

SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

An independent newsletter published by the Society Hill Civic Association
in cooperation with the East Philadelphia Sun

Vol. 2, No. 3 • Issued March 10, 1992

NOTES from the President

NOTES FROM DICK OSTRANDER SHCA PRESIDENT

"Be Brief," that's what editor Bernie Hamel told me about the space available for "Notes." Here's brief.

General Membership Meeting

The March 18 General Membership Meeting at Old Pine Community Center should be a dandy! Superintendent of Independence National Historical Park, Martha Aikens, will greet us and give us the low-down on Park plans. Also, Captain John Collins of the 6th District Police, will tell us about security planning related to the start-up of the Camden Ferry service which begins March 31st. The

Preservation Committee has an update on the Penn Mutual buildings at 5th and Walnut Streets that border Independence Park. Finally, there'll be a presentation about South Street's exciting "7 Arts Festival" to be held in May. Add this to a full business agenda, including discussion of moving the 2nd and Spruce Street bus stop around the corner to Mattis/Dock Street, and I'll have to work pretty hard to get through the program by 10 pm.

Membership

Membership News is important to us right now as we convert to a calendar year basis. Special THANKS to chair Jane Brown and her crew of ten, including Rosemary Fleuhr who supplied the work space at Prudential for the recent phone follow-up to the membership mailing. Their efforts have us over the 300 mark. A list welcoming new members and the always available application form is located in this issue of the Reporter. (If you haven't yet joined.) Keep those forms rolling in, as we plan a terrific "Movie-At-The-Ritz Party" this spring. And, speaking of "Party," a very large THANK YOU goes to Judy DiVicaris and Bill Curry for the nifty reception they held for us at Hurricane Alley!

Wacky Name Tag Contest #2

We'll have Name Tag Contest #2 at our March 18 meeting. Of course, we'll provide ordinary name tags if you forget to design and wear your "goofy" or "most memorable" home-made version. But we think the Wacky Name Tag Contest is a more colorful way to get to know who our neighbors are. And if you're the winner, you'll go home with a nice bottle of wine—not to mention high visibility for your artistic endeavors! The only rule is that the basic card must not exceed 4" x 6". Go for it!!

City Hall Cleanup

Mayor Rendell has asked neighborhood groups to supply the person-power (elbow

Continued next page



PHOTO BY MARIAN DARLINGTON

NOT JUST "THE USUAL SUSPECTS" Reception at Hurricane Alley

No bragging here, but last month's Members Only Reception at Hurricane Alley/Cafe Nola was a terrific success! With no agenda other than to see familiar faces and meet new ones, the party for Association members accomplished what our busy general meetings often miss—getting to know our neighbors and reminding us how our unique community is filled with wonderful people!

We were, of course, delighted when Judy DiVicaris and Bill Curry, owners of Cafe Nola/Hurricane Alley, offered to host this reception for us. We expected that a nice array of (free!) hors d'oeuvres and drinks in an attractive setting would be a stimulus to lively conversation. We did not expect the cornucopia that they offered. The abundance and variety of goodies amounted to (let's face it!) just about a sit-down dinner for many of us. The New Orleans style buffet was filled with delicious shrimp, barbecued chicken wings, salads, rice dishes, vegetable fritters, and a full complement of drinks—all on the house. Truly, our cup runneth over!

We were thrilled with the turnout of new and familiar faces. It was a full house of more

than just the "usual suspects." Maybe the word "free," helped, but we were certainly delighted to match faces to names we recognized only from the mailing list. We conclude that the people in our community are beautiful, fascinating, worldly, simple, caring, inspiring—we could go on and on. But we won't. Instead, we're planning another get-together. Keep your eyes and ears open for news about our "Movie At The Ritz" night—coming soon!

Regarding our hosts, Bill Curry and Judy DiVicaris and their friendly staff: We cannot thank them enough! We want to tell all our neighbors (especially those who didn't make it that night and therefore cannot attest to the fact that the food at these festive, adjacent restaurants is very fine) that we recommend dining out at Cafe Nola or Hurricane Alley for any occasion. We encourage patronage of our friends in business.

