



SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

www.societyhillcivic.com



Adriana von Pein accepts "Neighbor of the Year" award from Malcom Lazin, SHCA President

Adriana von Pein is "Neighbor of the Year"

Adriana von Pein was presented with the "Neighbor of the Year" award at the Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) General Membership Meeting held Wednesday, May 15. Von Pein is the first recipient of this honor, which was created by the SHCA to recognize exceptional community service on behalf of Society Hill by residents who are not members of the civic association's board.

"I love this neighborhood," von Pein stated, after accepting a plaque commemorating the tribute. A resident for more than 10 years, Adriana noted that it takes a lot of hard work to make Society Hill a better place to live and to keep it that way. She's been very active—painting Franklin lampposts, monitoring the public walkways (particularly those surrounding Lawrence Court), planting flowers and shrubs

at her own expense, caring for trees, picking up litter, removing graffiti and anything else that improves both the appearance of Society Hill and the quality of life of those who live here. Where she sees a need, she simply takes care of it. Adriana has opened her home and garden for tours sponsored by the Friends of Independence National Historical Park. These tours are a source of revenue for the SHCA and the community improvement projects it supports. Von Pein, a delightfully charming person, is truly a good neighbor and diligent caretaker of her Society Hill surroundings on a daily basis.

In addition to the plaque, the "Neighbor of the Year" award includes a \$100 donation made by the SHCA in the recipient's honor to a charity he or she selects. Adriana von Pein requests that the money be contributed to the Lawrence Court Neighbors Association.

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| WEDNESDAY |
| July 17 |
| <i>Mark Your Calendar</i> |
| Society Hill Civic Association Board Meeting |
| 7:00 p.m. |
| Old Pine Community Center 4th and Lombard |
| <i>All Society Hill Civic Association members are welcome to attend.</i> |

Final Phase of Washington Square Work to Begin

If all goes according to plan, Washington Square will soon be buzzing with activity. During the first week in June, the City of Philadelphia published bid specifications for the final work to be done in the Square prior to its being turned over to the National Park Service (NPS) from the Fairmount Park Commission. The bid opening was scheduled for Tuesday, July 2, with the contract to be awarded soon thereafter. All work is to be completed within 180 days.

Replacement of the Revolutionary War Soldiers Memorial will definitely begin under a contract made in early spring. *Watson's Annals of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania, volume I*, reported that "upwards of two thousand soldiers" were buried in the Square, having perished from wounds and sickness. The limestone

monument will be replicated in its entirety, with minor modifications to avert damage by the elements. Demolition of the old monument will begin as soon as stone for the new one arrives in early July. This contract also provides for repairs to the limestone coping around the fountain in the center of the Square. The fountain is not currently in use due to the drought, but it was tested and functioned at that time.

The work to be undertaken in the final phase includes rehabilitation of the eternal flame, landscaping, and improvements to the triangular island at the northwest corner of the park. The contract contains provisions to protect the park and surrounding area from construction damage. The Square will remain open to the public at all times.

continued on page 5



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SOCIETY HILL

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the Blumbergs

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Unanimous Vote Brings Lazin a Third Term

I appreciate the support shown by neighbors who reelected me at our May General Meeting. I will be serving my third and final one-year term, in accordance with SHCA bylaws. As such, I might be considered the proverbial lame duck president. Nonetheless, I have accepted a third term because there are two Society Hill initiatives of long-term importance that require my follow-through. They are Washington Square and Foglietta Plaza.

For more than fifteen years there has been an active local effort to make Washington Square a part of Independence National Historical Park. The square, which was then called Potter's Field, is the largest burial site for Revolutionary War casualties from General Washington's army. The freedom that we enjoy today was earned through the sacrifices made by soldiers and patriots in the name of American self-determination and values. Until this story of the spilling of blood is told, the mission of Independence National Historical Park to inform the public about the founding of our great nation is incomplete.

It has taken more than fifteen years to begin the process to have Washington Square ceded to the National Park Service (NPS). Once that happens, we have confidence that the park will be well preserved in perpetuity. With the support of Senator Specter and then Congressman Foglietta in 1991, NPS agreed to take control of the Square—conditioned upon capital improvements that would bring it up to Park Service standards. That required funding and agreement over improvements among all the players—the NPS, the community and the Fairmount Park Commission, which controls Washington Square. (See more information about the Square on pages 1 and 5.)

This process has been difficult and tedious, since we have been dealing with both the municipal and federal governments. But there is light at the end of the tunnel. We have set a goal of completion for Veterans Day, November 11, 2002 and are monitoring the process to insure as best we can that completion and the dedication ceremony occur on time. We thank Councilman DiCicco, Fairmount Park Commission Executive Director Bill Mifflin, and NPS for their commitment to that schedule.

Foglietta Plaza Plans Find Favor

Our other major initiative is Foglietta Plaza. The Association retained the services of the Olin Partnership for a planning charrette, resulting in a conceptual plan that has met with approval from the Plaza's contiguous neighbors, our Board and area residents who attended a recent membership meeting. Neighbors Bob Butera and Craig Lewis are assisting in soliciting support for these improvements. We are scheduling a presentation for Senator Fumo, Councilman DiCicco and a Delaware River Port Authority representative. We will keep you updated. In the interim, we are mindful of concerns about increased vagrancy at Foglietta Plaza, and we are working with Councilman DiCicco to formulate a plan to diminish or eliminate the problem.

South Street Mini-Station Staffing Returns to Pre-March Levels

Since March 2002 members of our Association have been proactively involved in returning the South Street Police Detail to where it had been until command and staffing changes were made abruptly and without warning, resulting in problems for the entire corridor and our own community. See the article on page 7, which summarizes the successful negotiations conducted by SHCA activists with the support of Councilman Frank DiCicco and the South Street Headhouse District.

Membership Expands

Finally, the Board is proud that we have set a membership record of over 900 members. Membership Committee Chair Kelly Nelson and SHCA Administrator Matt DeJulio both deserve a lot of credit. We have had a significant increase in new business members—which are listed on page 25 of this issue of the *Reporter* and on our website, www.societyhill-civic.com. Please encourage nonmember local businesses whose services you patronize to join us and thereby help pay their fair share for community maintenance and quality-of-life.

I now have eleven months remaining in my last term as president, and I pledge to do my best not to be a lame duck. Thank you for your continuing support as I thank all volunteers for their capable services on behalf of America's "first neighborhood."



Malcolm Lazin
President

Photo: Steve Belkowitz

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Washington Square Work – The Details

continued from page 1

With respect to the eternal flame, which is not operational at the present time, a new gas supply line will be installed, along with a new fixture from which the flame will emerge. A welcome change will be the demolition of the guardhouse in the southeast corner of the park. A similar building near the center will remain, but the structure attached to it will disappear.

