



# Society Hill REPORTER

United  
We Stand

November 2001

Newsletter of The Society Hill Civic Association

## Leslie Anne Miller of Kimmel Center To Speak

The agenda for SHCA's November 14th meeting will be quite full.

Our featured speaker will be Interim President of the Regional Performing Arts Center, Leslie Anne Miller, Esq., who will report to us the exciting news about the imminent opening of the Kimmel Center. RPAC is the nonprofit organization operating the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts and also its neighboring facility, the Academy of Music. We can expect to learn from her about the many free performances being offered from December 16 thru 31 as part of the Kimmel Center's Inaugural Festivities. See page 4 for a listing of these events, including free performances from December 16 - 31.



Ms. Miller, a long-time supporter of educational and cultural organizations, is a prominent lawyer. In 1998, she became the first woman President of the 27,000-member Pennsylvania Bar Association. A "Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania," she has received awards and honors, including the the Philadelphia Bar Association's Sandra Day O'Connor Award. Her local board affiliations include: Pennsylvania Legal Services Corporation, Pennsylvania Ballet, Free Library of Philadelphia, WHYY, Medical College of Pennsylvania, St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, and Hahnemann University.

In addition to our presentation by Ms. Miller, we'll have an opportunity to meet John Rumm, Executive Director of the

*Continued on page 3*

### Wednesday, November 14 SHCA Meetings at Old Pine Community Center

4th & Lombard Streets

6 PM: Board Meeting

7 PM: Meet & Greet  
Your Neighbors

7:30: General Membership  
Meeting Begins

Because Thanksgiving this year occurs on Thursday, November 22, SHCA's General Membership Meeting for the month for November will be held on the second Wednesday of the month instead of the third.

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## Seasonal Greetings of Hope and Cheer



In recent weeks, unspeakable events have rocked each and every one of us, and it seems that we are now additionally threatened almost on a daily basis by alarming news. We sincerely hope that your family or friends have not suffered personal tragedy as a result of these terrorist attacks on our democracy.

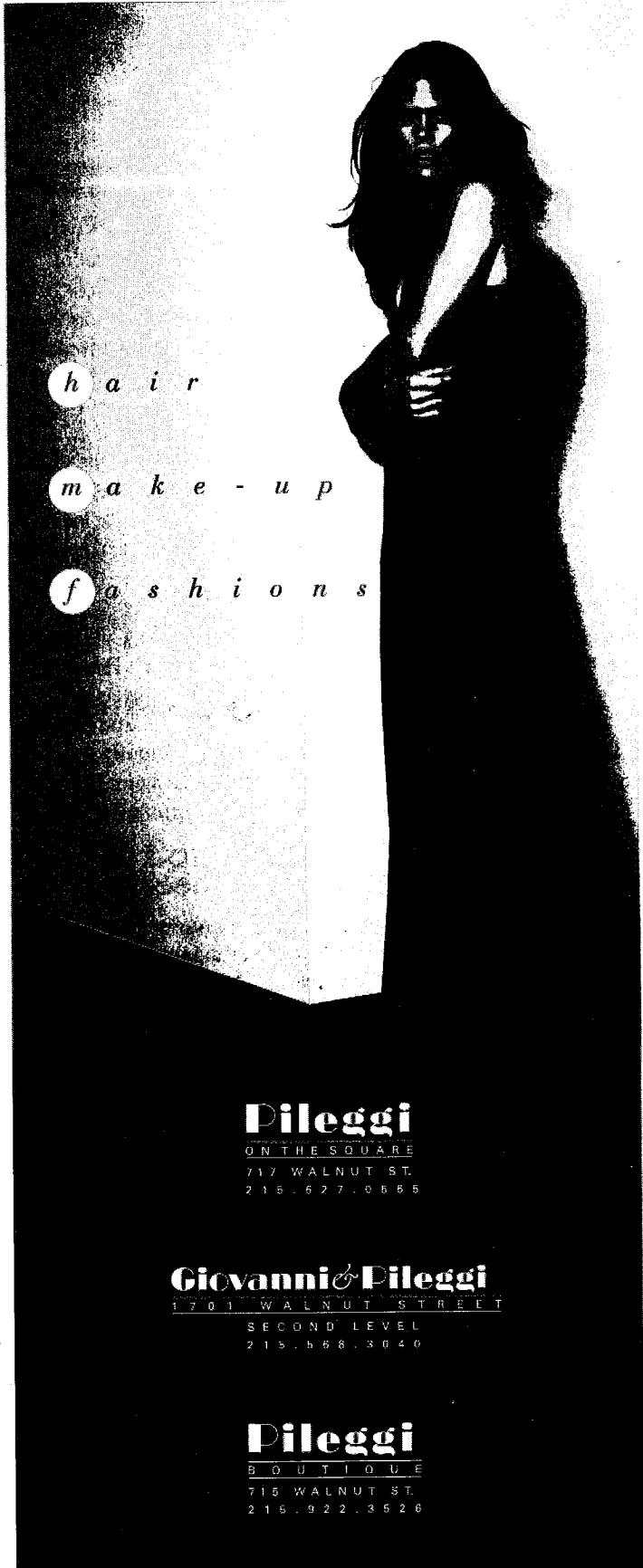
Here in historic Society Hill, within a few city blocks of where our nation was born more than 200 years ago, we are blessed as a true community. Some of us have had the privilege of living here, just paces away from Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell, for half a century, while many of us are newcomers to this special little corner of the world. We're a diverse group, and that is our strength and our comfort for now, as well as our hope for the future.

The days ahead will soon bring the holiday season upon us. Now more than ever, we must begin to heal our emotional wounds by coming together as a commu-

nity. Indeed, it is almost our "patriotic duty" to continue living our lives, traveling on airplanes, patronizing shops, restaurants, movies and theatrical performances — because we cannot allow our spirits to be broken.

We are, therefore, very pleased to announce that our neighbor and SHCA Board Director Michele Plachter has arranged for us to hold a Society Hill Holiday Social at the new Hyatt Regency Hotel at Penn's Landing. This will be your opportunity to meet the new family who moved onto your block last year, or to get to know the name of that runner who picks up pieces of litter in a plastic bag as he runs along his route. Especially now, we need to experience our sense of community while adding a bit of a holiday cheer. We look forward to seeing many familiar and "new" faces. RSVP deadline: November 28: 215-629-1288. See invitation on page 4.

