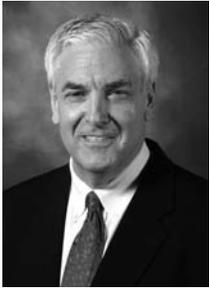


SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

www.societyhillcivic.org

National Museum of American Jewish History Opens This Month



Michael Rosenzweig,
President and CEO of
the magnificent new
National Museum of
American Jewish History

A very exciting Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) program is planned for our General Membership Meeting on Wednesday evening, November 17th. Our invited speaker, Michael Rosenzweig, is the President and CEO of the new National Museum of American Jewish History — located on Independence Mall. Just three days after its Grand Opening Weekend, November 12th-14th, Mr. Rosenzweig will give our civic association an enlightening presentation.

The Museum — a Smithsonian Affiliate — will open to the public on Friday, November 26th. It will be a powerful testament to what all free people can accomplish for themselves and for society at large. Standing directly across from

the Liberty Bell and just one block north of Independence Hall — the birthplace of American liberty — this Museum will certainly be a place for *all* Americans — particularly since many other immigrant ethnic groups that came to this country faced similar challenges as those confronted by Jews.



Architect's rendering of the museum's new home

The new Museum's core exhibition explores the challenges faced by Jews since their arrival on this continent in 1654. According to Mr. Rosenzweig, "The exhibition celebrates Jewish experiences in every facet of American life and throughout every phase of the country's history." Featuring more than 1,000 artifacts, as well as films and state-of-the-art technology, the exhibits showcase how an immigrant population flourished under freedom — highlighting the diverse backgrounds and experiences of Jews over a period of more than 350 years. The exhibits are, of course, "family friendly," with hands-on activities and lessons appropriate for all age groups — as they were assembled by a team of leading historians of American Jewish history.

The Museum's new \$150 million, 100,000-square-foot five-story building is located only one-half block from its former 15,000-square-foot building, which it had occupied since 1976. Surrounding the new building are two public sculptures that symbolize freedom. A light-emitting sculpture, "Beacon," is being created by acclaimed media artist Ben Rubin, and will be located in the uppermost corner of the glass façade at 5th and Market Streets. At the Museum's base — on the corner of the new public plaza — is the sculpture "Religious Liberty," a 19th-century classical piece by Sir Moses Jacob Ezekiel. It was donated to the City of Philadelphia in 1876 by B'nai B'rith — the national and global organization fighting against anti-Semitism and intolerance.

We look forward to welcoming many "new" Society Hill faces to learn about this wonderful new Museum in our midst, which will soon open its doors here in the neighborhood, next to America's most beloved icons of liberty. Please arrive promptly at 7:30 p.m. for this inspiring November 17th presentation.

Note: SHCA's Board of Directors session will convene prior to the General Meeting at 5:45 p.m. in the Hospital's Grand Court Room. All members are invited to attend.

WEDS

November

17

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Society Hill Civic Association Meetings
Wednesday, November 17th, 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 Zubrow Auditorium
All neighborhood residents are invited to attend.
- Speaker: Michael Rosenzweig,** President and CEO
National Museum of American Jewish History



Northern Liberties



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 Civic Association**

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Submission Deadlines

January/February Issue
 Advertising: December 1st
 Editorial: December 10th

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, businesses and professionals. Direct your editorial submissions and/or queries to Matt DeJulio by phone at 215-629-1288 or email mattdejulio@aol.com. To publicize an event, submit all press releases directly to Sandra Rothman. (See contact information above.)

Materials must be submitted in writing – via mail or email – 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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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY ROSANNE LOESCH

Au Revoir and Bonne Chance, Bernice

It is with a touch of sadness that I write this last President's Message under Bernice Hamel's remarkable stewardship of the *Society Hill Reporter* for more than 20 years as its Managing Editor and originator. I always knew that our newsletter stood out among the newsletters of similar neighborhood associations in Philadelphia. But I really understood how unique it is when an out-of-state speaker I had invited to one of our General Meetings last year gave me his reaction to it. He told me that of all the community newsletters he had ever read in his work in the cities of New York, New Haven and elsewhere, he had never seen a newsletter of such high quality!

Over my years serving on both SHCA's Board and the *Reporter's* Editorial Board I have gotten to know Bernice well. She has impressed me with her mastery of the issues affecting our community and her tremendous talents as a writer and editor. She is also the repository of much important history about our historic neighborhood. Her newsletter has made our membership grow to impressive numbers — fostering a wonderful sense of shared community and purpose. Having worked closely with her behind the scenes, I know firsthand the amount of work that goes into each newsletter and the real craft she exercises in making it happen. I also know that Bernice is excited about returning to her own personal writing of fiction and poetry when she steps down after this newsletter goes to print. On behalf of our association, I thank Bernice for her immeasurable contributions to our community. And I wish my friend well in her new writing endeavors!

I'd also like welcome our new editor, Sandy Rothman. A former SHCA Board Director and longtime contributing editor, Sandy will be stepping up to the plate and taking over the position of Managing Editor of this newsletter. Sandy knows our community well, is a wonderful writer and editor and has a lot of knowledge about the inner workings of the *Reporter*. Her first newsletter will be the March/April 2011 issue, after her retirement as teacher, while the January/February issue will be assembled by an ad-hoc crew led by SHCA's Administrator Matt DeJulio. Of course, I am grateful to the many contributors and columnists who make the *Reporter* so interesting to read. I especially want to thank David Woods, who will be retiring after many years writing his delightful "Noteworthy Neighbors" column.

Below are some November/December community highlights:

- Society Hill's annual Fall Clean-up Day is on Saturday, November 20th. I thank Co-chairs Bob Curley and Spencer Finch for coordinating this important effort. Last spring neighbor Garrett Smith had a great idea for organizing the clean-up on his block of 500 Spruce Street: he invited all the residents to meet at his house, at an appointed time in the morning, when the entire block worked together to clean the sidewalks and streets in record time. Then everyone enjoyed coffee and donuts at Garrett's place!
- SHCA Board Director Mary Purcell has organized a "Holiday Social" for civic association members at "The Plough & the Stars" restaurant on Monday evening, December 6th. Invitations will be sent by email. If you'd like to attend the party but you are not an SHCA member, please contact Matt DeJulio, SHCA Administrator, at either mattdejulio@aol.com or 215-629-1288.

Finally, we welcome you to our association's November Membership Meeting at Pennsylvania Hospital's auditorium on Wednesday, November 17th. Bernice Hamel will be honored with a special gift at that time. Also, we will have the pleasure of learning about Society Hill's new neighbor — the National Museum of American Jewish History — which will celebrate its grand opening November 12-14, the weekend prior to our meeting. The Museum's President, Michael Rosenzweig, will be our featured speaker. SHCA members and non-members are all invited to attend our General Meetings — so come join us.



Rosanne Loesch,
President

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Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 25th

Holy Trinity Church, 9 a.m.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary

Holy Trinity Church

Tuesday, Dec. 7th, 7 p.m. and Wednesday, Dec. 8th, 12 Noon

Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24th

Old St. Mary Church - 4:30 p.m.

Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25th

Old St. Mary Church - 10 a.m.

Holy Family Sunday, December 26th

Old St. Mary Church - 10 a.m.

