

### **CITY HALL NATIONAL HISTORIC CIVIL ENGINEERING LANDMARK CELEBRATION**

On May 22, 2006, the ASCE, Phila. Section conducted a ceremony to formally cite Philadelphia's City Hall as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. The weather cooperated with a fine sunny spring afternoon (somehow arranged by Past President **Ruben David**, although we won't ask how he did this!) for a short dedication event on the North Plaza of the building, followed by a reception and lunch inside at Conversation Hall. A crowd of over 200 people turned out for the event, which was well-covered by local media.

As you may know, City Hall is literally in the heart of Philadelphia, in Center Square – William Penn's exact geographical center of his Plan of Philadelphia. This building, designed by Philadelphia architect John McArthur, is the largest municipal building in the United States and the largest masonry building in the world. The 510-foot structure, topped by a 37-foot statue of William Penn, took 30 years to build, finally being completed and opened for use in 1901. It is undergoing a major renovation which includes its first exterior cleaning.

The plaque recognizing City Hall as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark was mounted in the East Portal of the building prior to the dedication ceremony, and a photo replica of it was unveiled at the dedication. Speakers at the ceremony included **Dennis Martenson**, ASCE National President; **Pedro Ramos**, Managing Director of the City of Philadelphia; **Jonathan Farnham**, Acting Director of the City's Historical Commission; and Section President **Carol Martsof** and Past President **Christopher Menna**. Musical entertainment was provided by the Overbrook High School band.

ASCE National Executive Director **Pat Natale**, Vice President **Anni Autio** and Treasurer **Moustafa Gouda** (also a Past President of the Section), and District Director **Peter Terry** were also in attendance representing the Society.

The successful event was produced with the auspices of the following sponsors, and we thank them for their support and assistance:

**Diamond Sponsors** — CB Development Services, Inc.; C.R. Pennoni; Keast & Hood, Inc.; Pennoni Associates, Inc.; Urban Engineers, Inc.

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**In-Kind Sponsors** — Daniel J. Keating Co.; Dan LePore and Sons; Service Point; The Vitetta Group.

The ASCE, Phila. Section thanks the City of Philadelphia and all sponsors and participants for helping to make this a successful and memorable dedication.

Thanks also goes to the ASCE, Phila. Section's **History and Heritage Committee**, chaired by Past President **Chris Menna**, and consisting of **Tom Branigan**, **Ruben David**, **Darin Gatti**, **David Hanly**, **Carol Martsof**, **Jim Markham** and **Bob Wright**. Special thanks also goes to **Nicole Smith** of Pennoni Associates for her preparation of the handsome event program.

### **PRESIDENT MARTSOLF RECEIVES HONOR**

**Carol Martsof** is the recipient of the 2006 ASCE National Edmund Friedman Young Engineer Award for Professional Achievement. This prestigious award is given annually to just a few members from the international ASCE community who are 35 years of age or younger on February 1 in the year of the award. The recipients are deemed to have attained significant professional achievement, and demonstrated the following traits:

- Service to the advancement of the profession;
- Evidence of technical competence, high character and integrity;
- Leadership in the development of younger member attitudes toward the profession;
- Contributions to public service outside of their professional career;
- Other evidence of merit, which in the judgment of the award committee shall have advanced the Society's objectives.

Carol will now be invited to attend the ASCE Annual Conference in Chicago this October to receive the award.

We congratulate Carol on this prestigious recognition.

### **THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS**

A total of 31 local firms participated in the ASCE, Phila. Section Sponsorship program for 2005-06, making it, once again, a notable success. The Section extends its collective "thank you" to our sponsors for their commitment and continued support of the Section.

There are several benefits available to you as a Section Sponsor. For a low annual fee, you too can be a part of this program and have your business card appear in each edition of THE NEWS, among other perks. This edition does not contain any cards, but we will be soliciting last season's participants later this summer to hopefully have them continue for the coming season. If your firm was not in this esteemed group, and you would like to become a sponsor, this is the time to consider it. Cards will begin appearing in the October edition of THE NEWS and will continue through the end of the season.

For information on the program, please contact our Interim Editor, **Bob Wright** at (215) 686-5538 or [newseditor@asce-philly.org](mailto:newseditor@asce-philly.org).

