

Society Hill REPORTER

...Working Together
For a Better Place To Live

July 2000

Newsletter of The Society Hill Civic Association

Society Hill Opens Houses To Republicans

The Society Hill Civic Association and Friends of Independence National Historical Park are planning a special Open House Tour of selected Society Hill homes and gardens during the Republican National Convention, scheduled for Tuesday, August 2. Our primary target audience will be the 4,000 delegates and families who will arrive July 30 to stay at 50 hotels in Philadelphia and surrounding areas, but the Open House is open to all, even area residents.

As in the May Open House Tour, Society Hill Civic Association will benefit by receiving 60% of proceeds from the tour. Therefore, this event will bring funds to enhance our community, as well as the Park.

Tour coordinators Linda Skale and Martha Levine are looking for volunteers to monitor houses on the Tour. If you are interested, phone Martha at 215-629-0727 as soon as possible.

The Open House, scheduled for 1-5 pm, costs \$40 per person. To pre-purchase tickets, call the Friends of Independence at 215-928-1188, or you can buy them at the Park's Visitor Center (3rd & Chestnut Streets) or the Kosciuszko House (3rd & Pine Streets) from 1-4 P.M. that day.

Ours is a unique tour — the only one offering a visit to private houses. We expect an enthusiastic response. If you would like to be a part of this amazing event as a house sitter, monitor, please phone. Let's show the Philadelphia most outsiders never get to see.
— Martha Levine

Respecting Washington Square

Washington Square is arguably our nation's most hallowed military site. It is the largest burial site for General Washington's army. It was referred to as Potter's Field, where soldiers who died from wounds and illness in the nearby British prison and Pennsylvania Hospital were buried. As such, symbolically representing all who died during the Revolutionary War, Washington Square is the site where blood was first shed in the name of American self-determination and American values.

The eternal flame was installed in 1976 at the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier to memorialize their memory. As we all appreciate, without their ultimate sacrifice, there would not have been a Constitutional Convention in 1787, and the Declaration of Independence would have been just another historic footnote.

What makes their inestimable contribution even more impressive is that they joined not only an under-funded army, but against the mightiest military power. To have lost to King George III meant being branded a traitor. It likely meant losing one's life and property and placed one's family in jeopardy.

Through the efforts of community organizations and Con-

Continued on page 4

Clean-Up Day Parking Alert

For Clean-Up Day, Saturday, July 22, please note the following parking regulations for all Society Hill streets and obey the notices that will be posted, most likely the evening before.

If your street has designated parking on only one side, please move your car to the opposite side before 6 A.M. until 3 P.M. that afternoon. After 3 P.M., you must re-park your car to the usual side of the street.

For streets that allow parking on both sides, one side will be designated as "no parking" from 6 A.M.-3 P.M., and that side will be posted with a notice. Please move your car to the opposite side of the street until 3 P.M. that day.

Cars that are not moved before 6 A.M. as instructed will be towed at no fee by the City. For streets with one-side parking only, you must move back your car to its usual side. If your car is on the "wrong" side after 3 P.M., you will be fined, towed and will have to pay a towing fee.

Hide-and-Seek is no fun when your car is parked a long distance from where you last saw it.

Clean-Up Day Volunteers Needed

Frank Hoban and Mark Valentine are chairing a special Clean-Up Day, July 22, from 6:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. To volunteer, please phone Frank: 215-592-3245 or Mark: 215-923-9943. They really need you.

Save These Dates

Thursday, July 20, 2000, 5:30 P.M.

Philips Court Townhouse Ground Breaking
3rd & Lombard Streets
215-735-7475

Saturday, July 22

Clean-Up Day
6:00 AM. - 3:00 P.M.

July 31 - August 3

Republican National Convention

Sundays, July 30, August 6, September 3 & October 1

Colonial Roman Catholic Church Tours
1:30 to 4:00 P.M.

Phone Msgr. John Sharkey: 215-923-7930

Tuesday, August 1

Society Hill House and Garden Tour
For Republican Conventioneers
Please phone Martha Levine 215-629-0727

Letter to the Editors

Dear Editors:

I read with a little amusement in the latest issue of the Society Hill Reporter the article concerning the uproar over the illegal fence recently installed in the parking lot of the McCall School. The article seems to imply that only neighborhood children use this area for play. However as someone whose bedroom window directly overlooks this play area I believe I have a little more insight into the real problem, which really has nothing to do with the unsightly new fence. In fact, how is this new fence any different from the fence, which already borders the schoolyard?

The fact that my neighbors consider the fence unsightly seems to me completely irrelevant in the face of a much larger problem with the schoolyard. I am astonished that they seem to be completely unaware or perhaps ignore the after-hour activities in the schoolyard.

