

SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

www.societyhillcivic.org

A Fond Farewell



City Councilman
Frank DiCicco

This month, the Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) bids farewell to our First District City Councilman Frank DiCicco as he steps down from the seat he has held since 1995. We thank Frank for all his hard work and dedication in representing our community through the years.

Councilman DiCicco has done many things for our neighborhood, including improving public safety by providing funds for our Franklin Light Project and for the crosswalks and stop signs around Washington Square. As you may remember, Councilman DiCicco also joined SHCA in fighting the proposed demolition of Dilworth House — the Washington Square residence of former Mayor Richardson Dilworth (whose 1957 construction is widely viewed as a turning point in the transformation of Society Hill). In addition,

he partnered with our association to preserve the façade of York Row — the 19th-century, Federal-style row houses at 700 Walnut Street that were incorporated into the St. James luxury residential high-rise.

DiCicco has improved the City of Philadelphia by sponsoring a wide range of legislation, including waterfront development regulations, the creation of the Zoning Code Commission and various tax reform measures.

One of DiCicco's biggest accomplishments is the 10-year Tax Abatement Plan that sparked development in Center City and on the Philadelphia waterfront. "This alone is a phenomenal achievement that changed the face of the city," said Councilman James Kenney. We wish Councilman DiCicco success in his next endeavors.

Addressing Help for the Homeless

In these troubling economic times, our civic association has become concerned with what appears to be an increase in homelessness, particularly in Washington Square and in other parts of Independence National Park. To address these worries, we have invited representatives from Project H.O.M.E. to speak at our January 18th General Membership Meeting about the organization's plans to expand housing oppor-

tunities to help chronically homeless people get off the streets, as well as other issues related to the homeless population in the Square.

In 1989, Sister Mary Scullion and Joan Dawson McConnon co-founded Project H.O.M.E., a nationally recognized nonprofit organization that provides supportive housing, employment, education, and health care to enable chronically homeless and low-income people to break the cycle of homelessness and poverty. Under Scullion and Dawson's leadership, Project H.O.M.E. has grown from an emergency winter shelter into an international model for alleviating homelessness and poverty on a large scale.

The General Membership Meeting, open to all neighborhood residents, will take place at 7:30 p.m. in the Zubrow Auditorium on the first floor of Pennsylvania Hospital, just inside the main entrance at 8th Street near Spruce. Prior to the General Meeting, at 6 p.m. we will hold our monthly Board Meeting at the Hospital's Great Court Conference Room. All current members of the Society Hill Civic Association are welcome. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

WED.	MARK YOUR CALENDAR
January 18	Society Hill Civic Association Meetings Wednesday, January 18th, 2012 <hr/> Pennsylvania Hospital, 8th & Spruce Streets 6:00 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. Topic: Concerns About the Chronically Homeless Speaker: Representatives from Project H.O.M.E.



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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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 267-671-0554 or email sandra.rothman@aol.com. To publicize an event, submit all press releases directly.

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

A Civic Vision Becomes a Master Plan

This coming year will bring important changes to Philadelphians who live along the Delaware Riverfront. In October, the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation delivered its new Master Plan for waterfront development to the Philadelphia City Planning Commission, ending an intensive effort begun in the fall of 2006. Unlike many previously disappointing efforts, the plan promises to be a practical, achievable, and balanced blueprint for the future of this long-neglected part of Philadelphia.

To give a quick review, in November 2006 Mayor Street authorized the City Planning Commission and PennPraxis (the urban planning arm of the University of Pennsylvania) to conduct a citizen-driven process on the best possible qualities of a redeveloped Delaware Riverfront. Along with the input of talented urban designers and state and local agencies, community engagement produced what is now known as the Civic Vision. This Civic Vision is not a master plan as such, but a set of principles describing the qualities of urban life in Philadelphia that would lead to a prolific redevelopment of the waterfront.

This Civic Vision was accepted by the Nutter administration and its City Planning Commission. The civic associations involved in this process, Society Hill included, formed the Central Delaware Advocacy Group (CDAG) to advance the Civic Vision in the master planning process being undertaken by the Mayor and the newly formed Delaware River Waterfront Corporation. It has been a long process, but the citizen-advocates of CDAG have worked hard to keep our Philadelphia values a part of the planners' work.

The economic consultants examined reasonable predictions for Philadelphia's growth rate, as well as growth rates for commercial and residential uses, and found that low and mid-rise building styles will best serve the needs of new residents and expanded riverfront neighborhoods. This type of development will also allow a reasonable reconstruction of the traffic and transit

infrastructure and honor one of the central principles of the Civic Vision: the extension of the Philadelphia street grid to the river.

The plan includes the waterfront trail we all value, but with an innovation which addresses the concerns of property owners and the public. The Civic Vision originally called for a continuous 100-foot wide setback from the river to be devoted to the public. This met with fierce resistance from property owners, who, while agreeing that public access was an amenity they were willing to consider, raised concerns that a blanket setback presented an unfair liability in some cases. In the end, a compromise was reached, which allows for a continuous trail of variable width. As compensation, there will be a series of riverfront parks every half-mile, allowing for various recreational opportunities.

Society Hill and Old City will benefit first and most dramatically from this concept. In 2012, engineers will begin to study extending what is now the Great Plaza at Penn's Landing over I-95, removing the bus ramps, moving the music venue north to Festival pier, and converting the Plaza into a much greener, quieter, and more relaxing place along the river. Some of the existing park along the boat basin south of the Columbus Monument Park will be rejuvenated with mid-rise shops and restaurants, housing, and a new pedestrian bridge connection to South Street.

All of this is very ambitious. The Central Delaware Advocacy Group has worked for years to represent the interests of riverfront neighbors, and we intend to continue as this Master Plan works its way through the Philadelphia City Planning Commission and City Council. We are lucky to have the great example of the planning that produced Society Hill to point to in the process.

The full Master Plan is available for review on the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation's website at www.delawareriverwaterfrontcorp.com.



Steven Weixler,
President

One of the central principles of the Civic Vision: The extension of the Philadelphia street grid to the river.

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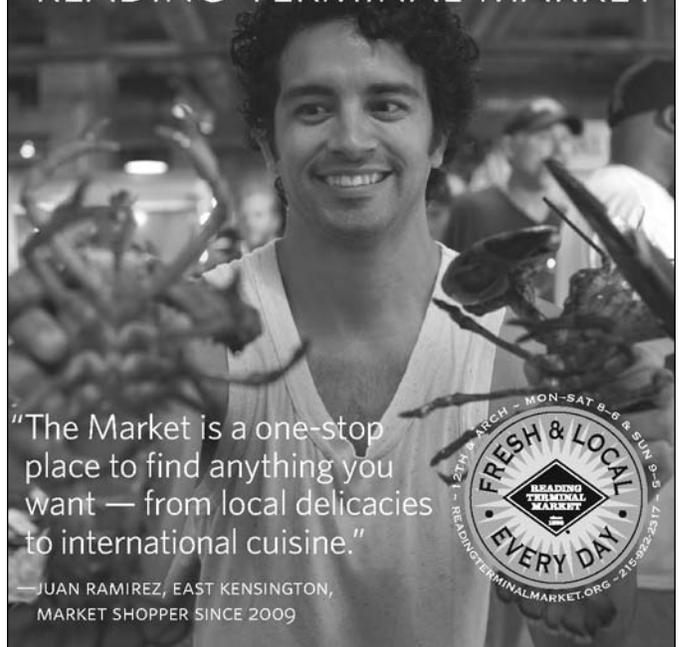


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Debt of Gratitude

Tony Aloï, on our Contractors' List for many years, is a talented and highly respected general contractor who has just retired after working in Society Hill for decades. He is well known by a number of architects and discerning homeowners. His trademark is his professionalism, affable nature, and his fastidious attention to detail. He knows all there is to know about house construction. Those who have worked with him will greatly miss him.

