The Struggle for Dilworth Continues

Despite a heads-up lead editorial in the Philadelphia Inquirer on August 12 advocating preservation of the Dilworth House, the hearing at the Historical Commission did not occur as scheduled. More than 100 people showed up on a sweltering summer morning—filling the room and crowding the hallways in order to take a strong stand to save the house. However, the developer's lawyer, with the Commerce Director's assistance, managed to obtain a continuance in order to avoid the hearing scheduled for that day. This came on the heels of the Historical Commission's own Designation Committee's unanimous (4-0) rejection of the developer’s 15-point argument for demolishing the house. The hearing has been scheduled for sometime in late September. We again call on all our supporters to attend. Keep tuned to www.savedilworthnow.org for the exact date, time and location of the hearing. And, if you haven’t yet done so, please sign the online petition. (Don’t have a computer? Call SHCA’s office so that Administrator Matt DeJulio may phone you with details about time and place.)

The Dilworth House is a symbol of Mayor Dilworth’s personal commitment to the revitalization of Society Hill. The idea was to help foster the creation of a middle-class neighborhood so that Center City, from river to river, could take its rightful place as part of a world-class city. This spirit of optimism is something Philadelphia should treasure always.

At the August 12 Historical Commission Meeting

Dilworth Continued, Ayer Building Considered

The Struggle for Dilworth Continues

Despite a heads-up lead editorial in the Philadelphia Inquirer on August 12 advocating preservation of the Dilworth House, the hearing at the Historical Commission did not occur as scheduled. More than 100 people showed up on a sweltering summer morning—filling the room and crowding the hallways in order to take a strong stand to save the house. However, the developer’s lawyer, with the Commerce Director’s assistance, managed to obtain a continuance in order to avoid the hearing scheduled for that day. This came on the heels of the Historical Commission’s own Designation Committee’s unanimous (4-0) rejection of the developer’s 15-point argument for demolishing the house. The hearing has been scheduled for sometime in late September. We again call on all our supporters to attend. Keep tuned to www.savedilworthnow.org for the exact date, time and location of the hearing. And, if you haven’t yet done so, please sign the online petition. (Don’t have a computer? Call SHCA’s office so that Administrator Matt DeJulio may phone you with details about time and place.)

The Dilworth House is a symbol of Mayor Dilworth’s personal commitment to the revitalization of Society Hill. The idea was to help foster the creation of a middle-class neighborhood so that Center City, from river to river, could take its rightful place as part of a world-class city. This spirit of optimism is something Philadelphia should treasure always.

Washington Square’s Magnificent N.W. Ayer Building Conversion Considered

Another most important Philadelphia building was considered by the Historical Commission on August 12: the quintessential Art Deco building at 210 West Washington Square, known as the N.W. Ayer Building. This structure is one of the finest examples of Art Deco architecture in Philadelphia. Its developers—the Goldenberg Group and Brown/Hill Development—together...
Submissions

We want to hear from you. Our goal is to print news of interest to Society Hill residents, especially happenings in and around our community. To publicize an event in the Reporter, press releases or copy should be submitted to the SHCA office by email, mail or fax by the submission deadline above. Material must be submitted in writing and must include the name of a contact person. Edited material may appear if space allows; otherwise upcoming events may be listed in the Community Calendar. Only signed Letters to the Editors will be considered for publication.

In this Issue…

Pages 5
Dilworth House, A Poem

Page 9
Safe & Sound Society Hill

Page 11
Franklin Lights, Halfway There

Page 13
South Street Update

Page 15
Kids’ Beat: Dance Academy Debuts

Page 24
The Senior Scene

Page 27
Ray Posel Remembered

Page 34
Noteworthy Neighbor: Shana Vitoff
Summer is a time of rest and relaxation. Labor Day traditionally marks the end of these lazy days and in September we summon renewed energy to complete old projects or get involved with new ones.

This fall, we expect to receive funds from two grants. The first is a $110,000 grant we obtained through the assistance of Senator Fumo. These funds will go toward updating the Franklin Lights. (See page 11.) Many thanks to Martha Levine and her Franklin Lights Committee, who are working to get this project started.

The Second grant of $50,000, which we received through the assistance of State Representative Marie Lederer, will be spent on our neighborhood. We have received several requests for additional trash receptacles to be placed at intersections throughout the community. If you have other suggestions on how these funds can best be used, please let me know!

We are also becoming more involved with the beautification of Washington Square Park. Under the leadership of Board member Sissie Lipton, a committee will initially work on the entrances to the Square, beginning with the park’s southeast corner. (See page 17.)

Thanks to the Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee (ZHP), under the able direction of Paul Boni, for all of its hard work. As you have read on page 1, the ZHP Committee had to prepare for two Historic Commission hearings to preserve the Dilworth House: on July 28 they appeared before the Historical Commission’s Designation Committee, and on August 12 they attended the full Commission hearing which was given a continuance for later in September. Many thanks to Society Hill residents and neighbors from other communities who took time out from their schedules in support of preserving the Dilworth House, although a decision has not yet been reached regarding its ultimate fate. Your presence at these hearings has shown city officials that we as a community care about this Philadelphia landmark. Paul Boni and his team have done an amazing job in defending our position. Thanks to State Senator Vincent Fumo and Councilman Frank DiCicco for their continued support of our efforts.

Other projects and issues for the upcoming year include: assembling an overall strategic plan for our civic association; improving our website to make it more informative and user friendly; focusing on Town Watch, analyzing traffic and safety issues—including the abundance of tourist vehicles in our neighborhood; renovating Three Bears Park; and last but not least, monitoring the development plans for NewMarket—the largest unoccupied parcel of land remaining in Society Hill.

If I’ve forgotten to include a subject or project that would further enrich our community, please do not hesitate to contact me (TRorke@aol.com). Our hard-working civic association needs your suggestions and welcomes your feedback!

Tania Rorke
SHCA President

Time to complete old projects — or get involved with new ones!
THE WAIT IS OVER!

HEAD HOUSE BOOKS

YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR BOOKSTORE.

OPENING THIS FALL AT 619 SOUTH SECOND STREET

WWW.HEADHOUBOOKS.COM
Dilworth Continued, Ayer Building Considered

continued from page 1

with their architects wish to convert this office building into 22 upscale condominium residences. Several design plans were presented to the Historical Commission, which followed earlier meetings with both SHCA’s Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee (ZHP) and also Wash-West’s Civic Association. The developer’s plans include converting the building’s basement and part of its mezzanine level into parking for all of the residents. The plans also include changing one of the building’s street-level windows, which faces Washington Square, into a door for purposes of a retail or commercial tenant. These modifications were not opposed by the ZHP Committee and were approved by the Commission.

The most controversial aspect of their proposal included the construction of a new penthouse unit on the building’s rooftop. SHCA’S ZHP Committee expressed concerns about this penthouse, but did not oppose it. Nevertheless, the Historical Commission determined that the existing profile of the Ayer building is too important, so this design proposal was rejected unanimously.

The second controversial design alteration was a canopy that would stretch to the curb to be installed above the extraordinary Art Deco entrance doors. The Historical Commission rejected this because the front doors of the Ayer Building are considered a great work of art.

We look forward to seeing the successful conversion of this building into luxury condominiums, as it will be a wonderful asset in our neighborhood. We are pleased to report that the developers have been quite responsive to our community’s concerns. Their original plan to construct three penthouse apartments, one above the other, had been modified down to one rooftop apartment based on our critique. Indeed, most of the negative feedback they received centered on their three-story penthouse proposal. Then at the Historical Commission’s August hearing, the Executive Director of the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia, John Gallery, illustrated with drawings how any construction on top of this elegant Art Deco structure would ruin one of the finest buildings in the city. As a result, their modified, one-story penthouse concept was unanimously opposed by the Commission, and their proposal to construct a canopy in front of the building’s elegant, irreplaceable front entrance doors facing Washington Square was also voted down.

Note: The above article is run in lieu of SHCA’s Zoning & Historical Preservation Report by Paul Boni, Esq.

Dilworth House

A Poem by R. E. Booth, Jr., M.D.

So raze her faded brick façade
For years that stood foursquare,
And said for every eye to see
That change was in the air.

Behind it grew the stuff of dreams
And dwelt a vital Mayor,
Whose vision for the Hill’s rebirth
Went far beyond the square.

He turned down lovely Lemon Hill,
Historic – and more fair,
So friends in Philadelphia
Would trust that he did care.

Rooms once rife with plans and deals
Where democrats held sway,
Were crucibles of social change
That we embrace today.

