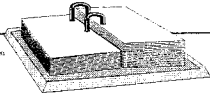


Society Hill REPORTER

...Working Together
For a Better Place To Live

January 2000

Newsletter of The Society Hill Civic Association



Save These Dates

SHCA General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, January 19

7:30 PM Mix and Mingle

8:00 PM Program

Saint George

Greek Orthodox Cathedral

256 South 8th Street

Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee

Open Meeting

Thursday, January 20, 7:00 PM

234 Spruce Street,

Philadelphia Sports Clubs

Open House

Tuesday, January 25, 6:00 to 8:00PM

220-250 South 5th Street

The Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble

Fri, Feb. 4, 8 PM & Sun, Feb. 6, 2 PM

Concert and Reception

Old Pine Street Church 412 Pine

215-592-7840

Special SHCA Open Board Meeting

Discussion of Neighborhood

Improvement District

Wednesday, February 16

6:30 PM

March General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, March 15

Plans for Fresh Fields and "W" Hotel

Project Sweep Stakes

Dave Stevens reports: The SHCA Board has appropriated funds to have the Center City District continue cleaning Society Hill sidewalks.

January 19th General Membership Meeting Spotlights
Plans for Republican Convention • Avenue of The Arts

Get Ready, Get Set

The Republicans Are Coming!

For two weeks this summer, Philadelphia will once again be the center of the political action of this country. This time, the TV cameras will be rolling.

Philadelphia 2000, a non-profit corporation, wants to make sure the image projected out to the world reflects well on our city.

The SHCA wants to make sure it reflects well on our neighborhood and that the convention delegates have a great time — so they go home telling their neighbors they have to see this place and come back themselves.

Karen Dougherty Buchholz, President of Philadelphia 2000, will give neighbors a sneak preview of the plans at the Wednesday, January 19th General Mem-

bership Meeting. (*See Save These Dates for time and place.*)

Created by Mayor Edward G. Rendell in 1997, Ms. Buchholz's organization successfully attracted the Republican National Party for their convention July 29 to August 5.

Prior to her appointment, Karen served as sales executive for Comcast-Spectacor (1993-1997) and membership director of the Pyramid Club for Club Corporation of America (1991-1993). Karen, a 1988 graduate of Dickinson College and the Dickinson Center for European Studies in Bologna, Italy, received her masters from the University of Pennsylvania in 1997.

If you are interested in helping, come to a neighborhood meeting on Wednesday, March 26, 7:30 PM, at Independence Place, 241 S. 6th St.

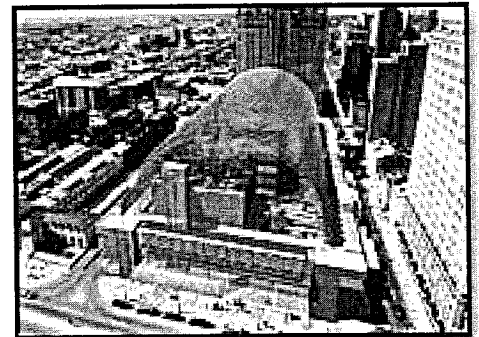
Second Act

Avenue of the Arts Stages Expansion

As the curtain rings down on the Avenue of the Arts performance for last year, the cash register rings up some \$650 million (mostly private funds) spent on cultural, commercial and streetscape development. Credits include \$157 million in revenue, 2,800 full time and another 1,000 part time jobs.

Avenue of the Arts, Inc. played major roles in the South Broad Street streetscape (new lights, sidewalks, plantings, signs), the Clef Club, the Brandywine Workshop, the construction of the Wilma Theatre, the

Continued on the following page



Regional Performing Arts Center

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT <http://www.wnwr.com/shca>

Avenue of the Arts Stages Expansion *Continued*

new High School of the Performing Arts, and planning of the new Regional Performing Arts Center plus the Freedom Theatre and a joint venture partnership with North Broad Street. But planning for the future is the top priority, according to the Honorable Marjorie O. Rendell, co-chair of the Avenue of the Arts board of directors.

Executive Director of the Avenue of the Arts, Inc. (AAI), Ellen B. Solms, will showcase these plans at the SHCA January 19th General Membership meeting. (See **Save These Dates** for time and place.)

Peter Solmssen, president of the University of the Arts, John Connors, Brickstone Properties Managing Partner, and neighbor Robert Butera, president and CEO of the Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority, chaired the AAI's South Broad Planning Task Force, which has produced a very glitzy 44-page blueprint of the vision for Broad Street from City Hall to south of Washington Avenue.

Since most of the land is privately owned, the plan is a suggestion to real estate developers, leasing agents, facilities

managers, store owners, cultural leaders, governmental agencies, and anyone with an interest in the arts or the city. To paraphrase Shakespeare, "The plans the thing."

The sniff of success from the plans for City Hall to Chestnut Street and from Locust Street to South Street has already energized the South Street Headhouse District to expand west to Broad to hook up with the Avenue of the Arts. Market

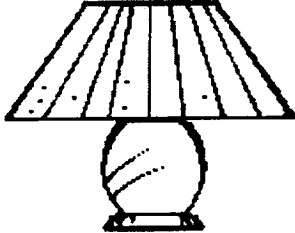
Street's boom on its first three blocks is creeping up East Market and should get a big boost with the completion of the National Constitution Center and Disney Quest.

The long arms of the muses of the arts, education and commerce will encircle the neighborhood. Will it be a loving embrace at the end of a great love story or a death grasp from some horrid urban monster movie? Come to the meeting, hear and be heard.

