

SOCIETY HILL NEWS

An independent publication associated with the EAST PHILADELPHIA SUN.

Society Hill circulation: 4,000

VOL. 1, No. 3 • ISSUED OCTOBER 8, 1991

Thank You

Now that my tenure as President of SHCA is just about over, it's time to say "thank you" for making the opportunity possible, for making me proud to be a representative of this community, and for making a sometimes difficult job fun. Over the years many people have thanked me for my efforts on behalf of our neighborhood—but the thanks truly belong to many.

It belongs to the SHCA Board, Committee Chairs and Committee members who devoted many hours to various assignments and projects. It belongs to all neighbors who pick up street trash, who plant flowers and hang door baskets and holiday decorations. It belongs to those who work to keep walkways as special oases in the heart of the city. It belongs to those who paint out graffiti and pull down illegally-hung posters. It belongs to those who walk for Town Watch to help keep our neighborhood safe. It belongs to those who have gotten our Starr Garden recycling station up and running. It belongs to the Friends

of Three Bears Park, the Friends of Starr Garden, the Friends of Washington Square and the Head House Conservancy who are dedicated to the improvement of these important public spaces. It belongs to the hard-working newsletter staff who brought community news to your home. It belongs to all the neighbors who have appeared at Zoning, L&I, LCB and City Council hearings to make our wishes heard. In short, it belongs to all who make the extra effort to maintain the quality of life of this community and who strive to make it even better.

But, I must give special mention to a few: to SHCA Vice President Steve Skale who was always available with support and counsel; to SHCA administrator Fluffy Palmer who kept me organized and on track; to my husband Milt who cheerfully took phone messages morning, noon and night; and finally to Dick Ostrander for taking on the mantle. Dick and I have been working together for the past few months and this community is fortunate to now have his talents and his energy.

And, again, thank you.
—Becky Stoloff

SOCIETY HILL NEWS

Society Hill Civic Association
P.O. Box 3 • Philadelphia, PA 19105 • (215) 629-1288

ADMINISTRATOR
Fluffy Palmer

SHCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steve Skale, Acting President & VP; Sidney Hack, Treasurer; Joan Johnson, Secretary. NE Quadrant: Lorna Katz Lawson, George Scarpulla, Jane Brown; NW Quadrant: Joel Chernock, Mary Sturdivant, Lynn Wiksten; SW Quadrant: Liz Ostrander, Sally Smith, Sam Lear; SE Quadrant: Kitty Wallin, Duane Perry, Ross Engleman; Hopkinson House: Bari Shor, Jonathan Segal; Society Hill Towers: Maggie Schultz, Christopher Anderson; Independence Place: Helen Comstock; Immediate Past President: Becky Stoloff.

STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE

Dick Ostrander, Becky Stoloff, Bernice Hamel

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OCTOBER 16TH GENERAL MEETING

Special Program, Speaker, Location

Our October 16 General Membership meeting, graciously hosted by the Sheraton Society Hill, will feature Charles Peterson, Society Hill's own premier architectural historian, restorationist and planner. "Charlie", as he is known to most of us, has been the resident architect of the Independence National Historic Park; Supervising Architect, Historic Structures, National Park Service Eastern Office; member of City of

Philadelphia Historic Commission; originator of the Historic Buildings Survey; restorer of Society Hill houses; lecturer, author, award winner, the list goes on and on.

Come hear Charlie reminisce in his own inimitable way about his 40 years in Society Hill. It will be a special treat indeed.

Also on the agenda will be neighborhood updates, and the election of a new SHCA President.

STARR GARDEN NEXT SEPTEMBER

First Annual Back From Summer Picnic

Games, entertainment, fire engines, an auction, and absolutely perfect weather made for a successful first-ever event. Those who were there had a great time and plans are already underway for the Second Annual.

Our wonderful day could not have happened without the help and hard work of many, and so a special thank you goes to:

The picnic Committee—Bari Shor, Jane Brown, Faith Lemmer, Ann Spector and Adriane Weinberg—all of whom pitched in to help plan and execute this event.

The Entertainers—Betsy Alexander, Charlotte Alston and John Colgan-Davis—who delighted young and old.

