

SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

Preparedness: Emergency and Otherwise

The price
of *LIBERTY*
is eternal
VIGILANCE.

Always an important concept, emergency preparedness has taken on immediacy in the sobering hindsight of the September 11 events. We urge all neighbors to attend our General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, March 20, which will highlight a new watchword — preparedness.

The General Membership Meeting will take place at 7 p.m. in the Zubrow Auditorium on the first floor of Pennsylvania Hospital, just inside the main entrance at 8th Street near Spruce. Prior to the General Meeting, at 6 p.m., we will hold our monthly Board Meeting at the Independence Place Community Room, (located near the hospital's auditorium) at 241 South 6th Street. Any current members of the Society Hill Civic Association are welcome to attend.

The agenda for the General Membership Meeting is a full one. We'll hear from Robin Schatz, chief of staff for Councilman DiCicco's office, who will update us on the progress of transferring Washington Square to the National Park Service. We will also learn about the very latest on the proposed improvement plans for Foglietta Plaza. Then, because many of us have been "troubled" by the vacant and neglected former inn and museum, "Man Full of Trouble," located at 2nd and Spruce, we'll hear from the University of Pennsylvania, its owner for more than a decade. A representative from the university will address Penn's restoration and usage plans for the building.

Be Prepared!

Guiding the educational program on "Emergency Preparedness and Infectious Diseases" will be Pennsylvania Hospital's chief executive, Mr. Timothy O. Morgan, and its chief medical officer, R. Michael Buckley, MD. They will lead us through the hospital's plans to treat victims of mass casualties should terrorists strike, and describe different forms of biological and chemical warfare agents. We'll learn what we need to know if our region becomes a target.

Following this disturbing but necessary topic, another "preparedness" subject will be introduced — voting. Mr. Bob Lee, elections administrator, and Mr. Joe Lynch, deputy election commissioner for the City of Philadelphia, will demonstrate how to use the new electronic voting machines that will be up and running in time for the May 21, 2002 statewide elections, which include the Pennsylvania governor's race.

Educating ourselves is the first step in preparedness for anything — whether learning how to respond to a horrifying terrorist attack or how to correctly cast our votes using new-fangled electronic devices. What we learn at this General Membership Meeting will help us to be ready — for anything!

| | |
|---|---|
| WED. | MARK YOUR CALENDAR |
| <p>March 20</p> | <p>Society Hill Civic Association Meetings Wednesday, March 20</p> |
| <p>Board Meeting</p> | <p>General Membership Meeting</p> |
| <p>6 p.m.</p> <p>Independence Place Community Room 241 South 6th Street</p> <p><i>All Society Hill Civic Association members are welcome to attend.</i></p> | <p>7 p.m.</p> <p>Pennsylvania Hospital Auditorium 8th and Spruce Streets</p> <p>Agenda Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Emergency Preparedness · New Electronic Voting Machines · Plans for Man Full of Trouble Tavern · Washington Square Update <p><i>All Society Hill residents are invited to attend.</i></p> |



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Signed letters to the Editor
are always welcome and
may be published.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Foglietta Plaza Plans Win Approval

Foglietta Plaza has been an eyesore known for litter and attracting unbecoming behavior. I am grateful to the Board for its unanimous support of my recommendation to retain the Olin Partnership, one of the nation's premiere land planning firms, to undertake a charrette to proactively plan for development and use of Foglietta Plaza. I thank Councilman DiCicco, the Penn's Landing Corporation, State Representative Marie Lederer and Senator Fumo for responding to my request to provide funds to the Society Hill Civic Association for this study. I also thank the six neighbors, including three who are architects, who make up the Charrette Committee. The committee and Olin had very productive meetings and unanimously recommended a design concept.

When the Civic Association's board and membership received an overview of that concept, as presented by Olin, there was unanimous approval to proceed. On February 19, Olin presented the plan to public officials and contiguous stakeholders (Society Hill Sheraton, Hyatt Hotel, and Independence Seaport Museum), who likewise encouraged us. We are raising funds to develop specifications for the work, obtain a professional cost estimate, and prepare presentation materials to potential funding sources. We will keep you updated as the committee continues its work.

Changes to Bylaws Approved

At our last annual election there were concerns that our historic *modus operandi* did not comport with the Society Hill Civic Association's existing bylaws. I appointed a Bylaws Committee, chaired by Vice President Jerrold (Jim) Moss, Esq., to examine these concerns. Over five months the committee reached unanimity on the changes and process. Thereafter the changes and the process were reported to the Board which, at its following meeting, unanimously approved the committee's recommendations. At the request of the Committee these changes were advertised and placed on the agenda of our January General Membership Meeting, when they were overwhelmingly passed. I thank Jim and the committee for this tedious, but important contribution.

Mardi Gras 2002

Last year's Mardi Gras was a national disgrace. With pressure from our civic association and



Jim Cuorato, (far right) Executive Director, Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, poses a question at the Feb. 19 presentation of Foglietta Park plans.

contiguous associations, the active leadership of both Councilman Frank DiCicco and Senator Vince Fumo, and remarkable efforts by Philadelphia Police Department, Mardi Gras 2002, while not perfect, was a significant improvement — and a classic example of cooperation among communities and the public sector. Special thanks to Society Hill Civic Association Vice President Bernice Hamel, who also chairs the Community Advisory Council, a committee of the South Street Headhouse District. Bernice spent countless hours keeping the pressure on area residents, businesses, and city officials to prevent the South Street corridor from making national news again this year. See page 4 for a more complete assessment of Mardi Gras 2002.

Society Hill Civic Association Is Not a Club

Our membership dues account for approximately 60% of revenues. Please encourage all in the neighborhood to join, including businesses and professionals operating within our community. These dues help fund our weekly sidewalk cleaning, graffiti removal, publish our bimonthly newsletter, cover administrative costs and many other important endeavors. For a current list of businesses that are Society Hill Civic Association members, visit our website and consider becoming their customers. If you patronize local merchants who are not members, please encourage them to join. We're not a club. We're a civic organization living and working together to improve our surroundings.

I thank all of you who work on our standing committees. Your diligence and devotion provide a premium quality of life for America's first neighborhood.

—Malcom Lazin, President



Dominic Sabatini, (left) President, Penn's Landing Corporation, and Malcolm Lazin, President, Society Hill Civic Association

Mardi Gras 2002, Viewed from a Distance — and

A repeat of last year's chaos was averted. Crowd control was better. But was it good enough?

Mardi Gras 2001 was a true disaster. For several months prior to Mardi Gras 2002 (Tuesday, February 13) Society Hill Civic Association's leaders were the key to developing a coalition to strategize and prevent calamitous behavior and violence such as we experienced last year. Countless planning sessions were led by Councilman Frank DiCicco. Working with the South Street Headhouse District's Community Advisory Council — plus city authorities including Managing Director Estelle Richman, Interim Police Commissioner Sylvester Johnson, L&I's Commissioner, and the Sanitation Department, a true disaster was, in fact, averted. Police presence was unprecedented, and there was a strong message given that there would be "zero tolerance" for any offenses.

