

SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

January/February 2010

The Newsletter
of The Society Hill
Civic Association

www.societyhillcivic.org

SHCA'S FIRST 2010 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Master Plan for the Central Delaware Riverfront



Marilyn Jordan Taylor

Featured Speaker: Marilyn Jordan Taylor

**Dean, University of Pennsylvania School of Design
Board Director, Delaware River Waterfront Corp.**

The Delaware River Waterfront Corporation (DRWC) has announced the team it has selected to develop a Master Plan for the Central Delaware Waterfront, which will transform it into a world-class waterfront region. This Master Plan will use as its blueprint the "Civic Vision for the Central Delaware," which was completed by PennPraxis, the "clinical" arm of the University of Pennsylvania's School of Design. DRWC's staff will negotiate and develop the \$1 million contract for the Master Plan, and funding is being provided by a grant from the William Penn Foundation. (The waterfront region extends from Allegheny Avenue on the north to Oregon Avenue on the south, and from the Delaware River on the east to I-95 on the west.)

According to Marilyn Jordan Taylor — DRWC's Planning Committee Chair and Dean of the University of Pennsylvania's School of Design: "We have chosen a team of exceptional designers and planners who deeply understand the particular post-industrial qualities and challenges of Philadelphia's waterfront. They will bring inspiration, creative designs, and astute analysis as we turn our civic vision for the Central Delaware into an adopted Master Plan that can guide many years of private and public investment."

We are delighted to announce that Dean Taylor will be SHCA's featured speaker at our January 20th General Membership Meeting, as we are certain there is much about this Master Plan that you'll want to learn about. For example, it addresses a variety of land use issues — including provisions for public transit, pedestrian and bicycle trail alignment, and urban design guidelines. The planning work is expected to last about 12 to 18 months and will involve the engagement of all riverfront stakeholders, which include private land owners and developers, industries, governments and institutions, neighborhood and civic groups (such as ours), as well as related city-wide and regional nonprofit groups.

The chosen team includes Cooper Robertson & Partners, master planners; OLIN Partnership, landscape architects; and KieranTimberlake, architects; as well as HR&A Advisors. To address various elements of the Master Plan, the team also includes several consultants in the fields of transportation, traffic engineering, planning and zoning law, ecology and historic preservation. This Master Plan is the link between vision and implementation, and is the next step in the transformation of the Delaware waterfront.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

WED.

January

20

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Society Hill Civic Association Meetings
Wednesday, January 20, 2010

Pennsylvania Hospital, 8th & Spruce Streets

5:45 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting
Pennsylvania Hospital Grand Court Room
All SHCA members are welcome.

7:30 p.m. General Membership Meeting
Pennsylvania Hospital Auditorium
All neighborhood residents are invited to attend.

Topic: Delaware Waterfront Master Plan
How will planners work with communities to ensure that the "PennPraxis Vision" for the riverfront is realized?
Speaker: Marilyn Jordan Taylor, a recognized leader in urban design and pioneer in architecture, planning and construction.



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Columnists

Marilyn Appel
Jane Biberman
Sonia Grasse
Martha Levine
Rosanne Loesch
Catherine Signorello
David Woods

Contributors

Myra Eskin
Lorna Katz Lawson
Steven Weixler

Graphic Design

judy@parallel-design.com

Press Release Liaison

Sandra Rothman
315-C S. 2nd Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

email: norfad@aol.com
tel: 267-671-0554

Advertising Manager

Matthew DeJulio
mattdejulio@aol.com

Society Hill

Civic Association
P.O. Box 63503
Philadelphia, PA 19147

tel: 215-629-1288
fax: 215-629-9914

Submission

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Advertising:

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February 10

Website

www.societyhillcivic.org

Submissions

We want to hear from you. Our goal is to print news of interest to Society Hillers – happenings in and around our community for residents, business people and professionals. Direct your editorial submissions and/or queries to Bernice Hamel via fax at 215-925-0877 or email BerniceHamel@comcast.net. To publicize an event, submit all press releases directly to Sandy Rothman. (See contact information above.)

Materials must be submitted in writing – via mail, email, or fax – and must include the name of a contact person. Edited submissions will be considered for publication if the subject matter is community-related and if space allows. Otherwise, upcoming events of interest may be listed in the Community Calendar. Letters to the Editors will be considered for publication only if signed and the writer provides contact information.

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P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

BY ROSANNE LOESCH

Time to Turn Over a “New Leaf”

Society Hill Civic Association’s Board of Directors extends its very best wishes to Society Hill residents and business owners for a peaceful, healthy and productive 2010! We enjoyed meeting with association members who turned out for our lively “Holiday Cocktail” on December 7th — so generously hosted by Tangerine Restaurant and graciously coordinated by Board Vice-President Carol Colabelli.

The New Year is always a good time to take stock and especially to accomplish goals that sometimes languish on our ubiquitous “To Do” lists. One of those items may be to join or rejoin our civic association. In light of the many benefits SHCA provides to all within its borders, annual residential membership is truly a bargain: only \$50 — or, upon request, whatever you can contribute.

Your association provides weekly sidewalk cleaning on trash days; twice yearly Clean-Up Days; ongoing graffiti removal, zoning & historic preservation oversight; neighborhood safety initiatives; street lighting enhancements; bi-monthly publication of our informative newsletter, the *Society Hill Reporter*; fundraising and volunteering for the maintenance and beautification of Washington Square; evaluation of and response to governmental initiatives — such as “Big Belly” trash compactors, traffic controller boxes, bike lanes, Zoning Code reform, big-box casinos, waterfront planning — and much more!

Certainly, for condominium and homeowners alike, paying yearly dues to *your* civic association is as important to maintaining one’s quality-of-life as are condo fees, yearly home maintenance, and YES! property taxes that pay for much-needed city services. In addition, if you would like to receive invitations to our enjoyable bi-annual social events — including our Holiday Cocktail; lively fundraisers, such as the “Head House Soiree” (sponsored by the Head House Conservancy); and our forthcoming “Washington Square Affair” (an exciting, first-time SHCA-sponsored event scheduled for June 10th), you need to be a current member of our civic association! On top of all of this, you will receive a weekly email communication that includes important and timely neighborhood information, community events, relevant city-sponsored meetings, trash removal updates and street closing information — among other things.

So turn over a “new leaf” and support your very active civic association. Get connected by sending an email to SHCA’s devoted Administrator, Matt DeJulio and ask him to sign you up! His email address is mattdejulio@aol.com.

On a different note, congratulations and thanks to all Society Hill neighbors who participated in the November 21st Clean-Up Day! A special “thank you” goes to Wally Wing, the longtime coordinator of Clean-Up Day events, for his highly competent services — as well as to Spencer Finch, Martha Levine, Mary Purcell and all Society Hill Block Coordinators who devoted significant time in planning and executing this bi-annual event. Our community-wide efforts were most evident the day after — when the streets and sidewalks of Society Hill seemed to sparkle.

Another special thanks goes to Mike Duffy and his crew from Liberty Tree Service, who generously donated leaf blowing services on Clean-Up Day! I am also happy to report that our trial, two-hour “paper shredding service” was most successful and appreciated. It will, no doubt, become a regular feature of Clean-up Days (see page 15). We hope to add computer recycling in the spring, as well. Lastly, I send special thanks to Board Director George Kelley for his ongoing graffiti removal throughout the entire neighborhood.

Looking ahead to our agenda for 2010, we have many special items to attend to:

- Continued engagement with the Central Delaware Advisory Group (CDAG) — a coalition advocating for the realization of the PennPraxis vision for nine miles of the Delaware waterfront. (See page 1 or visit planphilly.org.)
- Work with the “Crosstown Coalition” — a brand-new coalition of city groups advocating for the important role of communities in the zoning process. (See the article on page 11 or visit neighborhoodsmatter.org.)
- And, of course, our continued activism against the placement of big-box, predatory casinos close to residential neighborhoods.

I hope you will attend our first General Membership Meeting for the year 2010, featuring Dean Marilyn Jordan Taylor. (Please see page 1 for information about the program.) Save the date: Wednesday, January 20th.



**Rosanne Loesch,
President**

*Bonne Année
et à bientôt!*

...

