



SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

## THE RESIDENT NEWSLETTER

Box 3, Philadelphia, Pa. 19105

April, 1980

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATE IS CHANGED

The date for the next general membership meeting has been changed from May 7th to Wednesday, May 14th. The place and time remain the same: Wasson Hall, Old Pine Community Center at 7:30 p.m. The change was made so that this important meeting would not conflict with the Society Hill activities of Philadelphia Open House.

### May 14th Meeting Agenda

Managing Director to Speak, Other Officials Invited - Managing director, W. Wilson Goode, has accepted an invitation to address the general membership meeting of the Association on Wednesday, May 14th. He will speak at 9:15 p.m. and his address will be preceded by a regular business meeting of the Association beginning at 7:30 p.m. President Willmann has also invited the following city officials to address the Association: David Williamson, executive director, Mayor's Office of Transportation, Joseph Brown, commissioner of Public Property and Howard Mintzer, Jr., commissioner of Streets.

Traffic and Parking - SHCA needs a cohesive traffic and parking plan to present to the city Office of Transportation. In an effort to solicit ideas from the membership, Damon Childs has drawn the map included in this issue which shows current parking restrictions. Please examine this map, make a list of suggestions and come to the May 14th meeting prepared to take part in the planning of a comprehensive solution to our problems. Please come...this is your opportunity to be heard.

### FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

In case you may have wondered why the Visitors' Center bell is ringing not just at 11 and 3 but also at noon each day, it is due to the desire of the church and synagogue members and leaders in our community to remember the plight of the 50 American hostages still imprisoned in Iran.

### JIMMY WHO? RONALD WHO? THE REAL ELECTION SCOOP

It's election time down South - Southeast that is - and Southwest, Northwest and Northeast, too. And we don't mean the Pennsylvania primary. We mean the SHCA election.

The timetable goes like this: On April 7th, the nominating committee met; by April 21st, election notices with the May 7th deadline for receipt of candidates' petitions will be distributed; on May 14th, at the regular membership meeting, the candidates will be introduced and on May 21st, the election of the board will take place.

Only members who have paid or waived payment of their dues by May 1st are eligible to vote in the May 21st election.

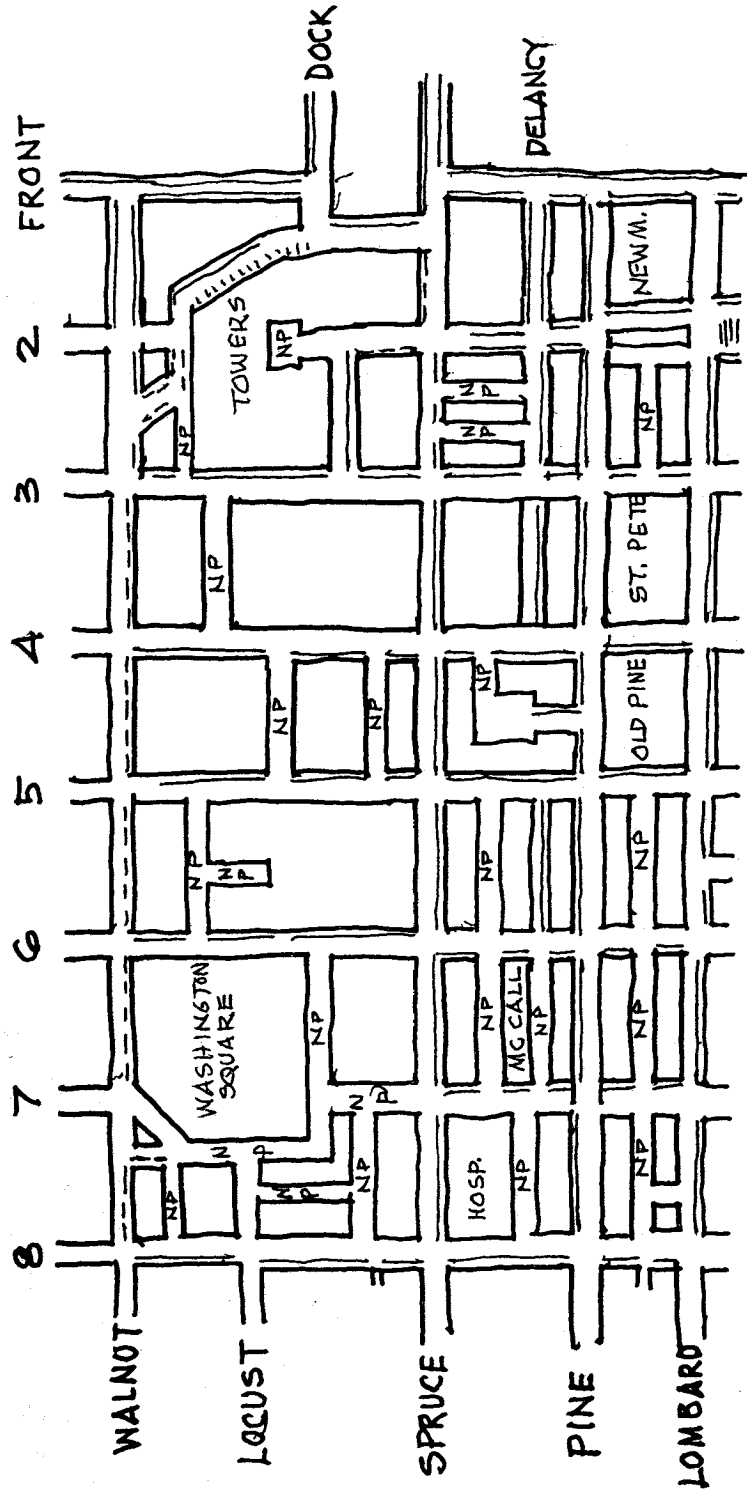
Non-incumbent candidates for SHCA office will be permitted to obtain a copy of the membership list in order to reproduce it at their own expense for campaign purposes. The policy of the SHCA is that the membership list shall not be available for commercial use.