More to the point, the problem really lies with the use of the schoolyard after school hours and on weekends. In the five years at living at Spruce Street, I have been rudely awakened from sleep at all hours of the night and morning from children playing basketball. I do not know about you, but hearing the continual thump, thump of a bouncing basketball at 3 o'clock in the morning (or 11 PM or 5 AM, etc.) on Sunday is enough to drive you insane with anger. These are not children who are playing, but adolescents and adults. This is the case nine times out of ten.

These "children" usually drive up and park in the lot reserved for teachers on Cypress Street and proceed to play as if they are alone in the world, with no consideration for the noise and disturbance they produce.

The disturbance is not limited to only basketball playing since they deem it necessary to play their car stereos at volumes, which rattle my bedroom windows. The basketball players are not the only ones guilty of this, since weekend revelers heading for South Street find that the parking available in the Cypress Street lot very convenient indeed.

As you can imagine it is not a pretty sight (or sound) as they return to their cars to have a final drink and smoke some illegal substance before they move on to the next party. Believe me that I have witnessed and smelled this more times than I care to remember.

Numerous calls to the police rarely solve the immediate problem since this is a low priority. Discussions with the district captain always result with the statement that the police force is understaffed and they will do what they can. In all fairness I must commend the police since they usually always respond to the call albeit a little late.

More often than not the warnings from the police officer go unheeded, and the kids continue with their game. A second and sometimes a third call is necessary. That is the infuriating part. I commend the SHCA for wanting to regain the play area meant for the children. However, perhaps, it would be appropriate for the SHCA to look into who actually uses the yard and to realize what really goes on behind the unsightly fence.

Editors' Note: This letter was signed, but our neighbor has asked that we not print his name to prevent harassment.

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Society Hill Mugger At Large

On Saturday, June 3, 2000, at just after 3:00 A.M., a 21-year-old girl frantically knocked on our door and rang our doorbell. We let her in to find out that she had been robbed, severely beaten and sexually molested, although thankfully not raped.

Her life had been threatened repeatedly by the perpetrator, who ended up putting his belt around her neck to force her to do his wishes. This happened off of 4th Street, in a small parking area. The perpetrator was stocky and white with brown hair, and wore jeans.

The good news is that the police responded in under five minutes and in massive force after we phoned 911. I stayed with the young lady at the crime scene until she was taken to the hospital by the police.

I was extremely impressed with the aggressiveness and intensity of the police response that night. Officers were flat out running in all directions in an attempt to apprehend this creep. Unfortunately, they were unable to capture him. The Special Victims Unit detective who interviewed us the next morning believes that they may have DNA evidence from the perpetrator, but it will be useful only if he is apprehended for something else and analyzed.

The lot requires better lighting by a substantial magnitude. To fail to better light this area would be negligent, in our view.

As a final bit of good news, this brave young lady, fully believing that she was about to die, defended herself with vigor. The creep was injured by her in a manner that only a man can fully appreciate, ran off, and we hope will never be the same.

The assailant is described as a white male, 25-35 years old, 5' 5" tall, with short brown hair, clean-shaven, fair complexion and regular features.

Please relay any information to the Special Victims Unit 215-685-1180, 1181, 1182.

The Police are always happy to meet with groups to teach about street safety.

— Chandler Joyner

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A New Tradition: Society Hill Fund

Susan Weinberg Jaffe and Paul Jaffe have started what we hope will become an excellent tradition. They have made a generous contribution to the Society Hill Civic Association in honor of Karen Sirlin's birthday.

If you're interested in making a tax-deductible contribution for the benefit of our civic association—to honor a friend or neighbor, to celebrate a special event—please direct your gift to "The Society Hill Fund."

Mail your check to: Society Hill Fund, c/o Fund Treasurer, David Stevens, 116 Delancey Street, Philadelphia 19106. Your contribution will be earmarked for a special SHCA project (to be determined), while you can enjoy the benefit of a tax deduction. It's a win-win for all.

Neighborhood Pride

It's free for the asking, honest.

Society Hill residents who need the services of a contractor have a wonderful resource just a phone call away. It's the Society Hill List of Preferred Contractors. This 10-page list provides hundreds of contractors and phone numbers under such categories as general contracting, painting, carpentry, plumbing, electrical, masonry and brick work, millwork, even resources for antique mantels.

All contractors on the list have been highly recommended by neighbors and have experience working with historic houses.

The List is free, but we hope you will support SHCA efforts by becoming a member. For a copy of the list, phone Martha Levine, 215-629-0727. — *Martha Levine*

Free Historic Preservation Manual — Coming Soon

All Society Hill property owners will soon receive a free publication:

The Society Hill Historic District Manual: A Guide for Property Owners will inform us on how to care for and preserve our historic homes. It is being published by the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia — the nonprofit membership organization that "promotes the appreciation, protection and appropriate use and development of the region's historic buildings, communities and landscapes."

