

## **Mt. Airy Learning Tree Board of Governors 2009**

**Sue Beetle** has lived in Mt. Airy since 1971, where she raised three great kids. She majored in English literature in college with a minor in cartography. Besides work in finance and business management, she has done engineering and architectural drafting and developed software to simulate operations of railroad and rapid transit systems. She enjoys travel, movies, and being part of this community. She is detail-oriented, practical and respectful of organizational processes.

Sue now works as finance manager of Weavers Way Co-op. Before that she was finance director at the Neighborhood Interfaith Movement for 17 years. She served on the board of West Mt. Airy Neighbors for many years. She is currently treasurer of the Mt. Airy Community Computer Center and past treasurer of Mt. Airy Learning Tree, and has assisted many local organizations in setting up/straightening out their accounting systems.

**Christine Caputo** is a library administrator at The Free Library of Philadelphia, where she has worked since 1990. Her main responsibilities include managing various city-wide programs, staff training, and special grant projects focused on serving kids and teens. Chris received a B.S. in Education from Kutztown University and her Master's of Science of Library Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is an enthusiastic participant in several library associations serving on several committees and she loves to travel. An avid reader, Chris can often be found with her head in a book (or two). After having taken several MALT classes, Chris was honored to become a member of the Board in 2007 and is the current MALT Board President.

**Lanina Nelson-Cavicchio** is a Senior Business Liaison with a national transportation company. With over 20 years of experience working in the technology field for private and public industry, Lanina has expertise in client services, systems administration, and project management. She has a practical approach and is noted for her skills in relationship-building, business process analysis, and participatory leadership.

Lanina has been an on-going supporter of MALT as a teacher, a student, and now a board member. She enjoys a range of interests such as reading mysteries, line dancing, travel, orienteering, and movies.

**Adriene K. Hobdy** serves as the Director of Accelerated Undergraduate Business Programs at Rosemont College in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. In this position she is responsible for appointing faculty, developing and supervising program, advising students, and managing all aspects of a substantial program with six tracks. She also

participates in college-wide governance structures and represents Rosemont College and the accelerated undergraduate business program to members of the corporate and education communities.

Adriene also serves on the Board of Directors for Dagda Company, LLC, a financial and tax management firm located in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania.

Adriene is committed to service and is actively involved in her community by serving on the Board of Directors for the Mt. Airy Learning Tree (Philadelphia, PA) and Weaver's Way Community Programs. She previously served on the board at the Alice Paul Institute in Mt. Laurel, NJ.

**Mitch Melton** has lived in Chestnut Hill for 16 years, where he is a husband, father and grandfather. He currently serves as a court crier in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. He is a former member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly (1969-72) where 56 bills he introduced became law in the Commonwealth. The one of which he is most proud is the lowering of the legal age from 21 to 18 for many important legal rights, including the rights to vote, marry and adopt. Mitch also served for twelve years as an at-large Director on the Board of the Chestnut Hill Community Association.

**Marjorie Paloma**, M.P.H, is a program officer of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation working in the areas of childhood obesity, public health, and tobacco control. As a member of the Childhood Obesity and Public Health teams, she brings a rich background and broad experience in program development and management, research and community organizing. Marjorie also directs *Tobacco Policy Change: A Collaborative for Healthier Communities and States*, a national initiative which supports policy advocacy in communities most affected by public health threats.

Prior to joining the Foundation in July 2004, Marjorie managed the Wisconsin Tobacco Quit Line at the University of Wisconsin-Center for Tobacco Research and Intervention. In this capacity, she designed and implemented innovative ideas to improve promotion, access to, and utilization of telephone-based services to help people quit tobacco use. Previously, as project director of a South Bronx community-based organization, Marjorie provided leadership and coordination in advocating for access to quality and sensitive health care for the borough's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities.

Marjorie received an M.P.H. in sociomedical sciences from the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, and a B.A. in biology from the College of Notre Dame

of Maryland. Marjorie and her partner live in the Mt. Airy neighborhood of Philadelphia. She enjoys hiking with her dog - Maddy, cooking international cuisine and enjoys a long road trip with good music.

**Beverly L. Penn** was born and raised in New York City. She attended the H.S. of Music and Art in Manhattan. She then received a Bachelors and Masters Degree in Music from the State University of New York at Binghamton. In 1978 she relocated to Northern Virginia where she worked for a think tank (the Mitre Corporation) analyzing social, economic and legislative policies affecting energy and environmental development programs. She created a proposal for an educational outreach program for the Department of Energy and conducted marketing activities in the energy committees in both the House and the Senate. Soon after, she held a series of positions in the District of Columbia, culminating with a consulting job with the National Democratic Committee. She worked with then Representative Parren Mitchell and other members of the Congressional Black Caucus on the re-election campaign of President Carter, working to increase voter registration. She later worked at a consulting firm providing technical assistance on issues of professionalism and certification for substance abuse practitioners. She served as a liaison with state, regional and federal officials.

