

Society Hill REPORTER

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July 1999

Newsletter of The Society Hill Civic Association

PSFS Development Story

Elegant Hi-Rise Coming Soon to Washington Square

Plans are moving full speed ahead for development of a 45-story residential high rise at 8th and Walnut, behind the facades of the 1868/1885/1897 vintage Addison Hutton/1919 Frank Furness PSFS bank buildings and the 1810 vintage York Row townhouses.

Ground breaking will begin in November. Construction is estimated at 21 months. The garage entrance for the residents of the 301 units, each with one designated parking spot, will be on 8th Street. The auto drop-off point and taxi rank will be on a widened St. James Street, opposite the historic Reynolds-Morris House (1787), one of last surviving free-standing mansions in Society Hill.

Developers Peter Shaw and Allan Kasnoff gave a full presentation of the details to a meeting of the Zoning and Preservation Committee, open to the public, which attracted an audience of well over 100 residents.

Structure will be taller and slimmer

Unlike the original plan presented by this developer in 1995, the structure will be taller and slimmer. Windows on the east and west facades will be rounded to create what they hope will be an "award-winning" design structure.

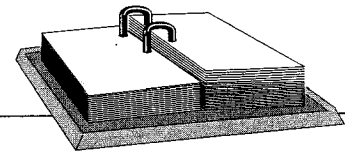
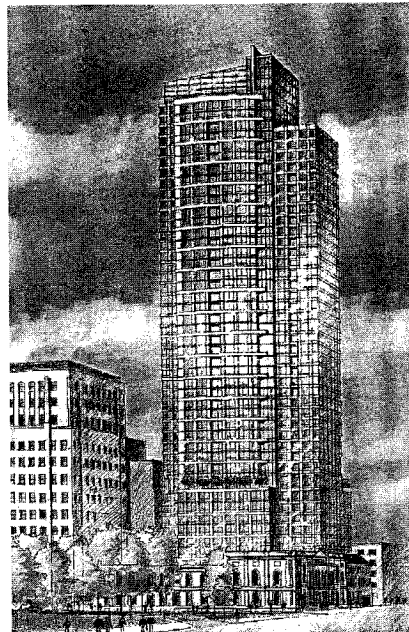
Upscale apartments ranging from 1000 to 2000 square feet (one to three bedrooms) will be marketed initially as rentals to secure financing, but may eventually convert to condominiums. Boston Financial, the nation's seventh largest real estate investment firm, has chosen this site in lieu of any others in Philadelphia.

A draw for quality living

Upscale restaurants under the soon-to-be restored high ceiling PSFS interior and retail stores behind the York Row facades (preserved to a depth of 15 feet to comply with the historic commission) will be a draw for quality living — displacing the homeless who have used the structure as shelter.

The plans were met with general approval by the audience, although concerns about traffic congestion and shadowing were expressed. Traffic studies indicating delays of 5-25 seconds were not deemed significant. Shadowing across Washington Square was minimal except during one peak period in June, and there would be no blockage of sun on existing residences. The 9-story garage above ground will also be concealed to avoid the appearance of a garage.

One of the developers is looking forward to residing in the building.



Save These Dates:

XandO Open House

Thursday, July 29, 8 to 10 PM

Northwest corner,
2nd and Lombard Streets

Candidates Forum

Wednesday, September 15, 8:00 PM

John Street and Sam Katz
(location to be announced)

GURU Happy Hours

Wednesday, September 29, 6 to 7:30 PM

222 South Street



Left to right: **Martha Levine, Linda Skale**, SHCA co-chairs, receiving a \$5,000 check from **Karen Helbling**, director, Friends of Independence National Historic Park Philadelphia Open House Tours. The \$5,000 is the proceeds from the May 2, 1999, tour of 10 Society Hill Houses.

**Membership is now 716.
Let's make it 1,000 by 2000!**

Society Hill REPORTER

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Next Editorial Deadline: August 25, 1999
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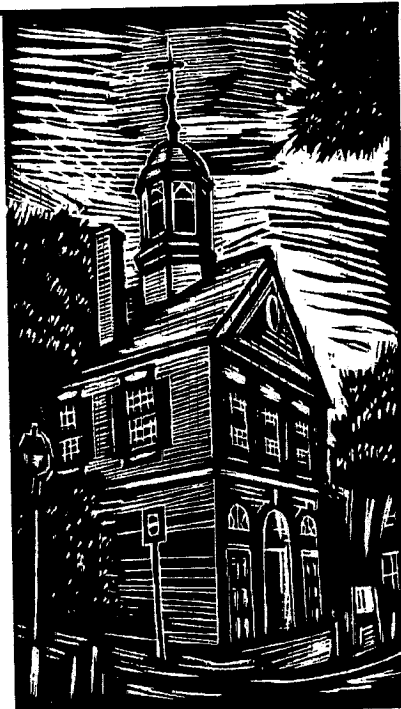
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Penn's Landing Family Entertainment Center Moves Ahead

Design, engineering and leasing work continue on the Simon Property Group's Family Entertainment Center at Penn's Landing, with construction expected to commence this fall.

Final Board approval by Simon Property Group was obtained in January 1999. Tenant interest in the project is extremely strong, as evidenced by the fact that the Penn's Landing project was prominently featured at the recent International Council of Shopping Centers Convention in Las Vegas.

The \$174 million project is expected to include approximately 500,000-600,000 square feet of entertainment/retail space, 2300 parking spaces, a full-size ice skating rink, an expanded and enhanced Please Touch Children's Museum (three times its current size), a 20-screen AMC cineplex, several exciting restaurants which will be new to this area, and a new public amphitheater for Penn's Landing events.

