

Grace Church has asked for our help in housing the Tucson Girls Choir who will be performing at Grace Church on May 1 to benefit the Choir School at Grace Church. Please e-mail Mark Engelhardt mark.engelhardt@verizon.net by Wednesday, April 18 if you can house 2 or more young women ages 13-17 (double beds are ok) for the evenings of Monday, April 30 and Tuesday, May 1. Thirty two choir members arrive in Salem at the Church about 10:30 am on Monday, April 30. The hosts will need to meet them at the Church on Monday at 10:30 and are asked to provide breakfast to their guests. This is a great way for us to say thank you to Grace Church for hosting us for our meetings and for being such a wonderful neighbor!

Dear neighbors:

A report on some recent events, our annual meeting April 7 at Grace Church, and some announcements follows.

Our next neighborhood meetings will be the third Monday of the month – May 21 and June 18 at Grace Church – then we hope to take a break for the summer. Because of the continuing vandalism on the street, we are inviting the police to attend our next meeting.

- **Vandalism and Graffiti**: Councillor Mike Sosnowski asked us to report that the graffiti problem we have is citywide and the City and Police are working together to try to address it. That report was before the recent experiences of car vandalism on upper Federal and 2 separate house eggings in central Federal Street this weekend. **PLEASE REPORT ANY VANDALISM TO THE POLICE, TO COUNCILLOR MIKE SOSNOWSI, AND TO THE ASSOCIATION.**
- **Zoning Board of Appeals meeting, April 18, 6:30 pm - 40 Boston Street**: Application for a special permit by Corrina and Patrick Spinelli of Lynn for 40 Boston Street (at the corner of Federal and Boston Street) to become a photography studio. Corinna has an existing business and plans to buy the building

for her studio and to offer space for 1-2 graphics arts professionals. Corrina spoke and presented a sample of her work at our meeting.

- **Street sweeping begins the day after the next trash day - Friday, April 20 with the odd side of the street.** The even side of the street will be swept the day after the following trash day on Thursday, April 26. **PLEASE BE SURE TO MOVE YOUR CARS to the other side of the street from 7 am – 3 pm!** There will be another scheduled street sweeping in May (May 17 – odd side; May 24 – even side).
- **Development news:** At our meeting, we reviewed development plans in the neighborhood.

Osram Sylvania site: no news except that, as announced several weeks ago, the Registry will not be located there. Martin Imm is keeping in touch with the owners and we hope to have more news at our next meeting.

The HES facility in the old convent next to St. Joseph's School: We understand that two developers may have submitted bids for development of the building as condos and/or condos and offices at a density significantly higher than voted on by FSNA as desirable for this property.

Salem Suede & Bonfanti Leather (Bridge, Flint & Mason Streets): A group of developers have expressed an interest in developing this site at a density far in excess of that allowed by the North River Canal Corridor Zoning: 184-194 units with 294 parking spaces. It is unclear whether they will proceed.

Federal Street Courthouse Project: The planned new 190,000 square foot new J. Michael Ruane courthouse passed a regulatory hurdle in March. The Division of Asset Management (DCAM), the builders for the courts, are now in consultation with the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) about the adverse impacts of the plan on

this one block National Historic District. FSNA, along with Historic Salem, the Alliance, the Partnership and the City are participating as interested parties in the consultation process. This \$140 million project is very important to Salem. How it goes forward is also very important to the City and to FSNA. Its enormous presence will sit at the intersection of Bridge, North and Federal Street. We believe that the project will have a significant impact on the quality of life in our neighborhood. The traffic changes currently planned are dramatic.

We will have an opportunity to comment on them when a MassHighway meeting is scheduled, likely in the next 1-2 months. We have a team from the neighborhood who is participating in meetings and reviews. If you would like to be part of the team, please let us know.

- **Dog Park**: Mike Sosnowski asked us to report that there is a remediation plan for the smell in the new dog park. Barbara McLaughlin reported that people are now using the other end of the park extensively as a dog run. She recommended that we keep a close eye on people and noise, and that we consider undertaking a neighborhood project to plant perennials down there.
- **Traffic**: Stan Szwartz has been working on ideas to improve traffic in the neighborhood. We plan to review these at our next meeting.
- **Annual Meeting**: Every year, we vote on the board members for our non-profit neighborhood association. After many years as co-chair of FSNA, Stan Szwartz decided to step down but, fortunately for us, to stay on the board. The slate for this year proposed and approved was: Betsy Burns & Meg Twohey, co-chairs; Vice Chair, Martin Imm; Treasurer, David Hart; Clerk: Stan Szwartz. Other board members: Jane Arlander, Ana Gordon, Barbara McLaughlin & Joyce Wallace. Please feel free to contact any one of us with your concerns.

Our profound thanks to Stan, Martin and Joyce for their leadership in the last year, as well as to Rita Markunas, Jim Moran, and Mark

O'Donald who also served on the board. Thank you to everyone who continues to serve and to Ana and Barbara for joining the board.

- **Dues: A reminder that association dues are due: \$10 for individuals & \$15 for families. Please send your checks to David Hart, Treasurer, 104 Federal Street. Thank you.**

Best wishes for Patriot's Day -
Meg Twohey, salemgrp@aya.yale.edu

BetsyB222@verizon.net

Betsy Burns,

Co-Chairs

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, April 15, 2007, 1-3 pm: Open House for the restoration of the Samuel Pope House at 69 Boston Street, sponsored by Historic Salem and the Gallows Hill/Ward 4 Neighborhood Group who led the effort to save this c. 1740 home built by one of Salem's Quaker families. Free and open to the public. www.historic-salem.org

Saturday, April 28, 7pm at Old Town Hall, The Salem Mission presents its First Annual Gala and Auction.
www.springforhope.cmarket.com
<<http://www.springforhope.cmarket.com/>>

April 29th at 8:00 p.m. at the Grace Church - Stacia Conklin Kraft has organized Salem Community Gardens' first fund raiser entitled **The American Song** to be held on. The concert features Stacia and includes John Arcaro of the Berkeley College of Music, Steve Marini of Wellesley College, guitarist/producer Michael Dinallo, and organist/pianist Michael Kraft. www.salemcommunitygardens.org
<<http://www.salemcommunitygardens.org>> .

Sunday, May 6, 4 pm, First Church in Salem – Bentley Lecture:
Kevin Phillips, author of *Theocracy in the 21st Century*.

Sponsored by the First Church and the Salem Athenaeum.

www.salemathenaeum.org <<http://www.salemathenaeum.org/>>

Saturday, May 12, Salem Citywide Clean up. The focus this year is Riley Plaza, Lafayette Street and the MBTA Train Station. Pizza party on the Common at noon following the work morning. Rain date – May 19.