Put on your most comfortable shoes and join us on Sunday, May 17, for the 37th Annual Society Hill Open House and Garden Tour. This much anticipated event attracts visitors not only from Center City, but also from the tri-state area and beyond. Each year, we offer a new selection of eight exceptional private homes; two large, private gardens; a museum house; and a historic house of worship — all located in one of our nation’s premier communities.

The array of properties varies in style and decorating from the 18th and 19th centuries to the most contemporary. Open House co-organizers Martha Levine and Linda Skale suggest that the tour offers a perfect chance to get ideas for your own interior décor and gardening projects.

Tour and Dining with Discounts: After the tour, enjoy dinner at any of four local restaurants offering a 15 percent discount exclusively for ticket holders: Bistro Romano, Bridget Foy’s, La Fourn Fromage, and Positano Coast.

Sponsored by the Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA), all profits are used for neighborhood improvement and beautification projects. We hope you will attend for a fun day and a good cause.

Tickets are now on sale: $30 in advance and $35 at the door. Advance purchases are encouraged. To buy a ticket, receive a brochure or get more information, contact SHCA at 215-629-1288, or email mattdejulio@aol.com. Tickets can also be purchased on the day of the tour at Old Pine Community Center, 401 Lombard Street. Restrooms will be available and light refreshments will be served. House-sitting hosts will receive one complimentary ticket for volunteering two hours of time. If interested, contact Martha Levine at marthalev6@gmail.com or 215-629-0727.

We extend our thanks to those neighbors who have graciously agreed to share their homes and gardens.

For more information, go to our website: www.societyhillcivic.org and click on the link for the Society Hill Open House Tour.
Submissions
If you have news that would be of interest to Society Hillers, email Sandra Rothman at sandra.rothman@aol.com. Materials must be submitted in writing and include the name of a contact person. Edited submissions will be considered for publication if space permits. Letters to the Editor must be signed, with contact information.

SHCA Mission Statement
The aims and purposes of SHCA are to promote the improvement of the Society Hill area of Philadelphia, including its cultural, educational and civic activities, and the preservation and restoration of its historic buildings; to represent the residents of Society Hill in matters affecting the City of Philadelphia generally and Society Hill in particular; and to interpret the value and significance of Society Hill to the public.

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2016 Lisa Unger
2017 George Kelley

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Jim Moss
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2016 Amy DeMarco
2017 Norman Lieberman

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Submission Deadlines
July/August Issue
Advertising: June 1
Editorial: June 1

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Tel. 215-629-1288

Website
Find past issues in color at www.societyhillcivic.org.
Happy Spring! Thanks to all neighbors who attended the mayoral forum at Pennsylvania Hospital’s auditorium on March 18. The forum was the first time the Society Hill, Queen Village, Wash West and Bella Vista Civic Associations jointly sponsored an East-of-Broad-Street event. I received a lot of positive feedback. Those in attendance were introduced to mayoral candidates Melissa Murray Bailey, Doug Oliver, Anthony Williams, Lynne Abraham and James Kenney, who answered questions about their plans for the city’s future. Milton Street, Nelson Diaz and the two unannounced “independent candidates” were invited, but did not appear.

The spirited discussion from each candidate proved much more interesting than the 30-second sound bites we all will unfortunately be hearing between now and the election. The five mayoral candidates who participated in the Civic Associations’ forum came to Pennsylvania Hospital’s auditorium because they know residents in this part of the city will vote on May 19.

In the March/April Reporter, I discussed the possibility of additional parking in the neighborhood. So far, approximately 25 neighbors expressed their interest in leasing parking spaces on Front Street. Last month, the Interstate Land Management Corporation (ILMAC) Board responded positively to SHCA’s proposal to lease the Front Street parking spaces.

Board Member Kim Williams and I met with the Parkway Corporation to discuss arrangements for converting the Front Street metered parking lot currently managed by the Philadelphia Parking Authority. Parkway Corporation is interested in partnering with the Society Hill Civic Association and converting the parking lot to leased spaces for Society Hill neighbors. At this point, ILMAC has, or is in the process of completing, an appraisal to determine the fair market value of the leased spaces.

Once the fair market value is determined, lease rates will be negotiated. We hope to offer parking leases to neighborhood residents and also provide revenue to the Civic Association for neighborhood improvements. The Queen Village Neighbors’ Association has successfully done this for many years with its community supported ILMAC parking lots on Front Street and under I-95. If you are considering leasing a parking spot at the site, contact Matt DeJulio, mattdejulio@aol.com or 215-629-1288.

Please note on your calendars that the annual Society Hill Spring Clean-Up Day is scheduled for May 8 and 9. Follow the weekly email blast that SHCA Administrator, Matt DeJulio, puts out every Friday for the latest details. Also, discuss how your block will do its part with your block coordinator. Long-term residents know the drill for these semi-annual events. Move cars from one side of the street to the other and push debris to the open side of the street, where the Streets Department’s sweeper trucks can collect it. Then, move the cars back after the trucks finish. If you’re going to be away on Saturday, May 9, leave your car keys with a trusted neighbor so the Philadelphia Streets Department employees can do their job. The Spring Clean-Up is much easier than the fall. Society Hill should be looking great for the May 17 Open House Tour if everyone does their part.

All neighborhood residents are encouraged to participate. Anyone interested in volunteering to help out the Civic Association that day should contact either Matt DeJulio or me at bobcurley@gmail.com. Volunteers can work at Saint Peter’s School parking lot, where paper shredding, electronic recycling and Cradles to Crayons collections will take place. Outside the SuperFresh store on 5th Street, volunteers will distribute paper bags and brooms. Additionally, it would be great to add volunteers to travel the streets and sweep out the trash and debris on the many sidewalks in front of absentee landlords’ properties or vacationing residents’ homes.

