

SOCIETY HILL

# Reporter

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## B'nai Abraham Will Host September Meetings

Come and tour B'nai Abraham, the only house of worship in Society Hill originally built as a synagogue.

The Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) has been invited to conduct its September General Membership Meeting in one of Society Hill's most beautiful and historic synagogues—B'nai Abraham, at 521-527 Lombard Street. On Wednesday evening, September 18, the program will offer both inspiration and information, so we expect to fill the large sanctuary with association regulars. But we also hope to see many new faces—for example, those of you who don't ordinarily attend SHCA meetings. Let us now whet your appetite with "two cents plain," otherwise known as seltzer water, so you will know what to expect at the meeting.

The General Membership Meeting, open to all Society Hill residents, will begin promptly at 7 p.m. Participants will be given a brief tour of B'nai Abraham, dedicated in 1910, the only house of worship in Society Hill originally built as a synagogue. The building features a dazzling Byzantine facade that incorporates Roman, Jewish, Moorish and American elements, expressing the collective history of the Jewish people. Rabbi Yochonon Goldman will welcome us, and Harry D. Boonin, author and guide, will give us a tour of the building's impressive architecture.

Following a welcome from SHCA President Malcolm Lazin and brief reports from committee chairs, we will hear from James Cuorato, Commerce Director for the City of Philadelphia. Jim will bring us up to date on several development issues, including the Foglietta Plaza planning charrette, which is intended to bring new life to this under-used parcel of land at Spruce and Front Streets. Jim will report on two Department of Commerce grants totaling \$15,000 that SHCA recently received. (See page 3 for more about the grants.)

Jim will likely describe the city's plans for a new addition to the Convention Center, and we hope to learn more about plans for Penn's Landing, now that the Simon Group has officially withdrawn its option to develop the property. The Please Touch Museum is still expected to be part of the development, as is the aerial tram connecting Camden and Philadelphia currently under construction by the Delaware River Port Authority. The city must now reassess the best use for this riverfront property, and we hope to learn from Jim what the alternative plans entail and ensure that the needs and desires of residents and visitors alike will be considered.

<b>WED.</b>	<b>MARK YOUR CALENDAR</b>
Sept <b>18</b>	Society Hill Civic Association Meetings Wednesday, September 18, 2002
	B'nai Abraham Synagogue, Main Sanctuary 521-527 Lombard Street
<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b> All SHCA members are welcome to attend.
<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>General Membership Meeting</b> Meet Your Neighbors and Tour Historic Synagogue. All Society Hill residents are welcome to attend.
<b>7:30 pm</b>	<b>Business Meeting and Program Begins</b>



**September 11, 2001**

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# Reporter

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Deadline for next issue:  
Editorial: October 15  
Advertising: October 10

**Editorial Board**

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Vicki Chatley  
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Signed letters to the Editor  
are always welcome and  
may be published.

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### Stork Makes A Two-Point Landing

The Society Hill stork has been especially busy in the Southeast Quadrant this summer. First delivery went to the Rourke family on July 26. Recently elected Quadrant Director Tania, her husband, Tom, and 2-year-old Grace happily welcomed Abbie Capshaw Rourke, 6 lbs. 10 oz., to their

Delancey Street home. And on August 11, the big bird dropped another bundle at the home of Quadrant Director Kelly Nelson and Ray Quaglia. Sister Sophie, age 2, is delighted with brother Adam Nelson Quaglia, who weighed in at 8 lbs. 6 oz. Our best wishes to both families!

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# SHCA Goes to Court Over Zoning Issue



**Malcolm Lazin**  
President

## The Zoning Board of Adjustment decision will be appealed in the Court of Common Pleas.

For much of my professional life — starting in the U.S. Attorney’s Office where I chaired the Pennsylvania Crime Commission and also as a litigation partner in private practice — my advice has been never to litigate without compelling reason. Litigation is expensive, emotionally draining and by its very nature, adversarial. It is far better to reach a fair compromise. However, one compelling exception is to serve public policy.

Normally it is Society Hill Civic Association’s policy not to litigate. We have limited resources. We have achieved good results without litigation. Now, however, the Board, at the request of our Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee (ZHP) and with my full support, has authorized retention of counsel to appeal to the Court of Common Pleas the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) decision which allows developer John Turchi, Inc. to convert 400 Walnut Street from an office building into a 67-unit residential complex without providing on-site or contiguous parking. Philadelphia’s zoning code requires that parking be provided for new residential units. Turchi undertook renovation without sharing plans with the Association and failed to post its building permit disclosing plans to change its use.

