



Society Hill REPORTER

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September 2001

Newsletter of The Society Hill Civic Association

Councilman DiCicco To Speak at September General Membership Meeting



Circle Wednesday, September 19th, on your calendar. That evening, Philadelphia City Councilman Frank DiCicco will be joining the Society Hill Civic Association for its General Membership Meeting. In addition to introductory remarks, DiCicco will be available to answer questions regarding issues of concern to the membership. This meeting presents an excellent

opportunity to acquire information about proposed laws and other city government activities and to express opinions regarding their effect upon the Society Hill community.

Councilman DiCicco, a lifelong resident of Philadelphia, is especially interested in improving the quality of life in the City. He has been instrumental in tax reform that saves thousands of dollars for owners of new and substantially renovated real property. His staff fondly refers to him as "Mr. Clean" due his penchant for removing trash from the cityscape.

DiCicco has sponsored several bills awaiting action by City Council—including Bill 658, which would require a property owner's approval before any objects could be placed on the sidewalk. He also is sponsoring the controversial Bill 629, which would limit who could be authorized to express a viewpoint on proposed billboards throughout the city. (See Bill 629 Update on page 2.) The Councilman is currently serving his second four-year term as the elected representative for the City's First District, which includes Society Hill. The District also encompasses that portion of South Philadelphia east of Broad and north of Oregon Streets, the Italian Market, Queen Village, Bella Vista, South Street, Old City, Northern Liberties, Fishtown and portions of the river wards extending to Frankford and Erie Avenues.

During his tenure, DiCicco has sponsored a wide range of legislation including regulation of the telecommunications and carriage horse industries and various tax reform measures. He has devoted time and effort to fostering economic growth in his district. In this endeavor, he has worked with communities and developers to realize such projects as the development of Penn's Landing.

DiCicco serves as Chair of the Streets and Services Committee and Vice Chair of the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development. He is a member of the Committees on Rules, Finance, Licenses and Inspections, Labor and Civil Service, Transportation and Public Utilities, Education and Fiscal Stability and Intergovernmental Cooperation.

DiCicco's interest in the City of Philadelphia extends beyond his councilmanic duties. He also serves on the boards of Historic Philadelphia, Inc., the Walnut Street Theater, the Reading Terminal Market, the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau,

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Board Meeting, 6:00 PM

at Old Pine Community Center, 4th & Lombard Streets

General Membership Meeting

7:00 PM: Meet and Greet Your Neighbors

7:30 PM: Meeting begins

8:00 PM: Featured Speaker, Councilman DiCicco

8:30 PM: Refreshments, compliments of Fresh Fields

at Old Pine Church, 4th and Pine Streets

Penn's Landing Corporation, Fund for Philadelphia and Jefferson Square CDC.

The General Membership Meeting will begin at 7:30 PM, following your opportunity to meet newcomers and greet neighbors at 7:00 PM. Refreshments will be served after the meeting, compliments of Fresh Fields. The Board Meeting will be held earlier, at 6:00 PM. Please see the back page for locations. All members are encouraged to attend.

—Vicki Chatley

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Update on Zoning Bill 629

The July issue of *The Reporter* summarized the “ongoing saga of Bill 629,” often referred to by its opponents as the “anti-taxpayer” zoning bill. According to that earlier report, the bill was not brought before City Council for a vote in June, although its sponsors—including Councilman Frank DiCicco, Joan Krajewski and Councilman James Kenney—vowed to renew their effort to push for its passage when Council resumes in the fall. The bill’s proponents need nine votes for passage.

When bill can be brought before Council for final vote

As it now stands, the bill can be brought before Council for a final vote—without any public notice—on any Thursday between now and the end of this Council session—which is two and a half years! Obviously, it will be quite difficult to keep up community-wide opposition to the bill for such a long period of time.

What’s the problem with this bill? In a nutshell, the current zoning law provides that “any taxpayer” opposed to a Zoning Board decision can appeal that decision in Common Pleas Court. Bill 629 eliminates the existing language and states that “only aggrieved taxpayers” or groups “in the vicinity of the property of a disputed project” have legal standing to appeal. The bill places crucial zoning issues in the control of the Zoning Board, whose members are political appointees, not elected officials.

Request of bill’s opponents

Therefore, this bill’s many opponents, led by activist group SCRUB, are asking that City Council members vote to send Bill 629 back to the Rules Committee so that public notice would be

required before it can be brought to the floor again. Such public notice will provide warning time for the more than 70 neighborhoods and civic-minded organizations, including SHCA, to continue their struggle against the bill that compromises debate in matters of city development.

You can write a letter reaching all 17 Council members as well as the Mayor by sending it to SCRUB (they will forward it for you). SCRUB’s mailing address is 1314 Chestnut Street, Suite 750, Philadelphia, 19107. Fax is 215-732-5725 and e-mail is scruborg@rcn.com.

For more information about Bill 629, you can check out its web site at www.devbob.com/bill629.



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President's Message



As always, the summer seems abbreviated. Although the season seems to have been fleeting, your Civic Association has been active in addressing a number of important infrastructure issues. For example: Our capable new Administrator Matt DeJulio, an Independence Place resident, has been working diligently on several fronts, and the Association has invested in improved office technology so that he can operate more efficiently and effectively.

SHCA Committees

Our treasurer, Frank Hoban, will present a detailed budget for approval by the Board at the September 19th General Membership Meeting. This budget is not only a financially responsible tool, but it will help us set priorities on how we can best allocate our limited resources to benefit the neighborhood.

Under the leadership of board director Mark Keener, AIA, our Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee is preparing materials to respond to a variety of questions neighbors pose when making changes to the facades of their homes. These materials will provide important information about governmental requirements and process, and will also insure that everyone is treated equally.