The benches in the grassy areas will be removed, and the pavement upon which they sit will be replaced with lawn. The benches along the walkways will remain. The drawings depict 12 new benches at the perimeter of the paving stones surrounding the fountain. Existing shrubs and flowers on the triangle at the intersection of 7th and Walnut Streets will be replaced with grass. Six new trees will be added to the three located on this site.

Landscaping, which constitutes the major portion of the contract, includes removal of approximately 55 diseased and other problem trees, as well as the planting of 70 new ones selected for their ability to thrive under urban conditions. While the dimensions vary slightly according to species, most newly planted trees will be 14 to 16 feet tall. All but a few of the large, canopy trees will remain and continue to provide welcome shade from the summer sun. Ultimately, Washington Square will have more than its present number of trees.

Ginkgo bilobas will be planted along the perimeter streets (6th, Walnut, 7th and Independence Place). Two trees growing outside the brick wall and extending into the sidewalk will remain. One is a plane tree on the eastern boundary; the other is a large, old tree near the southwest entrance to the park.

Thirteen kinds of trees will be planted along the walkways within the Square, making a total of 35 species. At one time, prior to 1850, the park was reported to have “sixty to seventy varieties of trees, mostly of native growth” (*Watson’s*). This, of course, was prior to modern America and the effects of pollution.

The goal is to have group plantings—including shrubbery—to improve park design and ease maintenance. The result is an open lawn that will provide space for activities and sunbathing. Walkways and benches will be shaded. There will be substantially more plants than currently are found in the park, but they will be concentrated at the entrances. Azaleas and rhododen-



The Revolutionary War Soldiers Memorial will be replicated in its entirety. The eternal flame will be repaired, and the guardhouse will be demolished.



drons will add springtime color. Holes and depressions in the ground will be filled, bare areas will be re-seeded with a hardy grass mixture, and the entire park will be fertilized.

When this work has been completed, the NPS will assume responsibility for Washington Square, one of the original squares planned by William Penn in 1683. The date for transfer is currently set for November 11.

Washington Square, as President Malcolm Lazin notes in his message on page 3, is important in our nation’s history and should be a tourist destination along with the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall. The changes completed over the past several years, such as new paving, were a long time in coming. Many hands, and even more viewpoints, have shaped the final design for Washington Square. The result will be a green oasis among the bricks and concrete of the city—a place where residents and visitors alike may quietly contemplate the events that defined our country’s early history.

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NEIGHBORS IN ACTION

Mini-Station is Back on Track

The South Street Police Mini-Station will return to the formula that was effective over the past 10 years.

Through the combined efforts of community groups, support from Councilman Frank DiCicco and the prompt response of Police Commissioner Sylvester Johnson, the South Street Police Mini-Station will return to the formula that was effective over the past 10 years. During that period of time, the Society Hill, Queen Village, Bella Vista, Washington Square West and Hawthorne neighborhoods were beneficiaries of a system whereby the South Street corridor was policed by a corps of officers specifically trained for and dedicated to South Street. This corps, known as the South Street Detail, was commanded by a single lieutenant assigned to the Mini-Station located next to Fresh Fields on the 900 block of South Street.

Last March an abrupt change occurred, giving hands-on operation to the captain of the Third District and assigning officers to South Street who were unfamiliar with the unique enforcement problems of a street that serves the entire Philadelphia region as an "amusement boardwalk." Following this change, and exacerbated by warm weather, the corridor and our neighborhoods experienced an increase in criminal behavior and property damage, including a rise in graffiti and numerous quality-of-life problems such as loitering, illegal vending, drinking and urinating in the streets, noisy car radios, loud motorcycles, and gridlock. Unruly crowds and rude behavior threatened our streets and homes, and compromised our personal security throughout the South Street corridor.

Working with the South Street Headhouse District, our combined civic and Town Watch communities organized a coalition that includes the Police Department Advisory Council (PDAC), an independent, autonomous civilian council. Aggressive action was taken to demand a return to the schedule that until March had given South Street the quality and quantity of police protection that had proven to be so successful. On June 6, the group sent a letter, signed by each of our organizations' respective leaders, to Mayor John Street. Copies of the letter were sent to Police

Commissioner Sylvester Johnson and Managing Director Estelle Richman.

Upon learning of this crisis in police protection, Councilman Frank DiCicco called an emergency meeting with the Coalition's leaders. He listened to our growing complaints and concerns. The letter to the Mayor was then spontaneously signed by Councilman DiCicco, as he added his full support to the Coalition's request that the South Street Mini-Station return to the schedule that gave it relative autonomy and provided our communities with a highly visible police presence.

Following this meeting with community leaders, Councilman DiCicco requested an audience with Commissioner Johnson. They met on June 5. The Councilman itemized our communities' list of well-researched grievances, and the Commissioner made an immediate decision. Within hours he directed the captain of the Third District to restore the Mini-Station to its former method of functioning. It will return its leadership to an experienced officer and will employ police familiar with South Street's needs 365 days a year—not just at night, but in the early morning hours and afternoons, particularly on weekends.

By the time you read this newsletter, the mini-station will be restored to its former command and staffing rotations, and our local police force will be back on track so that all residents and businesses can feel safe and protected.

Our united communities and the South Street Headhouse District worked hard to build, support and finance a well-functioning South Street Mini-Station to safeguard this unique corridor. Approximately \$100,000 was raised to establish the station, of which \$50,000 was contributed by the developers of Fresh Fields.

We thank Councilman DiCicco, State Senator Fumo, and Police Commissioner Johnson for their rapid responses to our cry for help.

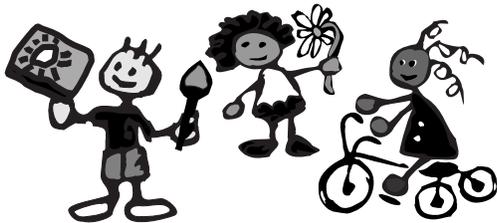
CONTACT NUMBERS

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6th District Community Liaison Officer:
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O P I N I O N

What Is the Fate of Penn's Landing?

The Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA) has announced an alternative plan for Penn's Landing in the event the Simon Property Group, a nationally renowned developer, does not proceed with the planned entertainment/retail center proposed for the site just north of the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Columbus Boulevard. The Simon Group has stated that work on the \$329 million Penn's Landing project will begin in August, with completion anticipated in 2005.

However, the DRPA is making alternative plans for the \$16 million it has committed to the project. It would use these funds to redesign and complete the aerial tramway, currently under construction over the Delaware River, linking the Philadelphia and Camden waterfronts.

Under the scenario presented by the DRPA, the tram terminal would sit atop a parking garage that it would construct, with a new Please Touch Museum built next to it. The Please Touch Museum is committed to tenancy in the Simon complex, and the DRPA regards its relocation to Penn's Landing as an inducement to attract a developer to the site.

Even as these contingency plans were being announced, there were public expressions (in letters to *The Philadelphia Inquirer*) urging retention of the Penn's Landing site for the kind of events that used to take place in the "Great Plaza"—which are now held on Festival Pier at the eastern terminus of Spring Garden Street.

