



SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

A newsletter of the Society Hill Civic Association

VOL. 4, No. 5
ISSUED MAY 17, 1994

Notes from SHCA President

Let me begin with a very special THANKS to all who worked on the May 7 Clean Up Day. That starts with co-chairs Mary Sturdivant and Howard Lander and includes everyone who swept, shoveled, planted and helped in any way. More thanks to the providers of the picnic lunch served under the Head House Shambles. And thanks to Mayor Ed Rendell and Representative Curtis Thomas for joining us. The flowering window planters and tree wells filled with pansies will certainly brighten our neighborhood for months.

Speaking of plantings, those new trees you see in many places should be with us for years, thanks to Project Street Trees and its dedicated leader, Jean Bodine. Jean reports that by the end of June some 50 to 60 new trees should be in the ground. I hope this inspires those few who did not initially see the benefit of trees when the program began.



Howard Lander & Frank diCicco roll out from McCall School to start the Spring Clean Up Day.

One other note on trees... you often read about the abuses of Legislative Initiative Grants (WAM money). Both Project Street Trees and Clean Up Days (the equipment was purchased with WAM money) have benefitted from these funds. This money is mighty important, mighty good, and mighty useful and is used for projects that we the taxpayers determine what we want and need for our neighborhood.

I hope to see many neighbors at the Wednesday, May 18, General Membership Meeting at 7:30 pm at the Old Pine Community Center. Light refreshments will be served at 7:00. Debuting is Chilton's 1994 Guide to Historic Society Hill—produced by our Historic Preservation Committee. A complimentary copy of this wonderful new publication will be distributed to every SHCA household.

The general meeting has a very full agenda: It's ELECTION NIGHT FOR BOARD NOMINEES of the Civic Association. Then a round of speakers and presentations, which include: **Dr. Richard Tyler**, Commissioner of the City's Historical Commission, regarding the status of Historic District designation for Society Hill. **Harvey Knauer**

and **Tim O'Brien**, PennDOT project managers, presenting plans for I-95 and Delaware Avenue. Finally, **Eric Blumenfeld** will inform us about summer events scheduled for South Street.

Ciao!

SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

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

EDITOR

Mary E. Sturdivant

CONTRIBUTORS

Dick Ostrander

Bernice Hamel

Hilary LaViolette

PHOTOGRAPHS

Bernie Cleff

Becky Stoloff

SHCA Calendar

Wednesday, May 18

SHCA Board of Directors meeting
6:30 PM

SHCA General Membership Meeting
7:00 Refreshments
7:30 Meeting: Election of Board of Directors

Old Pine Community Center
401 Lombard Street

Clean Up Day Shines

The Spring Clean Up Day and spring planting on Saturday, May 7 was bigger and better than ever! Nature cooperated by keeping the rains away until after the sweeping, then really washing down the streets and sidewalks with a late afternoon deluge. Co-chairs **Howard Lander** and **Mary Sturdivant** and Chairs-elect **Larry Meehan** and **Miffy Coonley** would like to acknowledge participation from all the following:

- The Committee for signage and flyer distribution: **Liz Engleman**, **Connie Stephano**, **Ruth Mc Kevitt**, **Vicky Hertel**, **Marion McKone**, **Jerry Deye**, **Martha Moore**, **Nancy Hallman**, **Mary Joyce Enderby**, **Jim Covello**, and **Molly DeLaurentis** and their helpers.

- **Waste Management of North America** for the dumpster.

- **Peco Energy** for the woodchips (some still available at Starr Garden).

- The **Philadelphia Water Department** for the compost (some still available at Starr Garden).

- **Philadelphia More Beautiful Committee**, **PhilaPride**, and **Streets Department** for the signs, hats, brooms and trash bags.

- **Glad Bag** for 240 plastic bags.

- **Frank De Cicco** and his drivers from the **Citizens' Alliance for Cleaner Neighborhoods** for their time and their equipment, purchased through a Legislative Initiative Grant from **Senator Fumo's** office.

- **Eric Blumenfeld** of **Abbotts Square** and **Rob Donaldson** of **Pizzeria Uno** (and assistant **Mike Luther**) for arranging the picnic at the Shambles. **Helen Ann Comstock** for organizing the helpers.

- **T.G.I. Friday's**, **Pizzeria Uno**, **Nookies**, **Monte Carlo Living Room**, and **Bridget Foy's** for the wonderful food and beverages.

- **Janet Samuels**, principal, and **Karen Biddle**, parent, at the **McCall School** for organizing the Tom Sawyer Day to paint and clean and for letting us park the dumpster in their schoolyard.