### **NOTABLE AND NOTEWORTHY**

#### **BEN FRANKLIN BRIDGE NOW AN OCTOGENERIAN...**

In keeping with our Ben Franklin theme this year, in celebration of his 300th birthday, we thought you should know that his namesake bridge celebrated its 80th anniversary on July 1, 2006. (So that's what "octogenarian" means....!)

#### **ANOTHER TRANSPORTATION MILESTONE...**

For all you railroad commuters out there, the electrification of the former Reading Railroad suburban lines to Hatboro (now the R2 Warminster), West Trenton (R3) and Lansdale/Doylestown (R5) was completed on July 26, 1931. Accordingly, SEPTA will cite the 75th Anniversary of this service modernization with commemorative TransPasses and other events.

## **TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE — 2006-07 SEASON**

While all details of the coming ASCE, Philadelphia Section Meeting schedule have not been fully developed, the following tentative schedule of meetings is shown below. Please note that, except for the Joint Society Meetings in which our Section will meet on the regular date and location of the counterpart group, we are attempting to establish a "memory pattern" of second Thursday meetings. This information will be updated in each edition of THE NEWS as well as on the Section website.

The meeting season is planned to "kick off" on **Thursday, October 12**, and more details will be provided in the October edition of THE NEWS.

For purposes of marking your calendar, other meeting dates are:

**Thursday, November 9**

**Wednesday, December 13;** Joint meeting with Society of American Military Engineers, Philadelphia Post

**Wednesday, January 17, 2007;** Joint meeting with American Society of Highway Engineers, Delaware Valley Section

**Thursday, February 8, 2007;** Joint meeting with ASCE South Jersey Branch

**Thursday, March 8, 2007**

**Thursday, April 12, 2007**

## **LAWRENCE J. BENDER JR.**

Larry Bender passed away on April 24, 2006 after a year-long battle with cancer. Larry served as a Construction Engineer in the Highway Division of the Philadelphia Department of Streets. In his 38-year career in the Department, he administered numerous roadway construction projects with a combined value of hundreds of millions of dollars. He was the Department's construction manager on such efforts as the South Broad Street and North Broad Street "Avenue of the Arts" revitalization, Market Street reconstruction, roadway improvements associated with the Pennsylvania Convention Center, West River Drive restoration, and Germantown Avenue reconstruction.

Larry was a longtime active member of the Section and regularly attended Section meetings until his illness prevented him from doing so. He was active in the Construction Technical Group. His efforts earned him the Section's Construction Engineer of the Year award in 1995.

Larry is survived by his wife, Bernadette, and son, L.J.

## **MEMBERS IN THE NEWS**

### **A NEW WALSH ARRIVES...**

Congratulations and best wishes to **Jenn Walsh**, our Secretary, who gave birth to son Nicholas Patrick Walsh III, on June 2, 2006. He weighed in at 7 lbs, 4 oz. and he and Mom are doing well! Nicholas is the first child for Jenn and husband Nick.

### **GRIFFITH AND DONNELLY PROMOTED TO SENIOR VP'S**

**Robert E. Griffith, Jr, P.E.**, has been promoted to Senior Vice President of STV Incorporated. (Bob was also the recipient of the ASCE, Phila. Section's 2006 Structural Engineer of the Year honors — more on that in October.)

In his new role, Bob will serve as the Chief Structural Engineer for the national Buildings and Facilities Division in all STV offices, and he is responsible for projects in both the private and public sectors. He was formerly the Douglassville office Chief Structural Engineer.

Bob joined STV in 1986, and has more than 40 years experience in structural engineering and applied mechanics, including antiterrorism and force protection design.

**Gerald Donnelly, P.E.**, has been promoted to Senior Vice President of STV Incorporated. In his new role, he will assume project management and project performance responsibilities as the manager of projects for the national Buildings and Facilities Division's Central Region, which encompasses STV offices from Pennsylvania to Texas.

Gerry will also retain his position as energy national market leader for multi-disciplinary cross-country and facility projects related to the petroleum and gas pipeline industry, dividing his time between STV's Houston and Douglassville, PA, offices.

Gerry began his career with STV as a civil engineer in 1983 and rose to become an associate in 1995, a senior associate in 1997, and Vice President in 1999.

## **CHECK IN WITH US AT YOUR CONVENIENCE... AND SEND US YOUR IDEAS!**

Stay informed by checking our website, [www.asce-philly.org](http://www.asce-philly.org), which will bring you up to date on all ASCE, Phila. Section happenings between issues of THE NEWS.