Long-time residents will recall when Penn's Landing was filled with activity. In the summer there were plays, concerts and festivals. It was a place where people could walk or just sit to enjoy the breeze from the river and watch the traffic on its waters. Trees, and even a fountain, added to its charm. It was also the location of an ice-skating rink for winter fun.

More than five years have gone by since development plans for this piece of ground were approved, and completion is at least an additional three years away. It might be prudent to reassess whether or not an entertainment-retail complex continues to be the best use for this valuable real estate.

The Delaware River is a prime asset for the City of Philadelphia, not only commercially but also for recreation. Penn's Landing is the only park-like access residents have to the river. There is no other similar area anywhere to the south along Columbus Boulevard, or to the north until one reaches Penn Treaty Park, about 2 miles distant.

Unlike cities such as Baltimore, Philadelphia's waterfront is not connected to the commercial center of the city. It is separated from the city by I-95 and Columbus Boulevard and thus will not draw foot traffic from office buildings. It is not a place where workers can go to pick up an item from a store or get a bite to eat during the lunch hour. It is reasonable to expect that if this were a prime retail location, it would have been financed and built by now.

There is also concern as to whether there is sufficient population (both local and tourist) to support a project on Penn's Landing along with established South Street and resurgent Old City. What will happen if any of these three areas suffer a loss of patronage? Will we be faced with empty buildings and a general deterioration of the surrounding neighborhood? Will property values decrease?

These questions should be asked and considered from both extremes of the spectrum. What is the best and worst that can happen? Reality will likely fall somewhere in between. But the downside should be examined in terms of 2002 before a new scheme is imposed.

Is the proposed entertainment/retail complex really the best use for this valuable real estate? Some think not.

\$1 Million for South Street Headhouse District

Great news at last! Ever since the South Street Headhouse District was founded, ten years ago, it has sought funds to install new sidewalks, lighting and landscaping on South Street. Under the leadership of the District's Chair-

man Michael Samschick, a grant of one million dollars has been obtained from Philadelphia's Department of Commerce for major improvements to South Street from Front to 8th Streets. Design planning is underway, and con-

struction is expected to begin in spring 2003. It is hoped that the improvements will contribute to the economic revitalization of South Street—encouraging quality shops and restaurants to open in this exciting commercial district.

Cheers to State Senator Vincent Fumo, Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jim Cuorato, and Councilman Frank DiCicco for helping the South Street Headhouse District acquire this significant grant.

2002-2003 SHCA Election Results

SHCA Candidates Receive Unanimous Support

We are very pleased to report an excellent turnout for the annual election for SHCA officers and quadrant directors, held at our May 15 General Meeting. The election process was smooth and swift, and all nominated candidates received unanimous support. The full slate for 2002 - 2003 is as follows:

| | |
|--|--|
| President Malcolm Lazin | Quadrant Directors |
| Vice President Paul Boni Bonnie Halda Bernice Hamel Martha Levine Jim Moss | Northeast Lee Dennis |
| Treasurer Frank Hoban | Northwest Lisa Karlin Morris Chomitz Joe Gritz |
| Secretary Luisa Boverini | Southeast Tania Rorke Vicki Chatley |
| | Southwest Michelle Plachter |

Two Hardworking Directors will be Missed
We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the incredible service we received over the years from two outstanding directors who retired from the board in May but who have

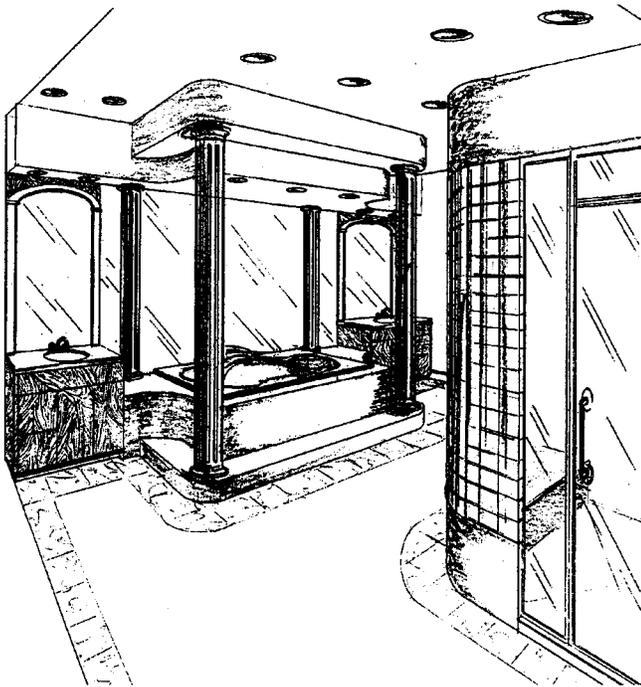
contributed to our greater community in several significant capacities.

Becky Stoloff, a 30-year resident of Society Hill, has served SHCA's board since the 1980s. A former president during the early 1990s, she has also chaired the Zoning Committee and the Nominating Committee, and has participated in countless activities. We look forward to her continuing leadership as a member of the Zoning & Historical Preservation Committee.

Active since she first arrived in Society Hill in 1994, **Liza Seltzer** joined SHCA's board two years later. A driving force that helped transform the Independence Branch Library from dream to reality, Liza recently served SHCA as vice president, chair of the Nominating Committee, and has been an editor and writer of the *Reporter* for many years.

We know that both of these gracious and hard-working women will gladly share their experience and wisdom with us whenever we call upon them. But for now they need a rest!

Thank you, Becky. Thank you, Liza.



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Meet the New SHCA Board Officers and Directors

We welcome each new director who has joined the board, and we appreciate their willingness to work for the betterment of our community. Some of these hard-working citizens have already given of their time and talent to civic association activities and committees, while others are relative newcomers. Please see their profiles below.

PAUL BONI, one of SHCA's new vice-presidents, lives in a trinity house in Bell's Court just off of Spruce Street. He has his own law practice in Old City focusing on environmental and land use law. Paul enjoys movies, eating out and sports. As chair of our association's Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee, he works diligently to stay one step ahead of property owners who try to avoid zoning or historical preservation laws.

Born and bred in Boston, **LUISA BOVERINI** moved to Society Hill two years ago. Currently working toward a doctorate in higher education management at the University of Pennsylvania, she will serve as our newly elected recording secretary. She loves strolling Philadelphia's historic streets and hopes to live here for many years. Luisa plays tennis, is fond of movies, and enjoys the Philly restaurant scene.

VICKI CHATLEY recently retired after 18 years as director of administration for the Philadelphia Eagles. An editor for the *Reporter* and now elected to represent SHCA's Southeast Quadrant, her passions are writing and history, especially the colonial American period. As a child she aspired to "live like Betsy Ross" and now does so in her trinity on Gaskill Street. Currently writing her first novel, Vicki finds time to travel and pursue her interest in archeology.

