

# Society Hill REPORTER

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May 2001

Newsletter of The Society Hill Civic Association

## Civic Association Elections—Wednesday, May 16

May 2001 will be an important and precedent-setting election for SHCA officers and its board of directors. For the first time in recent history, there is a contest for the seat of President of the Association. All 2001 SHCA members are strongly urged to attend the General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, May 16, 7:30 PM, at the Society Hill Synagogue. It will be up to each SHCA household membership to decide the outcome of this contested election, which will hopefully, in the end, reflect the wishes of the entire membership.

For the year 2001, the Association has five nominations for the slots of Vice President. SHCA's Bylaws provide that there be "one or more vice presidents," and about five years ago, the Board increased the number of vice presidents to three.

At the recent April Board of Directors meeting, it was resolved that all five nominees have made extraordinary contributions to the Association and the community in the past, and that it would be unfortunate were SHCA to be deprived of the presence of any one of them on the Board. Therefore, the Board voted to increase the number of Vice Presidents from three to five.

See page 2 for bios of candidates for President of the Association in this year's election. We look forward to seeing you at the May 16th meeting.

### Contested Nominations

President (vote for one)

Elizabeth Armour

Malcolm Lazin (incumbent)

Non-contested Nominations

Vice President (vote for five)

Bernice Hamel

William Hawkins

Martha Levine

Jim Moss (incumbent)

Liza Seltzer

Secretary (vote for one)

Diane Molas

Treasurer (vote for one)

Frank Hoban (incumbent)

Quadrant Director – Southeast (vote for one)

Amy Foran (incumbent)

Quadrant Director – Northeast (vote for one)

Colleen Farrell

Quadrant Director – Southwest (vote for one)

Three-year term: Gene Gualtieri

Quadrant Director – Southwest (vote for one)

One-year term: Michele Plachter

Quadrant Director – Northwest (vote for one)

Three-year term: Perry Whyte

Quadrant Director – Northwest (vote for one)

One-year term: Morrie Chomitz

The following Directors are serving terms which have not yet expired: Cirel Magan (Northeast); Ann Verber (Northeast); Mark Valentine (Northwest); Mark Keener (Southwest); Becky Stoloff and Kelly Nelson (Southeast).

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### Special Thanks To Mary Sturdivant

The Society Hill Civic Association has been the beneficiary of the services of dedicated individuals who have given their time, energy and talents to improve our quality of life. Some have held prominent positions, while others have labored quietly behind the scenes. We applaud all who have contributed to our neighborhood. For the past several years, Mary Sturdivant has served as a Vice President and most recently as a Senior Vice President. According to our Bylaws with its term limits, it is required that Mary be rotated off of the Board of Directors for a mandatory one year. We acknowledge with gratitude Mary's many years of devoted service to our community and extend our very best wishes to her.

—Malcolm Lazin, President

## Candidates for President of the Association

Elizabeth Armour is President of Armour Associates, a consultancy that assists clients in assessing and responding globally to critical growth opportunities and business challenges. With twenty years management experience in the chemical industry, Elizabeth has also spent eight years living and working in Europe. Living in Society Hill for four years, Elizabeth is a previous Southeast Quadrant Director Board member and a former member of its Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee. She is also a member of The Athenaeum and The Friends of Independence National Historical Park. Elizabeth possesses a BA and MS degree and a MBA in Marketing and Finance.

Malcolm Lazin is currently serving as the President of the SHCA. Malcolm is an attorney and a graduate of the Boston University School of Law. He has chaired or co-chaired numerous committees including the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce Local Legislative Committee, the Committee to Light the Benjamin Franklin Bridge, the Pennsylvania Crime Commission, the Pennsylvania Committee for the International Year of the Child and others. Malcolm is the Founder of PrideFest America and the President of Penn's Landing Development Corporation. He is a former Assistant US Attorney and a local partner for Camden's E-Center. Malcolm has been a resident of Society Hill since 1978.

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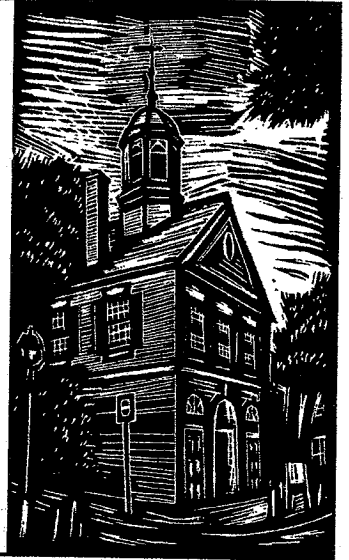
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## A Year in Review



A year ago, I was asked to serve as the President of the Society Hill Civic Association. I was then, and remain now, honored to serve you in this role. Together with the Civic Association's dedicated Board of Directors, I have worked hard to address many of your most urgent concerns about the neighborhood.

### **Washington Square**

At our last Annual Meeting, neighborhood issues were raised with our guest speaker, Councilman Frank DiCicco. One of those issues was the deplorable condition of Washington Square. On behalf of our Association, I met with interested parties and convened a meeting at Washington Square with Councilman DiCicco, William Mifflin, Executive Director of the Fairmount Park Commission and senior staff at the 6th Police District together with representatives of Hopkinson House, Independence Place and others. In a matter of a month, the grass was being mowed regularly, landscaping improvements were made, garbage was being regularly removed, garbage containers were retrofitted and police security was enhanced. We thank these public officials for their responsiveness.

