

Cedar Park Neighbors Newsletter



President's Message: **Gettin' Busy!**

By **David Hinch**

Spring has officially begun, even though we just survived four nor'easter storms. This is the busiest time of the year for Cedar Park Neighbors (CPN), as we plan for the April annual membership meeting and Gary Bronson memorial scholarship fundraiser, as well as gearing up for our summer jazz series.

During 2017, CPN's scholarship program financially supported 10 students from Cedar Park who are beginning or continuing to pursue their college degrees. We are eternally grateful for the foundational work of Gary Bronson, the scholarship committee, and others in our community who have support local students both financially and with mentorship over many years and decades. This scholarship program is a fundamental part of our mission, and we look forward to another successful fundraiser on Sunday, April 22nd from 4 to 6 p.m. at Dock Street Brewery.

Our annual membership meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 16th at 7 p.m. in the chapel at the Calvary Center. In addition to CPN's elections for at-large directors and executive board members, we will provide an update on CPN finances and goals for 2018. Board

elections will begin at 6:30 p.m. and more information on the slate of candidates is provided on page 2 of this newsletter.

All of these great events and activities are made possible by the drive, passion, and commitment of our amazing board members, committee participants, and community volunteers. We have many new faces joining our board this year and I am excited about our future goals. Cedar Park Neighbors can only achieve our goals and support one another through the varied experiences and skills of our volunteers and board members. We encourage every neighbor to be a dues-paying member and/or to volunteer for any activity that aligns with your passions. To be caretakers of our community, we need your support in all forms. Please join us in building a common future.

Your membership supports CPN ongoing programming such as organizing monthly information sessions on neighborhood topics, assembling and distributing Holiday Food Baskets to families in need, hosting zoning request meetings, care of and upgrades to Cedar Park, providing an active Facebook community, sending out weekly email newsletter, and so much more!



CPN President
David Hinch

Monday, April 16th

See you at the Annual Meeting

6:30 p.m.
voting starts

7:00 p.m.
meeting starts

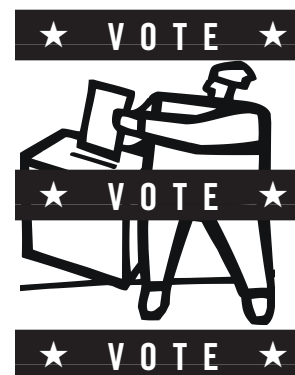
Calvary Center
48th & Baltimore

CPN Annual Membership Meeting and Board Elections: **April 16th**

Cedar Park Neighbors' annual meeting will be on Monday, April 16th, at 7 p.m. at the Calvary Community Center at 48th & Baltimore Avenue. We'll hear a report of what CPN has done over the past year and vote for next year's officers and board members. Voting for CPN Board Members will begin at 6:30 p.m. General membership meeting and presentations start at 7 p.m. To vote, you must be a current member of Cedar Park Neighbors.

The meeting will take place at Calvary Center for Culture and Community in their chapel. Please enter through the doors on 48th Street.

At the meeting, you will also get to meet the candidates for the CPN Board of Directors. If you've never been to a CPN meeting, the annual meeting is a great introduction to the organization and the work that it does throughout the year.



The Cedar Park Nominations Committee presents 2018 Board Officer Candidates

Candidate for President



David Hinchey
50XX Catharine St.
David is originally from North Carolina, moved to Philadelphia over 12 years ago and into Cedar Park

10 years ago. He and his wife are raising their daughter and are actively engaged in the West Philly Girl Scout troop and their neighborhood school. They love this neighborhood, its grassroots activism, sense of inclusiveness, and diversity.

David has a particular interest in issues that impact the quality of life in the community, such as the vitality of neighborhood schools, zoning, development, safety, etc. He was the lead volunteer on the Baltimore Avenue Community Corridor design study, completed in 2010. He is the chair of the Development Impact Task Force, which produced the "Future of the Neighborhood" survey in 2012. David's goal is to assist CPN to think tactically about how to preserve the neighborhood character and spread prosperity throughout the community.

Candidate for 1st Vice President



Catherine Hofmann
51XX Catharine St.
Catherine is a current CPN board member and chairs the Communications and Membership

committee. Her goal is to increase engagement with and awareness of CPN throughout the neighborhood. She also serves on the Women in Business committee at the Independence Business

Alliance. Catherine is a cofounder of QSPACES, a West Philly-based startup working to achieve LGBTQ health equity. She is also a freelance designer utilizing visual communication and design thinking to solve problems for organizations from community-oriented businesses to Fortune 50 enterprises. She and her wife, Nic, moved to West Philly from North Carolina in 2015.