The total board is made up of 4 officers and 12 quadrant representatives plus the "continuing director". The nominating committee has the obligation of nominating the officers. This procedure differs from the manner in which the rest of the board (the quadrant representatives) are nominated. This is accomplished by the forwarding of nominating petitions from members in the various quadrants to the nominating committee.

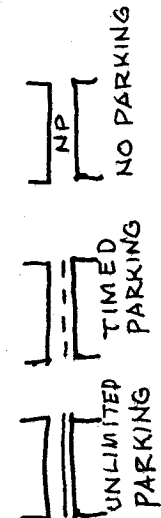
The exception to this is that in the event that not enough petitions have been received, the nominating committee may then nominate quadrant representatives.

Remember: Petitions may be submitted up to May 7th. If by then the nominating committee has not received enough appropriate petitions, it will nominate quadrant representatives.

Currently, there are 3 representatives from each quadrant. However, that need not be the case. According to the by-laws, there may be no fewer



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than 2 and no more than 4 representatives.

President Michael Willmann is serving as nominating committee chairperson. The other members of the nominating committee are officers Nancy Frenze and Edna Wenk and the following: Steve Brown, Kathy Lynch, Carol Klein, Joy Lindy, Fred Edelstein, Marsha Perelman, Marty Weiss, Liz Ostrander, Gene DiRe, Aaron Beyer and Ted Robb.

#### MINI-MARATHON, MAXI-FUNATHON

On Saturday, April 26th at 10 on the West River Drive of Fairmount Park St. Peter's school will hold a mini-marathon (5 mile run or walk) depending on your inclination. There will be prizes, refreshments and more. For further information, contact the school at 925-3963. The Parents Association welcomes any neighbors and friends who would join them for a bit of the fun on the banks of the Schuylkill. Bring a picnic and relax afterwards.

#### COMPANY'S COMING

Preparations are being made all over the neighborhood for Philadelphia Open House, May 3-11. Volunteers are still needed to serve as hosts and hostesses in people's houses. If you can give some time and be part of the fun, call Elizabeth Haimes at WA3-1350 to volunteer. It is hoped that some people will be willing to leave their garden gates and front windows uncovered. May baskets add a lovely touch to the beauty of our streets. Tour information and brochures are available at the POH office, 313 Walnut St., MA8-1188. Do join in!

#### FIRST GREAT ANNUAL SOCIETY HILL VERNAL PRETTY-UP AND HISTORIC BALLOON RACE

SHCA is sponsoring a Society Hill Cleanup on Saturday, April 26th prior to Philadelphia Open House Week (May 3-11). Please call Southwest quadrant director Liz Ostrander (922-6179) for further information. Mrs. Ostrander is coordinating the cleanup with the City of Philadelphia, which will, hopefully, repair sidewalks, replace street lights and pick up litter.