Dentils, muntins, firemarks – all
Strong symbols of our past.
What matter if they aren’t antique?
The memory’s what must last.

“Greene Countrie Towne” was Penn’s ideal,
With homes – and lives – to scale.
Though centuries have come and gone,
The concept must not fail.

O better that the wrecking ball
Should leave a void behind.
A modern tower would demean
What our Fathers had in mind.

Dr. Booth was inspired to write this poem when he heard about the potential demolition of the Dilworth House. The poem was read before the Designation Committee of the Historical Commission on July 28.

Note: The N.W. Ayer Building photo from the Bernie Cleff Collection, Athenaeum of Philadelphia

Dr. R. E. Booth, Jr., M.D. has had a watercolor of the Dilworth House sitting on his office desk for more than 30 years. He remembers fondly that as a young intern he had treated a woman with no medical insurance who was known throughout the area as “the bag lady.” One day she came back to “repay” him for his medical services with a painting, her own rendition of Washington Square’s Dilworth House.

It would seem that there are thousands of other Philadelphians and former Philadelphians, who may not now live in our neighborhood, but who recall Mayor Dilworth and who look reverently at his old home on the Square whenever they visit.
MBC GAS & FIREPLACE
We help you bring a heart to your home.

Installation & Service
Custom Mantles/Cabinets
All Gas Stoves & Fireplaces
Granite/Marble/Slate Surrounds
Custom Fireplace Doors & Screens
Residential • Commercial • Retail • Restaurants
Stainless Steel Grills & Outside Islands
Classic Flame Electric Fireplaces
1-866-622-3473 Toll Free
www.mbcfireplace.net
7 years Experience
Servicing all areas of Eastern Pennsylvania

Need help managing your assets?

Turn to Advest.
Our experienced financial advisors can offer the advice and guidance you want and need—from the first step of developing an investment strategy through implementation, Advest offers an expansive array of asset management programs designed to give you the choice and flexibility you desire.

Managed for an annual fee rather than a transaction basis, these programs allow you to focus on your financial security and interact with your financial advisor without the concern of commission costs. Whether you’re in need of professional portfolio management, asset allocation advice, or simply a convenient way to simplify your investments, Advest has the programs and services to fit your needs.

Call Thom Tarka in Advest, Inc.’s Society Hill office at 800-733-2180 to learn more.

Thomas J. Tarka
Senior Vice President – Investments
Accredited Asset Management Specialist
By appointment
800-733-2180
215-568-1500
The Curtis Center
Suite 170 West
601 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Advest
An AXA Financial Company
601 WASHINGTON SQUARE
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106
732-578-2700 • 800-733-1085

www.advest.com • Advest, Inc. Member: NYSE, NASD, SIPC.
Ducks Gone Wild; Sharks Sighted

Noisy Vehicles Grow in Size and Number

Quack! Quack! There they go again. Neighbors have continued to complain about Ride the Ducks and Super Ducks this season. One neighbor complained, “The Ducks are back with a vengeance, and now there is a third competing Shark ride as well!” As in years past, overly loud PA systems, blaring music, non-stop quacking and erratic routes that allow free access to our residential streets are the principal complaints. Although SHCA leaders have spoken several times to the managers of these profit-making tourist businesses, their agreed-upon “no-quacking” policies throughout Society Hill are not being honored. A few years ago, when Ride the Ducks first established itself in Philadelphia, SHCA’s leaders received guarantees that our neighborhood would be mostly off limits to these large amphibious vehicles—and that riders would be told not to use those quacking devices while driving down our residential streets. Today, however, as many as 50% of the drivers are new hires. They encourage the use of quacking noisemakers throughout the neighborhood.

Rumor has it that Councilman Frank DiCicco is working on legislation to curb these undesirable activities. The National Park Service has also been complaining about the racket these businesses cause. With the proliferation of vehicular tourist attractions, including the latest, a Shark tour ride, our quality of life during the warm months has been adversely affected. Surely there must be a way to accommodate locals and visitors alike. We would like to set a fair policy for such business ventures and at the same time protect our unique residential community.

---

Tania Rorke, President

Dear Ms. Rorke:

On behalf of the Ed Bacon Foundation, I offer my heartfelt appreciation for your organization’s generous and significant gesture of establishing a permanent marker to commemorate the roles of Edmund N. Bacon and Charles E. Peterson in Society Hill’s revitalization. The marker turned out wonderfully, and the dedication ceremony was truly memorable, with an impressive attendance. Ed has expressed to me his joy and gratitude for all of your hard work. I know it was a great day for him, to be reunited with so many of his long-time colleagues and to experience such profound appreciation directly from your membership.

It was also a true honor for me to be included on the committee that planned and designed the commemorative marker. The other members of that committee did an exceptional job carrying this project through to its realization. They deserve much praise for the enormous amount of time and care they contributed to ensuring the project’s success. I would like to extend my special thanks to Darlene Cavalier, Bernice Hamel, Stanhope and Libby Brown, and Penny Batcheler. Finally, I would also like to extend my thanks to your dedicated membership. The residents of Society Hill continue to ensure the success of this precious community—the realization of Ed’s dream and vision.

Thank you for allowing the Ed Bacon Foundation to play a meaningful role in this project. It has been a joy to work with your organization. I look forward to future collaborations in order to preserve and strengthen Ed’s vision and legacy in Society Hill and Philadelphia.

Respectfully Yours,

Gregory Heller, President, Edmund Bacon Foundation

---

Letter to the President

SHCA President

Tania Rorke recently received this letter of thanks from the Ed Bacon Foundation
No coffee.
Great books.

Individualized attention from friendly, knowledgeable booksellers. We are PASSIONATE about children's literature.

1940 Pine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-790-1727

Hours: Mon-Thu, 10-7; Fri-Sat, 10-6; Sun, 12-5

Don’t miss this historic opportunity.

Liberty Court
At Society Hill

Come see our Homes
Take a walking tour through Liberty Court and imagine the possibilities. Located at 2nd and Lombard Streets. Free parking is available.
- Newly constructed 4-story townhomes
- 3 to 4 bedrooms, 3.5+ baths
- Private garages & optional elevators
- 10-foot ceilings
- Rear gardens and upper decks
- Hardwood and stone floors
- Kitchens and baths featuring Viking®, Brookhaven®, Woodmode®, and Kohler
- From 2,750 to 4,150 sq. ft.

10-Year Tax Abatement
Prices starting at $1.3 million
Attractive Financing Options
Contact our sales center at:
215.928.0238
www.libertycourt.com

Prudential
Fax & Reach REALTORS®

Liberty Court is a joint venture development of AFC/Altman Group
**Dog owners:** Be advised that all dogs must be kept on lead—on all city streets and even in parking lots. You are responsible for any injuries inflicted by your dog to either passersby or other people’s pets.

**National Night Out:** August 2nd was a huge success with several new people signed up to walk. Many neighbors and Sixth District Police made it a social event, taking a walk around the neighborhood. We were happy to see D.A. Lynne Abraham, Captain Brian Korn and Bike Officer Ferrero. Thanks to everyone who contributed food, drink, paper goods and citronella candles—including Chef’s Market, Cosi, Famous Fourth Street Deli, Pink Rose, Philadelphia Java Company, as well as individuals Diana Anhalt, Marilyn Appel, Matt DeJulio, Michael Erdos, Sam Sadler, Jennifer Spierling, and especially Jane Cooper for her contributions and coordination. Don’t miss next year’s Night Out—we’ll ask for cooler weather.

**Accident-prone Spruce Street:** It may be a matter of trees blocking lights or stop signs at intersections, or then again, it may be reckless driving. With about 60 accidents in Society Hill from March 1st to June 30th, between Front and 8th, 13 have been on Spruce Street, 9 on Pine, 3 on Lombard and 14 on Walnut. The worst accidents have occurred at 2nd and Pine; 4th, 5th and 6th on Spruce; and 8th at Locust. If the sign says “No Turn on Red” do not turn on red. Near-accidents occur when careless drivers think they absolutely must make the light. Seventh and Spruce has had a series of parked car scrapes lately. Be careful! SSSH is working on getting the trees at intersections pruned.

**Pedestrian Safety:** SSSH commissioned Orth-Rogers, Inc., a transportation and engineering consulting firm, to conduct two speed studies. The first took place on 6th Street between Walnut and Pine; the second on Spruce Street, between 3rd and 5th. Much to our surprise, 85% of cars were traveling between 25 - 29 mph or less, varying by street. No traffic calming devices are recommended, according to the State Handbook, unless traffic exceeds the speed limit by 10mph. Other possibilities are drivers going through red lights, cutting off pedestrians as they cross the street, turning on No Turn on Red signs, or distractions, such as speaking on cell phones.