LEE DENNIS has a predilection for auction houses. Fortunately for the last nine years she has lived in a circa 1830 home on South Third Street where her collectibles fit right in. Retired from a career in retail, Lee spends her leisure time traveling and also donating her talents to favorite charities. She's pleased to be a Northeast Quadrant director and hopes to make a contribution to the neighborhood.

A "Philadelphia boy" all his life, **JOE GRITZ** has lived in Society Hill for the past four years, and he welcomes his new role as an SHCA director for the Northwest Quadrant. Now a funeral director, Joe graduated from Penn State with a degree in accounting and spent 22 years working for the family business, Oxford Book Binding. Joe enjoys piloting small aircraft as well as sky diving. When both feet are on the ground, he loves country line dancing.

LISA KARLEN, a retirement plan consultant, has lived in Philadelphia all of her working life. Her first residence was west of Rittenhouse Square. Gradually she and Matisse, her "cockapoo" moved east to their current residence on South 7th Street, where she now will be representing the Northwest Quadrant. Lisa loves the culture of Center City—especially theater, orchestra, ballet and cinema, topped off with wonderful dining.

TANIA RORKE was born and educated in Massachusetts where she earned a Master of Science in occupational therapy at Springfield College. Our new Southeast Quadrant director moved to Philadelphia in 1997 and has lived in the 300 block of Delancey Street with her husband, Tom, and daughter, Grace, now 2, since 1998. Tania is expecting a second child in August.



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Walk past the corner of 6th and Lombard Streets on any Sunday morning and you will hear the sounds of glorious celebration. There, for over two centuries, Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church has served as a symbol of faith, hope, and accomplishment for the African American community in Philadelphia and, indeed, the nation. NAACP founder W.E.B. DuBois described Mother Bethel as, “the vastest and most remarkable product of American Negro civilization.”

Mother Bethel Church (“Bethel” means “house of the Lord”) owes its foundation to Richard Allen, who was born into the slave-owning Philadelphia household of Benjamin Chew in 1760. When Richard was 7, he and his family were sold to a Delaware farmer named Stokeley Sturgis. Having embraced Christianity, Sturgis decided to free his slaves gradually by allowing them to buy their freedom. Allen, himself a Methodist preacher, worked for five years to raise the needed \$2,000. At age 20, he became a free man.

Two centuries after its founding there is a need to expand, and the Richard and Sarah Allen Center is the core of Mother Bethel’s proposed expansion. In its overview document, the Mother Bethel Foundation notes that this historic church is the “natural site” for such a center. Not only has the property been consistently owned by African Americans longer than any other site in America, the Church has spiritual significance and is a national shrine. Besides the Allen’s tombs, it houses priceless artifacts and archives that detail and reflect its role in promoting social change. In addition, the Church is on the National Register of Historic Places and draws 20,000 tourists annually.

The goals of the Mother Bethel Foundation are twofold—to preserve historic Mother Bethel Church and to construct the Richard and Sarah Allen Center. The overview lists plans for the Center: a library providing intellectual and scholarly opportunities for research and study; a greatly expanded museum; and archives providing access to national church records, key documents and historical ephemera.



In its campaign, the Mother Bethel Foundation Board has enlisted the aid of local nonprofit and business leaders. The Foundation’s goal is to raise \$15 million—\$12 million to build the Center and the remainder to endow the Mother Bethel complex.

Mother Bethel Church, located at the corner of 6th and Lombard Streets, was once a stop on the Underground Railroad.

The Foundation envisions benefits reaching far beyond the immediate neighborhood. The Center will educate children of all races about African American history, raising awareness of and deepening appreciation for the role played by African Americans in the founding of our country. It will provide virtual networking with major academic centers and will attract scholars to its rich archives, which recount the role of Mother Bethel in fostering change and defining the social milieu of the times. It will focus attention on the role of religion and the Church in American history. Finally, it will enrich the venue of local tourist sites and attract additional visitors to Philadelphia, the largest African American tourist destination in the United States.

According to plans, the present parking lot will be enclosed on the first floor of the new building. Construction of the Richard and Sarah Allen Center is due to start in June, 2003.

Special thanks to Delores Brisbon, Chairperson of the Mother Bethel Foundation, for supplying much of the information for this article.

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Park Superintendent Promoted to D.C. Post

New Leadership Coming to Independence Park

This coming fall a new superintendent for Independence National Historical Park will replace Martha B. Aikens. Phil Sheridan, the park's director of public affairs, summarized some of the achievements made by Superintendent Aikens during her eleven years of tenure. One of her first orders of business was a comprehensive utilities improvement plan to buttress the then outdated fire detection, heating and electric systems. While these improvements were not readily visible to the public, they were much needed for the safety and comfort of visitors, as well as for the preservation of the park's historic buildings.

On the other hand, quite visible are her plans for the major revitalization of Independence Mall—the 15 acres just north of Independence Hall—which has been well underway for several years. This program, known as the General Management Plan, received public support and called for a complete remaking and renaissance of Independence Mall. As a result, the park's new Visitor Center on Market Street was

opened in late 2001, and it now serves as a welcoming gateway to the park, as well as the entire city and region. In addition, ongoing construction for the National Constitution Center, the country's first museum and study center focusing on the Constitution, will be completed and opened on July 4, 2003.

Regarding the future of Independence Park, "One big job for the incoming superintendent will be evolving security plans made more difficult by events of 9/11," said Phil Sheridan. "Everyone is hopeful, however, that the necessary safeguards will be less intrusive yet functional." In the interim and before a final selection for a new superintendent is made, Assistant Acting Superintendent Dennis Reidenbach will be at the park's helm.

We wish Martha Aikens well in her move to the Washington, D.C. area as she assumes the position of Director of Training for the National Park Service. We also wish Mr. Reidenbach success in this upcoming busy tourist season.



Martha Aikens

Cool Summer Reading at Independence Library

Come by the Independence Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia for summer reading fun! Adults and children alike can borrow books for up to three months—just ask for the special "summer loan" when you check out your books. While you're there, find out about the many programs going on at the branch, listed at right.

Library To Stay Put

Neighbors may have heard about the proposed sale of the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies building, where the Independence Library is located. The Library's location will not be affected by that sale, as new owners must respect the branch's 20-year lease.

Summer Reading

Program for Children
(various ages): every weekday afternoon through August 2, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Toddler Story Hour

Tuesdays in July at 10:30 a.m.

Chess Club for all ages

every Thursday, 4:00 p.m.

Gay Men's Book Group

Wed, July 10th, 6:30 p.m.

Reading by Tom Nickels

Wed, July 17th, 6:30 p.m.

Friends of the Independence

Library Used Book Sale
Wednesday, July 24th, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. (rain date: 7/26/02, same time)

Science in the Summer

(various ages):
July 30th through August 2.

Please call (215-685-1633) or stop by the Library (18 S. 7th Street) for more information.

