



# SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

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

VOL. 4, No. 4 • ISSUED APRIL 19, 1994

## NOTES from SHCA President by Dick Ostrander

Spring seems to be a reality now. With it comes the realization that winter did a lot of "crop damage"; our ivy roundcover seems to have suffocated, and there's plenty of shrub damage evident. I'm sure you've observed lots of similar problems—which leads me to **Cleanup Day** on May 7th. Before that time, let's try to scrape off the winter scars and some spring color started! Contact co-chairs Mary Sturdivant or Howard Lander if you can help with planning or working on May 7th.

Green is the dominant spring color. There's great news about the **Tree Project** and the re-greening of Society Hill. Project Chair Jean

Bodine reports that more than 20 trees have been planted since our tree survey... most of them inspired by the Tree Project. She also reports that between 20 and 30 more plantings will be done in the next 90 days. If you haven't already done so, you still have time to get together with your neighbors and decide how to join forces and \$\$\$ to get the benefit of the SHCA \$100 subsidy for each tree planted. One of our neighbors who doesn't even have a tree or tree pit has donated the money for a tree!

The Board will be meeting **Wednesday, April 20** with a full slate of committee reports. We have a zoning problem at 423 Pine Street where a roof deck was installed with apparent disregard for neighbor's concerns.

We'll get updates on the Head House farmer's market plans and the Franklin lamps status. Join us at 7:30 p.m. at the 4th & Lombard Old Pine Community Center... and it's not too late to send your 1994 membership using the form you'll spot elsewhere in this section. Ciao!



## CLEANUP DAY MAY 7th

### Clean Up

Starting at 8:00 a.m. on **Saturday, May 7**, volunteers from Independence National Park, Pennsylvania Hospital, Jefferson, Center City District, and the condominiums will start to clean the parking sides of the streets. Neighbors are asked to:

- Sweep their sidewalks (and those of their neighbors who do not or cannot), bag the refuse, take it to the corner.
- Wash down stoops and windows.
- Polish brass.
- Plant tree pits, window boxes, and planters.
- Hang May Baskets.

### Parking

Signs will be posted the day before instructing neighbors when to begin moving their cars to the opposite side. On Saturday afternoon, move the cars back at the posted times.

If you are going to be away, leave your keys with a neighbor or friend to move your car for you. **VIOLATORS WILL BE TICKETED.** To be successful, everyone must cooperate. One parked car causes almost two house fronts not to get cleaned because the equipment cannot move in closely enough.

### Rain Date Sunday, May 8.

### Picnic

Details will be on the flyer distributed to every household.

### Philadelphia Open House

Visitors will be coming into the area for the Open House Tour of eight private residences as well as the museums and historic buildings. The tour is from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 7. Cost per ticket is \$22. Call for tickets at 928-1188 or at headquarters at 3rd & Pine in the museum.

### Blue Ribbon Neighbors

The Clean Up Day Committee would like residents to nominate a deserving neighbor for a Blue Ribbon award. Anyone who takes the extra step to remove trash, litter, graffiti, and leaves—not to mention snow and ice—who makes the place safer and friendlier, and does an exemplary job in maintaining their home's facade, can be nominated by calling 629-1288 or writing to Box 3, Philadelphia 19105 and leaving the name and address.

## NO FARMERS MARKET AT HEAD HOUSE

A farmer's and craft's market to be held at the Head House Shambles, as proposed by the South Street/Headhouse District, has been tabled for this coming summer season.

A presentation of how the market would be conducted was made at the last SHCA general meeting by the District's administrator, Peter Whitehouse. The prospect of having a true farmer's market of fresh produce combined with other vendors selling items such as home-baked pies, preserves and a variety of crafts seemed like a good idea to many people at the meeting. Although some expressed reservations

about sanitation and traffic, a straw vote produced only one opposing voice, on the assumption that the District's operation of the market would be sensitive to neighbors' concerns.

While many neighbors say they welcome the potential of having a lively atmosphere at the Shambles offering farm-fresh food, some have voiced strong opposition. The residents of Blackwell Court and other nearby neighbors of Pine Street have expressed fear that such a market would attract vermin, and they, therefore, oppose the market. In addition, the owners of the Chef's Market are opposed to the market

on the grounds that farmers coming from outside Philadelphia would be selling goods without having to pay the local taxes of a legitimate business. They argue that a farmer's market so close to their own enterprise would be unfair competition.

At the present time, this summer's plans for the Shambles at Head House are still on hold. There may or may not be a crafts fair held there on weekends, and it may or may not be conducted by the Crafts Association, the group who has conducted events there for the past 25 seasons.

Usage guidelines for the

House Conservancy, encourages activities that complement area businesses and residences so to provide revenue to help maintain the historic property by collecting user fees. Perhaps by the spring of 1995 a viable use for the Shambles will be developed by the District that will be agreeable to neighbors and local businesses, and will help support their mission of providing additional safety and sanitation services to the area while also contributing to the preservation of this National Historic Landmark.

## SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

Society Hill  
Civic Association  
P.O. Box 3

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**Bernice Hamel**  
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# REPLACE SOCIETY HILL'S FRANKLIN LAMPS? Fix 'em, Don't change 'em!