- The **Independence National Historic Park** maintenance service for their volunteers and equipment. Boy, are they good!

- The **Center City District** for people and equipment.

- **Pennsylvania Hospital** and **Hall Mercer** for its army of volunteers.

- The **Philadelphia Parking Authority**

and the **Sixth and Third Police Districts** for their cooperation and suggestions.

- **Maria DeCicco** and the students at **St. Peter's School** for cleaning, then helping to decorate the Shambles.

- The **Hopkinson House**, **Penn's Landing**, **Society Hill Towers**, **Abbotts Square**, and **Independence Place Condominium Associations** for their people and equipment.

- **SuperFresh** for coffee and doughnuts for the volunteers.

- **Bernie Cleff** for capturing the day on film.

- All the neighbors who came out to sweep, scrub, plant and hang May Baskets.

- Of course, **Mayor Ed Rendell** who gave us the idea by donning his jogging suit and personally scrubbing City Hall when he took office.

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!

Blue Ribbon Neighbors Honored

The following residents were recognized by their neighbors with Blue Ribbon awards because of their care in maintaining the cleanliness and attractiveness of the community:

Charlie Bangert of Spruce Street
Jean Bodine of Cypress Street
Mel Buckman of Addison Street
Jim and Marge Covello of 4th Street
Molly DeLaurentis of Pine Street
Jerry Deye of Delancey Street
Cathy Flynn of Cypress Street
Rick Jay of 6th Street
Carol Joyal of Pine Street
Ruth McKeivitt of Pine Street
Marion and Joe McKone of Lawrence Court

Don McNeill of Perth Street
Martha Moore of Addison Street
Giovanni Petri of Spruce Street
Peggy O'Donnell of Pine Street
Liz and Dick Ostrander of 6th Street
Fred Ottaviano of Pine Street
Art and Sally Smith of Pine Street
Bruce Smith of 5th Street
Ray and Karen Steenhoff of Cypress Street

Sonia Vent of Lawrence Court
Adrianna von Peine of 4th Street



Blue Ribbon Neighbor Peggy O'Donnell hangs baskets on Franklin lamp posts.

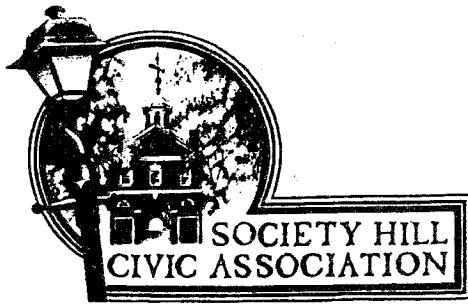
Guidebook Debuts

The long-anticipated Chilton's 1994 Guide to Historic Society Hill has been published. A complimentary copy of the 62-page brochure, chock full of intriguing bits of history and architecture, will be distributed to all SHCA member households. If you attend the May 18 General Membership Meeting at Old Pine Community Center, you'll receive your copy at that time. Others will be distributed in the near future.

The brochure—the only one of its kind, ever!— is a self-guided walking tour of “America's most historic square mile.” Whether a long-time resident or newcomer to the neighborhood, we are certain that all readers will experience the same pride, interest, and enthusiasm for Society Hill that motivated its producers.

In addition to providing background on all the major buildings and homes in the area, readers learn, for example, how Society Hill got its name and why no one should ever get lost while strolling our historic streets. All the research and writing was accomplished as a labor of love by a professional team of volunteers from SHCA's Historic Preservation Committee. Bernie Cleff's photographs and Penny Batcheler's drawings illustrate many architectural details. The guidebook is dedicated to Charles E. Peterson, F.A.I.A., architectural historian, for his long-time devotion to Society Hill.

Additional copies for friends, families, old neighbors who have moved away, anticipated guests can be obtained by calling SHCA's Administrator, Judy Friedman, at 629-1288 or Committee member, Rosemarie Scarpulla, at 925-3003. (Retail price is \$3.75 per copy, but bulk sales reduce the cost.) Proceeds from sales will be used to further the work of the Historic Preservation Committee in a dedicated preservation fund.



SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

A newsletter of the Society Hill Civic Association

VOL. 4, No. 7
ISSUED SEPT. 12, 1994

Notes from SHCA President

DICK OSTRANDER

Back to the real world! Summer vacation is mostly a memory. The calendar is filling rapidly with meetings and fall events.