Here is his goodbye letter to the neighborhood:

*Dear Society Hill Homeowners,
1972 was a good year. It was the year I was first exposed to Society Hill and its wonderful houses. I made it my goal to work and grow my business in one of the most historic neighborhoods in the country. After ten years specializing in high-rise and condominium renovation, I decided to come back to my home roots in Society Hill.
It has been a gratifying 39 years of wonderful friendships and loyal customers, but, as the saying goes, all good things must come to an end. I retired to Florida this past November, and I wanted to take time to thank all of you. I hope to use my time and expertise restoring my ChrisCraft boat.
With gratitude, Tony Aloï*



Tony Aloï

Casinos Held Accountable

Pennsylvania House Passes Amendments to Right-to-Know Law

On Monday December 5th, Pennsylvania House Bill 2009, along with its two amendments, passed unanimously. It is now in the State Senate for consideration.

House Bill 2009 will make the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board post on its website a description of all requests for access to records under the act of February 14th, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the Right-to-Know Law.

The first amendment on the bill would make casinos mail monthly statements to their patrons who are enrolled in their Reward Card programs. The other amendment would make all table-game taxes go to the Pennsylvania property tax relief fund.

If the bill passes in the Senate, it will go to Governor Tom Corbett's desk. When he signs the bill, it will make Pennsylvania the second state that makes casinos mail monthly statements. The first state is Massachusetts.

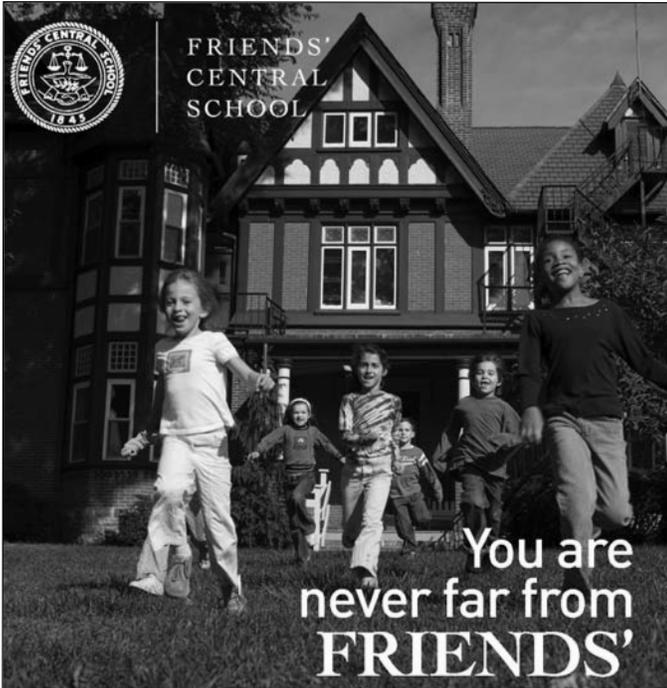
NEWS YOU CAN USE

Easier Parking

Those new to our neighborhood may be unaware of the Residential Permit Parking (RPP) Program administered by the Philadelphia Parking Authority that limits long-term parking on designated blocks to resident permit-holders only.

A permit costs \$35 per vehicle for the first year and \$20 for annual renewal. To be eligible, a vehicle must display a valid Pennsylvania license plate and must be registered to a home address within the permit-parking district.

In addition, the RPP Day Pass is a convenient way to accommodate your guests. They are available in five-packs for \$35 and may be purchased in advance. To use, just scratch off the month and date on which it will be used, write the visitor's license plate number in the box provided and hang on the rear view mirror. That's all there is to it. If you have any questions on this program please call 215-683-9730 or go to www.philapark.org/permits/DayPass.



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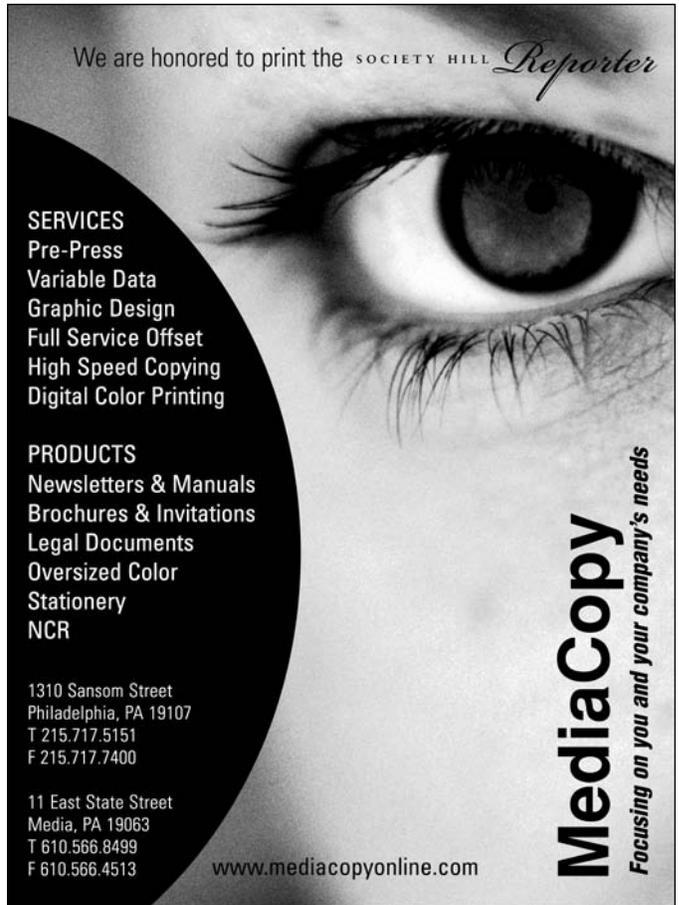
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Head House: A National Historic Landmark in Our Midst

BY BERNICE HAMEL, PRESIDENT, HEAD HOUSE CONSERVANCY

Head House Square is a unique, city-owned, historic structure located in the midst of our residential community. It features America's oldest existing fire engine building, known as Head House, which originally provided fire-fighting equipment for volunteer firefighters. This classic brick building, at S. 2nd & Pine Streets, is surmounted by a white cupola topped by a weathervane containing a fire bell and a clock made by Isaiah Lukens — the clockmaker responsible for creating the clock at Independence Hall.