In addition, the project will be integrated with the Philadelphia terminal for the \$23 million Delaware River Aerial Tram, which will be developed by the Delaware River Port Authority. With an expected two-year construction schedule, the project will be completed by summer 2001.

The Please Touch Museum is moving forward with the design process to give Philadelphia a world class children's museum which will be the second largest in the country.

The Philadelphia architectural firm of Santos Levy has created a playful building that will house magical new experiences for visitors. The museum will be bringing a carousel back to the city in which so many of them were made.

The main inspiration for the exhibits will be the spectacular location of the museum; so, for example, on the north side of the building, the major design theme will be bridges to reflect the glorious view of the Benjamin Franklin bridge. Fund-raising is going well, with the museum more than one-half way to its goal of \$55 million.

SHCA Election Results

At the May SHCA General Membership meeting, the slate of candidates running unopposed were unanimously elected. Each officer is elected for a one-year term, not to exceed three consecutive terms; and each director is elected for a three-year term. Asterisks indicate incumbents.

To reach any of the officers or directors, call the office at 215/629-1288, leave your name and number and Day Murray, the administrator, will have the director return your call. You may also write to SHCA at P.O. Box 3, Philadelphia, PA 19105 or fax to 215/625-9914 or e-mail at shcivica@aol.com.

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 Southeast Quadrant: *Deborah Robinson, *Barbara Gelman,
 Elizabeth Armour

High-Rise Directors
 Hopkinson House George Compton*
 Independence Place Herb Lipton*
 Society Hill Towers Marc Bonavitacola*, Bonnie Halda*

From the president

- This year's three-day Greek Picnic starts Friday, July 23. Parks will be open until 11:00 pm; there will be major events at the Convention Center on the Saturday ... and the usual jostle and scrimmage on South Street. Expect blockages and detours if you're driving home after 10:00 pm. All traffic will be diverted on Saturday after 11:00 p.m. between 15th S. and Columbus Blvd., Market St. and Washington Ave.
- If there are newspaper or advertising honor boxes outside your home or office, you're entitled to have them removed. Call the company that placed them there; if that doesn't get you anywhere — call me at: 215-923-7399.

The beat — and the heat — goes on

- Local police have issued 338 \$92.50 tickets to people playing loud boom boxes; more piano, less forte.
- Police districts 3, 4 and 6 have impounded 76 uninsured cars, or vehicles being driven by unlicensed drivers, this year in the South Street corridor.
- Police have issued 68 tickets this year for unduly noisy motorbikes; not only that, but they've enforced the "two bikes per car space" rule.
- SHCA Board member Martha Levine has worked with management of the Philadelphia Sports Club to arrange swimming pool hours for children, who were previously excluded. The hours are Mon. - Fri., 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.; Sun., 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

— Norman Tissian

Society Hill Civic Association Mailing List

The association mailing list has not been and never will be sold. The mailing about buying group insurance was mailed to you as a service of your civic association.

PLEASE ACT NOW

Make a wise investment TODAY by renewing or initiating your membership in the Society Hill Civic Association.

WHY? Because caring for your neighborhood is in your very best self-interest. A strong and vibrant association makes our streets safer and cleaner by giving you a unified voice in speaking to government, legislators, businesses, and others who impact our area of town. A unified group of neighbors is the surest way to keep your investment in Philadelphia viable for many years to come.

Name (s): _____

Address: _____ Zip _____

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New Membership Renewal

Household Membership: \$40 Business Membership: \$80

*Additional Contributions: \$ _____

*Earmarked for: Project Sweep Stakes
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 Street Trees/Tenders

I/We would like to work on the following committees:

Clean-Up Day Street Trees/Tree Tenders
 Historic Preservation Town Watch
 Library Zoning/Development
 Liquor Control
 Society Hill Reporter

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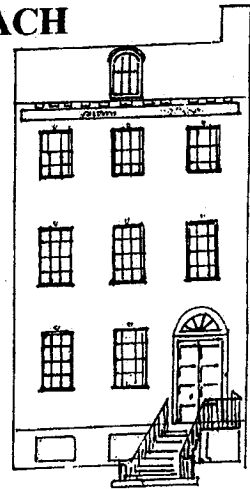
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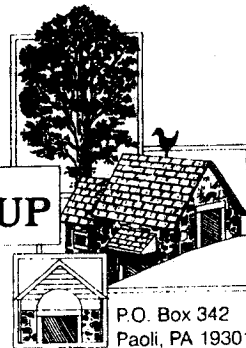
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Pro Charter Schools

Barbara C. Gelman

Charter schools have become a popular subject recently, but what are they?

Charter schools are independent public schools without ties to the local school district. They adhere to specified federal and state laws and regulations. There is no admission criterion and all are welcome to apply. A lottery is used should the number of applicants exceed the available student slots.

If a charter school fails to achieve its charter goals, its charter is revoked. A board of trustees runs the school; normally composed of the school founders, parents, neighborhood representatives and teachers. Their input virtually guarantees that every group of school stakeholders has a voice in the management and direction of the school.

Despite the very public status of charter schools, skeptics cast doubts, usually, by reciting the following litany: charter schools undercut the reform of the public school system by siphoning off money; they skim the cream of the crop from the school system; and their experimental ideas that may harm children.

Charter schools receive the same per pupil dollars as does the Philadelphia School District. If they achieve smaller class size and produce a longer school day and year, charter schools should be lauded for their achievements, not vilified.

