



Box 3, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19105

March, 1986

## City Planners "Bullish" on Managed Growth

In a series of working papers being used as the backdrop for Philadelphia's next master plan, the City Planning Commission identifies and interprets various trends which will determine areas of future expansion. Growth and change in individual sectors of the economy are discussed in terms of Center City's competitive advantages. The Center City Plan itself will set forth development policies for twenty years and beyond which the Commission believes will ensure a prosperous and balanced economy.

As part-and-parcel of the City's transition to an information-and service-based economy, a key concern is the extent to which it can capture its share of the regional office market. City planners conclude that even if the most optimistic projections of growth were to occur, the central business district's capacity to absorb new office development is more than adequate, without encroaching upon adjacent residential neighborhoods or increasing zoning densities. Given the surplus of office space and the subsequent period of stabilization anticipated by the real estate community, it does not seem likely that new office projects proposed or under construction will threaten center city's current form.

In terms of retail development, substantial increases in households, employment and visitors, as well as new housing, office space, and convention and hotel facilities are expected to stimulate retail sales potential. Among their recommendations in this regard is the clustering of similar stores to maximize drawing power and mitigate some of the current conflicts between incompatible retail types. Also cited is the need for greater diversity of retail types in addition to a retail management program and organization. It is hoped both strategies will render Philadelphia's retail core more competitive with suburban shopping malls.

The report noted that various parts of center city could accommodate large-scale residential growth in the next two decades, particularly the Delaware and Schuylkill waterfronts, Franklinton and the 30th Street Station area. Whatever future expansions in center city employment occur,

*(Continued on Page 5.)*

## Historic Survey Plan is Announced

The planning stage is complete on the certification of Society Hill as a local historic district, a status that will provide homeowners comfort that the visual continuity and integrity of Society Hill's lovely street-scapes will endure under the new 1984 Historic Preservation Ordinance. SHCA will now commission a preservation architectural firm to complete the exhaustive house-by-house inventory required for the local historic nomination to the Philadelphia Historic Commission for this designation. Having attempted to extract complete and accurate information from existing resources with the help of volunteers, community historians, and university students, the Board has concurred with the project coordinator, Joyce Cole, in her view that for such a necessarily accurate and time-consuming study professionals in the field should be employed. To this end we are seeking financial support from those in the



community who feel committed to protecting Society Hill from significant deviations to the stylistic architectural blueprint the Redevelopment Authority initiated.

The Redevelopment Authority covenants which governed the renovation of a substantial majority of Society Hill homes will begin to expire in June, 1986 - the date which covers two-thirds of the district. The Board and a large majority of the residents who lived with the rejuvenation of Society Hill under the Redevelopment Authority's direction in implementing the master plan of the neighborhood are concerned that there be an approval system to take the place of the Redevelopment Authority. By becoming a local historic district (in addition to our existing National Register designation) Society Hill will be placed under the wing of the Philadelphia Historic Commission, which will review permit applications for any work to be undertaken here before the Department of Licenses and Inspections can issue a permit.

After conferring with the city's historians and the government authorities involved, the Board believes that this is the appropriate action for us to take. Several of the most notable preservation firms in the area have made competitive bids for the house-by-house inventory and mapping, and they have demonstrated that they can provide an historically accurate compendium of America's oldest district - a book which each homeowner can enjoy. The Board is now endeavoring to secure the funds through neighborhood private and corporate contributions that will allow the work to begin before the June, 1986 deadline.

*(Continued on Page 13.)*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The next general membership meeting of the Society Hill Civic Association will be held Wednesday, March 19th at 8 pm, at the Atwater Kent Museum, 15 S. 7th Street.

On the agenda will be reports on the upcoming survey to make Society Hill a local historic district, the I-95 ramp situation

and zoning problems. Also to be discussed are the proposed Rock and Roll Museum for the Port of History Building, the planned Chapel of the Four Chaplains at Spruce and Mattis Streets, and the possibility of Abbott's Square erecting a health club on Lombard Street.

## Zoning Violations: Past, Present, Future

At its open meeting, January 15, 1986 SHCA hosted Barbara Kaplan, executive director of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission to present to the community the proposed Center City Zoning Plan. The plan, in essence reaffirms the present zoning for our neighborhood which is R-20. The exceptions to the single family residential zoning accommodate a few other uses which were present more than twenty years ago when the area underwent its last zoning revision. These exceptions mainly reflect park areas such as, Independence National Park and high rise residential usage where Society Hill Towers now exist and a few other uses such as churchlands and long established commercial uses. Ms. Kaplan and her co-drafters of the plan, Warren Huff, Dave Waldring, and Bill Berk answered questions from the association membership.

One concern that is prevalent among homeowners is the growing disregard of zoning regulations in our community, primarily the conversion of single family dwellings into multi-family dwellings and the use of some larger homes for law offices and other commercial uses. How will these unsanctioned changes of usage ultimately affect the community? What protection can the Center City Plan provide? Ms. Kaplan said that the Plan puts the law on the side of the more restrictive use, but that its enforcement can only be upheld if

the community takes an active role in seeing to it that it is. Look around and report violations to the City and the SHCA.

The SHCA has traditionally taken a negative view of conversions which increase density and transients in the community for the following reasons:

1. Sewage and water systems in our area are currently being utilized to their maximum capacity and could not take more intense use.
2. Increased rental property and commercial property bring more transient population to the community, thereby, reducing security.
3. If enough properties get converted to commercial use (this also means rental units) the City will eventually get wise to the revenue it could be collecting, especially if this becomes the trend rather than the exception, and might down-grade the zoning from R-20 using the argument that most of the houses already were in fact multi-family. This would increase the revenue potential of the entire neighborhood, and ultimately the taxes too.

SHCA President Baum said that discussion on this matter would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting March 19, 1986. If you have questions about possible violations in our neighborhood or ideas about how to deal with them, please join us then.

## Trash Collection Schedule Changed — Chaos Follows

In an effort to improve the old system of trash pick up on holidays or the day after, Streets Commissioner Harry M. Perks informed us in mid-January of schedule changes. He asked that we hold our trash until the next regularly scheduled collection day after each holiday. This means a space of two weeks between collections. The exceptions are to be Memorial Day, Labor Day and Christmas, when refuse collection is to be one day behind schedule for the remainder of the week.

