NOTES from SHCA President

...let’s start by taking time to say some heartfelt THANK YOU... first, thanks to all the volunteers who made working in our kiosk at •Se Seven Arts Festival a lot of fun... profitable fun, too, as we added over $300 to our coffers.

Special thanks to our Vice-President, Steve Slate, and to the board members who have completed their terms. Here’s the new lineup: Maggie Schultz is the new Vice-President. The NE director is Judy Friedman, replacing George Scarpulla. The NW director is Howard Lander in Joel Cherickos’s chair. Muffy Bright Comolley will serve the SE quadrant. Mel Backman is back from Sally Smith in the SW. Beverly Sherman will replace Maggie Schultz for the Society Hill Revue. Thanks to all who have served the SHCA. Nor can I forget to thank Zehda’s on 5th Street that supplied the milky cookies for the last meeting.

As president, I feel my job is not to advocate causes, but help forge the consensus about what we want our community to be. Several important issues are coming up and we need to know how you feel. At the next board meeting on June 17, we will review the committee assignments. But most importantly, Councilman Joe Vignola will review the ordinances he introduced on May 21 about vehicular traffic on and around the South Street corridor. Cruising and noise regulations are among the topics; and I cannot think of anything that would affect the happiness and well being of those surrounding that area more than noise and traffic.

Come, be part of the process, make yourself heard. It is far easier to get your voice heard in the planning process than to try and change a fait accompli. The Councilman has also introduced the enabling legislation for the creation of the South Street HeadHouse District which could have such positive implications for the corridor.

The Art Commissionstill has not approved the designs for the Korean War Memorial. Do they know how you feel?

Look for more details in July on a neighborhood square-up program called Project Pride.

Final note, our administrator, Fluffy Palmer, deserves special congratulations when you see her. Fluffy will honored as Volunteer of the Month by the Bellevue!

COMING TO NEWMARKET

American Historical Theater

How would you like to meet George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abigail Adams, or Betsy Ross? Well you can, because a wonderful theatrical company that brings to life our nation’s heroes and heroines is coming to NewMarket for the summer, beginning at the end of this month and extending to September 27. The American Historical Theater, formerly known as the Royal Pickwickians, is the country’s foremost interpreters of our founding fathers and mothers, and they’ll be performing nearby at the renovated Glass Pavilion at NewMarket, just across the street from Head House on South Second Street.

This accomplished repertory company, which prides itself on thorough research for all the people and events it recreates, hopes to lure both residents and visitors to these very delightful participatory programs. Each performance, which lasts approximately one hour, portrays three historical characters from a rotating cast of many—exploring the social, political and personal lives of the characters and their times. The characters relate events and thoughts from their lives while interacting with the audience and each other. For example, the audience is invited to attend a “news conference, 1789,” where audience participants are encouraged to ask any questions that come to mind.

Thematically, the programs are divided between two major areas: Program One explores the issues and ideas related to the Revolution and Constitution, and includes such luminaries as Patrick Henry, John Adams, Hyman Salomon, and even the proprietor of City Tavern, Mr. Smith. Program Two focuses on Philadelphia as the birthplace of the nation. This provides a look at the city from colonial times (mid-1600s) through the Constitutional Convention (1787). Some of “our neighbors” whom we meet in this program are Billy Penn, Dr. Benjamin Rush, and Charles Wilson Peale.

The techniques employed in these historic programs have been developed into a fine art by Pamela Sommerfield, the company’s producing director. During the past ten years, the company has appeared at theaters and events around the world. Highlights of recent performances include: “The White House Years,” a history about the building of the Presidential mansion, written for the White House Curator and performed in January at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. “The Time Travellers,” a performance that consists of a group of twelve historical interpreters portraying characters from across time, including George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Alice Roosevelt and others. The Time Travellers has been presented each summer in Washington, DC for the past five years, and last year it was performed at the White House before an audience of 5,000 staff members and their families. International projects have included “Franklin & Jefferson in Paris” and “The Tryal of George Washington” a mock trial presented in London and filmed for a 90-minute BBC special in 1990. Another BBC special is being planned for this summer.

The actors/interpreters have been playing their characters for many years, enabling them to respond to questions with wit and accuracy and always in character.

Bill Barkier, who portrayed Thomas Jefferson at numerous Philadelphia events, and most recently at the opening ceremonies of the 7 Arts Festival, says that he has been put to the test as an interpreter when he was cross-examined at the prompt “Tryal of George Washington,” by the lawyer who defended Stephen Biko in South Africa.

Michael Alan Buckley, manager of the American Historical Theater has a long-term goal for the company that will involve assembling all the programs together end-to-end so as to form an interactive epic that chronicles a great stretch of United States history on the scale of Wagner’s Ring Cycle. No lack of ambition, here.