In addition, as a new service to our members, one of President Martsolf's first actions, as she noted in her incoming speech at the Spring Social, was the establishment of an electronic "suggestion box." This will provide a mechanism for members to pass along any ideas, comments, criticisms, etc. for consideration by the Board and Officers. This can be accessed through the website or directly via e-mail at [suggestions@asce-philly.org](mailto:suggestions@asce-philly.org).

## **ASCE, PHILADELPHIA SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTION — 2006-07 SEASON**

The ASCE, Phila. Section Officers and Board Members were officially installed at the Spring Social on May 5, 2006. They are as follows:

### **PRESIDENT**

Carol C. Martsolf, Urban Engineers, Inc.

### **PRESIDENT ELECT**

James P. Markham, Pennoni Associates, Inc.

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Mark J. Tiger, Michael Baker Jr., Inc.

### **SECRETARY**

Jennifer K. Walsh, McMahon Associates, Inc.

### **TREASURER**

Joseph Platt, Traffic Planning and Design, Inc.

### **ASSISTANT TREASURER**

David C. Hanly, DMJM + HARRIS

### **DIRECTORS**

Vicki L. Brown, Widener University ('05-'07)

Jeremy Colello, Pennoni Associates, Inc. ('06-'08)

Kristen Bowman Kavanagh, Flow Science, Inc. ('06-'08)

Anthony J. Kelly, Perkins Will ('06-'08)

Soheila Rahbari, Schoor DePalma ('05-'07)

Ann M. Tomalavage, Malarkey Consulting, Inc. ('05-'07)

### **PAST PRESIDENTS**

Christopher J. Menna, Phila. Dept. of Streets

Brian A. Stover, Urban Engineers, Inc.

Allan F. Moore, Jr., Phila. International Airport

### **PRESIDENT, READING BRANCH**

Gerald Donnelly, STV, Inc.

We wish these brave and generous folks our collective good luck for the coming season.

### **President — Carol C. Martsolf, P.E.**

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**COPY DEADLINE FOR  
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## FROM THE (SLIGHTLY) CLUTTERED DESK OF THE EDITOR...

Hey, it's summer again! It seems like time flies any more. When I was a kid (I know the politically-correct term is child, but I don't remember ever being anything but a kid), I recall thinking that things took forever, and there was an inverse relationship between something I really, really wanted and the length of time I had to wait to get it. Of course, I didn't know what an "inverse relationship" was at the time, and I more than likely put it in the Beaver Cleaver terms of "junk and stuff," being ever so careful to not get "clobbered" by my older brother!

Summer was one of those things. As much as I enjoyed school (and I did), I also enjoyed summer, and it always seemed like an eternity for the school year to end so summer could start. Summer was the time of endless days of bike riding, ball playing, swimming at the local public pool (only on boy's days, which, unfairly, were Tuesday and Thursday – the girls got three days, and Saturday was a shared day), being part of innumerable games of stickball, halfball (when the stickball ball lost its bounce, it became two "halfies"), and other activities, along with infrequent trips to the shore and other venues. How could you not enjoy it? Of course, every so often there was a rainy day, and you got upset at how could it rain and ruin a summer day, but life went on.

Now that we're older, time seems to pass much more quickly, for some reason, and the games are different and less frequent. Maybe we've grown into it, maybe we're more patient, who knows? I've also hit the age at which it becomes easier to forget things, and this is especially frustrating to me, since I've always had a great ability to remember. (Now, my memory is full of useless information which, for whatever reason, won't leave my memory!) Compounding this, I have another recently-discovered "talent" – the ability to recall long-ago events clearly but not recent happenings. Your Editor is getting older! Hey, pretty soon, it'll be as if I'm the oldest person at a Younger Member Forum event or something. (Well...bad example!)

Since my last note from the Editor's desk, last summer (wow – time does fly!), the desk has moved into a somewhat larger office with a slightly better view, and the "day job" has become a bit more demanding. After 20+ years enjoying Engineering and design work, I've drifted into the administrative/management side, and in all truthfulness, I miss the Engineering part of things. Being "at the top" (or close to it, where I find myself these days) has its perks, but, as I keep learning, the hands-on, nitty-gritty tasks of Engineering and design are not there on a regular basis. Much of my Engineering has become the "vicarious" variety, where I get to practice it through others. Some of my staff might have a different word for it, however, since I tend to want to butt in and get my hands dirty again, so to speak, but that's the Engineer in me, for good or bad.