Our first shot at the new system (and the only one we'll suffer this year) came on Lincoln's Birthday, Wednesday, February 12th. It was nothing less than a dismal failure. There may have been households in the neighborhood where trash was being harbored for the following week, but most curbsides were covered with bulging bags and boxes which remained (and spread and blew and multiplied) until the next Wednesday when the trashmen came.

It may have been that news of the change did not reach or register with the residents. It may have been pure habit that impelled the Wednesday/trash reaction. Or it may even have been a minor taxpayers' revolt: once-a-week pick up is bad enough; a biweekly collection cannot be tolerated. Whatever it was, it did not enhance the appearance of our neighborhood.

Back to the drawing board, Commissioner!

## Recycling Continues

Our neighbors in Olde City and Queen Village invite us to bring them our newspapers, glass jars and bottles and aluminum cans to be recycled. In Olde City bring your collections on the first Saturday of each month to the northwest corner of Arch and 3rd Streets (the Seamen's Church Institute parking lot) between 10 am and 2 pm.

In Queen Village collections are taken on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month from 10 to 2, at the Meredith School parking lot, 400 block of Monroe Street.

Newspapers should be bundled with string or firmly stuffed into paper grocery bags; glass bottles should be rinsed out and separated by color, and aluminum cans should be partially crushed. Do it — you'll feel good.

## Zoning Variance Being Appealed

An appeal is being filed against a Zoning Board of Adjustment decision granting owners of 423 Pine Street the right to divide a single-family home into three apartments. The appeal is filed under the name of SHCA Director Steven Skale on behalf of the neighbors and SHCA.

**Some people believe that all video stores are the same.**

Not quite. Some video stores are frantic, take-a-number-and-wait kinds of places. Others stock a few of the recent Hollywood biggies—and only the recent Hollywood biggies. And some stores let you walk out with videocassettes that are, shall we say, not of the best quality.

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# Viet Memorial Competition Winner

## Guidelines For Those With Preservationist Leanings

Many sad tales can be told by those who tried to save an historical structure or fought a zoning variance by daring to challenge the power structure where money and well-placed friends seem to be the only leverage necessary.

Recently, a couple of concerned neighbors have persevered in their derring-do and caused remarkable reverses to occur. We salute them! A review of their resources and methods proved interesting to us and will, we hope, to you.

Nancy Silber who lives with her husband Steven, and their child at 600 Spruce St. sparred with the developer of the private home on the southeast corner of the Rebecca Gratz property over the separate variance required to convert open space to a parking space for the residence. How the plan approved by Historical Commission was implemented is a story of steadfastness and persistence, in itself. After one false start, the developer finally did conform to the plan of the Historical Commission.

Irene Schrank who lives at 330 Spruce St. in one the Stephen Girard houses, went away for the month of August and returned to find that the nine foot, marble-coped, brick wall built in 1832 had been demolished by the developer of the property next door. In this case, the Historical Commission had accidentally approved the demolition because it had not fully understood the developer's intention. The developer, Thomas Scannapieco, was pressured by various means, including a neighborhood meeting with him arranged by Schrank with her attorney present, to replace the wall . . . another happy ending.

Both Silber and Schrank said that the SHCA proved to be effective in a supportive manner and a good resource for names to contact. Silber and Schrank were the shakers though, and it was their singleness-of-purpose and tenacity that saved the day. Silber summed up her experience by advising neophytes that immediate action and follow-up on each developing situation, as well as attendance at all meetings involving the case in point is what makes the difference in many cases. Richard Tyler and Pat Siemiontkowski of the Historical Commission were most helpful in Silber's case. The Historical Commission has its limitations but it can provide valuable information on what is historically certified and can issue a work stoppage order if the property owner has not obtained and conformed to the plan approved by the Commission's permit. This permit must be obtained before the Licenses and Inspection Department can issue a work permit for the property.

If the demolition is being done on the weekend, as it was in the case of the 6th St. wall, the police, as they did for Silber,



(Courtesy of The Philadelphia Vietnam Memorial Fund)

The winning design for the proposed Vietnam Veterans Memorial to be constructed at Spruce and Front Sts. on the I-95 cover was submitted by Perry Morgan, a Philadelphia Landscape architect with the firm of Sullivan and Arfaa. One of over 100 competition entries judged by a seven-member jury, the winning design is a landscaped amphitheater with a semicircular south wall to be inscribed with the names of the 615 Philadelphians killed in action in Vietnam. The north wall will be inscribed with scenes from the Vietnam war. Construction is expected to begin in April with completion and dedication slated for late summer or early fall. The Philadelphia Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, a non-profit organization, has already raised \$150,000 toward its goal of \$500,000 for the construction, dedication and maintenance of the memorial.

issued a temporary work stoppage order that held until Monday. However, it is possible to get through to Tyler on a weekend, if the case warrants, by calling City Hall at 686-1776 and requesting that he be contacted.

Schrank, on the other hand, believes that what persuaded Thomas Scannapieco, the developer, from going for a variance on the Cypress St. wall was the intervention of Councilman Leland M. Beloff and the presence of Michael Sklaroff, Esq. to represent her interest and those of her neighbors. Contacting Councilman Beloff was recommended by Myrna Field Baum, president of the SHCA and hiring Mr. Sklaroff was the recommendation of a neighbor who is part of the Philadelphia judicial system.

As you may know, the Redevelopment Authority renewal contracts which offered some protection to this area in the past will expire this year and that is why the SHCA is eager to have Society Hill designated as a local historical district. If approved, this certification project which is being coordinated by Joyce Cole will give the area protection under the 1984 Historic Preservation Ordinance, but the watchdog stance of its residents remains in place!

## SHCA Clean-Up '86

Saturday, April 26th has been set as the 1986 Clean-Up Day for Society Hill. On that day, neighbors are encouraged to wash, wax, sweep, scrub and generally spruce up the neighborhood.

This year's plans are not complete, but SHCA expects to work with city officials and with various local businesses to put together an exciting program to make us all clean-up minded. Once again, Ed Braun has offered us the use of the Central Penn parking lot and we hope to repeat last year's highly successful awards ceremony and neighborhood picnic. Once again we will honor our Blue Ribbon Neighbors and our favorite street sweepers with ribbons and plaques.

