

# SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

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

VOL. 3, No. 11 • ISSUED DECEMBER 7, 1993

## NOTES from SHCA President

start by wishing everyone a  
ost happy and exciting Holiday  
ason! Best wishes for a Healthy  
and prosperous 1994! Isn't it  
azing how quickly the years  
rm?

Random Notes to close the book

1993. Good news, as  
ud Friedman, long time  
acti member, has taken  
ver the chores of Admin-  
rator of the Association.  
ne phone number remains  
-1288. Join me in wish-  
g Judy good luck!

The Three Bears Park  
olution Committee made its  
al report November 17th. The  
esults of their arduous work is  
ow in the hands of Rec Commis-  
sioner, Michael DeBerardinis, and  
pefully the proposed modifica-

tions will be done over the winter.  
Thanks to the participants.

Jack Downey reported on plans  
for his new waterfront restaurant.  
Steve Goldner reported on plans  
for the 600 block of Addison for  
the third time. A sign will go up  
soon facing 6th Street, a ground  
breaking for eight new townhouses  
is scheduled for springtime.

The Starr Garden Recycling site  
is giving the three of us who take  
care of it, yours truly, Ted Robb  
and Ken Klass, fits as heavy use  
and continued flaunting of the few  
rules... no plastic, no tin and steel  
cans, bag or tie papers... makes it  
next to impossible to keep the area  
neat. We are considering  
closing the site as author-  
ized by the Board last  
month. In no case will it  
stay open after curb side  
recycling starts in March!

At the next Board meet-  
ing on Wednesday, Decem-  
ber 12, 7:30 p.m. at Old  
Pine Community Center, you are  
welcome to attend and share your  
view of neighborhood problems  
or concerns. See you there. Ciao!

—Dick Ostrander



## THREE BEARS/DELANCEY STREET PARK Agreement Reached!

After several meetings over the summer and fall  
months, the Three Bears Park Resolution  
Committee has come to an agreement about  
changes they will recommend to the City's  
Department of Recreation.

Two representatives from each of three groups  
(Friends of Three Bears Park, immediate neigh-  
bors of the park, and the Society Hill Civic  
Association) have ironed out some of their  
differences and have come to a compromise  
regarding proposed changes to the playground  
equipment that was installed without commu-  
nity input.

The dispute centered on the fact that the  
newly installed equipment was larger and out of  
scale with the size of the original park; that the  
colors were inappropriate to the historical in-  
tegrity of neighborhood; and that the replaced  
equipment took up more space than the original  
equipment—thus, changing the nature of the  
park into a playground and changing the ambi-  
ence of the quiet residential street.

The agreement involves changing of some of

the bright orange colors to tan, removing and  
capping some of the tall arches, replacing  
some equipment with others, and fixing or  
removing equipment that squeaks and dis-  
turbs the nearby neighbors. It also recom-  
mends the installation of a sign that will read  
as follows:

**WELCOME TO THREE BEARS PARK**  
This is a residential neighborhood.  
Please be considerate and observe the following:  
1. Curb your dog outside the park.  
2. No soliciting or alcoholic beverages.  
3. Place litter in proper receptacles.  
4. Refrain from excessive noise, especially be-  
tween 8 am and 8 pm  
**ENJOY THE PARK.**

These recommendations will be forwarded  
to the Department of Recreation and it is  
hoped that these changes will be made in the  
next few months, when park use is less heavy  
due to the cold winter climate.

## SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

Society Hill  
Civic Association  
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(215) 629-1288

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## PAYOFF IN EARLY 1994

### Project Street Trees... PLANTS!

Over a year of start and stop plan-  
ning and an area tree survey led by  
project chair Jean Bodine seems  
sure to pay off in early 1994. Final  
papers were delivered recently  
promising several thousand dol-  
lars to start the planting effort. The  
Committee will be announcing the  
several ways in which financial  
support will be offered soon. Watch  
the SUN or call Jean for more in-  
formation. Special THANKS go to  
a number of neighbors who heard  
of the Tree Project and went ahead  
on their own to plant new trees.

Continued tree planting and

maintenance is essential to the  
ambience of our neighborhood.  
The urban environment is very  
hard on trees. The city's budget  
crisis makes it unlikely that major  
funding will soon be available from  
that source. SHCA has a dedicated  
fund for the Tree Project... the  
money won't be used for any other  
purpose. You can make a special  
gift if you like. Tree project teams  
will also be asking neighbors to get  
together and cooperatively fund  
tree replacement where a property  
owner can't or won't do so. There  
will be exciting developments in

1994 as we start RE-GREENING  
the area!

Here's a recap:

- 90 letters sent to owners of prop-  
erty with dead or diseased trees or  
empty pits or stumps.
- 12 trees have been replaced by  
owners.
- 11 owners have pledged to re-  
place trees in the Spring replant-  
ing.

Teams have been formed to  
contact owners personally to en-  
courage participation.

## Forever Plaid

The Saturday, November 6th fund-  
raiser for the Society Hill Civic  
Association, a special perform-  
ance of the musical "Forever Plaid"  
Newmarket's New Cabaret The-  
atre, raised \$1,400 for Project Street  
Trees, the restoration of the nei-  
ghborhood's Franklin street lam-  
p and for the Head House Con-  
servation.

A wonderful time was had by  
the 150 neighbors and friends  
adorned in plaid of course, who  
attended. Of particular note was  
the "wonderful" hors d'oeuvre  
supplied by the Chef's Market.

Photos from the event are on the  
next page. (And elsewhere.)



was shown by Lisa Roberts and David and George and Rosemarie Scarpullo

## Christmas For Children at Old Pine Church

Christmas Eve is children's time at Old Pine. It's the time when children of all ages are invited to take part in the Nativity story by coming dressed as their favorite characters in the Biblical accounts.

Every year, children from Old City, Queen Village, Society Hill and even further come costumed as shepherds, angels, wise men—even sheep!—and come forward as the ancient story is read.

This year Old Pine will host a workshop so children—ages 2-6—can make the crowns, wings, and halos they will wear on Christmas Eve.

Time for the workshop is

10:30-12:00 noon on Sunday, December 19th at the church. Materials and adult supervision will be provided. There is no charge.

Then all children and their families are invited to come to the children's service, Friday, December 24th, at 7:30 pm at the church.

All are welcome to share Old Pine's candle lit beauty and rediscover through the eyes of a child the mystery, joy, and wonder that is Christmas.

"Old Pine Street" Presbyterian Church, (Third, Scots, and Mariners) 412 Pine Street. For information about services and activities, please call 925-8051.

## Head House Clock

Continued from front page

Because the interior had to be made ready for the District's use, the Head House Conservancy went out on a financial "limb" hoping that contributions would equal expenses. This didn't happen, and now the Conservancy must raise at least an additional \$10,000 in order to finish paying the contractors for the work completed.

The Conservancy is entirely volunteer run, with no paid staff, and most of every dollar raised has been spent directly on the structure. A restoration project of this magnitude would normally cost about \$500,000, but with many donations of materials and professional labor, the Conservancy has kept the cost of the entire job down to the range of \$160,000. (A breakdown of funds received thus far: 60% from grants, 22% from neighbors and friends, the rest from fund-raising events and sales.)

A neglected part of our community has been faithfully restored and made useful again. The preservation of this "National Historical Landmark" will enhance the value of all area properties, and the presence of the South Street/Headhouse District will revitalize our streets, bringing benefits to the neighborhood, as well as to the entire city.

We hope you will respond generously to this appeal. Please mail your tax-deductible donations, before year's end, to: The Head House Conservancy at 302 South 2nd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106. If you have any questions or require additional information, feel free to call at 925-3285.



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### HOLIDAY ITEMS

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### Season's Greetings

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Have a Rotten Day



In plaid are Lynn Enderby, Martha Moore (co-chair of the event) and Mary Joyce Enderby.

## SHCA Calendar

(clip & save)

Tuesday, December 7  
**Washington Square  
 Tree Lighting and  
 Cocktail Party for Members**  
 at Locks Gallery  
 5:00 to 7:30 PM  
 Entertainment

Friday, December 10  
 Noon to 9 PM

Saturday, December 11  
 9 AM to 7 PM

Sunday, December 12  
 9 AM to 4 PM

**St. Peter's School Holiday  
 Market**

Trees, Wreaths, Poinsettias,  
 Gifts, Books, etc.  
 Third & Lombard Streets

Wednesday, December 15  
 7:30 PM

Old Pine Community Center  
**Board of Directors Meeting**

Sunday, December 19  
 10:30 AM to 12:00 Noon

**Free Workshop for  
 Children 2 to 6 years old**  
 Make Costumes for Holiday  
 Pageant

Old Pine Street Presbyterian  
 Church  
 412 Pine Street

Friday, December 24  
 7:30 PM

**Children's Service for Christ-  
 mas**

Old Pine Street Presbyterian  
 Church

Call 925-8051 for information

Happy Holidays!  
 Peace and Joy for 1994!



(Above) Bernie Clef, Steve & Linda Skale, Mrs. Clef.  
 (Below) Howard Lander, Dick Ostrander, Nancy Hallman (co-chair of the event), Jim Cavello



## SHCA Membership Note

Co-chairs Miffy Coon-  
 and Judy Friedman will be  
 you renewal letters the  
 of the month. All SHCA  
 are on a calendar  
 as we ring in  
 The only exceptions  
 few new members who  
 October 1st and are  
 with paying through

There are new and special bene-  
 fits for 1994 including a MEM-  
 BERS ONLY reception in February  
 and discounts at a number of area  
 restaurants and businesses. The  
 information will be in the renewal  
 letter. Your support and action is  
 what makes SHCA an effective  
 voice for preservation and im-  
 provement of our quality of life!

### 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
- Household \$25
- Membership Renewal
- Business/Corporate \$50
- Mail Sun/Reporter \$5
- Corporate Sponsor \$100

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (eve) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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## NOTES from SHCA President

Seems like I talk a lot about the seasons in this space. Probably because I like the changes and we're on the cusp of another. My wife, Liz, won't let me kill the hardy Impatiens in our May basket on the front door, but quite soon I'll join the many who have already hung dried cornucopias and other arrangements on their doors. I hope many of you are planning bright holiday decorations to get us through the dark months ahead—November, December, and January.



