

# SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

An independent newsletter published by the Society Hill Civic Association  
in cooperation with the East Philadelphia Sun

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## NOTES from SHCA President

ing will be at the Society Hill Sheraton. BUT note the date, TUESDAY, March 16. We will have green nametags but we did not want to compete with St. Patrick.

The nominating process for officers and directors, who will be elected at our May meeting, has started. In addition to the four retiring directors, we have vacancies in the NE and SW quadrants. Lorna Katz, Liz Ostrander, and Ross Engleman would like to hear from you with suggested nominees.

Project Street Trees completed the census and reported over 900 trees, some needing help, and over 100 stumps or empty tree pits. Jean Bodine will give a BIG report next month. Please join us to hear the plans for this project which gets underway again with Spring. Ciao!

—Dick Ostrander

## BILL, ABOUT THIS BILL

### Hopkinson Debt to Fund Square?

There are lots of hopes for what this new administration in Washington, D.C. will do. The Friends of Washington Square just hope this new president and Congress will pay off this bill. In 1780, Francis Hopkinson submitted a bill—first for a quarter cask of wine, but later more seriously—for \$2,700 to the Continental Congress for the design of this country's first flag and co-design of the Great Seal of the United States. Apparently his political enemies, while admitting he did a noble job, balked at the price and tabled the bill, where it has been languishing in Congress ever since. At 6% interest for over 210 years, we calculate Francis Hopkinson's heirs—at least three of whom still live or work in Philadelphia—are owed \$567 million more or less.

The Hopkinson family, unlike some other families squabbling over inheritances, have generously donated any monies that can be collected from our government to the Friends of Washington Square. They amiably have reduced the request to \$3 million. This amount just happens to match the amount the Friends need to repair the walks before they can turn the Square over to the National Parks Service for permanent maintenance. Frankly, raising over \$2 million is more bake sales than the Friends can even begin to contemplate. How appropriate to immortalize the flag designer in flagstone!

The person most dedicated to righting this fiscal wrong is Christian "Chris" Johnson, actor, educator, musician, and historian. Dressed as Lincoln, Chris approached William Jefferson Clinton in South Philadelphia before the election with the matter. NO Promises! But Chris is nothing if not persistent. With the sponsorship of Pincus Brothers/Maxwell, Chris dressed as

Francis Hopkinson attended the Inauguration and broadcasted his message coast to coast thanks to Dan Rather. Another go at it is planned for—yes—Flag Day!

Chris first got interested in Francis Hopkinson through his music. Hopkinson penned America's first song "My Days Have Been So Wondrous Free," 1759 and our first opera, "America Independent," in 1781. Friend of Washington and Jefferson, almost raised by

Franklin after his father's death, Hopkinson married Anne Borden of Bordentown and moved to New Jersey. But his eternal resting place is Christ Church cemetery with four other signers of the Declaration of Independence. Musician, jurist, inventor, composer, satirist (you don't know that hilarious spoof "Battle of the Kegs"?), Hopkinson earned his place in history as a designer—of the flag, the Great Seal, the Seal of the University of Pennsylvania, where he was the first graduate. Look at the flag that Betsy Ross sewed and notice how Hopkinson alluded to the Union Jack on the field of blue with the stars placed to represent both the crosses of St. Andrew and St. George. Good work, Francis!

If you want to learn more about Francis Hopkinson or even have him visit, call Chris Johnson at 923-

9228. In the June issue, Chris might help us expose the Betsy Ross scam by a nineteenth century type of Charles Keating. That is if my colleagues don't think it is too much like British tabloid journalism. After all, we did fight a war to get away from all that.

P.S. One of Francis Hopkinson's descendants, Philadelphia Banker Edward Hopkinson, sold the land next to Washington Square to Albert Greenfield, with the stipulation that the building Greenfield erected be named after HIS family—thus the Hopkinson House.



Chris Johnson as Francis Hopkinson at his tomb in Christ Church Cemetery... still waiting for his \$2,700 plus millions in interest!

At the beginning of February, we're well into the nitty-gritty of 1993. Springtime is just a few foolhardy hoots pushing through the crusty ground.

Over two hundred neighbors have already renewed their memberships. We should all be aboard in the

next month. For those who signed up for a mailing of the Sun, you should receive it starting with the March issue. Use the form in this reporter if you misplaced or did not receive your membership letter.

Our usual monthly Board meeting will be February 17 and you're all welcome. The executive committee has had two meetings and some of the plans will be ready for discussion. The March meet-



## SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

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## Recycling Reminders At Starr Garden:

- No steel cans.
- No plastic.
- Keep newspapers in bags or tied.
- Crush aluminum soda and beer cans.
- Check symbol to make sure other cans are aluminum.
- Sort glass by color and place in igloo.

Ken Klass is still looking for some hands-on helpers. Half an hour to an hour once a week does it.

Call 923-4302 to volunteer. Make friends and meet lots of trashy people.

## CRIME STOPPERS Don't Be a Target

January 20, at the SHCA general Membership meeting, some of Philadelphia's Districts presented a program on public safety. The message was simple, don't be an easy target. And all crimes.

