



## *Shore Her Up!* The Preservation Campaign

The Preservation Committee met on March 13 after a brief hiatus to replenish our volunteer energy. Thanks to Essie Abraham, we have the name for our preservation campaign: **Shore Her Up!** This is exactly what we have to do to save our boathouse from further structural deterioration.

The next few months at PGRC will be an important time for the future of the boathouse and club. In this 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, we will officially start our member-to-member campaign to raise the funds needed to secure the building. The process is two-fold: first, we will provide as much information as possible to members about the facility needs, work to be done, costs and processes for raising funds. Second, we will meet with and ask

members in person for multiple year pledges and gifts.

### **What has been raised so far? Our leaders have been busy:**

- The PGRC Board is leading the way with a collective contribution of **\$65,000** in gifts and pledges to be paid out over a 5-year period.
- 5 members have pledged \$5,000/year over 5 years or **\$25,000** each!
- A number of members have generously converted their bond loans into donations, totaling **\$26,000** to date.
- **\$8,000** net proceeds from members and friends from the 150th anniversary celebration.

(continued on page 4)

## **PGRC Turns 75**



Join us in our celebration of being the longest active women's rowing club in the United States on Saturday, May 4, 2013. Share the pride! Come celebrate Ruth and the other founders at PGRC from 4:00 – 7:00 pm.

PGRC Friends  
Contact us via our website  
[Philadelphiangirlsrowingclub.org](http://Philadelphiangirlsrowingclub.org)  
~  
Like our Facebook page

Next Members' Meeting  
May 2, 2013  
7:00 PM at PGRC

Philadelphia Girls' Rowing Club  
#14 Boathouse Row  
Kelly Drive  
Philadelphia PA 19130

# PGRC Pitch Meter

## Preservation Project Update

In 2009 Keast and Hood Engineers were engaged to conduct a comprehensive structural assessment of #14 Boathouse Row. As part of our comprehensive Master Plan, the structure must first be stabilized before any other architectural renovation work takes place.

The proposed structural stabilization includes a two-foot thick concrete mat slab (anchor slab) with steel beams and reinforcing steel rods for strength. This design anticipates the flood control system first entertained by the Building Committee in 2008/2009. Before flood control is possible, we needed to be sure the structure could withstand the enormous hydrostatic pressures created by flood waters. K&H informed us that currently it would not stand. As long as the flood waters rise with equal pressure against both the inside and outside of the boat bay walls, the building



would remain stable, but continue to deteriorate. With an installed flood gate, the enormous pressure of the water against the outside walls of the building and from under the basement floor could cause the entire structure to fail. A steel-reinforced slab, locked into the foundation of the building using a “key way,” would interlock all the walls and floors so that they will not collapse under intense flood pressures.

Both Susan Anderson’s report from 1980 and the recent GAI Report affirmed that the building is erected upon wood pile foundations, due to the unstable soil conditions. Wooden piles are still a common construction method today. Many buildings, including the Wells Fargo Center, are built on wood piles to provide deep structural integrity in a swamp area. Unfortunately, wood piles will last only as long as they are submerged. With the ebbing and flowing of ground water tables, the wood piles will rot over time.

Because after 150 years, the piles either are rotting or will eventually rot, the mat/anchor slab used in conjunction with the weight of the stone walls will lock the building in place. Additionally, this method is critical for the use of flood control. Other stabilization methods, such as underpinning pits or the use of helical piles, would be prohibitively expensive.

In response to members’ interest, the Board invited Jonathan S. Price and Brian B. Wentz from Keast and Hood to come to the April members’ meeting and explain the first part of the project. They gave a visual demonstration of the plan and answered questions, with Dona File’s help. They made a clear and concise case for the current plan.

(cont. on page 4)

# PGRC Pitch Meter

## **Susan Carol Anderson, 1941 – 2013**

### **Early Champion of Boathouse Preservation**

Longtime PGRC member Susan Anderson sadly died in January of this year. Susan received a MA degree in Teaching from Cornell University and worked in western New York as substitute librarian for elementary schools and drama critic for the Elmira Star Gazette. She was a social worker for a migrant labor camp and Education and Social Services Director for the Rochester Model Cities program.

