

SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

March/April 2011

The Newsletter
of The Society Hill
Civic Association

www.societyhillcivic.org

Prepare for the May 17th Primary Election at SHCA's Candidates' Forum

Meet District One Council Candidates

City Council really matters.

Council members make decisions that touch the everyday lives of every person who resides, works and visits here — from big-picture issues involving the security of your pension and the taxes you pay, to the small details that relate to the quality of life in your neighborhood and even on your street.

With the city still struggling to pull itself out of the recession, these decisions will make all the difference between whether Philadelphia thrives or stands still.

— www.seventy.org

Our civic association is pleased to host a Candidates' Forum at the General Membership Meeting on March 16th, 7:30 p.m. — at Pennsylvania Hospital's Zubrow Auditorium, 8th and Spruce Streets. We encourage all interested neighbors to attend this session, to help you make informed decisions about who can best serve our neighborhood and city.

It promises to be a lively evening, as we hear from the five candidates challenging incumbent Councilman Frank DiCicco — and Frank will present the reasons he should retain the First District seat, which he has held since 1995. A Question and Answer session will follow brief presentations by the following candidates:

Vern Anastasio, an attorney and Democratic Committee member, lives with his wife and two children in Bella Vista. He has served on the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations and was administrator of the Philadelphia Fair Housing Commission before becoming chief of staff in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives' 182nd District. He was a staff attorney at the Redevelopment Authority before entering private law practice.

Karen Brown, lifelong resident of the 1st District, is ready for new beginnings. She was a school

teacher and worked in the courts and the City Commissioner's Office. President of Southwark Civic and Youth Senior Outreach, she is on the board of South Philly Epic Stakeholders, is a member of Lyons Club, South Philly Business Association, Philly Civic Engagement Group, Civic Zoning Board, and Democratic Women.

Frank DiCicco lives with his wife in the Passyunk section of the city and has two grown sons from his first marriage. Besides serving four terms on City Council, he worked for 16 years in the Philadelphia Traffic Court system. DiCicco has sponsored a wide range of legislation, including waterfront development regulations, and is the author of the 10-year Tax Abatement Program. He has been a Mummer for many years.

Joe Grace, an attorney, lives in Port Richmond with his wife and daughter. He has stepped down as Executive Director of CeaseFirePA, the state's largest gun violence prevention organization. Grace was Communications Director of the City of Philadelphia under Mayor John Street. He has also been a reporter for several publications, including the *Philadelphia Daily News*, and was twice nominated for the Pulitzer Prize.

Jeff Hornstein, a former Service Employees International Union leader, lives in Queen Village with his wife and serves on the zoning committee of the Queen Village Neighbors Association. He has a PhD in U.S. history and is interested in urban development, affordable housing and building community-labor partnerships. He's also president of the Philadelphia Jewish Labor Committee and worked for the American Federation of Teachers.

Mark Squilla, a South Philly committeeman and community leader, resides in Pennsport. He has experience working as a systems analyst for the State Auditor General's office. Mark is the president of Whitman Council in South Philadelphia.

We look forward to seeing you at the General Membership Meeting. Bring a friend — and your questions for the candidates!

WED.

March
16

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Society Hill Civic Association Meetings
Wednesday, March 16, 2011

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.

Topic: First District Council Candidates' Forum
Speakers: Vern Anastasio, Karen Brown, Frank DiCicco, Joe Grace, Jeff Hornstein and Mark Squilla



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Civic Association**

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Submission Deadlines

May/June Issue
Advertising:
April 1st
Editorial:
April 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 Sandra Rothman by phone at 215-671-0554 or email norfad@aol.com. To publicize an event, submit all press releases directly to Rosanne Loesch.

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 Editor will be considered for publication only if signed and the writer provides contact information.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY ROSANNE LOESCH

"No other city in America is so conservative or has kept intact so much of the work of each succeeding periods. It is a veritable paradise wherein architects may survey styles past and gone."

Coften Fitzgerald, speaking of Philadelphia,
Architectural Record July 1913.

The beautiful effects of the preservation work to which Fitzgerald refers are still what makes Society Hill such a unique place to live and work. As many of you know, Society Hill is a National Historic District and, perhaps even more importantly, is a registered historic district in the City of Philadelphia, protected by the regulations of the Philadelphia Historical Commission. Our Society Hill neighborhood has one of the largest stocks of preserved 18th and 19th-century homes in the country. Thanks to the work of famed historic preservationist Charles Peterson and revered urban planner Ed Bacon, together with a host of like-minded city residents, Society Hill went from a neighborhood of run-down and abandoned properties in the middle of the last century to one of the most desirable residential neighborhoods in Philadelphia.

Succeeding generations of homeowners, preservationists and civic leaders have continued to preserve, maintain, beautify and improve Society Hill. All of you who currently live and work here are an important part of this endeavor. Did you know that Society Hill's borders go from Front to 8th Streets and from Walnut to Lombard, and include the condominium buildings surrounding Washington Square: Independence Place, Hopkinson House, the St. James, the Lippincott and the Ayer, as well as I.M. Pei's three Society Hill Towers adjacent to Dock Street?

Whether you live in a street-level brick town home or in an apartment, the safety and beauty of our streets is important to you. We all benefit from

our association's efforts to improve street lighting, remove graffiti, pay for twice-weekly sidewalk cleaning, organize twice-yearly Clean-Up Days, oversee zoning and historic preservation, raise money for Washington Square, participate in waterfront planning, monitor safety and security, and remain vigilant about all issues affecting the Society Hill neighborhood.

One of our important functions is to communicate with you, which we do regularly through a weekly email and this bi-monthly newsletter. We deliver the *Reporter* to every Society Hill resident (and business), whether you are an SHCA member or not. If you are a member, you'll also receive a weekly email with the latest information about street work and parking prohibitions, changes in trash collection, and notices about interesting events — like when the Headhouse Square's Farmers' Market will re-open and information about neighborhood concerts or lectures.

