

SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

Spring/Summer 2011

The Newsletter
of The Society Hill
Civic Association

www.societyhillcivic.org

Exercise Your Right to Vote — On May 17th and May 18th!



**Vote
May 17th
in the 2011
Philadelphia
Municipal
Primary
Election**

Society Hill Civic Association's (SHCA's) May 18th General Membership Meeting promises to be interesting as well as informative. Whether you're a full-on political wonk or just a concerned citizen, you'll want to attend this evening of presentations and discussion of what the demographic trends in the 2010 Census reveal about Center City, and how they impact the redrawing of municipal political districts — which happens every ten years and is due to occur early this September.

The Charter mandates that City Council must come up with a re-districted map based on the new census figures. It is then presented to the Mayor, who must sign off on it. A decade ago this process took place completely behind closed doors, i.e. no public hearings or neighborhood meetings.

Our first speaker is **Tom Ferrick**, a former *Philadelphia Inquirer* columnist and now the senior editor of Metropolis, a Philadelphia-based news and information website that debuted in late 2009. Tom will discuss the demographic trends that the recent census shows; for instance, he will talk about why this is the first time in 60 years that Philadelphia's population did not go down.

Ellen Kaplan, Vice President and Policy Director of the government watchdog Committee of Seventy, will discuss her organization's recommendations about how this upcoming re-districting should be done, giving special consideration to the idea of public hearings with input from citizens.

We hope you will join us to hear these lively and engaging speakers discuss a topic that will have consequences for all city residents.

In addition, SHCA will conduct its annual election of Board Directors. We invite all SHCA members to vote for the civic-minded candidates who have been asked to serve by our association's Nominating Committee, chaired by Vice President Jim Moss. See page 15 for brief biographies of these nominees.

2011-12 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President (1-year term)	Steven Weixler
Vice President (1-year term)	Bernice Hamel George Kelley Benita Fair Langsdorf Martha Levine Jerrold (Jim) Moss

Treasurer (1-year term) Zaineb Ainuddin-Zekeria

Secretary (1-year term) George Dowdall

Continuing Director Rosanne Loesch

Quadrant Representatives

Each quadrant has three representatives. The year an individual's term ends is noted before his or her name. The four newly nominated Quadrant Representatives have terms ending in 2014.

Northeast Quadrant	2012 Andrew Hohns 2013 Lorna Katz Lawson 2014 Lenore Hardy
Northwest Quadrant	2012 Andrea Layden 2013 Lawrence Burstein 2014 Sissie Lipton
Southeast Quadrant	2012 Tania Rorke 2013 Robert Curley 2014 Jane Ahn
Southwest Quadrant	2012 Sheila Paulos 2013 Melvin Buckman 2014 Francisco Carreno

WED.

May
18

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Society Hill Civic Association Meetings
Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Pennsylvania Hospital, 8th & Spruce Streets

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

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

Topics: SHCA Board of Directors & Officer's Election, 2010 Census and City Re-districting

Speakers: Tom Ferrick, Jr., Senior Editor, Metropolis
Ellen Kaplan, Vice President, Committee of Seventy



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Civic Association

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Submission Deadlines

September/October Issue
 Advertising: August 1st
 Editorial: August 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 e-mail norfad@aol.com. To publicize an event, submit all press releases directly.

Materials must be submitted in writing – via mail or e-mail – 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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P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

A Fond Farewell

Society Hill friends, this is my last President's Message. I will be stepping down at the end of May, and long-time Board Director Steve Weixler will become Society Hill Civic Association's new president. Steve brings a wealth of experience to the job, including many years serving as a Board Director, Zoning & Historic Preservation Committee Chair and the SHCA Delegate to and Chairman of the Central Delaware Advocacy Group. Our association will be in extremely capable hands. Steve and I have worked together over the last couple of months to assure a smooth transition. I wish him the very best in his new job!

As many of you know, I have served a long time on the SHCA Board, as one of the leaders of the casino fight and now ending two years of service as the association's president. Although I will continue to serve on the Board as a Director and ex-officio president, it is time take a break from the big responsibility of leadership.

Over the last two years, we have accomplished a variety of things of which I am proud. SHCA successfully shepherded the Washington Square Affair through its first two years as a new fundraising event for Washington Square, and made a major donation to the park for a capital improvement. It continued its leadership role in the waterfront plan that evolved from the Penn Praxis project, and joined hands with a large coalition of communities giving input and feedback on important city planning initiatives — the new city zoning code and the 2035 Plan.

SHCA volunteers have single-handedly organized the annual spring Society Hill House Tours without the long-time support of the Friends of Independence National Historical Park (which stopped its 30-year-old Open House program three years ago), and increased participation in the side-

walk repair ("Fix the Brix") subsidy program. We have also maintained a healthy membership base and continued and improved delivery of important community services during tough economic times, streamlined and improved financial operations, and, most recently, have taken a leadership role in getting historic preservation oversight for the city's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramp project.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as Society Hill Civic Association's president. One of the many things I've learned from participation in association work is that it takes constant vigilance to preserve and protect the historic character of our neighborhood and to maintain and improve the quality of life in big city residential neighborhoods. I've also learned that the latter objectives cannot be accomplished without the most dedicated group of volunteers imaginable.

It has been a special privilege to work with the volunteer officers, directors, committee chairs, committee members and neighborhood residents who make this association hum. I send a special note of thanks to Matt DeJulio, who is as committed and as competent an administrator that ever was. I also must honor our fellow neighborhood organizations, which have amazingly dedicated volunteers working in the coalitions in which we participate. I encourage you to support SHCA through a \$50 annual membership — it is worth every penny — and to make an additional contribution if you are so able. Also, if you have the time to volunteer your services to one or more of the association's many activities, you will help keep this neighborhood strong.

I look forward to seeing you at the May 18th General Meeting for an entertaining and informative program with speakers Tom Ferrick and Ellen Kaplan.



**Rosanne Loesch,
President**

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SATURDAY, MAY 14TH

Spring Clean-Up Day



What a lot
of rubbish!

Get ready to do your part in tidying up our special corner of the world on Saturday morning, May 14th. Remember: company's coming the following Sunday (see Open House Tour on page 5), and we want to sparkle!

Clean-Up Day is a good time to get rid of left-over leaves and winter debris. 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. By 1 p.m., your bagged street leaves and trash (but no household garbage!) should be left at the intersections where Locust, Spruce, Pine and Lombard Streets cross the numbered streets. Remember to help clean 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 — so that cars can be moved back to their usual side of the street to avoid being ticketed.

Coordinating this Spring 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

On Clean-Up Day, SHCA is again sponsoring a paper-shredding service for the convenience of Society Hill residents (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 at 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).
- Paper only is accepted — no CD's or disks.

Please note that no computer or electronic recycling will be available for the spring clean-up. We hope to provide this service for the fall clean-up in November.

If you partake of this special shredding service and are not yet a SHCA member, please consider joining our civic association — simply fill out the form on page 33 or go to societyhillcivic.org. Any questions? Call 215-629-1288.

MAY 10TH

Bike Lane Meeting

Tuesday, May 10th
6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Jefferson University
Alumni Hall
1000 Locust Street

Learn about plans to
mark bike lanes on
10th and 13th Streets
on a pilot basis.

Questions? Contact
Charles Carmalt,
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SUNDAY, MAY 22ND

Society Hill Open House & Garden Tour

Put on your most comfortable walking shoes and take this delightful self-guided tour of more than 10 homes and gardens in one of our nation's most historic neighborhoods.

Each year, the Society Hill Tour offers an **all-new** selection of exceptional homes and gardens that range in style and décor from the 18th- and 19th-century period to the most contemporary styles. According to event chairs Linda Skale and Martha Levine, "many people love to attend this tour to get inspirational design ideas they can use in their own homes." Come and get wonderful ideas for your home and garden!

Sponsored by the Society Hill Civic Association, proceeds benefit SHCA and are used for neighborhood improvement and beautification projects. The benefits of participating in this event are twofold: a relaxing and fun afternoon, and the support of our "national treasure" neighborhood! We also welcome volunteers to host the houses and gardens on the tour day. We offer a free ticket in appreciation for two hours of volunteering.

Dining With Discounts is being offered again this year. Five area restaurants have partnered with the tour and will offer discounts for lunch or dinner for ticket-holders only and limited to the tour day. Present your ticket and enjoy lunch before or dinner after the tour.

Advance Ticket Purchases are encouraged. To purchase a ticket, receive a brochure, volunteer, or for more information, contact SHCA by e-mailing mattdejulio@aol.com, calling 215-629-1288, or visiting www.societyhillcivic.org and clicking on "Open House Tour." Tickets can also be purchased on the day of the tour at Old Pine Street Church, 412 Pine Street.

Fast Facts...

Date: Sunday, May 22nd
 Time: 1 - 5 p.m.
 Cost: \$25 per advance ticket; \$30 at the door
 Group rates are available.
 Complimentary light refreshments and rest rooms are available at Old Pine Street Church.
 Comfortable shoes are encouraged.



Tickets are now on sale for the 33rd Annual Society Hill Open House & Garden Tour!

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CHEEK WALLS AND TRUNCATED DOMES

Sidewalk Ramp Project Gets State Historical Commission Review

Society Hill Civic Association's discovery of the use of "cheek walls," by contractors for the city installing federally mandated American with Disabilities Act (ADA) sidewalk ramps, has resulted in a full review of the project by the state historical commission. This is a first step, but not a small one, in getting the historical protections a neighborhood like Society Hill should have received in the first place.

Cheek walls (see photo of historic home at 3rd and Delancey) are poured concrete beams that are used to fill in a gap between the sidewalk and the wall of the property when the sidewalk must be lowered (and the foundation of the building exposed) to achieve a very specific slope of 8.33 percent. SHCA did not know that cheek walls would be used in this project, and the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (PHMC) never reviewed or approved their use.