This 48-page, informative and beautifully illustrated manual will be mailed to you during the summer. Look for it, put it on your book shelf, and save it for your future use.

Hanging Flower Baskets and Street Trees

More than 155 hanging flower baskets were hung by Society Hill volunteers. The baskets will sprout American Flags for the Republican convention. **Please water the hanging baskets near your home. They need your care.** And, please give our street trees water during dry periods.

Continued from page 1

Respecting Washington Square

gressman (now Ambassador) Thomas Foglietta, the National Park Service (NPS) agreed to include Washington Square as part of Independence National Historical Park after improvements have been completed.

Most of those improvements have been completed. The remaining landscaping to NPS standards under the supervision of the Fairmount Park Commission will begin this fall. It is expected that Washington Square will be ready to be incorporated into Independence National Historical Park by mid-2001.

When that occurs, the NPS will have responsibility for the maintenance and operating expense as well as provide interpretative literature and guides. The Board of Directors of the Society Hill Civic Association is requesting Congress to pass legislation that calls upon the Department of Defense to provide an Honorary Military Guard at Washington Square.

This Honorary Military Guard would be similar to the protocol at the Arlington National Cemetery. We will invite other prominent community organizations to join in this bipartisan initiative.

We believe that the Honorary Military Guard not only pays proper respect for the sacrifice beyond value, but signals to visitors to Independence National Historical Park the importance of Washington Square.

Combined with interpretative literature and guides, your Board believes that the important message of Washington Square will resonate in posterity and insures that this beloved piece of our neighborhood is permanently well maintained. We thank Winn Carroll, Bill Hawkins, George Koch and so many others, who have assisted in overseeing the efforts to have Washington Square included in Independence National Historical Park.

— *Malcolm Lazin*

Laurels

Laurel – To **Pennsylvania Hospital** for their attractive entrance off Manning Street between 7th and 8th Streets. Their lights now brighten the way at night. Also, no one has complained about the new lights bothering sleepers by shining in bedroom windows — as they were recessed behind the building line. Good job! Well done!

Laurel – To **Bill Mifflin** of Fairmount Park and Councilman **Frank DiCicco** who quickly acted to remove the tops of the newly installed waste baskets in Washington Square when the design flaw became apparent. People were not pushing the lid down, so trash was overflowing from the top of the receptacle while the barrel remained empty. The lids were designed so people would put only litter, not household trash, in the baskets, but no one wanted to push on those recalcitrant lids! Neighbors, now that they are accessible, please cooperate by not using them for your household trash. See the photo on page 10.

Laurel – To real estate specialist **Andrea Lander** for brightening up the neighborhood with her 13-star flags giveaway program. It is timely, colorful and fun.

President's Message



I am honored to be the new president of the Society Hill Civic Association. I accepted the nomination for four principal reasons.

First, I have always had respect as a neighbor for over 20 years of the important role that the Association has played in enhancing and maintaining our unique community. Second, since our enemy is benign neglect, I wanted to play a role as we confront ongoing safety and quality-of-life concerns — in particular the advent of construction of the \$350 million Simon DeBartolo entertainment/retail project on Penn's Landing and the huge crowds it will ultimately bring to our front step. Third, Russ Byers, whom I met when he and Laurada lived in Society Hill, was a dear friend. I wanted to do something that honored Russ' memory and his devotion to Philadelphia. I know that Russ would have encouraged me to undertake the leadership of SCHA. Fourth, we are entrusted not just with a neighborhood, but with America's First Neighborhood. As such, we are not only residents, but stewards of a national treasure.

We are individually and collectively fortunate to have that privilege. We are off to a fast start. The State Legislature recently passed a bill that provides for Neighborhood Improvement Districts (NID). While the NID is similar to the successful Center City District (CCD) and University City District, it has other benefits. We have obtained \$15,000 in grants from Senator Fumo and Councilman DiCicco to retain consultants to assist us in assessing the viability of a NID. I have named Mark Keener, AIA, and the former secretary of the SHCA board to chair that committee. A steering committee representing a diverse section of our neighbors has been formed, and the Atlantic Group, a highly regarded consultant for this type of project, was named to assist that committee.

I have met with Councilman DiCicco; Bill Mifflin, executive director, Fairmount Park Commission; Philadelphia Police Captain Korn; and neighborhood and civic representatives about Washington Square. We are focused on both the work needed to be completed prior to National Park Service takeover later next year, as well as the ongoing issues of safety and appearance.