LAMP SHADES
FACTORY DIRECT

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC • ALL WORK DONE ON PREMISES • 15000 FRAMES IN STOCK

- CUSTOM SHADES
- RECOVERS EXPERTLY DONE
- ANY SHADE COLOR OR SIZE



- READY MADE SHADES
- MOST SHADES CAN BE READY IN ONE WEEK
- DECORATORS WELCOME

ALGA LAMP SHADES
325 N. 13TH ST. • PHILA. PA (13th AND VINE)
215-922-7746 OPEN MON-FRI 7AM-4PM OR BY APPOINTMENT

**I've lived and sold real estate
in *OUR NEIGHBORHOOD* for 16 years.**

JUST SOLD

HOPKINSON HSE #2405
608 ADDISON ST.*
111 BAINBRIDGE
523 CYPRESS*
441 GASKILL*
714 LOMBARD
416 SPRUCE*
1326 SPRUCE #1201*
1038 WAVERLY
728 S. 2ND
515 "D" S. 10
210 LOCUST - 5A*, 12F*
(Society Hill Towers)

UNDER AGREEMENT

210 LOCUST - 12"G**
234 N. 3RD #301

* Brought the Buyers



*Interested in
making a move?*

Please Call
ROSEMARY FLUEHR
215-440-8195



ROSEMARY FLUEHR, GRI
ASSOCIATE BROKER

Coming To Our Area in Y2K: Independence Branch of The Free Library

Society Hill residents can look forward to more convenient access to the Free Library in the Year 2000. Plans for creation of the Independence Branch of the Free Library at 18 South 7th Street are moving forward as quickly as can be expected, and the branch should be open to the public by this coming October.

The Free Library of Philadelphia and the City Capital Projects Office have selected, through a competitive bid process, Ignatius Wang to be the architect and designer for the new branch. Mr. Wang has worked previously with the Free Library on branch renovations, including the recently completed Chestnut Hill and Oak Lane branches.


The architectural plans for the Independence Branch are almost complete, in part because so many design-related issues were decided in the negotiations with the Balch Institute prior to the signing of the lease agreement. A contractor to implement the design will be selected, also by competitive bid, shortly after the beginning of the new year.

Since funds were allocated for establishment of the branch in the FY2000 City budget, however, the local boom in the construction industry coupled with inflation have raised the cost of the renovation.

In addition, the budget allocation for the branch was requested nearly a year ago, before specific designs were drawn up; the cost of implementing the actual design is expected to exceed the allocation for construction. For this reason, the Library wants to raise funds above and beyond those allocated in the City's budget. To do this, the Free Library will partner with the East Philadelphia Coalition for a Free Library Branch (which was created by former SHCA President Mel Buckman and is chaired by SHCA member Liza Seltzer) to launch a fundraising campaign.

The campaign will reach out to businesses and individuals in each of the communities represented by the Coalition: Society Hill, Queen Village, Washington Square West, Chinatown, Old City and South Street. Monies raised will be used to complete the branch's collection, which ideally will include as many as 45,000 volumes.

Want to help? Please consider joining the new Independence Branch Fundraising Campaign Task Force! Contact Liza Seltzer at 215-625-7995 for details.



AVIS RENT A CAR SYSTEM, INC.

Rosemarie Weinberg
 (215) 629-1333
 (215) 928-1082
 FAX (215) 627-0385

Offe City Location
 37 S. 2nd Street
 (Between Market &
 Chestnut Sts.)
 Philadelphia, PA
 19106

Monday-Saturday 8am- 7pm • Sunday 9am - 4pm

Membership Committee

Matthew DeJulio deserves many thanks and much appreciation for all his work as chair of the Membership Committee over the past several years. Under his guidance we have reached an all-time high in the number of members of the Society Hill Civic Association. We are indebted to him for his effort and determination as well as creativity and persistence! Matthew will continue to make the window pane signs which you can see in numerous windows around the area, which tell the passerby the date and builder of your home. If you are interested in having one of these plaques, please contact Matthew at 215-574-0372.

I will serve as the new chair of Membership and look forward to welcoming even more new members plus increased levels of participation. Below is a form to fill out and return as requested to insure that you are counted as a member for the year 2000. Please call me with any comments, ideas or desire to help!

— Joan Rollins Tropp, 215-629-1410

JOIN SHCA NOW!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Zip _____

Phone: Work (__) _____ Home (__) _____

E-mail address _____

New Membership Renewal
 Household Membership: \$40 Business Membership: \$100

*Additional Contributions: \$ _____

*Earmarked for: Project Sweep Stakes
 Town Watch
 Street Trees/Tenders

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

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

Please make your check payable to:

Society Hill Civic Association

Box 3, Philadelphia, PA 19105

Questions? Call 215-629-1288 • FAX 215-625-9914

NIDs — Nix or Nod?

The SHCA board of directors held a special meeting on Tuesday, December 14, as a follow-up to Senator Vincent J. Fumo's presentation on Neighborhood Improvement Districts (NIDs).

Mark Keener, SHCA secretary and urban planner, invited Larry Houston of the Atlantic Group to talk about the process of deciding if and how to proceed in becoming a NID.

While nationwide there are over 1,000 business improvement districts like Philadelphia's own highly successful Center City Services District; there are only two residential ones to draw upon for models — one in Baltimore and one in Ocean Grove, New Jersey.

Mr. Houston's consulting practice has assisted in over 400 of business district implementations and actively participated in the development of the Ocean Grove NID.

Carl Engelke, Fumo's legislative aide, presented ideas and experience from working with Spring Garden and Queen Village Civic Associations in their preliminary explorations.

Mr. Houston, a resident of Washington Square West, stated that there are five major questions to be decided:

1. What services and improvements do we all agree we want to do?
2. How much are we willing to pay for them?
3. Which areas are in and which are out of the district?
4. How do we share costs?
5. How do we manage the NID and the budget?

When Bonnie Halda, Society Hill Towers co-representative, asked, "How do you decide these issues?" Mr. Houston replied, "You reach consensus through a progressive dialogue." That translated to about four months' worth of public meetings, he clarified.

Two strong points that emerged from the lively discussion were that the neighbors get to write the by-laws of how this will work and what it will do. These ideas are then presented to our councilman, Frank DiCicco, who must present the bill to City Council for passage. The NID must create a budget each year, and its "charter" can be brought up for continuation or disbandment periodically.

Norman Tissian, SHCA president, closed the meeting with these action items:

- Mr. Houston will present a proposal for his consulting services.
- The board will decide whether to proceed any further exploring a NID for our neighborhood at the February 16th board meeting.

