

Society Hill REPORTER

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For a Better Place To Live

October 1998

Newsletter of The Society Hill Civic Association

Town Meeting

Change, Change, Change

Plan to attend the SHCA General Membership Meeting on Wednesday night at the Independence National Historic Park Visitor's Center. A half-hour social begins at 7:30 for members to mix and mingle.

Martha B. Aikens, Superintendent, will update us on the progress to the demolished quadrangles. More importantly, she will address the National Park Service's vision for Washington Square, when they assume stewardship after the renovation.

Dog walkers, sunbathers and frisbee throwers take note, a vocal contingent believes the Square, because of the thousands of dead buried there from War and Yellow Fever, should be treated as hallowed ground. Another contingent believes that the Square is still a city park, no matter who maintains it. This is the time to voice your opinion.

Following Martha, **Dr. Richard Tyler** (JD — Temple and Ph.D. — history from University of California, Berkeley) from the Philadelphia Historical Commission and two members of his staff, **Laura Spina**, (MA — Historic Preservation, George Washington University) and **Liz Harvey** (MA — Historic Preservation — the University of Pennsylvania), will explain for us what is involved in becoming an historic designated neighborhood and what it means to us as homeowners.

The boundaries for the Society Hill historic district are still subject to negotiation. A map of the planned bound-

aries will be on display at the meeting. If you live along the perimeters (Lombard, Walnut, and Eighth Streets, please take careful note. A consensus among your neighbors will determine if you are in or out. (See Historic Preservation Committee Chair **Bernice Hamel's** article on page 15 for more details.)

Next on the agenda, **William G. Babcock**, Esq., will present the Center City District's plans to establish a Center City Community Court. This plan responds to concern about the diffidence the justice system has shown to quality of life crimes such as theft from auto, public urination, prostitution, and malicious mischief; and our neighborhood would be included in the area served. The Pew Charitable Trusts and others have underwritten the costs of the requirements study. Where to put it and how to pay for it after the initial test period remain two outstanding issues. Bill has a video showing how this works in Midtown Manhattan.

Don Haskin, from the Regional Performing Arts Center (RPAC), unveils the models for the new 2,500-seat Concert Hall and 650-seat Recital Theatre on the Avenue of the Arts. This glass wonderland will soar 150 feet above Broad St. See architect Rafael Vinoly's plans, hear acoustical designer Russell Johnson's claims he has created the perfect place to hear the true "Philadelphia Sound" and decide where you want to be on opening night 2001.



Computer generated rendering shows the cello-shaped concert hall that is supposed to give us the true "Philadelphia Sound" at last.

Save These Dates:

**General Membership Meeting:
Wednesday,
October 21**

National Historic Park
Visitors Center
East Side of Third Street
Between
Chestnut & Walnut
7:30 PM:
Meet Your Neighbors
8:00 — 9:30 pm: Program

**Clean Up Day
Saturday,
November 21**

Alternate Side
Street Parking!
Picnic at the Patio
Pennsylvania Hospital
12:30 pm

**Important Dates
for
Historic
Designation
Process**

See page 15
for details.

**Fun Things
for
Kids
at Halloween**

See CityKids
on page 9.

True Stories

Tuesday evening, September 1, I received a call from a long-time resident and homeowner in our community. He wondered why a major trash accumulation, left over from Monday night's pickup, had not been cleaned up in front of the vacant home next door to his. I reminded him that the sidewalk-cleaning that the Civic Association paid for had stopped, as of September 1, because of lack of funds.

"Oh yes," he said, "I now remember reading about it in the newsletter." When I asked if he was a SHCA member, he honestly said, "No," commenting that he stopped paying the \$40 per year dues some years back because of disagreements with some policies of the Civic Association. We ended the conversation with him saying he would now send in a check for the dues.

Last year, the Civic Association and "immediate neighbors" were very involved in plans for a weekend only outdoor café under the Shambles in NewMarket. After many meetings and much discussion, the majority of the SHCA Board voted in favor of the café. This displeased many "immediate neighbors," who opposed the café and their reaction was to drop out of the Civic Association and refuse "to pay" membership dues for this year.

I must admit that neither of these true stories is unique. All too often, as I ask residents if

they belong to the Association, I'm told, "No," because of a disagreement with some policy or position or news article in the past.

I find this attitude in what I consider intelligent people to be somewhat immature and candidly against their own best interest.

Is it only in our neighborhood, that if I can't win 100% of the time, I quit?

I ask these residents, if in their jobs, their professions, their discussions with spouses, with children, with friends, if they quit, get divorced, when they don't win 100% of the time?

We act like spoiled children who, if we don't get our way, take our bat and ball and go home and sulk.

The Society Hill Civic Association functions as a democracy. I don't run it! I do try to lead discussions, meetings, and actions. We vote on all issues and the majority wins.