Each spring we give the city a long list of things in the neighborhood that need attention. Potholes, clogged drains, missing signs, broken lights, and dead trees are just a few. You could help by making a list of such conditions, noting the exact location and turning the list over to your quadrant director.

Circle the date on your calendar and watch for the flyer with full details.

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## The Atwater Kent Museum

SHCA's meeting place on March 19th is the Atwater Kent Museum, 15 S. 7th Street, which occupies the original structure built in 1826 for the Franklin Institute. The building was purchased in 1936 by the founder of the Atwater Kent Radio and Manufacturing Co., who then presented it to the City of Philadelphia for use as a cultural facility. As the History Museum of Philadelphia, the Atwater Kent is dedicated to collecting, preserving and interpreting Philadelphia's past.

Through exhibitions, programs, publications and media productions, the AKM brings the rich and fascinating story of Philadelphia's social history and popular culture to thousands of area residents. Maps showing Philadelphia's growth from 1681, prints from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries depicting changing city views, and paintings of the city throughout the years by local artists are highlights of the collection.

If you don't have a chance to see everything you want to inspect on SHCA's meeting night, the AKM is open from 9:30 to 4:45, Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is free.

## More Honors for Nicholas More

Nicholas More, that stalwart friend of William Penn who was the first Chief Justice of the Court and President of the Free Society of Traders for whom Society Hill was named, hasn't been forgotten in the 20th century. The site of his establishment on Little Dock Creek (in modern terms, 2nd and Spruce Streets) is marked by a plaque

that was dedicated on October 26, 1982.

In appreciation of local history the new Sheraton Society Hill is planning on naming one of its public rooms after Judge More. The Friends of Nicholas More plan to meet at the new hotel on March 25th to mark the 303rd anniversary of the Charter granted to the Free Society in London, 1682.

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Title page of the Articles of the Free Society of Traders in Pennsylvania, the charter granted to the merchants who founded Society Hill in 1682. The only

known copy of this document was recently discovered in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.



## Hill-Physick-Keith House Annual Plant Sale

### Society Hill Archives

At the December SHCA membership meeting, Charles E. Peterson, a Society Hill resident since 1951, read the following: "Very few people even today understand the story of the resettlement and development of the Society Hill area. Many who have read the standard mythology on the subject believe that Mayor Richardson Dilworth did it practically single-handedly. Others believe that it was the invention of the Philadelphia city planners. Those of us who worked with this Society in its earliest days know better and we are depositing our papers where historians can use them — in our local library, The Athenaeum of Philadelphia on Washington Square. Papers from Maureen Murdock, Peggy Walsh and Janet Lewis are already there. All who have documents are urged to contribute them for preservation and reference."

Since Mr. Peterson's appeal, SHCA past-president David Stevens has delivered five boxes of Society Hill papers to the Library. They were found in the attic of St. Peter's Parish House on Pine Street.

Planting time arrives early in the city and the Hill-Physick-Keith Annual Plant Sale is timed to meet the needs of city gardeners who are always eager to brighten their patios, window boxes, planting strips, balconies or window-sills at the earliest opportunity. This year the sale is set for Saturday, April 26th and Sunday, April 27th from 10 am to 6 pm each day, rain or shine, in the garden of the H.P.K. House, 321 S. 4th St. at Cypress.

There will be the usual varieties of flowering plants in pots and market-paks, as well as varieties newly available, along with foliage plants, hanging baskets in full bloom, herbs and a good color selection of geraniums.

Something new is added this year. To accommodate gardeners who need sizable orders or particular colors of geraniums, impatiens or begonias or who have other special needs, the committee will accept advance orders with the provision that the plant material must be picked up the day before the sale between 3 and 6 pm on Friday, April 25th. Orders must be in writing prepaid and sent before April 11th to The Plant Sale, Hill-Physick-Keith House, 321 S. 4th St., Philadelphia, 19106.

For information about prices and available plants, please call Patsy Mason, 627-

2076 or Ruth McKeivitt, 923-6940 after March 26th.

The Annual Plant Sale proceeds are for the maintenance of this historic Landmarks Society house.

### City Planners

(Continued from page 1.)

there need not be severe negative impacts on surrounding areas or to the transportation system, according to city planners. As Planning Director Barbara Kaplan and other city representatives explained at a SHCA Board of Directors meeting on January 15th, preservation of the residential character of areas such as Society Hill, Olde City, Rittenhouse Square, as well as Logan Square, is one of the city's development policies. The clear message of their presentation was that promotive growth and expansion need not result in loss of low-scale residential neighborhoods.

Among the other strategies advocated by the City Planning Commission are the maximization of development opportunities to be created by the completion of the Vine Street Expressway and the I-95 Interchange and the establishment of public/private initiatives to ease the financial burden facing city hospitals as a result of providing uncompensated health care.

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# The Sailor from Sri Lanka

*(Editor's note: The following article was extracted from a sermon given at St. Peter's Church by the Rev. Neale A. Secor, recently arrived Director of the Seamen's Church Institute. We are publishing it for two reasons: 1) it provides information on the work of a local institution; and 2) it calls for volunteer help, which may be of interest to some of our readers. Those so interested are invited to call Rev. Secor at 922-2562, or drop in at*

*249 Arch St. between 8 am and 11 pm any day but Sunday.*

It probably is because he is so slight of frame and small of stature that you think he is barely 21. But he's actually 33. In fact he is married and has three children. He is from the little country of Sri Lanka in Southeast Asia. The jauntiness of his gait, the heartiness of his laughter and that omni-present

smile would lead you to believe that he hadn't a care in the world. But such is far from the truth.

Jerome Omar Provicke – for that is his name – has more than his share of life's troubles on his plate these days.

It took Jerome a great many years and nearly a life's savings to raise the money to pay the bribe to get his job in the first place; and although he now makes \$205 per month – which granted is a bit more than his fellow Sri Lankans – Jerome has to work 12 or more hours each day, seven days a week, to earn it. He works lots of overtime hours but receives no overtime pay. Sick leave or paid holidays or vacations are strangers to him in his work. He has not been paid for 3½ months! It has been nearly 13 months since Jerome has seen his wife and children.