Because the city and PennDot are using federal funds for the ramp project, a so-called "106" review is required by the state historical commission when the project is determined to have an adverse affect on an historic district. Since PHMC thought that the project only involved ramps and not cheek walls it was initially determined that there was no adverse affect and therefore no 106 review was conducted with consulting parties. We now know that the 106 review applies not only to Society Hill, but also Old City, Washington Square West, Queen Village, Rittenhouse, Fitler and other areas, because these neighborhoods are all National Register historic districts.

The city says that it didn't know that cheek walls would be necessary, because it contracted the ramp project as "design/build" — i.e. the contractor would find the solution to achieving slope requirements on site. However, SHCA learned that Independence National Historical Park (INHP) negotiated with the city last summer about the use of cheek walls on its properties because INHP reviewed construction drawings and saw that cheek walls would be necessary. As a result, INHP stipulated that no such cheek walls would be installed on its properties and also that its ramps would be made of red brick or blue stone (depending on the existing materials of the sidewalk) and the textured mat area would be made of bricks with truncated domes (see photo).

SHCA met with the city in 2009 and was shown an image of a dark gray cement ramp and a synthetic mat with domes in a dark red color. The city emphasized the maintenance issues associated with brick, but did not discuss how difficult it would be to jack hammer damaged or cracked concrete ramps and pour new ones to achieve specific slope requirements. The INHP option of all-brick ramps was not presented. Based on limited options, SHCA approved cement with synthetic mats. Once the project started in March of this year, however, residents began bombarding the association with complaints about the use of cheek walls, the garish orange color of the mats (the city said the supplier sent the wrong color) and the large areas of almost-white colored cement being used to create the ramps.

Upon further investigation, SHCA, with the help of the Preservation Alliance, learned that the historic review could not be bypassed. It also learned that, although the strict slope requirements must be met — and there must be a contrasting area (in texture and hue) that signals entry into the street, ramp materials are not specified in the ADA regulations. In other words, ramps can be made of materials other than cement — for example, brick or stone, or truncated brick for the textured area.

Thanks to the assistance of the Preservation Alliance and Councilman Frank DiCicco, SHCA has met with high-level officials of the city, including the Streets Department Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner, the Law Department, PennDot, the Mayor's Office on ADA, and the Philadelphia Historical Commission (PHC). We are also in talks with PHMC, now that the 106 review process has been implemented. Ramp work has been stopped in the meantime, or so we were told, as of this writing.

The city and PennDot have said that they will follow whatever guidelines PHMC provides on how this ramp project should proceed in the city's historic districts. Society Hill strongly advocates for the following in its national historic district, one of the most sensitive districts in the nation:

- 1** do not use cheek walls on any of its properties, as all are in a nationally protected district and are classified as either historic or contributing on the Philadelphia Register (the city's law department has instructed PHC that it does not have jurisdiction);
- 2** brick ramps with contrasting grey-colored bricks with truncated domes as used for INHP ramps; and
- 3** restore the historic buildings that have had cheek walls installed.

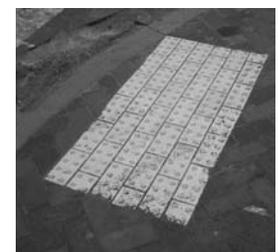
Sidewalk ramps *can* be made of materials other than cement.



Cheek wall on historic Delancey Street property



Large cement ramp at Willings Alley & 3rd Street



All-brick ramp inside Independence National Historical Park.

Follow this story at planphilly.com and e-mail mattdejulio@aol.com if you want contact information for writing to the city about the ramp project.

SUNDAY, JUNE 9TH

Join Us Again June 9th for The Affair on the Square



Invitations to this greatly anticipated event were sent out to all members in late April. If you are not a member but want to be part of the fun, contact SHCA Administrator Matt DeJulio at mattdejulio@aol.com or 215-629-1288. Matt will instruct you on how to become a member; and will then mail your invitation. We ask you to respond promptly, since last year's event sold out quickly and we don't want you to be disappointed!

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



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SIDEWALKS ON THE LEVEL

“Fix The Brix” Rebates

SHCA is offering homeowners in Society Hill a rebate of 40% (or up to \$300) for repairing their sidewalks. Through the “Fix the Brix” program, we offer an incentive to homeowners who choose to level their front brick or cement pavements.

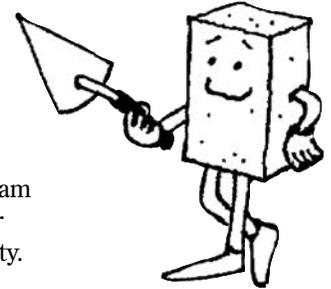
Society Hill sidewalks are primarily paved with bricks. Over time, many of our sidewalks become uneven due to shifts in the bricks, as well as tree roots pushing upward, and are thus hazardous to navigate. You may not realize it, but the city has no obligation to fix our sidewalks. They are considered the homeowner’s responsibility. Therefore, we must take care of this maintenance ourselves. It is a liability issue — homeowners are liable for any injury incurred on their sidewalks if the injury is due to an uneven surface.

It is easy to receive a rebate:

- 1 Contact SHCA for a list of recommended masons and arborists (see below).
- 2 Get several estimates for work to be done on your front pavement. Only front sidewalks,

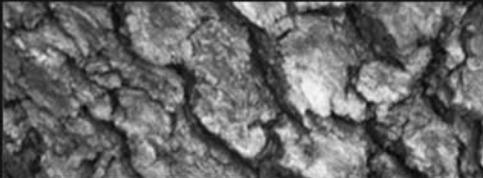
not backyards or alleys, may be included in this project. Choose a contractor to do the work.

- 3 When the work is completed to your satisfaction, submit a copy of the invoice to SHCA. Make sure the invoice specifies that the front sidewalk has been repaired.
- 4 Receive a check for 40%, or up to \$300, of the total bill for the work done.



We thank the more than 50 households who have participated in the “Fix the Brix” program to date. You have done a great service to our neighborhood as well as to your own property. With newly acquired funding for this project, SHCA expects to continue the rebate offer throughout 2011.

To receive a list of masons and arborists by e-mail or postal service, contact Martha Levine at marthalev@msn.com, 215-629-0727 or Frank Signorello at fsignorello@gexchange.com. At the completion of work, mail your invoice copy to SHCA, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147.







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

BY LORNA KATZ-LAWSON

Advocating for Our Future

SHCA's Zoning and Historic Preservation (ZHP) Committee meets monthly in order to address concerns related to both zoning and historic preservation in our community. ZHP helps neighbors who would like to make changes to the exteriors of their properties understand

and be prepared for the process of approval by the Philadelphia Historical Commission (PHC), which is required for exterior changes, and for any zoning variance which may be needed. We urge you to submit your plans to the ZHP committee before submitting them to the PHC.

Crosstown Coalition Advocacy Activities

Zoning Code Commission

Having successfully advocated for an extension of the review period, the Crosstown Coalition (CC) has been participating in four "Zoning Code Stakeholder X-Changes," small meetings with members of the Zoning Code Commission (ZCC) and the public, devoted to different sections of the code. Participants from CC have gotten together prior to these X-Change meetings to develop key discussion issues and have submitted these to ZCC for consideration. Some suggestions for revisions have been accepted and some are still being debated in ZCC "work plan" committees.

SHCA has been particularly interested in limiting the density of uses that could be introduced into Society Hill under the proposed new code, such as day care, group homes and bed and breakfasts. At the latest ZCC meeting, Commissioner Greg Pastore and Councilman O'Neil said that there has been so much push on this issue in neighborhoods throughout the city that more work was needed before it could be finalized.

Phila 2035 Comprehensive Plan

SHCA is also working with CC to participate in reviewing with the Philadelphia City Planning Commission (PCPC) the plan that will guide development in Philadelphia through the year 2035. The Plan will be adjusted every 10 years, depending on whether assumptions, such as population and job increases, actually occur at the predicted rate or not at all. CC had gotten an extension of the review period and has participated in two of the three review sessions devoted to each piece of the plan: THRIVE, CONNECT and RENEW.

ZHP member Harry Schwartz is reviewing the historic preservation piece of the proposal that falls under "sustainability" issues and will make written comment for the Preservation Alliance and SHCA use. Lorna Katz Lawson and Rosanne Loesch have contributed to the THRIVE and CONNECT sessions respectively.

The document has been criticized for not being realistic enough. CC has made many suggestions to PCPC to make it a more credible document. Visit PCPC's website www.philaplanning.org if you wish to download the plan.



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

Recent Zoning & Building Applications

Wells Fargo Bank

Some of the signs approved by the Philadelphia Historic Commission in February have been installed at the bank's location at 2nd and Pine Streets. Several neighbors were shocked by their brightness, size and location. Red and gold appear brighter to the eye than the blue, white and green of the former Wachovia signage, but there is nothing SHCA can do, as the logo is the corporate branding of Wells Fargo. We thank the Bank for responding to SHCA's comments and replacing the large towing signs with much smaller, discreet signs.

There will presumably be internally illuminated signs inside the building and visible to the street. ZHP has sent a letter to Wells Fargo and PHC objecting to ALL internally illuminated signage as being out of character for the neighborhood and also a potential irritation to residents who might have second-floor windows looking toward the building. Wells Fargo revised their design, eliminating the internally lighted exterior signs but not the internally illuminated interior ones. Legally, they have every right to install them because the sign ordinance does not address those located inside buildings, despite the fact that they can have equal impact. SHCA is working with the Society to Reduce Urban Blight and the Crosstown Coalition to change this in the proposed new zoning code.

Hopkinson House

A thaw in the weather allowed contractors to install an actual mockup of the through-wall mechanical system proposed for all of Hopkinson House, so that the PHC could observe the design and evaluate whether the building's historic character was being appropriately preserved. The proposed changes were given final approval by PHC.

221 Pine Street

The Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) denied both the proposal of an expansion of the rear addition and the change to a two-family dwelling. The property is excessively narrow and is already considerably over-built. The ZBA decision was consistent with ZHP's letter and testimony at the hearing and the Philadelphia Planning Commission's recommendation. The committee has been tracking this property over a 15-month period through three different owners.