Nevertheless, the next morning Chief Inspector Frank Pryor admitted that in spite of the great number of police on patrol and the reduced size of South Street crowds, they still came very close to "losing it" by about 10 p.m.

All the excellent planning did, indeed, prevent rioting and significant property destruction, but many area residents told different stories. One Civic Association board director reported, "There was a continuous flow of groups onto Stammers Street where drinking, bottle smashing, drug taking, public urination and vandalism occurred throughout the evening." The night's activity peaked just before midnight when a neighbor's "window box on Stammers Street was smashed and her window cracked." Although she placed two calls to police between 9 and 10:30 p.m., there was no response until the third call, after the window-breaking episode. Yet one neighbor from Gaskill Street was almost pleasantly surprised because, "except for the helicopters, it seemed like a normal Saturday night but not much worse."

Regarding helicopters, resident groups had implored the police to contact the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) for help in reducing the number of media choppers flying over our heads which were truly "disturbing the peace" in 2001. Live television coverage may have exacerbated the problems on South Street and neighboring streets last year, as viewers who saw the action flocked to join the melee. Our communities were promised that as of 6 p.m. on the evening of Mardi Gras 2002, there would be a restriction against helicopters (other than police choppers) flying within a three-mile radius of South Street or lower than

continued next page

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Community Calendar: List of local events

Up Close

3,000 feet. We were told that any news organization violating this prohibition would be subject to fines and possible sanctions from the FAA. Clearly, these restrictions were violated. Will there be fines and sanctions?

Our civic association's Community Advisory Council members engaged in comprehensive and coordinated strategic planning to minimize the chaos and enormous cost to the city's pocketbook caused by Mardi Gras. For the record, the event is neither city-sponsored nor a South Street Headhouse District event. It is caused by a handful of irresponsible businesses (mainly bars) that encourage irresponsible people to "come on down and join the fun" and is often exacerbated (inadvertently) by media hype.

Mardi Gras 2002 has come and gone. Now many residents and businesses would like to see that it's gone forever! Yes, the crowds were better controlled. And yes, we are grateful that

there were significantly fewer revelers than last year — thanks to combined efforts of city officials and community leaders. We are glad nobody was seriously hurt. And one neighbor was pleased to report that on the following morning, "At about 8 a.m., there were pizza boxes, cans and other debris on the sidewalk, but by 10 a.m. it was all gone, and the sidewalks were swept, as well." Clearly, some of us were more negatively impacted by the night's events than others. But these happenings should not be allowed to continue, because, as another neighbor aptly expressed, "These events put residents literally on the front lines, making us prisoners in our own homes."



The Community Advisory Council is a committee of the South Street Headhouse District representing residential neighbors. Civic Association members who regularly participate include Board Director Bruce LeBuhn, "Graffiti Guru" Dave Stevens, and Vice-President Bernice Hamel, who chairs the Council.

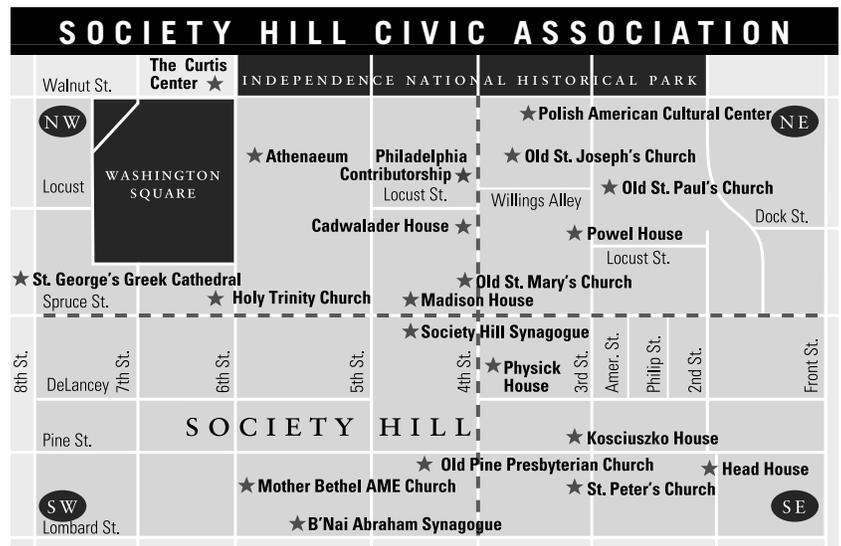
From colonial place to cyberspace —

Society Hill Is at Home on the Web

America's oldest address has been given a new, contemporary spin — www.societyhillcivic.com. Fresh on the heels of the *Reporter's* crisp, new look, the Society Hill Civic Association has launched its website in order to provide germane and timely information. Find pertinent data such as meeting schedules, block coordinators and volunteer opportunities. Discover more about the history and demographics of Society Hill, which is clearly delineated street-by-street in an attractive map drawn by Judy Lamirand of Parallel Design. Look for a detail from your house or block among the many beautiful digital images of the neighborhood captured by site designer Stu Alter. And easily download past issues of the *Reporter* as well as advertising information.

This attractive, user-friendly site is the collaboration of Stu Alter of Indigo Solution, Inc. and Civic Association Administrator Matt DeJulio, who will maintain it. Plans are in the works for hyperlinks to other organizations and perhaps to real estate companies serving the community.

Civic Association President Malcom Lazin commented, "This is a great tool to gain easy



access to a wide range of information. In future budgets, we will have the opportunity to enhance the site, so let us know your suggestions."

Bookmark this spot to stay abreast of local happenings and marvel that we could go from colonial place to cyberspace in three centuries!

www.societyhillcivic.com

An attractive street map is one of many features on our new, information-packed website.



SMALL INDULGENCES

The Women's Committee of the Philadelphia Museum of Art invites you to an exclusive shopping event where select vendors will offer one-of-a-kind jewelry, clothes and gifts.

Wednesday, April 17th

5:30pm to 9pm

Spoil yourself with an evening of cocktails and shopping.

Admission \$50

(Bring a friend and pay only \$75 for the two of you)

Thursday, April 18th

9am to 11am ☐

Spring fashion forecast sponsored by Fashion Group International with a panel of local style makers. Call for reservations.

Breakfast, Panel and Shopping.

\$25 per person

10am to 4pm

Shop leisurely all day.

\$10 per person

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Personal checks will be accepted by all vendors; credit cards by some. 25% of all sales will be donated to the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

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An Ancient Tavern, Still Troubled

The former inn turned museum is vacant and deteriorated. Will its new owner return the structure to a condition worthy of its history?

