



SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

# THE RESIDENT NEWSLETTER

313 Pine Street

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

December 1973

## GETTING IT TOGETHER

By Alan Halpern, Chairman, Nominating Committee

It seemed like such an easy assignment. Chair the nominating committee of the Civic Association. Come up with a list of 12 candidates to run the organization during 1974. Simple, right?

It should have been. The committee represented a good cross-section of the community: George Axilbund, Dan Barol, Essie Blumenfeld, Sally Lou Buell, Stewart Dalzell, Cynthia Holly, Roy Lerner, Dick Ostrander, Bill Rouse, and Harry Schwartz. Nice simple neighborhood folk (who only last year were slugging it out on various sides of the Benezet issue), meeting in a basement during November and December, drinking coffee and handi-capping a form sheet of names suggested by you. Trying to find people who would trudge out to board meetings at least two nights a month and to membership meetings another night. People who would head up committees and do their homework.

We set up some informal criteria. We knew that 1974 would be a vital year for our neighborhood. We wanted candidates who would look after our interests in the resolution of the I-95 issue. Candidates who would speak for us in the face of the mammoth Penn's Landing development. Candidates who would be able to influence Bicentennial planning so it would be constructive rather than destructive to Society Hill. Candidates who would be concerned about the Octavia Hill families, activists in un-snarling the growing traffic and parking problems.

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## ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE



The annual meeting of the Society Hill Civic Association will be held at 8:00 p. m. on Wednesday January 9, 1974, at Old Pine Presbyterian Church, south side of Pine Street between 4th and 5th Streets. The by-laws require that nominations for officers and directors be accepted from the floor at that meeting. In addition to the election there will be reports on Association activities.

Such people were not hard to find. The difficulty was boiling the names down to 12. The slate finally selected bristles with know-how in city planning, education, government, health care, administration, architecture, and real estate. Some bring the continuity of previous Board experience and others bring new faces and presumably fresh ideas.

For 20 months, SHCA has been divided by bitter factionalism. One positive outgrowth of the strife was that SHCA more than tripled in size and is more representative of the neighborhood than ever before.

The new slate provides a forum for divergent viewpoints to be represented at the highest level. It also provides the promise of harmoniously tackling the complex issues waiting for action.

It is important to note that the slate was unanimously endorsed by every member of the nominating committee. As its chairman, I join them in urging you to attend the next membership meeting and give it your unqualified and total support.

Let 1974 be the year we all start off on the same foot.



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A LIST OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE'S SLATE APPEARS ON PAGE 3

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#### TWO SIDES TO EVERY ISSUE

Despite the fact that the Nominating Committee labored long and many nights canvassing the neighborhood for a representative list of able and willing candidates to serve SHCA for 1974 and despite their efforts to avoid a contested election, at the membership meeting on December 5, two additional candidates for the Board of Directors were nominated from the floor. They are Janet Lewis and Dale Truscott.

The by-laws indicate that at the annual meeting (which this year is scheduled for January 9, 1974) additional names may be put in nomination. If this is your intention, it would be advisable to so inform President Paul Putney ahead of time to ease the election procedure in terms of printing ballots etc.

## SHCA NOMINATING COMMITTEE SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR 1974

President: Tillie Speck, 432 South 3rd Street. Ms. Speck is a district supervisor with the Pennsylvania State Employment Service.

Vice-President: Dr. John Duckett, 335 South 2nd Street. Dr. Duckett is a urologist at Children's Hospital.

Secretary: John Smith, 329 South Lawrence Court. Mr. Smith is an attorney with Dilworth, Paxson, Kalish, Levy & Coleman.

Treasurer: Phillip Baer, 302 South Front Street. Mr. Baer is an attorney and served as a director of the Civic Association last year.

Directors: Thomas Byrne, 431 Spruce Street. Mr. Byrne is an attorney and served as a director of the Civic Association last year.

Damon Childs, Society Hill Towers. Mr. Childs is a former executive director of the City Planning Commission.

Peggy Davies, 303 South American Street. Ms. Davies is a past president of the McCall School Home and School Association.

Gene DiRe, 628 Spruce Street. Mr. DiRe is vice-president of the realty firm of Connelly and Suess.

Mark Kessler, 242 Locust Street. Mr. Kessler is an attorney and served as treasurer of the Civic Association last year.

Roger Lewis, 520 Delancey Street. Mr. Lewis is an architect with the firm of Bower and Fradley and served as a director last year.