New Year's Day, Saturday, January 1st

Holy Trinity Church - 10 a.m.

Sunday, January 2nd

Old St. Mary Church - 10 a.m.

Mass at Old St. Mary Church is celebrated every Saturday at 4:30 p.m. and every Sunday at 10 a.m. Weekday Mass is celebrated at 7:30 a.m. in the chapel of Old St. Mary Convent/Residence at 5th and Locust Streets.

215-923-7930

Society Hill's Fall Clean-Up Day

Break out the brooms to spruce up your corner of the neighborhood! On Saturday morning, November 20th, all Society Hill residents are encouraged to sweep their sidewalks and gutters, as well as nearby walkways and alleyways, before the city's sweeper trucks arrive sometime between 8 a.m. and noon.

Trash bags will be available — handed out by SHCA's Clean-Up Day volunteers — at the S. 5th Street SuperFresh, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Your bagged street leaves and trash (but no household trash!) should be left at intersections by 1 p.m. on Locust, Spruce, Pine and Lombard Streets, where they cross numbered streets. And, let's remember to clean-up Three Bears Park, too!

Wherever posted, cars must be moved to the opposite side of the street after 6 p.m. on Friday night — or they could be ticketed on Saturday morning, beginning at 8 a.m. Please note that to accommodate Saturday synagogue services, the 300, 400 and 500 blocks of both Spruce and Lombard Streets will be swept by 8:30 a.m. — leaving the south side of these streets available for congregants to park their cars.

All streets will be swept from Front to 8th and from Walnut to Lombard Streets (not including Walnut Street). There will be **NO PARKING** on either side of the 300 and 400 blocks of Front Street, the 200 and 300 blocks of 2nd Street, and Lawrence Court. Although "Other Side Parking" signs will generally read "from 6 p.m. Friday until 3 p.m. Saturday," Society Hill's Block Coordinators are encouraged to remove these signs as near to 1 p.m. as possible — in order to permit cars to be moved back to their usual side of the street between 1 and 3 p.m. — since this move will prevent those cars from

getting ticketed. (After all, Parking Authority personnel are more likely to determine if a car should be ticketed based on the posted signs rather than whether or not the street has been swept.)

Coordinating this Fall's Clean-Up Day are Co-Chairs Spencer Finch (specfinch2@hotmail.com) and Bob Curley (bobpcurley@gmail.com). For last-minute Clean-Up Day questions, call Spencer at 215-592-0536 or Bob at 215-592-4251.

Clean-Up Day's Paper-Shredding Service

This Clean-Up Day, SHCA is again sponsoring a paper-shredding service for the convenience of Society Hill residents only (sorry, no businesses). This special service is only for confidential materials, since non-confidential papers should be recycled — not shredded!

- Shredding services will be available in the St. Peter's School parking lot, at 3rd and Lombard Streets.
- Hours are from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (or earlier if the truck reaches capacity).
- Only paper is accepted — no CD's or disks.

If you partake of this special shredding service and are not yet an SHCA member, please consider joining our civic association — simply by filling out the form — either on page 23 of this newsletter or online at: societyhillcivic.org. Any questions? Call 215-629-1288.



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A Word of Thanks For Bernice Hamel

FROM CAROLE LE FAIVRE-ROCHESTER

In Benjamin Franklin's essay "On Literary Style," he states that good writing should be smooth, clear and short. I am going to add another quality that I have seen in Bernice Hamel's management and editorship of the *Society Hill Reporter* — dedication. For over 20 years Bernice has produced one of the most literate, appealing neighborhood newsletters, with the help of graphic designer Judy Lamirand. The *Society Hill Reporter* has been acknowledged as one of the best-written examples of its type in the country. During the years that I have worked with Bernice, more in the past than now, I have seen this remarkable woman, who never says no when asked to help, create a readable, entertaining and informative newsletter.

I can see her now looking out her third-floor window on 2nd Street, facing Spruce, keeping a watchful eye on the Man Full of Trouble Tavern, which is an architectural gem in our neighborhood. Bernice frequently wrote about its changing from owner to owner, but always with a view that this

historic site must survive. What you can't see, but many of us who have worked with her know, is that well into the night Bernice writes, rewrites, edits and reedits until not a comma or period is missing or out of place.

She has written with a passion about things, good and bad, in Society Hill, spending long hours on the phone to get facts straight about important issues — such as the coming of the casinos, the quacking of the Ducks, the plans for building at NewMarket, and many more. She judiciously asked for help when she needed it from many fine editors and writers in Society Hill. Bernice, however, is the real wordsmith, keeping her prose clear as Franklin would have liked: smooth and short. Our community owes Bernice a huge thanks for her years of volunteering to manage the *Reporter* while she was also volunteering for other projects in the neighborhood, such as Head House. Thank you, Bernice, for being the kind of neighbor who makes a community better.



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Our Franklin Lamps Need Your TLC

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Yes, TLC (Tender Loving Care) is what is needed to keep our newly replaced and painted Franklin Lamps in tip-top shape and lasting a long time. It is up to all of us as neighbors to look out for any light problems and follow through to report them. It's so easy! If you see a Franklin Lamp with any of the following problems, here is what we ask you to do:

To Report a Malfunctioning Franklin Light, Please Call **311**

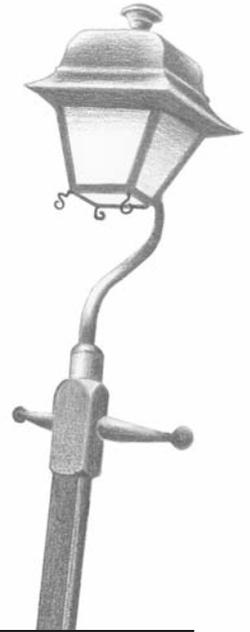
If a light is not turning on, if it is blinking off and on, or if it is damaged in any way, please CALL 311 to report it. Provide the exact address and specific problem so that the City will send someone to repair it within five business days.

To Report Graffiti on a Franklin Light

If the light pole has graffiti or stickers on it, do not attempt to remove or paint over the damage. Our SHCA volunteer, Bob Curley, will assume this responsibility — using only the solvents or special industrial paints supplied by the pole painters who meticulously painted all of Society Hill's 492 Franklin Lamp poles this past summer.

To report any pole defaced by graffiti or stickers, **contact SHCA Administrator Matt DeJulio at 215-629-1288, or mattdejulio@aol.com.** He will forward the site information to Bob Curley, whose efforts will keep our community's Franklin Lamp poles sparkling!