**Happy New Year!
See you soon!**

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UPDATE

Center City's Bike Lanes

In advance of a December 10th public meeting on the topic of the Center City Bikeways Pilot Project on Spruce Street and Pine Streets, representatives from Philadelphia's three most directly affected neighborhoods — Society Hill, Washington Square West and Rittenhouse Square — were invited to meet with city officials Stephen Buckley, Charles Carmalt and Laura Spina. Neighborhood representatives learned that the Department of Transportation & Utilities was likely to make a recommendation to Mayor Nutter making these trial bike lanes permanent. (In fact, news of this decision was announced at the public meeting.)

Based on a two-month trial period of monitoring traffic flow on both westbound Spruce Street and eastbound Pine Street, Mr. Carmalt provided neighborhood leaders with the city's conclusion that traffic flow had not been significantly affected by the elimination of one car lane on each of these two streets that now accommodate cyclists. He reported that the city's monitoring method included timed cross-town auto trips at peak travel times on various days of the week, car queuing at traffic lights and auto and bicycle counts at selected intersections of these two streets. Both Mr. Carmalt and Mr. Buckley noted that there are a couple of intersections that may require some adjustments to improve traffic flow — for example the timing of traffic lights near Pennsylvania Hospital at 8th and Spruce, and at

the traffic light at Broad and Spruce. They also addressed the highly important safety issue regarding the need for bicyclists to follow the "Rules of the Road."

Neighborhood representatives learned at the December meetings that the city has received funds to launch a public information campaign that will clarify the rules for all parties sharing these streets — including cyclists, motorists, tourist horse carriages, as well as pedestrians — and that this public information campaign will likely begin in the summer. SHCA asked the city to reaffirm its promise that residents will always be permitted to do "active" loading and unloading in these designated bike lanes; that permission for short-term loading will also apply to deliveries, taxis and the like; that "permit parking" for religious institutions will continue to be allowed; and that the potential creation of any loading zones will not eliminate even a single on-street parking spot. Mr. Carmalt and Mr. Buckley assured us that these conditions would not change.

Please direct any comments or questions you may have about these bike lanes to Charles Carmalt at charles.carmalt@phila.gov and Stephen Buckley at stephen.buckley@phila.gov. Kindly send a copy of your communication to SHCA's Administrator Matt DeJulio at mattdejulio@aol.com.



To improve traffic flow the timing of traffic lights at some intersections may need to be adjusted.

UPDATE

Two-Way Traffic on Spruce Street

In the previous issue of this newsletter we reported the recent traffic change made on a "trial basis" that allows vehicles to travel in two directions on the 100 block of Spruce Street — when for over 45 years Spruce Street has allowed only one-way, west moving traffic. Thus far, SHCA has received no report from the city or from Councilman DiCicco's office about this trial two-way traffic change. Nor do we know what criteria will be used (or has been used) to evaluate the trial. Nearby neighbors report that traffic circulation on the 100 block remains confusing — with many drivers still using the street only for one-way traffic — thus, resulting in cars traveling in the wrong direction in the eastbound lane of the 100 block.

Also, there are frequent reports of cars exiting the wrong way (east) out of the Society Hill Towers' garage onto the 200 block of Spruce. According to counts by Penn's Landing Square residents (the condominium bordering the 100 block of Spruce), very few cars actually use the new eastbound access to Delaware Avenue on the 100 block of Spruce — which is in contradiction to the estimated counts that proponents of the change projected in order to justify the change. We hope this situation will soon be resolved, because although it is now faster to reach Delaware Avenue for the handful of motorists who illegally exit left out of the Towers' garage — this "convenience" risks the safety of many neighbors — which hardly seems justified.

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New 2nd Street Fountain

A multi-phase Improvement Plan for S. 2nd Street has recently completed its first phase with a new, redesigned fountain at the corner S. 2nd and Lombard Streets. The fountain — originally constructed 33 years ago — has been updated with a new child-friendly rubberized basin surface, programmable water jets, colorful LED lighting and improved seating, paving and landscaping. To celebrate the completion of this new fountain residents from Society Hill and Queen Village participated in a dedication ceremony, held on December 22nd. The fountain was turned on temporarily for the event — to illustrate its beauty — while surrounded by piles of snow from the city’s “historic” snowfall just days before. Of

course, it was immediately turned off and won’t be turned on again until the spring, at which time it will remain on through the fall. The project, funded by the City of Philadelphia, was managed by the Center City District, which oversaw the fountain’s design and construction on behalf of the South Street Headhouse District — after receiving approval from SHCA and the Queen Village Neighborhood Association.



The beautiful new, turned-on fountain was surrounded by piles of snow from December’s historic snowfall.

UPDATE: CASINOS IN PHILLY

We find it almost impossible to report current information about the ever-changing “news” regarding the Foxwoods Casino, which the Gaming Control Board has ordered back to the Delaware waterfront just south of our community. Rather than publish a report that will be out-dated

by the time this newsletter is distributed, we refer you to the following website for regular updates: planphilly.com/pgcb-enforcement-arm-says-no-foxwoods-extension-request (This website also includes information about SugarHouse Casino, which has begun building its facility just north of us.)



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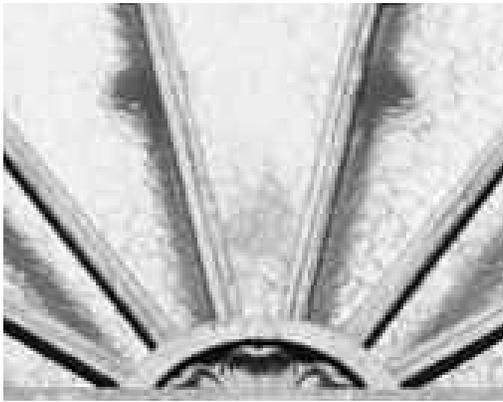
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Recent Revisions to Society Hill's Historic District Rules & Regulations

As you may know, Society Hill was entered into the National Register of Historic Places in 1987. In addition, our community was certified as a "historic district" by Philadelphia's Historical Commission in 1999. The designation of Society Hill as a Historic District recognizes the unique social and architectural fabric of our neighborhood — from its Colonial beginnings to its 20th-century renewal, which will ultimately protect and preserve its unique character.

Of special interest to our neighborhood are modified Rules and Regulations governing historic districts that Philadelphia's Historical Commission (PHC) voted to approve on December 11, 2009. Generally, these rules and regulations establish procedures for designating as "historic" districts, buildings, sites or interiors and determine the criteria for their maintenance, alteration or demolition (wholly or in part). Also covered are rules and regulations to deal with new construction in Philadelphia's official historical districts.

This latest amendment to the rules and regulations primarily deals with the designation of interior spaces. It does not apply to single-family homes, only to public spaces. For example, in Society Hill the designations would apply to the interior of St. Peter's Church or the surgical amphitheater of Pennsylvania Hospital's Pine Building. Another new revision creates a process to describe and historically certify condominiums created in a previously certified historic property or district.

Last spring, in March 2009, an important amendment was adopted allowing the Commission's staff members to make decisions, rather than only offer recommendations, on minor applications brought before them. This amendment for "Staff Approval Authority" is expected to reduce the volume of applications brought before the Commission's Architectural

Review Committee — so that it and the full Commission can concentrate on more complex applications.

This new section only applies to alterations and demolitions of "non-contributing" buildings and structures within any historic district (i.e. not individually designated historic structures) — provided that these alterations and demolitions do not adversely impact interior portions of buildings that have been designated as "historic."

In all, there are no aspects of these revisions that change in any substantial way the protections and burdens of Society Hill's Historic District designation. Rather, Commission staff has been given more freedom to respond directly to applicants and to make recommendations (or provide requirements) for specific types of work — such as replacement, maintenance and repair questions. However, an applicant can request a review before the Commission's Architectural Committee if there is disagreement with interpretations made by the staff. In that case, the Architectural Committee would review the request and make a recommendation to the full Commission.

A potential downside to the rule permitting Staff Approval Authority is that misinterpretations could be made — more so than without review by a wider group. And these decisions might not become evident until after the fact — that is, after a project is already completed — at which time, ironically, there would be no recourse. Outcomes could vary depending on the experience level and sensibility of the staff reviewer. Meanwhile, SHCA's Zoning and Historical Preservation Committee will continue to work with the Historical Commission to develop a better understanding of how to find a sensitive balance between ensuring that historic preservation criteria are followed and streamlining the administrative approval process.

