

SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

www.societyhillcivic.org

35th Annual Society Hill House & Garden Tour



Sunday, May 19

The Society Hill Open House & Garden Tour benefits SHCA. Join Us! Have you ever stifled an urge to sneak a peek through the open blinds of one of Society Hill's lovely historic homes? Has the sweet scent of magnolia wafting over a garden wall made you long for more?

Satisfy your curiosity on Sunday, May 19, when 10 private homes open their doors and garden gates to the public for the 35th Annual Open House and Garden Tour from 1 to 5 p.m.

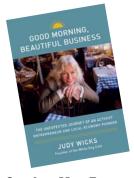
Each year, the Tour offers a new selection of exceptional houses and gardens that range in style and décor from the 18th- and 19th-century periods to the most contemporary.

Tickets are now on sale for this enjoyable, self-guided excursion in one of our nation's most important neighborhoods. Imagine walking on the same brick sidewalks as Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin!

After the tour, enjoy dinner at one of four fine area restaurants that offer a 15 percent discount exclusively for house tour ticket holders. They are: Bistro Romano, 120 Lombard Street; Bridget Foy's, 200 South Street; Positano Coast, 112 Walnut Street; and Chops Restaurant, 700 Walnut Street.

Sponsored by the Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA), proceeds are used for neighborhood improvement and beautification projects. For more tour information, go to our website: societyhillcivic.org and click on the link for Society Hill Open House & Garden Tour.

Advance ticket purchases are encouraged. To purchase a ticket, to receive a brochure or to get more information, please contact SHCA at 215-629-1288, or email mattdejulio@aol.com. Tickets can also be purchased on the day of the tour at Old Pine Community Center, 401 Lombard Street. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes!



Sunday, May 5

Autographed copies of Judy Wick's book will be available at the Headhouse Farmers' Market Opening Day.

FIND YOUR FAVORITES

Farmers' Market 6th Season Kick-Off

Good news! Headhouse Farmers' Market is Kicking off its 6th season on Sunday, May 5, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 2nd and Lombard Streets.

Opening Day brings back your favorite local farmers and producers. In addition, White Dog's Judy Wicks is signing her new book, Good Morning, Beautiful Business:

The Unexpected Journey of an Activist Entrepreneur and Local Economy Pioneer.

WEDNESDAY

May 15

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Society Hill Civic Association Meetings

Pennsylvania Hospital, 8th & Spruce Streets

6:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting 7:30 p.m. General Membership Meeting Check weekly SHCA email blasts for speaker and topic.

COOKIES BY DESIGN

SHCA Board member George Kelley welcomes
Cookies by Design and Café Express to our
neighborhood at the recent grand opening in
the Society Hill Towers shopping plaza. Owner
Fran Leone revealed that cookie bouquet arrangements, customized for almost any occasion,
are a new gifting genre. Left to right: SHCA's
Martha Levine, Jay Hummel, Rosemary Malnuis,
SHCA's George Kelley and owner Fran Leone.



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SOCIETY HILL

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Society Hill

Civic Association

P. O. Box 63503 Philadelphia, PA 19147 tel: 215-629-1288

Website

Find past issues of the *Reporter* with color photos at 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 717-715-5791 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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WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

Annual Board of Directors Election

The Society Hill Civic Association will conduct its annual election of Board Directors at its May 15 General Membership Meeting. 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 each served by three Board representatives for three-year terms each.

This is a working board. We are excited to nominate these neighbors who have shown an interest in and enthusiasm for our historic community and are willing to labor on issues of quality of life and community service.

Candidates:

President

Steven Weixler

Vice President

Jim Moss

Secretary

George Dowdall

Treasurer

Marc Feldman

Directors-at-Large

Bob Curley George Kelley Martha Levine Kim Williams

Northeast Quadrant

2014 Lenore Hardy 2015 Heather Steiner 2016 Lisa Unger

Northwest Quadrant

2014 Sissie Lipton 2015 Diane Rossheim 2016 Amy DeMarco

Southeast Quadrant

2014 Jane Ahn 2015 Laura Temple 2016 Jeff Berry

Southwest Quadrant

2014 Francisco Carreno 2015 Marilyn Appel 2016 Daniel Horowitz



SHCA Committees

Our all-volunteer committees regularly undertake community initiatives that affect the health and well-being of our historic community. Residents are encouraged to become a member of SHCA and join a committee with goals that match their interests.

Block Coordinator

Disseminates important information to everyone on their block.

Clean-Up Day

Coordinates twice-yearly community clean-ups.

Fix the Brix

Coordinates and supervises brick repair subsidy program.

Graffiti Control

Keeps historic Franklin Lights and other public spaces free from blight.

House and Garden Tour

Coordinates yearly house and garden tour, the major SHCA general fundraiser.

Legal

Provides guidance to the board on any and all legal matters.

Membership

Seeks to increase membership, both residential and business. Membership income provides the primary source of income for most activities.

Nominating

Reviews the credentials of candidates wishing to serve on the SHCA board, for ultimate election by the general membership at the May annual meeting.

Police Advisory Council

Maintains a close liaison with local law enforcement.

Reporter

Bi-monthly publication handdelivered to every resident. Welcomes contributors and editing expertise.

Safe and Sound Society Hill

Deals with crime, pedestrian safety and quality-of-life-related issues and seeks to communicate our needs to the 6th Police District.

Social Events

Coordinates social events throughout the year.

Trees/Tree Tending

Coordinates SHCA tree subsidy program and helps maintain flowers around trees and in hanging baskets.

Washington Square Affair

Coordinates the fund-raising event in Washington Square that provides resources for improvements to the park.

Washington Square

Has periodic meetings with Independence National Historical Park Service to see that additional attention is paid to beautification efforts.

Welcome Basket

Provides a friendly welcome to new homeowners in the form of a large basket of goods and services donated by local businesses and institutions.

Zoning and Historic Preservation

Monitors residential and commercial applications for zoning variances and reports to the Board on issues that affect the integrity of our neighborhood.

Find a committee with goals that match your interests, and get involved!

SATURDAY, MAY 11

Spring Clean-Up Day



Saturday morning, May 11, will be your chance to break out the brooms and help clean up our community. Visitors are coming to our Open House Tour (see front page), and we want our historic neighborhood to sparkle!

Sweep leaves and winter debris from sidewalks, walkways and alleyways into the streets before the city's sweeper trucks arrive Saturday morning between 8 a.m. and noon. Remember the sidewalks surrounding McCall and St. Peter's Schools, as well as Three Bears Park.

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 noon.

Your bagged street leaves and litter should be left by 1 p.m. at the major intersections of Locust, Spruce, Pine and Lombard Streets, as well as Three Bears Park. Bags are for street leaves and litter only, no household trash!

Since the sweeper trucks start cleaning streets as early as 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, consider sweep-

ing your sidewalks on Friday night, May 10. 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 - 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 Walnut to Lombard Streets (not including Walnut Street). There will be no parking on either side of the 300 - 400 blocks of Front Street. This also applies to the 200 - 300 blocks of 2nd Street and Lawrence Court.

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



Paper Shredding and Electronic Recycling Services

SHCA is again sponsoring paper shredding and electronic recycling services for the convenience of Society Hill residents only (sorry, no businesses). Trucks will be parked in St. Peter's School parking lot (3rd and Lombard Streets) from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. or until trucks reach capacity.

- Paper shredding is limited to confidential materials. All other papers should be recycled.
- Paper only is accepted no CDs or disks.

- Electronic recycling will take televisions, microwaves, computers. Anything with a plug.
- No large appliances like refrigerators or washing machines, please.