HISTORIC PLAQUE UNVEILED



This beautiful Art Deco building on West Washington Square was built in 1929 and served as headquarters for N.W. Ayer until 1973. Ayer, the nation's first ad agency, was founded in Philadelphia in 1869 during the beginning of the country's ascendancy as an industrial power. Several hundred former employees gathered under bright skies on May 4, following a mid-day reception, to see the unveiling of a new bronze historic plaque.

ZONING & HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Conversion Sparks Concern About Parking



400-414 Walnut Street, at the southwest corner of 4th Street

Conversion of 400 Walnut to residences without parking has raised ZHP concern.

In May the ZHP Committee spotted a zoning notice indicating that the owner of 400-14 Walnut Street—John Turchi, Inc.—was seeking a variance for converting this commercial building into a residential penthouse complex. Having heard nothing about the project, we contacted the owner and asked him to present the project to our committee and community. During phone discussions with the owner’s

attorneys, we learned that in addition to the penthouse, the owner was converting this commercial space into 67 residential apartments—without providing any on-site parking. For his convenience, we agreed to schedule a special meeting during the evening of May 23rd. We invited neighbors to the meeting, and in attendance were residents of 4th Street, “The Willings” apartment house, and a representative from Gyro Advertising at 3rd and Walnut.

The Philadelphia Zoning Code requires on-site parking for all new residential buildings. At the May 23rd meeting with the owner and his attorney, the ZHP committee expressed our view that under the Zoning Code these 67 apartments are required to have on-site parking. The owner and attorney disagreed, asserting

that a mere conversion from commercial to residential does not trigger the parking requirements. Clearly, we differ in our interpretations of the Zoning Code. At this special meeting, we also learned that the owner is considering renting out the first floor to a high-end restaurant with valet parking. Society Hill already has a serious problem with insufficient street parking for residents, much less visitors. The ZHP is concerned about the influx of additional automobiles from these 67 new apartment dwellers. We are also concerned about the problems associated with restaurant valet services on this busy street.

On May 29th, the ZHP appeared before the ZBA to protest the owner’s request for a variance. Testimony was provided by a ZHP committee member and by the Gyro representative. Cross-examination of the owner also occurred. Robin Schatz, chief of staff for Councilman Frank DiCicco, provided testimony supporting the ZHP’s position. We argued that the conversion of the building from commercial to residential triggers the zoning code’s parking requirements. In contrast, the owner argued that the only issue properly before the Board was the request for a variance for the penthouse unit, that all other issues (for instance, the conversion of offices into 67 apartments) were irrelevant, and that, in any event, the code does not require parking for these units. After the witnesses testified, the Board decided to grant the variance for the penthouse. However, the Board added a proviso requiring the owner to provide an agreement with an off-site parking garage for all 67 units. The ZHP is currently considering taking an appeal to the Court of Common Pleas.

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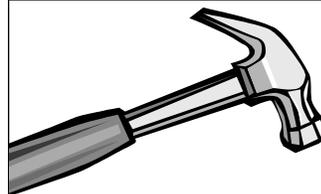
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Catholic Heritage Center, 312-322 Walnut

The owner of this building—the Archdiocese of Philadelphia—filed to seek a zoning variance to renovate and adapt the building into an archive and museum space which would also provide food service facilities for rooftop functions during evening hours. This potential evening outdoor use concerned nearby residents. The ZHP convened a special meeting, at which time the owner presented its plans to the community and committee. The ZHP decided to support the project, but asked the owner to give special attention to the neighbors' concerns. Recently the owner informed the ZHP that it is now considering other, possibly better locations. Accordingly, it has withdrawn its request for a variance at this property.

Man Full of Trouble Tavern: 2nd and Spruce

Last year, without informing the ZHP, the owner of this important historical building—the University of Pennsylvania—obtained approvals from the Historical Commission to undergo a series of repairs and improvements to the entire structure. Penn's plan was to replace the building's existing cedar shake roof with asphalt shingles, which would not be his-

torically accurate as are cedar shingles. When this information came to light, the ZHP filed an appeal of this proposal with the Board of L&I Review. However, this hearing will most likely not take place, because, as we were pleased to learn, Penn recently reversed its position and will now be applying for approvals to install a cedar shake roof. Penn made a presentation to the ZHP at our June 17th meeting and confirmed this change.

Locks Gallery, 600 Washington Square South

The owners are proposing a partial additional floor to the top of the building. Their current intention is to use the addition for purposes of storing sculptures and other works of art. The ZHP convened a meeting for the owners to present their plans to the community, and general support was voiced. The ZHP is pleased to support the project.

The Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee urges owners to present their plans to us prior to applying for approvals from either the Historical Commission or the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). These presentations can be arranged by contacting Paul Boni (ZHP Chair) at paulboni@bonilaw.com or SHCA Administrator Matt DeJulio at 215-629-1288 or matthew.dejulio@gte.net.

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BLOCK COORDINATORS IN ACTION

Neighbors Continue to Make Improvements

Kevin Yoder, assisted by neighbors **Janet Cook**, **Ann Eisworth**, **Harvey Hardle** and **Lee Dennis**, coordinated a hanging basket project on the 200 block of South 3rd Street. Flowers were purchased at the Physick House plant sale.

Ellen and Ron Shaffer rolled up their sleeves to paint Franklin lampposts on the north side of the 200 block of Spruce Street.

Sandra Williams, with the help of **Cynthia Eiseman**, organized the planting and hanging of flower baskets on the 300 block of South Philip Street. Cynthia also painted lampposts.

Adriana von Pein helped fix up the Three Bears' Park planter as well as St. Peter's Walkway and Lawrence Court Walkway gardens for the Society Hill Garden Tour. Our Neighbor of the Year also got a new tree planted at the SW corner of 3rd and Spruce Streets. She arranged to put flowering planters in front of several 5th Street shops, making them much more attractive.

Steven Chernekkoff, owner of Salon@5th, had already displayed his flowering planter early this spring and will be watering all of the planters along 5th Street this summer.

When **Norma Van Dyke** saw the illegal above-ground electrical poles and transformer at the end of her block at 100 Lombard, she contacted PECO, who promised its removal by July 15. Don't mess with Norma! She also painted lampposts on her block.

The residents of St. James Court at 5th and Locust Streets contributed to having all of the Franklin lampposts on their property painted.

Kelly Nelson, with the help of Stamper's Court neighbors **Ralph Colabelli**, **Judie Wolfson**, and **Debbie Wilder**, added plants and fencing to improve the appearance of their court.

Elizabeth Armour organized the enlargement of tree pits on the 200 block of Delancey Street to help keep trees healthy. She also helped clean up and replant the common garden area of Wetherill Court in preparation for the Society Hill Garden Tour.

Great work, Block Coordinators. What a show of dedication and commitment! Block Coordinators, if we missed your project, please contact **Martha Levine**, Block Coordinator Chair, at 215-629-0727 or marthalev@aol.com.