### **Independence Branch Library**

A major initiative started several years ago by then President Mel Buckman and spearheaded by our Association under the leadership of Liza Seltzer is the Independence Branch Library. This past fall with the branch then due to open in several months, the funding required was still short of its goal. At my request, the Association undertook a major donor cocktail party at the Locks Gallery. That project was coordinated out of my office, with Liza Seltzer co-chairing the event.

The event resulted in the most successful fund-raising event for our community in the Association's history. We netted over \$25,000 for the Independence Branch Library, which opened two months ago. We especially thank Liza Seltzer, a member of our Board whose leadership symbolizes the quality of commitment that makes our neighborhood special, as well as Becky Stoloff, Cirel Magen and all of the others who worked to turn this dream into a reality.

### **Honorary Military Guard**

Washington Square is the burial site of America's first POWs, who died after capture by the British at the Battles of Brandywine and Valley Forge. Society Hill Civic Association spearheaded a consortium of over ten prominent historic, civic, tourism and business organizations. The consortium is calling on Congress to enact legislation to provide an Honorary Military Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier in Washington Square. We have garnered bipartisan support including the leadership of Senator Arlen Specter. At our request, Comcast Corporation has provided its DC legislative lobbyist to assist us. With the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, we have invited Senator John McCain to visit Washington

Square. Momentum is growing and we will continue to facilitate that effort.

### **Foglietta Plaza, Tun Tavern**

We have received complaints about the status of Foglietta Plaza and the undeveloped Tun Tavern site. Vagrants intimidated Kelly Nelson and her infant there. Residents of Penn's Landing Condominium and Society Hill Towers have lodged concerns about public urination, trash, lack of safety and an un-welcoming ambience. We are looking at those issues and hope to engage expertise to address those concerns. Foglietta Plaza is a full city block and is the largest remaining under-utilized parcel in Society Hill. We hope to engage the community in considering ways to turn Foglietta Plaza into a community resource.

### **Penn's Landing**

The Association has been monitoring the developments at Penn's Landing. With the Society Hill Towers, we jointly have achieved a redesign of the project's public amphitheater. This will help diminish unwanted sound. We continue to work on ameliorating that concern. We had Philadelphia's Commerce Director Jim Cuorato address our General Membership meeting about the Penn's Landing plans and have ongoing discussions with the leadership of Penn's Landing Corporation to insure enhanced communication and information.

### **Graffiti removal**

There has been much concern about increased graffiti in our neighborhood. Like litter, graffiti begets graffiti. We have started a pilot project to remove graffiti in a section of our neighborhood under an outsourcing with the Center City District. If this demonstration is successful, as we believe it will be, the Board will look at allocating more of our limited resources to this project.

### **Zoning appeals**

There is presently a bill in City Council that would only allow parties with a direct interest to take an appeal to the Court of Common Pleas from a decision of the Zoning Board of Adjustment. As such, anyone not a party before the Zoning Board would not be able to file an appeal. When this was initially discussed, the concern of our Board was that the bill might limit the right to appeal by our Association. At our request, Councilman DiCicco was willing to amend the bill to include language that gave established community associations the right to appeal. Jim Moss, Esq., our Vice President, drafted the amendment to insure that Society Hill Civic Association's interests were protected and our Board overwhelmingly voted in favor of the revised amendment.

Subsequently, there have been other concerns raised regarding the bill, especially about the right of those opposed to billboards to file an appeal. I am and have been the Co-Chair of the Local Legislative Committee of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce for over 15 years.

About ten years ago, I initiated and fought for passage of an Ordinance that prohibits billboards in Center City, so I too am

*Continued on following page*

## A Year in Review, continued

concerned. I have asked our Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee to study our concerns and report back to our Board. We will continue to monitor this bill to insure that it protects community interests.

### Financial reporting

Administratively we are re-engineering our financial reporting under the leadership of our new Treasurer, Frank Hoban. For the first time, our Board will be able to consider a proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Expenses will reflect our priorities and be tracked. We continue to look for ways to operate more efficiently and effectively. We have re-organized our Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee.

I am pleased to have dedicated and professionally capable Mark Keener, AIPC and AIA as the Chair, and I have added Ken Fleischer, Esq. to that committee. We are fortunate to have Becky Stoloff, former Association President and community activist Bernice Hamel as well as Morrie Chomitz and Lorna Lawson serve on this committee. The Committee is looking at standard operating procedures that will provide clarity and tailored information.