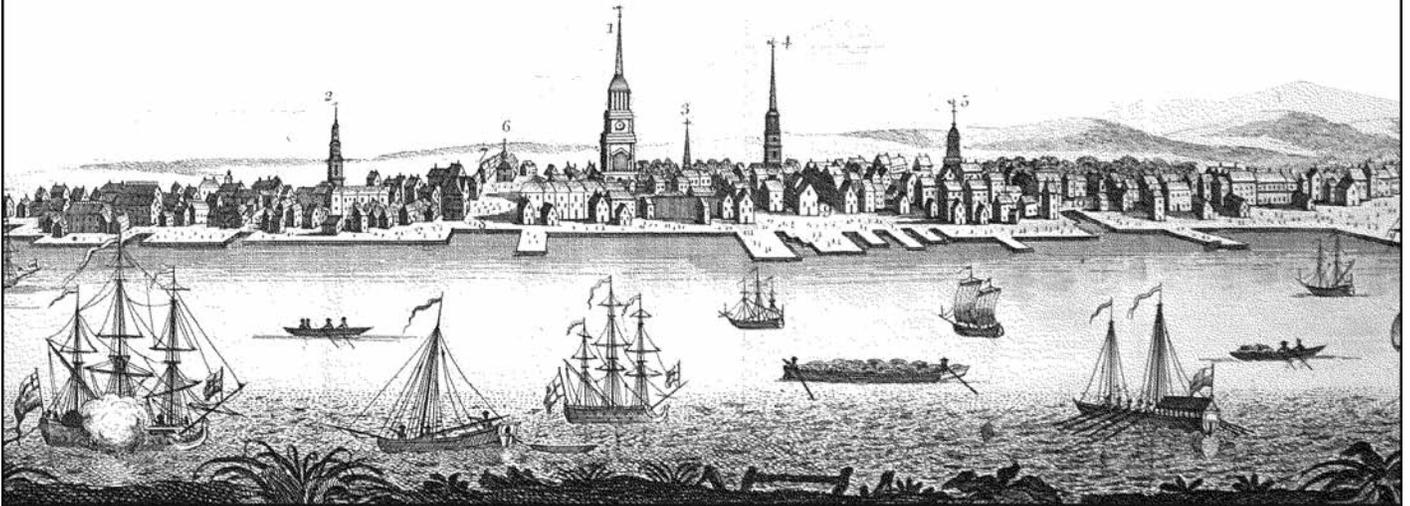
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Another Successful Soiree at the Shambles

On October 4th, a drizzly and almost wintry Monday evening, an extraordinary collaboration of stalwart neighbors and generous businesses conducted our community's third *FUND*-raising social to help cover the cost of ongoing maintenance for Head House Square — the Colonial-era structure located on S. 2nd Street between Pine and Lombard Streets. This social originally had been scheduled for September 30th, but the event was postponed due to heavy rains that day. Then when Monday's chilly weather arrived, Soiree planners, contributors and participants decided to simply bundle up and show up rather than reschedule again — so "the show" went on!



Tania Rorke, Soiree Coordinator and Head House Conservancy Director, and Emily Domineske from Amada/Garces Restaurant Group

It was a remarkably successful event — exhibiting our community's appreciation and value for Head House and the Shambles — this unique and incredibly beautiful, currently useful "old" site. Most of the 200 plus neighbors who had reserved in advance to attend the Soiree braved the cold temperatures and light rain to attend. We also heartily welcomed those who decided to come that evening, as the rain date better accommodated their travel or business schedules.



Mel Buckman, Libby and Stanhope Browne — longtime Society Hillers.

The success of the Soiree — e.g. meeting, mingling and reconnecting with neighbors and friends (too numerous to mention) while enjoying the wonderful array of tasty dishes prepared by nearby restaurants — was coordinated primarily by Tania Rorke,



Chefs from Hoof and Fin served sweetbreads, among other delicacies, hot off the grill.

former President of the Society Hill Civic Association and a Board Director of the Head House Conservancy. For the Soiree's most generous donors, a special "Patron's Party" was graciously hosted by Susan and Bruce Shapiro in their nearby home. All Soiree participants have shown their support for our grassroots, nonprofit organization — the Head House Conservancy, founded in 1990 — which has raised well over \$1 million to restore Head House and the Shambles, inside and out, and bring them back into service.

For those unable to attend the Soiree, here's what you missed: A marvelous (and deliciously diverse) array of fine foods from Amada, Bridget Foy's, Café Nola, Chick's Café, Fork, Hoof and Fin, Lovash Indian Cuisine, M Restaurant at the Hotel Morris, New Wave, Olive, Philadelphia Java Company, Pizzeria Stella, Ristorante Panorama and Xochitl. The Food Trust, which manages the Head House Farmer's Market, offered an assortment of desserts from John & Kira's Chocolates, the Wild Flour Bakery and Market Day Caneles. (FYI: This season, the Head House Market will operate on Sundays, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., through December 19th.) Drinks were donated by Art in the Age Root and Snap, The Philadelphia Brewing Company and Dave McNeely, and delightful background music was provided by the trio JDR Entertainment.

We are most grateful to Pizzeria Stella for lending us their outdoor heaters that were strategically arranged beneath the roof of the Shambles to kept all partygoers, restaurant staff and personnel comfortably warm. We would also like to thank Steve Grasse, Society Hill resident and owner of Quaker City Mercantile, and his staff for redesigning this year's invitation and promotional materials.

Thanks!

We thank each of the following restaurants and providers for serving a selection of their choice dishes. In alphabetical order, they are:

Amada 217 Chestnut Street	Hoof and Fin 617 S. 3rd Street	Olive 518 S. 3rd Street
Bridget Foy's 200 South Street	Lovash Indian Cuisine 236 South Street	Philadelphia Java Co. 518 S. 4th Street
Café Nola 414 S. 2nd Street	M Restaurant at the Hotel Morris 231 S. 8th Street	Pizzeria Stella 426 S. 2nd Street
Chick's Café 614 S. 7th Street	New Wave 784 S. 3rd Street	Ristorante Panorama 14 N. Front Street
Fork 306 Market Street		Xochitl 408 S. 2nd Street

UPDATE

Repairs for Head House & the Shambles

BY DAVID HAMMOND, TREASURER, HEAD HOUSE CONSERVANCY

To all those who attended our community's recent Soiree at the Shambles, we say THANK YOU for your contributions, which will help pay for all the needed repairs and improvements for this National Historic Landmark.

Perhaps you've noticed that there are 20 columns supporting the Shambles that are in various stages of disrepair. Many of these columns had been previously re-pointed — with concrete as opposed to limestone, which was the material originally used. The use of incorrect materials created problems — because the concrete and the bricks expand and contract at different rates, causing cosmetic and structural issues. We expect that the re-pointing of these columns will be completed shortly, and this will be followed by some repair work on the Head House itself. The cost of this rather significant restoration project will approach \$50,000. The firm Preservation Works Ltd., which recently finished a project in Elfreth's Alley, is completing this work for us.

The trees alongside the Shambles have had their crowns redone, dead limbs removed and stray limbs trimmed back, since they were threatening the slate roof. However, the two "London Plane" trees beside the Head House cannot be trimmed back until after a hard frost — as London Planes are susceptible to a fungus which will be killed off by the frost. Liberty Tree, which has done a lot of work in the neighborhood, is completing

this project for us at a cost of about \$5,000. Incidentally, we thank Liberty Tree, which donated the 100 colorful mums that decorated the Shambles for our recent Soiree.

At this time, we don't have any final figures for this year's Soiree to share with you — as some expenses are not yet in. We do anticipate that proceeds from the Soiree will cover at least the cost of replacing some iron hardware and painting the trim on both the Head House and Shambles. If we're fortunate, this work will be completed before the end of this year. The anticipated cost for these improvements is approximately \$15,000.

Next year's project will focus on repairs of the slate roof. Fortunately, the expense for this roof improvement will be mostly labor, because we still have a good number of unused slates that neighbors generously donated 20 years ago (under which they left friendly personal messages to future readers about the importance of this historic site).