If you use these special services and aren't yet an SHCA member, please consider joining our civic association. Simply fill out the form, either online at societyhillcivic.org or on page 33 of this newsletter. Any questions? Call Matt DeJulio at 215-629-1288.

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MAY/JUNE 2013

THURSDAY, JUNE

Back by Popular Demand: The Washington Square Affair

heck the mailbox for your invitation to one of Society Hill's most anticipated events the Washington Square Affair. This year it will be held on Thursday, June 13, just when the Square is at its finest.

Joan and Bernie Spain are again graciously hosting a pre-party cocktail gathering from 5 to 7 p.m. in their beautiful, newly designed penthouse condo overlooking Washington Square.

The Affair, a tented party on a lawn in the park, promises to be a festive event, due in large part to the generosity of our local restaurants, including Fork, Jones, La Buca, Chops, Positano Coast, Red Owl Tavern, Supper and Le Pain Quotidien. There will also be lots of wine, music, good cheer and even some exciting surprises, from 6 to 9 p.m.

Proceeds from the gala will be used for the continued beautification and maintenance of Washington Square. Now a part of Independence National Historical Park, it has been one of

Philadelphia's most important and beautiful public parks for nearly 200 years. Thanks to the past support of Society Hill residents and corporate sponsors, SHCA was able to restore the guard house, install a new sprinkler system, install trees and spring plantings and also to maintain the annuals, perennials and shrubs.

Dust off your party shoes it's time to tiptoe through the tulips!

The Washington Square Affair is a wonderful way to support keeping our special "green oasis" beautiful, while having the opportunity to celebrate with friends and neighbors. We look forward to seeing you on June 13!

Invitations to SHCA members will soon go in the mail. If you are not a member, contact Matt DeJulio and he will gladly mail you an invitation along with a membership application.

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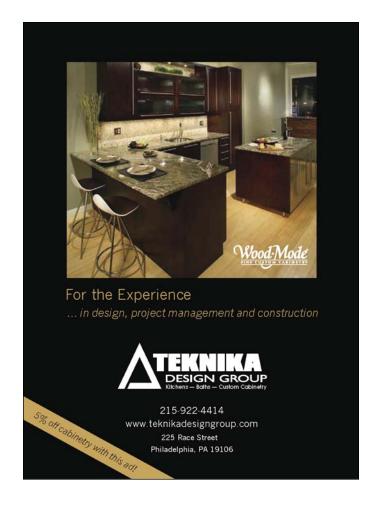
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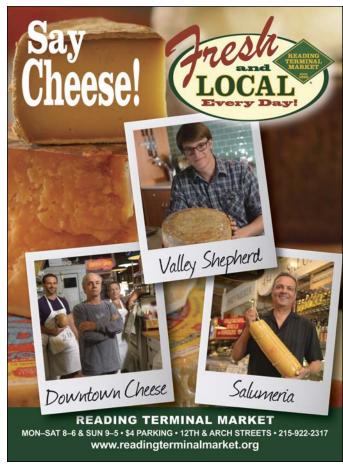














SKYLINE SCENE

BY ROSANNE LOESCH

Flashing Billboard to Mar Scenic Philadelphia

The Philadelphia Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA), in a three-to-one decision, unexpectedly threw out the appeal of an over-the-counter permit that allowed the owner (Keystone Outdoor Advertising) of two billboards, located on top of a self-storage warehouse at 400 N. 5th Street, to convert the signs to digital billboards.

The effect of quashing the appeal is that the Zoning Board denied the rights of Philadelphia citizens affected by the conversion to challenge on the merits the over-the-counter permit handed out by Licenses and Inspections. Written testimony of the appellants was not entered into the record, and witnesses attending the hearing who were prepared to testify against the permit were not allowed to do so. Thus, the merits of the appeal were never reached.

Independence National Historical Park objected to the sign conversion, as did residents of the Callowhill and Old City neighborhoods just north of Society Hill, where the signs are located. National Park Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod had written a letter to the Zoning Board stating that the digital billboards — clearly visible from the Independence National Historical Park (Society Hill's northern neighbor) - violate the spirit of the Philadelphia Code, which was written "to preserve the historical character of a national shrine and the birthplace of our nation's capitol." She added that the flashing sign devalues the experience of over five million visitors a year who come to Philadelphia to enjoy the historical character of this World Heritage Site.

Scenic Philadelphia filed the appeal on the basis that the owner had not simply converted the sign faces of the two billboards to digital display, but had in fact replaced and relocated an entire sign. Therefore, Scenic Philadelphia maintained, conversion of the signs could not be authorized by an over-the counter permit, but must be obtained by a variance and a hearing.

The signs are also in violation of the distance requirements set by federal law prohibiting billboards to be located within 500 feet of each other.

The first hearing on the appeal of the permits was held back in July 2012, but when Keystone

was granted continuances lasting eight months to prepare its case, it waited until March 25 of this year to file a "motion to quash" the appeal. After about an hour of testimony, the Board granted the motion by a vote of 3-1. Only Greg Pastore voted to deny the motion.

The three ZBA board members who voted to grant Keystone's motion did so because Keystone asserted that the appellants didn't file the appeal within 30 days of when construction began. Those three ZBA Members are Zoning Chair Lynette Brown-Sow, Carol Tinari and Sam Statten.

Joe Felici, president of Keystone, said that the construction began on March 2, 2012. However, since the zoning permit was never posted, the date the construction began had to be based on when a "reasonable person" would notice that it began. A witness for the appellant, who lives in an apartment a block away from the site, testified that he first noticed the construction on May 2 and alerted his civic association, which then alerted Scenic Philadelphia. The majority of the board sided with the sign owner's account of when the construction began, and ruled that the application was filed too late.

Scenic Philadelphia maintains that the appeal was timely and that a crane could have been on the property for reasons other than moving the sign. Therefore, the appeal was filed within 30 days of reasonably concluding that the purpose of the work was to move one of the signs. Attorney Kindt says that Scenic Philadelphia will likely appeal the case to the Court of Common Pleas.

To learn more about billboards in Philadelphia and how they affect our environment, go to the Scenic Philadelphia website at scenic.org/resources/case-studies. There you can read "Above the Law and Under the Radar: the Billboard Industry's Failure to Comply with Local, State & Federal Laws." On the same website, read the "case studies" to see what other cities and states are doing to fight this blight. Finally, consider supporting Scenic Philadelphia's work by signing up for occasional news alerts and by making a financial contribution. They are fighting blight battles on a shoestring and could use your help.

Billboard conversion permit appeal quashed after Keystone asserted that it wasn't filed within 30 days of the beginning of construction.









ZONING AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

BY LORNA KATZ-LAWSON

City's New Zoning Code, Society Hill and Your Role

The city will be conducting, sometime in August, a review of how well the new zoning code is serving communities. For this activity to be useful, the city must receive feedback from community groups — now called Registered Community Organizations (RCOs). The idea is that if some negative, unintended consequences have been experienced as a result of the changes initiated by the new code, then there will be an opportunity to revise the code via City Council legislation.

In our neighborhood, we have had only a few projects reviewed under the new zoning code, but each of them has engendered significant pushback by neighbors. Two of the biggest issues have been restrictions on parking for single-family housing and lack of adequate parking provisions for multi-family housing. Other issues include too much bulk on sites and too much "of right" allowance for reduced open space on non-conforming lots — without adequate provisions that consider adjacent properties.

If you are a neighbor impacted negatively by new construction, please contact the Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee (ZHP), so that we can make your concerns known to the city.

The Historical Code is being updated to conform to the new Zoning Code, and a draft was issued to PHC a few weeks ago for review.