Of particular concern are the greenway intersections at St. Joseph’s Way and St. Peter’s Way, as they intersect with Spruce, Cypress and Delancey Streets. Suggestions by Bob Rogers of Orth-Rogers and Greg Heller, of the Ed Bacon Foundation, are to paint zebra stripes at these intersections, or place caution signs and No Parking signs at the crosswalks. Take the time to cross at the corner; if you must take a shortcut, please cross with extreme caution.

**Willings Alley** is now a two-way street, making it very dangerous, not only for cars, but also for pedestrians. Neighbors in the area, as well as SSSH, are following up on a suggestion to make this street one way.

For your safety and for your car’s safety, particularly if you have visiting relatives with out-of-state license plates, do not leave anything (e.g. luggage, clothing, money or books) in your car, which can be seen by a potential robber from the street or with a flashlight. It’s easy for a professional to enter a car, even without breaking a window.

**Fix-it Fraud** (from AARP): Once you’ve been ripped-off, it’s next to impossible to get your money back. Never pay any upfront money to a contractor who “needs it to buy materials,” because respectable contractors have a line of credit. Recommendations from a contractor may be worthless—as references may be from a brother-in-law or other relative. Beware of “contractors” who don’t list their business number in the phone directory, who accept only cash payments, or who pressure you to sign immediately.

**Washington Square Fountain:** In the previous issue of this newsletter we suggested that you keep your children out of the Washington Square fountain—no matter how tempting and clean the water may appear, as it is filled with dog hair and lots of bacteria. In addition, some neighbors have observed that the fountain is sometimes used by inconsiderate people as their toilet.

**Retired Cell Phones:** Keep your old cell phones and chargers coming to 414 Spruce Street. Your reconfigured phones are distributed to abused women and the elderly.
Philadelphia’s Best Sunday Brunch
is in your own backyard.

Try our lavish
Champagne Sunday Brunch Buffet
at The Omni Hotel overlooking
Independence Park.

AZALEA RESTAURANT AT THE
OMNI HOTEL
AT INDEPENDENCE PARK
401 chestnut street  |  philadelphia, pa
215.931.4270  |  www.OmniHotels.com

25% off
the purchase of our
lavish Champagne
Sunday Brunch Buffet.

*Must present this ad. Only one discount per table. Not available to groups. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Expires 10/30/08
SHCA’s Board of Directors recently approved a full-scale fundraising effort to replace and improve the quality of light throughout Society Hill. Our objective is to match available city and state funds with private, voluntary funds donated by Society Hill neighbors.

Five years ago, a plan was introduced to the SHCA Board to upgrade the existing, 40-year-old Franklin Lights, because they are in disrepair and provide inadequate light at 50 watts per lamp. Two years ago SHCA’s Board considered a new, improved model with 70 watts of high-pressured sodium and state-of-the-art technology, but there was insufficient funding to move forward. Then, more recently, the City of Philadelphia contributed $100,000 for these new lights. Still not enough money! We then applied for a state grant through Senator Vincent Fumo’s office and have been told that a check for $110,000 is on its way. However, this state grant has an expiration date of June 30, 2006, so we must use it now or lose it!

Here are the facts:
We need to replace 400 light fixtures at $1,250 each—for a total cost of $500,000. Our current available funds of $210,000 from the city and state will cover, at best, half of the project. Therefore, we need to ask neighbors to contribute what they can to match these government funds—to make these new, improved street lights a reality. Since most Society Hill blocks have eight Franklin Lights each, four new lights will be paid for with government funds, but the remaining four must be funded through contributions to our “Adopt A Franklin Light” program. This program is essential if we are to replace all of our street lights within the same time period. This is not only the most cost-effective way to accomplish the goal, but is also more inclusive and fair—we don’t want to leave any blocks or their residents in the dark!

We plan to seek contributions through an “Invitation to Give,” to be sent to each Society Hill household—asking for a donation towards a Franklin Light. Organizations such as churches, synagogues and businesses will also be asked to help. Your contributions are tax deductible through the Society Hill Fund.

To date, 60 households have pledged contributions, including six $1,250 donations to fund a complete light on their respective blocks. Two synagogues and a church have also pledged from $625 to $1,250 each to improve lighting near their buildings. We are now considering the possibility of placing a plaque on each pole, acknowledging neighbors who have donated $500 or more.

Our Proposed Time Frame:
- Send out solicitation cards by mail in late September or early October 2005, allowing most of October for responses.
- Plan a social event honoring Ben Franklin’s 300th birthday during late Fall or early 2006.

To make a tax-deductible contribution, or for more information, please contact Franklin Lights Committee Chair, Martha Levine at 215-629-0727 or marthalev@msn.com.

Good News for Franklin Lights:
Halfway There!

The first public lighting in Philadelphia was instituted in 1751. It is reasonable to assume that the earliest lights used glass globes imported from London. Benjamin Franklin, in his Autobiography, criticized these draftless, smoky and fragile lamps. “I therefore suggested composing them of four flat panes, with a long funnel above to draw up the smoke and crevices admitting air below....”

Franklin’s modifications were adopted, and these improved lamps burned sperm oil; their posts were made of wood, and the short cross bars at the top of the posts were there for the lamp-lighter’s ladder to lean against. The Franklin Lights you see throughout Society Hill are “modernized” versions installed during our community’s revival during the 1960s. They are lit by electricity and have cast-iron posts.
Join Us To Celebrate the Beauty of the Fall Season at:
The 1st Annual Arts and Crafts Show

CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS

Sunday-October 23rd 2005
11am-5pm

The Hopkinson House
(roof top solarium)
604 South Washington Square
Philadelphia, PA. 19106

Watercolors, unique jewelry designs, decorative wreaths, the new look in handbags, original greeting cards, carrying bags for yoga mats, jeweled eyeglass chains, wood block prints, beautiful journal covers.

Benefiting the building fund of the Keystone Hospice

Reading Terminal Market

We put the "PRO" in PRODUCE

Top Quality • Premium Selection • Personal Service
12th & Arch Streets • ReadingTerminalMarket.org
215-922-2317 • Discount Parking at 12th & Filbert Garage

Gannon Coyne & Associates Inc.
108 South Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147
215.574.9080
215.574.9082
coyned@nationwide.com

Nationwide, the Nationwide
Framework and Nationwide is on
your side are service marks of
Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. Life comes at you
fast and On Your Side are service marks of
Nationwide Mutual Insurance
Company, Nationwide Mutual Insurance
Company and Affiliated Companies.
National Office: Columbus, OH 43215. Nationwide
©2000 Nationwide Mutual Insurance
Company. All Rights Reserved.
Public events occurring on the corridor along S. 2nd Street from Pine to South Streets have caused some concern and discussion recently. Seasonal events held at historic Head House and its Shambles were no longer exclusively given over to the Craft Fair on weekends, as had been done for the past 37 years. Instead, under the auspices and approval of the South Street Headhouse District (SSHHD or District—see sidebar) several other types of events were held there. We believe these were well-intentioned new ideas—encouraging variety—and meant to benefit the business district. However, some of the events conducted this past summer created controversy when residents watched, for example, the serving of beer under the Shambles; specifically, a special event held on July 16. In addition, another potentially harmful activity included the grilling of food under the Shambles roof, which caused smoke, smells and potential damage—a definite no-no for this prized National Historical Landmark.

Community concern arose about these Headhouse happenings not because of the new events, but rather because of the failure to inform our neighborhood fully about the District’s plans in advance. Indeed, Headhouse, America’s last extant colonial-era firehouse, along with its adjacent market sheds, known as “the Shambles,” is a symbol of our entire community, and we should vigorously protect it.

In the future we hope the District will inform our civic association of its plans, so that proposals can be tailored to satisfy both nearby residents, as well as the event coordinators.

As for the future, some good news: we have been told that old-fashioned parking meters on S. 2nd Street between Lombard and South Streets will eventually be replaced with a single upgraded system for all autos in this parking area—rather than having a meter for each parked car.

Now for the bad news: rumor has it that the District plans to hold occasional concerts on this same S. 2nd Street parking site—at which time parking will be prohibited there. This would affect both Society Hill and Queen Village by bringing crowds, noise, and those unsightly but necessary public potties. Is this use of space appropriate for our very historic area? Would the financial benefit for the District outweigh our residential concerns? Since Penn’s Landing is so close by, we wonder why such public events as concerts are even being considered to be held here....