Dave Stevens, our clean-up "czar" is collecting information about graffiti in Society Hill's public places. As reported in the previous newsletter, we started a new program in which we employ the Center City District (CCD) to remove that graffiti. In our most recent assignment to the CCD, Dave and others identified 111 locations for graffiti removal. Dave also oversees the CCD's weekly cleaning of neighborhood sidewalks every Tuesday morning following Monday night trash pickup—at the Association's expense. Although the new program will not remove graffiti from private property, you can contact the City's Graffiti Removal Team at 215-685-9556 for assistance if you find a graffiti problem on your property.

Under the supervision of vice president Martha Levine, we have asked all three quadrant leaders in each of SHCA's four Quadrants to solicit and help locate a block coordinator for each block within our district. Once organized, these block coordinators will be able to keep neighbors better informed about community needs and Association activities. Regarding high-rises or condominiums, we have requested that SHCA's condominium representatives interface with unit owners and tenants of their respective condominiums.

Foglietta Plaza Update

The Association has retained the Olin Partnership, one of the nation's preeminent landscape architecture and urban design firms, to do a charrette for Foglietta Plaza, which includes the Tun Tavern parcel. (A "charrette" is a land-planning study to examine a variety of potential uses for a site.) For too long our community has let others come up with plans for the last major underutilized parcel in Society Hill. This full city block has been minimally maintained over the years and serves primarily as a refuge for vagrants. The Korean War Memorial, which will be located on a small portion of the site, is scheduled to be completed in late fall. The charrette we've commissioned is our

community's opportunity to try to impact the future of this key parcel of land. At the conclusion of the study, we hope to reach a consensus that will provide a realistic and fundable plan that can best serve our neighborhood and the city. The charrette is being paid for by grants we solicited from State Senator Vincent Fumo, Penn's Landing Corporation, and Councilman Frank DiCicco. The remainder will be funded by the SHCA.

The Olin Partnership prepared the plans for New York's Bryant Park and Battery Park, completely transforming these parks. Locally, Olin created the Master Plan for major improvements of Independence Mall, currently underway at Independence National Historical Park. I have asked Mark Keener, AIA, to chair a special committee that will interface with the Olin Partnership. That committee includes SHCA director Bonnie Halda, AIA, of Society Hill Towers, SHCA director Bruce LeBuhn of Penn's Landing Condominium, Jim Straw, AIA, and his wife, Keith. I, too, will be a member of this committee. We will keep you updated in *The Reporter*, and we welcome your interest and input. There will be discussion about the site and the charrette at our Board and General Membership meetings.

As you can see, your Civic Association has not been idle during these sultry months. We ask that you encourage neighbors who are not current SHCA members to join our efforts. Association dues help pay for *The Reporter*, our bi-monthly newsletter which keeps you regularly informed. Your dues pay for weekly sidewalk cleaning, graffiti removal and so many of the other amenities and services that help enhance our quality of life and your property values.

Membership Meeting

All SHCA members are invited to attend Board meetings, always conducted on the third Wednesday of every month. The September 19th meeting, scheduled an hour and a half prior to our General Membership Meeting, will be held at Old Pine Community Center at 4th and Lombard Streets, from 6 - 7 PM. We'll then move around the corner to Old Pine Presbyterian Church, 4th and Pine Streets, where we'll have a Meet & Greet session beginning at 7:00. Promptly at 7:30 PM our General Membership Meeting will begin with a variety of neighborhood reports and updates, followed by our guest speaker, Councilman Frank DiCicco, who will offer his thoughts and then take questions from the floor. Refreshments, compliments of Fresh Fields, will be served after the meeting. We hope to see you there.

—Malcolm Lazin

Patricia Bentz, CBC

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Block Coordinator Program

This fall, the Society Hill Civic Association will introduce a Block Coordinator Program to provide a network to improve communication between the Civic Association and the community.

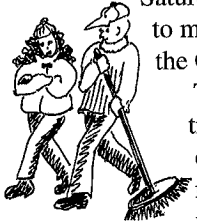
Each block of houses (for example, the 300 block of Spruce) will have a designated Block Coordinator who lives on that block and who will be responsible for communications with residents on that block. The Coordinator will be a resource and contact person to address the needs and concerns of that particular block. An introductory letter will inform each household of its respective Coordinator.

The program will work two ways. First, the Civic Association will be able to collect information on important topics such as graffiti sites, Franklin lamp problems, new residents, crime, missing trash receptacles, zoning issues, etc.

Second, the Civic Association will be able to better communicate important information to neighbors regarding such issues as Clean-Up Days, tree care, social events, lighting improvements and new construction. With this Program, neighbors will have a resource right down the block!

Join Us For Clean-Up Day— Saturday, November 17

Get your brooms and shovels ready! Our Fall Clean-Up Day is Saturday, November 17. We can all do a little more to make Society Hill the cleanest neighborhood in the City.



To help you with the clean-up, brooms and trash bags will be available at the SuperFresh on 5th Street between Pine and Spruce, beginning at 8 AM. The Clean-Up Day flyer, which will soon be delivered to your home, will let

you know where to drop off filled bags of trash.

We will again be coordinating our activity with the Washington Square West Civic Association. All those participating are invited to the traditional luncheon at the Pennsylvania Hospital, 12:30-1:30 PM. This is a good chance to meet your neighbors and make new acquaintances.