Your Executive Committee, which is made up of SHCA officers, is meeting on a monthly basis to insure that we have the benefit of these highly qualified neighbors being fully engaged in the management of the Association. I am appreciative of having Mary Sturdivant as senior vice president, Jim Moss and Debby Robinson as vice presidents and Diane Molas and Richard Bost, respectively, as our secretary and treasurer.

The Association is most fortunate to have so many capable and devoted neighbors, who are chairing our over 20 committees. We welcome your input and always appreciate your involvement. If you have any matter of concern or interest, please do not hesitate to contact myself or any member of our Board.

It is my hope that as we go about the business of our Association that we do so with a commitment to civility and community standards. In respecting differences and the devotion each citizen brings to the process, we insure that neighbor and neighborhood are always honored.

— Malcolm Lazin



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531 Cypress- Contemporary 4 bdrm, 2.5 bath, 2 car parking, great light & space, yard **SOLD!** \$795,000

241 Monroe- Builder's home w/ 3 bdrms, 2.5 baths 2 f/p, parking, C/A, open space, garden \$650,000

929 Clinton- 7 unit apartment bldg, elegant block! 2 car pkg, separate electric. Hurry! \$595,000

507 Cypress- New Listing! Wonderful 4 bdrm, 4.5 bath, deeded parking, f/p, c/a, garden \$579,900

126 Naudain- Lovely 3 bdrm, 2.5 bath, parking, den, f/p, c/a, garden, cobblestone block! **SOLD!** \$429,900

210 Locust- New! Soc. Hill Towers! 3 bdrm, 2 bath, corner unit, updated kitchen & bath \$395,000

637 Addison- New Listing! 3 bdrm, 2.5 bath, den, f/p, c/a, h/w, yard, cobblestone block! \$369,900

501 S. 9th- New Listing! Charming 2 bdrm, 1 bath home with h/w floors, exposed brick **SOLD!** \$199,900

Abbott's Square #570- Reduced! 1 bdrm, 1 bath condo with terrace, parking available **SOLD!** \$93,900

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Parking — a Problem This Summer?

We've recently been apprised of a situation near the Starr Garden Playground. A spot marked "No Parking Anytime"—intended for emergency access to the ball field for maintenance and rescue vehicles—was misused by an employee of the Department of Recreation who parked illegally at that spot with a seal on her car that said "Official Parking 2000."

Investigating the situation, our SHCA sleuth learned that this employee had been issued a parking permit by a Recreation Department supervisor —without the permission of the Parking Authority or Police Department—an example of petty corruption, which has exacerbated the parking problem we have in the neighborhood and causing residents to "compete with" city employees for free parking spaces.

Our sleuth investigated, making calls within the Department of Recreation. Finally, he reported the situation to Councilman Frank DiCicco and his Chief of Staff, Robin Schatz.

With their help, at press time, no employee from the Department of Recreation has parked illegally at Starr Garden or other sites clearly marked "No Parking." We send Laurels to Councilman DiCicco and his staff for their support in this matter, and we also appreciate the cooperation of the Department of Recreation whose employees will now refrain from parking in illegal spots.

New Farmers Market — in Jeopardy?

A new Farmers Market, sponsored by the non-profit Farmers Market Trust, has been established for the summer months, and is being held on the east side of 2nd St., between South & Lombard Streets, on Saturdays, 10 am - 2 pm.

The market has already been enjoyed and supported by area neighbors for several Saturdays, beginning on June 10. Society Hill residents and neighboring communities have expressed their strong support for this market, which offers fresh produce and dairy products brought by about a dozen farmers. These farmers set up their tables in an attractive column, bringing color and activity to the ordinarily quiet Saturday morning streetscape.

But there has been a strong opponent who has lobbied to close down this popular farmers market for the remainder of the season. Eric Blumenfeld, owner of Abbots Square, is the landlord for the Chef's Market. Apparently, Blumenfeld and the proprietors of Chef's Market fear that this once-a-week market — held for four hours during a three-month period — can negatively impact their business. Neighbors, on the other hand, report that their own shopping patterns contradict this fear, as they have strolled around the corner to Chef's Market to purchase other goods that the farmers do not offer.

The lobbying effort to close the market is based on a technicality that the Farmers Market Trust does not have the necessary City permit from L&I. However, the Trust's Director, Duane Perry, reports that the Trust has applied for the relevant permit, but the City has been slow to issue it, waiting for a nod of approval by Councilman Frank DiCicco.

At press time, the market has been threatened with immediate closure. You can follow this saga by walking to 2nd & South, 10 am - 2 pm, next Saturday to see if the market is still there. And, if you believe in supporting healthy competition, you may want to notify our representative in City Council, Councilman Frank DiCicco, who wants to do right by all.

Kaleidoscope Kafe Carries the Night!