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NEIGHBORHOODS MATTER

Crosstown Coalition Formed To Address Zoning Reform

Remember that public referendum asking if the City of Philadelphia should create a special commission to rewrite the Philadelphia Zoning Code? Well, an overwhelming majority of voters said “yes.” Reasons for dissatisfaction with the existing code vary widely, but the broad sense is that it is difficult to use and too many properties are inappropriately zoned — because the city has failed to keep up with how neighborhoods have changed over the years. Often a proposed development, which makes perfect sense in today’s real estate market, conflicts with the type of use permitted for that property under the existing code. A typical example of this was when a developer wanted to build a mixed residential/commercial project, called “Abbotts Dairy Square,” at the former Abbotts Dairy site in South Philadelphia. The property was zoned “industrial,” requiring the developer to obtain a variance for the new use.

Another reason for reform of the zoning code is that many properties in areas that were developed early in the city’s history do not meet 20th-century standards of the code — either because they are irregularly shaped sites or because they are undersized. A revised code and a thorough remapping of the city will reduce the need for many such variances, and will ultimately cut city costs for public notification, hearings and legal recording. A revised code will reduce stress for many residents by making development in their communities more predictable. Also, the city will be more inviting for developers — because more of what they want to build will be “of right” and, therefore, will not require going through the long and expensive process to obtain variances.

The city has wasted no time in establishing a Zoning Code Commission (the Commission) to work on rewriting Philadelphia’s code through a process designed to engage the public and provide transparency. The Commission, consisting of 31 members, relies on a team of professional planning consultants to advise them — although both the revised code and the remapping of every city parcel (based on the new code and in consultation with communities) must eventually be adopted by a vote of City Council.

Hired by the Commission were consultants Clarion Associates and Duncan Associates,

who gave a power-point presentation, open to the public, describing their recommendations for Philadelphia’s new Zoning Code. Their report was based on the following elements: discussions with a range of zoning code users; respondents to the Commission’s online survey; an assessment of the existing code; a “best practices” report; and dialogue with Commission members to strike a balance regarding the objectives of all stakeholders — including the city administration, communities and developers. SHCA President Rosanne Loesch, Vice-President Paul Boni, and ZHP Co-Chair Lorna Katz Lawson attended the presentation. On behalf of SHCA, Rosanne offered public testimony in support of the city’s efforts, while also emphasizing that neighborhoods want to be active participants in designing the new code.

To advocate for the best interests of neighborhoods, our civic association has helped found the “Crosstown Coalition,” a group of neighborhood associations that currently include: Logan Square, Center City Residents, East Passyunk Crossing, Northern Liberties, Washington Square West, Old City, South Broad Street, South of South, and Asian Americans United. Additional community groups are expected to join.

With our participation, the Crosstown Coalition has developed a list of thirteen priorities and suggestions we recommend should be included in the revised code. To review this list, visit www.societyhillcivic.org or the soon-to-be launched Crosstown Coalition website at: www.neighborhoodsmatter.org.

This Coalition will continue to meet regularly with the city and other stakeholders to assure that communities are not left out of the zoning process as it will be defined in the newly revised code. The labor-intensive work of rewriting the entire code has already begun and is expected to be completed this June. Legislation to adopt the revised code is scheduled to come before City Council in the fall of 2010. The next step in the process is to review all zoning classifications for each city neighborhood. This will require a total remapping of the entire city, which is not expected to be completed until the year 2016. For more information, visit www.planphilly.com or www.zoningmatters.org.

A revised code and a thorough remapping of Philadelphia will make the city more inviting and development more predictable.

Neighborhoods want to be active participants in designing the new code.

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ZONING & HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ZHP Committee Welcomes New Members

SHCA's Zoning & Historic Preservation Committee has undergone some changes upon the recent resignation of Steve Weixler, who served as Chair for several years. Currently this responsibility is being shared through the volunteer efforts of Myra Eskin, serving as Interim Chair, while Lorna Katz Lawson and Paul Boni are Interim Vice-Chairs. The Committee has expanded with the addition of several members and, of course, always welcomes new members — especially those who have expertise in architecture or architectural history and preservation, urban planning, real estate and law.

This is certainly an appropriate time to pause and review the objectives of the ZHP Committee. In addition to our participation in the revision of the Philadelphia Zoning Code, currently being drafted (see page 11), our Committee is making efforts to be more proactive in matters of historic preservation. For example, excessive or inappropriate signage by businesses in Society Hill has been of particular concern recently, and we are trying to be more vigilant in reporting such violations. We are also asking the staff of Philadelphia's Historic Commission to work with us in order to clarify policy issues regarding residential window replacement. In these matters we seek to help neighbors *before* problems arise, and of course we will keep you posted through this newsletter. Should you ever have any questions or concerns about exterior renovation work occurring in the neighborhood, please feel free to be in touch with us through SHCA's Administrator, Matt De Julio.

SHCA's New Paper-Shredding and Computer Recycling Services

Our Fall Clean-Up Day provided paper-shredding service for residents who wished to safely dispose of their confidential papers. St. Peter's School generously donated space in its parking lot for this service. This first-time SHCA initiative was so successful that we have decided to offer it again during SHCA's Spring Clean-Up Day in April. So, if you have private papers and documents containing confidential information or material, just collect them and on Clean-Up Day this spring, put them through our effective shredding machines. We will also offer at that time recycling of your used personal computers and other electronic equipment. (The site for SHCA's shredding and computer recycling services will be listed in the March/April issue of the *Reporter*.)

Please note: Because Society Hill is designated as a city-certified "historic district," exterior changes on any building require approval by the Philadelphia Historical Commission, and in some cases a zoning variance may be needed. The goal of SHCA's ZHP Committee is to help neighbors understand the requirements of our historic district designation *before* any exterior renovation plans are submitted to the Commission for approval. Should you be interested in making a change to the exterior of your home, we urge you to first submit your ideas or plans to the ZHP Committee. Recommendations and advice from experienced Committee members can assist you so that city approval for your project will be more likely to occur.

Our ZHP Committee also stays abreast of projects adjacent to Society Hill. For example: Did you know that the bell tower at Independence Hall is undergoing a renovation? ZHP members attended a hearing of the Historical Commission's Architectural Review Committee on this planned repair, and we learned that there is extensive preparatory work currently being done. (Don't be surprised when you see scaffolding covering the bell tower for almost a year!) Also, Independence Park staff has thoughtfully invited our ZHP Committee to attend meetings regarding the forthcoming deed transfer for the future American Revolution Center, which will replace the park's former Visitor Center located on S. 3rd Street. We will keep you posted on these developments as we learn more.

January Chamber Ensemble Concerts at Old Pine Church

The Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble will perform a pair of concerts at historic Old Pine Street Church, at 4th and Pine Streets. The Ensemble, under the direction of Society Hill residents Donald and Margarita Montanaro, is the oldest continuously performing chamber ensemble in Philadelphia. The January concerts will feature selections by Menotti, Brahms and Mendelssohn, and are scheduled for Friday, January 22nd at 8 p.m. and Sunday, January 24th at 2 p.m. Unreserved, individual tickets, at \$25, are available at the door, while student tickets are only \$5. For information, please call 215-542-4890 or visit www.pce.libertynet.org.



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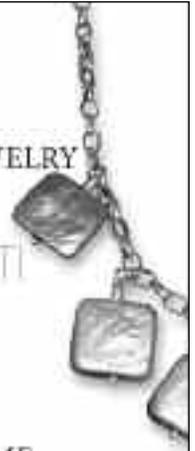
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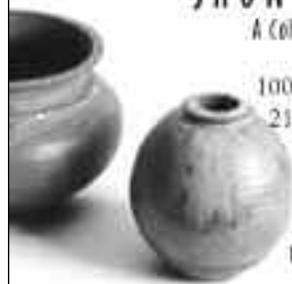
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Block Coordinators: Our Community Assets

Our civic association would like to take this opportunity to thank Society Hill's approximately 60 Block Coordinators (one or two residents on each block) for their continued service over the years. Indeed, we are fortunate to have such a devoted network of neighbors who serve as communication liaisons between their respective blocks and SHCA — which provides and shares important information to most households in the community.

Clean-Up Day: Our Block Coordinators always play an important role in publicizing Society Hill's bi-annual Clean-Up Day events. They distribute flyers to all households on their respective blocks — either by hand or by email — providing necessary details, such as where and when to pick up brooms and bags, and where to deposit the filled bags for pickup by the city trucks. Block Coordinators also erect and later remove "Other Side of the Street Parking" signs — which prevent vehicles from being ticketed while our streets are being cleared of leaves and debris. With the help of our Block Coordinators and under the leadership of Chairman Wally Wing and Co-Chair Spencer Finch, the November Clean-Up Day was a huge success. However, Wally is now retiring as chairman and Spencer has agreed to Co-Chair the committee for Spring Clean-Up Day.