Copies of the legislation that created the NIDs are available from Senator Fumo's office: 215-468-3866.

Please plan on attending the SHCA Board meeting in February and/or contact your quadrant representative (listed on page 11) to voice your opinions or ask questions.

BEAUTIFUL WORLD.

Full Bar · Spectacular Wine List

crêperie



NW Corner of 6th and Bainbridge
(215) 592-0656 · www.creperie-beaumonde.com

Thank you, Welcome Basket donors

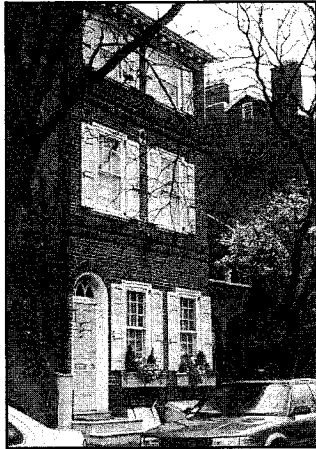


The Welcome Committee extends our sincerest thanks to all who donate goods and services to make our Welcome Baskets so wonderful to receive:

- Arden Theatre, 40 North 2nd St.
- Chef's Market, 231 South St.
- Dickens Old Curiosity Shop, 417 South 2nd St.
- Homemade Goodies by Roz, 510 South 5th St.
- Italia Ristorante, 318 South 3rd St.
- Metropolitan Bakery, 1114 Pine St.
- Mums and Pops Confectionery, 932 Locust St.
- Old City Coffee, 221 Church St. and Reading Terminal Market
- Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble, Old Pine Church, 400 Pine St.
- Philadelphia Sports Clubs, 220-250 S. 5th Street
- Riff Cleaners, 314 South 5th St.
- Sfizzio Restaurant, Society Hill Towers, 237 St. James Place
- Soapbox, 1216 Locust St.
- Starbuck's Coffee, 347 South St.
- Society Hill Playhouse, 507 South 8th St.
- Super Fresh Food Market, 5th and Pine Sts.
- The Wilma Theatre, 265 South Broad St.
- Zeke's Deli, 318 South 5th St.

— Martha Levine 215-629-0727

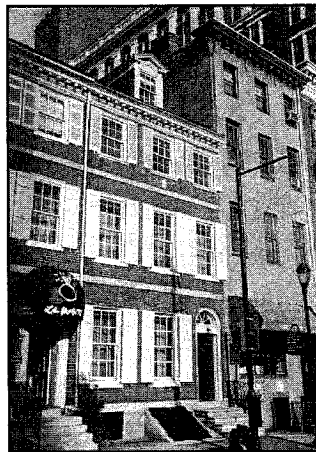
Prudential Fox&Roach
(formerly known as Midtown Realty and Jackson Cross)
All Around Society Hill, Featuring...



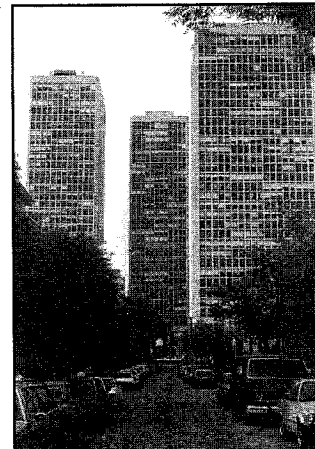
114 Delancey Street
\$825,000.



524 Manning Walk
\$269,900.



705 Walnut Street
\$650,000.



Society Hill Towers
\$159,000.

**Call today for an Appointment to see these
Magnificent Townhomes!!!**
210 W. Rittenhouse Square Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 546-0550

Valuable Benefit for Society Hill Civic Association Members:



Dear Member:

There has never been a better time to be part of Society Hill Civic Association. SHCA has partnered with Nationwide® Insurance to offer a discounted auto insurance program designed exclusively for SHCA Members. This special program offers comprehensive coverage at **rates not available to the general public.**

Nationwide is the **4th largest insurer of autos** in the United States and carries an **"A+Superior"** rating from A.M. Best. With over **\$100 billion** in assets, Nationwide provides a full range of insurance and financial products.

What can Nationwide offer you as a safe driver and a member of Society Hill Civic Association? **Discounted auto insurance** premiums combined with a **convenient and affordable monthly payment plan.**

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

**Gannon-Coyne
Agency
(215) 574-9147**

420 Bainbridge St., Suite 203
Philadelphia, PA 19147



**Nationwide®
Insurance**

Nationwide is on your side.



The Award Winning Team of
MIKE McCANN

"The Real Estate Man"
The *Ultimate* in
Real Estate Service

★★★★★

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

This is the best time to sell EVER in Center City!

★★★★★

NEW EXCLUSIVE LISTINGS:

Call for an appointment to see:

424 Pine St- Gracious 3 bdrm, 4 bath home. Custom kitchen, parking, family room **\$1,350,000**
SOLD!

104-06 Delancey- Stunning! 4 bdrm, 3.5 bath, parking, garden, 2 f/p, family room **\$1,295,000**

221 Bainbridge St- Over 3000 sqft! 5 bdrm, 3.5 bath, garden, laundry, f/p, 2 car pkg **\$1,250,000**
SOLD!

426 Pine- Fabulous! 3/4 bdrm, 5.5 bath, 4 f/p, 2 car pkg, add'l suite. Work! **\$795,000**
SOLD!

323 Pine St- Townhouse w/ 2 rental apartments! 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, tri-level owner's unit. Two 1 bdrm apts on 1st floor! Balcony, h/w, c/a **\$575,000**
SOLD!

11-15 Strawberry- Olde City tri-level office plus bi-level residence. Sep meters, 6 car pkg **\$495,000**

Abbott's Square #540- Super 1 bdrm, 1 bath condo with terrace, parking available **\$99,900**

306-08 S. 13th St- Bi-level 1 bdrm, 1 bath condo w/ f/p & parking in newly renovated bldg! **\$94,900**

★★★★★

JUST SOLD! JUST SOLD!

