

# SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

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

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## NOTES from SHCA

The season of short days and holiday rush is rapidly arriving, and I extend good wishes to all as we look forward to a happy, busy time and the new year of 1993.

And, speaking of 1993, it's time to remind everyone that SHCA membership expires for the Year's Eve! You'll be getting renewal cards and the SHCA '93 calendar from the Membership Committee. Please renew early and often (as they say about you). One nifty perk for members only will be a February 8th reception at Hurricane Alley... It's free "meet & greet" your neigh-

bors occasion, hosted by the restaurant's owners, Bill Curry and Judy DeVicaris. **SAVE THE DATE.** Last year's Hurricane Alley Wing-Ding was a great success. We actually got to meet many new neighbors, and we also renewed acquaintances with people we hadn't seen for a while. It was all-around good fun. And the buffet that was served—free—was delicious, as well as plentiful!

Another early 1993 event that deserves your attention will be a special Dinner & Entertainment Night at Palumbo's—sponsored by the South Street 7 Arts Festival, a project of the fledgling South Street/Head House District. The event will inaugurate a "South Street Hall of Fame" to celebrate the heroes and heroines, not to mention the interesting "old-timers," of historic South Street. It's a neat idea. **SAVE THE DATE:** Monday, January 25th.

And, while we are jotting down notes in our spiffy new 1993 calendars, please also mark the following SHCA General Membership Meeting dates: January 20th, although the location is not yet final; and March 16th at the Society Hill Sheraton. Erin Feeney, Community Relations Director for the Sheraton, has confirmed that the Sheraton will host this meeting.

The "Project Street Trees" census of all our neighborhood trees (each tree's condition, needs, etc.) is now complete. The computer model is well along, and we anticipate year-end word on our grant application. It may seem like a long wait for spring at this point, but the planting season will happen upon us rather quickly—just about when we recover from the holiday season. We intend to be ready for it!

Look for your SHCA Membership Renewal letter soon. One of the options you will be offered is to have the East Philadelphia Sun/Society Hill Reporter mailed to you at an annual cost of \$5. The appli-



Left to right: Dick Ostrander, Myrna Field (hiding), Joy Lindy, Mel Buckman, Sid Hack, Jim Palmer, Herb Cohen, Anita Hack

## Theater & Dinner Party

Last month's theater & dinner party benefiting SHCA was a resounding success! Partygoers had an enjoyable dinner at Montserrat, followed by a lively performance of "Beau Jest" at the Society Hill Playhouse. The civic association

profited—in more ways than one—by depositing \$277.50 into the bank account, as well as socializing with old and new friends and neighbors. It was an evening well spent!

## SOME GIFT-GIVING IDEAS FROM SHCA

cation form is being modified to allow for this choice. This mailing option should be especially helpful for high-rise residents where distribution is not door-to-door, as well as for several streets that get only sporadic delivery.

Finally, a special note concerning the December SHCA meeting, which the Board voted TO CANCEL. Usually the third Wednesday of every month is reserved for a Board Meeting, while every four months the association has its General Membership Meeting for all members (also always on Wednesdays). Instead, for this December, the Board voted that there should be a special Executive Committee meeting on December 7th which will focus on developing a strategic plan for the civic association, with specific goals for the year 1993. Details will follow in the next issue of the Reporter and also at the January General Membership Meeting. Look for both!

—Dick Ostrander

**FLUFFY'S STOCKING STUFFERS**  
Fluffy Palmer, administrator of the SHCA, has two ideas for stocking stuffers that will benefit the association, as well as simplify your shopping list for the holiday season.

*The first idea:* Purchase a packet of ten-note cards, with the Society Hill Civic Association logo design imprinted on recycled, heavy-weight paper. The art work was done by Pamela Sinkler Todd, a well-known and respected local painter. A gift packet of ten cards costs only \$7 each. (See SHCA logo top left on page.)

*The second idea:* Join the discount club, "Entertainment '93," at the SHCA group cost of \$35 and save half the cost on almost everything you like to do. Membership in "Entertainment '93" provides substantial discounts at restaurants, hotels, plus big savings on vacations, airfare, and auto rentals.