The aftermath of the Elisha Webb maritime building's demolition seems to be renewed concern about our historic heritage. A broad spectrum of persons knowledgeable and interested in the economic as well as cultural importance of preservation are working to prevent any further destruction of these

irreplaceable resources. I will keep you posted about an agenda that preservationists, property owners, and the city can hopefully adopt. There may be a conference on these issues in the near future.

Speaking of losses, I have to accept the resignation of Fluffy Palmer as the SHCA administrator. But along with the rest of the Board, I wish her well as her career in public arts flourishes and demands more of her time and thank her for her five and a half years of service to us.

I hope to see many of you Saturday, November 6 at the New Cabaret theatre at NewMarket for the cocktail party at 6:30 and performance of *Forever Plaid* at 8:00.

Despite the weather, we had almost 100 neighbors and volunteers out for Clean Up Day. Good Job!

Finally, the next board meeting, which is open, is 7:30 PM at the Old Pine Community Center. I've been told the Three Bears Park Resolution Committee has reached an amicable consensus and will present a report. We are all anxious to put this painful and divisive experience behind us while taking heed of the lessons learned.

Ciao!

—Dick Ostrander

## LAST CALL

There are only 50 tickets left for Saturday, November 6 cocktail party and performance of *Forever Plaid* at the NewMarket New Cabaret theatre, 2nd and Lombard Streets. Call Nancy Hallman at 928-0889 to reserve your place. Let's make this a sell-out event. Proceeds will benefit Project Street Trees, Franklin lamp restoration, and the Head House maintenance endowment.

All tickets are being held at the will-call table at the theatre for us.



Pennsylvania Hospital and Mercer-Hall volunteers gather together before their big sweep.

## SWEEPING IN THE RAIN Clean-Up Day a Big Success

Neither rain nor cold could keep Society Hill neighbors and volunteers from their appointed rounds to clean up on Saturday, October 30. Nearly fifty volunteers from Pennsylvania Hospital led by president Cliff Eldredge and his wife swept and raked from 6th Street to 12th Street from Locust to Lombard. More than a dozen volunteers from the Independence National Historic Park Service covered from 4th to 6th Streets. With their crisp green uniforms and power equipment, they attacked leaves and trash like Marines taking a beach. Mercer-Hall residence fielded a team of 17 workers. They were joined by neighbors in every block who raked and bagged. Peggy Davies even got help from two of the street people, Joe and Bob, who are regulars on a bench near her home, for several hours of picking up, raking, and bagging.

Hardy workers enjoyed pizza and sandwiches under the refurbished Head House Shambles. Once again, Pizzeria Uno and TGI Friday's provided the lunch and Jack Downey sent over his Irish Whiskey cake for dessert.

Thanks go to Frank DiCicco and his son for operating the street sweeper from the Citizens Alliance for Cleaner Neighborhoods. Janet

Samuels, the principal of the McCall School, graciously allowed Waste Management to put their donated dumpster on the school's parking lot. Roger Tenant from Philadelphia More Beautiful provided brooms, bags, and signs for

alternate parking. Captain Joseph O'Donnell of the Sixth Police District personally ordered his officers to keep traffic moving and got extra signs when there were not enough about parking.

In addition, these businesses paid for the street banners to publicize the event: first, CoreStates, then J-Brite Cleaners, Abbotts Square, PNC Bank, Washington Square Paint and Hardware, and the real estate companies, Jackson Cross, Harold S. Levin, Plumer-Levit, Midtown, and Washington Square.

Some logistics still need work, like the parking ticketing. Any suggestions are welcome before it is time to do this again May 7.

Co-chairs Howard Lander, Miffy Coonley, and Mary Sturdivant would also publicly like to thank their dedicated committee members, Marion and Joe McKone, Ruth and John McKeivitt, Jim Covello, president Dick Ostrander, vice-president Larry Meehan, and Nancy Hallman who distributed flyers, put up the parking signs, and then took them all down promptly. For all those neighbors who helped—good job, the place looks great. This is the best neighborhood to live in—in all of Philadelphia. Just ask Joe or Bob.



Joe McKone, above, set the standard for attire. Independence National Historical Park, below, provided professional muscle



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## THREE BEARS PARK Decision Forthcoming

Delancey Street Park (Three Bears Park) Resolutions Committee met on October 26 with the intention of coming to a final decision regarding the ongoing conflict about this central site in Society Hill. You may recall SHCA's original plan for mediation: two differing groups—"Neighbors of Three Bears" and "Neighbors of Delancey Street Park" (the latter during the summer months)—SHCA representatives would meet with all six committee members (two, two, and two) could arrive at a plan acceptable to the community and concerned or involved neighbors could live with. It was expected that the committee

would report back to the Civic Association with a final decision in September.

Any agreed-upon changes are supposed to be made during the cold winter months when, presumably, there is less use of the park—so that there will be a minimal amount of disruption to the park's frequent users.

We're waiting for the committee's decision, and hopeful that by the next SHCA meeting, November 17 (of this year!) the committee will have signed off on an agreement and will announce that decision publicly.

This paper will keep the community informed.

## ZONING COMMITTEE 6XX Addison Street

The last major undeveloped site in Society Hill (the former Octavia Hill property) is again being proposed for development. On October 5th a meeting was held with the SHCA Zoning Committee and nineteen residents, primarily immediate neighbors, in order to hear the developer's proposals. A follow-up meeting with the developers was held on Wednesday, October 20 with the Board of SHCA.

The new developers are MSR Associates, an entity composed of Marvin Levin, a real estate investor, Stephen Mark Goldner and Richard Kline of G&K Associates, architects. (Mr. Goldner and Mr. Kline were the architects for the failed developer

of the site, J.J. Lynch in 1988.)

The new plan, in contrast to the previous one, provides for eight luxury townhouses (instead of six), each provided with a two-car garage and several decks facing the Lombard Street houses. By utilizing the parking area on the east end of the site—which in the Lynch's plan was to be deeded parking for the Lombard Street houses—the developer was able to design two additional townhouses on the site. These three-story houses will contain approximately 2,300 square feet of space and will be marketed in the \$250,000-\$300,000 range. The exterior design will be predominantly brick masonry.

Although this new development is an opportunity for the community to be finally rid of an eyesore that has frustrated immediate neighbors for years, at the October 5th meeting some neighbors expressed concern that the project might again become abandoned in midstream—due to lack of financing, as in the case of the failed Lynch project. Another major issue of concern has to do with the scheduling of the entire project and the maintenance of street access for neighbors during the construction period. Secondary con-

cerns involve the aesthetics of the facades and the sidewalks; issues of privacy vis a vis the rear decks; and the number of off-street parking spaces available.

At the second meeting on October 20th, the developers presented the actual site plans that will be used in their zoning application process. (Zoning variances will be required.) Sensitive to the needs of the neighbors, they assured the community of the following points:

- Construction of the project would commence in Spring 94, and will be continuous until all of the exterior shells are completed. The initial models will start at the west end of the site.

- Any damage to the street, walkways or landscaping on Addison Street will be fully restored when construction is completed.

- The existing Hawthorn trees will be protected and saved. Any that must be removed, to accommodate design elements, will be replaced with similar caliper trees as soon as the exterior

construction is completed.

- The architects promise to instruct all contractors to make deliveries in minimum size vehicles. Overnight or permanent blockage of access to the street and/or adjacent parking areas will be avoided to minimize nuisance to the neighbors.

- The architects assure the community that they will keep in close contact with the SHCA and neighbors, and will keep the SHCA apprised of applications, hearing dates, and refusals—the project proceeds from planning to construction phase.

According to Mr. Goldner, there is no construction financing in place at this time—because until zoning variances have been approved by the City, there is no point in going through the process of applying for financing. However, Bank of Old York Road has indicated its willingness to provide financing for the project, if necessary.

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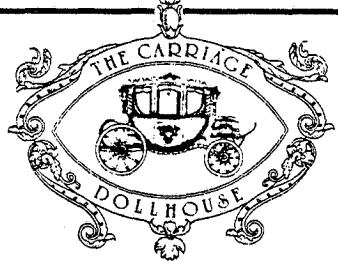
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## Safety and Security

Safety and security always concern urban dwellers, even in a lovely residential area like Society Hill. This is a community of proactive doers. So when it seemed daytime break-ins and attempted break-ins from rooftops had increased, the Redenbaughs decided to do something about it and called their neighbors on the block together for a meeting. Everyone has been cautioned to be more alert, exchanged phone numbers to contact each other immediately, and have plans to increase lighting in the garage and alley areas.

Meanwhile, Mel Buckman and his Town Watch committee have organized

a special program about safety and security for Monday, November 15 at 7:30 PM at the Old Pine Community Center, 4th and Lombard Streets. John Lynn will demonstrate Quorum Personal Attack Defense products. Vincent DeValerio of Vector Security will present home security systems. Kate Calvano from Women Organized Against Rape offers practical advice on crimes against women. Officer Mike Fusco from the 6th Police District has a VCR tape on street smarts. The prepared portions of the meeting will last about an hour with time left for questions.

## FLUFFY PALMER Thanks!

After five and a half years, Fluffy Palmer has resigned as administrator for the Society Hill Civic Association to pursue her career in public works art projects. Fluffy currently is bidding on three projects around the country and just returned last month from an installation in Alaska.

Fluffy said, "It doesn't feel like good-bye because I am still doing so many things in the community. Just a change." She also noted that she saw a change in the SHCA from focusing on legislation to improving quality of life specifically in Society Hill. "I think that is good." Fluffy herself pushed through legislation that only allows licensed dumpsters on public walkways. She will remain active in her own civic association, the South Street Neighbors and with the new special services district.

She finds public art so rewarding because she can see how the people will use it, live with it, and enjoy it. She said she did not have that with pieces created in her studio and sold to the client through a dealer or gallery. The project in Alaska was won because she had proposed bringing daylight into the school; and the sun-deprived northerners loved the idea.

Fluffy, good luck and adieu!

## NOTES

### Help Wanted:

SHCA is seeking a center city resident (preferably a neighbor) for part-time administrative work to organize office and help committees. Word processing skills needed, and record keeping on an IBM computer helpful. Apply by writing to SHCA, Box 3, Philadelphia, PA 19105. We would like to hire someone before November 17.