Recent Activities of the Committee

600-602 Addison Street

An applicant who had been turned down last year under the old zoning code for a project of the same size and bulk, but lower density — which was 601-603 Addison Street — breezed through an over-the-counter subdivision of the existing property and zoning approvals for a six-unit apartment building without parking. Attempts to appeal Licenses and Inspections (L&I) decision were thwarted at Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) on technical issues. It is not known at this writing whether or not 17 neighbors, who signed affidavits of opposition, will pursue a court appeal.

516 Cypress Street

This project, which had been denied at a ZBA hearing in mid-February, was re-submitted by the developer in a modified version that eliminated the parking garage. Although the application was submitted for an "of right" project (i.e., one that L&I believes conforms to all requirements of the zoning code), no permit yet has been issued.

If a permit is issued, eight homeowners from Cypress and Delancey Streets will likely file an appeal based on arguments they put forward at the ZBA hearing, but which ZBA did not address then. ZBA chose to speak only to the two items concerning the garage use and size cited by L&I's refusal.

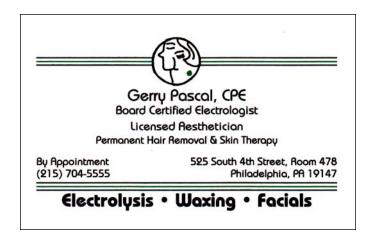
410 South Front Street

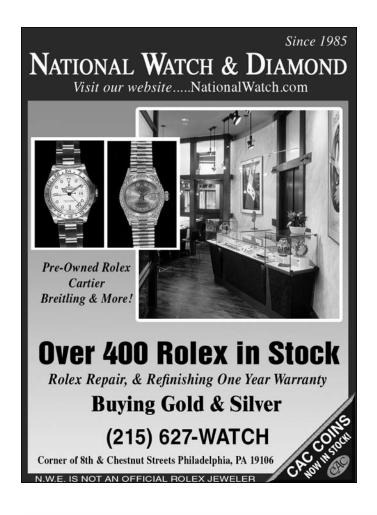
Construction documents are approximately 60 percent complete, and Toll Brothers Inc. anticipates construction of the new residential condominium complex to start in July.



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SAFE AND SOUND IN SOCIETY HILL

BY MARILYN APPEL

So, what else is new? SHCA's weekly email blast reports local crime in a timely manner. Contact Administrator Matt DeJulio if you have not already signed up for this service. Just a note: don't leave anything in your car that is inviting, like a GPS, cell phone, small change, etc. Make sure your car doors and home entry doors are securely locked. Enough said. You know all this. A reminder about dining al fresco: ladies, keep your purse on your lap or between your feet; men, put your wallet in a front pocket.

Security Cameras. A city grant subsidizes security cameras for businesses — one half the cost up to \$3,000. The digital camera system must have the ability for remote login by the Philly Police Department and be installed on the outside of your building. Get the guidelines and application form from Samuel Kuang-hsien, Dept. of Commerce, 215-683-2014, or contact the camera vendor, Corey Nydick, 215-264-4234 or cfnydick@verizon.net for info about camera and technology issues.

Old Cell Phones.

We're still collecting phones and chargers (even mismatched) at 414 Spruce Street for abused women and the elderly. Thank you.

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Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church

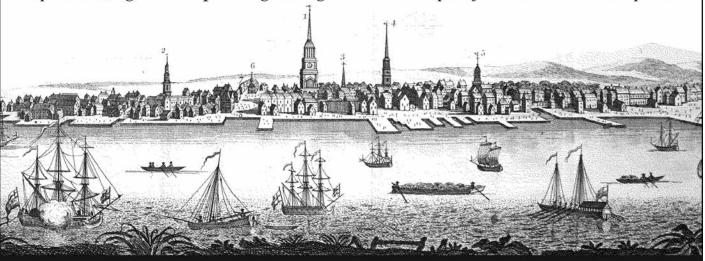
Please join us for worship Sundays at 10:30am Nursery Care Available Sunday School

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Street Ages 3 - grade 8

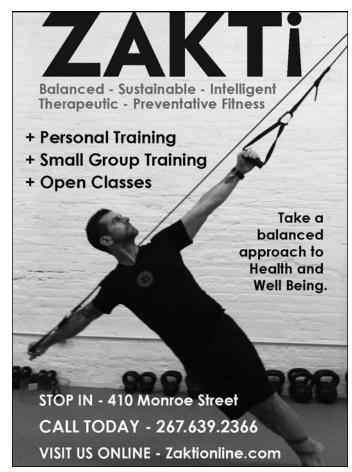
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THE JEWISH QUARTER OF PHILADELPHIA

BY SANDY ROTHMAN

Finding Bubba and Zayda in Unexpected Places

Por the past several years I've been researching my son Alexander's paternal family history. It's been loads of fun because, to my great amazement, the whole bunch lived in or near Society Hill, an area known from 1881 to 1930 as the Jewish Quarter of Philadelphia.

I was surprised to learn that there has been a Jewish presence in southeastern Pennsylvania for a long time; traders were here well before the arrival of William Penn in 1682. Philadelphia Jews took a prominent part in the Revolutionary War, and some are buried in our own neighborhood in the Mikveh Israel Cemetery on Spruce Street, near 8th. More came in the years immediately preceding the Civil War and resided in nearby Northern Liberties.

When Alexander's ancestors and their compatriots began arriving at the Washington Avenue Immigration Station in 1881, the city's Jewish population (mostly of German heritage) totaled 15,000. For the next 43 years, Eastern European and Russian Jews came in droves; by 1940, there were 235,000 newcomers.

Almost all of my son's family came from Bessarabia, now Moldova, close to where hundreds of violent pogroms broke out in 1881. Immediately, whole families fled for their lives; some walked hundreds of miles to the Port of Hamburg, Germany. I don't know if his great-great-great grandparents Sarah and Louis Fisher and their eight children and six grandchildren left on foot, but they did arrive in Philadelphia virtually penniless. Fortunately, housing was cheap near the Immigration Station. Populated then by the poor descendants of English settlers and Irish immigrants, the area was a far cry from Colonial Philadelphia's elite neighborhoods, to say nothing of ours today.

Happily, the existing Jewish community stepped up to the plate to aid their Eastern European brothers and sisters, providing food, clothing, fuel and rent money to the first wave of immigrants. Among these refugees was Alexander's great-great-great grandfather Abram Trachtenberg, who debarked a steamship in 1882 with two dollars in his pocket.

Most of the community's energy was channeled into social welfare and social aid. The Jewish Maternity at 532-536 Spruce Street provided free medical and obstetric care. The property eventually became a safe refuge for unmarried Jewish women who boarded there. The words "Rebecca Gratz Club" can still be seen above the portal to the courtyard, paying tribute to Philadelphia's preeminent

Jewish American educator and philanthropist.

The poor crowded the pavement outside the Mount Sinai Dispensary, now a private residence at 236 Pine Street. Here doctors proficient in dermatology, dentistry, surgery and pediatrics saw more than 75 patients a week, free of charge. Nearby, a federal townhouse accommodated a kindergarten and nursery. By 1897 it was the largest daycare center in the city.

My personal favorite establishment, Abraham's Hotel, used to stand on the 200 block of Lombard Street, until the Redevelopment Authority razed the entire block in the 1960's. Here, Yiddishspeaking women from the neighborhood ran a wayfarer's home that became one of Philadelphia's most beloved institutions. It was a place for immigrants fresh off the boat to catch some sleep until they could locate friends or relatives. Dr. Charles Spivak attended the sick, and mohel David Moses performed marriages and circumcisions. Over 10,000 free meals were served at the hotel during its first two years. It makes me smile to think that 16-year-old Abram Trachtenberg was able to stretch his two dollars a little longer, thanks to the generosity of Abraham's Hotel.