A survey of currently operating charter schools in the City will show that many focus on at risk students in some of the poorest neighborhoods. The Family Charter School in Mantua, for instance, actually seeks the most at risk students in the system. Far from seeking top students, these charter schools frequently provide a lifeline for students likely to fail in the current school system.

Every operating charter school in Philadelphia has a waiting list, some with hundreds of students aching to enter. That is the greatest endorsement of charter schools, the desire of so many parents to enroll their children. A charter school's strength is the ability to focus on a particular program or population, such as language immersion or "at risk" students.

This focus coupled with the flexibility to "experiment," frequently implementing approaches successful elsewhere, attracts students from across the city. Some seem to prefer the stagnation of the present system. Lack of innovation puts our children at great risk. If a charter school's program works, students benefit from the approach. If a charter school does not achieve its stated goals, disenchanted students and parents leave the charter school and it dies. The same cannot be said for a failing Philadelphia public school.

No one believes charter schools are a panacea for the problems afflicting the Philadelphia School District. But competition is healthy as it promotes the very innovation, cost savings and productivity that critics claim the public school system can achieve.

Why has the public school system failed to make meaningful progress on the issues raised by charter schools and their advocates? Parents continue to abandon Philadelphia for the safe haven of the suburbs? If we are serious about retaining families, families committed to public education, we need choices like charter schools.

With all the controversy, let us not forget our excellent neighborhood elementary school, a great place for children and volunteers.

Con Charter Schools: Why I'm Wary

Bernice T. Hamel

The hottest buzzwords in education these days are "charter schools." I believe this subject needs exploration. The issue of how to provide a quality education for a Society Hill youngster is a challenging one dwellers who resist fleeing to the suburbs or who don't want use a huge slice of their income for private schools.

Philadelphia, with its fragile school system, has joined the charter school bandwagon, enticed by this new movement in education. Advocates of charter schools argue that all the problems of Philadelphia's schools will be eliminated: charter schools will offer smaller class sizes with freedom of choice in subject matter or specialty; freedom to hire staff and to spend allotted budgets without bureaucratic restrictions; freedom to innovate educationally, freedom to experiment and freedom to group children based on their ability or interest levels, instead of their ages or backgrounds. Charter schools can offer programs for students at risk, for pregnant students, for back-to-basics, for performing arts and other alternative curricula, or for any other curriculum button one wishes to press.

Will charter schools be the answer to a beleaguered parent's prayer? Skeptics, such as I, fear that charter schools will further diminish the educational standards of existing city schools. These schools have already been seriously undermined. Philadelphia has always had a very strong tradition of private school education. Historically, the city's private schools have been diverse and of high quality, and have therefore impaired the city's public schools by attracting the most willing and motivated students and families.

It is my opinion that charter schools will now add a third variable into this unfair equation by siphoning off the district's best teachers and further depleting public schools of their most motivated, eager-to-learn students and their concerned parents.

There is nothing that a charter school can offer that cannot be provided by a good public school. A solid core of academic courses? You can find it in the public schools. Extracurricular activities? With sufficient resources there is no reason why extracurricular and learning enrichment programs cannot be offered within a public school setting. Too many kids in each class? Again, this can be addressed by responsible educational leadership within the public school system.

For our children and our neighbors' children we want to see schools that offer the fundamentals enriched with a panoply of individualized lessons in areas such as technology, music, art, theater, language and sports. There is no reason why public schools that attract (demand!) quality teachers cannot deliver these programs. Teachers must be paid a wage that attracts bright college students into then profession and charter schools is much too simplistic an approach to this entrenched problem. Charter schools are an experiment and we must be realistic about experiments: the chance is success is no greater than the chance of failure. Let's not put our kids at further risk.

McCall School, 6th and Delancey Streets: K - 8

Average class size is 30 students. Our neighborhood school provides a well-rounded education. The school takes advantage of its Center City location by linking with cultural resources. A diverse staff and parents who are actively involved help meet students needs. McCall offers advanced programs and the school prides itself on being technology-based.

Ms. Margaret Mullen-Bawwidinisi, Principal, 215-351-7349



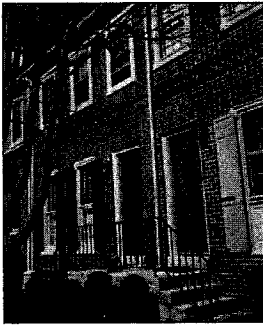
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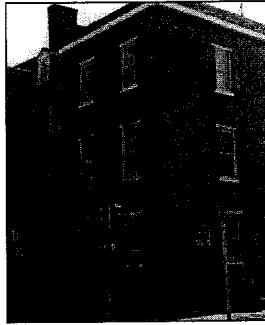
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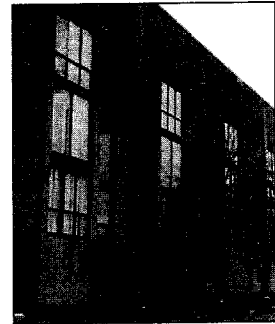
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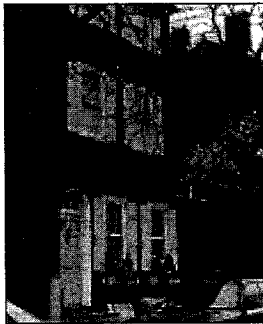
316 B S 2nd St. \$379,000.



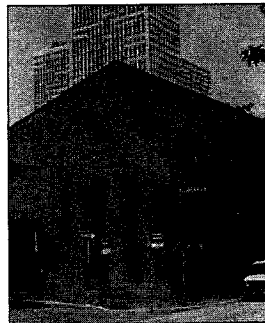
340 Spruce St. \$359,000.