307 Delancey Street

The owner appealed to the Licenses & Inspections Board (L&I) to reconsider the nearly unanimous decision of PHC and recommendation of ZHP to deny legalization of a ceramic mosaic mural installed in a garden wall visible from Delancey Street.

307 Delancey sets back from the adjacent houses and has an open space (garden) on the street to allow access down into the basement level of the two-family dwelling. ZHP had opposed the mural because it was inconsistent with the neighborhood character and was constructed in a manner that violates the rules of the Historic Preservation Ordinance. There is no historic precedent for murals *per se* in the Society Hill Historic District.

The owner's appeal was based on his belief that he was providing a community asset rather than just restoring the previous dull stucco that needed repair. He brought several neighbors and the artist to the hearing to testify on his behalf.

One near neighbor, who presented a letter countersigned by several other neighbors, testified against the project. After lengthy deliberations, the L&I Review board upheld the PHC decision to deny legalization of the mural and recommended that the owner find a way to mitigate the mural, a suggestion also encouraged by ZHP prior to the appeal hearing.

613 Pine Street

A second continuance due to the lack of proper drawings was granted by PHC for the proposed garage addition at the rear of the building. This application will also require a zoning variance.

512 Spruce Street

The proposal to enclose an existing 4th story deck was supported by adjacent neighbors and ZHP and was approved at the ZBA. This proposal was originally flagged to the ZBA because the building already exceeds the allowable height limit of 35 feet. The so-called addition does not increase either the footprint nor the building height beyond what is the existing condition. PHC approved the changes because they are not visible from a public street.



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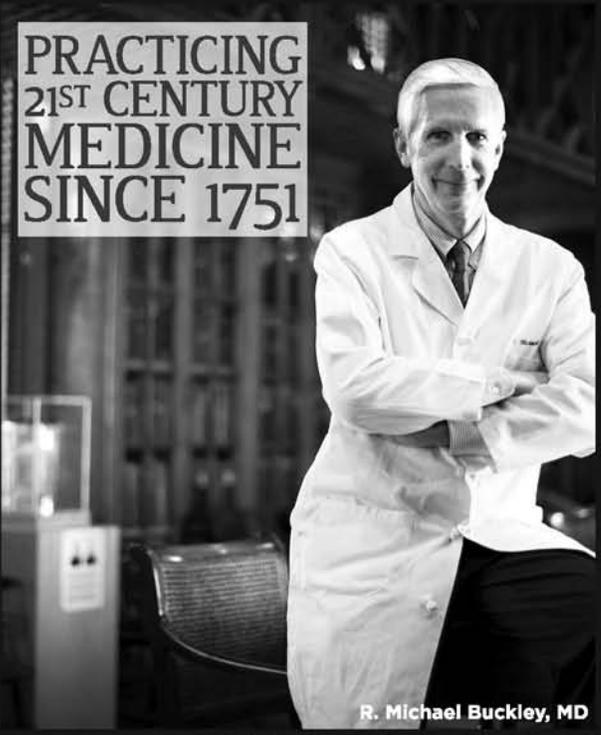
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ALL BETS ARE OFF

The Latest in the Foxwoods Casino Saga

Just when we thought it was over, partners in Foxwoods Casino filed an appeal in Commonwealth Court in early April, seeking to reverse the revocation of their \$50 million license to build a casino in South Philadelphia, the first revocation since the Pennsylvania legislature legalized gambling in 2004. The Gaming Control Board must reply by May 11th, with a hearing expected in early June in Harrisburg. Stay tuned. (See blast e-mail information on this page).

In the meantime, vote in the May 17th Municipal Primary Election. The best way to improve this situation is to run and elect candidates with a proven anti-casino record.

As reported in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Foxwoods' petition states that the Pennsylvania's Gaming Control Board denied the investors a chance to sufficiently argue their case when it refused to hold a full hearing and instead issued a summary judgment December 16th to strip the project of its license.

The investors, known as Philadelphia Entertainment & Development Partners, accuse the board of making "a legally flawed" decision "without conducting an evidentiary hearing to resolve numerous disputed issues of material fact." They add that they spent more than four years and \$160 million to develop the casino project.

Remember that Foxwoods was one of five stand-alone casinos awarded a gaming license on December 20th, 2006 by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board. It was originally to be built on the Delaware River at Columbus Boulevard and Reed Street. Stiff opposition from residents and elected officials forced the proposal first to The Gallery at Market East and, when that fell through, onto three floors of the former Strawbridge's flagship store at 8th and Market Streets. Finally, the location was returned to its original waterfront site, about three miles from the Sugarhouse Casino (which opened September 2010). Difficulties in arranging financing in the wake of the 2008 financial downturn caused the Foxwood's project to stall before the license was revoked.

SHCA BLAST E-MAILS

Technology has given us the means to share relevant news and information in a timely manner with all Society Hill residents. SHCA limits its e-mails to one newsletter on Fridays and a very occasional special blast e-mail. We encourage everyone to include their e-mail addresses in our massive "group e-mail list" — which currently consists of over 1,000 households. Contact Matt DeJulio, SHCA Administrator, at mattdejulio@aol.com or 215-629-1288.

Take Care of our Franklin Lights!

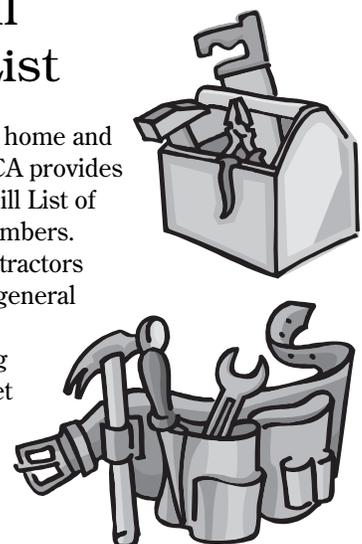
If you see a Franklin Light with the following problems, please call 311 immediately to report it. Give the exact location and follow up to make sure the repair is done properly. It takes five to ten business days for the city to provide this important service. It is up to us, and only us, to take care of our lights so that we may have a brighter, safer neighborhood!

Call 311 if:

- The bulb is out or blinking.
- The pole or lantern is damaged.
- For graffiti, e-mail SHCA: mattdejulio@aol.com.

Society Hill Contractors List

Need to have work done on your home and don't know where to start? SHCA provides a neighbor-recommended Society Hill List of Contractors to all current SHCA members. The 12-page list is comprised of contractors of all types under these categories: general contractors, painters, electricians, plumbers, landscapers, and anything related to house maintenance. To get a copy mailed to you (not available by e-mail), please contact Martha Levine at marthalev@msn.com or 215-629-0727.





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 ANNUAL ELECTION OF BOARD DIRECTORS

Hail & Farewell to SHCA's Leadership

At our May 18th General Membership Meeting, we will say farewell to SHCA's departing officers and quadrant directors, and welcome their replacements. As you may know, each officer is elected for a one-year term and can serve on the Board for as long as three consecutive years — if or when reelected. Society Hill's four quadrant areas are served by three Board representatives each, and for three-year terms each. In addition, any director representing his or her condominium association is appointed by its management for a one-year term and can serve a maximum of three successive one-year terms.

Prior to welcoming our nominees, we gratefully acknowledge and give thanks to the following neighbors who shared with our community so much of their time and talents. First and foremost, we thank outgoing President Rosanne Loesch, who

has served our community with great energy, dedication and grace for the past two years; and will continue to be a presence in the role of Continuing Director/Ex Officio President.

Many thanks to both Carol Colabelli and Kevin Miller, who most recently served as vice presidents and will now retire from the Board, as well as Southwest Quadrant Director Ned Scharff and Southeast Quadrant Director Everett Katzen.

We most heartily welcome incoming SHCA officers and quadrant directors and warmly thank all neighbors who donate their time and efforts on behalf of our civic association. The following are brief personal and professional biographies for our 2011-2012 Board. All condominium representatives who are appointed to SHCA's Board by their membership associations will be introduced in the next issue of the *Reporter*.

Meet the Board Officers

Steve Weixler, President

Steve is a long-term resident of Society Hill. As principal in the Society Hill-based interior design firm Weixler, Peterson and Luzi, Steve's work has appeared in *Architectural Digest*, *Florida Design*, and *Philadelphia Style*. He has won numerous awards, and his own condominium at Hopkinson House appeared on HGTV's program "Interiors By Design," featured as an example of stylish city living. Steve has a deep concern for the preservation of Society Hill's historic architecture and was chair of our civic association's Zoning & Historic Preservation Committee for several years, appearing often at City Hall hearings and representing our community's best interests. He is also a Board Director of the Head House Conservancy and is serving his third term as Chairman of the Central Delaware Advocacy Group.

George W. Dowdall, Recording Secretary

George grew up in New York City and is a graduate of Regis High School and Holy Cross College. He received a Ph.D. in Sociology from Brown University and has been a professor at Saint Joseph's University since 1982. George serves on the Pennsylvania Advisory Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse and on the Board of Directors of Security on Campus, Inc., and SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now), Inc. He has been a member of the Civic Association for more than 10 years and has served as secretary since 2010.

Zaineb Ainuddin-Zekeria, Treasurer

Zaineb Zekeria and her husband, Faizal, have lived in the Society Hill Towers since 2004. She has spent her career doing audit, accounting, tax compliance and general business management consulting, since graduating from Temple University, where she majored in accounting and finance. Zaineb is currently a CPA working in the financial services industry. Aside from spending time with family and friends, Zaineb's other activities include learning languages, volunteering in the community, reading, watching movies, traveling and keeping up with her cello playing.