Our business friends who donated auction items—Sheraton Society Hill, Cafe Nola, Society Hill Veterinary Hospital, Bistro Romano, Downey's, Pennsport Athletic Club, PSFS (2nd & Lombard), Montserrat, Tower Records, Tower Records Classical Annex,



John Romano Hairstylist (Curtis Center), Friday's, Copabana, Alouette, Thrift Drugs, Florissant, Cohen's Hardware, Pierre & Carlo Hair Salon (Four Seasons Hotel), Always in Season (Four Seasons Hotel), Pileggi Salon and Pileggi Boutique on Washington Square, and Peter Kousoulis, DDS (501 S. 4th).

And our other business friends—

Zeke's 5th Street Deli and the SuperFresh on 5th Street for refreshments, The Party Store for prizes, and The Write Type (333 Bainbridge) for printing flyers.

And finally to Vernon Roessler and Alan Greenberg of the Starr Garden staff for all their help and assistance.

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!!!

HEAD HOUSE CONSERVANCY'S LETTER TO MAYOR GOODE

Conservancy: What's Happening At Head House

For several seasons neighbors and businesses from Society Hill, Queen Village, Old City, as well as concerned citizens and preservation groups throughout the city and state have been involved in trying to restore the Head House and Market Shambles on 2nd Street. The Head House Conservancy, a non-profit corporation, was formed as a result of this response to the building's fragile condition. You've seen the banner that proclaims "Help Save This Historic Structure." You've attended the Conservancy's events, read their brochures, and sent your contributions to the cause. Now you're wondering when the work will actually begin.

Funds have indeed been raised—including a state grant of \$25,000, awarded through the efforts of Senator Vincent Fumo's office—and the Conservancy now awaits the Mayor's response to the letter below, sent to him on September 12, 1991.

Dear Mayor Goode:

For well over a year our group has been engaged in a series of discussions with the Department of Public Property in order to save Head House and the Shambles, a significant tourist site and symbol of America's cultural history, located at 2nd & Pine Streets.

Mindful of the City's financial constraints, the Head House Conservancy was formed as a non-profit organization and is proposing to enter into a public/private partnership with the City in order to lease the buildings so as to restore them and maintain them in accordance with historic preservation guidelines. The Conservancy is a significant coalition of many grassroots community and preservation organizations.

Since last spring we have been poised to begin an Emergency Stabilization Repair Plan, but have been unable to proceed with a lease agreement because the City's posi-

tion, as expounded by the Solicitor's office, has been that unless full liability insurance is secured, the City is unwilling or unable to enter into any agreement.

At this point, the entire project is stymied and we cannot proceed—primarily for two reasons:

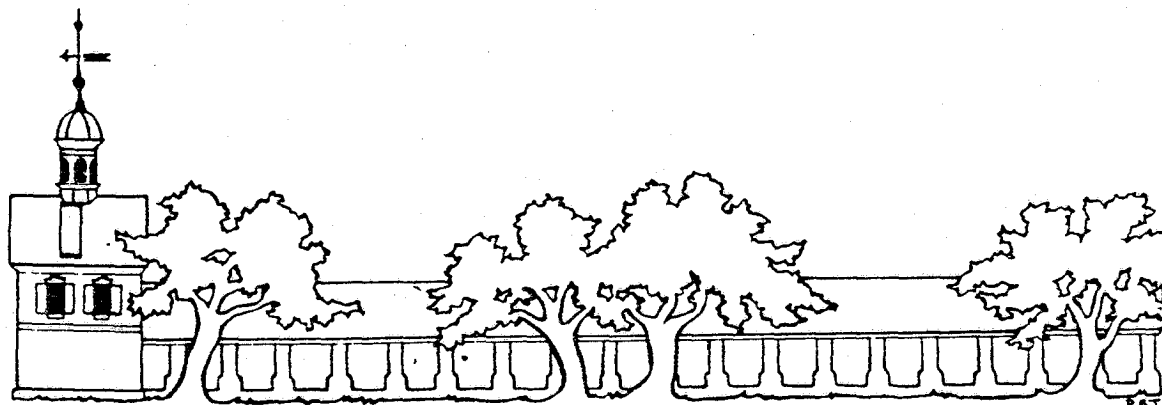
- We cannot afford the double

burden of restoration and insurance costs.

- We believe it would be a breach of faith to spend almost 50 percent of every dollar thus far contributed for insurance costs—\$25,000 of which is a Legislative Initiative grant from the State of Pennsylvania that must be spent no later

than June 1992 and is authorized for repairs and related building expenses.

Our insurance bill would require the expenditure of approximately \$20,000 per year. Funds raised thus far by the Conservancy include private and foundation gifts totaling approximately \$50,000. The monies on hand and the willingness of highly qualified contractors to donate materials or labor at this time would make a significant contribution to a first-phase of emergency repairs to City-owned property.