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SHCA BOARD NOMINATIONS

SHCA will conduct its annual election of Board Directors at the May 20 General Membership Meeting. The Nominating Committee proposes the following names for consideration:

President
Robert Curley
First Vice President
Kim Williams
Second Vice President
Martha Levine
Treasurer
Marc Feldman
Directors-at-Large
Georgine Atacan, George Dowdall, Diane Harrison, Sissie Lipton, Fred Manfred, Mary Purcell, Heather Steiner, Vijay Verma

Quadrant Directors
N.E. 2018 Robert Kramer
N.W. 2018 Mary Tracy
S.W. 2018 Steve Zettler
S.E. 2018 vacant

Independence Place
Richard Salkowitz

Society Hill Towers
Lorna Katz Lawson
St. James Court
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Join your neighbors on Saturday, May 9, for SHCA’s annual Spring Clean-Up Day. Philadelphia’s winter was long and cold; there’s a lot of sodden trash and debris that needs our attention! It’s also a perfect time to check sidewalk bricks and tree pit enclosures for necessary repairs. Leaves and rubbish from sidewalks, walkways, tree pits and alleyways need to be swept into the streets before the city’s sweeper trucks arrive between 8 a.m. and noon. All streets will be swept from Front to 8th and Walnut to Lombard Streets, not including Walnut Street. To accommodate synagogue services, the 300 to 500 blocks of both Spruce and Lombard Streets will be swept by 8:30 a.m.

Consider getting a head start with your cleaning on Friday evening, as the sweeper trucks start as early as 7:30 a.m. on Saturday morning.

Remember, wherever posted, cars must be moved to the opposite side of the street after 6 p.m. on Friday night or else be ticketed on Saturday morning, beginning at 8 a.m. There will be no parking on either side of the 300 to 400 blocks of Front Street. This also applies to the 200 to 300 blocks of South 2nd Street and Lawrence Court.

SHCA’s Clean-Up Day volunteers will provide trash bags at the South 5th Street SuperFresh, from 8 a.m. until noon. Your bagged street leaves and litter should be left by 12 p.m. at the major intersections of Locust, Spruce, Pine and Lombard Streets, as well as Three Bears Park. Bags are for street leaves and litter only, no household trash!

SHCA is again sponsoring electronic recycling and paper shredding services for the convenience of Society Hill residents only, as well as a drop-off box for Cradles to Crayons. This non-profit organization passes on your donations of gently used children’s clothing, books and school supplies to low-income and homeless families in the area.

Both the box and recycling trucks will be parked in St. Peter’s School parking lot, 3rd and Lombard Streets, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. or until capacity is reached.

Electronic recycling will take anything with a plug, except old lead-based or projection televisions or old CRT computer monitors. There will, however, be a $20 charge for each TV or computer monitor. No large appliances like refrigerators or washing machines.

If you use this special service and aren’t yet an SHCA member, please consider joining our civic association. Simply fill out the form on page 29 or online at societyhillcivic.org. Any questions? Call Matt DeJulio at 215-629-1288.
All Gloria Dei’s venerable trees remained standing in Hurricane Sandy, preserving the historic graves below.

HISTORIC TREES UNHURT IN HURRICANE SANDY

... Thanks to Liberty Tree & Landscape Management

When Hurricane Sandy pummeled the city in late October, 2012, not one of the many 200+ year-old trees at Gloria Dei Church on Columbus Blvd. came down. Pastor Joy Segal credits that feat to the outstanding work of Liberty Tree and Landscape Management.

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3-D Billboards a Done Deal

SHCA’s Zoning and Historic Preservation (ZHP) Committee monitors residential and commercial applications for zoning variances. It then reports to the Board on issues that affect the integrity of our historic neighborhood, including city legislation.

Bill #140906
Society Hill joined the Crosstown Coalition, Scenic America, Central Delaware Advocacy Group and others in opposing Bill #140906, introduced by our Councilman Mark Squilla. This legislation would create a special overlay district for the erection of two enormous, three-dimensional digital signs that can be full motion, flashing, intermittent and sound-generating.

The locations for the two signs are 12th Street between Filbert and Arch and at Race Street, in front of the Philadelphia Convention Center. While the signs generate funding for the Convention Center and the Reading Terminal Market among other non-profits handpicked by the Councilman, the amount of money these organizations will receive is a pittance compared to the sign developer’s take.

The bill in its final form, which was approved by a vote of 13 to 3, does not regulate brightness or sound levels for its audio projection. It usurps the public sidewalk and upstages everything around it, thus destroying the character of its surrounding neighborhood. It also presents a strong distraction for drivers in areas with heavy vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Because these signs utilize an outrageous amount of energy, the bill is an insult to the new zoning code, which intended to brand Philadelphia as a “sustainable” city.

The signs will operate from 6 a.m. to midnight with 70 percent of its program time given to advertising.

Thanks to all Society Hill residents who called Council representatives and attended the standing-room-only Council session to express their views on the bill. Most, however, were not allowed to exercise their legal right to speak because Council President Clarke initiated, and Council unanimously approved, dispensing with “the rules,” thus limiting the number of speakers to only five people for each side of the issue.

Update
We learned, as we went to press, that Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter will not veto these billboards, after negotiating for modifications to how the displays will be regulated. The amendments will give the Streets Department oversight of any display not under Department of Transportation jurisdiction. Also, the Planning Commission will be required to make recommendations to the Art Commission on all proposals.

Dilworth House
The Dilworth House was the home of former Philadelphia Mayor Richardson Dilworth and his wife. Located at 223-225 S. 6th Street, across from Washington Square, its construction is considered by some to have started the Society Hill revitalization in the mid-20th century. Since 2015, the current owners, John and Mary Turchi, have been seeking permits for the renovation and development of the historically designated building.

As of this report, there has not been a decision made by the state court in the latest and last appeal. According to Paul Boni, representing Society Hill, a decision should soon be forthcoming. Even if the judgment favors the developer, there would be future zoning obstacles to overcome for the project to proceed.

Lorna Katz-Lawson is a practicing architect with John Lawson Architects. She has been a Society Hill resident since 1973 and currently chairs SHCA’s Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee.
Winter’s Dangerous Upheaval

This winter’s repeated freezing and thawing took a toll on our sidewalks, causing bricks to lift. Over the years, tree roots have also forced pavers to move. Upheaved bricks result in dangerous, uneven sidewalks. Countless pedestrians have tripped and fallen in the past, some sustaining serious injuries. And guess what? You, the homeowner, are liable for any injuries suffered on your sidewalk.

The “Fix the Brix” program is an easy solution for this serious problem. SHCA offers a subsidy to any participating homeowner — a 40 percent reimbursement, capped at $300 per household.