### Volunteers:

If anyone would like to volunteer their time to Pennsylvania Hospital, please call Suzanne Honeycutt at 829-5187.

...  
Please support those businesses and organizations that support us  
...

### For the Kids:

The "Enchanted Colonial Village" will be open from November 20th through December 31st. This historic Lit Brothers Department Store Christmas exhibit will be open to the public at Market Place East, located at 7th and Market Streets. The 3/4 life size scale model toy village features nine of the original delightful 15 shops (barber shop, butcher shop...) and is a "must see" for kids of any age. For more information call 922-3031

## SHCA Calendar

(clip & save)

Tuesday, November 2  
**Vote YES for Preservation**  
Key 93

Saturday, November 6  
**Cocktails 6:30 PM**  
**Forever Plaid 8:00 PM**  
**New Cabaret Theatre**  
2nd and Pine Streets  
Tickets: \$30  
Call 928-0889 to reserve.

Monday, November 15  
7:30 PM  
**Safety & Security Program**  
Old Pine Community Center  
NW Corner 4th & Lombard

Tuesday, November 16  
6:30 PM  
Public Hearing  
Society Hill Sheraton  
1 Dock Street  
**Bus 42 Route changes**

Wednesday, November 17  
7:30 PM  
**SHCA Board of Directors Meeting**  
Old Pine Community Center  
NW Corner 4th & Lombard Sts.

Thursday, November 25  
**Thanksgiving**  
Bless Us All

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110 Spruce—Large family size comtemp. 4BR, 3-1/2 Bths, Elk, garden, 2 car garage, parking! Award winning design! \$450,000

240 Locust—Award Winning contemporary with a 4BR, 3 Bth, Eat-in kitchen, elevator, garden, 2 car parking, New Price! \$385,000

419 Quince St.—Charming 3BR on quiet street, features LR with fpl, hardwood flrs, spacious master suite and garden. \$165,000

105-B Lombard—Hi-tech 2BR with state-of-the-art kitchen, LR w/fpl, green house, jacuzzi, buildt-in audio/visual. MUST SEE! \$159,000

130 Spruce—Sunny 1BR, deeded parking, Eat in kitchen \$83,000

304 Kauffman—Charming 2BR trinity with colonial features. Quiet Street, hardwood floors, fpl, great garden. \$75,000

Washington Mews—Great buy! Bi-level 2BR, fpl, hardwood floors \$65,000

228 Catharine—Why rent when you can own! Affordable trinity in private court, hardwood floors, central air. Reduced! \$43,000

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The Artful Dodger  
Beef and Ale House

# SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

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

VOL. 2, No. 11 • ISSUED OCTOBER 27, 1992

## NOTES from SHCA President

Time flies when you're having fun! I think I used that cliché opener in my letter, but it sure is flying... soooooo you must be having a real ball.

### Money Talks

If you wonder what SHCA does with its limited resources, you can feel good today knowing that your dues help support some new and very valuable community causes. For example, the Board voted to provide "Project Street Trees" with \$1000 as seed money at the October 21st Board meeting. Note, this is one time that the term "seed money" is being used

in both a figurative and literal sense!) The Board also voted to donate some helpful dollars to the new South Street Police Detail, a local mini-station at 917-A South Street. We also joined with the Head House Conservancy in underwriting half the \$200 cost of a visual display representing Head House as a symbol of Society Hill. In a new program at the airport, unsold advertising spaces will be featuring historic scenes or places of interest that visitors may want to see. Free space has been offered to us by "Philadelphia-First," and we will soon have a 3 foot by 4 foot



back-lighted photograph of this treasured neighborhood scene whenever an advertising space becomes available at the airport.

### The Re-Greening of Society Hill

The census for "Project Street Trees" is virtually complete, and the computer data is being developed by Alan Selsor. Our grant application is being readied for submission to "America The Beautiful" by the October 31 deadline, and we expect to be planting trees and trying to raise more money—so that we can plant even MORE trees in the spring. Call Jean Bodine (627-8393) to volunteer or for latest information of the Re-greening of Society Hill.

### Good Times

"Frank Johnson's Place," the State Historical marker was dedicated at his birthplace, 536 Pine Street on a sunny October 3rd morning. The West Point Military Academy Band was GREAT!! The speeches, thankfully, were short and entertaining, and the picnic that followed at Starr Garden playground was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended—especially the kids who lined up for Fluffy Palmer's expert face and arm paintings. More about Frank Johnson, composer/musician born 200 years ago: An evening

Continued on 3rd page

## MAILBOX

### Society Hill Towers Fence

Letter to the Editor  
Ms. Bernice Hamel  
Society Hill Reporter

Roger Thanhauser  
SHTOA Council Member

Oct. 23, 1992

Dear Ms. Hamel:

RE: Corrections to Article on Towers Fence in September 29 issue

First: Mr. Siegel indicated that he spoke for himself, not for the Society Hill Towers Owners' Association (SHTOA) and its Council. As a matter of fact, at a July meeting attended by the majority of Council members, it was agreed not to continue rezoning efforts required for the proposed fence.

Second: Jeremy Siegel is vice-president, not president of SHTOA.

Third: The concept for the fence as presently proposed was not the concept of an outside security consultant. The security consultant described a barricade which would entirely encircle the Towers on all sides. Although I will not address the merits of such a plan, from a security point-of-view, it is conceptually incompatible with Mr. Siegel's proposal. On the other hand, from a common sense point-of-view, the notion of one-half fence is incongruous with security.

Fourth: The article presents the general impression that most Towers residents and the Council wish to segregate themselves from the community. This is not the case. Many of us thrive on the stimulation of City living, and are very involved with neighborhood activities.

Security is a legitimate concern in contemporary urban life. Unfortunately, undue concern can cause inordinate fears and feed a sense of insecurity. Yet, we are not absolved of fear by handguns or fences, but by confidence.

In conclusion, it seems to me that the ideal of openness expressed by Stanhope Browne at the recent Civic Association meeting is both pragmatic and praiseworthy.

Very truly yours,

Editor's Note: For those who did not read last month's article about the proposed fence, the following summary should put Mr. Thanhauser's letter in perspective.

Mr. Jeremy Siegel made a presentation to the SHCA General Membership Meeting on September 16 regarding a proposal to install a seven-foot high, metal fence around the northern end of the Towers. Mr. Siegel claimed that his presentation to SHCA was essentially a courtesy to the community, as well as a precursor to filing for a variance with the City's Zoning Board. At that meeting, Mr. Siegel sought SHCA support for this proposal—or he hoped that, at worst, the association would not oppose the concept.

Mr. Stanhope Browne, a neighbor and Chairman of the Penn's Landing Corporation, responded in length to the fence proposal, and his comments echoed the thoughts of many members at the meeting. He urged that the principle of openness and a "greenway," park-like system be maintained in modern Society Hill. Mr. Browne argued that the proposed fence would begin an inevitable decline of Society Hill as we know and love it, because the fence would create an "enclave mentality" and advertise to the world that crime has taken over our community.

After discussion, SHCA voted to "vigorously oppose" the fence, while encouraging the establishment of a joint SHCA and Towers committee to find ways of coping with the Towers' perceived security problems. When an update on the fence proposal was requested at last week's October 21 SHCA Board Meeting, the group was informed by Beverly Sherman, the Towers' Board representative, that there was "no current news" to report on the matter.

The Society Hill Reporter will report developments when and as they occur.

**We are not  
absolved of  
fear by  
handguns  
or fences,  
but by  
confidence.**

## SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

Society Hill Civic Association  
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**Bernice Hamel, editor**  
STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE  
**Dick Ostrander**  
**Mary Sturdivant**

Contributions Welcome!  
Phone: 925-4363  
Fax: 925-0877

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# "BEAU GEST" AT SOCIETY HILL PLAYHOUSE Theater & Dinner Party to Benefit SHCA

Do you like to accomplish two things at one time? If you're anything like the rest of us, you probably do. That's why we recommend that you join us on Thursday night, November 5th. We've planned a dinner and theater party for the benefit of our very own civic association in our very own corner of the world, and we've negotiated a special, package rate so that everybody can afford an evening of entertainment while also helping support SHCA. Please keep reading. We want to tempt you...

"Beau Jest," currently still playing to sellout crowds in New York City, is now playing at the Society Hill Playhouse. The play, which first opened in Chicago in 1989 and opened in New York last fall, has been heralded by the New York Times as a "new comedy." Variety said that it is "funny, charming and clever." Written by James Sherman, the play is a warm, human comedy that explores today's often-complex relationships.

Last month "Beau Jest" arrived in Philadelphia. The play is being produced by special arrangement with

Arthur Cantor and the New York "Beau Jest" company, and is directed by the Society Hill Playhouse co-founder and managing director, Deen Kogan. (The

Sarah Goldman, a single young woman. Sarah has been dating a WASP-ish boyfriend of whom her emphatically Jewish parents wholeheartedly disapprove. To

or not!" When her parents ask to meet this beau, Sarah hires a professional escort to portray a flesh-and-blood version of "Dr. David Steinberg." And that's just the beginning...

Well, that's the beginning of the plot, but not the beginning of our evening out on the town. Our evening begins at 6:30 for dinner at Montserrat, located on South Street, around the corner from the theater. Dinner choices include either seafood, chicken or vegetarian entrees, with salad and complimentary wine.

We've arranged the benefit party to be price-friendly. The total cost for both dinner and theater is \$35. You can't beat that! Although, if you cannot join us for dinner, tickets for the play only are \$20 each—our special, group rate.

Here's what you can do to join our merry group: Simply cut out the coupon below, and enclose your check in the correct amount. The tickets will be there for you at either the restaurant or the theater. But do act.



Society Hill Playhouse is a non-profit public theater, located at 507 S. 8th Street.) "Beau Jest" is a modern romantic comedy that centers on the relationships of

appease them, she devises a little harmless pretense—inventing the perfect boyfriend. As she says: "My parents are determined to make me happy, whether I like it

## WHAT DO YOU THINK? SUN Distribution

The Society Hill Reporter is your civic association's primary venue for communication. The amount of volunteer time it takes to write and produce this monthly paper is considerable, but we consider having a direct line to you essential. That's why we do it.

