



# CONGRATULATIONS ON THE SNOW BALL

By Bernadette Tanksley



As chair of the upcoming Oak Lane Day 2010, Darcy Russotto has truly broken the mold and set us on a new course. The 1st annual Oak Lane "Snow Ball" held January 15, 2010 at *The Event Place* on Oak Lane has to be one of the most wonderful Oak Lane events ever. Darcy listened respectfully to all the concerns and suggestions and created an event that drew a capacity crowd of Oak Lane neighbors together in a totally new and enjoyable kind of evening. Kudos to everyone on the committee who

kept at it and made EVERYTHING run smooth as silk.--The class of Courvoisier was achieved with wine and beer-- simply amazing! The food was first class Shrimp-steamed and fried; little warm, sweet "Croc Monsieur's", and for dessert tiny cheese-cakes that were the perfect finish! Music played throughout the evening that helped create a mood of relaxation, connection and fun. An evening for couples and singles to mix and mingle. *The Event Place* is an awesome facility that Oak Laners need to consider for special events. The simple exterior doesn't really prepare you for the elegant, beautifully appointed two story space within. Guests enjoyed strolling to the Art

Gallery two doors down to participate in the silent auction. Neighbors from all over Oak Lane repeatedly expressed their pleasure in the evening. The main suggestion for future events would be that the evening include dancing. Events Committee, what say you!

Again, a giant thanks and tip of the hat to the OLCAA Events Committee for a job well done! Special thanks to all of our generous donors: Jerome and Robin Mitchell, owners of *The Event Place*; Austin Lee and Katrina Mortorff, operators of Exclamation Gallery; Corfu Pizza, Under the Oak Café, The Huddle Inn, Trader Joe's in Jenkintown, Kathy Arbour, Michael & Marita Poxon and the OLCAA Board Members.

## Are you interested in working on an Event, let us know— By Events Committee

Let us know if you wish to work on upcoming OLCAA events like the Snow Ball we recently held. You can do this by calling the Hotline at 215-224-2777 or directly on the Website at [www.eastoaklane.org](http://www.eastoaklane.org) and be part of the energy of East Oak Lane.

Leave your name, address and telephone contact number on the Hotline or relay this information via the website by email so that you can be advised to attend our upcoming events.

Your community association looks forward to work-

ing with you.



"Snow Ball" attendees

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### Special points of interest:

- Join OLCAA and become Involved
- Join the Events Committee and Make a Difference
- Appreciate our Beautiful Architecture
- Plant Trees and Keep us Green
- Celebrate Our Youth by Praising them
- Come Out to Our Community Meeting
- Support our Community Organizations



OAK LANE COMMUNITY ACTION  
ASSOCIATION

*Cordially invites you to our  
Community Conversation Forum  
and  
General Meeting*

We are having our 1<sup>st</sup> General meeting of the year with  
Eagle –Eye Task Force. These speakers represent various  
agencies from the City of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Safety Net and the  
35<sup>th</sup> Police District

*This forum will move you to*

***Put your Heart and Soul into Making Your Community Better***

*Come Join Us*

*Have your Questions Answered*

*Help us make our Community a better place to live.*

March 24, 2010  
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Eye Institute  
Winnet Amphitheater  
1200 West Godfrey Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA



**Platinum  
Construction & Development Co.**

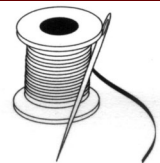
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*Peggy Runde Weston*

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Phila., PA 19126

# Important Information from PECO By Carmen Jimenez

This information is important for all to know and it comes directly from PECO's web site: [www.peco.com/know](http://www.peco.com/know).

On September 10, 2008, PECO filed a plan with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) to purchase power competitively, phase-in market-based rates that will take effect in 2011, and implement energy efficiency programs that complement Act 129 and will help minimize price increases and better manage your electric use. Elements of PECO's plan:

### For You – the customer:

**Market rate phase-in plan:** To help ease you into the rising rates that will take effect in 2011, this plan would give you the option to prepare for any increase by paying into a 6 percent interest-bearing savings plan. Your savings plan payments, plus interest, would then be applied to your bills in 2011.

The plan would alternatively allow you to defer a portion of any initial rate increase by spreading out the amount of the first year's increase during the following two or three years, providing additional time to manage new rates

**Energy efficiency programs:** We will dedicate more than \$50 million to programs and products that can help you manage costs by using energy as efficiently as possible. These would include an enhanced compact-fluorescent light-bulb (CFL) discount program at area retailers, Web-based energy audits, and voluntary programs to control air conditioner energy usage during periods of high demand and high cost. These programs are the first of many expected to be developed that are aimed at reducing energy consumption by one to two percent for our customers. A one to two percent reduction in customer energy con-

sumption would place PECO among the leading utilities in customer energy reduction efforts

**Enhanced low-income assistance:** A discounted residential rate will be offered to qualifying low-income customers. The discounts vary depending upon your level of income. The discount percentages will be modified to assure the rates are affordable.