It’s easier than you might imagine, just follow these steps to fix your brix:

- Send us a photo of work to be done.
- Get several estimates from qualified masons and/or arborists if appropriate; we can email you a suggested list. Sometimes an arborist is needed to trim tree roots.
- Choose a mason that fits your budget.
- Have the work done to your satisfaction.
- Make copies of the invoice. Keep the original for yourself, and mail a copy, along with a photo of finished project, to: SHCA, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147.
- Receive a check within a few weeks for 40 percent of the bill, up to $300.

For more information or to obtain a list of masons and arborists, contact me at marthalev6@gmail.com or 215-629-0727.
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10 Spring Maintenance Tips

Spring is finally here, and it’s time to look around your house to see if winter weather has taken its toll. We’ll soon be lighting our grills and relaxing with friends and family. But, before you can do that, there’s much work to be done.

In the 19th century, before vacuums came into common use, early spring was a time to open windows and sweep homes from “top to bottom” to herald the coming of warmer weather. Your spring maintenance projects can be handled the same way — from roof to foundation.

So, let’s take a walk around your property to make a detailed list of needed repairs. Here are 10 useful tips to get your house ready for spring:

1. Inspect your roof. Harsh winter weather can cause roof shingles to become lost or damaged. Shingles that are cracked, buckled, loose or missing granules must be replaced. A qualified roofer should check and repair flashing around plumbing vents, skylights and chimneys.

2. Examine your chimney. Look for signs of exterior damage and replace any loose or missing bricks. Have the flue cleaned and inspected by a certified chimney sweep.

3. Check for loose, leaky or clogged gutters. Clear leaves, sticks, muck and other debris by flushing the gutters with water. Contact a professional gutter cleaner if you are unable to do so yourself. Improper drainage can lead to water in the basement or crawl space. Make sure downspouts are also free of debris and that they drain away from the foundation.

4. Look for loose or damaged siding. Once you have assessed the need for repairs, spring is also a good time to clean your siding with soap and water from the garden hose.

5. Fill low areas in your yard with compacted soil. This is especially true near the house. Spring rains can cause flooding, which can lead to foundation damage. Pay attention to puddles of water in your yard. When water pools in these low areas, it creates a breeding ground for insects like mosquitoes.

6. Check outside faucets. Freezing temperatures can do damage to plumbing; this is especially true for outdoor fixtures. Before hooking up the hose to water your flowerbeds, turn the water on and place your thumb or finger over the opening of the faucet. If you can stop the flow of water, the pipe inside your home may be damaged. Contact a professional plumber if you aren’t comfortable replacing the pipe yourself. While we’re on the subject of watering flowers, check the garden hose for dry rot.

7. Clean and service your air conditioning system. Hire a qualified heating and cooling contractor to clean the coils and check for damage to the outside unit. Scheduling an annual service call is recommended to keep the system functioning efficiently. Changing interior filters on a regular basis can also extend the life of your air conditioning system. Also, be sure to vacuum out your floor registers.

8. Inspect the water heater. Water heaters work twice as hard during the winter to make your home a warm and comfortable environment. After all that hard work, water heaters can accumulate rust or develop leaks. To make sure your water heater is at its top performance for spring, check for signs of leaks or corrosion.

9. Repair wood trim. Inspect windows, doors, railings and decks now before the spring rains do more damage to exposed wood.

10. Months of exposure to rain, snow and freezing temperatures can do just as much damage to your child’s playground equipment as it can to your home. Ensure all outdoor toys are safe by tightening bolts, removing splinters and sharp edges and cleaning off any mold or animal droppings.
Pigeons come in seven different colors.

How many have you seen today?

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Magnificent Masonic Temple

Some years ago, a Philadelphia tour guide — who saw me near the Reading Terminal Market — asked if I had ever been inside the Masonic Temple.

When I replied no, he said, “You don’t have to go to Europe. You can see everything you want right there.” He wasn’t far wrong.

This stunning building just north of City Hall on Broad Street is like a fantasyland. Impressive on the outside, it is absolutely mind-blowing inside.

**Built between 1868 and 1873** at a cost of $1.6 million, not including decorations and furnishings, the building took 15 to 20 more years and countless dollars to design the inside.

The end result is breathtaking. Today, the space is also available for receptions and catered affairs.

“The robust Norman style of the exterior,” says a coffee-table book published by the Masonic Temple in 2013, gives “way to a fantasy of Renaissance-inspired neoclassicism in the corridors and stairs and to nineteenth-century ‘eclectic revivalism’ in the lodge rooms.”

The second you enter the Temple, you realize you are in a different, incredibly opulent world.

Among the sights are **seven magnificent lodge rooms where the Masons meet.**

**Oriental Hall:** Decorated in the Moorish style. The colors and decorations were copied from the Alhambra, a 13th-century Spanish castle.

**Gothic Hall:** Also called the Asylum of the Knights Templar, it has pointed arches, pinnacles and spires throughout the room.

**Ionic Hall:** Named for the refined, elegant style of architecture of Ionia, where King Ion reigned in Asia Minor.

**Egyptian Hall:** Decorated in the style of the Nile Valley. Includes 12 huge columns surrounded by capitals peculiar to the Temples of Luxor and Karnak.

**Norman Hall:** Noted for its round-arch architecture. Contains life-sized figures with the Working Tools of Freemasonry: the plumb, trowel, square, mallet and compasses.

**Renaissance Hall:** Decorated in the Italian Renaissance style. The Seal of Solomon on the ceiling evokes the sun in the midday sky.

**Corinthian Hall:** Decorated in strict conformity with the principles of classical Grecian architecture. Features mosaics representing fragments from Greek mythology.

**Interesting Oddities**

• It’s amazing to me that three extraordinary buildings — the Masonic Temple, the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and Philadelphia’s City Hall — all started construction within three years of each other and are situated a stone’s throw apart on North Broad Street. I don’t know of any other city with three such renowned, eclectic structures gathered so close together.

• The gavel used to lay the building’s cornerstone in 1868 was the same one used by President George Washington, also a Mason, to lay the cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol in 1793.

• The Temple was one of the first buildings in Philadelphia lighted by electricity.

