



SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

# THE RESIDENT NEWSLETTER

Box 3, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19105

September, 1986

## Historical Survey First Stage Is Completed

The physical survey of front elevations of all buildings in Society Hill has now been completed. Work on the 1,500-building inventory has now moved indoors to the Philadelphia Historical Commission where verification of the street survey and a history of each building is available. SHCA has contracted with the architectural firm of Kise, Killinger, Franks and Straw to prepare the enormous amount of paperwork necessary to apply for historic certification of our district. Once having gained certification, Society Hill will be protected under the 1984 Historic Preservation Ordinance.

The physical survey was done by Ann Cook, working under the direction of Elizabeth Mintz. SHCA member Judy Alden has prepared a significance statement which will accompany the inventory when it is submitted to the Historical Commission. Joyce Cole, who has coordinated the project for the SHCA, says that the work remaining to be done — photographing each property and publication of the results — will be the

most expensive part of the project.

Funding for the work has come from homeowners whose homes will be listed in the completed publication. A tax deductible contribution of \$20 will entitle you to a copy of the page on which your home is listed; a contribution of \$100 will buy you the certification book. Contribution checks should be made payable to the Society Hill Fund and sent to Roland C. Davies, Treasurer, 32-34 Strawberry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106.

*The Resident Newsletter* has just learned that a city grant of \$10,000 for the survey has been included in the Mayor's Operating Budget, thanks to the good offices of Councilman Leland Beloff and his assistant, Robert Rego. SHCA is grateful to them for working to obtain this grant which will serve to bring us within shouting distance of our goal of \$20,000 for the project.



## Be A Super Neighbor — Captain Your Block

Volunteers are needed to serve as block captains in certain areas of Society Hill, to act as communications links between neighbors and the Board of Directors of the SHCA. Their duties include (1) welcoming new neighbors to a block; (2) organizing block parties or other functions at which neighbors meet their neighbors; (3) beautification projects or other functions for mutual block improvement; and (4) monitoring trash, snow removal and dog curbing abuses.

Your block captain is the person to contact if you need information, have suggestions, or desire to participate in or initiate block activity. The captain will be familiar with ordinances and regulations relating to parking and trash and other matters of common interest, and should be contacted with concerns about zoning variances.

If you are willing to serve in this vital role, please contact Liz Ostrander, 922-6179 (o) or 922-0895 (h).

## City Hall's I-95 Choices Made Known

The City is proceeding with its plans for ramps providing improved access to the I-95 expressway. In addition to the Vine Street Expressway ramps, a ramp at Front and Market is planned. Further south will be the double slide-under as well as a pair of ramps serving traffic to and from the south. The present ramp at Tasker Street will be closed.

The City believes the ramp configuration will ease the traffic on neighborhood streets and provide better north-south highway access.

Of particular interest is the planned walkway at the east end of Walnut Street. The walk will be the same width as the street and will provide a direct pedestrian route to the central area of Penn's Landing. The walk will be landscaped and will be an inviting 'front door' to the riverfront complex. The walkway will be built in place of an extension of the controversial I-95 cover.

A new entity, Philadelphia Land Management Organization (PHLMO), has been proposed to manage the development of all properties abutting I-95 and the Vine Street Expressway up to 18th Street. The City is aware of neighborhood concerns about land use and has promised to form an Advisory Council to set up and supervise policies and processes. SHCA will keep an eye on this.

Now that the planning process is close to completion, time is running out for community input. I-95 issues will be discussed at the next general membership meeting of the SHCA at 8 p.m. on September 17th at the Old Pine Community Center, 4th and Lombard Streets. If you have any suggestions to offer, this will undoubtedly be your final chance to have your say.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The next general membership meeting of the Society Hill Civic Association is scheduled for Wednesday, September 17th at 8 p.m., Old Pine Community Center, 4th and Lombard.

A discussion will be held regarding the City's proposals for I-95. SHCA's

reaction to these proposals will be influenced by your opinions and advice. This will be your last chance to have your say before the concrete sets.