Head House is connected to our nation's oldest surviving Colonial-era marketplace, which extends along S. 2nd Street from Pine to Lombard Street. Built before the Revolution in 1745, the marketplace is referred to as either "NewMarket" or "The Shambles." In design, it mimics the many market structures of rural England — characterized by two parallel rows of brick pillars supporting a gable roof that covers an arched and plastered ceiling.

Two centuries later, by the early 1950's, both NewMarket and Head House were severely deteriorated. However, Mayor Richardson Dilworth encouraged and supported renewal of Philadelphia's Colonial treasures. Head House Square was restored, and, in 1955, the entire site was officially designated as a National Historic Landmark.

Ironically, however, history has a habit of repeating itself. Within a relatively brief period of only thirty years, the site was again in a seriously dilapidated condition due to lack of maintenance by the city's Department of Public Property (DPP). By the late 1980's Head House Square was identified by the Secretary of the Interior as a "threatened and endangered landmark."

In response, a grassroots group of neighbors formed the Head House Conservancy in 1990. This nonprofit organization raised about one million dollars and volunteered its professional expertise to repair and restore the entire structure, inside and out. Head House's owner (Philadelphia's DPP) granted permission for the Head House to undergo complete restoration, allowing our organization access to identify and make all needed repairs and upgrades at absolutely no cost to the city. The work was coordinated and led by the late Penelope Batcheler, a Society Hill resident who then served as Chief Architect for Independence National Historical Park.

Over the years, several Society Hill residents have been committed to the restoration project. For example, Jerome Deye added a most "glittering" contribution to preserve Head House's historic weathervane; he undertook the task of stripping its tarnished exterior coats of rust down to bare metal. He then applied new coats of solid gold leaf — 370 sheets of 23-karat gold! The cost of all materials was also his contribution in his yearlong efforts — a true labor of love!

When the restoration project was successfully completed, the Conservancy was awarded several citations of gratitude, including a Certificate of Merit from Pennsylvania's Bureau for Historic Preservation in 1994 and a commemorative plaque from Philadelphia's Mayor John F. Street in 2001.

The Conservancy then focused its efforts to identify an appropriate tenant for the interior space at Head House, as well as to encourage suitable public use for NewMarket. Thus, we convinced the DPP that the South Street Headhouse District would be the ideal tenant — as the District provides supplementary cleaning and safety services for South Street's business corridor bordering our residential neighborhood. And since the District's official boundaries include Head House Square (at Lombard Street), the Conservancy arranged the marriage between the city and the District by promoting the use of Head House as office headquarters for the District. In return, the District is responsible for management and basic maintenance of the property.

Thus, NewMarket has been successfully returned to its original purpose as a farmers' market and crafts fair (on weekends from spring through fall). As with any structure, however, the buildings require continuing maintenance and improvements. For example, the historic clock at Head House, as well as its hourly bell, must be returned to working order. Additional and regularly needed general maintenance and/or improvements include painting, brickwork, woodwork, and carpentry repairs for the Shambles. In fact, the Conservancy has recently been given permission to replace the two Head House storage doors that were in poor condition. Supervising this project will be longtime Society Hiller John Q. Lawson, FAIA (Fellow, American Institute of Architects), with labor provided by the Pappajohn Woodworking Company. The Conservancy will assume the entire cost for these needed repairs, which we hope will be completed soon.

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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

SHCA's Zoning and Historic Preservation (ZHP) Committee meets monthly to address community concerns related to both zoning and historic preservation. It helps homeowners who would like to make changes to the exteriors of their properties understand and prepare 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 or ideas to the ZHP committee before submitting them to PHC.

410 South Front Street

President Steven Weixler and ZHP Chair Lorna Katz-Lawson met with representatives of Toll Brothers to confirm that the company has indeed purchased the property known as New Market/Stamper Square and to review with them the various constituencies they will need to be in touch with in order to move their plan of development forward. They estimate that a public meeting with SHCA could take place in February or March. Rest assured that SHCA notification will be made community-wide.

223 South 6th Street – Dilworth House

ZHP's Nancy Frenze has been doggedly following up on maintenance and historic preservation violations at the site. The latest issue is the City's inability to serve court notice to the owner, a major developer. Nancy was able to supply an accurate address, and we are now waiting to hear whether they were successful. The ZHP Committee has recommended to the City that, at the least, issues of water tightness of the building and control of rainwater need to be attended to in order to avoid a situation similar to last year when the ice built up on the sidewalk because of roof water flooding the sidewalk and then freezing. This made the sidewalk impassable, forcing people into the street.

320 Walnut Street through to Willings Alley

ZHP received news from the developer, Nolen Properties, that they will pursue reverting the zoning back to what it was when the Catholic Archdiocese purchased the two lots, through a variance process rather than by ordinance. This would re-establish the office building on Walnut Street as C-3 (Mixed Use Commercial) and the parking lot on Willings Alley as R10A (allowing for single-family dwellings, duplexes, and multi-family dwellings). In addition, they will need variances to develop the office building into 66-70 new rental apartments, and the residential, single-family zoned Willings Alley site for on-grade accessory parking with 4-6 parking spaces (reserved for use by Old St. Joseph's Church).

722 Pine Street and 206 South 3rd Street

Both applications to the Philadelphia Historical Commission ask for legalization of the use of vinyl to replace building elements visible from a public way. These applications are reviewed at the Architectural Review Committee (ARC), which in turn makes a recommendation to the full Commission for a final vote. The ARC recommended denying both applications. SHCA will forward a letter of support of ARC's recommendation to the PHC.

In all such cases, original historic material may not be removed until PHC has confirmed it is not restorable, and then the repair or replacement must be made to replicate the historic element.

Further, as one member of the ARC made clear to an applicant, although vinyl appears to be a more economical choice and requires less regular maintenance, in the end it will fall apart faster than historically correct or other allowable materials. Vinyl is NOT PERMITTED in the Society Hill Historic District.

221 Pine Street

An Appeals Court hearing was rescheduled for December 28th, 2011. Meanwhile, the owner was cited by the Department of Licenses and Inspections with violations having to do with willful neglect of the rear historical "L," which has been partially demolished and exposed to water since spring.

Advocacy Activities

Crosstown Coalition – Zoning Code Commission

City Council adopted the new Zoning Code on December 7th, 2011. The Crosstown Coalition, of which SHCA is one of thirteen member civic associations, submitted a letter to the City prior to the vote, stating its support for adoption and outlining its intent to continue working with the City to amend the document. The Coalition did an internal analysis of how effective their work had been to date and was pleased to see that a significant number of the revisions it argued for were subsequently made.

ADA Ramps/Street Project

ZHP Chair spoke with Dave Perri of the Philadelphia Streets Department to get an update on the progress of the City's negotiations with the paving contractor. Unfortunately, because the City and the contractor could not come to an agreement, the contractor has abandoned the project and the City will be issuing a new request for bids. Therefore, SHCA's scheduled corner-by-corner walkthrough with representatives of the Streets Department will not occur until a new contractor is on board.