This issue of *The Reporter* starts a new phase for the publication. The eight-page format will be printed every other month. We will mail it to all our members and distribute about 2,500 copies throughout the neighborhood. We need volunteers on both the editorial and advertising end. Please support our advertisers.

The General Membership will meet at Pennsylvania Hospital's Preston Auditorium on Wednesday, September 21, at 7:00. Refreshments will be served. Hospital president Cliff Eldredge will address us, present his plans and take questions. Anne Marie Descerafino of the National Park Service will update us on the development of the new general management for Independence Historic Park. Susan Gross from the Valley Forge Music Fair will talk about the October reopening of the NewMarket cabaret theatre and respond to your questions. Anne Hagele will tell us a little about the city's oldest and largest Senior Center at Broad and Lombard, which she directs.

Board meetings are the third Wednesday of every month at 7:30 at the Old Pine Community Center. They are open to members.

Special kudos to all those who planted and watered all the flowers which seemed to exceed past years. Sixty new trees went in as part of Project Street Trees. You'll hear about that on the 21st, too. Wear a name tag that expresses the real you. We'll have a prize or two. Ciao!

The Site at Third and Lombard Streets

'Deja Vu All Over Again'

By Bernice Hamel and Mary Sturdivant

With less than 24 hours notice, over 120 neighbors packed the Old Pine Community Center on a hot August 24 evening. Chaired by the Zoning Committee of Queen Village Neighbors Association, the meeting was called to give a group of developers the opportunity to present preliminary development plans for the 1.5 acre site on the southeast corner of 3rd and Lombard Streets.

The community opposed construction of a parking lot on that undeveloped plot of land just a few short years ago. The site was the scene of a bitter and protracted legal battle between its former owner, Gloria Levin, and the community, galvanizing many neighbors into action. Eventually the land was zoned for residential use only, R-10-B. The existing parking lot, however, was grandfathered into the final legislation, Bill # 430, dated May 1989.

The site is currently owned by a limited partnership consisting of Bernard Cohen, Elliot Davis, Marvin Katz, and Sam Rappaport. Sam Rappaport, who died just last week, was the land and property speculator who almost single-handedly contributed to a systematic loss of some of Philadelphia's most important Center City and historic buildings. It is not known what, if any, effect his death will have on the sale of this site.

At the August 24 meeting, Jerry Batoff, the project's counsel, tried to present very primitive plans for development of the site. He claimed to be unaware of its current zoning — although he said his group had made a six-month study about the viability of retail development for it. According to this early study, the site would likely consist of retail space totalling 53,000 square feet — in one- and two-story buildings,

whose anchor tenant would be a natural foods supermarket from a national chain, called Whole Foods. Parking for the shops could accommodate 100 cars on Lombard Street, less than now available.

"How much of the site would be building and how much open space?" he was asked. He could not say.

Queen Village and Society Hill residents joined together vehemently objecting to construction of this retail space — primarily because the site is just one block from South Street, which already has vacant space and activity that impacts on the neighborhood. Neighbors objected to the developer's commercial proposal for a host of reasons, including the following:

1. It would bring heavy delivery trucks into the neighborhood, which would undermine the historic buildings and streets.
2. It would attract additional shoppers from outside the area, creating additional traffic in what is already a congested area — across from a school and playground at St. Peter's.
3. Retail activity would be determined ultimately by the reality of the marketplace — if shops go vacant, economics would dictate that they be filled by any willing and available tenants. It would be impossible to exclude every possible undesirable commercial use for the future, since these would have to be specified in the covenant.
4. Nearby NewMarket, which is zoned commercial, sits empty and waiting for commercial development.
5. The neighborhood can support only so many food markets, as a plethora would undercut the success of those already here: Chef's Market on South Street; SuperFresh on 5th Street; Essene, a su-

Continued on page 3

Historic Preservation Committee

by Bernice Hamel, Chair

Activities of the Historic Preservation Committee and its three subcommittees have slowed down a bit over the summer, but look for another round of enthusiastic, pro-active work — on several fronts — in the coming months.

We are delighted to report that SHCA's Historic Preservation group has been invited to hold future meetings in the lovely Cincinnati Room of the Physick House. This invitation has come from Donna Thomas, who is president of the Physick House Committee of the Landmarks Society. Barbara Epstein, the new site manager of the Physick House, also welcomes us to hold our meetings in this elegant Federal mansion in our community (321 S. 4th Street).