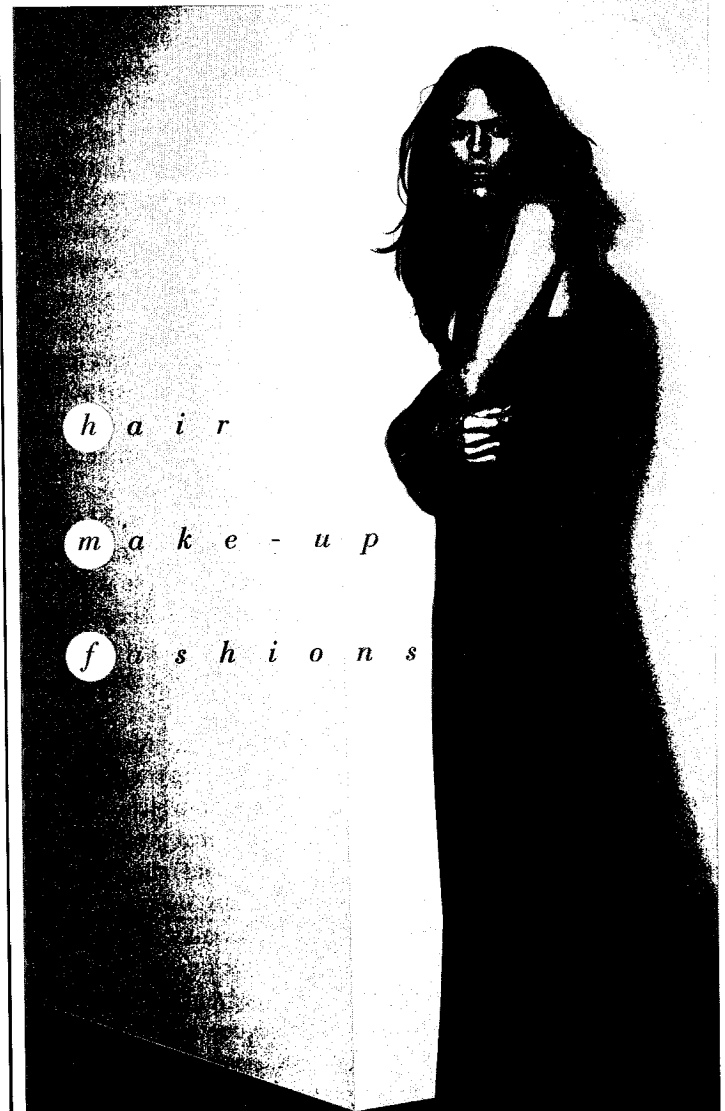
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Announcements

Episcopal Block Party

Episcopal Diocese block party: noon-3:00 PM, Saturday, September 15, at Church House, 240 S. 4th Street

Civic Association neighbors are invited along with Episcopal members from the five-county Philadelphia area to see Church House, enjoy refreshments, and participate in the noontime dedication of the new Ministry Resource Center and the unveiling of portraits of immediate past bishops Bartlett and Turner.

RSVP: phone 215-627-6434, ext 126; fax 215-627-7550; e-mail billp@diopa.org.

Friends of Independence Library Annual Meeting Monday, September 24, 7:00 - 8:30 PM, Independence Library Branch Community Room, 18 South 7th Street

Come to the first annual meeting and election of the Friends of the Independence Library Branch. If you aren't already a member or you need additional information, call 215-685-1633.

The Friends of Landmarks: Martini Madness Friday, October 12, 2001, 8:00 - 11:30 PM, Mayor's Reception Room & Conversation Hall, City Hall

This year's Martini Madness promises to be bigger and better than ever! Friday, October 12, is the date to save, and the festivities will kick off at 8:00 PM.

This annual fund-raiser will once again be held at City Hall, the Mayor's Reception Room and Conversation Hall. The City Rhythm Orchestra will be swinging us through the night, and our elaborate Silent Auction will provide fun for all. Dress is "cocktail chic."

For tickets, contact the Landmarks' office, 215-925-2251. The Friends can't wait to see you there.

Three Bears Park Fall Festival

Saturday, October 13, 2001, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM,
Delancey Street between 3rd and 4th

Don't miss this wonderful neighborhood event, which raises money to help maintain Three Bears Park. The fun and games this year will include a moon walk, face painting, and more. While the kids are busy, be sure to check out the silent auction. To volunteer or donate food, toys or kids' clothes, call Jocelyn Jenik at 215-629-1165 or jjjenik@aol.com.

St. Peter's School Harvest Festival

Saturday, October 13, 2001, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, St. Peter's
School Parking Lot, 3rd & Lombard Streets. Rain or shine

Everyone welcome! This Annual Fall Fair includes festival games and prizes, pony rides, gourmet bake sale, face painting, lunch refreshments by Chef's Market, collectibles, entertainment, book sale and a Raffle. Raffle Prizes:

1st Place (1 winner): 14 gift certificates to "Philadelphia's Finest Dining" (including Le Bec Fin, Striped Bass, and The Saloon);
2nd Place (4 winners): \$100 gift certificate to Chef's Market;
3rd Place (1 winner): 2 Eagles tickets, 2 Flyers tickets, 4 River Sharks tickets.

Tickets will be sold at the Festival for \$1. The winner will be drawn during the Festival. Winners need not be present to win. For more information, call St. Peter's School, 215-925-3963.



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- 241 MONROE** \$625,000
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- 236 DELANCEY** \$625,000
Virtual Tour#3007603. Restored Colonial home with impeccable details! 4 bdrm, 1.5 bath home w/courtyard, deeded parking, pine flrs, decorative fplces & beautiful woodwork.
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Cast Your Vote For The Ten Best Of Center City!

As part of the Center City District's 10th Anniversary, the District is celebrating the things that make Center City unique, exciting and fabulous!

Winners of the Best of Center City will be recognized at a ceremony in December and featured in the December issue of *Philadelphia Magazine*. You can either visit www.centercityphila.org and click on "contest" or fill out the form below and fax it to 215-922-7672. Completed nominations must be received no later than midnight on September 30, 2001. List only one nominee per category.