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EXPLORING THE CITY

BY JIM MURPHY

Ars Medendi

If you like word puzzles, riddles, or enigmas, take a walk down Walnut Street near 10th in Center City. You'll be right in your element.

Just go past the Winged Ox — over to the western side of Thomas Jefferson University's Scott Memorial Library — and you'll come across an unusual copper cylinder with letters punched out of it.

If you're like me, once you notice the sculpture, you'll be fascinated by it and by its companion trapezoidal wall on the west side of 10th Street closer to Locust Street.

The cylinder is interactive, interesting, and maybe even a little infuriating. But chances are you'll take a little extra time to look at the sculpture and try to understand the artist's purpose.

Titled *Ars Medendi* for "the Medical Art," both pieces were created by Jim Sanborn and contain historic texts from world medicine.

Sanborn is best known for *Kryptos*, a copper wall at CIA Headquarters in Langely, Virginia. It contains a secret code that has taunted code-breakers for over 20 years.

The letters on both the cylinder and wall at the Jefferson University site represent a variety of alphabets and languages. The cylinder's letters run backwards and forwards at the seams, and you can look through the cylinder and read them in either direction.

When the cylinder is illuminated at night, the letters appear both on the wall of the library building and on the ground, creating a dramatically different effect from daytime.

The wall's text is easier to understand, and there is a bench nearby for comfortable contemplation.

Both sculptures remind me a bit of photos I've seen of the ancient Egyptian Rosetta Stone or Babylonia's Hammurabi's Code. There's information to be gained there, but it certainly takes some work.

The cylinder includes sections from the human genome code, names of rainforest plants, plus quotes from Louis Pasteur, Pavlov, Galen, and more.

The screen offers advice from Pliny, Leonardo da Vinci, Dr. Samuel Gross, Qi Bo, *Gray's Anatomy*, and the Seneca Nation, among others.

Interestingly, other than a local blog, "Ornamento" by Martha Aleo, two minimal references by Thomas Jefferson University, and some photos on Flickr, there is almost nothing about these sculptures anywhere on the web.

It's almost as if they don't exist.

Sanborn's own website doesn't mention them at all. To quote Joe Pesci's character in the movie, "JFK" (or its originator, Winston Churchill speaking about Russia) the work is "a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma."

A search does show that Thomas Jefferson University commissioned the sculptures in cooperation with the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Philadelphia's One Percent for Public Art Program 2006.

Mysterious as they may be, interacting with these "word" sculptures is a unique experience. You can actually see right through them.

At the very least, you may take a few extra moments to really look at words and the meanings they convey — in something other than a smartphone or computer screen format.

There's actual wisdom to be gained here, letter-by-letter, word-by-word, in a non-digital medium. What a concept!

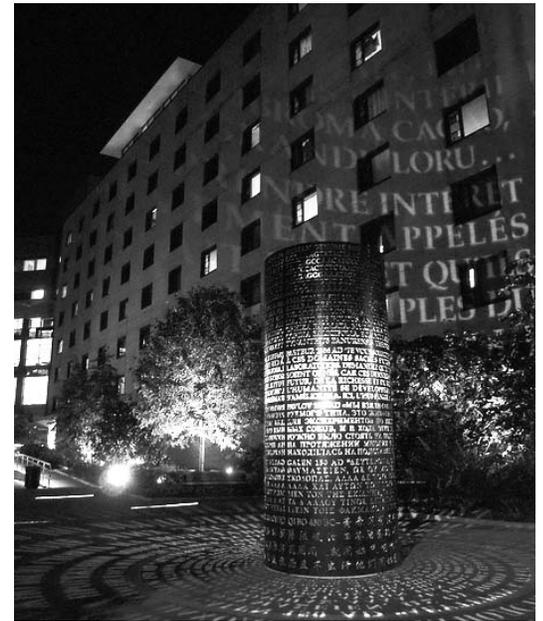


Photo courtesy of Laura Swartz

Mysterious sculptures at Thomas Jefferson University will intrigue and engage you.

FAST FACTS

- Artwork: *Ars Medendi* (the Medical Art)
- Artist: Jim Sanborn
- Location: Campus of Thomas Jefferson University
- Number of Sculptures: 2
- Cylinder: 2009, East Side of 11th Street, South Side of Walnut
- Screen: 2008, West Side of 10th Street, South Side of Walnut
- Other Important Work by Artist: *Kryptos* — an encrypted sculpture at CIA Headquarters, Langely, Virginia.

Answer Key:

For those who want to know what both sculptures are saying, translations are available online. The cylinder: www.stoopphilly.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/Jefferson_Cylinder_Plaque_Proof.pdf The screen: www.stoopphilly.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/Jefferson_Screens_Plaque_proof.pdf



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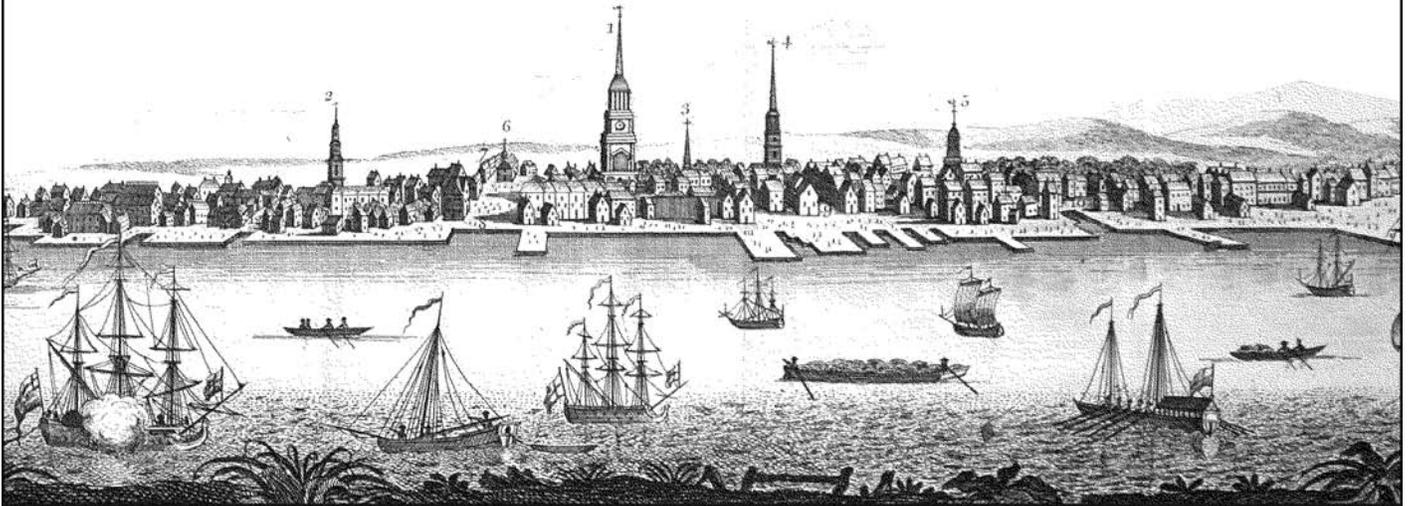
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PHILLY FOOD LOVERS

BY KERI WHITE

Hours of Happiness!