The modern version of Benjamin Franklin's original design street lights was installed throughout Society Hill at the time of its urban redevelopment thirty years ago. These lamps, approximately 460 of them, are unique to Society Hill and Washington Square Park. Many are now in need of repairs.

At SHCA's general meeting on March 16 at the Sheraton Society Hill, about sixty people heard a presentation made by Joseph Doyle, lighting engineer for the city's Streets Department, proposing the possibility of replacing the street lights of Society Hill with other lights that are safer and less expensive to maintain. Mr. Doyle brought with him sample stock lamps manufactured to appear "historic" although they are very poor imitations of Society Hill's existing lamps. For example, they lack the signature gooseneck design that connects the lamps to their posts.

As described by Mr. Doyle, the problems with the current Franklin Lamps are as follows: their design is too costly to manufacture and maintain; the city has no available inventory; the cast iron lamp posts are not grounded and could be a hazard; many are broken; the lights are not "bright" enough; etc. The group's response to Mr. Doyle's proposal was universal opposition to any alteration in the design or general appearance of the lamps, but supportive of an appropriate change in materials for safety purposes. For example, constructing the lamp posts of fiberglass could eliminate a potential safety problem. After all, Franklin's original posts were constructed of wood—and adapting the posts to longer-lasting and sturdier cast iron was a sensible modification.

It was suggested by several speakers at the meeting that coping with any of the above-mentioned problems can be solved, but not by the Streets Department alone! Most significantly, it was suggested that the lighting of Society Hill not be dependent on expediency and expense-related concerns, which understandably is what the Streets Department may be focused on. Rather a comprehensive solution

**These lamps, approximately 460 of them, are unique to Society Hill and Washington Square Park. Many are now in need of repairs.**

to the problem of bringing the lamps up-to-date and functioning with safety should involve the city's Planning Commission, Art Commission, City Council, and, of course, the Historical Commission. Needless to say, the Civic Association expects to take a leadership role in the entire process, as well.

SHCA's Historic Preservation Committee believes it would be a serious blow to the neighborhood if there is a change in the lamps' basic design. Also, the quality or amount of light these lamps generate is desirable because it complements the historic ambience of the streetscape. Brighter light is not necessarily better light!

Society Hill is more than just a wonderful residential neighborhood. It also happens to be a historic location, and with the Mayor's new organization—Historic Philadelphia Inc.—our neighborhood will increasingly become a more popular destination for visitors from all over the country and around the world. Visitors want to see "the real thing," not a quasi, Disneyland facsimile. Society Hill has it, and we should not squander it. A coordinated effort by all appropriate city agencies will be necessary in order to save the Franklin Lamps as we know and love them.

With time changes always do occur. Indeed, the first public lights in Philadelphia, installed about 1750, were glass globes, probably imported from London. In his Autobiography, Benjamin Franklin criticized these draftless, smoky and fragile lamps: "I therefore suggested composing them of four flat panes, with a long funnel above to draw up the smoke and crevices admitting air below..." Franklin's modifications were adopted, and his improved lamps burned sperm oil. The short cross bars at the top of the posts were installed for the lamplighter's ladder to lean against.

Although now lit by electricity instead of sperm oil, Franklin's design was reinstated thirty years ago by the planners and designers of modern Society Hill. These lamps are perhaps the single-most identifying and ubiquitous landmark on the streets of our district. They unify the community and are intrinsic in the design of SHCA's logo. Retaining their hallmark appearance throughout the community should be our highest preservation objective.

TOMORROW: SHCA Board, Old Pine, 7:30

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## DIRECTOR'S PROFILE

Part of a continuing series

### DICK OSTRANDER—PRESIDENT

Over the past 24 years, residents of Society Hill have seen the tall, slender man with the trademark beret walk a big dog around the neighborhood.

Over the past two years, that man—Dick Ostrander—has been president of the Society Hill Civic Association. Not a native Philadelphian, Dick came here as part of a corporate move to be general sales manager when Taft Broadcasting bought Channel 29.

Having enjoyed suburban living in Chicago, Kansas City, Santa, Cincinnati, and Columbus where they raised their son and daughter, Dick

and Liz decided to try center city living. Dick had seen the Schuylkill Expressway. Besides, they both enjoyed the theater, opera, and orchestra. With a boat on the Chesapeake to substitute for a green lawn, they settled into a modern home on Sixth Street. Soon Philadelphia was home.

Dick started his own business, Ozma Broadcasting, here in the mid-70's. Ozma is a reference from the Wizard of Oz. It was also the name of their first sloop. The big, black standard poodle that accompanies Dick is The Wiz. Like the heroine Dorothy, Dick is a ro-

*continued next page*

## Physick House Plant Sale

*Celebrate Spring with  
May Baskets,  
Birdhouses and  
Flowers!*



**321 South 4th Street**

Friday, April 29 3-6 PM

Saturday, April 30 10 AM - 6 PM

Sunday, May 1, 11 AM - 5 PM

## SHCA Calendar

Wednesday, April 20  
(TOMORROW)

**SHCA Board Meeting**  
Old Pine Community  
Center  
4th & Lombard Streets  
7:30 PM

April 29, 3-6  
April 30, 10-6  
May 1, 11-5

**Physick House Garden  
Plant Sale**  
321 S. 4th Street

May 4 Wednesday  
7:30-9:30 PM

**Town Watch  
Summer & Safety**  
Old Pine Community  
Center  
4th & Lombard Streets

Saturday, May 7  
**Cleanup Day**  
8-noon  
Picnic

**Philadelphia Open  
House Tour**  
1-5. \$22  
Call 928-1188

## PLANT SALE

Each spring for more than 25 years city gardeners have selected and purchased the best in annuals and perennials, herbs, flowering plants, hanging baskets and decorative pots from the Physick House Plant Sale. This sale has become an enormously well attended community event for urban dwellers seeking bursts of color for small spaces and dark corners, sun-loving annuals for the gardeners fortunate enough to need them and good buys on all selections.