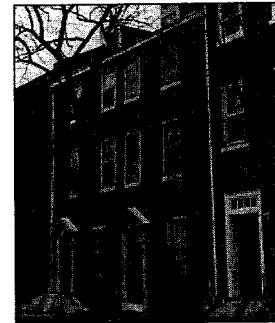
130 Spruce St. \$149,900.



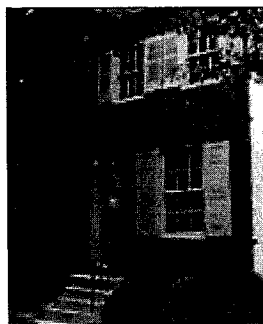
114 Delancy St. \$825,000.



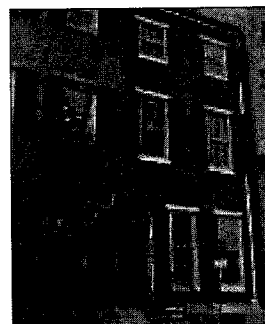
316 S. Front St. \$645,000.



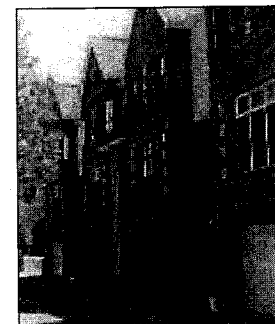
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Historic Preservation Committee Reports

220 & 222 Delancey Street Alleyway

On June 9, 1999, the Philadelphia Historical Commission (PHC) voted to approve demolition of an alleyway at 220 Delancey Street. The new owners of 220 have requested demolition of the original alley structure as a means of expanding their interior living space. Unlike many alleys in Society Hill, the one between 220 and 222 is not an easement that separates two properties, but is space belonging solely to the property of 220 Delancey. The entry door to 220 is located on the side of the house down the alley. (It was moved from the front of the house by the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority in the early seventies.)

The SHCA has officially opposed the demolition, supported by the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia. Preservationists fear removal would set a precedent for the demolition of other historic structures.

The Commission's definition of a historic structure is "a tangible object or defined space made up of interdependent and interrelated parts in a definite pattern of organization constructed by man and affixed to real property?"

PHC's June 9 vote was based on a recommendation from its Architectural Committee, which met two weeks earlier, approving the alley's demolition with the modification that 220's entry gate to the alley be retained, and that entrance to the house should be set back six feet behind that gate so as to retain the illusion of an alley to passersby.

As decided upon by the full Commission on June 9, the gate to the alley will remain. Requesting that the proposed alterations not be granted, the owners of 222 Delancey St. have filed an appeal on the basis that PHC has failed to abide by the rules of its own historic preservation statute (# 14-2007).

Neighborhood Action Stops Sale of Belgian Blocks

In mid-June, preservation activists from Germantown and Society Hill mounted a successful campaign to halt the public sale of used cobblestones (Belgian blocks) and metropolitan bricks that was scheduled for June 25.

The owners of this inventory of cobblestones and bricks was SEPTA. The meager cost per cobblestone was set at 50¢ per block, \$45 per ton, while the price per brick would have been 20¢ or \$30 per ton. These materials may be needed throughout the city for repairs of historic cobblestone streets. SEPTA has tons of material it wants to be rid of.

By law it is responsible for making appropriate cobblestone repairs to trolley track streets. It would be wise to retain a large quantity of Belgian Blocks for future needs. Dr. Richard Tyler, chief preservation officer at the Philadelphia Historical Commission, spoke with people at the Streets Department, who claim that they have sufficient inventory and, therefore, the department is not interested in acquiring SEPTA's materials.

What does the Streets Department mean by "sufficient"? Enough material for repairs and restoration for the next five or ten years? Or a sufficient supply for the next hundred or two hundred years? In Society Hill, and the city's many historic communities, Belgian Blocks and old red bricks are defining characteristics. In many places areas Belgian blocks have been replaced with asphalt patches.

For years, SHCA and individual residents have been requesting that the Streets Department replace these paving patches with Belgian blocks. Residents of South 2nd Street, between Locust and Spruce, have been promised over and over again by the Streets Department that the asphalt patches would "soon" be replaced with Belgian blocks. It is now almost seven years. We're waiting!

Dr. Tyler reports optimistic news: the Fairmount Park Commission has expressed interest in acquiring SEPTA's inventory of Belgian blocks.

— Bernice Hamel

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Candidates' Forum

On Wed., Sept. 15, 8:00 - 9:30 PM, SHCA will host Philadelphia's mayoral candidates in an open forum.

John Street, Democrat, and Sam Katz, Republican, have been asked to comment on their vision for the future of the City and then open the floor to questions. See the September issue of the Reporter for the place.

50% Savings to Philly's Museums!

Several of the region's most popular museums and destinations are now offering 50% savings on admission. The program, called CityPass, is available at the following participating sites: Philadelphia Museum of Art, Franklin Institute Science Center, Philadelphia Zoo, Academy of Natural Sciences Museum, Independence Seaport Museum, New Jersey State Aquarium and Camden Children's Garden.

CityPass tickets can also be purchased at the Visitor Center, 16th and JFK Boulevard. Any CityPass ticket is good for nine days from the date of first use and can be used once at each site. Cost per ticket is \$27.50 for adults, \$23.75 for seniors and \$20.00 for ages 3 to 11 (under 3 are free). We thought our neighbors would want to know about this nifty deal.