Our most recent cocktail event was at Kaleidoscope Kafe, 605 S. 3rd Street. It proved a wonderful success.

Civic association members were treated to their choice of cocktails and wines, and a delicious sampling of appetizers, including Kaleidoscope's tiger eye sushi rolls, "151 wings" (a favorite), chicken quesadillas, and tasty polenta fries with mango ketchup.

Stop in to this moderately priced, upscale but casual neighborhood restaurant to sample the super food.

Our thanks to Kaleidoscope Kafe manager, Luis, and our lovely servers, Jennesia and Elizabeth. — *Portia Bonavitacola*

A week before the SHCA party, five of us dined in Kaleidoscope Kafe. The elegant 19th-century building was originally a bank and the headquarters of a shipping company.

Proprietors Sal Avena and Luis DeMaise have decorated the main floor, the dining patio and the upstairs room with exciting modern furniture. Chef Joseph Turrisi has created an American fusion cuisine that had us frustrated because we could not sample the entire menu.

My starter was the \$5.50 Special K Salad — field greens topped with pine nuts, gorgonzola cheese, and green apples, then anointed with a balsamic vinegar and olive oil dressing.

Following the salad, I ate every bite of my \$17 pan-seared ahi served on a wild mushroom and potato pancake with a lime beurre blanc. We had a lovely \$24 shiraz with dinner and I found room to share a scandalously delicious orange blossom creme brulee.
— *Cirel Magen*

Beloved Society Hill Pediatrician-Lawyer



Daniel Hirsh Barol, pediatrician to generations of Society Hill children, died April 21, 2000. His friends, patients and family have chosen the new Independence Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia as a beneficiary for gifts in his memory.

Dr. Dan, who earned his law school degree in 1978, made tables, cooked mussels, did the NY Times crossword puzzle *in ink*, loved garage sales. He had a provocative, curious, quick and precise intellect. He had his own unassuming but elegant manner and style. He had an appreciation for language, for books, for doing things with his hands.

Dr. Barol, who died of pancreatic cancer at age 80, is survived by Shirley, to whom he was married for 56 years, a daughter, Ellen, son, Bill, and grandchildren, Molly and David.

To make a contribution of books for the Children's Reading Room of the Free Library in Dr. Barol's memory make your check payable to:

The Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation
Attn: Chris Jefferson, Barol Children's Book Fund
1901 Vine Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19103

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— *Peggy Davies and Cirel Magen*



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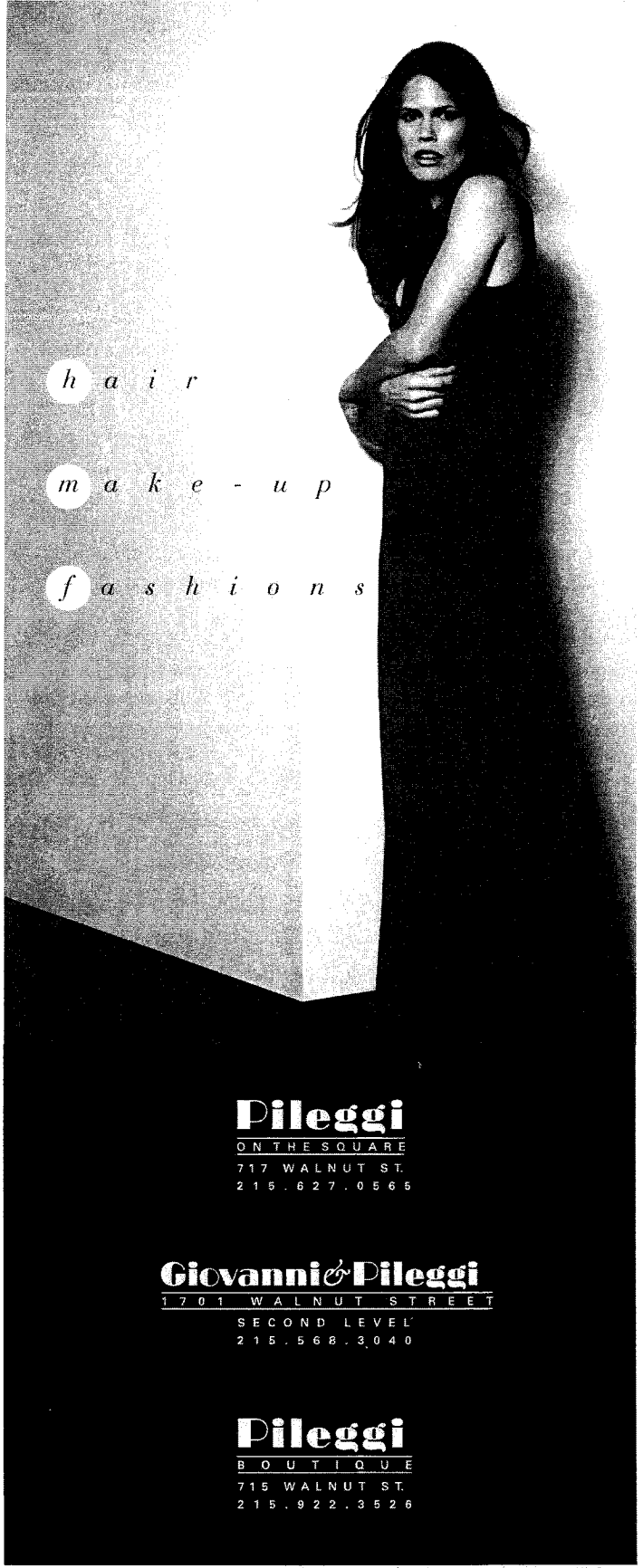
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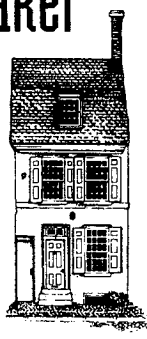