Jerome Omar Provicke is a modern merchant seaman . . . an international seafarer. He serves as the messboy on a bulk carrier vessel which came from Brazil into the Ports of Philadelphia a week ago.

When in Brazil Jerome had been promised that he could finally return home since he had completed 12 months of continuous service. But the captain broke his promise, said he had no money to pay any of the men their three months' due wages, and headed for the Delaware Bay. And what could Jerome do anyway? He was never even given a contract in the first place.

Once in the USA and the Ports of Philadelphia, Jerome and his fellow crewmen knew there was but one place they could go for possible understanding and help. And that is how I and the staff of the Seamen's Church Institute of Philadelphia got to know Jerome, his Italian captain and the 24 others from Yugoslavia, Honduras and Sri Lanka.

These men are but 26 of the 80,000 international merchant seafarers who come into the Ports of Philadelphia each year aboard nearly 3,000 merchant vessels. They come from every country of the world although most today are like Jerome – from Third World or Asian nations. A seafarer's job is lonely, difficult, isolated and often dangerous. Just last year 2,000 merchant vessels sank in global seas.

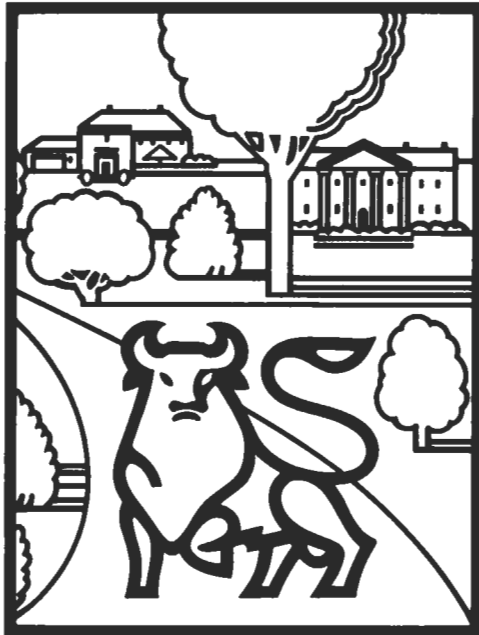
The seafarer is totally without the familiar and economic support systems, let alone the creature comforts which you and I simply take for granted. And worst of all perhaps, few people even know they exist at all, let alone the hardships they must endure to assure that 90,000 shoreside jobs and over three billions of dollars are annually generated in the Delaware Valley. Although as important to international commerce as is the more visible astronaut to space exploration, the modern merchant seafarer is a most "forgotten man." Little wonder that, once docking in the Ports of



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Philadelphia, they feel so much the "stranger-in-the-strange-land" and that no one even knows about them, let alone cares about them.

It is these seafaring "strangers-at-our-gates" who are the "parishioners" of the Seamen's Church Institute of Philadelphia. Within the past six months alone we have been privileged to minister to 9,000 of them both aboard their vessels and at the Merchant Seamen's Center just down the street at 3rd and Arch. We provided free transport back and forth between their ships which are docked along both sides of the 60 miles of Delaware River waterfront for 5,000 of them, taking 900 shopping for necessities and sundries. Between June and December 7,000 international seafarers utilized the facilities and services at the Merchant Seamen's Center - their "home-away-from-home" while our guests in Philadelphia. They came from 66 different nations of this interdependent world of ours and represented every major religion known to human kind.

Although it has been around for a while and traces its historical roots to 1843, the Seamen's Church Institute is very much a modern witness and mission, expressing a new kind of ministry: New in the sense that its style is holistic, ecumenical and international rather than parochial. New in the sense that it receives its support not from denominational coffers, but from volunteer contributions from individuals, parishes and corporations. New in the sense that it takes its ministry to its parishioners six days a week, when as many as 12 vessels are boarded and visited each day. New in the sense that our "parish house" Seamen's Center is open to serve its parishioners every day except Sunday from eight in the morning until 11 at night. New in the sense that we see most of our parishioners for but a few hours and most likely never again, so that the quality of the love of Christ needs be communicated quickly, clearly and with absolute integrity. There

will be no future week to explain away error or indifference. New in the sense that it is the Mid-Eastern rather than the Western concept of "hospitality" which is our theological underpinning. It is an honor and privilege to have the stranger in your home. There is absolutely nothing whatsoever that we will not attempt to do for him, for to be at his disposal is our reward and our blessing.

Just a few blocks from St. Peter's there is a work of Christian mission with the world's seafarers which needs badly all the prayers, all the volunteers, all the money support, all the knitted garments, all the used clothing, and all the moral support it can get. As your neighbor and fellow Christian, toiling as you are in God's vineyard and attempting to bring a bit of love, hope and integrity into our world, I invite you to join to the extent possible in this exciting and rewarding new ministry of the Seamen's Church Institute.

And what of Jerome Omar Provicke? After nearly a week of day and night negotiations, moral suasion, prayers, legal rattling, lots of counseling and not a little righteous indignation bluffing, I'm delighted to report that the entire crew was finally paid on Friday evening. And on late Saturday Jerome flew out of Philadelphia International Airport on his way to his family and homeland - a happier and emotionally stronger child of God.

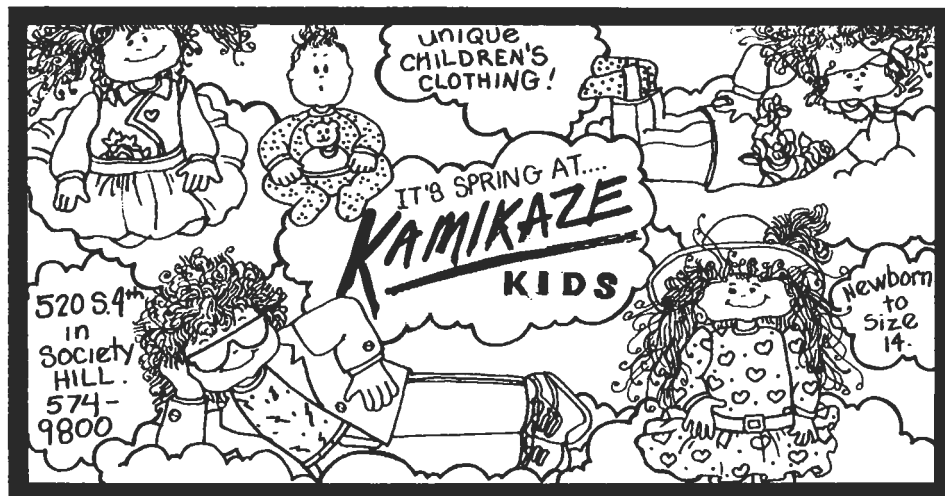
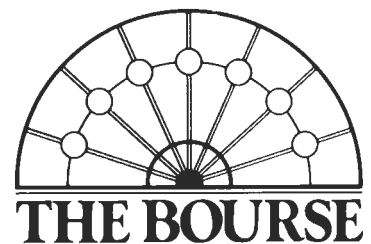
And for that I thank God, and say "so be it."



