 N. 200 West

For some time, this building has caught my attention every time I drove by, mainly because something didn't seem quite right with the front of the house. Its simple lines and massing were clues toward an early construction date, when practicality, Utah's isolation, and current tastes dictated simple classically-styled buildings. But the details of this house - the window sizes and proportions, their large panes of glass, and the sandstone lintels, among other things - seemed to indicate a later construction date, when the arrival of the railroad, the growing cosmopolitan nature of the city, and changing tastes. When a sandstone tablet appeared in the front yard, listing what seemed to me to be a very late construction date of 1915, nothing seemed to add up for me as far as this house was concerned.

Recent construction on the house, along with a little research to fill in the blanks, has answered any of my previous questions. What the house was missing, like a lady made up

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for a formal party without her lipstick, was a front porch. I was glad to note that a new, compatible front porch has recently been constructed by the current owners of the building. When I looked up the file on the house in the Preservation Office at Utah State History, I found a copy of the 1936 tax photo of the building, showing a one story wood porch, with turned columns, "gingerbread" wood scrollwork, and a hipped wood shingle roof. The details on the porch shown in the photo match stylistic details popular in the last two decades of the 19th Century.

Now, how about the 1915 construction date immortalized on the tablet out front? Unfortunately, this looks to be an incorrect date, and it is probably the county tax assessor's fault (always blame the bureaucrat). Current Salt Lake County tax records list the construction date of this house as 1915.

However, these dates are notoriously inaccurate for historic houses, and was probably based on the assessor's best guess sometime after the house was built. In recent research, architectural historian Korral Broschinsky found a Salt Lake City building permit for this property. It was dated November 2, 1891 and was for a two story brick dwelling of eight rooms to be constructed at a cost of \$3,000.00. The permit also notes the name of the architect, Sherman, the builder, E.O. George, and the owner, F.G. Palmer. In May, 1892, Nettie Palmer obtained a \$200.00 mortgage on the property. Construction was



likely completed that summer.

Frederick Gilbert Palmer was born in Kinsman, Ohio, on December 14, 1847. Nettie (Annette) Clark Palmer was also born in 1847 in Pennsylvania. They were married on August 16, 1866 and had no children. At the time of the 1880 census, Fred & Nettie Palmer were running a boardinghouse in Rawlins, Wyoming. They moved to Salt Lake City sometime before 1884 – the city directory for that year lists Fred as a lunch-stand keeper. After moving into this house, he was a clerk for the railroad. Nettie died sometime between 1900 and 1904, the year Fred married Emily Platts Dykes, a widow from the

neighborhood with five children. She moved into the house with four of her nearly grown children.

In June 1915, the Palmers lost the house, and ownership reverted to the Tracy Loan & Trust Company. In 1920, J.T. McDonald purchased the

property; he leased the house to two renters. By 1937, the house had been divided into five apartments, and was still owned by the McDonald family. The house changed hands seven times between 1937 and 2004. The missing front porch was removed at some time during this period. The most recent owners converted the house back to single family use, and are reconstructing the front porch.

The architect of the house was most likely Albert N. Sherman, born in Massachusetts in 1842.

During his career as an architect in Salt Lake he had offices in the Herald Building. In his later years, he left the architectural profession and worked for the Postal Service. The builder, Elias O. George, was born in Indiana in 1847 and moved to Utah after 1880. He left Utah and moved to Oakland by 1910, where he continued working as a carpenter until his death.

(Continued from page 4)

You are invited to hear the beautiful music of the internationally recognized choristers this fall at one of the many events that are open to the public free of charge at the Cathedral of the Madeleine. For more information on the concert series or the school, please contact Trish Wesson at 801-323-9850.

**The Choir of the Cathedral of the Madeleine
2007 – 2008 Annual Concert Series**

Friday 16 November 2007 8:00 PM
Sunday 18 November 2007 8:00 PM
St. Cecilia's Day Concert
Benjamin Britten and Henry Purcell

Friday 14 December 2007 12:15 PM
Friday 21 December 2007 12:15 PM
Benjamin Britten A Ceremony of Carols

Monday 17 December 2007 8:00 PM
Tuesday 18 December 2007 8:00 PM
Monday 24 December 2007 4:00 PM
Christmas Carol Service
Traditional Carols, Works of Byrd, Bruckner,
and Warlock

Sunday 2 March 2008 8:00 PM
Founders Day Concert
Pieces by J. S. Bach and Olivier Messiaen

Sunday 27 April 2008 8:00 PM
The Madeleine Festival Concert
Antonio Vivaldi Ralph Vaughan Williams

VOLUNTEER SERVICE & DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

- **Boy Scouts of America** need volunteers to assist with teaching character education in the classroom; speak to high school students about leadership and careers; and staff day camps for elementary school students. For information contact Linda Keyes, 582-3663, or see <http://volunteerutah.com/results.php?organization=Boy+Scouts+of+America>
- **LDS 19th Ward Clothing Exchange** Second Saturday of each month. 9:00 am to Noon, 225 W 500 North.
- **LDS Hospital** needs an enthusiastic volunteer to assist with recruiting and retaining research participants with Alzheimer's disease as the complete a 6-month exercise program "The Brain Builders". See web site for full

description of duties. Enjoy the benefits of LDS Hospital volunteers. Schedule is 8 hours per week, required is 10am-12 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday. Minimum 9-month commitment with all training provided. Contact Lynne Wilde, 408-1771, <http://intermountainhealthcare.org/brainbuilders/>