Candidate for 2nd Vice President



Renee McBride-Williams
51xx Webster St.
This native of West Philadelphia has become one of the leaders in her hum-

ble Cedar Park community. Ms. McBride-Williams received the 2014-2015 Dorothy I. Height Award from the National Council of Negro Women, Philadelphia Chapter for her community service and leadership.

Renee McBride-Williams is the General Manager to West Philadelphia's only community radio station, WPEB 88.1 FM. While juggling her responsibilities to the broadcasters at the station, Renee is the Project Manager for the 2014-2015 "Arts On Air" projects spearheaded by Scribe Video, Inc. and sponsored by PNC Bank Arts Alive Project. She is also the director of the "Youth On Air" project at WPEB. With all that, Renee McBride-Williams is a mentor and educator to middle to high school students in the Philadelphia school community while still volunteering in the Arts and Broadcasting. Today, Renee is the Senior Executive Producer of a public affairs program called, "The Shed Kitchen" with Karen Dunn.

Above all, she is committed to her 16-year marriage to her best friend, George E. Williams and mother to 5 time Grammy winner, Bassist Christian McBride.

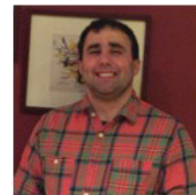
Candidate for Treasurer



Amara Rockar
50xx Catharine St.
Amara Rockar has lived in West Philadelphia for over a decade, most of it in Cedar

Park. She and her husband bought their home in 2010, and are raising their family here. Amara is a board member of the West Philly Coalition for Neighborhood Schools. During the day, she works as an admin for the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education.

Candidate for Secretary



Joe DeVitis
9xx S. St Bernard St.
Joe has lived in Cedar Park since 2010. He grew up in the immediate western suburbs of

the city. In early 2016, Joe, his wife, and their dog came to terms with the fact that they couldn't leave Cedar Park. They bought a home in the neighborhood. He has served on the CPN Zoning Committee for the past year. Joe looks forward to becoming more involved in Cedar Park and hopes to grow and change as the neighborhood grows and changes. His passions are clean drinking water and working to ensure the changes taking place in Cedar Park keep and grow the diversity and sense of "neighborhoodness" that we all love.

Annual Meeting Monday, April 16th

Meet the Candidates!

6:30 p.m. voting starts
Calvary Center
48th & Baltimore

The Cedar Park Nominations Committee presents
2018 CPN At-Large Board Member Candidates (vote for up to 8)



Al Airone
10XX S. 47th Street
 Al Airone has lived in West Philadelphia since 1982, having moved here from New York City along

with his wife, Carolyn Kelly. Al and Carolyn bought their house on the 1000 block of South 47th in 1984 and have lived there ever since. They have a grown daughter who works in Center City and lives elsewhere in Philadelphia (but they still talk!).

Al was always impressed by the strong tradition of neighborhood involvement in West Philly and the vitality of the many neighborhood organizations. Al served as a (totally unofficial) block captain for a number of years, and also served on the board of the Squirrel Hill Community Association in the early 1990's. He was active with corner recycling and later was the regular volunteer at the Cedar Park Recycling venue at 50th and Baltimore for a number of years.

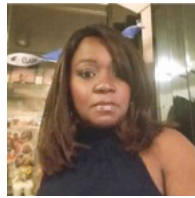
Al retired from the Philadelphia Water Department just over a year ago, having worked there for 25 years in the laboratory division, first as a chemist, then as the lab's main IT person. He enjoys walking around the city and the neighborhood, making use of the many coffee-shop reading locations (he can be found at least once a week in the Satellite Cafe), keeping up his IT skills, and generally keeping up with goings-on around the neighborhood. He welcomes the chance to serve a term on the Cedar Park Board.



Michael Froehlich
5XX S. 48th Street
 Michael lives in Cedar Park with his partner, Susanna, and nine-year-old daughter, Zora. He

has served as the past-president of Cedar Park Neighbors and is running for re-election as an at-large board member. During the day, Michael works as a managing attorney practicing consumer and housing law with Community Legal Services. Michael is the co-founder of the West Philly Tool Library, is a Democratic party committeeperson in the 46th Ward, and has previously served on the boards of

UC Green and Shakespeare in Clark Park. Michael is excited about the opportunity to continue to work together to improve Cedar Park for long-time residents and newcomers, seniors and school children, and everyone in between.



Katrina Le Blanc
51XX Florence St.
 Katrina Le Blanc and has been a resident of Southwest Cedar Park since 1996.