- Best park, public plaza or playground in Center City:

- Best skyscraper in Center City:

- Best hotel public area to hang out in Center City:

- Best new use for a historic building in Center City:

- The best thing that you can do in Center City that you couldn't do 10 years ago:

- The block in Center City that you'd most like to live on:

- Best outdoor café in Center City:

- Consistently most attractive retail store window in Center City:

- Best public art in Center City:

- Best public investment in Center City in the last 10 years:

Bargain Book Sale!

Independence Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia now has a used book cart in the alcove of the library.

Going on a summer vacation? Pick up several novels in paperback for the beach or the plane at the bargain price of 25¢. (A John Grisham or Danielle Steel paperback at 25¢ is a real bargain!) Heading back to school? We have many classics, both in paperback and hard cover, all at bargain prices. Here is your chance to enjoy Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* or Thornton Wilder's *Bridge of San Luis Rey*, as well as many other classics.

Don't care for fiction? Check out our nonfiction selections, in hard or soft cover. *Biography of Edward Kennedy* appeal to you? Only \$1! To assist a student, we have *Roget's International Thesaurus* or *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*, in hard cover. These books are for sale at the low price of \$1 for hardbacks and 25¢ for paperbacks. The soft cover nonfiction selections sell for 50¢ each.

Not only do you get a bargain, but the money received from the sale of these donated books helps our library. Fresh supplies come in every week, so check out the used book cart when you stop in to pick up or return library books.

And while you're at the branch, pick up a Friends of the Independence Library flyer. By becoming a member of the Friends, you help the Independence Library to be the vibrant community resource you want it to be.

—Lee Gutman

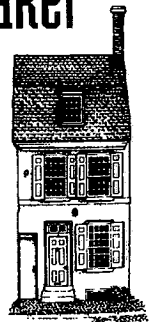


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Society Hill Synagogue Welcomes New Rabbi

On July 1, 2001, Society Hill Synagogue welcomed Rabbi Avi Winokur to the congregation. Rabbi Winokur joined Society Hill Synagogue after nine years in the pulpit at West End Synagogue in Manhattan. After obtaining a law degree from Georgetown University Law Center, he practiced law for eight years in San Francisco before deciding to enter the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and the rabbinate.

Rabbi Winokur has been warmly received by Society Hill's congregants, where his energy and enthusiasm for Jewish worship and tradition are easing the transition between rabbinic leaders.

Rabbi Winokur leads Shabbat services Saturday mornings at 9:30 AM, and is anticipating the High Holiday services in September. He will be formally welcomed by the congregation in September with a brunch and installation ceremony. Join us for services, Fridays at 8 PM, and Saturdays at 9:15 AM beginning September 7. Help us welcome the new addition to the Society Hill family.

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More Families with Children Calling Center City Home

If you think that you are seeing more and more families with children in Center City, you are right according to the 2000 Census. The *Philadelphia Inquirer* wrote: "In the city's showcase neighborhood, Center City, families with children appeared to keep up with the rising population, contrary to the belief that the area will be increasingly populated by young professionals and retirees without children. The area around Rittenhouse Square even saw a slight increase in its share of married-couple families." (August 15, 2001)

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Spotlight on Charles E. Peterson, F.A.I.A.



Charlie Peterson came to Philadelphia in 1951 as the first resident architect at Independence National Historical Park. It was because of his spirited, one-man campaign that we live today in Society Hill and not Washington Square East.

An old watercolor identified some houses in his Fourth Street neighborhood as being in "Society Hill." This label, not used since pre-revolutionary days, referred to the settlement on the Delaware River as the Free Society of Traders, a corporation formed in London to promote the colony of Pennsylvania. Thinking it was "a pretty catchy name," Peterson convinced local clergymen and civic leaders to use the term and distributed flyers to cabbies throughout the city. Eventually the name took hold and helped set the tone for the major redevelopment to come.

Reward of a pioneering spirit

Charlie bought his stately home in 1954 at public auction for \$8,000—one of the rewards of a pioneering spirit! It's part of Girard Row, an important example of Greek Revival architecture.

The five homes in the Row were built for speculation in 1831-33 for Stephen Girard, who was a merchant, financier, and philanthropist and who died the richest man in America. The houses are noted for their design with marble facing on the ground story and the original amethyst glass in some windows. The wrought iron railings with cast-brass flowers were forged by John Rambo, a well-known craftsman of the period.

Having recently celebrated his 95th birthday, Charlie Peterson's rich career spans nine decades. Some people tie themselves to a tree to preserve the landscape but Charlie chose the path of architectural historian, restorationist and planner. He has taken his message all over the world before professional, academic and lay audiences from Honolulu to Edinburgh and Chicago to San Juan and Curacao.

Professional life began in 1929

Peterson began his professional life in 1929 with the National Park Service in San Francisco as an architect and landscape architect. He prepared development plans for many national parks and historic sites in such diverse areas as the Petrified Forest of Arizona and the Skyline Drive in Virginia.

A founding father of American preservation architecture, Peterson originated the Historic American Buildings Survey in

Charles Peterson's award winning book, Robert Smith: Architect, Builder, Patriot, can be picked up at The Athenaeum (219 S. 6th Street at Washington Square) or 332 Spruce Street for \$25. Or for \$30 if you prefer to receive it wrapped and shipped by mail. Call Charlie at 215-922-3623 for details.

1933 which has become the largest archive of its type in the world. Charlie served on the Nimitz staff in WWII and was cited for his work in planning the Pacific Campaign from Guam to Honshu.