Benita Fair Langsdorf, Vice President

Benita moved from the Philadelphia suburbs to Washington Square about 6 years ago. Shortly after her move she became an active and dedicated member of the Zoning & Preservation Committee. Professionally, she is a Senior Counsel of Managed Care at Independence Blue Cross. A graduate of Cornell University, with a Master's in Education from Temple University and a law degree from Widener University, Benita was elected last year to the National Board of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society. She has also been a long-time member of the Women's Leadership Board of the Jewish Federation of Philadelphia. She has three adult children, living in New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles.

continued on page 17

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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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A N N U A L E L E C T I O N O F B O A R D D I R E C T O R S

Meet the Board Officers*

Bernice Hamel, Vice President

Since her 1987 arrival in Society Hill, Bernice put her professional pen to the test and became a vocal civic activist. A founder and president of the Head House Conservancy, she has been involved in several citywide historic preservation efforts. Bernice is best known as the founder and editor of the *Society Hill Reporter*, a position she has recently given up in order to devote time to her first love — fiction writing. In 2001 Bernice was awarded a citation by the Mayor of Philadelphia for promoting education and awareness of the city’s history. She and her husband, Bernard, treasure living in their 1762 townhouse, which their two sons and four grandchildren love to visit. They are intrepid world travelers, as well as enthusiastic skiers and hikers.

George Kelley, Vice President

George moved from Bryn Mawr to his home on Spruce Street more than 4 years ago. As a former two-term President of the Wynnewood Civic Association, he soon volunteered for services in “his new community” and was invited to work with SHCA’s Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee. He was then appointed a Block Coordinator and voluntarily committed many hours (and some sore fingers) to removing graffiti and vandal stickers from signs and other public property throughout Society Hill. As a retired corporate attorney, he assisted SHCA’s legal committee in its anti-casino lawsuit and has been especially active in that campaign. He is a current president of his condominium association in Sea Isle City, New Jersey.

Martha Levine, Vice President

Martha Levine is best known as SHCA’s Chair of the Franklin Lights Committee, where she oversaw fundraising for, and the replacement of, 500 Franklin Lights, doubling the illumination in our neighborhood. Martha initiated the Welcome Basket program and frequently presents new Society Hill homeowners with baskets generously filled with gifts from local shops and businesses. Society Hill’s List of Recommended Contractors is another project that newcomers as well as longtime residents appreciate. Martha co-chairs the Society Hill Open House and Garden Tours. In addition, she manages our community’s 50 Block Coordinators. Formerly a Philadelphia public school teacher, she earned an MBA in marketing. Martha lives with husband, Howard Sedran, a lawyer, and their daughter.

Jim Moss, Vice President

A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School, Jim practices with Astor Weiss Kaplan and Mandel, where he concentrates in litigation, business transactions, and representation of artists, galleries and non-profit organizations. He has been an officer of both the Pennsylvania and Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Associations, and currently is pro-bono counsel for the Central Delaware Advocacy Group, the public voice supporting the PennPraxis vision for the Delaware River waterfront. Jim has also been vice president of the Society Hill Towers Owners Association. Before Jim and his wife, Marsha, a public art curator and consultant, moved to Philadelphia, he was active in Cheltenham where he served on the Zoning Board and chaired the Commission that drafted Cheltenham’s Home Rule Charter.

*Before the election, SHCA General Membership will consider a proposed amendment to the by-laws which would change the current five vice president positions to one vice president and four at-large directors. If approved, Benita Fair Langsdorf will be the nominee for vice president and the others nominated as vice presidents, who are listed on this page, will become the nominees for directors-at-large.

continued on page 29



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BY KERI WHITE

Lunch in Old City From A(mado) to Z(ento)

We welcome the return of Keri White, former columnist for Kids' Beat, who will do an occasional article highlighting all things yummy in our area.



Don't get me wrong. I love my Society Hill townhouse. I really do. But after our recent long, cold winter, I was eager to leave home in search of, well, almost anything. I especially enjoyed the thought of leaving for a fabulous and frugal lunch not too far away.

While planning the research for this article, the calendar indicated it was early spring, so I envisioned myself strolling about Old City on a balmy day, wearing a stylish spring ensemble, definitely sunglasses, possibly even sitting at an outdoor table. However, this was clearly a figment of my imagination and the mendacity of Punxsutawney Phil, who falsely claimed that winter would be ending well before the Ides of March, let alone the start of baseball season. Consoling myself during the lingering cold with visits to some of my favorite Old City haunts, I discovered that the *prix fixe* lunch is alive, well and very, very economical in this neck of the woods — which is happily devoid of ground hogs.

Now from A to Z...**Amada**

217 Chestnut Street
215-625-2450

The Catalan Express Lunch is quick, delicious, and relatively inexpensive — three really important considerations for a weekday meal. For \$14.50, you get your choice of soup, followed by either a salad or sandwich and a soft drink. Since my visit occurred during an unseasonable chill, I went for the warming caldo gallego, a hearty white bean and ham soup, which definitely hit the spot.

I followed that with the chicken a la plancha — a grilled chicken and chorizo sandwich with tomato garlic aioli and some of the best fries in town. I am a sucker for fries, I admit, and these are pretty special—accompanied by the famous “brava sauce,” a transcendent preparation that takes the best qualities of aioli, barbecue sauce and select spices to makes me feel that all is right with the world. I was torn, however, in my sandwich selection: the skirt steak with caramelized onion, the slow cooked pork, or the vegetarian? All tempted me. One cautionary note: these sandwiches are large and messy. If this is an interview lunch, stick with the salads. The ensalada verde is a perfect choice — a splendid blend of greens, asparagus, avocado, string and fava beans, dressed in sherry vinaigrette and served solo or topped with grilled shrimp or steak. Equally enticing salads were the Serrano ham and fig, the chicken romaine (i.e. Caesar), and the tuna.

Zento

138 Chestnut Street
215-925-9998

This is my favorite sushi place in town, bar none. It is a small, unassuming BYOB that serves spectacular food rivaling the glitzier places but at a lower cost. Not that it's cheap; sushi is expensive stuff, but Zento offers serious bang for the buck. The lunch specials are particularly good values; each selection comes with a bowl of miso soup and a green salad. If sushi is not your thing, there is a wide selection of teriyaki dishes, noodles, tempura and other cooked items on both the *prix fixe* and regular menus. But for me, it's all about the sushi. And the fact that it is a mere three blocks from my home means that I am a frequent visitor.

And now that the warm weather seems to have actually arrived, I can enjoy that imagined pleasant walk attired in a fashionable spring ensemble to one of these nearby restaurants. Whether you chose to break up the monotony of a day at home, provide a welcome respite from your 9 to 5 job, or something in between, lunch in any of these locales will please both your palate and your pocketbook. See you there!

HISTORIC WINDOW PANES

You may be unaware that SHCA has an historic register provided to us by the Pennsylvania Historic Commission with data about the residences in Society Hill deemed to be historically important. We use this information to produce the clear window decals that you can see as you stroll about our neighborhood. Statistics may include the builder, first owner and occupation, date of construction and style of house, i.e. Federal Period. These transparencies are provided free of charge to homeowners. For more information, contact Matt DeJulio at mattdejulio@aol.com or 215-629-1288.

See more of Keri's work detailing Philadelphia's thriving food scene at phillyfoodlovers.com and on Facebook as Philly Food Lovers.

OUT AND ABOUT

A STROLL THROUGH THE STREETS AND GREENWAYS OF SOCIETY HILL

Is Society Hill Going to the Dogs?



**Olga and Daniel Martinez
with Twila**



**Ruth Sine and Steve Rosenblatt
with Wally and Buster**



**Jane Biberman
with Butchie**



**Michael McGeady
and Tobie**



**Frank Signorello
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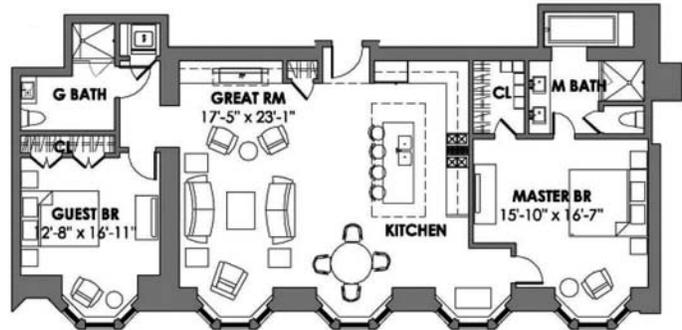


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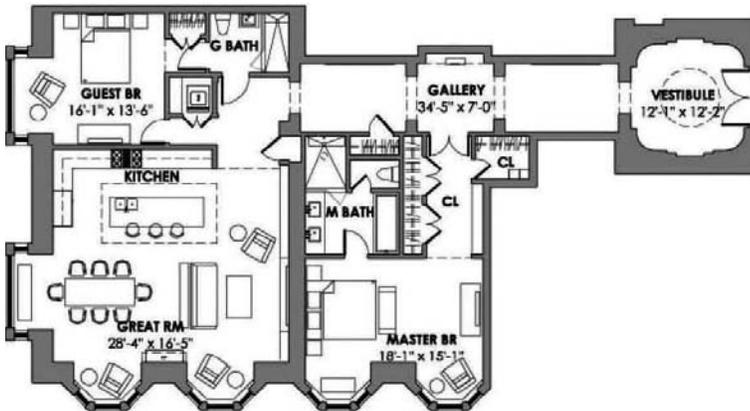
1,286 SF unfinished space

Proposed plan features 2 bedrooms,
2 bathrooms and a great room.
\$269,000



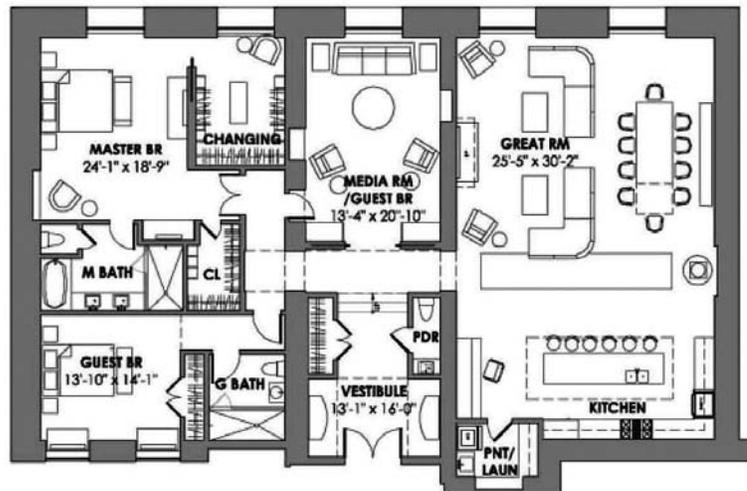
2,017 SF unfinished space

Proposed plan features 2 bedrooms,
2 bathrooms and a great room.
\$625,000



3,068 SF unfinished space

Proposed plan features 2 bedrooms
plus den, 2.5 bathrooms and a
spacious great room overlooking
Independence Mall.
\$1,250,000



EXPLORING THE CITY

BY JIM MURPHY

National Museum of American Jewish History

*View of a non-Jew**

After watching the National Museum of American Jewish History's glass and terra cotta building rising along 5th Street below Market for what seemed like ages, I was anxious to see what was inside.