We will also hear from R.C. Staab, Director of the Philadelphia Film Office, about movie making in the city.

# MEET OUR NEW OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS..

## OFFICERS:

### President:

Myrna Field Baum is serving her third term as President of the SHCA. She is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Presently in private practice, she has been president of the Mid-Atlantic Legal Foundation, district counsel for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, director of the Mayor's Office of Consumer Services, and an Assistant District Attorney in Philadelphia. She is a member of the Fairmount Park Commission Advisory Council. She is committed to maintaining and enhancing the beauty and integrity of Society Hill.

### Vice-President:

Elizabeth H. Ostrander is in her third term as Vice-President of the SHCA. She is a freelance grants consultant, a member of the Old Pine Presbyterian Church, founder and board member, Philadelphia Committee for the Homeless, on the board of the Phila. Center for Older People, the Hall-Mercer MH/MR Community Mental Health Center, and the Delaware Valley Wheelchair Athletics Assn. She is also chairman of Saturday for Seniors and a member of the Tolchester Sailing Association. She has lived in Society Hill for 15 years and served on the SHCA Board from 1979-82.

### Treasurer:

Frank Ongaro is in his second term as Treasurer of the SHCA. He is a marine manufacturers' representative, and has been president of his own company for more than twenty years. He has lived in Society Hill since 1968.

### Recording Secretary:

Faith Lemmer has been a Society Hill home-owner since 1962 when she and her late husband, Ralph, purchased and began restoring their house on Pine Street. She has been active in the fight for the I-95 cover, trying to save 156 historic houses on Front Street, Save Spruce Street, and many zoning matters. Ralph was one of the founders and a mainstay of Society Hill's Town Watch and their son, Tim, was on the SHCA board until he moved away from the neighborhood.

### Corresponding Secretary:

Gail Hearn is Associate Professor and Chairman of Biology at Beaver College. She has lived in Society Hill since 1968, and is married to Peter Hearn, a partner in the law firm Pepper, Hamilton and Scheetz. They have four children. Gail also serves on the Board of Managers, Pennsylvania Hospital.

## QUADRANT DIRECTORS:

### Northeast:

Lorna Katz Lawson is a registered architect in private practice, and has taught interior design at Drexel University. Last year, while sitting on the Board of SHCA, she also served on the zoning committee. At the Society Hill Towers, Ms. Lawson is a member of the Operations Committee.

Doug McBrearty is serving his second term on the Board of SHCA. He is the general manager of the newly opened Society Hill Sheraton, and has recently returned to Philadelphia after seventeen years of assignments elsewhere in the Sheraton organization. He is a Penn State graduate, married, and father of two children.

Wayne Weisman has been a resident of Society Hill Towers for the last year and a half. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Michigan, Mr. Weisman practices law with the firm of Saul, Ewing, Remick & Saul. His public service efforts have included assisting the MOVE Commission in its investigation.

### Northwest:

Susan Dictor is a reading specialist at the Greenberg School where she has been for 15 of the 18 years she has been a teacher. She and her husband, Joel Chernock, a teacher at Chester K. Arthur School, have two children and have lived in Society Hill for seven years. This is Susan's second term on the SHCA Board.

Morton C. Lieberman is a retired businessman who owned his own wholesale seafood company in the Food Distribution Center. He is treasurer of the Washington Square East Condo #1, and also represented his quadrant on the SHCA Board last year.

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Aaron Beyer and his wife, Francine, have been residents of Society Hill since 1977. He is a partner with the Philadelphia law firm Meltzer & Schiffrin. He is a past Vice-President and Board member of the SHCA, and has worked as a block captain and with Town Watch. He is a past member of the Georgetown, D.C. Civic Association.

**Southeast:**

Joyce Cole is serving her third term as a quadrant director. She has a degree in marketing with a concentration in retail management from Michigan State University and an MBA from the University of Connecticut. She is a realtor associate with Helmsley-Greenfield, Inc. She is involved in activities at the Philadelphia Art Museum, St. Peter's and Haverford schools. Ms. Cole is coordinator of Society Hill's local historic certification project.