The South Street Headhouse Special Services District (SSHD or District).

The District is an independent municipal authority (similar to the Center City District) which taxes all businesses within its self-determined and city-approved boundaries. SSHD includes South Street from Front through 8th Street and also stretches down S. 4th Street’s “Fabric Row.” The District provides sanitation services and police protection, and encourages a mix of businesses and entertainment venues in the area. It operates out of the historic Headhouse site through a lease with the City of Philadelphia for $1 per year—and is charged with the building’s ongoing care and maintenance. The District’s current Executive Director is Dave Hammond, a Queen Village resident, while its board is composed primarily of business owners. Previously, the voices of residents from both Society Hill and Queen Village were officially represented on the board as community liaison persons, but SSHD eliminated those positions. Perhaps it is time to rethink this “missing link” to foster better dialogue and mutual support.
A Vibrant City.
A Close Community.
A Culture of Learning.

Open Houses
Tuesday, September 20, 2005, 8:45 a.m.
Saturday, October 15, 2005, 1:00 p.m.

A college preparatory, coed, Quaker day
school, pre-K through 12, at 17th on The
Parkway in Center City Philadelphia.
Admission and open house information:
215.561.5900 ext 104 www.friends-select.org

St. Peter's School
Nurturing Excellence Since 1834.

Who are these Kids?
How’d they get to be so outgoing,
so interesting, so… well, nice?
Maybe it’s because they’ve been
educated in a garden of civility
in the heart of a great city,
where excellence is honored
and childhood is cherished.

Pre-registration for open houses is
appreciated but not required.

• Sunday, November 6, 2005
  Program begins at 2:00pm
  St. Peter’s School, a multi-
denominational program,
educates boys and girls in
Preschool to Eighth Grade

• Sunday, January 8, 2006
  Program begins at 2:00pm

St. Peter’s School
215-925-3963
319 Lombard Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147
www.spcsumonline.org

In a festive atmosphere
filled with family entertain-
ment, you’ll have an oppor-
tunity to speak directly to
school leaders and learn
about the innovative and
exciting changes happening
at downtown schools.

Pennsylvania
Convention Center
Hall D
12th & Arch Sts
Philadelphia PA*

* Snacks and beverages
will be available for purchase.

choose an elementary school for your child?
comes to the... center city elementary school fair
Saturday, October 22, 2005, Noon-3pm

for more information call 215-440-5500 or visit www.CenterCitySchools.com
Back to school this fall also means, for many young locals, back to dance classes—and so we now welcome The Philadelphia Dance Academy to Society Hill. This beautiful new dance studio, located at 232 S. 4th Street, offers classes in creative movement, ballet, jazz, hip hop and Pilates. The school has suitable programs for “dancers” of all ages—whether for toddlers, school students, teens or even for adults, in keeping with its mission to provide exceptional training in dance technique and artistry to students of all ages and levels.

Instructors are professionally trained, and the focus is on precise technique, creative expression and the joy of dance. There will be a spring recital for older students, and parents of the tots will be invited to a class observation during the final week. Dance classes begin the week of September 12th and run through June 10th. Sessions are divided into nine-week quarters and follow the school calendar for vacations. The Philadelphia Dance Academy occupies the rear portion of an office building near 4th & Locust Streets, which is uniquely suited for its use. Upon visiting the space, I was very pleasantly surprised. There are enormous skylights flooding the studio with natural light. The spacious reception area is tastefully furnished, and the dance area is ideal—large, bright, well equipped with mirrors and the necessary dance paraphernalia, such as ballet exercise bars. There are two changing areas in the basement of the studio, affording ample privacy. The building is also secure, as the exterior door is locked and there is an intercom with a buzz-entry system.

Director Lori Lahnemann, Ed.M. began her training with the Joffrey Ballet and New York City Ballet. She has also danced with the Boston Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, Alvin Ailey Dance Company, Ballet Frankfurt, and the National Ballet of Spain. In addition to her extensive dance training, Ms. Lahnemann holds a Master’s Degree in elementary education from Temple University, and has taught in the Philadelphia public school system. Her enthusiasm for dance is infectious, but performances, costumes and rehearsals are not her focus. She believes that “when you teach dance, especially to children, movement should be the primary focus; otherwise you spend the entire session rehearsing and that can be stressful for both teacher and student.”

By the way, I happen to have inside information on “Ms. Lori,” as she taught my daughter at DanceSpace, a studio that Lori co-founded in 1999. The class was playful but structured, and the kids loved it!

For information on class schedules and registration, you can call 215-837-3936, visit www.philadelphiadanceacademy.com, or email philadance@aol.com. (Note: This Dance Academy is distinctly different from the S. 2nd Street Society Hill Dance Academy, which emphasizes ballroom dancing, see p. 34.)

---

**P is for Philadelphia**

**Philly’s Kids Shine in This One!**

Friends of Independence National Historical Park (INHP) and the National Liberty Museum announce a tour and discussion by Temple University Press author Susan Korman on Saturday, September 17, at 10 a.m. at the Independence Visitors Center, Sixth and Market Sts. The event will include a special tour of the Historic District followed by a discussion with the author at the National Liberty Museum.

Susan Korman is the author of over twenty books for young readers and her latest, *P is for Philadelphia*, is a unique, alphabetic tour of the city and the region, with words by Korman and illustrations by the area’s public school children, who participated in a city-wide drawing contest. *P Is for Philadelphia* includes entries on William Penn’s arrival and historic treaty with the Delaware Indians, the city’s heritage as the cradle of American liberty, as well as its food, sports teams, neighborhoods, and festivals.

Fee for INHP members and children is $5 and $10 for non-members. For more information about this event, or to register, please call The Friends of INHP at 215-928-1188. For more information about the Friends of INHP, visit their website, www.friendsofindependence.org.
Residential design through construction

We are the Condominium Renovation Specialists

Ask about our completed projects at Hopkinson House, Independence Place, Abbotts Square & Society Hill Towers.
- Construction Plans for Individual Rooms or Entire Condominiums
- Interior Design, Custom Furniture & Built-ins
- Kitchens, Bathrooms, Wine Cellars & Home Theaters

Call 215-925-8225 to arrange for a consultation.

J&L Designs Unlimited, Inc.
39 North 3rd Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Monday through Friday
10 a.m to 5 p.m.
Saturday by appointment
McCall School Playground:
For Society Hill Kids and Their Families!

This fall Society Hill’s young families will have another wonderful addition to the neighborhood. You may recall that last year Paul Vallas, CEO of Philadelphia Schools, announced that the McCall Elementary School (between 6th and 7th Streets near Delancey Street) was one of four schools selected to receive funding for a new playground as part of his city-wide initiative to eliminate the “concrete jungles” surrounding many of Philadelphia’s public schools.

Over the past year representatives from the McCall Home and School Association, local churches and synagogues, neighborhood parents, members of SHCA and residents of nearby homes met to help design the playground. To address community concerns, the new playground will have no benches — to prevent loitering; the play area will have no roof — for easy monitoring; and the new play equipment will be varied, providing stimulation for children of different ages.

The McCall playground is expected to be “open for business” in October, just in time for the kids to enjoy the crisp fall weather! Thanks to the School Playground Committee and members of the Philadelphia School District for making this happen.

Three Bears Park Fall Festivities Planned

Mark your calendars for our Fall Festival on Saturday, September 24, 2005 from 10 to 3. Rain Date is September 25. The Festival includes fun activities for children, a food and bake sale, a gently-used toy sale, a silent auction, homemade crafts sale and a school open house. Funds raised at the Fall Festival will go towards future park renovations, park-sponsored events and the daily upkeep of the park.

We had hoped to start renovations to Three Bears this past August. If you have visited the park recently, however, you can see that renovations have not begun. Procedural changes within the Department of Recreation and the Capital Improvements Department have slowed the process, and the city has not been able to order the equipment. The overall plan for the new playground is complete, benches and surfacing have been chosen, and Councilman DiCicco has set aside the funding. If all goes well, equipment will be ordered in September, with an installation date in October or early November — depending on weather. The Three Bears Park Committee and all who have worked hard on the renewal project thank you for your patience. You will not be disappointed when it is completed.

Attention ghosts and witches!

HALLOWEEN falls on a Monday this year so our party in Three Bears will begin at 5 p.m. We will have pizza and apple juice for children. A great time is always had by all.

