SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

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Clean-Up Day Thanks

Here’s a list of businesses and organizations that made the day’s events successful:

TGL Fridays and Pizzeria Uno, who provided free lunch and drinks for all who attended the awards ceremony.

McCall kids for their delightful posters and the PhilaPride Anti-Littering Mascot, “Kool Kat,” who delighted the kids who attended the ceremony. (The children’s art work will be on display on South Street.)

The National Park Service, who supplied manpower and some of the power cleaning equipment.

Pennsylvania Hospital, who supplied both cleaning equipment and 22 people. Also Jefferson Hospital, who provided a clean-up crew.

The two City “special services” districts: Center City District and South Street/Headhouse District. Real professionals!

The Society Hill Carriage Company, who provided transportation for PhilaPride’s “Kool Kat” to ride about in.


The Citizens Alliance for Cleaner Neighborhoods, particularly Frank DiCicco who drove the “big sweeper,” and his son Frank, Jr. on the mini sweeper.

Charlie Niedermayer, who hand-decorated our token-of-appreciation awards, the “Re-new Rooms” and who also glided the “golden Fopper-Scoopers” awards. More thanks to: Mayor Edward Rendell, State Senator Vincent Fumo, State Representative W. Curtis Thomas; City Councilman

elements of the clean-up: getting the cooperation of residents: businesses, City agencies, and a provider of services and goods.

They did a great job! This project was also done in conjunction with the Washington Square West Civic Association. Thanks, finally to everybody involved, including all neighbors who spruced up their homes with May baskets and new plantings. And thanks especially to “Mother Nature,” who cooperated by providing a classic sunny spring day! (Did we forget anybody? We hope not! But if so please forgive us—we have a press deadline!)
Thursday evening: signs are posted throughout Society Hill and Washington Square West to move cars for Saturday’s sweep.

Top left: Saturday morning, Alfred Zerwick of the 200 block Spruce Street helps Daniel Velez, CCD employee.

Above: Julie Smith, Sally Smith, Jonathan Skale and Linda Skale, 300 block of Pine Street.

Next: Paul Noyes sweeps along the 300 block of Delancey Place.

Top right: Ron Meliment, Clotilde Galbraith on Addison Street.

Left: Awards ceremony featured Mayor Rendell, Jean Fumo, Nancy Hallman, co-chairs

Howard Lander and Mary Sturdivant. (Not pictured: co-chair Liz Ostrander.)

Bottom: Senator Vince Fumo, who drove the big sweeper (missing the awards) with daughter.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Three Bears Park

Voted April 20, 1993

To the editor:

Last month’s issue of the Society Hill Reporter/East Philadelphia Sun carried an article which explained in ‘all the situation with re-
to Three Bears Park, the article outlined the events leading up to the in-
stallation of the playground equipment and what has happened since then. It was accurate throughout and ended on a hopeful note. It is the first hopeful note since last summer when the

three Bears met with the neighbors of the park. At that first meeting in early June of 1992 they gave their assurance of cooperation.

The new equipment has not “grown” on the neighbors, as the Friends of 3 Bears suggested would occur with time. After one year since its installation, it is today still a situation needing to be re-
solved. In that light, I called the manufacturer in Mis-
souri who said that many options were available, while keeping in mind the happiness and safety of the chil-
dren. I called the represen-
tative in the area and met with him and several mem-
bers of the Friends of 3 Bears on March 9 of this year. There seemed to be some progress at that meeting and no objec-
tions to our recommen-
dation of changing the or-

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A hundred year old, uniek—a carvined, enameled chalice—stands off evil spirits at the entrance of his home. Sid Hack expresses with a twinkle in his bright blue eyes, "I look at him and think, 'How bad can it be?'"

The avuncular treasurer of the Society Hill Civic Association, Sid Hack is a transplanted New Yorker, now residing in Society Hill with spectacular views of both the Benjamin Franklin and Walt Whitman bridges. This leisure time sailor (both power and sail) can look at the water from his home or when he is donating time to the research library at the Philadelphia Maritime Museum.