Homer N. "Norm" Wallin moved to Pine Street in late 1984, from Rose Valley, Delaware County, where he and his wife, Kitty, had lived until their two children finished school and two dogs achieved maturity. He is employed by the Keystone Shipping Company on Chestnut Street as engineering manager responsible for care and repair of tankers. Kitty is employed by the Educational Improvement and Resource Center, Sewell, N.J. The Wallins moved to Pennsylvania in 1974 from California where they were active in local causes.

Adrienne Gioe received her Ph.D. from Temple University in 1981. Currently she conducts a private practice in Psychology in Washington Square West. She has lived

in Society Hill for ten years. She is married with two children. Previously she has served as a block captain for the SHCA.

**Southwest:**

Steve Skale is in his third year as a quadrant director. He is a partner at Cavaliere and Skale, P.C. attorney at law, 2418 S. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19145. He is a past president of the South Philadelphia Businessmen's Association, on the board of directors at Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel, and vice president of its mens' club.

Bernie Cleff has owned, worked and lived at 715 Pine Street since 1960, except for a few years when he slept in and commuted from Moorestown, N.J. In the mid-1970s he served three consecutive terms as a SW quadrant director. He is a freelance photographer, listed in "Who's Who in America" and "Working Press of the Nation." He specializes in editorial, corporate, advertising and architectural photography. His photos appear on the cover and inside the recent book "Historic Rittenhouse—A Philadelphia Neighborhood." Other major photographic works are "Sculpture of a City: Philadelphia's Treasures in Bronze & Stone," "The Cape May Handbook," and "Daniel Chester French — An American Sculptor."

John Clark is a graduate of the Wharton School and works in Princeton, N.J. with DSV Partners, a venture capital partnership. He and his wife have lived in Society Hill for three years in an 1808 house they are renovating. They are parents of a two-year-old daughter.

**SHCA Board Directory:**

- Myrna Field Baum (P) 2 Blackwell Place, 545-7477 (o), 238-9550 (h)
- Elizabeth Ostrander (VP) 408 S. 6th St., 922-6179 (o), 922-0895 (h)
- Frank Ongaro (T) 239 Pine St., 823-2553 (o), 627-0770 (h)
- Faith Lemmer (RS) 236 Pine St., 923-7142 (h)
- Gail Hearn (CS) 519 Pine St., 572-2900 (o), 923-4937 (h)

**NE**

- Lorna Katz Lawson, 20B 200 Locust St., 351-0560 (o), 922-0155 (h)
- Doug McBrearty, Society Hill Sheraton, 238-6000 (o)
- Wayne Weisman, 210 Locust St., 972-1088 (o), 627-1828 (h)

**NW**

- Susan Dictor, 719 Spruce St., 925-9852 (h)
- Mort Lieberman, 17 St. James Court, 922-5034 (h)
- Aaron Beyer, 632 Spruce St., 665-5520 (o), 925-4288 (h)

**SE**

- Joyce Cole, 222 Delancey St., 569-8200 (o), 925-7103 (h)
- Norm Wallin, 216 Pine St., 928-2800 (o), 574-9848 (h)
- Adrienne Gioe, 223 Delancey St., 625-8442 (h)

**SW**

- Steve Skale, 533 Pine St., 465-2900 (o), 238-1040 (h)
- Bernie Cleff, 715 Pine St., 922-4246 (h)
- John Clark, 712 Pine St., 625-2416 (h)

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- History was made here.
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therefore,  
We sell it best.



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**546-0550**

# Give A Tree A Break

Trees don't get a lot of respect. Dogs foul them, cars knock them down, people swing from them or stack trash bags against them, and the Parking Authority hangs "Temporary No Stopping" signs on them. We feed them salt in the winter and let them go dry in the summer.