DR. MARTENS • CLARKS • DONALD PLINER • KENNETH COLE • ECCO
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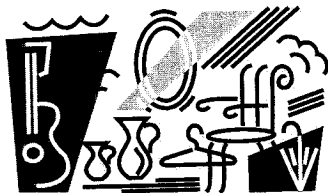
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Society Hill Parties



XANDO Open House

Join the SHCA in welcoming the new XANDO Coffee Bar and Restaurant, 2nd and Lombard Streets, on Thursday July 29, from 8 - 10 p.m. XANDO is committed to community relations and has invited Civic Association members to stop by, mingle, and sample XANDO's coffee and sweets. Come see what the fuss is about at XANDO's newest location!

Guru Happy Hours

Kick off the fall season with a complimentary happy hour at Guru, at 222 South Street on Wednesday September 29, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Discover this Asian soul food restaurant and bar, whose proprietors also own Old City's Rococo and Oberon. Join with Civic Association members for wine, beer and a sampling of Guru's hors d'oeuvres.

Thank you to Bohemian Bistro

Many members of the Society Hill Civic Association enjoyed the warm hospitality, cocktails and delicious food at Bohemian Bistro, 5th and Bainbridge, on April 7. We thank the owners for their generosity.

We hope our members will show their appreciation by patronizing the restaurants that so graciously entertain us.

Wilma Offers Two-Fers

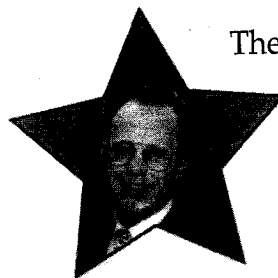
Cissy Lipton, neighbor and Wilma Theatre board member, has arranged for Society Hill residents to get two tickets for the price of one at the Wilma's performance of the musical Tin Pan Alley Rag. The show runs from Nov. 10 to Dec. 12 at the theater, Broad and Spruce Streets.

Written by Mark Saltzman, the musical play features songs by Irving Berlin and Scott Joplin. In this rousing entertainment, two remarkable men, who never actually laid eyes on each other, get to meet. Berlin, the Russian immigrant, who did not know a chord from a key, but had his first international hit at age 23, enters the world of Joplin, conservatory educated son of a former slave. Singers get to belt out and dancers get to interpret some of the most toe-tapping music ever written.

The coupon below is good for any performance except Friday or Saturday evening. Just order from the box office or over the internet and present the coupon when you pick up the tickets.

**Society Hill Civic Association
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- 424 Pine St**- Gracious 5bdm, 4 bath hm. Formal living rm. Custom kitchen, parking, family room, red brick garden. Must see! \$1,350,000
- 610 S. Front St**- Amazing 4bdm, 5.5 bath home with river view! Garage, elevator, pool, den, roof deck whirlpool, modern kitchen, h/w flr \$645,000
- 323 Pine Street**- Fabulous 3bdm, 1.5 bath town-house, h/w flrs, lovely grdn, balcony + in-law suite or income unit \$595,000
- 228 Stampers St**- Delightful 3bdm, 1 1/2 bath home on cobblestone street. 2 f/p's, pine flrs, private & spacious red brick garden \$299,000
- 751 S. 3rd St**-Beautiful crtyrd home with 4bdm, 4 1/2bath, garage, den, cust.kitchen \$399,000
- 414 -16 S. 7th St**- 6 unit apartment bldg, new fire system, separate electric \$259,900
- 1130 Lombard St**- Great location! 3bdm, 2 1/2 bath, h/w flrs, deck, f/p, c/a, eik \$169,900
- 253 S. Hutchinson St**- Charming 2bdm, 1 bath home with newer kitchen & systems \$109,900

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Society Hill Public Safety Committee Report

Society Hill Public Safety Committee Crime statistics for the area, and for the city as a whole, continue to be unavailable for publication due to Commissioner Timoney's efforts to overhaul the way statistics are reported. (Problems about underreporting certain crimes were widely reported in the Inquirer.)

However, at the April directors meeting, Captain Korn of the Sixth District reported a 34% decrease since last year in theft from autos, the most frequent crime in the neighborhood, due to undercover policing and follow-up of probation and parole sentences of auto thieves. This means area residents should see less and less shattered glass on our sidewalks. Any-

Don't be A Missing Jewel

Now that Society Hill has been officially designated an historic district, visitors will be increasingly compelled to explore our neighborhood. Help educate them about our history and architecture by making sure your house is appropriately labeled with an historic windowpane.

While Society Hill is a living breathing community of residents, we are, in some respects, an oversized museum. You would feel in the dark if you visited a museum and were not told a bit about each and every artifact or painting through a title card.

If your house is old, be proud of it. Think of how it fit into the fabric of our city in early days of the American republic. Request your historic windowpane indicating when your house was built and for whom, and in what style.

This is a FREE service to members of the Civic Association. Contact Matt DeJulio, 215-574-0372, to request your pane. If you have not already joined SHCA, an application form is on page 3. Cost is \$15 to all others.

one who has been accosted by an aggressive panhandler should call Sergeant Taylor at the Service Detail at 686-3095 or 3099.

Public Safety also includes safety for pedestrians and drivers. The southeast corner of 4th and Pine streets is a relatively dangerous intersection as evidenced by numerous times signage gets knocked over and the brick wall has to be replaced due to damage by cars.

Exercise caution by walking on the north side of Pine or the west side of 4th street. Cars speed East on Pine Street and take the 4th Street turn much too fast. Pedestrians should get in the habit of walking on the north side of the street, the side with parked cars, at all times.