Weekly Crime Reports: SHCA's Safe and Sound Committee receives weekly crime reports directly from Captain Korn of the 6th Police District, which are then forwarded to all Society Hill Block Coordinators. Another service provided by Block Coordinators is that they can forward these weekly crime reports to neighbors who have expressed interest in receiving them.

Of course, Block Coordinators can forward these reports — but only if neighbors have previously provided their email addresses to their respective Block Coordinator. So, if you wish to receive these 6th District Police email reports, please contact your Block Coordinator to be sure that he or she has your current email address.

Additional Block Coordinator Roles

Block Coordinators inform us when new homeowners arrive on their respective blocks — so that they can become recipients of SHCA's Welcome Baskets. (Please see page 27.) Block Coordinators also inform their neighbors whenever trash collection is one day late due to a holiday — reminding them to set out their trash on the correct day of that week. In fact, Block Coordinators assume various responsibilities — which may even include organized block parties as a way to "meet and greet" new neighbors!

Who is Your Block Coordinator?

If you don't yet know who your Block Coordinator is or if you have not yet provided him or her with your email address and phone number, you will soon have an opportunity to do so. This month your Block Coordinator will place a letter and envelope in your mail slot introducing himself (or herself) — requesting your name and contact information. This is an effort to assemble current email addresses for all interested residents — with your permission, of course — which will facilitate easier and faster communication. Please fill out the form you receive and promptly return it to your Block Coordinator. For more information, or if you have any questions, contact Martha Levine, Block Coordinator Chair, at marthalev@msn.com or 215-629-0727.



For the past three years Wally Wing has served as SHCA's Clean-up Day Chair, and he plans to Co-Chair our Spring 2010 Clean-Up Day with Spencer Finch — after which time he will step down as Chair. We extend our thanks for his leadership in helping make these bi-annual events so successful. (Wally, at left, stands beside neighbor Mike Fryd.)

ASSOCIATION SEEKING ASSOCIATES

Good With Figures?

The Society Hill Civic Association is seeking applicants for the position of Treasurer on its Board of Directors for a one-year term beginning June 1, 2010. If you are a CPA, have similar financial expertise or have served as treasurer for another group or business and would be willing to volunteer your talents for our community association, please let us know.

Good With Words?

The *Society Hill Reporter* is seeking applicants willing to volunteer as Managing Editor for three of the six issues published each year. This bi-monthly newsletter serves a vital role in keeping our neighborhood informed and engaged, while promoting a close-knit sense of community. Applicants should have good managerial skills and professional experience in writing, editing and proofing.

If you are interested in learning more about either of these volunteer positions, please send your resume with a letter to SHCA President Rosanne Loesch through SHCA's Administrator Matt DeJulio — either at mattdejulio@aol.com or
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ACCIDENTAL TOURIST IN MY OWN BACKYARD

BY JANE BIBERMAN

Locks Gallery on the Square

Current Show: Diane Burko

I met Diane Burko almost 20 years ago when she had a one-woman show of her “Giverny” paintings at the Locks Gallery on Washington Square. Her landscapes of Monet’s famous lily pond were begun when she won a fellowship to live and work at the painter’s residence near Paris. As we are both Francophiles, our friendship flourished and the following year we traveled to France together in search of another of Monet’s favorite places — the River Creuze in western France. It was a long trip and we frequently got lost on the road, in the rain, before finally coming upon a rather disappointing waterway.

When we returned home, I introduced Diane to my favorite body of water — right in her own backyard — because as a transplanted New Yorker she was unfamiliar with the Wissahickon. So I modestly take credit for Diane’s next successful show, featuring Fairmount Park’s meandering creek, and a subsequent commission to paint a mural of it for the lobby of the Marriott Hotel, at 12th and Market Streets.

During the past two decades, Diane has had many acclaimed one-woman shows at the Locks Gallery and at museums throughout the United States, including the Michener in Doylestown. But she has never left Locks for, say, a New York gallery, because she credits Marian Locks (currently 95 and retired in Florida) with launching her career. Diane was a graduate student at Penn when she met Marian, who was studying art history there. Marian first opened a gallery on Chestnut Street to showcase talented young local artists. In 1968, she moved to the second floor of 1524 Walnut Street above what is now the Holt’s Cigar Company.

The gallery moved to its present location — the southeast corner of Washington Square — in 1990, under the directorship of Sueyun Locks, Marian’s daughter-in-law. It has garnered an international reputation and boasts a “stable of artists” that includes Philadelphians Elizabeth Osborne, Eileen Neff, Warren Rohrer, the late Thomas Chimes and Edna Andrade. “Marian gave many of us our first local exposure,” says Diane, “but it was Sueyun who took the gallery to the next level.” Literally. Five years ago,

Sueyun and her husband, Gene, added a roof, providing exhibition space for sculpture. It opened with some fanfare and a show that featured George Segal’s “The Dancers.”

The graceful Beaux Arts building, designed by architect Earl Nelson Edwards, was built in 1923. For most of its days it was home to Lea & Febiger, the oldest commercial publishing house in the United States and publisher of *Gray’s Anatomy*. Described by Frommer’s as “a pseudo Italianate palazzo,” it has undergone extensive renovation to provide exhibition and storage space. The two downstairs front rooms, formerly partners’ offices, now feature large picture windows that frame Washington Square. The building’s impressive front gates — made by the renowned Arts & Crafts metalworker Samuel Yellin — were restored last summer.

Diane Burko will have a highly anticipated opening in this elegant showcase on Friday, February 5th at the Locks Gallery. Titled “The Politics of Snow,” it weds Diane’s environmental concerns with her painting prowess for a marriage made in artistic heaven. “Diane’s work connects us to the enormity of what is happening in the natural world,” writes Eileen Claussen, President of the Pew Center on Global Climate Change, in the show’s catalogue. “She reminds us of the stunning beauty of nature — and, in turn, the urgency of doing everything in our power to protect it.”



Diane Burko in her studio.

Sueyun Locks notes that Diane has spent 40 years perfecting her painting. “Not only has she addressed an important issue, but at the end of the day, they are beautiful canvases to look at.” Whether the subject is the Alaskan Arctic National Wildlife Reserve or glaciers in America, Iceland or other parts of the globe, these spectacular paintings make a dramatic, not-to-be-missed show — on display until March 13. For more information, visit www.LocksGallery.com or www.dianeburko.com.

“Diane reminds us of the stunning beauty of nature — and, in turn, the urgency of doing everything in our power to protect it.”



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KIDS IN THE CITY

BY SONIA GRASSE & CATHERINE SIGNORELLO

Helicopter Parenting

Late one night several weeks ago, a news helicopter hovered over Society Hill. It stayed right over our houses, lingering like an enormous black cloud, raining down its deafening propeller-racket on us for hours. We felt angry, trapped, driven mad by this uninvited guest. Uselessly and perhaps self-soothingly, we went outside and shook our fists at it. Its presence drove us to become suspicious and blaming, wondering who was being sought and for what heinous crime? We showed signs of paranoia, wondering if perhaps we had committed a crime and forgotten about it. (After all, it is a well-known fact that raising children can erase your memory!) As we quieted our children back to sleep again, we acknowledged wryly that the term “helicopter parenting” is quite apropos to our time. The visceral reaction that the hovering news chopper evoked was a cringing reminder of how it would feel to be under a parent’s thumb all the time.

Wikipedia has a good definition of helicopter parenting — saying that these “parents are so named because, like helicopters, they hover closely overhead, rarely out of reach, whether their children need them or not.” The definition goes on to say that these parents “try to resolve their child’s problems, and try to stop them from coming to harm by keeping them out of dangerous situations.” The definition also mentions the Scandinavian expression “curling parenthood,” which describes parents who “attempt to sweep all obstacles out of the paths of their children.” (See en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helicopter_parent.)

While we may find these definitions amusing in their visual and cultural exactitude, the phenomenon of this over-parenting is meant to be taken quite seriously. How will we raise a generation of self-sufficient, flexible and resourceful adults if we get in the way of their lessons? While you ponder that question, here’s another one: how can we come of age as parents if such universal judgments of parenting are always hovering over *our* heads? If you will allow us the analogy, critiquing our parenting is the giant UFO hovering over the helicopter parents, hovering over the children.