- ★ 228 Stampers ★ 307 Pine ★ 312 Cypress
- ★ 237 Pine ★ 99 Pine ★ 229 Pine ★ 327 Pine
- ★ 403 S. 3rd ★ 928 Locust ★ 621 Lombard

★★★★★

CALL MIKE McCANN

★★★★★ and his 5 Star Team!★★★★★

PRUDENTIAL FOX & ROACH

215-627-6005 ★ 215-440-8345

www.mccannteam.com

Liza Nickerson and Jonathan Seltzer



Shortly after arriving in Philadelphia from Chicago in 1994, Liza Nickerson Seltzer gave birth to her first child, Cassie; 20 months later, a second child, Ben, came along; and a third is due soon.

But, aside from being a fully occupied Mom and a writer on public health issues, Liza also helped give birth to an idea — a branch of the Free Library for the

area of the city that embraces Queen Village, Old City, Chinatown, Washington Square, Society Hill, and South Street. She is, in fact, a prime exemplar of the old adage that if you want something done, ask a busy person.

As chair of the East Philadelphia Coalition for a Free Library Branch she worked to make that idea a concrete reality, persuading elected representatives of those districts to write to Mayor Ed Rendell, and inviting individual residents to do the same. Armed with a map showing that this area is the one that conspicuously lacks a library, the Coalition attracted the Mayor's attention — and his support. The result: With funds from the Free Library of Philadelphia, the branch library is

scheduled to open next October. "It's an example," says Seltzer, "of politicians acting on a public demand."

Situated in the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies at 18 South 7th Street, the new facility will have a large collection, and, because of its location in the historic part of the city and its proximity to Chinatown, an emphasis on American history and Chinese culture. While the majority of the funding is in place, the Coalition is launching a campaign to raise an additional amount so that the library's collection will be comprehensive.

When not doing all that, Liza Seltzer finds time to be a member of a local book club, and to play tennis — an activity she shares with her physician husband.

Jonathan is a consultant in clinical research to the pharmaceutical industry who also works with JeffHope, a Jefferson medical student-led medical service for the poor and the homeless. The couple is enthusiastic in their praise of Society Hill, citing its diversity and village-like atmosphere — and as a great place in which to bring up children.

So when you visit what will be called the Independence Branch of the Free Library, give a thought to the enthusiasm, dedication and hard work that helped to give it birth.

— David Woods

From the President

ODDS and ENDS

ODDS

A few months ago I appeared at a meeting of the Philadelphia Historic Commission at the request of neighbors. The issue was a major curb cut, leading to a large garage on Phillips Street, just north of Delancey. The curb cut totally destroyed the historic flow of the sidewalk and created an unsightly and perhaps dangerous incline.

The other day, the property owner responsible for the curb cut wrote the Society Hill Civic Association stating that he would not renew his membership as long as I am President. Since we've never met, and my only issue with him is the curb cut, I must assume this is the reason.

My reaction to the letter was sadness! Sadness that so many people in our community, perceived to consist of mature, educated and affluent residents, still play by the rule of total self-serving selfishness.

Do it my way because that is the only right way!

What is this resident mad about?

That I dared oppose him?

I, as a volunteer Civic Association board member, work with 20 other board members to try to maintain and improve Society Hill. We are a mixed bag of people, truly having little in common except our desire to devote time and effort and money to the betterment of Society Hill.

Believe me, this job takes a lot of time and effort and we do not presume we are always right.

But we do try and we hope our residents would be mature adults and work with us in a positive manner.

Oh, by the way —

The homeowner won at the hearing and I and the immediate neighbors lost.

He has his curb cut intact. ODD.

ENDS

In the previous issue of THE REPORTER, I wrote about a recent trip to France and compared Society Hill and Philadelphia to Paris. A few days after my article appeared, the *New York Times* ran a feature story on dog "poop" in Paris. They stated that there is no city in the Western World as bad as Paris for dog "poop" on the sidewalk. I had said the opposite.

Dozens of neighbors, in person, by mail and by fax sent me the *NY Times* clipping.

I concede! I was wrong!

We are better than Paris when it comes to dog "poop" on sidewalks.

No one however, commented on my other Paris vs. Philadelphia observations.

Too bad! I would have appreciated comments beyond "gotcha".

— Norman Tissian

Help preserve the spirit of patriotism.

Help save Washington Square.

Washington Square is one of our country's oldest historical landmarks. During the Revolutionary War, Washington Square was used as a burial ground for an estimated 4,000 unknown American soldiers from all original 13 states. It contains a higher percentage of victims from the Revolutionary War than any other burial ground from any American War.

Today, Washington Square is the site of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a monument to those who lost their lives fighting for freedom in the American Revolution. Tragically, time has taken its toll on this remarkable tribute to our heritage. Tree roots have broken through the slate walkways, the once majestic fountain no longer works, and the monument itself is tarnished.

The American Revolution Patriots Fund is a charitable, nonprofit organization developed to help restore the square to its former glory. We have received endorsements from the Pennsylvania state societies of the DAR, SAR and SR. Unfortunately, we still do not have the finances to achieve our goals. We need your help.

- You can dedicate a beautiful, teak bench for only \$5,000, or, for varying amounts, you can dedicate other items such as litter baskets, light posts, flagpoles, and more.
- Each dedicated item will showcase an inscription of your or your organization's choice.
- All other donations will go toward our overall restoration program.

And remember, all donations are tax deductible.

With your help, we are confident that we will be able to restore Washington Square and help keep the spirit of patriotism alive for future generations of Americans.

Please join us in this worthy cause today!

Simply call us toll free at 1-888-962-1776 or complete, detach and mail the donation reply card below to American Revolution Patriots Fund, P.O. Box 268, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010.