Philly Food Lovers conducted an informal poll recently asking what makes a neighborhood bar great, and the result was, if you'll pardon the clichéd song lyric from "Cheers," the popular television series, "Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name." It's about the people; we want to congregate where our friends and neighbors go.

Fortunately for us Society Hillers, there are plenty of local venues where thirsty folks can find a convivial atmosphere, quality beverages, friendly barkeeps, and good food. Here is a cocktail sampling of some of our readers' favorite happy hour destinations.

Xochitl

408 S. 2nd Street, xochitlphilly.com

La Hora Feliz at Xochitl is like a fiesta at a friend's house, assuming your friend is a fantastic Mexican chef who stocks top-shelf tequila. Their "Perfect Margarita" is perfectly named, and Happy Hour Specials won't pinch your pocketbook. From 5 to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, Xochitl offers \$5 margaritas, \$3 drafts, and \$2 "bites." These "bites" are tasty snacks like tacos, gorditos, and taquitos that tickle your taste buds while you whet your whistle. When asked about how Xochitl fits in with Society Hill, General Manager Adam Solomon couldn't be clearer: "We are first and foremost a neighborhood place. People should feel comfortable here in a suit on their way home from work or in jeans for a casual night out. We offer a relaxed atmosphere, but there is also a slightly festive vibe if you are seeking a livelier scene. We want to be part of the community. We are here to stay and we plan to serve the neighbors in whatever way benefits them. If you have company coming and don't feel like cooking, call us. We'll make you a take-out dinner." Sounds good to me!

Artful Dodger

400 S. 2nd Street, artfuldodgerphilly.com

Steeped in history (it once served as the barracks for the First Continental Marine Corps), the Dodger is something of an institution. We've been told that some long-timers even have their names on the barstools — but there's no exclusivity here. This friendly, uber-casual pub has a reputation for making everybody feel like a regular. Happy Hour specials are available Monday through Friday from 4:30 to 7 p.m. and include \$5 Buffalo wings and select \$3 drafts. The game day gatherings are a huge draw; people flock to the Dodger for food and drink specials while cheering on their teams with other like-minded fans. Says one Dodger bartender: "People want a relaxed, friendly atmosphere, and that can be hard to find in Center City. We are the ultimate corner bar with some added bonuses: good bar food, happy hour specials, and a sports bar feel during games."

Positano Coast

212 Walnut Street, 2nd floor, positanocoast.net

Walking into Positano Coast is about as close as you will get to Amalfi, Italy, without leaving Society Hill. The décor is truly beautiful, and the Happy Hour offerings are worth a visit. The award-winning bartenders offer a selection of reduced price drinks and dishes from Sunday to Friday, 4:30 to 7 p.m. Highlights included \$3 beers, \$5 sangria, specialty cocktails and wine, and featured food specials like Italian sausage sliders. The atmosphere is festive and fun, with a mixture of locals, tourists, guests from nearby hotels, and an after-work crowd.

We sure had fun researching this column... Cheers!

Second Helpings?

For more of our musings on the local food scene, visit phillyfoodlovers.com or find us on Facebook: Philly Food Lovers as well as Twitter: Phillyphood.

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OUT AND ABOUT

A Very Sociable Social

A good time was had by all at SHCA's recent Holiday Social held at Positano Coast, 212 Walnut Street.



Matt Menard, Matt DeJulio



Joanne Denworth, Francine Cohen



Jim Murphy, Judy Lamirand



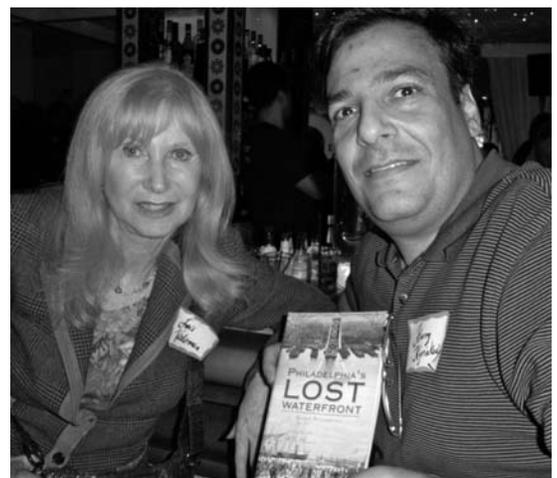
John Infanti, Linda Hirshey



Gordon Leggett, Madeline Miller



Barbara Watson, Bob Curley, Garrett and Judith Smith



Lois Vederman and local author Harry Kyriakodis

OUT AND ABOUT



Patricia, Barbara Golman



Jim Agger, Charles Croce



Larry and Brenda Gavin



George Reilly, David Costello, Laura Reilly



Carol Colabelli, Howard Sedran and Martha Levine



George Koch, Rosemary Fluehr, Lisa Unger



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ON OUR SHELF

BY CLAIRE BATTEN

A Creature of Habit

Society Hill author Gail Silver recalls standing Outside Zeke's 5th Street Deli while her young daughter had a meltdown in the street. The tantrum was so disruptive that Gail had to cut and run from breakfast. Silver remembers, "I'd never seen anything like it. Nothing I did seemed to work for my daughter. I couldn't understand why she seemed so angry, because my first child was so easygoing..." Silver's award-winning book *Anh's Anger* was in part inspired by this experience and the author's personal search for a way to manage her daughter's behavior.

Anh's Anger is a remarkable book with memorable tactile illustrations. The book is a parable about anger management and the pursuit of "Mindfulness" in daily life — a philosophy inspired by Buddhist teachings. "My books come from my life experiences in this neighborhood," says Silver. "I recognized that I had to deal with my own anger and cure myself before I could help my daughter. I found some of the answers in the study of Mindfulness. Basically it means that you always seek to be the best person you can possibly be by paying attention to how you are feeling and what you are thinking in each moment. While it was originally a Buddhist teaching, it's been adopted and integrated into modern science, particularly for stress management. Penn and Jefferson both offer classes in the subject."

Dedicated to Gail's Mindfulness teacher, *Anh's Anger* was written when Gail was nursing Chelsea, her third child. According to Silver, it was written typing with one hand while looking out of her window onto Stamper Street. As she explains, "I'd be looking out, baby on one knee, and I'd see the same squirrel at exactly 3:45 p.m. each day when I sat down to write. We were both creatures of habit."

The success of *Anh's Anger* prompted Gail to write a follow-up called *Steps and Stones*, which is now available in book stores or from her website: www.gailsilverbooks.com. A third book in the *Anh* series is also planned; only, this time, it will tackle Anh's pre-teen experiences. (Fittingly enough, Gail's eldest is approaching his teen years.)

Both of Gail's books have been publishing successes. As Richard de Wyngaert, owner of HeadHouse Books reports: "We had a great

reading at the store with her. There were children everywhere... and we completely sold out of her books that morning. Parents loved it."