A 20th-Century Addition

Window Boxes Add Color to Society Hill

Each day our spirits are brightened by the profusion of color cascading from window boxes and trailing over baskets hung from Franklin lampposts. Blossoms of yellow, orange, peach and creamy white radiate summer's warmth; while purple, black and chartreuse blooms add dramatic color choices. All blend into that intangible magic that defines Society Hill.

We may think that planted containers have been part of our streetscape forever, but this is not the case. What delights residents and visitors

today was a matter of controversy not so long ago. Window boxes are not historically accurate, and Ben Franklin did not hang flowering baskets from his lamps. Fortunately, residents decided that they wanted to live in a community, not a museum, and changes began. Gail Hearn led the way with a 1996 campaign to hang baskets on the 500 block of Pine. Cherry Bombeck and Mary Sturdivant organized workshops at the Physick House on South 4th Street in 1999. By July, 2000 Society Hill was



ablaze with red, white and blue blooms welcoming the Republican National Convention to Philadelphia. And now the seeds of a new tradition have been sown in our neighborhood.

Vibrant window boxes beautify South 4th Street.

Did Washington Sleep Here?

Researching Your House's Genealogy

Who lived in your house 150 years ago—the butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker? Did famous figures visit? Did nefarious activities take place in your parlor? The first article in a series on researching your home's genealogy (*Society Hill Reporter* March/April 2002, page 11) suggested ways to use the Internet and Historical Society of Pennsylvania records to discover interesting facts about your house and its former occupants. Here are two more Philadelphia resources where you can comb for clues about your home's former occupants.

The Registry Unit, Department of Records, Room 154 City Hall, and the Philadelphia City Archives, Suite 150, 3101 Market Street, can provide a plethora of information. Start by tracing the ownership of your home. The chain of title of any property in Philadelphia utilizes sources accessible at both locations. All of the transfer sheets (a system devised in 1865 to keep an inventory of property owners by location) are available on microfiche at the registry Unit. Of significant importance is the extensive collection of deed records held by the City

Archives. In addition to the major deed and mortgage book series starting in 1683, the Archives also has the sheriffs' deed books from 1736 to 1905, partition deeds from the Common Pleas and District Courts, warrants and surveys of the Province of Pennsylvania dating from 1683 to 1759, and miscellaneous instruments books which contain various recorded legal documents, including business agreements, partnerships, certificates of naturalization, etc.

Armed with names, begin to flesh out your research using the City Archives extensive genealogical holdings. Birth records, dating from 1860; death certificates, first kept in 1803; marriage licenses, issued beginning October 1, 1885; and naturalization records, started in 1793, provide a wealth of personal information about the various Toms, Dicks and Harriets who once scraped their boots on your doorstep. Discovering the personal stories behind the long list of occupants who have called your house "home" is a form of historic preservation—one that is engrossing, enriching and definitely worthwhile.

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Negotiating Our City's Bureaucracy

A True Saga about Street Repairs

What happened to Linda and John Percival of South 2nd Street painfully illustrates that the city's right hand doesn't know what its left hand is doing—since each city agency and utility is caught up in its own bureaucratic maze. Space considerations do not permit a blow-by-blow description of the tribulations dealing with these agencies, but as a cautionary tale we summarize an ongoing saga of street repairs in the City of Philadelphia in the year 2002.

Without warning on May 2, the Philadelphia Water Department began working in front of 304 S. 2nd Street, opposite the Percival's residence. They dug a deep hole and slipped a printed form through 304's mail slot stating that "a defective lateral existed...If not repaired, will cause further damage."

The Percivals called telephone numbers listed on the form. The first number was a recording on how to obtain a loan from the Water Department for the cost of a repair. Linda began a round of calls and was eventually told that, as the owner of 304, she was responsible for the underground pipes from the middle of the street to the house, and that she would need to hire a plumber to do the work. She was also warned that any damage to other utilities as a result of the defective lateral would be her responsibility. When she asked for a referral to a plumber certified to do city work, she was told to look in the Yellow Pages.

Linda found a plumbing contractor certified to correct city violations who promised to begin immediately, so she accepted his \$2,575 estimate, giving him the required 75% deposit—a check for \$1,931.25. The plumber immediately contacted city utilities and asked them to mark the locations of pipes, wires and equipment. The utilities arrived and marked their equipment. But on the morning of May 7, the plumber called to say he had not yet received a permit to close the street, because the Water Department needed more time to process the permit request.

On May 10, while the Percivals were out of town, a neighbor caring for the house found a Water Department notice slipped through the mail slot, stating that the owners had 24 hours to repair the defective lateral and that their "water service had been shut off, because the condition in violation caused damage to or posed an imminent danger to another property or to the water main or sewer." The neighbor turned the kitchen water faucet on and water flowed. She called the Water Department to tell them that the owners had already retained the services of a plumber and urged them not to turn off the water.

To make a very long story short, here's what happened: the Percivals returned home on May 13 and were startled by two enormous black patches in the middle of South 2nd Street, as well as a huge mound of dug-up cobblestones piled on the sidewalk. Yellow "caution" tape surrounded by tall orange barriers completed what looked like a crime scene.

Linda swiftly called her plumber informing him of the existing scene, but he was surprised, because his company was still awaiting a street closure permit prior to beginning the work. More phone calls and dozens of voice messages later, Linda learned from neighbors that a crew of workers had arrived on

May 11 to dig up the street and sidewalk. Their equipment did not indicate which department they were from. Because of a language barrier, neighbors never learned which utility or city agency they represented. On May 14 Linda phoned both the Streets and Water Departments, but neither claimed responsibility for sending the crew.

Coincidentally, two Water Department workers were digging up the street on May 14, just a few houses south of 304. Linda learned from them that the Philadelphia Gas Works had previously been at the 304 site. But the gas company denied having dug up the street in front of 304, claiming it was the work of the Water Department. Then the Percivals received another notice stating that their "water would be shut off in 24 hours."

At her wit's end, Linda called Councilman DiCiccio's office, because this was now clearly an "emergency." The councilman's office promised to investigate. The next day, on May 15, Linda's hired plumbing contractors arrived to begin their agreed-upon work. Before long, however, representatives from the Water Department, the Streets Department and L&I were all there—because after digging down six feet, the plumbers discovered that new pipes had already been installed. Yet no city utility claimed responsibility for the dig nor for having corrected the violation. Now on the Percival's voice-mail was another message from the Streets Department reminding them to hire a plumber for the repair work!

Meanwhile, the Councilman's investigation revealed that the Streets Department had concerns about "several voids in the 300 block of South 2nd Street," and so they served the notice to 304 for the defective lateral. In addition, the Water Department had two inlet pipes to repair, while the gas company also needed to make a repair to their gas main, all within this block. Therefore, on May 8, the Water Department reported that the Streets Department closed the block because of the hazardous condition. Although the Water Department normally gives homeowners 14 days to make a repair, if a hazard becomes a danger to the public it can issue a "fix in 24 hours" notice, which it did on May 9. Because the hazard wasn't repaired by May 10, however, the Water Department engaged its own plumber and repaired the defect on May 11. Now the Water Department plans to invoice the Percivals for the work.

