SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

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NOTES from SHCA President

dick Ostrander

• These notes are being written on Monday, April 28th, the day after Pennsylvania's primary election. I am writing them on the day before the real important election coming up on Tuesday, May 5th. (Okay, so I exaggerate.) If you got this, interesting. My last worked! 

motions Needed

The SHCA Nominating Committee—composed of retiring directors Sally Smith, George Stobierski, and Joel Chernoch, and 'sailed by retiring Vice-President Steve Skale—are preparing the new slate. As you probably know, one director is to be elected for each of the next six years. Should be called in to the Committee as soon as possible. If you do not have their numbers on your telephone, please call the SHCA office at 629-1288 for the phone numbers of the Nominating Committee.

Zoning Matters

Several zoning matters will be on the May 20th agenda, including the proposed 2nd story addition to Downey's outdoor cafe, which was tabled at our last Board meeting. We may also be asked to hear a revised Tun Tavern proposal, as reported in the April 24th FUN in the "Sun" edition. (This is a different version of the East Philadelphia Sun, written for corporate businesses and tourists readers rather than local residents.)

The South Street 7 Arts Festival: May 16 and 17. SHCA will operate an Information and Sales Kiosk during the 7 Arts Festival. It will be located at the south end of the Head House Shambles. We will be one of several information booths for the Festival and will have for sale the following goods: Festival Posters, designed by Society Hill artist, Pam Clark. Patrons Badges (which provide discounts for gated events) and Festival Tee-shirts. A share of the revenue of 7 Arts Festival items will go to the SHCA treasury as our reward.

Society Hill Reporter

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SEVEN ARTS
Join the Festival, Join the Fun

SHCA will be joining the fun and festivities of the South Street 7 Arts Festival on the weekend of May 16 and 17. The SHCA Kiosk will be located at 2nd and Lombard Streets, where there will be available all relevant information and schedules of events. The bright and wonderful 7 Arts tee-shirts and aprons will be on sale at our booth, as well as the very special poster designed by renowned artist and Society Hill resident, Sam Maitin. And, hop-on-the-press SHCA note cards, featuring our logo by Pamela Sinkler Todd will also be sold at the Kiosk.

You will probably want to purchase 7 Arts Patron Cards, which are good for discounts at gated events. These Patron Cards are sold for $10 by most merchants, vendors, and Kiosks throughout the Festival area. However, we are offering advance sales of Patron Cards. These sales will help benefit our neighborhood association. Hold on to the Patron Cards as they can be redeemed, for some time after the event, on discounts at South Street restaurants and stores. For more information or to reserve your Patron Card, call Dick Ostrander (922-6179) or Becky Siodlef (627-4910).

Raffle to Benefit the Head House

The Head House Conservancy has its own display and booth along with other historic and preservation groups at the 7 Arts Festival. A new and exciting opportunity will exist at the Conservancy's table. Renee Sinakian, an accomplished portrait artist—who is currently a finalist in the competition to paint the "official presidential portrait" of President Bush for the White House—will be donating a pencil portrait to the raffle winner.

Renaissance portraits are in many collections, and some examples of her work will be on display at the Festival. Among the many celebrities she has drawn are Academy Award winner Louis Gossett Jr. and legendary folk singer Richie Havens. Ordinarily, a Renee Sinakian commissioned portrait costs a tidy fortune, but for the benefit of the Head House Conservancy, a raffle to win a personalized portrait (of yourself, your child, grandchild, whoever) will sell only for $4 each. These raffles will be offered for sale at the Festival on Saturday and Sunday, with the tickets-drawing to occur on Sunday night. You can also purchase raffle tickets in advance of the Festival (after May ) by calling the Conservancy at 923-3285, and, incidentally, you don't have to be present at the drawing to win the prize.

Because the more raffle tickets you purchase will increase the probability that you (rather than somebody else) will win the raffle, we are providing an incentive to buy multiple tickets. The prices are as follows: Three Raffle tickets for $10; ten tickets for $25. All proceeds will go completely to the Head House Conservancy to help pay for the restoration of this Landmark structure, which is the historic centerpiece of the South Street/Head House District,

Continued on page 3
PENN'S LANDING TO BECOME "MONUMENT CITY"
Military, Columbus Projects

Philadelphia Korean War Memorial

At the April 25 SHCA Board meeting, representatives of the Korean War Veterans Association of Philadelphia presented their plan to install a memorial structure honoring metropolitan area veterans who were killed or missing in action in Korea during the 10-year conflict in the 1950s. This memorial will be located at the site of a now defunct water fountain at 2nd and Spruce Streets, in sight of the Sheraton Hotel. Its design, by Francis G. Viretta, consists of four columns with four walls of alternating heights, with archways on opposite sides. The walls and the sides of the archways will be etched with inscriptions and the interior columns will be inscribed with the names of veterans.