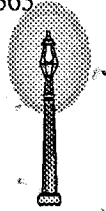
Committee Members:

Please note the following two upcoming meetings at the Physick House to kick-off the fall season:

On Tuesday, September 20, at 7:30 p.m., the Oversight Subcommittee will meet to evaluate and review its pilot program designed to stabilize and improve the appearance of our neighborhood. Bob Butera, director of the Pennsylvania Convention Center and the person who inspired the Oversight program, is expected to add his thoughts to the proceedings. George Scarpulla, Oversight co-Chair, urges all program volunteers to attend this important meeting. Any questions? Call him at 925-3003.

A full agenda is expected for the next meeting of the Historic Preservation Committee, scheduled for Tuesday, October 4, 7:30 p.m. Topics of concern will range from the "Man Full of Trouble Museum" (how our Political Advocacy Subcommit-

tee tried, but nonetheless lost the museum to the University of Pennsylvania as a scholar's residence); to an update of the Franklin Lamps (this time our work was more successful—the lamps will be modernized yet preserved in appearance!) If you need more information prior to the meeting, please do not call the Physick House. Call Bernice Hamel, committee chair, at 925-4363.



Unightly Cable TV Connections

The Historic Preservation Committee of the Society Hill Civic Association is taking steps to eliminate the many unsightly cable TV connections on building facades in the our area.

Recent discussions with the Greater Media Cable Quality Control inspection staff has resulted in a planned cooperative program to correct the current unacceptable conditions.

A city ordinance prohibits placing utility wires of any kind on the outside of buildings in Society Hill. That includes visible cable TV installations. Arrangements have been made for a Greater Media/SHCA cooperative program which is expected to preclude the need to involve city officials to correct the present unlawful conditions.

Volunteers of the SHCA Preservation Committee surveyed the area to update a list compiled a few years ago which revealed more than 160 TV cables illegally strung on building facades and hidden behind drainpipes. Fifty-four sites have been corrected.

Residents are requested to cooperate with the technicians who will be making the changes. Call Dominic D'Aurizio at 952-4934 to arrange appointments. Your neighborhood Historic Preservation Committee is taking a keen interest in this program to provide another factor which will help lead to city certification or historic designation of Society Hill.

National Night Out Brings Out Cohen and Curtis

The Town Watch National Night Out committee boarded a Philadelphia tourist trolley to cruise Society Hill and serenade neighbors with the plaintive notes from Rufus Harley's bagpipe. The Society Hill Sheraton hosted the meeting on Tuesday, August 2, and provided the refreshments. About fifty neighbors attended.

David Cohen, representing City Hall, got sidetracked by questions from the audience and addressed other issues like the installation of the very expensive self-cleaning toilets for the South Street area and the Columbus Blvd. footbridge.

Representative Curtis Thomas, who shares this area with Marie Lederer, stayed focused on crime and wants a special meeting of the legislature this fall to discuss only this topic. His main goal is to educate his fellow legislators to the unique problems posed by some weapons to an urban environment as opposed to the rural and "hunters' playground" counties. About five crimes involving knives or guns occur on Society Hill streets every month.

Captain Joseph O'Donnell of the Sixth Police District and Lt. Robert McCarthy of the Third at the South Street mini station mentioned how much more effective the bike patrols are than cruisers. The cyclist cops can sneak up on perpetrators without being spied by spotters more easily than can the patrol cars. Neighbors voiced concerns about the numbers of officers assigned to this area as being inadequate, but the statistics available did not warrant more for this low crime area.

Dick Ostrander addressed the group in his role of public safety director for the South Street Head House District. He touted the success of the bike patrols and the mini-station. Cohen had also stressed that community policing in Philadelphia has been used as a model throughout the country. The audience felt coverage on South Street was good, but not adequate for the spillover onto the side streets in the residential areas.

Some isolated incidents of neighbors feeling intimidated by the size of the crowds for Greek Week were also brought up. One estimate put the crowds on South Street at 70,000. Cohen volunteered that the city is anxious to work with the organizers to keep problems to a minimum.

Everyone got a whistle and went home. They seemed to feel safe walking.

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EDITOR
Mary E. Sturdivant

CONTRIBUTORS
Dick Ostrander
Bernice Hamel
Mel Buckman

Deja Vu All Over Again

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perior natural food store at 4th and Bainbridge Streets, whose existence the developers claim they did not know about at the time of the meeting. This raised concerns about the reliability of their 6-month-long marketing research.

- 6. Dumpsters at commercial sites are always sources of contention for the residents.
- 7. Neighbors fought hard and long for the residential zoning, and they want this to be maintained. As to the developer's response that we are now living with an unattractive parking lot in our midst, neighbors expressed comfort with "living with the devil they know rather than

living with the devil that they don't know."