As I checked census records for the Rothman, Trachtenberg, Fisher and Bauman families, I repeatedly encountered references to employment in the garment industry. Alexander comes from a long line of pressers, cutters, basters and finishers. "What's up with that?" I wondered. I will share my discoveries in the next issue. Suffice it to say, there's truth in the old joke that describes the difference between a Jewish tailor and a doctor as one generation!

For more information and wonderful photos, you might want to seek out *The Jewish Quarter of Philadelphia* by Harry D. Boonin, published by the Jewish Walking Tours of Philadelphia.



Bubba Sarah Fisher tends to her grandson in the Jewish Quarter, 1909.



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 groat,
For the honor of Liberty Tree.

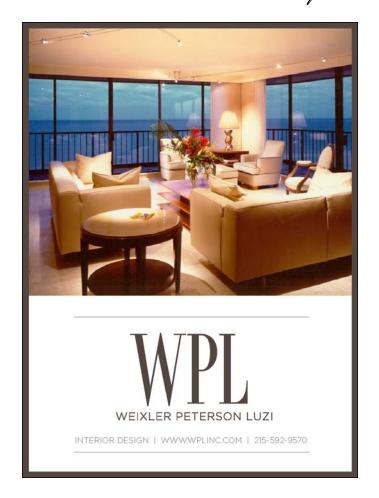
But hear, O ye swains, 'tis a tale most profane,
How all the tyrannical powers,
Kings, Commons, and Lords, are uniting amain
To cut down this guardian of ours;

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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THIS OLD HOUSE

BY CHUCK GROSHONG

Can Painting Damage Your Home?

Despite all the recent wintry weather, spring is officially here. With its arrival, homeowners turn their attention to maintenance projects — including exterior painting.

While seemingly harmless, painting a historical home carries a surprisingly significant risk of damage. The National Park Service's *Preservation Brief #10: Exterior Paint Problems on Historic Woodwork* notes:

Because paint removal is a difficult and painstaking process, a number of costly, regrettable experiences have occurred — and continue to occur — for both the historic building and the building owner. Historic buildings have been set on fire with blow torches; wood irreversibly scarred by sandblasting or by harsh mechanical devices, such as rotary sanders and rotary wire strippers; and layers of historic paint inadvertently and unnecessarily removed. In addition, property owners using techniques that substitute speed for safety have been injured by toxic lead vapors or dust from the paint they were trying to remove, or by misuse of the paint removers themselves.

Consider several factors when choosing an appropriate paint for your historical home:

Quality

The temptation to save money by using cheap paint can be alluring. Many contractors, and even homeowners, mistakenly think that paint choices need only match historical colors, but this is not so. The old adage "you get what you pay for" is particularly true for your paint. Investing in quality paint will save you money in the long run.

Preparation

The key to successful paint application is in knowing what preparation is required for the different types of paint that may already be on your building — each has its own preparation requirements. If you are not sure what type of paint is on your building, you can consult a qualified contractor to obtain a paint analysis providing you with both the chemical and color makeup of your existing paint.

Handling Lead Paint

The health risks of lead exposure are well known — brain and nervous system damage, hearing and vision loss, impaired development of children... But, did you know that lead in dust (such as the dust created while sanding and prepping surfaces for new paint) is

the most common route of exposure to lead? To avoid these risks, choose a contractor who is "Renovation, Repair and Painting" certified by the EPA for lead paint handling.

Ask yourself these questions before beginning any painting project:

- Does my paint exhibit any peeling, cracking, chalking (powdering), crazing (small, interconnected cracks), mold or mildew, staining, blistering or wrinkling?
- Does my building have an existing paint application that is inappropriate for its historical fabric?
- Do I know what type of paint is currently on my building and what preparation is required before painting over that type of paint?
- If I am using a contractor, are they "Renovation, Repair and Painting" certified by the EPA for lead paint handling?
- Does that contractor understand which methods, tools, materials and chemicals are appropriate for paint removal on my historical building?

In June, the Central Pennsylvania Preservation Society is addressing this very topic. Matthew J. Mosca, a nationally recognized Historic Paint Finishes Consultant with more than 30 years of experience, will lecture on paint research and restoration, the use of micro-chemical testing to identify paint finishes and how to choose appropriate paint finishes for historic buildings. For more information call 717-291-4688 or go to centralpennsylvaniapreservatiosociety.org.

A Special Offer For Readers

Choosing a contractor to tackle those springtime projects can be stressful. To help with this decision, we're offering a free report entitled "5 Ways Contractors Damage Your Historical Home." Visit our website, historic-restorations.com, or call 717-291-4688 to request a copy and learn:

- The three most common mistakes contractors make that damage your home.
- The number one renovation to avoid.
- What window salesmen don't want you to know.
- Why you don't need "energy efficiency" improvements.

Experienced father/daughter preservation team Chuck Groshong and Danielle Groshong-Keperling own and operate Historic Restorations, a construction firm that specializes in historic buildings.





Chuck and Danielle will write an occasional column for the *Reporter* dealing with the joys and tribulations of restoring historic homes. Please contact the *Reporter* with specific issues and our father/daughter team will be glad to address them.



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*As a sideline, Jim also writes "Exploring the City" for the Society Hill Reporter

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EXPLORING THE CITY

BY JIM MURPHY

Welcome Park

Considering all that William Penn did for Philadelphia and our nation — while living here less than four years — I think he's seriously unappreciated by the very city he founded.

In part, that's because the remarkable Benjamin Franklin overshadows just about everybody else in local history.

But when you start looking closely at what Penn really accomplished, you realize that we should be celebrating his birthday every October 14 at Welcome Park, just across from the City Tavern at Second Street above Walnut.

And we should be honoring him during Welcome America festivities each summer.

Why? Because Penn promoted tolerance and religious freedom in Pennsylvania, while other states were putting people to death for their beliefs. He set up a framework of government that allowed for trial by jury and other rights, plus peaceful change through amendments. And, in the words of Thomas Jefferson, "he was the greatest law-giver the world has produced."

What's more, he treated the American Indians he met fairly and paid them for their land. He helped plan Philadelphia, one of America's most important cities. And he even established a Friends Public School in 1689 for all Philadelphia children.

A product of his time, Penn was not a perfect human being. He kept several slaves at Pennsbury Manor, his country estate, and only Protestants were permitted to vote and hold public office.

Yet people of all religions were free to worship and practice their faith here. And members of many different sects, who were previously persecuted for their beliefs, flocked to Pennsylvania.

5 Things You May Not Know About Penn

- Pennsylvania wasn't named for William Penn, but for his father, Admiral Sir William Penn, by King Charles II.
- Penn's first choice for his city was the present city of Chester (then called Upland). When that land was too expensive to buy, he set his sights on a rectangular space of 1,200 acres between the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers that became Philadelphia.

- Major east-west streets in Penn's original plan for Philadelphia, aside from High Street (now Market), were named after trees Penn said "spontaneously grow in the country." Today's differences: Sassafras became Race Street, Mulberry became Arch, and Cedar was renamed South Street.
- While Quaker Oats still denies that William
 Penn was the person pictured on its cereal,
 an ad from *The Fra* magazine in 1909 disproves
 this claim. The ad says, "Here you see the
 picture of William Penn, standard-bearer of the
 Quarters, and of QUAKER OATS," and includes
 two illustrations of him.
- Lord Baltimore claimed that Philadelphia was actually located in Maryland. So Penn hurriedly returned to England in 1684 to try to resolve the boundary dispute in front of the King. The matter was not completely settled until 1760, when the Pennsylvania-Maryland border was defined as "the line of latitude 15 miles south of the southernmost house in Philadelphia."