It makes sense to support your neighborhood association. It's only \$50 a year, \$40 for students and seniors. That is literally pennies a day for the benefits of a clean, safe and beautiful community. Additional donations are always welcome and help us to expand our work. Membership is on a calendar basis, so if you haven't had a chance to sign up or renew for 2011, please contact SHCA Administrator Matt DeJulio at mattdejulio@aol.com.

Lastly, this month SHCA continues the series of programs for the General Membership (and open to the public) that the Society Hill Civic Association sponsors five times per year. We are pleased to host all First District Council candidates that have officially filed as of this writing, at the "Candidates' Forum" — March 16th at the Pennsylvania Hospital auditorium (8th and Spruce Streets). Please join us for what we hope is a lively debate!



**Rosanne Loesch,
President**

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SAVE THE DATES

Washington Square Affair

Thursday, June 9th

The beautification of Washington Square, our community's historic park, requires the ongoing support of Society Hill neighbors. We are, therefore, most delighted to inform you that our civic association will soon enjoy a repeat performance of last year's hugely successful "Washington Square Affair." This wonderful social event fosters neighborhood spirit while simultaneously raising funds for the maintenance and beautification of our beloved park — which for over 200 years has been one of the city's most important public spaces. Washington Square continues to be visited year-round by thousands of local residents, as well as tourists from all over the world.

You may recall the tremendous success of last year's "Affair," which raised over \$40,000 for the Square. These funds have been targeted for the repair and upgrade of the park's overall sprinkler system — which will efficiently maintain the trees, grass and plantings in order to keep the historic square in the heart of our community a green oasis. Additional projects have been identified as we move forward with future **FUN**d-raising efforts.

All SHCA members will receive invitations to the Affair in late April. If you are not a member but wish to join the fun, please contact SHCA Administrator Matt DeJulio at mattdejulio@aol.com or 215-629-1288, and he'll gladly send you an invitation. Of course, we ask you to respond promptly, since last year's event sold out quickly and we don't want you to be disappointed!

It goes without saying that all funds raised by the Affair will be greatly appreciated. In addition, the event's coordinators are seeking a number of individuals or businesses willing to serve as

"Patrons" of the Washington Square Affair by donating more generously. As a special "thank you," all Patrons will be acknowledged for their generosity with an invitation to attend a private social in a nearby penthouse that features a splendid view that overlooks the Square. All Patrons will also be acknowledged in the *Reporter*, which reaches more than 3,600 households, as well as be thanked in the Affair's Tribute Book, which all attendees will receive.

For more information about contribution opportunities or other Affair details, please contact SHCA Administrator Matt DeJulio at mattdejulio@aol.com or the event's co-chairs, Andrea Layden at married2irish@msn.com or Merle Becker at merlebecker@wellsfargo.com.

Of course, all donations are tax-deductible — so come and join the party. Mingle with neighbors and friends along the Square's tree-lined walks while helping us beautify and preserve this treasured landmark for generations to come!

Mark your calendars for May 22nd and June 9th.



Patrons at last year's "Affair" contributed more than \$40,000 for the Square. Watch for your invitation, and get those hats ready!

2011 Society Hill Open House & Garden Tour

Sunday, May 22nd

Don't miss the 2011 House and Garden Tour that benefits our civic association. All profits go directly to SHCA to be used for neighborhood improvement projects. There are still some openings for house sitters — volunteer for two hours and receive a free ticket for the tour.

Tickets will go on sale starting April 1st.

Cost: \$25 each (reserved in advance) or \$30 at the door. For more information, to purchase tickets, or to volunteer, contact SHCA administrator Matt DeJulio at 215-629-1288, or mattdejulio@aol.com. More details to follow in the May/June issue of the *Reporter*, or go to the SHCA website and click on Society Hill Open House Tour.

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SPRING CONSTRUCTION

Streets Work to Start in March

Replacement
permit parking
to be created.

SHCA held a meeting on March 2nd with the Streets Department to learn about two major construction projects to begin this spring in the Society Hill neighborhood.

The installation of new handicap ramps at all street corners will begin sometime this month (March). In May the following streets will be repaved in Society Hill: Front, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Streets. As of this writing, Stephen Buckley (Deputy Commissioner for Transportation), the Chief Traffic Engineer, a representative from the Philadelphia Parking Authority and the Project Manager for Construction were scheduled to attend the March 2nd meeting. Mr. Buckley has assured our association that an alternative permit parking plan will be created before construction begins.

We will give notice through our blast email of alternative permit parking locations. Blast email is sent to SHCA members for whom we have email addresses. If you are not a household

member (\$50) yet, take this opportunity to receive important neighborhood information by email — become an SHCA member by sending in the form on page 21 or by contacting Matt DeJulio at mattdejulio@aol.com.

We have also urged the City to give more than 24 hours' notice for moving cars, so that as few cars as possible need to be towed. Residents using permit parking to park vehicles on the street should check frequently for "No Parking" signs that will be posted during the construction period.

SHCA is working with the Streets Department to identify new permanent permit parking to replace a number of spaces lost on the 500 block of Pine Street due to a new turn lane the city created, and in front of the SuperFresh where several spaces were converted to short-term (i.e. non-permit) parking. Notification about the location of the new replacement parking will be sent by blast email and will appear in the May/June *Reporter*.

Are you ready to have your personal or corporate history written?

Having written some 50 Noteworthy Neighbors pieces for the *Reporter* over the past decade — and also authored several books, articles and editorials — and produced published interviews with luminaries such as William F. Buckley, Edwin Newman, Norman Cousins, and Malcolm Muggeridge, I'd like to take on one or two full-fledged personal or corporate histories in 2011.

If you're ready to tell your story for posterity, please contact: David Woods, PhD
HMI3000@comcast.net

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U P C O M I N G E L E C T I O N S

Candidates Sought for SHCA's Board of Directors

Elections for SHCA's Board of Directors and officers occur annually, in accordance with SHCA's bylaws. This year's election for the year beginning June 1st, 2011, will take place at our May 18th General Membership Meeting.

All of the following officer positions are available for a one-year term: President, five Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer. Also, we will be electing four Quadrant Directors for three-year terms, one from each of Society Hill's four quadrants (as described below).