Retired now from his import business, Sid’s home reflects his years of traveling, especially in Japan with art, furniture, porcelain, and plants. He explained what it was like to do business in Japan after World War II. His colleagues in electronic musical instruments were all trying to get the best deal, but Sid claims the Japanese knew the value of a yen. So he decided to invest in quality. It was a hard sell to his sales force who wanted to change policies. But Sid prevailed, and the Les Paul guitar was a hit. Quality does sell.

Over the years, he developed many strong relationships with Japanese businessmen. When they never learned the language and says he was not encouraged to do so by the Japanese, where many of us see xenophobia, Sid sees a deeply rooted desire for privacy—even in communication.

Sid easily explains the success of his karaoke. He noticed that the Japanese businessmen all get out for dinner and drinks in the evening. After two drinks, they must sing. So of course the Japanese would develop the market for a karaoke machine.

If you see Sid, either at his side or a few feet behind, in Aniza. They met on Coron Island fifty years ago, and Sid “test” dated her for a friend. They still radiate love. Or that may just be the healthy glow of two peripatetic Philadelphians. They choose this city because it was so walkable and easily traveled to or from by their two children and four grandchildren.

Sid worked with the Small Business Administrations SCORE program for years until his frustration with the lack of credit for entrepreneurs made him cut back on his time. Now he tries to get the Civic Association to do good business plans for each project. Sid and Aniza also work with the Friends of Washington Square and act as guides for the Man Full of Troubles Tavern museum.

Sid was thrilled to see more acceptance of different ideas in the Civic Association. He feels our major weakness—other than Americans in the world economy—is that we want everybody to think the way we do. That is not reality based on his international experience. His own life seems to reflect the principle, "To whom much has been given, by whom much is owed." As a good treasurer, before he meets the final accountant, he is making sure his life’s statement balances.

3 BEARS PARK LETTER (cont.)

Strengthened colored elements of the equipment to a softer tan that would be a color more in harmony with our historic streets. This was announced at the SHCA meeting of March 17.

Now I hear that some members of the Friends have expressed their unwillingness to make any changes or to compromise in any way. They are happy with the equipment design and colors, and they will brook no compromises.

Why has the SHCA not taken a more active role in mediating the controversy? Could we reexamine the attitude of care, concern, cooperation, communication and compromise within our community where everyone’s actions impact on others?

Sincerely,
Jo Ann Buller
("Special Friends of 3 Bears Park")

Editor’s Comments:
In all likelihood the greater community of Society Hill is in favor of coming up with a reasonable solution to this conflict. Since the Society Hill Civic Association is perceived to be the neighborhood’s “official” voice with government, businesses, and organizations, it is understandable that, at this point, the City’s Recreation Department will listen and respond only to the Association. It is, therefore, imperative that the SHCA have up-to-date information about how the entire neighborhood feels about the current impasse.

Whether you agree with one point-of-view or the other, every person’s opinion should be respected and should not be belittled. After all, our community was built for respect for others, and our community of reasonable people. The Delancey Street Park definitely be on the agenda."

make a note of the day, time/place: Wednesday night, May at 7:30, at Pennsylvania Hospice Admission Auditorium on Street—entrance is on 8th.

-Bernice Hamel

Wednesday May 19
3:30 PM
General Membership Meeting
Pennsylvania Hospital’s Pre Auditorium (enter 8th near Spruce)
Agenda: SHCA Elections, 3 Bears Park, NewMarket
Saturday & Sunday, May 8 & 9
Mother Earth Day Events
South Street/Headhouse Festivities all weekend long

Friday, May 14
"Popcorn Day" at Pennsylvania Hospital
All day street vendors—help support the hospital!
Wednesday, June 16
7:30 PM
Board of Directors Meeting
Old Pine Community Center 4th & Lombard Sts.
All Welcome!

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P.O. Box 3, Philadelphia, PA 19105
Attention: Treasurer

Name

Address

Phone (day) (eve)

I/We would be interested in working with the following committees:
Membership:

Neighborhood Maintenance Town Watch
Recycling
Zoning
Preservation

Lobbyist

(Other please specify)

YOUR HOME IS YOUR PRIMARY INVESTMENT. PROTECT IT!