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Italia Ristorante - 318 S. 3rd Street
Metropolitan Bakery - 1114 Pine Street
The Mann Center for the Performing Arts - 52nd & Parkside Avenue
Mums and Pops Confectionery - 932 Locust Street
Old City Coffee - 221 Church Street; Reading Terminal Market
Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble - Old Pine Church, 400 Pine Street
Philadelphia Sports Clubs - 220-250 S. 5th Street
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Ritz Theatres - 214 Walnut Street, 4th & Ranstead Street
Sfizzio Restaurant - Society Hill Towers, 237 St. James Place
Show of Hands Gallery - 1006 Pine Street,
Starbuck's Coffee, Inc. - 347 South Street
Society Hill Playhouse - 507 S. 8th Street
Super Fresh Food Markets - 5th and Pine Streets
TLA Video - 517 S. 4th Street
The Wilma Theatre - 265 S. Broad Street
Zeke's Deli - 318 S. 5th Street

Martha Levine

Our New Library: \$45,000 and Going Strong

Books will soon be filling the shelves of the new Independence Branch of the Free Library, located within the Balch Institute at 18 S. 7th Street — that is, if we all help. Renovations to the branch are fully funded, underway, and should be completed by January 2001. But in order to complete the various collections the branch will feature—including more than 50,000 books, magazines, videos, CDs and audiocassettes—we need everyone in the community to pitch in with a donation to the Independence Branch Fund-raising Campaign.

Once complete, the collections will offer something for everyone. In addition to the basic collection of non-fiction, literature and reference items for adults and children found at all branches, our branch will feature special collections in Asian studies, gay and lesbian studies, and possibly a special collection on early American history.

And if the collections don't include a book you're looking for, you'll be able to have it sent from another branch to the Independence branch through the intra-library loan system. You'll also have free access to the internet through 12 computers, as well as the opportunity to be among the first in Philadelphia to use the new automated self-check-out technology.

To make all of this happen, the Independence Branch Fund-raising Campaign has raised \$45,000 towards the \$230,000 goal. The Campaign is asking for support from various foundations and corporations, as well as from individuals like *you*.

For more information, please contact Liza Seltzer: 215-625-7995 or LizaNicker@aol.com.

— Liza Nickerson Seltzer

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Jump Start Thursdays

Free Parking for South Street

An exciting new program to encourage neighbors to patronize restaurants and merchants on the South Street corridor started on April 27.

It is similar to Center City's Wednesday night program, offering free parking and discounts at stores and eateries. Every Thursday after 5 PM there is free meter parking on South Street and on the numbered streets from the south side of Lombard Street to the north side of Bainbridge Street, where meters are installed.

About 50 restaurateurs and merchants have joined the Jump Start Thursdays program. When shopping or dining on Thursday nights in and around South Street, look for the distinctive "Jump Start Thursdays" logo in the windows of participating merchants so you can enjoy the welcome discounts.

Historic Preservation & Zoning Development Committee

Regarding changes or alterations to the facades of buildings in our community, this has been a busy season for SHCA's Historic Preservation & Zoning Committee.

We have met with several applicants who are planning to make changes to their properties, as well as held meetings with nearby neighbors to insure that these changes will not negatively impact on the property of others.

Our Committee has also attended all relevant hearings, either at the Historical Commission or the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA). It has always been the Association's policy to work with neighbors on all sides of any conflict and attempt to find an acceptable compromise.

Over the years, our Civic Association has consistently opposed the loss of open space whenever plans for altering a building would encroach upon open space as required by the zoning code. This open space contributes significantly to the character and ambiance of our historic district.