In addition to the regular offerings, the 1994 Plant Sale will feature May Baskets, Birdhouses, and Gardening Tools. All proceeds benefit maintenance and restoration of the historic Physick House.

The dates are:

Friday, April 29, 3:00PM to 6:00PM

Saturday, April 30, 10:00AM to 6:00PM

Sunday, May 1, 11:00AM to 5:00PM

The sale will be held rain or shine in the garden at the rear of the Physick House at 321 South 4th Street.

*Malt Tasting for  
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with  
Presenter  
Elizabeth Riley  
Bell  
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SPECIAL FINANCIAL  
CONSIDERATIONS  
FOR SENIORS







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VOL. 4, No. 3 • ISSUED MARCH 15, 1994

## NOTES from SHCA President

by Dick Ostrander

... could spend a little time dis-  
ussing the weather, but I suspect  
...e've all had more than enough  
of that. Besides, I'm an optimist  
I believe that by the time you  
ad this that white mess will be

Two subjects really are on my  
mind: Recycling and our  
March 16th General Mem-  
ber Meeting.

RECYCLING at curb-  
comes our way very  
soon! In the next two  
weeks if you live in hous-  
with fewer than six  
units you'll receive your 12  
allon recycling bucket.

ose north of Pine start using it  
Monday March 21st and from  
to Bainbridge you start on  
Monday March 28th and every  
week from those start dates.

with the usual one day delays on  
noted holidays. Place the bucket  
where your usual trash is picked

Only rinsed metal food cans,  
rinsed aluminum beverage cans,  
rinsed glass bottles and jars and

newspapers bundled with string  
or placed in a PAPER bag are to  
be put out for recycling. NO  
PLASTIC EVER!!!! Recycling  
questions will be answered at  
686-8298. The program is manda-  
tory, and you can be fined up to  
\$300 per occurrence for not com-  
plying.

The Starr Garden recycling site  
is officially closed and the shed  
will disappear as soon as possible.  
The igloos are gone. PLEASE DO  
NOT take anything to Starr Gar-  
den hereafter.

The Wednesday March 16th  
membership meeting will con-  
vene at the Society Hill Sheraton  
at 7:30 p.m. Our host, General  
Manager Gerry Gutenstein, will  
have coffee and cookies available  
for early arrivals about 7 p.m.

The AGENDA should be  
unusually interesting. Charlie  
Haines from the Maritime Museum  
will make an audiovisual presen-  
tation about that facility. Joseph  
Doyle, Lighting Engineer from the  
Department of Streets will make  
a presentation about our

aging Franklin Lamps and pos-  
sible future replacement require-  
ments. We all love the lamps but  
right now there is no backup in-  
ventory to replace the dozen or so  
missing or damaged locations.  
WE need to learn when, where,  
why and how any lighting change  
may come to Society Hill.

BE THERE! Ciao.



## An Endangered Species? FRANKLIN LAMPS

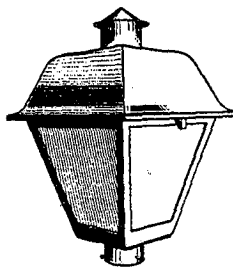
Below: GE's product has no curlicues or gooseneck, but costs only \$250.

The Philadelphia Streets Department's Light-  
ing Division has several problems with the  
Franklin Lamps installed throughout most  
of Society Hill. The sodium lights are almost  
30 years old and in need of increasing and  
costly maintenance. The poles are not  
grounded; and ungrounded poles in other  
parts of the city have resulted in two electro-  
cutions in the past five years. There is no in-  
ventory to replace missing or damaged lamps.  
Most importantly, they are expen-  
sive. Here is a breakdown accord-  
ing to Joe Doyle from the light-  
ing division:

- \$1,060 for the gooseneck and  
luminere
- \$1,500 for the cast iron pole
- \$230 for labor and materials  
to rehabilitate a lamp

There are almost 420 lamps in  
the area. Seventy were on a list  
forwarded by Councilman Joseph  
Vignola's office as missing or damaged, and  
needing the Streets Department's attention.

Only two companies make the lamp when  
it goes out to bid. The biggest design prob-  
lem seems to be the gooseneck construction,  
which is likely to crack if struck, is time con-  
suming to repair, and costly: about \$950 for  
the top post.



At this moment, there is no proposal to re-  
place the lamps. Certainly, no budget has been  
submitted or approved for such a project. But  
the Streets Department would like to explore  
the possibilities. They will present alterna-  
tives at the SHCA General Membership meet-  
ing on Wednesday, March 16 at 7:30 p.m. at  
the Society Hill Sheraton, One Dock Street.