SHCA's Nominations and Election Committee will nominate persons for these positions. Additionally, others may be nominated by petition. To nominate someone, including yourself, for an officer's position, please submit a petition signed by 10 members of the Association. A nomination for Quadrant Director requires signatures of 10 residents from that quadrant. If possible, although not required, include information about your nominee (and if nominating yourself,

consider sending your resume). Send these petitions to SHCA's Administrator Matt DeJulio, c/o Society Hill Civic Association, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147 or to mattdejulio@aol.com. Submissions must be received by April 1st in order to be considered.

The names of all individuals nominated will be listed in the May/June issue of the *Reporter*.

Visit www.societyhillcivic.org for more information about our civic association, board, or nominating process.

Which quadrant do you live in?

For the purpose of electing SHCA Board Directors, Society Hill is divided into four quadrants: Northeast, Southeast, Northwest and Southwest. Fourth Street serves as the north-south dividing line between the east and west quadrants. Spruce Street is the east-west dividing line between north and south quadrants.

Nominations due April 1st

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 1st, 2011. 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.



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Are the Ducks Migrating Back to Philly?

A recent article in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* suggests that Ride the Ducks, a popular Philadelphia tourist concession, may be returning to the Delaware River — possibly as soon as this spring, having suspended operations following an accident last summer that resulted in the deaths of two Hungarian tourists.

The duck-boat operator and the U.S. Coast Guard have been negotiating the conditions under which the amphibious vehicles can resume operations. The company is considering shortening the water portion of the ride significantly, as well as keeping a standby boat at Pier 5 near Arch Street to tow the ducks to safety quickly, should a need arise.

The incident has fueled concerns that smaller craft do not belong on the Delaware, a busy shipping channel. The tour company has agreed to stay out of the water if large commercial ships are within half a nautical mile of the ducks' operating area.

Ride the Ducks' owner, Herschend Family Entertainment, which is based in Georgia, originally planned to relocate the attraction to the Schuylkill River. According to the mayor's office, it was the unanimous decision of various city departments

to deny the company a contract based on concerns about safety, noise disturbance, traffic issues and operation during special events.

The National Transportation Safety Board continues to investigate the July 7th, 2010 accident where a 250-foot barge owned by the City of Philadelphia hit a duck-boat that had stopped on the Delaware River after its captain saw smoke coming from the engine. The accident, in which 35 passengers and two crewmembers were tossed into the water, happened off Penn's Landing in Old City, near the Independence Seaport Museum between Walnut and Chestnut Streets.

The 18-foot tour boats are remakes of General Motor's original six-wheeled DUKWs, which were built for the U.S. Army during World War II. They can drive on city streets as well as float in the river, and are well known to Society Hill neighbors for the noisy quacking devices that tourists blow while riding around the historic district on a 70-minute tour.

The company pays rent to the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation, which owns the parcel of land where a ramp for Ride the Ducks to access the river was built in 2003.



FESTIVITIES CONTINUE

In conjunction with the ongoing celebration of the **250th Anniversary of St. Peter's Church**, eminent historian Gary B. Nash will speak on March 24th about Philadelphia's early African-American community living near the Church. For more information, call 215-925-5968 or check www.stpetersphila.org.

CHECK IT OUT

Seconds on Second is a non-profit kitchen supply store at 106 North 2nd Street — with all proceeds benefitting the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's disease research. Merchandise is new and donated by local restaurant suppliers. Employees are volunteers, and the atmosphere is friendly and helpful. For more information, contact Catherine Dumoff at 215-300-2829 or cd rallyforpd@gmail.com.



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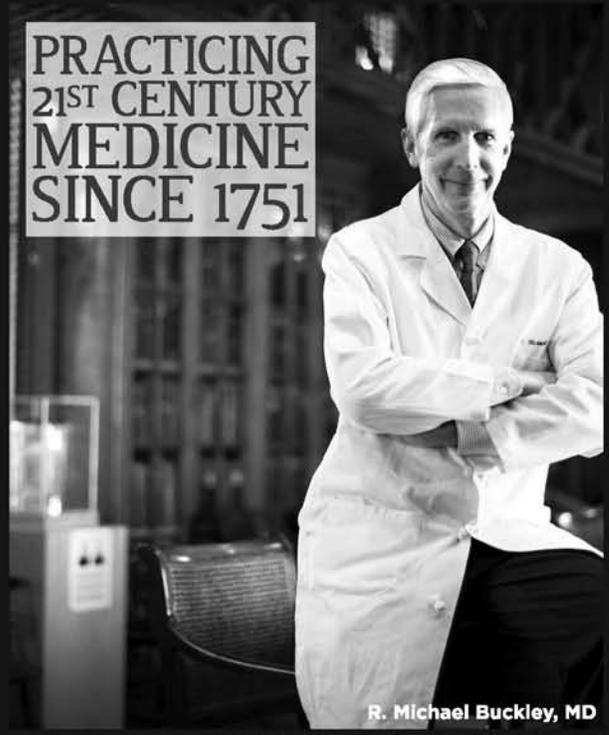
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ZONING AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

BY LORNA KATZ-LAWSON

Working Together to Better the Community

734 Addison Street

The application for the new parking area and access gate, proposed for 734 Addison Street and discussed at length in the last issue of the *Reporter*, finally went to the Zoning Board of Adjustment on February 1st with a letter of support from our Zoning & Historic Preservation (ZHP) Committee. We are happy to report that the variance was granted, and we express our gratitude to the owners, their neighbors, the Philadelphia Historical Commission (PHC) and ZHP members for working together to resolve the design issues in a way to better the community.

2nd and Pine Streets

Signage continues to present issues. At the PHC monthly meeting on February 11th, Wells Fargo Bank presented a revised proposal for new signage at its Society Hill branch on the corner of 2nd and Pine Streets. This amended plan eliminates lighting from entrance signs as well as for the sign first proposed for the parapet on Pine Street. The new plan suggests switching the parapet sign to the 2nd Street façade and fitting it into existing historic moldings where signs were originally placed. However, there will still be internally lighted signs within the bank space, visible through the windows. ZHP requested that Wells Fargo remove these, since they seem to serve no purpose and distract from the architecture. It remains to be seen what Wells Fargo will do. There is no law governing interior signage unless the space has been placed on the City's historic register.