One has only to visit Peterson's large, first-floor study to realize that it is a place where much work gets done. Tucked in among the stacks of scholarly volumes and papers are his own publications. Some of the books he has written are: *Colonial St. Louis*, 1949, *Rapa Nui*, Paris, 1968, *The Moore House*, Washington, 1981 and *Notes on Hampton Mansion*, 2000. He has also published numerous articles on Early American building design and construction. Charlie's newest effort, *Robert Smith: Architect, Builder and Patriot*, reviewed in *The March 2001 Reporter*, won first place for design and production at the recent Philadelphia Book Show. He is currently working on an article about the stainless steel arch in St. Louis and a chapter in White House history.

Recently a portrait of Peterson was dedicated at Carpenters Hall in tribute to a living landmark who helped change the city through preservation. We need only look around the area he helped to name to appreciate his many contributions.

—Sandy Rothman



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Many thanks to neighbors Adriana Von Pein, Ralph Colabelli, Kelly Nelson, Debbie Wilder and 15-month-old Sophie Quaglia, who have been seen painting the Franklin Light Posts. They look wonderful!

SHCA has recently purchased paint and brushes. If you would like to use our paint and brushes to paint light posts, contact SHCA administrator Matt DeJulio at 215-629-1288.



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Society Hill REPORTER

A publication paid for by Civic Association membership dues and advertisers

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Business Manager

George Koch

September Contributors

Matt DeJulio, Nancy Frenze (photos), Lee Gutman, Malcolm Lazin, Martha Levine, David Stevens

SHCA Officers, Directors and Contributors may be reached through the SHCA office at 215-629-1288

or fax 215-629-9914

Next Deadline for the Reporter: October 15

Letters to the Editor are welcome and may be published but only if signed.

SHCA, P.O. Box 63503
Philadelphia, PA 19147-3503

Watch Your Step!



Photo by Nancy Frenze

Strolling along in beautiful, historic Society Hill can be a hazardous pastime. Some homeowners may need reminding that repairing sidewalks on or adjacent to their property is their responsibility.

Note: Sidewalks and historic street paving material—such as granite block, brick, and cobblestone—that can be found on portions of Delancey, Randolph and Cypress Streets are under the jurisdiction of the Philadelphia Historical Commission.

If you notice a problem near your home regarding historical paving, alert the Commission at 215-683-4590 or by fax at 215-683-4594. For problems with street trees, including damage to sidewalks and curbs caused by root growth, contact the Fairmount Park Commission.

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SHCA Membership Renewal Time

It's that time again! Next month, we will begin mailing renewal forms to all members. Please take the time to complete and return your renewal. It is your membership dollars and additional contributions that allow us to continue our good work. If you are not a current member, you can join by simply filling out and mailing the membership form below. We currently have 817 members.

Welcome our newest business member, Fork Restaurant, 306 Market Street. Thank you for your support.

Free Member Services!

As a member of the Society Hill Civic Association, you are entitled to a free historic windowpane. If you live in a vintage townhouse and would like to display some historical facts about when it was built, by or for whom, if known, and its architectural style, call Matt DeJulio at SHCA headquarters, 215-629-1288. Your interest in your historic property helps educate our many visitors from outside the city and country.

In addition, as a SHCA member, you qualify for a FREE copy of the 48-page booklet, *Society Hill—A Guide for Property Owners*, which was published by the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia two years ago. The booklet is chock-full of helpful hints on how to care for your home and lots of other information on styles of architecture in our neighborhood. It includes a useful glossary and contact list.

If you are not currently a member of SHCA, complete the coupon below and send it with your check. Specify on the coupon if you wish to receive these two items.

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Historic Windowpane Plaque

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

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Historic Preservation/Zoning
Development

Society Hill Reporter

Library

Street Trees

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2. You have the right to have 100's of Buyers alerted immediately when your property is listed!

At any given time, I am communicating via e-mail with 100-200+ buyers. My clients are very diverse group, however, they do have a couple things in common: they want to buy a home in Center City, and they are on my e-mail list. The same day your property is listed my buyers are e-mailed a fact sheet on the property. This usually generates a tremendous amount of interest and activity right from the start. This is an important factor because we want the house to sell in the first 30 days!

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One of my greatest strengths is advertising. I use an approach that is called "Guerilla Marketing." It is intense, focused and anything but boring. Your home will be eloquently described with all of its selling points highlighted, in big, beautiful ads. I advertise regularly in the Philadelphia Weekly, the Philadelphia Inquirer, and in various magazines, like the Ritz Film Bill. Currently, no other agent in Philadelphia advertises more than me. Remember, it doesn't matter how good something is if no one knows about it! My listings, people know about!

4. You have the right to have your home featured on Center City's best real estate website!

A virtual tour of your home will be on my multi award-winning website, www.centercityrealestate.com. I am all over the Internet and receive an average of 1500 hits daily! Our in-house webmaster updates our website bi-weekly and overhauls it twice a year. Buyers all over the world will know your home is for sale and most importantly, if it meets their criteria. This is key because they will be able to virtually visit it. If it doesn't meet their needs, we will not have to inconvenience you by bringing in a buyer who will not be interested in potentially making an offer.

5. You have the right to be in control of the contract!

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6. You have the right to be totally informed!

My in-house interior designer will provide you with tips to maximize your home's marketability. She will survey and digitally photograph each room to determine its best features and where improvements should be made. First impressions count and we want your property show as well as possible. I will provide you with my client's feedback, or if another Realtor shows it, I will ask them to convey their clients thought to me. This information is crucial, because if your home doesn't sell immediately, the feedback will give us clues to what may be wrong.