If you are interested in volunteering, donating items for the Festival, or assisting in the coordination of the Halloween Festivities, please contact Tania Rorke at 215-925-4544 or TRorke@aol.com.

Landscaping For Washington Square

Good News! The National Park Service has given SHCA the go-ahead to hire a professional landscape company to assist in the design, planting and maintenance of Washington Square. We need your help to support this project. Donations are always welcome and we can also use volunteers to help with planting flowers and bushes. Please send your e-mail address to Matt DeJulio (mattdejulio@aol.com) so that we can keep you updated on this ongoing beautification project.

Note: Please don’t let the petunias be your pooch’s potty!

Are You a Budding Journalist? The Reporter Wants You!

We have a column for parents of young children, Kids’ Beat, thanks to Keri White and we have a Senior Scene, thanks to Jean Bryan. We think it is about time to call on budding young journalists to join us. If you like to write and have a “nose for news,” let us know. If there are neighborhood concerns that are specific to your age group (we plan to include ages 12 to 17), give us a call or email us (see page 2). Depending on the number of responses we receive, we may give many of you an opportunity to write columns (taking turns, of course). Include a sample of your writing.
Finest
Hardwood Flooring
Sanding
Finishing
Repairs
Installation
Staining
Stairs
Custom Work
Free Estimates
Cleancut Courteous Craftsmen

Joe Stone’s
HARDWOOD FLOORS
856-478-0022
The last surviving Colonial tavern in Philadelphia, *A Man Full of Trouble*, sits on a modest tract of land beneath the soaring Society Hill Towers. Tourists take pictures of it; neighbors cherish its historical significance. The story of *A Man Full of Trouble* has been told many times in this *Reporter*. We recounted how the Knauer Foundation renovated it, installed period furniture and opened the Tavern for group tours. When the Tavern was transferred to the University of Pennsylvania at Virginia Knauer’s death, we watched to make sure that further renovations were in keeping with the historic context of the building, and we were informed that Penn planned to use it as a temporary home for visiting staff.

One day this past July some neighbors were horrified to see a For Sale/Rent sign tacked onto the Tavern’s venerable wall. *Reporter* editor Jean Bryan—who has been our chief liaison with Penn—learned that this was an error, but the episode made some community leaders nervous. Since the Tavern has been declared “significant” in Society Hill’s Historic District, this means that it cannot be demolished. We are concerned, however, because it sits unused year after year.

This wonderful old building, the last of the original taverns so common during the 18th century, was a welcome haven in its day for travelers, sailors, and locals alike who came to enjoy a meal, a pint of rum and bitters, or a glass of Madeira. (There were over 100 licensed taverns in the area before *A Man Full of Trouble* was built in 1759.)

Do you know the significance of the colorful sign hung on the Tavern? It was copied from one of London’s best-known taverns (*The Man Loaded with Mischief*). The sign depicts a woman holding a glass (of gin), a magpie, a monkey and a cat. Tradition has it that the sign means:

*A monkey, a magpie, and a wife
Is the true emblem of strife.*

Note: Although Society Hill has what may seem to be a plethora of authentic historic buildings, we cannot become complacent about how each unique structure can be used or preserved. Our community’s concern for the “troubled” Tavern goes back to the time when its doors as a museum were closed (more than a decade ago) at which time the structure was given to the University of Pennsylvania. Since then the building has been unoccupied and unused, perhaps because Penn cannot determine a realistic or suitable purpose for it. For the past year neighbor Jean Bryan has corresponded regularly with Dean Ramin Sedehi, Penn’s Vice Dean for Finance and Administration, about the building, but we thought it was probably time to communicate directly with the University’s President, Amy Gutmann. On August 10, SHCA’s Vice Presidents Carole LeFaire-Rochester and Bernice Hamel wrote a letter, apprising her of this rare piece of real estate owned by Penn and informing her about our community’s concern for its ongoing care. We hope the letter will help jumpstart a dialogue with Penn about how best to put this jewel in our midst to good service for today and for future generations to enjoy. We’ll let you know what happens.

Can a good use be found for this empty historic property?

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

*Community Meeting Planned*

In response to community requests, we will have our first Saturday General Membership Meeting on Saturday, November 19, Time and place to be announced.
John Romano
Hairstylist
Exclusive Men's Barbershop

215-625-9375
215-922-8691
The Curtis Center
601 Walnut Street

Cosmos
Fine Nail Salon
Mon-Fri 9:30 am - 7 pm
Sat 9:30 am - 6 pm

21 South 7th Street
215-627-1020

1308 Sansom Street
215-545-5456

BEST POLISH CLEANING SERVICE
Houses • Apartments • Offices

Your neighbors are my clients!
MONIKA DYMEK
267-259-8447
m_dymek@yahoo.com

References Available
Responsible & Reliable
With Excellent Experience

Weixler, Peterson & Luzy
INTERIOR DESIGNERS
232 South Fourth Street
215 • 592 • 9670
www.wplinc.com

Patricia Bentz, CPDT, CBC
Certified Dog Trainer & Canine Behavior Counselor

“Going to the Dogs”
K-9 Training & Behavioral Therapy

• One-on-One Obedience Training at Home
• Behavioral Consultation
• Puppy Head-Start
• Positive Methods Only

Queen Village
(215) 551-5254
Gift Certificates Available

MediaCopy
Focusing on you and your company's needs

SERVICES
Pre-Press
Full Service Offset
High Speed Copying
Digital Color Printing
Graphic Design
Variable Data

PRODUCTS
Newsletters & Manuals
Legal Documents
Brochures & Invitations
Stationery & Business Cards
Oversized Color
Architectural Drawings
NCR

1310 Sansom Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
T 215-717-5151
F 215-717-7400

11 East State Street
Media, PA 19063
T 610.566.8499
F 610.566.4523
www.mediacopyonline.com
Shop at LAGOS and Support the Preservation of Landmark St. Peter's Church

November 2, from 10 a.m. – 8 pm.

Visit one of Philadelphia’s finest “gems,” and at the same time help contribute to the preservation of one of our neighborhood’s historic treasures. Join us at “LAGOS, The Store” on Wednesday, November 2nd from 10 a.m. through 8 p.m. LAGOS, voted best jewelry store by Style Magazine, is located at 1735 Walnut Street on Rittenhouse Square.

Because LAGOS, The Store wishes to acknowledge and support the preservation efforts of Historic St. Peter’s Church Preservation Committee (HSPCPC), the jewelry store will donate 15% of all purchases on that day to this very worthwhile cause. For more information, contact Event Chair Joseph P. Fanelli, Jr. at 215-920-2211 or QCMJPF@aol.com. HSPCPC is a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving the National Landmark of St. Peter’s Church for its parishioners, neighbors, and visitors from around the world.

Residents of Society Hill can hear the talented young musicians at more than 100 public performances that Curtis offers each year—including orchestra concerts, operas, and solo and chamber music recitals. Several of these performances are free, as are weekly Student Recital Series on most Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 8 p.m.—beginning October 10, at Field Concert Hall, 1726 Locust Street. A schedule is available on the Curtis recital hotline, 215-893-5261, or at www.curtis.edu. See the back page calendar for October concerts.

More than Bricks and Mortar: Architectural History at the University Museum

Wednesday, September 14th at 5:30 p.m.

Come to a lecture and tour at the University of Pennsylvania’s Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, 3260 South Street. This museum is graced with Tiffany mosaics, dramatic skylights, Alexander Calder sculptures, an exquisite Italianate garden, grand staircases, and a dome inspired by the Pantheon.

The lecture and tour, co-sponsored by the Philadelphia Chapter of AIA, will be presented by Shawn Evans, AIA, Associate at Atkin Olshin Lawson-Bell Architects; Jeffrey A. Cohen, Ph.D., Senior Lecturer in the Growth and Structure of Cities Program, Bryn Mawr College; and the Museum’s own Dr. Ann Brownlee, Senior Research Scientist, Mediterranean Section. Admission is $10 for non-members, $5 for Museum members, and free for members of the Expedition Circle level and above. To reserve your space, or for more information, call 215-898-4890.
Religious Services, as of September 6th
Tuesdays at 7:15am
Friday at 8pm
Saturdays at 9:15am

High Holy Day Services
Rosh HaShana, Wednesday, Oct. 5, 9am
Yom Kippur, Thursday, Oct. 13, 4:15pm
(These services are open to the community)

Please call the office for information about becoming a member of our Congregation,
Have you seen the National Constitution Center’s exhibition, “Lincoln: the Constitution and the Civil War” which runs through November 10th? This traveling exhibition shows “how Lincoln’s leadership and constitutional vision steered the nation through its most turbulent years and into a future that forever changed America.”