In the 30 years I've been a paid member, I've disagreed with much that's happened. That's life. That's also democracy.

We need you, all of you to be members. We need the clout of a large membership.

There are positive signs in the past few months:

- **Society Hill Towers, Hopkinson House and Independence Place** have agreed to distribute our newsletter door to door, thus ensuring that the Reporter gets in the hands of all residents, as well as saving the Association mailing costs.
- Two terrific community activists have joined our board: **Jim Moss from the NE Quadrant and Herb Lipton from Independence Place.**
- **We have signed up 34 new/renewal members, and 17 residents have donated \$1,020 to our sidewalk cleaning fund.** We are going to start sidewalk cleaning again in October.

Shortly, we begin our membership drive for 1999. Our goal is 1,000 members.

We need you to put aside past issues, past frustration with actions of your Civic Association and recognize that we are the representatives for where you live.

**Want changes? Become active!!
At the very least — join us as a member!**

Welcome, New Members

Nancy Allen
 Charles Aulino
 Jesse & Ramsey Barlow
 Barbara Beck
 Helen & Jack Bershad
 Susan Calman
 Rita Calvan
 Eric Cramer
 Clare Epstein
 Jan Felman
 Judy & Richard Gelles
 Barbara Harberger
 Angela & Basis Harris
 Judith & Palmer Hartl
 Rene Henry, Jr.
 John Henry, Jr.
 Robin Komita
 Emily & William Kuhn
 Sally & Hugh McCaffrey
 Joshua Nadel
 Walter Peters
 Alison Pilgrim
 Louisa & Stephen Robinson
 Susan Saideman
 John Scott
 Joy & James Slusarek
 Jon Stiklorius
 Christophe Vandembulte
 Gwen & George Verna
 Alice Whiting
 Donna & Mitchell Yates
 Barbara Young
 Vickie & Jack Ziegler
 Alan Zuckerman
 (List current as of September 17, 1998)

Society Hill REPORTER

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Next Editorial Deadline: December 15, 1998
Mail contributions to above address.

Chair Chat

Zoning & Development

Jerrold Moss, new northeast quadrant director, informs us that on September 17, Judge Robreno of the US District Court ruled in favor of **Penn's Landing Corporation** and against the **Towers** to allow HUD to loan \$10 million toward the hotel construction at the Landings. The plaintiffs have thirty days in which to decide to appeal and are reviewing the opinion to determine their options. The Towers' other case challenging the legality of a building permit for a public garage south of Chestnut Street was argued on September 15 in the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania and should be decided within a month or two.

Richard Bost reports that **Town Sports International**, (TSI) the parent company for the new health Club at 5th and Locust Streets, was amenable to suggestions made about signage. The result, presented to the community at a Zoning and Development Committee meeting on September 24 at the Society Hill Towers, will be about 80% less than was planned and the side signs will not be illuminated. The committee and a dozen neighbors agreed not to oppose TSI's application for a zoning variance based on the proposal.

Norm Tissian and Herb Lipton also co-chaired a very civil meeting with about 100 immediate neighbors to the Health Club where arguments were presented opposing plans to turn the tennis courts into a basketball court. Town Sports responded within days — the tennis courts stay.

The board of directors at **Independence Place** and the owners' association for **Manning Walk** interpret the terms of a mutual agreement differently, with Independence Place denying responsibility for the upkeep of Manning except for snow removal. The result is burned out light bulbs, litter, and deteriorating mortar. SHCA hopes for, and has offered to mediate, an amiable solution so litigation may be avoided.

Liquor Control Committee

Mel Buckman and neighbors also successfully negotiated with **Phil Roy**, operator of the **NewMarket Cabaret Theatre**, to reduce his hours of operation, improve security and cleanliness, and offer acceptable types of entertainment.

Historic Designation Now

Stanhope Browne laconically states,

"We recently held a meeting with Dr. Richard Tyler. We are on course moving SLOWLY and SURELY." For a more loquacious report, see **Preservation Committee chair Bernice Hamel's** article on page 15.

Membership & Programs

Matt DeJulio proudly announces membership reached 701! He and Norman Tissian immediately raised the bar for 1999 to 1,000 households. The membership campaign will start in November.

Social events are in the planning stages for fall and spring. Direct inquiries and offers to help for the fall event to **Jacqueline Hokanson**.

Neighborhood Pride

Neighborhood Pride's list of reliable contractors who have worked successfully in Society Hill has grown to seven pages and now includes such categories as antique mantels, antique and reproduction lighting, and security systems. To request a list or to recommend a contractor, please call **Martha Levine at 629-0727**.

Realtors report that over 45 residences and more than 100 condos have gone to settlement in 1998, just in Society Hill. Throughout Center City, the apartment shortage is estimated at 1,000 or more units. For the first time in years demand is exceeding supply. Demographically, new neighbors are coming from suburban Philadelphia, Georgia, Rhode Island, Virginia, Texas and London. They include families with children of all ages, empty nesters, couples of all ages and singles of all ages, too. Welcome!