• Its first elevator was installed in 1883 because the temple’s long staircase proved troublesome for some members, especially those in ill health or advanced years.

• The Temple’s museum is also well worth a visit. It includes over 30,000 artifacts — items from George Washington and Ben Franklin, examples of key Masonic symbols and more.

---

Jim Murphy, a freelance direct-response copywriter, has run his own marketing consulting business since 2004. He’s also a certified member of the Association of Philadelphia Tour Guides.
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Society Hill neighbors are delighted to see the return of one of the Food Trust’s largest and most popular farmers’ markets. Located under the Shambles at 2nd and Lombard Streets, Headhouse Market features more than 40 vendors. In addition to an abundance of fresh produce, shoppers can find a great selection of locally prepared foods and artisanal goods, like soups, ice cream, coffee and wine.

**We’re Serious About Our Greens!**
Spring and summer promises a variety of interesting new produce. Greens are at their finest at these vendors:

**Happy Cat Farm** offers rare radishes, spring onions, Asian greens and their famous “Happy Cat” arugula.

**Blooming Glen Farm** has organic spinach, fennel, bok choy, tatsoi, escarole and Swiss chard.

**Savoie Organic Farm** sells springtime head lettuces and radishes, as well as spicy baby greens mix for salads or sautéing.

**Beechwood Orchards** showcases gorgeous garlic scapes — like an oversized chive!

**Talula’s Table** brings a Wild Spring onion dip made with lots of foraged ramps.

**Market Day Canele** experiments in May with spring veggies, such as fiddleheads, asparagus and ramps in their savory tarts.

**Weaver’s Way** will feature sorrel and pea shoots at its stand.

**Queens** brings lots of interesting Asian variatels, including Malabar spinach, Chinese mustard greens, bok choy and goji berry shoots.

**Local Berries Will Soon Be Available**
How can something so sweet and so pretty be so good for you? It’s a fact that a handful of strawberries contains more vitamin C than an orange. Blueberries and blackberries have an extremely high concentration of antioxidants, while raspberries count vitamin K and magnesium among their list of beneficial properties.

Best of all, berries need little embellishment to deliver a punch at a picnic or dinner table and, because of their summer sweetness, are universal favorites with children.

Most of the berries come out in June, except blueberries, which are at their best in July. Blackberries begin to appear around August. The following Headhouse vendors specialize in seasonal berries: Blooming Glen, Queens Farm, Buzby Farm, Savoie Organics, Three Springs Fruit Farm, and Beechwood Orchards. Three Springs sells gooseberries and cherries, in addition to strawberries, and Beechwood has one of our favorite summer fruits — golden raspberries. You might not know it, but raspberries actually come in four different colors: pink, purple, gold and black.

We’ve dug up some quick and child-friendly recipes to inspire you. Let’s face it: no one wants to spend time in the kitchen cooking when the weather is so lovely outside.

---

**Jamie Deen’s Strawberry & Yogurt Popsicles**
(this recipe can be found on www.foodnetwork.com)

2 cups of strawberries (hulled and sliced)
1/3 cup of sugar
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1 cup of vanilla yogurt

**Directions:**
1. Add berries to a bowl, toss with the sugar and vanilla. Rest for 20 minutes.
2. Add berries and yogurt to a blender or food processor and puree.
3. Divide mixture into 6 Popsicle molds.
4. Freeze for at least 4 hours, then enjoy!

**Raspberry S’Mores**
This may sound crazy, but, hey, you’ve just made a sweet treat even sweeter!

Make S’Mores as you would normally, but throw in fresh raspberries as you build your tower of cracker, marshmallow and chocolate. It’s kind of like playing Jenga. How tall can you build your tower?

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The Food Trust is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to ensure that everyone has access to affordable, nutritious food and information to make healthy decisions.
Winter was endless and spring took its time getting here. These photos show that because this season is so glorious in Society Hill, it was well worth the wait!

Bonnie Halda is a freelance photographer specializing in historic buildings and the urban environment. She’s also a historical architect with the Northeast Regional Office of the National Park Service.
Well Worth the Wait
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Opportunity to Create a Custom Home Overlooking Independence Hall

Once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create a custom home from an entire penthouse floor of raw space overlooking historic Independence Hall. The residence boasts an 851 square foot private terrace; breathtaking city views to the east, south and west; and the potential to be one of the grandest homes in the City of Philadelphia. This floor plan provides one idea of how the penthouse can be designed. 8,383 sf $5,000,000

Allan Domb Real Estate Presents The Lippincott
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We can sell yours, too!

Totally Custom Three Bedroom Plus Den

Three bedroom plus den, three bathroom custom built residence with a balcony and private roof deck, as well as an open chef’s kitchen, exposed brick walls and designer bathrooms. 2,306 sf $2,250,000

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SOLD

We can sell yours, too!
I recently researched venues for special birthday brunches. Two restaurants, Talula’s Garden and The Good King Tavern, kept popping up. Not only do they both feature prominently in online “best of” reviews, but more importantly, they also come highly recommended by friends. This includes my hairdresser, who is never wrong. Thanks, Toby.

Talula’s Garden serves an extensive brunch, featuring six “beginnings” and seven choices for main plates. The main dishes include buttermilk corn cakes, smoked sausage benedict, asparagus frittata and the to-be-expected omelets, breakfast burger and a “fancy-schmancy” Monte-Cristo sandwich — kind of a posh Croque Monsieur. Fresh-pressed juices and sides that range from grits, potatoes and leeks and fried onion rings complete the menu. Talula’s has an impressive wine list also; my husband chose a crisp New Zealand sauvignon to accompany his kale and bacon omelet.

Talula’s is rightly proud of its “farm to table” tradition and, arguably, was one of the first restaurants in the city to beat this particular drum. Ask any of the servers about the items on the menu and they will be able to share with you the region from which food is sourced and often the name of the grower or farm providing a particular product. You get the sense that everyone working here is passionate about food and its preparation and consumption.

Our group ordered omelets, the breakfast burger and the house eggs benedict. One of the highlights was the crispy potatoes, which were wolfed down by all. Surpassing those, however, were the Sweet Ricotta Doughnuts filled with either freshly made lemon curd or homemade huckleberry jam. If you’ve not sampled these, then you’ve not lived!