Clean Up Day May 1, 1999

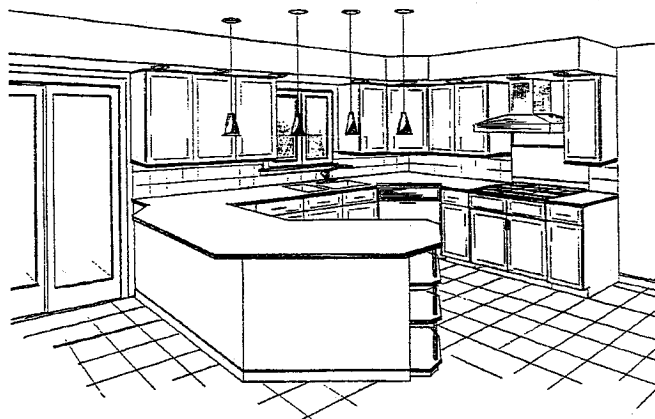
Thank you to:

Janet Cooke, Jim Covello, Michael Czeredarczuk, Carol Deitch, Ann Eiswerth, Dick Epstein, Lisa Karlin, Howard Lander, Liz Lenton, Larry Meehan, Ron Meliment, Martha Moore, Jennifer Orloff, Linda Percival, Barbara Rittenhouse, Klaus Rother, Sherry Shamansky, Laurette Scherneck, Karen Skafte-Keener, Liza Seltzer, Connie Stephano, David Stevens, Donna and Alan Stiteler, Mary Sturdivant, Ruth Valentine, Perry Whyte, Wally Wing and Harvey Young.

And thank you for the great food to:

Pennsylvania Hospital, Bridget Foy's, Chef's Market, Dairy Queen, Dickens Inn, Famous Deli, Jack Downey's, Koffmeyer's Montserrat, Phila Deli, Pietro's, Pink Rose, Pizzeria Uno, Pomodora Pizzeria, South Street Philly Bagels, South Street Souvlaki, SuperFresh and Wawa.

— Mark Valentine



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Frank and Anne Davidoff

In the 40 years following graduation from Harvard in 1955, Dr Frank Davidoff toiled in the groves of academe, holding faculty appointments as a professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and the University of Connecticut School of Medicine; and then serving for eight years as vice president, education, at the American College of Physicians (ACP), whose headquarters building is at 6th and Race, right here in Philadelphia.

When, in 1995, the editorship of the ACP's journal, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, became vacant, Frank Davidoff accepted the position — immediately inheriting a “classroom” of more than 100,000 physicians.

One of world's top five medical journals

It's a heady role. *Annals* is recognized as one of the world's top five medical journals — and one of the big three in the US, along with the *New England Journal of Medicine* and the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. It is distributed to all the specialists in internal medicine in this country, has a significant international circulation and reputation. Its content is quoted in other journals and in the public media more than 30,000 times each year.

Unlike his recent counterparts at the other two journals, though, Frank seems less driven by personal agenda and by ego. He is more of an organization man; moreover, he is that paradox — or paragon — a kinder, gentler editor.

Getting medicine to the bedside

He took the position because he felt that his role as an educator was taking him further and further away from day-to-day medicine, and he believes strongly that today's high-tech medicine need not be incompatible with caring and empathy; hence, *Annals* deals often with a consumer view of healthcare, and what it means to be a patient — to get medicine to the bedside.

While Frank and his wife Anne call themselves New Englanders — even though their origins are, respectively, in New York and Iowa — they have taken to Philadelphia with enthusiasm.

Frank, a trim sixtysomething, walks to work from their attractive, 25-year-old house in the 200 block of Delancey Street; and the couple, who have two daughters, are delighted that the eldest of their three grandchildren plans to go to Swarthmore.

Anne, a former teacher with a master's degree from Tufts, is an avid reader of detective stories and science fiction, and is currently taking piano lessons. Upon retirement, Anne says, she'd like to write and teach.

Frank — if editors can ever be said to hang up their pens, or word processors — would do the same, and perhaps continue his humanitarian work for organizations such as Physicians for Human Rights, a group noted for its anti-landmines activity, and his quest to keep his fellow doctors focused on human — as well as scientific — aspects of medical practice.

Gardeners, readers, travelers

The couple are also enthusiastic gardeners, and members of a book club discussion group. And while they have traveled extensively in Britain, Thailand, Japan, Finland, Norway and elsewhere, Society Hill is where their roots are.

Film buffs both, they love the proximity of the Ritz theaters. They also appreciate the variety of local restaurants, and the interesting and compatible folk they encounter when walking their corgi, Zoe. “It feels like a community,” says Anne. “It's like being in college.”

— David Woods.

Valuable Benefit for Society Hill Civic Association Members:



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Members can call Deanna or Chris at the Gannon-Coyne Agency to find out more about the program.