Library Coalition

Negotiations are underway with the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies to house the East Philadelphia Branch of the Free Library at 18 S. 7th Street. The site is central to the neighborhoods served and ideally suited for this use. The owners of Penn Mutual Tower have submitted their proposal to the Philadelphia Free Library for the opportunity to house the new branch at that site.

Carriage Horse Regulations

We're still waiting for City Council to implement changes to the current regulations on the **carriage horse trade**. The L&I Committee of Council seems to be the culprit. SHCA is working with the City's Environmental Health Services, the Mayor's Animal Advisory Commit-

tee, the ASPCA, and one of the carriage companies to implement improvements to keep the streets cleaner, ensure carriages stay on their prescribed routes, and provide for more humane stable and working conditions for the horses. **Bill Hawkins** urges you to contact **Councilman Frank DiCicco, Room 332 in City Hall, PA 19107** requesting he support the proposed changes.

Police Radio Advisory Board

On Tuesday, September 29, the renovated 911 Center at the Police Administration Building — complete with a state-of-the-art computer system — officially opened. SHCA directors **Bill Hawkins and Howard Lander** represent this community, served by the 6th Police District in the Central Division. Bill Hawkins reports that educational videos and other materials, including a coloring book produced by Drexel University students, are in development for grade school children to educate them about the system. Any comments about response time or other issues dealing with 911 should be directed to Bill.

Police Advisory Council: South St.

Debbie Robinson reminds us that on October 27th the **South Street mini-district** will celebrate its sixth anniversary. Everyone is invited to drop in the Open House from 6 to 8 PM at the station on 917 South Street, have some cake, and meet with Lt. Robert McCarthy and the other officers.

Project Street Trees

Jean Bodine warns that your new street trees — one or two years old — desperately require watering to survive this exceedingly dry summer and early autumn. If you see a tree near your house in acute distress, give it water even if it is not on your property. Leave your name and number at the SHCA office if your tree has succumbed and needs replacement.

Town Watch

Barbara Gelman is forming a committee — not to patrol — but to get together to discuss safety issues and preventative measures. If you want to get involved, call Barbara directly at 574-5708. See page 10 for some safety tips from our Town Watch.

Committee chairs can be reached by leaving a message at the SHCA office: (215) 629-1288

Welcome Baskets Welcomed



Martha Levine seen delivering Welcome Baskets to new home owners. The baskets contain valuable information about living in Center City and Society Hill plus bread, bagels, coffee, chocolates, cookies, produce, and candles.

SHCA's sincerest thanks to **Baker Street, SuperFresh, Zeke's Deli, Chef's Market, Lore's Chocolates, Old City Coffee, the Pink Rose Pastry Shop, Starbuck's Coffee, Shane Candies, Koffmeyer's Cookies, and Dickens Curiosity Shop** for their generous donations and support.

Here are some excerpts from thank-you notes from recipients:

... We had been renting a home in the neighborhood for the past four years and are delighted to be staying. The neighborhood is a special one and we appreciate all that the association does to make it that way. The packet of useful information is also great to have. We're proud to say we're members.

— Emily and Bill Kuhn

As new homeowners ... we were quite touched ... we hope to attend the next meeting and meet you personally.

— Elizabeth G. and Alan Schwartz

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Have you noticed the daylight growing shorter and the air becoming cool? You know what that means.

It will soon be time for our fall Neighborhood Clean-up Day.



Saturday, November 21, 1998
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Watch for more information!

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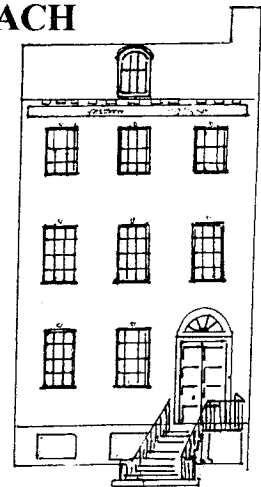
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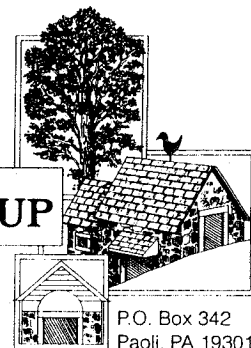
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- **Society Hill - - - 306 S. Philip Street (3rd and Delancey)**
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- **Society Hill - - -213 Delancey Street** Traditional 3 Bedroom, 2.5 bath home in pristine condition. Lovely block. Separate DR, fireplace, garden, deeded PARKING **\$389,000.**
- **Society Hill - - - 123 Lombard Street** Historically certified. 4 BR, 2b, fps, orig wood floors, orig details & built-ins, great closets! Pretty French door to charming garden. **\$239,000.**
- **Society Hill - - -Society Hill Towers** Lovely One Bedroom with spectacular views! **\$99,000.**