**Consumer Education:** A multi-million dollar consumer education campaign is already underway, and will run through 2012, to raise awareness about energy efficiency and conservation. The campaign will highlight various steps you can take to better manage the transition to market-based electric rates.

## Romantic Concert—Sponsored by Friends of Oak Lane Library and OLCAA Tree Tenders

# Amore

ROMANTIC VALENTINE'S EVE CONCERT FOLLOWED BY A RECEPTION



Saturday February 13, 2010

7:30 PM SHARP

Benefit Concert for

Friends of the Oak Lane Library & Oak Lane Tree Tenders

FEATURING EVA YOUNG & DR. CONG FAN, CONCERT PIANISTS

AND A

TRIO OF MUSICIANS INCLUDING MICHAEL G. RONSTADT, CELLIST JOHN FRAZIER, CLARINETIST

ADULTS \$10 \* TEENAGERS \$6

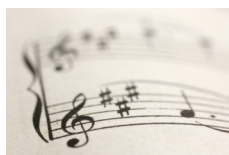
KOREAN UNITED CHURCH  
1200 CHELTENHAM AVENUE  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19126  
(ENTRANCE IS ON 12<sup>TH</sup> STREET)

FREE PARKING IN KUC LOT—70<sup>TH</sup> AND OLD YORK ROAD - WALK TO CHURCH FROM NORTHEAST CORNER OF PARKING LOT, PAST CEMETERY TO CHURCH ON 12<sup>TH</sup> STREET

T. Michael Poxon, Friends of Oak Lane Library

[tm.poxon@verizon.net](mailto:tm.poxon@verizon.net) or 215-549-6531

Charles Phillips, Oak Lane Tree Tenders  
[cphilips@temple.edu](mailto:cphilips@temple.edu) or 215-924-1722





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# Oak Lane Tree Tenders Annual Report 2009

By Charles Philips, Chair Tree Tenders Committee

**Oak Lane Tree Tenders** planted a total of 46 trees in April, May, and November 2009, including 12 trees at Cheltenham Nursing Home, Oak Lane near 5<sup>th</sup> Street. We cleaned the Broad Street traffic islands. We planted hundreds of bulbs along Oak Lane. We had help from LaSalle students, Saul High School students, Friends of the Oak Lane Library and a staffer from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS).

The garden at the Library, planted the year before with Friends of the Oak Lane Library, won second prize in the institutional category in a city wide contest sponsored by PHS

The May 2 Gardens Tour showcased Oak Lane gardens in a fundraiser with a plant sale.

We testified at a City Planning Commission hearing about the Oak Lane Diner which had taken over one of the 3 traffic islands planted under plans developed by Oak Lane Tree Tenders. Our position was that any changes should restore trees and greenery.



Saul High School students mulched trees at Ellwood Elementary School. We contacted the new principal, Ms. Marilyn Quarterman,

who appreciates the trees around the school. We will begin new talks about trees in the school yard.



Oak Lane Tree Tenders A committee of Oak Lane Community Action Association  
6605 Lawnton Ave, Phila PA 1912.  
215-924-1722 [cphilips@temple.edu](mailto:cphilips@temple.edu)

## Searching for East Oak Lane Photographs By Kelly McShain Tyree

Do you have a special architectural feature on your home such as an interesting roofline, charming carriage house, inviting porch or front door, a hand crafted wrought iron fence? How about a favorite backyard tree, a special dog house, water feature or hidden garden? We are seeking interesting, fun, expressive photographs for a new yearly East Oak Lane calendar project that focuses on the best the area has to offer. Seasonal photographs are great and the theme of the Calendar can vary from year to year,

so photographers- think creatively! What would you like to see featured? 'Stained Glass Windows of East Oak Lane,' 'Stone Walls and Homes of East Oak Lane,' 'Great Churches of East Oak Lane,' 'Fireplaces of East Oak Lane...' The sky is the limit! Please send in your photos as an attachment to the email via e-mail with your full name and contact information to: Carmen Jimenez at: [Carmen.jimenez@comcast.net](mailto:Carmen.jimenez@comcast.net). Your insights and contributions offer the community a wonderful way to celebrate



and document our hidden treasures for future generations. Proceeds for the East Oak Lane calendar will benefit the East Oak Lane Paper, neighborhood beautification projects, as well as area historic preservation.