Following the roof's repair, our next big project for the year 2012 will be repair of the historical Head House clock, as well as lighting improvements — when by then we will have completed all the major preservation projects and can move on to the "cosmetic" projects. Please keep supporting the Soiree at the Shambles. We're putting your donations to very good use!

Columns are being repointed, tree crowns have been redone.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF HEAD HOUSE & THE SHAMBLES

Head House Square consists of the Shambles, America's oldest surviving marketplace, also known as "NewMarket." Built before the Revolution in the 1700's, the entire structure has been recently brought back to vibrant activity and is once again serving the community as an open-air farmers' market — as it did during Colonial times.

Attached to the Shambles is our nation's oldest fire engine house, known as Head House. Built in 1806, it stored firefighting equipment and "housed" volunteer firemen of that era. Head House is a classic brick building that is

surmounted by a white cupola and topped by a weather vane that contains a fire bell and a clock — which was built by none other than Isaiah Lukens, creator of the clock at Independence Hall!

This combined city-owned structure was designated as a National Historic Landmark — but due to years of neglect it was identified by the Secretary of the Interior as a "threatened and endangered landmark" by the late 1980's. In response, a grassroots group of local residents and businesses formed the "Head House Conservancy" — a nonprofit organization that

raised over \$1 million to fully repair the structure and return it to useful community service.

Today the interior of the 204-year-old Head House serves as headquarters for the South Street Headhouse District — a special services district responsible for keeping South Street's corridor clean and safe. It provides businesses and shops with daily sidewalk cleaning; a local police mini-station (at 905 South Street); and, together with The Food Trust, co-management of our popular farmers' markets, held beneath the 264-year-old Shambles on weekends, spring through fall.



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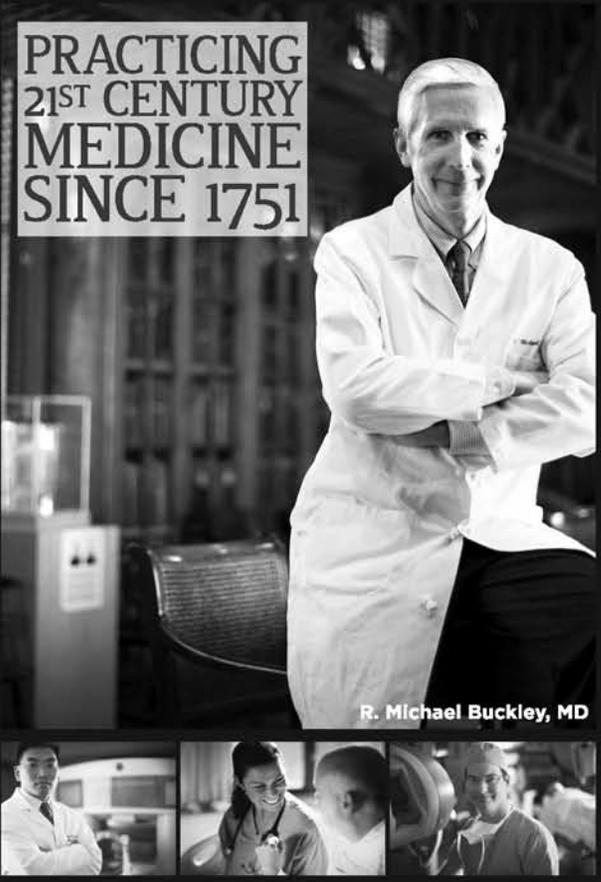
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ZONING & HISTORIC PRESERVATION

BY LORNA KATZ-LAWSON

Preservation & Reorganization

Since our last report, SHCA's Zoning and Historic Preservation (ZHP) Committee has undergone reorganization. Myra Eskin, who had kindly acted as Interim Chair, has stepped down from that position but will continue to serve as an active Committee member. I have assumed its Chairmanship, while my previous role, as Vice Chair, has been filled by Laura Lane. Mel Buckman, a former SHCA President, will now serve as the Committee's Recording Secretary, and Paul Boni will continue his role as a Vice Chair. Of course, all interested Society Hill residents are welcome to join this most active committee.

There have been few applications for new construction recently — although a new parking area and access gate was proposed for 734 Addison Street. The homeowners brought their application to our ZHP Committee prior to submitting it to the Department of Licenses and Inspections, which we very much appreciated. But because the north side of Addison Street, across from their home, is occupied almost entirely by garages or open parking spaces (for Pine Street properties that run through to Addison Street), most ZHP Committee members felt that the sidewalk should remain intact and without any curb cut in order to protect safe pedestrian access — especially since Addison Street leads to a corner pocket park at Perth Street. Although the Committee's decision disappointed the owners seeking this change, ZHP's decision focused on the welfare of the greater community rather than a single household. (Of course, the homeowners of 734 Addison Street can still pursue an appeal of their application to the City's Zoning Board of Appeal.)

An application for an 8-foot-high fence and gate to be constructed at the covered driveway at 256-256 ½ South 3rd Street was reviewed by both the staff of Philadelphia's Historical Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) — without prior review or notice to our ZHP Committee. The purpose of this addition to our streetscape is to keep area visitors out of the parking lot located behind these houses — where many incidents of antisocial behavior have occurred. At press time, we don't know if a decision has been made to support or deny the request.

SHCA's ZHP Committee has continued its engagement with Philadelphia's Crosstown Coalition and the Zoning Code Commission (ZCC). After the

ZCC issued its "*Consolidated Draft*" of the proposed new zoning code, at its September 8th meeting, our Committee set about reviewing the draft to see how it would affect life as we know it here in Society Hill. The Crosstown Coalition represents more than 18 Philadelphia civic associations that engage with the City to assure that the revised code will protect the interests of all communities and citizens. However, due to the fact that there were still some missing sections of the code and no *Administrative Manual* — all necessary for an accurate evaluation — the Crosstown Coalition drafted a letter, dated September 20, 2010, requesting an extension for the public review period. Co-signers to the letter included several concerned groups, including the Central Delaware Advisory Group, The Development Workshop, Inc., and the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia. The City subsequently granted a 30-day extension for public comment. November 17th is the new deadline.

At a September follow-up meeting among representatives from both the Crosstown Coalition and the ZCC, our collective concerns were discussed and civic associations, including ours, submitted written comments on the draft. At this meeting SHCA was represented by President Rosanne Loesch and myself. We are learning that the process to develop a new zoning code will require quite a lot of give-and-take. For example, some items we may have issues with include standards for antennas — which we learned are regulated not by the City but by Federal law. Of course, our Committee's primary concern is to preserve the character of Society Hill — for now and the future — and to insure that the process of review continues to include significant public input.

Our concern is to preserve the character of Society Hill — for now and the future.

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photo by Paul Morano

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A Society Hill Garden Wins Top Award from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

Through a classic example of true community effort, a beautiful garden has emerged in what once had been a neglected greenway running along St. James Place from 3rd Street to property surrounding the Society Hill Towers. Although Constantine Stephano has worked hard for many years to develop and nurture his elegant, structured garden of boxwoods, rhododendrons, azaleas, crepe myrtles and hostas — beneath the shade of several large trees close to 3rd Street — the rest of this strip languished with an assortment of random shrubs and plants. In the middle of this neglected rectangle stood the ragged remains of a once precious rose garden that had been planted and lovingly tended by Dr. Edward Raffensperger and his wife, Mary, both now deceased.