Georganne Mears, 108 Delancey Street. Ms. Mears is director of photography for Mel Richman Inc., a former director of SHCA, and an editor of The Resident Newsletter.

Elizabeth Schall, 518 Spruce Street. Ms. Schall is a high-school history teacher and was a director of the Civic Association last year.

## UP THE DOWN RAMPS CASE

Several weeks ago the membership of the Society Hill Civic Association approved in principle a plan which included three ramps to Delaware Avenue from and to I-95. The members directed the officers and directors of the Association to negotiate towards a settlement of the controversy along the lines of that proposal. Those negotiations have been relatively quiet, but very productive.

All of the delegates to the Neighborhood Preservation Coalition have now given their support to a proposal which includes only two ramps (northbound on and southbound off). The new proposal includes a few essential changes in local street directions as well as protections against later construction of additional facilities. By the next meeting of the Association we hope to have maps of this proposal available for your inspection.

The new plan has been submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and the Philadelphia Streets Department for their preliminary reaction. After that has been obtained the plan will be formally presented to those groups which are part of the Neighborhood Preservation Coalition and which have not previously taken a position which would approve such a compromise.



## 100 PIPERS PEIPING

The mixed media premiere of the Philadelphia Orchestra's trip to China was held at Pennsylvania Hospital's Preston Hall on December 9th. It was sponsored by Phil Baer's Arts and Culture Committee of the Civic Association. The packed house watched a slide presentation that flitted over three screens while a scored taped commentary presented musical and touristic highlights. The ultra-professional show was assembled by members of the Orchestra who seem as adept with audio-visuals as they are with mixed harmonics. Afterward, the musicians fielded questions about China.

The program was put together by Mr. Baer, Sam Maitin, Margo Niedermayer, Phyllis Halpern, and Sidney Curtiss. If you missed it, watch for news of the next date and program now in the planning stage.

## THE ENERGY CRUNCH -- ALTERNATIVES TO STAYING AT HOME

Delaware Avenue is now mostly construction. Front Street has been re-directed Southbound. Third Street is bearing the brunt of the Front Street turnaround.

Legal street-parking in the City is almost non-existent. Parking tickets now cost \$10 and may go higher. Parking lots are few and far between and astronomically priced.

And gasoline is in short supply.

Enough to convince you to sell your car, or are you worried about sitting it out at home? We invite you to consider some alternatives:

The Night-Life Special recently introduced by SEPTA and geared to City swingers, Society Hill not excepted. One 50-cent ticket provides unlimited all-night riding from one "scene" to another and home afterwards. Buses are scheduled for every ten minutes each Friday and Saturday from 6 p. m. to 1:30 a. m. Pick it up at the nearest bus stop for a carefree, carfree evening on the town.

(Society Hill patrons can pick up the bus on Spruce Street between 2nd and 7th, or on the return route on Pine from 8th to 3rd. The route loops around the Market-Front complex of restaurants and at the "western end" of town around Logan Circle and Rittenhouse Square. It goes west on Walnut and east on Chestnut. Maps are available from SEPTA.)

The Penn's Loop Special -- a 15-cent fare between 7 a. m. and 6:30 p. m., the new loop runs west on Walnut from Dock Street to 22nd Street and east on Market to 2nd Street. . . . every five minutes. Try it, you'll like it!

American International -- the new neighborhood rent-a-car facility in the Denny garage at Fifth and Locust. They say they are ready, willing, and anxious to accommodate carless neighbors.

Penn's Landing Airways -- the seaplane facility at the foot of Walnut Street for quick get-aways to the Big A. The trip takes just 30 minutes, the scenery is spectacular, and you're dropped at Pier 8, near Wall Street. The fare is \$15 - \$20 each way, and on Mondays ladies are afforded a 40% reduction. Men's lib arise!

## FLY YOUR COOP WITH PRE-SCHOOL AND BABY-SITTING CO-OPS

Neighborhood parents have joined together to form "The Three Steps Co-operative Nursery Program" for pre-schoolers. The program is unique in concept: each family shares the responsibility of assisting teachers, each family has a say in the decision-making, and each benefits from the reasonable cost. Classes are limited to 15 and meet mornings Monday through Friday -- openings for four-year-olds at Old Pine and five-year-olds at the Society Hill Synagogue. Call Deirdre Snyder (WA 2-7714) for more information.

Parents interested in a baby-sitting co-op, newly formed and open to new members, should contact Judy Elman, 635 Addison (WA 5-8630).