## Oak Lane Library Book Discussion Group—Books on Screen



It wasn't as good as the book." When is this true, and why? What can a film offer that great literature does not? Read the book and/or see the movie, then join us for a discussion!

*Atonement*, Ian McEwan - Wed, Jan. 27

*The Road*, Cormac McCarthy  
Wed., Mar 3

*My Life in France*, Julia Child  
Wed, April 14

Please see Library staff if you need to obtain a copy of the book and/or movie.

FRIENDS OF THE OAK LANE  
LIBRARY SPONSOR

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

6:30-8 p.m.

Oak Lane Branch, Free Library of Philadelphia  
6614 N. 12th Street  
(12th & Oak Lane)  
Philadelphia, PA 19126



# NEWS FROM THE OAK LANE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

By Dawn Shellenberger

The **Oak Lane Presbyterian Church (OLPC)** on the southeast corner of 11<sup>th</sup> Street and Oak Lane is a busy place and offers many activities open to residents of the East Oak Lane community. In addition to serving as a venue for monthly OLCAA Board meetings and OLCAA's yearly General Membership meeting in May, OLPC is a meeting place for Alcoholics Anonymous Groups on Tuesday and Friday evenings and Cub and Boy Scout Troops on Saturday mornings. **The church also sponsors the Oak Lane After School Program, which provides a before and after school program for neighborhood elementary school-age children, and its Cultural Arts Program offers musical instruction for children and youth on an individual or small group basis, and**

**several activities for youth and adults.** If you're looking to start the New Year out with activities that will help you get fit and give you a chance to meet new people and have a good time doing so right here in the neighborhood, OLPC invites you to check out one or more of the low-cost classes offered by the Cultural Arts Program. These include YOGA, LINE DANCING and MARTIAL ARTS (taught by the much-honored martial arts master, Dr. Timothy Robinson). Classes are taught on the following days:

Mondays: 6:30 - 8:30 PM - MUAY THAI and

AIKI JUTSU for teen boys and men

7:30 - 8:30 PM - LINE DANCING

Fridays: 6:30 - 8:00 PM - MARTIAL ARTS

Saturdays: 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM - YOGA

1:00 - 2:30 PM - MARTIAL ARTS

For more information on these classes, please call the church office at 215-424-4446. The office is staffed Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM, but voice mail messages may be left at any time.

**OLPC will be holding a Black History celebration on Saturday, March 6, 2010.** Information on this event will be posted on both OLPC's website [<http://www.oaklane.pcusa.cc/>] and OLCAA's website [<http://www.eastoaklane.org/index.htm>] in the near future.

## LOOKING FOR AN INTIMATE PLACE TO HOST YOUR NEXT SPECIAL EVENT?



**The Event Place is an unique all-inclusive rental venue that offers a wonderful setting for hosting various types of Special Events and Celebrated Occasions including: Birthday Parties, Holiday Parties, Bridal and Baby Showers, Intimate Weddings, Club and Organizational Gatherings, Art Exhibitions, Book Signings, Educational Workshops, Seminars, Networking Events and much, much, more.....**

**For more information, contact us at:**

**The Event Place  
723 Oak Lane Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19126  
215.549.4045  
[www.theeventplace.net](http://www.theeventplace.net)**

**MENTION THIS AD AND RECEIVE A 10% DISCOUNT ON YOUR RENTAL**

## East Oak Lane Youth Corner

East Oak Lane Boy Scout Troop #19 will hold their annual Pan Cake Breakfast on Saturday, May 22, 2010 at the Oak Lane Presbyterian Church, located at 11th Street & Oak Lane from 8:00—11:00 AM. The cost of a ticket is \$6.00. Please come to support our scouts.

The boys of Troop 19 are moving up in rank. Joshua Wilson is two steps away from Eagle Scout; Thurgood Matthews is a first class Scout; and Jared Jones and Rudy Jackson passed the second class swim test. Congratulations to all!

The Troop is growing and our membership is up to thirteen boys. If you are interested in joining this wonderful organization, please contact Al Mitchell at 215-927-0231.

**Dahi Divine**, Central high school student and resident of the 6500 block of N. 11th St., recently performed at **The Grammy's!** Dahi played with Eight of his Grammy Jazz Ensemble colleagues on the horn line with the **Dave Matthews Band**, which was nominated for best album of the year.

Check out the photos from the article that ran on, Thursday, Jan 29th, in USA Today <http://mediagallery.usatoday.com/Rehearsing-for-that-Grammy-gig/G1426>

Proud Mama & Dad,  
Jaye & Knowledge Divine

# Series of Free Lectures on East Oak Lane Architecture

By Marita Krivda, M.S.