How much do you know about our 16th president? Here are some of his quotes. See if you can fill in the missing word in each one. Missing words appear above the quotes. Look for the answers below or check the website, home.att.net/~rjnorton/Lincoln78.html.

Answers: to Lincoln quiz

1. In regard to this ______________________, I have to say, it is the best gift God has given to man.

2. I cannot make it better known than it already is that I strongly favor ______________________.

3. As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master. This expresses my idea of ______________________.

4. What is ______________________? It is adherence to the old and tried, against the new and untried.

5. Those who deny ______________________ to others, deserve it not for themselves and … cannot long retain it.

6. In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow countrymen, and not in mine, is the issue of ______________________.

7. With some the word ______________________ may mean for each man to do as he pleases with himself.

8. My paramount object in this struggle is to save the ______________________ and is not either to save or destroy slavery.

9. When I hear anyone arguing for ______________________ I feel a strong impulse to see it tried on him personally.

10. When the ______________________ get control, it will read “all men are created equal, except Negroes and foreigners and Catholics.”

Union democracy civil war slavery freedom liberty conservatism colonization Know-Nothings Great Book
More than Meets the Eye

Barely outside our neighborhood, at 919 Walnut Street, is a valuable resource: the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH). Its friendly librarian, Ms. Meghan Clark McDaniel, thought that this column would be a good place to spread the word. The library serves thousands of handicapped people with a variety of visual disorders, such as those who need help reading standard print, or those who simply have trouble turning the pages of a book. LBPH’s services include free mail order and drop-in library and reference help, as well as many other services—including an automated telephone service that offers full text of magazines either on cassette or in Braille.

Each week LBPH volunteers donate their time to a wide range of tasks. The library needs help recruiting narrators who can read books for schoolchildren or magazine articles for adults. Learn more about these programs and how you can volunteer for this worthy cause, either by yourself or together with friends. Check out lbph.library.phila.gov, or consider stopping by to see these programs for yourself. Meghan welcomes your email at McDanielM@excen.library.phila.gov or phone calls at 1-800-222-1754.

A Night Out: Fun for the Senior Scene

On Thursday night August 4th, twelve Society Hill “seniors” attended the hilarious and highly popular show “Menopause The Musical” at the Society Hill Playhouse.

Ellie Gesensway, a long-time Hiller, summed up the evening and show in the following way: Like long-lost friends at a high school reunion, we joined an enthusiastic audience that had traveled from throughout the region to partake of the fun—chatting enthusiastically before the opening and laughing heartily (and knowledgeably!) through the entire performance.

The show is a celebration of women who are on the brink of, in the middle of, or have survived “The Change.” All in the audience, including our own group that included three rather gutsy fellows, were enthralled by the virtuosic performances of the four cast members who played the roles of Power Woman, Soap Star, Earth Mother, and Iowa Housewife. We were amazed and entertained by their commanding stage presence, their rich and powerful voices, and their agile dancing and expressive posturing. Those of us familiar with the pop songs and culture of the 60s and 70s laughed the loudest at the lyrics that parodied the biggest hits of that era. One of our own brave souls, Bernie Cleff, was singled out by the beautiful (but aging) Soap Star as she descended into the audience to find the object of her “desire.” There she crooned to him and playfully mussed his hair (and possibly his psyche). The audience roared with delight and approval.

After the show we gathered for dessert (homemade chocolate chip cookies, etc.), liquid refreshments, and socializing. Thanks to hosts Joan and Jeff Less for making our fun evening so complete.
MORE SENIOR OPPORTUNITIES

Bach Festival Concerts
Joyce Portnoy (rejoycenina@yahoo.com) wants to know if you’d like to attend this season’s Bach Festival concerts, the first of which is scheduled for September 19th. Check out www.bach-fest.org, and if you are interested, email Joyce who will make arrangements and order tickets. Also, don’t forget that Joyce has offered to teach or coach French for any of us planning to travel to France!

Pirate Tours
Take a fascinating walking tour with stories of criminal events that occurred in Old Philadelphia. For example, Philip Hodgson, owner of Old City Pirate Tours, will take you to Carpenters’ Hall, at 320 Chestnut Street, which once had the largest collection of gold in the country. One night, in 1798, the entire collection was stolen! Email Jean Bryan (jbryan52@bellatlantic.net) to express interest, and she will make arrangements for a group tour scheduled for the fall—at $8 per person. Or log onto www.FamousCriminalsTours.com.

Walking Group
Pam Todd (pamtodd@voicenet.com) is still trying to organize a group of walkers—from the casual stroller to the robust hiker.

How To Join Senior Scene’s Yahoo Group
Email Jean Bryan (jbryan52@bellatlantic.net) indicating your interest, and she will forward your request to our tech support “maven,” Bob Rosseim.

For all those folks “allergic to the Internet” or who simply prefer to communicate via telephone, our Senior Scene neighbor Pat Fusco will be happy to phone you, keeping you in the loop about our events. Just let Jean Bryan know this by calling her at: 215-925-6416, and she’ll pass the info to Pat.

Temple Association for Retired Persons (TARP)
Don’t forget that TARP has a wonderful range of educational programs. Call for a copy of their catalog at 215-204-1505 or visit their website at www.temple.edu/tucc.

One of the perks of being 55 plus is that your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the national weather service!
COMING!
The Willings
CONDOMINIUMS

Superb Luxury Doorman building located near Locust on 4th Street in Historic Society Hill. Charming residences - some with garage parking and outdoor space!

CALL JOANNE DAVIDOW 215.790.5656
OR JEFF “CITY” BLOCK 215.790.5662

Call me to discuss any of your Real Estate needs
215.922.4200 ext 302
226 South Street, Phila, PA 19147

Gail Trimble
Realtor Associate
Buyer and Seller Representation

Lolly’s Experience is Your Asset

- Former owner, Midtown Realty
- Over twenty years real estate experience in Center City
- Center City Residents’ Association President, 1997-99
- Personalized attention and service

Backed by Prudential Fox & Roach

- 113-year-old local, family owned and operated company
- Worldwide reputation and access to buyers
- Home Marketing System means full-page ads, Internet, Multiple Listings Services and more

Prudential Fox & Roach Realtors
Suite 406, The Rittenhouse Hotel, Philadelphia
Tel. (215) 546-0550, Direct (215) 790-5638, or e-mail lol@bellatlantic.net, or visit my web site at www.dream-house.net
Imagine our neighborhood without the Ritz Theaters. Society Hill old-timers remember that before 1976 it was virtually impossible to find a Philadelphia venue to see good foreign or independent films. Then Raymond Posel arrived on the scene. Our resident Inquirer film critic, Carrie Rickey, says of Posel, “Where Robert Frost thought good fences make good neighbors, Ray Posel thought good theaters make good neighborhoods!” A Philadelphia native, Posel was not a stranger to the movie world; his father owned seven theaters. Then, daringly he opened the first Ritz Theater at 2nd and Walnut Streets—and the people came. They came from far and wide. In fact, many of our neighbors moved to Society Hill just in order to save money on gas, as they were tired of always driving back and forth to the Ritz. Carrie Rickey described Raymond Posel, who died on June 24, as: “a tenacious man with the physical presence of Russell Crowe, the intellectual force of William Rehnquist, and a pompadour that looked good only on him and Ronald Reagan.” Society Hill is grateful to him for his contributions to the culture of our community, and we mourn his loss. He gave us something to treasure, and we hope the Ritz tradition of providing fine films will continue for many years.

LIBERTY COURT AT SOCIETY HILL

Currently the area’s only new construction of town houses, “Liberty Court” is a development of 35 luxury three-bedroom homes located along Phillips and Gaskill Streets, where dedicated public streets will wind through the community from Lombard to S. 3rd Streets. Offering five different floor plans from 2,750 to 4,150 square feet, these homes are designed to mirror our neighborhood’s historic architecture—containing a host of luxurious features and appointments that include garages, private elevators, landscaped patio gardens and roof-top decks. Visit a model at 212 Lombard Street or their website: www.libertycourt.com.

Open House at Liberty Court
Jan Stephano  
Lives...  
Knows...  
Sells...  
Center City!  

Your neighbor for 35 years  
Your realtor for 18 years.