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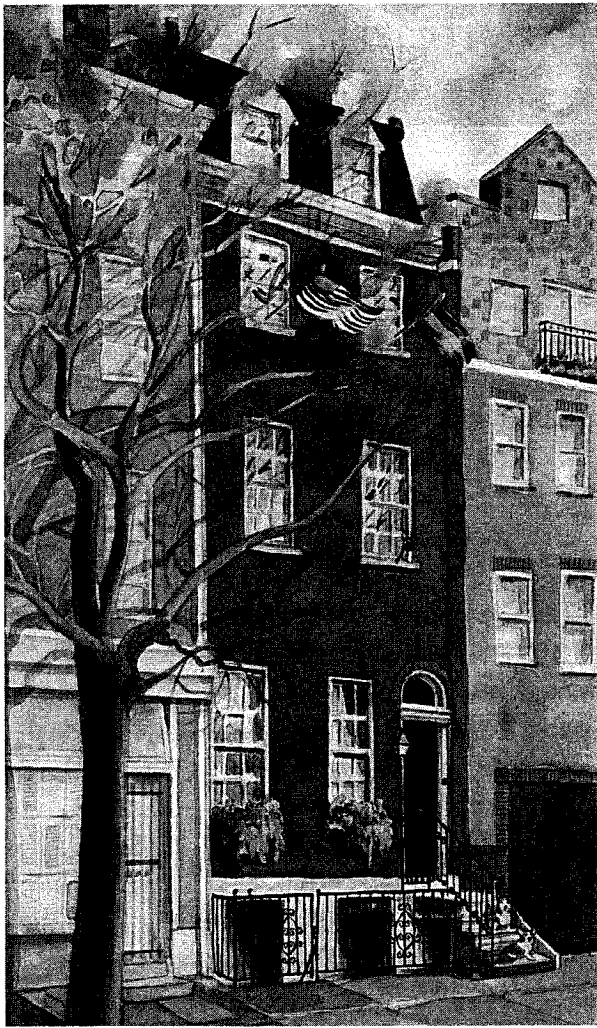
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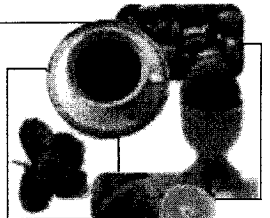
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Historic Commission Committed To Keeping Dream Garden at Curtis Center

During a 2-hour meeting on June 28, the historic commission again voted unanimously that the Dream Garden at the Curtis Center is a historically certified work of public art which is protected from removal by the Merriam estate.

The commission brought forth three witnesses — a professor of architectural history who advises the A&E program on America's castles; an author of nine books on Maxfield Parrish; and an expert on glass conservancy. Their compelling testimony, citing hitherto unknown letters from Parrish to Edward Bok, Curtis Publishing benefactor, left no doubt that Parrish intended the mural to be a permanent, integral part of the building structure.

Their testimony also underscored the high risk for damage to the unique mural, containing over 1 million pieces of customized glass by the craftsmen at Tiffany's and weighing about 6 tons in a dozen 500-pound panels. The individual frames' connecting glass pieces alone number around 41,000.

The attorney for the Merriam estate claimed his contractor, Mr. Rambush (or is that "ambush"), had no doubt he could remove the mural with damage to "only 3 pieces" of glass, yet cited no conservator's examination nor required x-rays. His sole appeal was on financial hardship. There will be meetings of the Commission, open to the public, on July 13 at 9 a.m. and July 21 at 2 p.m., to review the financial hardship case.

Residents Proclaim: "All We Want Is a Square Deal!"

There's good news regarding the renovations in Washington Square. We are pleased to report that a significant number of calls from community residents to Councilman Frank DiCicco and Fairmount Park Commission director, Bill Mifflin, on the lack of activity in the park have had a positive effect.

We met with Bill Mifflin two weeks ago and he assured us that another section, probably the north (Walnut Street) side, will be opened by the time you read this, thanks to the delivery of the overdue "arc stone," the stones used at the corners. The Square also will be cleaned up and the grass cut on a regular basis (many tourists have commented on the poor state of the park).

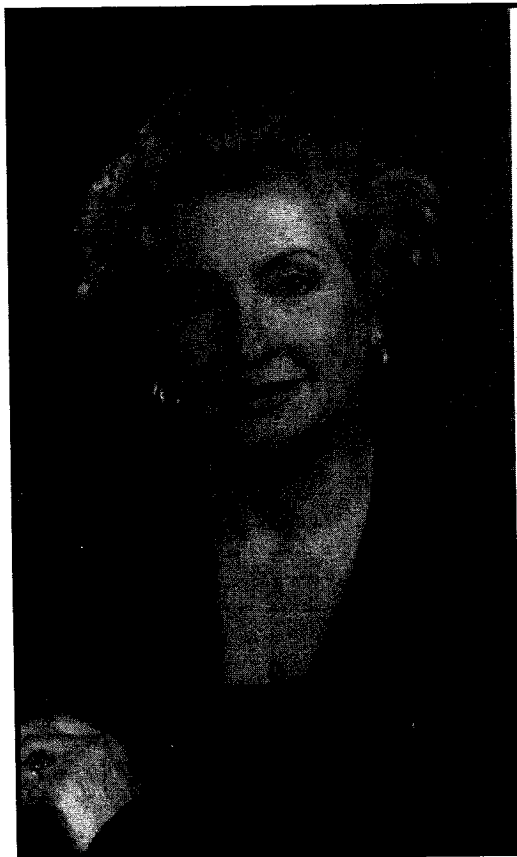
The longer-term prognosis is uncertain. Wall restoration also has begun and turf will be replaced in the fall. New benches, as well as trash receptacles, have been ordered. Because the work is ahead of schedule, we are hopeful it will be opened before year-end. Once the Square is completed — including the irrigation system, landscaping and tree pruning,

cleaning of the memorial — the Square will be handed over to the Independence National Historic Park service for day-to-day operation, maintenance and management.

However, the Fairmount Park Commission will retain ownership of Washington Square. For further information, call William Hawkins at 215-592-8734.

Help a Child To Read & Write

Volunteer to help children with reading and writing at the Old Pine Community Center, Northwest corner 4th and Lombard Streets. Scheduling is flexible and training will be provided for all volunteers. For more information, phone: 215-627-2493.