Editor's Note: The Franklin Lamps were  
controversial when installed in 1965 as part  
of the Philadelphia Redevlop-  
ment Authority's Plan for the  
area. In the past 30 years, they  
have become a symbol for the  
area, even incorporated in the  
SHCA logo. They were not in-  
stalled on 5th or 6th Streets  
which were state roads. They are  
no longer designated state roads,  
and should have compatible  
lighting with the rest of the  
neighborhood.

The number of lumens (amount of light cast)  
is also an issue. Some neighbors would like  
brighter lighting to deter criminal activity.  
Others feel the lower lumens are more in keep-  
ing with the historical nature of the area.

Please come to the meeting with an open  
mind, ideas, and a will to create a solution  
that will benefit everyone.

## PRESERVATION AT ST. PETER'S CHURCH

Have you ever spotted the spire of St.  
Peter's Church standing out on the  
city skyline and been reassured by its  
presence? Have you ever wandered by  
or through the St. Peter's church yard  
and enjoyed its green tranquility?  
Have you ever wondered, "Who are all  
those people buried there and what  
role did they play in Philadelphia's  
history?" Have you ever been inside  
the church and marveled at its pure  
Georgian architecture? If you respond  
in the positive to any of these ques-  
tions, you will be interested in the  
Historic St. Peter's Church Preserva-  
tion Corporation which is committed  
to the preservation of the church's  
buildings, its grounds and its ar-  
chives.

The group, a not-for-profit corpora-  
tion founded in December of 1991, is  
run by a Board of Directors composed  
of both members and non-members of

Church's Vestry. Thanks to a gener-  
ous grant from Preservation Pennsylv-  
ania, it has been able to begin the  
process of repairing and preserving  
the old grave markers, many of them  
severely damaged by vandals in  
March of 1992. It has also had the  
help of graduate students from the  
University of Pennsylvania Historic  
Preservation Department in cleaning  
and doing basic repairs to some of the  
stones, and in studying the landscape  
of the yard and making recommenda-  
tions for its future use. And Old City  
resident, Fred Witkop, comes almost  
every day to keep the yard in trim;  
not an easy task for anyone, much less  
an octogenarian, given the constant  
depredations of ivy and the litter left  
by thoughtless visitors, human and  
canine.

A guiding program was started a  
year ago, and 15 guides now give their

to visitors on Saturday mornings from  
10:00 to noon and on Sunday after-  
noons from 1:00 to 3:00. Do stop in  
some day and learn about the church's  
unusual design (1761) by Robert  
Smith, the bell tower (1842) and its  
architect, William Strickland, about  
the church yard and its inhabitants,  
famous and little known. Did you  
know that over one hundred people  
were buried in the St. Peter's yard  
during the yellow fever epidemic of  
1793? Did you know that it is the fi-  
nal resting place for eight Indian  
chiefs who died of small pox, also in  
1793, when they came to Philadelphia  
to sign a treaty with President Wash-  
ington? There is a lot to discover at  
St. Peter's.

A membership program has also  
begun with lectures, special programs  
and a newsletter offered to HSPCPC  
members. The first lecture, given by

Park historian Coxey Toogood in  
vember, focused on the role of v-  
ous members of St. Peter's durir  
1793 yellow fever epidemic. A pres-  
tation on the landscaping of the  
past, present and future, will be  
in March by Ruth O'Brien of Per  
Historic Preservation Depar-  
and Curator of Carpenters' Ha-  
open house is held every year in  
to which neighbors, families o-  
church members, present  
members and HSPCPC membe-  
invited.

Membership in the HSPCPC  
wonderful way to help pres-  
Philadelphia landmark and to  
more about the early days of  
Hill and Philadelphia. To join,  
HSPCPC, 313 Pine Street, Phi-  
phia, PA 19106, and enter  
world around the corner.

## SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

Society Hill  
Civic Association

P.O. Box 3  
Philadelphia, PA 19105  
(215) 629-1288

### EDITOR:

Mary E. Sturdevant

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A F T R V E

## PROJECT STREET TREES PLANTS

Legislative Initiative Grant has been secured through Senator Vincent A. Fumo's office for Project Street Trees. So the volunteers from the two year old committee should be contacting Society Hill property owners with empty pits, or dying trees, about the program.

As outlined in a letter sent to each property owner, the program's highlights include:

- a specially negotiated price of \$300 for a 2 to 2-1/2 inch caliper tree based on a volume spring planting,
- a consultation with a representative from McFarland Landscape Services, Inc. to choose a tree appropriate for the property, the block, and the urban environment,
- a \$100 subsidy from the SHCA toward the purchase of the

tree.

At the time of the first survey in the fall of 1992, almost 90 sites were identified as needing a tree or having a severely endangered tree. However, this has been a particularly brutal winter, with ice storms and very high winds which have damaged the trees further. Some other trees have been lost to car accidents.

If you would like or need a tree and have not been contacted by a volunteer, please call Project Street Trees chairman Jean Bodine at 629-1288 to sign up.

To date, at least 12 new trees have been planted or promised. Almost all the dead trees have been removed. Several neighbors who have replanted requested that their \$100 subsidy be used to help another Society Hill site.