Hopkinson House

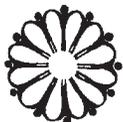
The review of the proposed new through-wall mechanical system for Hopkinson House was postponed at the request of the applicant, since

more time was needed to install a mockup at the building, as required by PHC's Architectural Committee. Since the extreme cold has prevented the work from proceeding, the review will not occur until the PHC's March meeting. A through-wall system is also called a split system. It requires a grille to cover exterior air intakes and exhausts. This grille becomes part of the building façade and is a prominent visual feature.

Revision of the Philadelphia Zoning Code

Just days before the Zoning Code Commission (ZCC) was set to take a final vote that would send the latest draft of the new code, known as the "blueline" or "referral" draft, to City Council, the Crosstown Coalition (of which SHCA is a member civic organization) issued a letter requesting a further delay in the vote. The Coalition feels there are many unresolved or poorly resolved issues that must be worked out before this draft is submitted to City Council. The Coalition is still not convinced that there are enough protections in place to assure that the character of Society Hill and other neighborhoods will be preserved. Left unresolved, the bill could become a political football or, worse, be killed.

Cheryl Gaston, head of the real estate sub-committee of the Philadelphia Bar Association, and Michael Sklaroff, former PHC chairman representing the Development Workshop, made forceful presentations to ZCC supporting the request for extending the review period. Both speakers asked for a three-month extension. Although ZCC only offered a two-week postponement, difficulty in getting enough ZCC members to commit to a meeting date will likely mean a longer delay before a vote can take place.



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EXPLORING THE CITY

BY JIM MURPHY

Old Pine Street Churchyard

Walking through the tranquil churchyard at 4th and Pine Streets one day, I looked down at a small gravestone and felt as if I'd been hit in the stomach.

The flat white stone simply said: "Our Charley."

I wondered: Was this a child? A pet? Who was it? And why was it causing me such an emotional reaction? I'd never seen a stone like this before.

Further investigation and a meeting with Ronn Shaffer, the church's resident historian, revealed many interesting facts about this beautiful Colonial churchyard. "It has the highest density of any graveyard in the city of Philadelphia," Shaffer believes, with 3,000 or more people buried in less than an acre.

Up to four adults or six or seven children are stacked in each grave — 30 inches wide, 7 feet long and 9 feet deep. Heads are placed at the west, feet to the east, so believers can see the Angel Gabriel when he announces the Great Awakening. Shaffer calls the practice of stacking multiple people in the same plot at levels of nine feet, six feet, and three feet "parfait burials."

Known originally as the Third Presbyterian Church, Old Pine Street opened in 1768 on land donated by Thomas and Richard Penn, sons of William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania, and his second wife, Hannah.

A once-friendly relationship with the First Presbyterian Church on the south side of Market Street (High Street) near 2nd Street deteriorated when Old Pine Street hired a radical minister, George Duffield.

That's when the First Church purchased a large adjoining lot on the west side of Old Pine Street and began burying parishioners there. After selling its Bank Street burial ground in 1823, the First Church reinterred 900 bodies (and gravestones) at Old Pine Street. The First Church also moved 1,000 bodies to a mass grave at Laurel Hill on Ridge Avenue in Philadelphia, above the Schuylkill River. Unable to take the gravestones to Laurel Hill, some First Church members brought their ancestors' gravestones to Old Pine and leaned them against the south and west brick walls, where they still rest today.

With many prominent members in arms, Old Pine became known as the "Church of the



Patriots" during the Revolutionary War. This reputation worked against it when the British used the church as a hospital and later a stable for their horses.

More than 121 Revolutionary War soldiers are buried in the churchyard, and special 13-star flags mark their graves. More flags will be added this Memorial Day by the Sons of the American Revolution.

Others of note buried at Old Pine: William Hurry, sexton who rang the Liberty Bell for one hour on July 8th, 1776, to announce the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence; and Jared Ingersoll, the only signer of the Constitution in the churchyard.

More recent burials: The body of In Oh Ho, a Korean student, killed in West Philadelphia in 1958; Eugene Ormandy, who died in 1985 and whose remains are here along with his wife, Margaret; and Rev. Stephen Gloucester, a former slave and one of the first black ordained ministers in the U.S. His body was discovered during renovation of a vacant 160-year old house nearby and reinterred in a grave next to the foundation of Old Pine Street in 2008.

And finally, what's the story on "Our Charley"?

Sadly, he led a short life, and this "lovely little boy of five years" died on May 20, 1849.

As recounted in the book, *The Life of Rev. Thomas Brainerd, D.D.*, by Mary Brainerd, the death of his youngest son unnerved Dr. Brainerd so much that he had to sit while preaching for the next three years.

"To see his little boy suffering under brain fevers, as the result of his precocious intellect, completely unmanned him." No wonder.

There's far more here than meets the eye.

FAST FACTS

Name: Historic Colonial Churchyard

Location: 412 Pine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Current Church Name: Third, Scots and Mariners Presbyterian Church

Phone: 215-925-8051

E-mail: info@oldpine.org

Web: www.oldpine.org; friendsfoldpinestreet.org

Open: 7 days a week during daylight hours

Closed: national holidays

Admission: No charge; contributions are appreciated; 13-star flags and flag-holders to adopt a grave of a fallen patriot soldier are \$25.

Recent Claim to Fame: Appeared in the 2004 movie "National Treasure"



Want a Tree? Plant a Tree!



The Pennsylvania Horticulture Society (PHS) is now accepting applications for its TreeVitalize Philadelphia Tree Planting Program, which supports neighborhood volunteers by providing trees for properly prepared and approved sidewalk tree pits. Under the direction of Hans Bombeck, our Society Hill Tree Tenders group continues an effort started many years ago and has, in the past two years, spearheaded the planting of more than 20 new trees, which property owners and neighbors care for and water regularly.