When a new resident, Kevin Gorman, moved to the block a few years ago, he turned his gardening eye on the scrap of land in front of his home and the homes of his nearby neighbors. He began by creating a small flowerbed adjacent to the area that was tended by Connie Stephano. Since that tenuous start, the land within the curving bed has grown larger each year. Then, with the help of new neighbors Oliver and Leslie Mellet, the bed expanded dramatically both in length and width — fully encompassing the remaining rose bushes planted by the Raffenspergers. Oliver Mellet and Kevin Gorman worked together to dig up a seemingly endless number of old building bricks. They also moved sod, removed and planted trees and wheeled around mountains of wood mulch.

This new larger bed allowed the gardeners to relocate plants and create a varied mix of perennials and annuals that bloom in waves of color from early spring through fall. Kevin is particularly happy this year with the stately castor bean towering over the garden — with its brilliant red seed pods, the “Joe Pye” weed (which reached a staggering height of ten feet) and the huge cardoon (a relative of the artichoke) which has elbowed its way to the front of the garden. At the same time, the Mellets take pride in the renewal of the rose bushes and the brilliant colors produced by their zinnias, dahlias and impatiens.

Perhaps the biggest challenges in maintaining this garden along its open walkway include the watering duties that the neighbors share, the



Visit the prize-winning garden on St. James Place between 3rd Street and Society Hill Towers.

occasional marauding dog, and a “flower thief” who strikes late at night. However, these problems do not diminish the pleasure that the neighbors experience working in the garden. In fact, last month their combined efforts were rewarded when the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society named this garden as Philadelphia’s “Best Medium-Sized Community Flower Garden” during its annual City Garden Contest. In bestowing this award at a sun-drenched Navy Yard ceremony on September 11th, the judges praised its “spectacular border of trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals.” They commented: “Much thought was given to the positioning of each plant and its specific needs for sun or shade. The garden flows nicely from a Southern shade garden with a tranquil feel, to a full sun garden with a variety of colors and textures. Impressive!”



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ACCIDENTAL TOURIST IN MY OWN BACKYARD

BY JANE BIBERMAN

Ahoy! Treasures at the Seaport Museum

What do perfume, Spic and Span, sponges and GPS systems have in common? They're all featured in an intriguing and educational exhibit at the Independence Seaport Museum at Penn's Landing, titled: "It Sprang From the Sea: Everyday Objects With Maritime Secrets."

I was drawn to this unique Philadelphia landmark on a late Indian summer day when the sun was sparkling on the Delaware River and the boats were bobbing on the gentle waves. The Seaport Museum has weathered some rough financial waters in recent years, but with a new director at the helm, Captain John J. Gazzola, a former Merchant Marine, the museum is once again luring tourists.

An interactive exhibit for children and adults, "It Sprang From the Sea" is designed to resemble a house. I entered a living room where I settled into a comfy sofa and watched NBC's Glenn "Hurricane" Schwartz explain the science of weather forecasting on a wide-screen TV. After that, I tried to figure out the Morse code before failing to tie a sailor's knot. I am a staunch "landlubber," although I like many of the clothes on display inspired by seafarers — such as Guernsey sweaters, peacoats, topsiders, and "once upon a time" bell-bottoms. The exhibit also includes the only surviving copy of the HMS Titanic's first-class passenger list, which Mrs. Marian Thayer, Jr., of Haverford, kept in her overcoat pocket. While she and her son Jack were rescued, her husband John perished. (Mrs. Thayer allegedly filed a claim for her lost luggage, but not for her husband.)

The star of the show, however, is "Slinky" — now celebrating its 65th anniversary since debuting at Gimbel's in 1945. As many Philadelphians may know, Slinky is the serendipitous creation of naval engineer

Richard James, who in 1943 was tinkering with torsion springs at Philadelphia's Cramp Shipyard when he got the idea of crafting a toy for his son. Did you know that Slinky is the official "State Toy of Pennsylvania" and it was featured on a U.S. postal stamp? Also, it was inducted into the Toy Hall of Fame at the Strong National Museum



The Slinky, invented in Philadelphia, is the star of the show.

of Play in Rochester, New York. More than 300 million have been sold around the world — and that's a conservative estimate! I purchased several Slinkys at the Seaport Museum's gift shop, where they have been selling briskly since the exhibit opened.

After a pleasant 90 minutes indoors, I strolled along the Delaware in the sunshine. Before walking home, I decided to be a true tourist and stopped for lunch at Keating's in the Hyatt Hotel. Since it was a fine day, the hostess graciously seated me on the terrace where I enjoyed crab cakes while playing with my new Slinky.

The exhibit "It Sprang From the Sea" has been extended through February 14. With the price of admission, museum-goers may also visit the USS Olympia and the submarine Becuna, which are docked outside on the river.



Upcoming Special Events

The Holiday Lighted Tug Parade will take place on December 18th. From the museum's second-floor deck, watch the river light up as boats pass by.

The New Year's Eve Fireworks program for families will begin at 6 p.m. (Visit www.Phillyseaport.org for more details.)



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SAFE AND SOUND IN SOCIETY HILL

BY MARILYN H. APPEL

Old Problems, New Paving

Same Old, Same Old

How often have I said in this column: "DO NOT leave anything visible in your car," since theft from autos is rampant (as are apartment building robberies). In fact, up to 80% of robberies in this area occur in apartment buildings — because unlocked doors, even for a minute, are the most vulnerable. Remember: **Thieves are opportunistic — don't give them the opportunity!**

More Stolen Items

Door knockers, mail boxes, and other metal accessories are being stolen — for profit — because thieves are making good money from these metal objects found on the front doors of houses. Time doesn't matter, because they'll steal nighttime or daytime — and they've been getting away with these crimes — here in Society Hill and our neighboring community Queen Village. Please immediately report any stolen items to 911.

Graffiti

Please don't try to remove graffiti yourself. Report graffiti locations to SHCA Administrator Matt DeJulio — at either mattdejulio@aol.com or 215-629-1288. By the way, graffiti found on our community's Franklin Light poles requires special paint — so please report these incidences to Matt as soon as you discover them.

Motorcycles

There seem to be more motorcycles being used these days — so we remind motorcyclists that their vehicles must be parked on the street, not in front of houses. Please note the current law: when neighbors see a motorcycle parked in

front of a house, they are asked to call 911 so that the vehicle will be ticketed. (Of course, there are two sides to this story: I, myself, would rather see a motorcycle parked in front of a house rather than take up a good parking space on the street. But, alas: this is the law!)

Society Hill's Newly Paved Streets

By the time this issue of the *Reporter* is distributed, several streets here in our neighborhood will have been milled and paved. However, where did all the cars go for the many days of "No Parking" signs?

On October 12th, these signs were posted and fliers were sent through our mail slots — only two days before the work began. I called Councilman DiCicco's office, I called the Parking Authority, I called Captain Korn (who, by the way knew nothing about the repaving project until October 14th!), but no one knew anything, nor could they do anything. Even a direct call to the Streets Department was unsuccessful, although the Department knew what was happening and probably planned the repaving project months in advance — without the courtesy of informing residents who would be affected.