#### A PENN'S LANDING CALENDAR

Get out your calendars as our Penn's Landing has plans aplenty. Starting May 17 and 18, Energy Awareness displays; May 25th, a Drum and Bugle Corps Program from 2-4 p.m.; May 26th, a Memorial Day Service on the Olympia; June 1st, an Antique autos display and boats from 1-4 p.m.; June 7th, the Singing City concert from 1-4 p.m. and displays from the Elder Craftsman Shop; June 8th, a Flower Market (tentative); June 27, 28, 29th, a Harbor Festival; and in addition to that, the regular summer series begins on June 16th with a variety show at 1 p.m.; June 22nd, children's opera and theatre at 12:45 and 2:30 p.m.; and children's storytelling on alternating Sundays at 1:30, 2 and 3:30 p.m.; July 2-Aug. 22, Wed. 8 p.m. variety concerts; July 5-Aug. 5, Sat. folk concerts 4-8 p.m.; July 6-31, Sun. Big Band Concerts 4:30 p.m. July 12, 13 and Aug. 16, 17 will feature two ethnic festivals: Polish and Hispanic.

#### AN OLD PINE CALENDAR

April 16, 17 and 18, Old Pine Community Center will house the first Intergenerational Conference with drama workshops, music, food and demonstrations from 15 exhibitors on Sat. A community celebration on Sun. at Old Pine with Maggie Kuhn, founder of the Gray Panthers and Congressman Wm. H. Gray, III, the Ana Cruses Choir and the Philadelphia Heritage Singers. Sunday, May 25th, at 4:30 p.m. Pro Musica Bach's Art of Fuguing and April 27, chamber operas on the Hercules theme at 2:30 p.m., on June 21, popular music in Spanish cultures. For ticket information, call Pro Musica at 727-5819.

#### PLANT SALES

The Hill-Physick-Keith House annual plant sale will be held Sat., April 26 and Sun., April 27, rain or shine, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., in the garden of that historic house, 231 S. 4th St. There will be a wide variety of flowering plants, herbs and house plants for your spring and summer garden. Also available will be a large selection of decorative pots and planters for garden and patio. Proceeds from the sale help to maintain the Hill-Physick-Keith House, a member of the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks.

The Home and School Association of McCall's School will hold a Mother's Day plant sale on May 9 on the 6th Street side of the school. From 9:30 a.m. to noon is the suggested shopping time for children; the community is invited to shop from noon until 2:30 p.m.

#### ORGAN BENEFIT

Sunday evening, April 27, 8 p.m., the orchestra of The Curtis Institute will perform a benefit concert which will include the Poulenc Organ Concerto, John Binsfeld as soloist. William Smith, associate conductor of The Philadelphia Orchestra will conduct, and all proceeds will be equally shared between Curtis and the endowment fund for the organ. Ticket information available through brochures at the door of Christ Church, 2nd & Market.

#### ZONING UPDATE

707 Pine (in case you've become lost in the weed patch that graces this walkway you may not find your way out very soon) - seems that the Redevelopment Authority owes back taxes and is seeking a waiver which is presently an ordinance before City Council, meanwhile, the neighbor and developer chosen last year has not been able to gain title.

Chernock Row - At its March 5th meeting the board of the Redevelopment Authority (RDA)\* passed on action to have the deeds to 717, 721, 723, and 729 Spruce Street recorded in the name of Joel Chernock (JC). The deeds had been recorded in the name of the RDA because JC had not met the previous deadline for completion of the four houses by November 4. In order to have these deeds recorded in his name, JC was required to hire a contractor who would meet with the approval of RDA and who would oversee the completion of the construction of the four properties. The contractor chosen by JC and approved by RDA is Seymour Milstein. The RDA has established the following deadlines for completion: 717-December 31st, 1980; 721-February 28th, 1981; 723-May 1st, 1980; 729-May 1st, 1980.

\*Mr. Carlino, et al...you did it to us one more time....