We asked Gail where she thinks her writing skills come from. Were there any other writers in the family? "My mother claims it comes from my father's side of the family," she shares. "My mother's not a hoarder, but she was going through her closet recently and came across some of my paternal grandmother's journals. These were written in the 1920's, when my grandmother was traveling through Europe. Her handwriting is barely legible, but the stories are fascinating; she was an exquisite writer and a beautiful story teller."

We asked if her book after next will be a biography based on her grandmother's journals. Perhaps. But that would be telling...

In addition to being a best-selling author, Gail is also founder of Yoga Child, a yoga studio next door to WholeFoods on South Street. To contact Gail about her books or her yoga teachings, email gail@yogachild.net.



Gail Silver

Books by local authors to watch out for in 2012!

The Song of Achilles — written by Madeline Miller, whose mother taught at St. Peter's School and was a trustee of the school for many years. This book is a modern take on the *Illiad* as told through the eyes of ten-year-old Prince Patroclus.

The Fine Art of Truth or Dare by well-known neighborhood author Melissa Jensen, out in your local bookstore in February.



BUNDLE UP TO EXERCISE & SOCIALIZE

Join the Walkie-Talkies: Tuesdays & Thursdays at 8:15 a.m.

Winter has arrived and along with it some colder weather. Nevertheless, a group of hearty Society Hill gals won't let winter's chill deter them from their bi-weekly Exercise & Socialize program. On any Tuesday and Thursday morning (when it's not raining or snowing), they bundle up and meet for one-hour walks that begin promptly at 8:15 a.m. Newcomers are always encouraged to participate in this free and friendly fitness program. Just show up at Three Bears Park (Delancey Street between 2nd & 3rd Streets) five minutes prior to 8:15 a.m., at which time neighbor gals promptly begin their friendly, non-stressful and varied strolls that explore our wonderful community. Any questions? Just phone Bernice at 215-925-4363.

SAFE AND SOUND IN SOCIETY HILL

BY MARILYN APPEL

Contributions for Reward Fund Collected

As most of you know, a 46-year-old man was left in critical condition after being attacked and shot in the chest by two men walking on the 400 block of Pine Street around 11:20 p.m. on Monday, November 7th. It appears to have been a random attack, according to police.

A shooting is a rare crime in Society Hill, and it was a shock to many of us. The scary thing is that, although it happened to a non-resident, it could have happened to any of us. The victim, Darren Rogers, is still hospitalized in serious condition.

SHCA has been successful in collecting over \$7,000 in contributions from more than 80 generous, concerned neighbors to use towards a reward fund. Contributions range from \$25 to \$500. In addition, two separate households contributed \$5,000 each directly to the Citizen's Crime Commission — bringing the reward to \$17,000! We are working with the **Citizens' Crime Commission**, which will use our funds to publicize the reward through television, newspaper, and poster advertisements in an effort to help with the arrest and conviction of the two who committed this horrible crime. By offering a sizable reward, we hope that someone who can identify these criminals will come forward. The video of the crime, which was captured by a neighbor's video camera, has been run on television and phillypolice.com/news. Offering the reward is our way of putting out the word that Society Hill will not sit back and allow these criminals, or any criminals, to commit another crime here. Unfortunately, as of this writing, the police have no leads.

For more information about the Reward Fund, please contact SHCA at 215-629-1288, or mattdeljulio@aol.com

The Advantage of Cameras

As mentioned, the perpetrators were caught on the camera situated at a house near where the attack happened. My husband and I don't have the type of camera which records; we can just see who is at the front door, but we are thinking of upgrading it to record up and down the street. I would bet that we could get very good deals on such cameras if enough people wanted them. For those of you who are thinking about this, get in touch with me at harmara@verizon.net, and I'll find out if we can get discounts anywhere, both on purchase and installation.

Crossing at Major Intersections

A neighbor was recently hit by a school bus, which was turning from Spruce Street onto South 6th Street, and suffered a moderate concussion. Several intersections in the neighborhood are dangerous, including those at 7th Street and Washington Square Park, 6th Street adjacent to Independence Place, 2nd and Spruce Streets where it's two-way, and 2nd and Pine Streets outside the Wells Fargo Bank, where there are two stop signs but most cars only stop for the first. Please be careful.

Pattern Emerging

So far, of the four vehicle break-ins in our area between December 2nd and 8th, three were Mercedes. If you know anyone with a Mercedes on your block, please let them know what's happening and that the police are responding. Please report anything suspicious to 911.

Free Car! Free Car! Free Car!

That's exactly what you are telling a thief when you leave your unoccupied vehicle running with the keys in the ignition. During the cold weather months, many drivers warm up their vehicles while they stay inside of their nice warm home, or they simply leave their vehicles running while they go inside of a convenience store, thinking, "I'll only be inside for a few seconds."

Sorry folks, but that's all the time it will take for a thief to drive away in your nice warm vehicle. Also, remember, not only does the thief get your car, but he/she also gets everything in it, maybe even your child.

Protect yourself, your vehicle, and your loved ones. Don't become a victim! Please turn off your ignition, take your keys, and lock your door!

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SAFE AND SOUND IN SOCIETY HILL

Lighting Up After Dark

As we head into winter, darkness descends upon the city at a much earlier hour. Lighting is required to enable pedestrians to see where they are going and to deter vandalism and criminal activity. There are several steps we can take to brighten the streetscape during the winter months and increase safety.

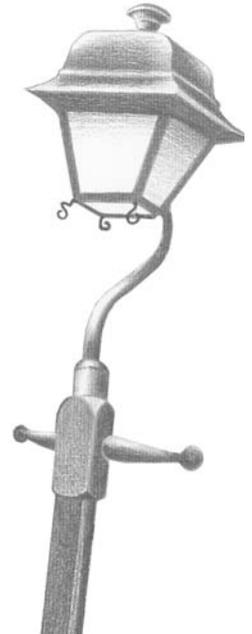
Overgrown Trees block streetlights and cause shadows that make sidewalks less safe when walking at night. Since the city is not obligated to trim these trees (if they do, it may take a year), it is up to homeowners to take care of trees on their property. The best time of year to prune is winter or fall. Some neighbors have arranged group tree pruning for their blocks — it's more cost effective. Check your Society Hill List of Contractors for a recommended arborist.

Install a front door light. This adds more light to the sidewalk, making it safer as well as enhancing the house's appearance. The

more light, the better. One should choose the highest wattage the light fixture is able to handle — 60 to 75 watts. Exterior lights can be more effective if they are connected to an electronic timer that can be set to automatically turn on the light whether the owner is home or away. Set it to go on at 5 p.m. and off at 6 a.m. every day and forget about it. If you have an Intermatic timer and need directions to set it, please contact us.

Another option is a light with a photo sensor that causes the light to turn on as it gets dark. Either a timer or a photo sensor is a great idea if you arrive home after dark or are on vacation. For protection of the rear of the home, use a motion detector that goes on only if someone walks in front of it. Intruders will be sent running when confronted with a 100 watt spotlight.