The rendering of the design was exhibited at the SHCA meeting, and members and participants raised their acceptance of the memorial, since it will probably complement the nearby Vietnam Memorial.

Tun Tavern

A new group of former Marines is again planning to recreate the birthplace of the U.S. Marines at the Tun Tavern site located at the corner of Spruce and Mulberry Streets, one of the last undeveloped pieces of ground left in Society Hill. The location of the original Tun Tavern, built in 1693, was on Water Street, which is now covered by I-95. There has been a great deal of Colonial history, as well as recent history regarding recreating a building that is so close to the heart of the U.S. Marines. Many Society Hill residents remember when the Marines first appeared in the neighborhood in 1970 with their proposal to build a simulated Tun Tavern to commemorate the Marines bicentennial. (The Corps was born on November 10, 1775.)

The current group of organizers, the Marine Corps Tun Tavern Foundation, are again actively engaged in planning and fundraising for their proposed museum. We'll probably see them again at future SHCA meetings.

Christopher Columbus Memorial

Homage to Columbus at Penn's Landing is also in the works, compliments of a group called America 500, who are planning the Columbus Quincentenary Celebration. (It was 500 years ago... ) You've probably already noticed the new signs for "Columbus Boulevard," otherwise universally and affectionately known as Delaware Avenue! A monument to when SHCA voted to retain the name "Delaware Avenue" in respect to the native Americans who preceded Columbus? Other communities, including Queen Village Neighbors, also expressed their preference to retain the original designation. Aside from the inconvenience and expense of having to change all maps and points of reference in this arbitrary name change, the new "Boulevard" seems ultimately down-right silly.

According to a press release, by Timothy Martin to the Society Hill Reporter, the new Christopher Columbus Memorial will be erected in the center of the sculpture garden at Penn's Landing (at Spruce Street) and will replace the existing sundial. Designed by Venust Scott Brown and Associates, the memorial will be an 80' x 80' x 80' cast bronze pedestal with a granite base and stainless steel panels rising into the sky. Groundbreaking is scheduled to begin in June, according to Mr. Martin, awaiting design approval by the City's Art Commission. Other than the PR piece received in the mail two weeks ago, the usual press conference is scheduled for June 10.

Meanwhile, with all the memorializing going on, it looks like Penn's Landing may be transformed into a kind of Monument City?

Any thoughts? Feel free to write...
WHAT’S FRANK JOHNSON’S PLACE?

Some sharp eyes spotted a legal notice in which Bill # 76 proposed to “also name” the 500 block of Pine Street with the moniker: “Frank Johnson’s Place.” Turns out Mr. Johnson was a well-known early 19th Century musician, bandmaster and composer who lived for eighteen years at what is now 536 Pine Street. He was born in 1792, which was also the founding year for the St. Thomas Episcopal Church at 32nd and Parrish Streets. Governor Casey and former Mayor Wilson Goode issued proclamations honoring the bicentennial of Johnson’s birth. A concert featuring some of his music was performed on April 5th as part of the churches bicentennial celebration.

About the signs: Not to worry! The Pine Street sign will remain and if special signs are made for the “also naming,” they would not replace the regular signage. It is also possible that a State historic site plaque could mark the location.

If you want more information, you could contact the Frank Johnson Memorial Bicentennial Committee at St. Thomas Church at 32nd and Parrish. The zip is 19139.

SONNY HILL GARDENS

Good news for all the youngsters who use the Starr Garden playground! Old, decrepit and marginally dangerous equipment is being replaced with shiny, colorful and safe new equipment. City crews expect to finish the work by the end of this week. Special thanks go to the friends of Starr Garden and to former Councilman Jimmy Tayoun, who worked vigorously in support of this project.

ZONING MATTERS

Lawrence Count: There are proposals for two additions to different buildings, both of which would require zoning variances. Currently neighbors are conferring about these proposals. The application for a garage/study out building for 318 South 4th Street was refused, and the owner is working with an architect and neighbors trying to decide on whether to pursue the design or another concept.

A SUMMER SUNDAY IN THE CHURCH YARD

On June 7 bells will ring out from the bell tower of St. Peter’s Church in celebration of its 150th anniversary. The church and the yard will be open for tours which will be led by architectural historians. Visitors will be able to hear the newly refurbished organ in the church and do grave rubbings in the yard. As a result of the grave yard vandalism that occurred during the March 6th weekend, the plants will be on display. The public is welcome.

OLD PINE COMMUNITY CENTER

ANNOUNCES:
SUMMER CITY DAY CAMP & PLAY CAMP

July 6 – August 28

BREAKFAST & LUNCH PROGRAMS

OLD PINE COMMUNITY CENTER
401 Lombard Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147 • (215) 627-2493