She moved to Philadelphia in 1982 to attend Temple Law School, receiving her J.D. in 1985. She has practiced law since 1985 in the areas of workers compensation, personal injury defense, civil rights, employment law, real estate and contract law. Since moving to Philadelphia she has also served on the Boards of the Philadelphia Corporation for Commercial Development (PCDC) and the Malvern Hall Condominium Association of which she is currently serving as President.

She is addicted to reading and to dogs and cats. She loves music, film and travel and has enjoyed doing several forms of needlework.

**Bob Rossman** has many years experience in computer technology. He began working as a computer programmer for INA (now Cigna) in 1970 when computing was on mainframes and employed punch cards. Now retired, his last position was providing technical support for a software company. His other interests include politics, bike riding and cooking, all of which he has turned into courses for MALT. He has served on the board of Weavers' Way COOP. He is currently treasurer of the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Northwest Philadelphia, a long-term member of the Mt. Airy Day committee, and a board member of the Chestnut Hill Community Association. He has been on the MALT Board for over 15 years; over that time he has helped with

computers and a host of other tasks. He is the current Vice – President of the MALT Board.

**Mayra Santiago** was born and raised in San Juan Puerto Rico and moved in 1977 to live stateside. She lived in Boston, MA from 1977 to 1981 completing a master's degree program at Harvard's School of Education in Educational Administration, Planning, & Social Policy. Subsequently she worked as a community organizer around community access to the cable medium and promoting adult and adolescent women's post-offenders' educational programs for GED completion. In 1981 she moved to Minneapolis, MN to pursue a master's and doctoral degree in Exercise Physiology from the University of Minnesota. In 1989 she moved to Philadelphia, PA to join the faculty in the Kinesiology Department of Temple University. In the 20 years of living in Mt Airy, she has been actively involved in community endeavors with her local neighborhood. Mayra has served on the MALT Board since 2005 and was the Board President from 2007 - 2009.

**Adina Silberstein** has lived in Mt. Airy since 1988 and considers it the best community for her lifestyle, values and beliefs after having traveled and lived around the world and experienced many other communities. Adina attended Central High School of Philadelphia and American University in Washington, DC for her undergraduate studies, majoring in Anthropology, Gender Studies & Linguistics. Upon graduation, Adina participated in Teach For America and taught special education in the public schools of New Orleans.

Adina is the owner of Queenie's Pets, LLC, a professional dog walking, pet sitting and pet transport company, serving the communities of NW Philadelphia, Wyndmoor and Glenside.

In her free time, Adina is an avid cyclist, gardener, lover of MALT classes, house concert host, extensive traveler and an experimental "chef." She is enthusiastic about being a part of the board of the Mt. Airy Learning Tree and continuing to expand her involvement with the local community. Adina lives with her partner Rae and their three furry "children." She serves as the MALT Board Secretary.

**John E. Stanchak** is the complete Pennsylvanian: born and raised in the City of Pittsburgh, educated at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania State University, he lived in the City of Harrisburg for more than 25 years, the City of Lancaster for two years, and now in West Mt. Airy. He follows both Pirates and Phillies

baseball, and when the Steelers and Eagles faced off for football championship status in late '09, he could not have been happier.

John was briefly a general news reporter for the Harrisburg *Patriot*, and then worked on the popular bi-monthly publications *British Heritage*, *American History*, and *Civil War Times Illustrated*. He created and launched *Historical Traveler* – an upscale bi-monthly magazine for history fans who enjoy visiting historical sites. He served as Editorial Director of Cowles Magazines' History Division, then as Director of Development, producing programming for cable TV networks.

Since 1997, John has operated **Stanchak – Media**, an editorial services firm specializing in historical, political, and cultural subjects, serving film makers, book publishers, and television producers. As well, he is a freelance magazine writer and an author of history books for children (see Amazon.com). He also occasionally contributes theater reviews to the Mt. Airy *Independent*. In general, he leaves science, technology, finance and the fine points of the law to others. He pursues no healthy practices or habits, and loves films and novels. For many years he enjoyed the company of Millie, a pot-bellied pig, and currently shares his dwelling with an old dog and two romantic parakeets. He is proudest of being the sweetheart of business savant and horse-woman Ms Ellen Hugar of West Mt. Airy, of being the single parent of four loving children, of once having been Pennsylvania's State Champion Chili-Cook (and 1986 contender in the National Cook-Off), and of having racked up lots of stamps in his passport.

During the second half of the 2008-2009 MALT academic year, John served as a volunteer recording secretary during MALT' Board of Governors monthly meetings.