For more information, contact Martha Levine at marthalev@msn.com.



LIGHTS OUT?

See a Franklin Light that is not working or is damaged?

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If it has not, phone 311 again with the reference number provided at your first call. Remember that **you are the eyes and ears** of Society Hill.

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☎ RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED ☎

HELP NEEDED

Calling All Friends of Physick House

Recently, a group of concerned individuals formed the Friends of Physick House, a 501(c)(3) public charity with a mission to insure that the Physick House is always a historic site and museum for the edification of the public and the enrichment of Society Hill.

As you know, the Physick house, between Pine and Spruce on 4th Street, is the only free-standing Federal townhouse remaining in Society Hill. Built in 1786 by Madeira wine importer Henry Hill, the residence was named after Dr. Philip Syng Physick, the "Father of American Surgery." Its collection has outstanding examples of French-influenced neoclassic furnishings, and the unusually large city garden contains plants popular in the 19th century and features a winding path, grotto, and classical statuary.

Friends of the Physick House is seeking new members. Interested? For more information, contact neighbor Herb Gunther at 215-925-8261 or gunther320@gmail.com.

Let's Update the SHCA List of Contractors

The List of Contractors is for current SHCA members. For many years, this excellent resource has been made available on request to current SHCA members. If you are presently a SHCA member, you may have one mailed to you.

The 13-page list is comprised of servicers of all types from general contractors to specialists such as electricians, plumbers, roofers, HVAC experts, and more. Every entry has been recommended by at least one Society Hill resident.

Your help is needed to update the list and keep it accurate. We want to make it helpful and easy to use. If you have contacted a person who is no longer in business or has changed contact numbers, please let us know so we can make corrections. It can be frustrating to call several contractors only to find they are no longer working in that field. Also, if you have recommendations, we will be glad to add them to the list.

To report changes and/or to receive an updated List of Contractors, please contact Martha Levine at marthalev@msn.com or 215-629-1288. The list is not available online or by email.

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If you have news of neighborhood interest, submit it to the editor at sandra.rothman@aol.com. The next issue of the *Reporter* comes out at the beginning of March.



Hats Off to Neighbor Lisa Unger...

for the resounding success of the first of her speaker series: **Society Hill – Hot and Healthy**. Stay tuned for more information about the May lecture, “Herbal Medicine: Does Mother Always Know Best?” Pictured above: Unger and healthy greeters Babette Snyder, Carmella Peterson, Lisa Unger, M.D., Michael Fleisher and Jeanie Fields

Congratulations to Kelly Nelson...

whose **Society Hill-based design firm, nelson-plachter design**, was recently named as one of the nation’s “up and coming design firms” by Kravet (a leader in to-the-trade home furnishings).



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WELCOME BASKETS

BY MARTHA LEVINE

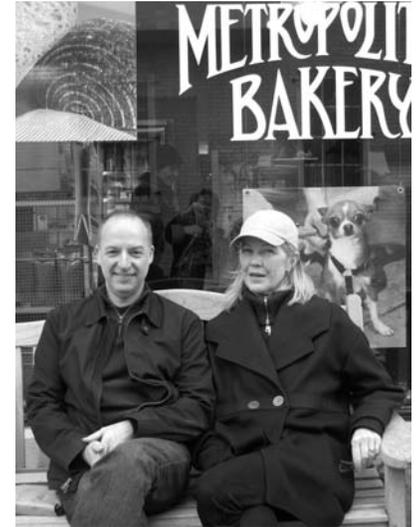
A SHCA-Style Welcome to Society Hill

For 12 years, SHCA has been welcoming new, first-time homeowners with a special gift — the Welcome Basket. Delighted recipients are surprised to see this large basket filled with fresh foods, information and many gift certificates to area theaters, restaurants, shops and services. The basket is our way of welcoming newcomers to one of the best neighborhoods in the country! We also aim to introduce new folks to our hard-working civic association with the hope that they will join and support our volunteer efforts.

We welcome new contributor Fat Salmon, 719 Walnut Street, which offers Japanese

cuisine, with a specialty in handcrafted sushi — in a modern, sleek setting. Also we welcome back Hello Home, 1004 Pine Street, a colorful boutique specializing in 50's style modern furniture and home accessories at affordable prices.

Help us say thank you to all of our loyal contributors by patronizing their establishments. If you are a new first-time home or condo owner in Society Hill and have moved here in 2011, please let us know you are here so that we may present you with a Welcome Basket. Contact Martha Levine at 215-629-0727 or marthalev@msn.com.



Metropolitan Bakery owner Wendy Born, with co-founder and head baker James Barrett, outside their bakery at 19th and Rittenhouse Square. Metropolitan Bakery has been a loyal and generous contributor since 2000.

2011 SOCIETY HILL WELCOME BASKET CONTRIBUTORS

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 Philadelphia Java Company, 518 S. 4th Street

Food Stores

Fork:etc (prepared foods), 308 Market Street
 SuperFresh, 5th & Pine Streets

Hair Salons

Salon@5th, 316 S. 5th Street

Restaurants

Bistro Romano, 120 Lombard Street
 Bridget Foy's, 200 South Street
 Chops Restaurant & Bar, 700 Walnut Street
 City Tavern, 138 S. 2nd Street
 Core De Roma, 214 South Street
 Creperie Beau Monde, 624 S. 6th Street
 Fat Salmon, 719 Walnut 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
 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 Shops

Adornamenti (jewelry), 1106 Pine Street
 Happily Ever After (toys), 1010 Pine Street
 Head House Books, 619 S. 2nd Street
 Hello Home, 1004 Pine Street
 Lolli Lolli (children's clothing/toys), 713 Walnut Street
 Paper On Pine (invitations/stationery), 115 S. 13th Street
 Show of Hands Gallery (crafts), 1006 Pine Street

Specialty Foods

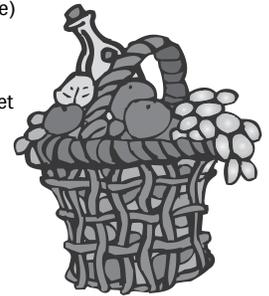
Homemade Goodies by Roz, 510 S. 5th Street
 Metropolitan Bakery, 262 S. 19th Street (Rittenhouse Square)
 Zeke's Deli, 318 S. 5th Street

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 Ave.
 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

Judy Moon Massage Therapy, Hopkinson House, 604 Washington Square
 Liberty Tree & Landscape Management, 215-725-3637
 Lux Spa and Fitness at the Omni Hotel, 401 Chestnut Street
 Pennsylvania Dental Associates, 604 Washington Square South
 Philadelphia Dance Academy (children/adult classes), 219 Cuthbert Street
 Riff Cleaners, 314 S. 5th Street
 Salvatore Custom Drapery & Installations, 215-547-2880
 SCULPT—Personal Trainer, 215-803-0723
 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 & adult classes), 903 South Street



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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

2012 Membership Drive Starts Off With a Bang

By mid-December, 614 SHCA residents had already renewed their membership — a significant 13.4 percent increase over the 541 who had renewed at the same time last year. If the current trend continues, we will well surpass our 2011 membership total of 1,033.