Dock Street Site (the triangular site in front of Bookbinders)- As early as 1966 the RDA marketed this parcel for motel-hotel use; between 1966 and 1978, there were only three bids, none of which survived. In 1979, RDA subdivided the parcel into two parcels and approved a plan modification to change it's zoning from General Commercial to Mixed Residential. In August 1979, the Mayor and City Council approved. In October of '79, the property was then advertised for development as a site for Mixed Residential. In late 1979, neighbor and owner of the shopping complex, Ray Posel, sued RDA for changing the zoning because he felt a zoning change would adversely affect his investment (his complex has been vacant since 1976). In December, five developers presented "the best plans to date for a single parcel in SHCA area" according to the SHCA board. In December 1979, Judge Laurence Prattis issued a preliminary injunction against the RDA awarding a residential contract. In February 1980, RDA returned all deposits to the residential developers. A committee was appointed by Dick Doran, Director of Commerce, chaired by Craig Schelter, Deputy Director of the Planning Commission, and comprised of some neighbors and city officials. SHCA President, Michael Willmann, presented the SHCA position for low density residential use; however, the committee is determined to make a good faith effort to market the property commercially. The committee is presently considering a luxury carriage house hotel for the site. Let your views be known. Call Gee Elliott, chairperson of the Anti-Disco Committee or Mike Willmann, WA2-1415(o) or 925-9283(h).

#### SOCIETY HILL FUND -- COMMUNITY BENEFITS FROM YOUR TAX DEDUCTION

Here's the real scoop on the Society Hill Fund. It was created in 1971 to provide financial support for charitable, cultural, educational, recreational, and other community projects in Society Hill and neighboring parts of the city. Contributions to the Fund are deductible for U.S. income, gifts, and estate tax purposes. It does not act as a conduit for litigation matters.

The five Trustees of the Fund are: Judy Kratchman, Deborah Newbold, Roland Davies, Robert Gill and Laurence Shiekman.

The by-laws of the Fund are: Funds contributed to the Society Hill Fund will be disbursed only for the purposes stated above; no funds may be solicited by anyone for contribution to the Fund for a specific project unless and until that project has been approved by the trustees; no grant will be approved by the trustees for any project unless and until a written application has been submitted which application shall state, with as much specificity as possible: the exact nature of the project; the exact manner in which the project will further the purposes stated above; the budget of the project, and the exact manner in which funds will be disbursed; other sources of funding for the project; the names of all persons who shall be responsible for the project; the general support for the project in Society Hill and adjacent areas; and the dates of the period during which the project is to be accomplished.

Applications need not be made in any specific form.

The trustees have established certain informal guidelines for use in evaluating projects, with particular reference to the internal revenue laws. In general, the trustees will approve only those projects which benefit the community as a whole. If the primary benefit is for one group in the community (such as a sports activity for young people), the secondary benefit to the community as a whole might still justify a grant. In cases where the Fund is to be used for litigation expenses, the project must be examined with particular care to make sure that it is of general community benefit rather than in pursuit of a private interest.

In the last two years grants have been disbursed as follows:

Neighborhood Sports Team	\$ 350.00
I-95 (Neighborhood Preservation Coalition)	1056.77
Save Spruce Committee	<u>2109.50</u>

\$3,516.27

Additional contributions, especially unrestricted ones for the general purposes of the community are earnestly sought. Checks payable to "The Society Hill Fund" should be sent to the Fund's treasurer, Roland C. Davies, at Roland C. Davies and Associates, 32 Strawberry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106. (923-2440).

#### ODDS AND ENDS

A site is needed for a Boy Scouts' recycling center in the neighborhood. Anyone with a garage or lot to spare for newspaper storage call Scoutmaster David Griffith at 923-7296.

... The Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner was a roaring success and the result of a total community effort with merchants donating ingredients, moms' cooking and Scouts serving and cleaning up.

... The Explorers, open to teens between 15 and 18 or past the eighth grade, are looking for potential members and leaders. Call 925-8051.

... Senior high and older volleyball players or aspirants are needed to form a team and meet the challenge of two South Philly teams. Call 925-8051 and leave your name, age and phone number. Play will be once a week as soon as it is organized.

... Ideas are needed for a neighborhood Welcome Wagon; and a fine arts center which would use the amphitheatre outside Old Pine Community Center and the church basement. Call 925-8051.

... Volunteers are needed at the Coffee Cup, a senior citizen service supported by the Old City Churches and Synagogues. Volunteers contact Margaret Munsch 925-9847 or the Coffee Cup at MA7-8048.

... A summercity day camp operated by Old Pine Community Center for children ages 3 to 10 years will have two sessions - from June 30 to July 25 and July 28 to August 22, Thurs. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This program includes music, art, athletics, library program and swimming at the Society Hill Club. An extended day (8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.) program is available for working parents. Call OPCC (627-2493) for further information.