The former Man Full of Trouble Museum, located at the northeast corner of Spruce and 2nd Streets, has been vacant and neglected for more than a decade. The two-and-one-half story brick house was originally built in 1759-60 as a tavern, and its well-known name (and sign) lasted for more than one hundred years. In 1829 the building became an inn. Between that historical time and the period when Society Hill was redeveloped, the building and adjacent Paschall House, west of it, were purchased by the Wilhelm F. Knauer Foundation in 1965. The Knauers connected the two houses, made several repairs, retained the historical features — such as wood paneling and an original fireplace — and reproduced missing original features. They furnished the joined property with a collection of fine antiques. Voila!

The Man Full of Trouble Museum operated from the mid-1960s until about a decade ago, when the Knauers removed all their personal furnishings and donated the building to the University of Pennsylvania. The charming historical site on every visitor's "must-see" list was shut down.

At the time the university first obtained the property, the plan was to adapt the structure for eventual reuse, perhaps as housing for visiting scholars. Nearby neighbors kept an eye on the building, waiting to see some construction activity. It never happened. The building has been minimally maintained and vacant since that time. But landscaping around the building has been provided on a regular basis by the Society Hill Towers, the Tavern's next-door neighbor. Our community is grateful for the Towers' efforts, without which the Tavern would appear to be an abandoned shack in the midst of otherwise high-end real estate properties.

Recently neighbors and the Society Hill Civic Association organized a special Man Full of Trouble Committee and have been in contact with the University of Pennsylvania. As a result, on February 12, Penn personnel gave our committee a private tour of the site. The tour was led by Charles H. Bronk, Director



A "Man Full of Trouble," indeed. The charming sign still standing at the site is a copy of the original — described by James F. Watson in his *Annals* as: "having on it a man and his wife, the latter leaning on his arm. In the hand of the woman was a bandbox with a cat on top of it. The man had a monkey on his shoulder and a parrot in his hand."

for Facilities Planning, School of Arts and Sciences; Charles C. Newman, AIA, Interim University Architect; Dawn Lee, Penn's City and Community Relations spokesperson, and Dan Garofalo of Penn's Facilities & Real Estate Services Department. We are pleased that Penn is planning to begin a series of exterior repairs on the building — including repairing or replacing the spalling bricks on the building's west and east walls, roof repairs and painting the exterior wood trim. They are still considering how to deal with the building's interior challenges.

A representative from Penn will be giving a brief presentation at our 8 p.m. General Membership Meeting on March 20 at Pennsylvania Hospital's auditorium. Our committee is pleased that the university is willing to have a dialogue with us after all these years. We feel optimistic and hope that this historic building will be rehabilitated appropriately and put to good and realistic use.

Special thanks to Paul Boni, Zoning and Historical Preservation Committee chairman, and Bernice Hamel, committee member and Society Hill Civic Association vice president, who have spent much time and effort on behalf of the tavern and the community.

Society Hill Open House Tours



Philadelphia Open House, originally a one-day program, was born in right here in Society Hill. This regional tour program, that takes you into private homes, gardens and special places, is coordinated by the Friends of Independence National Historical Park. Now in its 24th consecutive year, the program begins in April and extends to June, offering more than 40 separate tours throughout the Philadelphia metropolitan region. Society Hill's self-guided tours always feature an exciting new selection of houses and gardens, and they remain the most popular tours on the entire roster.

This season, the Society Hill Home tour will be held on Sunday, May 5, from 1 to 5 p.m. You'll be invited into wonderful historic homes, as well as contemporary dwellings, and be treated to a dazzling variety of furnishings, art and antiques. The cost is \$35.

Society Hill Home Tour

Sunday, May 5, 1-5 p.m.
\$35

Society Hill Garden Tour

Sunday, June 2, 1-5 p.m.
\$30

The tour of Society Hill's Gardens & Courtyards, scheduled for Sunday, June 2, from 1 to 5 p.m., will give you the opportunity to see and be inspired by a wonderful selection of exquisite private gardens that are hidden retreats behind the facades of the streetscape. This tour is priced at \$30.

Whether you're new to the neighborhood or an "old-timer," for pure pleasure you won't want to miss either of these neighborhood tours. And, we wish to remind you that these tours benefit our community. Proceeds go directly to our civic association.

If you have a home or garden you'd be willing to include on these tours, please call Martha Levine at 215-629-0727. Or, if you're willing to volunteer to "house-sit" as a host or hostess, you'll enjoy the advantage of visiting sites for free! Interested? Please call Linda Skale at 215-238-1040. For a complete brochure and reservation form, call the Friends office at 215-928-1188. Remember to reserve early.



Gala to Kick Off Open House Tours

The annual Philadelphia Open House Kick-Off Gala will be held Thursday, April 18, at the new Independence Visitor Center at 6th and Market Streets. This year's theme is the 225th Anniversary of the Philadelphia Campaign of the American Revolution. The Gala will feature delicious food, enjoyable entertainment, live and silent auctions, and many other wonderful surprises. Contact the Friends' Office at 215-928-1188 for information on attending the Gala.

Tour Sampler

For a complete brochure and reservation form, call the Friends' office: 215-928-1188

Redesign of Independence Park

Thursday, April 25

Learn about the creation of the Park, its development for the Bicentennial, and its readaptation for the 21st century, with a tour of the new Independence Visitor Center.

Washington Square

Sunday, April 28

Visit both the Federal style mansions and the breathtaking highrises surrounding the Square, soon to be a part of Independence Park.

Philadelphia Bankers

Tuesday, April 30

Discover the homes, collections, and legacies of Stephen Girard, Nicholas Biddle, and A.J. Drexel, three of the wealthiest, most influential men of their time, with lunch at Pen Ryn.

British Occupation of Philadelphia

Tuesday, April 30

Relive this significant period in history at Independence Park and the home of Mayor Samuel Powel, then enjoy lunch at City Tavern.

Avenue of the Arts

Thursday, May 2

See the majestic beauty of the recently restored Academy of Music, the Kimmel Center, the Wilma Theatre, and the University of the Arts, with a reception at the Kimmel Center.

Public Art at Independence

Thursday, May 30

Learn about the history behind the art in and around Independence Park, from Calder's *White Cascade* to Parrish's *Dream Garden*.

The Art of Dining

Friday, May 31

Immerse yourself in the Philadelphia Museum of Art's sumptuous paintings and the renowned "Artist's Table" in the Museum Restaurant, complete with a chef's demonstration.

Northern Liberties

Saturday, June 1

A Philadelphia neighborhood renaissance-in-the-making. Visit a number of homes restored to their original splendor. A reception with local artists will follow.

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You may have noticed masons repairing the brick wall, part of a major restoration project undertaken by St. Peter's. Work is also proceeding on the iron gates and fence. The next phase will focus on trees, shrubbery, flowers, benches, drainage and lighting.

