

MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN December, 2011



We wrapped up our 2011 lecture series with John Cartier's History of Philadelphia Pike. The lecture was sold out. Councilman Cartier always adds something new to his presentation so even if you have heard him talk on this topic there is something new to learn.

The desserts, as always, were superb and the social time is always an enjoyable way to end the lecture. Thanks to Craig and Patti Trostle of the Greenery Caterers who provided their special and delicious cookie tray along with Irene Maskaly who provided wonderful brownies. We had cider provided by Mary Jane Malonee who added a twist by bringing apple cider mixed with pomegranates...it was fabulous. And, finally, special thanks to Doug Wenny, Lisa Buller, Nancy Schanes, Beth Morgera and Paula Randazzo who helped greet and check in our guests, acted as tour guide, and photographer. We couldn't do all we do without our great volunteers. Thank you.

I would also like to wish a Happy Birthday to Judy Filipkowski who celebrated her birthday in October. I have been informed that many of her friends contributed to the Conservatory Fund in her honor. What a fabulous idea...We wish Judy many happy years ahead and look forward to working with her in the coming years at Rockwood. Many of you know Judy as the Newsletter editor in chief. Of course, I would never divulge Judy's age, just know she looks 39.

RENEWAL LETTERS: We are going to try something new this year! We will be sending the renewal letters by email. This will save on postage and allow people to use PayPal or their credit cards for their renewals. If you do not wish to renew with a credit card, you can print the renewal and mail it to us with your check as usual. Please keep an eye on your emails for The Friends of Rockwood Renewal Letter in late January. We think the cost savings to the Friends combined with the ease of renewal for members will make this a positive change. Please help us by responding to the email as soon as it is received.

FRIENDS OF ROCKWOOD HOLIDAY PARTY: was held on Saturday, December 10 and what a fine turn out we had. Everyone, but especially the children, enjoyed a visit from Santa.

The food was provided by the board members, which allows us to save money for the Conservatory Fund by not having it catered. The food is always exceptional because everyone brings their favorite appetizers. Chris Hutchinson was chairperson of the party committee and he did a great job. His wife, Lynne, provided her delicious brownies and they were gobbled up in record time. We enjoyed spending time with County Executive Paul Clark and Marcus Henry, General Manager of Community Services.



HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE: Was a big hit as always. The lights decorating the lawn are a big draw and the Museum is so splendidly dressed who can resist coming and taking a trip back in time. I have it on good authority that we had well over 2,000 people come and enjoy our wonderful Park, Museum and Carriage House. Everyone oohed and aahed while I was on duty and I can understand why. Rockwood is never prettier than at Christmastime. Many thanks to the docents and volunteers for giving their time to make this event such a success. Loretta Spigel and her group of volunteers outdid themselves, as usual, in making the Museum come alive ... I wish I had a penny for every time I heard someone say "this is a house I could picture myself living in." Well, that's Rockwood for you.

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE EXHIBIT: Several of us attended the opening of "The Rockwood Archives: A Visual Journey" and what a great exhibit the University put together. Unfortunately the exhibit closed on December 2, but we will keep you informed of any future exhibits.

LECTURE SERIES: I'll bring everyone up-to-date on the spring lecture series in the January Bulletin. It's 99% complete, just a few things need to be fine-tuned.

ENGLAND HERE WE COME: Ryan Hopping, architect & designer for Brown & Harriman Co. in England, has requested pictures of Rockwood's exterior. He is placing pictures in the company's conference rooms of Wyncote, the home Joseph Shipley leased the last few years he lived in Liverpool, England. He plans to place pictures of Rockwood along with them to show the similarities between the two homes. Thank you Robin Goldstein and Loretta Spigel for trekking down to the University of Delaware and searching the archives for older pictures of Rockwood and to Paula Randazzo, our official Rockwood photographer extraordinaire, who took photos of Rockwood as it looks today. We are hopeful that he will send us pictures of the conference rooms when completed.

VICTORIAN COSTUME BALL: It is now time to turn our attention to this event which is scheduled for February 25, 2012. We have attached a copy of the flyer we are using to advertise this event with the hope that you will make a few copies and distribute them to places of business you frequent. Hopefully, this will help us to sell some of the remaining 60 tickets and gather a few gifts for our Silent Auction.



Last year this event didn't completely sell out until close to the event date and unfortunately there was a long waiting list of people who were not able to attend. We have limited the guest list to 100 this year and have only 60 tickets remaining. Don't be one of those who didn't get to attend last year because they waited until too late to purchase a ticket.

We have a few donations to the silent auction and we have plenty of donated baskets, but we don't have enough donated items to fill the baskets. Please consider making a donation to the silent auction.... email us if you're having trouble coming up with an idea. We have ideas from last year's auction table that sold well and we'll be glad to help you. We also are requesting donations of wine, both red and white, and sweet sherry and port. If we have these items donated, even if you only donate one bottle, it is money we can save and put into the Conservatory Fund.

GRANT WRITING: Donna Fox and I have written and submitted grant proposals to five different foundations. We are hopeful of receiving monies to start the work on the Conservatory in the near future. However, as most everyone knows, it is difficult to get money today from foundations to do capital improvements. Therefore, we hope to raise funds through events such as the Victorian Costume Ball to help with the Conservatory restoration.

FROM THE BOARD: We cannot end the year without thanking our President, June Zappa. She is like the “energizer bunny”, always moving forward; as soon as one project is finished, she is on to the next. At our monthly board meetings, she sets the agenda and keeps us on track to cover all items in an efficient manner. The many hours she spent preparing the grant requests and all accompanying documents are greatly appreciated. Every month she creates this News Bulletin to keep members informed of Rockwood happenings. She handles all our event advertising by contacting various publications, websites and radio stations. She is chairperson for the Victorian Costume Ball, our biggest event. Committee chairs know that June is always available to help...whether it be setting up for a lecture, making phone calls, figuring out logistics, getting other volunteers, or cleaning up after an event. She is solely responsible for the changing exhibits in the Rockwood Museum kitchen. She helps decorate the Museum as well as participating in Rockwood special events. June’s passion and love for Rockwood is evident by her willingness to do whatever it takes to spread the word about “our hidden gem” and she does it all with great enthusiasm. Rockwood and The Friends are fortunate to have such a dedicated person in their midst. Thank you June for your wonderful attitude and for all that you do.

We thank you most sincerely for your help in all of our endeavors and your kind and generous support.

AND FINALLY--“Christmas is doing a little something extra for someone else.” Charles Schulz

June Zappa, Board President
The Friends of Rockwood