Did you know that this building was the original Ellwood School?



**'Armitage Octagonal School House' which was Oak Lane's School House from 1816-1875.**

Come out & learn about this building and many more!

A series of three lectures is to be given by two prominent, local architects, John J. Di Benedetto and David S. Traub. Both men will enlighten those interested in learning about the architectural history and styles of buildings that used to exist in East Oak Lane, buildings that currently exist in East Oak Lane and buildings of great architectural interest that are currently in desperate need of restoration.

**John J. DiBenedetto, FARA — Sun., March 6, 2010—4:30 PM**

**Marita Krivda, MS— Sun., March 14, 2010-4:30PM**

**David S. Traub, AIA - Sunday, March 28, 2010—4:30 PM**

Lectures to be given at:


KUC Church  
12<sup>th</sup> & Cheltenham Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19126

Sponsored by Friends of Oak Lane Library.

All lectures will be followed by a reception. For more information contact:

Michael Poxon, President Friends of the Oak Lane Library – 215-549-6531  
email: [tm.poxon@verizon.net](mailto:tm.poxon@verizon.net)

# East Oak Lane Business Association By Sharon W. Losier, Esq.

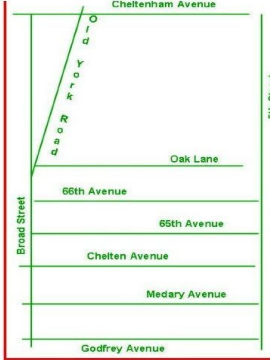


**EAST OAK LANE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

The vision is to foster the neighborhood atmosphere of the Oak Lane community and the business corridors supporting thriving, profitable and diverse businesses with their unique décor, refreshed facades and their historic aesthetic surroundings (e.g. tree lined, flower pots, etc).

**Our Mission**

- Engage businesses in fostering overall economic vitality of the community
- Raise public awareness of our strong collective business community
- Provide networking opportunities for businesses
- Commit to restoring the vitality and historic assets of our community
- Invest in bringing quality services and products to our residents




Join our circle of like-minded business owners: business to business relationships can be insightful and profitable; participate in business development workshops & seminars; be a part of public/ private partnerships in NW Philadelphia

Contact: Cecil Garlington, EOLBA President at 215-924-2505 or [GlennGarlington@aol.com](mailto:GlennGarlington@aol.com)  
6742 Old York Rd. Philadelphia, PA 19126

"Our neighborhood civic association, OL-CAA, welcomes the East Oak Lane Business Association as a new member. As home owners, we can all play an important part in positive neighborhood development by supporting our local businesses. Thriving commercial corridors help to create a healthy residential community by offering needed goods, services and local employment opportunities, as well as eliminating blight, improving safety and lighting, partnering on streetscape improvement and beautification projects, and attracting responsible homeowners and renters to the neighborhood."



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(Also enjoy Home-made pound cake at this location)

**Tea Shop (East Oak Lane): New Hours**  
Monday-Friday.....1:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
Saturday.....12:00pm – 6:00pm  
Sunday.....by appointment

Tea Café (Temple University): *Closed*

Free Educational Tea Tastings on Sundays from 3 – 4pm. (Call for an appointment)

Ask about our school fundraisers and tea services (at our place or yours).

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6742 Old York Road  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19126

924-2505

# Zoning News: The Oak Lane Diner By T. Michael Poxon, Esq.

LP Abeer, owner of the Oak Lane Diner, is seeking permission from City Council to continue with construction of a one-story concrete masonry addition, forgiveness of all fines and penalties for not obtaining permits and licenses in advance. Additionally, he wants Old York Road made one way southbound for the single block from 66th Avenue to 65th Avenue, the right to purchase a seven to eleven foot strip of land on Old York Road, thus reducing it to a single lane and part of the street on the north side of the restaurant, where he has already removed trees and other landscaping planted by the Oak Lane Tree Tenders. The three bills, introduced by Councilperson Donna Reed Miller, were before the Streets and Services committee for a hearing in December, 2009 and before the City Planning Commission. The Streets and Services Committee continued the bills to

permit members of the Committee to inspect the site. A hearing set for January 28, 2010 was cancelled and the three bills have been tabled pending assurances that Mr. Abeer can comply with all required permits and licenses. The three bills, Numbers 090838, 090839 and 090840 may be viewed at [www.Phila.gov](http://www.Phila.gov) website. Go to City Council, Legislation, Search. The Oak Lane Tree Tenders may seek a meeting with Mr. Abeer concerning some \$20,000 in landscaping that has been damaged by the construction.