(Photo: left to right, Mrs. Eleanor Snellenburg, SHCA Member; Bill Curry and Judy DiVicaris, hosts; Dick Ostrander, SHCA President; Fluffy Palmer, SHCA Administrator.)

SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

Society Hill Civic Association
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NOTES from the President

Refreshments will be served.

Recycling Increase at At Starr Garden

The amount of glass, newsprint and aluminum being collected at the SHCA Starr Garden recycling site has increased weekly since the glass collection igloos were installed. The exact amount will never be known, because street "collectors" with supermarket carts have relieved us of aluminum each week. The success of the site in the Southwest corner of Society Hill has spurred interest in finding another recycling site in the Northeast quadrant of our community. If you know of a possible location, please call our office at 629-1288.

Legislative Redistricting Report

SHCA Vice-president Steve Skale reports that the State Legislative redistricting process is complete. Society Hill winds up split into two districts. Our former representative, Babette Josephs, continues to represent neighboring districts.

The Towers plus other eastern blocks of our neighborhood will be part of the 175th District. Representative Jerry Kozinski is not

running for reelection, so primary time has special significance here. The balance of our area becomes part of representative W. Curtis Thomas' 181st District. He also has part of the 14th, 20th, 32nd, 37th, and 47th North Philadelphia wards. Mr. Thomas plans to stop by at our March 18th General Membership Meeting for introductions.

Jefferson Hospital Incinerator Update

I recently received a letter from Jefferson's Assistant Vice-president for Safety and Security, Martha A. Anderson, assuring us that it would continue to act in good faith and comply with the requirements of the contract they signed with SHCA in September 1989. A quote from the letter: "Although Jefferson's permit to construct and operate an infectious waste incinerator-scrubber facility is effective until 2001, we have no need to consider that option in the near future." Ms. Anderson stated that our Association acted as a catalyst in helping Jefferson develop an on-site recycling program that has very high compliance among staff and students.

grease) for an old-fashioned cleanup day at City Hall: Saturday, March 15, from 9:30 am—2:30 pm. Cleaning supplies and supervision, plus light refreshments will be supplied. Please sign up to be part of the SHCA cleanup gang, by calling me at 922-6179 or Becky Stoloff at 627-4910. Or, you can leave a message on the SHCA line, 629-1288.

Personal Safety Seminar

The University of the Arts is sponsoring a free lecture and film session on personal safety issues on Tuesday March 17 from 1—3 pm. The location is the Hunt Conference Room at Broad and Pine Streets. Several experts from the Police Department will be on the program, as well as Director of Public Safety, Joseph Garbarino.

SHCA Calendar

(clip & save)

Saturday, March 15 CITY HALL CLEANUP DAY

City Hall
9:30 am—2:30 pm

Tuesday, March 17 PERSONAL SAFETY FILM & LECTURE

University of the Arts,
Hunt Conference Room
Broad & Pine Streets
1—3 pm

Wednesday, March 18 SHCA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Old Pine Community Center
6:30 pm—Board Meeting **
7:30 pm—Refreshments/
Reception
8:00 pm—General Meeting
SPECIAL GUEST:
Superintendent
Martha B. Aikens,
Independence Park

Wednesday, April 15
SHCA BOARD MEETING **
Old Pine Community Center
7:30 pm

Friday—Sunday, April 24—26
"HPK" PLANT SALE
4th & Cypress Streets
Friday: 3—6 pm

Saturday & Sunday: 10 am—6 pm

** Open to all members



You are Invited to

HELP US SAVE THIS HISTORIC STRUCTURE!

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The Head House Conservancy is made up of people like you... people who love their neighborhood, the city of Philadelphia, and our Nation's architectural treasures.

You can make your contribution by dining at Dickens Inn and we will contribute \$4.00 for *every* dinner purchased to help restore The Head House. Simply bring this ad with you. (One ad per party.)