The most common crime in the neighborhood right now is theft and damage to property. Report any incident to the police, even if you don't report it to your insurance company. The police do not investigate such crimes to insur-

ance companies. But they do need the information to plan better how to manage certain areas, what times to increase coverage, and to get additional resources because of problems. They need accurate information on what is happening.

Contact Officer Mike Fusco at 686-3063 if you would like the tip sheet or a program for your group on safety. The video "Crime in the Streets" was a very effective teaching device on what to do and not to do. Talk to

Officer Ed Markowski at 546-0850 about crime prevention. Or drop into the mini-station at 917 South Street to meet the officers and share your observations. Several crimes in process have been stopped.

We are going to reprint here some numbers that you can call with problems or complaints.

Police Emergency .....	911
Air pollution, smoke, odor, noise .....	875-5621
Crisis intervention .....	686-4420
Neglected or abused children .....	686-6100
Electrical Service Emergency .....	841-4141
Fire .....	911
Gas Leaks .....	235-1212
Poison .....	386-2100
Suicide Prevention .....	686-4420
Senior Citizens Needs .....	496-0535
Teen Problems .....	977-8336
Water Emergencies .....	592-6300
Women Against Abuse .....	386-7777
Women Organized Against Rape .....	922-3434
Abandoned Autos .....	686-3000
Stray Animals .....	426-6300
Block Parties .....	686-5501
Clean City Hotline .....	686-3488
Better Business Bureau .....	496-1000
Mayor's Office of Consumer Services .....	686-7595
Crime Victim Assistance .....	665-9680
Drug Abuse Hotline .....	686-DRUG

Captain John Collins also assured the neighbors that if they had a problem with vagrants, to call the police for help. We will provide in the next issue information on how you can really help the homeless. Do not give money to beggars.

By the way, if you went to the Mummer's Parade on New Year's Day, Capt. Collins was directing traffic at Broad and Locust. What a guy!

Capt. Collins meets the neighbors (left).

## SHCA Calendar

(clip & save)

Friday February 5 7:00 PM RSVP - Black Tie <b>American Red Cross Monopoly Tournament</b> The Four Seasons Ballroom 546-8862	Saturday February 13 7:30 PM etc. <b>A Valentine to the Market</b> Black Tie or Street Chic RSVP - 569-2521 Reading Terminal Market 12th & Filbert Streets
Monday February 8 5:30 to 7:30 <b>SHCA Members Cocktail Party</b> Complimentary Cocktails & Hors d'oeuvres Hurricane Alley 326 South Street	Wednesday February 17 7:30 to 9:30 PM <b>SHCA Board of Directors Meeting</b> All Welcome Old Pine Community Center NW Corner 4th & Lombard Sts.
Saturday February 13 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM <b>Police Project S.A.V.E. for automobiles</b> McCall School 6th between Spruce and Pine Sts.	TUESDAY March 16 7:30 to 9:30 <b>SHCA General Membership Meeting</b> Society Hill Sheraton Hotel 1 Dock Street Program to be announced



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## THREE BEARS PARK Bears at Standoff

Maggie Schultz, SHCA vice president, reported to the Board January 20 that no headway has been made in the dispute between the Friends of Three Bears Park and the Special Friends of Three Bears Park. Maggie reviewed several vi-

able alternatives, but the two groups must sit down and reach a consensus. That was the verdict of the Art Commission when the matter was reviewed by them at the instigation of the Special Friends. Of course, if the Friends

stonewall, no consensus will ever be reached. Surely there is a Goldilocks out there that can find the solution that is "just right."

Meanwhile, the Friends that have done SO much for the park ("too damn much" if you are a Special Friend reading this), have raised enough money from their Fall Festival and other fund raising activities to pay for twice weekly cleaning since October. They estimate they have enough for another six to nine months. If you would like to contribute to this effort, please write P.O. Box 31550, Philadelphia, PA 19147-6550 care of the Friends of Delancey Street Park (aka: Three Bears Park).

Because everyone cares so much, this dispute erupted. If you know any of the parties, please encourage them to sit down and practice that fine democratic art form: The Compromise.

*Grown-ups never understand anything for themselves, and it is tiresome for children to be always and forever explaining things to them.*

—Antoine de Saint-Exupéry,  
"The Little Prince"

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- |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
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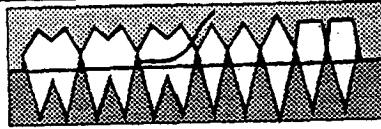
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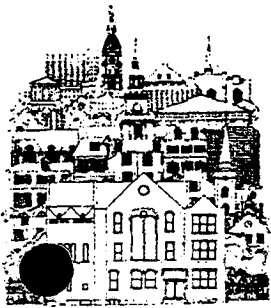
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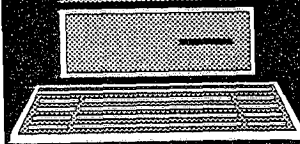
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