—Bernice T. Hamel



h a i r  
 m a k e - u p  
 f a s h i o n s

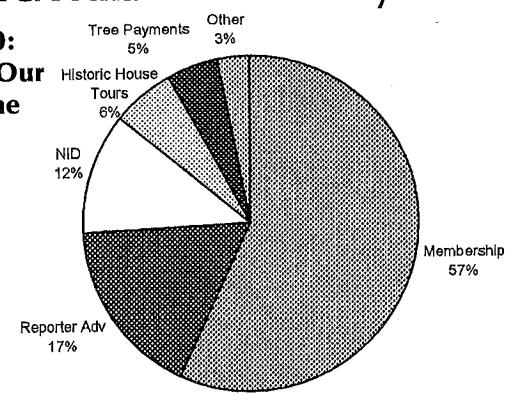
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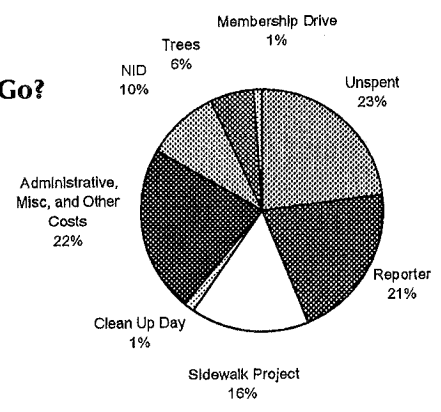
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## SHCA Financial Summary

### FY 1999-2000: Where Did Our Money Come From?



### FY 1999-2000: Where Did It Go?



### Miller To Speak, *continued from page 1*

Catholic Heritage Center, which is being built at 320 Walnut Street at the beginning of next year. (See below for more information about this new facility that will offer Catholic art, history and culture.)

## The Catholic Heritage Center

Members who attend our November meeting will meet John Rumm, Executive Director of the Catholic Heritage Center, to hear about this new interactive museum/special exhibits gallery/archives/research and education center at 320 Walnut Street. The multi-purpose Center will make the history of the Catholic Church available to those of all faiths, offering another destination site in Society Hill for visitors and residents.

The 320 Walnut Street location is noteworthy because it is adjacent to Old Saint Joseph's Church, where mass has been celebrated since 1733. It is also near Old Saint Mary's Church, the first cathedral of the Diocese of Philadelphia. (George Washington attended services there in 1787 and during his second term as President, 1793-1797). The building will undergo a \$15 million construction beginning in early 2002. The Center is expected to open about a year from that time.

Anyone interested in donating artifacts, photographs or personal stories about the Catholic experience should contact the Center, 215-965-4242 or [www.catholicheritage-phl.org](http://www.catholicheritage-phl.org). John Rumm can be contacted at 215-587-0531.

## President's Message



Good Morning. I was raised in the heartland of the Pennsylvania Dutch country. It had a wonderful sense of community. My father, a country doctor served Mennonite and Amish patients. I saw the proverbial barn raising. Each morning in Lebanon County we would greet our neighbors with "good morning." It reaffirmed our commitment to one another. When I moved to Philadelphia, I would say "good morning." People looked at me

strangely. Eventually I got the message. "Good morning" was not a welcomed greeting.

Our community of Society Hill is enhanced by the many efforts of your Civic Association, and I am proud to report some of these improvements that directly benefit us:

### Graffiti

Your Board has authorized quarterly graffiti removal. Through Dave Stevens and his committee we identified and removed over 110 sites with graffiti. And now through the efforts of Kelly Nelson, we are experimenting with a new product which promises to more easily remove graffiti.

### Block Coordinators

We have started a Block Coordinator program under the leadership of Martha Levine. *The Reporter* lists the names of those coordinators on page 8. If your block is not served, please consider volunteering. Through block coordinators we'll learn of issues that concern you and have an effective way to communicate in between bimonthly delivery of *The Reporter*.

### Foglietta Plaza

A special committee has been selected to oversee the planning charrette for Foglietta Plaza and to meet with SHCA's consultants, The Olin Partnership. One of the nation's premiere landscape architectural firms, Olin did the plan for New York's Bryant Park and Battery Park, among several other major national and international projects. A planning charrette will allow us to consider several options for the development of this underutilized full city block. Committee volunteers include Bonnie Halda, AIA, representative from Society Hill Towers; three representatives from Penn's Landing condominiums — Jim Straw, AIA, and his wife, Keith Straw; Bruce LeBuhn; Mark Keener, AIA, committee chair; as well as myself. As we move forward we will keep you advised.

### Zoning and Historic Preservation

Our reorganized Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee has been very active with Mark Keener as the Chair and an impressive and well-qualified committee. In just one example of their efforts, the developers of 7th & Pine Streets have redesigned the proposed luxury single-family homes so that there are no garage doors facing 7th Street. (See page 7 for more.)

### By-Laws

Thanks to Jim Moss, Chair, and his committee for the laborious task of revising SHCA's By-laws. The proposed revisions will be voted on at our November General Membership Meeting.

I want you to know how fortunate I think we are to have Matt DeJulio as our new Administrator. Our ability to respond to the community professionally and expeditiously has been remarkably enhanced. I thank Liza Seltzer, Chair, and those that served on the Search Committee.

### Emergency Preparedness

As a result of the Sept. 11 tragedy, we are examining emergency preparedness, and we'll be reporting to you in that regard.

It is heartening to see so many American flags being flown as visible symbols for our nation, those we have lost, and our resolve to fight terrorism. The national tragedy has caused us to re-examine community. We have the magnificent example set by firefighters, police, emergency services and so many people who volunteered to help at Ground Zero and at the armory serving those who had lost loved ones.

The above are all ways to measure how we organizationally operate to preserve and enhance our special stewardship as residents of America's historic neighborhood. May I be presumptuous in suggesting another measure. It is the way that we greet one another. It is a measure of civility and community. Good Morning!

— Malcolm Lazin

## NEW CONSTRUCTION Philips Court at Headhouse Square 3RD & LOMBARD STS.



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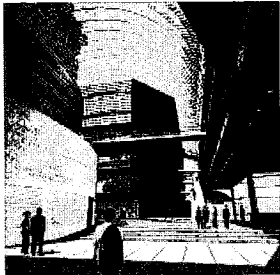
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## Kimmel Center's Inaugural Festivities: December 16-31



The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts will open its doors to the public on Sunday, December 16, 2001. This performing arts venue, designed by architect Rafael Vinoly, features two major theaters — Verizon Hall and the Perelman Theater — which seem to be free-standing buildings encased beneath a shimmering, vaulted roof of glass.

The Center's great indoor plaza flows between and around Verizon Hall and the Perelman Theater with dramatic views of the city.

Before long, the Kimmel Center will be the centerpiece of Philadelphia's Avenue of the Arts. Verizon Hall, seating 2,500, will be the new home for our own, world-renowned Philadelphia Orchestra. The Perelman Theater, seating 650, will be home to PHILADANCO, the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society and American Theater Arts for Youth. Both the Kimmel Center and Philadelphia's historic Academy of Music will be operated by the not-for-profit Regional Performing Arts Center (RPAC), and a total of eight performing arts companies will be in residence at these venues.