If you are among those who have been seen reading the epitaphs on 18th- and 19th-century tombstones or perusing a book under a tree, you may wish to contribute to this project. For information on making a tax-deductible donation, please contact Historic St. Peter's Church Preservation Corporation.

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Researching the History of Your House

We live in a community where 600 historic colonial residences were acquired by the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority and sold to private citizens in the 1950s. Owners must become house detectives to uncover the genealogy of these old homes — tenaciously pursuing clues hidden in old census microfilm, insurance records and even water bills. This task is made easier with both the Internet and ready access to Philadelphia research libraries and archives.

Begin sleuthing on the Web. World of Old Houses (oldhouses.com.au) gives tips and links on home research. The Philadelphia Architects and Building Project (www.philadelphiabuildings.org) is a free, web-based library with most of the original architectural documents of Philadelphia buildings created before 1900. Built in America is a Library of Congress (www.loc.gov) project with photographs, drawings and histories of 35,000 sites and structures. If your home is historic, it's probably here.

More leads can be found at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania (215-732-6200). Using the complete set of Philadelphia City Directories in combination with the federal census data is a way to create a profile of a neighborhood by examining household composition, as well as the types of businesses and institutions at given points in time.

The Historical Society has insurance surveys that include types of structures, building materials, ownership, and drawings. The data of the Franklin Fire Insurance Company, 1837-99, and Pennsylvania Fire Insurance Company, 1830-89, are indexed by address within various geographical boundaries. The Philadelphia Contributionship surveys, c.1900-1940, are indexed by street name; they also have

descriptions of structures and often, snapshots of the buildings. The records of The Mutual Assurance Company, popularly known as The Green Tree, include thousands of canceled insurance surveys, plans, prints, drawings and photographs, dating from the company's formation in 1784 through 1973.

Also housed at the Historical Society is the *Philadelphia Record* photograph library with thousands of newspaper photographs documenting life in the neighborhoods from 1930 through 1947. And the Society's large map collection begins with the earliest plan for the City of Philadelphia, drawn in 1683, which shows the beginning of neighborhood formation along the Delaware River. The collection documents the city's growth through the present day.

Hopefully this is enough information to get the contemporary Sherlock Holmes started in search of the many inhabitants who have called an historical house "home."



PHYSICK HOUSE PLANT SALE

Sat. May 3 - Sun. May 5

There's nothing like a pot of gaily colored flowers to brighten the neighborhood and the spirit. Once again Physick House, a local historic landmark at 321 South 4th Street, will be holding its annual Plant Sale. Neighbors can select from a wide variety of blooms suitable for a rooftop deck,

shady or sunny garden or hanging basket. An extra benefit is the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the Physick House's large 19th-century garden. Mark your calendar! The sale will take place Friday, May 3 through Sunday, May 5. Please call for specific times.

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New Head for Headhouse District

Dick Ostrander retires, and Barry Cassidy takes the helm of South Street Headhouse District

Dick Ostrander, longtime Society Hill resident, activist and former Society Hill Civic Association president, recently retired after six years at the helm of the South Street Headhouse District, where he served as executive director. Now in his mid-70s — but who would ever guess it? — Dick has decided to seize the moment by spending more recreational time with Liz, his wife of 55 years. But don't expect Dick to go into hiding. He'll continue serving our community's historic Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church, where both he and Liz are Elders. Not surprisingly, however, because he is incapable of being idle, Dick has recently agreed to become the coordinator for the 2002 South Street Easter Promenade. So we're all invited to don our best-ever Easter duds and stroll down South Street to see how Dick is enjoying his free time!

On January 7, Barry Cassidy began his new job as the District's executive director. "Choosing Barry was a no-brainer," said the District's chairman, Michael Samschick, "because of his outstanding leadership working with a variety of community and development organizations." Whether as a civil-rights worker, in his younger years, or more recently serving as the Main Street Manager for the Borough of Downingtown in Chester County, Barry's experience is broad and his range of skills impressive. For example, his grant-writing ability brought in more than \$5 million over a six-year period, amounting to about \$625 for

every man, woman and child in Downingtown. Cassidy is no stranger to Philadelphia. Prior to his management responsibilities in Downingtown, he and his teenage daughter, Ellen, lived in the Far Northeast when he served as the director of a development corporation in Kensington, overseeing leveraged rehabilitation projects.

Now intensely immersing himself in the mechanics and details of running the District, which provides improved sanitation services and police presence to the South Street corridor, Barry has been getting to know all the District's neighbors. He has introduced himself to local businesses and their owners, is getting to know the "powers that be" at City Hall, and has attended meetings of nearby residential communities impacted by South Street. In his first week on the job, he began working pro-actively with Councilman Frank DiCicco, City Managing Director Estelle Richman and other City Hall offices, such as L&I, conducting strategic planning sessions to minimize problems associated with Mardi Gras. These sessions included coordination with the District's Community Advisory Council, which has representatives from all nearby residential associations.

Barry is delighted that the District's headquarters is located in Head House, America's oldest firehouse, adjacent to the Old Second Street Market, the last remaining Colonial-era marketplace. He is already planning to apply for grants to help supplement the landmark's maintenance and long-term preservation, because as always, he welcomes a challenge and enjoys seeing it to its successful completion.



Barry Cassidy is the new Executive Director of the South Street Headhouse District

Visit Independence Library on the Web!

Societyhillcivic.com isn't the only new destination on the Web for Society Hillers! The Friends of the Independence Branch Library is pleased to announce the creation of its own website at www.communityzero.com/indyfriends. Bookmark this site to keep up with the many special programs, book groups and children's story hours held at the Branch. And don't forget, the Friends of the Independence Branch Library need your unwanted books, especially current fiction and children's titles, for its used book sale. Dictionaries, classics and travel books are also welcome.

UPCOMING LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Snake Party!

Wed, March 13, 4 p.m.
Learn about snakes, their behavior and habits. Touch a live python, if you dare!

Intro to Word

Wed, April 3 & Wed, April 24, 6:30 p.m.
A two-part introduction to basic word processing using Microsoft Word.

Philadelphia Theatre – Past and Present

Mon, April 15, 6:30 p.m.
A lecture by Harry Segal.

Power Tools for Women

Wed, April 24, 6:30 p.m.
Joni Daniels will speak.

Philadelphia Voices

Sat, April 27, 2 p.m.
A reading of original work by poets Dean Kostos and Leslie Shinn.

Independence Library

18 South 7th Street

Monday/Wednesday:
Noon to 8 p.m.

Thursday:
1 to 5 p.m.

Tuesday/Friday/
Saturday:
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ZONING & HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Help Available for Facade Change Approval

Our expert volunteers can help facilitate the arduous approval process.