### Other projects continue and improve

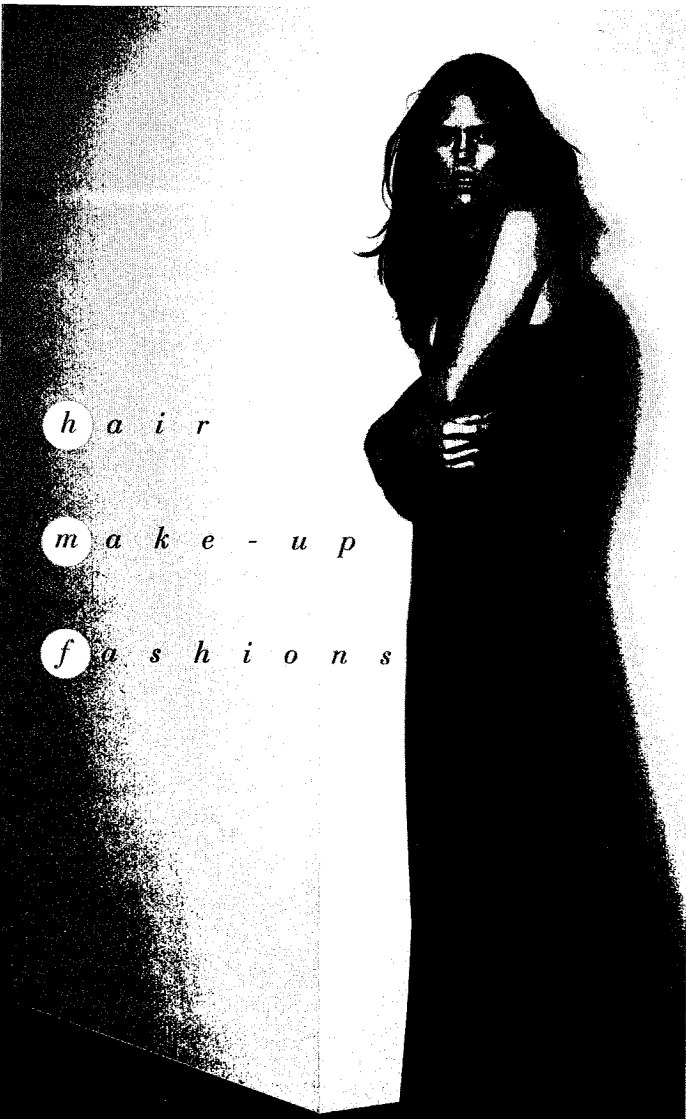
Our numerous other projects continue and improve: our sidewalks cleaned weekly under the supervision of Dave Stevens; our biannual street cleaning co-chaired by Mark Valentine and Frank Hoban; the Welcome Basket for new neighbors and the annual Open House Tour under the leadership of Martha Levine; trees planted through the efforts of Jean Bodine; and our wonderful *Society Hill Reporter* published through the efforts of Bernice Hamel, Amy Foran, George Koch and a dedicated staff. Our membership is up due to the professionalism of Kelly Nelson.

I am honored to serve the Society Hill Civic Association. We are fortunate to live in America's first neighborhood. With that good fortune comes our obligation to be good stewards. It is our role to be the trustees of a unique community and an American treasure.

—Malcolm Lazin, President

## The Farmers Are Coming!

Get ready for those mouthwatering strawberries and other delectable fresh food from our local farmers who are returning to our area in June! The Second Street Farmers' Market, between South and Lombard streets, will be open every Saturday, from 11 AM to 2 PM. The South & Passyunk Farmers' Market, just east of 5th Street, will be open on Tuesdays from 2 PM to 7 PM. Prepare your taste buds for the freshest, most delicious food you've ever tasted —picked that morning and sold to you by the farmers who grew it.



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## SHCA Changes Position on Bill 629

Last October, City Councilman Frank DiCicco introduced Bill 629, a bill that would impact the right of some to appeal decisions made by the Philadelphia Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA). Bill 629 eliminates the words "any taxpayer" from the section of the Zoning Code that currently allows any taxpayer to appeal any decision of the ZBA. The bill in its current form requires individuals to prove they are aggrieved in their own right by owning property "in the vicinity of the property" they wish to address.

At its March meeting, the Civil Association's Board of Directors overwhelmingly voted to approve the bill so long as the bill in an amended form gave community groups and neighborhood organizations the ability to appeal ZBA decisions as a matter of right.

At the request of SHCA's president Macolm Lazin, a sub-committee of the Board consisting of several Zoning and historic Preservation Committee members met on April 12th to reevaluate SHCA's position regarding Bill 629. A revised position regarding this controversial bill was drafted by the sub-committee and approved by the Board at its April 18th Board meeting. It reads:

"As a result of considerations raised at City Council Hearings on March 12, 2001 on the proposed amendment striking the language 'any taxpayer' from Bill 629, the Board of the Society Hill Civic Association has voted to alter its position on the measure. The Board recognizes that the constructive intent of the amendment was to provide Philadelphia neighborhoods a certain amount of autonomy in guiding their own destinies by making compromises on their own behalf—by limiting third-party testimony at ZBA hearings. However, looking more closely at the bill in its current form, the SHCA Board is concerned that:

- 1) the bill as amended would compromise city-wide debate concerning places that are part of a wider public domain, such as state and federal highways;
- 2) the bill's sponsors have not demonstrated that the proposed action (striking the phrase "any taxpayer") provides a remedy for a real problem."

The SHCA Board asks for your help in phoning and/or writing to the members of the City Council Rules Committee to stop the passage of 629.

	Phone	Fax
Anna C. Verna, Chair	215-686-3412	215-686-1932
James Kenny, Vice-chair	215-686-3450	215-686-2013
Darrell Clarke*	215-686-3442	215-686-1901
David Cohen*	215-686-3446	215-686-1927
Frank DiCicco	215-686-3458	215-686-1931
W. Thacher Longstreth*	215-686-3452	215-686-1925
Brian O'Neil	215-686-3422	215-686-1939
Michael Nutter*	215-686-3416	215-686-1934

\* Thanks to those City Council members who oppose Bill 629.