... The Library and Reading Committee of Old Pine Community Center has employed Ina Courtney, a children's librarian, to be at the Center as librarian. The library will be open several hours on Wednesday for use of reference materials, story hours, and for borrowing of children's books. Please call the Center (627-2493) for the starting date and exact hours of the program.

#### DARTS AND LAURELS

DART - To The City Streets Department for the blinking traffic lights on Delaware Avenue at the foot of Spruce and Dock instead of safer red and green lights. And for the two-hour parking signs on the east side of 3rd between Spruce and Walnut. And to the vandals who mysteriously removed the "No Entrance" sign at Dock and Mathis, so hard-fought-for by neighbors.

LAUREL - To Scoutmaster Dave Griffith for his super leadership of the four Scout patrols that camped on Treasure Island, on the Delaware and for his pancakes at 5 a.m. that put International House of Pancakes to shame. By all reports, our Scouts were the best organized and the cleanest the camp has yet seen.

DART - To the City for not replacing the missing bricks in sidewalks and generally not cleaning up.

LAUREL - To the athletic director at Old Pine Community Center, Mark Johnson, for his fine job of running the center's basketball league and to the fathers and/or former high school net stars for their superb job of refereeing and coaching. Everyone plays on a team and in a game regardless of skills. Games are Saturdays with the championships this month.

DART - To the muggers who hang out around Lawrence and Manning Walkways and 5th and Pine and Spruce and snatch purses from women. Ladies, leave the purse at home and walk defensively - incidents are increasing.

LAUREL - To the Old Philadelphia Churches, the Seamen's Institute and Penn's Landing Asst. Mgr. Clara Burnett and Harbor Master Andre Armbruster, for coordinating a fabulous Sunrise Service on the waterfront - a toast to further cooperative efforts.

- DART - To absentee owners who neglect:
1. to instruct their tenants in the proper bagging of trash;
  2. to instruct their tenants on the courtesy of snow removal from walkways;
  3. to repair and paint broken shutters.
- LAUREL - To Mike Titch, who shovels his neighbors' snowy sidewalk for exercise.
- DART - To the residents who drive up Lawrence Street and Cypress Street the WRONG way.
- LAUREL - To McCall School teachers for revamping their parking system. The nearby neighbors can get their cars moving again.
- DART - To the developers of the construction sites at 3rd and Spruce, 4th and Spruce, 7th and Pine, 717-and-all on Spruce Street, and Front and Delancey for the trashy SIGHT. They're beginning to look like the ball park after a Phillies game.
- LAUREL - To the residents who sweep up after Wednesday and Friday night trash pickups and who retrieve their trash receptacles.
- DART - To the dog owners who continue to use the children's area at Delancey Park for dog walking.
- LAUREL - To all the SH residents who volunteer and bake for our neighbors via the Coffee Cup, a senior citizens coffee shop at 248 South 11th.
- DART - To the huge black short-tailed dog living in the 300 block of Second Street who roams Second Street without his leash. This is our third notice. Can't he read?
- LAUREL - To everyone who enclosed a self-addressed envelope for their membership cards from SHCA Treasurer Edna Wenk; and a
- DART - For those who didn't.
- LAUREL - To Society Hill Synagogue for replacing the felled trees and to Old St. Mary's-Holy Trinity parish for planting five new trees.
- DART - To Leonard Rovner, McCall School principal, who has forgotten the recipe for removal of graffiti -- a can of oven cleaner, a stiff brush, water hose and a couple of willing students.
- LAUREL - To the 80 neighbors who gave their blood in the April 8th Drive by the Red Cross at the Old Pine Community Center.

#### NEXT ISSUE

Additions, corrections or congratulations may be mailed to the Resident Newsletter, Box 3, Phila. 19105. Our thanks to Marsha Perelman, Tricia Hogue, Debbie Newbold, Libby Brown, Peggy Noyes and Bill Pindar for contributions, to this issue and to staff members Jan Stephano, Frances Israel, Miki Mahoney, Peg Robb, and Alan Halpern. Next Newsletter will be July. All copies must be in by June 30.

#### News Flash...

On May 14 there will be a vote in order to change Article I Section 1, nominating 5 officers instead of 4 and changing Article II Section 4 to note two different secretaries with two responsibilities; therefore, creating a corresponding secretary.