Property owners considering facade changes are advised to get in touch with Society Hill Civic Association's Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee *before* applying to the Zoning Board or the Historical Commission. Our experienced team of volunteers — architects, engineers and preservation professionals — can provide constructive comment on both zoning and historical issues, coordinate with neighbors and help facilitate the process. Committee Chairman Paul Boni, Esq. can be reached at 215-989-0034 or Paulboni@bonilaw.com.

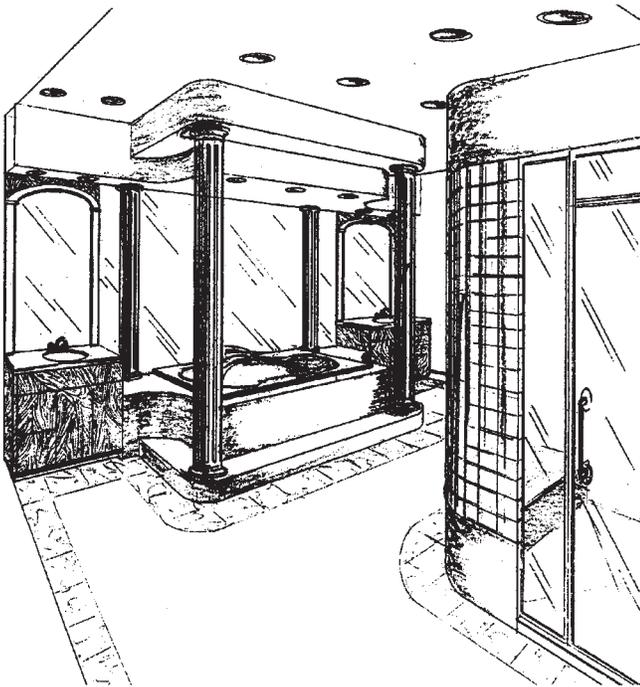
Several Society Hill homeowners have proposed changes to the facades of their properties and gone directly before the Historical Commission's Architectural Review Committee ("ARC"). If and when ARC approves proposed alterations, the full Historical Commission must finalize these approvals at its monthly hearings.

Seven homes or sites were reviewed at ARC's January 29 meeting, and several Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee members attended the meeting, providing comment or support of ARC, as follows:

250 Delancey Street, SE corner of 3rd Street
Highly visible changes, including removal of historical materials and addition of noncompatible features which violate historical standards, were proposed. Preservation committee members, nearby neighbors and the Preservation Alliance voiced opposition to these proposals, and ARC disallowed the entire project. The project was denied by the Historical Commission at its February 8 hearing.

Old Pine Presbyterian Church, 400 Pine Street
The proposed project entails wall washers and exterior lights to improve pedestrian lighting and enhance the aesthetic appearance of the church's Pine Street facade. ARC concerns regarding alterations to historical materials were satisfied. At the Historical Commission hearing on February 8, the lighting was approved; details for the street level entrances will be finalized with Commission staff.

The Saunders Building, 220 W. Washington Sq.
This design challenge focused on the building's fire tower, which is open and has exposed HVAC units and bird netting that can be seen



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Z O N I N G & H I S T O R I C P R E S E R V A T I O N

from the street. Solutions to relocate the HVAC were not feasible, so ARC agreed to allow the HVAC units to be set back and "blacked out," rendering them less visible. Samples of suitable bird netting were reviewed and were approved. Final approval was gained at the Historical Commission's February 8 hearing.

319-21 South 3rd Street

A two-story addition and revised facade were proposed for this single-family, double-width dwelling, built in 1974. ARC approved the two-story addition, but disapproved the proposed facade change since it would mimic historical elements when the facade would best be kept to an honest contemporary, vernacular design. The applicant and his registered architect presented their proposal to the Historical Commission on February 8; it was denied. Future meetings with Commission staff are required to work out design issues regarding the elevation of the new facade.

234 Pine Street

The applicant's desire to add side and rear additions, plus a new front facade,

to this historical house was presented in concept at the ARC meeting on January 29. These proposals were not approved because the ARC viewed the changes as incompatible with the rest of the building. At the Historical Commission's hearing on February 8, Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee members noted that they had not seen the plans previously, and the owners were granted a continuance. Owners, committee members and ARC are working to arrive at a mutually agreeable solution.

342 South 5th Street, NW corner of Pine Street

Ongoing renovations and alterations to this contemporary property had been approved, except for changes to an anodized aluminum spandrel (an area between two adjoining arches). After three months of searching, the builder has not been able to duplicate this large facade element, and he submitted samples of alternate metal products for ARC's consideration. At the February 8 Historical Commission hearing, it was decided the metal could be removed and the area replaced with smooth stucco.

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ZONING & HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Update on The St. James

Most approvals for design and construction of this 47-story apartment tower at Washington Square are currently in place. Two design alterations were proposed at the January meeting of the Historical Commission's Architectural Review Committee ("ARC"). The tower's bottom nine stories will enclose a garage, and the owners presented their proposed garage facade coverings — metal, louver-type coverings that will have a minimum transparency from street level. Since their overall effect will be a glow of light that will obscure the garage's interior from the street, these grills were approved. A new, two-story structure will be built at the corner of 8th and Walnut, now an empty lot. A design feature using louvers to vent a large emergency generator was proposed. Zoning and Historic Preservation committee representatives expressed concern about the noise from the generator, while ARC expressed concern over the appearance of the louvers. An alternative was suggested that would place the generator on the second floor level, with no roof above it, allowing noise to rise up and air to ventilate freely. The Historical Commission approved this proposal at the February 8 hearing.

This ambitious project will, at long last, give new life to the extraordinary bank building at 7th and Walnut Streets — the PSFS Building, built in 1868-69. New life will also be given to "York Row" — three Federal-era row houses adjacent to the PSFS Building on Walnut. Since 1984, when these properties were sold to Sam Rappaport, they have been vacant and deserted. The York Row houses were seriously vandalized and all their valuable interior features lost, save for one historic fireplace mantle, which was given to the Winterthur Museum by the project's owner-developers, Peter Shaw and Alan Casnoff of P&A Associates. P&A recently formed a joint venture with Clark Realty Capital LLC and Lend Lease Real Estate Investments — called St. James Associates Joint Venture. The Joint Venture acquired the properties in March 2000, and construction commenced in late 2001. The adjacent properties will include an apartment tower providing 307 rental apartments of one to three bedrooms, each with a designated parking spot, as well as retail and office space plus a destination restaurant.

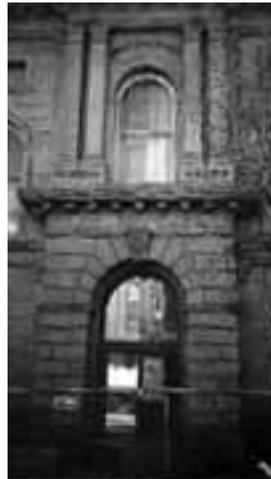
Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee members met with Mr. Shaw and Mr. Casnoff at its January 14 meeting, expressing concern

about preventing harm to the cut-off backs of York Row and the PSFS Building, as they are currently open to the elements. An interim solution is the use of plastic coverings during the next few months — until the new walls are built, expected to be completed in April 2002.