Still, trees do much more for us than improve our scenery. Just think what a pleasure it is to see the first tracery of green on a tree's branches in the spring. Forget that you have to sweep countless bags of fallen leaves later. Those leaves give us welcome shade on hot days. And those leaves will have been busy since spring converting noxious CO<sub>2</sub> into oxygen through the magic of photosynthesis — making life possible despite the automobile.

Consider the tree at the curb in front of your house. Did you know that you are responsible for it? Should it die, you will have to pay to have it removed and replaced. Should it fall and injure someone or crush something, that's your responsibility too. You can forestall such expensive disasters by following a few suggestions that will help keep your tree alive and healthy.

- If there has been less than one inch of rain in a week, water the tree every three days, either with a hose or bucket. Use six or eight gallons each time you water.
- Loosen the soil around the bottom of



(Photos by Nancy Frenze)

the tree so water and air can get down to the roots. Remove bricks or like material from the base of the tree. Society Hill's sidewalks were purposely left uncemented around trees to allow easy brick removal.

- Remove weeds and trash from the tree pit to allow water to penetrate to roots.
- Clip all branches that sprout from the



base and lower trunk of the tree. Suckers deprive the tree of nutrients.

- If your tree is a year old or more and still has staking and rubber hose-covered guy wires around the trunk, remove the guy wires so that the tree can grow in diameter without interference.
- Add a four inch layer of mulch (wood chips, rotted leaves or straw) each spring and fall to protect the soil.

Specific questions you have about your tree can be answered by the Horticultural Hot Line, 922-8043, or Penn State University's Urban Garden Program, 276-5182.

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neighborhood. So it may take a second look to see us. And when you do, you'll discover a premier restaurant, **Americus**, serving authentic regional cooking with a fresh twist. You'll pursue happiness in **Spectacles**, an exciting video lounge. And under the trees in a four-story atrium, **The Courtyard** features cool drinks and Chopin on the grand piano. There's even a health club and indoor pool. And for businesses in search of excellence, meeting facilities to serve up to 700.

**Come celebrate.** Come see the culmination of a 300-year wait, where Two Street meets Dock Street, across from Old Original Bookbinders. You'll wonder why there wasn't a great hotel in Society Hill before.

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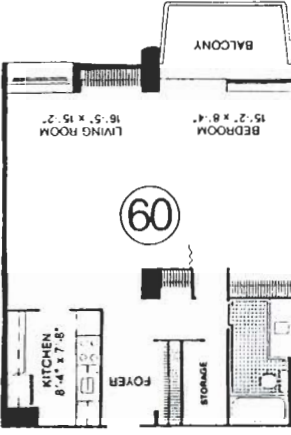
farm fresh produce, exotic fruits and vegetables,  
fresh squeezed juice and salad bar  
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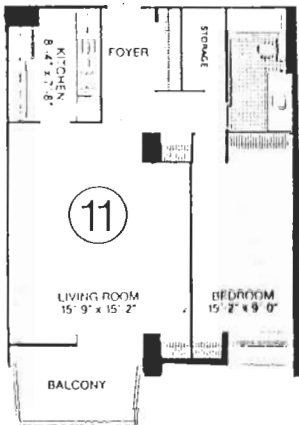
# Society Hill Luxury Condominiums