We can’t figure out who exactly is piloting the UFO. Is it the media tapping into a sensitive spot? Is it the generation before us, empty-nested

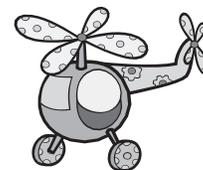
with time on their hands to critique? Or is it we, ourselves, feeding into our own insecurities?

Try as we might to get a handle on our behavior, the two of us don’t always know whether we are “helicopter parenting” or just being “sensible parents.” We can’t so easily distinguish whether we’re solving our children’s problems for them, or if our solutions are to their detriment or advantage. Generally, we share the “stay grounded” approach — reading what catches our eye on parenting and covering our ears with our hands when the noise from above gets too deafening.

There’s a provocative website about giving children freedom without worry — called “Free Range Kids.” (See freerangekids.wordpress.com.) It’s worth checking out, for it often highlights a current news story about parents’ decisions for discussion sake, and it offers plenty of interesting perspectives. One of us (who shall remain anonymous, so as not to be judged or jailed) found that as she read one such article, she quickly condemned some parents for a decision they made — only to remember several hours later that she had in fact done the exact same thing with her own children at one time. The ugly judge rears its ugly head!

We’ve also been told that the book, *The Blessings of a Skinned Knee*, by Wendy Mogel, is a good read to help keep parents in check — although we haven’t actually found the time to read it yet, because we are both too busy monitoring every move our children make.

To say the least, it can be confusing to parent, impossible to *always* “get it right,” and downright crazy-making to try and do so. What we do know for certain is that it is fun to watch our friends’ and neighbors’ children come of age and enjoy more and more freedom in the neighborhood — for example, when they are old enough to walk around un-parented. We wave hello to them when they are “by themselves” with the hope that it makes them feel insulated and noticed by caring adults. It brings a smile to think that when our children are old enough to do the same venturing on their own, Society Hill neighbors will hover lovingly over them as well.



Are parents who hover over their children “helicopter parenting” or just being sensible?



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HOW YOU CAN HELP

A Brighter Society Hill Is a Safer Place

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Along with the cold weather, winter brings shorter daylight hours. Now, when you arrive home from a restaurant or an evening meeting, you may notice that certain areas in Society Hill can be very dark.

Fairly recently SHCA installed 500 new state-of-the-art Franklin Light fixtures — doubling the wattage — although a problem persists: the light poles, installed in the 1960's during Society Hill's rebirth, are spaced too far apart and cause dark spots in between the bright lights. SHCA's budget did not allow for the relocation of the poles. If the city had a few extra million dollars to spare, they could have moved the poles closer together, but that obviously was not feasible. Therefore, the solution rests with us.

How and Why We Should Keep Society Hill Brighter and Safer

If we are to keep Society Hill bright and secure, we need consistent illumination throughout. Although our neighborhood is generally safe, in November 2009 there were two robberies involving handguns. There have been other similar robberies in past years. So let's be proactive and try to make our community an unwelcome place for crime.

Since it is highly unlikely that the city will come up with the millions it would cost to move the light poles closer together, there is something we as neighbors can do. **Every house should have a working front door light, which should be turned on after dark.** Some households turn them on and off manually, but a more efficient way is to use an automatic device —

such as a photo sensor inside the light fixture which illuminates after dark; or an automatic timer that can be set to go on and off. Both of these can be conveniently purchased at Home Depot or Lowe's. Unless you are handy, however, you may require the services of an electrician for these installations. If so, we can refer you to Society Hill's list of recommended contractors.

Benefits of an Automatic Light Device

- One less chore for you to do—since it turns the light on and off automatically.
- You arrive home to a well-lit front door area — safer and easier to find your keys.
- If you are traveling or arrive home late in the evening, an automatic turned-on light will give the appearance that your home is occupied.
- Every illuminated light adds to a brighter neighborhood!

Please do your part to help keep Society Hill bright and safe! Use the highest wattage bulb your light fixture will accept — aim for 75 to 100 watts per fixture, if possible. And, if using an automatic timer, set it to turn on at 5 p.m. each night and off at 6 a.m. the next morning.

For more information or to request Society Hill's List of Recommended Contractors, available to all current SHCA members, please contact Martha Levine at 215-629-0727 or email: marthalev@msn.com.

Snowy Season Safety Reminder

We remind you that it is the obligation of every homeowner to shovel the sidewalk in front of your property whenever there is a snowfall. If you will be away any time this winter, or if you're not able to safely assume this task, please plan ahead and ask neighbors to "cover" for you — to assure that the sidewalk in front of your house will be shoveled and made passable and safe for pedestrians. As you surely recall, Philadelphia experienced an almost historic amount of snowfall over a 24-hour period during the recent holiday season, but most of Society Hill's civic-minded residents worked cooperatively to clear pathways and come to the rescue of those unable to shovel — thanks to one and all!

Clear a 30-inch path on the sidewalk of your property within six hours after a snowfall or freezing rain. If not cleared, fines could be as much as \$300.



SAFE AND SOUND IN SOCIETY HILL

BY MARILYN APPEL

PSA Week Coming January 18th

No, guys, it's not what you think! This reorganization of each police district in Philadelphia — called a "Police Service Area" (PSA) — is a geographical subdivision of each police district. For example, the Sixth District (our district!) is subdivided into three PSA's. Ours is PSA 3 within the Sixth District — located from Lombard to Chestnut Streets and Columbus Blvd. to Broad Street.

We've spoken with the supervisor for our area, Lieutenant Lanzetta, and he described what a PSA will mean to us: On a continual basis, our PSA will have the same police officers and supervisors assigned to the specific boundaries of PSA 3 — unless there is a critical operational need to move personnel temporarily (e.g. if there is a large fire or if a police officer is injured). Calls for service will be handled primarily by officers assigned to our area. This continuity of assignment will help officers and supervisors to know our neighborhood, the people who live here and any chronic crime locations or disorder problems. These same officers, assigned to the same area every day, will build a foundation for teamwork and a proactive strategy. Ideally, residents will get to know these officers and they will get to know us.

On any given eight-hour shift, optimally, three patrol cars will be assigned to PSA 3. In addition, from Tuesdays to Saturdays one tactical officer will be on duty during the daytime. However, if there is an established crime pattern, then additional tactical officers could be deployed and assigned here. An example of this is that following the two armed robberies that occurred here in November (see box on facing page), plainclothes tactical officers were assigned to our area. The basic reasoning behind this new strategy is to enhance community policing. — Officers will sometimes attend community meetings to get to know us and the problems we may be experiencing. Remember, these same officers will be in our area all the time. So, if you can, try to get to know them.

Please note that the week of January 18th has been designated as "PSA Week" by Police Commissioner Ramsey. There will be planned get-togethers to talk about the new strategy. If you would be interested in participating, please contact Marilyn Appel, either at 215-922-2626 or harmara@verizon.net.

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SAFE & SOUND IN SOCIETY HILL

Auto Break-Ins and Thefts

We are relieved to report that in Society Hill the percentage of items stolen from autos, as well as thefts of autos themselves is now down by 36 percent. We can report that overall crime in our neighborhood is statistically down from 26 percent to 14 percent — although this fact may be small comfort to those who have been robbed recently at gunpoint.

By the way, we will soon be able to access crime statistics for our neighborhood by simply indicating our zip code. We will even be able to receive maps of our area by visiting the Philadelphia Police Department online (ppdonline.org). This website name is simple and easy to remember — so please make a note of it.

How to Cope With Disturbing Incidents

In the past we have suggested ways to deal with person-to-person crime. Here’s another reminder: if a gun is ever pointed at you or a purse snatched from you, do not give chase — as one man did recently. Although he was “lucky” to escape with only a bullet graze, his companion forfeited her purse. (Please see box below).

We suggest using “street smart” purses (those that can be draped across the body) or, preferably, none at all when wearing jackets and coats that have inside pockets — a good place to “hide” your wallet, keys and cell phone. Or, carry a \$20 bill in your outer pocket and just give it up to someone who threatens you. Some, but not all, of such disturbing incidents occurred at night. So, no matter what time of the day or night, always be aware of your surroundings and take appropriate measures — most of them just common sense — to protect yourselves and your valuables.