YES! I want to become a vital part of the restoration of Washington Square by donating \$5,000 toward a beautiful, teak bench.*

No, I do not wish to dedicate a bench at this time but I would like to dedicate the following instead:

__(#) of \$250 Donor's Wall Plaque(s)* __(#) of \$1,000 Tree(s)
__(#) of \$2,500 Franklin Light Post(s)* __(#) of \$3,000 Litter Basket(s)*
__(#) of \$10,000 Flagpole(s)* __ Other \$ _____

*Please write your desired inscription as legibly as possible in the area provided below:


My check is enclosed

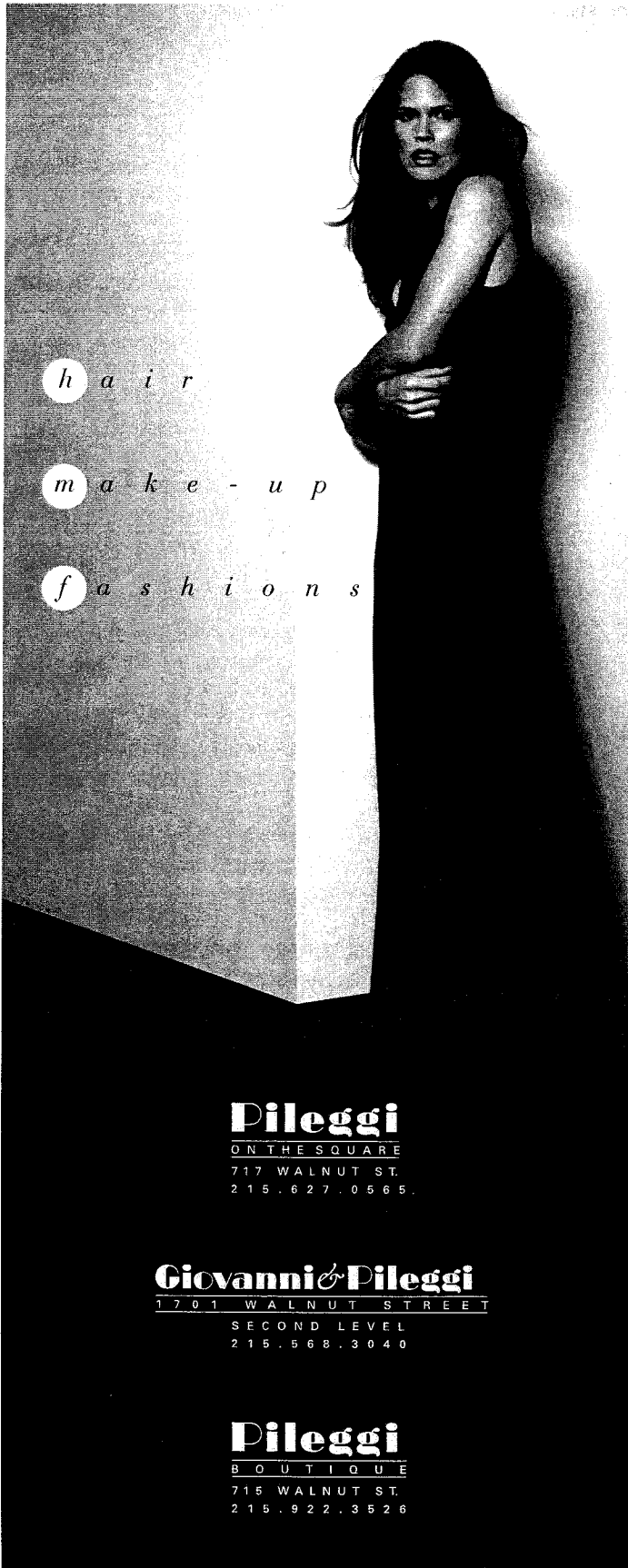
(payable to the American Revolution Patriots Fund)

Charge my credit card (check one): AmEx MasterCard VISA

Acct. # _____

Signature _____ Exp. _____

Supported by Ted Thomas Associates, Inc. 



h a i r

m a k e - u p

f a s h i o n s

Pileggi

ON THE SQUARE
717 WALNUT ST.
215.627.0569

Giovanni & Pileggi

1701 WALNUT STREET
SECOND LEVEL
215.568.3040

Pileggi

BOUQUET
715 WALNUT ST.
215.922.3526

Neighborhood Improvement Update

Street Signs: Each corner where signs were missing now has at least one sign.

Newspaper Boxes: City Council Bill No. 9990312 initiating newspaper box control was passed. Starting in the area bounded by the south side of Spruce, the north side of Vine, the west side of 21st and the east side of 6th, the location, physical requirements and provision of box corrals will be regulated. Once the program is in effect, City Councilman Frank DiCicco will consider extending the covered area to all of Society Hill.

Trash Cans: There has been a request for a large number of additional trash cans. Since neighbor abuse of the cans is of serious concern, an investigation is underway to find an attractive alternative trash receptacle that will not be convenient for the depositing of household trash.

Zoning Update: Richard Bost reported that L&I cited the illegal fencing at the McCall School.

Zoning and Preservation Committee Meeting: The newly formed committee merging the Historic Preservation Committee and the Zoning Committee will have its first organizational meeting on Thursday, January 20, at 7 PM at the home of Becky Stoloff, 234 Spruce Street.

All interested SHCA members are invited to join us. Call Becky and leave a message if you plan to attend: 215-627-4910.



**Your Realtor® For
Buying A Home
& Selling A Home**

B a r i S h o r

"Real Estate® MatchMaker"

- Bari works harder.
- Works smarter.
- Cares and *delivers* on your Center City Home Ownership dreams.



**Call me, Bari Shor, 215-790-5678
Prudential Fox & Roach Realtors®**

At the Rittenhouse, 210 W. Rittenhouse Sq., Philadelphia, PA 19103 215-546-0550

Meet your SHCA board members

Martha Levine chairs three of the busiest Civic Association committees: Neighborhood Pride, Lighting and Welcome. She is also the co-chair of the Philadelphia Open House Society Hill House and Garden Tours.

It all started only three years ago. It was then that she, and her lawyer husband, bought a house built in 1804. Nine months spent totally renovating their house increased Martha's interest in historic preservation. A neighbor suggested that Martha attend a SHCA Historic Preservation meeting. There she learned that the committee to encourage people to maintain their facades was almost defunct.

Martha volunteered to chair the Committee. Having taught in elementary school, Martha knew to emphasize the positive, so she quickly re-named it the Neighborhood Pride Committee. Then she took a one and one-half page list of recommended contractors and built it to a ten-page list. People purchasing houses or condos appreciate this list.