Tree Applications

Applications for fall planting are currently being accepted. Keep in mind that availability is limited and is not guaranteed. After requests are submitted, tree experts will inspect the proposed site and determine the proper tree species by considering location, exposure to sunlight, traffic conditions and pit size. The deadline for submitting a completed application is Friday, April 1st. Applications are available by contacting Garrett Smith at garrett.smith@comcast.net or 215-760-1213.

Tree Tender Training

Over the years, many of our fellow neighbors in Society Hill have taken the PHS "Tree Tenders" classes, which are offered at no cost. Are you interested in learning how to plant and care for trees? Free classes in Philadelphia are scheduled for spring (May 5th, 12th and 19th) and fall (October 12th, 19th and 26th). Register online for these three-hour evening sessions by visiting www.PHSONline.org and clicking on "Enroll in Tree Tenders Classes."

Planting Teams

We'd like to thank all of those who participated in last fall's planting and encourage interested parties to be part of our all-volunteer group. Another planting is scheduled for mid-April. Any Society Hiller willing to participate should contact Garrett Smith.

Studies show that green spaces with trees improve health, encourage social interaction, increase privacy, improve property values, contribute to lower levels of crime, help slow traffic, make pedestrians feel safer and generally increase our sense of well being. Right now Society Hill is a great place to live... plant a tree and you can enhance our neighborhood even more!

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SAFE AND SOUND IN SOCIETY HILL

BY MARILYN APPEL

History Repeats Itself

There's been another theft at the Philadelphia Sports Club. This time, keys were removed early in the morning from two unattended coats. Hopefully, the victims called their locksmiths immediately and checked with their car dealers about new keys.

Theft from Auto continues to be a big issue, even though two major perpetrators of this offense recently have been imprisoned for fairly long terms, thanks to Vince Regan of the District Attorney's office and those in our community who wrote dozens of letters to the judge in the case. The letters and emails really did work, and our 6th District Police District Advisory Council (PDAC) gave us their wholehearted support. We'll say it again: Don't leave anything in your car worth taking — because it will be!

St. Mary's: Someone was shameless enough to steal money out of St. Mary's collection box. This is a warning to all the churches in the area

to empty these boxes as many times as necessary. If there's no money in the box, the thieves will stop coming by to steal it.

Deputy Commissioner James Tiano, who for many years has been one of our immediate contacts with the police command, recently retired. We wish him well in his leisure time. He will be sorely missed! Police District Advisory Councils are now under the aegis of Deputy Commissioner Kevin Bethel.

If anyone in the Society Hill area would like to attend a PDAC meeting or discuss any problems, please contact Tanya Brown, our 6th District Community Relations Officer, at 215-686-3063. Meetings are held at varying locations throughout the District on the last Wednesday of the month at noon. Lunch is always served by the host location. Call me at 215-922-2626 if you would like to participate or to report any crimes that I may not have heard of.

Wanted: Cell Phone Donations

SHCA's Safe and Sound Committee continues to collect old cell phones that are given to needy senior citizens and abused women. These phones are reprogrammed by the police to call only 911. Drop off your used cell phone at 414 Spruce Street. Much appreciated!

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Liberty Tree

by Thomas Paine

A song written early in the American Revolution.

In a chariot of light from the regions of day,
 The Goddess of Liberty came;
 Ten thousand celestials directed the way
 And hither conducted the dame.

A fair budding branch from the gardens above,
 Where millions with millions agree,
 She brought in her hand as a pledge of her love,
 And the plant she named Liberty Tree.

The celestial exotic struck deep in the ground,
 Like a native it flourished and bore;
 The fame of its fruit drew the nations around,
 To seek out this peaceable shore.

Unmindful of names or distinction they came,
 For freemen like brothers agree;
 With one spirit endued, they one friendship pursued,
 And their temple was Liberty Tree.

Beneath this fair tree, like the patriarchs of old,
 Their bread in contentment they ate,
 Unvexed with the troubles of silver and gold,
 The cares of the grand and the great.

With timber and tar they Old England supplied,
 And supported her power on the sea;
 Her battles they fought, without getting a goat,
 For the honor of Liberty Tree.

But hear, O ye swains, 'tis a tale most profane,
 How all the tyrannical powers,
 Kings, Commons, and Lords, are uniting amain
 To cut down this guardian of ours;

From the east to the west blow the trumpet to arms
 Through the land let the sound of it flee,
 Let the far and the near, all unite with a cheer,
 In defence of our Liberty Tree.



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CELEBRATE SPRING BY FIXING THE BRIX !

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Good News: Fix the Brix Gets Additional Funds!

Although the Fix the Brix project has relied solely on funds from a state grant which expires on June 30, SHCA has allocated additional limited funding for the project, allowing it to continue until the end of 2011 and perhaps into 2012. This gives neighbors more time and opportunity to Fix the Brix.

Winter and time can take a toll on the brick sidewalks in front of your home, so spring is a good time to consider repairing them. SHCA can help defray costs with a reimbursement of 40% of the total bill, up to \$300. To date, we have helped 48 households realize savings of \$11,996 and we're still going strong!

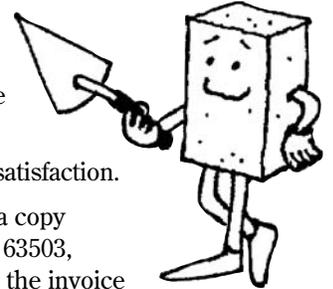
Did you know that maintaining sidewalks is your responsibility? Residents may not realize they can be responsible for injuries sustained on the sidewalks in front of their homes. Society Hill's brick walks are a visual enhancement to our community, but may be hazardous if broken or uneven — causing injuries if pedestrians trip and fall. This can happen just going to the gym or SuperFresh!

What causes sidewalks to be uneven?