So I ask: Does this city have so little respect for our community that "the powers that be" do not let us know in an appropriate time frame what they plan to do? Is there no coordination between city departments? Personally, I find this to be unacceptable. And if you agree, I recommend that you phone the Mayor's office to tell him how displeased you are with the way this project has been handled — especially if your car was towed or you spent forever looking for a legal space!



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Revolutionary Land Swap For New Museum Made Official

The American Revolution Center has secured the site at 3rd and Chestnut Streets as its location for the nation's first museum dedicated to telling the entire story of the American Revolution. Located just steps from Independence Hall, the First Bank of the United States and Carpenter's Hall, where the First Continental Congress met in 1774, the museum will house a distinguished collection of objects, artifacts and manuscripts from the American Revolution. The site was acquired in September through a land exchange with the National Park Service, whereby the Center exchanged its 78 acres in Valley Forge for the site of the former Independence Park Visitor's Center, in order to be located in historic Philadelphia. A ceremony to commemorate the exchange of property was attended by over 200 cultural, educational, and civic leaders.

The American Revolution Center is a non-partisan, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to engaging the public in the history and enduring legacy of the Revolution. For more information, please visit www.AmericanRevolutionCenter.org or call toll free, 877-740-1776.

We Use the Zagat Restaurant Guide —How Do We Pronounce It?

BY JIM MURPHY

Thirty years after the first Zagat guide to New York City restaurants appeared, many people still don't know how to pronounce the name of these remarkably popular red books. Some say "ZAH-git," some say ZAY-gott." Which is correct? Neither!

Condé Nast Traveler revealed the correct answer back in 2005. "It's pronounced za-GAT, as in the 'cat in the hat' and that's that," says Tim Zagat, who, with his wife, Nina, founded the guidebook empire as a hobby in 1979.

Of course, not everyone agrees. Even Tim had the pronunciation of his name "corrected" by an opinionated customer calling to place an order, the Condé Nast noted on conciierge.com.

*Just remember:
Zagat rhymes with
"The Cat."*



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Welcome Baskets Welcome New Neighbors

Are you a new, first-time home or condo owner in Society Hill? If so, SHCA would like to welcome you with a "Welcome Basket" filled with fresh foods, local information and many gift certificates to area theaters, restaurants, shops and services.

After presenting nearly 600 Welcome Baskets to newcomers in the last decade, our program is still going strong. We thank our 70 current businesses and organizations which generously contribute fresh foods and gift certificates that make these baskets a joy to receive. (See the list below.)

Our Newest Contributors Include:

Chops Restaurant & Bar, 700 Walnut Street — a beautiful new steakhouse that serves lunch

and dinner; **InterAct Theatre Company**, 2030 Sansom Street — now in its 23rd season — presenting plays that explore contemporary issues; **Ballet X**, at the Wilma, 265 S. Broad Street, a contemporary dance company which seeks to expand the vocabulary of classical ballet for all audiences; and **City Food Tours**, 1518 Walnut Street, that provides enjoyable walking tours that explore Philly's food scene with the pros.

If you are a new Society Hill homeowner and you wish to receive a Welcome Basket, please let us know by contacting Martha Levine. She will schedule a convenient appointment with you and will be delighted to present a Welcome Basket to you in your home. You can reach Martha at marthalev@msn.com or 215-629-0727.



Thanks to these generous businesses, theaters, shops & services that participate in SHCA's Welcome Basket program!

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Caribou Café, 1126 Walnut St.
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City Tavern, 138 S. 2nd St.
Cochon (BYOB) 801 East Passyunk Ave.
Core De Roma, 214 South St.
Creperie Beau Monde, 624 S. 6th St.
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- Tinto, 114-16 S. 20th St.
- Distrito, 3945 Chestnut St.

 Haru (Japanese), 241-43 Chestnut St.
La Buca Ristorante, 711 Locust St.
Mustard Greens (Chinese), 622 S. 2nd St.
Positano Coast, 2nd & Walnut Sts.
QBBQ & Tequila, 207 Chestnut St.
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Adornamenti (jewelry), 1106 Pine St.
Happily Ever After (toys), 1010 Pine St.
Head House Books, 619 S. 2nd St.

Hello Home (home décor), 10th & Pine Sts.

Lolli Lolli (children's clothing & toys), 713 Walnut St.
Paper On Pine (stationery supplies), 115 S. 13th St.
Show of Hands Gallery (crafts), 1006 Pine St.

Theaters & Entertainment

Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 3680 Walnut St.
Arden Theater, 40 N. 2nd St.
Ballet X at Wilma Theater, 265 S. Broad St.
City Food Tours, 1518 Walnut St.
Eastern State Penitentiary, 2124 Fairmount Ave.
1812 Productions (all comedy theater), 215-592-9560
Ghost Tours of Philadelphia, 610-587-8308
InterAct Theater Company, 2030 Sansom St.
Lantern Theater Company, 10th & Ludlow (south of Market St.)
Lights of Liberty, 6th & Chestnut Sts.
National Liberty Museum, 321 Chestnut St.
Pennsylvania Ballet, Academy of Music, Broad & Locust Sts.
Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, 215-569-8080
Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre, 2111 Sansom St.
Philadelphia Theatre Company, S. Roberts Theater, Broad & Pine Sts.
Piffaro, The Renaissance Band, 215-235-8469
Society Hill Playhouse, 507 S. 8th St.
The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, Kimmel Center, 215-545-1739
The Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble, Old Pine Church, 412 Pine St.
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MEMBERSHIP

What Makes Our Beautiful Society Hill Neighborhood Tick? Your Society Hill Civic Association!

Please join or renew your SHCA membership and stay involved with our neighborhood! Your membership enables us to preserve and protect the quality of life that we have come to enjoy in our beautiful and historic community.

Your membership dues in action!

Society Hill Reporter: SHCA's newsletter, one of the best community newsletters in Philadelphia, keeps you informed of timely topics of relevance to our neighborhood.

Bi-monthly Community Meetings: Our association hosts bi-monthly community programs that feature a wide range of guests speaking on quality-of-life issues important to residents.

Beautification of Historic Washington Square: Seasonal purchase, planting and maintenance of all flowerbeds and shrubs; Installation of Lily Pad in Fountain; and other necessary projects, through fundraising, including the "Washington Square Affair."

Weekly Sidewalk Cleaning/Graffiti Removal: Professional weekly neighborhood-wide sidewalk cleaning service on trash collection days, paid for by your dues. Graffiti removal and organization of Spring and Fall "Clean-Up Days."

Franklin Lamps Restoration: SHCA initiated and sponsored the installation and pole painting, of 500 new Franklin Lights — doubling the illumination in our neighborhood.

Fix the Brix: SHCA has created a subsidy program encouraging property owners to repair their uneven brick sidewalks.

Tree Tenders: We sponsor a program to provide reimbursement of \$150 to homeowners who plant new street trees.

Zoning & Historic Preservation: This committee focuses its efforts to assure that all development, including exterior home alterations, are appropriate for our historic neighborhood.

Other valuable services provided by SHCA: Welcome Baskets for new homeowners; Website; Weekly e-Newsletters & Crime Reports; List of Recommended Contractors; Block Coordinators, Open House Tours, social events, and more.