Each contractor must be highly recommended by a satisfied customer. After two complaints, contractors are promptly removed from the list.

Next Martha decided newcomers should be welcomed into the community and founded the Welcome Committee. Martha brings new residents a basket of

foods, gift certificates for services, tickets to local theatres and concerts, information about cultural attractions and the list. If you know of a new neighbor, please **phone Martha**.

The amazingly successful 1999 Philadelphia Open House Society Hill house tour raised \$5,000 for the Civic Association. Four of the residences on the tour were owned by people grateful for the warm welcome and the basket. To have your home or garden on the tour in 2000, please **phone Martha**.

Concerns about community security focused Martha's interest on the Lighting Committee. During her tenure as Chair, Martha has personally overseen an electrician installing electric timers or sensors to automatically turn on outside lights at the front and/or rear entrances of more than 220 homes. If you need an automatic light device, please **phone Martha**.

Many months of work with the Philadelphia Street Lighting Department have resulted in upgrading the wattage of the Franklin Lights, our predominate street lighting. The neighborhood approved the increased wattage after a trial on the 200 block of Spruce Street.

So, if you know someone moving in, need a contractor, want your home on the tour or need better light, **phone Martha Levine, 215-629-0727**.

Positive Change Through Historic Preservation

Half a century ago our neighborhood experienced an extraordinary rebirth through the combined efforts of pioneer home owners who worked with the Philadelphia Historical Commission and Redevelopment Authority to preserve the past while acknowledging mid-20th century urban design.

Society Hill contains one of the largest inventories of 18th- and 19th-century homes anywhere in the nation, but fifty years ago many of these buildings were in desperate need of repair and restoration.

Today, our neighborhood is one of the most desirable and attractive, historically accurate residential communities in the country. In the last year of this century, in 1999, Society Hill has finally become a city-certified "historic district" which will protect our community's homes and buildings from inappropriate exterior alterations that could destroy the visual harmony of our streetscape.

If you're a newcomer to the neighborhood who wonders why any alteration to your home requires what appears to be a "bureaucratic process," please remember that recommendations from the hard-working, trained professionals of the Philadelphia Historic Commission will ultimately protect your investment—for now and for the future.

Working together with the Commission, as well as our Civic Association's Historical Preservation & Zoning Committee is the best way to preserve our unique community: the nation's first urban renewal project representing 300 years of evolution.

Free Manual Coming Soon

Society Hill property owners can expect to receive a free publication in the spring: The Society Hill Historic District Manual: A Guide for Property Owners. This comprehensive publication will inform us on how best to preserve what we've worked so hard to create and maintain.

— Bernice T. Hamel

One Body - That's All You Get.

**Lose Weight
Prevent Bone Loss
Improve Cardiovascular Fitness
Increase Strength and Flexibility**

.. and Do It In Your Own Home

RICHARD GIBSON

Certified Strength & Fitness Trainer - References Available

215-923-6435

Specializing in Fitness for Older Adults

Sports Club Open House

The Philadelphia Sports Club, 5th and Spruce, is welcoming SHCA members on Tues., Jan. 25, 6 - 8 PM. Enjoy a free workout! Tour the facility! Have body fat and blood pressure tested! A special rate for SHCA members will be available that evening only. Anyone who signs up for SHCA or PSC membership that evening will be entered into a special raffle.

As part of its new community outreach program, PSC will offer free seminars on health-related topics to neighborhood residents. PSC membership is NOT required to attend the seminars. From January - March 2000, PSC and Dr. Robin Powers will present a seminar on osteoporosis. Phone PSC for dates and times: 215-592-8900. — Portia Bonavitacola

World renowned dentistry is just around the corner.

Some patients have journeyed over 7,000 miles to receive this extraordinary dental care on Washington Square.



GENERAL RESTORATIVE • CROWN & BRIDGE • COSMETIC • IMPLANT DENTISTRY
PERIODONTICS • REMOVABLE PROSTHODONTICS • ENDODONTICS

We invite your call at 215-627-0777. Evening and Saturday hours available.

Pennsylvania Dental
ASSOCIATES, LTD.

604 WASHINGTON SQUARE SOUTH • PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

H. Safavi, D.M.D., M.Sc.D. • F. Sanavi, D.M.D., Ph.D. • C. Levin, D.M.D. • G. Chess, D.M.D. • J. Chen, D.M.D.

realtors plumer & associates inc.

Serving Philadelphia For Over 75 Years



922-4200



226 South St.

Society Hill Civic Association

Board of Directors

Officers

President: Norman Tissian

Vice Presidents:

William Hawkins • Mary E. Sturdivant

Treasurer: Perry Whyte

Recording Secretary: Mark Keener

Directors

Northeast Quadrant

Jim Moss • Portia Bonavitacola
Cirel Magen

Northwest Quadrant

Mark Valentine • Matt DeJulio
Frank Hoban

Southwest Quadrant

Richard Bost • Martha Levine
Joan Tropp

Southeast Quadrant

Deborah Robinson • Barbara Gelman
Becky Stoloff

High Rise Representatives

Hopkinson House: George Compton

Independence Place: Herb Lipton

Society Hill Towers:

Marc Bonavitacola & Bonnie Halda



Society Hill REPORTER

Published by

The Society Hill Civic Association

P.O. Box 3, Philadelphia, PA, 19105

Phone 215-629-1288 Fax 215-592-4239

E-mail shcivica@aol.com

http://www.wnwr.com/shca

Editors

Amy Foran • Cirel Magen

Mary E. Sturdivant

Editorial Board

Ruth Brill • Bernice Hamel

William Hawkins • David Woods

Contributors

Portia Bonavitacola • Bernice Hamel

Martha Levine • Cirel Magen

Liza Seltzer

Rebecca Stoloff • Mary Sturdivant

Norman Tissian • David Woods

Business and Advertising

William Hawkins

**Please patronize
our advertisers.**

**R. CHOBERT
PAINTING &
PAPERHANGING**

833 S 2ND ST PHILA

MAY WE
BRING SOME
COLOR
INTO
YOUR LIFE ?