- **Volunteers of America** needs volunteers for 10 different projects at their Salt Lake City office and 4 projects at their Murray office. Contact Marcus Perry, 363-9414 Ext 108 for details. Hours and training vary. <http://volunteerutah.com/results.php?organization=Volunteers+of+America>
- **Washington Elementary needs you!** We are seeking applicants for the following

part time positions: Kindergarten Assistant, PE Assistant, Art Instructor, and Attendance Secretary. If you are interested in working in a challenging and rewarding environment, close to home, with people who are committed to making a difference for children, please contact Principal Joann Price at 578-8140 or email joann.price@slc.k12.ut.us. We are also in need of volunteers.

- **YWCA SLC** needs energetic and loving volunteers to play with and hold babies in Lolie Eccles Child Care Center. Volunteers will help where needed. Hours per week vary, 2 training hours required. Contact Jan Smith, 537-8601, www.ywca.com.



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rbecker@bearwest.com

Senator Scott D. McCoy
Utah Senate, 2nd District
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359-2544

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AS 7:00 A.M.

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Please come to our meeting September 19th at Washington Elementary School.

The mobile watch meeting begins at 6:00 p.m. and the Community meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.

FEATURED NEIGHBOR

The Purks, Pope Benedict, and Palestrina at St. Peter's

(Editors' note: Early this year, Gary and Mark Purk and their four children – Clara (15), Anna (13), Connor (11), and Michael (7) – moved into the Capitol Hill neighborhood. The young Purks all attend the Madeleine Choir School (Clara is now at West High in the International Baccalaureate program); Gary works in pharmaceutical benefit management and Mary in market research. This month the Bulletin asked Mary to share this account with our readers. Sincere thanks to Mary for writing this article, and a renewed welcome to this great family to Capitol Hill.

Clara, Anna, Connor, and Michael attend The Madeleine Choir School, located in the Avenues in close proximity to the Cathedral of the Madeleine. This school is open to children in grades K through Eight and exists to provide children with instruction in the reading of musical notation, sight-singing, vocal technique, choral performance, and music theory. In addition to their liberal arts education, their formal studies also include the study of Latin and Spanish. All of this training is necessary for the biannual performances tours to Europe and their annual concert series at the Cathedral of the Madeleine. This past November Clara, Anna, and Connor, along with their parents traveled with the choir to perform in Italy.

This fourth trip to Italy in the last 12 years by the choir of the Cathedral of the Madeleine and the choristers of The Madeleine Choir School included performances at venues in Milan, Florence, Assisi and Rome.

The trip began with a mass at the beautifully restored Milan Duomo and ended at the magnificent St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican. Other venues included: the Church of San Stefano in Florence, the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi, the Basilica of St. John the Latern, Santa Maria Maggiore and a breathtaking concert at the Chiesa del Gesù -- all located in Rome. In addition, the group was

welcomed in Rome by Francis Rooney, the United States Ambassador to the Holy See as well as other Vatican dignitaries.

When not singing, the group enjoyed the rooftop views of the Milan Duomo, the Giotto frescos of Museo Di San Marco and the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, the serenity of the medieval town of Assisi, and the art, history and culture of Rome. Of course for the nearly 100 students on the trip, no day was complete without at least one serving of fine Italian gelato.



The highlight of this tour was the Choir's participation in Sunday morning mass at St. Peter's Basilica followed by Pope Benedict's noon address in St. Peter's Square. Visiting choirs to the Vatican are often restricted on what can be performed. This year, history was made. The choir was invited to sing a polyphonic mass by Palestrina – the first time this piece of music has been sung in St. Peter's in 35 years. This honor was only topped by the privilege of having one of the choristers, an 8th grader,

singing the responsorial psalm in Latin, English and Italian flawlessly. The group was told that for more than 30 years only Basilica staff members have been permitted to sing the psalm. After mass, in St. Peter's Square, the choristers heard Pope Benedict's noon address where the Pope took a moment to acknowledge "the Pilgrims from Salt Lake City" and to thank the choir for their beautiful music. The choristers were elated knowing it was a trip never to be forgotten.

The choristers have sung with the Utah Symphony & Opera, Ballet West, and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Other performance tours to Europe include Austria, France, Belgium, and Germany.

(Continued on page 2)

COMMUNITY EVENTS

September

- 6-16 Utah State Fair
- 11 Primary Election
- 14 Dine O'Round Kick Off
- 22 Japanese Fall Festival on 100 South (200 W-300 W)
- 27 Last Household Hazardous Waste Disposal at Jordan Park
- 30 Dine O'Round Ends

October

- 6 Saturday Morning with the Mayor at Pioneer Park
- 20 Last Farmers' Market

- 21 Last People's Market
- 22-27 Book Festival, Main Library
- Monster Block Party at Gallivan

November

- 4 Daylight Savings Ends
- 6 General Election


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