Welcome Park features a replica of the William Penn statue atop City Hall and a large timeline that spells out the various roles Penn played during his lifetime. One of the only places in Philadelphia's historic area to honor William Penn — fierce protector of citizens' rights and founder of our city and state.



Despite Penn's many accomplishments,

he is rarely remembered in his own city. Even though his 37-foot statue sits atop City Hall, many Philadelphians, tourists and national sports broadcasters think it's Ben Franklin.

Moreover, many Philadelphia visitors' guides I reviewed don't mention Welcome Park, the site devoted to Penn's life and contributions, at all. Some don't even note it on maps.

And during about 20 minutes of looking, I couldn't find any books, t-shirts, photos or other items about William Penn at the Independence Visitors Center bookstore. If they're there, I missed them.

However, there were many displayed copies, of "Fart Proudly: Writings of Ben Franklin You Never Heard In School."

William Penn deserves better.

FAST FACTS

Place: Welcome Park
Named for: Penn's ship,
the Welcome
Location: Second Street
at Sansom Street Alley
Open: 24 hours a day
Built by: Friends of
Independence National
Historical Park in 1982
Occasion: 300th
anniversary of founding
of Pennsylvania
Designers: Venturi,
Rauch, and Scott Brown

OUT AND ABOUT

Spring Awakens



Bonnie Halda

We celebrate spring's arrival in Society Hill with a joyous burst of color! Many thanks to our new "official" SHCA photographer, Bonnie Halda, for capturing the spirit of the season so well.

For the past two decades, Bonnie has enjoyed walking about Society Hill with her ever-present camera. She has been photographing our community through every season and in every type of weather. Bonnie is a historical architect and, as you can see, has a deep appreciation for the

unique combination of old and new that makes up our historic district. One of Bonnie's photographs was recently selected to be part of the third annual "Philly Photo Day" exhibit, which runs through mid-June at the Philadelphia International Airport, Terminal C. For more information about Bonnie's work, contact her at bhalda@comcast.net.

We welcome spring with the first of many *Reporter* center spreads to be printed in color.









OUT AND ABOUT

We've Got Some Bloomin' Gardens!

















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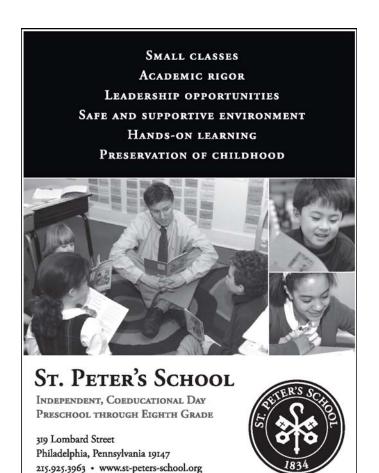
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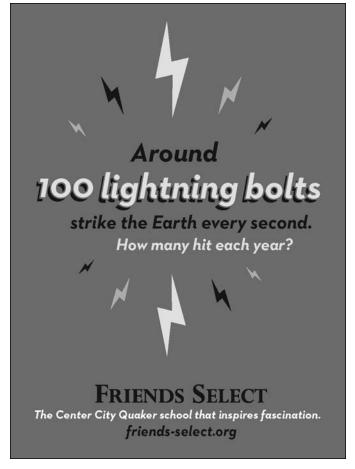
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PHILLY FOOD LOVERS

BY KERRI WHITE

Ralic's on South

South Street is definitely becoming a happening place! Recently, we've had some lovely meals at the newly opened Ralic's on South. Located at 119 South Street, this seafood restaurant has certainly upped the culinary quotient of the area.

Let's start with the atmosphere. Ralic's is spacious, with beautifully tiled floors, soothing fountains and murals that reflect the "Shore Dining" concept. The circular bar is inviting, and the tasteful, wooden shutters that delineate the dining room from the bar are both decorative and functional. There is a large back room with a lovely outdoor patio; Ralic's can host private events for up to 200 people.

On each of our visits, the service was attentive and welcoming without being obtrusive, and the food was truly wonderful. As a former commercial fisherman, Executive Chef John Anninos plays to his strengths. Ralic's sources a wide selection of fresh seafood, but there is sufficient choice on the menu for non-pescetarians as well.

We started one recent lunch with the tandoori flatbread shrimp pizza, topped with goat cheese, garlic and spinach. It was divine. We also sampled the crab cake sliders, expecting to receive three typical bite-size patties, when what should appear before us but a trio of full-sized crab cakes. These were nicely slathered with red pepper coulis and topped with arugula and a sliced tomato. When we remarked on the size of the dish, our server said, "We pride ourselves on generous portions." Generous, indeed. We each ate one and I took the third home for my daughter's dinner.

We rounded out our lunch with a delightful house salad. Baby spinach, cranberries, goat cheese and sliced apples provided a lovely blend of flavors, perfectly complemented by the balsamic vinaigrette.

Ralic's offers a variety of dining styles; you can go the traditional appetizer/main course route, which we did for dinner one evening, enjoying an authentic and flavorful bowl of New England clam chowder followed by a sublime sea bass sautéed with oven-dried tomatoes and green olives and topped with a lemon caper sauce. Smaller appetites can opt for the small plates, which offer four-ounce portions of fish or meat accompanied with a mini side dish. In this vein, I enjoyed the seared ahi tuna with celeriac.

Ralic's is also family-friendly. My uber-fussy son requested a burger at dinner. Although burgers are only on the lunch menu, the accommodating waiter prevailed upon the kitchen to provide one. And let us not forget to mention that children under five eat free every day!

Although it is a small touch, the mint tea we ordered after our lunch was a top-notch brand, which also made a lasting impression.

To paraphrase the Terminator, "We'll be back!"

Thanks to owner Dave Ralic for sharing with us his favorite recipe.

Editor's note: A group of us met for a Sunday get-together, and we were astonished to learn that weekend brunch (it's not a buffet) is literally all you can eat for \$16.50. The server asked if we wanted more entrées when we finished our first. Now there's a deal!

Ralic's on South ralicsonsouth.com 119 South Street 215-418-0600



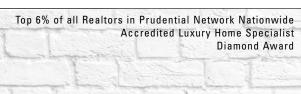
Oyster Stew: 2 Servings

- 16 select shucked oysters
- 1 cup oyster juice (or substitute clam juice)
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 teaspoons minced shallot
- 1 teaspoon garlic
- 4 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 6 tablespoons white wine (an oaky chardonnay is recommended)
- 4 cups of heavy cream
- 2 teaspoons of grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 potato peeled, diced and blanched

Sweat the shallots and garlic in butter. When translucent, deglaze the pan with the white wine and Worcestershire sauce. Once the alcohol burns off, add the heavy cream and oyster or clam juice. Boil to reduce by a quarter then add the oysters, potato and Parmesan cheese. Simmer for three minutes. Serve with freshly chopped parsley. Enjoy!







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THE BRIX'

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Our Sidewalks, Our Responsibility

An SHCA Incentive Program, aka We're Giving Away Money

ur mantra in Society Hill should be "Clean, Safe and Beautiful." Since 2009, SHCA has provided an incentive program for homeowners to make their sidewalks safer by leveling those that are a trip-and-fall hazard. Since then, we have had more than 100 participants take advantage of this program and, better yet, we have safer sidewalks throughout Society Hill. We're not done yet — there's lots more to do.