**Hopkinson House**  
604-36 S. Washington Square

Unit: 1 BEDROOM,  
WITH BALCONY,  
SOUTH VIEW,  
Sale Price: \$79,900.00

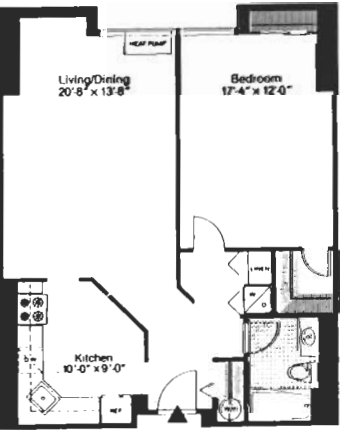
**60**



**Hopkinson House**  
604-36 S. Washington Square

Unit: 1 BEDROOM,  
SOUTH VIEW,  
WITH BALCONY  
Sale Price: \$84,900.00

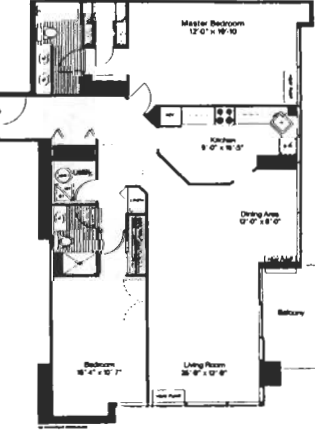
**11**



**INDEPENDENCE PLACE**  
6th & Locust Walk

Unit: 1 BEDROOM,  
EAT-IN KITCHEN,  
PARK VIEW,  
Sale Price: \$94,500.00

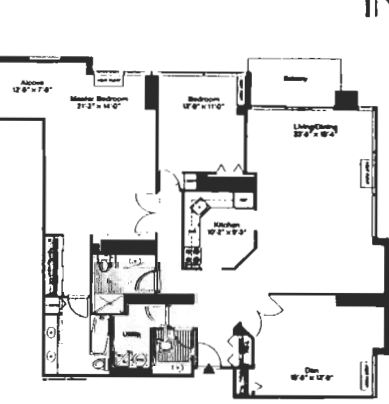
Living/Dining 20'-8" x 13'-8"  
Bedroom 12'-4" x 12'-0"  
Kitchen 10'-0" x 9'-0"



**INDEPENDENCE PLACE**  
6th & Locust Walk

Unit: 2 BEDROOM,  
2 BATH,  
HIGH FLOOR,  
PARK VIEW  
Sale Price: \$219,000.00

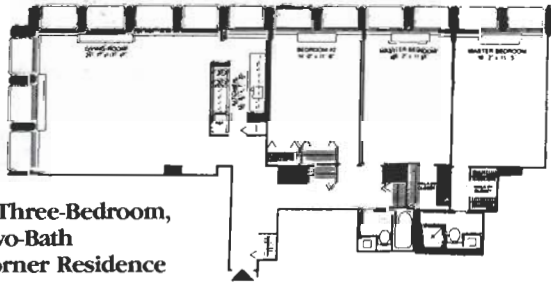
Master Bedroom 12'-0" x 10'-10"  
Bedroom 12'-0" x 10'-0"  
Living Room 12'-0" x 12'-0"  
Kitchen 9'-0" x 10'-0"  
Dining Area 10'-0" x 10'-0"  
Bathroom



**INDEPENDENCE PLACE**  
6th & Locust Walk

Unit: 2 BEDROOM,  
WITH DEN,  
"UPGRADED"  
Sale Price: \$265,000.00

Master Bedroom 12'-0" x 11'-0"  
Bedroom 12'-0" x 11'-0"  
Living/Dining 12'-0" x 12'-0"  
Kitchen 10'-0" x 10'-0"  
Dining Area 10'-0" x 10'-0"  
Bathroom



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**A Three-Bedroom, Two-Bath Corner Residence**  
Unit: SOUTH TOWER,  
CITY VIEW  
Sale Price: \$149,900.00

Master Bedroom 12'-0" x 12'-0"  
Bedroom 12'-0" x 12'-0"  
Bedroom 12'-0" x 12'-0"  
Living Room 12'-0" x 12'-0"  
Dining Area 12'-0" x 12'-0"  
Kitchen 12'-0" x 12'-0"  
Bathroom



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# NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY PRESERVED AT THE ATHENAEUM

by  
Roger W. Moss,  
Athenaeum Executive Director

Long-term residents of Society Hill can usually be coaxed to reminisce about the impassioned debates over such neighborhood concerns as urban renewal and zoning, acts of the Redevelopment Authority, I-95, and the crosstown expressway. But as Betty Steele learned this summer, the issues of the 1950s and 1960s differ only in magnitude from those of the 1980s — all involve establishing or maintaining Society Hill as a quality residential area of historic significance.