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## Philadelphia Ensemble Offers Second Series

The Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble, Society Hill's only resident chamber music group, will present the final concert of its ninth season on Sunday, April 6th at the Athenaeum, 219 South 6th Street. The concert will begin at 3:00 pm and will be followed by a reception with refreshments, where the audience can meet the musicians and socialize with one another.

The Ensemble was first brought together in 1977 by Society Hill residents Donald and Margarita Montanaro, to play a benefit concert for St. Peter's School, which the Montanaro children attend. A clarinetist and a harpist with the Philadelphia Orchestra Donald and Margarita prevailed upon some of their Orchestra colleagues to perform for that event. Other St. Peter's School parents and Society Hill residents so enjoyed the music that they persuaded the players to commit to one three-concert series for the neighborhood at large.

The rest is history. Since then, The Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble, with Donald Montanaro as music director, has performed at the Athenaeum, whose lovely Victorian architecture and modest size—the main reading room holds fewer than 200 people—are ideal for chamber music performances.

Roger W. Moss, executive director of the Athenaeum, commented recently, "There is a natural affinity among rare books, a fine building, and good music. I am happy that the Athenaeum can play a part in making this unbeatable combination available to the community."

The receptions following each concert are an integral part of the total experience. The audience, mostly Society Hill residents, take the occasion to catch up on news and gossip and discuss the merits of the performance with the musicians and one another. Some even conduct business.

And the musicians! There are none better in this city whose reputation as a music capital is unrivaled. Members of the Ensemble, most of them also members of the Philadelphia Orchestra, will accompany the Orchestra to the Soviet Union later this year.

As Daniel Webster, music critic for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, put it, "They play chamber music the way musicians like to hear it played."

In addition to the Montanaros, The Ensemble boasts the artistry of Luis Biava, violin, Julia de Pasquale, violin, Joseph de Pasquale, viola, William Stokking, cello, Deborah Carter, flute, Richard Woodhams, oboe, Bernard Garfield, bassoon, Nolan Miller, horn, and Kiyoko Takeuti, piano. Guest artists performing with the group this season include Christian Euler, viola, and Michael Shahan, double bass.

The popularity of The Ensemble is such that the initial series of three Friday night concerts has been sold out by subscription since the third season. Not until 1984, however, was a second series of three

Sunday afternoon concerts introduced. While some loyal subscribers would prefer to give away their first-born than their tickets to the Friday night series, others seem to prefer the relaxation of a concert on Sunday afternoon.

Why do people keep coming back? A recent informal survey turned up a variety of answers.



(Photo by Neil Benson)

Some members of The Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble performing at the Athenaeum. They are, left to right: Deborah Carter, flute; Luis Biava, violin; Christian Euler, viola; William Stokking, cello; and Margarita Montanaro, harp.

"It's a great place to socialize with neighbors. More congenial than the Superfresh."

"The Athenaeum is a remarkable place to hear music. The acoustics are terrific."

"I adore chamber music, and I don't have to worry about parking."

"Leo Luskin's program notes always help me understand the music."

Admittedly, chamber music, like caviar, is an acquired taste. Over the years, Donald Montanaro and his players have taken this audience firmly in hand and developed in them a taste for the full repertoire of small-ensemble music. At a recent concert, the audience heard an unpublished trio by Leopold Stokowski (not thought of, even in Philadelphia, as a composer), a trio for woodwinds by Jacques Ibert, and, for purposes of comparison, a quintet for flute and strings by Jean Francaix—all of them 20th-century compositions. Following intermission, we were treated to Mozart's Quintet in E flat major, for piano and woodwind quartet.

One newcomer to The Ensemble audience observed, "They make you sit through a lot of spinach before they give you dessert."

Yet, the program was described by several long-time subscribers as, "The best we've ever had."

The funny thing is, every season someone says that about one of the concerts, if not about each of them. The growth of The Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble's following, in terms of the audience's appreciation of the music, has paralleled the increasing interest in chamber music around the country. The rising popularity of this kind of music is reflected in the number of chamber music

performing groups that has mushroomed in Philadelphia in the past two or three years.

If you're not sure that you like chamber music, the April 6th concert is your chance to give it a try, without having to commit to an entire series. If you already like chamber music, you're sure to enjoy the program, which will include Ravel's "Introduction and Allegro" for harp, flute, clarinet and string quartet, and Mozart's "Quintet in A Major," for clarinet and string quartet. And this concert will give you a chance to hear the group before subscription forms for next season are mailed.

To order tickets for the April 6th concert, send your name and address and a check for \$15 per ticket, payable to The Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble, to the Ensemble at PO Box 785, William Penn Annex, Philadelphia, PA 19105. Seating is limited, so act promptly.

Tickets requested after March 30th will be held at the door. Or tickets can be purchased at the door for \$20 apiece. If you would like additional information, call Cynthia Eiseman, president of The Ensemble, at 923-5492. If her machine answers, speak to it. She will call you back. For sure.





(Photo by Neil Benson)  
 AFTER A CONCERT of The Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble, Society Hill residents, Keith and Jim Straw congratulate the Ensemble's music director, Donald Montanaro.



(Photo by Kathy Leisenring)

AT CARPENTER'S HALL, the 264th birthday of Philadelphia's renowned builder and architect, Robert Smith, was celebrated on Jan. 14th. Attendees were, from the left: Charles Peterson, Master of Ceremonies; Clifford Lewis III, whose boyhood home was the Green Tree Insurance Co. on 4th Street where his father was treasurer; Mrs. Vivian Piasecki, Chairman of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and Mrs. Henry M. Watts, one of Society Hill's pioneer resettlers.