She grew up in the area near 51st and Springfield in the 1980s. She is the mother of five great sons, and has a dual Associates degree in Accounting and Business Law. She also has a Bachelors in Healthcare Administration. She has over 10 years' experience in event planning and is former still-photography model. She is a full-time employee with Penn Medicine and the site manager for Neighborhood Restorations, and currently resides in one of over 750 properties that it owns around West and Southwest Philadelphia.

Katrina is highly interested in her community and neighborhood. She believes her collaboration with Cedar Park Neighbors will be beneficial, as both are concerned with community development. This group has been a good resource in keeping the community informed on matters the residents care about, as well as neighborhood activities, and crime developments. In her participation, Katrina hopes to bring new ideas to further involve community participation and help keep CPN a great place to live.



Kevin McCann
 Originally from Houston, Texas, Kevin is a software developer who moved to the neighborhood a

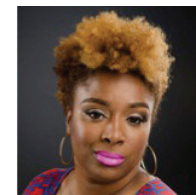
year ago. Kevin has a knack for organization combined with an interest in the use of technology to facilitate community and bring people together. He's also an enthusiastic world traveler, having spent time on all continents but Antarctica. Having experienced a variety of cultures and ways of life has given him a wider

perspective than he would have had if he had stayed in that little town in Texas. Extroverted by nature, he loves meeting new people; his first questions are "always: 'What are you working on, and how can I help?' He also says, "I look forward to working with all of you; as part of the same community, our futures are unavoidably intertwined. Let's make it the best future we can imagine, together."



Juanita Miller
5XX S. 52nd Street
 Juanita Miller works in Cedar Park as an organizer with the Philadelphia Student Union after

working in education for 15 years. She is passionate about the leadership development of high school youth and holds the firm belief that building and maintaining the relations between youth and their communities are integral for the overall development of each. Having a parent and extended family who are residents of Cedar Park, Juanita would like to serve its community and see it thrive beyond measure for them and young people with whom she works.



Franchon Pryor
48XX Baltimore Ave.
 Franchon is owner/operator of Hair Vyce Studio at 4828 Baltimore Avenue. HVS was

born here, in Cedar Park late summer of 2013. For 16 of her 24 years in cosmetology, she worked in Rittenhouse Square located in the heart of Center City. West Philly was her first choice of a location for the salon, because: (1) she owns a home in the neighborhood, (2) the location is close to Center City and close proximity of New Jersey, (3) diversity of businesses in the surrounding community.

Community service is a key qualification for consideration to become a Cedar Park Neighbors Board member. With 24 years of cosmetology, customer service and community service come hand in hand. Her strong interpersonal skills make Franchon a great communicator.

continued on page 4



CPN Mission Statement:
Cedar Park Neighbors is an association of diverse households and businesses based in the Cedar Park neighborhood of West Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The purpose of the association shall be to foster collaboration among all persons living and working in the Cedar Park neighborhood, to promote community development, to provide a forum for communication and community education, to respond to neighborhood concerns and to advocate for and promote the general welfare of the Cedar Park community.

Newsletter Editors
David Hinchey, Judy Lamirand
Newsletter Design
Judy Lamirand, Robin Siddall,
Parallel Design

To Contact Cedar Park Neighbors
or submit Newsletter items:
contact@cedarparkneighbors.org
www.cedarparkneighbors.org
267-BALT-AVE (267-225-8283)

Meet the 2018 CPN Board Candidates

continued from page 3

For over two years, she has served on the Baltimore Avenue Business Association, BABA Marketing, was chosen to be its vice president, and then became president. In becoming a Cedar Park Neighbors member, her contribution will be to strengthen the bond between the neighbors of Cedar Park and rejuvenating CPN's outreach to the community. Sitting on the board would also strengthen communications between BABA and CPN. Dual seating brings the voice of the community to the ears of business owners.



John Schaeffer
Beaumont Avenue

Growing up in Glenside, with friends and family living throughout Philadelphia for generations, John moved to Cedar Park in 2014 at the suggestion of his brother and sister-in-law, both also residents for several years. He now lives on Beaumont Avenue, with siblings, cousins, and lifelong friends all living in West Philly. A software developer by occupation, John also has an avid

interest in infrastructure and infrastructure access; he sees West Philly in particular as a leader in Philadelphia's transformation into a true 21st century city. As the city continues to grow, he wishes to see Cedar Park and Philadelphia as a whole become a place where all residents can enjoy equitable access to spaces where they can move, breathe, and live freely.