And I was not disappointed.

This new 100,000-square-foot museum tells a powerful story about Jews in America.

Even the heavy security in the lobby — like that at an airport — reminds you that Jews were not always welcomed here, and remain “eternally vigilant” even today.

Upon entering: Your small items go into a basket for X-ray inspection and you pass through a metal detector. Even though the pens I had with me were carefully inspected and returned to me, I didn't realize until I entered the exhibit area that I couldn't use them in the museum. Only pencils are permitted, which means that much of this review is from memory.

My editor asked me to review the museum from the point of view of a non-Jew, and I can fulfill only part of that mission. More on that later.

As you enter the exhibit area, you are encouraged to go up to the fourth floor and work down chronologically — from 1654 until today.

The view from the top of the airy 85-foot atrium is impressive, with wood-and-glass stairways dramatically crisscrossing the open area and carrying you to the rest of the museum below.

The exhibits are imaginative, instructive, graphically pleasing and both adult- and child-friendly, with all the bells and whistles of modern interactivity. Only one gripe: the light type on a grey background in some dark areas made copy hard to read with my older eyes.

Some highlights for me: A spinning ceiling globe light recreating the atmosphere of balls held during the Jewish holiday of Purim; an electronic “map table” illustrating how Jews moved westward; the opportunity to explore a covered wagon; a turn-of-the-century tenement apartment; school desks and early 20th-century Jewish education; exhibits depicting the lives of garment workers; and timelines showing what

has happened among Jews in America in context with world events.

The museum presents the differing beliefs of Reform, Conservative and Orthodox sects...and the struggles of Jewish immigrants to pass their religious traditions onto their U.S.-born children.

I didn't know: that the first Jews to arrive in the U.S. in 1654 were refugees from Recife in Brazil; that there were sizable Jewish settlements in smaller cities like Charleston and Cincinnati; or that for a short time, Los Angeles had the largest Jewish population in the U.S.

Time your visit: On the March Sunday afternoon I visited, the museum was mobbed, and it was difficult to get close to a number of the displays; also, several guided tours pushed their way through the already clogged rooms, making movement even more difficult; and there was quite a bottleneck on the third floor, where a film about America at war — and the mistreatment of European Jews leading up to the war — attracted a large crowd.

In summary: This is an important museum. In three main floors of exhibit area and a photo gallery/hall of fame, the museum clearly portrays the tremendous impact Jews have had on our lives — from science and entertainment to politics and civil rights protests. You can easily spend several hours here and not see everything.

This museum will interest people of all races and religions, and I highly recommend it.

*Full disclosure: I was asked to review this museum from a non-Jewish perspective, and my background is Irish. But when my twin brother married a Jewish girl, he underwent routine testing to find out if he was a carrier for Tay-Sachs disease — a rare, inherited disorder of the nervous system. About one in every 27 members of the Ashkenazi Jewish population carries the Tay-Sachs gene. Surprisingly to us, he was determined to be a carrier. Upon further testing, we learned my mother and her five children all are Tay-Sachs carriers. So, I'm not Jewish, but I wouldn't be surprised if one of my distant Irish relatives was rather close to a Jewish person at one time. Life is full of unexpected connections.



A trunk from St. Louis



Family photograph of the Horowitzes in Vilna

FAST FACTS

Name:
National Museum of American Jewish History

Location: 101 S. Independence Mall East, Philadelphia, PA 19106. Enter at Market Street.

Phone: 215-923-3811

Open: Tuesday – Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday: 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

More info: See website at www.nmajh.org

IN MEMORIAM



**Barry Blumberg,
1925-2011**

Society Hill mourns the loss of neighbor Barry Blumberg, who died on April 5th at age 85. A biochemist and a doctor, Barry was awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1976 for his fundamental discoveries about the hepatitis B virus, which he identified in 1967. These led to the invention of a vaccine that saved millions of lives. In an interview with the *New York Times* in 2002, Barry stated that “[Saving lives] is what drew me to medicine. There is, in Jewish thought, this idea that if you save a single life, you save the whole world.” In 1999, Barry became the first director of NASA’s Astrobiology Institute, which

is dedicated to the study of the origin, evolution, distribution and destiny of life in the universe. He was also the President of the American Philosophical Society from 2005 until his death.

Friends and family described him as an unusually curious, outgoing, funny, affable, and adventurous man, who traveled widely and loved walking in his beloved Philadelphia.

Barry was a long-time resident of Lawrence Court, and is survived by his wife, Jean, their four children, and nine grandchildren. We offer them our sincere condolences.



Queen Village Open House and Garden Tour

Queen Village Neighbors Association will hold its 33rd annual Open House and Garden Tour on Sunday, May 15th, from noon to 4 p.m. This self-guided walking tour features a range of beautifully restored and renovated houses from 18th-century trinities to 20th-century homes, traditional to contemporary. The tour

also includes two historic churches and two community gardens. Enjoy strolling in Philadelphia’s oldest neighborhood and take in the annual Arts and Crafts fair in a local park as well. For information, to receive a pamphlet or buy tickets (\$25), phone 215-339-0975 or e-mail info@qvna.org. Tour info is also at www.qvna.org.

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SAFE AND SOUND IN SOCIETY HILL

MARILYN H. APPEL

Spring Has Sprung

With the warmer weather comes an increase in crime. I know I've said all this before — but you need to listen!!

DO NOT:

- hang your purses on the backs of chairs in restaurants (especially when dining *al fresco*);
- talk on your cell phone while walking along the street (this makes you unaware of your surroundings);
- walk home late at night alone (take a cab and instruct the driver to wait until you are inside your house);
- carry your wallet in your back pocket (public transportation and restaurants breed pickpockets);
- have anything worth stealing visible in your car (a GPS carrier left on the dash makes your car fair game).

It's also scam season. The following is a personal account of my experiences in the last two weeks involving a scam apparently geared to senior citizens. It started out with a phone call from the American Sweepstakes Promotion Company informing my husband that he had won 2.7 million dollars! According to the caller, we could expect four people, including a U.S. Marshall, to arrive at our home the next day with a check. We would then have to provide a \$4,700 processing fee before they would personally escort us to our bank (presumably to obtain our account

number). I agreed but informed him to expect a police officer to be present to insure that everything was legitimate. Not surprisingly, he hung up on me. I then reported the incident to Captain Korn, CO of the Sixth District, who called Central Detectives.

Unbelievably, we got another call a few days later from a Nathaniel Wilkinson, from the (surprise) American Sweepstakes Promotion Company, informing us that we won \$350,000. He gave us the same set of instructions as the previous caller, so I again notified the police. Two detectives and two police officers showed up the next day, but, sadly, our \$350,000 did not. The police left; and I then got a call from a James Wellington of "UPS," informing me that a package would arrive the next day with an undetermined amount of money. Interestingly, my caller ID showed the call originating in Jamaica. I did finally receive a letter with a check for \$3,400 but was cautioned not to cash it before I provided the necessary information to get the rest of my "prize" — now down to \$51,000. My new best friends, the detectives, carted away the envelope with the hope of lifting off some fingerprints.

The lesson of this story is that scammers, preying on vulnerable senior citizens, are obviously making money with these schemes or they wouldn't be doing them. Don't allow yourself to be ripped-off! Report any suspicious letters or phone calls to Captain Korn at 215-686-3063. One of these days, the police will find some of these thieves and put them away.

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 St. Much appreciated!

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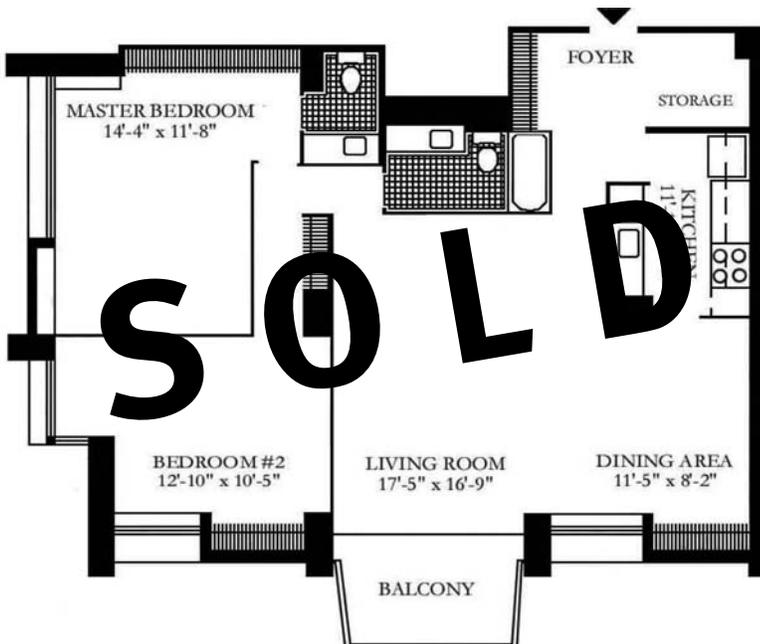
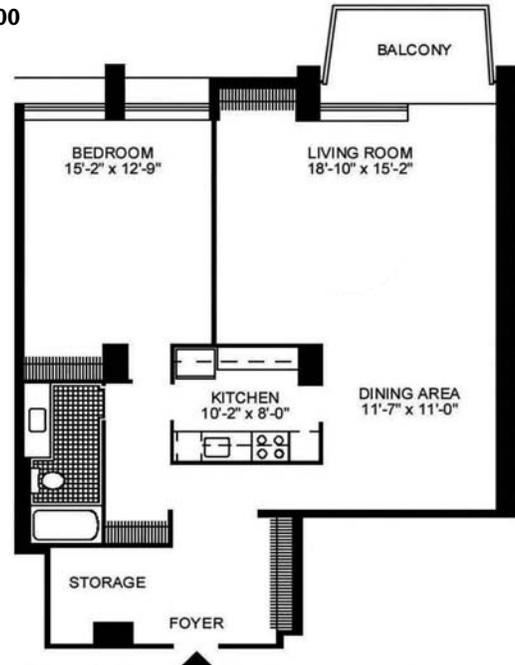


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1200 sf 2 Bedroom

Two bedroom, one and a half bathroom residence with a balcony overlooking the landscaped courtyard, spacious living room and separate dining area.
\$349,900



MOVEMENT FOR PRESERVATION

Landmarks: Society Hill's Front Door to History

The Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, a.k.a. Landmarks, has played a significant role in the local historic preservation movement by restoring, furnishing and presenting its distinguished house museums to the public.