## Social Doings



(Photo by Jennifer Smith)  
 SHCA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PARTY- Old guard partygoers braved the Jan. 29th snowstorm to sample wine, sandwiches, pizza and other eats, courtesy of NewMarket vendors. From left: Kiki Olson Gomez, Ted and Nancie Burkett.

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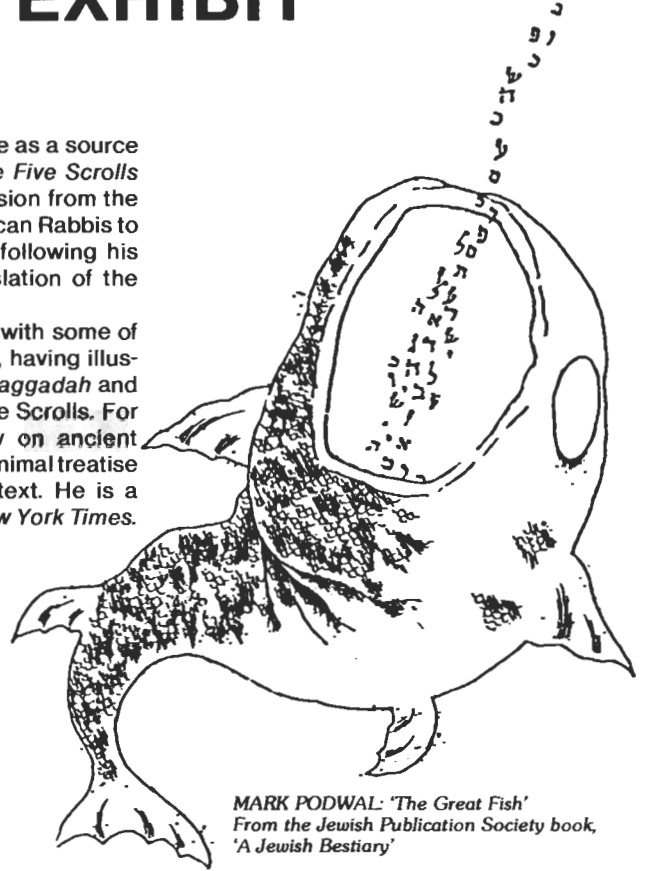


LEONARD BASKIN  
 'Return O Sculammite' (Songs 7:1)

## TWO ON EXHIBIT

frequently turned to literature as a source of inspiration for his art. *The Five Scrolls* series is his second commission from the Central Conference of American Rabbis to illustrate Hebrew scripture, following his earlier work for CCAR translation of the Passover Haggadah.

Mark Podwal has worked with some of the same material as Baskin, having illustrated *Let My People Go: A Haggadah* and *Lamentations*, one of the Five Scrolls. For *A Jewish Bestiary*, he drew on ancient sources to create a pictorial animal treatise within a strictly Jewish context. He is a regular contributor to the *New York Times*.



MARK PODWAL: 'The Great Fish'  
 From the Jewish Publication Society book,  
 'A Jewish Bestiary'

Two of America's leading artists are featured in an exhibit through April 20th at the National Museum of American Jewish History, Independence Mall East.

Leonard Baskin, acclaimed sculptor and painter, whose life-sized forms grace the courtyard at Society Hill Towers, has

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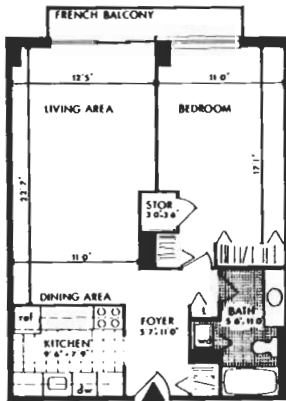
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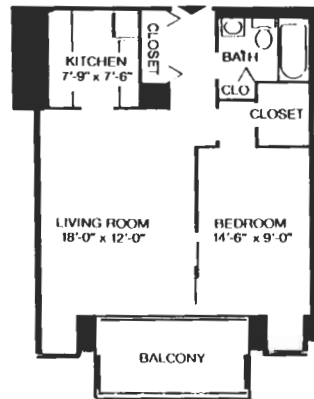


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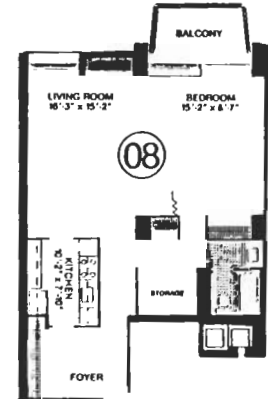


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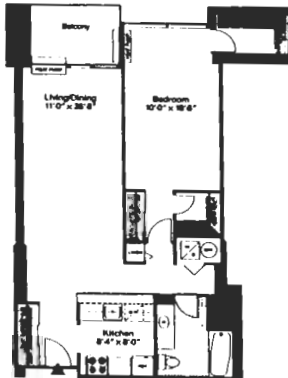


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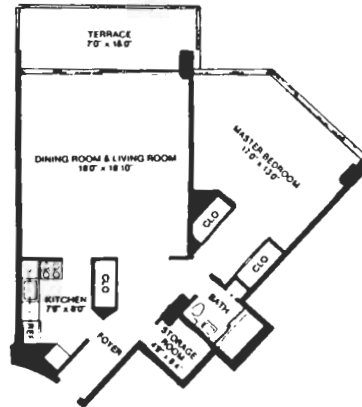


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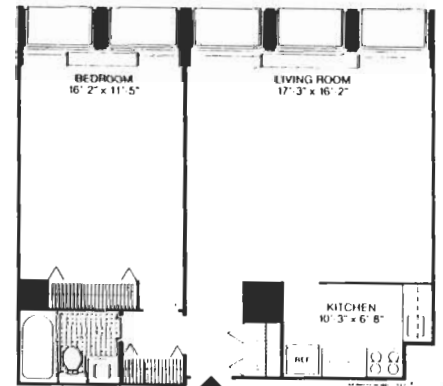