At press time, our committee was alerted that the developers are now proposing to remove the historic bluestone paving on the 7th Street side of the PSFS Building, to be replaced with a concrete sidewalk. This is not a welcome change, and we'll keep you posted. Nevertheless, when all challenges are ironed out, the completed project is expected to bring new vitality to Washington Square.



Cut-off back of PSFS Building



PSFS Building



York Row 700-728 Walnut Street

Matt DeJulio

Update on 516 Pine Street

In response to inquiries about 516 Pine Street, a seemingly abandoned three-story historical house, the Block Coordinator would like to update neighbors about this property.

In November 2001, an agreement was reached with 516 Pine Street, LTD, the group owning 516, and their next-door neighbors. The exterior of the three-story addition to the rear of 516 was completed at that time, green lighting the remainder of the overall renovation. Since then, however, it appears no work has been done to the property's interior or exterior, as there has been no sign of any activity inside or out. The house has

recently begun to attract graffiti, and some of the windows are broken and boarded up. In mid-February, a neighbor approached a person, who appeared to be a contractor, waiting on the front steps of 516 Pine. However, he was unwilling to identify himself or offer any information regarding the status of the property. As far as the neighbor could ascertain, no one arrived to meet the contractor. The individuals involved with this 516 venture have refused to identify themselves, although immediate neighbors have the name and contact number of the owner's representative.

S H C A S E R V I C E S A N D P R O G R A M S

More Anti-Graffiti Efforts

It's a never-ending battle to keep Society Hill clean and graffiti-free. With the aid of residents, it's a battle we are winning. Board members in each quadrant are armed with a recently developed product which easily removes graffiti from mailboxes, street signs, and light posts. Please contact the Civic Association office for help removing graffiti on such surfaces. For graffiti removal from private property, or porous surfaces such as brick or concrete, call the city's Graffiti Abatement Team at 215-685-9556 or Tim Conway at 215-685-5555.

Unwanted Solicitations

In recent weeks, Society Hill has been inundated with flyers, advertisements, restaurant menus and unrequested newspapers. They are left on cars and doorsteps and usually end up as litter dirtying our streets. Although it is legal to deposit solicitations in mailboxes and mail slots, it is illegal to leave them anyplace else. Please help us deter the distribution of illegal solicitations by letting businesses know that you will not patronize them while they continue this practice. The *Reporter* is working to identify the worst offenders for targeted action.

Door Lights Essential for Safer Streets

Several years ago many Society Hill residents participated in a Civic Association project to make our neighborhood a brighter, safer place to walk at night. Automatic timers were installed on lights on the front exteriors of 220 homes, assuring the lights would be turned on in the evening hours.

Tips on how to use your timer.

- Use wattage as high as your fixture will allow, usually 60-75 watts.
- If the bulb burns out, replace it and reset the timer. (If the red light on the timer is off, the bulb needs to be replaced.) It is suggested the timer be set to go on at 6 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. This will avoid having to reset the clock when Daylight Savings Time occurs. It will then go on at 7 p.m.
- It is important to have the correct directions to operate the timer. If you misplaced yours and would like a new copy (most of us have Intermatic brand), please contact Martha Levine at 215-629-0727 or marthalev@aol.com.

"I sometimes think that the price of liberty is not so much eternal vigilance as eternal dirt."

George Orwell,
(1903-1950)

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It's a Boy!

Congratulations to hard-working director Bruce LeBuhn and his lovely wife, Eloina, on the birth of their beautiful baby boy, Clay. We welcome baby Clay to our neighborhood and we marvel that Bruce still finds the time to participate in civic initiatives. We are especially grateful for all of his contributions. Not to worry, Bruce. In about a year, if you're lucky, you'll get to sleep the whole night through!



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New Program Off to a Good Start

Get to Know Your Block Coordinator

The Block Coordinator program is off and running. The coordinators distributed letters of introduction to the homes on their respective blocks early in February.

The purpose of this program is to enhance communication between residents and the Society Hill Civic Association. Each block has a designated coordinator, who acts as the liaison. Any resident with a neighborhood-related problem may contact his/her block coordinator to get contact information on who can help — a Civic Association committee chair, board member or officer, or city agency.

The block coordinators demonstrated their value by distributing flyers with information about how to deal with potential South Street

Mardi Gras problems. The word was spread quickly to the entire neighborhood in advance of the event. We are still looking for a few good men and women to cover the following blocks:

- 200 block of South 3rd Street (east side)
- 200 block of Lombard Street
- 200 block of South Philip Place
- 200 block of St. James Place
- 200 and 300 block of South 5th Street

If you did not receive a letter introducing your Block Coordinator or want to volunteer for your block, please contact Martha Levine at 215-629-0727 or marthalev@aol.com, or Matthew DeJulio at 215-629-1288 or mattdejulio@aol.com

SOCIETY HILL BLOCK COORDINATORS

Northwest

St. James Court (WE#1) Morry Chomitz
 Independence Place2 Sissie Lipton
 Independence Place1 Matt DeJulio
 200 S. Seventh Lisa Karlin
 S. Washington Sq. Lisa Karlin
 Hopkinson House George Koch
 Manning Walk(WE#2) Nancy Frenze
 400 Spruce (N) Marilyn Appel
 500 Spruce (N) Janice & Jim Hayes
 600 Spruce (N) Martha Levine
 700 Spruce (N) Helen Niedermeyer
 200 S. Fifth

Southwest

400 Spruce (S) Marilyn Appel
 500 Spruce (S) Hans Bombeck
 600 Spruce (S) Martha Levine
 500 Delancey Jeff and Julie DeVuono
 500 Cypress Phil Alperson
 400 Pine (S) Bhana Grover
 400 Pine (N) Adriana Von Pein
 500 Pine Steve Zettler
 600 Pine Karen Biddle
 700 Pine E. Plachter & S. Paulos
 Perth Diane Javian
 400 Lombard Leslie LaRocca
 500 Lombard Marianne Lipson
 600 Lombard Gene Gualtieri
 700 Lombard Diane Javian
 500 Addison Gina Cohen
 600 Addison Dick Ostrander
 700 Addison Diane Javian
 300 S. Fourth (W) Adriana Von Pein
 300 S. Fifth
 300 S. Sixth Phil Alperson
 400 S. Sixth Dick Ostrander
 300 S. Lawrence Michael Fryd
 400 S. Seventh Jean Broadley