## Crime: Concern, Caution, Not Alarm

by Mel Buckman

The pattern of crime in Society Hill has remained rather consistent in recent months. Reports for the four months from October 1993 to January 1994 show that the overwhelming number of offenses in the neighborhood continue to be crimes against motor vehicles and thefts of motor vehicles. These account for at least two-thirds of all criminal activity in the area. Alarm systems, theft deterrents like "the club" and a pristine, empty car interior are the best preventatives.

In all, 80 crimes were reported in each of the months of October, November and December. In January, the number of offenses declined to 52.

Of special interest to residents is the incidence of violent crime—offenses against individuals in the streets. During the four months there were 23 reported—about six per month. Thirteen occurred from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., with five each in the other hours (7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 11

p.m.).

There were 10 robberies at gunpoint; one robbery at knifepoint; and 11 offenses without deadly weapons. One robber used Mace as his weapon.

The late evening and early morning hours are the times to be most cautious. If you are on the street during these times, be wary. Travel with a companion or in a group, if possible. Look ahead and around for suspicious activity and persons. Carry a personal alarm device, and keep it ready for immediate use.

But residents should not overreact, either. Twenty-three incidents in more than 120 days is not a high rate. And for two-thirds of the days, the rate is even less—only 10 offenses in four months: one every 12 days or so.

Nevertheless, your Town Watch urges everyone to use caution to protect themselves so far as possible from even these rather remote and infrequent threats of crime in the streets.

## Letter to...

Mayor Edward G. Rendell  
City Hall, Room 215  
Philadelphia PA 19107-3295

Dear Mayor Rendell:

There has been a great deal of media attention and speculation recently about the development of the City's Delaware waterfront area. We neighboring communities have been trying to separate the wheat from the chaff regarding the many rumors and conjectures. Gambling and many other proposed activities seem to be under consideration with NO reference to a MASTER PLAN for this important area.

We urge you to convene a conference of ALL interested and potentially affected neighborhoods, businesses and organizations to initiate development of a MASTER PLAN for the entire riverfront northward from the airport to the Port of Philadelphia boundaries. Following the conference we would suggest a Task Force be named to follow up with appropriate action. We believe that continued free-lance activity without a comprehensive plan will do a disservice to all... neighbors, businesses and the City!

We appreciate your consideration of this suggestion and will welcome an opportunity to cooperate in the planning process. Please keep us informed as this development area impacts our quality of life and our livelihoods. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
RICHARD W. OSTRANDER  
President, SHCA

COPIES:

City Council President John Street & all Council members  
Deputy Mayor Herb Vederman  
Congressmen Tom Foglietta & Robert Borski  
Barbara Kaplan, Philadelphia Planning Commissioner  
Stanhope Browne, Penn's Landing Corp.  
Jeremy Alvarez, Executive Director, CPDC  
Chairs/Presidents all Riverfront neighborhood associations  
Dr. Richard Tyler, Philadelphia Historical Commission  
Preservation Coalition of Greater Philadelphia  
Philadelphia Historic Preservation Corp.  
Foundation for Architecture

TOMORROW: SHCA Meeting, Sheraton, 7 PM

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by appointment



# SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

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

VOL. 4, NO. 2 • ISSUED FEBRUARY 8, 1994

## NOTES from SHCA President

We urge ALL members to join us on February 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Old Pine Community Center, 4th and Lombard Streets. There is quite a lot of information to share. Historic Preservation is very active; and some zoning matters have been resolved. Project Street Trees needs help as we must use the \$5,000 for planting before the end of June.

Several riverfront community associations (and others) share the concerns we expressed to the Mayor in our January 10th letter about riverfront development. We need your input as we proceed to work against catch-as-catch-can development and for a comprehensive plan!

Mark your calendars for the MEMBERS ONLY reception scheduled this month at Hurricane Alley. Get your check in the mail if you've overlooked joining for 1994.

Take heart neighbors, the days are getting longer and next month we'll be looking ahead to spring stuff! Ciao.

—Dick Ostrander



## SPRUCE TO 5TH TO WALNUT Septa to Reroute Bus 42

Septa's hearing examiner Edward H. Huss has recommended that the transportation company reroute Bus 42 from 3rd Street. If accepted, Bus 42 will travel up Spruce Street to 5th Street, proceed along 5th Street to Walnut Street. The change will be implemented in late February or March.

Why is the change needed? Since 1981, the neighbors along 3rd Street have complained that vibrations from the bus have caused cracks and other structural damage to their homes. Powell House has suffered falling plaster and lost architectural details. Even the modern Pei houses have shared in the misery. Since their brick manufacturer has gone out of business, replacements had to be obtained by deconstructing garden walls.

The neighbors along the 300 and 400 blocks of Spruce know that it is only a matter of time before they have the same problems. They only have the less frequent Bus 90 along Spruce Street. This decision was made on the democratic principle of majority rule. There are 44 historic houses

along Third Street and seven along that stretch of Spruce Street. In addition, most of Fifth Street between Spruce and Walnut Streets is commercial. Hopefully, parents picking up and dropping off students at St. Mary's School will pull into the alley to avoid traffic tie-ups and dangerous crossing situations.

Some neighbors wanted buses pulled off Spruce Street entirely and moved to Walnut Street. Again the majority ruled. Surveys conducted by Septa found that while 150 riders will be inconvenienced by losing the stop at 3rd and Walnut, over 650 regular riders would be inconvenienced by eliminating all Spruce Street stops.