Parking is a major concern for Society Hill. We learned of the developer’s plans when it attempted to get a variance to construct a penthouse on a currently undeveloped roof. Turchi, through attorneys Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, took the position that it only needs a variance for the penthouse, claiming that no variance is needed for the commercial-to-residential conversion.

Our ZHP committee opposes any variance for a penthouse or conversion without a provision for parking. The ZBA approved the conversion

subject to the developer providing off-site parking, such as at the Bourse garage. We believe that ZBA’s decision is in violation of the zoning code. From a practical standpoint, we doubt tenants will park blocks away — even if a long-term lease for 67 parking spaces was possible. The tenants’ impact on Society Hill’s already limited street parking would be a disaster.

Almost across the street from 400 Walnut is The Willings, which, like virtually every other new or converted residential complex, built underground parking. The proposed development plans for converting the Lippincott Building on Washington Square also provide for underground parking.

Community interest and sound public policy are nonnegotiable. We have retained respected zoning specialist Joe Beller, who is providing his services at a substantially reduced rate. We thank the Philadelphia Contributionship for donating to our legal costs, and we are grateful to Paul Boni, chair of our ZHP Committee, for his *pro bono* legal services.

On another issue, I am very pleased to report a \$100,000 grant from State Representative Marie Lederer, principally for the Foglietta Plaza charrette concept implementation. The association also received a Department of Economic Community Development grant of \$5,000 through her office. We thank Representative Lederer for her invaluable support. In addition, \$5,000 came from Senator Vincent Fumo’s office, \$5,000 from the Penn’s Landing Corporation, and \$15,000 from the city’s Commerce Department — for a grand total of \$30,000 toward the charrette — for which we are very grateful.

As reflected in the *Reporter*, the Civic Association continues to be very active on your behalf. And as always, my appreciation goes out to members, our capable Board, our Block Coordinators and all volunteers for your dedicated commitment to America’s First Neighborhood.

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Roger Moss and  
Gail Winkler



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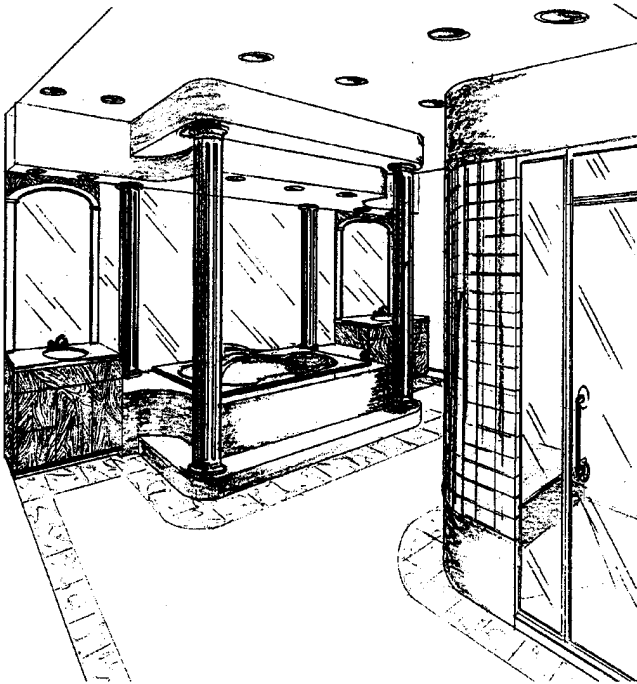
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L' SHANA TOVA

# Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur Mark "Days of Awe"

The Days of Awe, beginning this year on Rosh Hashana (from sunset September 6 to sundown September 8) and ending on Yom Kippur (from sundown September 15 to sundown September 26) are the most solemn days of the lunar-based Jewish calendar. Rosh Hashana (literally, The New Year — now the year 5763 and still counting!) is an annual affirmation of our covenant with God, and acknowledgment of God as creator. Yom Kippur (literally The Day of Atonement) is the day on which we confess our sins and wrongdoing. We fast for 25 hours (no food or liquids) as we repent and resolve to better our lives.

Many people associate these Days of Awe with words like sin, transgression, judgment and repentance — associations that make many of us uncomfortable. Yet in distancing ourselves from these traditional categories, we may have inadvertently thrown out the baby with the bath water. For the true accent of these days is renewal, rebirth and redemption. In our discomfort with sin, transgression and judgment,

we tend to lose sight of the fourth category — the one that opens the way to renewal and rebirth — repentance, an inadequate translation of the Hebrew term *Tshuva* meaning turning or returning. To repent is not only an acknowledgment of our shortcomings, it is, just as importantly, an affirmation of faith in the possibilities of growth and change, of reflection and renewal and of hope and commitment.