One of the major frustrations of this effort, however, has been its unreliable method of door-to-door distribution. It's an old problem that plagued us when producing the Society Hill Resident Newsletter four times a year. And it plagues us still—because many SHCA members tell us that they seldom, if ever, receive the issues.

One of the solutions we considered back then and again today is the possibility of mailing every issue to all SHCA members. To do this would be costly—our main reason for not proceeding with the idea. On the other hand, if we do not reach out to all members and find that we talk only to ourselves, we are defeating the sole purpose of the effort.

So we'd like to consider experimenting with the mail for future issues. In order to pay for the cost of mailing the issues, however, we might have to increase yearly SHCA membership dues from \$25 per household to \$30.

What do you think? Would you be willing to pay an increase of \$5 each year for SHCA membership in order to receive regularly and reliably your Society Hill Reporter? Please let us know, because we cannot second-guess you. So leave a message on the office machine with your opinion (629-1288). We'll keep count of yeas and nays, but because we'd love to see you, we'd prefer that you come to our next meeting (Wednesday, November 18 at 7:30 pm) and tell us personally what you think of this idea—or any other hot topic on our agenda.

### 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
- Household \$25
- Membership Renewal
- Business/Corporate \$50
- Corporate Sponsor \$100

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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)

YOUR HOME IS YOUR PRIMARY INVESTMENT. PROTECT IT!

### YES, I WANT TO JOIN THE DINNER-THEATER PARTY TO BENEFIT SHCA

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ package tickets for dinner and theater (\$35)

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ theater tickets only (\$20) TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: Fluffy Palmer, 636 Kater St., Phila. 19147  
PHONE ORDERS: Call SHCA Office at 629-1288



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### Open Houses

Thursday Nov. 19th  
9:00 - 11:00 P.M.



# Recycling Tips

The Starr Garden recycling site continues to be a great success BUT would be much easier to keep neat if users would follow the few simple rules outlined below:

1. **CRUSHED aluminum cans only.** (Most vegetable and large cans are non-recyclable metals.)
2. **BAG or BUNDLE NEWSPAPERS** and leave them **IN** the bags or bundles for easier handling. (Most papers are handled at least twice after you leave them at the site.)
3. **NO PLASTIC.**
4. **GLASS: CLEAR, BROWN or GREEN** in the marked "igloo" containers, next to the fence on Rodman Street.

Thanks for your continued cooperation.

## NOTES from Dick Ostrander

of his music at the Academy is being featured on Friday, November 11, with a reception to follow at the Hilton Ballroom. Details at the Academy Box Office: 893-1999. Half-price tickets for seniors.

### Volunteers Go Directly To Heaven

**SOCIETY HILL REPORTER:** This paper may look professional, but trust us, we're strictly volunteers and we need your input—because we can't read your minds! If you have ideas for articles, or if you want something publicized, please communicate these ideas to us. "Letters to the Editor" are always welcome, as are photos or newsworthy items of local interest. Please feel free to submit them.

Call either the SHCA office at 629-1288 or the editor at 925-4363. We now have a fax number, so you can even fax your material directly to us. Jot the number down: 925-0877.

**RECYCLING:** Ken Klass will be calling all those who indicated interest in recycling. (His number, by the way, is: 923-4302) More volunteers are needed for the Saturday, 9:30 am work session at the Starr Garden site—getting ready for the trucks to pick up about 10:30. (There's a repeat of recycling DOs & DON'Ts elsewhere in this issue.)

**MINI-STATION:** The new police mini-station needs more people to man the phones. You can arrange for a 2-hour shift to be a phone desk person by calling volunteer coordinator, Judy Speilman at 922-1916.

### SHCA Theater & Dinner Party

Friday, November 5th, the Society Hill Playhouse hosts the SHCA Theater Party for an 8 pm performance of "Beau Jest," a romantic comedy. SHCA members and friends are being offered a special package for \$35 that includes a

6:30 pm dinner at Montserrat (on South Street) followed by tickets to the play (which is just around the corner from the restaurant). Theater tickets alone cost \$20, but we think you will enjoy both dinner and theater, especially at these special prices.

So, put a table of four or six people together, or just bring yourself to Montserrat to meet friends and neighbors and schmooze over the hors d'oeuvre buffet. Then sit down to be served a seafood, chicken or vegetarian entree, with salad and choice of complimentary wine. The dinner party ad-

journs to the Society Hill Playhouse for the mainstage presentation of Beau Jest at 8 pm. There's more info about the play in the article in this issue as well as an order form you can mail to 636 Kater Street. Or, you can simply call the SHCA office at 629-1288. Any way you like it, you're sure to like it! So join us for an evening of fun while helping support your community organization.

## SHCA Calendar

(clip & save)

Saturday, Oct. 31  
**HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL**  
 AT  
**STARR GARDEN**  
 600 Lombard St.  
 Costume Parade, Games,  
 Entertainment, Refreshments!  
 1-4 pm  
 (teeny, tiny admission fee)

Tuesday, Nov. 3  
**\*\* ELECTION DAY! \*\***  
 Don't forget to Vote!

Thursday, Nov. 5  
**DINNER-THEATER PARTY**  
**SHCA BENEFIT**

6:30 pm dinner: Montserrat  
 8 pm theater: "Beau Jest"  
 Society Hill Playhouse  
 See article this issue  
 Call 629-1288

Saturday, Nov. 7  
**Starr Garden volunteer**  
**ANNUAL Fall Cleanup**  
 600 Lombard St. 10 am - noon

Wednesday, Nov. 18  
**SHCA BOARD MEETING**  
 7:30 pm  
 Old Pine Community Center  
 4th & Lombard Sts.  
 Board Mtg. Open to All!

Thursday, Nov. 26  
**THANKSGIVING DAY**  
**HAPPY TURKEY TO ALL!**

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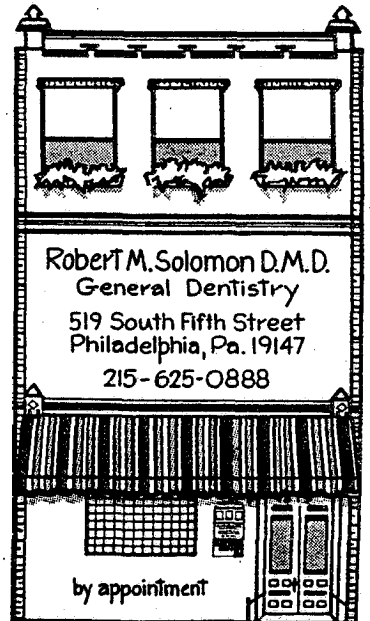
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# SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

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

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## NOTES from SHCA President

Riverboat gambling in the area was raised as an issue for investigation and consideration. If you are interested in this kind of issue and willing to work on long-range preservation causes, please call committee members or call the SHCA office at 629-1288 so that you can be referred to the committee.

The next SHCA Board meeting is scheduled for October 20th at the Community Center (4th and Lombard Streets). We had hoped to hear a proposal from the Three Bears Park Resolution Committee in order that we can proceed with a final plan of action for the park during the winter months. However, I just learned that the Resolution Committee will not be meeting again until October 26th, so it looks like we'll have to wait until the SHCA November meeting for a report from them. We hope that they will then recommend a solution that is agreeable to all interested parties. Meanwhile, we expect to have an update at our October 20th meeting by Jean Bodine on "Project Street Trees."

Don't forget to check out the Calendar for several upcoming events in Society Hill—such as children's events at THREE BEARS PARK ON OCTOBER 9TH; St. Peter's School HARVEST Festival on October 16th; CLEAN-UP DAY & FAMILY PICNIC on October 30th; and "forever plaid" benefit performance for SHCA on November 6th at Newmarket!

Your participation is what makes us a real community! CIAO!  
—Dick Ostrander

### AARON BEYER AILING

We have just learned that Aaron J. Beyer, Esq. has suffered a stroke about two weeks ago. Aaron was president of the SHCA in the late 1980s, prior to Becky Stoloff's 3-year term and the current term of Dick Ostrander.

Aaron and his family live at 632 Spruce Street. For now, however, Aaron is in the fine care of physicians at HUP. He's in Room 663 of the Randin Build-

### GALA TOAST

## Good Time, Good Cause

Planners for the Gala toasting the completion of Phases I and II of the Head House restoration must live right! The early morning rain stopped just in time for party volunteers to set up the tables and colorful decorations. Even the usual autumn chill seemed far away on that warm Sunday evening (September 26th) as nearly 250 neighbors gathered under the Shambles at Head House to enjoy the sight of the beautifully refurbished structure.

The Hardly Ables Retiree String Band serenaded the party-goers, while the "twins" from "Nunsense" and the Society Hill Playhouse frolicked around and made merry, surprising several people who did not know they were actors in costume. Even when the structure was an open air market, it is hard to imagine how there could have been more food for such fabulous feasting.

The restaurants of the South Street/Headhouse District outdid themselves with a "grazing menu" for gourmands. The sophisticated artistry of the pate from Overtures, for example, vied for attention with the succulent slices of roast beef from Bridget

Foy's South Street Grill. To the question, "Does Montserrat serve these delectable brownies all the time?" the answer is "Yes!" And the wines served by Bartolomeo Pio Wines & Spirits were awarded the highest marks by several wine connoisseurs.

The success of this party is an example of how a coalition of residents



Partgoers were intent as they made their choices from a fabulous array supplied by local eateries.

and businesses working and having fun together can overcome problems and bring the neighborhood back to an amazing level of vitality.

The Head House Conservancy thanks all the following restaurants

and purveyors who contributed to the feast by donating choice selections from their menus or offering items off their shelves: A. Esposito Meats, Artful Dodger, Bartolomeo Pio Wines & Spirits, Bridget Foy's, Cafe Elana, Cafe Nola, Cedars, Chef's Market, Knave of Hearts, Montserrat, Morning Cup, Mustard Greens, PhilaDeli, Pink Rose Pastry Shop, South Street Souvlaki, Tiramisu, Copabanana, Dicken's Inn, Downey's, Famous Fourth Street Deli, Hikaru, Jim's Steaks, Jon's Bar & Grill, Koffmeyers, Lickety Split, Monte Carlo, Nookies, Pizzeria Uno, Salsa, T.G.I. Fridays, Thrift Drugs (sodas) Wawa, and White Horse Jazz Cafe.