For two weeks, beginning December 16, 2001, you'll want to celebrate the Center's opening by attending the many fabulous free programs on the Verizon Hall stage and throughout its venues. A schedule of the Kimmel Center's Grand Opening is as follows:

### **Grand Opening: Sunday, December 16**

A free, day-long Artistic Open House: Live entertainment, tours, artistic activities, workshops in costume, and prop design by groups from throughout the region

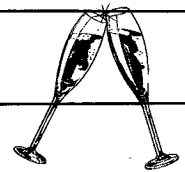
### **Weekdays from December 16 -31**

- Daily: Free Tours of Kimmel Center & Academy of Music
- 11 AM - 2 PM: Free Lunchtime Concerts in Kimmel Center's Commonwealth Plaza
- 5 PM - 7 PM: Free Happy Hours in Commonwealth Plaza, with a variety of live performances: Jam Sessions, Dancing, Caroling or Cabaret

### **Ticketed Performances in Verizon Hall**

- Mon., Dec. 17, Tues, Dec. 18, 8 PM:  
Peter Nero & Philly Pops, Holiday Concert
- Wed., Dec. 19: 8 PM Audra McDonald
- Thurs., Dec. 20: 8 PM Branford Marsalis & Joshua Redman
- Fri., Dec. 21: 8 PM Vienna Choir Boys
- Sat., Dec. 22: 8 PM Klezmer Conservatory Band
- Sun., Dec. 23: 2 PM Canadian Brass
- Wed., Dec, 26: 8 PM Jimmy Bosch
- Thur., Dec, 27: 8 PM Betty Buckley & Michael Feinstein
- Sat., Dec. 29: 2 & 8 PM Sleeping Beauty on Ice
- Sun., Dec. 30: 2 PM Sleeping Beauty on Ice
- Mon., Dec, 31: 8 PM New Year's Eve Concert, Phila. Orchestra, Academy of Music
- Through Dec. 31: Pennsylvania Ballet presents The Nutcracker

For purchasing tickets for the above performances, phone Ticket Philadelphia, 215-893-1999; press 2.



**Join Us At The New Hyatt Regency Hotel!**  
**Wednesday, December 5, 6 -8 PM**  
**Free for all SHCA members**  
**or members-to-be**

The Hyatt has happily agreed to sponsor our social event by providing hors d'oeuvres and musical entertainment. A cash bar will be available, as will be a 20% discount for neighbors who choose to stay for dinner at the hotel's Keatings Restaurant. If you're like us, you've not yet visited this new hotel in our midst, although of course, you've appreciated its silhouette that adds luster to the skyline.

For Society Hill residents who are not yet members of our civic association, this seasonal social will also be an opportunity for you to join us. There will be a registration table, or if you have any questions, call SHCA Administrator Matt DeJulio at 215-629-1288. RSVP by Nov. 28.

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## Introducing Our New Editors

### Vicki Chatley

Vicki Chatley, after working in professional sports for 18 years, had the opportunity this past Spring to return to her first love, writing. She also wanted to become active in the Society Hill Civic Association, something she'd planned to do since moving to Philadelphia 16 years ago. She was able to combine both by joining the "Reporter" staff, as well as doing some freelance projects. Chatley also volunteers one afternoon a week at Philadelphia's Ronald McDonald House, where she has been a member of the Board of Directors since 1983. And, for the first time in almost two decades, Chatley is enjoying Sundays spent with family, strolling through the neighborhood and even tackling fall housecleaning.

### Sandy Rothman

Last October Sandy Rothman left her suburban life in nearby Thornton for a condo in Society Hill and she hasn't looked back since. Every day seems like a holiday. A painter and graduate of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Sandy taught for many years in the Colonial School District. Then, in order to become a stay-at-home mom, she came up with two worthwhile and profitable ideas: As an avid reader, she started a book discussion business. For the past ten years she has had a lovely time leading groups and keeping readers on track. Then four years ago, she and a friend combined their interest in Jungian psychology with their love of France and developed a fun and profitable tour program. Next May they will "Dream in the Dordogne" with famous Jungian dream researcher, Robbie Bosnak.

#### Reporter editors received this e-mail from Vicki Chatley that we'd like to share with you:

On Saturday, October 13, I was in Florida to attend my sister's wedding. There was a cocktail reception on the patio prior to the ceremony. Because the best man has been working at Ground Zero since Day One, the reception ended with him waving the American flag (quite unplanned) and the guests singing "God Bless America" (to the 1935 Kate Smith recording) in a circle. The vacationers at the pool, the sunbathers on the beach and the kids on playground apparatus all paused from their activities and joined in the singing. When have any of us ever attended a wedding that included patriotism?

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- 512-14 S 3<sup>RD</sup> STREET** \$1,350,000  
Exclnt oppt'y in prime location! Amazing space offers huge display window, pine flrs, exposed brick, mezzanine level office space, freight elevator, garage + wide open spaces on 3 flrs. Endless possibilities!
- 218 DELANCEY** \$1,250,000  
**Virtual Tour#1354719.** Dramatic 4 bdrm, 2.5 bath home w/3-story atrium window, wood-burning fplces, patio w/fountain, master suite, custom marble baths, Juliet balcony.
- 308 S 2<sup>ND</sup> STREET** \$995,000  
**Virtual Tour#3037395.** Magnificent and grand Circa 1810 historical townhouse. 12' ceilings, original floors & moldings, 3+bdrms, 2.5 bths, 3+ fplces and secluded garden.
- 238 DELANCEY STREET** \$625,000  
Unique property features 3 trinity-style residences in a charming courtyard setting.
- 337 S 7<sup>TH</sup> STREET** \$619,000  
**Virtual Tour#3038096.** 3 or 4 bdrm w/amazing 30' grdn. 2 fplces, zoned heating+cooling, custom bth restored façade, sun-filled renovated kit, finished dormer.
- 250 DELANCEY STREET** \$425,000  
Corner home with 2 exposures, 2 bdrm suites, finished bsmt + unfinished dormer. Wood-burning fplce, central air, handsome façade.
- 330 S CLARION(AKA 330 BUTLER AVE)** \$179,900  
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## Historical Plaque For 427 Spruce Street

On a recent Sunday afternoon, a small group gathered in front of the Williams-Mathurin House at 427 Spruce Street.

The mood was subdued. Guest of honor U.S. Representative Bob Brady had just been informed of the United States air strike against Afghanistan. He was there to dedicate an historical marker commemorating the sole surviving 18th-century diplomatic legation in the United States, and he spoke with feeling about the importance of America's long commitment with its allies, France and Spain.