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**233 SPRUCE**-Lovely traditional style 4 bdrm, 2.5 bath with hrdwd flrs, wood-burning fplce, c/air, garden and **deeded parking!** **\$569,900**

**PIER 3**-Beautiful 1300 square foot condo with 2 bdrms, 2 baths + add'l sleeping loft. New kitchen, deck, working fireplace, southern exposure **\$375,000**

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## Zoning & Preservation (ZAP) Committee Report

### Welcome New Committee Members

SHCA'S Zoning and Preservation Committee (ZAP) works to protect the cherished historic urban character and residential scale of Society Hill by informing neighbors about upcoming projects and representing the neighborhood at Zoning and Historic Commission hearings.

ZAP is pleased to report that it has had three interested new members join us—including Ken Fleisher, Esq., who has answered our call for an attorney to counsel us on legal issues pertaining to zoning and preservation cases. Also new to the committee are Judith Coche and Candice Conn. These members will give us additional coverage for attending daytime hearings of the Historical Commission and the Commission's Architectural Committee meetings that affect Society Hill buildings.

### Proposed Townhouses at 7th St., between Pine and Delancey

Construction of six new homes at the corner of 7th and Pine Streets, called "Delancey Court," is being developed by Stephan Goldner and Richard Kilin. Mr. Goldner presented their plans to this committee and nearby neighbors at a meeting on March 13. This project is generally well received by neighbors and supported by SHCA. However, three serious concerns have been raised:

1. Orientation: The proposed plan shows buildings that have turned a blank wall to Pine Street. This blank wall presents a gap between the historic houses, bridged by open decks—resulting in 100% lot coverage for the corner property. SHCA has consistently opposed 100% lot coverage.
2. Safety: The project proposes 120 feet of curb cuts and garage doors along Society Hill's Streets—within 50 yards of

McCall School, Pennsylvania Hospital, and Washington Square. The addition of many double garage doors with cars backing onto 7th Street's steady flow of traffic near elementary school-age pedestrians presents a "worst-case scenario" for the site. A safer solution would be a single curb cut for access to a parking court from Delancey Street, which already is a "service street" for Pine Street residences.

3. Quality of Life: Curb cuts and garage doors along Society Hill's Streets threatens one of our community's most precious qualities—its intimate scale and walkable, pedestrian-friendly sidewalks. Society Hill is not a suburban enclave where the requirements of the automobile dominate planning standards.

### 238 Stamper Street

This 1785-94 property, rehabilitated in 1970, is designated as "Significant" within Society Hill's Historic District. An engineering report, as well as an L & I violation, cited structural problems with the roof. The applicant, Geno Sena, and architect, Sabrina Soong, propose to demolish the roof and the original visible rear wall. SHCA's ZAP Committee supports the recommendations of the Historical Commission's Architectural Review Committee, as follows: restore the front so that the Stamper St. appearance will be unchanged and the basic framework of the front and rear walls will be retained; rebuild the roof to match the original roof line; and construct a new addition in the rear that extends south toward Lombard Street.

### Tun Tavern

Recently we learned that the Fairmount Park Commission approved plans for a Korean War Memorial at Foglietta Plaza. This may or may not impact on the Tun Tavern's contiguous site, at 2nd Street just west of Columbus Blvd. The Tun Tavern Historical Society wants to develop the site (and include a bar), but a lease currently exists between the Tun Tavern Trust (a different group) and the City of Philadelphia which the Tun Tavern Historical Society wishes to see the lease dissolved. The ZAP Committee will review this situation and Bruce LeBuhn—who represents the Penn's Landing Condo Association on SHCA's Board—is also working to get a better fix on the site.

### "Report Card" Requested

The committee would appreciate learning of your personal experiences with the Philadelphia Historical Commission. We're requesting that you share with us your "report card" dealing with the Commission. Tell us what you think went well and what you found frustrating. The more we know about our neighbors' experiences, the more we can be of help to others in the future.

Meanwhile, if you are planning to make any alterations to your property that could affect the facade (e.g. additions, demolitions, roof decks) or that may require a zoning variance, contact either of our Zoning Co-chairs: Mark Keener (215-751-1133) or Morris Chomitz (215-629-0245). If you happen to notice the sudden appearance of "Zoning Variance" sign on any property in the neighborhood, we'd appreciate receiving a call from you. For other questions or issues, contact our Historic Preservation Co-chairs: Bernice Hamel (215-925-4363) or Becky Stoloff (215-627-4910).

### Join the Society Hill Civic Association!

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\*Additional Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_ Historic Preservation/Zoning    \_\_\_ Society Hill Reporter  
   Development                      \_\_\_ Street Trees/Tree Tenders  
\_\_\_ Library

Make your check payable to: Society Hill Civic Association  
Mail to SHCA, Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147-3503

Questions? 215-629-1288

## National Historic Preservation Week

### SHCA To Receive Community Service Award at Ritz-Carlton Luncheon: Tuesday, May 22

May 2001 marks the eighth year that the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia will commemorate achievements in restoration and preservation for our region's environment. An Awards Luncheon will be held in the spectacular Grand Ballroom of the new Ritz-Carlton Hotel (Broad and Chestnut Streets) on Tuesday, May 22, 11 AM to 2 PM.