- Tree roots pushing up bricks from underground
- Bricks becoming loose or sinking over time
- Damage from vehicles on sidewalks
- Extreme winter weather conditions such as cold and ice

It's easy to get started

- 1 You'll need to get an estimate(s) from a mason and an arborist (for tree root problems). **Please contact us to receive our list of recommended skilled masons and arborists.** Contact Martha Levine at marthalev@msn.com or 215-629-0727, or Frank Signorello at fsignorello@gexchange.com.
- 2 Call several contractors to find one who suits your needs and budget.
- 3 Have the work completed to your satisfaction.
- 4 After the work is completed, mail a copy of your invoice to SHCA, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia PA 19147. Make sure the invoice states that your sidewalk was repaired.
- 5 Within weeks, you will receive a reimbursement check of 40% of the total cost, up to \$300 maximum, from SHCA.



Regardless of whether your reimbursement is \$30 or \$300, we want to hear from you. If you have already "Fixed your Brix," and have not yet submitted the invoice, it's not too late. Please mail us your invoice, so that we may include you in this important neighborhood improvement project.

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600 Welcome Baskets and Counting!

BY MARTHA LEVINE



New homeowners Colin and Kate Wetherill were delighted to receive SHCA's 600th Welcome Basket!

It's hard to believe, but in the last 12 years Society Hill Civic Association has presented more than 600 Welcome Baskets to recent first-time Society Hill homeowners! These large baskets overflow with fresh foods, valuable information and numerous gift certificates, all made possible through the generosity of local restaurants, theaters, shops and services.

We welcome the following new contributors: **Village Belle**, 757 S. Front Street, a neighborhood-friendly, Northern Mediterranean-inspired restaurant and bar overlooking the Delaware

River; and **Liberty 360**, presented by Lights of Liberty, featuring a dazzling, 3-D tour de force journey through American history, in a new state-of-the-art theater.

If you are a recent new homeowner in Society Hill and would like to have a Welcome Basket presented to you in your home, contact Martha Levine for an appointment at 215-629-0727 or marthalev@msn.com.

Please help thank the following generous and loyal contributors by patronizing their establishments. We rely on their generosity to fill the baskets with wonderful things.

2011 WELCOME BASKET CONTRIBUTORS

Coffee Shops

Old City Coffee
-221 Church Street
-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

Hair Salons

Salon @ 5th, 316 S. 5th Street

Restaurants

Bistro Romano, 120 Lombard Street
Bridget Foy's, 200 South Street
Caribou Café, 1126 Walnut Street
Chops Restaurant & Bar, 700 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
-Chifa, 707 Chestnut Street
Haru (Japanese), 241-43 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
Village Belle, 757 S. Front Street

Specialty Foods

Homemade Goodies by Roz, 510 S. 5th Street
Metropolitan Bakery (at the Metro Café/
Farmacia), 15 S. 3rd Street
Naked Chocolate Café, 1317 Walnut Street
Zeke's Deli, 318 S. 5th Street

Specialty Shops

Adornamenti (jewelry), 1106 Pine Street
Happily Ever After (toys), 1010 Pine Street
Head House Books, 619 S. 2nd Street
Lolli Lolli (children's clothing/toys), 713 Walnut Street
Paper On Pine (stationery supplies), 115 S. 13th Street
Show of Hands Gallery (crafts), 1006 Pine Street

Theaters/Entertainment

Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 3680 Walnut Street
Arden Theater, 40 N. 2nd Street
Ballet X at Wilma Theater, 265 S. Broad Street
City Food Tours, 1518 Walnut Street
Eastern State Penitentiary, 2124 Fairmount Avenue
1812 Productions (all comedy theater), 215-592-9560
Ghost Tours of Philadelphia, 610-587-8308
InterAct Theater Company, 2030 Sansom Street
Lantern Theater Company, 10th & Ludlow Streets (south of Market)
Lights of Liberty – featuring Liberty 360, 6th & Chestnut Streets
National Liberty Museum, 321 Chestnut Street
Pennsylvania Ballet, Academy of Music, Broad & Locust Streets
Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, 215-569-8080
Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre, 2111 Sansom Street
Philadelphia Theatre Company, S. Roberts Theater, Broad & Pine Streets
Piffaro, The Renaissance Band, 215-235-8469
Society Hill Playhouse, 507 S. 8th Street
The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, Kimmel Center, 215-545-1739
The Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble, Old Pine Church
Wilma Theater, 265 S. Broad Street

Other Services

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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), 219 Cuthbert Street
Riff Cleaners, 314 S. 5th Street
SCULPT—Personal Trainer, 215-803-0723
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
Yoga Child (children's and adults' classes), 903 South Street