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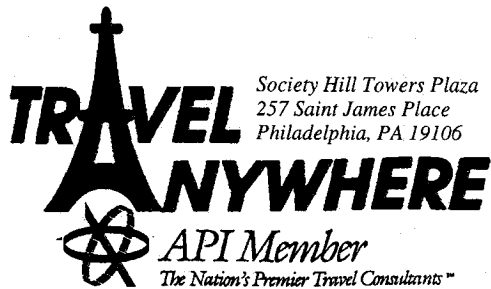
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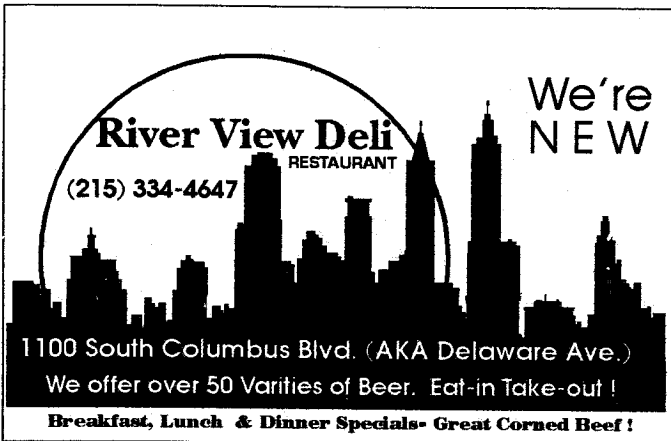
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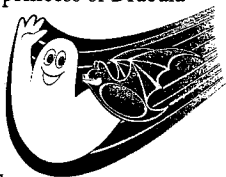
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THE PLACES TO BE ON HALLOWEEN

A ny Superman, fairy princess or Dracula worth their cape will be at the **Three Bears Park**



Halloween Party. This annual event is highly informal and is expected to take place on Saturday, Oct. 31, from about 3:00 to 5:00 PM Especially for goblins under 6, this is a terrific neighborhood gathering that is a treat for all ages. The party is free, but bring a few dollars for pizza in case your ghouls get hungry, and maybe some candy, just in case.

Pirates and mermaids ages 5 and up may be especially interested in the **Independence Seaport Museum's Haunted Ferry**, Friday, Oct. 30. The ferry departs from the museum at 8:30 PM for a one-hour cruise. Costumes are encouraged for this adventure, which features pirate stories, a balloon artist and treat bags for all children. Tickets cost \$5 for adults (\$2.50 for members) and \$3 for children ages 5-12 (\$1.50 for members). Please call the Programming Hotline at 413-8621 for reservations or more details.

The Please Touch Museum will have a week-long Halloween celebration for all ages beginning Saturday, Oct. 24. The week's special programming includes "brain-making in a mad

scientist's laboratory," accordion spiders, lollipop ghosts, craft making and theater performances. Don't forget your tiara: anyone in costume gets \$1 off the regular admission price of



\$6.95. The museum is open every day from 9 AM to 4:30 PM; call 963-0666 for details.

For adventurous witches and spiders between the ages of 6 and 13, **The Franklin Institute** will hold a **Halloween Camp-In Party** on Saturday, Oct. 24. As the Institute closes for the day, campers will arrive at 6:00 PM for "the coolest sleepover ever." The evening's activities include access to exhibits throughout the museum plus a special Halloween rendezvous in a witch's kitchen! The cost for the sleep over, which lasts through breakfast the next morning, is \$34; call 448-1114 for details and reservations.

From 2:30 to 6:00 PM on Halloween, Saturday, Oct. 31, **Rittenhouse Row** merchants

will welcome trick and treaters, who can compete for costume prizes at the Warwick Hotel at 5:00. Register at 2:30 at the Rittenhouse Square Park Guardhouse. Get done up in complimentary costume make-up by some of the area salons! The Saturday before (Oct. 24), you can take

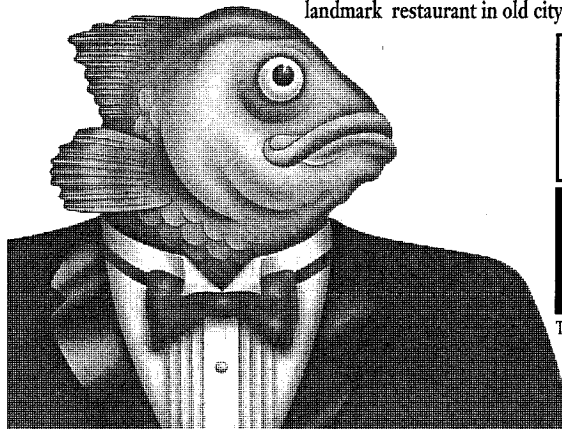
your prize Jack-O-Lantern up to COEUR at 132 S. 17th St. to be judged by none other than Chef Georges Perrier. The winner will be displayed in COEUR's window.

