



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

By Dick Ostrander

These notes are being written well in advance of our paper's deadline because Liz and I are off to a much-needed vacation week. What follows, therefore, may not be timely, although I have made sure to include some very important upcoming events.

SHCA Membership Drive

Have you sent in your membership renewal for 1993? If not, you will probably be called by Membership Chair, Miffy Coonley, who is arranging a phone follow-up drive on March 8th for folks who have not yet rejoined our neighborhood association. We hope to reduce the number of calls by asking that you send in your membership check ASAP!

We do need volunteers to make



this membership drive successful. If you would be willing to share a pizza with us and help make some of these calls on the evening of Monday, March 8th, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm, please call the SHCA office (629-1288) as soon as possible and leave your name and number. We'll get back to you with the specifics.

General Membership Meeting at the Society Hill Sheraton

Tuesday, March 16th promises to be an interesting meeting. Hosted by the Society Hill Sheraton, we will congregate at the hotel from 7:15 to 7:45 over coffee and sweets. Name tags will be distributed to all—so that you can meet and greet neighbors while you schmooze with our new legislative reps Robert Borski and Curtis Thomas (assuming that their schedules permit them to attend).

On the evening's agenda is good news about the transformation of NewMarket into a performing arts center. Gloria Levin, one of the developers, will give a presentation, and she hopes to bring her partner Mike diPaolo and Valley Forge Music Fair exec Shelly Gross to join the presentation and answer your questions. Please note the special date: Tuesday, March 16th at 7:15 pm. I'll be looking for you!

Clean-Up Day Planned for May 1st

Saturday, May 1st has been designated as Clean-Up Day for Society Hill. Coordinators Mary Sturdivant, Liz Ostrander and Howard Lander are looking for volunteer helpers and are hoping that the entire community will join in this spring celebration of our neighborhood. Plans include participation of our local schools in a Clean-Up Art Show—with prizes, of course, in different categories: pre-

be presented at historic Head House at 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

Arrangements are being made with police for special parking plans for the day so that both sides of our main streets and sidewalks will be power swept! Sidewalk power washing equipment is also being arranged.

By the way, the annual Physick House Plant Sale will be held the weekend before Clean-Up Day on April 23, 24, 25—Friday through Sunday. (See Calendar.) It is a good source and traditional place for neighbors to acquire plants and materials for our spruce-up campaign while supporting the historic house museum in our midst. Plan to purchase your plants at the Physick House, garden entrance at 4th and Cypress Streets.

Mother's Day Weekend—7 Arts Festival

The following week, on Mother's Day weekend, the South Street 7 Arts Festival is having its MOTHER EARTH DAY program. Plans include presenting neighborhood households additional awards for artistic May Baskets and street plantings! (Head House Shambles will become a flower market, incidentally, and some proceeds will benefit the Head House Conservancy.) Look for more details in the next issue of the Society Hill Reporter.

Big doins' for our community as spring begins to approach. So don't forget to get your membership started or renewed. Join in on the fun and the serious business of maintaining our one-of-a-kind neighborhood!

At the Members Only Cocktail

SHCA PREPARES FOR ANNUAL ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

SHCA welcomes new faces and new ideas. If you're interested in our community and would be willing to participate, we're interested in you! Here's how our civic association works:

Society Hill—between Front and 8th Streets, and from Walnut to Lombard Streets—is divided into four quadrants: Northeast, Northwest, Southwest, and Southeast. Every year the general membership elects four quadrant directors, each for a three-year term. Any current SHCA member is eligible for office, and the organization's By-laws provide for nomination by either a petition signed by ten members or by a nominating committee.

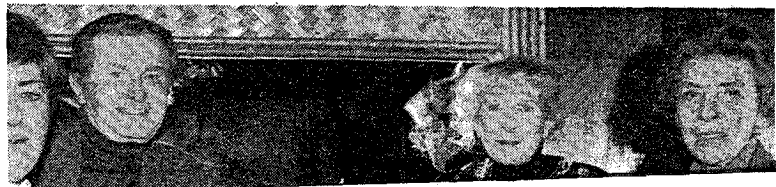
Anyone interested in becoming a director should submit his or her own name to individuals on the Nomination Committee (their numbers are listed below). Of course, you can also recommend your neighbor(s). [By the way, participation as an SHCA director is a very good way for new neighbors to become more involved in the community.] Please note that there is no provision for floor nominations at election time—so it is best to get your suggestion(s) to the Committee prior to the night of the election, at the May 19 meeting.