At press time, the matter of who gets paid for the plumbing work is still outstanding. The Percivals told both their plumber and the Water Department that they would not pay twice for the work that was done, but that they will pay the amount originally agreed upon. So the plumber and the Water Department must negotiate a settlement. The Percivals retained a private bricklayer to restore the broken sidewalk with bricks, at a cost of \$750. The street is still not repaired, while piles of cobblestones are taking up several parking spaces for resident cars. Linda is now in touch with the Highway Department, because she was told this is the only agency authorized to lay down cobblestones. She says, "We never had a water problem in our home, and the road has been sinking for at least ten years."



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-----The Seller's Checklist for the Listing Interview-----

| Key Questions to Ask | Antonio Atacan | Other |
|--|---|-------|
| Have you won any awards? | Yes, I won the Phila. Assn of Realtors Top-Seller award in 1999, 2000 & 2001 | ? |
| Do you have a major website that is used by lots of buyers & ranks on Yahoo, MSN & other engines 1st page? | Yes, I have the <i>only</i> Center City specific multi-award winning website with every MLS home for sale & sold in the past 3 years. It gets over 100,000 hits monthly. All my listings have virtual tours. I am the CyberStar of Philadelphia | ? |
| Do you know Society Hill? | Yes, I am a Society Hill resident & member of the Society Hill Civic Assn. | ? |
| Are you a Top—producer with a proven track record of sales in Center City? | Yes, I sold \$30 million in 2001 & \$27 million in sold & pending sales in 2002, I'm ranked as Prudential's top 100 agents & in the top 1% of Realtors in the US | ? |
| Are you a Multiple Listing Service (mls) member & do your listings virtual tours? | Yes, the MLS services 1000's of Realtors in the tri-state area and is the only source for listings in Realtor.com, the most visited real estate site on the web | ? |
| Do you have references? | Yes, I have dozens of detailed testimonials from past clients on my website | ? |
| Do you have a team of pros to help me 7 days a week? | Yes, I have 5 Buyers Agents & 3 marketing & settlement assistants dedicated to sell my listings for the most money in the least time with the least problems | ? |
| Do you have open houses? | Yes, I have successful, excessively advertised, and well-prepared open houses | ? |
| Do you advertise regularly? | Yes, I advertise extensively in the Inquirer, the Weekly & other publications | ? |
| Do you offer the most possible exposure to potential buyers locally, nationally and world-wide? | Yes, I relentlessly advertise and direct market my listings until they are sold. I have a major presence on the internet so my listings are viewed virtually 24 hours a day & my team of buyers-agents know about & are motivated to show my inventory of listings 7 days a week to qualified buyers who they represent | ? |
| Do you offer a Total 100% Satisfaction Guarantee clause for your clients in your listing contract? | Yes, I guarantee that you will receive unsurpassed services that meet your highest expectations. If you are not thrilled with my efforts to market your home & I cannot resolve it to your satisfaction, the contract may be cancelled | ? |

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Independence Place: Spacious, sunny corner 2 bedroom, 2 bath, w. city & bridge views, eat-in-kitchen, balcony \$605K
606 Waverly: Rare opportunity to customize your **SOLD** home or keep as a duplex & generate income, \$249K
Society Hill: Renovated, historically significant 4 bedroom, 4 b home, 7 fireplcs, garden, deck & original details, \$599K
502 Delaney: 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath contemporary home with **SOLD** garden, 2deck, 2 car garage, and more!!! \$895K

Spring Fling Brings Neighbors Together



On May 29, almost 100 SHCA members gathered at DiPalma's Ristorante & Bar, 114 Market Street, to celebrate spring and meet and greet their neighbors. Many thanks to the restaurant for the wonderful hors d'oeuvres and wine and to event organizer and Social Committee Chair **Michele Plachter** (pictured above, standing between *Reporter* editors **Vicki Chatley** and **Sandy Rothman**). Pictured at right are **Harris Rosen**, President of One Independence Place Condo Association, newly elected Northwest Quadrant Director **Joe Gritz** and **Mitchell Brownstein**.



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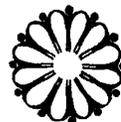
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Shall We Dance?

A new Dance Studio will make its home in the historic Ross House

Remember the grace of Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire as they glided effortlessly through intricate dance steps? Or the sizzle of John Travolta as he swiveled and gyrated in Saturday Night Live? Or the white-hot seductiveness of a tango or samba danced by exotic stars in foreign films? Most of us watch with awe and envy, recalling our less-than-stellar performances at celebratory events when dinner is over and the dancing begins. But now is our chance to change all that with the opening of the Society Hill Dance Academy located in historic Ross House—at the southeast corner of 2nd and Pine Streets, across from Head House Square.

This full-service dance academy, which opened on June 8, will teach classes in Latin, ballroom and social dancing to individuals, groups, adults and children. Director Shana Vitoff will be offering a variety of programs, including wedding dance packages for the bride, groom and bridal party. All sorts of plans are on the

drawing board—even summer dance camp for kids! Shana—who has taught and danced competitively for ten years—has enabled even the typical “klutz” with two left feet to appear respectable on the dance floor as he leads his partner and executes a silvery-smooth waltz.

Shana has assembled a great team of professional dance “aficionados,” which includes Consultant Jeffrey Seder and Marketing Coordinator Suzi F. Garber. They hope the Society Hill Dance Academy will become “the” place for dancing, fun, exercise and camaraderie in a casual yet historic atmosphere: a Federal style house built in 1787 for merchant John Ross, who in 1775 was the “master-muster” of the Pennsylvania Navy.

Suggestions or requests for special dance programs are always welcome. So please feel free to call Shana at 215-574-3574 for more information. Academy hours are Monday through Friday from 1 to 10 p.m. and Saturday by appointment.

Dance Academy Director Shana Vitoff takes her partner for a whirl at the Spring Fling.



Here's What's Cookin'

Local Farmers' Markets

Society Hill is blessed with many amenities—among them excellent restaurants within walking distance and several superior groceries offering a variety of delectable products. During the summer this splendid array is augmented by farmers' markets that sell tasty fresh produce and other goodies.

Some items found at the farmers' markets are not readily available in local stores—but the vendors willingly give preparation and cooking instructions for these lesser-known foods, such as rhubarb and dandelion greens. They also cater to singles, selling in smaller size quantities. Since the purveyor is usually the farmer, specific questions

regarding growing methods can often be answered.

Fresh fruits and vegetables are not the only products available. There are flowers, fresh fish, homemade baked goods, jams and jellies and handmade soap, among others. Not all are found on each visit. Be sure to shop early—latecomers may find a favorite item has sold out.