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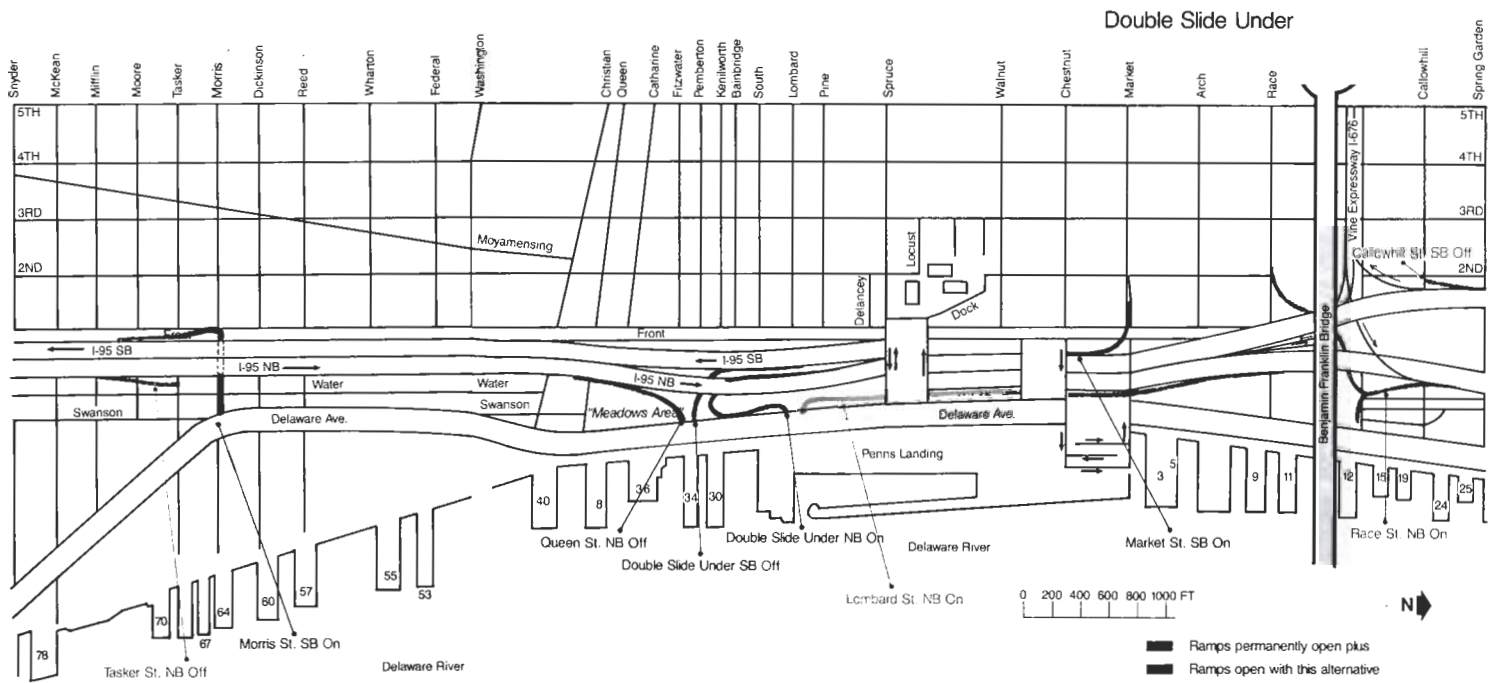
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# I-95 Recommendations and Concerns

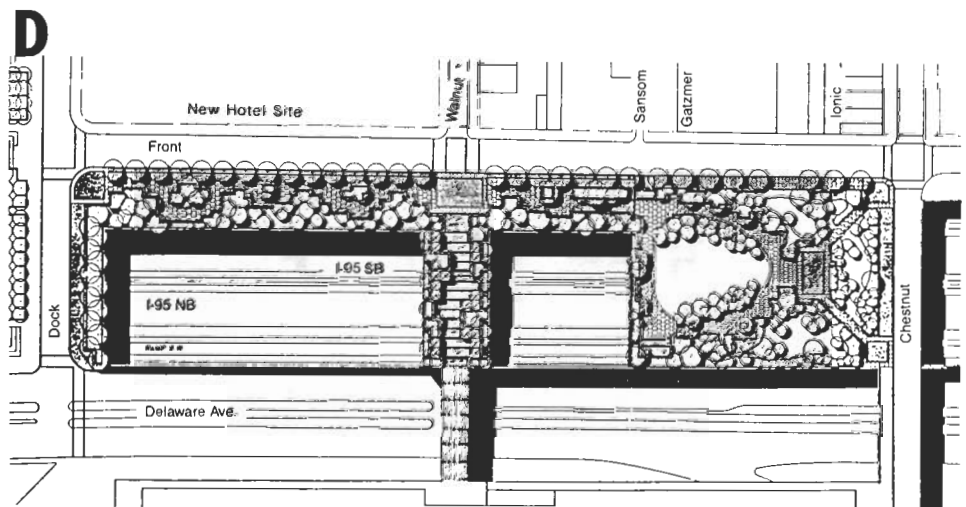
In a December 31 letter to the several riverfront civic associations, Mayor W. Wilson Goode outlined the recommendations he planned to make to the Pennsylvania Secretary of Transportation concerning the proposed work on the I-95 ramps and the surrounding areas.

They are:

1. Double slide under with the combined ramp (\$21 million),
2. I-95 Cover option D (\$19.83 million),
3. South Street pedestrian bridge (\$2.67 million),
4. I-95 Right of Way improvements of elevated section (\$1.75 million),
5. Additional I-95 noise barriers in the Queen Village, Pennsport, and Whittman neighborhoods (\$1.5 million).

The Mayor also indicated his concern for the maintenance of the areas abutting the highway and attached a draft of "an improved Maintenance Management Program" to his recommendations to PennDOT. In its response to Mayor Goode's letter, SHCA pointed out several key issues that have not yet been addressed.

1. Security of the cover as well as its maintenance is of great concern to the neighbors. Far from wanting an extension of the cover, the people who



*PennDOT Options favored by Mayor W. Wilson Goode are, top: the Double Slide Under with Combined Ramp, which affords the most comprehensive I-95 access to and from the central business district and provides for a parking garage and pedestrian bridge at South St.; and the Option D Cover Completion. Option D calls for landscaping along Dock and Front Sts. and a landscaped pedestrian overpass from the foot of Walnut St. to the second level walkway at Penn's Landing.*

live nearby want a written agreement signed by both the City and PennDOT that would guarantee the maintenance and the security of the present cover and of all areas abutting the highway.

