

SUNDAY NEWS

Sunday, May 26, 2013 • Lancaster, PA

Building on a respect for old structures

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

BY ENELLY BETANCOURT
Staff Writer

Saving historically significant buildings has become a way of life for Lois Groshong.

“I started my life in an old house,” says the native Nebraskan. “I lived in a home that my grandfather built for his family, and I was drawn to it. I always felt a need to take care of it.”

A city resident, Groshong is chairwoman of the Lancaster Historical Commission, which oversees new construction and demolition of properties within the Heritage Conservation District.

The 64-year-old is a partner at K&G Artisan Builders, which is also known to local residents as Historic Restorations.

Old buildings, she notes, have survived all kinds of changes and they have stories to tell. “To me it’s about taking care of them and keeping that piece of our history alive,” she says. “I believe that being a preservationist is a small thing I can do to make the world a better place.”

She says a love of history and community brought her here. “Lancaster has a lot of historic places, and the community truly values and takes care of them,” Groshong says.

What she loves the most about preservation and conservation, Groshong says, is the art and science behind it.

“We don’t do quick fixes,” she says. “We build or preserve something that will be here long after we are gone.”



Lois Groshong says she believes preservation makes the world a better place.

Family: Husband Chuck, daughter Danielle and son-in-law Jonathan Keperling.

Education: Metropolitan State University of Denver.

Growing up, I wanted to be: A fashion designer.

Someone in history I greatly admire: Martha Graham, the founder of the oldest dance company in America.

People would be surprised to know: I was elected Miss Colorado in 1972.

My culinary specialty: Fried chicken.

Favorite movie: American Christmas drama “It’s a Wonderful Life.”

Best book I’ve ever read: “A Tree Grows in Brooklyn,” 1943 novel written by Betty Smith.

Favorite vacation spot: Grandby, Colo.

Something always found in my refrigerator: Lettuce and margarita mix.

What I do to relax: I take long baths.

I can’t function without: Morning meditation.

If someone wrote a book about my life, the title would be: “This Little Light of Mine.”

Words to live by: Do what you can with what you got.

I regret: Nothing. I like the choices I’ve made.

My hobbies: Dancing, yoga, painting and sewing.

Someday I would like to: Tour the country on a motorcycle, ride a zip line and sing in front of thousands people. I enjoy singing.

Best advice I ever received: Believe in yourself.

Favorite food: I don’t discriminate ... if it’s food, I like it.

I could not live without: My family. I am blessed to have them. We do everything we can to make our lives feel fulfilled and happy.