When the developer asked, "What would make you happy?" many people simply said, "Build houses." In fact, one person promised that he would be the first to buy one if townhouses were to be built.

Although SHCA President Dick Ostrander had distributed fliers announcing the meeting only to nearby neighbors of 3rd and Lombard Streets, the room was filled about equally with Society Hill and Queen Village residents. When word got out about the potential for commercial encroachment of our unique historical residential community, Society Hill neigh-

bors came out of their summer slumber to oppose it.

Officially representing SHCA at the meeting was Lorna Katz Lawson, architect and co-chair with George Compton of SHCA's Zoning Committee. In zoning matters, the position of the neighbors most immediately affected by the change — if a consensus is reached — is supported. The vote taken at the end of this heated meeting was unanimous: Those in attendance were opposed to the proposal of any commercial development of the site.

The developers promised to return. As did the neighbors. So stay tuned.

GREEN DRUGS

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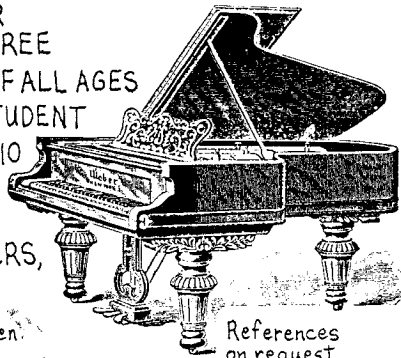
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References on request

SHCA Calendar

Tuesday, Sept. 20
Physick House
321 S. 4th St.
7:30 PM

Meeting: Oversight Subcommittee, Historic Preservation Committee

Wednesday, Sept. 21
Pennsylvania Hospital
8th & Spruce Sts.
7:00 PM Refreshments
7:30 PM General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 4
Physick House
321 S. 4th St.
7:30 PM
Meeting: Historic Preservation Committee



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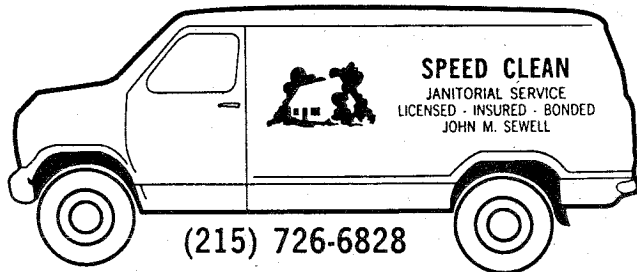


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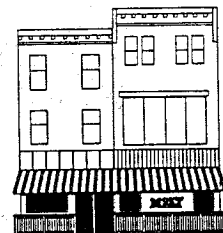
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Profile of the Directors

Part of a Continuing Series

Helen-Ann Comstock

For the past several years, Helen-Ann Comstock has represented the residents of Independence Place on the Board of the Society Hill Civic Association.

A native Philadelphian, Helen-Ann Souder was born at Pennsylvania Hospital, graduated from Germantown High School and Gettysburg College, then enrolled at the University of Pennsylvania in political science. But by then, she had met the tall and handsome Craig Comstock at a dance at the Philadelphia Cricket Club and was more interested in seeing him at Cornell than pursuing a post-graduate degree.

Clark & Dilworth

After finishing courses at the Levitan Business School so she could type, Helen-Ann joined the Clark administration as administrative assistant to the ceremonial secretary. Soon she was the ceremonial secretary in Richardson Dilworth's administration. Dilworth as mayor was a prime mover in the redevelopment of Society Hill. Highlights from those years include dinners for the late Princess Grace of Monaco and the former president of Indonesia.

After her marriage, Helen-Ann and her naval husband moved to Newport, Rhode Island, and moved into an apartment on the fabled Ocean Drive. After trips to Europe, the next assignment was Monterey, California. "I was having fun, being a naval wife, a Girl Scout leader who had never been camping, a volunteer with the visiting nurse association, and playing bridge." A pattern for travel, volunteerism, and having fun was set.

When Craig decided to get his Ph.D. in mathematics from Harvard, Helen-Ann moved with him to Cambridge. Even with two babies, she continued volunteering. She became president of the Harvard Dames, entertained, had more fun with a husband who loved to socialize.