At this reception and luncheon, several Preservation Achievement Awardees will be honored, including the Ritz-Carlton itself, which was a conversion of the former Girard Bank Building into a five-star hotel, bringing back the lost luster of what was once one of the city's grandest buildings. Other awardees will include individuals, institutions and organizations that over the years have made significant preservation contributions. (Last year, our neighbor Penny Batcheler won an Achievement Award for her restoration efforts on behalf of Independence National Historical Park!)

This year a new award is being given to five community-based organizations whose grassroots efforts have accomplished the objective of becoming local historic districts under Philadelphia's 1996 Historic Preservation Ordinance. The Society Hill Civic Association is among the named communities that advocated for and achieved historic designation for its protective provisions. Many Society Hillers—board directors and preservation activists who were involved in the complex and time-consuming historic designation process—will receive invitations to the luncheon. We hope we didn't forget you, but we most certainly welcome your participation and the participation of any neighbor who would enjoy supporting this good cause and wonderful event.

Look for your invitation in the mail by May 5. If you have not received an invitation by then, please call the Alliance's Luncheon Coordinator, Karen Spiro of "Eventures," at 215-462-0660, and she'll mail an invitation to you. The cost per person is \$80-\$100 and your participation will help support the Preservation Alliance which was our "partner" in the historic designation process. Last year's luncheon was sold out days in advance, and this year's is expected to be the most successful awards luncheon ever, so please return your reservation promptly. We look forward to celebrating SHCA's award together with many of our neighbors. See you there!

### Pennsylvania Hospital's 250th Birthday Fete

Pennsylvania Hospital will be celebrating its 250th birthday on Saturday, May 12, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM. The event will be held on Pine Street between 8th and 9th in the Pine and Elm Gardens. The party will include balloons, face painting, commemorative photos with "Ben Franklin," historic tours, food for all (popcorn, pretzels, hot dogs, frozen yogurt, beverages) and, of course, a Custom Birthday Cake. There will also be a Health Fair which will include health information, screenings lectures and other fun events and a Garden Bazaar with will be selling flowers, Mother's Day gifts, books and baked goods. Please join us at this fun, free and informative event!

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### Independence Branch Library Events For Children

**Library Story/Craft Program:** On Tuesday, May 8, 10:30 AM, pre-schoolers are invited to the Independence Branch Library for a storytime and craft program celebrating spring. Children ages 3 and up will enjoy listening to stories and doing a simple craft.

**Magic Show: The Amazing Vindini: Wed., May 9, 3:30 PM.**

**Science in the Summer:** The Independence Branch Library will be participating in the Free Library's exciting Science in the Summer program. The theme this year is Electricity. Children entering grades 2 and 3 can sign up for four morning classes, from June 19 through June 22. All four sessions must be attended. Registration will begin on Tuesday, May 22. Come in or call the Library at 215-685-1633. The class is limited to 15, so register early! A few parent volunteers are needed to help with the classes, so if you are able to help out, let the Library know when you register your child.

### Join The Friends of Independence Library

The Friends support the new Independence Branch Library and its mission in many ways, including:

- Funds for programs and speakers;
  - Additional books, magazines, videos and compact discs;
  - Hospitality for Library programs;
- Other needed equipment and supplies not provided by the City budget. Membership starts at only \$5 per household, so why not join today? For more information: Independence Branch Library, 18 S. 7th St. or call Liza Seltzer: 215-625-7995.

#### Charter Membership Application

Yes, I (we) want to join the Friends of Independence Library. Enclosed is my contribution:

- Friend \$ 5.00
- Patron \$ 25.00
- Sponsor \$ 50.00
- Benefactor \$100.00 +
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Friends of Independence Library.

Mail this coupon with payment to:

Friends of Independence Library  
18 S. 7th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

The official registration and financial information of The Friends of the Free Library of Philadelphia may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling, toll free within Pennsylvania, 800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Want to get involved? Let us know what your interests are:

- Membership
- Program Planning
- Library Volunteer
- Fundraising Projects
- Public Relations



# Independence Branch Library Donors

## \$5000 and above

Asian American Women's Coalition  
James H. Bryson  
Delaware Valley Legacy  
Samuel S. Fels Fund  
Herbert Kean, M.D. and the  
Honorable Joyce Mozenter  
Ruth and John McKeivitt  
The Rittenhouse Foundation  
Rohm and Haas Company  
Society Hill Civic Association  
Dr. and Mrs. Eli P. Zebooker

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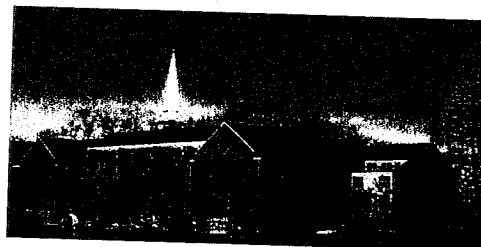
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## Still Reeling From Mardi Gras

The pre-Lenten Mardi Gras season that New Orleans is known for ends with Fat Tuesday. We neighbors do not need reminding of the mayhem that occurred on Fat Tuesday, February 27, 2001, for which our city police and the state's Liquor Control Board were completely unprepared and which kept us awake all night from the noise of helicopters and police sirens.

An estimated 40,000 people jammed the South Street corridor on that day and night, making unwelcome headline news for Philadelphia all across the country, and even around the world. Thankfully, despite the riots, looting and harm that occurred, there were no fatalities, and for that we are grateful.