The residence being honored was built in 1790 by Col. William Williams, Philadelphia's pre-eminent architect builder. Count Mathurin de la Forest, Consul General of France, occupied the building in 1791, and in 1795 it housed the Legation of Spain.

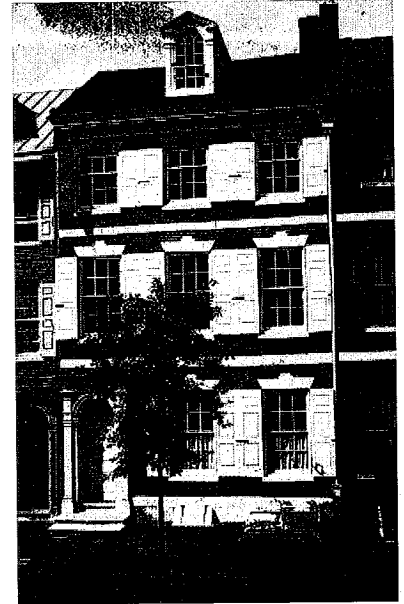
Walter Amesbury and his late wife, Cecile, purchased the Williams-Mathurin House in 1965. They were able to see past decades of neglect and damage to appreciate their home's inherent grace and el-

egant proportions. Cecile, with her clear vision and determination, was the driving force behind a painstaking renovation. It was a labor of love that engrossed the

couple for nearly 35 years. In the end, they restored dignity to the home they cherished and reclaimed its rightful place in American history.



Before Restoration



After Restoration

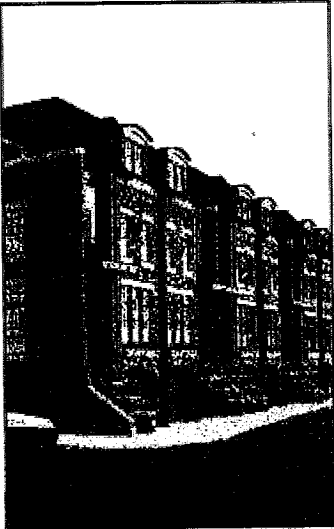
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# Zoning & Historic Preservation Committee Reports

## Bill 629: Passed By Council, Vetoed By The Mayor

On October 4, 2001, members of City Council passed Bill 629, known as the "anti-taxpayer bill" by a narrow margin of 9 to 8. This bill caused unanimous citywide opposition from over 100 neighborhoods (including ours), as well as environmental and historic preservation groups, because it directly targeted the rights of taxpayers by reducing their ability to appeal in Common Pleas Court any decision made by the city's Zoning Board. With Bill 629 as law, only immediate neighbors of a proposed development could have legal standing, because the bill states that "only aggrieved taxpayers" or groups "in the vicinity of the property of a disputed project" could appeal.

But the good news is that Mayor John F. Street heard the voices of citizens, and on October 18 he vetoed Bill 629 — thus, renewing for many their faith in the democratic process. In his letter to City Council, Mayor Street wrote that "he couldn't allow a bill to become law that would deny people their day in court."

We citizens and this Civic Association send a giant message of thanks to the Mayor for responding to the needs of the people. We also thank Council members Cohen, Nutter, Ortiz, Reynolds-Brown, Verna, Rizzo, Clarke, and Goode who voted on the side of citizens by opposing the bill.

Your ZAP Committee is hard at work for all Society Hill residents — preserving standards we have all come to expect. Key issues that were addressed during the summer and, for the most part, resolved include the following properties:

### Advertising Billboard at 3rd & Spruce

An offensive giant-sized advertising billboard installed between two second-story windows on a historic building, a private residence at the southwest corner of 3rd and Spruce Streets, was removed with dispatch — thanks to intervention by Councilman Frank DiCicco. As soon as the billboard promoting a chocolate milk drink went up, the phone at SHCA headquarters started ringing off the hook! Despite a violation of L & I rules, the owner could have delayed the billboard's removal for up to 30 days and then could have possibly appealed for a zoning variance. Thanks, Frank, for putting pressure on the owner who quickly took down that illegal and inappropriate billboard.

### 7th & Pine Street Development Update

After a year of negotiations with both the developer and the City's Redevelopment Authority, the proposed development of residential townhouses at the vacant corner property at 7th and Pine Streets has been modified. Although our community has been anxious to see this prime empty parcel put to good use for many years, the developer's plans had originally included six townhouses, each having two-car garages fronting onto 7th Street. SHCA and nearby neighbors were opposed to this plan, as it would imitate a suburban setting in our historic, urban streetscape. In addition, all the traffic from these 12 garages on narrow 7th Street would be a safety hazard for the schoolchildren at McCall School. Based on a letter recently received by the developer, new plans will reduce the number of houses from six to four, with garages facing Delancey Street. The ZAP Committee now awaits review of the final plans, which must be resub-

mitted to the Redevelopment Authority. We're optimistic that these high-end townhouses will be a safe and attractive addition to the neighborhood.

### Lippincott Building To Become Condominiums

A large turnout of residents from Independence Place, Hopkinson House and St. James Court attended a meeting to hear more about the proposed conversion of the former publishing house into condominium apartments located across from Washington Square Park on 6th Street. The addition of two stories above the building drew fewer objections than the concern over parking, entering and exiting off of Randolph Street — a narrow street, which is already highly trafficked by trucks delivering for Penn Mutual. Further review of the developer's plans will be monitored very closely by the ZAP Committee and neighbors.

### Wall Wrap Displays

A new amendment to a city law regarding outdoor advertising has been proposed that could make every building become a potential billboard. These "wall wrap displays" would be advertisements made of fabric that could be applied to the external wall or walls of any building or any scaffolding in the city. These wraps would be permitted in any area of the city except residential districts and they could be lighted. Although potentially a revenue-generator for the City, SHCA's ZAP Committee voted to oppose this amendment, which was supported in a unanimous vote at the October 17 Board Meeting.

*Continued on page 14*

## ELLIE BOYARSKI, M.S.W, L.S.W., B.C.D. LICENSED PSYCHOTHERAPIST MEDIATOR & COACH



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## Society Hill's Block Coordinators

Note: Dashes indicate that volunteer coordinators are needed for these blocks!