Valid through March (Saturdays excluded).

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Between Pine
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Philadelphia

Recycle Plastic Bottles!

On the first Saturday of every month, the Reading Terminal Market recycles plastic bottles. Bring your 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.

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SOCIETY HILL

Nicholas More Plaque Stolen!

At the southeast corner of 2nd and Spruce Streets there was a small plaque in the ground that told the story of how Society Hill got its name. The plaque read:

"The Nicholas More Site"
"This little triangular plot was the waterfront property of Dr. Nicholas More (c. 1638-1687) president of the Free Society of Traders for whom Society Hill was named. More was the first speaker of the Pennsylvania provincial assembly, (1682), the first chief justice (1684) and one of William Penn's five commissioners appointed to govern the province (1686)."

The marker was stolen some time in the first or second week of February. The loss was discovered by none other than Charles E. Peterson, Society Hill's own octogenarian historian and keeper of the Nicholas More flame. The plaque had little dollar value, but it had a

great deal of value to our community and to visitors of our historical area. The Society Hill Fund, our community's nonprofit, "good causes" fund has offered to pay for its replacement.

The plaque was dedicated by the Friends of Nicholas More on October 26, 1982 commemorating the 305th anniversary of the chartering of the Free Society of Traders in Pennsylvania. Dr. More was the first president of this society which was essentially a development group (called a "merchants' pool" back then) encouraging "the settlement of a company for trade" along the Delaware—what we call Penn's Landing. The Free Society of Traders was backed by William Penn in the 1680s and its purposes for "trade" were not unlike our own era's notions for development. Another similarity between yesterday and today is that although the

society remained in business until 1723, it never became a booming enterprise...

NICHOLAS MORE ANNUAL PARTY

Since the plaque's first dedication ceremony in 1982, the Friends of Nicholas More have been meeting annually. This year's luncheon gathering, scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, will begin with a traditional sip of Madeira (an 18th century choice wine). The event includes a walk past what was once Dock Creek, followed by a box-lunch and historical talk on the subject of Dock Creek. The talk will be given by Dr. A. Michal McMahon, associate professor at the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

All Society Hill neighbors are invited. For reservations or more information, please call Mr. Peterson at 922-3623.

Left to Right: City Councilman Joe Vignola; Head House Architect Roland Davies; State Senator Vincent Fumo; City Councilman Jim Kenney.



BERNIE CLEFF

Councilman Jim Kenney signs a blank slate, leaving his message for the "time capsule" campaign. Under the repaired roof a "time capsule" will be waiting to tell the story of how neighbors at the turn of the 21st century saved a unique 18th century building for their children's children.

YES, I want to help restore the Head House.

- Replace one roof slate at \$25
- Replace one cupola pedestal at \$50
- Repaint one shutter at \$100
- Fabricate one cornice crown molding at \$150
- Specific project of choice, such as regild the clock face

Please make your tax-deductible check payable to The Head House Conservancy. Mail to 302 South 2nd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106. For more information, call 925-3285.

Name _____
Address _____ ZIP _____
Phone (day) _____ (eve) _____

The Restaurants at Newmarket

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Governor



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Lautrec
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(215) 923-6660



Dickens Inn
Philadelphia

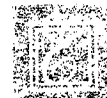
DICKENS INN PHILADELPHIA is a restaurant and pub created in the style of a 19th century English Inn with strong Dickensian association. It is housed in a building of charm and character which dates back to the early part of the 18th century.

2nd & PINE STREETS
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ZONING MATTERS

NW Corner of 3rd and South Streets

SHCA sent a letter supporting South Street Neighbors and Queen Village Neighbors asking that the Zoning Board of Adjustment turn down Mako's application to have a bar and game machines on the second floor of their building. All three civic groups oppose the application based on two factors: (1) It would have a negative impact on children who attend school less than 500 feet away from the establishment. (2) Mako's has not established trust with the communities due to innumerable citations from the Liquor Control Board (LCB)—for improper operation of the bar and for exceeding the limits of their permit.