Emil Steiner
46XX Springfield Avenue

Emil Steiner grew up in West Philadelphia during the 1980s and 90s. In 2016 he and his wife, Lori, bought their home in Cedar Park, where they are raising their children. He is running for the CPN Board to help play an active role in the sustainable growth and development of Philadelphia's most beautiful residential area. Emil is an assistant professor of journalism and communication at Rowan University. Prior to joining the academy he served as a reporter and editor at *The Washington Post*.

CPN Board

Officers

David Hinchey, President
Rev. Eric Goode,
1st Vice President
Renee McBride Williams,
2nd Vice President
Amara Rockar, Treasurer
Tori Bourret, Secretary

Directors

Alon Abrahamson
Al Airone
Robert Arters
Joe DeVitis
Angela DiBattiste
Chris Flounders
Michae Froehlich
Eric Goode
David Hinchey
Catherine Hofmann
Whitney Martinko
Renee McBride-Williams
Franchon Pryor
Amara Rockar
Kelly Ryan
Matthew Schwartz
David Wengert



Gary Bronson Memorial Scholarship Fund

April 22, 2018; 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Dock Street Brewery

701 South 50th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19143



Several current scholarship recipients and committee members during the award ceremony last July.

Dear Neighbor,

As many of you know, Cedar Park Neighbors (CPN) has supported a scholarship fund for Cedar Park residents who are continuing their education upon graduation from high school. This year marks the scholarship's 30th year!

Over the last 29 years, the scholarship program has awarded 169 scholarships to 81 of our young neighbors. CPN is very proud of this program, which is unique in that it is available for multiple years and includes support, encouragement, and mentorship throughout the school year. The 2017 annual scholarship event raised more than \$12,000 to provide scholarships for 9 neighborhood students who are now attending college.

The Gary Bronson Memorial Scholarship Fund is named in honor of our visionary neighbor who founded the CPN Scholarship Committee in 1988. We named the fund after Gary to pay tribute to his vision, leadership and ongoing legacy.

I'm writing to ask you to support the Scholarship Fund as a sponsor for this year's event. Sponsor levels and benefits are attached.

Kayla Lewis is one of our current scholars. Kayla enrolled at Widener University in Chester, Pennsylvania in the Fall. She has already taken remarkable strides and made it her new home. Last semester, she joined the Black Student Union and became an active member of the university's PRIDE Mentoring program, which helps students forge social and cultural ties essential for academic success while strengthening identities. In January, Kayla was invited by Widener's Assistant Dean for Student Life to attend the 2018 Inclusive Leadership Conference at Temple University and she enjoyed it greatly. Kayla also applied to and was selected to become a Resident Hall Assistant for the coming Fall semester – she will be cultivating the minds of the incoming Class of 2022!

Kayla's story is but one of the many stories that testify to the value of the CPN scholarship fund. Please consider supporting this important community effort as a sponsor. Opportunities and benefits are attached. Please contact us with questions or comments at scholarships@cedarparkneighbors.org.

Sincerely,

David Hinchey
President, Cedar Park Neighbors



Gary Bronson Memorial Scholarship Fund

April 22, 2018; 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Dock Street Brewery

701 South 50th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19143

Sponsorship and Ticket Form

Sponsorship opportunities and benefits:

Super Neighbor – \$2,500 and above

20 tickets to the event

Scholarship named after you or your company

Name and/or logo listed on CPN website and newsletter

Recognition in press releases

Sustaining Neighbor – \$1,000 and above

10 tickets to the event

Scholarship named after you or your company

Name and/or logo listed on CPN website and newsletter

Recognition in press releases

Benefactor Neighbor – \$500-\$999

6 tickets to the event

Name and/or logo listed on CPN website and newsletter

Recognition in press releases

Patron Neighbor – \$250-\$499

4 tickets to the event

Name listed on CPN website and newsletter

Recognition in press releases

Friendly Neighbor – \$100-\$249

2 tickets to the event

☐ **Sponsor**

☐ Super Neighbor

☐ Sustaining Neighbor

☐ Benefactor Neighbor

☐ Patron Neighbor

☐ Friendly Neighbor

Amount: \$ _____

☐ Check enclosed

☐ Pay online at <http://tinyurl.com/jatfgcz>

Donor Name: _____

Contact Person (if different): _____

Organization/Business: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

☐ **Tickets**

\$45 per adult; children under 12 free

Number of Tickets: _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

☐ **Donation**

I would like to make a cash donation of \$ _____

☐ Check enclosed

☐ Pay online at <http://tinyurl.com/jatfgcz>

For questions, please email scholarships@cedarparkneighbors.org.

Checks can be mailed to:
Cedar Park Neighbors/Scholarships
Calvary Community Center
4740 Baltimore Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19143