University days

After graduation, Craig taught at Penn State from 1964 to 1968, and Helen-Ann became president of the Faculty Wives' Club. Next was the University of Michigan, but just before she was to be inducted as president of their Faculty Wives' Club, Craig grabbed a chance to go back to California at the Naval Post Graduate School. Nestling on Pebble Beach, Helen-Ann learned a new, more casual way to entertain, almost living on the patio room. Guests and students arrived from around the world. She became a docent and board member at the Monterey Museum of Art, and Craig sat on the board of the Pacific Grove Art Center. It was "their art years." Their third child arrived.

Then in 1970, tragedy struck. The tall, good looking and incredibly bright man who had taken her breath away in his Navy whites was diagnosed with Pict's disease. There was little known and no way to prepare for his gradual descent into dementia. Because so little was known, Helen-Ann and the children almost blithely set off with Craig to Switzerland for him to perform some research. But it was soon apparent that this was too much.

Continued on the following page



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Helen-Ann Comstock

Continued

Rehabilitation program

Helen-Ann read everything she could and devised her own rehabilitation program. With this steadily deteriorating disorder, rehab was not reality. After three years, Helen-Ann felt she had exhausted her friends and options. She sold the home in Pebble Beach and brought her husband back to this area, where most of his naval family and hers had settled. Craig died in 1984.

Life was very different for the family than what they had anticipated because of Craig's illness. Today, Doug attends the Darden Business School at the University of Virginia, having graduated from his father's alma mater. Earl, who graduated from the University of California at Santa

Barbara, works for an Alaskan senator in Washington, D.C. Beth, who graduated from Oberlin, works for the William Morris agency in Beverly Hills. Helen-Ann put all the skills developed as president of the various wives' clubs to good use and is Executive Director of the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Philadelphia, which serves the five-county area.

She gets away on weekends to a family cottage on an old camp meeting ground in Perkasio, Bucks County. She is still an avid reader, does not travel as much as she would like, but she will be presenting a paper in Scotland later this month at an Alzheimer's Disease conference.

Memory Walk

Besides being on the boards at Perkasio and Society Hill, Helen-Ann's time is spent raising funds for the Alzheimer's Associa-

tion. Their biggest event is coming up on Sunday, October 2, at Memorial Hall in Fairmount Park at 8:30 a.m. This is the Memory Walk, where Philadelphia led the country two out of three years and wants to be number one again. Claude Lewis, Julie King, and Orien Reid work hard to make this fun with T-shirts, food, entertainment, goody bags, prizes, a picnic and concert. It is a 5K walk and fun run. For more information, call 568-6430.

Helen-Ann with her willowy height and salt-and-pepper closely cropped curly hair conveys a sense of purpose and professionalism. When her husband's illness robbed her and her children of him years before his death, you sense she accepted it, felt the loss keenly, did what she could, and kept trying to move forward. Her attitude seems to say, "This is what you do."

The Society Hill Civic Association MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New Member Renewal

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

Tel. (day) _____ Tel. (eve.) _____

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

- Membership Liquor Control Town Watch Neighborhood Maintenance
 Zoning Reporter Preservation Legislative Other (please specify) _____

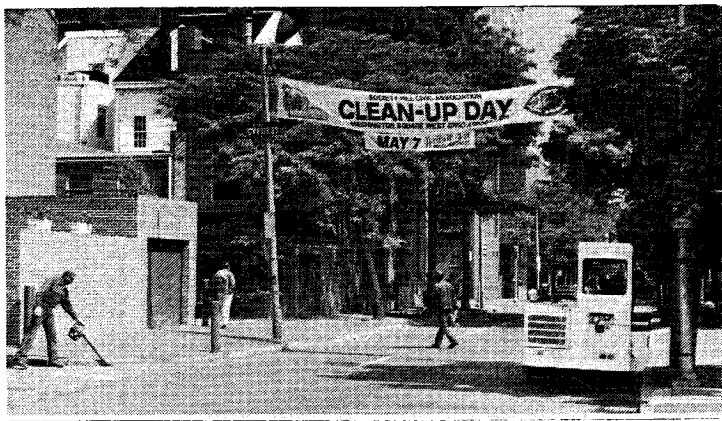
Mail with check for \$25 to:

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

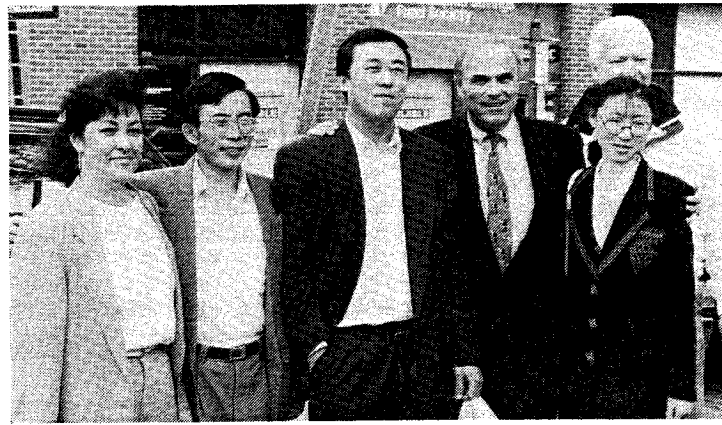
Society Hill Civic Association
P.O. Box 3
Philadelphia, PA 19105,

MATTHEW J. DEJULIO
709 PINE ST
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106

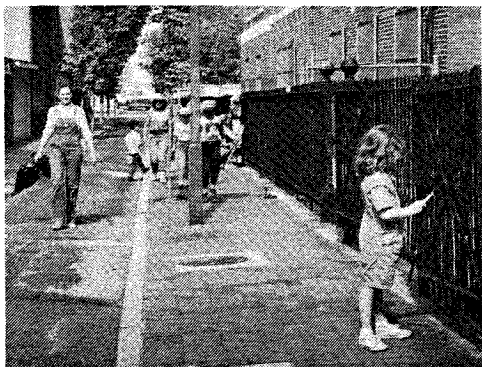




Volunteers from the Independence National Historic Park bring professional know how to the neighbors sweeping (and industrial strength equipment).



America's Mayor Ed Rendell pauses for photo op during the picnic at the Headhouse Shambles—never missing an opportunity to promote us as an international tourist destination city.



Karen Biddle leads little Tom Sawyers on the paint brigade at McCall School.

CHARLES E. PETERSON, F.A.I.A. HONORED AND PORTRAIT UNVEILED AT RECEPTION MAY 11, 1994 AT THE CARPENTERS' COMPANY

Charles E. Peterson, architectural historian, restorationist and city planner, was honored at The Carpenters' Company on Wednesday, May 11, 1994 for his outstanding contribution of 60 years of public service.

Charlie, as many neighbors know him, has been a resident and spokesperson for Society Hill since the early 1950s. In 1954 he purchased, at public auction, two houses on Spruce Street, beginning the transformation of Society Hill as we know it today—a national model for major rehabilitation of an urban area.

The Friends of Charles Peterson named him "A Man For All Seasons," and it was agreed by all who attended the reception and unveiling of his portrait by Emilie Bregy (for later installation in the Dalkeith Room) that Charles is "A stickler for accurate facts, ever searching for the truth, ever turning up forgotten, lost and buried treasures of American life."

Born in a small Minnesota town, later a guest at Windsor Castle, Charles was a prime mover in restoring American history all along the path and in between. He originated the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in 1933. According to one friend, "Charles will need at least another 87 years to accomplish all his goals." Or as Martha B. Aikens, superintendent of Independence Park stated succinctly but lovingly in her comments, "Charlie is a much-needed curmudgeon."

Also included among several presentations of the evening were: Diano Dalto, Deputy City Representative for Arts and Culture; John F. Larkin, president of The Carpenters' Company; Faith Lemmer, Society Hill resident; Dick Ostrander, SHCA president. The "Man For All Seasons," Charles E. Peterson, himself, took the floor and offered a few comments, as well.

Since his arrival in Philadelphia in 1947, Charlie's contribution to the city's history and preservation has been unsurpassed, as he assisted in passing legislation which established Independence National Historical Park. He was appointed by Mayor Dilworth in 1956 as first member of the Philadelphia Historical Commission. Throughout his career,



Charles E. Peterson's work resulted in the restored historic buildings of Independence Park and many other structures in Philadelphia, St. Louis, Boston, Puerto Rico, Hawaii and the Virgin Islands. A prolific writer, his best known work, Philadelphia Preserved (1976), is archived in the Library of Congress.

The new guidebook published by the Historic Preservation Committee of SHCA, Chilton's 1994 Guide to Historic Society Hill, and now available for distribution, is dedicated to Charlie for his "long-time devotion to Society Hill."

(All SHCA members will receive complimentary copies. Or call SHCA office at 629-1288 for your copy.)

NATIONAL PRESERVATION WEEK AWARDS for SOCIETY HILL RESIDENTS



Bernice Hamel, President and Roland Davies, Project Architect ACCEPTS AWARD FOR THE HEAD HOUSE CONSERVANCY: "Certificate of Merit" by Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau of Historic Preservation. April 28, 1994, Johnstown, PA.