### Southwest Quadrant

400 Spruce . . . . . Fred Dirksa  
 500 Spruce . . . . . Cherry & Hans Bombeck  
 600 Spruce . . . . . Martha Levine  
 700 Spruce . . . . . Helen Niedermeyer  
 500 Delancey . . . . . Jeff & Julie DeVuono  
 500 Cypress . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_  
 400 Pine . . . . . Bhana Grover  
 500 Pine . . . . . Steve Zettler  
 600 Pine . . . . . Karen Biddle  
 700 Pine . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_  
 Perth . . . . . Diane Javian  
 400 Lombard . . . . . Leslie LaRocca  
 500 Lombard . . . . . Gaylord Holder  
 600 Lombard . . . . . Gene Gualtieri  
 700 Lombard . . . . . Diane Javian  
 500 Addison . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_  
 600 Addison . . . . . Dick Ostrander  
 700 Addison . . . . . Diane Javian  
 300 S. 6th . . . . . Phil Alpersen  
 400 S. 6th . . . . . Dick Ostrander  
 300 S. Lawrence . . . . . Diane Pastor  
 400 S. 7th . . . . . Jean Broadley

### Northeast Quadrant

200 Locust . . . . . Cynthia Adams  
 SH Towers . . . . . Bonnie Halda, John DiSabatino  
 200-300 S. 2nd . . . . . Linda Percival  
 200 S. 3rd (W) . . . . . Lee & Geoff Dennis  
 200 S. 3rd (E) . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_  
 St. James Place . . . . . Cirel Magen & Ann Verber  
 200 S. 4th . . . . . George Zolot  
 Willings Alley  
 & Willings Alley Mews Magen & Verber  
 St. Joseph's Way  
 & Bells Ct. . . . . Magen & Verber

### Northwest Quadrant

St. James Court . . . . . Morry Chomitz  
 Independence Place 2 . . . . . Sissie Lipton  
 Independence Place 1 . . . . . Matt DeJulio  
 200 S. 7th . . . . . Lisa Karlin  
 So. Washington Sq. . . . . Lisa Karlin  
 Hopkinson House . . . . . George Koch  
 Manning Walk . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_

### Southeast Quadrant

100 Spruce (Penns L) . . . . . Ellie Boyarski & Bruce LeBuhn  
 200 Spruce . . . . . Greg & Laura Dienna  
 300 Spruce . . . . . Lynn Karoly  
 100 Delancey . . . . . Dave Stevens  
 200 Delancey . . . . . Elizabeth Armour  
 300 Delancey . . . . . Tania Rorke  
 100 Pine . . . . . Donna Wechsler  
 200 Pine . . . . . Marsha Lonergan & Liza Seltzer  
 300 Pine . . . . . Tim Julet  
 100 Lombard . . . . . Norma Van Dyke  
 300 Lombard . . . . . Leslie LaRocca  
 Blackwell Ct. . . . . Kelly Nelson  
 Stampers Street . . . . . Kelly Nelson  
 300 S. Phillip . . . . . Sandra Williams  
 300 S. American . . . . . Laura Temple  
 300 Cypress . . . . . Karen Tourian  
 300-400 Gaskill . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_  
 300 S. Front . . . . . Ellie Boyarski, & Bruce LeBuhn  
 Naudain . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_  
 300 S. 3rd . . . . . Dan & Noreen Diadul  
 400 S. 3rd . . . . . Paul Fiala & Catherine Van Seggern  
 300 S. 4th . . . . . Adrianna Von Pein

## Desperately Seeking! Volunteers

The following local organizations and programs need volunteers. Be sure to tell 'em "we sent you."

### The Kimmel Center

The Kimmel Center, on the Avenue of the Arts, will open to the public on Sunday, December 16th, followed by two weeks of entertainment and celebration. Volunteers are needed for the Grand Opening and to welcome visitors, guide tours, provide information, and assist with events and education on a year-round basis. Volunteer shifts will be 3-4 hours long, whether on weekdays or weekends. For a volunteer application, contact Sally Kutyla, Manager of Volunteer Services at 215-790-5819, or e-mail to volunteers@rpac.org. (See page 3 for a complete listing of free Grand Opening performances and events.)

### Pennsylvania Hospital, 800 Spruce Street

Pennsylvania Hospital is looking for friendly people to provide key services for visitors and patients. America's first hospital is offering volunteer opportunities for weekdays, evenings and weekends in the following areas: Guest Relations, Gift Shop, Information Desks, Maternity, Office Workers, Baby Cuddlers, Meal Mates, Literacy Program, Pet Therapists, and Bookcart. Please call the Volunteer Services Office at 215-829-5187. Or send a fax to the Director of Volunteer Services Benedette D'Amore at 215-829-5009.

### Hosts For Hospitals:

### "Introduction to Hosting Program"

Tuesday, November 13, 7-9 PM

Society Hill Synagogue, 418 Spruce Street

Volunteers wanted for Hosts For Hospitals, a nonprofit organization that provides free lodging at host homes for out-of-towners who come to Philadelphia accompanying patients receiving medical care at local hospitals. Hosts provide guests directions to their homes, to the hospital, to grocery stores and to the nearest public transportation. Guests are responsible for their own meals and transportation. An "Introduction to the Hosting Program" is being held on Tuesday, November 13, 7 - 9 PM, at the Society Hill Synagogue, 418 Spruce Street. To RSVP or for more information, contact its director, Mike Aichenbaum, 610-660-6667; fax: 610-617-3659; e-mail hfhhospitals@aol.com. The program's website is: [www.hostsforhospitals.com](http://www.hostsforhospitals.com)



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## Independence Library Programs in November & December

**Fridays in November, 10:30 AM (Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30)**  
Toddler Story Time

**Mondays in November, 6:30 PM (Nov. 5, 19, 26)**  
Catastrophic Geology: Presented by Dr. Jonathan Nyquist of the Wagner Free Institute of Science. Part of a six-week course about volcanoes, earthquakes, and other topical subjects in geology. Attend one or all the lectures.

**Wednesday, November 7, 6:30 PM**  
Gay Men's Book Discussion Group. This group meets the first Wednesday of every month. Call the Library, 215-685-1633, for more information.

**Saturday, Nov. 10, 2:00 PM**  
Asian Writers Book Discussion Group. This is the first meeting of the group, which is open to everyone.

**Tuesday, November 13, 10:30 AM**  
Infant Story Time: Resources and stories to share for infants and parents

**November 19, 6:30 PM**  
Learn to use the General Business File database Registration required (215-685-1633)

**December 4 or 18, 11:00 AM**  
Learn to use the computer — for complete beginners. Register for just one of the classes (215-685-1633)

**Wednesday, December 26, 2:00 PM**  
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Sat 9:30 am - 6:00 pm

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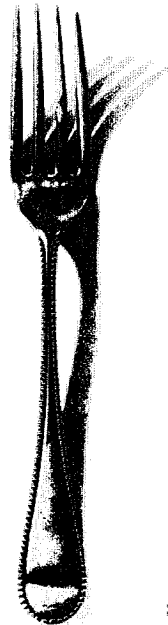
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**Society Hill  
REPORTER**

A publication paid for by Civic Association membership dues and advertisers

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Sandra Rothman, Liza Seltzer

**Business Manager**

Matthew DeJulio

**November Contributors**

Matt DeJulio, William Hawkins,  
Malcolm Lazin, David Stevens, David Woods

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: Dec. 15**

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

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

## Noteworthy Neighbors

### Rody and Peggy Davies

They have spent 40 years helping to shape our community, and now they're moving; moving away to retirement in Maryland. Rody and Peggy Davies are — to re-coin a phrase — “movers and shapers.”