Benefits include choosing from hundreds of two-for-one or 50% off coupons for dining at restaurants. Membership provides a restaurant directory, with current menus to help you choose, and a big family coupon book for discounts to a variety of places that range from the Philadelphia Zoo, the Walnut Street Theatre, the Philadel-

## MEMORIAL FAREWELL TO MILTON STOLOFF

On the night of October 28, or the early morning hours of October 29, our neighbor Milton Stoloff died suddenly.

Milton was a man full of passion for life, and so his untimely passing left bereft not only his wife, Becky, son, Andrew, and daughter-in-law, Leslie, but a great number of relatives, friends and hundreds of people in "our town," Society Hill.

Whether he was a close personal friend, a third cousin once removed, a business associate, or customer in the corner store, all who ever knew or dealt with him agreed that he was one of the most generous and most unforgettable people any of us are ever likely to know. Warm and funny, interested in you, interested in what interests you, he always elicited a smile.

We send our heartfelt sympathy to Becky, past president of the Society Hill Civic Association. Milton will be missed by all who knew him, and most certainly by our community, which both he and Becky have given to with so much of their expertise, energy and enthusiasm.

Neighbors are invited to celebrate the life of Milton Stoloff together with Becky, family and friends in a memorial service, to be held on Sunday, December 6 at 11:00 a.m. at the Settlement Music School, 416 Queen Street. Join us for music and shared memories of Milton.

Gifts in Milton's memory may be sent to the Settlement Music School.

Philadelphia Museum of Art, special events, sports, and, of course, restaurants of every conceivable ethnic, formal, or casual type.

Use of the "Entertainment '93" book only once or twice will cover the cost of the book. Everything else is, as they say, gravy...

To purchase either the note cards or coupon books, please call the SHCA office, at 629-1288 and leave a message. Fluffy will see that you receive your holiday purchases without hassle or delay.

## SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

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# Meet Our New SHCA Directors

The civic association has seven new Directors on board. Here is a chance to meet four of them. (These profiles would have been enhanced with accompanying photographs, but we were a little short on space. Sorry about that!)

Look for the next issue of the Society Hill Reporter to get to know other Board members.

**BEVERLY SHEIN SHERMAN**  
Beverly Sherman is the General Manager of the Society Hill Towers, a position she has held for seven years. She is employed by Camco, a management firm in contract with the Towers, and is also a Towers resident. She represents Towers' residents as a Board member to the civic association from both these perspectives.

Bev loves working for the Towers because of its "enlightened board of directors, a terrific team of employees, and an exceptional group of residents who are discriminating but appreciative of the services we work to deliver."

She is President of the Philadelphia Condominium Managers Association, the first woman to hold that office. Representing 40,000 condominium owners, PCMA has an active agenda of education, problem-solving and advocacy. She is also past President of the Executive Board of the Apartment Owners Association. She holds the respected Professional Manager Development Program diploma.

While her two grown sons have relocated to Seattle and Colorado, Bev remains happy to continue her lifelong residency of Philadelphia. She especially enjoys Center City life. "To me, living and working in Society Hill is ideal," she says. "I like looking out on the river, walking the charming streets, sharing the Towers campus with other residents, being part of this dynamic community. The restaurants, the theaters, the landmarks, the shops together create a style and tempo I find wonderfully exciting."

**RENCE F. MEEHAN, JR.**  
Rence Meehan is Director of the American Law Network, a business television network that broadcasts live educational programs throughout North America for attorneys, accountants, actuaries, insurance industry professionals, and environmental engineers. He is a graduate of Haverford College and Columbia University School of Law.

Larry, a Hopkinson House resident for the last sixteen

months, is their Board Representative to the SHCA. Although he has lived in Philadelphia for 15 years, he is new to Society Hill. He says he enjoys the area, and, in fact, is contributing heartily to the city's economy by patronizing restaurants about five times a week.

Larry is an avid theater fan who subscribes to every local theater company in the city. He also has a very strong interest in opera, and has an annual subscription to the Philadelphia Opera Company! He's also an active fund-raiser for the Haverford Alumni College Association, and he even finds time for his favorite sports of skiing and golf.

Now that he has joined the SHCA board, he expects to add local civic concerns to his list of involvements. He will be meeting soon with Hopkinson House management to see how distribution for this newspaper, the primary SHCA venue for information and communication, can be improved for residents of the building—so as to build a stronger Society Hill-Washington Square community.