Landmarks also provides related historical, cultural and educational programming, such as the Physick House's popular student program, Leeches & Soda Pop: Cure a New Country, and Ghost Tours of Powel House.

Landmarks was founded in 1931 by Frances Anne Wister, who, after hearing rumors that the historic Powel House at 244 South Third Street was to be demolished, gathered a group of friends to save and restore the property. Once home to the elite of Philadelphia, the neighborhood had declined by the early 20th century to become a largely low-income, industrial community. The Powel House itself was a warehouse for horsehair, which was used to stuff furniture at an adjacent factory!

Many people believe Ms. Wister's preservation of the Powel House provided the spark that prevented the neighborhood from further deterioration and set the stage for the re-development of the area in the late 1950's and early 1960's by the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority. This redevelopment effort was historic in itself in that instead of demolishing the existing buildings, 18th- and 19th-century treasures were preserved to create the unique community we know today.

Landmarks has adopted and preserved two additional historic house museums: Grumblethorpe, in the Germantown section of Philadelphia; and Physick House, also in Society Hill, at 321 South 4th Street.

The Powel House and Physick House are your "neighborhood museums," so consider supporting them with a Landmark membership. For more information, phone 215-925-2251 or check out www.philalandmarks.org.



Hallway of the Powel House, one of two house museums in Society Hill

Headhouse Farmers' Market Starts Its Fifth Season

Society Hill's own harbinger of spring, the colorful and popular Headhouse Farmer's Market, has returned to 2nd and Lombard Streets on Sundays, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., for a fifth season under the Shambles.

By the peak of the summer, the market, sponsored by The Food Trust, will feature more than 35 farmers and producers selling local fruits, vegetables, flowers, meats and cheeses.

Many of the vendors that we have grown to love will be back, including Three Springs Fruit Farm, Wild Flour Bakery and Mt. View Poultry. New faces include two new award-winning wineries, Paradox Vineyards and Penns Woods Winery, which will alternate with Stargazers Vineyards to present handcrafted wines each week.



Blooming Glen Farms photostream

Root Mass Farm, another newcomer, is offering customers an opportunity to invest in their enterprise. A flexible Community Sustained Agriculture (CSA) program lets you become a stakeholder without the constraints of pre-set boxes or pick-up dates of the more traditional food networks. By depositing money in your stakeholder debit account at the beginning of the season, you can get up to 20% savings on fruits, vegetables and herbs by

season's end. For more information or to become a stakeholder, visit www.rootmassfarm.com and click on the "Support" tab, or contact Landon Jefferies at landon@rootmassfarm.com.

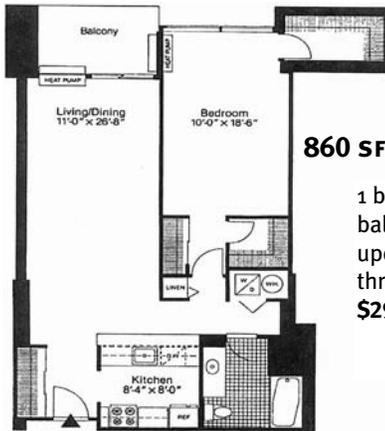
Meet and greet your neighbors at this convivial Sunday event — and enjoy a breakfast sandwich at the Renaissance Sausage Truck!

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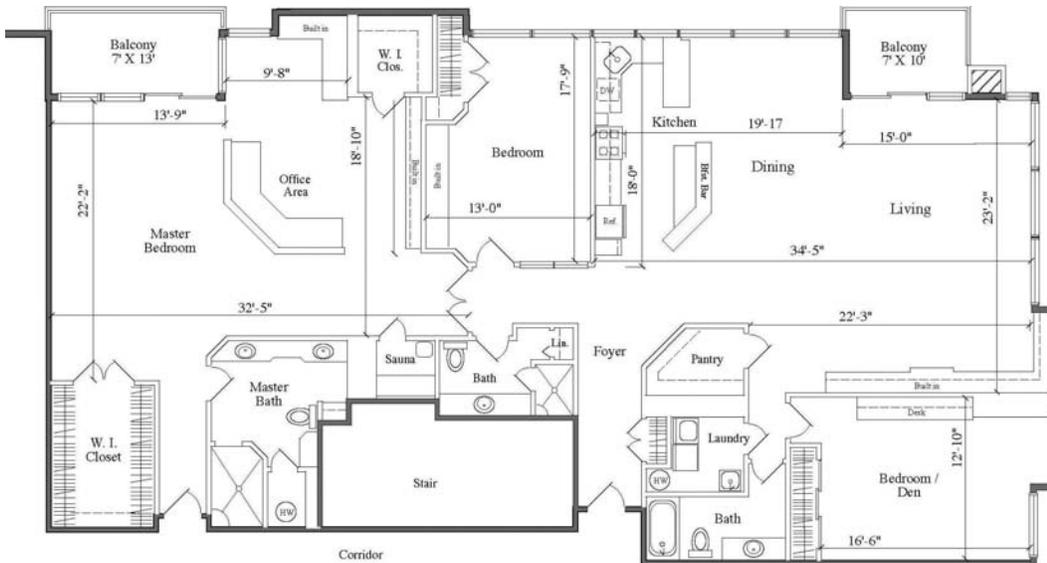
1118 sf 1 Bedroom

Completely remodeled 1 bedroom, 1.5
bathroom with chefs kitchen, designer
baths, balcony and incredible closets.
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2968 sf 3 Bedroom Combined Home

Sun-soaked combined home with 3 bedrooms,
3 bathrooms, balcony, generously sized master
suite and river views.
\$1,250,000



SEPTA Bus Route #47 Eliminates Stops

SEPTA representatives belatedly presented details of the Route #47 Bus Route Enhancement Pilot Project at the April Board meeting — apparently forgetting to notify us in March as they did all of the other communities affected by the April 18th change.

Route #47, which runs north on 7th and south on 8th, was chosen as a pilot because it is one of Philly's most heavily used routes, running 30% slower during its busiest hours with only 76% on-time performance. The bus frequently passes waiting riders and is regularly over-crowded.

The pilot project moves some bus stops to the "far side" of specific intersections that have traffic lights, thus eliminating delays caused by a bus

getting stopped at the light just after it picks up passengers. Boarding is speeded up during peak weekday hours by letting riders with passes use the rear doors at certain stops. There is also a consolidation of bus stops. If services and reliability improve, changes will be made permanent after the trial period ends in October.

Society Hill riders should take note that Route #47, northbound on 7th Street, will no longer stop at Lombard, Pine or Locust Streets and the same route, southbound, will no longer stop at 8th and Pine Streets.

SEPTA is anxious to hear from passengers. Call 215-580-7800 or go to www.septa.org/47pilot to leave a comment.

Spring Sidewalk Sale

The Auxiliary of Pennsylvania Hospital will hold its annual sidewalk sale Thursday, May 19th, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Elm Garden Courtyard, entrance on 8th Street Archway. Plants, flowers, sterling silver jewelry, handbags, fabrics and authentic African artifacts will be featured. The Bargain Shop will also have a blowout sale and refreshments will be served. Come rain (indoors) or shine! Proceeds benefit patient programs at Pennsylvania Hospital.

Gotta Love Those Tree Huggers!

Society Hill Tree Tenders worked hard early this spring preparing tree pits and planting eight new trees in our neighborhood, including two new sites where there had never been a tree but should have been! Many thanks for the dedicated efforts of a number of local tree huggers under the guidance of Garrett Smith and Hans Bombeck. Contact Garrett at 215-760-1213 or garrett.smith@comcast.net for more information.



Penn State Master Gardener Program

This program consists of a volunteer training course designed to provide experienced home gardeners with the information and skills necessary to share their experience and knowledge with others and to promote horticultural and environmental stewardship. Classes lasting three hours each will be held once weekly, starting Wednesday, August 10th and will continue for 14 weeks.

In exchange for over 50 hours of instruction, candidates must agree to donate 50 hours of volunteer service to Penn State Cooperative Extension. Some volunteer activities currently carried out by Master Gardeners in Philadelphia include teaching container gardening to senior citizens, instructing youth in raised-bed vegetable growing, and answering gardening questions at special events and on the "Hotline Garden" phone.

There is a program fee of \$175 to cover the cost of the training manual and other materials. Applications are being accepted through June

15th. For more information contact Doris Stahl, Horticulture Educator, or Kim Labno, Master Gardener Coordinator, at the Penn State Philadelphia Outreach and Cooperative Extension office, 111 N. 49th Street, 3rd floor North, Suite KN3-100, Philadelphia, PA 19139 or call 215-471-2200.