Thanks also to others who donated their services—such as Bernie Cleff, photographer; Gyro Advertising, Impact Studios and Harvitz Printing (for the invitations & posters); the Entertainers: The "Hardly Ables" String Band; Society Hill Playhouse's "Nunsense" actors; performers from "FOREVER PLAID"; and the Fez Moroccan Restaurant who provided the belly-dancer. (What! You missed her? You must have been up in the cupola!)

WE HOPE YOU WILL SUPPORT THE BUSINESSES THAT SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY'S CAUSES.

### HISTORIC PRESERVATION

## Committee Has Been Reactivated

A reactivated Historic Preservation Committee met on September 28th and has agreed to become a vigorous and effective arm of the Civic Association representing the voice of this unique community.

Until recently, there has been a sense of complacency regarding the "historic status" of Society Hill. Many area residents think erroneously that it is protected by preservation laws. But, in fact, due to a ruling by the State Supreme Court, our community's "Historic District" designation has been in a limbo status for several years. Society Hill is currently under little protection. Therefore, a continuing program of community vigilance must be in place to ensure that the standards set for Society Hill by the Urban Renewal Plan of the 1950s and 60s will not be lost

quiet, dignified and compatible with the area's history," the Preservation Committee has agreed to become a pro-active advisory panel to the Board of the SHCA on matters relating to the historic character of the area. With the intention of preventing problems or conflicts before they arise, the function of this Committee will focus on three primary areas organized into subcommittees: (1) Education—to provide information and keep neighbors engaged in the subject; (2) Oversight—to watchdog and develop strategies or means whereby goals can be accomplished; and (3) Political Advocacy—to work as a liaison between the community and political representatives.

The Education Subcommittee will be co-chaired by Rosemarie Scarpulla and Florry Lloyd. Co-Chairs of the Oversight Subcommittee are Joan

Although Becky will be unable to continue to chair the Preservation Committee, she will continue through a transition stage for the next few months, and the chairs of the subcommittees will serve as co-chairs to the committee.

Each subcommittee will meet and report back at the next full meeting of the committee, which is scheduled for Tuesday, November 9th at 7:30 pm. Please call the SHCA office (at 629-1288) for the exact location of the meeting, to be held at the residence of a committee member.

The Committee needs committed people whose energy combined with a willingness to work at facing these challenges can be depended upon. If you are one of these people, call the office or any of the co-chairs. START TODAY TO PROTECT YESTERDAY!



on is here. The temperatures are falling, but the number of activities in our neighborhood has been rising. It's been a very busy season, and this issue of the Society Hill Reporter will give you a breakdown of what's been happening and what's about to happen. In vis a vis various House, NewMarket and 7 Arts activities. Meanwhile, our Civic Association has been busy, and here are some reports and up-

The Historic Preservation Committee, chaired by Becky Stoloff, got off to a good start at a well-attended meeting at the Scar-... home. The three main objectives of the Preservation Committee will be Oversight, Education, and Action. Each committee member will be a member of one of these three sub-committees. The potential impact, for example, of

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Society Hill  
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Philadelphia, PA 19147 • 625-2946

# HOUSE SAVIORS HONORED It is Finished

... that reigns weekdays  
... Georgian style columns at  
... Head House Shambles was inter-  
... September 20th by  
... Philadelphian sounds  
... Some of the youngest  
... from St. Peter's kinder-  
... danced to the music by  
... of Philadelphia's oldest, the  
... Hardly Ables Retiree String Band."  
... When Mayor Ed Rendell arrived,  
... present gathered under the  
... House to rededicate this  
... thirty years to the day

that it was first marked as a keystone of historic preservation in this community. President of the Head House Conservancy, Bernice Hamel, thanked the mayor for instilling a "can-do" attitude among his deputies that cut through much bureaucratic red tape. Then Bernice, the mayor, and Becky Stoloff, vice-president of the Conservancy, cut the red ribbon.

This event could never have been celebrated if neighbors had not banded together in 1989 and formed the Head House Conservancy to save the build-

ing that was dilapidated from years of neglect. While the restored structure is a true triumph for the entire neighborhood, some individuals were singled out for special "thank you" awards:

**Roland Davies**, the architect and project manager, deserves much credit for guiding the restoration work through Phase I (related to stabilization of the roof and cupola) and Phase II (complete renovation of the interior). His "spiritual adviser" and neighbor, **Penny**

**Batcheler**—who recently retired as Preservation Architect of the Independence National Historical Park—provided technical advice, such as determining by microscope the exact color of the original interior paint.

Neighbor **Jerry Deye** was also thanked. He donated 375 sheets of gold leaf for regilding the weathervane, and with his friend, **Peter Klosic**, stripped the weathervane of years of rust. There was a pause in the awards ceremony as Rody Davies dragged the shy and retiring clockmaker, **Henry Lucier** from the cupola to receive his award and thanks.

Many of the workmen on this project could not have been paid without the legislative initiative funds (WAM money) secured through **Senator Vincent Fumo's** efforts. Friends in City

Hall—**Councilmen Joe Vignola and Jim Kenney**—helped establish the priority of getting this task expedited through several bureaucratic snafus. Having **Deputy Mayor Herb Vederman** as a neighbor helps, too! Also, the inside "point man" from the Department of Public Property, **Deputy Commissioner Lou Einhorn**, proved invaluable in negotiating the maze of City Hall.



**Ceremony on Sept. 20. Mayor Rendell receives his "Certificate of Appreciation" from Bernice Hamel (left) and Becky Stoloff (right). Many attended.**

The messages to the future are secure under the slates of the new roof,

penned there by the individuals who purchased slates as a way of donating to the project. The 3200 pounds of pigeon guano (removed from the cupola's interior) are now fertilizing fields far far away. The ingenious design of the new HVAC system is almost invisible and inaudible, enhancing the historic integrity of the building while utilizing the most modern technology. The weathervane glistens magnificently in the sun.

Pause. Celebrate. But more remains to be done. Phase III soon commences. Brick repointing will be a big part and an expensive item in that final third phase of the project. In addition, a maintenance endowment fund needs to be established so such dramatic rescue efforts will not be necessary in the future.

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The Franklin Lamps need to be re-wired and missing ones replaced. Also a solution needs to be implemented for fine-tuning the clockwork so that this very rare historical clock will keep accurate time into the future.

But that Monday afternoon last month the weary rested temporarily as they sipped refreshing drinks offered by The Artful Dodger. They congratulated each other while singing along with the Hardly Ables String Band to "I'm looking over a four leaf clover..."

If you would like to join these local heroes, please contact the Head House Conservancy at 925-3285. Donations are always welcomed and can be mailed to 302 S. 2nd Street, Phila. PA 19106

## SHCA Calendar

(clip & save)

**SATURDAY, OCT. 9**  
**FRIENDS OF THREE BEARS**  
**PARK FALL FESTIVAL**  
(Delancey Street Park between 3rd & 4th Sts.) Activities for children under 6 years old  
noon - 4 pm

**SATURDAY, OCT. 16**  
**HARVEST FESTIVAL**  
**ST. PETER'S SCHOOL**  
(3rd & Lombard Sts.)  
Children's Activities & Gift Boutique, Attic Treasures & Gently Used Clothing, Fabulous Food, including Roasted Pig!  
11 am - 4 pm

**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 20**  
**SHCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**MEETING**  
at Old Pine Community Center  
(4th & Lombard Sts) 7:30 pm

**SATURDAY, OCT. 30**  
**CLEAN UP DAY**  
8-12 noon, thruout neighborhood  
(Park on alternate side of street after 6 pm Friday - until 1 pm on Saturday)

**FAMILY PICNIC**  
at Head House Shambles  
(2nd St. betw. Pine & Lombard)  
12:30 pm - 2 pm,

**SATURDAY, OCT. 30**  
**OCTOBERFEST AT STARR**  
**GARDEN**  
(6th & Lombard Sts.)  
Children's Games & Craft Activities  
Halloween Parade  
Bake Sale & Other Goodies  
noon - 4 pm

**SATURDAY, NOV. 6TH**  
**"FOREVER PLAID"**  
**NEW CABARET THEATRE**  
(NEWMARKET at 2nd & Pine Sts)  
\$30 per ticket, proceeds benefit  
(1) Project Street Trees  
(2) Franklin Lamps Restoration  
(3) Head House Maintenance  
6:30 pm Cocktails  
8:00 pm Show begins

**TUESDAY, NOV. 9TH**  
**SHCA Committee Mtg.**  
**Historic Preservation**  
7:30 pm  
call SHCA 629-1288  
for place

# SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

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

VOL. 3, No. 8 • ISSUED SEPTEMBER 14, 1993



## NOTES from SHCA President

Time to shift gears into the Back-to-School, Vacation's-Over, Business-As-Usual mode as Labor Day 1993 is already history! Summer '93 was indeed a HOT time!

It seems like things start with a real rush too, as the late date for Labor Day will make September speed along. Here are a few of the SHCA events to look forward to:

We'll have a General Membership Meeting [tonight]—at a special time and in a special place. We'll meet at the Society Hill Playhouse, 507 S. 8th Street. Refreshments, courtesy of the Playhouse, as we gather from 7:00-7:30 pm, with a busy agenda to follow.

We'll meet the new Principal of McCauley School, Janet Samuels. Karen Butler, head of the Mayor's Action Council for Visitors, will update us on a new plan

for an Old Philadelphia Marketing District. We will have the anticipated report from the Three Bears Park Resolution Committee.

There will also be reports about an October 30th Fall Clean-up Day, as well as a November 6th Cabaret Theater Party at NewMarket. SHCA's past-president, Aaron Beyers, has asked for time to make comments about the Route 47 bus. All of the above, plus a chance for any neighbor to express his or her concerns and we'll have to really shake it to adjourn by 9:30 pm—but we'll surely try!

Please check your mailbox. You may have already received a letter (or watch for one) from a Society Hill Street Trees committee member about a specific tree to fill in your tree pit or replace a diseased or dying tree. Replanting is scheduled for this fall. No question, trees improve property values and help make our neighborhood a gracious place to live.