**JUDY FRIEDMAN**

Judy Friedman, Board member representing the Northeast Quadrant of SHCA, has a broad work history—from English teacher to business owner to publishing representative; not-to-mention, full-time mom! Currently, she represents a publishing house that has little name recognition (Western Publishing) but is actually the publisher of the ubiquitous children's series popularly known as "Golden Books." Prior to this and for seven years, she was the owner of a catalog gift service ("In A Basket And More") which targeted the business community.

Judy a Philadelphia native, has lived in her 3rd Street home for ten years. When she and her husband moved to Society Hill, their youngest of three sons was in ninth grade.

Judy has a degree in English from Temple and a graduate degree in counseling from Villanova. Her interests are quite varied. She is fascinated by learning about other cultures, and loves to travel to far-away, often exotic places. At home, her interests include design and architecture. She is a member of several area museums and the World Affairs Council.

Judy says that she knows only the neighbors in her most immediate area, and so she looks forward to meeting many other

neighbors as a by-product of her participation in the civic association.

**MIFFY COONLY**

Miffy (Martha) Coonley has an interior decorating business, which she operates out of her Society Hill home. Along with her clients' projects, she is also engaged in a major renovation of her historic house on Pine Street (circa 1830s)—having transformed an apartment building into a single-family residence. She and her husband, Howard (a banker with CoreStates Bank) are one-year deep into this renovation so far.

Except for a two-year hiatus, when she moved into Howard's suburban home upon their marriage, Miffy has been a Society Hill resident since 1973. Miffy has two daughters, now 17 and 18 years old, who were raised in the community. Her remarriage to Howard has enlarged her family. Two stepchildren, 19 and 20 years old, are college students.

Miffy is a native of Lexington, Kentucky. She attended Sweet Briar College in Amherst, Virginia, where she majored in art history.

Miffy says "I feel very enthusiastic about living in the

city and have committed myself, financially, as well as emotionally." In these simple words, Miffy has expressed the sentiments of many, possibly all, SHCA members.

As a director representing the Southeast Quadrant of SHCA, Miffy thinks she will work with

the Membership Committee. She is optimistic that SHCA can be a very positive and proactive force, not only for our community, but for the entire city, as well.

**THE SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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

- New Member
- Membership Renewal
- Mail Sun/Reporter \$5
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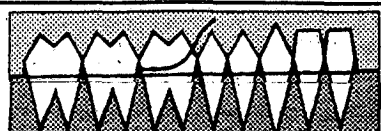
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Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (eve) \_\_\_\_\_

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

- Membership
- Neighborhood Maintenance
- Recycling
- Zoning
- Preservation
- Liquor Control
- Town Watch
- Reporter/Sun newspaper
- Legislative
- Other (please specify)

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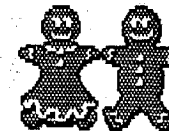
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## COMING UP: Membership Renewals

The Mission Statement of the By-Laws of this association deserve repeating here, since it is annual membership time.

### AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE SOCIETYHILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

The Society Hill Civic Association adopts the principles of the original policies underlying the redevelopment of this area, which called for a residential district in the human scale, urban in character, yet quiet, dignified and compatible with the area's history.

Membership in the Society Hill Civic Association costs very little, but it pays for a lot! Please don't take your civic association for granted. We do the best we can and we need your participation. The very least we ask of Society Hill residents is that you support the work we do by the simple act of renewing your membership, or becoming a member if you haven't yet joined or your membership has lapsed in recent years.

We have a stake in this community. The more you participate with us, the more you can help us keep the streets of our "little town" the wonderful, urban place it has been for so many years. It's true, we are not perfect. It's true, that at any given time a challenge confronts us that is not so simple to handle. But our civic association does

much more than provide a forum for addressing controversies!

Over the years we have been involved in many initiatives, too numerous to list. Currently, we are working on improving our street trees. You've heard about this in the last few issues, and you'll be hearing (and seeing!) more. "Project Street Trees" is a pro-active

step we are taking to keep our streetscape green. (As Kermit the Frog always says, "It's not easy being green!") "Project Street Trees" has at least 30 active SHCA members who have conducted a complete survey of all the trees in the neighborhood. The Project has applied for a \$5,000 grant, which, if awarded, will be used to underwrite the purchase of many community trees.