THE HEAD HOUSE CONSERVANCY

LOGO BY PAMELA SINKLER TODD

Recycle Plastic Bottles!

On the first Saturday of every month (next collection date: November 2), the Reading Terminal Market recycles plastic bottles. Bring you plastic bottles to the Arch Street sidewalk between the hours of 11 AM and 1:30 PM

We accept water and milk jugs, soda, seltzer bottles, shampoo and conditioner bottles.

We cannot accept Gatorade or Ocean Spray bottles, yogurt cups or deli containers.

Reading Terminal Market Merchants Association
Reading Terminal Market, 12th & Filbert Streets

Surprising. Exotic. Functional.

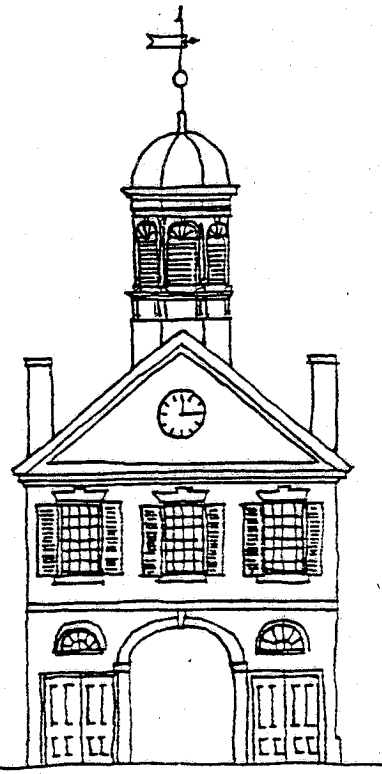


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The unusual nature of the structure should be noted, as it pertains to the current insurance dilemma. The Head House and the market Shambles are two separate structures with attached roofs. The Shambles is an open area, essentially a public sidewalk protected by a roof. At a meeting held in August with a representative from the Solicitor's office and Conservancy Directors Myrna Field and Rebecca Stoloff, we proposed that we lease only the Head House so as to solve this liability insurance problem. But our insurer—the only insurer willing to underwrite this project—told us this would be impossible because the buildings are contiguous and attached.

Our overall restoration budget, in 1990 dollars, is estimated at \$200,000, with annual maintenance costs at \$15,000. We cannot, in good faith, develop a major fundraising campaign to reach this objective if our insurance costs would be \$20,000 every year. Moreover, foundations and contributors are normally unwilling to fund a restoration project, however worthy, unless they can be assured of continued maintenance. Our proposed lease includes



PENELOPE H. BATCHELER

maintenance and preservation for the future.

Head House is our nation's oldest firehouse connected to the last remaining Colonial marketplace. It was identified by the Secretary

of Interior as a "threatened and endangered landmark". If the Conservancy is to proceed with the restoration project, we must overcome the insurance problem.

We need your active intervention to help us resolve this daunting stumbling block. Surely it would be sad for the City of Philadelphia to lose the opportunity to save Head House at no cost to the taxpayer. We ask that you act now, before another winter's damage further threatens the building. Needless to say, we will make ourselves available at your convenience.

Yours truly,
Bernice Hamel, President
Head House Conservancy

From the beginning, the Conservancy could not have progressed without the help of friends and neighbors. The organization is now so close to actually beginning work, but is stonewalled by this frustrating insurance problem, the latest in a series of bureaucratic stumbling blocks. Any ideas? Feel free to call the Conservancy's office at 925-3285 with your suggestions and support.

—Bernice Hamel

PRESERVATION UPDATE

Ordinance: A Paper Tiger?

The Pennsylvania State Supreme Court has decided to rehear the Boyd Theater case on October 25. Hopefully, this rehearing will clarify some of the confusion which has resulted from their decision on this case.

Because the Court's decision was based solely on the state constitution, no appeal is possible to the U.S. Supreme Court. Instead, City officials must accept the state court's decision following the rearguing. It is expected that the decision may still leave the city's historic ordinance (which includes historic districts) largely a "paper tiger".

If you care about preservation—about its importance to this community and to the City of Philadelphia—you are urged to contact the candidates for Mayor and City Council this November. Their political support will be needed to help sponsor and approve any amended preservation ordinances.

