

# MPNA News

## The Melrose Park Neighbors Association

Volume 2 – Number 281

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

MPNA President – Caryl Levin

Newsletter editor – Andy Rudin

### Open Book's Author Cabaret at Elkins Central

Friday, March 16, 2018 8pm to 10pm at Elkins Central

**A Celebration of the Written Word!**

For information contact Lynn: [lynn@openbookphilly.com](mailto:lynn@openbookphilly.com) or 267-627-4888

For a list of authors attending: <http://openbookphilly.com/author-cabaret>

For tickets: <https://squareup.com/store/openbookevents/item/author-cabaret> **MPNA**

### Abbie Gardner Concert - March 17th 7:30pm

Join us March 17th for award-winning Abbie Gardner in Concert! Talented local songwriter Brittany Anne will open the concert. Then join us April 13th when Abbie will be back with us as a member of Red Molly! Tickets at [www.stpaulsfriends.org/concertsevents](http://www.stpaulsfriends.org/concertsevents) **MPNA**

### Protecting Cheltenham Township's residential areas

By Janice L. Booker

From: Suburban Life North; Covering Eastern Montgomery County February/March 1969, Pages 12-14 & 33 MPNA thanks David Roland of the Old York Road Historical Association for providing us a copy of this.

[Note: Around 1993, the Melrose Park Neighbors Association grew out of the Melrose Park Improvement Association.]

Picture Melrose Park about 60 or 70 years ago [around 1900]: Sparsely settled, large imposing mansions in the grand manner surrounded by enormous tracts undeveloped land. The railroad comprised the township transportation system and stopped every two or three blocks to discharge and pick up passengers. The patriarchs supervised their large acreage and the matriarchs met occasionally for tea. When winter came, the citizens hibernated. Social activities centered around the family and life was comfortable - but sometimes very lonely. There seemed to be a need for communication with one's neighbor, a reaching out for relationships beyond the family. So, with man's instinctive urge to herd together, the Melrose Park Improvement Association came into existence.

The organization was unincorporated, and its inception clearly predates zoning ordinances in Cheltenham Township, which were started in 1926. It continued for a long time as a joint social and civic group, undertaking mild and uncontroversial civic projects. Approximately five years ago, two citizens, who were relatively new to Melrose Park, joined the Association and solidified its efforts as a force in protecting the community's residential quality.

(Prior to that time, the Association had never litigated a zoning question. Litigation became a major function of the group where they opposed zoning changes and this process, sometimes by sheer delay, has caused the Association to be successful in several of its blocking efforts.)

The two men are S. Gordon Elkins, a purposeful young attorney who lived at 1003 Sharpless Road, and Samuel I. Oshiver, a colorful architect, who lived in an imposing home of his own design at 1103 Valley Road....

[Read more at <http://www.melroseparkneighbors.org/historybefore1990.html> ] **MPNA**

## **Remember Amazon Smile**

If you buy stuff from Amazon.com, shop with <http://smile.amazon.com/> and choose the Melrose Park Neighbors Association to receive your donations. Without any charge to you, MPNA gets 0.05% of any order you place with <http://smile.amazon.com/>. It's just like the normal Amazon website. Your opening web page is the same, your wish list is the same, everything is the same as with amazon.com, except you support MPNA at no cost or extra effort on your part. **MPNA**

## **This Newsletter**

If you have any suggestions for items for this newsletter, feel free to email them to me at [andrew.rudin@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.rudin@gmail.com) **MPNA**

## **MPNA memberships**

Membership in MPNA helps pay for plantings, signage, and many other things. Annual dues are \$10 per household. Send your contribution to MPNA President, Caryl Levin, 922 Stratford Avenue, Elkins Park, PA 19027. The membership cycle is the calendar year. **MPNA**

## **MPNA Board**

Members of the MPNA Board are President Caryl Levin, Cindy Blackwood, Ricki Lent, Phil Kates, Michael Shectman, Jim Muldoon, Debbie Posmontier, Andrew Rudin and Albert Fried-Cassorla. If you are interested in helping out with MPNA, please email Caryl Levin at [caryllevin@gmail.com](mailto:caryllevin@gmail.com) or me at [andrew.rudin@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.rudin@gmail.com) This and other past newsletters are available on our website – [www.melroseparkneighbors.org](http://www.melroseparkneighbors.org) **MPNA**

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