

PURSUING A
Dream
AT 100



Mrs. Nellie Washington with Mayor John Street at the Mayor's centenarians party held annually at City Hall

TURNING 100 YEARS OLD DID NOT STOP PHILADELPHIA NATIVE AND STAPELEY RESIDENT NELLIE WASHINGTON FROM PURSUING A DREAM.

She had attended two top schools in the area, Blessed Sacrament and Philadelphia Girls' High, but after taking a leave in 11th grade to care for her mother, she never returned to school. In the late '60s, early 1970s, Mrs. Washington completed the requirements to obtain her GED, but did not apply for a certificate. When asked at 99 if there were anything in her life she hadn't done that she would like to do, she said, "get my high school diploma."

This year, assisted by the Pennsylvania Distance Learning Center, she received notice that she was accepted

as a GED candidate — and was their oldest candidate.

Until her early 90s, Mrs. Washington led a very active life. A child of an actress, she was part of her mother's busy stage life, exposed to all sorts of people, travel and life in the spotlight. As a licensed practical nurse, she was drawn to caring for others. She went on to raise two children and two grandchildren, and shared in the raising of one of her 11 great-grandchildren. (She has 14 great-great-grandchildren, as well.) She was also the surrogate mom and confidante in her closely-knit African American community in West Philadelphia. Her granddaughter Sylvia describes her as "someone whom others came to for guidance: She was a teacher, social worker and mom to many."

For her 90th birthday, Mrs. Washington went to Paris with her granddaughter and some friends. "It was a rough trip," Sylvia said. "We could not keep up with my grandmother." Until she was 92, Mrs. Washington maintained her own home and worked the New York Times crossword puzzle daily.

On Aug. 13, 2006, Mrs. Nellie Washington turned 100 years old. Although she has slowed down in the last several years, she graciously accepted an invitation in May from Mayor John Street to be recognized at Philadelphia's annual centenarian party.

Mrs. Washington is the youngest of six centenarians currently residing at Stapeley. The oldest is 107.

Congratulations, Mrs. Washington. ■



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THE Bridge

NEWS FROM STAPELEY IN GERMANTOWN

SPRING 2006



The Philadelphia Dance Company (PHILADANCO) on Stage September 30th.

In the packed auditorium in the Loeb Center for the Performing Arts, on the campus of Germantown Friends School, Stapeley's Annual fundraising event this fall featured the classically trained and artistically stunning Philadelphia Dance Company

PHILADANCO.

The event was the culmination of a vision that started more than a year ago, a dream to raise funds for Stapeley's residents assistance program, to attract old and new friends from the community AND to give Stapeley In Germantown the type of exposure it wanted. The questions became WHO would come? WHERE would we have it? And would Stapeley be able to pay a performer and raise funds?

World-renowned PHILADANCO, which has its winter home at the Kimmel Center, performs all over the globe. Would the company perform for us?

In Germantown? Well, it wouldn't hurt to ask; the worst that could happen was that the dance company would say no. When business manager Vanessa Thomas Smith and founder Joan Myers Brown were approached, however, not only did they share our vision, but they embraced the opportunity to do something locally and affordably for the folks

in the community and for Stapeley.

Tickets were generously priced at \$25 and \$35, and the view from every seat was superb. More than 700 people turned out for the event — many were new friends from the community who had heard of Stapeley, but were not quite sure who we are and what we do. Stapeley raised \$33,000.

Many aspiring young dancers — including the Praise Dancers from Ebenezer Baptist Church, West

Continued on page 3



BUILDING ON A Legacy

A message from the Executive Director

For almost a year now, it has been my privilege to serve as Executive Director. It's been an exciting time for all of us. There is a tremendous 103-year history here at Stapeley. I have been impressed with the commitment to our culture and the atmosphere of trust and caring that is the hallmark of Stapeley In Germantown. A great foundation has been laid for our journey into the future.

The best comparison I can make is of someone standing on the edge of a new frontier — with an infinite number of directions in which to forge ahead. Each path represents unique challenges and unparalleled opportunities.

For Stapeley, in choosing a new path for the next century, two guidelines are essential: It must always respect and honor its history, and it must always ask itself, "What does the future hold? How can we do it better?" What daunting tasks these are! One of any organization's greatest challenges is to maintain its culture while maintaining the energy and excitement around the possibilities that the future may hold.

As you go about your daily business, look around you. How many companies and organizations have existed as long as Stapeley In Germantown? The seed that founder Anna T. Jeanes planted with her vision and dedication more than 100 years ago has blossomed into the community we have today. We have served thousands of people directly over the years, and tens of thousands of family members. What a remarkable legacy!