Other possible alternatives were apparently too costly. Third Street was resurfaced to alleviate some vibrations, but to little or no avail. Fifth Street has been restructured—not just resurfaced—so it should be able to absorb the beating from heavy vehicles.

No one can celebrate this decision. Its best feature is that the change claims to have inconvenienced the least amount of people. But if Society Hill were an historic district, other alternatives like jitneys could be pursued. New Orleans has banned all buses from its historic district. The challenge becomes to provide public transportation that is even more accessible and as inexpensive as what is provided today. Many people live in this area for the convenience, not the historic charm. Others value the charm and historic integrity above convenience. Both need to be accommodated.

### The Society Hill Civic Association MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- New Member       Renewal  
 Household \$25       Business/Corporate \$50  
 Corporate Sponsor \$100

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Tel.(day) \_\_\_\_\_ (eve) \_\_\_\_\_

I (we) would be interested in working with the following committee(s):

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

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

## SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

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

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Nancy Hallman

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Philadelphia, PA 19147 • (215) 625-2846 •  
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## HUDSON RIVER ESTATES TRIP BENEFITS THE PHYSICK HOUSE

The palatial Nelson Rockefeller estate in Tarrytown—Kykuit—will open to the public May 4, 1994. Be among the first to see this newest attraction of the National Trust for Historic Preservation on Friday May 6. The lush landscaping and grounds are a gardener's delight and an artist's inspiration. The world-class artwork is worth a trip in itself.

First we visit one of America's finest Gothic Revival mansions, Lyndhurst, also overlooking the Hudson River. This unique home was designed by A.J. Davis in 1838. The interior contains early Victorian decorative elements. This jewel is placed in the outstanding landscape of A.J. Downing. After the earthly glories of the day,

heavenly visions in the tiny Union Church, decorated by Matisse and Chagall, will bring it all into focus.

8 a.m. departure from the Visitor Center 3rd and Chestnut Streets. 7:30 p.m. return to 3rd and Chestnut.

Cost: \$140.00 per person. This includes transportation, admissions, snacks, gratuities, lunch, box dinner and a \$40.00 contribution to the Physick House.

Send your check to Jo Ann Buller. Please make the check payable to Bright-Cooke Travel, 325 Chestnut Street, Suite 1101, Philadelphia, PA 19106. No confirmations will be sent but if you have questions please call Jo Ann at 215-625-8585.

# SOCIETY HILL REPORTS

now retired Preservation Architect of Independence National Historic Park, are working hard to guarantee the historical accuracy of the document.

## Will SH Ever Become an Historic District?

The question of when Society Hill can become a designated historic district has been waiting the state's Supreme Court to overturn its decision that such acts represent an unlawful "taking of property" for five years. Now with that out of the way, the Political Advocacy Subcommittee of the Historic Preservation Committee is banded with others to pressure the Historic Commission to consider all the petitions together instead of sequentially.

Bernice Hamel, newly installed chair replacing Becky Stoloff, has made this a top priority of the committee. Zoning, maintenance, and funding issues can all be impacted by the successful accep-

tance of this area as an historic district.

## Let Your Window Pane Reflect Your History

Share with your neighbors and tourists the history of your home. Was someone famous born there or occupied it at some time? The Philadelphia Historical Commission, a division of Public Property, has a file at their offices at 1401 Arch Street or call 686-4583 to find out. SHCA's Historic Preservation Committee also has much of this information that they will share with you. Call 925-4363, and leave a message with your address.

Bring the information and \$2.00 to Faith Lemmer at 236 Pine Street for a plastic or paper sign for your window. These panels do not deface the brick or invite vandalism like some metal plaques. Watch how eagerly the information is read by passersby.



Old Pine Community Center last weekend was the scene of the 9th annual craft show, "Made By Hand"...

Photo by Nancy Hallman

## Preservationists Publish

The re-energized Historic Preservation Committee will publish a two-page Guide to Society Hill this year. Complete with maps, photographs and other memorabilia, the guide will allow walkers to learn the history of the area and add to local lore. Chilton Publishing Company will print the guide.

If you want to know the true story about the busybodies and not quite trust the tale you heard from the carriage driver, pick up this guide. Neighbors Les Peterson, an architectural historian, and Penny Batcheler,

## SHCA Calendar

(clip & save)

Wednesday, February 16  
7:30 PM to 9:30 PM  
Old Pine Community Center  
4th & Lombard Streets  
Board of Directors Meeting  
All Welcome

Tuesday, February 22  
5:30 to 7:30 PM  
SHCA Members Only  
Cocktail Party  
Hurricane Alley  
328 South Street

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- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p><b>APPETIZERS:</b> Choice of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crab Farci-Fresh crab w/mushroom</li> <li>• California Roll-vegetarian sushi w/ avocado</li> <li>• Chicken Satay w/spicy Thai peanut butter sauce</li> </ul>                                      | <p><b>SOUP</b><br/>Choice of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cream of Mushroom</li> <li>• Vegetables Miso</li> </ul> | <p><b>SALAD</b><br/>• Salade Maison</p> |
| <p><b>ENTREES:</b> Your Choice of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tournedos-fillet mignon w/mustard sauce</li> <li>• Salmon broiled w/ginger sauce</li> <li>• Spicy Thai Chicken w/basil sauce</li> <li>• Sushi Combination (fresh fish or vegetarian)</li> </ul> | <p><b>DESSERT</b><br/>Valentine Chocolate Mousse Cake</p> <p>Coffee or Tea included</p>  |   |

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The Artful Dodger  
Beef and Ale House





# SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

*A newsletter of the Society Hill Civic Association*

VOL. 4, No. 1  
ISSUED JANUARY 13, 1994

## Notes from SHCA President

**Happy New Year!** All the neighbors who decorated their homes with wreaths and lights, thank you. The 500 block of Cypress looked especially festive with green garlands gracing the Franklin lamps, topped with big, bright red ribbons.

