At the beginning of February, we’re well into the nasty-gritty of 1993. Springtime is just a few foolhardy blossoms 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 would receive it starting with the March issue. Use the form in this report to protest if you misplaced or did not receive your membership list.

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

ing will be at the Society Hill Station. 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 help the plans for this project which gets underway again this Spring.

Ciao! —Dick Ostrander

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 215-430-320 to volunteer. Make friends and meet lots of trashy people.

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, belied 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—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 walls 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 Few,” 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.

If you want to learn more about Francis Hopkinson or even have him visit, call Chris Johnson at 213-9228. 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 Britisch tabloid journalism. After all, we did fight a war to get away from all that.

PS. 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.
CRIME STOPPERS
Don't be a Target

February 20, at the SHCA annual Membership meet-
ing, some of Philadelphia's 10th Districts presented a
ram on public safety message. It was simple, and
not an easy target. And
all crimes.
The most common crime in the neighborhood is theft and damage to
property. Any report may help. Police even do not
report it to your insurance company. The police do not help with the offenses
such crimes to insurance companies. But they
do need the information to
more quickly reach the areas where
problems are increasing, and to get
additional resources because of the problems. They need accurate
information on what
is happening.

Contact Officer Mike Fusco at 866-3063 if you
would like the tip sheet or a program for your group on
safety. The video “Crime in the Streets” was a very effec-
tive teaching device on what
to do and not to do. Talk to

Officer Ed Markowsky at 546-0850 about crime prevention.
Or drop into the mini-station at 917 South Street to meet the
officer 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 873-5621
Crisis intervention 864-4420
Neglected or abused children 869-0100
Electrical Service Emergency 414-4141
Fire 911
Gas Leaks 235-1212
Poison 386-4100
Suicide Prevention 866-3063
Senior Citizens Needs 496-0515
Taxis Problems 917-8358
Water Emergencies 592-5300
Women Against Abuse 386-7777
Women Against Sexual Abuse 932-5434
Abandoned Autos 866-3000
Stray Animals 426-6300
Block Parties 866-5501
Clean City Hotline 866-3498
Renter Business Bureau 496-3563
Mayor’s Office of Consumer Services 860-7595
Crime Victims Assistance 860-9080
Drug Abuse Hotline 860-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 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).

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Sun. 1 pm - 10 pm

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Phila., PA

SHCA Calendar
(clip & save)

Friday February 5 7:00 PM
RSVP - Black Tie
American Red Cross
Monopoly Tournament
The Four Seasons Ballroom
546-8962

Monday February 8 7:30 to 7:30
SHCA Members Cocktail Party
Complimentary Cocktails & hors d’oeuvres
Hurricane Alley
326 South Street

Saturday February 13 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM
Police Project S.A.V.E. for automobiles
McCall School 6th between Spruce and Pine Sts.

Valentine
Capture the Romance of Valentine’s Day
at Dickens Inn

You’ll see the sparkle in her eyes as you dine in a romantic
setting of soft light, tender background music and impeccable
service. Your romantic evening begins with a complimentary
glass of champagne and a tempting selection from our limited
A La Carte Menu.

... for a Valentine’s Day to remember

Reservations Required
(215) 928-9307
2nd & Pine Streets
Philadelphia, PA

Restaurant and English pub
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 owners of Three Bears Park and the Special Friends of Three Bears Park. Maggie reviewed several viable 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 PO Box 31550, Philadelphia, PA 19147 - 6530 care of the Friends of Delaware 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 divine democratic art form: The Compromise.

Growing up never understanding anything for themselves, and it is awesome for children to be always and forever explaining things to them.
—Antoine de Saint-Exupéry
"The Little Prince"

Join SHCA Today!

THE SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
 Tear off and mail to:
 Society Hill Civic Association
 P.O. Box 3, Philadelphia, PA 19105
 Attention: Treasurer

 New Member
 Membership Renewal
 Mail Box/Report $5
 Household $25
 Business/Corporate $50
 Corporate Sponsor $100

 Name ____________________________
 Address ____________________________
 Zip _____________ Phone ____________ (rev)

 (We) would be interested in working with the following committees:
 Membership
 Neighborhood Maintenance
 Liquor Control
 Town Watch
 Recycling
 Reporter/Supplement
 Zoning
 Legislative
 Preservation
 Other (please specify)

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DENTISTRY
925-7330

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SOCIETY HILL CLASSIFIED AD CORNERS

A GARAGE SPACE is available on the 400 block Spruce St. (entrance on Lane). Call 41 for info.

To the Bongarts for hiring sidewalk sweepers each week—from its neighbors on the bl. Spruce St.