The Nominating Committee this year consists of retiring directors whose daytime phone numbers are: Lorna Katz Lawson, 351-0560 or Fax 351-0565; Liz Ostrander, 875-3400; and Ross Engelman 992-8304. They welcome your calls and suggestions.

Wednesday, May 19th will be election night for the SHCA. This year, in addition to the required four new directors, there are two vacancies due to resignations in the Class of '94—in the Northeast and Southwest quadrants of Society Hill.

The present officers running for an additional one-year term are: President, Dick Ostrander; Vice-President, Maggie Schultz; Treasurer, Sidney Hack; and Secretary, Joan Johnson.

The May election and General Membership meeting will be held at the Preston Auditorium of the Pennsylvania Hospital. More details, as well as the evening's agenda will be reported in a later edition of this paper.



SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

Society Hill
Civic Association
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(215) 629-1288

editors

Bernice T. Hamel
Mary Sturdivant
STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE
Lorna Katz Lawson
Dick Ostrander

Zoning Matters



Street (See photo)
 A meeting was called to see the property's owner and by neighbors could come to agreement on the illegally built. Essentially, the SHCA is opposed to this addition, or construction without zoning and L & I approval, but would be willing to accept it provided it be made aesthetically compatible to its surroundings. Rody Davies, local architect, proposed the following:
 (1) Change the beige horizontal vinyl siding, at top of bay window, to match the gray vertical siding on the bay window below.
 (2) Reroute the smokestack to the interior.
 (3) Build up an extension with flower boxes to

mask the view from the street. As another condition for the neighbors' support of the addition, the owner also has agreed to waive in perpetuity the possible future use of the roof as a roof deck.

Cabaret Theater at NewMarket
 The SHCA approves of and is optimistic about the overall concept

of NewMarket's adaptation to a performing arts center. The Zoning Committee is concerned, however, about the details of the first installment of the development—regarding the cabaret theater, to be opened in June '93. Questions about alcohol consumption, the number of people in attendance, and the hours of operation will be asked. For example, will the 300 tables and seats be movable (as in other area cabaret theaters)—so that in the worst-possible-case scenario, additional people could be packed into the space in order to increase liquor sales? As always, the Zoning Committee will monitor the situation and keep open the lines of communication with the owners and operators.

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SHCA Calendar
 (clip & save)

Tues, March 16, 7:15 pm
 General Membership Meeting
 Hosts: Society Hill Sheraton Hotel
 Agenda: NewMarket Theaters & meet local legislative reps

Wed, April 21, 7:30 pm
 Board of Directors Meeting
 at Old Pine Community Center
 Open to all members

Fri thru Sun, April 23-25
 Plant Sale at Physick House
 Garden entrance, 4th & Cypress Streets
 Hours: Fri: 3-6 pm, Sat: 10 am-6 pm, Sun: 10 am-6 pm

Sat, May 1
 Society Hill Clean Up Day
 Prizes at Head House, 1 pm

Wed, May 19, 7:30 pm
 General Membership Meeting
 Hosts: Penna. Hospital
 Agenda: Election—SHCA Directors

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Neighborly Tips

Society Hill Reporter

If you receive this paper sporadically instead of monthly, as many neighbors report, we suggest that you become a subscriber. For the additional cost of only \$5 a year, we will mail every issue to your house. Annual membership in the Society Hill Civic Association is required, of course, but the cost of mailing the East Philadelphia Sun/Society Hill Reporter to your home is only an additional \$5 a year. You'll get to find out what's happening, not only in Society Hill, but in our bordering communities of Queen Village, Old City, Northern Liberties, and the South Street/Headhouse Special Services District.

Come on! Join the club of Big Spenders and you'll be able to keep up with the local news and catch all the local gossip!

By the way, your volunteer reporters are always looking for the next scoop, so do feel free to call or fax your stories of local interest. Letters to the editors are also always welcome. We want to keep you informed and up-to-date, but we do need the eyes and ears of our neighbors. So give us a call. (925-4363 or Fax 925-0877. Or, the SHCA office 629-1288)

SHCA Window Decal

Are you proud of being a Society Hill resident and are you a member of our civic association? Let your neighbors know how much you value the volunteer efforts of SHCA members who work to maintain the high quality of life we have established here.

If you haven't yet installed your SHCA window decal in a very visible place, please do so. Our wonderful logo was designed, by the way, by Pamela Sinkler Todd, an artist of international renown who happens to live in and love our unique neighborhood. Join us in showing your support for SHCA by displaying our new window decal. Let's not be shy. Let's make our presence known!