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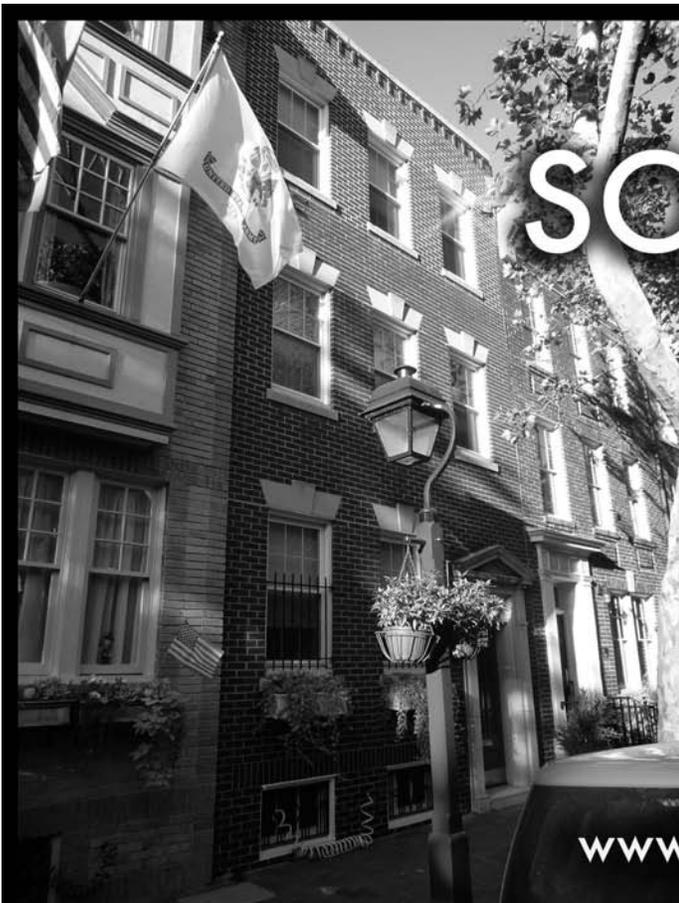
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- 832-36 LOMBARD** **\$3,600,000**
Exceptional 5BD/3BA+2 powder rooms, living room with 54ft ceiling, European kitchen, 9500 sq ft of living space crafted with the finest materials, wine cellar, 2 car parking.
- 231 S 6TH #2NW** **\$2,099,000**
Spectacular 3BD/2.5BA, 2700sf unit at the Lippincott, deeded indoor parking, great views, amazing finishes, private elevator entrance.
- 504 DELANCEY** **\$875,000**
Completely renovated 3-4BD/2.5BA home with refinished pine floors, three wood-burning fireplaces, new kitchen and baths, 1 year prepaid garage parking for 2 cars, red brick patio.
- THE WILLINGS 211-15 S 4TH** **FROM \$795,000**
Beautiful 1-2BD units, high ceilings, recessed lighting, granite counters, exclusive residence with 24-hour doorman and many other great amenities.
- 312 S PHILIP** **\$575,000**
Charming, well-preserved 4BD/1.5BA, many original details, amazing character, refinished pine floors, high ceilings, crown moldings, original fireplaces and mantles.
- THE MORAVIAN 143 S 2ND** **FROM \$479,500**
Beautiful new units in elevator building with concierge and doorman. Units feature high-end finishes, hardwood floors, fireplaces!
- 520 S 4TH** **\$419,900**
Large tri-level apartment above retail first floor. 4 fireplaces, beautiful garden, great roof deck potential.
- 903-05 CLINTON #1R** **\$299,900**
Beautiful, recently renovated 1BD/1BA unit with cherry hardwood floors, gorgeous kitchen, granite counters, office nook.

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2011 Membership Up to 819

As membership renewals for 2011 continue to come in, the total membership stands at 819 in mid-February. A reminder was sent in the beginning of February to almost 300 neighbors who failed to renew. Of these 300 non-renewals, 249 remain, a number slightly offset with the addition of 50 new members. We hope to reach or surpass our total of 1,025 for 2010.

Members who returned their dues by December 31st qualified for a drawing for a free dinner for two. We are happy to announce the two winners: Gene Di Re of Spruce Street and Lois Levine of Independence Place.

If you are among the 249 non-renewals, please mail in your dues today. The adjacent form may be used if you have misplaced the one we mailed you, or just go to our website, societyhillcivic.org, to download an application. You may pay by credit card or PayPal.

As you may know, our regular operating budget comes primarily from member dues. The *Reporter* advertising revenue, while substantial, only offsets the *Reporter* expenses. Your membership dues pay for sidewalk cleaning, the planting of new trees, graffiti removal supplies, general improvements to Washington Square, including the planting of flowers, as well as general administrative costs. Without member dues, SHCA would cease to function. Protect your neighborhood and your real estate investment.

Call 215-629-1288 or email mattdejulio@aol.com if you have any questions.

GRAFFITI WATCH

Concerned neighbors should report graffiti sightings immediately for quick removal. Graffiti that remains visible for a long period of time encourages vandals to deface more property in that area. Contact SHCA Administrator Matt DeJulio at 215-629-1288 or mattdejulio@aol.com.

JOIN THE WALKIE-TALKIES!

Bundle-Up to Exercise & Socialize

Every Tuesday and Thursday morning Society Hill's group of "Walkie-Talkie" gals benefit from about an hour of healthy walking exercise. If you would enjoy socializing with neighbors while exploring our streetscape, just show up at Three Bears Park on any Tuesday or Thursday morning — unless it's raining. Walkie-Talkies usually "take off" by 8:15 for this non-demanding and free fitness program! We'd love to meet you. Any questions? Call Bernice at 215-925-4363.

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

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

Business Memberships

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

Additional Contributions

- \$ _____ Washington Square Beautification
- \$ _____ Sidewalk Cleaning/Graffiti Removal
- \$ _____ Zoning and Historic Preservation
- \$ _____ Franklin Lights
- \$ _____ Tree Tenders
- \$ _____ 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
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NIFTY NEIGHBORS IN MY OWN BACKYARD

BY JANE BIBERMAN

Ralph Collier's Seven Decades in Broadcasting



Radio personality Ralph Collier interviews guests at “his office” — the bar of the Omni Hotel. Not that he is a drinker; he just likes the ambience. If you’ve never met him in person but are familiar with his cultured voice, you would recognize him. He is the dapper, white-haired gentleman seated at a small table by the window, dressed impeccably in a navy blazer, white shirt and tie and grey flannel slacks.

For as long as I can remember, I’ve listened to Collier’s broadcasts, first on WFLN, and now on WRTI. His travel spot, “Tours and Detours,” is a mainstay of the station. He also writes travel articles for the *Main Line Times* and *ICON* magazine. “I Hear

America Talking,” which features author interviews, followed by car reviews, airs on a variety of local public radio stations, as does “The Week Ahead,” a roundup of area arts activities.

Although he has no accent, Collier was born in Berlin. His Jewish parents fled in 1933 when he was 13. Raised on Long Island, he learned to drive a stick shift as a teenager. “That’s when I began my love affair with cars,” he says, adding that he still drives a 25-year-old maroon Mercedes sedan, although he covets “the incomparable” Lexus E350.

Collier and his wife, Birtan, have lived in Society Hill for the past 30 years. While he faithfully rides his stationary bike at home, his wife exercises with our neighborhood group, the Walkie-Talkies, where I met her. She preferred not to share the limelight for this article. But her husband is quick to give credit where credit is due. “Birtan’s exceptional editorial skills improve my columns immeasurably,” says Collier. “She also produces my radio shows.”

For seven decades, Collier (born Kisch) has been a journalist. During the final year of World War II, he returned to Germany as a radio broadcaster for the U.S. Army’s psychological warfare department and stayed on with the U.S. State Department. On his return to New York, he joined WOR Radio and then worked for seven years at NBC-TV in Rochester.