The Oak Lane Tree Tenders have not yet taken a position on the bills before City Council, but have argued before the Planning Commission that the Oak Lane Diner, should it acquire land on Old York Road, should make it more green, e.g. by planting

at least six more trees on the east side of Old York Road behind the diner. Those wishing to express their opinion on the construction, the lack of permits and the destruction of the landscaping on the traffic island just north of the Oak Lane Diner, may contact the OLCAA Hotline or Councilperson Donna Reed Miller's office. Her Legislative aide is William Newhewat, who expects that the owner, Mr. Abeer, will probably have to remove the bollards erected in the sidewalk, but that all other construction will probably remain provided the Oak Lane Diner shows compliance with all permits, licenses and inspections. Councilperson Donna Reed Miller's office phone number is 215-686-2066. The Oak Lane Tree Tenders may be reached by calling Charles Philips at 215-927-1722.

## INTERESTED IN PLACING AN ADVERTISEMENT—HERE'S HOW

OLCAA welcomes advertisers. We can accommodate the following ad sizes:

Business Card Size . . . . .	\$ 30.00
One-quarter Page . . . . .	\$ 60.00
One-half Page . . . . .	\$120.00
Full Page . . . . .	\$240.00

This is a great way to get your advertisement circulated to all the households in East Oak Lane.

Not only will it be available to residents of East Oak Lane, but can be viewed by anyone who goes into our Web site. Think about how much you will get for your money.

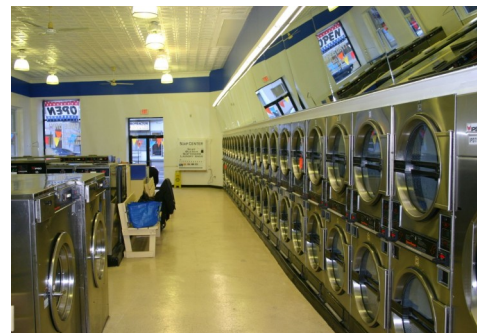
Contact the Hotline at 215-224-2777 and leave your number or via email through our Website at [www.eastoaklane.org](http://www.eastoaklane.org) under Contact Us to Carmen Jimenez, Communications Committee Chair.

## Neighborhood Laundromat Opens By David Weston

On January 29, 2010, our neighborhood Laundromat reopened under new management. Once known as "Elsa Laundromat" located at 6709 Old York Road and closed its doors in the early 2009, has re-opened under a new name "Wash Express." Wash Express is open 24/7 and has available parking in their clean parking lot.

Wash Express will be offering "Drop off and Dry Cleaning" services very soon. They have 24 regular commercial washers, and 15 large commercial washers for your huge articles. To dry your clothing and bedding items they have 40 regular size dryers and two Xtra large dryers for your convenience. For a limited time they are offering free drying.

I encourage, the residents of Oak Lane to stop by and see the newly renovated facility and meet the new management and staff Syhed and Imtiyaz (Dan) Ahmad.





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**OAK LANE COMMUNITY ACTION ASSOCIATION (OLCAA)**

P. O. Box 2926  
Philadelphia, PA 19126

Phone: 215-224-2777  
E-mail: board member name@olcca.org



*Hands working together build a vibrant community.*

**We're on the Website**  
**Eastoaklane.org**

**OAK LANE COMMUNITY ACTION ASSOCIATION (OLCAA)  
MEMBERSHIP FORM**

*(Full Membership for residents of, or own businesses located in, East Oak Lane; and will receive a free subscription to OLCAA's newsletter.)*

**Date Mailed:** \_\_\_\_\_

- New member**
- Renewal**



**Choose a membership category:**

- Individual \$15
- Family \$25
- Student \$ 6
- Senior (65+) \$ 6
- Business/Organization \$50
- Associate Non-Resident \$25

**Please call the Communications**

**Committee to place an AD**  
**215-224-2777**  
**Option #2**

**I/We wish to make an additional contribution of:**

- \$50-99 (Willow Club) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - \$100-499 (Maple Club) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - \$500+ (Oak Club) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Total amount enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like more information on Committees of OLCAA:**

- Beautification
- Quality of Life
- Historic Preservation
- Safety & Town Watch
- Membership
- Tree Tenders
- Communications
- Housing & Zoning

**Membership Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**HOW DID YOU HEAR OF OLCAA?**  Newsletter  Other—Explain \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to: Oak Lane Community Action Assn.*

**Mail to:** OLCAA P.O. Box 2926 Phila., PA 19126

**Contact us at:** 215-224-2777

**Web site:** www.eastoaklane.org

**Contributing to OLCAA**

*Donations are tax-deductible*