Bricks seem to have a mind of their own and move for various reasons — settling into the soil, tree roots, damage from vehicles, wear and tear, etc. We homeowners are responsible to set them straight. SHCA wants to help by offering a reimbursement of 40 percent, up to \$300, to owners who level their front sidewalks. It's easy — a four-step program.

Here's how to get started:

- 1 Contact Martha Levine at marthaley@msn.com. 215-629-0727, or Frank Signorello at fsignorello@gexchange.com. Let us know you are interested in having work done.
- **2** Get a few estimates and select a contractor who meets your budget and needs.
- **3** After the work is completed, submit your invoice by mail to: SHCA, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147
- 4 Receive a reimbursement check from SHCA.

Rick the Brick

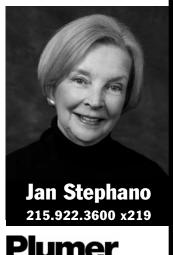
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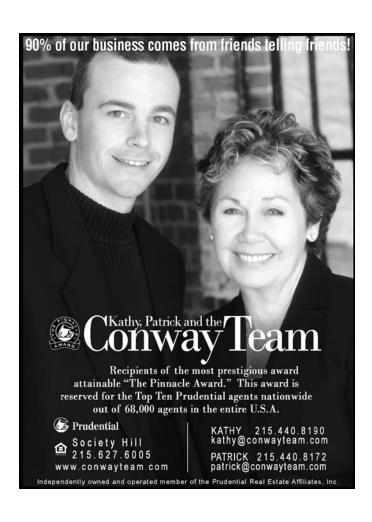
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\$825,000

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210 Pine Street

\$850,000

Fantastically located 3BD/3BA home with 1-year prepaid parking, contemporary kitchen, red brick patio, finished basement with bar, also complete with wood burning fireplace.

333 Lawrence Street

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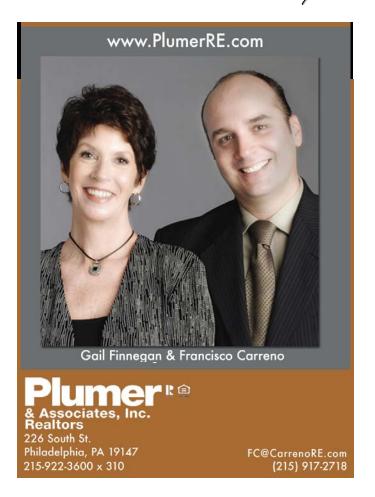


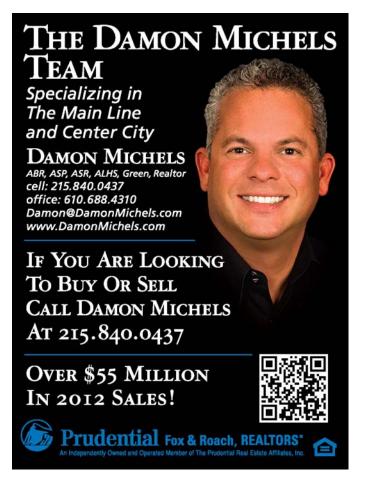
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ON OUR SHELF

Kids Hot for History

Mons and dads, consider getting your kids hooked on history this summer. We live in the birthplace of our nation. Just think — a fun field trip merely entails walking down the street!

A suggestion to get the family's temperature rising is a hands-on exploration of one of Philadelphia's scariest times — the monumental Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793. Admittedly gruesome, the topic actually lends itself to interesting discussions and great excursions in and near Society Hill.

Start the project with a visit to Physick House, 321 S. 4th Street. The current exhibit, *Pestilence Prevails*, reproduces the sick room of a victim of yellow fever, or "yellow jack" as it was called then. Learn about medical practices in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Kid alert: check out the leeches and discover the yucky details about "bloodletting!"

Fortunately, there are two really riveting and well-researched books about this topic for children (ages 12 and older) that are guaranteed to be just as interesting to adults. These novels put compelling faces on the many Philadelphia citizens who struggled through a terrifying summer of illness and devastation. In a win-win scenario, the kids can keep up with their reading skills as the family spends quality time discussing the chapters.

Mattie Cook is the heroine of *Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson. The 16-year-old girl's mother and grandfather own a popular coffee house on what is today Market Street. Her comfortable life is shattered when her mother is felled by the fever, and Mattie and her grandfather must flee the city for their lives. Later, after much hardship and terror, they return to find

their former cook, a freed slave, working with the African Free Society — an actual group which undertook visiting and assisting the sick and saved many lives.

As first frost arrives and the epidemic ends, Mattie's sufferings have changed her from a willful child to a strong, capable young woman who is able to manage her family's business on her own.

Author Jim Murphy* begins

his book, *An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793*, with the fever's emergence on August 3, when a young French sailor died in Richard Denny's boardinghouse on North Water Street. Black-and-white reproductions of period art, coupled with chapter headings that face full-page copies of newspaper articles of the time, help bring this dreadful episode to life. An afterword explains the yellow fever phenomenon, its causes and contemporary outbreaks. The source notes are extensive and interesting.

The kids will enjoy searching out the local landmarks mentioned in each book. It would be fun to have lunch at Old City Tavern, 138 South 2nd Street at Walnut. It was recently awarded top prize by the magazine *Restaurant Hospitality* for the best children's menu in America.

If this summer is anything like last, it's bound to be hot (just like the summer of 1793), so bring your water bottles. And, don't forget the mosquito repellent!

*No, not our beloved columnist, Jim Murphy.



Physick House's Del Conner introduces kids to the blood-sucking world. (No, not vampires. Leeches!)





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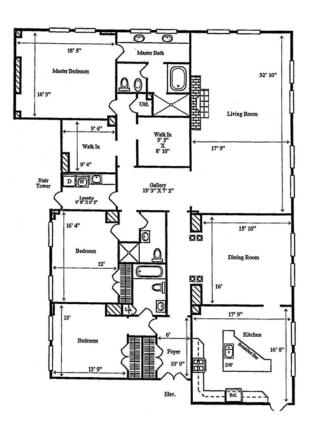
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Enter the residence through a secure elevator that opens directly into a foyer appointed in marble. A grand gallery runs the length of the home. Perfect for entertaining, the large sun-soaked living room offers west and south facing windows, coffered ceilings, a gas burning fireplace and large mahogany wet bar. The arched entry to the formal dining room has beautiful faux-painted columns. The chef's kitchen features cherry cabinetry; granite countertops; under-counter and recessed lighting; center island with breakfast bar; and stainless steel GE Monogram gas range with electric oven and hood, Bosch dishwasher and Sub-Zero refrigerator with freezer drawer.



The lavish master suite has his and hers walk-in California Closets and an ensuite bathroom appointed in marble with a Jacuzzi tub, oversized seamless glass enclosed stall shower, private commode and bidet, and double vanity with windows overlooking Washington Square. Two additional bedrooms each have their own full baths, one ensuite and the other adjacent. Additional home features include oak floors in the living areas and carpet in the bedrooms, twelve foot ceilings and eight foot windows throughout, two Bose sound systems and a spacious laundry room.

The condominium comes with one parking space in a secure lot adjacent to the building and two storage spaces.

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WELCOME BASKETS

SHCA Welcomes New Neighbors

BY MARTHA LEVINE

We have been told that no other neighborhood welcomes its new, first-time home owners like Society Hill. We have presented over 660 Welcome Baskets, and are still counting. Each large container is filled with fresh foods, information and many gift certificates to area restaurants, theaters, shops and services — all made possible by generous contributions from the businesses and organizations listed below. If you are a new house or condo owner as of 2012, please let us know.

To contact us for more information, email marthalev@msn.com or call 215-629-0727.