One of my favorite authors, Steven

Covey, often cites one of his favorite authors, Dr. Sidney Bremer, as the inspiration for "Law of the Farm." The "law" holds that everything has its season—that all things must occur in a proper, natural order. First, you plant the seed. Then you water and nurture it. Ultimately, with proper care, you will reap a bountiful harvest. He cautions that, if you try to rush things, if you delay planting and nurturing, or ignore the natural order of things, your harvest will be disappointing. You will "reap what you sow." The "Law of the

"The seed that founder Anna T. Jeanes planted with her vision and dedication more than 100 years ago has blossomed into the community we have today."

Farm" applies to our history and our future here at Stapeley.

From the original seed planted by Anna Jeanes, the bountiful harvest is evident. Our impact on the Philadelphia area and on the Quaker community has been historic. Stapeley has evolved from a simple boarding home to one of the largest providers of housing and healthcare services in the area.

The "Law of the Farm" also dictates that future success requires that you reinvigorate the soil and plant new crops from time to time as part of the natural cycle. So, too, at Stapeley,

Over the years, changes were made to the physical plant and to services. The addition of Stapeley West and the Healthcare Center in 1984 marked the first major shift in the community in 80 years. The renovations to Stapeley Hall in 1996 marked another milestone to reinvigorate this beautiful campus.

We are approaching another point in our history where significant developments in the retirement and healthcare fields compel us to "re-energize the soil" ever mindful of our culture, history, and the needs of current and future residents.

We are challenged on a number of fronts. Each challenge presents us with an opportunity to be proactive and to plant a "new crop" to assure our long-term success. Let's look at a few of the opportunities that await us:

We are faced with a constantly changing marketplace. The services we have historically provided may not be what the next generation of seniors will

require to meet its needs. For the last several years, the trend has been for individuals to remain in their own homes for as long as they have no urgent social or healthcare needs. Thus, the development of the homecare industry has resulted in delaying entry into communities such as Stapeley.

The opportunities are as varied as our population. How do we attract the next generation? What environment and amenities will appeal to them at Stapeley? Should Stapeley enter into the homecare marketplace? How do we maintain a high census while making the transition for a new consumer?

Medicare and Medicaid continue to reduce both the services covered and the reimbursement for services provided to our Residents. There are serious questions regarding the viability of those programs. Will they be here for the next generation? Long-term-care insurance has taken over some of the burden, but the "baby boomers" have not enrolled in numbers great enough to compensate for any further dilution of the Medicare and Medicaid programs. How will the next generation pay for the care they will need?

In the next few years, the largest group of people in our history will be eligible for Medicare. There is legitimate concern that the program will not be able to sustain the level of service these people will require. In addition, this next generation has the greatest life expectancy of any generation in our history. Many will outlive their assets. What then? If the Medicare and Medicaid funding streams decline, how will these Residents receive care? Significant legislative and socio-economic changes must occur to address this need.

Fundraising is always a challenge. We have been blessed and are grateful for all of those who have supported our mission over the years.

The competition for donations is intense, however. It has taken a

Herculean effort by our dedicated staff to raise about \$350,000 in each of the past few years. Most of this money is dedicated to providing assistance for those who have exhausted their resources. "Seed" money is needed to ensure the best "harvest."

While these challenges will test our mettle, Stapeley has the past history to support our mission, the present strength to drive us forward, and tremendous promise for the future.

While we continue to provide a high level of service to our current Residents, we will structure facilities, activities and services that will appeal to the "boomers" and beyond. We will seek out alliances with other service providers to extend our reach into the community. We will spread our mission to the community. We will grow stronger.

Stapeley will seek out individuals and organizations that share our goals and objectives and are willing to help fund our future growth.

Most important, we will maintain the respect and appreciation for our history and culture, while creating a Stapeley that meets the needs of our current Residents and provides a safe and secure future for the next generation.

Together, let's plant the seeds for a bright future today and reap a bountiful harvest tomorrow. ■



Pictured above (left to right) are Julia Boxley, Wendell Whitlock— Clerk of the Human Resources Committee, and Claudia Burton.

THE 18TH ANNUAL RUTH DROSS DAY OF RECOGNITION WAS HELD ON JUNE 10, 2006. THE AWARDS DAY IS NAMED FOR RUTH DROSS WHOSE COUNTLESS CONTRIBUTIONS AND VISION WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN THE EXPANSION OF STAPELEY, IN THE 1980'S.

EMPLOYEES WERE HONORED FOR 5, 10, 15, 20 AND 20-PLUS YEARS OF SERVICE. JULIA BOXLEY (36 YEARS OF SERVICE), AND CLAUDIA BURTON (23 YEARS) BOTH RECEIVED HEARTFELT APPLAUSE AS THEY RECEIVED THEIR CITATION.