Bicycles

Unfortunately, many individuals continue to ride their bicycles on city sidewalks, and often they barely miss bumping into pedestrians. Also, many bicyclists fail to stop at red lights when riding on roadways along with auto traffic. Let’s hope that our phone calls and complaints to the police will help put these bike riders on the alert so that they will be ticketed when not obeying the law. If they cross on a red light or ride on the sidewalk, tickets will cost them \$119 each. Perhaps receipt of one or two of such tickets will encourage them to obey traffic laws, and pay more attention to their own safety as well as the safety of others.

The police must also be on the alert for accumulated bike-riding misdemeanors. For example, should a rider cross the street without stopping for a red light, he may receive three points per incident, and with the accumulation of 10 points he could lose his bicycle. Already many such tickets have been issued. Now let’s hope they encourage more careful and safe bike riding, and that the police keep track of these misdemeanor points.

Left Turns from the Towers’ Spruce Street Garage

The police have been alerted to illegal left turns that continue to be made by some Society Hill Towers’ residents when exiting their Spruce Street garage — often to reach Columbus Boulevard more quickly. The police will now be issuing tickets to these few thoughtless drivers — since the 200 block of Spruce Street allows only one-way, west-moving vehicles. Warning: since police are on the alert and may be dressed in plainclothes, we recommend ceasing these illegal and unsafe left turns.

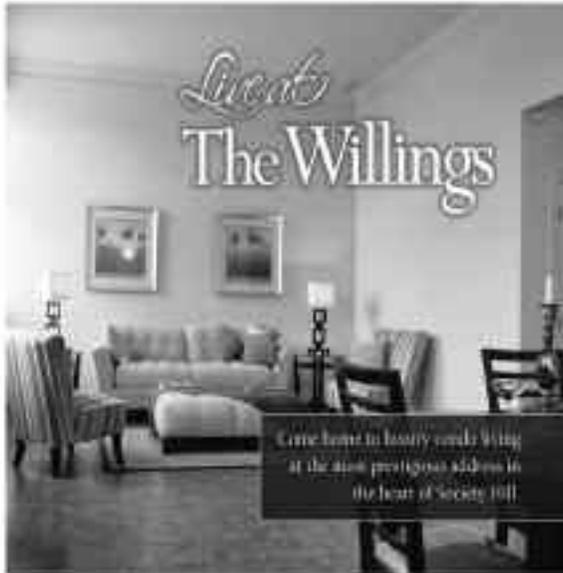
Recent Robberies In Society Hill

On Saturday, November 21st at 2:26 a.m., at 2nd and Spruce Streets, two men grabbed a woman’s purse and fled. The woman’s companion chased them, but then one of the offenders fired a handgun at him so that a bullet grazed his arm. He was treated at Pennsylvania Hospital and released. The offenders fled in a dark-colored, older model Ford Crown Victoria, with a New Jersey license plate containing the letters “FB”. One is described as a male in his

mid-20’s, about 5’6” tall with medium build, who wore dark clothing. The other is 5’11”, with a scruffy beard, who wore a dark puffy jacket.

If you see two men in a dark-colored, older Ford Crown Victoria — with a New Jersey license containing the letters “FB” — please call 911. Do not approach them, as they may be armed and dangerous. Any further information may be given directly to 6th District Crime Prevention Officer Whitford at 215-686-3063.

On Thursday, November 26th at 8:05 p.m., on the 300 block of South 3rd Street, out-of-town complainants were approached by two males who demanded money. One man was armed with a handgun. The couple complied and then the offenders, both in their thirties, fled on foot, heading south on 3rd Street. One is described as about 6’2” tall with a heavy build, and wearing a hoodie. The second is about 5’7” in height, with light thinning hair. He wore a blue hoodie.



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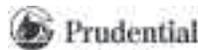
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SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 10TH

“Washington Square Affair”

For the benefit of historic Washington Square Park, the Society Hill Civic Association is sponsoring a fundraiser on the evening of Thursday, June 10th. This “Washington Square Affair” — a social event to be held in the park itself — will offer good food and music and will, of course, be lots of fun for all. A privately hosted “Pre-Party” for major donors is also planned.

All Society Hill residents and supporters of the Square, including residents of Queen Village, Washington Square West and Old City, are invited to attend this first-time event — the purpose of which is to raise needed funds for the maintenance and beautification of this important park in our midst. SHCA Board Director Andrea Layden is chairing the “Washington Square Affair” Committee, which is planning the benefit.

If you know of a business that might consider becoming a sponsor of this event or which might place an ad in our “Washington Square Affair” Tribute Book, please be in touch with Andrea through SHCA’s Administrator Matt DeJulio, at mattdejulio@aol.com.

Note: The previous issue of this newsletter featured a fascinating article about the fountain at Washington Square, which was written by Bill Double, a freelance writer and volunteer researcher for Independence National Historical Park. Bill’s study of Washington Square convinced him that the park’s 300 years of history was worth telling. His recently completed book — entitled *Philadelphia’s Washington Square* — is filled with wonderful photographs and graphics, as well as intriguing bits of local history. The book, published by Arcadia’s “Images of America” series, celebrates the history of neighborhoods and towns across the country. It is now available for sale and may be conveniently purchased at Head House Books, located at 619 S. 2nd Street.



Philadelphia’s Washington Square, written by Bill Double, is available for sale and may be found at Head House Books.



Office: 215 627 3500

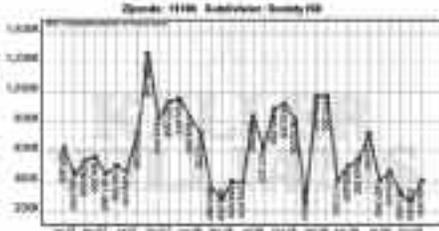
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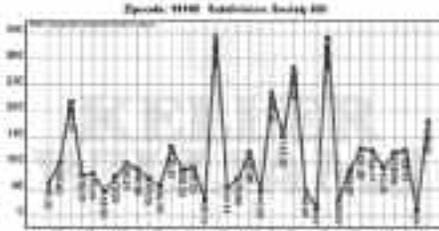
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Median Price



130 is the Average Days on the Market



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- Eat-in-Kitchen overlooking garden
- Master bedroom/grand living room has working fireplace with original marble mantel and paneling
- Two 2nd floor bedrooms, one with built-in bookshelves; 3rd floor bedroom has working fireplace with original mantel & marble surround
- Basement with washer/storage

*Thanks for another wonderful year.
Have a happy and healthy New Year!*

Jan Stephano ABR, CSR

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THE AYER, 204-14 W WASHINGTON SQUARE #6NW \$1,750,000
Rarely available, former model unit, spectacular 3BD/3BA, den, valet parking, tax abatement, marble foyer, wide open LR/DR, rosewood hardwood flooring, east and west views, pendant lighting.

100 PINE \$1,295,000
Unique and stunning renovation, 3BD/3.5BA, walled fountain, garden, elevator, great views, fireplace, wine cellar.

529 DELANCEY \$1,200,000
Spectacular, completely renovated 3BD/3.5BA, custom kitchen and baths, multiple wet bars, 2 master suites, 2 dens, garden, Juliet balcony, handsome façade.

802 PINE A&B \$995,000
Unique opportunity - 2 condo units converted into one, 4BD/3.5 BA, 2 living rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 wood-burning fireplaces, 2 French balconies, deck, 2-car parking.

241-43 CHESTNUT F \$859,000
Amazing 2BD/2BA with radiant heat floors, custom kitchen, 3-sided fireplace, aluminum counters, hardwired for cable, internet and surround sound.

509 SPRUCE \$750,000
Original brick front, historically certified, 3BD/2.5BA, 2 finished dormer rooms, finished basement, newer kitchen, many upgrades.

304-06 S AMERICAN \$659,900
Beautiful 2BD/2.5BA, restored 1808 trinity, original pine floors, fireplaces, brick patio, office, sitting room, den, 1 year prepaid parking.

332 S 3RD \$549,000
Great 2BD/2BA, den/office, hardwood floors, open living/dining space, brick patio, stainless appliances, private sundeck.

338 S 3RD \$549,900
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Welcome Baskets Bring Cheer to New Neighbors

If you are a first-time Society Hill home or condo owner in 2010, SHCA has a welcome gift for you! Each Society Hill Welcome Basket is chock full of fresh foods, information, and gift certificates to local restaurants, theaters, shops and more. It is a gift worth over \$650. We have been welcoming new residents this way since 1999. To date, 570 such Welcome Baskets have been given to “new” neighbors! So please don’t be shy. Give us a call or send an email (see contact below) to let us know you are here.