Meanwhile, the company’s more immediate plans include finding a permanent home in the historic district of Philadelphia—ASKAP! The search is on, and coincides nicely (we believe) with why it would be ideal for the Drama Guild to decide to locate at NewMarket. (The smaller of the two theaters, as described in the May issue of the Sun would accommodate this company beautifully.)

Artistic Director William Sommerfield believes that these historical performances help Continued on SHCA page 3
THE SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION
If you didn't receive a 1992 membership renewal letter...it means, naturally, that you were not a SHCA member last year.

Your membership and your voice will make a difference in our neighborhood.

 Tear off and mail to:
Society Hill Civic Association
P.O. Box 3, Philadelphia, PA 19185

Attention: Treasurer

☐ New Member
☐ Household $25
☐ Membership Renewal
☐ Business/Corporate $50
☐ Corporate Sponsor $100

Name ____________________________
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Phone (day) _______________________(eve) ____________________________

I(We) would be interested in working with the following committees:
☐ Membership
☐ Liquor Control
☐ Neighborhood Maintenance
☐ Town Watch
☐ Recycling
☐ Report/Sun newspaper
☐ Zoning
☐ Legislative
☐ Preservation
☐ Other (please specify) ____________

YOUR HOME IS YOUR PRIMARY INVESTMENT. PROTECT IT!
TREE PROJECT
Keep Penn's Promise

William Penn planned Philadelphia to be a "benevolent commune." Today, some of our streets are lined with stumps, empty spots, and endangered trees instead of flourishing arbors that help the environment. While the sidewalks and streets on them are the responsibility of the property owner, the removal of dead or diseased trees and replanting can be a very expensive undertakings.

That is why James Donoughy and Walt Stankus of the Fairmount Park Commission and longtime Philadelphia gardener and SHCA member Jean Bodine have joined forces in a public/private initiative for a project to replant the street trees. They need your help. Two identical organizational meetings for volunteers are scheduled to accommodate you on the following dates: Friday, June 12 at 8:00 AM or Saturday, June 20 at 10:00 AM. Call Jean Bodine at 627-8393 for the location and to confirm your attendance.

The program needs volunteers to plant the neighborhood block for a tree census. Then we need to determine the mix of trees appropriate for replacements and exists for removal and replanting. Another important area is working with neighbors and store owners to get their co-operation, consent, and support. Finally, we will need help in applying for grants, fund raising, and collecting money. By doing it as a comprehensive project, we gain cost advantages in the removal, purchasing, and replanting of new trees.

Come out now. Don't plan to sit back and enjoy the shade of other people's efforts.

Continued from SHCA page 1, we remember our past — so important to a free and diverse society — through the eyes and mouths of those that experienced it. "Our purpose is to strip away the marble images revealing the real men and women, creating a bond with our modern day audience," says Sommerfeld.

The programs this summer at Newmarket promise to be exciting, fun, and informative for young and old alike.

Performance times are as follows:
Every day, from Tuesday through Sunday at 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. Admission: $8 adults, $7 seniors/students, $6 children. Group sales available. Call Michael Buckley at 232-2600.

ZONING MATTERS

City Ordinance #167 Re: Downey's

This bill was introduced in City Council by Councilman Joseph Vignola on behalf of Jack Downey's restaurant which requests permission to operate as an automobile parking lot and to build a sidewalk cafe. The City Planning Board recommended approval of the proposal.

25 ARTISTS AT NEWMARKET
Trash Inspires Art

Virginia Baltzell started giving her friends gifts of very attractive marbled trash cans. Maybe because of her real estate background, this evolved to getting artists gallery space in a warehouse in West Philadelphia, then to another project in a barn; and now she has twenty-five artists displaying their creations in the Glass Pavilion at Newmarket all through June. You can see the same wonderful trash cans that started it all displayed in the first exhibit space.

At the opening June 4, art lovers gazed at the dramatic black and white nude photographs near the entrance. Thank goodness Senator Helms is not a neighbor. For neighborhood gardeners, there are charming cast concrete benches, frogs and rabbits. For the whimsically inclined, wonderful animals adorn furniture. What would a child be like who grew up in an Indian rocker, or had a monkey at their back, or played tea party on a table with a sleeping pig or mother fox?

Bright bold floor cloths, placemats, and napkins compete for attention with hanging umbrellas. There is something for the artist in everyone from marvelous metal hat bands to magnets made from picture frames. Also stop by Remo Sinacori's space to see his entry for the Columbus monument. It will be built in Venice, but if you are not planning a vacation in Italy, take a look at the model here. The children will enjoy dancing on the walking piano that you might remember from the movie "Big." Our "child" was a bit into middle age, but did a fair boogie woogie on it. Call 928-9767 for hours. Thank Virginia for donating 10% of the proceeds from the opening to the Head House Conservancy.

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