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— Liza Seltzer

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Caution and Common Sense

Clean sidewalks and historic designation matter little if neighbors are afraid to be on those sidewalks in this charming part of town. What can you do? Here are some rules:

1. **Report all crimes to 9-1-1**, even the pilfered flowerpot or the umpteenth windshield smash up. The reports from this call activity form the picture the police have of criminal activity for this area. If you don't report it, it didn't happen as far as the police are concerned. Manpower cannot be assigned on hearsay, rumors, or your fears, but it is allocated on statistical evidence of criminal activity. **CALL 9-1-1!**
2. **Always lock your front and back doors** — even running around the corner to get something from your car would give an opportunistic thief enough time to grab a few valuables from your home.
3. **Do not leave valuables** — do not leave anything — in your car. Cars have been broken into for quarters left in a cup holder. How does a thief know that the crumpled McDonald's bag is not a clever camouflage for your new cell phone?
4. **Never, ever get in a car with a stranger** — under this circumstance you lose all control.
5. **Never let anyone into your home** that you do not know or has not properly identified themselves. Never buzz anyone into your building for someone else.
6. **Leave door and window alarms on during the day** even

when you are there — it is still the best way to detect someone trying to break into your home.

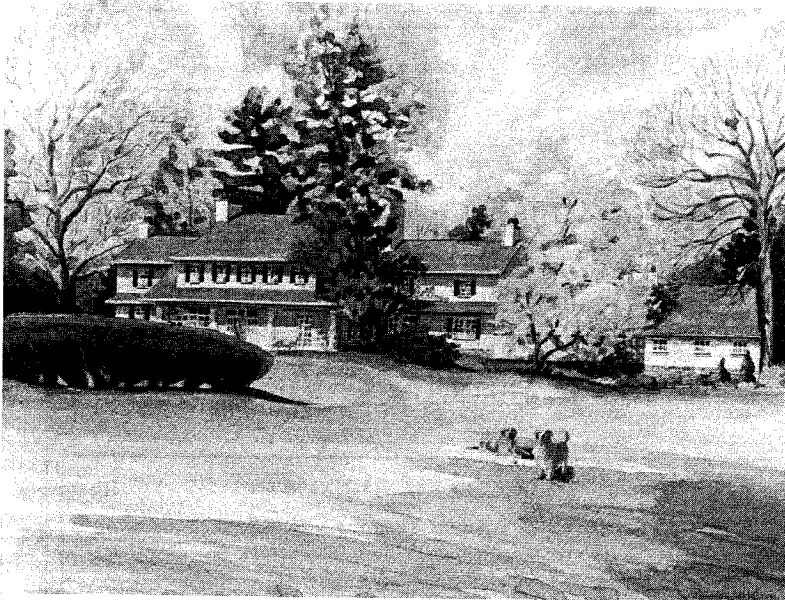
7. **Walk on the side of the street without parked cars** — this lessens the chance of being pulled into a car or jumped by someone hiding between them. Avoid parking lots or quick shortcuts through alleys or walkways late at night.
8. **Consider carrying an umbrella** — it can make a great nightstick.
9. **If you feel uncomfortable or threatened** — cross the street or even walk into the middle of the street. If attacked, yell your head off and try to get into the middle of the street.

If you do all this and still are victimized or you see something suspicious, call 9-1-1. Get the number of the operator and monitor how long it takes to respond to your call. Average response time should be one minute and forty-five seconds for a high priority call (e.g., someone seen breaking into a car or house).

If you are unsatisfied with the response, call 9-1-1 back and ask to speak to the supervisor and give the supervisor the operator's number. If you continue to be dissatisfied with police service in the area, call 6th Police District Officer George McCardell, our community public relations officer, at 686-3060 and let Bill Hawkins, committee chair of Police Radio Advisory Board, know, too.

— Barbara Gelman

A PORTRAIT OF YOUR HOME



"Windy Knoll", Haverford, watercolor 1998

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Let The Light Shine

Security experts agree, "Light is the most powerful deterrent to crime." An assessment of the neighborhood by a panel of SHCA board members recently uncovered these problems:

- Many houses do not turn on outside lights or do not have outside lights installed.
- Overgrown tree foliage is blocking light from Franklin Lamps and creating dark shadows.
- Franklin Lamps give only 50 watts of light; some lamps are missing; others are spaced too far apart.

They recommend that you:

- Turn on your front door lights every night from dusk to dawn.
- Report bulb outages to 697-8844 and within twenty-four hours it will be replaced.
- Prune overgrown tree foliage that blocks light.
- Install a motion detector with floodlight in back gardens, recessed doorways, alleys and walkways. Intruders will be deterred and honest visitors aided.