Only with your membership support can SHCA continue to provide these and many other vital services to the neighborhood that we all value.

SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

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/Student

Business Memberships

- \$100 Institutions — 5+ employees
- \$ 60 Institutions — fewer than 5 employees

Additional Contributions

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| \$ _____ Washington Square Beautification | \$ _____ Franklin Lights |
| \$ _____ Sidewalk Cleaning/Graffiti Removal | \$ _____ Tree Tenders |
| \$ _____ Zoning and Historic Preservation | \$ _____ 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.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clean-Up Day | <input type="checkbox"/> Washington Square | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning & Historic Preservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Franklin Lights | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dilworth House | <input type="checkbox"/> Property Taxes | <input type="checkbox"/> Local crime incidents & alerts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reporter | <input type="checkbox"/> Casino Issues | |

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The Reporter's "Changing of the Guard"

BY BERNICE T. HAMEL

I am pleased to "report" that after my recent public announcement about my forthcoming retirement as founder and Managing Editor of the *Reporter*, we have already received a few responses and inquiries by local writers and editors. In fact, as I write and assemble "my" final issue, some improvements have already been suggested by our dedicated team.

First, I wish to thank David Woods, the creator and author of this newsletter's treasured column, "Noteworthy Neighbors." Over many years David has introduced us to countless numbers of wonderful folks who we might not otherwise have had the pleasure to meet — or even realize that in some instances, the featured individual or couple happens to be "our next-door" neighbors.

We will surely miss David's contributions. (See his "farewell" note on page 27). But the good news is that Jane Biberman — whose charming columns have kept us in the loop about Philadelphia's many treasured sites — has decided that for a change of pace, she will no longer feature these local sites and institutions. Rather, Jane plans to write a column that will introduce us to Society Hill neighbors — although she does plan to alter the column's name to make it more distinctly hers. Jane's final "Accidental Tourist" piece appears in this issue on page 13, but please be on the look-out for her new series of articles, beginning in the January/February 2011 issue, which will profile local residents.

For the past few years, many young Society Hill families were delighted to read in the *Reporter* a column about the rewards and demands of raising "Kids in the City." This regularly featured series was co-written by neighbors Sonia Grasse and Catherine Signorello. However, I reluctantly acknowledge that their last report, in the September/October 2010 issue, probably foreshadowed their current decision to retire from writing the column — since it was entitled "Easier Said Than Done." We thank these busy moms for their past contributions and hope that when their parenting duties become somewhat less demanding (i.e. when the kids are older) — perhaps they will rejoin the *Reporter's* team. For now we heartily welcome another mom or dad willing to write and share her or his experiences in this newsletter about both the joy and the awesome responsibility of raising "kids in the city."

But now it is time to welcome the next generation of "reporters," and so I am delighted that Jim Murphy has responded to our recent call for help. Jim is a professional writer whose busy and successful freelance copywriting business is conducted

from his home — right here "on the Hill" — where he and his wife have lived for the past two years. Since there are many nearby institutions and sites he would enjoy visiting and writing about, Jim has agreed to write an ongoing column with a similar theme to Jane's "Accidental Tourist" — although most likely he'll be inspired to change its title. Look for his first column in the next issue. But for the moment, I appreciate his current participation as a member of the *Reporter's* Editorial Board.

This "changing of the guard" for our bi-monthly newsletter is an opportunity for any resident who enjoys writing to come out of hiding. Don't be shy! Feel free to share your experiences about the pleasures (and occasional challenges) of living in one of America's most historical residential communities. Do consider contributing your skills so that the *Reporter* will continue keeping residents well informed, while it also fosters a positive neighborly spirit. Kindly send a note to Sandy Rothman, who will assume the role of Editorial Manager beginning with the newsletter's March/April 2011 issue. Sandy's email is norfad@aol.com; or drop her a line at 315 S. 2nd Street, Philadelphia 19106. Note that the *Reporter's* January/February 2011 issue will be collaboratively managed and edited by SHCA's President Rosanne Loesch and jack of all trades, Administrator Matt DeJulio.

Please know that for me the highlight of writing and managing the *Reporter* over these twenty-odd years is that I've had the pleasure to work with some of the most wonderful people on this planet. I will, of course, continue to serve as an SHCA Board Director until 2011, although I will no longer have any "deadline excuses" about the lack of time to write my short stories. I, therefore, gladly (but somewhat ambivalently) "pass the *Reporter's* torch" to others who cherish this community as much as I do.

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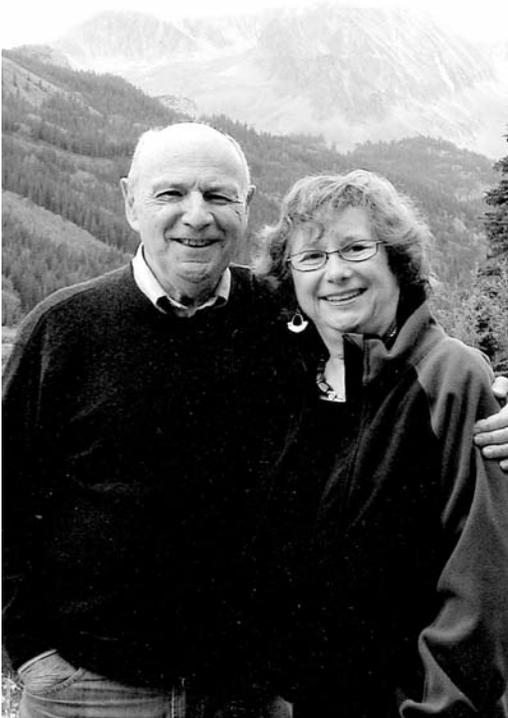


NOTEWORTHY NEIGHBORS

Bernice and Bernard Hamel

BY DAVID WOODS

ac-tiv-ism *n*: a policy of vigorous action in politics, etc.



Bernice and Bernard Hamel are active hikers in the Rocky Mountains.

That's what my dictionary says, and Bernice and Bernard (Bernie) Hamel are exemplars of the active life. They ski, they cycle, they trek and kayak in rugged parts of the world. And, for Bernice, there's another activist angle — changing the way politics works; or sometimes doesn't.

After a spell in Princeton — when Bernie was a graduate student and Bernice worked as an editor for the Educational Testing Service — the couple moved to the Philadelphia area. Bernie had earned his Ph.D. in engineering and Bernice began volunteering at the Oak Lane Day School, where their two young sons — now 49 and 45 — attended. They lived in West Mt. Airy, the city's racially integrated neighborhood, where Bernice

was quite active — both civically and in the anti-Vietnam war movement. Bernie was a professor at Drexel University for many years. Then the couple enjoyed a brief spell in Boston before moving to Society Hill in 1986.

In Society Hill Bernice stayed home to write fiction and kept herself informed locally through the community newsletter, then known as "The Society Hill Resident Newsletter." One day, the newsletter announced its impending demise if it couldn't find someone to assume its management. Bernice volunteered, changed its name to the *Society Hill Reporter* (to signify inclusiveness) and began to cover local goings-on. This, however, required that she attend all the civic association's Board and General Meetings, although as a non-Board member she was unable to vote. Eventually she was nominated to the Board representing SHCA's Southeast Quadrant and she also served as a Vice-President.