Northeast

200 Locust Cynthia Adams
 200 Spruce (N) Laura & Greg Dienna
 300 Spruce (N) Karen Stevens
 SH Towers B. Halda & J. DiSabatino
 200 S. Philip Place
 200 St. James Place
 200 S. 2nd (W) Linda Percival
 200 S. 3rd (W) Lee & Geoff Dennis
 200 S. 3rd (E)
 200 S. 4th (E) George Zolot
 300 St. James Place, St. Joseph's Way,
 Willings Alley, Willings Alley Mews
 Bell's Ct. Cirel Magen, Ann Verber

Southeast

100 Spruce E. Boyarski & B. LeBuhn
 200 Spruce (S) Greg & Laura Dienna
 300 Spruce (S) Lynn Karoly
 100 Delancey Dave Stevens
 200 Delancey Elizabeth Armour
 300 Delancey Tania Rorke
 100 Pine Donna Wechsler
 200 Pine Liza Seltzer
 300 Pine Tim Julet
 100 Lombard (S) Norma Van Dyke
 200 Lombard
 300 Lombard Connie Yetke
 Blackwell Ct. Kelly Nelson
 Stampers Street Kelly Nelson
 300 S. Phillip Sandra Williams
 300 S. American Laura Temple
 300 Cypress Karen Tourian
 300-400 Gaskill Denny Hatch
 300 S. Front E. Boyarski & B. LeBuhn
 500 S. Front Francine Strauss
 100 Naudain Francine Strauss
 300 S. 3rd Dan & Noreen Diadul
 400 S. 3rd P. Fiala & C. Van Seggern
 300 S. 4th (E) Adriana Von Pein

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SOCIETY HILL DEMOGRAPHICS

Did you know that 75% of Society Hill residents hold a college or graduate degree? Would you be surprised to learn that 45% of the residents have a personal yearly income of over \$50,000? Or, how about that the aggregate household income for Society Hill is close to \$31.3 million? Here are some other interesting statistics for the residents of the 19106 zip code based on the 2000 U.S. Census Bureau findings:

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Gender | Marital Status | Employment Status |
| 51% female | 27% married couples | 78% employed |
| 49% male | 15% widowed/divorced | 22% retired |
| Age | Race and Ethnicity | Year House Was Built |
| 7% under 20 years | 92% white | 20% 1970 - present |
| 40% 20-34 years | 5% black | 30% 1940 - 1969 |
| 26% 35-49 years | 2% Asian | 50% before 1939 |
| 18% 50-64 years | 1% Hispanic | |
| 9% 65+ years | | |

ACTION PHONE NUMBERS

Fire, Emergency & Police Service 911

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Sixth District Police Station (general information) | 215-686-3060 |
| South Street Police Mini-Station (quality of life issues) | 215-922-6706 |

City Of Philadelphia

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| City Hall | 215-686-1776 |
| Mayor's Action Center (information & complaints) | 215-686-2250 |
| Anti-Graffiti Hotline | 215-685-1174 |
| Fairmount Park Commission (trees & Washington Square) | 215-685-1835 |
| Health Commissioner | 215-686-5000 |
| Historical Commission | 215-683-4590 |
| Independence National Historical Park | 215-597-8787 |
| Parking Authority Enforcement 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. evenings & weekends | 215-683-9600 215-683-9773 |
| Pennsylvania SPCA (animal control) | 215-426-6300 |
| Recycling Office Hotline | 215-685-1770 |
| Resident Parking Permit | 215-683-9730 /9731/9732 |
| Sanitation - Rubbish Removal (South Philadelphia office) | 215-685-1770 |
| Sanitation - Enforcement | 215-686-3082 |
| Streets Department | |
| Street Lights | 215-697-8844 |
| Alley Lights | 215-868-5516 |
| Repair & Potholes | 215-686-5560 |
| Trash Collection/Bulk Trash Pick-up | 215-686-5560 |
| Voter Registration | 215-686-1500 |
| Water & Sewer Service Problems | 215-685-6300 |

Political Representatives

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Frank DiCiccio (City Council Dist. #1) | 215-686-3458 |
| Marie Lederer (State Rep.) | 215-426-6604 |
| Vincent J. Fumo (State Senator) | 215-468-3866 |
| Robert Borski (U.S. Rep.) | 215-335-3355 |
| Robert Brady (U.S. Rep.) | 215-389-4627 |
| Arlen Specter (U.S. Senator) | 215-597-7200 |
| Rick Santorum (U.S. Senator) | 215-864-6900 |

Community

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Society Hill Civic Association | 215-629-1288 |
| | fax: 215-629-9914 |
| South Street Head House District | 215-413-3713 |
| | fax: 215-627-7035 |

Homeless Intervention

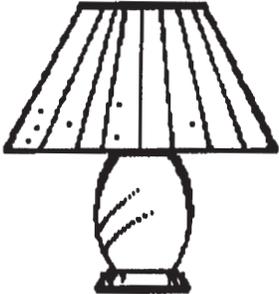
| | |
|--|--------------|
| In the neighborhood | 215-829-3461 |
| Michael Whaley at Hall Mercer | |
| Outside the neighborhood Project Home | 215-232-1984 |
| Police Dept. Homeless Issues & Investigations | 215-686-3095 |

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116 SPRUCE STREET**

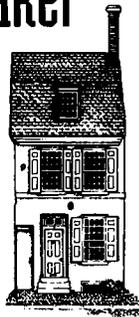


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201 MONROE STREET \$1,950,000
Virtual Tour# 4041201.Exquisite 2-year old dble wide home w/5bdrms, 5+btchs, den/office, lg custom gourmet kit w/dble the appliances, spac. sun-filled rms w/contemporary design elements, large roof deck and 2-car garage!

518 SPRUCE STREET \$1,150,000
Virtual Tour# 3052291.Grand 1831-33 Greek Revival home offers 5BR's, 3.5 baths, library, formal dining room + **4-CAR GARAGE!**

218 DELANCEY REDUCED! \$1,100,000
Virtual Tour#1354719. 4 bdrm, 2.5 bath home w/3-story atrium window, wood-burning fplces, patio w/fountain, master suite and custom marble baths.

308 S 2nd STREET \$995,000
Virtual Tour#3037395.Magnificent and grand Circa 1810 historical townhouse. 12' ceilings, original floors, 3+bdrms, 2.5 btchs, 3+ fplces + secd garden.

312 S FRONT STREET \$950,000
Virtual Tour #4039308.Dramatic and bright 3BR Condo/Twhs w/ultra modern gourmet kit, beaut. custom skylit master bath, home office/den, 2.5 baths and 2 car parking!

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Virtual Tour#350399.Lovely traditionally styled 4BR, 2.5 bth Twhs. Central air, new roof, garden + **PARKING!**

104 LOMBARD STREET \$495,000
Virtual Tour# 4022592.Beautiful 3BR Twhs w/den,2.5btchs+GARAGE! Lots of natural light, grt deck w/city + river views!