Featured Property: 635 Pine Street



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A N N U A L E L E C T I O N O F B O A R D D I R E C T O R S

Meet the Quadrant Directors *continued from page 17*

Southeast

Tania Rorke, 2012

Tania earned a Master of Science in occupational therapy at Springfield College. She moved to Philadelphia in 1997 and lives in the 300 block of Delancey Street with her husband, Tom, and two daughters. Tania served as president of the Society Hill Civic Association for three years, as well as the president of the Friends of Three Bears Park. Tania has also been instrumental in establishing Penn's Village, a neighborhood nonprofit organization dedicated to providing support to residents of Society Hill, Old City and Queen Village who wish to remain in their homes as they age.

Bob Curley, 2013

Bob Curley and his wife, Barbara Watson, moved to American Street in Society Hill in July 2005. Bob is a native Philadelphian and has lived in Germantown, Oak Lane and Chestnut Hill. When he lived in Northwest Philadelphia, Bob actively supported the Chestnut Hill Civic Association and served a term on their Board. Bob is currently the managing partner for O'Donoghue & O'Donoghue LLP's Philadelphia office in Old City. Bob has worked with the Civic Association's anti-graffiti subcommittee and the streets committee.

Jane Ahn, 2014

With three small children at home, Jane's family has thoroughly enjoyed living in child-friendly Society Hill for the past several years. The family's professed desire "to live forever" in their historic Pine Street home has caused Jane to take an active interest in how the nearby NewMarket site will be developed. With an economics degree from Harvard College, Jane began her career as a management consultant in NYC. She returned to her alma mater for a Master's in architecture and now happily runs a design studio in Society Hill. She has also served on the board of the Friends of Schuylkill River Park and the Building Committee of the Philadelphia School.

Southwest

Sheila Paulos, 2012

A longtime resident of Society Hill, Sheila Paulos has taught in the Intellectual Heritage program at Temple University for almost 20 years. Before that she wrote nine romance novels, as well as various short pieces, including book reviews for the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and the *New York Times*.

She has a degree in French from Lehman College and a master's degree in the same subject from the University of Wisconsin. A native of New York, Sheila has traveled extensively in Europe, Israel, Asia, and South America. She and her husband, John, have two children, one grandchild and one Bichon Frise.

Mel Buckman, 2013

Mel was born and raised in Philadelphia, attended public schools, and then went on to the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School and Harvard Law School. He moved to Society Hill from Paoli in 1989, and has never regretted the move. Mel has been a director of SHCA, and its president; he has also been active with Town Watch and the Society Hill Fund. His career as a lawyer included government, industry, and private practice. After retiring in 1995, he has volunteered at the Franklin Institute, the National Constitution Center, and has recorded for the Blind and Dyslectic.

Francisco Carreno, 2014

Francisco Carreno has been a realtor at Plumer and Associates for over five years. A native of Venezuela, he has lived in the U.S. since 1984 and is now a proud U.S. citizen. He has lived in Society Hill for over 21 years with his partner, Louis Castelli, Ph.D. and, for the last eight years, with his Westie, Daisy. Francisco received a master's degree in Management and Marketing from Philadelphia University and worked for Rittenhouse Communications and Ark Media, Inc. before joining Plumer. He has been active in community activities and, for the last two years, has been the *ad hoc* intermediary between the "Ride the Ducks" and Society Hill. Among his other interests, Francisco is a well-known, award-winning designer of teddy bears.

Northeast

Andrew Hohns, 2012

A Center City native, Andrew and his wife, Leah, have been residents of Society Hill since August 2006. He earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, and is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University's Wharton School. Andrew has a decade of experience in investment banking and finance, with particular expertise in debt capital markets. His prior civic experience is as board director of the Mural Arts Program of Philadelphia, as well as service

continued on page 31

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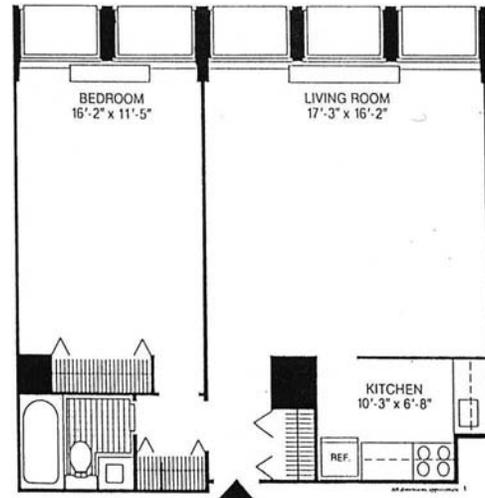


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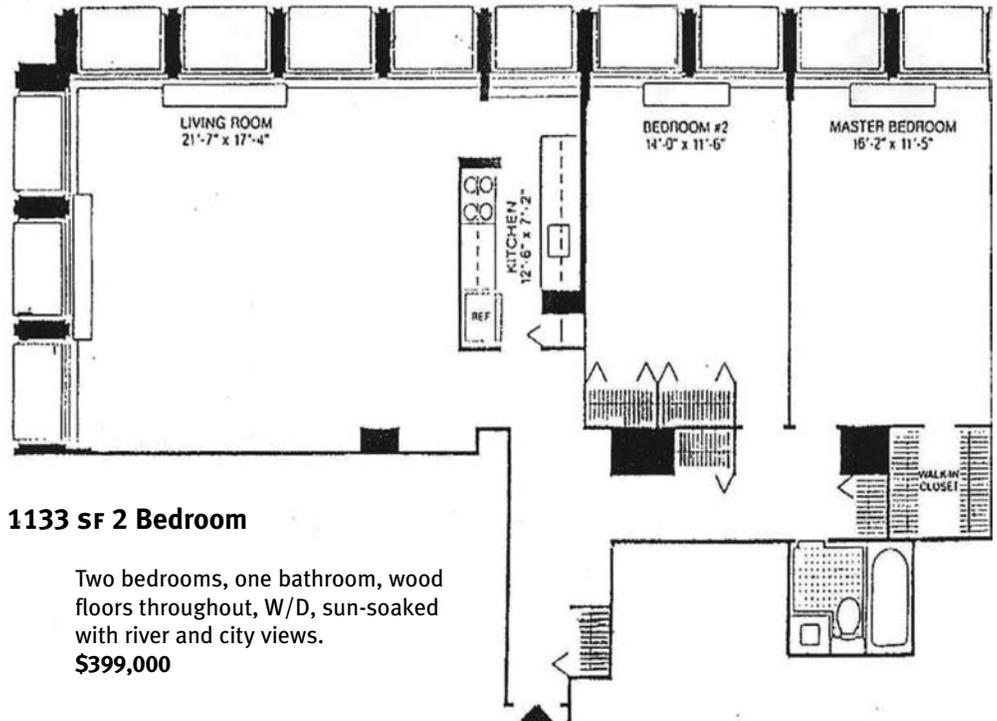
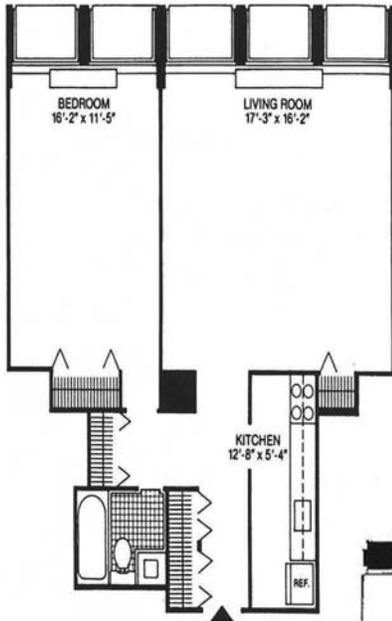
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1133 SF 2 Bedroom

Two bedrooms, one bathroom, wood floors throughout, W/D, sun-soaked with river and city views.
\$399,000



A N N U A L E L E C T I O N O F B O A R D D I R E C T O R S

Meet the Quadrant Directors

continued from page 29

to Young Involved Philadelphia, an organization he founded in 2000 with fellow Penn alums. He also serves on the board of the Ed Bacon Foundation.

Lorna Katz Lawson, 2013

A native New Yorker, Lorna Katz-Lawson moved to Philadelphia as a graduate student in architecture at the University of Pennsylvania. She has practiced as an architect ever since, first with Mitchell Giurgola Architects, a firm well known for its contextual approach to building design, partnered with Betsy Train, and later with her husband, John Lawson. She has been engaged in neighborhood activism for more than 30 years. Lorna has served on the SHCA Board in many capacities, including eight years as the chair of the Zoning & Historic Preservation Committee. She initiated the first community-based discussions about waterfront development, a predecessor for the Central Delaware Advocacy Group. In addition to her work, Lorna enjoys spending time with her family, especially her two grandchildren.

Lenore Hardy, 2014

Lenore (Lennie) Hardy is the Director of Library Administrative Services and Director of Health Sciences Libraries at Drexel University. A transplanted New Yorker, Lennie considers herself a Philadelphian after nearly 30 years as a City resident. A graduate of Middlebury College with an MS from Columbia University, she's spent her career as a librarian, largely in academic medical centers. Lennie moved to Society Hill six years ago and serves as a contributing editor to the *Society Hill Reporter*. She enjoys playing bridge, cooking for friends and traveling to California to visit her new grandson.

Northwest

Andrea Layden, 2012

Andrea has been a Society Hill resident for more than a decade. She and her husband, Dan, reside in St. James Court with their two children. Prior to her career as a mother and homemaker, she was an insurance adjuster for State Farm. A graduate of Widener University, she founded the "Mom's Club of Philadelphia — Center City," where she served as president for five years. She and Dan have recently purchased a vacation home in Abruzzo, and enjoy spending time in the city from which her mother and grandmother emigrated.

Larry Burnstein, 2013

Larry and his wife, Sheila, have been residents of Society Hill for almost five years. For 38 years, while a resident of Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania, his corporate office and warehouses were in Old City. He has worked as a volunteer on numerous boards as chairman, vice president and president. He looks forward to serving on the SHCA board to utilize his corporate and organizational skills to better service this community and believes he can bring a fresh approach.