I didn't say the desk is any less cluttered, although mine is not nearly as bad as others I've

seen (and I'll protect the guilty here, but you know who you are!). I know who the envious are, when they enter my office and talk about how organized it is (that's always the first tip-off – it's not THAT organized!), but then follow it up quickly with a remark about the empty desk being a sign of a cluttered mind or something. Hey, take your shots, if you dare!

I'm always pleased to get compliments from folks who think I'm doing a good job with THE NEWS, and sometimes it takes me off-guard a little since I'm not expecting it – I'm merely doing my job. Please keep in mind that I'm a product of the "old-time" Catholic school system where compliments were few and far between, and there was usually another "shoe ready to drop" when you got the rare "attaboy"! (If you come from this same background I'm sure you remember that pride is one of the seven deadly sins – the others being, in no particular order, covetousness, lust, anger, gluttony, envy and sloth – see, some things I can still remember, and why I can remember these is, frankly, none of your business!) To those of you who think I'm doing a good job and who tell me this, thanks for your observations and thanks for reading this stuff. (I know it's not always easy to do!) If you enjoy it as much as I enjoy putting it together (and I really do), then we've accomplished a goal here.

And, as I've mentioned in the past, you know it's not all me, so I can't rightfully take all the credit. However, I do orchestrate it, so... Our Creative Director, **Kathy Keiper**, soldiers along very well with the rough stuff your Editor e-mails to her, so she deserves about 90% of the accolades. Our new President-Elect, **Jim Markham**, is always willing to lend a hand when he can with the meeting reports and the Younger Member Forum news. Others among you have come through with articles and suggestions here and there as well. The upshot of this is that this is truly a group effort and not just me. (By the way, any tips and gifts that you'd like to send along to anyone who helps out can be sent in care of me and I'll make sure the proper party gets this! And why are some of you not believing me right now?!)

As you may have seen, **Carol Martsoff** was installed as the Section's 94th President this spring. Carol is only the third woman to hold this post (our first female head, Sue Lior, broke the "barrier" in 1988 after 75 years of male Presidents, and Sandra May followed ten years later, in 1998). When your Editor first became involved in the Section in 1981, there were two women active in the Section's hierarchy, one on the Board and one Technical Group chair. At any given Section meeting, there were probably three or four brave (and I do mean brave, to be in that "sea" of male Engineers!) women in attendance. At some meetings, there were none. We still had a Ladies Auxiliary for members' spouses, and one meeting a season was devoted to a topic which would be geared toward the interests of

the Auxiliary. As the Section's membership changed, the Auxiliary began to disband and was completely gone by the late 80's. As it turned out, the irony was that this happened just after Sue's tenure as President. This was a direct reflection of a major shift in the demographics of our profession.

It's interesting to see who the Engineers are these days. We've become a very diverse group. When I started college in 1975, of 28 Civil Engineering students in my class, four were women. At graduation four years later, 3 of the 25 newly-minted Civils were female. Only one of these women was in it "from the start," and interestingly enough, she had intended to major in English. As she tells the story, she was accepted to the Engineering school when the abbreviation she used for "English" on her college application, ENG, somehow led someone at the admissions office to believe she wanted to be an Engineer. When she was told of this mixup, she decided to give Engineering courses a try (she always liked math) for a while to see what it was like. And she remains in the field to this day. Sometimes fate intervenes...?

Lest I forget in my musings here, the real reason for me doing this is for the good of the Section (and I use the loosest definition of "good" that I can use here!). A new "regime" has been installed, as happens every spring. Building on **Chris Menna's** successful year as President, Carol, the new leader of the "pack," is ready to roll. Carol is a good friend with an extremely kind heart and a level of dedication that is hard to top, so it won't be any surprise to see a continuation of the high level of energy and performance set by her predecessors. Carol, along with her Officers and Board, survived an evening retreat and started putting together an interesting program of meetings and events for the coming year. We wish them well.

And we're still in search of that cartoonist...

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## WIDENER OFFERS NEW PROGRAM IN LAND DEVELOPMENT

Widener University's Department of Civil Engineering has developed a new graduate certificate program in Land Development. The certificate is made up of 4 courses (12 credits) and will be offered starting this Fall semester. It can be completed in as little as eight months.

Credits earned for the certificate can also be applied toward a masters degree in Civil Engineering or Engineering Management.