These two new businesses are now contributors:

Cookies By Design & Café Express at

Society Hill Towers shops. A bakery and coffee café that offers unique, creatively designed cookies and cookie arrangements for any occasion. Gift baskets and corporate catering are their specialty. Website: CookiesByDesign.com.

Yarnphoria, 1016 Pine Street. This brand-new shop sells yarns, needles, hooks, notions and books on knitting and crocheting. Made-to-order hats, scarves and more. Classes offered. Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 12 - 7 p.m., Sunday 12 - 5 p.m., closed Mondays.

Please help us say thank you to all our contributors by patronizing their businesses.

Coffee Shops

Old City Coffee, 221 Church Street/ Reading Terminal Market Starbucks Coffee Inc., 8th & Walnut Streets

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
Fork, 306 Market 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
Union Gourmet @ 5th Street, 318 S. 5th 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
Industry (fashion accessories), 1020 Pine 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
Yarnphoria (yarn & accessories), 1016 Pine Street

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Specialty Foods

Cookies By Design, Society Hill Towers Shops Homemade Goodies by Roz, 510 S. 5th Street Metropolitan Bakery, 262 S. 19th Street (Rittenhouse Sq.)

Food Stores

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

Theaters/Entertainment

Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 3680 Walnut Street Arden Theater, 40 N. 2nd Street Ballet X at Wilma Theater, 265 S. Broad Street Eastern State Penitentiary, 2124 Fairmount Avenue 1812 Productions (all comedy theater), 215-592-9560 Ghost Tours of Philadelphia, 610-587-8308 Independence Seaport Museum, 211 South Columbus Boulevard InterAct Theater Company, 2030 Sansom Street Lantern Theater Company, 10th & Ludlow Streets (south of Market) Lights of Liberty - featuring Liberty 360, 6th & Chestnut Streets Museum of American Jewish History, 5th & Market 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



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Share the Love at Starr

Join neighborhood volunteers at Starr Garden (600-44 Lombard Street) on Saturday, May 11 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for Love Your Park Day, a partnership between Philadelphia Parks and Recreation and the Fairmount Park Conservancy to steward and support neighborhood parks throughout Philadelphia. Community engagement is key to maintaining our parks as neighborhood anchors for safe, welcoming and family-friendly recreation. For more info, email StarrGardenNeighbors@gmail.com.

Meetup and Keep it Clean!

Litter-Buddies-of-Philly is based on the simple concept of people getting together to pick up litter on our neighborhood streets. The goal is to make Philadelphia cleaner, healthier and more beautiful. This is not a group led by a litter Czar! Its success depends on its members. It is a free and open "meetup" (a meeting of people who share a common interest and have connected with each other through a social-networking website). Members can announce a meetup to clean a street or site in Philadelphia: either a one-time or recurring event, such as a daily or weekly route through your neighborhood. Intrigued? Call Lynn Landes at 215-629-3553 or visit meetup. com/Litter-Buddies-of-Philly/.

Architectural Walking Tours

The Best Reason to Take a Walk The 2013 season of Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia's award-winning Architectural Walking Tours has begun. Led by experienced and enthusiastic volunteers from many backgrounds, they share a passion for architecture, urban design and social history. The tours range from Center City locales, including Society Hill and Rittenhouse Square, to notable neighborhoods like South of South. Fishtown, and Callowhill. There are also specialized themed tours like Lewis and Clark in Philadelphia, Bankers' Heaven, Art Deco. and even a walk over the Ben Franklin Bridge. For more info, visit phlvisitorcenter.com/tour/preservation-alliance-greater-philadelphiaarchitectural-walking-tour.

Spring Has Sprung!

Two Other Reasons to Take a Walk Now that we're enjoying increasingly sunny skies and warmer weather, this is an ideal time to lace up some comfortable shoes and join one (or both!) of Society Hill's walking groups.

Whether you're new to the community or an "old-timer," you are most welcome to participate in the **Walkie/Talkies** — one-hour strolls on any Tuesday or Thursday morning when it is not raining. Simply show up prior to 8:15 a.m. at Three Bears Park (Delancey Street between 2nd & 3rd Streets) for this non-stressful, one-hour exercise & socialize program.

"Philly Is Walking In The Park!"
meets at the fountain in the
center of Washington Square
(6th and Locust) at 8 a.m. on
Mondays, Wednesdays, and
Fridays for a half-hour, self-paced
walk through our historic, beautiful
park, led by Dr. Lisa Unger.
All are invited to join us!

Mural Arts Tours

A Uniquely Philadelphian Experience
The City of Philadelphia Mural
Arts Program is pleased to
announce the launch of the 2013
Mural Tours Season. A wide variety
of excursions offer visitors the
chance to explore neighborhoods
that are off the beaten track and
learn about their unique histories.
Some show the mural-making
process firsthand and provide an
opportunity to talk with the artists
as they work.

The Mural Arts Project, the nation's largest, has created more than 3,600 works of art, earning Philadelphia international recognition as the "City of Murals." Tickets and more information are available online at muralarts.org or by phone at 215-925-3633.

How to Keep Your Brain Hot and Healthy

Join Society Hill — Hot and Healthy! on Monday, May 13 at 7 p.m. for a free talk featuring Andrew B. Newberg, M.D. Neighbors will gather at the Society Hill Synagogue, 418 Spruce Street, to hear tips on how to keep your brain strong and healthy throughout your life.

A Bouquet for Our Friends at Terrain!

SHCA's Washington Square Committee does a wonderful job keeping the Square looking beautiful, thanks in no small part to an ultra-hip and modern nursery out in the burbs called "terrain at styers." Horticulturist Martha Stephens and her crew provide great advice and prices to our group of volunteers, which makes their job that much easier.

Terrain, at 914 Baltimore Pike in Glen Mills, Pennsylvania, is owned by the creators of Urban Outfitters and Anthropologie and has the same style and vibe. It's worth the 35-minute trip from Philly to get fun and creative ideas for your own home and garden projects. Besides a very good variety of plants and landscaping necessities like pots and outdoor furniture, terrain has a fabulous gift shop and a charming café, serving farm to table in an inviting greenhouse setting.

Check out their website at shopterrain.com/glen-mills or call 610-459-2400 for hours and directions.

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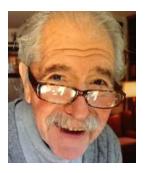
Raw space that provides an opportunity to create a custom home overlooking Independence Hall—customize your own floor plan and finishes! 3,068 sf \$1,150,000







IN MEMORIAM



Douglas J. Pappajohn

Sadly, Society Hill lost one of its original "pioneers," when Douglas J. Pappajohn passed away on March 4, at the age of 84.

Born in Vancouver, British Columbia in 1929, Douglas received his PhD in biochemistry from the University of Washington,

in Seattle, Washington. His career included research at Rutgers University and the University of Pennsylvania before he started a rewarding 35 years teaching high school chemistry, science and physics for the School District of Philadelphia.

The Pappajohns purchased their home on Delancey Street in 1967, largely due to Douglas's ability to recognize its "good bones," obscured by years of decay. He was a gifted carpenter, who loved restoring antiques and adding unique touches to the 200-year-old home and its garden.

After their retirements, Tina and Douglas formed an artistic collaboration, enjoying years of working together. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this summer.

In addition to Tina, Douglas leaves behind two sons and a daughter and their families: Ian and Meg; Matthew and Katie; and Shannon and Todd Bearman and their children, Eli and Casse.

Contributions may be made to the Visiting Nurses Association of Greater Philadelphia, Hospice Center, Falls Center, 3300 Henry Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19129 or Philabundance, 3616 South Galloway Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148.