First District Candidates

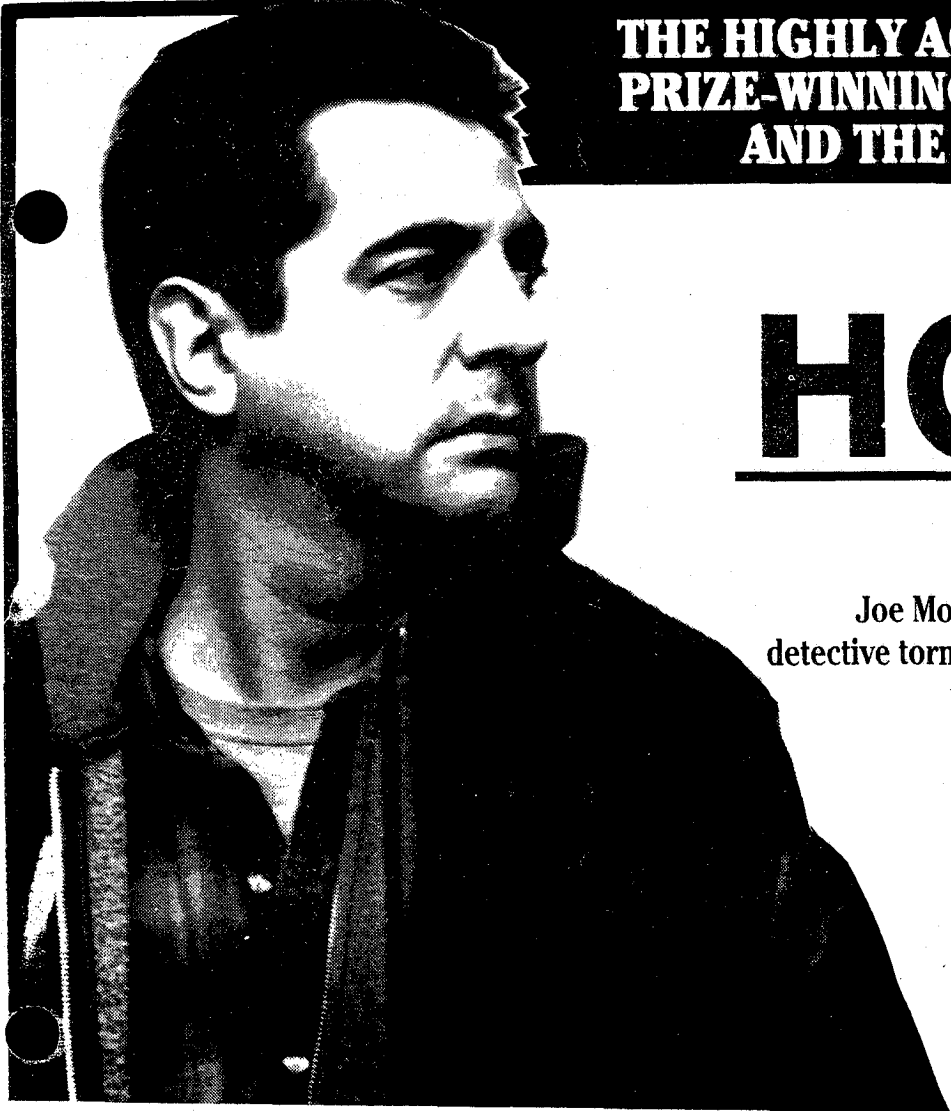
Joseph C. Vignola (Dem.)
532 Fitzwater St., 19147

Connie McHugh (Rep.)
145 Hoffman St., 19148

Mayoral Candidates

Edward G. Rendell (Dem.)
123 Broad St., 19109

Joseph M. Egan (Rep.)
1624 Locust St., 19103



THE HIGHLY ACCLAIMED NEW FILM FROM THE PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING AUTHOR OF "GLENGARRY GLENN ROSS" AND THE DIRECTOR OF "HOUSE OF GAMES"...

David Mamet's

HOMICIDE

(from the 29th New York Film Festival program):

Joe Mantegna gives a masterfully complex performance as a Jewish homicide detective torn between the populist code of his police buddies and the demands of a well-off Jewish community that sees itself threatened by anti-Semitism.

This is writer-director David Mamet's most personal, deeply felt, cinematically fluid film. Strong ensemble acting keeps the superb Mamet dialogue crackling, while the plot twists keep us on the edge of our seats. No easy answers are offered in this urban free-for-all, as vital as it is disturbing and ambivalent.