Bernice has served our community in multiple capacities — including five years as Chair of SHCA's Historic Preservation Committee. This effort led to designating Society Hill as a city-certified "Historic District" — which under Philadelphia's bylaws is intended to protect and preserve all the community's historic properties. Bernice also founded the Head House Conservancy, the nonprofit organization that raised all the needed funds to repair and restore Head House Square, a National Historical Landmark. She continues to serve as the Conservancy's President.

Bernie was a Professor of Engineering at Drexel University where he is now an Emeritus. An inventor and innovator in energy and environmental technology, he recently discovered a process for removing pollutants from coal-burning power plants. The pair have been married for 51 years, and have, as they put it, "four fantastic grandchildren." They have lived in their house, built in 1762, for almost 25 years — when Society Hill was just beginning to cement its gentrification status, and the Sheraton Hotel had just opened.

As Bernice steps away from her lengthy tenure at the *Society Hill Reporter* — having made it one of the best community advocacy newsletters to be found anywhere — she'll concentrate on her lifelong love — writing short stories. She recalls that on her first day of second grade, her teacher wrote the word "composition" on the blackboard, explaining that the word means "to tell a story," and that each student was to write a composition about what he or she did during the summer. Bernice enthusiastically wrote her very first composition (in which she couldn't resist exaggerating a few details), and she was then asked to read her very first "story" both to her own classroom and to several others. It hooked her into becoming a writer and editor, talents that have brought rigor and character to the *Reporter*.

Armed with a 1986 graduate degree in Creative Writing from Temple University, today she's excited about getting back to her poems and short stories. Meanwhile, she and Bernie will continue enjoying their activities: hiking and exploring the Wissahickon here at home (the largest inner-city park in all America) as well as skiing and trekking exotic points abroad.

LAST WORDS

Philadelphia Avoidance

A POEM BY BERNICE TOBY HAMEL

On a very grey November day, not sunny
as promised by TV weatherman, Hurricane
Schwartz, but good enough for a power

walk along the waterfront, I step outside for a
whiff of the natural world, a wee bit of scenery
despite the nasty reality that lovers of nature

anywhere along the Delaware are more likely to
pop into a big-box store or a strip mall among the
hodgepodge of vacant lots we've got here, plus

development with a capital "D" — No tree-lined harbor
for wandering and dreaming beside the river's edge.
Instead I soak up another kind of wilderness, a toxic

wasteland where in 1682 William Penn first arrived
upon this ancient shore. Can you see how my aversion
technique works? I am easily sidetracked, dreading the

probable arrival of gambling parlors ironically close to
where the Declaration of Independence was conceived.
A travesty, you agree, but this disgrace will not keep me

awake, nor will I quake in my sleep over the loss of a
landscape or the threat of global warming. I will do my
civic duty, carry placards and draft letters to politicos

who could care less, who would squander our city's history
to balance a budget. Will this disgrace bring upon trauma
to my heart? Will ongoing abuses of natural resources and

the senseless killing of others ever end? So brief the visit.

Yet we carry on, hoping to survive the coming storm.

Encouraged by generosity, inspired by beauty, and

let's not forget simple curiosity. I agree that the only thing
to fear is fear itself. But when tempted into the garden,
will I write my poem? I ask what it is I fear, and it becomes

painfully clear: a rejection slip!

A PERSONAL NOTE

My "Noteworthy Neighbors"
Finale

BY DAVID WOODS

It's fitting that this
edition of "Noteworthy Neighbors"
should feature Bernice
Hamel, a woman who
has devoted so much
talent and energy to
the Society Hill Civic
Association in general
and to the *Reporter* in
particular. And it's a

bittersweet occasion for me. After more than ten
years, and upwards of 50 "Noteworthy Neighbor"
pieces, it's time to hang up my quill pen...
or at least hand it off to another scribe.

It's been a wonderful experience, meeting so
many of you... and learning about your varied
lives, your homes, your hobbies, your families.
One common denominator, though: Almost all
those invited to my inquisitorial sessions protested
that they were in no sense "Noteworthy."
But they all are, as they exhibited both modesty
and accomplishments. One admission about the
experience for me: After interviewing what
Bernice called my "victims," I would walk away
wondering how on earth I could best capture
who and what they are. Luckily, some kind of
"hook" usually presented itself. In any event,
I'm grateful for the opportunity, and I thank all of
Society Hill's "Noteworthy Neighbors" for their
time and patience in answering my questions.

Note:

David Woods has a website: www.davidwoods.info
and he can be reached at hmi3000@comcast.net.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wednesday, November 17

SHCA Meetings

Pennsylvania Hospital
8th & Spruce
5:45 p.m. Board Session
Grand Court Room
7:30 p.m. General
Membership Meeting
Auditorium
See page 1

Saturday, November 20

**Society Hill's Fall
Clean-Up Day**

See page 7

Saturday, November 20

**Philadelphia Voices of Pride
Choir Concert "Night and Day"**

Church of St Luke & the Epiphany
330 S. 13th Street
8 p.m. Info: www.pvop.org

Thursday, November 25

HAPPY THANKSGIVING DAY

Monday, December 6

SHCA Holiday Social

The Plough & The Stars
123 Chestnut Street
6-7:30 p.m.
(\$15 per SHCA member)
Questions? Contact Matt
DeJulio: mattdejulio@aol.com

Wednesday, December 15

SHCA Board Meeting

7 p.m. Location TBA



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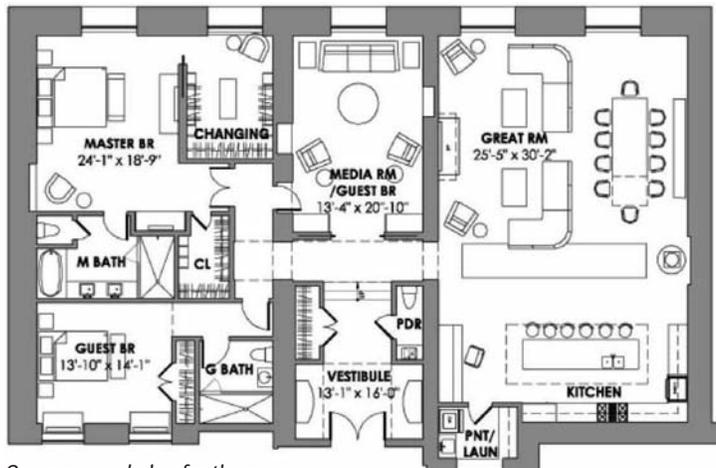
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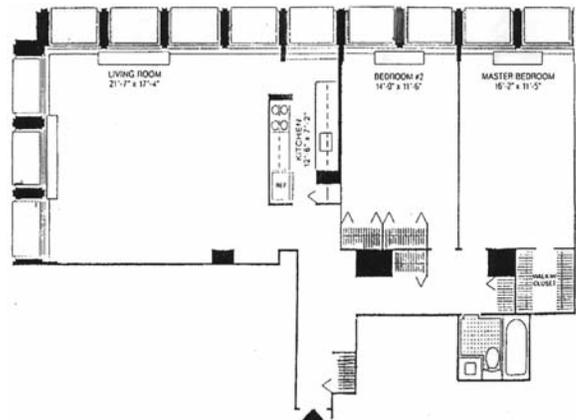
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