

THE CITY OF SUMMIT

N E W J E R S E Y

CITY HALL 512 SPRINGFIELD AVENUE SUMMIT, NJ 07901

COUNCILMEMBER PHYLLIS SANK

Phyllis and her husband, pediatrician Dr. Sank, moved to Summit in 1972 after living eight years in Berkeley Heights where Lew established his pediatric practice, which continued for 45 years.

Phyllis, a speech therapist by education, immediately became involved in the Summit Childcare Center (now known as The Learning Circle of the Summit Area Y) and located in a small house at 32 Woodland Avenue. She also became involved in Summit politics, which at that time meant the Republican party, working to elect good people to the mayor's office and Common Council, e.g., mayors Janet Whitman and Walter Long.

In the early 70's, her real passion, shared by Lew, was raising \$600,000 to build a new facility for the SCCC at 95 Morris Avenue that would provide outstanding educational childcare to children from infancy through kindergarten. This all-volunteer effort, fueled by an extraordinary group of Summit women, resulted in the building of New Jersey's first-ever center exclusively constructed for children. Raising the funds for the center also resulted in a new career for Phyllis – fundraising and grantsmanship – first at Kean University as Director of Grants; then Fairleigh Dickinson University as Director of Development; and finally at Saint Barnabas Medical Center as Vice President of Development and Community Relations for the newly created Saint Barnabas Foundation. Following her tenure there, Phyllis returned to full-time volunteering in Summit, becoming the chair of Mayor Whitman's committee for site selection of the proposed new City Hall. After the committee first recommended the Village Green, which was summarily rejected by the community, the old City Hall site was selected and here it stands today.

Phyllis also co-chaired the Summit Centennial celebration, a community-wide event in 1999, marking the city's founding 100 years ago. Most importantly, the mayor appointed Phyllis to the Planning Board, a bipartisan board of dedicated volunteers who were committed to ensuring the highest and best use of Summit's land development. To that end, realizing that the city's Master Plan had not been updated in a decade or more, Mayor Whitman and Planning Board Chair Paul Deehan appointed Phyllis to chair Master Plan 2000. Assembling a bipartisan/nonpartisan group of volunteers, representing Summit's diverse population, and including residential, business, corporate, educational, and religious groups, Master Plan 2000 became the touchstone that has guided much of the development that is today's Summit.

Turning to politics, Phyllis, a lifelong Democrat, worked hard to elected Jordan Glatt as the first-ever Democrat on the Common Council; and two years later as the first-ever Mayor of the City of Summit. Since that time, her commitment to good government, and especially to respectful bipartisan appointments at all levels, remains firm. She considers herself, Lew and her entire family blessed to have lived in Summit for a half-century plus and is especially proud of Dr. Sank's decades-long career, caring for the health of Summit's children and the ongoing care of hundreds of children provided daily by The Learning Circle (TLC).