

# MPNA News

## The Melrose Park Neighbors Association

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Volume 2 – Number 32

From MPNA President – Andy Rudin

Sunday, July 08, 2007

### Melrose Park Neighbors Meeting

There will be a public meeting of the Melrose Park Neighbors Association on Monday evening, October 22, 2007 at 7pm at the Elkins Park Library in the Community Room. We have invited the two candidates for Ward 5 commissioner – Tom Carboni and Mike Swavola. I will moderate the discussion. We ask that you email ([andrewrudin@earthlink.net](mailto:andrewrudin@earthlink.net)), fax (215-635-1903) or mail me (7217 Oak Avenue, 19027) questions for the candidates. You don't have to be an MPNA member to attend.

### MELROSE PARK PHILOSOPHY CLUB INVITES YOU TO JULY 17TH MEETING

The Melrose Park Philosophy Club Philosophy Club invites Melrosers and other ponderers of life's essential mysteries to join us at our next meeting. It will be held at 8 pm Tuesday, July 17th, at Yoshio Matsumoto's house. He lives at 7407 Woodlawn Avenue, Melrose Park, PA 19027 phone 215-635-2966.

Our selection will be the first half (130 pages) of be Alain de Botton's *The Consolations of Philosophy*, available at fine bookstores and libraries. This is an engaging book, written in an accessible style, about some of the main questions of philosophy as reflected in the writings of Socrates, Epicurus, Schopenhauer, and Nietzsche. It can be purchased for as little as \$4 used on Amazon. If you are thinking of coming to our meeting, please bring some refreshments and give advance notice to Yoshio at [y\\_matsumoto@fcc.edu](mailto:y_matsumoto@fcc.edu)

### Melrose Park Speakeasy Memories?

Bonnie Trier emailed, "I am a former resident of Melrose Park searching for information about Mill Run where I used to play as a child. I lived on Barclay Circle and moved in 1976 after graduating from Cheltenham High School. I saw your name and this email address on a website about Mill Run ( when was it named Mill Run? It wasn't called that in 1976 to my knowledge) and was hoping that you can help me locate information about an old speakeasy in the woods near Coventry and New Second St. It had to have been in operation in the 20s and 30s. The remains were there in the park in the 70s and I had always wondered about the history of that place.

"In the 60s and 70s, the area was just known as "the woods" and had a creek that went through it. The old speakeasy that I described was a tavern, most likely around the end of the 1960s at the time that I discovered it. My mother was the one who told me that it was a speakeasy in the late 1920s, then a nightclub after that around the 1940s. Behind the building ( the building may have been facing Coventry Rd. ), facing the woods, were incredible architectural relics left outside to weather. This area was very mysterious. My memory is a bit fuzzy on street names. I wish I knew at 12 how to date architecture so that I could approximate the age of the relics - it seems to me to possibly be victorian-style garden items that looked like from an estate). I once snuck into the doorway of the tavern and heard the voices of adults and ran but noticed that part of the tavern/ nightclub was in the basement down a long staircase - which gives me more reason to believe that the building once was a speakeasy . I hope this makes some sense. I moved from Cheltenham after high school and never returned but I always consider myself 'from Cheltenham' because of the love that I have for that area."

Does anyone have any more memories of this speakeasy or other Melrose Park history?

## Speeding Traffic Frustration

Beth Gellman-Beer emailed, "I am writing to you regarding the Melrose Park Neighborhood Association - our neighbors, Bill and Lisa Donnelly informed me that the Association has done some significant work regarding traffic safety issues, which is the reason why I am inquiring with you.

"My husband and I moved to Stetson Road last year (one block south of Ashbourne). We have a daughter who is almost 2 years old, and in the last year, several new families have moved onto the block. 2 years ago our block had literally no children, and now, 2 years later, we have approximately 10 young children, ranging from 4 months to 8 years old. The children adore playing together, however, our block does not have sidewalks, so the children tend to gather on the side of the street.

"My husband and I have noticed that cars are driving quite fast down our street, as many drivers use our street as a shortcut between Ashbourne and 611. The fast driving is particularly egregious during rush-hour, around 4-6pm, which is the time in which the children are usually outside playing. As a result, my husband purchased two signs that state: "Slow: Children at Play". I was putting the signs in front of the house on a regular basis when the children were outside playing, until, one day, a woman drove by, quite fast, as she was talking on her cell phone, and hit one of the signs. She called the police, who came out and reprimanded us, and informed us that we cannot put the signs out. I asked if there was anything we could do to protect our child, and they told me to call the township.

"As I'm sure you can understand, I truly worry for the safety of the children on our block. I anticipate writing to the township commissioners to inform them of our worries, but I was hoping you could give me some advice regarding what safety measures are reasonably practical, to whom we should speak, and any other useful information you might have."

Does anyone have any suggestions about what to do? I think we should discuss this problem and other traffic issues at the October 22 MPNA meeting.

## DONATIONS NEEDED FOR USED BOOK SALES AT THE EP LIBRARY

Pickup Available – Just call 215-635-5000.

WANTED - CD's Video Tapes, Audio Tapes, Vintage Magazines, Comic Books, Software, LP Phonograph Records & ALL KINDS OF BOOKS.

NOT WANTED - Reader's Digest Condensed Books, Old Textbooks & Law Books, Scratched Phonograph Records, Older Encyclopedias, Underlined or Highlighted Books, Partial Sets of Reference Books, Moldy, Water-damaged Books.

All donations of books, videos & CDs are tax-deductible.

The next book sales will be as follows:

September 28-30, 2007  
October 26-28, 2007  
November 30 - December 2, 2007  
January 18-20, 2008  
February 22-24, 2008  
March 28-30, 2008  
April 25-27, 2008  
May 30-31, 2008  
June 13-26, 2008 (liquidation sales)

## **This Newsletter**

If you have any suggestions for items for this newsletter, feel free to email them to me at [andrewrudin@earthlink.net](mailto:andrewrudin@earthlink.net)

## **MPNA memberships**

Membership in MPNA helps pay for plantings, signage, and many other things. Annual dues are \$10 per individual, \$20 per household. Send your contribution to MPNA Board member Jim Muldoon, 106 Parkview Road, Cheltenham, PA 19012. The membership cycle is the calendar year.

## **MPNA Board**

Members of the MPNA Board are Andrew Rudin, Phil Kates, Gene Silver, Michael Shectman, Jim Muldoon and Albert Fried-Cassorla. If you are interested in helping out with MPNA, please email me at [andrewrudin@earthlink.net](mailto:andrewrudin@earthlink.net). This newsletter is available or will be soon, maybe with photos, on our website – [www.melroseparkneighbors.org](http://www.melroseparkneighbors.org)

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