Our Welcome Basket program now gladly “welcomes” the following businesses or services that have recently joined our

generous group of contributors:

QBBQ & Tequila, 207 Chestnut Street (barbecue style restaurant); **The Dental Healthcare Group**, 413 Bainbridge Street; **Pennsylvania Dental**, 604 Washington Square South; and **Eastern State Penitentiary** (tours of this historic site), 2027 Fairmount Avenue.

Please help us say “thank you” to all our loyal contributors by patronizing their establishments whenever possible. Let’s “reinvest” in Society Hill by making purchases from neighborhood businesses. For more information, or to receive a Welcome Basket, contact Martha Levine at marthalev@msn.com or 215-629-0727.



Kyle Brooks, owner of Salon@5th, has been a generous contributor to SHCA's Welcome Basket program since 2003. He appreciates serving the neighborhood.

SUPPORT THESE WELCOME BASKET CONTRIBUTORS

Coffee Shops

Old City Coffee, 221 Church St. & Reading Terminal Market
Starbucks Coffee Inc., 8th & Walnut Streets
Philadelphia Java Company, 518 S. 4th Street

Food Stores

Fork:etc (prepared foods) 308 Market Street
SuperFresh, 5th & Pine Streets
Whole Foods Market, 929 South Street
Farm Fresh Express (local organic foods delivered) 607-423-7111

Hair Salons

Salon@5th, 316 S. 5th Street

Restaurants

Bistro Romano, 120 Lombard Street
Bridget Foy's South Street Grill, 200 South Street
Caribou Café, 1126 Walnut Street
City Tavern, 138 S. 2nd Street
Cochon (BYOB), 801 East Passyunk Avenue
Core De Roma, 214 South Street
Creperie Beau Monde, 624 S. 6th Street
Fork, 306 Market Street
Garces Restaurant Group:
-Amada, 217 Chestnut Street
-Tinto, 114-16 S. 20th Street
-Distrito, 3945 Chestnut Street
La Buca Ristorante, 711 Locust Street
Mustard Greens (Chinese), 622 S. 2nd Street
Positano Coast Restaurant, 2nd & Walnut Streets
QBBQ & Tequila, 207 Chestnut Street
Ristorante Panorama, 14 N. Front Street
Zot (Belgian cuisine), 122 Lombard Street

Specialty Foods

Homemade Goodies by Roz, 510 S. 5th Street
Metropolitan Bakery (at the Metro Café), 15 S. 3rd Street
Naked Chocolate Café, 1317 Walnut Street
Pink Rose Pastry Shop, 630 S. 4th Street
Zeke's Deli, 318 S. 5th Street

Specialty Shops

Adornamenti (jewelry), 1106 Pine Street
Ethnics (Indonesian furniture/accessories), 928 Pine Street
Eyes Gallery (Latin American crafts), 402 South Street
Foster's Homeware, 399 Market Street
Happily Ever After (toys), 1010 Pine Street

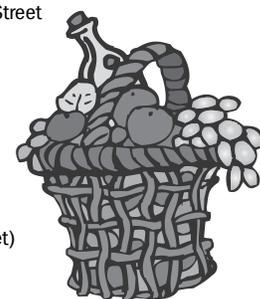
Head House Books, 619 S. 2nd Street
Hello Home (home décor), 10th & Pine Street
Lolli Lolli (children's clothing & toys), 713 Walnut Street
Metalworks (craft gallery), 315 South Street
Paper On Pine (stationery supplies), 115 S. 13th Street
Pileggi Boutique (women's fashions), 715 Walnut Street
Pinot (wine accessories), 227 Market Street
Show of Hands Gallery (crafts), 1006 Pine Street
W. Graham Arader (fine antique prints & framing), 1308 Walnut Street

Theaters & Entertainment

Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 3680 Walnut Street
Arden Theater, 40 N. 2nd Street
Eastern State Penitentiary, 2124 Fairmount Avenue
1812 Productions (all comedy theater), 215-592-9560
Ghost Tours of Philadelphia, 610-587-8308
Independence Seaport Museum, 211 S. Columbus Boulevard
Lantern Theater Company, 10th & Ludlow Streets (south of Market)
Lights of Liberty, 6th & Chestnut Streets
National Liberty Museum, 321 Chestnut Street
Pennsylvania Ballet, Academy of Music, Broad & Locust Streets
Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre, 2111 Sansom Street
Philadelphia Theatre Company, S. Roberts Theater, Broad & Pine Streets
Piffaro, The Renaissance Band, 215-235-8469
Prince Music Theater, 1412 Chestnut Street
Society Hill Playhouse, 507 S. 8th Street
The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, Kimmel Center, 215-545-1739
The Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, 215-569-8080
Wilma Theater, 265 S. Broad Street

Other Services

Advanced Spinal Care Center, 1129 Pine Street
Judy Moon Massage Therapy, Hopkinson House, 604 Washington Square
Liberty Tree & Landscape Management, 215-725-3637
Lux Spa and Fitness at the Omni Hotel, 401 Chestnut Street
Pennsylvania Dental Associates, 604 Washington Square South
Philadelphia Dance Academy (children & adult classes), 232 S. 4th Street
Riff Cleaners, 314 S. 5th Street
SCULPT-Personal Trainer, 215-803-0723
Simplified Living LLC (organizing services), 215-813-3506
Society Hill Dance Academy, 409 S. 2nd Street
The Dental Healthcare Group, Dr. Jeffrey Rosenberg, 413 Bainbridge Street
The Pampered Chef (culinary products/meal tips), 215-764-7478
The Worth Collection (women's fashions), 215-925-8813
Wellness Chiropractic Center, 700 E. Passyunk Avenue
Yoga Child (children & adult classes), 903 South Street



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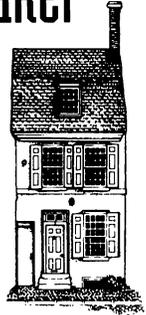

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SHCA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Please Join or Rejoin Our Association for 2010!

If you have not yet joined (or rejoined) our civic association for the year 2010, we urge you to do so today. We especially encourage new or lapsed Society Hillers to sign up — now, while you're thinking about it!

Please remember that SHCA provides a variety of services to all residents (whether homeowners or renters) as well community professionals and businesses. Your membership dues cover the cost of a wide range of volunteer efforts that help keep historic Society Hill one of the finest and friendliest city communities anywhere! (Please see the President's Message on page 3.)

Your membership dues contribute to or subsidize the cost of ongoing improvements too numerous to list, but a brief summary includes: supplies for sidewalk cleaning, brick sidewalk repairs and graffiti removal; the planting of flowers and trees; general improvements at Washington Square; and oversight of our neighborhood's zoning and development processes. SHCA's long list of activities goes on and on. So protect our neighborhood and *your* real estate investment. Join today!

Any questions, please call 215-629-1288 or email Administrator Matt DeJulio, SHCA's "Jack of all Trades" at mattdejulio@aol.com.

EXERCISE & SOCIALIZE

C'mon Ladies!

The WALKIE-TALKIES want you!

A hearty and always changing group of neighborhood gals bundle up and meet at Three Bears Park to exercise and socialize! Show up just once, and you will automatically become a member of SHCA's Walkie-Talkies. So, on any Tuesday or Thursday morning — if it's not raining or snowing — just appear before 8:10 for a one-hour walk with like-minded gals. We begin promptly at 8:15 a.m. and of course, newcomers are always most welcome. Questions? Call 215-925-4363.



SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Your email (print clearly) _____

IMPORTANT: Today most everyone communicates via email. Please be sure that we have your current email address — so that you can receive important updates between publication of our community newsletter. All SHCA emails will be judiciously screened, and rarely will we send emails more than once a week. Nor will we share your email address with anyone else. This convenient, 21st-century system helps save our civic association postage costs while keeping you regularly informed.

Residential Memberships

- \$ 1,000 Benjamin Franklin Benefactor
- \$ 500 Washington Benefactor
- \$ 300 Jefferson Benefactor
- \$ 150 Georgian Grantor
- \$ 100 Federal Friend
- \$ 50 Basic Household Membership
- \$ 40 Senior or Student Membership

Business Memberships

- \$100 Institutions—
5 or more employees
- \$ 60 Institutions—
fewer than 5 employees

Additional Contributions:

- \$ _____ Washington Square Beautification
- \$ _____ Sidewalk Cleaning/Graffiti Removal
- \$ _____ Society Hill Reporter
- \$ _____ TownWatch/Safe and Sound
- \$ _____ Zoning & Historic Preservation
- \$ _____ No Casinos Near Neighborhoods
- \$ _____ Franklin Lights
- \$ _____ Street Trees
- \$ _____ Three Bears Park
- \$ _____ McCall School

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Charge VISA/MasterCard:

Number _____ Exp Date _____

Signature _____

The following topics are of special interest to me. I welcome receipt of email updates on these topics.