Vice Admiral and Mrs. George P. Steele are residents of the 100 block of Pine Street, and when The Athenaeum called for a volunteer to help sort the Society Hill Collection, Mrs. Steele was the first to step forward. During the past few months she has spent hundreds of hours sifting correspondence, weeding duplicate newsletters, and generally bringing order to the *twenty cubic feet* of manuscripts that constitute the Society Hill Collection at The Athenaeum. "It's wonderful to relive the early days of the effort to restore this neighborhood," Mrs. Steele said recently. "It makes those of us who enjoy the area appreciate the hard work of those who moved here twenty or thirty years ago."

The collection Mrs. Steele is sorting evolved out of the early twentieth-century scrapbooks maintained by The Athenaeum to track the coming and going of the buildings surrounding Washington Square. (The Athenaeum's staff enjoys telling the story of the day two engineers in hard hats rushed into the building during the construction of the Penn Mutual addition. "Does The Athenaeum have any maps that would show the original location of Dock Creek in the Washington Square area?" they wanted to know. The answer was yes, but it wasn't necessary to pull maps. Dock Creek ran directly under the site of the new building. "Ah," said the engineers, "that explains why the water level in our excavation rises and falls twice daily. We're attempting to pump the Delaware River dry!")

In its nearly 175 years in Society Hill, The Athenaeum has collected and preserved materials "connected with the history and antiquities of America, and the useful arts," and generally disseminated useful knowledge. A nationally-known independent research library with outstanding collections in the field of architecture and interior decoration, The Athenaeum is also the unofficial repository for the records of our neighborhood that are preserved in The Athenaeum's National Historic Landmark building on Washington Square. Not all these records are valuable, of course. Less important documentation has crept in. Why, for example, did some librarian clip from the paper E.P. Huttinger's bit of 1921 doggerel on spring?

*"The sap is up and blossoms blow—  
See babies, bums and maidens fair  
Sunning themselves in Washington Square."*

Based on these early files Athenaeum Librarian Arthur M. Kennedy began to conduct research on the history of Washington Square in the 1930s, and his successor, Francis James Dallett, wrote and published *An Architectural View of Washington Square, Philadelphia* in 1968. The library's next contribution to the history of the neighborhood will be the publication this winter of the report on the archaeological study of the Walnut Street Prison site by Professor John Cotter of The University of Pennsylvania.

Given this long interest, it is only natural that the library would begin in the 1940s to gather the often ephemeral records — broadsides, newsletters, pamphlets — that document its neighborhood in transition. And fortunately a number of residents have donated their personal files of correspondence and literature to fill gaps. Particularly important are runs of such serials as the *Society Hill News* that began in the 1950s, the *Associated Home Owners' News*, and the Society Hill Civic Association's *Resident Newsletter*. The files also contain complete sets of minutes for such organizations as the Society Hill Area Residents Association and the Society Hill Civic Association as well as personal correspondence. Some of these latter gifts — such as the correspondence files of the late Janet (Mrs. Charles) Lewis — are sealed for the time being. But most of the collection is open to the public by appointment Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

When the history of the Society Hill neighborhood is finally written, the collection at The Athenaeum will provide much of the basic information and not a little insight into the key persons that made it possible. For that reason residents are encouraged to add to the collection any materials they may have. Such gifts can be dropped off at the library (219 S. Sixth Street) or a call can arrange to have a staff person come to your home or office (WA5-2688).

\*\*\*\*

**Staff for this issue**—Charles Bangert, Sally Buell, Ruth Dugan, Nancy Frenze and Liz Ostrander.

**Contributors to this issue**—Myrna Field Baum, Joyce Cole, and Becky Stoloff.

**Business Staff**—Laurette Scherneck, Advertising, and Keith Straw, Billing.

Deadline for articles and ads for the next issue is November 3rd. Articles may be delivered to staff members or mailed to *The Resident Newsletter*, Box #3, Philadelphia, PA 19105. For advertising rates and information, contact Laurette Scherneck, 923-4249.

