



## 2021 Annual Membership Meeting Agenda

---

### *Please Join Us!*

*West Mt. Airy Neighbors is hosting its Annual Membership Meeting*

***Tuesday, June 15, 2021 via Zoom 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM***

*RSVP in advance for this meeting:*

[\*RSVP Here\*](#)

*After RSVPing, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.*

*The Nominating committee will be presenting the candidate for Board President and candidates to fill open positions on the Board of Directors. Bios of the candidates are below for your review. All WMAN members are eligible to vote on the slate of candidates.*

*Our newly formed WMAN Climate Committee will kick off their first community presentation, on the subject of **Climate Justice**. We are excited to welcome **Russell Hicks as our special guest speaker**. Russell is the Co-Chair of the Climate Justice and Jobs Team with P.O.W.E.R. (Pennsylvanians Organized to Witness Empower and Rebuild). He is also C. E.O. and Owner of Ebony Suns Enterprises, LLC.; a sustainable consulting company that provides project management, training and business coaching for non-profit organizations that serve youth and for-profit businesses that hire youth in the green economy. His experience and background have created positive impact for over 1,000 youth and families locally and internationally through*

his brand of social entrepreneurship, civic engagement, and green workforce development.

Russell will provide us with a broad overview on Climate Justice, and some of the current climate justice issues that P.O.W.E.R. is focusing on and how WMAN and Mt Airy community members can get involved in climate justice issues.

## WMAN Board Nominees, June 2021

---

### ***Nominee for President***

Stephen Kendall

### **Board Nominees to be Elected to a Three-Year Term**

Jana Adler

Adrienne Carpenter

Josephine Gasiewski-Winter

Meg Hagele

Leroy Hall

Kristin Haskins-Simms

Susan Matyas

Rebecca Moore

Robert Pelszynski

Natalie Sloane

Morris Zimmerman

### ***Continuing Board Members***

Darren Damone

Samuel Grannum

Robert Holum

Kevin Keene

*Donna Skinner Echols*

Dionne Watts-Williams

Lauren Wiley

### ***Retiring Board Members***

Alex Aberle

Rosemary Harley  
Allyson Katzman  
Violette Levy  
Ed Williams

# Candidate Bio for WMAN President Nominee

---

## **Stephen Kendall, PhD, RA**

Dr. Kendall is a registered architect and holds a PhD in Design Theory and Methods from MIT. His career in architectural practice, research and education spans more than 35 years. Before his retirement in 2014, he taught in the US, Japan, China, Taiwan, Indonesia, South Africa and Italy. His teaching, research and writing focus on the Open Building approach, needed to make buildings more adaptable, easier to customize to meet changing preferences and thus more sustainable. He has authored more than 50 published papers and research reports and three books. He is Co-Founder and Vice President of the Council on Open Building, a professional non-profit advocating that buildings be prepared for change. He serves on the West Mt Airy Neighbors civic association as Vice President of Physical Resources and its Quality of Life and Zoning Committees. He is also Vice President of Weatham Neighbors in West Mt. Airy.

# Candidate Bios for WMAN Board Nominees

---

## **Jana Adler**

After spending a few decades living in New York and traveling the world as a buyer for several well-known fashion brands, Jana has recently returned to her native Mt Airy neighborhood. Along with the move came a career change to real estate. Jana is particularly interested in the built environment of Mt Airy. Jana is a graduate of Central High School and Parsons School of Design.

Jana is enthusiastic about joining the board and would like to be involved in zoning, environmental initiatives and fundraising. She ran fundraisers for Elizabeth Warren so has a lot of experience in this realm. In our conversation it came up that her professional background would also lead to revising the merchandise that we sell to be sourced locally and help promote local artists and business. I found this a particularly interesting idea to pursue.

## **Adrienne Carpenter**

Adrienne is an educational leader. She has experience with coordinating partnerships with universities, businesses and community programs. Her vast experience includes being a principal, an assistant regional supervisor an Instructional Officer supervising 36 schools. She currently works as a consultant for Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Adrienne holds a Doctor of Education from Temple University. She is a resident of Mt Airy. In her free time she enjoys reading, global traveling, dancing and fine dining.

### **Josephine Gasiewski-Winter , PhD**

Josephine lives in W Mt Airy with her husband, two young children, and poodle pup Penny. Born in the Overbrook Farms section of Philadelphia, she graduated from Central High School, and went on to earn a BA and MEd from the University of Pennsylvania, before running a children's urban literacy program throughout Los Angeles. Josephine completed her PhD at Temple University in Urban Education, and post-doc at UCLA at the Higher Education Research Institute where she focused on qualitative analyses related to diversifying the STEM pipeline. Dr. Gasiewski-Winter now serves as a consultant and qualitative data expert primarily on diversity, equity, and inclusion projects in higher education. Her academic skill sets and interests include qualitative survey design, administration and analyses, oral histories, DEI, and educational reform.