If you are interested in learning more about this new Certificate in Land Development, which is unique in the region, please view the website at [www.widener.edu/SOE/landdevelopment](http://www.widener.edu/SOE/landdevelopment).

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The Constitution only gives people the right to pursue happiness.  
You have to catch it yourself.

— Benj. Franklin

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## APRIL JOINT DINNER MEETING

Thursday, April 20, 2006

Union League, Center City Philadelphia

### *The Rehabilitation Program for City Hall*

by Robert Wright, Editor

Despite the nice spring weather, about 80 folks decided to come inside for the ASCE, Philadelphia Section's April meeting at the Union League. This meeting was a joint effort with the American Institute of Architects (AIA), Philadelphia Chapter.

ASCE, Phila. Section President **Chris Menna** opened the evening with a few announcements and a welcome to AIA. **John Claypool** and **Jim Castner** acknowledged this on behalf of the Philadelphia Chapter. President Menna turned the podium to the evening's featured schools, **Swarthmore College** and **Temple University**. **Jessica Mandrick** of Swarthmore and **Melinda Edwards** of Temple presented short status reports on the happenings at each Student Chapter.

New Life Members were honored. Membership Secretary **Tom Brady** presented Life Member certificates to **Ken Afferton**, **Alan Hess**, **Dick Mabry** and **Rich Weggel**.

Section Past Presidents were cited as has become the tradition at the April meeting. A dozen Past Presidents were in attendance.

Past President **Ruben David** introduced the speakers for the evening, **Hyman Myers** and **Nan Gutterman**, Lead Preservation Architects of the Vitetta Group and **Carl Baumert**, Lead Structural Engineer of Keast and Hood.

Mr. Myers started the presentation with a brief history of City Hall, and some facts and figures. The building, designed by John McArthur, Jr., was constructed over a thirty-year period starting in 1871. It is now a National Historic Landmark, arguably one of the finest examples of French Second Empire architecture

in the United States, and the tallest masonry-bearing wall building in the world.

City Hall contains over one million square feet of interior space, and about 700 rooms, making it the largest city hall in the country. Its richly ornamented perimeter facades extend nearly 500 feet along each side and the masonry on the tower rises to 337 feet with the top of William Penn's hat topping the tower at 548 feet and weighing almost 27 tons. The facades, the fifty-story clock tower and the four portal entries are adorned throughout with a fantastic array of over 250 monumental marble and bronze sculptures as well as ornamental motifs designed and executed under the direction of the renowned sculptor Alexander Milne Calder.

Mr. Myers noted that the building contains over 88 million bricks. If constructed today, its total cost would exceed \$2 billion. The restoration program includes the exterior renovation of almost one-half of the exterior facades of the building facing both the street and the courtyard, encompassing 150,000 square feet of masonry (granite and marble), cast iron cresting and ornament including lead abatement, painting and repair, rehabilitation of 540 of the original mahogany windows, the installation of new window air conditioners and frames, repairs to the slate roofs and the installation of over 40,000 square feet of new flat roofing systems.

The project team includes the City's Capital Program Office, as the owner, C.B. Development as the owner's representative, Daniel J. Keating Co. as the general contractor, and a sizable team of professional consultants.

Ms. Gutterman and Mr. Baumert showed examples of specific distressed areas and the measures taken to address them. While the materials being installed are the same materials that were used when the building was constructed over 100 years ago, the project has set a new standard for level of care. Almost all work had to be performed on site, under "live" conditions as the building had to maintain its normal functions at all times during work. This often involved intricate support and scaffolding systems.

The goal of the project is to renovate for the long-term the exterior of City Hall, in manageable phases over a period of about eight years. City Hall is recognized nationally as an extraordinary piece of Victorian architecture, but it is also important locally to the citizens of Philadelphia as the symbolic and physical center at the "crossroads" of our city.

The project team responded to several thoughtful questions after its presentation, and conducted a short quiz of its own, with prizes to those who correctly answered these quiz questions.

President Menna closed the lengthy but interesting evening and offered the Section's token of appreciation to each of the presenters.

## COMING NEXT ISSUE...

- More information on the October meeting and meeting schedule
- Ali Khan's trip to Pakistan to assist in earthquake relief
- Coverage of the Spring Social
- Results of the latest Section Salary and Benefit Survey

Look for this in the October edition of THE NEWS, coming in mid-September.



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