This ad hoc committee is working with the City's Streets Department to install a test block with Franklin Lamps upgraded from 50 watts to 70 watts. This committee has also contacted an electrician who will discount installation of timers, outdoor lights, and motion detectors for a group. Contact Neighborhood Pride at 629-0727 to get on the list. And tell a neighbor to "Let their little light shine."

— Martha Levine

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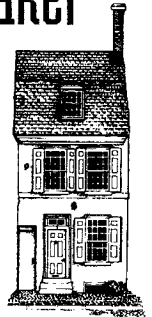


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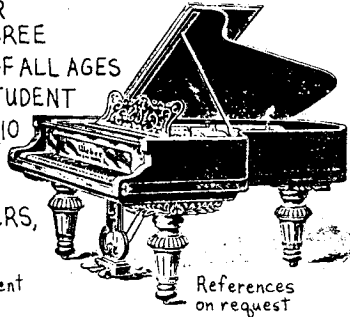
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Lest We Forget

For those too new to remember and those starting to forget

Old Izzy — Redux

I would like to add something to the memory of our old landlord **Isadore Rugowitz**. It would seem a little unfair if the off-hand remarks about him in your column would be all that people remembered about Old Izzy.

When we came to Philadelphia from Norway 25 years ago, . . . we went to Schermer's real estate agency where they gave us a list, and then said, "And then there is old Izzy's place." . . . We saw another real estate agency, the Stern sisters. They gave us their list, ending by saying, "— and then there is old Izzy's place."

On our fourth day in Philadelphia, we moved into old Izzy's place and have lived there ever since. . . . One thing I will never forget was his question to me, "Are you a medical doctor or a real doctor?" That was kind of nice to hear for a lowly Ph.D. . . .

I do not believe Mr. Rugowitz started the development of converting single homes to rooming houses. If one compares the census of 1880 with 1900 that development was in full bloom. Old Izzy's place used to be a rooming house which he converted to a 3-apartment building. . . . Conversion to rooming houses acted as a preservative, in contrast to the gutting that often left only a federal or colonial shell. Old Izzy's place still has its nine fireplaces, including the two in the basement that served as a kitchen. Preservation can be served by more than one road.

— Erik H. Murer, 720 Pine Street

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CREATING BEAUTY SINCE 1967

Luca Sena

Customer service, rigorous attention to detail, and risk-taking — these are the hallmarks of entrepreneurship, says restaurateur Luca Sena.

That he applies these precepts to his own business is self-evident: his 40-room Penn's View Hotel and its restaurant Panorama opened in 1990 in a rundown area of North Market Street where others wouldn't dare to venture. As for detail, he daily oversees menus and the comfort of his diners and hotel guests. And customer service? Sena roams among his restaurant clients ... and regularly drives Penn's View patrons to the airport.



Luca Sena arrived in the US from Naples with his father, a chef, in 1969 — and with only a rudimentary knowledge of English; seven years later, they opened the upscale La Famiglia restaurant. The building, Sena recalls, had no roof: "You could see the sky." Today, three or his four brothers are partners in an enterprise encompassing food, lodging and real estate.

Over lunch at Bridget Foy's, preferring, as he put it, to be interviewed "on neutral ground," Sena, articulate in only very slightly-accented English, describes his day. "I live with four women," he says, with only a hint of rakishness. They are his second wife, Dawn, a daughter from each of their first marriages, and a new baby girl. At 6 AM, he walks the two older daughters to school, follows that with time at the gym, and then goes to his office at nine for an early conference with the chef, one of 85 employees at Penn's View/Panorama. The day ends when the last diner heads out.

So what does a restaurateur have for lunch? Wine-lover Sena opts for a 1995 California claret, soup, a Buffalo burger with cheese, and a double espresso. His idea of the perfect meal? Caviar with sour cream and Dom Perignon, buffalo mozzarella with tomato and basil, pasta with shrimp in a basic sauce and olive oil, rack of lamb with garlic and rosemary with a sturdy red wine (Panorama has the largest selection of wines by the glass in North America), fruit, cheese, coffee, and a glass of Martell Cordon Bleu cognac.

Asked if Philadelphia is a great restaurant city, Sena says it's not quite at the level of New York, Chicago or San Francisco — "but we've come a long way." The restaurant scene in this part of town is burgeoning, making it increasingly difficult to find good staff, he says, especially knowledgeable waiters.

Sena, who lives on the 500 block of Delancey Street, believes Society Hill has everything. "I find it very open, non-prejudiced, a place where you can be yourself. And I can bicycle everywhere. You don't need a car." He also finds the proximity of the liquor store, supermarket, pharmacy and delicatessen to be a plus.

Luca Sena's hobbies, besides wine, are reading, history and travel (he returns to Italy each year); he also owns a vintage Triumph TR6 sports car. A member of Old St. Joseph's Catholic Church, he is reticent about his community work ... although he does make his restaurants available without charge for community groups.