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Opening Friday, October 18, 1991 at the

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SHCA CALENDAR (clip & save)

October 12
HPK HOUSE BULB SALE
12-4 PM, HPK House Garden
(4th & Cypress). Bulbs,
paperwhites, soil, pots, etc.

October 12
MCCALL SCHOOL PICNIC
12-4 PM, Starr Garden (6th &
Lombard). Bring your own
food, grill provided. For info
call 351-7350.

October 12 (raindate 10/13)
**THREE BEARS PARK FALL
FESTIVAL**
11:30-4:30 PM, Three Bears
Park (3rd & Delancey). Food,
bake sale, toy sale, pony sale,
pony rides, silent auction and
more!

October 16
**SHCA GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP MEETING**
7:30 PM, Sheraton Society
Hill. Featured speaker:
Charles Peterson (see article).

October 19
**ST. PETER'S SCHOOL
HARVEST FESTIVAL**
11-4 PM, Head House Square
(2nd & Pine).

October 26
**STARR GARDEN
HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL**
1-4 PM, Starr Garden.

October 26 (raindate 10/27)
**THREE BEARS PARK
HALLOWEEN PARTY**
4-6 PM.

SOCIETY HILL WALKING TOURS *Stroll and Learn*

Take one of the Foundation for Architecture's Society Hill walking tours (recently voted "Best of Philly"):

SOCIETY HILL STROLL
Sunday, October 13, 2 PM, \$5;
meet at Man Full of Trouble Tavern. Follow the architectural development as Philadelphia expanded westward, tracing its evolution from Georgian to Federal to Greek Revival. Learn about the social and economic changes that

have occurred in this neighborhood.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY HILL
Sunday, November 10, 2 PM, \$5;
meet at St. Peter's Church. From reclusive St. Joseph's to exuberant Old Pine Church, see how society has impacted religious structures. The tour includes beautiful examples of church architecture—and interiors which will surprise you.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ZONING
317 S. American Street—variance request for addition which would give 100 percent yard coverage. **OPPOSED**
3rd & Walnut (SE Corner)—plan for surface parking lot for 37 cars. **NOT OPPOSED**

LIQUOR CONTROL
Discussions are underway with the following:
Tijuana Yacht Club (formerly Flanagans), Chasers, Fridays (re sidewalk cafe).

Recycling Needs Help!

The SHCA recycling station has been a big success, currently handling more than a ton of clean recyclables each week. Users have commented that they like the opportunity that the extensive drop off hours afford. As a result of this success we are exploring some expansion alternatives.

Much of the success so far has been due to the diligent efforts of Don McNeil, and for his work he deserves our thanks. But, Don cannot continue by himself, so helpers are wanted to work on day-to-day management of the Starr Garden center. Only about 15 minutes each day and a half hour on Saturday is needed—so if you care about recycling and have a few minutes to spare—please call our office at 629-1288.

Join the Society Hill Civic Association Today!

Mail to:
Society Hill Civic Association
P.O. Box 3
Philadelphia, PA 19105
Attn: Treasurer

New Member Membership Renewal
Name _____
Address _____
Zip _____ Phone _____
Single (\$15) _____ Corporate (\$50) _____
Household (\$25) _____ Corporate Sponsor (\$100) _____
Donation _____

Make checks payable to Society Hill Civic Association.

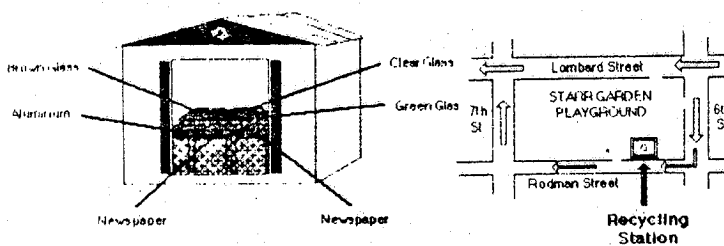
The Society Hill Recycling Station is located at Starr Garden Playground

Please bring CLEAN recyclables to the Starr Garden station, on Rodman at 6th Street, and sort them into the bins provided there. The station is open Monday through Saturday, from 11 AM to 8 PM.

Bins are provided for newspaper, aluminum, and for brown, green and clear glass.

NOTES:

Bundle your newspapers. Empty and crush aluminum cans. Empty and rinse glass (you can leave labels on). Leave no plastic, cardboard, steel/tins or trash. Carry your bags and boxes away with you. Leave the station at least as clean as you find it. And, thanks for recycling. It's important.



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