7. You have the right to a packed open house!

If there is one thing that is most likely to cause a buyer to give a full asking price offer or to enter into a bidding war, it is undoubtedly the open house. It is the simple law of supply and demand, lots of buyers, but only one house. I have phenomenal open houses that attract dozens of buyers. I do this by promoting the heck out of it in the Philadelphia Weekly, the Inquirer through postcards & e-mails! In fact, my open houses attract so many buyers, I have to have my assistants host the open house with me, just to answer all of the buyer's questions.

8. You have the right to be totally prepared!

From the beginning to the end we will be in constant communication (usually through e-mail) and you will never be left wondering what is going on. My staff and I will do whatever it takes to make sure you have a very smooth, problem free settlement.

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10. You have the right to have a Realtor for life!

Just because you have settled on your house doesn't mean that this is the end of my services! I will continue to send you monthly newsletters and keep you abreast of the Center City real estate market. If you need a referral for a contractor or other assistance, it will be my pleasure to help you. My staff and I are at your service always and we look forward to having a long and happy relationship with you!

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Center City's Source for Real Estate (See All Society Hill Homes for Sale Now)

Neighborhood Pride Report

Our list of preferred contractors is a resource created for home owners in Society Hill. Everyone on the list has been recommended by at least one neighbor. We recommend that you get several estimates when planning a project, but this list, updated monthly, can give you a good start.

Another neighborly service brought to you by SHCA! Call Martha Levine at 215-629-0727 to request a copy.

Welcome Baskets

SHCA's Welcome Basket program wishes to identify home or condo owners who have recently moved to Society Hill so we can welcome you with a big, beautiful basket of fresh foods, information about the area, and gift certificates to local restaurants, theaters, and shops. Don't be shy. Let us know you're here. Contact Martha Levine at 215-629-0727 or marthalev@aol.com. And don't forget to patronize the neighborhood businesses whose donations make the baskets possible:

Arden Theatre Company, 40 North 2nd Street
Bridget Foy's South Street Grill, 200 South Street
Chef's Market, 231 South Street
East End Salon, 219 Arch Street
Fork, 306 Market Street
Fresh Fields, 929 South Street
Homemade Goodies by Roz, 510 South 5th Street
Judy's Café, 627 South 3rd Street
Knave of Hearts, 230 South Street
Lights of Liberty, 6th and Chestnut
Mann Center for the Performing Arts, 52nd & Parkside
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 Street
National Liberty Museum, 321 Chestnut Street
Old City Coffee, 221 Church, Reading Terminal Market
Overtures Restaurant, 609 East Passyunk Avenue
Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble, Old Pine, 400 Pine Street
Philadelphia Shakespeare Festival, 2111 Sansom Street
Philadelphia Sports Clubs, 220-250 South 5th Street
Pileggi on the Square, 717 Walnut Street
Pink Rose Pastry Shop, 630 South 4th Street
Riff Cleaners, 314 South 5th Street
Rita's Water Ice, 239 South Street
Ritz Theater, 2nd & Walnut
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 South 8th Street
Starbuck's Coffee, Inc., 347 South Street
SCULPT-Fitness Training by Randi Skibinsky, 215-928-1433
Super Fresh Food Markets, 5th and Pine Streets
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

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Become Street Smart

Although most of us consider Society Hill to be a safe neighborhood, occasionally incidents of crime occur around us. Because knowledge is a powerful tool, we are sharing with you the facts regarding two recent incidents and some safety tips.

- A young mother walking with an infant and a pre-schooler to Three Bears Park via Lawrence Court was held up at gun point and asked for money. She obliged and, when the assailant left, used a cell phone to call for help. The assailant was apprehended – his recent record included a rape and armed robbery.
- A female, a long-time resident, was sprayed with mace and had her purse stolen by a 16-year-old at 2nd and Delancey. A passerby grabbed the boy and held him while another person called the police.

Both of these incidents occurred in the afternoon. It is important to remember, as we walk through our historic streets, that we live in a city where transient traffic is ever present. Following are some street-smart tips:

- If alone, avoid walking down small streets, alleys and courtyards, especially if there is no other activity. This applies to both day and evening walks. Predators like isolated settings.
- At night, always walk in well-lit areas. If one side of the street is brighter than the other, cross over. Residents can help by keeping their front door lights on after dark. Good lighting deters crime!
- Keep house doors locked while away and while at home.
- When walking, look around you and stay alert.
- Don't take your safety for granted. Report suspicious activity to the police immediately.

—Martha Levine

Graffiti War

SHCA continues its efforts to keep Society Hill clean and graffiti-free. It's a never-ending battle, but with the support and aid of community residents, it's one we are winning. SHCA is currently evaluating several recently developed graffiti removers, including one that allows graffiti to be removed instantly from mailboxes, street signs, and light posts, with just one spray and wipe. We hope to distribute such products to all block coordinators so that we can erase graffiti as soon as it occurs.

During the week of August 13, Center City District's graffiti cleaning team attacked 111 sites throughout the neighborhood identified by the Civic Association's Anti-Graffiti team—Morris Chomitz, Colleen Farrell, Gene Gualtieri, Martha Levine, and Becky Stoloff.

This new initiative by the Civic Association is another good reason to pay your annual dues. Previous graffiti cleanup paid for by SHCA occurred last April. We hope neighbors help our campaign by removing the paper tags and stickers when they see them on sites in their area.

Center City District does not clean graffiti from private property, since they would need prior permission by the property owner. However, you can get free help for graffiti on your property by calling the City's Graffiti Abatement Team at 215-685-9556.