See you at the Society Hill Playhouse, [tonight] at 7 pm. And we hope you'll make every effort to attend the Head House "rededication" ceremony on Monday, September 20th, as well as the Gala Toast on Sunday evening, the 26th. There's no football game that night, so really, there's no excuse not to be there—unless you'll be out-of-town or home with the flu!

CIAO!

—Dick Ostrander



## SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

Society Hill  
Civic Association  
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(215) 629-1288

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## THIS MONTH AT 2ND & PINE STREETS Bells to Herald Restored Head House!

ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1993 FROM 12:30-1:30 PM, America's oldest fire house, attached to one of our country's first public markets known as the Shambles, will be officially "rededicated" in celebration of its recently completed restoration. The bells will soon be ringing again, but not in alarm!

As you've probably noticed, this city-owned National Historical Landmark had deteriorated considerably since its earlier restoration in 1963. At that time the structures were saved from demolition by enlightened city officials, and in 1966 it was designated a National Historical Landmark. On September 20th, 1963 the late Mayor James Tate officiated at a formal ceremony celebrating its preservation. It was the pride of the period, heralding the revitalization of the entire historic area.

That was then. Fast-forward to 1988, 25 years later, when a group of residents and local businesspeople noticed that these cherished structures were once again in critical need of repairs. These citizens rolled up their sleeves and organized a grass-roots "front line" force of all those who value their American heritage. Thus the Head House Conservancy launched its campaign. In 1991, the Secretary of the Interior identified Head House and the Shambles as a "threatened and endangered landmark".

After four years of ongoing volunteer effort, the Conservancy's

accomplishments include:

- Finishing a new roof under which a "time capsule" of messages and greetings tells a story of how a community working and playing together at the turn of the 21st century saved a beautiful 18th century building for their children's children;

- Freeing an historical monument of environmental hazards (e.g. lead paint and pigeon guano);

- Rebuilding and restoring the cupola;

- Painting inside and out;

- Regilding the weathervane and golden ball beneath it;

- Installing new electrical, plumbing and all mechanical systems, which includes a new heating and air conditioning system;

- Renovating—extensively—the interior of the Head House, preparing a permanent home for the South Street/Head House District offices;

- Restoring, lovingly, the clock to its original mechanical and aesthetic perfection so that soon, in time for the celebrations, it will once again tell the correct time.

Head House is central to a unique community located within "America's most historic square mile." Its architectural simplicity and elegance enriches everyone, resident and visitor alike. As you walk by or through the Shambles, enroute to work or play, you connect to America's historical and cultural roots. As the bells ring out on Monday, September 20th, (12:30—1:30 pm) Mayor Edward Rendell will lead the "rededication" ceremony to thank special individuals who helped make the improvements possible, all of which were accomplished at absolutely no cost to the city.

Please join the Head House Conservancy and South Street/Head House District for this free community event. Complimentary re-

freshments will be served.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26,  
from 5-8 pm at Head House**

A Toast Celebrating the Restoration of Historic Head House. Old Second Street Market will follow on Sunday evening, September 26th. Come celebrate at a gala Toast. This is a time to enjoy the ambiance of the restored buildings and to partake of the wonderful selection of food and drink from the Best of South Street "grazing menu." With music and entertainment, it's a great way to meet people and visit with old new friends.

Please send in your reservation form, as soon as possible, with a check for \$50 per person (deductible) to the Conservancy, 302 S. 2nd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106. At the gala benefit, a name tag will be waiting for you at the registration/admission table. A warm welcome awaits all citizens for this giant "block party" which hopefully, should generate the revenue to finish paying off the bills.

If you have not received an invitation, or for more information about either event, please call the Head House Conservancy at 925-3285 and leave your name, address and phone number. Your call will be answered promptly.

Head House Square remains in the people's care and trust. This historic treasure, loved by Philadelphians and visited by people from all over the world, will soon be removed from the list of "threatened and endangered landmarks" and once again be worthy of its historic designation. Look up at the regilded weather vane. It glistens in the sun, a golden symbol of what spirited neighbors can accomplish when they set their minds to a task at hand.

—Bernice Hamel



Left, the Society Hill Playhouse, located in historic Garrick Hall, 507 South 8th Street since 1960. See article on the next page for a brief history of this long-running regional theatre, with "Nonsense" beginning its 8th

## SOCIETY HILL PLAYHOUSE 30 Year Run

and Jay Kogan, long-time Society Hill residents, are theatrical pioneers. Well known in Philadelphia's highly competitive restaurant renaissance, the Kogans were contributing to the cultural menu of the city. In 1960, they established the Society Hill Playhouse on 8th

Street. While there has been much newsprint about the recent renaissance of jazz clubs, no one has been inking eloquent about the revitalization of theatre in this town.

When the Kogans started, they were offering an alternative to the Shubert (now

the Merriam), the Locust (now DiLullo Centro restaurant), and the Forrest. Were they needed? The year after the Kogans opened, the city-owned but now defunct Playhouse in the Park banned Brecht's Three Penny Opera. However, thanks to the Society Hill Playhouse, Philadelphians were able to see and hear this operatic delight.

Not only were productions like Genet's "The Blacks" premiered, but talent was nurtured. For example, Wynn Thomas, Spike Lee's artistic director, got gainful employment and experience as production manager in the '70-71 season.

Today, the Playhouse competes with the well-subscribed Walnut Street Theatre and its Studio, the Annenberg Center and its theatre festivals, the Drama Guild, the soon-to-move-to-much-larger-quarters Wilma theatre, The Arden, the Delancey Street Plays and Play the Movement Theatre international, the Painted Bride, The Blacks (under the Bourse) and probably another half dozen theatrical venues. So much creativity! So much energy! Such a wonderful outlet for wannabees.

Nonsense, which is in its 8th year, is Philadelphia's longest running musical. It is now performing on weekends only in the smaller Cabaret Theatre of the Society Hill Playhouse. Have you seen the show yet? Well, if it has lasted eight seasons, it's probably time to take a look.

See you at the theatre next weekend?



## FORMER TOY MUSEUM Mansion For Sale

The historic house of Captain James Abercrombie, formerly the Perelman Toy Museum, at 266-270 South 2nd Street is still for sale. A showcase for antique toys, the Abercrombie Mansion was originally constructed in 1759. The building has four-and-a-half stories and 6,400 square feet. It received certification from the Philadelphia Historic Commission on April 30, 1957.

Captain Abercrombie, a native of Dundee, Scotland, settled in Philadelphia in 1753 and in 1758 purchased the site of his house for \$285. An officer in the Royal Navy, the captain was lost at sea in 1760, but the property remained in the ownership of Abercrombie until 1781.

Some later owners include Blair McClenachan, a native of Ireland, who settled in Philadelphia before the Revolution and who was one of the founders of the First City Troop; General Walter Stewart, who acquired the property in 1782 when he married McClenachan's daughter; and William Crammond, a prominent merchant, who owned the house in 1796.

The Abercrombie Mansion is the tallest and one of the largest of its kind in Society Hill. A two bedroom/two bath, fourth floor caretaker's apartment commands a magnificent view of the Delaware River. The property is handicap-accessible with an elevator.

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## SHCA Calendar

(clip & save)

Tuesday, September 14  
7:30 — 9:30 pm

SHCA General Membership Meeting  
Society Hill Playhouse  
507 S. 8th Street

Monday, September 20  
12:30 - 1:30 pm

Re-Dedication Ceremony  
Head House & Shambles  
2nd & Pine Streets  
Free Admission  
Complimentary Refreshments

Sunday, September 26  
5 - 8 pm

Gala Toast & Benefit  
Head House & Shambles  
2nd & Pine Streets  
\$50 per person  
Call 925-3285

Tuesday, September 28  
7:30 pm

SHCA Committee Meeting  
Re: Historic Preservation  
"Strategy Session"  
Call 925-3003 for details

Friday, October 22  
7:00 pm

Soiree Musicale of  
Francis Johnson (1792-1844)  
& Period Cotillion Party  
Academy of Music  
Call 893-1999

Saturday, October 30

Society Hill Clean-Up-Day!  
Trash & Treasure Sale  
at the Shambles  
9 am — 4:30 pm

Saturday, November 6

Theater & Cocktail Party  
"Forever Plaid"  
NewMarket Cabaret Theater  
Details to follow

## NOTES from SHCA President

Mid-summer means heavy duty vacation time for the next four or five weeks. Hope you enjoy yours. Here are a few words about a variety of SHCA matters.

We're in the process of surveying potential business membership in SHCA. Quadrant directors Connie Stephano, Howard Lander, Liz Engelman and Gail Watson (for husband Richard) will be reporting on their areas to co-chairs Miffy Coonley and Judy Friedman. You can help by contacting one of them with potential members. We'll be reporting on new business members next month.

SHCA with the cooperation of neighboring associations including the business community has closed down the sale of pornographic videos at 641 South Street.

Good news on the LCB front as Newmarket neighbors and the Association reached a mutually acceptable resolution on the license for the new Cabaret Theater scheduled to get underway in September. The several Associations and the Old Pine Community Center reached agreement on the extension of license at Lickety Split. SHCA is always working on QUALITY OF LIFE issues for the entire community.

A fall CLEANUP DAY is being planned by Mary Sturdevant and



Howard Lander. The date will be mid-October, and the event will be combined with the Family Picnic from past years. Call Mary or Howard to volunteer and help develop this into as BIG a SUCCESS as the May 1st event!

Thanks to all whose spring plantings are making the area so colorful now! Next month we'll have fall planting plans for you from the Tree Project which has received an anonymous gift to help get started.

The next general membership meeting will be TUESDAY September 14th at the Society Hill Playhouse. (The date is to avoid conflict with Rosh Hashanah.) Representative Tom Foglietta has been invited, and we're hoping for a con-

firmation.

Ciao!