410 LOMBARD STREET \$439,900
Virtual Tour# 4029768.1794 Federal Period home w/4bdrms, 2.5btchs, famrm, 2 fplces, hrdwd flrs t/o + many custom and original details. **DEEDED PARKING!**

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Prudential Fox & Roach at The Rittenhouse All Around Society Hill, featuring these fabulous listings!

424 Pine

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\$1,300,000.

608 Spruce

Stunning 2001 contemporary with old world charm! Open Living Rm, Music Rm, Dining Rm, Family Rm, custom Baulthop Kitchen, and 3 Bedroom Suites — Master Suite is the entire 2nd floor & has 2 working fireplaces! Large sunny patio + parking for 2 cars!

\$1,895,000.

126 Naudain

Beautiful contemporary. Bright and dramatic space. Terrific Living Room and Dining Room with double-high ceilings, 3 Bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths and parking! Just reduced.

\$469,000.

102 Lombard

Fabulous contemporary 4 story home with garage and garden. Excellent condition- Large Kitchen, Master suite has huge deck, plus 3 additional Bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths.

\$450,000.

129 Pine

A gorgeous renovation! 4+ Bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, 3 fireplaces, high end appliances in a most fabulous Kitchen — and more! Every inch carefully appointed throughout!

\$675,000.

130 Spruce, #27A

Penn's Landing Square Condo. Eat in Kitchen, 1 Bedroom and bath, Living Room, sliding doors to garden. Condo fee includes parking, pool, heat, hot water and more!

\$205,000.

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NOTEWORTHY NEIGHBORS

The View from the Top

Myrna Field and Harris Baum, two high-energy, high-profile Hillers, have climbed just about as high as you can go without flying.

Talking with attorneys Myrna Field and her husband Harris Baum, one can't help thinking about height; not their own particularly, but what they represent — high energy; a high-rise home on the 32nd floor of Society Hill Towers; high-profile occupations. And they've climbed mountains in the Himalayas, which is about as high as you can go without wings.

That having been said, the couple is decidedly down-to-earth. Myrna is in her second 10-year term as a judge in Philadelphia's Court of Common Pleas. Harris, a 44-year veteran of the law, is a former deputy attorney general for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and now is a litigator with the Philadelphia firm of Zarwin, Baum, DeVito, Kaplan, O'Donnell, and Schaefer.

Myrna graduated with a degree in political science from Smith and in law from the University of Pennsylvania. She began her career by specializing in divorce law, with cases often involving highly successful businesswomen. Today, she presides primarily over civil trials involving issues such as medical liability. As president of the Society Hill Civic Association at the time of

the construction of both the Sheraton Hotel and Interstate Route 95, Myrna wrote personal notes to all neighborhood newcomers listed in the Inquirer's real estate pages to invite them to become members of the Association. She was also a founding director of the Head House Conservancy, where she offered her legal services pro bono on behalf of restoring historic Head House and the Old Second Street Market, a landmark and centerpiece structure in Society Hill. When she became a judge, she resigned the board position. Most naturally, Harris assumed that role, representing the Conservancy in all its negotiations and legal agreements with the City of Philadelphia, which owns the historic property.

Myrna was also deeply involved — although she doesn't necessarily want this to be her legacy — in the fight to get the local carriage horses diapered. Harris actually owned a horse at one time, a racehorse that was a present from a grateful client. After the animal had run without distinction at Philadelphia Park race track, he decided he really would look this gift horse in the mouth, so he sold it. His more lasting hobbies include playing professional clarinet, involvement in religious charities, membership in the Foreign Relations Club, and together with Myrna — exotic travel, cycling, and, of course, mountaineering. Harris has two daughters and a son from his first marriage; Myrna a daughter from hers.

I recently had the opportunity to see Judge Myrna in action during a medical malpractice trial, and was impressed with the friendly, reassuring and, one might say, nonjudgmental manner in which she explained to the jurors their precise roles and responsibility in interpreting the law. When she eventually retires, she wants to devote time to prisoners' literacy. "It costs \$65,000 a year to keep someone in jail," she says. She believes literacy rehabilitation would be a return on that sizeable investment.

She views one of the great privileges of living in Society Hill, a view Harris concurs in, is being able to walk over the same ground that famous folk in history have walked on. Even for high fliers, that's pretty grounded.

—David Woods



Myrna Field and Harris Baum

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3-1/2 Baths, Hardwood Floors,
Fireplace, South facing Garden
and PARKING

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Community Calendar

March

Wednesday, March 20, 6 p.m.

Society Hill Civic Association Board Meeting

See page 1

Wednesday, March 20, 7 p.m.

Society Hill Civic Association General Membership Meeting

See page 1

April

Wednesday, April 17, 7 p.m.

Society Hill Civic Association Board Meeting

High School for Architecture & Design, 7th Street between Chestnut & Walnut Streets

Thursday, April 18, 6 – 9 p.m.

Philadelphia Open House Tours Kick-off Gala

Independence Visitor Center
6th & Market Streets
See page 8

May

Friday, May 3 – Sunday, May 5

Physick House Plant Sale

321 South 4th Street
See page 11

Sunday, May 5, 1 – 5 p.m.

Society Hill House Tour

See page 8

Wednesday, May 15, 6 p.m.

Society Hill Civic Association Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 15, 7 p.m.

Society Hill Civic Association General Membership Meeting

Sunday, June 2, 1 – 5 p.m.

Society Hill Garden Tour

See page 8



SOCIETY HILL

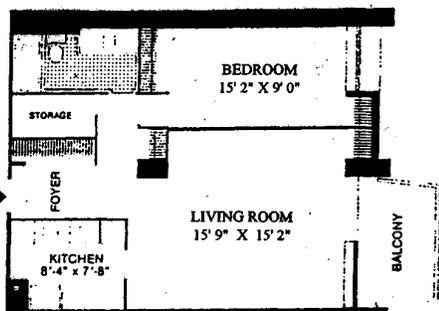
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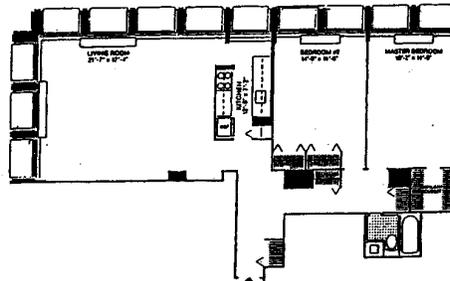
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220 Locust Street

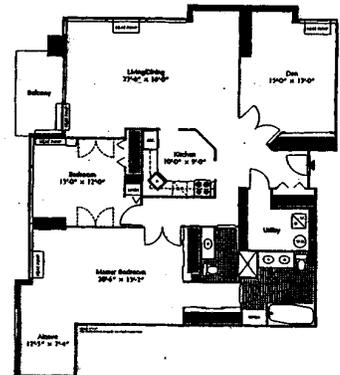


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\$385,000

Independence Place

233 S. 6th Street



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