—David Stevens

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214 Spruce St. Chimney repairs, caulking, stucco
421 Spruce St. Facade rehabilitation, concrete removal & replacement, brick paver installation

620 Spruce St. Brick pointing, wall rehabilitation, waterproofing, marble cleaning & repair
264 S. 3rd St. Brick patio installation, brick cleaning & patch painting
268 S. 3rd St. Stucco, Brick pointing, brick paver installation

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507 Pine Street

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232 S. 3rd Street

The Griffin House! Currently an elegant 4 story law offices building. Over 5500 Square feet with an elevator and a large rear garden. Could be a fabulous single family residence!

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338 S. 2nd Street

Spacious and light-filled 4 Bedroom home with 3 ½ baths, 2 fireplaces, large garden, deck, central air, and so much more! Entire house is freshly painted.

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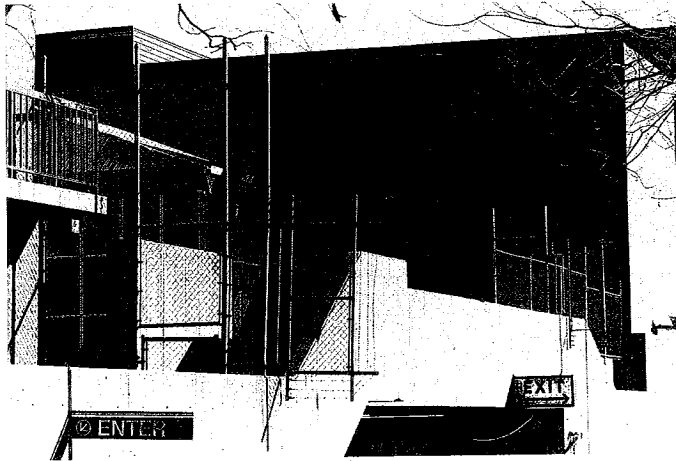
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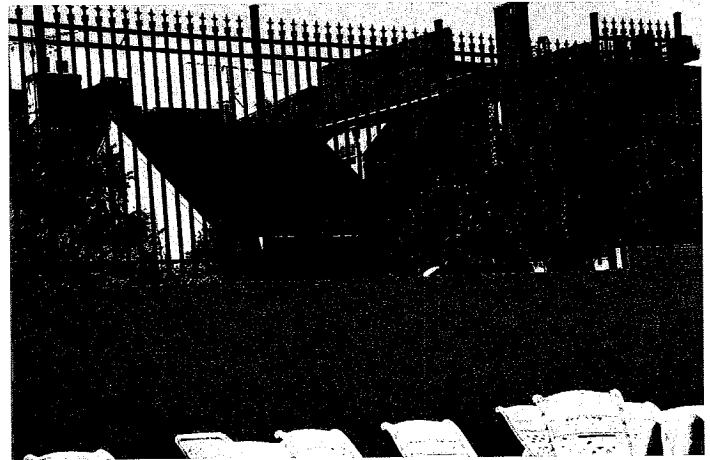
Improved View for Residents of North Side of Spruce

Ten years after Independence Place replaced its barbed-wire topped cyclone fencing in March 1990, the new owners of the property, now occupied by the Philadelphia Sports Club, replaced the last remaining portion of the cyclone fencing they inherited when they purchased the property.

Before: looking east from 6th Street



After: looking south from PSC pool



Photos by Nancy Frenze



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Letter To The Editors

The front page of the July *Reporter* refers to the recent election as "precedent-setting" because there was an opponent to the incumbent, an unusual circumstance.

Some of us who have been around for a while remember the last contended [sic] election. If memory serves, it was in 1980, when Mike Willmann was the incumbent. It was learned that the opponent, who was not involved with the SHCA, as I recall, planned to bring in backers who would make application for waiving their dues, making them eligible to vote on election night. What followed that news was a real door-to-door exciting campaign on the part of the SHCA incumbents that produced a tight but decisive victory for them on election night, even after the dues-waiving voters showed up as rumored and cast their votes.

The above was recalled for its historical interest to SHCA members but what was truly extraordinary about the past election night, in my opinion, was that, although serious allegations of misconduct were alluded to by the opponent, there was no specificity, and this passed with no explanations, denials or comments. Questions were not part of the format. I'd be interested in knowing if there were others who would agree—or disagree—as to whether this is really "moving on."

—Nancy Frenze

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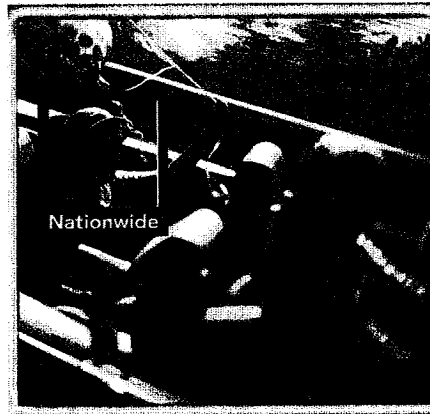
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South Street Police Mini Station
(for quality of life issues) . . . 215-922-6707
Poison Information Center . . . 215-386-2100

City of Philadelphia

Anti-Graffiti Hotline 215-685-9556
City Hall 215-686-1776
Mayor's Action Center
(Information and Complaints) 215-686-3000
Fairmount Park Commission
(trees & Washington Square) . 215-685-1835
Health Commissioner 215-686-5000
Historical Commission 215-683-4590
Independence Branch Library 215-685-1633
Independence National
Historic Park 215-597-8974
Parking Authority Enforcement
(9 am-5 pm) 215-683-9600
(evenings & weekends) 215-683-9773
Pennsylvania SPCA 215-426-6300
Recycling Office/Hotline 215-685-7329
Resident Parking Permit 215-683-9730/
. 215-973-9732