Rody has had a strong hand in shaping the local architectural landscape. He designed four houses at Front and Pine Streets, and another five at Front and Delancey; was involved in the restoration of St. Peter's Church and its Parish House; and, as the chief architectural consultant for the Head House Conservancy, our community's grassroots organization, he was tapped to repair and restore that local and National Historical Landmark building, which, Rody says, “had been allowed to go to rack and ruin by its owners, the City of Philadelphia.” He says he became very attached to the project, discovering many unique features of America's oldest standing firehouse.

Over the course of several years while working on the project, Rody discovered a craftsman, named Henry Lucier, whose skill and patience was responsible for making the rare historical clock begin ticking again, after being silenced for about a hundred years. Henry continues to manually wind this clock on a weekly basis.

(The Head House clock was built by a distinctive clockmaker of the 1800s, Isaiah Lukens, who also built the clock at the Pennsylvania State House, now Independence Hall, as well as other clocks for notable historic buildings in the region.)

In the late 1960s, Rody and Peggy bought a loft building in Old City and converted it for their office space. Now they plan to sell both this building and their circa 1812 house on American Street — which they actually converted from two very small Colonial homes into one attractive contemporary residence — as they prepare to leave for their home on the Severn River near Annapolis. There, Rody, a one-time naval officer, will be able to answer the call of the sea in his 35-foot ketch.

For her part, Peggy has done more than her share of local shaping. A computer pioneer who taught programming at IBM after leaving federal government service, she has served for 14 years as an election judge, as president of the Home and



School Association at the McCall School, and as a guide for WHAT, also known as: Walking Historical Architectural Tours. In addition, both she and Rody have served on the boards of the Society Hill Civic Association and the Old Pine Community Center.

The pair have raised three sons in Society Hill: Kurt, a global warming consultant for Greenpeace; Eric, a TV documentary filmmaker; and Geoff, director of a hotel business center in Hawaii. The Davies's Maryland house, which has been in the family for many years, is “grandchildren-friendly,” they say. Moreover, they have made one floor wheelchair-accessible in anticipation of an independent and self-sufficient old age.

Rody and Peggy, although enthusiastic about their move, are sorry to leave the locality they've played so active a role in shaping. After all, 40 years is a long time to spend in one city, let alone in the same house they bought and began renovating in 1961. What they'll especially miss, they say, are the people, the friendliness, the diversity and the community spirit of Society Hill. But who knows. Maybe they'll shape the place they're moving to.

— David Woods

#### Historical Tidbit:

Recently we received from the archives of Society Hill's “founder,” Charles E. Peterson, a copy of our community's predecessor newsletter. Called, appropriately enough, “Associated Home Owners' News,” it was published “periodically by the Associated Owners of Washington Square East.”

(FYI: Washington Square East is what our neighborhood was called before Charlie reinstated our area's original Colonial name: “Society's Hill” which was further shortened to “Society Hill.” But that's another story!)

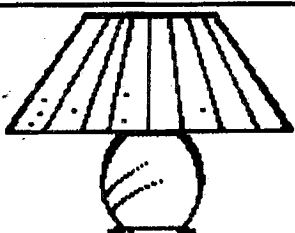
This edition of the old newsletter is dated June, 1962, and it contains a variety of subjects, including a “Welcome Corner.” Well, guess who's mentioned as brand-new neighbors? Below, in all its 24 words of understatement, we reprint for you, with a giant sigh and a twinkle in our eye, the following excerpt beside our current feature of “Noteworthy Neighbors.”

#### The Welcome Corner:

**Mr. and Mrs. Roland Davies  
have moved into their houses  
at 303-305 S. American St.  
They're currently doing them  
over into one.**

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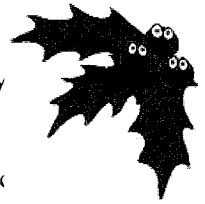
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**Local Holiday Events**



**Saturday, December 1, 10 AM - 3 PM  
St. Peter's School Holiday  
Open House Tour**

A self-guided, walking tour of 18th- and 19th-century elegant private homes all dressed up for the Holidays!  
Cost: \$30 per person for Tour only  
Tour plus Lunch at Sfizzio Ristorante: \$50 per person  
Advance Reservations: Call 215-925-3963  
Proceeds benefit the St. Peter's School Scholar Fund

**Friday thru Sunday, December 7-9  
St. Peter's School Holiday Sale**

Fri: noon-6 PM; Sat: 9-6 PM; Sun: 9 AM until all items sell out  
St. Peter's School, 319 Lombard St.  
This Annual Holiday Market offers trees, custom-decorated wreaths and swags, poinsettias, a book sale and gift shop.  
Proceeds benefit the St. Peter's School Scholar Fund.

**Friday thru Sunday, December 7-9  
Holiday Gift Show at Old Pine Community Center,  
4th & Lombard Streets**

Fri: 6-9 PM; Sat: 11 AM - 8 PM; Sun: 11 AM - 5 PM  
The annual Holiday Show at Old Pine Community Center is once again featuring a selection of handicrafts, arts and gifts by the Creative Collective. The Opening on Friday night will have an admission price of \$10, all of which goes directly to support our Community Center. Saturday and Sunday admission is \$3 per person. The show is a great place to find an unusual hand-crafted item for that special person on your gift list.

**Sunday, January 6, 2002, 4:30 - 7:30 PM  
Physick House: Twelfth Night 2002  
321 South 4th Street**

Enjoy Dr. Physick's House in all its holiday splendor! The members of the Physick House Preservation Committee invite you to join them at this annual event in this Landmark's mansion for an evening of tradition, marked by wonderful food, holiday cheer, and good friends — both "old" and new. New guests are most welcome! RSVP: Landmark's Office: 215-925-2251

**St. Peter's Church**



an Episcopal Church at Third and Pine Streets  
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[www.stpetersphila.org](http://www.stpetersphila.org)

Please join us for services

**All are welcome at God's table**

**Sunday - 9:00 & 11:00 AM**

**Wednesday - 6:00 PM**

Christian Education for all ages - 10:00 AM  
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# Zoning & Historic Preservation Committee Reports

Continued from page 7

## New Appointees for Historical Commission Named by Mayor Street

Last August, 18 months after taking office, Mayor John Street named seven of potentially eight commissioners to represent the Philadelphia Historical Commission. Former Society Hill resident and SHCA past-president Norman Tissian was selected. Of those who served under the previous administration, only attorney Michael Sklaroff was retained, and at press time, the outgoing controversial chair, Wayne Spilove, has not yet been replaced. It is expected that an eighth appointee to the Commission (perhaps a woman) will be named by the mayor, as will be his designee to chair the Commission.