It is important to note that neither the South Street Headhouse District (SSHD) nor the city endorsed this Fat Tuesday event. But neither was it a spontaneous event: some drinking establishments, independently supported by sponsors such as Guinness and Bacardi, were the promoters of Fat Tuesday as were a host of radio stations.

All neighborhoods that were impacted by the event, as well as nine out of ten South Street merchants (most of whose businesses were harmed not helped by the events) have since mobilized into action to prevent such a happening ever again. For example, the SSHD has been working aggressively with Councilman DiCicco's office, the Liquor Control Board and State as well as city police. By the time you read this newsletter, a new aggressive enforcement of all liquor license laws will have already begun for South Street, and will be operating throughout the year on all weekends and other potential disruptive "holidays."

In addition, the SSHD has taken an official "non-tolerance stance" for any event that promotes drinking and the opening of bars from early morning until late at night. According to Michael Samschick, SSHD's new chairman, SSHD is also promoting a new and unique "meter card" ordinance to enforce the legal drinking age: all people of questionable age who enter South Street bars will be required to show their drivers' licenses or other forms of ID, which will then be scanned electronically in a state-of-the-art system. This system will require the drafting of a new City ordinance requiring City Council's support. Considering the escalation of recent drinking and rioting events and the community's abhorrence for these events, it is quite likely that such an ordinance can be put in place. This newsletter will keep you informed about the continuing programs being considered to prevent such problems in the future.

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## Letter to the Editors

From Society Hill Resident David Stevens:

Recently I noticed a sign at Penn's Landing along the walkway east of the Hyatt, stating that the area was being monitored by video. Perhaps we need permanent video surveillance by the police along all of South Street. The fact that revelers will be watched should be made clear to all before they decide to come and cause mayhem. The year-round message we need to get out is: South Street—Be Cool, Not Crazy! with pictures of people smiling and having fun next to people fighting or sitting in jail.

## St. Peter's Invites Community to Celebrate Churchyard Restoration

A major milestone in the restoration of St. Peter's churchyard urban oasis used and enjoyed by both the Society Hill community and visitors to this National Historic Landmark will be celebrated with an Open House event for the community on Tuesday, June 19, from 6 to 8 PM. This date marks the Fifth Anniversary of the designation of St. Peter's Church and its churchyard as a National Historic Landmark in 1996.

For the past few months, neighbors have witnessed a very complex restoration of the perimeter walls and the gates of the 240-year-old churchyard. Under the direction of John Milner Architects, a leading specialist in historic restoration, this \$375,000 project is part of a long-term churchyard restoration plan will be completed in June. On-going funding, under the auspices of Historic St. Peter's Church Preservation Corporation (HSPCPC), has come from a Pennsylvania Keystone Grant, St. Peter's parishioners, and neighbors and organizations in Society Hill and the wider Philadelphia community.

As part of the June 19 celebration, neighbors will have an opportunity to tour the churchyard and hear fascinating details of what has been involved in the very accurate restoration of the walls and what is planned for future projects. Architect Mary Werner DeNadai, vice president of John Milner Architects and a former chairman of the board of advisors of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, will make a presentation and take questions. A reception and refreshments will follow. More details will be provided in late May.

St. Peter's churchyard, one of the oldest in Philadelphia, has served the community since 1761. It is a living reminder of the city's and the nation's history. The citizens buried in the more than 1000 graves include painter Charles Wilson Peale, who painted the first portrait of George Washington, Vice President George Mifflin Dallas, for whom Dallas, Texas is named, Commodore Stephen Decatur, hero of the Battle of Tripoli and the War of 1812 and eight Native American chieftains, who traveled to Philadelphia in 1793 to discuss disputed land issues with President Washington but who subsequently died of smallpox.

The churchyard continues to be an important factor in the quality of life for residents of Society Hill and members of St. Peter's, as well as being a destination for those interested in the history of our nation. Plans to protect and restore the churchyard were initiated by HSPCPC in 1996. Future goals are to improve lighting for security, add more benches, improve walkways and landscaping, and establish a memorial garden. For more information on the restoration plans, contact HSPCPC at St. Peter's Church 313 Pine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106.



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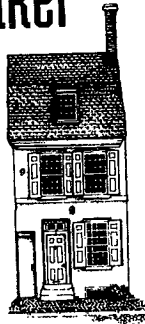


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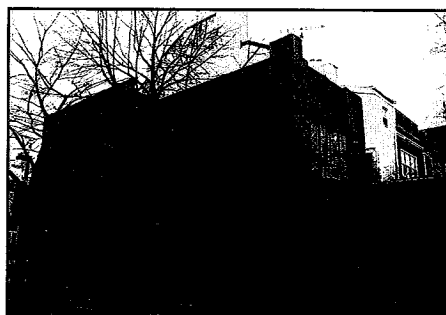
# Prudential Fox&Roach

(at The Rittenhouse)

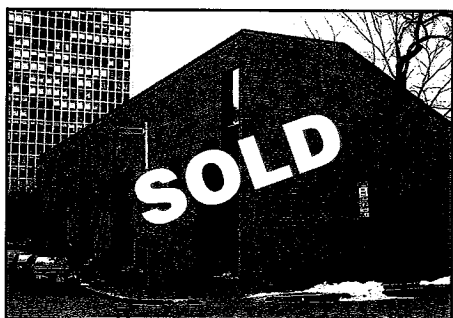
## All Around Society Hill, Featuring these fabulous new listings...