To the observation that it is indeed fortunate for a lover of food, wine and people to be a high-profile success in the hospitality business, Luca Sena shrugs an entrepreneur's answer: "You create your own luck." Salut.

— David Woods

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Project Clean Sweep Rescued!

The appeal for funds to support the sidewalk sweeping program in the previous *Reporter* resulted in contributions of \$1,020 to the Society Hill Fund from the following seventeen households:

Donald & Fahnya Bean, Janice Bredt, Johann & Isolde Buerkli, Carter & Jo Ann Buller, Patricia Cohen, Eric Cramer & Julie Colton, Carl Dolente, William & Nancy Fenimore, Gerard Jarosinski, Herbert & Cissy Lipton, John & Victor Podolski, Donald & Judee Roberts, Marshall Schmidt, Ted & Hermine Seidenberg, Alfred & Judith Zernick and Bill & Emily Kuhn.

In addition, the corporate gift from **Howard Sedran's law firm** and the fact that over 30 new members signed up demonstrated to the SHCA that there is strong support in the community to continue this program. At the board's meeting on September 16, they voted to fund the program for the rest of the year.

The men and women in the red shirts and caps from the Center City District are back on the job as of October 4. As you may know, the Center City District hires and trains these people from the ranks of the unemployed. They appreciate their jobs, and we should appreciate them. Feel free to say, "hi!" and tell them what you like or don't like about their work. Please remember, their mission is to clean up litter after trash day and it is only once a week. Leaves and bulk trash are the responsibility of the homeowner.

The number of months we can support the program in 1999 will depend on the number of people who join SHCA. We need at least 800, up from 701 this year. So be sure to sign up promptly during the November membership campaign and encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same. Thanks for your support for Project Clean Sweep.

— David Stevens

(The list of contributors was current as of September 19. If you have sent in a contribution after that date, we apologize for omitting your name. Additional contributions, which are tax-deductible, may be sent to The Society Hill Fund, 116 Delancey St., Philadelphia 19106.)

A Difference of Opinion

I would strongly recommend that the program be permanently discontinued. I have never seen anyone sweeping the sidewalks where I live, and I'm retired and am quite aware of what happens in front of my house. The sidewalks are always dirty unless I sweep them. If I am incorrect in my assumption, please let me know, particularly when it was scheduled on my street.

Secondly, I think that 25% of my dues is a high price to pay for sweeping. I think with a little extra pride and effort, every property owner has the ability and should have the responsibility to sweep their own. Will we next spend money to clean snow off the sidewalks? Maybe that would be a much better way of spending money.

Bob Bury, 331 S. 6th St.

Editor's note: The cleaning takes place between 7:00 AM and 11:00 AM on Tuesday, after Monday night's trash pick up throughout Society Hill. Bob, thanks for being a member even if you don't agree with the way the Board has decided to spend your dues. Many neighbors are away or are no longer able to keep up with the outside chores like they used to do. I hope you weren't being sarcastic about the snow removal. I think you have a good idea there!

Historic Designation Process Begins

Society Hill's remarkable buildings and harmonious streetscape may soon be preserved IF Society Hill becomes a City-certified historic district. For ten years, neighbors have been advocating for the protection that such certification would provide through Philadelphia's Preservation Ordinance. If successful, Society Hill would join Diamond Street in North Philadelphia (certified in 1985) and the Rittenhouse/Fitler Square Residential Historic District (certified in 1994) as a municipal historic district.

The process of becoming a municipal historic district begins now in October. Our Historic Preservation Committee will monitor and keep you alerted through the complex designation process. Please note the dates and plan to attend the meetings and public hearings. You will have the opportunity to speak for or against the designation at any of the three public hearings scheduled in early 1999.

Letters of Notice:

Over 6,000 letters of notice will be sent to property owners in Society Hill, whose names were obtained through the Board of Revision of Taxes. These letters will be mailed no later than October 18th — to alert you to the fact that our community's nomination will be addressed by the Historic Designation Committee of the Philadelphia Historical Commission pursuant to the Preservation Ordinance (Section 14-2007) of the Philadelphia code. A map showing the district's boundaries will be included in the notice.

Please review the map. Since the borders of Society Hill have not yet been fixed, there is time to be included or excluded, depending on the preferences of owners. If you have a concern, contact the Historic Preservation Planners of the Commission office: Laura Spina or Liz Harvey. Commission phone number: 683-4590. FAX number: 683-4594

Posters announcing the public hearings and meetings must be installed throughout our neighborhood no later than October 18th to comply with the 60-day notification required in the City's historic designation ordinance. We plan to put in place a local "poster installation committee" using neighborhood block captains. Please call Bernice Hamel (925-4363 or 925-3285) or the SHCA office (629-1288) if you want to participate in this effort.