The new Commissioners are: **James L. Brown, IV**, a developer who specializes in urban renewal; **Thomas J. Kilkenny, Jr.**, president of Union Local # 8, the Plasterers' and Cement Masons' Union, and vice-president of the Philadelphia A.F.L.C.I.O.; **Luis Vincent Rivera**, AIA, president of SRK Architects in Center City; **Michael Sklaroff**, Esq., chair of the Real Estate Department of Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll; **Harris Steinberg**, AIA, award-winning principal of Steinberg and Stevens Architects; **Thomas J. Sugrue**, Ph.D., professor of history and sociology at the University of Pennsylvania; and **Norman Tissian**, former president of the Society Hill Civic Association and advertising veteran for the promotion of travel and tourism.

Ex-Officio Members of the Historical Commission are represented by the following heads of city departments and/or their designated deputies: the President of City Council; Chair of the City Planning Commission; the Director of the Department of Commerce and the Director of the Office of Housing & Community Development; Commissioners of the Department of Licenses & Inspections and the Department of Public Property.

The Historical Commission has three standing committees that each make their recommendations to the entire Commission: the Architectural Committee (now chaired by Vincent Rivera, AIA); the Committee on Historic Designation; and the Committee on Financial Hardship.



## Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church

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**Restorations Performed in Society Hill ...**

**210 Spruce St. Brick powerwashing & pointing, stucco**

**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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## **New Listing! 255 Pine Street**

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## **232 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> 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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## SHCA's Non-Resident Members

We welcome all local institutions, professionals, and religious affiliations to join our advocacy organization, as we are the official voice for all of Society Hill. The following religious sites, nonprofit institutions and businesses within our community are current paid members of SHCA.

### SHCA Religious Sites

Episcopal Diocese of PA  
Mother Bethel  
AME Church  
Old Pine Street Church  
Old St. Joseph's Church  
Old St. Mary's Church  
Society Hill Synagogue  
St. Mary's  
Interparochial School  
St. Mary's Convent  
St. Peter's Church  
St. Peter's School

### SHCA Nonprofit Organizations

Pennsylvania Hospital  
Philadelphia Society  
for Preservation of  
Landmarks

### SHCA Business or Commercial Members

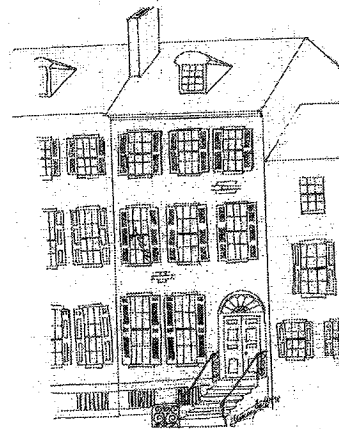
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Owners Association  
Creative Collective  
Gallery  
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Hopkinson House  
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## SHCA Membership Notice:

Look for your 2002 SHCA Membership Renewal letter and form coming in the mail soon, probably the first week in November. Your annual membership dues are our organization's primary source of funding.

Remember: We are not a club! We are a community! And we need your ongoing support to continue the work of maintaining and improving the quality of life we have created here.

Please return your membership form promptly.



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**Cancellation Notice: Clean-Up Day November 17**

Saturday, November 17th was scheduled to be our annual Fall Clean-Up Day. But at SHCA's October Board meeting, we learned that Co-chair Frank Hoban can no longer assume this task due to his work responsibilities. And for a similar reason, Co-chair Mark Valentine has recently resigned from that demanding task, as well as from his role as Northwest Quadrant director. We thank them both for their past efforts.

With no coordinated, city-supported "official" Clean-Up Day in Society Hill, we ask that you take some time on Saturday, November 17th to spruce up a bit, and perhaps consider a block-wide effort. Do what you can, and please consider stepping up to the plate so that we will have leadership for a Clean-Up Day in spring 2002. Call SHCA Administrator Matt DeJulio (215-629-1288) if you would be interested in helping plan for a Spring Clean-Up Day event.

**New Police Mini-Station Now Open**

After several years of planning, the police mini-station serving the South Street corridor and nearby neighborhoods (including ours) now has a permanent home at Fresh Fields on the 900 block of South Street. The station has approximately 2200 square feet, about 700 square feet more than originally planned. The phone number there is: 215-922-6707. Call for "quality of life" concerns. For general information pertaining to the Sixth District Police (specifically covering Society Hill), call 215-686-3060.

**Philadelphia's Emergency Response System**

"Prevent a crime, save a life" is the credo of the City's Emergency Response System, AKA the 911 system, which is the first line of communication for reporting emergencies. In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks, 911 is still the primary channel for reporting crimes or illegal behavior in the city. In the event of a major or impending disaster, the City's Emergency Management Team would step in and assume control.

A recent extension of the 911 system is the Police Radio Advisory Board (PRAB), made up of civilian representatives from Philadelphia neighborhoods and members of the Police Department. Its goal is to provide an independent view of the emergency radio system and the development of a citywide education program for the 911 system geared to the general public, particularly children.

PRAB is looking for residents to join the board or serve on one of its committees, such as Administration, Membership, Education, Communications, Fundraising, and 911 Monitoring. You can also attend PRAB meetings — held on the last Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at police headquarters at 7th-8th Streets and Race.

For more information, contact William Hawkins, PRAB Executive Board Vice President and Civic Association Vice President at 215-592-8734 or at scalfbur@aol.com.

*Continued on page 18*

**INSURANCE FOR YOUR NEEDS**

# Local Service.

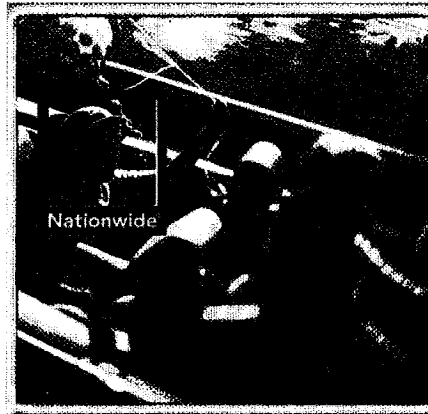
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### SHCA Eliminates Graffiti in Society Hill

SHCA's graffiti abatement team has been impressed by a new cleaning product that is environmentally safe, nontoxic and very effective: it sprays on and wipes off! At the September Board meeting we were authorized to buy some of this product for a trial in each quadrant.