## What a way to spend a day!

For fun.  
For a drink.  
For dinner.  
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## Reflections On A Strike

Now that the Great Trash Strike of '86 has come and gone, it seems appropriate to share some thoughts, some congratulations and some loud boos and hisses.

During the strike, Society Hill never looked better. For the most part, people kept their trash and garbage indoors until they could find alternative ways to dispose of it. My block, between 6th and 7th/Pine and Lombard took up a collection, rented a truck, and thanks to four sturdy neighbors, hauled the stuff to disposal sites. Other trash went to the shore, to the Poconos, to the Chesapeake; virtually none sat rotting on the streets.

But then the strike ended. And now it seems that we are not even bothering to bag our garbage before throwing it on the sidewalks and streets. Every block has piles of rotting garbage, broken bottles, and general litter — an accumulation far worse than we had during or before the strike.

Where is our pride? We proved we could keep our neighborhood clean *without* regular city services. What are we trying to say now? That we just don't care? That keeping our neighborhood and city clean is not our concern? That we prefer to live in filth and squalor? That we are proud to live where we pile garbage on the curbs, where we don't pick up after our animals, where we let the weeds grow, and the circulars clutter our steps?

We live in one of the most unique neighborhoods in America. People come from all over the country to stroll through our streets and to breathe in the very essence of our history. Let's not send our guests home sick from the stench of our garbage.

## MAIL BAG

Dear Friends of the Old Pine Community Center:

Just a brief note to thank you for your very generous contribution to the Center's special campaign to raise \$25,000 to erase the operating deficit which has resulted from its open-door policy.

As we explained when we solicited your contribution, the OPCC Board of Managers hopes to have other civic, neighborhood and business associations match your wonderful gift of \$500.

We can only hope that the other associations located in the area served by the Center and its programs will be as understanding of our need and as generous as you have been in responding to it.

We'll let you know which associations follow your pace-setting lead.

Thanks again — from all of us at Old Pine.

For the Board of Managers,  
Michael Willmann

*stephen d. cohen, d.d.s.*  
*steven a. graubard, d.d.s.*  
*joel e. elfman, d.d.s.*

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## New Co-Chairmen Named to Zoning Committee

Heading the SHCA Zoning Committee for the current year are Co-chairmen Becky Stoloff (627-4910) and Saul Segan (592-8061 - daytime only). Anyone wishing to serve on this committee is invited to contact one of them. Issues dealing with zoning which the Association should address should also be brought to the attention of the chairmen.

The SHCA is interested in knowing of zoning violations which involve either illegal apartments or an excessive number of unrelated persons living in a single family residence. Anyone aware of such circumstances should write to the Zoning Committee, SHCA, Box 3, Philadelphia, PA 19105, or call Ms. Stoloff or Adrienne Gioe (625-8442 - evenings).

## DARTS AND LAURELS

**Laurel**— to the folks who kept their trash inside and helped keep our neighborhood tidy during the strike.

**Laurel**—to Abbott Leban, Ed Schereneche, Len Berenholz, and Dick Ostrander who kept the block bounded by 6th and 7th, Pine and Lombard squeaky clean. Good going guys.

**Laurel**—to Robert Nash, Realtors, for their informative newsletter. It is a pleasant departure from the usual listing of houses sold in the neighborhood.

**Dart**—to those who let weeds grow on their sidewalks and steps. The weeds collect trash and dog litter and contribute to the unkempt appearance of the neighborhood.

**Laurel**—to the folks in the 200 block of Pine Street for their fine stand of new trees. They look great!

**Dart**—to all those macho motorcyclists who remove their mufflers and add deafening decibels to our atmosphere.

**Dart**—to the South Street merchants who are taking up the empty space left by the vendors with all manner of street signs.

**Laurel**—to Jules Fioravanti for replacing the dead tree on the 200 block of Spruce.

**Laurel**—to Bob Bethell, manager of the Super Fresh who will be leaving this fall to manage the new Super Fresh at 10th and South. Bob has been a blue-ribbon neighbor and we'll miss him.

### Joy Schless, Psy. D.

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