SHCA General Membership Meeting

Dr. Richard Tyler, Historic Preservation Officer, and members of his staff, Laura Spina and Liz Harvey, will explain the meaning and value of becoming a City-certified historic district at the SHCA general meeting on WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1998 at 7:30 PM in INDEPENDENCE PARK VISITOR CENTER, on 3rd Street between Chestnut and Walnut Streets.

First Historic Designation Committee Meeting

Your letter will invite you to attend the first meeting of the Historic Designation Committee — scheduled for Friday, December 18 at 2 PM at the conference center of the Commission's new building, 1515 Arch Street, on the 18th floor. This initial meeting will not involve the entire Historical Commission. Rather it is scheduled only for members of the Historic Designation Committee, which David Brownlee chairs. Committee Members include Sandra Chapman, Hy Meyers, Janet Klein, David Baldinger and

Historic Designation Committee Meeting:

Friday December 18, 1998, 2:00 PM
1515 Arch Street, 18th floor

Philadelphia Historic Commission Meetings:

Wednesday, February 10, 1999, 10 AM
1515 Arch Street, 18th floor

Tuesday, February 23, 1999, 7:00 PM
Pennsylvania Hospital Auditorium, 8th and Spruce Streets

Wednesday March 10, 1999, 10 AM
1515 Arch Street, 18th floor

Stevie Wolf. This is the first hurdle because they will decide the merit of Society Hill's nomination and whether to continue the process.

A second Historic Designation Committee meeting will be held in January, on a date to be announced.

First Public Commission Meeting/Hearing

The first public hearing of the entire Philadelphia Historic Commission, where any property owner can speak either in favor of or against becoming an historic district, has been scheduled for: Wednesday, February 10, 1999 at 10 AM, at 1515 Arch Street, 18th Floor. The Historic Commission Staff will strongly advocate on behalf of our community and present slides to illustrate their case.

Second Public Meeting/Hearing

The second public hearing will be conducted in the evening and will be located within our own community. Save Tuesday, February 23 at 7 PM for this local meeting at Pennsylvania Hospital's auditorium at the corner of 8th and Spruce Streets.

Third Public Meeting/Hearing

A third public hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 10, at 1515 Arch Street, 18th floor, at 10 AM.

These three public hearings will give our community sufficient opportunity to speak out prior to the full Commission's voting yes or no to approve our nomination.

There will be a special meeting of SHCA's executive committee and the Historic Preservation Committee to plan for the next busy months. Expect to receive additional information, possibly a special edition of the *Society Hill Reporter*, before the end of the year. It will focus specifically on what the Historic Preservation Ordinance means to you and how it can protect your property and our neighborhood. Look for these materials, as well as a calendar of all future meetings. If you have any immediate questions or concerns, please call Preservation Committee Chair Bernice Hamel, at 925-4363 or 925-3285.

We hope and expect the full Historical Commission to vote on Society Hill's designation at its April 1999 meeting. Then we'll plan a wonderful, community-wide spring celebration!

— Bernice Hamel

Darts & Laurels

Lots of Laurels were called into the office!

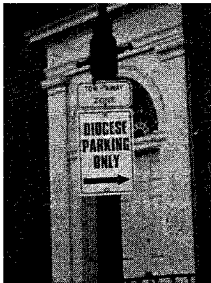
Laurels – to the 200 block of Pine St. for all the wonderful planters and flower boxes that have sprouted up this year. It was time some group gave the 500 block of Pine St. a run for their begonias and boxwood.

Laurels – to the flag waving residents of the 500 block of Delancey. So proudly we hail you. Their flag flying is a long time Society Hill tradition.

Laurels – to all those who contributed to Project Street Sweeps to continue the weekly sidewalk cleaning program. See list on page 14.

Laurels – to all those good neighbors who are keeping their outside lights on or putting candles in their windows. It makes the neighborhood cheerier and safer.

Laurels – to all the homeowners who have been making exterior improvements such as painting, woodworking repair, brickwork pointing, etc. This spring and summer saw unprecedented activity. We are lookin' good!



Divine Darts – Our neighborhood has been discovered by an Authority higher than the Parking Authority. We have separated Church and State, now we must separate Church and Car. Or maybe we can all get signs for the street outside our homes, "Parking Only for the Blessed Person Who Lives Here."

If you need to do some work, call the office for Neighborhood Pride's list of contractors. Don't be like the people whose neighbors sent in this photo!

Not a pretty picture! Looks more like Tobacco Road than Manning Walk. **Darts to these dudes**, and an invitation to join us for Clean Up Day, Saturday, November 21. SHCA organizes Clean Up Day on the Saturday before Thanksgiving because company's coming.

See y'all at the picnic at Pennsylvania Hospital's garden patio on 8th Street after Clean Up. Someone take a Polaroid of this spot — so we can have a before and after shot.



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