The following quadrant directors have agreed to take on this responsibility and are now in the process of enlisting helpers: Kelly Nelson (Southeast), Gene Gualtieri (Southwest), Colleen Farrell (Northeast), and Morry Chomitz (Northwest). This same group is also going to work with neighbors who have already started to repaint Franklin lamp posts. Lend a hand if you can, and look for the results on your block.

### Unwanted Solicitations

In recent weeks, Society Hill has been inundated with flyers, advertisements, restaurant menus and unwanted newspapers. These are left on cars and doorsteps, usually ending up as litter that dirty 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. Please help us deter the use of such illegal solicitations by letting those businesses know that that it is illegal, and 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.

### Homeless Problems

There seems to be more homeless people in our area lately — consequently, more calls to the police about them. To report a homeless person, call Sergeant Taylor at the Homeless Task Force at 215-686-3099.

Also, SHCA has been in touch with Alex Otieno, the Community Liaison for Project Home, which is charged with finding shelters for the homeless. He has promised more attention to the number of homeless individuals at Washington Square. If you don't soon see an improvement, or if other areas of our neighborhood are of concern, you can also contact SHCA's Administrator Matt DeJulio, at 215-629-1288. Please specify exactly what hours and locations these individuals are most likely to be seen. Or contact Alex Otieno directly at 215-232-7272.

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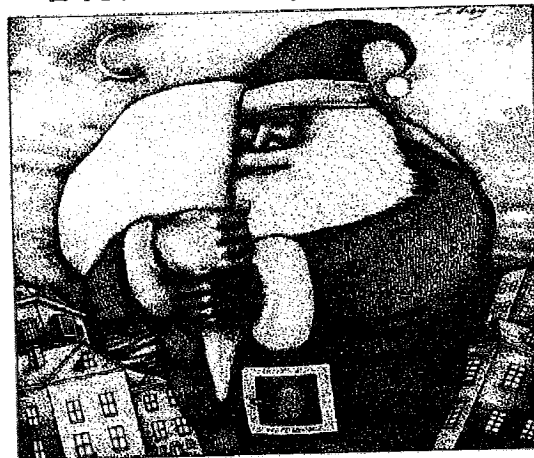
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**OLD PINE**

**COMMUNITY CENTER**  
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## Society Hill and Washington Square's Premier Condominiums

### 220 West Washington Square

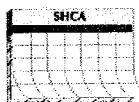
A historic piece of Philadelphia's fine architectural style located on West Washington Square is being recreated into an exclusive condominium residence consisting of full floor homes. This is an opportunity to create your own estate home on West Washington Square. Each full floor shell of 2,900 square feet of open space is being offered at prices starting at \$795,000. Private parking spaces available. For an exclusive appointment to preview this exciting residence, please call today.

- Pier 3 - 1 bedroom, river view, terrace, health club - \$174,900
- Hopkinson House - 1 bed **SOLD**, available immediately - \$195,000
- Independence Place - 1 bedroom, excellent condition - \$197,500
- Society Hill Towers - 1 bedroom, bridge and river view - \$204,900
- Independence Place - 1 bedroom, 1.5 bath, alcove, balc. - \$260,000
- Hopkinson House - 1 bed **SOLD**, park view, terrace - \$225,000
- Society Hill Towers corner 1 bedroom on a high floor - \$229,900
- Pier 3 - 2 bedroom, 2 bath, terrace, eat-in-kitchen - \$275,000
- Independence Place - corner junior 2 bedroom, balcony - \$289,900
- Pier 3 - 2 bedroom, 2 bath, deck, 1 car parking included - \$329,900
- Independence Place - 2 bedroom & den, balcony, panoramic southern views, sunny eat-in-kitchen, spacious master bedroom suite \$699,900



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## Community Calendar



- Tuesday, Nov. 13**  
**Introduction To "Hosts For Hospitals"**  
 Society Hill Synagogue, 7-9 PM. See page 8 for details
- Wednesday, Nov. 14, SHCA Meetings**  
**Board Meeting: 6 PM • General Meeting: 7:30 PM**  
 See page 1 for details
- Wednesday, Dec. 5, 6-8 PM**  
**SHCA Holiday Social, Hyatt Regency Hotel: See page 4**  
 Dec. 16-31
- Kimmel Center Inaugural Festivities: See page 4**
- Saturday, Dec. 1**  
**St. Peter's School Holiday Open House Tour: See page 13**  
 Friday thru Sunday, Dec. 7-9
- St. Peter's School Holiday Sale: See page 13**  
 Friday thru Sunday, Dec. 7-9
- Old Pine Community Center Annual Holiday Gift Show**  
 For details, see page 13 • For ad, see page 14
- Friday thru Sunday, Dec. 7-9**  
**Old Pine Community Center Annual Holiday Gift Show**
- Wednesday, Dec. 12, 7 PM: December SHCA Board Meeting**  
 Old Pine Community Center
- Sunday, Dec. 16, 5 PM**  
 Candle Light Service of Lessons & Carols  
 St. Peter's Church, Everyone Welcome
- Sunday, Jan. 6, 2002: Annual Physick House Event**  
 The Twelfth Night: See page 13
- Independence Branch Library  
 For Complete Calendar of Events, see page 9

### SHCA Board of Directors 2001

#### Officers

- |                     |                                                                               |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| President           | MALCOLM LAZIN                                                                 |
| Vice Presidents     | BERNICE HAMEL<br>WILLIAM HAWKINS<br>MARTHA LEVINE<br>JIM MOSS<br>LIZA SELTZER |
| Treasurer           | FRANK HOBAN                                                                   |
| Recording Secretary | DIANE MOLAS (On leave thru Jan. 2002)                                         |

#### Directors

- Northeast Quadrant  
 COLLEEN FARRELL, CIREL MAGEN, ANN VERBER
- Northwest Quadrant  
 MORRY CHOMITZ, PERRY WHYTE, VACANCY
- Southwest Quadrant  
 GENE GUALTIERI, MARK KEENER, MICHELE PLACHTER
- Southeast Quadrant  
 KELLY NELSON, BECKY STOLOFF, VACANCY

#### Condominium Representatives

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

Contact SHCA's administrator, **Matthew DeJulio**, for e-mail addresses: 215-629-1288 or [matthew.dejulio@gte.net](mailto:matthew.dejulio@gte.net).