In 1954, Collier moved to Philadelphia, where he was with CBS radio for six years before entering the field of public relations. It was in the early 60s that he became director of public relations for the Philadelphia Museum of Art. A decade later, he was named head of the Campbell Soup Museum. “I learned about art because I am a voracious reader,” says Collier. “I’m completely self-educated.”

Always an intrepid traveler, he has journeyed the world over and broadcast from every major European capital. He once counted Zurich as his favorite city but now says, “you could die of boredom there.” Currently, Collier favors Copenhagen, one of the few places left, he feels, where the term “fairy tale” can be applied. “Danes claim to be happy because they inevitably think life could be worse than it really is. And the nightlife is like a mailman on Sunday: it delivers when you least expect it.”

Collier has interviewed thousands of people over his long career. He says Israeli novelist Amos Oz stands out as an interviewer’s dream, “because he is a word-child: hyper-articulate.” His all-time favorite was distinguished NBC newsman, Robert St. John, “a man of deep intellect who covered Europe and filed stories from Israel, as well as Egypt, and wrote 25 books.”

Among Collier’s most memorable experiences are interviewing General Dwight Eisenhower and Eugene Ormandy, as well as lunching with artist Marc Chagall when he was visiting Philadelphia. “The most disagreeable were Danny Kaye, Charles Dutoit and Jerry Lewis.”

At 90, Collier has no plans to retire. He would like to interview former President Bill Clinton, pianist Lang Lang and David Remnick, editor of *The New Yorker*. “And I want to travel to Wellington and Auckland, New Zealand.” So stay tuned to 90.1 FM weekdays at 10 a.m. for Collier’s latest adventures.

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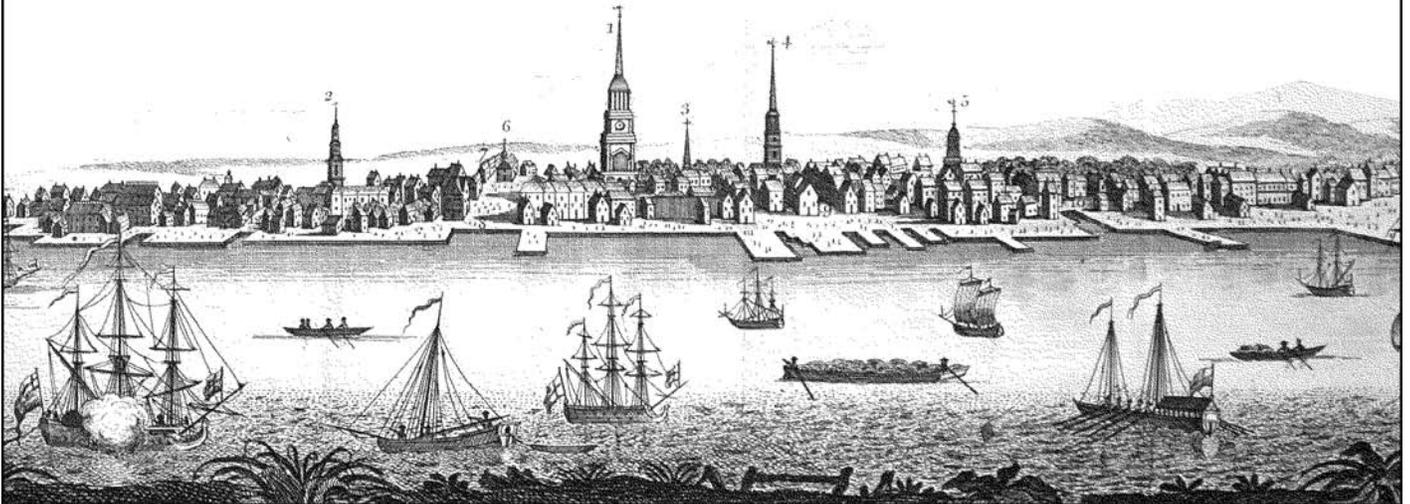
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 16
SHCA Board Meeting
 Grand Court Room, 5:45 p.m.
SHCA General Meeting
 Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
 Pennsylvania Hospital
 8th & Spruce
 See page 1

Thursday, March 24
Historian Gary Nash to speak at St. Peter's Church
 See page 9

Thursday, April 7
First Thursday Knit & Nosh
 at Homemade Goodies by Roz
 510 South 5th Street
 Call 215-592-9616 to reserve

Wednesday, April 21
SHCA Board Meeting
 321 South 4th Street, 7 p.m.
 Members welcome

Sunday, May 1
Headhouse Square Farmer's Market 5th Season Starts
 Shambles at Headhouse Square, 2nd and Pine Streets
 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sunday, May 8
The Susan G. Komen Philadelphia Race for the Cure
 Race.KomenPhiladelphia.org

Sunday, May 22
Society Hill Open House Tour
 1 to 5 p.m. See page 5

Thursday, June 9
Washington Square Affair
 See page 5



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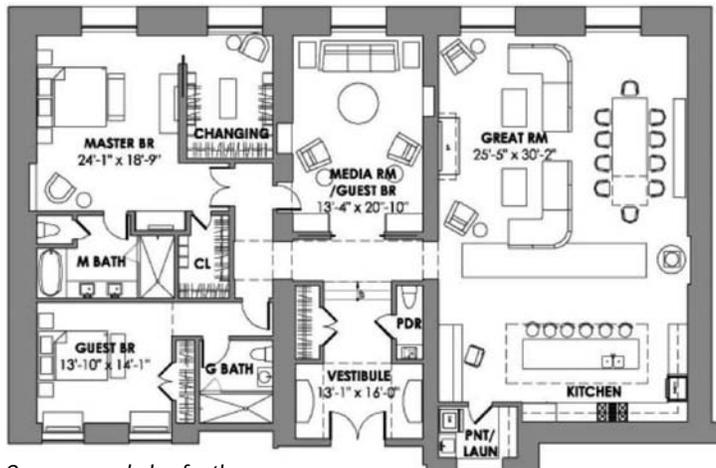
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