SHCA has officially opposed the reduction of open space requested by the owners of 100 Delancey Street, and the ZBA has denied their variance request in support of the zoning code and our community's desire to prevent further encroachment of our open space.

Meanwhile, we encourage all Society Hill home owners who plan to make changes to their buildings to meet with our committee so that your process can move forward positively and expeditiously. Contact our Committee's Co-chairs:

Richard Bost: 215-351-5336, e-mail: bostrick@aol.com

Bernice Hamel: 215-925-4363, e-mail: hamelbt@aol.com

Becky Stoloff: 215-627-4910, e-mail: rtstoloff@aol.com

Let's keep working together!

— Bernice Hamel

An example of illegal dumping



This photograph was taken at the corner of 2nd & Spruce Streets on a Friday afternoon in June. An irresponsible resident dumped household trash — building materials and cartons — at this litter basket, which is a violation of the law. Litter baskets are there to keep our neighborhood clean of street trash. They are not there for dumping household trash. Nearby neighbors were grateful that, after several phone calls to the help line at City Hall, a truck came around that evening and took away the unsightly mess.

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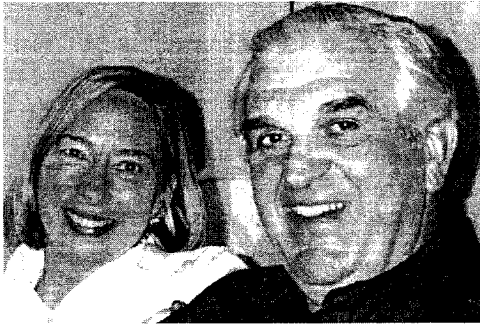
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Noteworthy Neighbors

Bob Butera and Marilyn Sifford



They seem to take more delight in the garden behind their 18th-century house on the fifth block of Spruce Street than in their equally fruitful and abundant personal and professional lives.

But to Bob Butera and Marilyn Sifford, that oasis of luxuriant blooms and lush herbs is a tranquil counterpoint to crowded workdays.

For ten years, Marilyn has owned a consulting company that provides strategic planning for foundations and cultural institutions. Describing herself as a facilitator, she brings together people of diverse backgrounds, crossing such traditional boundaries as governments and the private sector, or business and the art world. The company is at present working on a five-year plan for the Center for the Preservation of Art and Historic Artifacts to save and restore antique books and maps.

One of seven children who grew up on a South Carolina tobacco farm, Marilyn is, however, decidedly urbane. She and Bob have been married since 1994 ... and their elegantly furnished house, which Bob restored from a three-apartment configuration back to something approaching the 1792 dwelling originally built, according to his research, for "a local Gentleman," is a fine example of civilized urban living — then and now.

Bob Butera is a lawyer and former politician who has served as chief executive officer of the Pennsylvania Convention Center since its opening in 1993. In the 1960s and 70s, he sat in the State legislature, was floor leader, and ran in the 1978 Republican gubernatorial primary against the eventual winner, Dick Thornburgh. He was president of the Philadelphia Flyers hockey team and of the New Jersey Devils ... and is a member of numerous local boards, including those of the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Philadelphia Zoo, the Settlement Music School, and the Arts and Business Council.

Besides their joy in gardening, Bob and Marilyn are enthusiastic theatergoers, cooks and travelers. They are especially enthusiastic about Society Hill, Marilyn expressing her love of the sense of history engendered by our streetscape and the proximity of Independence Hall; and Bob waxing eloquent on the local denizens' diversity and talent.

Above all, they agree, it's a place to walk. They walk to work, to cultural events, to restaurants — and then back to their serene and verdant garden.

— David Woods

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

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Joan Tropp, membership chair, reports that there are now 779 noteworthy neighbors, all SHCA members, 128 of them new this year.

Call About Liquor Control Notices

Mel Buckman, SHCA's current chair of the Liquor Control Committee, requests that anyone seeing a red liquor control notice in an area window to please phone him at 215-925-2167. It is the only way we can be sure to have a say in the awarding of liquor licenses in our community.