Sanitation-Rubbish Removal
(South Phila. Office) 215-685-1770
Sanitation-Enforcement 215-686-3082
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Street Lights 215-686-5610
Alley Lights 215-686-5516
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Trash Collection/
Bulk Pick-up 215-686-5560
Voter Registration 215-685-1505
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Service & Problems 215-685-6300

Political Representatives

Frank DiCicco
(City Council District #1) . . . 215-686-3458
W.Curtis Thomas (State Rep.) 215-232-1210
Vincent J. Fumo (State Sen.) . 215-468-3866
Robert Borski (U.S. Rep.) . . . 215-335-3355
Robert Brady (U.S. Rep.) . . . 215-389-4627
Arlen Specter (U.S. Sen.) . . . 215-597-7200
Rick Santorum (U.S. Sen.) . . 215-864-6900

Community

Society Hill Civic Association 215-629-1288
South Street
Head House District 215-413-3713

Homeless Intervention

In the neighborhood: Michael Whaley
at Hall-Mercer 215-829-3461
Outside the neighborhood:
Project Home 215-232-1984
Police Dept. Homeless
Issues & Investigations 215-686-3095

Unwanted Solicitations

In recent weeks, Society Hill has been inundated with flyers, advertisements, restaurant menus and unrequested newspapers. They are left on cars and doorsteps and usually end up as litter dirtying our streets.

Although it is legal to deposit such solicitations in mailboxes and mail slots, it is illegal to leave such materials on residential doorsteps or anyplace else. Help us deter the use of such illegal solicitations by letting those businesses know that you will not patronize them as long as they continue this practice. *The Reporter* is currently working to identify the most flagrant offenders for targeted action.

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Society Hill Playhouse Announces 42nd Season

Society Hill Playhouse, Philadelphia's first offbeat, off-Broadway theatre, will begin its 42nd consecutive season October 3, 2001. For information or to obtain tickets, call the Playhouse at 215-923-0210.

American Rhapsody: October 3-November 11, 2001
This polished and scintillating revue of the songs of the Gershwins comes to Society Hill directly from its off-Broadway success.

Dear Sheldon: December 5, 2001-January 27, 2002
A delightful new comedy by Sam Bobrick and Julie Stein, the authors of *Norman Is That You*.

Lafferty's Wake: September 14, 2001-October 21, 2001
This hilarious musical comedy hit returns to the Cabaret Theatre at Society Hill Playhouse.

Welcome Home, Joey Amoroso: October 26, 2001-December 2, 2001
This interactive comedy comes to the Cabaret Theatre at Society Hill Playhouse.

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Society Hill and Washington Square's Premier Condominiums

220 West Washington Square

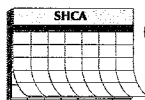
A historic piece of Philadelphia's fine architectural style located on West Washington Square is being recreated into an exclusive condominium residence consisting of full floor homes. This is an opportunity to create your own estate home on West Washington Square. Each full floor shell of 3,100 square 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.

Hopkinson House - 1 bedroom, **SOLD** park view, high floor - \$160,000
 Pier 3 - 1 bedroom, river view, terrace, health club - \$175,000
 Hopkinson House - 1 bedroom, available immediately - \$195,000
 Hopkinson House - 1 bedroom, park view, terrace - \$225,000
 Society Hill Towers corner 1 bedroom on a high floor - \$229,900
 Independence Place-1 bedroom, **SOLD** bath, alcove, balcony - \$250,000
 Pier 3 - 2 bedroom, 2 bath, terrace, eat-in-kitchen - \$275,000
 Independence Place- corner junior 2 bedroom, balcony - \$289,900
 Pier 5 - 2 bedroom and den, **SOLD** 2 1/2 baths, panoramic bridge view, overlooking marina, fireplace, 1 car parking include, terrace - \$479,900
 Pier 3 - 3 bedroom and den, 2 terraces with river views - \$575,000
 Independence Place - 2 bedroom & den, balcony, panoramic southern views, sunny eat-in-kitchen, spacious master bedroom suite \$650,000

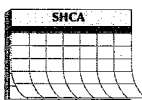


Allan Domb Real Estate

Philadelphia's Largest Luxury Condominium REALTOR®
Telephone: 215-545-1500 Fax: 215-545-1090
 1608 Walnut Street, Suite 1303, Philadelphia, PA 19103
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Community Calendar Save These Dates



Saturday, September 15, 3:00 PM

Episcopal Diocese Block Party, 240 S. 4th Street

Wednesday, September 19

6:00 PM SHCA Board Meeting

Old Pine Community Center, 4th & Lombard Streets

7:00 PM Meet and Greet Your Neighbors

Old Pine Church, 4th & Pine Streets

7:30 PM General Membership Meeting

8:00 PM Featured Speaker, Councilman DiCiccio

8:30 PM Refreshments compliments of Fresh Fields

Monday, September 24, 7:00 PM

Friends of the Independence Library Annual Meeting

Independence Library Branch Community Room, 18 South 7th Street

Friday, October 12, 8:00 PM

Friends of Landmarks' Martini Madness

Mayor's Reception Room and Conversation Hall, City Hall • See page 5

Saturday, October 13, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

St. Peter's School Harvest Festival, 3rd and Lombard • See page 5

Saturday, October 13, 2001, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Three Bears Park Fall Festival, Delancey Street between 3rd and 4th

Wednesday, October 17, 7:00 PM

SHCA Board Meeting

General Membership Welcome To Attend

Old Pine Community Center, 4th & Lombard Streets

Saturday, November 17

Fall Clean-Up Day • Watch for Flyer

SHCA Board of Directors 2001

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Condominium Representatives

Hopkinson House: GEORGE KOCH
 Independence Place: HERB LIPTON
 Penn's Landing: BRUCE LEBUHN
 Society Hill Towers: BONNIE HALDA & JOHN DISABATINO