Josephine is interested in starting an oral history project with WMAN to record the older members of the community who helped form our wonderful neighborhood.

### **Meg Hagele**

Meg Hagele opened High Point Café in 2005 to serve the Mt Airy community. A Mt. Airy native, Meg grew up on Allens Lane and then Elbow Lane, attended GFS and later George School. After living in California, Ithaca and Seattle, Meg returned to Philadelphia in 2003. A current resident of Roxborough, Meg spends most of her waking hours serving the Mt Airy community, which she considers home, regardless of her mailing address.

In addition to running High Point Café, Meg has organized and run Mt Airy centric events and programs like the Mt Airy Village Fair, Community Yard Sales, Busses to DC, and the soon-to-be reboot of the High Point Sunday Market!

### **Leroy Hall**

Leroy has been the principal of Henry Houston since July of 2014. He is also an Adjunct professor at Chestnut Hill College. Previous experience includes different roles in the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh school districts. Principal Hall is currently pursuing a Doctor in Education from Drexel University. He also holds Masters in ED from University of Pittsburgh. Leroy lives with his family in Landsdale, PA. He will be an invaluable voice to hear from on how WMAN can better support our schools.

### **Kristin Haskins-Simms**

Kristin was born and raised in West Mt. Airy. She graduated from Germantown Friends School and attended University of Penn. Upon graduation in 1993, she lived in NYC before earning an MFA from RISD in 2000. Kristin accepted a position as visiting professor at UCONN while also starting her own graphic design studio in Philadelphia. After a year at UCONN, she moved back to Philadelphia and accepted various adjunct positions at UPENN, Philadelphia University, Rutgers and Rowan. She also continued to grow her graphic design studio.

Kristin started a t-shirt line called "Strangefruit" which was intended to use fashion to educate about Black History. She taught herself how to sew using her grandmother's old sewing machine. Eventually she made a whole fall line and debuted at a Philadelphia fashion week which elevated her to a "one to watch fashion icon" status. She was cast to Season 8 of Project Runway. Even though Kristin was the 5th one eliminated, she learned a lot from that experience and vowed never to apply to a competition reality show ever again. The best thing about that experience was netting and spending quality time with Tim Gunn.

Kristin continued with fashion with a new line "Krysi" and a small manufacturing company helping independent designers develop their lines. (2011-2020). When COVID occurred, she dissolved the business and is now working in her family's Real Estate business as the Interior Architect and Designer. They have been renovating and flipping houses.

### **Susan Matyas**

Susan is the Senior Director of Development & Communications for the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia, the board president of Allens Lane Art Center, and the board secretary of UBA Foundation. For over a decade, Susan has also been an adjunct professor in the Arts Administration and Museum Leadership Graduate Program at Drexel University. Susan lives in W. Mt. Airy with her husband, Peter Samuel, and can often be seen in her garden or hiking in the Wissahickon.

## **Rebecca Moore**

Rebecca is a creative entrepreneur - a graphic and product designer. She's originally from New York and has lived in Philadelphia for several years. She's very passionate about Mt. Airy and is excited about the possibility of getting involved with WMAN.

## **Robert Pelszynski**

Rob and his wife Elizabeth have lived in West Mount Airy since 2006. They opened the Mount Airy Taproom in 2019. Rob holds a Bachelor of Business Administration specializing in Risk Management and Insurance. He has a wide range of experience in restaurant management. Rob is interested in deepening his roots in the community by serving on the WMAN Board.

## **Natalie Sloane**

Natalie and her partner Brody started Mt Airy Trash Team. MATT is a group of volunteers that meets once a month to pick up trash in a selected spot. Natalie holds a BSW from the University of North Carolina and a MSW from NYU. She is interested in continuing her work with MATT and coordinating with Darren Damone, Chair of the newly formed WMAN Climate Committee.

## **Morris Zimmerman**

Morrie is Principal of O Z Collaborative, an award-winning architectural firm established in 1988 that serves clients in the Philadelphia region with a range of project types, including affordable housing, non-profit, higher-ed, K-12 schools, institutional, sustainable design and historic preservation. Morrie and his wife, Anne Deaner, moved to West Mt. Airy a year after purchasing a fixer-upper in 2000, and raised their son with all the amazing amenities that we have around us, including the Wissahickon, Lovett Library, and Mt. Airy Baseball. Morrie has a deep interest in community, historic fabric, and the built environment. He has served on the WMAN Zoning Committee for the past 12 years.