As usual, membership dues notices were mailed on November 1st. Residents who returned their dues by December 31st were able to participate in a drawing for two free dinners for two, which we have done for the past few years. Without any extra incentive, this early positive response may be a sign that the economy is on surer footing and that home values are no longer dropping. Winners of the dinners will be announced in the March/April issue of the *Reporter*.

In any event we welcome all 2,600 households in Society Hill to join the SHCA. Why is your membership so important? Besides providing funding for our many neighborhood improvement projects (such as graffiti control, weekly sidewalk cleaning, and plantings in Washington Square), numbers speak volumes. When our board advocates on your behalf in response to zoning changes, real estate taxes, crime problems, ramp issues, trash receptacles, street lighting, bus re-routing, etc., it makes a greater impact if they can say they speak on behalf of the majority of residents. You are also guaranteed a personal invitation to each of our social events — the Holiday Social, the Washington Square Affair, the Soiree at the Shambles, and the Spring Fling.

Without member dues, SHCA would cease to function. Protect your neighborhood and your real estate investment. Sign up today!

Email Mattdejulio@aol.com if you have any questions or wish to comment on why you are not a member. All comments will be shared with the board, which is representative of every quadrant in our unique and historic neighborhood.

Have You Stopped Getting SHCA Emails?

Of SHCA's database of 1,360 names and email addresses, about 110 entries have opted out, mostly by accident or because email addresses have been changed. If you haven't been receiving our weekly email blasts and wish to get back on board, contact SHCA Administrator Matt DeJulio at 215-629-1288 or mattdejulio@aol.com.

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 \$ _____ Franklin Lights

\$ _____ Sidewalk Cleaning/Graffiti Removal \$ _____ Tree Tenders

\$ _____ Zoning and Historic Preservation \$ _____ McCall School

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Charge VISA/MasterCard:

Number _____ Exp Date _____

Signature _____

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

- Clean-Up Day
- Washington Square
- Zoning & Historic Preservation
- Franklin Lights
- Social Events
- Fundraising
- Dilworth House
- Property Taxes
- Local Crime
- Reporter
- Casino Issues
- Incidents & Alerts

Please return completed application to:

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



NIFTY NEIGHBORS IN MY OWN BACKYARD

BY JANE BIBERMAN

Richard and Judy Get Their Deli



Richard and Judy Gelles

“Before we moved to Society Hill, Judy and I lived in the country without a decent deli for 25 years,” says Richard Gelles, only half-jokingly. “We subsisted on Entenmann’s frozen bagels.” That was while he was professor and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Rhode Island. When he was offered an endowed chair in child welfare and family violence at the University of Pennsylvania in 1998, he let his wife pick out their new home.

“We didn’t know anything about Philadelphia, but I fell in love with Society Hill for many reasons,” says Judy, an accomplished artist. “It was important for me to be near the center of art, Old City, where I am now represented by Pentimenti Gallery. Besides being a real residential neighborhood, it was close to the Ritz theaters and we both love movies.” Of course, they were overjoyed to be in walking distance of Zeke’s 5th Street Deli.

A native of New Hampshire, Judy has been married to Boston-born Richard for 40 years. A world-renowned expert on child abuse and domestic violence, he worked on Capitol Hill and was influential in the passage of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997. In 2002, he was named Dean of Social Policy and Practice at Penn. His 25th book, *The Third Lie: Why Government Programs Don’t Work and a Blueprint for Change* (Left Coast Press), was published to great controversy in October. It begins: “As the old joke says, there are three big lies: first, ‘Of course I will respect you in the morning’; second, ‘The check is in the mail’; and third, ‘I am from the government, and I am here to help you.’”

Judy is similarly concerned with society and the plight of children. “My work is conceptual and photo-based, using words and images to provide social commentary on who we are and how we think,” she explains. “Gender, passage of time, and family are consistent themes.” Her signature “word portraits” have been exhibited throughout the United States and can be found in many major

museums, including the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. The author of three books — *When We Were Ten*, *Florida Family Portrait*, and *Beach Boxes* — Judy has taught at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Tufts University, the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, and the International Center of Photography in New York.

Four years ago, Society Hill Synagogue, where they are members, asked Richard to discuss violence in the city. “Everyone wanted to know how they could help,” Judy recalls. “Richard came up with the idea of adopting a school in South Philadelphia. Each year, we help a different group of children with reading and writing. I helped write a grant so the synagogue got funds to buy 20 point-and-shoot cameras. Seventh graders learn how to take photographs, put them on a computer, and print them. Their subject is themselves, their family, and their community.”

While volunteering, Judy got the idea for her latest endeavor. “The Fourth Grade Project compares fourth graders from different economic, cultural, and geographic areas,” she says. “I ask the children three questions: who they live with, what they wish for, and what they worry about. I photograph each student with his or her back to the camera for anonymity, and the words and images are juxtaposed to create a word portrait.”

She learned that inner-city kids worry about personal safety, while children in well-off schools have the luxury to worry about world hunger and the environment. “I also had the opportunity to travel with Richard to India and China and didn’t just want to be an appendage,” she relates, “so I interviewed fourth graders in migrant schools and middle-class schools.” Her goal is to raise enough money to put together a book and an exhibition. “But that costs thousands of dollars,” she notes, adding that she helps raise funds by accepting a limited number of word portrait commissions through the Pentimenti Gallery. (For more information, visit www.judygelles.com.)

Both Richard and Judy are appreciative of neighborhood support of their work. “Not only do we live in the epicenter of American democracy,” he says, “we feel we live in a place with a sense of community. I love trash and clean-up days, and we are always meeting interesting people in Society Hill.”

Society Hill Homes For Sale



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Wednesday, January 18

SHCA Board Meeting

6:00 p.m. Great Court Conference Room

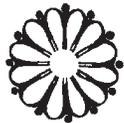
SHCA General Meeting

7:30 p.m. Zubrow Auditorium
Pennsylvania Hospital
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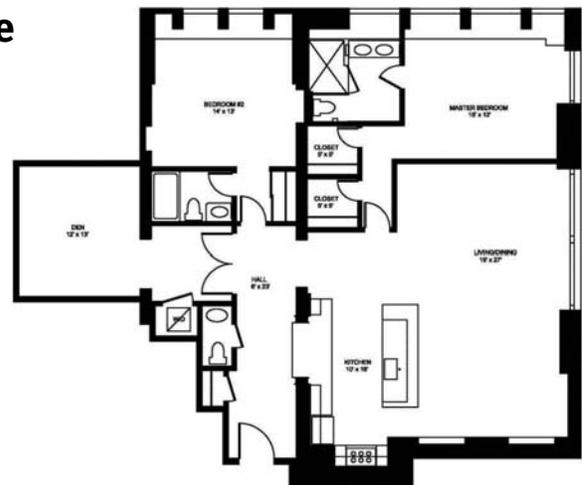
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