If you can reserve a table outside, there’s nowhere else in the city quite like Talula’s garden!

The Good King’s Tavern bills itself as a French tavern. What does that mean? That it’s a rustic neighborhood bar proffering a French-inspired menu, with lots of draft and bottled beers. In addition, it’s lovely and relaxed. We had eaten there multiple times, but we had not yet tried brunch. The brunch menu on the Sunday we visited included stalwarts such as omelets and steak and eggs. But — get this — on this particular Sunday, it also included frog’s legs with waffles. I kid you not! I asked about the preparation of the frog’s legs and apparently they are dusted in seasoned flour and shallow-fried. Now, if you like chicken wings, then you’ll probably love these. There’s not much difference between the few mouthfuls of flavorful flesh on a chicken wing and that on a frog’s leg. The legs, though, certainly give you something more interesting to tweet about...

I like The Tavern because they offer a really innovative menu, and they are also sensitive to the needs of my gluten-free daughter. Her appetizer choice comprised a chickpea “Socca” pancake with a ratatouille side, which was perfect. My son had a waffle stuffed with sweet ricotta and raspberry coulis, which was delicious. My daughter and I both polished off a delectable plate of eggs and a French-cut flank steak, which was prepared just right. We all really enjoyed the casual brunch scene at the Tavern, and to my mind, the French fries are the best in town.

Claire Batten and Keri White are the dynamic duo behind Philly Food Lovers. They are business partners in KCC, a marketing consultancy and copywriting agency.
Allan Domb Real Estate Presents

604 S. Washington Square

One Bedroom with South City Views
Sun-soaked one bedroom boasting south city views, a private balcony off the living room, updated bathroom and a washer and dryer hook-up. 778 sf
$269,900

One Bedroom With Treetop City Views
South-facing one bedroom with treetop city views, wood floors, great closet space and a private balcony. 778 sf
$279,900

Deluxe one bedroom with Washington Square Views
Large, light-filled one bedroom on a high floor with a balcony, wood floors, great closet space and kitchen with white wood cabinetry. 843 sf
$310,000

Sun-soaked Two Bedroom with Panoramic Southern Views
Two bedroom, one and a half bathroom on a high floor featuring city and river views to the south, great entertaining space, and a private balcony. 1200 sf
$569,999

We can sell yours, too!
Society Hill, rejoice! Coming later this year to our neighborhood is Garden of Eden, a highly regarded, New York-based gourmet grocery store that blends the best elements of a high-end supermarket, Old World aesthetics, free parking and a convenient location.

**Gourmet and Organic Selections**

Garden of Eden will be a 20,000-square-foot market, spanning much of the north side of the 200 block of South Street, from the former Citibank corner storefront west to Rita’s Water Ice. Supercuts will relocate a few stores west, and Chef's Table is moving to a location more suitable for their catering business on North Broad Street. Garden of Eden will offer gourmet organic and conventional groceries. Expect to see a butcher and a fishmonger, as well as an on-site bakery with artisanal breads. There will be a large prepared foods section with over 400 types of cheese, a good variety of charcuterie, a hot food buffet and a salad bar. An executive chef will work on-site, overseeing the prepared foods made fresh daily. There will also be a mezzanine seating area and, possibly, sidewalk tables.

**One-Stop Shop**

Because the space is so large, Garden of Eden will be one-stop shop, with home goods, health and beauty aids and cleaning supplies. Free parking will be available in the Abbot’s Square lot; shoppers simply need to have their tickets validated at checkout. For customers who prefer to stay home, there will be a neighborhood delivery service, as well as online shopping. The market has a loyalty card program, which offers a five percent return. Every two weeks, new sales and specials will be featured. Garden of Eden also provides catering services and will ship non-perishable gift baskets anywhere.

“Our first priority is the food,” explains Mustafa Coskun, President and CEO. “We never compromise on quality or service, and we offer a wide array of higher-end items. For example, we stock a basic olive priced at $7.99, but we also offer a specialty aged balsamic vinegar for $100 — and everything in between. Because we sell about 15 exotic varieties of mushrooms, local chefs often seek us out. Lately, we have focused our kitchens on more Mediterranean flavors, perhaps reflecting my Turkish roots. We see our market as a destination for foodies — and these days, everyone seems to be a foodie!”

**Old World Ambiance**

Coskun is attentive to the shoppers’ experience. “We create an old world ambiance; our other stores have hardwood floors, inviting, spacious aisles, fresh flowers and lots of baskets for displays. Customers feel comfortable and happy in our stores — it is important that everything look fresh, bountiful and attractive.” Locals should take comfort in Coskun’s aesthetic; he plans for awnings and other exterior upgrades that will complement the historic nature of the neighborhood.

As a boy in Turkey, Mustafa Coskun learned the food business from his father. “My father had a small neighborhood market. I was the only one of his nine children who was interested in the business. On school vacations, I would rent space from him in the front of the store and sell produce. Since then, I’ve had a passion, talent and interest in the food business. In 1987, I moved to the U.S. with my brother, and we started a produce market in New York. Soon, we had three stores, and eventually we branched into full-service groceries.” After setting up four successful Garden of Eden stores in New York, Coskun looked at other cities.

Real Estate developer Eric Blumenfeld is President of EB Reality Management Corporation and owner of Abbott Square. Thinking Garden of Eden would be a good fit for South Street, he invited Mustafa to visit the location. The New York businessman noted that “while there are other grocery stores here, based on the demographics and population density, the neighborhood is underserved for this type of high-end market. The rest is history.”