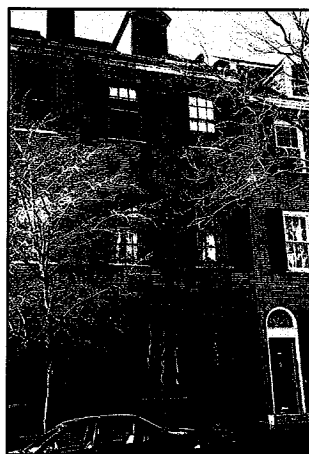
502 Delancey Street  
4BR, 4b with 2 car garage!  
\$795,000.



342 S. 5th Street  
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317 B S. 2nd Street  
1BR, 1b condo, large LR, Garage!  
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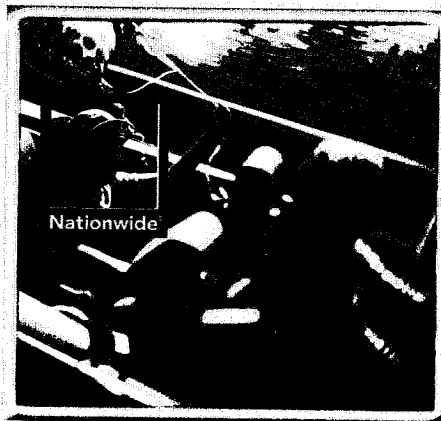
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Norman Tissian, President SHCA

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## Craig Lewis and Dianne Semington



There are so many things to love about Philadelphia, they agree, but the city seems to be in a perpetual state of potential.

Well, if any couple could make a claim to illuminating that potential to bring it closer to reality, it's Craig Lewis and Dianne

Semington. In Dianne's case, this

is quite literally true: as City Representative, she was a moving force behind the project to light up the Benjamin Franklin Bridge. Commissioning a team of experts to learn how other cities illuminated their bridges, and General Electric to develop a special bulb whose lighting synchronized with trains crossing the span, she helped create a luminous tribute to this magnificent structure – a landmark that otherwise might have remained unnoticed between dusk and dawn.

Husband Craig, who was the youngest member of the Pennsylvania Senate when elected to that body in 1974, brings a different but no less penetrating enlightenment to the city as chairman of the board of the Philadelphia Foundation. The Foundation seeks to promote opportunities for philanthropy ... and to use those resources to improve and empower city enterprises. Last year it distributed some \$12 million, with its most recent beneficiaries being the Please Touch Museum and the restoration of the Colonial Village.

Discussing these and their other community activities in the

elegant and well-stocked library of their 18th century home on the 600 block of Spruce Street, Dianne and Craig turn to what might be called their day jobs. Deciding to quit politics in 1994 after two decades representing Bucks County, Craig returned to a city law practice, representing the interests of such major corporations as the Norfolk Southern Railroad. When that company acquired Conrail in 1997, Craig became its senior executive officer.

Dianne, a Chicagoan who moved to Philadelphia in 1977 as regional director of the US Department of Commerce, formed her own business development company – DLS International – ten years ago. The company provides strategic market planning to help businesses to grow.

The pair relax by reading and by “picking up on a whim” for long weekends of travel, and by more planned trips to such places as Cuba, South Africa and Ecuador. They are currently planning to spend some time in Vietnam. Closer to home, they escape to their summer place on the Biddle Estate at Andalusia on the river Delaware.

What they love about Society Hill is certainly more about actuality than potential – the potential was realized decades ago. They love its convenience, diversity, walkability and restaurants. Above all, Dianne and Craig agree, “when we go to social events here, it's always amazing to find so many fascinating and accomplished people.”

They should know.

—David Woods

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## Over 150 Welcome Baskets Delivered

It's hard to believe that over 150 Welcome Baskets have been delivered to new Society Hill home and condo owners since July 1998. SHCA welcomes new homeowners to our great neighborhood with the delivery of a large basket of fresh foods, gift certificates from area restaurants, shops, and theaters, as well as valuable information about our city resources. Isn't this a generous way to say welcome? None of this would be possible without the businesses that have donated goods and services over the last few years. Please show your thanks for their community spirit by patronizing the following:

Arden Theatre Company, 40 North 2nd Street  
Bridget Foy's South Street Grill, 200 South St.  
Chef's Market, 231 South Street  
Dickens Old Curiosity Shop, 417 South 2nd St.  
Fork, 306 Market Street  
Fresh Fields, 929 South Street  
Homemade Goodies by Roz, 510 South 5th Street  
Italia Ristorante, 18 South 3rd Street  
Judy's Café, 627 South 3rd Street  
Knave of Hearts, 230 South Street  
Mann Center for the Performing Arts ,  
52nd & Parkside Avenue  
Metropolitan Bakery, 1114 Pine Street  
and 126 Market Street  
Mom's Bake at Home Pizza, 241 South 6th Street  
Mums and Pops Confectionery, 932 Locust St.  
National Liberty Museum, 321 Chestnut Street  
Old City Coffee, 221 Church Street,  
Reading Terminal Market  
Overtures Restaurant, 609 E. Passyunk Ave.

Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble,  
Old Pine Church, 400 Pine St.  
Philadelphia Shakespeare Festival,  
2111 Sansom Street  
Philadelphia Sports Clubs, 220 S. 5th St.  
Pileggi on the Square, 717 Walnut Street  
Pink Rose Pastry Shop, 630 S. 4th Street  
Riff Cleaners, 314 South 5th Street  
Rita's Water Ice, 239 South Street  
Ritz Theatres, 214 Walnut Street,  
4th & Ranstead Street  
Salon @ 5th, 316 South 5th Street  
Sfizzio Restaurant, Society Hill Towers,  
237 St. James Place  
ShopRite, 29 Snyder Avenue  
Show of Hands Gallery, 1006 Pine Street,  
Soapbox, 1216 Locust Street  
Society Hill Playhouse, 507 S. 8th Street  
Starbuck's Coffee, 347 South Street  
SCULPT, Fitness Training by Randi Skibinsky,  
215-928-1433

Super Fresh, 5th & Pine Sts.  
TLA Video, 517 South 4th Street  
Wilma Theatre, 265 South Broad Street  
XandO Coffee and Bar,  
215 Lombard Street  
Zeke's Deli, 318 South 5th Street

If you know of any new home or condo owners who have recently moved to Society Hill, contact Martha Levine at 215-629-0727 so that she can bring them a basket.

### **In Memoriam**

#### **Farewell To Lifetime Society Hill Resident**

We recently learned of the death of one of our community's most long-time residents. May Gloster, who lived at 327 Spruce Street since 1917, died on March 14, 2001. Born in the neighborhood in the year 1908, her family moved in 1917 to 327 Spruce Street, where she resided all her life. We send her surviving relatives and friends our sincerest condolences.

### **Neighborhood Pride**

If you need either minor or major home renovations, why resort to the yellow pages for your selection of a contractor? Many Society Hill residents have relied on the SHCA to provide them with a valuable resource to help them find a reliable, skillful contractor—The Preferred List of Contractors.

As many of you know, this list was compiled through the recommendations of neighbors in Society Hill. Whether you need a painter, plumber, electrician, roofer or brick mason, this list gives you an advantage—at least one person in this neighborhood has successfully employed that contractor and was pleased enough to heartily recommend him or her. To have a list sent to you, contact Martha Levine at 215-629-0727.

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### 220 West Washington Square

A historic piece of Philadelphia's fine architectural style located on West Washington Square is being recreated into an exclusive condominium residence consisting of full floor homes. This is an opportunity to create your own estate home on West Washington Square. Each full floor shell of 3,100 square feet of open space is being offered at prices starting at \$695,000. Private parking spaces available. For an exclusive appointment to preview this exciting residence, please call today.

Society Hill Towers - **SOLD** room, townhouse view - \$169,900  
Society Hill Towers - studio, very high floor, river view - \$109,900  
Hopkinson House - 1 bedroom, park view, high floor - \$155,000  
Society Hill Towers corner 1 bedroom on a high floor - \$225,000  
Pier 3 - 2 bedroom, 2 bath, terrace, eat-in-kitchen - \$264,900  
Independence Place - corner junior 2 bedroom, balcony - \$289,900  
Independence Place - 1 bedroom, 1.5 bath, alcove, balcony - \$292,500  
Hopkinson House - 2 bedroom, 1 ½ baths, high floor, balcony with view of Washington Square - \$330,000  
Pier 5 - 2 bedroom and den, 2 ½ baths, panoramic bridge view, overlooking marina, fireplace, 1 car parking include, terrace - \$490,000  
Independence Place - 2 bedroom & den, balcony, panoramic southern views, sunny eat-in-kitchen, spacious master bedroom suite - \$650,000



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## Community Calendar: Save These Dates



### Pennsylvania Hospital 250th Birthday Celebration

Saturday, May 12, 11 AM - 2 PM  
Pine Street between 8th and 9th Streets  
See page 7

### SHCA Board of Directors Meeting (Open to the general membership)

Wednesday, May 16, 6 PM  
Old Pine Community Center, 4th & Lombard Streets

### SHCA General Membership Meeting Annual Elections for Officers & Board Directors

Wednesday, May 16  
Society Hill Synagogue, Spruce between 4th and 5th  
Meet and Greet 7:00 PM • General Meeting 7:30 PM  
See pages 1 & 2

### National Preservation Week Lecture Golden Age of Ironwork in Philadelphia

Henry J. Magaziner, FAIA  
Thursday, May 17, 7 PM  
Barnes & Noble, 1805 Walnut Street  
Free. See page 7

### Preservation Week Event "Philadelphia Cares Day"

Volunteers Clean-Up Fairmount Park  
Saturday, May 19  
For information call 215-546-1146

### Preservation Alliance Awards Luncheon "SHCA Receives Recognition Award"

Tuesday, May 22, 11 AM - 2 PM  
Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Broad & Chestnut Sts. \$80 - \$100  
For more information call 215-462-0660  
See page 7

### Philadelphia Open House Tour Society Hill Gardens

Sunday, June 3, 1-5 PM \$30  
For information call 215-928-1188

### St. Peter's Churchyard Restoration Celebration

Tuesday, June 19, 6 - 9 PM  
313 Pine Street  
See page 12

### SHCA Board of Directors Meeting (Open to the general membership)

Wednesday, June 20, 7 PM  
Old Pine Community Center, 4th & Lombard Streets