- Clean-Up Day
- Franklin Lights
- Dilworth House
- Reporter
- Washington Square
- Social Events
- Property Taxes
- Casino Issues
- Zoning & Historic Preservation
- Fundraising
- Local crime incidents & alerts

Please return completed application to:

Society Hill Civic Association
P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147

NOTEWORTHY NEIGHBORS

BY DAVID WOODS

Patrick and Laura Spero



How appropriate that two young historians should now be in residence at Philadelphia's oldest surviving tavern, "A Man Full of Trouble," which was built in 1760. Patrick and Laura Spero moved into this Georgian style building at 2nd and Spruce Streets last June. On August 22nd they were joined by their newborn daughter Anna.

Patrick has a Ph.D.

in Early American History from the University of Pennsylvania, and Laura is working on her doctorate in American history — also at Penn, where the two of them met. She has a particular interest in native history, and her dissertation, which she expects to defend in 2010, will be on the Shawnee tribe. Patrick is currently doing a two-year stint as the Pew Charitable Trusts' post-doctoral fellow at the American Philosophical Society — helping that organization develop a digital guide to early American history. He is also staff historian at the "David Library of the American Revolution" in Bucks County.

So — sixteen years before there was a revolution or the birth of a new republic, there was "A Man Full of Trouble." While it's not certain exactly who the "Man" was, or what kind of "Trouble" he was "Full of," the inn has had a colorful and sometimes troubled history under several different names and owners. It was variously known as "A Man Full of Mischief," and "Naylor's Hotel" — a mid-19th-century establishment famous for its oysters — and "Stafford's Tavern." Its first tavern keeper was one Joseph Beeks. He was followed by several others, and for a period of 30 years beginning in 1796, the proprietor, named Martha Smallwood, apparently succeeded in injecting a measure of gentility into what had been a haven for drunks and troublemakers.



A Man Loaded With Mischief

Skip forward to the 1960's when Councilwoman and preservationist Virginia Knauer purchased the building and restored it to its 1779 appearance — at which time it became a museum, where volunteers, dressed in Colonial garb, conducted tours of the site. Upon her death, the Councilwoman donated "A Man Full of Trouble" to the University of Pennsylvania.

Fast forward again to 2009, when one former and one current student of that University took up residence in what had been essentially an unoccupied house — except for rare, brief stays by visiting Penn professors. Patrick and Laura show this visitor around with pride and joy — and just a hint of disbelief at their good fortune in living a piece of the history they've each studied in depth. While the building has yielded some archaeological findings, not much of its original configuration remains. There

are two steep and creaky staircases, and a small living room with a bar and grill enclosed on three sides. This is Patrick's particular favorite and he lowers a metal grill at the open front of the bar, explaining that this (and not the grilling of food!) might be the true origin of the phrase "bar and grill." The home has six fireplaces, two front doors, and several windows.



Is this metal grill around the bar the true origin of the phrase "bar and grill"?

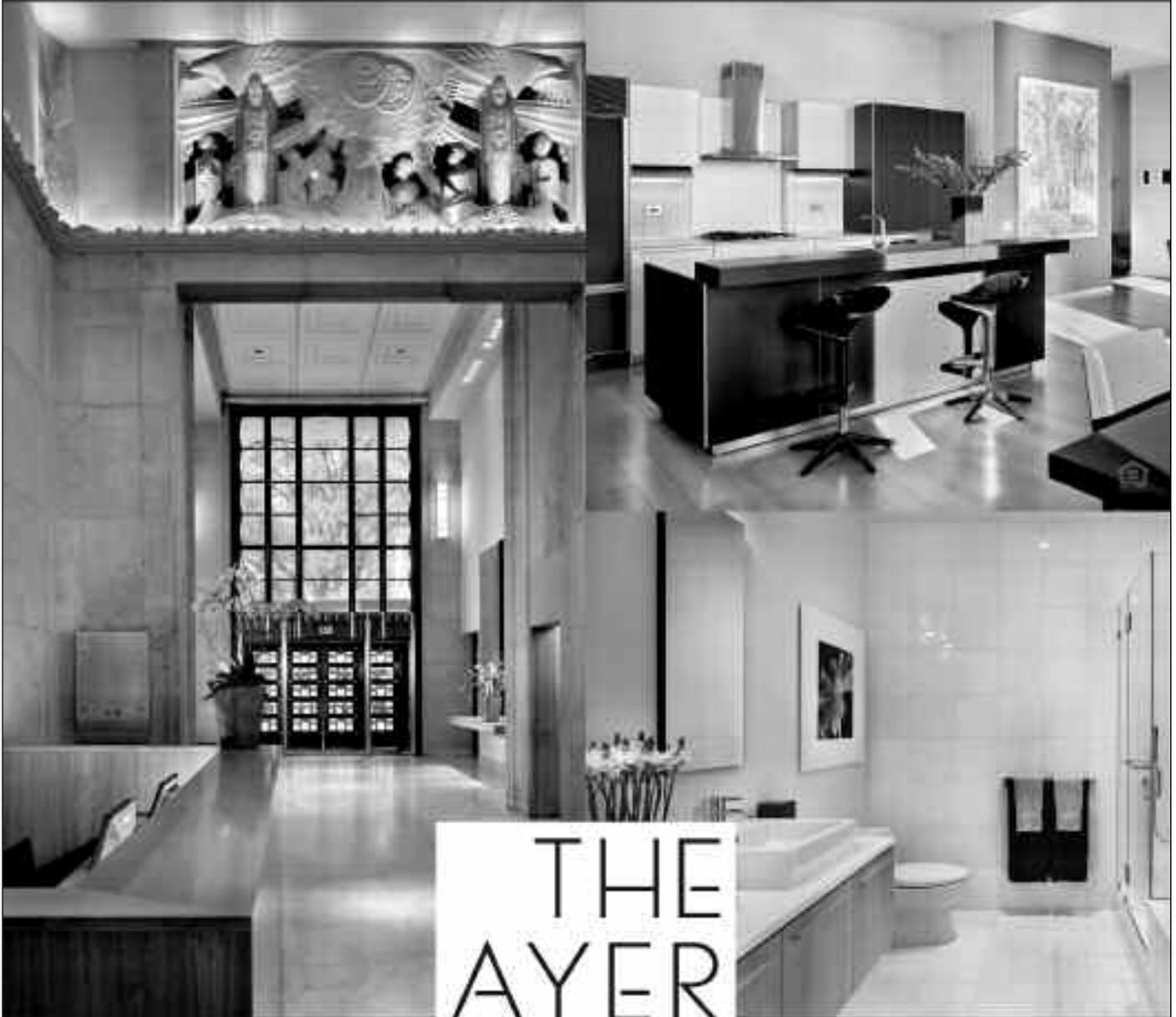
Laura notes that when those horse-drawn tourist carriages pass by the house — even though each driver tells a widely differing story about it — she feels a real sense of living history. The couple live very much in the present as well — as they enjoy cycling, exploring the city and traveling to conferences. Says Laura: "I never get tired of our little local streets; they're so charming... and I can't wait to go with Anna to Three Bears' Park."

So here they are: two early "thirty-somethings" living in a building that has survived for thirty decades. Living history!

David Woods can be reached at HMI3000@comcast.net

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C A L E N D A R

Wednesday, January 20
SHCA Board Meeting, 5:45 p.m.
SHCA General Membership Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Pennsylvania Hospital
8th & Spruce Streets
See page 1

Friday, January 22, 8 p.m.
Sunday, January 24, 2 p.m.
Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble Concerts
Old Pine Street Church
4th & Pine Streets
See page 13

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The Bank Building, Unit 2A
421 CHESTNUT STREET

3 bedroom, 2.5 baths,
brand new construction, high ceilings, exposed brick, custom high end finishes, hotel amenities from adjoining Omni Hotel
\$1,795,000





The Lippincott, PHC
227 S. 6TH STREET

2 bedroom + den, 2.5 bath
bi-level penthouse designed by architect Cecil Baker, features high level custom appointments, elevator in unit, 2 terraces, 2617 sf
\$1,975,000