**Solid Anchor to South Street**

Mike Harris, Executive Director of the South Street Headhouse District, is thrilled about the arrival of the store. “Garden of Eden is destined to become a solid community anchor. Mustafa is really making an investment in the neighborhood, which will have tremendous benefits. As the District continues to grow, we are able to bring in more businesses and amenities that serve the community. This has always been our goal and it is exciting to see it happening.”
Allan Domb Real Estate Presents

200-220 Locust Street

Sun-soaked Two Bedroom with Dramatic City Views
Two bedroom, one bathroom with floor-to-ceiling windows featuring panoramic city views to the west and south, wood floors, an open great room and spacious bedrooms. 1,201 sf
$469,900

Some of our recent sales:

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Corner One Bedroom Bathed in Natural Light
Corner one bedroom with great natural light, floor-to-ceiling windows, treetop city views to the south and east, kitchen with wonderful cabinet and counter space and excellent closet space. 750 sf
$274,900

One Bedroom with Open Floor Plan
One bedroom on a high floor offering dramatic southern views of the river, lots of natural light and a generous open floor plan. 712 sf
$259,900
SHCA welcomes new home owners to the neighborhood with a gift — the Welcome Basket, presented at your home by appointment. Filled with fresh foods, information and gift certificates from area restaurants, theaters, shops, services and museums, it is a lovely introduction to Society Hill. If you are new to the neighborhood as of 2014, please let us know you are here. Call 215-629-0727 or email martha6@gmail.com.

Thanks to our contributors who are the lifeline of the Welcome Baskets — many of these businesses have been with us for 10 years. We encourage all neighbors to patronize these wonderfully generous people. Our newest donors are:

**Knead Bagels**, 725 Walnut Street. We can’t seem to get enough bagels in this city! This newest bagel shop offers traditional bagels with toppings, as well as bagels flavored with pastrami spice, togarashi and porcini. They also offer a full variety of bagel sandwiches, salads and delicious soups. Eat in or take out. Hours: weekdays 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.; weekends 8 a.m. till sell out.

**In Good Health**, 232 South 4th Street, rear entrance. Massage therapist Dayna Peck offers a variety of customized therapies: Swedish, deep tissue, hot stone, pre-natal and sport massage help people feel more balanced mentally and physically. By appointment only. 484-686-1590 Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Website: ingoodhealthllc.com.

**La Forno Ristorante-Trattoria**, 636 South Street, is a cozy, award-winning Italian eatery offering authentically prepared food from many regions of Italy. Included on the menu are classics like homemade pastas, veal parmigiana and brick-oven pizza. Enjoy a fine selection of wines. Contact 215-627-9000 or visit lafourno.com.

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**WELCOME BASKET PROGRAM**

**BY MARTHA LEVINE**

**SHCA Partners With Local Businesses**

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**2015 SOCIETY HILL WELCOME BASKET CONTRIBUTORS**

**Coffee Shops**
- Old City Coffee, 221 Church Street/Reading Terminal Market
- Starbucks Coffee Inc., 8th & Walnut Streets

**Food Stores**
- SuperFresh, 5th & Pine Street

**Restaurants**
- Bistro Romano, 120 Lombard Street
- Bridget Foy’s, 200 South Street
- City Tavern, 138 S. 2nd Street
- Creperie Beau Monde, 624 S. 6th Street
- Fork, 306 Market Street
- Garces Group: Amada, 217 Chestnut Street; Rosa Blanca, 707 Chestnut Street; and others
- High Street on Market, 308 Market Street
- La Buca Ristorante, 711 Locust Street
- La Forno Ristorante-Trattoria, 636 South Street
- Le Pain Quotidien, 801 Walnut Street
- Mustard Greens (Chinese), 622 S. 2nd Street
- Positano Coast Restaurant, 2nd & Walnut Streets
- Ristorante Panorama, 14 N. Front Street
- Serpico, 604 South Street
- Society Hill Society, 2nd & Pine Streets
- Talula’s Daily, café & take out, 208 W. Washington Square
- The Farm & Fisherman, 1120 Pine Street
- Twisted Tail, 509 South 2nd Street

**Specialty Foods**
- Homemade Goodies by Roz, 510 S. 5th Street
- Cookies By Design, Voorhees, NJ
- Knead Bagels, 725 Walnut Street
- Melange Tea & Spice, 1042 Pine Street
- Metropolitan Bakery, 262 S. 19th Street (Rittenhouse Square)
- South Street Bagels, 613 S. 3rd Street
- The Bagel Factory, 510 Walnut Street (Penn Mutual Building)

**Specialty Shops**
- Adornamenti (jewelry), 1106 Pine Street
- Happily Ever After (toys), 1010 Pine Street
- Head House Books, 619 S. 2nd Street
- Industry (fashion accessories), 1020 Pine Street
- Kitchenette (cookware), 117 S. 12th Street (12th & Sansom)
- Lolli Lolli (children’s clothing/toys), 713 Walnut Street
- Paper On Pine (invitations/stationery), 115 S. 13th Street
- Scarlet’s Antiques, 1018 Pine Street
- Show of Hands Gallery (crafts), 1006 Pine Street
- Yamphoria (yarn and supplies), 1016 Pine Street

**Theaters/Entertainment**
- Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 3680 Walnut Street
- Arden Theater, 40 N. 2nd Street
- Ballet X at Wilma Theater, 265 S. Broad Street
- 1812 Productions (all comedy theater), 215-592-9560
- Ghost Tours of Philadelphia, 610-587-8308
- Historic Philadelphia Inc., SW corner 6th & Chestnut Street
- Independence Seaport Museum, 211 South Columbus Blvd.
- InterAct Theater Company, 2030 Sansom Street
- Lantern Theater Company, 10th & Ludlow Streets (south of Market)
- Lights of Liberty - featuring Liberty 360, 6th & Chestnut Streets
- Museum of American Jewish History, 5th & Market Streets
- National Liberty Museum, 321 Chestnut Street
- Pennsylvania Ballet, Academy of Music, Broad & Locust Streets
- Penn’s Landing Playhouse @ the Seaport Museum, 211 S. Columbus Blvd.
- Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, 215-569-8080
- Philadelphia History Museum, 15 S. 7th Street
- Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre, 2111 Sansom Street
- Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, 321 S. 4th Street
- Philadelphia Theatre Company, S. Roberts Theater, Broad & Pine Streets
- Piffaro, The Renaissance Band, 215-235-8469
- Society Hill Playhouse, 507 S. 8th Street
- The Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble, Old Pine Church
- Wilma Theater, 265 S. Broad Street

**Other Services**
- In Good Health, Therapeutic Message, 484-686-1590
- Judy Moon Massage Therapy, Hopkinson House, 604 Washington Square
- Liberty Tree & Landscape Management, 215-725-3637
- Petmoir, A Memoir of Your Pet, 215-803-0723
- Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble, 215-545-1739
- The Philadelphia Chamber Orchestra, Kimmel Center, 215-545-1739
- The Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, 321 S. 4th Street
- The Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble, Old Pine Church
- Wilma Theater, 265 S. Broad Street
- **Other Services**
- In Good Health, Therapeutic Message, 484-686-1590
- Judy Moon Massage Therapy, Hopkinson House, 604 Washington Square
- Liberty Tree & Landscape Management, 215-725-3637
- Petmoir, A Memoir of Your Pet, 215-803-0723
- Riff Cleaners, 314 S. 5th Street
- SCULPT—Personal Trainer, 215-803-0723
- The Worth Collection (women's fashions), 215-925-8813
Allan Domb Real Estate Presents

233 - 241 S. 6th Street

**SOLD**

We can sell yours, too!