"PHILADANCO"
Continued from cover

Philadelphia; St. Luke School, Glenside; and Joan Myers Brown's Philadelphia School for Dance Arts in West Oak Lane—attended as our special guests. The children from the Philadelphia School for Dance Arts had been displaced from their studio since January 2006, when the

school was destroyed by fire. Thanks to the generosity of two of our donors, these young children were given the opportunity to witness an internationally acclaimed dance company perform live on stage in Philadelphia.

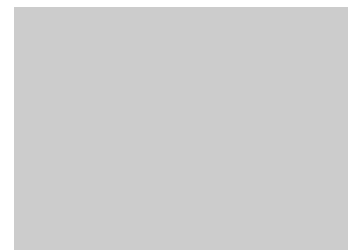
The evening's program included some of Philadelphia's PHILADANCO favorites: Echoes, choreographed by Milton

Myers; Everything is Everything, by Lynne Taylor-Corbett; Labess II, by David Brown; and Enemy Behind the Gates, by Christopher L. Huggins. The evening was perfect—the lights, the costumes, and the discipline, grace and power of the dancers... breathtaking.

Our sincere gratitude is extended to the drama department at

Germantown Friends School, who worked countless hours with the technical staff from PHILADANCO to ensure that the evening was a success. The synergy created between two Quaker organizations—Stapeley In Germantown and Germantown Friends School—to pull off such a tremendous event was exceptional. ■

NEWS & NOTES



■ **GERALD MAGID**, was appointed Chief Financial Officer in May 2006. Prior to joining Stapeley, Gerry was CFO for twenty-five years in a specialty long-term care facility that provides institutional and non-institutional services for people with physical disabilities. Gerry has been instrumental in the expansion of services in the healthcare environment including the development of HUD affordable accessible housing, a durable medical equipment company and an attendant care entity. Gerry holds an MBA from LaSalle University and a B.S. in Accounting from Penn State. Magid was recently elected to the Board of Directors for Pegasus Riding Academy Inc. located in Northeast Philadelphia. The Academy was founded in 1982 and its mission is to provide disabled children and adults the opportunity to ride horses for therapy.

■ **ELLEN O'BRIEN**, Director of Institutional Advancement has been elected to the Board of Directors for Mount Airy Business Association. In addition to the board, Ellen will serve on the membership and operations committee.

■ *Stapeley Welcomes Several New Members to its Board of Managers* **PETER R. WARRINGTON, D.O.**, is a member of the Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting and is a physician and teacher. He is a member of the American Board of OB/GYN, American Board of Family Medicine Practice and the American Board of Geriatrics. Peter Warrington comes to the board with extensive knowledge of geriatric medicine.

■ **WENDELL WHITLOCK**, comes to the Stapeley Board of Managers with vast business experience in the public and private sector. He holds an MBA from The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania and a B.S from Cheyney University. Wendell is skilled at training staff, resolving conflicts and as a consultant has implemented major human resource practices and policies at numerous companies and corporations. Wendell has extensive experience handling issues related to gender and age discrimination. He is currently involved in directing an endeavor to reconstruct the famous Progress Plaza in North Philadelphia for whom he is the Chairman of the Board of Directors.

■ **MICHAEL F. YOUNG**, has been an active and successful member of the Philadelphia business scene since the 1960's. He has had long term thriving associations with two



MEDICAL RECORDS COORDINATOR, ALLISON BELCHER RECEIVED A NON-NURSING SCHOLARSHIP FROM THE SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION FOR NON-PROFIT HOMES AND SERVICES FOR THE AGING. ALLISON WILL ATTEND THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN MEDICAL RECORDS CODING FOR HEALTH INFORMATION. PICTURED ABOVE FROM RIGHT TO LEFT ARE ALLISON BELCHER, MILDRED BUTLER COLEMAN (ADMINISTRATOR,) DAVID JOHNSON (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,) AND GERALD MAGID (CFO).

major firms in Philadelphia. First, as a Vice President and general manager of the Craig Fuel Co. which he helped to guide into a 15 year period of prosperity and growth, and currently as President and owner of Classic Management, Inc. (since 1982) which operates multi-family and office properties in Philadelphia and its suburbs as well as Washington DC.

■ **ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVER PROGRAM**
Saturday, February 10
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

A FREE hands-on training for family members and friends of Alzheimer's patients that provides a medical overview, legal and financial planning, managing behaviors, where to get the help you need. Registration is at

8:30 AM. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. For information contact Mary Ann Davis at 215-991-7110.