Recent Sales
325 South Second Street • 248 South Third Street  
248 South Third Street • 884 North Bailey Street  
604 League Street • 1241, 1245-45 E. Berks Street

Under Agreement
249 South Third Street  
220 Locust Street, Unit 4F

Buyer and Seller Representation  
Call for a market property valuation  
215.922.4200 ext. 219  
janstephano@hotmail.com  
www.plumerre.com
Membership Reaches All-Time High

Membership in SHCA reached an all-time record of 1,012 on August 8, 2005, but that number is still short of our annual goal of 1050. Of course, we happily welcome 165 new members who joined us this year, but wonder why 86 households have failed to renew. If you just forgot, please send your check today. However, if there is a specific reason why you have not rejoined, we’d like to know. Write or call us at 215-629-1288 or email mattdejulio@aol.com. Your comments will be respectfully reviewed.

At the July 2005 Board meeting, SE Quadrant Director Richard deWyngaert accepted the position as Membership Chair, succeeding Kelly Nelson who did such an admirable job in that role for almost five years. Richard will be assisted by Carol Colabelli and Georgine Atacan.

One subject that will need our Membership Committee’s attention in the coming months is whether or not to raise SHCA dues for 2006 — and if so, by how much? In addition, our membership brochure, which was last updated three years ago, will now need to be reprinted. But here’s some good news: for your convenience, SHCA Administrator Matt DeJulio reports that our civic association will soon be in a position to accept credit card payments. Look for this accommodation to our members later in the year.

SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

2005 Membership Application/Renewal

- Renewal  - New
- $40 Household  - $100 Business
- $60 Businesses with under 5 employees  $
- Additional contribution for  - Sidewalk Cleaning  - Washington Square
- New Trees  - Lighting  - Anti-Graffiti  $

Total enclosed  $

Check if you wish to receive
- Guide for Property Owners  - Historic Windowpane Plaque

I/We would be interested in working with one of SHCA’s committees.

My/Our interests include:

Name
Address
City, State, Zip
Home Phone
Work Phone
E-mail

Mail to Society Hill Civic Assoc., P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147

If you cannot afford membership dues, please donate what you can.

Parallel Design

Judy Lamirand
215-476-4040

Stationery  Posters  Brochures  Banners  Newsletters  Menus  Invitations  Calendars  Annual reports  Magazines  Logos

The Down Town Club

Founded in 1897
Catering & Conference Center
Corporate Meetings  Social Events  Wedding Receptions  Holiday Parties

You and your guests will enjoy renowned cuisine and impeccable service in your choice of seven elegant private dining and meeting rooms.

Call Today For a Personal Tour!
215-925-2040
Visit Our Web Site at www.downtownclub.com

Across From Independence Hall at 6th & Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19106
In Society Hill Real Estate

One Name. One call.

**Izzy Sigman**

Phila Board of Realtors
Diamond Award Winner 2004

Outstanding service and results. Every time.

**Recent sales**

- 241 S 6th St #1307
- 723 S American St
- 909 Lombard
- 226 Lombard St
- 322 S Quince St

- 310 S Philip St
- 314 S Juniper St
- 111 Naudain St
- 507 Pine St

**Current Listings**

- 751 S 3rd St

Call Izzy Sigman

226 South Street
215-922-4200 x 228
The Conway Team Does It Again!

- $73 Million in Sales for 2004
- 201 Homes Sold in 2004
- Ranked in the top 1% of Realtors in the nation
- Ranked as one of the TOP 3 Realtors in Philadelphia
- Diamond Award Winner from the Greater Philadelphia Association Of Realtors
- Ranked #38 in the prestigious PREA 100 (out of 58,000 Prudential agents nationwide)

WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU, THANK YOU SINCERELY!

Kathy Conway 215-440-8190
Patrick Conway 215-440-8172
Visit www.ConwayTeam.com

90% OF OUR BUSINESS COMES FROM FRIENDS TELLING FRIENDS

90% of My Business Comes from Referrals

Family • Friends • Neighbors
Satisfied Customers • Other Realtors

Free Report shows how to get the highest price for your home when you sell... Guaranteed!!

Philadelphia, PA – A recently released report created by industry insiders reveals the mistakes to avoid and the steps to take when selling a home. While not difficult to understand, this information has not been public knowledge before now. To get your free copy, call 1-800-949-4758 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Your Free Copy will be delivered within 7 business days! Limited number available, call today.

Rosemary Fluehr, GRI
Associate Broker
215-440-8195 – Direct
215-627-6005 – Office
rfluehr@foxroach.com

90% OF OUR BUSINESS COMES FROM FRIENDS TELLING FRIENDS

Family • Friends • Neighbors
Satisfied Customers • Other Realtors

Prudential
Fox & Roach REALTORS®

90% of My Business Comes from Referrals

Family • Friends • Neighbors
Satisfied Customers • Other Realtors

Prudential
Fox & Roach REALTORS®

90% OF OUR BUSINESS COMES FROM FRIENDS TELLING FRIENDS

Family • Friends • Neighbors
Satisfied Customers • Other Realtors

Prudential
Fox & Roach REALTORS®

90% OF OUR BUSINESS COMES FROM FRIENDS TELLING FRIENDS

Family • Friends • Neighbors
Satisfied Customers • Other Realtors

Prudential
Fox & Roach REALTORS®

90% OF OUR BUSINESS COMES FROM FRIENDS TELLING FRIENDS

Family • Friends • Neighbors
Satisfied Customers • Other Realtors

Prudential
Fox & Roach REALTORS®

90% OF OUR BUSINESS COMES FROM FRIENDS TELLING FRIENDS
Antonio Atacan is THE #1 Resident Real Estate Specialist in Society Hill

He is ranked the #5 Top-Producing Realtor out of 68,000 Prudential Agents in North America!

Prudential Fox & Roach Realtors
Prudential Fox & Roach is an independently Owned & Operated Member of the Prudential Real Estate Affiliates, INC.

For Information on Every Center City MLS Home LISTED & SOLD visit: www.CenterCityRealEstate.com

267 S 4th Street $535,000
Outstanding contemporary 2 Bedroom + Den, 2 Bath Bi-Level Town House with 1-Car Parking in Private Lot! First floor hosts Living Room/Dining Room, Kitchen, Partial Bath, Bedroom & Balcony. Expansive vaulted ceilings with 17” high windows showering the house with sunshine and light. Master Bedroom Suite on 2nd floor with gallery overlooking the living room. Third floor Loft overlooking the gallery.

Motivated Seller! Make Offer Now!

500 Delancey $1,499,000
Stellar Contemporary 3 Bedroom, 3 Full & 2 Half Bath Home with 2-Car Garage, High Ceilings, Master BR Suite w/Fireplaces(2 add. fireplaces!), Gourmet Eat-In-Kitchen, 1850 Bottle Wine Cellar, Home Theater, Fabulous Garden, Kitchen Deck, Deck off Top Floor, Large Rooftop Deck w/8-Person Jacuzzi & Exceptional Views!

See all of Society Hill’s Real Estate Transactions at:
www.CenterCityRealEstate.com
Center City’s Source for Real Estate

FOR THE THIRD YEAR IN A ROW
JEFF “CITY” BLOCK
HAS SOLD MORE HOUSES AND
CONDOS TO CENTER CITY BUYERS
THAN ANY OTHER AGENT.
(As Determined by the Greater Phila. Bd. Of Realtors)

Jeff thanks all of his clients for their trust.

DIRECT LINE - 215.790.5662
jeff@jeffcityblock.com

Prudential Fox & Roach REALTORS: 215.546.0550
SHCA welcomes new businesses and organizations to our list of contributors to the highly successful and well received Welcome Basket program. We welcome back Philomel Concerts and the New Jersey State Aquarium, Camden, NJ, newly renovated and recently re-opened to the public; M's Salon On the Square, Society Hill's newest salon located at the Hopkinson House; The Phila. Chamber Music Society; Li'Joana Skin Care Clinic; Wayne Edwards, men's and women's clothing; and The Chamber Orchestra of Phila. Help us show our appreciation by patronizing these generous businesses and organizations. It’s not always easy to identify new home and condo owners, therefore, we need your help. If you are a new owner, or know of a friend who is new to Society Hill as of 2005, please let us know. Welcome Baskets are presented by appointment only. Contact Martha Levine, Welcome Basket Coordinator, 215-629-0727, marthalev@msn.com

New Supporters For SHCA Welcome Basket Program

SUPPORT OUR WELCOME BASKET DONORS!