Beautifully updated two bedroom, two bathroom with a private balcony and intimate southeast city views. The home features wood floors; an open renovated kitchen with wood cabinetry, stainless steel appliances and a large island; and two designer bathrooms with custom appointments. 1,173 sf $489,900

Spacious, light-filled two bedroom plus den, two and a half bathroom featuring a recently renovated kitchen, private balcony, floor-to-ceiling windows, a sumptuous master suite and great entertaining space. 1,734 sf $675,000

Sun-soaked, open one bedroom, one and a half bathroom featuring a chef’s kitchen with high end appliances; wood floors; a private balcony; lavish master suite with an office nook, custom walk-in closet and marble-appointed bathroom. 1,205 sf $489,900

One-of-a-kind bi-level penthouse with one bedroom and two and a half baths boasting dramatic views of the river to the south through floor-to-ceiling windows, an open designer kitchen, balcony, and second floor master suite with his-and-hers closets and a marble bathroom. 1,925 sf $850,000
Don’t Be a Soft Target

As neighbors learned from SHCA’s weekly crime email blasts, in mid-April there was a gunpoint robbery and a burglary within a few days of each other. The burglarized home had no security system, as well as poor lighting in the area of entry. It’s important that we are proactive when it comes to our safety. Here are some tips to help us be smarter than the criminals. If you do not receive our email blasts, sign up by contacting SHCA Administrator Matt DeJulio at mattdejulio@aol.com or 215-629-1288.

- Learn more about Philadelphia’s Safe Cam initiative at safecam.phillypolice.com. Security cameras registered with police department keeps us safer.
- Arm your security systems at night and when you are away.
- Be mindful of your surroundings when walking the street, especially at night.
- Update your front and rear outdoor lighting. If you think a burglary is about to happen, call 911 and say, “Urgent. A burglary is in progress.”

Go DEEP Into the Delaware River

Land Health Institute is presenting a Summer Twilight version of DEEP, the Delaware River Environmental Explorer Program. DEEP is an up-close, interactive, exploration-based workshop for the general public, focused on the urban ecology, culture and planning history of the riverside areas from Northern Liberties to South Philly. The inaugural DEEP, held last fall, was a smashing success. This rendition will feature Thursday evening treks through intriguing urban wilderness, followed by animated discussion of our experiences over refreshments at a local café.

Classes run from 6 to 9 p.m. on Thursday evenings, beginning June 18 and ending August 6. Each registrant receives an official shirt, field bag, field journal and hand lens. To register or to learn more about this program, contact Rachael Griffith at rachael@putnatureback.org.
310 S. 2nd Street

- Dramatic, contemporary interior behind an 18th-century façade
- 2 story living room with partial stone walls
- Dining room overlooks side and rear landscaped gardens
- Architectural eat-in-kitchen, hand-made tiled walls
- 5 fireplaces
- Large scale bright and airy spaces throughout
- Glorious deck with city views
- Well-designed one-of-a-kind must-see property!

By appointment only.

Call Jan Stephano or Karen Joslin
215-219-7894

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New Listing
310 S. 2nd Street

• Dramatic, contemporary interior behind an 18th-century façade
• 2 story living room with partial stone walls
• Dining room overlooks side and rear landscaped gardens
• Architectural eat-in-kitchen, hand-made tiled walls
• 5 fireplaces
• Large scale bright and airy spaces throughout
• Glorious deck with city views
• Well-designed one-of-a-kind must-see property!

By appointment only.

Call Jan Stephano or Karen Joslin
215-219-7894
Landmarks’ Summer Sleuths Day Camp

August 10 – 14 and August 17 – 21

Landmarks is offering a wonderful choice for summer day camp right here in our own historic neighborhood. Based at the Physick and Powel Houses, it allows kids ages 5 to 12 to explore history, colonial crafts and fine art. In addition, they take several field trips each week to places like the Magic Garden, Philadelphia History Museum and Pennsylvania Hospital. The children even cook their own snacks, including baking snickerdoodles and churning ice cream! Contact Donna Baldino, Camp Director, at 215-925-2251 x5 or email education@philalandmarks.org.

It’s Back!

Spruce Street Harbor Park, at Spruce Street and the Delaware River, re-opens May 22. It’s better than ever with expanded restaurant offerings and a meadow of perennials donated by the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Hammocks, Adirondack chairs and picnic tables will adorn every accessible area to allow for summer lounging along the waterfront. Visit delawareriverwaterfront.com for more information.

Check It Out

SHCA board member George Dowdall has just updated the Society Hill entry in the Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia, a comprehensive guide to Philadelphia and its history. George is Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Saint Joseph’s University and Adjunct Fellow, Center for Public Health Initiatives, University of Pennsylvania. You can find this essay, and much more, at philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/archive/society-hill/.

Does Your Green Thumb Itch?
The Pennsylvania Hospital Physic Garden, a beautiful collection of medicinal plants at 800 Spruce Street, needs volunteers to weed, prune and deadhead. Perks include free lunch in the hospital cafeteria and $5 parking. Bring your own hand tools, gloves, water and a hat. For more information, contact Kate McGrann at 215-334-6111 or kmcgrann@aol.com.

Mazel Tov!
The Society Hill Synagogue proudly announces that the Jewish Daily Forward newspaper has named Rabbi Avi Winokur one of “America’s Most Inspiring Rabbis.” Rabbi Winokur is a graduate and board member of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and a member of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association. He has been Rabbi at Society Hill Synagogue since 2001, after serving as Rabbi for several other congregations.
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I am a professional, full-time real estate agent as well as your neighbor.