■ **AARP DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM**
March 6 & March 13

Stapeley is sponsoring an AARP Driver Safety Program. Join the first and largest classroom refresher course designed for drivers 50 and older. The program will feature defensive driving techniques, age related changes, insurance discounts, no test. The program is limited to 35 participants and is taught in two 4-hour sessions. The course fee is \$10. A box lunch is included. For information contact Jayne R. LeLand 215-849-1905.

TAX LAW CHANGE
Creates Opportunity

On August 17, 2006, President Bush signed into law the Pension Protection Act of 2006. This new law includes a provision that will permit, for the first time, tax-free charitable transfers from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA's).

If you have an IRA, you may want to consider using it to make a gift to Stapeley In Germantown. Following outlines what you need to know about this new legislation:

- The exclusion applies to traditional and Roth IRAs only. Other retirement plans such as 401(k), 403(b), SEP's, and SIMPLE plans are not eligible.
- Donors must have reached age 70 by the date of the contribution to qualify for this exclusion.
- The exclusion is in effect for the 2006 and 2007 tax years only; the provision is scheduled to expire after 2007. IRA owners can give up to \$100,000 each year in 2006 and 2007.

■ The charitable gift must be made directly from the IRA trustee/administrator to Stapeley. If you accept a distribution and then forward the funds to us, the distribution will not qualify for the exclusion and will be considered taxable income.

■ The exclusion applies only to outright gifts from IRAs. Charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, and other similar gift arrangements do not qualify.

■ Charitable gifts from IRAs will not be eligible for a charitable income tax deduction.

Those who would benefit most from this opportunity are: individuals who do not itemize tax deductions; donors whose charitable deductions have been maximized; and donors in states such as New Jersey that don't provide state income tax breaks for charitable gifts.

We encourage you to consult with your tax or financial advisor regarding your situation before making any gift.

For further information contact Ellen O'Brien, Advancement Director at 215-991-7114 or eobrien@stapeley.org.

Your unrestricted, tax-deductible gift, in any amount, will help ensure that the vision for Stapeley continues to be realized tomorrow as it has been for the last 102 years. Thank you.

Our appreciation is extended to Jack Carman, Landscape architect with Design for Generations in Medford, New Jersey for sharing his time and expertise on the garden design.

Art Educators from Moore College of Art & Design Exhibition

Faculty and seniors majoring in Art Education at Moore College of Art & Design will exhibit their artwork on The Bridge from January 24 through March. The art will focus on a variety of media

and themes accentuating the varied personalities and interests of the artists. Oil and acrylic paintings, photography, drawings, ceramics, collage, paper sculpture and prints are some of the media on display. Art work depicting feelings

and interpretation of life from artist ranging in age from 20 to 60 years is exciting to see. Please join us for a reception on Sunday, February 25 from 2:00 – 4:00 for an up close look at what promises to be an exciting show.



Honoring Friends

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The following friends and family highlighted here are remembered through our Memorial and Tribute program. Listed are gifts made to Stapeley from February 6, 2006 through December 20, 2006 through December 20. Gifts received after 12./20 will be listed in the Spring/Summer 2007 issue of The Bridge. Thank you.

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Frances Bowser

Every effort is made to represent names accurately and to ensure the completeness of this list. If you notice an error or omission, please call 215-991-7114 and accept our sincerest apologies.

MISSION STATEMENT
To provide residents, without regard to their religious, ethnic, racial or economic background, a high-quality, moderately-priced continuum of retirement living settings and services, strongly influenced by Quaker principles of implicit and acceptance of the integrity of each individual.

ADMISSIONS
For information on residential rates and options, or to arrange a tour, contact MaryAnn Davis, Director of Admissions and Marketing, at 215-844-0700, or visit our web site at www.stapeley.org.

The Bridge is produced by the Advancement Office of Stapeley In Germantown. For additional copies, to be removed from the mailing list or for information about making a gift to Stapeley, please contact Ellen O'Brien, Director of Advancement at (215) 991-7114.

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RESEARCHING THE LEGACY OF Anna Jeanes

Independent researcher and author Phyllis McClure spoke to Stapeley residents and friends about Ann a T. Jeanes, and the historical impact of her philanthropy on education in the south in the early 1900's. McClure is presently conducting research for an article on the legacy of the Anna T. Jeanes Fund, established in 1907 to support the rural colored schools in the southern states. The Jeanes supervisors, whose salaries were subsidized by the Jeanes Fund, were responsible for the health, education and welfare of many teachers and students in the small, one-and-two room schools of the Jim Crow south for



almost 60 years. Closely related to the work of the Jeanes supervisors was the Rosenwald Rural School Building Program that assisted in building over 5,000 rural schools for black children between 1912 and 1932.

McClure's research and writing is focused on race and equal educational opportunity, both historical and contemporary. Her current work stems from a professional career in civil rights, including 24 years at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. ■