YOUR HOME IS YOUR PRIMARY INVESTMENT

HOW PRESERVATION WILL PROTECT IT!

Over thirty years ago Society Hill was rehabilitated and became the revitalized community that we know and love, a harmonious setting of historic and contemporary houses, filled with wonderful friends and neighbors. America's "most historic square mile" became a national showcase of urban planning and a monument to the faith and perseverance of city planners, preservationists, and urban pioneers who brought the area to a splendor that today is too often taken for granted.

We expect our neighborhood to become a certified "Historic District" by the City's Historical Commission—within about a year— so that every neighbor's property will be protected for now and for the future. Working toward that objective, SHCA's Historic Preservation Committee is planning to begin a campaign that will encourage property owners to maintain or improve the facades of their houses according to the standards required to achieve this important designation. Historic Designation is a tool to insure that your real estate investment will

be protected and that our unique neighborhood will continue to be a desirable place to live in, as well as attract newcomers.

Let's do what we can to instill increased pride amongst ourselves by continuing the tradition of faithfully restoring our houses to the attractive appearances their history deserves, be they 18th century or 20th century architecture. We will probably begin to see more visitors strolling along our historic streets than ever before, enjoying and appreciating our neighborhood as much as we do, as the Mayor has expanded his emphasis on increasing tourism to benefit the City.

A continuing program of maintenance is vital. As part of our preservation campaign, we are asking all our neighbors to examine their properties to ascertain conditions that need maintenance or repair. A checklist of conditions to look for includes, for example: Sidewalk Maintenance: Check for missing bricks or reset uneven bricks due to tree roots; weed removal; repair of marble or brick steps; widening tree pits for tree trunks; trim & plant tree pits. House Repairs and /

or Paint Required:: Cornice; windows; shutters (missing or broken); front door (polish brass); wrought iron railings; gutters; spouts; roofs. If any of these requires attention, we hope you will begin making plans for those repairs.

To ensure that the quality of life we have established here will not slip away, we will be seeking your cooperation. We will, of course, do whatever we can to be of assistance to you. For example, we will be compiling a list of reliable and reasonable contractors, recommended by groups such as the Preservation Coalition of Greater Philadelphia or the Philadelphia Historic Preservation Corporation. And just as the City's Redevelopment Authority offered guidance and assistance to home owners in the 1950s and 60s to help determine original architectural details or help with choosing compatible historical paint colors, our Committee's professional volunteers will be available to you if you desire.

As we proceed on several fronts, you'll be hearing more about our preservation programs. Meanwhile, if you have any comments or would like to volunteer in our Historic Preservation Program, please let us know by calling the SHCA office at 629-1288.

The Society Hill Civic Association MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

ZIP _____ Tel.(d/e) _____

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

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

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

TOWN WATCH

How Safe is Your Home When You Are Away?

On Wednesday, May 4, about forty-five neighbors attended a Town Watch seminar to find out how to make their homes safe when they are away. May Acker, of Prudential Preferred Properties, told the audience that potential home buyers are attracted to areas that look well maintained (clean), but their next biggest concern is "How safe is the area?" Fair Housing Law forbids brokers from answering that question directly. But real estate agents can direct the buyer to the police or to the head of the neighborhood Town Watch for answers. That is just another small reason why it is important to maintain an active Town Watch. May Acker advised, "You made the investment in your house, make an investment in your community."

Officer Ed Markowski, 6th Police District Crime Prevention Officer, led the home safety discussion. His ideas included varying the time your light timer comes on by a few minutes every couple of days, or changing to a light sensor system. He also proposed putting a radio or TV on the timer to

add to the illusion that someone is home. Even putting a dog bowl and biscuits out on a deck or porch and a BEWARE OF DOG sign in the window can reduce the risk of break-ins.

Dick Ostrander, in his role as Public Safety director for the Head House/South Street District, talked about the growing partnership among residents, businesses, and the police.

Captain Joseph O'Donnell reported that crime is down 26% in the area. Car break-ins continue to be the biggest problem.

Marty Weinberg demonstrated Quorum Personal Safety Products and donated the raffle prize. Congratulations to winners Barry Beltz and Russ Wagner.

Welcome to seven new members of Town Watch. Anyone who wants to walk is encouraged to join us. Two hours once a month is all you need. Call 625-WALK. Meetings are on the first Monday of each month at Old Pine Community Center.

Thanks to Chez Maji at Independence Place on 6th Street for the refreshments.