Robin Hochstrasser

We are sad to note the passing of long-time neighbor Robin Hochstrasser on February 27 at the age of 82. The Scottish-born professor was a member of the University of Pennsylvania's faculty since 1963, and a member of the National Academy of Sciences since 1982. He earned wide

acclaim for developing laser-based techniques to study interactions between molecules. In the 1990's, Dr. Hochstrasser and other pioneers invented a method for watching molecules change in real time called "two-dimensional infrared spectroscopy." Much of his recent

research focused on biological applications of spectroscopy to topics such as protein folding and amyloid structures.

Though Dr. Hochstrasser spent the vast majority of his waking hours on chemistry, he was fond of spending time with his grandson, Finnian Kasregis. The two played chess, worked crossword puzzles and performed card tricks, according to Jennie Hochstrasser, the chemist's daughter and the boy's mother.

In addition to his daughter, Robin is survived by his wife Carol. Another daughter, Polly, died in 2001.

Donations on Robin's behalf can be made to Penn's Chemistry Discretionary Fund, which supports graduate students, building renovations and faculty hiring, through University of Pennsylvania Gifts Accounting and Administration, 3451 Walnut Street, 433 Franklin Building, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

Michelle Lipton

We express our deepest sympathies to SHCA board member Sissie Lipton and her family. Sissie's daughter, Michelle Lipton, died on April 7 after a heroic, nearly nine-year battle with brain cancer. She was 50 years old.



Due to her illness, Michelle recently retired from her position as a senior regulatory lawyer at Electric Insurance Company in Beverly, Massachusetts. She became a hero of sorts to her large network of friends, co-workers and her family, given her unflagging optimism and intense desire to keep living, ignoring the dire predictions from medical experts after she was first diagnosed with brain cancer in late 2004.

Instead, she and her husband, Michael Engleberg, chose to focus on raising their two daughters, Ally and Isabelle, and to continue to build her career at the General Electric affiliate. In fact, she was so convinced she had a long, productive life ahead of her that she took sailing lessons on Boston Harbor, and continued to travel to spots around the world.

In addition to her parents, husband and daughters, Michelle leaves behind her two siblings, Eric and Heidi.

Remembrances may be made to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, 450 Brookline Avenue, SW460, Boston, MA 02115.



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MEMBERSHIP

2013 Membership Drive Continues Slightly Ahead

By early April, 965 SHCA residents and businesses had already renewed their membership — slightly ahead of the same time last year. If the current trend continues, we should surpass our 2012 membership total of 1.036.

But it is disappointing that we still have 133 members from 2012 who have not renewed after two mail attempts. If you are among those members, please respond at your earliest convenience so we may avoid further follow-up.

In any event, we welcome all of the more than 2,600 households in our neighborhood to join 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 on zoning changes, real estate taxes, crime problems, ramp issues, trash receptacles, street lighting, bus re-routing, etc., it makes a greater impact if we can say we 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 represents every quadrant of our unique, historic neighborhood.

CORRECTION

Please note, in the March/April edition of the *Reporter*, we regret the incorrect spelling for the name of Robert B. Norris, M.D., Chief, Department of Cardiology, Pennsylvania Hospital, who presented the topic "Matters of the Heart: How to Recognize Heart Problems" on February 22 at the monthly "CommuniTEA" for "Philly Is Walking In The Park!"

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○ \$ 1,000 Benjamin Franklin Benefactor	
Additional Contributions	
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\$ Sidewalk Cleaning/Graffiti Remo	
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The following topics are of special interest to updates on these topics.	o me. I welcome receipt of email
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○ Reporter ○ Casino Issues	Incidents & Alerts 📅
Please return completed application to: Society Hill Civic Association P.O. Box 63503 Philadelphia, PA 19147	¢ • • • •

NIFTY NEIGHBORS

BY JANE BIBERMAN

An Israeli Adds Gold to Society Hill

Michael Solomonov's Amazing Culinary Journey

air

Michael Solomonov was named Best Chef, Mid-Atlantic Region by the James Beard Foundation (the Oscars of the food world).

Since he opened Zahav in Society Hill,
Israeli-born Michael Solomonov has enjoyed great success and amassed many prestigious prizes, including the James Beard Award as Best Chef of the Mid-Atlantic region in 2011.
That same year, Joan Nathan profiled him in *The New York Times*. Raised in Pittsburgh and educated (briefly) at the University of Vermont,

Michael moved back to his native Israel at 19 and got a job working in a bakery — "the only thing I knew how to do," he says. After returning to the States, he attended a few schools before joining Philadelphia restaurateur Mark Vetri.

In 2003, Michael spent his two-week vacation in Israel with his brother, David, who was on furlough from the army. Not long after, Michael learned that snipers had killed his brother near the

Lebanese border on Yom Kippur. A few months later, he held a memorial dinner at David's army base. "It changed my life," he has often remarked. "Until I visited that place, I had no intention of cooking Israeli food, but after my brother's death, the path I was going to take became clear." He left Vetri, partnered with Steven Cook, an investment banker turned chef, and in 2008, opened Zahav (which means "gold" in Hebrew).

Today, he is often labeled a "celebrity chef," a term he dislikes. "To me, it denotes someone whose appeal is twofold, both as a personality and as a cook," Michael explains. "I much prefer to be known for my food and for my food to be the actual star."

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Michael and his partner also own and operate Federal Donuts, Percy Street Barbecue and Citron and Rose, a kosher restaurant. "It would be difficult to imagine a more vastly disparate growth than ours," he remarks. "And I believe that Philadelphia is the only place where it would have been possible. There's a wonderful diversity here, as well as a powerful sense of hometown loyalty that drives our restaurant culture forward and makes it possible for talented, creative people to thrive by taking on new challenges — while still remaining committed to what brought them to people's attention in the first place."

Although he must oversee every aspect of the business, Michael says that cooking for his customers is still the most rewarding part of his work.

"About six months ago, we debuted a new seating area at Zahav, the Chef's Counter, where four guests can sit overlooking the open kitchen, and I personally cook them a 10-course tasting menu. It's wonderful to be there in the center of my kitchen, alongside my talented team, working on that special meal. Outside of that, I do try to be present in my kitchens whenever possible, mostly because it is simply my favorite place to be — when I'm not traveling and spending time with my family."

In his spare time, Michael and his family like to eat at Han Dynasty and hang out at Three Bears Park and Bodhi Coffee. "My wife, my son and I enjoy experiencing all that Philadelphia has to offer, from outdoor activities in Fairmount Park to dining in the city's hundreds of amazing restaurants," he says, adding, "It's a blast introducing our son to new foods and new cuisines and watching his palate expand as he grows up."

Having lived in a variety of cities around the globe, Michael still thinks Philadelphia is the greatest: "As far I'm concerned, Old City, where I live, and Society Hill, where I work, have no equal anywhere. There's such a wealth of history here, and it seems to me that just around every corner is a sight more beautiful than the last. In addition, it's a neighborhood that is always growing and changing, with new restaurants opening, new exhibits showing at the galleries, and on and on."

"I'm thrilled and proud to call it home!"

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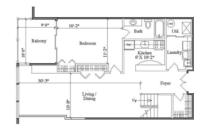


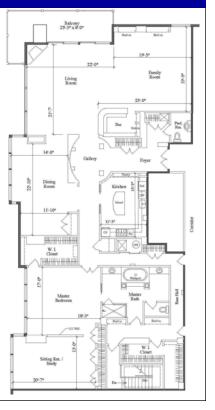


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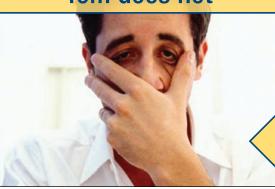




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Tom does not



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