Sissie Lipton, 2014

Sissie and her husband, Herb, have lived at Independence Place for 22 years. They raised three wonderful and highly successful children — their son Eric Lipton is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist with the *New York Times*. Sissie serves on the Wilma Theater board and is a past president of the Friends of Moss Rehabilitation Hospital, where she co-chaired exhibits associated with its Artists with Disabilities program. She chairs the Washington Square Committee and is SHCA's liaison to the National Park Service, where she works to maintain the standards and amenities that our neighborhood park deserves.

Continuing Director

Rosanne Loesch

Rosanne and her husband, Yves Quintin, live in a 1792 Federal home on Spruce Street. They have two adult children. She is a non-practicing attorney in the fields of corporate and transactional law, with a degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Michigan. Fluent in French, she has lived in France, and for many years both she and Yves have been active in a host of French organizations in Philadelphia — among them, the French International School, the French Heritage Society and the French American Chamber of Commerce. Rosanne currently co-chairs the French Heritage Society Philadelphia Chapter. Rosanne has served on the SHCA board as president for the past two years and, before that, as Northwest quadrant director. In addition, she chairs SHCA's Casino Committee, co-chairs SHCA's CDAG Committee and serves on the *Reporter* Editorial Board. Rosanne is also on the board of the Head House Conservancy.

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832-36 LOMBARD \$3,500,000
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231 S 6TH #2NW \$2,099,000
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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
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314 S ISEMINGER \$629,000
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Beautiful new units in elevator building w/concierge, doorman. Units feature high-end finishes, hardwood floors, fireplaces.

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

2011 Membership Drive Reaches 957

As of mid-April, SHCA membership totals stand at 957, with 66 new members signed up. We are still waiting to hear back from 137 households which have not yet renewed.

We are hoping to surpass our total of 1,025 from 2010. If you are among the 137 who have not yet renewed, please send in your dues today. As you know, our regular operating budget comes primarily from member dues. *Reporter* advertising revenue, while substantial, only offsets *Reporter* expenses.

Your membership dues pay for sidewalk cleaning, the planting of new trees, graffiti removal supplies, the planting of flowers and general improvement of Washington Square, as well as general administrative costs. Without member dues, SHCA would cease to function. Protect your neighborhood and your real estate investment.

Please fill out the adjacent form and mail it today with your check or charge number, or go to our web site, societyhillcivic.org and pay by PAYPAL. E-mail mattdejulio@aol.com if you have any questions.

Spring Is an Excellent Time To Exercise & Socialize

Join the Walkie-Talkies!



Exercise is good for just about everyone — especially non-stressful exercise — such as walking. Walking does not require a special range of skills nor does it require membership dues in a sports club. Thus, a group of neighborhood gals created the “Walkie-Talkies” for an action plan of walking, socializing and exploring Society Hill’s streetscape. If you’re available on any Tuesday or Thursday morning (when not raining) for an hour of beneficial walking and pleasurable chatter, just show up at Three Bears Park before 8:15 a.m. for this non-demanding and free fitness program. Newcomers are always welcome. 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 _____

E-mail _____
(print clearly)

IMPORTANT: Today most everyone communicates via e-mail. Please be sure that we have your current e-mail address — so that you can receive important updates between publication of our community newsletter. All SHCA e-mails will be judiciously screened, and rarely will we send e-mails more than once a week. Nor will we share your e-mail 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
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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 _____

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

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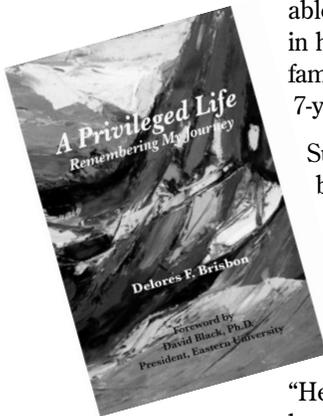
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NIFTY NEIGHBORS IN MY OWN BACKYARD

BY JANE BIBERMAN

Delores Flynn Brisbon

God and
Friendship
Are her
Watchwords



**A Privileged Life:
Remembering
My Journey**
by Delores Brisbon
(Amazon, \$14.99)

My neighbor Delores Brisbon is rarely home these days. Since she published her inspiring memoir, *A Privileged Life*, in November she's been in constant demand as a speaker and has addressed audiences from Florida to Boston eager to hear more of her personal story. I was able to catch up with Delores over a cup of coffee in her home, which is filled with religious books, family photographs and artwork by her beloved 7-year-old grandson, Welton.

Subtitled "Remembering My Journey," the book describes Delores's childhood growing up in the Deep South of the '30's, where she experienced both poverty and prejudice. One of eight children, she was encouraged by her father, a janitor, to become economically independent.

"He guided me to enter teaching or nursing because I would always have work," says Delores, who once was a cleaning woman in a motel. "Then I was hired to be a maid to a newly married young woman whom I remember with affection. The way she celebrated her height taught me to celebrate mine — I'm 5'11". When I left her employment to go to college, this white, wealthy, educated woman encouraged me and gave me gifts of clothing and shoes to take with me. I consider my placement in her home a gift, the plan of God, one I celebrate almost daily."

After Delores graduated from the School of Nursing at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, she moved to New York City. "In the mid-1950's we were not welcome in Southern white hospitals," she explains in her memoir. Not only did she gain clinical experience up North, she became exposed to arts and culture.

It was her maternal aunt who invited Delores to Philadelphia to live. The book details her incredible 30-year career at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, where she began as a nurse in 1959 and was named Chief Operating Officer in 1979, a position she held until 1986. "It wasn't an easy road, navigating as I had to, racism and jealousy," she recalls. After leaving Penn she ran a management consulting firm for 15 years.

But Delores was fortunate to find the perfect partner with whom to share her journey: her soul mate, James. They built a family together and supported each other through good times



and bad. Sadly, James developed Alzheimer's at 65. A good portion of the book is devoted to the disease and how Delores managed to care for her husband at home with the help of her devoted children Nancy and Edgar, and many close friends.

After a 17-year battle, James died in November 2004. "One of the most powerful teachers of life is pain," says Delores. "You can learn from it or permit it to devastate. Each pain has grown me and helped me to mature." Today, she serves as an advisor to the Alzheimer's Association and is often called upon to counsel families.

"It was James who insisted that I write this book, not to promote myself or to self-aggrandize but to help others navigate through life's journey," says Delores. "I've been able to sell more than 2,000 copies through my network of church friends."

At 78, Delores claims that she is retired. But that only means she doesn't take money for all she does: serving on the board of Eastern University and chair of strategic planning as well as being a member of the board of trustees of Mercy Health System of Southeastern Pennsylvania, where she is also chair of strategic planning. In addition, she's president of Presbyterian Community Ministries of the Delaware Valley and an Elder at the First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia.

Delores continues to mentor many young professionals, as she has done throughout her life. "It is my mentorees who have truly enriched me," she says. "Because they have told me that I have changed their lives."

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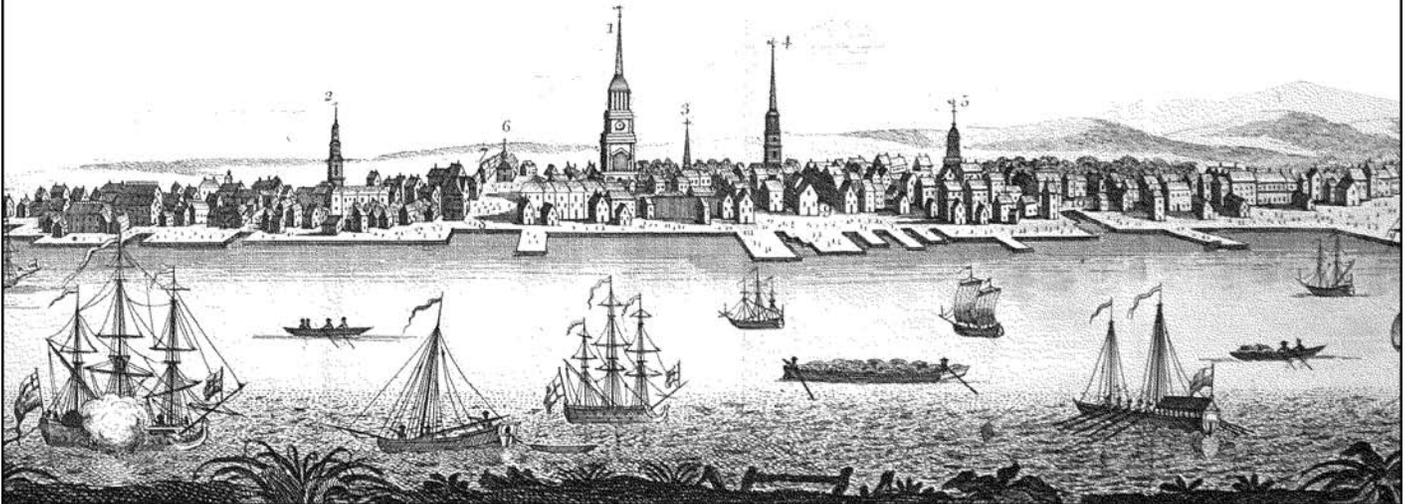
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Saturday, May 14
Society Hill Clean-Up Day
 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 See page 4

Sunday, May 15
Queen Village House and Garden Tour
 See page 22

Tuesday, May 17
Philadelphia 2011 Municipal Primary Election

Wednesday, May 18
SHCA Board Meeting
 5:45 p.m. Great Court Conference Room

Wednesday, May 18
SHCA General Meeting
 7:30 p.m. Zubrow Auditorium
 Pennsylvania Hospital
 8th & Spruce Streets
 See page 1

Thursday, May 19
PA Hospital Sidewalk Sale
 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Elm Garden Courtyard,
 8th Street Archway
 See page 27

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

Thursday, June 9
The Washington Square Affair
 See page 8



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