LET'S TALK REAL ESTATE

By Lolly Crowther LaGreca

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For those new in town, Lolly makes Philadelphia feel like home. And through Fox & Roach's affiliation with the world-renowned Cendant Mobility Broker network, which relocates 100,000 employees from over 1,700 of the world's leading organizations each year, Lolly has the resources for making smooth transitions in Philadelphia.

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Your Opportunity To Become Involved!

The Society Hill Civic Association achieves its goals through many committees composed of dedicated volunteers. Below are outlined the committees, their purpose and chairperson. Members are encouraged to contact the chair of the committee if they have an interest or concern in that area or would like to help: 215-629-1288 • email shcivica@aol.com

New Social Committee

Organizes events such as wine tastings, theatre evenings, cocktail parties for neighbors to mix and mingle in a relaxed setting. See calendar for next event. Chair: Portia Bonavitacola

Development, Historic Preservation, & Zoning

Watchdog group receives and reviews notices of all applications for zoning changes, notes posted permits, and investigates that all new construction is in compliance with zoning regulations, and surveys immediate neighbors for impact of proposals. The board as a policy supports the position of the immediate neighbors if there is a consensus.

Since Society Hill has become an historic designated neighborhood, the education and advocacy missions of the former Historic Preservation Committee has been melded into Zoning and Development. Chairs: Elizabeth Armour, Richard Bost, Bernice Hamel, Becky Stoloff

Liquor Control

Watchdog group investigates and assesses the impact of new applications for liquor licenses and monitors existing establishments if there are complaints that they are becoming nuisances. Frequently works with South Street Neighbors. Has been a policy to oppose new applications unless favorably voted upon by the board at a presentation by the owners of establishment seeking a license, expansion, or variance. Chair: Mel Buckman

Legislative

Receives, reviews and recommends action to the board on all ordinances proposed or pending in City Council that would affect quality of life in the community. Chair: Norm Tissian and Bill Hawkins

Public Safety

Educates the community on safety issues, works with police to determine types of crimes and ways to prevent them, receives statistics and alerts neighbors to problems, and patrols the neighborhood as a formal Town Watch group. Chair: Barbara Gelman

Project Street Trees

Contacts all owners with dead, diseased or severely compromised trees for replacement. SHCA offers \$100 subsidy to owners (average cost is \$300) for replacement trees. Maintains survey information for Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. 200 new trees have been planted since its inception. Chair: Jean Bodine

Project Street Sweep

Fundraising and operational interface to the Center City District for contract cleaning of sidewalks on Tuesday, following Monday night trash pick-up. Ensures quality of cleaning. Chairs: David & Dorothy Stevens

Tree Tenders

Trained by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, group educates homeowners on proper maintenance of trees, prunes trees (no ladder work), and enlarges tree pits. Chairs: Cherry Bombeck and Laura Lane DeVoe

Membership

Designs and executes membership program, monitors mailings and makes recommendations, interfaces with administrator and board to assure goal (1000 members by 2000) is met. Membership is currently at 716 households and businesses. Chair: Matt DeJulio

Society Hill Reporter

Produces newsletter with advertising six times a year. Keeps neighbors informed

of matters affecting the community or that may be of interest to them because they live here. Also reports on the activities of the Association. Website has been added for more timely dissemination of news.

Editorial Board: Ruth Brill, Matt DeJulio, Joel Eichen, Amy Foran, Bernice Hamel, Bill Hawkins, Cirel Magen, Mary Sturdivant, David Woods Business Manager: Bill Hawkins Website: Joel Eichen

Window Pane Program

Provides neighbors with information on the date of construction, original owner and occupation, and architectural style of their home and gives them an acetate sheet for their window to display this information. Chair: Matt DeJulio

Neighborhood Pride

The goal is to encourage neighbors to maintain their facades. Also maintains a list of contractors who have performed work in the neighborhood. SHCA provides this as a convenience and it does not imply endorsement of the contractors. Note: 200 front-door light security timers have been installed. Chair: Martha Levine
Lighting Committee Chair: Martha Levine

Clean Up Day

Semi-annual day encourages neighbors to sweep up, spruce up, plant flowers, polish outside brass, wash windows, etc. Followed by picnic to thank volunteers and encourage community. Wonderful food has been donated by South Street restaurants. Chair: Mark Valentine

Franklin Lamp Painting

Periodically paints over graffiti on the Franklin lamp posts. Chair: Perry Whyte

Welcome Committee

Prepares baskets and bags for new homeowners with merchandise and coupons donated by local businesses and helpful information, such as the contractor list. Chair: Martha Levine

Library Project

This committee formed the neighborhood coalition that has just about completed its mission to get a free library branch in East Philadelphia (at the Balch Institute). It will disband when the doors open. Chair: Liza Seltzer

Liaisons

Individual members also represent the SHCA or the Society Hill community to other groups, agencies, and governmental bodies or act as watchdogs on particular issues.

Carriage Trade Regulation: Bill Hawkins

Coalition for Interstate Land Management (maintenance & use of land strips around I-95): Mary Sturdivant

Coalition of Neighborhood Civic Associations (gambling): Larry Meehan & Dick Ostrander

Police Department Advisory Council (PDAC): Debbie Robinson

Police Radio Advisory Council 911/311: Bill Hawkins

Philadelphia's Historic Neighborhood Consortium, Preservation Alliance Neighborhood Network, and South Street Head House District: Bernice Hamel

Penn's Landing Corporation: Lorna Katz Lawson and Norm Tissian

Homeless Intervention: Joan Less

Historic Philadelphia Inc.: Norm Tissian

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