(215) 389-7788

CREATING BEAUTY SINCE 1967

NOTICE

To be included on our e-mail list for future activities, send e-mail addresses to joele@earthlink.net, or see the SHCA Web site: www.wnwr.com/shca.



The Grand Ballroom

**THE
Down Town Club**

Founded in 1897

Catering & Conference Center

Corporate Meetings

Social Events

Wedding Receptions

Holiday Parties

You and your guests will enjoy renowned cuisine and impeccable service in your choice of seven elegant private dining and meeting rooms.

Call Today For a Personal Tour!

215-925-2040

Visit Our Website at www.downtownclub.com

ACROSS FROM INDEPENDENCE HALL AT 6TH & CHESTNUT STREETS, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106

Society Hill Realty Company, Inc.

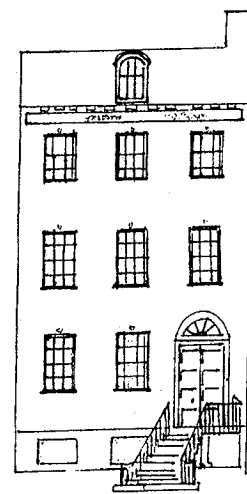
206 South 3rd Street • Philadelphia, PA 19106

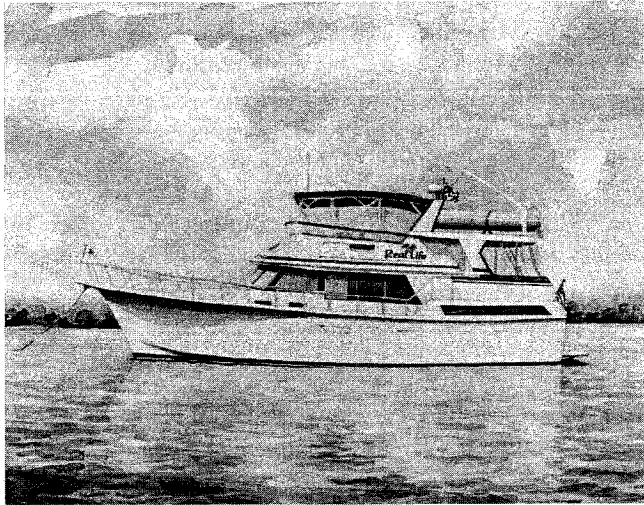
215.925.9403 • Fax 215.925.9661

It is with great pleasure that we announce the affiliation of Eloise A. Taylor with Philadelphia's newest and most exciting Real Estate firm, the EASTend Company, located in Olde City.

In the tradition of Philadelphia's, most prestigious predecessors, EASTend Company will offer both commercial and residential services with an emphasis on professionalism and personal attention.

Please feel free to call Eloise for all of your Real Estate needs at 215-922-1870.





47' Marine Trader-Tradewinds, "Real Life", watercolor, 1997

A PORTRAIT OF
HIS FAVORITE THING
For Valentine's Day

by Award Winning Watercolorist

PAMELA SINKLER-TODD

*Enjoy a beautiful, personalized work-of-art that
will become a cherished heirloom for generations.*

*Call and discuss with Pamela how she can
turn an object of his affection into a masterpiece.*

A color brochure is available on request.

Phone 215-925-0646

Email: pamtodd@voicenet.com

www.portraitsbypamela.com

**Now -
insurance
protection
and advice
that's right
for your
needs!**



Members of the Society Hill Civic Association benefit from **convenient hours - discounted premiums** for:
Houses * Condominiums * Rented apartments * Vacation Homes
Automobiles * Boats * Jewelry
Art * Antiques * Collectibles

As a member of the Society Hill Civic Association, you have access to the **Masterpiece Personal Insurance Program**, an innovative approach to personal insurance offered by Chubb Insurance Solutions. To learn about this program and the **discounted premiums**,

call **1 888 862 4822**

Monday through Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Chubb is the premier insurer of fine homes, autos, art, and antiques. Get sound advice and answers that meet your insurance needs. Learn about coverage choices many don't know exist-and at **discounted premiums** for SHCA members.

This special program is brought to you only by Mather & Co., your local Insurance Broker, ready to assist you in all your insurance needs.



MATHER & CO.

226 Walnut Street Philadelphia, PA 19106

Tel : 215-925-0118 • Fax : 215-351-9012

web: www.mather-co.com

Trust our experience as insurance brokers since 1873

How Our Community Saved America's Oldest Fire House & Public Marketplace

When you walk past Head House — one of Philadelphia's most picturesque and best loved sites and a National Historic Landmark at 2nd and Pine Streets — we invite you to look up at the beautifully re-gilded weathervane.

It glistens in the sun, a golden symbol of what spirited neighbors can accomplish when we set our minds to a problem at hand. Newcomers to the area may be unaware of our community's inspiring "success story" which drew people, businesses, neighborhood associations and preservation organizations together in common cause. We should like to remind you of what we achieved in the past decade to save America's oldest volunteer fire house and last remaining Colonial marketplace.

The restoration of Head House is a contemporary example of volunteerism that is as old as our country's history: By the late 1980s this dangerously threatened structure, built between 1745 and 1804 and owned by the City of Philadelphia, was identified as a "threatened and endangered" landmark.

But by the 1980s its critical condition was the catalyst for the creation of a true grass-roots organization. The Head House Conservancy, composed primarily of Society Hill residents and local businesses, began a region-wide campaign dedicated to repairing and restoring the historic structures.

The Conservancy began its work as a non-profit organization in 1991, seeking to raise more than one-quarter million dollars through charitable contributions from the private sector. The campaign was also supported by significant public grants, thanks to the efforts of Senator Vincent Fumo and City Councilman James Kenney.

The Head House boasts a totally new slate roof as a result of an ingenious "time capsule" fund-raising campaign whereby messages of hundreds of late-20th century Society Hill neighbors will be discovered when the roof will need replacing again, perhaps in two or three hundred years.

A phased plan of repairs and restoration — beginning with the building's emergency stabilization and new roof — culminated in a fully rehabilitated building, both outside and interior.