2. In light of the fact that rush hour traffic has already become intolerable because of the highway, SHCA has asked that the city ban all through truck traffic in the area. This would cut down on the numbers of vehicles using our streets and would lower both noise and vibrations in the neighborhood.

3. SHCA has twice voted to support the so-called 'no action' option that includes the completion of the Vine Street Expressway with its many ramps and the rebuilding of Delaware Avenue. Only after that work is finished and tested should any additional construction be undertaken.

As this update is written, there have been no new meetings of the city and riverfront civic associations scheduled. The SHCA representatives will be in touch with the Managing Director's office and hope to meet with his people soon.

## Historic Survey

(Continued from page 1.)

If you would like to make a contribution of any size, or could help put us in touch with those who might, please contact:

Myrna Field Baum - SHCA President  
988-0680 (o) 238-9550 (h)

Liz Ostrander - SHCA V-P  
WA 2-6179 (o) 922-0895 (h)

Joyce Cole - Project Coordinator  
569-8200 (o) 925-7103 (h)

Or, make your tax deductible check payable to: Society Hill Civic Association - INVENTORY, and mail to:

Frank Ongaro, SHCA Treasurer  
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## PHILADELPHIA OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULES 1986 SOCIETY HILL TOURS

Ever since 1979, Society Hill neighbors have participated in presenting house and garden tours of the area to eager visitors from all parts of the globe. Some have organized the tours, some have opened their houses and some have served as hosts or hostesses in the houses, at headquarters or serving refreshments. All the work adds up to a remarkable effort to show Society Hill to the outside world as one of the best urban neighborhoods in America. This year's tours will be held on Saturday, May 3rd from 1 to 5 pm, and on Thursday May 8th from 5 to 8 pm. One of the most crucial tasks is staffing the houses with volunteers. Anyone who would like to give their time for one shift in exchange for seeing the other houses during the other shift is welcome, yes, urged to sign up by calling Lynn Wikstam at 923-5474 or the Open House office, 928-1188. For further tour information call Libby Browne, 925-1372.

These two tours are part of the May 1-18 Philadelphia Open House which is sponsored by the Friends of Independence National Historical Park. Other tours by bus, by boat or on foot will be given all over Center City, in Bucks, Montgomery and Chester Counties, New Jersey and the nearer suburbs. Theme

tours on architecture, sculpture and "The Jewish Connection" promise to be fascinating. The whole event will be kicked off with a "Sunset on the Schuylkill" party at the Vesper Boat Club on May 1st.

Wouldn't this be the perfect time to show off Philadelphia to your out-of-town friends? For a free brochure, call or write the Philadelphia Open House office, PO Box 40166, Phila., PA 19106, 928-1188.

## SUPPORT OUR SUPPORTERS

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# DARTS AND LAURELS

## McCall School's Stars

Principal Leonard Rovner, Ms. Selma Levin and her children at McCall School are very excited these days anticipating the preview of a very special film in which they were chosen to star. It is a documentary promotional film funded by the Carnegie Foundation for the Campaign for Child Survival through UNICEF. It is to be used as public information and education regarding the 40,000 children under the age of five who die daily in third world countries, from dehydration or diseases that could be prevented by vaccinations. Philadelphia was one of the five model cities chosen to participate in the program and the McCall School, always supportive of UNICEF with its internationally representative student body, was a perfect choice. There was a professional film crew involved and the film will be spotlighted on TV and in multimedia activities.

During KICK-OFF week, which has not been finalized, there will be programs in Atlanta, Houston, Minneapolis-St. Paul and Los Angeles, in addition to Philadelphia.

On Tuesday, March 18th at 7:30 pm the film will be introduced to the general public at McCall. Everyone is invited to attend. Call the school for details.

Any group interested in viewing the film or working with the campaign as a volunteer supporter can contact Marilyn D. Jewett, local model city coordinator at 922-6670.

The McCall School was also selected by The Free Library of Philadelphia for a grant from Carnegie to interest the public in reading. This program, entitled "Reading Together", will feature ads, posters and other media with McCall staff and students. Three specific posters already in print include Ron Jaworski, Bobby Clark and Constance Clayton with children from McCall.

They were chosen because they are unique as a high achieving, multi-ethnic integrated school.

**Dart**—to the people who put out old wringer washing machines, mattresses, broken chairs and old TV's with their regular trash. After collection, the old wringer washing machines, mattresses, broken chairs and old TV's remain.

**Laurel**—to those residents of Society Hill who participate in the many volunteer programs of area institutions. Look for a list of the programs in the next issue of the Newsletter.

**Laurel**—to the two handsome youths who made very serious work of cleaning the front of their home on the 600 block of Spruce Street the first Sunday morning in February.

**Dart**—to the people responsible for the apartments on the 500 block of Spruce Street whose rear, cluttered with garbage cans, OPENLY faces 528 Cypress Street. Perhaps a solid door would be more suitable than the grate that provides a FULL VIEW.

**Laurel**—to Mr. Rovner and the students at McCall school who have made Society Hill especially proud of them this winter. (See article, left.)

**Dart**—to the elevator in the south building in Society Hill Towers that changes direction when stopped at the second floor. It takes busy people, not in the mood for jokes, up to the penthouse when they want to go down to the lobby.

**Dart**—to the elevator mechanics in the Society Hill Towers south building who have "repaired" this elevator and assured the tenants it is in good working order.

**Dart**—to Abbott's Square for not tidying up their yard. The mountain of debris must discourage potential buyers; it certainly keeps neighbors to the north busy dusting.

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SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION



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**Contributors to this issue**—Barbara Cayci, Cynthia Eiseman, Lorna Katz Lawson, Ruth McKeivitt, Ellen Miller, Charles Peterson and David Stevens.

**Business Staff**—Laurette Scherneck and Keith Straw.

Deadline for articles and ads for the next issue is April 7th. Articles may be delivered to staff members or mailed to *The Resident Newsletter*, Box #3, Philadelphia, PA 19105. For advertising rates and information, please address Laurette Scherneck, 641 Lombard St., Philadelphia, PA 19147.

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