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 Household \$25
 Membership Renewal Business/Corporate \$50
 Mail Sun/Reporter \$5 Corporate Sponsor \$100

Name _____
 Address _____
 Zip _____ Phone (day) _____ (eve) _____

I(We) would be interested in working with the following committees:

Membership	Liquor Control
Neighborhood Maintenance	Town Watch
Recycling	Reporter/Sun newspaper
Zoning	Legislative
Preservation	Other (please specify)

YOUR HOME IS YOUR PRIMARY INVESTMENT. PROTECT IT!

NET SHCA DIRECTOR Joan Johnson

Continuing series about association directors—

A slender woman with a wedge of light brown hair falling onto her face is Joan Johnson, secretary of the SHCA. Like many members, Joan joined the association when a particular issue threatened her immediate environment. After the controversy over a garage at her former home on Campers Street was resolved, she stayed on to help with other matters.

As sun poured through the windows of her current

home, she remarked, "We're probably lucky. Membership in the association skyrockets when there is a really big problem and people are upset. When everything is okay, apathy sets in. Maybe we should be enjoying the peace."

Joan has lived in Society Hill in three different locations since 1969. She is the librarian at Community College of Philadelphia. And when she says she likes animals, she really means it. Besides owning three cats, she is a member of the Do-

cents, the official guides of the Philadelphia Zoo. They train for four hours each Saturday from September to March, and the written exam is known to be pretty tough.

For the past three years, Joan has been refurbishing her historic home that was



rehabbed originally in the '60s. Working with local artists-craftsmen, they have produced some wonderful effects, including a steel sculpture with flowers and a dragonfly that also acts as security shield for the back of the house. The cats have their own access to the basement through an architecturally correct, Lilliputian-sized paneled double door.

Besides her home and animals, Joan loves to travel. She can combine two of her favorite things with a safari trip to Africa offered by the Zoo. So if anyone knows—please tell her—just how cold is it in Botswana in June?

FAREWELL TO DAVID T. MILLER, PUBLISHER

David T. Miller, 64, husband of Ellen Miller and long-time resident of Society Hill, died on January 21 of a respiratory illness while vacationing in Costa Rica. Dave was a former managing editor and vice president of J. B. Lippincott Company.

Dave, a native Philadelphian, was educated at Chestnut Hill Academy and William Penn Charter School. After service in the Navy at the end of World War II, he graduated from the University of Pennsylvania.

He was an accomplished mountaineer, having earned membership in the American Alpine Club as a result of many climbs in Switzerland (including a first ascent), the Tetons, the Canadian Rockies, and the north face of the St. Louis Public Library (!) Dave was also an adventurous world traveler, and his insatiable curiosity led him to the far corners. Fluent in both French and Italian, he communicated in his own language with wit and sensitivity. He had an incredible memory for names and dates, and his wife Ellen—who claims she can hardly remember anything—depended upon him for his encyclopedic knowledge.

One of Dave's favorite interests was what he called "dramatic transportation." His father had been a test pilot, and his brother once flew jets and dirigibles for the Navy—so, of course, Dave was an aviator, too. But he expanded upon family tradition by parachuting and hang-gliding! In his early years he became interested in steam locomotion, and later maintained a steam launch, of his own design, on the Delaware. Experimentation continued at home as well, startling his neighbors with occasional outbursts from his garden. Riding an elephant in Nepal, an outrigger on Bora Bora Lagoon, and a raft down the San Juan River in southeastern Utah seemed routine by comparison.

Many of Dave's happiest years were spent restoring his 18th century Society Hill home. After marrying Ellen and acquiring two standard poodles by 1967, he was inclined to refer to the restoration in the manner of a Chinese calendar—e.g. "the year of the furnace," "the year of the roof," etc. Nonetheless, Dave took an active and caring part in bringing the house back to its former beauty.

His true profession, however, was books, and he was an honorable publisher. A thoroughly kind and decent man, Dave was fortunate in having accomplished most of what he wanted to do in his life. When he died, he was doing two of his favorite things—reading and traveling.

As we bid farewell to yet another gifted and wise neighbor, we offer his wife Ellen and his mother Mary T. Miller, of Cocoa, Florida, our most sincere condolences.

Koffmeyer's

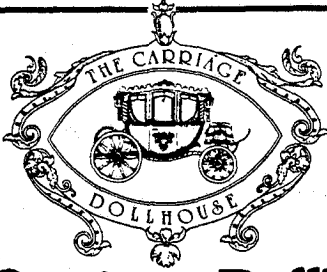
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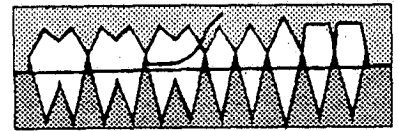
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