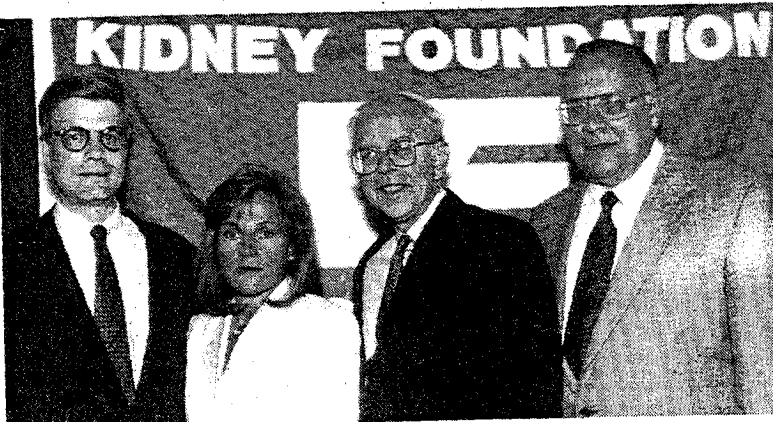
—Dick Ostrander

## SCAM ALERT

A very articulate and well mannered con artist is working in the neighborhood. With a pictured badge and clipboard, he is requesting money for a homeless project sponsored by the historic Mother Bethel Church and 6th & Lombard.

When the pastor was contacted, he confirmed that the Church is not now nor planning to solicit door to door for any of their projects.

Please call 911 immediately if you are approached by this person. If you ever have doubts about the legitimacy of a request, call the institution immediately—as several alert neighbors did in this case.



A. Louis Denton, Esq. (left), of Society Hill, has been elected Treasurer, Board of Directors of the National Kidney Foundation of the Delaware Valley. Also, named Chairman of the Board was Edward T. Borer (2nd from right), and named Secretary was Gene Pressler. The new officers posed with Prudence Vipiani, Executive Director.

## TELL US: DO YOU USE "SIX-PACK" PARK?

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial committee has asked the Society Hill Civic Association to support their request that Fairmount Park Commission remove the playground equipment at the site next to the Memorial. The equipment is old, in need of repair or replacement, and does not appear to be used during the day by the toddlers it was intended to serve. However, it attracts teenagers at night. The committee feels it is the magnet for the vandals who have damaged the grounds at the me-

morial, which is maintained by funds and personnel from the committee.

If you use the park or know of someone who does, please call the SHCA at 629-1288. Otherwise, the SHCA board is predisposed to support the request to landscape the area to remove this nuisance attraction.

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## SHCA Calendar

(clip & save)

Tuesday, July 27  
**Symphony Club Concert Band**  
7:30 p.m., Independence Mall  
Admission Free

Tuesday, August 3  
**National Night Out**  
Town Watch

+++  
Meet at 6:30 p.m. at Independence Mall for walk to meeting.  
7 p.m. Society Hill Sheraton Hotel  
Speaker: Bob Butera  
Pennsylvania Convention Center

Wednesday, August 18  
7:30 p.m., Old Pine Community Center  
**SHCA Board Meeting**  
OPEN to Public

Tuesday, September 14th  
7:30 p.m., Society Hill Playhouse  
507 S. 8th Street  
**SHCA General Membership Meeting**

Monday, September 19  
12:30 to 1:30 p.m.  
**Rededication of Headhouse**  
2nd & Pine Streets

Sunday, September 26  
5:30 to 8:00 p.m.  
**Headhouse Gala Thank You Party**  
Headhouse, 2nd & Pine  
\$50.00, RSVP 925-4363

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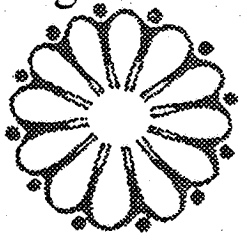
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# SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

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

VOL. 3, No. 6 • ISSUED JUNE 8, 1993

## NOTES from SHCA President

I write these notes (Tuesday evening, June 1st), I've just come from Washington Square where we are saying goodbye to a very old friend. A 200-year-old white tree went down in last night's wind and rain. It was the largest in the northeast corner of the park, and there are a few of that age and size left.

This makes me think about our community's tree project. Two-hundred years ago now someone may be asking us for planting trees. "Project Street Trees" gets underway next week, as we meet to plan what to do prior to the time we are ready to plant in the fall... we'll probably fix tree pits and prune.

Speaking of trees may be a nifty segue (I hope!) to the Three Bears park controversy. We look forward to finding an acceptable compro-

mise in this difficult situation by choosing a six-person committee to recommend action. Our Civic Association has chosen John Lawson and Florie Lloyd as its two representatives; the Friends of 3 Bears have selected Jo Butler and Harvey Schwartz; and the Concerned Neighbors have named J. Peter Hynes and Laura Lewis. To start the process ASAP, the committee will be chaired by Gail Hauptfuhrer, SHCA's chairperson for Parks & Playgrounds. Hopefully, the committee with have the assistance of a Crisis Intervention Leader from the TeamFocus program of IBM.



### BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS

SHCA will soon be undertaking a Business Membership campaign. Each month we'll acknowledge and thank some of our business and other special contributors, starting with some current supporters. Our

thanks to: Anywhere Travel; The Bourse; Hopkinson House Owners Association; Artful Dodger; Independence Place Owners Association.

### BOARD MEETING CHANGED

Please note that SHCA's June Board Meeting will not be held on the usual third Wednesday of the month. Instead, the Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 17th (7:30 pm at the Old Pine Community Center at 4th & Lombard Streets). The agenda includes a presentation by Cliff Jeffries of the Vietnam Memorial Association about the problems posed by "Six Pack Park" just south of the Memorial.

Also, we'll introduce SHCA's acting Vice-President, Larry Meehan, and NW Quadrant Director, Ann Marie Borghese, who will both serve on the Board subject to official vote at our next General Membership Meeting in September. Join us for an update on many community activities.

CIAO!!

—Dick Ostrander

## WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

### Three Bears Park

Since last year neighbors and frequent users of the Delancey Street Park (A.K.A. "Three Bears") have been in dispute about the park's many changes. A new phase in this ongoing saga is about to happen. The Society Hill Civic Association will be working on behalf of all interested parties to help find a way to resolve the conflict to the satisfaction of neighbors, Friends, and the community at large. But before we report the newest "news," a summary may be necessary for those not tuned in for the past year.

#### Park's History & Summary of Conflict

The Delancey Street Park was conceived by City Planners as an urban sanctuary. It was the near terminus of the "Greenway" system, designed as a transition from the public buildings of Independence Hall to the historic private residences of Society Hill. The park included a "tot lot" for young children that consisted of three swings, one open metallic slide and a jungle gym—standard playground equipment of the period.

Since its creation, about thirty years ago, each generation of parents and nearby neighbors assumed the responsibility of watching and maintaining the park. Eventually, however, the equipment became obsolete and not up to the safety standards of contemporary playground equipment. Three years ago a group of frequent users organized as "The Friends of Three Bears," naming themselves after the park's emblem—the stone statue that functions as both a charming visual entry point of the park and as a climbing apparatus for youngsters.

The Friends lobbied the City's Recreation Department requesting new play equipment; and they also raised funds for tree trimming and cleaning services. Unfortunately, however, there was a lack of communication between the Friends

and the park's nearby residents—nor did the group seek the active participation of the Society Hill Civic Association, which is the "official" voice for the community. Then one year ago, with no consultation with the neighborhood about scale or design, the Department of Recreation installed new equipment, utilizing about three times the space occupied by the old equipment. Here is what is there now: two swings; two open slides; one covered slide; one spiral slide; one climbing corkscrew; two short climbers—one arched, one flat; one fireman's pole; one play steering wheel; one plastic gate panel; one plastic tic-tac-toe unit; two plastic rocking animals; and a hexagonal play area connected by a swinging bridge to another play level.

These days the park has become primarily a playground. The tranquil fountain was shut off and replaced by plantings. The result of all these changes is that there is less diverse use of the park (i.e. sitting on benches to read or relax). Nor are there any sanitary facilities, and this is now becoming a new problem with the park's increased use—as is the increased use of vehicles by families outside the immediate area, which is creating a parking problem on the street.

#### SHCA's Involvement

At the last SHCA Meeting in May, a method of finding a resolution to this dispute was voted upon which will eventually determine a course of action. This motion was proposed to the Association by the Concerned Neighbors of Delancey Street Park, and it reads as follows:

"Prior to taking any official position on issues affecting our community, the SHCA has always been influenced by the needs and concerns of immediate neighbors. These concerns include such current issues as the NewMarket de-

Continued next page

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### RE: 3 Bears Park

Dear Sirs:

As homeowners for whom Three Bears Park is almost literally "part of our back yard," we totally endorse and approve the playground equipment now part of Three Bears Park. For us, Three Bears Park is a unique feature of Society Hill where children can happily play and parents congregate. Attractive and safe playground equipment is integral to the function of the Park, and we were most happy when the new playground equipment replaced outdated, unattractive and deteriorating equipment.

With respect to the issue of the aesthetics of the current playground equipment, it is our belief that the existing equipment and the cheerfulness of its colors add to the effective utilization of the Park by the children and their families. We do not believe that the equipment creates an eyesore or otherwise affects the ambiance or attractiveness of the area immediately surrounding Three Bears Park. If anything, the existence of such playground equipment within a small park in Society Hill really makes the statement that Society Hill is a real neighborhood where children have the opportunity to play, and for us the presence of children happily playing in Three Bears Park is a very positive statement about the type of community in which we reside. We would be most upset if this aspect of our community were diminished or if the challenge to the playground equipment were really a challenge to an environment where children and their families can happily come together.

Sincerely yours,  
Richard J. Braemer & Amy L. Finkel

## SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

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## 1994 OFFICERS & BOARD Elections

At last month's election was voted upon unanimously as follows:

President: Dick Ostrander; Treasurer: Sidney Hack; Secretary: Mary Sturdivant. (The Vice-President position was vacant.)

NE Quadrant Directors: Drew Stephan; Judy Friend; Constantine Stephano; NW Quadrant: Mary Sturdivant; Howard Lander; (one vacancy); SW Quadrant: Joan Perry; Mel Buckman; Richard Watson; SE Quadrant: Miffy Coonley; Liz Engelman.

Since then, Larry Meehan, current High-Rise Representative of the Hopkinson House, has agreed to act as Vice-President; and Ann Marie Borghese will fill the vacant NW Quadrant Director's position—subject, of course, to an affirmative vote at the next General Membership Meeting in November.