Corner of 3rd and Walnut Sts
The Zoning Board of Adjust-

ment approved the variance for a commercial parking lot at the site—meeting the requirements set by SHCA and several other interested neighborhood representatives, including Society Hill Towers Owners' Association.

Delaware Riverfront Properties

At the suggestion of Duane Perry, LCB Committee Chair, efforts are underway to meet with neighboring civic associations who abut the waterfront in order to get a handle on what is happening there regarding development. The idea is that if we share common interests, we will be far more effective working together to achieve our goals. A meeting is planned for March 11, preliminary to meeting with Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC), the City's Planning Commission, and possibly Mayor Rendell.

—Lorna Katz Lawson

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee welcomes these new SHCA members:
Marcia Pintzuk
Jeanne & Harvey DeMovick
Valery Gilbert
Hulda & Robert Edelstein
Kathleen Brannon
Jo V. Seibert
Susan Hock & Jerrold

Schwaber Margery & Jim Covello
Meanwhile, if you haven't joined your community association for 1992, we ask that you fill out the coupon below—because your membership and your voice will make a difference in our neighborhood!

THE SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

If you didn't receive a 1992 membership renewal letter...it means, naturally, that you were not a SHCA member last year
WE WANT YOU TO JOIN US THIS YEAR!

Your membership and your voice will make a difference in our neighborhood.

Tear off and mail to:
Society Hill Civic Association
P.O. Box 3, Philadelphia, PA 19105
Attention: Treasurer

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Household \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Renewal | <input type="checkbox"/> Business/Corporate \$50 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Sponsor \$100 |

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Phone (day) _____ (eve) _____

I(We) would be interested in working with the following committees:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Liquor Control |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Town Watch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling | <input type="checkbox"/> Reporter/Sun newspaper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |

YOUR HOME IS YOUR PRIMARY INVESTMENT. PROTECT IT!

NEW SHOPS AT NEWMARKET

Two shops which opened recently at NewMarket are adding new life (and fresh aromas!) to an important area of Society Hill. We hope you will stop in and say hello to our new neighbors.

The Morning Cup Cafe

Jay Cornwall, the owner of this new cafe on the west side of Head House Square (422 S. 2nd Street) hails from Seattle, which is known as the number one coffee-drinking city in the USA. Jay is now intent on altering the taste buds of Philadelphians by offering us a wide selection of espressos and cappuccinos. His favorite bean choices—Espresso, Sumatran, Costa Rican, and Nicaraguan—derive from the Arabica bean, originally smuggled out from Africa. He does not use the ordinary Robusta bean which is found in the usual brew and which contains 2 1/2 times the amount of caffeine found in the Arabica bean.

You will find that The Morning Cup lives up to its name. The cafe opens on weekdays at 6:30, although with Jay's easygoing manner, he hardly conveys the impression of toiling. Let's wish Jay a hearty success with his new venture.

"Iris Flower Shop" Is Blooming

A beautiful new attraction has come to the east side of Head House Square (421 S. 2nd Street) —a flower shop owned by Diane Piorkowska, whose lovely accent hints at her Polish background. The iris remains Diane's favorite flower, hence the name of the shop.

Although Diane lives on the Main Line, she has always loved Society Hill, especially the NewMarket area. She feels that her shop is unique in that it contains a greater variety of flowers than most others, including a selection of bonsai trees.

Her best bargain for flower shoppers are roses, which sell for \$12 a dozen in yellow, pink, peach and white. Her dried flower arrangements are also very popular. Diane's goal is for more neighbors to know that the shop is open. So do cross over to the east side of the square. The Iris Flower Shop will put a smile on your face.

Recycle at Starr Garden

OLD PINE COMMUNITY CENTER

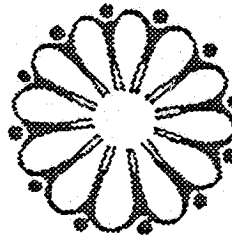
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