Coffee Shops
Olde City Coffee, 221 Church
Olde City Coffee, Reading Terminal Market
Philadelphia Java Company, 518 South 4th
Starbuck’s Coffee Inc., 347 South Street
Starbuck’s Coffee Inc., at the St. James, 8th and Walnut

Food Stores
Chef’s Market, 231 South Street
ShopRite, 29 Snyder
Super Fresh Food Markets, 5th & Pine
Whole Foods Market, 929 South Street

Specialty Foods
Homemade Goodies by Roz, 510 S. 5th
Pink Rose Pastry Shop, 630 S. 4th
Rita’s Water Ice, 239 South Street
Zeke’s Deli, 318 S. 5th

Museums/Theaters/Entertainment
Annenberg Center for Performing Arts, 36th & Walnut
Arden Theatre Co., 40 N. 2nd
Atwater Kent Museum, 15 S. 7th Street
Chamber Orchestra of Phila. 215-545-1739*
Ghost Tours of Philadelphia, 215-413-1997
Independence Seaport Museum, 211 S. Columbus Boulevard
The Kimmel Center, Broad & Spruce
Lights of Liberty Show, 6th & Chestnut
National Liberty Museum, 321 Chestnut
New Jersey State Aquarium - Camden, N.J.*
Pennsylvania Ballet, 1101 S. Broad
Phila. Chamber Ensemble, Old Pine, 400 Pine
Phila. Chamber Music Society, 215-569-8080*
Phila. Shakespeare Festival, 2111 Sansom
Phila. Theatre Company, 1714 Delancey
Philemon Concerts 215-487-2344*
The Prince Music Theater, Broad & Chestnut
Ritz Theatre, 2nd & Walnut
Society Hill Dance Academy, 409 S. 2nd
Society Hill Playhouse, 507 S. 8th
TLA Video, 517 S. 4th
Wilma Theatre, 265 S. Broad

Other Services
Patricia Bentz K-9 Training, 215-551-5254
Wayne Edwards, 1525 Locust Street*
Riff Cleaners, 314 S. 5th
James Scott AID, Interior Design, 215-922-2737
Pearls by Leah, 215-627-4049
Robert Anthony Interiors, 1106 Pine
Society Hill Veterinary Hospital: 2nd and Lombard*

Restaurants
Ava Restaurant, 518 S. 3rd
Bridget Foy’s South Street Grill, 200 South Street
City Tavern, 138 S. 2nd
Creperie Beau Monde, 624 S. 6th
Deux Cheminees, 1221 Locust
Farmicia Restaurant, 15 S. 3rd
Fork, 302 Market
Fork, etc. (prepared foods), 306 Market
La Buca Ristorante, 711 Locust
Mustard Greens, 622 S. 2nd
Overtures Restaurant, 609 E. Passyunk
Panorama Ristorante, 14 N. Front
Pizzicato Restaurant, 248 Market
Sfizzio Restaurant, Society Hill Towers

Salons
Brescia Salon, 118 South Street
John Romano’s, Curtis Center
Li’Joana Skin Care Clinic, 400 Walnut Street*
M’s Salon On the Square- Hopkinson House*
Pileggi on the Square, 717 Walnut
Salon @5th, 316 S. 5th

Specialty Shops
American Pie Crafts, 718 South Street
Linu Boutique, 1036 Pine
Matthew Izzo, 928 Pine
Paper on Pine, 1008 Pine
Show of Hands Gallery, 1006 Pine

Sports Clubs/Fitness Training
Philadelphia Sports Club, 220-250 S. 5th
SCULPT-Fitness Training by Randi Skibinsky, 215-928-1433
* new Welcome Basket donors
Shana Vitoff, owner and director of the Society Hill Dance Academy at Headhouse Square, responds to Hammerstein’s famous question: if you won’t dance, I’m here to show you how. Even while a college student in Minnesota—studying interior design, by the way—Shana taught ballroom dancing. “I was hooked,” she says. Eventually, she became a top sales person for the Arthur Murray Dance Studios before moving to Philadelphia where, for seven years, she taught people how to move—to any beat, around any dance floor.

Then in 2002, with a loan from a thoroughbred horse breeder acquaintance who said “I’d bet on her,” she opened her Academy. Today the spacious 2nd Street 4,000 square foot facility has an appropriately gleaming dance floor for social and ballroom dancing, and its walls display artwork by local artists. Currently there are 150 men and women “students” as well as a full-time staff of six—two of whom are world champion professional dancers from the Czech Republic.

Shana herself, who moves with the fluid motion of an accomplished danseuse or the feline grace of her three cats, once entered into competitions, but she says, “I prefer the social aspects of the business.” Aptly named (since Shana in Yiddish means “beautiful”), she is a single 34-year-old who hails from Minnesota—where her three sisters, her mother and father still live. Now a highly visible and attractive presence in Society Hill, Shana is often found taking refreshment at Cosi or walking her dog, Lulu. “People tell me that I bring more life to the area,” she says. Indeed, the Academy is a social center, as well as a place for dancing, as it hosts weddings, birthdays, and weekly parties. It was even a voting venue for the November 2004 Election. Shana considers the Academy to be “a mini Chamber of Commerce.”

Even though the majority of students come from outside Society Hill, the effervescent entrepreneur waxes eloquent about the neighborhood. “I love it,” she says. “It’s beautiful … and everything I need is within three blocks.” In fact, she doesn’t own a car (although she does have a motorcycle license) and her comfortable apartment is adjacent to the dance studio. While Shana insists that she has no time for extracurricular interests apart from her cats and Lulu, she has ambitions for the Academy, which she sees as hosting a Society Hill ball along the lines of the popular Rittenhouse ball.

The great Fred Astaire once said, “I just put my feet in the air and move them around.” Shana would no doubt agree with his sentiment, although as an astute businesswoman, she has her feet firmly on the ground—and her eyes on the future. So if considering a waltz or a tango across the floor, Shana, who is passionate about her chosen career, reminds us that “dancing is a healthy and fun way to meet people or to network.” Learn more about her Society Hill Dance Academy at www.societyhilldance.com.

Note: See page 15 for a story about the other “Dance Academy” in our neighborhood.
FOR OVER 250 YEARS, PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL HAS BEEN TAKING CARE OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

We look forward to caring for you and your family. Whenever you need us, we'll be there.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA HEALTH SYSTEM

1-800-789-PENN | PENNHEALTH.COM
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wednesday, September 14
**Talk & Tour of Architectural History**
University Museum, 3620 South St.
5:30 p.m.
See p. 21

**Saturday, September 17**
**Tour and Discussion by Susan Korman**, author of *P is for Philadelphia*
Independence Visitors Center
Corner of Sixth and Market Streets
Includes tour of the historic district
10 a.m.; $5 for members and children;
$10 fee for others

**Monday, September 19**
**Bach Festival Concert**
See p. 25

**Recycling through Composting - Protect our Environment**
Independence Branch Library
7th & Market Sts.
6 p.m.
Pre-registration required, admission free,
Call 215-686-5444 any time, then press #2

**Wednesday, September 21**
**Fall General Meeting**
St. Joseph’s Parish House, Willings Alley
Go down to lower level
Board Meeting, 6 p.m.
General Meeting, 7 p.m.
refreshments served

Saturday, September 24
**Fall Festival**
Three Bears Park
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Raindate: Sunday, September 25

**Sunday, September 25**
**Jimmy Brent Memorial Concert**
Curtis Institute
Rittenhouse Square
2 p.m. No tickets required
See p. 21

**Wednesday, October 5**
**Writing the Landscape of your Soul**
Follow whatever impulse for writing occurs at the moment.
Independence Branch Library
6 to 7:30 p.m.
Call to register, space is limited to 15;
215-685-1633

**Monday, October 10**
**Curtis Institute Student Recital Series**
Rittenhouse Square
Free concert
8 p.m. No tickets required
See p. 21

**Thursday, October 20**
**SHCA Board Meeting**
Old Pine Community Center
7 p.m.

Friday, October 28
**Standing on my Sister’s Shoulders,**
a documentary on women survivors of the Civil Rights Movement. Fundraiser for the Philadelphia Orchestra, sponsored by the Rittenhouse Square Committee. Mother Bethel AME Church, 6th and Lombard Sts.
5:30 p.m.
For information and entrance fee,
call Marilyn Appel, 215-922-2626,
or email harmara@verizon.net

Monday, October 31
**Halloween Party**
Three Bears Park
5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 2
**Benefit for St. Peter’s Church**
Lagos, the Store, Rittenhouse Square
10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
See p. 21