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## BLUE RIBBON NEIGHBORS

Thirty-three neighbors earned Blue Ribbons for Clean Up Day on Saturday, May 1. The write-ins and phone-ins named these people for their caring, getting things done, taking charge, maintaining their own homes and extending that care to the entire block. Blue Ribbon Neighbors are:

- Jean Bodine
- Mel Buckman
- Jim Butler
- John Donahue
- Malu Flores
- Winifred Glockner
- Sid & Anita Hack
- Nancy Hallman
- Bernice Hamel
- L.J. & Bill Hedges
- Lorna Katz Lawson
- Faith Lemmer
- Locks Gallery
- Anna Marie Marshall
- Marion & Joe McKone
- Don McNeil
- Dick & Liz Ostrander
- Giovanni Petri
- Lisa Roberts
- St. Mary's Convent
- George Scarpulla
- Novis Smith
- Joan & Bernard Spain
- Becky Stoloff
- Dale & Lee Truscott
- A.J. Von Pein
- Richard Woodside
- Anne Zielinski
- 114 Delancey Street
- 241 Pine Street
- 310 S. 4th Street
- 324 S. 3rd Street
- 437 Spruce Street

Editor's Suggestion: To those who wrote about a neighbor "who lives at," but whose name they did not know, go over and introduce yourself. You have at least one thing in common, you value maintaining and enhancing our community.

## THREE BEARS PARK

CONTINUED

velopment, as well as the location of a bus stop, the opening of a billiard room, fence enclosures, or the building of a parking lot. Unfortunately, the playground equipment now erected in Three Bears Park did not receive the same careful consideration prior to its installation last May.

"Neighbors of Three Bears Park hereby move that the issue of the equipment now be reviewed with all parties being heard, especially those neighbors most directly impacted by the changes.

"We request that a committee be named consisting of two people representing immediate, concerned neighbors, two members from SHCA's Historic Preservation Committee, and two members of the Friends of Three Bears Park.

"This committee will recommend action—whether it be minor modifications or replacement with equivalent caliber equipment compatible with our unique neighborhood. Results of the committee to be reported to the SHCA by September 1993, so that any recommended changes can be made when the park is less used during the winter months."

The committee representatives for the "Concerned Neighbors" will be J. Peter Hynes and Laura Lewis. SHCA's representatives are John Lawson and Florie Lloyd. Representatives for the "Friends of 3 Bears" will be Jo Butler and Harvey Schwartz. The committee will be working throughout the summer so that their recommendations can be made by the September deadline.

## MOMENT OF HISTORY

# St. Peter's Church

On Sunday, June 13th, St. Peter Episcopal Church, at the corner 3rd and Pine Streets, will have a very unusual celebration to recall a moment of history! At the 11:00 a.m. service, the congregation will use the Morning Prayer taken from the first American Episcopal Prayer Book, issued in 1789. The service will also feature musical settings from the period, sung by the Choir of Men and Boys.

Following the service of worship, stone conservator Joel Snodgrass will make a presentation on recent restoration work done in the historic graveyard that was vandalized last year, as neighbors may recall. After this presentation, the 150-year-old bells ringing, refreshments will be served and tours of the church and graveyard will be offered.

"Charles Willson Peale" will be on hand to greet visitors, and the public is warmly encouraged to join the Parish for this recollection of history.

## SHCA Calendar

(clip & save)

\* Note date change

Tuesday, June 8

MEETING RE:

PROJECT STREET TREES

Call SHCA 629-1288  
for time & place

Sunday, June 12

STARR GARDEN

KIDS FLEA MARKET

600 Lombard St.

11 am - 2 pm

(Rain or Shine!)

Sunday, June 13

ST. PETER'S CHURCH

HISTORICAL PRAYER

AND SERVICE

3rd & Pine Sts.

11 am

\* Thursday, June 17

SHCA BOARD MEETING

Old Pine Comm. Center

4th & Lombard Sts. 7:30 pm

All members welcome!

Mon-Fri: June 21-25

ATHENAEUM BOOK SALE

510 Walnut St.

(Penn Mutual Bldg.)

9 am - 5 pm daily

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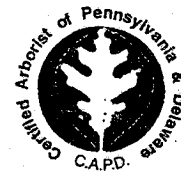
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## TOWN WATCH Safety Tips

Tips on Car Theft, Jackings, Vandalism

The biggest reported crime in this area is damage to and theft of cars. Here are some tips reprinted with permission from the Keystone Insurance Company.

- Avoid parking in secluded, poorly lighted areas, especially at night.
- Keep doors locked and windows rolled up while driving and even when stopped in traffic.
- When approaching a red light, leave enough space between you and the vehicle in front for you to pull away if a gunman or suspicious person approaches.
- Don't walk to your car alone at night. If someone is loitering there, move on. If they remain, call the police.
- Be careful after a minor rear end accident. If you do not feel comfortable leaving your car, motion the driver to follow you to the nearest police station, hospital, or fire station.
- Buy a car phone. You will have the added security of being able to phone the police or road service, or simply get directions and avoid a potentially dangerous situation.
- When returning home, be aware of pedestrians and other vehicles.
- Separate your car and house keys to reduce the possibility that a household burglary will follow a carjacking.
- Do not leave your vehicle registration, driver's license or other documents with your name and address in your car.
- Don't tip off thieves by placing packages, handbags, or other valuables in the trunk when you park. Think ahead and lock them up before you arrive at a public parking space.
- Don't leave anything in the car to tempt a thief. They do not know that the bag is empty or just trash.
- Use the Club or other anti-theft device.
- Don't leave parking receipts in your car.
- Display Project S.A.V.E. stickers

## LAWRENCE COURT BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

Once again this spring Lawrence Walkway was covered in a spectacular pink canopy of blossoms. Everyone enjoys a stroll around this area between 4th and 5th Streets, Pine and Spruce Streets. Nearby neighbors employ Horticultural Services, Inc. to maintain the plantings. The daily cleanup they do themselves.

Joe McKone, Sonja Vent, and Linda Harris are co-chairing the activities this year. Anyone interested in this ongoing beautification project can help by making a check payable to: Lawrence Court Neighbors - Walkway Project. Put it in the mailbox or mail it to 322 South Lawrence Court.

## MAY BASKET

### WINNERS

Congratulations to these seven winners for their wonderful door displays on Clean Up Day:

- Dramatic**—301 S. 3rd Street
- Traditional**—519 Pine Street
- Pretty**—114 Delancey Street
- Colorful**—244 Delancey Street
- Humorous**—207 Delancey St.
- Fanciful**—274 S. 3rd Street

Twenty-five additional blue ribbons were awarded by the panel of judges for neighbors who certainly deserved recognition for their efforts.

## ATHENAEUM DOCUMENTS HISTORIC AMERICA

A special exhibit at The Athenaeum of Washington Square—opening June 7 and continuing through October 22—will be celebrating ten years of the Charles E. Peterson Prize.

The Charles E. Peterson Prize is an annual award for the best sets of architectural measured drawings of an historic building produced by students and given to the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS). The prize honors our long-time Society Hill neighbor Charles E. Peterson, FAIA, founder of the HABS program. (The program is intended to increase awareness of historic buildings throughout the United States, and all the drawings are deposited in the HABS collection at the Library of Congress.)

The Athenaeum is located one block south of Independence Hall on Washington Square. Visiting hours are Monday through Friday, from 9 am to 5 pm, and admission is free.

### ANNUAL BOOK SALE

Please note that the Athenaeum's Annual Book Sale will be held June 21-25, Monday through Friday. Current and out-of-print books and magazines will be sold. The Sale will be held at the Penn Mutual Building, 510 Walnut Street. Hours from 9 am to 5 pm. No charge for admission.

which are available from your local police station.

- Report all crimes to the police even if you do not intend to file an insurance claim. This is the only way the police can know what crimes are being committed at what times. These

statistics help to determine their staffing.

For more information or to voice concerns, call Town Watch at 625-WALK.

—Hillary LaViolette

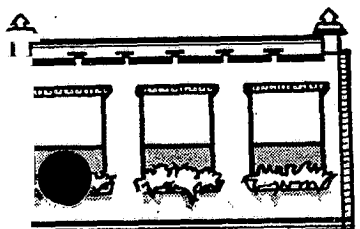
## Head House Restoration

In order that the lead-based paint in the Shambles can be removed (at a cost that the Head House Conservancy can afford) an enormous amount of behind-the-scenes activity has been going on. One thorny problem, for example, has been to locate a contractor that carries a particular, very costly, insurance policy to cover hazardous materials disposal. The City will not provide the appropriate license agreements for the Conservancy to do the work without this policy. Endless numbers of meetings, phone calls, faxes—the Conservancy has been working on this for months! And while the City's unique demands often complicate any job, it should be noted that there is full support by the Mayor for the restoration project. In fact, Deputy Mayor Herb Vederman, and his deputies, are working with the Conservancy to help locate a contractor to do the lead-removal and paint work.

Hot-off-the-press: A contractor has been found and work should begin within two weeks!

Also beginning soon is a complete interior restoration of the Head House, to be paid for by the Conservancy, so that the South Street District can establish its offices inside the building. Expectation is that the District will be able to move in just in time for the Head House Rededication Ceremony—scheduled on September 20th, exactly thirty years to the day when "Head House and the Old Second Street Colonial Market" was originally restored and presented to the City by Mayor James H. Tate.

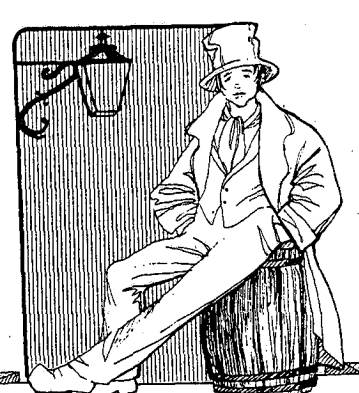
The Conservancy's paint removal and work will not interfere with the Crafts Fair summer programs, beginning June 12 every weekend and continuing throughout the summer to Labor Day. This Fair is a program established by the Head House Crafts Association, an independent organization, that has been holding craft shows at Head House since 1968. Free arts and crafts workshops for children are scheduled for every Saturday and Sunday, from 1-3 pm, but it is recommended that these workshops be held outside the Shambles area until the lead-based paint has been removed.



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