Like many of my clients, Society Hill is my home. I specialize in Center City because I love Philadelphia. Let me find the perfect townhome or condo for you!
2015 Membership Drive Leaps Ahead

Congratulations to Shawn and Stanton Myerson, who won a $100 certificate to a restaurant of their choice for renewing their SHCA memberships before December 31, 2014! In our last issue, we profiled the other winning couple, Fred and Judith Zernik.

Shawn and Stanton Myerson moved to Society Hill 10 years ago and have been SHCA members for five years. Stanton is owner of one of America’s oldest family-owned pawnshops. The couple has a son, a daughter, four grandchildren and two fuzzy pups. They both enjoy art, antiques and charitable work. For them, Society Hill feels like the suburbs in a city. Besides more upscale retail, they would like cleaner, safer streets in our neighborhood.

Help Reach Our Goal by Renewing Now!

By early March, 942 Society Hill residents have renewed their association membership — about six percent ahead of the same time last year, despite 167 members still delaying. We are on track to surpass last year’s total of 1,035 and exceed the all-time high of 1,068, which was set in 2013. So far 66 new members have signed up this fiscal year. If you have delayed in sending in your renewal or wish to join, please do so today and help us set a new record. Keep in mind that this year a number of restaurants and other businesses are offering discounts to SHCA members who show their card(s).

Without member dues, SHCA would cease to function. Protect your neighborhood and your real estate investment. Sign up today! Email mattdejulio@aol.com with questions or comments, which will be shared with our board members representing every quadrant in our most unique historic neighborhood.

Matt DeJulio is a retired publishing executive. He has served SHCA as its administrator since 2001.
**NIFTY NEIGHBORS IN MY OWN BACKYARD**

**BY JANE BIBERMAN**

### The Geator With the Heater

He's as indigenous to our town as Philadelphia cheesecake or Pat's Steaks. If you've never heard of the guy who owns that moniker, Jerry Blavat, then chances are you're a contemporary of Benjamin Franklin. Although the brash kid from South Philly was born in July 1940, he's still going strong. You could call him a Golden Oldie, because age hasn't tarnished his act or his enthusiasm. If you call him a deejay, he'll correct you. "I'm an entertainer," says Jerry, "and I've been entertaining legions of fans across the country ever since I started dancing on Bandstand as a teenager."

Frank Sinatra called him "Matchstick," because he was so thin, and Jerry maintains his slim shape by working out in his 2,200-square-foot corner condo at Society Hill Towers, where he's lived since 1976. "I just keep moving and dancing," he says, adding that he watches what he eats and never eats to excess. "I also go to the gym, Sweat Fitness, regularly, and I bike all over town for exercise and enjoyment. I don't drink, except for fine red wines, which I collect. I love to go to BYOs." Some of his favorite restaurants are Modo Mio on Girard Avenue and Mustard Greens in South Philadelphia. He can often be seen at Radiccio's.

Back in the day, his pals Sammy Davis, Jr., Al Martino and Don Rickles, for whom he gambled on everything from horses to election results. "He was a Jewish bookmaker who gambled on everything from horses to election results," says Jerry. Although he loves the movies and was an inveterate moviegoer as kid, Jerry rarely has an empty day. "I take a vacation between Christmas and New Year's, usually to Aruba, Jamaica or Paradise Island," he tells us. But on New Year's Eve, he hosts a dance party at his good friend Sidney Kimmel's place on Broad Street. It's work that rarely has an empty day.

Jerry's All-Time Favorites

1. "In the Still of the Night" The Penguins
2. "Since I Don't Have You" The Skyliners
3. "Earth Angel" The Penguins
5. "It's All in the Game" Tommy Edwards
6. "Here's That Rainy Day" Frank Sinatra
7. "You Belong to Me" Jo Stafford
8. "Old Cape Cod" Patti Page
9. "All the Way" Frank Sinatra
10. "Love Is a Many Splendored Thing" Shirley Bassey

Jerry's life is an open book, literally. In 2011, Running Press published *Jerry Blavat: You Only Rock Once*, a tell-all autobiography with a forward by Dick Clark and praise from Little Richard, Smokey Robinson, Fats Domino, Berry Gordy (founder of Motown Records) and native son Kevin Bacon, who wrote, "Jerry was a huge influence on the Philadelphia music scene and continues to be a cornerstone of Philly culture."

In 1998, Jerry was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and more recently Mayor Michael Nutter presented him with a 50-year Service Award. But Jerry is even prouder of his daughters Kathi, Geraldine, Stacy and Desirie — his five grandchildren — and two great-grandchildren. He hasn't lived with Patti, the mother of his children, in decades, but he never got divorced, perhaps because he himself was the product of a broken marriage. His longtime companion is Keely Stahl, who lives in his Florida home.

His beloved mother, Lucille Rose Capuano, raised Jerry and his older sister, Roberta, as Catholic. (His sister later converted to Judaism.) His father was rarely around. "He was called Louie the Gimp because he limped due to polio as a child," explains Jerry. "He was a Jewish bookmaker who gambled on everything from horses to election results." Jerry considers Jocko, the late great deejay, his spiritual father and mentor.

After he graduated from Bishop Neumann High, Jerry went on the road. His first job was road manager for Danny and the Juniors. He was soon a major mover and shaker. These days, his work is primarily on the East Coast, and Jerry is happy staying close to home. "I love the Society Hill Towers," he says. "It's a small community of wonderful people where everyone is friendly. I enjoy my surroundings."

Although he loves the movies and was an inveterate moviegoer as kid, Jerry almost never goes to the Ritz theaters. "That's because I have no spare time," he says. His crowded calendar rarely has an empty day.

"I take a vacation between Christmas and New Year's, usually to Aruba, Jamaica or Paradise Island," he tells us. But on New Year's Eve, he hosts a dance party at his good friend Sidney Kimmel's place on Broad Street. It's work that is the secret to his satisfaction. "I love my life because I am fulfilled and following my passion and my dream and seeing the reward of making people happy," says Jerry.

**Jane Biberman**, former editor of *Inside Magazine*, is a freelance writer who has contributed to a variety of publications.
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