Susan moved to Philadelphia in 1970 and worked for the City of Philadelphia, Model City's Program as Director of Education. She then moved to the Crime Prevention Association as Director of the Marconi Senior Citizen Center and Assistant Director of Day Care. In the early 80s she took time off for six months of travel in Europe. Susan then worked for the American Cancer Society as Public Relations Assistant, Metropolitan Hospital as Director of Marketing, Public Relations and Volunteers. In 1989, Susan went to the American College of Physicians, working in various communications and public relations positions, handling all media relations for Annals of Internal Medicine. She developed press kits, set up media training for officers, assisted in running the press office at medical meetings, and wrote annual reports, news releases, and patient education material. She also wrote and oversaw production of several video news releases.

Susan was a member of Philadelphia Girls' Rowing Club and participated in renovation of the facility and grant writing for funding. Her report to the Philadelphia Historical Commission, 1980, was a guiding document for our first steps in boathouse preservation. She was a competitive rower, a member of the US Rowing Association, a fully licensed



referee of the National Association of Amateur Oarsmen, a member of F.I.S.A. and the United States Rowing Association, and officiated in local, national and international regattas. She opened her home several times to women rowers training in Philadelphia.

Susan was committed to the advancement of a voice for women. She helped further the fight against Pancreatic Cancer through her participation in a clinical trial at the National Institute of Health on delivery methods of medications directly to the tumor. She was an excellent writer and storyteller, keeping friends entertained and attentive during the telling of many tales. "Her sense of humor was the greatest," says Sophie Socha. She had the talent of keeping friendships over many years, from high school, college and the rowing community.

Susan is survived by her brother and sister, two nieces, and two grand nephews and a grand niece. Donations in Susan's name can be made to the Philadelphia Girls' Rowing Club.

# PGRC Pitch Meter

## Gift Categories in a Capital Campaign

Below is a chart to demonstrate how giving works in a capital campaign. This chart has a \$500,000 goal. The Board and the Building Committee will decide in April exactly how much we will need to raise in this campaign. We have taken on a big challenge (preserving the boathouse), and we need to take big steps to achieve that goal. While the gift amounts tend to fall in a pyramid, each level of giving is vital to our overall success. Every dollar makes a difference! About 75% of the gifts typically come from members and friends, with the balance from foundations or corporate sponsorships.

Gift Category given over 3-5 yrs	No. Gifts Required	No. Prospects Required	Total Dollars per category	Cumulative Total
\$50,000	1	5	\$50,000	\$50,000
\$40,000	2	10	\$80,000	\$130,000
\$30,000	4	15	\$120,000	\$250,000
\$25,000	6	10	\$ 150,000	\$400,000
\$10,000	7	20	\$ 70,000	\$470,000
Under \$10,000	Many	Many	\$30,000	\$500,000

### Preservation Campaign (fundraising) cont. from page 1

- **\$25,000** previously collected from members since 2008 from Quizzo fundraisers and other activities.
- Our estimated goal is \$475,000 – of which **\$175,000** has been given or pledged.

Thanks to members' efforts to date, we have already fixed the cupola. This structural stabilization was not part of the original plan, but reserve funds made it possible for us to handle this emergency. We are working on a logo and brochure for our campaign and will be sharing them with you soon, so stay tuned. In the meantime, if you are interested in learning more now – or in serving on one of the committees – please contact either Sophie Socha or Wendy Epstein, and thank you!

### Preservation Project (the house) cont. from page 2

The PGRC Board and the Building Committee will be meeting this month to decide whether to add flood control now, or do all the necessary stabilization work as planned (reducing the ticket price) and install the flood gate later. Should we decide not to install an expensive flood gate at this time, the structural issues need to be addressed in a manner so that future boathouse members can install a flood gate without having to redo the current structural stabilization.

PGRC Pitch Meter  
Diana Post, Editor

Banner image from The Library Company of Philadelphia

Material contributed by:

Ken Anderson  
Dona File

Wendy Epstein  
Sophie Socha