The most obvious note is that this is a special edition of the *Society Hill Reporter*. We hope to return to normal communication in the *East Philadelphia Sun* on February 1.

The Wednesday, January 19 meeting of the Society Hill Civic Association will be hosted by Pennsylvania Hospital at 7:30 p.m. in the Preston Auditorium... use the 8th

Street entrance just South of Spruce. Hospital President Cliff Eldridge will welcome us; and his staff will have cookies, cakes and hot and cold beverages ready outside the auditorium as we gather starting at 7 p.m. Congressman Tom Foglietta plans to be with us for a short report and a Q & A session.

Project Street Trees has received the legislative initiative grant through the Office of Senator Vincent Fumo. The goal is to get 50 new or replacement trees in the ground this spring. The grant is for planting only. Stump removal is the responsibility of the owner, but with the SHCA \$100 subsidy for the tree, we hope to have 100% participation. Most of the dead trees have been removed.

Recycling at Starr Garden has stopped. Some neighbors disregarded the Holiday closing of the site and

dumped TRASH in addition to the recyclables. The site was closed as there were to be no Holiday collections per the posted sign. We will now remove the shed at the first good weather break. Thanks to all "green" neighbors who have cooperated over the years!

Membership renewal letters have been delivered. A MEMBERS ONLY party in February is the first special perk of the year. Information about it and the other Member services—including special discounts at selected area restaurants—will be included with your 1994 Membership Card and Calendar in your confirmation letter. JOIN NOW! Hope to meet you on the 19th—next Wednesday—at the Pennsylvania Hospital meeting.

Ciao!

—Dick Ostrander

## Starr Garden Recycling HAS CLOSED!

*Curbside Recycling will start in the Spring.*

## SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

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

CO-EDITORS:  
*Bernice T. Hamel*  
*Mary Sturdevant*

## *Congressman Thomas Foglietta speaks*

*Wednesday, January 19th, 7:30 p.m.*

**Preston Auditorium  
Pennsylvania Hospital  
8th & Spruce Streets**

Are you curious about the status of the Marine's Tun Tavern, or the conditions under which the National Park Service may take over Washington Square? Questions and Answers will follow the congressman's presentation.

*SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION*

# 1994 Membership Drive Accelerates

Renewal notices to current SHCA members have been mailed. If you would like to join and have not gotten a form, use the one in this *Reporter* or call 629-1288 (the SHCA office phone).

What did the SHCA do in 1993?

**Project Street Trees** encouraged neighbors to replant 12 trees; eight more are promised. Their goal is 50 this year with help from a Legislative Initiative Grant. Approximately 90 trees were lost over the previous 20 years.

Fall and Spring **Clean Up Days** will continue. This has involved over 20 government agencies with tremendous support from very special neighbors like the National Park Service and Pennsylvania Hospital, who fielded close to 100 volunteers and lots of equipment. Citizens Alliance for Cleaner Neighborhoods provide special street sweepers and Bobcats as well as drivers, and Waste Management of North America provide the dumpster to facilitate cleaning. The committee will continue to work on alternative side parking for the event. Dates in '94 are May 7 and November 19.

Monthly (almost) publication of the *Society Hill Reporter* in the *East Philadelphia Sun* informs neighbors of events and issues in the community.

**Historic Preservation** provided current residents with information about the original owners, architects, and construction dates of their homes. This year, they plan to establish a walking tour. But their most important goal is to get this neighborhood

designated as an historic district, which will preserve the integrity and charm of the area.

Fundraisers like *Forever Plaid* enabled the Board to donate the last \$1,000 needed by the Head House Conservancy to pay the contractors for the restoration of the HeadHouse and Shambles.

Watchdog groups with their dedicated chairs oversee **Zoning** and **Liquor License** requests.

**Town Watch** works with the police and provides educational meetings for neighbors on safety, security devices, etc.

Four general and eight monthly forums for concerns were voiced. One example was the resolution of the highly controversial and divisive installation of new playground equipment at Three Bears Park.

'94 is going to pose many challenges to the community. We need you, and together we can get many positive things done for Society Hill.

**Renew or Join Now!**

## SHCA Calendar

Wednesday, January 19  
6:30 p.m.

**Board of Directors Meeting**  
7:00 p.m. Refreshments  
7:30 p.m.

**General Membership Meeting**  
Preston Auditorium  
Pennsylvania Hospital  
8th & Spruce Streets  
Congressman Foglietta  
scheduled.

Tuesday, February 1  
**Project Street Trees**

Captains to report on trees to be ordered for Spring planting.