## SESAME STREET, 19106

Once upon a time the neighborhood library in St. Peter's House, 313 Pine Street, started a story hour for children. It's still going on every Wednesday between 3 and 5. The library would live happily ever after with a few more volunteers. Call Liz Schall (MA 7-2792).

## IT'S THAT OLD TIME RELIGION

It's an afternoon of old-time, foot-stompin', hallelujah-raisin' gospel songs on January 27 at 4 p. m. at Christ Church, Second above Market Street. Oh, yes! The Emma Elliott Gospel Singers will present a concert as part of the series of musicales being scheduled for the Christ Church Organ Fund. Amen! The singers, 32 of them, represent three city churches: Mt. Zion Baptist, Holmesburg; Star of Hope Baptist, Tacony; Second Baptist, Frankford. Oh, yes! Come over and clap your hands. Admission is free. See you brothers and sisters there. Sinners stay home and repent.

## NUTCRACKER SWEET

Buy a nut. Send a girl to college. \$2.50 gets you a pound package of shelled Georgia pecans. It also provides a shot in the arm for the Smith College Scholarship Fund. To place your order, phone Mrs. Robert Ogilvie (MA 7-0876).

## VISIONS OF SUGARPLUMS

The elves are at work at the Redevelopment Authority readying two new packages for Society Hill residents. For your information here's what's about to be shoved up your chimney:

Spruce Street -- Numbers 717, 719, 721, 723, and 729 -- under consideration is a request by the selected redeveloper to increase the total number of apartments from 15 to 24, with only 10 parking spaces. The original selection of redeveloper was based on the least number of apartment units. Make your opinions known either direct to the Redevelopment Authority or to Board member Roger Lewis (WA 3-9119) -- one of SHCA's liaisons to the Architects Advisory Board of Design.

Dock Street -- the triangular parcel at the foot of the Towers bounded by Front and Walnut Streets -- under consideration as a hotel site. Prospective developers presented preliminary plans for their Neo-Interstate Interchange all-glass flat-roofed design at the last SHCA membership meeting and apparently failed to satisfy those in attendance that their plans are worthy of this important site overlooking Penn's Landing and at the gateway to the City. When their plans are further developed, they will be returning to the membership for approval.

## HAVE A BIRD FOR CHRISTMAS

Or a bloke. There are 27 Oxford and Cambridge students coming to Society Hill from December 17th to January 2nd. They'll be working at the Walnut Street Theatre and are in need of bed and board for whatever days you can host during that period.

We were less than hospitable to their ancestors 200 years ago. The least we can do is shelter them now. Who knows, they might be able to provide a Shakespearean epigram at tea-time.

To get your own bird or bloke, call Margo Niedermayer (629-0700) at the theatre.

## WILDER DAYS AHEAD

"The Skin of our Teeth", Thornton Wilder's biting account of a dermatologist turned dentist, opens at Society Hill Playhouse, 507 S. Eighth Street, December 29. Call WA 3-0210 for ticket reservations. Performances are given Wednesday through Saturdays at 8:30 p. m. (Some people think the play is a wry comment on mankind's "progress" over the ages.)

## DARTS AND LAURELS

- Dart: To Frank Rizzo for making a civilian out of Society Hill's most outspoken redeveloper, Lynne Abraham. She now lives in a Denny maisonette.
- Dart: To the A & P for running out of sugar at the peak of the Christmas baking season.
- Laurel: To Ron DeGraw at SEPTA for pushing through the Night Life Special Loop Bus.
- Dart: To the highway engineers who thought up the traffic patterns clogging our streets because Delaware Avenue is under construction.
- Laurel: To Upstairs at the Parson's Table for bringing in Anita O'Day for a one-week stand. (But could the neon lights over the bar be dimmed a little?)
- Dart: To the Interstate planners who cleaned up the trash heaps along the path of the Expressway and replaced them with their own.
- Laurel: To Norma, who traded in her mortar and pestle at Tancredi Pharmacy for the job of hostess at the Head House Tavern. She's pulled it all together and given it a nice pub-like flavor. (They've even got an English chef.)
- Laurel: To Ed Nicholson, the manager of American International, the car leasing agency in the Denny Garage at Fifth and Locust. They may not be Number 1 or 2, but they are trying harder.

--Rhadamanthus

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THE RESIDENT NEWSLETTER editors take this opportunity to wish you all the joys of the holiday season. We thank you for all your contributions. We would welcome your support and/or comments to pass on to the new Board. Send to our Secretary, Mrs. Peggy Duckett, 335 South Second Street.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Peggy Duckett, Alan Halpern, Cuthbert Latta, and Georganne Mears.