The Conservancy's many specific restoration accomplishments, supervised by our Society Hill neighbor, architect Roland

Davies, includes some amazing facts — removal of 3,200 pounds of pigeon guano from the attic and cupola interior; extensive repairs to the cupola due to a lightning strike; weathervane re-gilding with solid gold leaf (23 karat gold), with labor and materials donated by our late neighbor, Jerome Deye; repair of the historic clock, built by Isiah Lukens, the clock maker of Independence Hall, and currently maintained as a labor of love by volunteer clock maker, Henry Lucier; complete interior renovation, including installation of a sophisticated HVAC system.

For an intensive period of about five years many neighbors donated their dollars and time, as well as volunteered their legal, architectural, administrative, and preservation expertise — even their artistic talent and secretarial skills.

The project was essentially completed about 1995 and The Conservancy identified a worthy tenant for the building: the South Street Headhouse District — a municipal authority providing additional sanitation and policing services to our area. Since then The District's lease with the City allows them to occupy the building as well as provide for its care and maintenance.

But the District is unable to raise sufficient funds for the final element of the restoration project: repointing most of the brick piers that support the colonnaded market sheds. And for the past few years The Conservancy has been unable to locate a source or grant that would pay for the necessary repointing of these piers. That is why we are appealing to our neighbors today.

The Head House Conservancy will be able to complete this final phase of the restoration if our neighbors once again rally support. Please fill out the coupon below and mail us your tax-deductible gift. (Suggested amount: \$25-\$100.)

We have fulfilled our mission to return the property to a condition respectful of its history. Now the year 2000 commences, the officers and directors of The Conservancy say with both pride and humility that the treasure in our midst is once again worthy of its "National Historical Landmark" designation — made possible by the generosity of a grass-roots coalition of Society Hill friends. Join us, won't you?

— Bernice T. Hamel, President, Head House Conservancy

Yes, I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____ to the Head House Conservancy for the purpose of repointing the brick piers that support the market sheds.

Name _____

Address _____

Day Phone _____ Eve. Phone _____

Amount Enclosed _____ Amount Pledged _____

Mail your donation to Head House Conservancy, 302 S. 2nd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

READY TO RENOVATE ?

Are you looking for:

- RESTORATION
- RENOVATION
- GENERAL CONTRACTING
- MAINTENANCE and REPAIRS

*Put knowledge and reliability on your side
Architectural experience, uncompromising quality
Commercial and residential customers welcomed
Providing satisfaction and service since 1985*

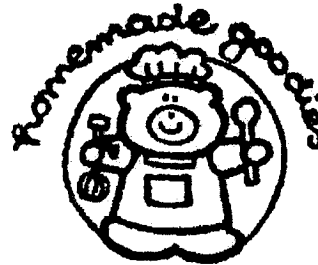
KING CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

- PHONE 215-843-8241 • FAX 215-843-0478

Philly Deli

- delicatessen
- restaurant
- informal catering
- box lunches

410 412 SOUTH ST., PHILA. PA 19147-1535
215-923-1986 FAX 215-923-2299



by Roz

ROZ BRATT

TEL/FAX (215) 592-9616

510 South 5th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147

"A Taste of Home"



*For professional advice
on selling or buying
a home, turn to
Lolly Crowther LaGreca.*

Lolly's Experience is Your Asset

- ▣ Former owner, Midtown Realty
- ▣ Over twenty years real estate experience in Center City
- ▣ Center City Residents' Association President, 1997-99
- ▣ Personalized attention and service

Backed by Prudential Fox & Roach

- ▣ 113-year-old local, family owned and operated company
- ▣ Worldwide reputation and access to buyers
- ▣ Home Marketing System means full-page ads, Internet, Multiple Listings Services and more



Prudential

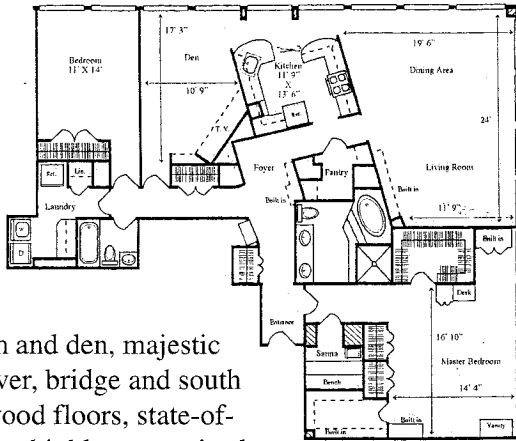


Prudential Fox & Roach Realtors

Suite 406, The Rittenhouse Hotel, Philadelphia

Tel. (215) 546-0550, Direct (215) 790-5638, or e-mail lol@bellatlantic.net,
or visit my web site at www.dream-house.net

Society Hill Towers



Two bedroom and den, majestic panoramic river, bridge and south views, hardwood floors, state-of-the-art kitchen, highly customized
\$565,000



ALLAN DOMB REAL ESTATE

Philadelphia's Largest Luxury Condominium Realtor

Telephone: (215) 545-1500 Fax: 215-545-1090

1608 Walnut Street, Suite 1303, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Internet Address: • www.allandomb.com

Society Hill Towers - 1 bedroom, upgraded kitchen - \$125,000

Independence Place - 1 bedroom, eat-in kitchen, high floor - \$132,500

Independence Place - 1 bedroom, eat-in kitchen, terrace - \$180,000

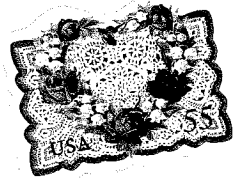
Pier 3 - 2 bedroom, 2 bath, bridge view, health club, 1 car parking included - \$225,000

Pier 5 - 3 bedroom, den, 3 1/2 bath, 1 car parking, fireplace - \$389,900

Independence Place - 2 bedroom and den, corner unit, 2 1/2 baths, balcony - \$460,000

Society Hill REPORTER

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



George F. Koch, Jr.
604 S. Washington Sq #906
Philadelphia, PA 19106

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT <http://www.wnwr.com/shca>