On Tuesdays between 2 and 4 p.m. a farmers' market can be found on Passyunk, just below South Street. On Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. one is located on 2nd Street between South and Lombard. Different farmers come to each so the selections vary. But it's a fun experience—even if you don't buy anything.

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**Old House Interiors Highlights
Society Hill Home**

The July issue of *Old House Interiors*, a magazine devoted to period-inspired home design, will feature the c.1834 Greek Revival house of neighbors Judy and Palmer Hartl. This unique home, located near 3rd and Locust Streets, is one of the finest in Society Hill and has been showcased in the 2000 and 2002 Society Hill Open House and Garden Tours. Of special interest are the hand-painted trompe l'oeil murals and stencils by local embellisher, C. Barry Marron.

**2002 Society Hill Open House
and Garden Tours**

The Society Hill Open House and Garden Tours attracted 510 attendees on May 5 and June 2. The annual events benefit the Friends of Independence National Historical Park and the Society Hill Civic Association, which receives two-thirds of the net proceeds. This year's tours should net \$8500. Co-Chairs Martha Levine and Linda Skale thank all the neighbors who volunteered their exceptional homes and gardens. And thanks to all those neighbors who offered to house-sit (and garden-sit) and to St. Peter's Church and the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania for donating their facilities for the starting points.

**The Young Friends of
Independence Park Want You!**

The Young Friends of Independence Park is a newly formed group of professionals involved in fund raising projects to benefit the park. We are volunteers who meet once a month for about an hour to plan fun events in the Society Hill area. New members are welcome. Please call Jacqueline Shultz at 215-928-1188 to become involved.

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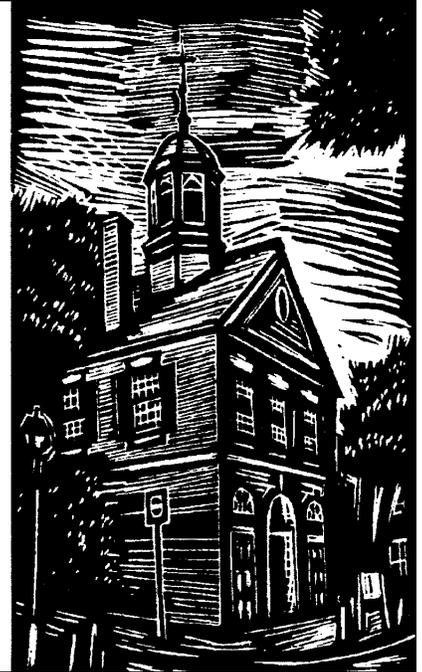
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NOTEWORTHY NEIGHBORS

Baruch and Jean Blumberg

In life—as in marriage—the right chemistry can make all the difference.

You might think that winning a Nobel Prize for a discovery that has saved countless lives would be reason enough to rest on one's laurels—to quit while you're ahead, so to speak.

But after receiving the 1976 Nobel Prize for Medicine for the discovery of the virus that causes Hepatitis B, an inflammatory liver disease, and developing the vaccine that prevents it, Dr. Baruch Blumberg never slowed down. In fact, as director of NASA's Astrobiology Institute for the past three years, he has moved from saving life to probing its very origins. The Institute's mission statement is no less than the study of human evolution, and the distribution and destiny of life on earth and in the universe.

Interviewed in the more sub-astral environment of their pleasant home on Lawrence Court, Barry (as his wife, Jean, calls him) and Jean spoke animatedly yet unassumingly about the extraordinary lives they have led—and continue to lead into their seventies.

After graduating from Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1951, Baruch earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry at Oxford. Three decades later, he would hold the prestigious appointment of master of that university's venerable Balliol College, which, speaking of life's origins, was founded in 1263. After working on population biochemical

genetics at the National Institutes of Health, Blumberg became associate director of clinical research at Fox Chase Cancer Center, where he made the discovery that won that illustrious prize and where he still puts in time today. To date, more than 1.5 billion vaccinations against the virus have been given—in many countries, including the U. S., they are mandatory.

Jean Blumberg is an accomplished artist, whose colorful abstract works grace the walls of their home and have been shown in galleries internationally. She graduated from Case Western Reserve University in chemistry and biology. But she opted for art, otherwise—who knows—it might have been both she and her husband who would collect the coveted Nobel.

The couple describes the Nobel ceremonies in Sweden with enthusiasm, humor, and no hint of self-importance. It was an eight-day bash attended by a virtual planeload of their relatives; but it was also a kind of world championship for the United States, with Americans Saul Bellow taking the literature prize and Milton Friedman claiming the prize for economics. King Carl Gustav XVI presented the awards, all of the laureates gave speeches about their work, and then there were the dinners—followed by one party after another.

During the course of his career Baruch taught medical anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania, which is among 23 institutions to have awarded him honorary degrees.

The Blumbergs have two sons, two daughters and seven grandchildren. When not working at the sciences or the arts, they repair to their cattle farm in Maryland and enjoy music, theater, and the outdoors. This couple describes Society Hill, where they've lived for more than 30 years, as "a real community." Whenever they return from their travels, they agree, it takes ages to unpack the car, simply because the neighbors are there—to describe their own adventures and "catch up" with the Blumbergs.

—DAVID WOODS



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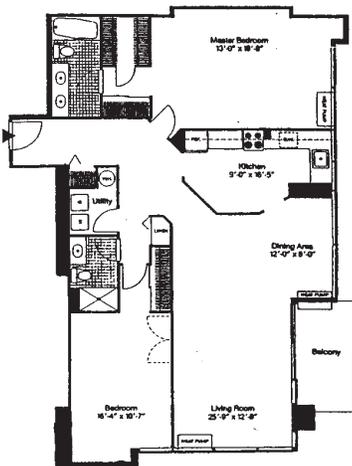
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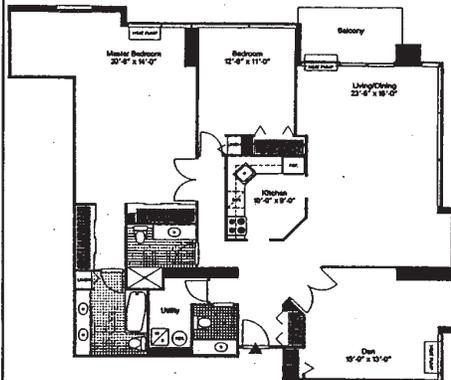
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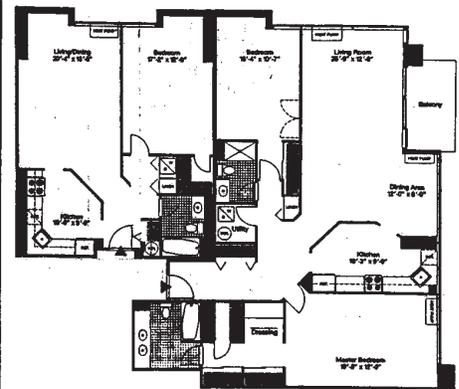
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