Wednesday, February 16  
7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

**Board of Directors Meeting**  
Old Pine Community Center  
NW Corner 4th & Lombard  
Streets

Tuesday, February 22  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

**Members Only Cocktail Party**  
Hurricane Alley/Cafe Nola  
328 South Street  
Incredible Hors d'ouvres, best  
margaritas north of the Rio  
Grande!

Look for the SOCIETY HILL REPORTER  
in the next issue of the EAST PHILADELPHIA SUN,  
to be published February 1st.  
**Final deadline: January 28th**

## EAST PHILADELPHIA SUN

Send mail to:  
518 S. 5th St., #60  
Philadelphia, PA 19147  
(215) 625-2846

PUBLISHER  
**Bruce Anthony**

# SOCIETY HILL Reports

## PROJECT STREET TREES

The captains and 30 members of the Street Trees committee will be contacting all owners who have diseased or dead trees personally to encourage them to replant. The legislative initiative grant (aka WAM) has been received, and SHCA is subsidizing the last \$100 of the cost of the tree.

Call the SHCA office at 629-1288 or chairman Jean Bodine to participate in the program. The arborist will contact you after this to set up an appointment to discuss the kind of tree you should plant given your block, space, pit size, etc. He can also estimate the cost of any stump removal.

Homeowners should be aware to water their trees, especially in the hot months. Enlarge pits so no stones

or bricks impinge on the trunk. Advisors are available on pruning and care.

While last weekend's ice storm created spectacular effects of nature, it also damaged many of the trees. This will mean more work in the spring.

## CABARET THEATRE DARK FOR DARK MONTHS

*Forever Plaid*, the opening show for the New Cabaret Theatre at New-Market, closed before Christmas. This delightful musical provided funds for several SHCA projects through a benefit performance.

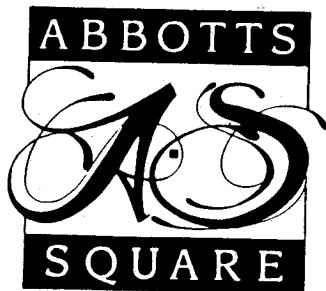
A show is scheduled to reopen in March. Check in the *Sun* for information on the progress. The neighbors are very concerned that the area succeed with the kind of productions that will enhance the community and bring in visitors who will appreciate and respect the efforts of the residents to create a lovely community.

## WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT—WHERE'S THE PLAN?

The SHCA Board has asked president Dick Ostrander to send a letter to both Mayor Edward Rendell and the Delaware River Port Authority to present a plan for the development of the waterfront to the SHCA membership. As a concerned neighbor of the waterfront, the SHCA would like to evaluate and respond to the development projects. The group cannot respond to rumors, i.e. riverboat gambling.

Philadelphia and Society Hill have always benefited from vision and planning. There was William Penn's original inspiration for "a greene countrie towne." Later, Richardson Dilworth and the Redevelopment Authority salvaged and restored the area with some visionary and dedicated neighbors. History and Pragmatism are knocking on our leaders' doors again. What's the plan?

Compliments of



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### The Society Hill Civic Association MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- New Member*                       *Renewal*  
 *Household \$25*                       *Business/Corporate \$50*  
 *Corporate Sponsor \$100*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Tel.(day) \_\_\_\_\_ (eve) \_\_\_\_\_

I (we) would be interested in working with the following committee(s):

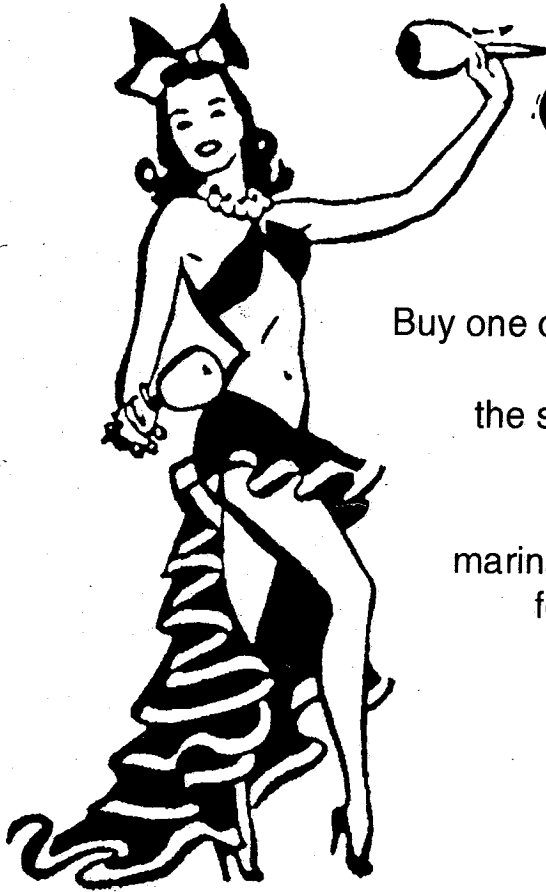
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Liquor Control           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Town Watch                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Maintenance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning                       | 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

Mail to:

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

# BUY ONE CHA CHA LESSON

# GET ONE FREE!



Yes, take a dance lesson in easy take out that will have you waltzing through the dinner hour. Buy one of Copapronto's delicious Cha Cha Chicken Dinners or Babyback Barbecue Rib Dinners and get the second one free with this coupon good until Jan. 31.

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Dinners include two sidedishes and a piece of cornbread.

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