Another important initiative has been the restoration of historic Head House, at 2nd and Pine Streets. The Head House Conservancy has its genesis as a function of this civic association. Although more work remains to be done to this structural jewel in our community, a great deal has recently been accomplished at Head House, and it is once again beginning to resemble a building worthy of the designation "National Historic Landmark."

Ongoing committees are always working to preserve our unique neighborhood—either silently or vociferously. Whether its the Zoning Committee, the Recycling Committee, or the Committee responsible for writing the Society Hill Reporter every month, committee members devote their time, energy, and expertise to see that Society Hill is maintained according to its redevelopment goals, as described in the civic association's Mission Statement, printed above.

When you receive your Renewal letter for 1993, please respond promptly. You can clip out the coupon in this issue, or you can wait until you receive the letter. Any way you prefer, don't forget to join.

And please note that we are offering an option about how you would prefer to receive the East Philadelphia Sun/Society Hill Re-

## ZONING MATTERS

By Lorna Katz Lawson

### PARKING LOT AT 3rd & Lombard Streets

Neighbors had noticed that test borings were being taken on the open air parking lot, and they asked the SHCA Zoning Committee to look into the matter. Gloria Levin, owner of the property, was contacted. Ms. Levin said that although there were no set plans for the property as yet, test borings were being taken in anticipation that something might happen. Apparently, the geotechnical information had never been looked into by any previ-

ous developer of the property until now!

A possible theater deal is currently being worked on for locating a theater at NewMarket. (This is not the earlier proposal with the Drama Guild, but another group not named.) Ms. Levin has met with some community leaders about this new possibility, and she hopes to be ready for a public presentation at the civic association in the near future.

### ADDISON STREET TOWNHOUSE DEVELOPMENT (BETWEEN 6TH & 7TH STREETS)

The Zoning Committee received a call from Stephen Goldner, architect for a new potential developer of the property. Mr. Goldner requested an opportunity to present new plans for the houses—which are to be smaller than those originally planned for the site. Although a meeting time was tentatively set, it was later decided to defer the meeting with SHCA until the developer could be assured that financing would be made available for the project. Stay tuned.

### APPLICATIONS FOR LEGALIZING EXISTING SIGNS AT THRIFT DRUG AND TGI FRIDAYS

Because neighboring civic associations (both Queen Village and South Street Neighbors Associations) were not opposed to the existing signs at these establishments, SHCA did not appear at the hearings or send letters of recommendation. These businesses are technically not in the Society Hill

porter. (The Reporter section of this paper is your civic association's primary venue of communication. Published monthly, it keeps you in touch with what is happening in our community.) If you want to have the paper mailed to you, please check off that option in the renewal coupon. This will cost an additional \$5 per year, but it should be a worthwhile investment, as it will insure that you receive the paper every month.

Your membership and your voice will make a difference in our neighborhood! Please join us, and please consider becoming a more active member if you can. We need all the help we can get!

Renee's Catering, Inc.

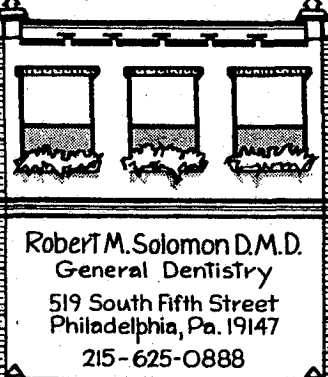
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district, and we followed our policy of supporting fellow civic associations.

### 423 PINE STREET

We spoke with the attorney representing the property owner about what progress had been made since the meeting between her and her neighbors. A new application was filed with L&I, but apparently the case has not yet been rescheduled. Meanwhile, the owner hired local architect, Roland Davies, to help her select a stucco process that will look good on the building. She is having bids submitted by contractors to determine whether the solution would be financially feasible for her. If the plan turns out to be practical, it will be presented to neighbors for their approval. The owner's attorney will keep SHCA informed of progress.

## SHCA Calendar

Monday, December 7  
**Executive Committee Meeting**  
(time & place to be decided)  
December Board Meeting  
Canceled!

**RENEWAL TIME FOR SHCA  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP!**  
(Look for Renewal Letter or  
use Clip-out Coupon  
in this issue)

Wednesday, January 20  
**General Membership Meeting**  
(look for time & place in next  
issue of the Reporter)

Monday, January 25  
**DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT  
AT PALUMBOS**  
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