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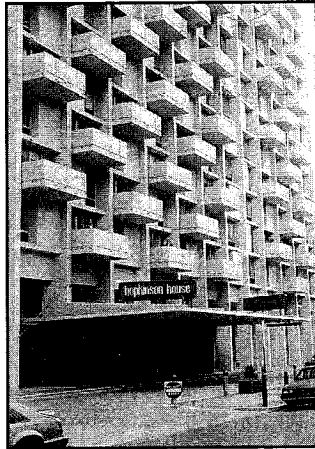
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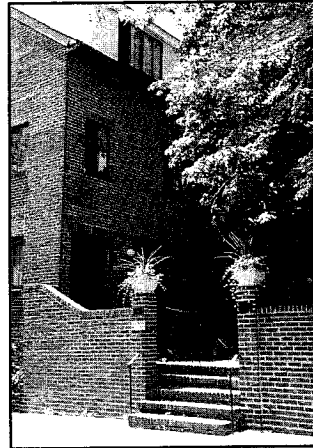
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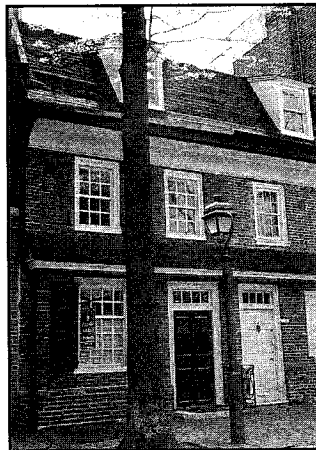
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Horse Carriage Trade Update

On June 14, 2000, members of the Licenses & Inspections Committee of Philadelphia's City Council approved Bill 217, introduced by (and special thanks to) Councilman Frank DiCicco, which will greatly improve legislation that governs the city's horse carriage industry. It had taken three years, four City Council sessions, and many meetings between carriage horse advocates and city agencies to get to this point.

City residents, members of the city's executive branch, humane organizations across the U.S., equine veterinarians and specialists, animal activists, and even certain elements of the tourism industry, provided support. It was overwhelmingly in favor of improving the horse carriage industry.

The new rules went into effect June 22. One of the most contentious changes lowers the high-end temperature to 91 degrees versus the previous 94 threshold, which was one of the highest in the nation. There is now a low-end threshold of 26 degrees, where none existed before. Horses must also be blanketed at temperatures below 32 degrees. Another important step was reducing the hours in harness to nine — before horses had to work at least 10 hours as well as travel to and from their stables, so were often in harness for up to 12 hours. Stable inspections will now take place at least twice a year — before they were annual at best.

Of significance to community residents is the provision that the carriage companies must now foot the bill for cleaning horse waste from our streets, not city taxpayers. Additional carriage route blocks on Lombard and 5th streets were voted down because of traffic and other concerns. And from a tourist safety angle, tourists are no longer permitted to sit next to the driver. Other changes include a new license fee structure, as well as a "three strikes and you're out" provision to make the carriage companies more accountable for persistent violations by their drivers.

While the new legislation is a big step, the critical part, as always, is enforcement. That was always a major problem in Philadelphia, but now there is a height-

ened awareness among the controlling city agency, the Department of Health, as well as with the police and Pennsylvania SPCA's animal cruelty agents. Recent cruelty issues at one stable and a high-profile criminal court case helped push the need

for humane treatment of the carriage horses into the spotlight. The next step is to completely overhaul the regulations that govern the stables, which the Department of Health states will be a model for the whole country.

— William Hawkins

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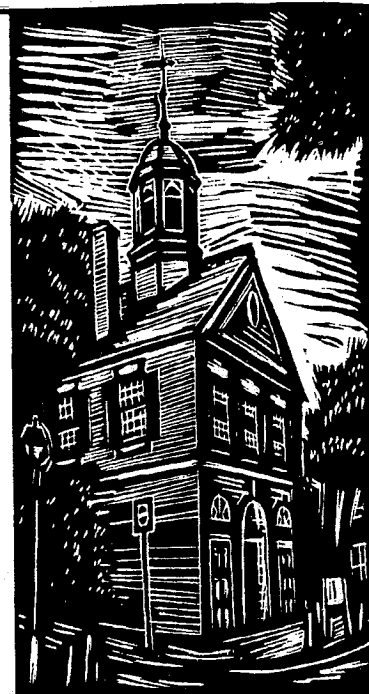
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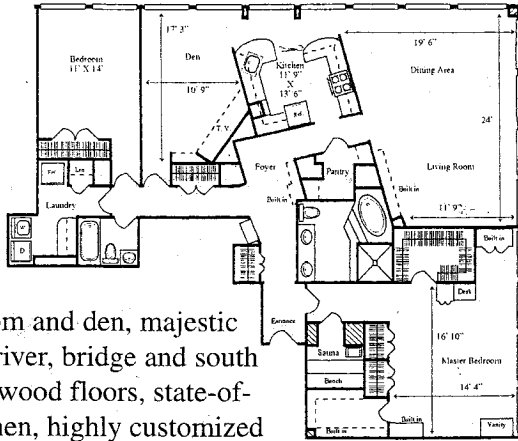
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You may also write to SHCA at P.O. Box 3, Philadelphia, PA 19105 or fax to 215-625-9914 or e-mail at SHCIVICA@aol.com.

Next deadline for THE REPORTER: Wednesday, August 16

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