In the shadow of 9/11, in the shadow of a terrible Middle Eastern conflict and resurgent anti-Semitism in Europe and the Middle East, in the shadow of large-scale corporate fraud and greed, we need to recover this faith. This capacity for self-renewal transcends any given historical circumstance. Indeed, according to Jewish tradition, this capacity for renewal and transformation is woven into the very fabric of the universe. To change and grow and transform oneself is a powerful observation of profound faith and optimism. May these holy days inspire us to recover that faith.

—RABBI AVI WINOKUR, *Society Hill Synagogue*



**The sounding of the Shofar is an important part of the High Holy Day service.** Detail of a 1732 woodcut.



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OPINION

# “Greek” Revelry on South Street Is No Picnic

The South Street Mini-Station is fully back on track. Lt. John A. Walker has been returned to his former command of the station. The change occurred in time for Greek Picnic 2002 during the weekend of July 13. Walker and his troops were well prepared with exceptional police presence. Officers were stationed at every corner along South Street — on bikes, on horseback, in vehicles and on foot. To keep crowds under control, the patrol included Lombard and Bainbridge Streets.

Compared with previous years, most Society Hill residents found the weekend to be relatively quiet. Although the peace was interrupted by boom boxes, noisy cars and motorcycles, as well as the exuberant sounds of late night revelers, it was substantially quieter this year because television news helicopters were not constantly hovering overhead. For this major improvement, we thank Senator Vincent Fumo’s community liaison staffer, Carl Engelke, who spent many hours on the phone with television stations to assure we would not be deluged with chopper noises such as we experienced last year. News stations were warned they would be penalized if they did not comply with Federal Aviation Administration standards restricting them from flying below 3,000 feet. (Police and air traffic control helicopters generated what noises you heard.)

Lt. Walker reported that there appeared to be more people attending the Greek Picnic this summer than ever before, although numbers were estimated. A total of 26 arrests were made over the entire weekend. In previous Greek Picnic events, more than 100 arrests were made over the course of a weekend. Nevertheless, most businesses were forced to close for the two-day period, resulting in a serious loss of revenue.

How did residents react to this weekend of inconvenience and disruption? The Greek Picnic took its toll on our community in multiple ways. For example, SHCA Board Director Bruce LeBuhn and his wife woke up on Saturday, July 13 to see portable toilets installed in front of their home. After making numerous phone calls to various city agencies and also to Councilman Frank DiCicco’s office, these installations were relocated from the 300 block of South 2nd Street—but they were moved around the corner to Pine Street and still adjacent to the LeBuhn residence! Several

frustrating calls and a few hours later, these facilities were at last installed at historic Head House Square. Not exactly a pristine location for these unattractive utilities — but at least a more appropriate site than blocking the entrance to a neighbors’ home!

The prevailing sentiment in our community and others directly affected by events such as the Greek Picnic and Mardi Gras is that they not only cause trouble, but are costly to the city’s budget. Residents make no distinction between the two; both interfere with our peace and welfare. Nor do they add anything to the city’s bottom line. Police overtime and other additional city services increase expenditures; yet insufficient business is generated to cover costs and justify allowing them to continue. Greek Picnic is an especially serious loss for restaurants, because it occurs on Saturday, the night that usually covers their weekly overhead costs.

Recently Councilman DiCicco completed a review of the Greek Picnic and Mardi Gras events. He said, “After years of trying unsuccessfully to adjust and readjust so that these two events can be, at the very least, tolerable to our communities, it is obvious that we’ve failed. I believe, therefore, that this is probably the time for us to take a more aggressive position against the city’s sponsorship of these events.” DiCicco is now leading a new community-wide initiative. The article on page 8 describes an alliance that is currently being formed to develop a direct method of communication among residents, businesses and the directors of government agencies.

**It’s time to end city sponsorship of disruptive events like the Greek Picnic and Mardi Gras.**

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-----**Rosh Hashanah Services**-----

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Sat.	Sept. 7	8:00A.M. & 7:00 P.M.
Sun.	Sept. 8	8:00A.M. & 7:00 PM

-----**Kippur Services**-----

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Mon. Yom Kippur	Sept. 16	8:00 A.M. All Day

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## Quarterly Forum to Address South Street Issues

Residents and businesses have been conditioned to expect little from city authorities. When trying to reach the person in charge at any agency or office, we can be caught up in a Kafkaesque bureaucracy. If and when a live person from a city agency returns our call, that person often passes the buck, telling us that we've reached the wrong office. To make matters worse, if one agency must communicate with another, we can often wait weeks or even months to find a resolution.

Often our elected officials must intervene on our behalf. Councilman DiCicco and Senator Vincent Fumo have been called upon so frequently by frustrated residents and businesses that they are working with community activists to establish a new initiative to create effective and speedy communication that will provide reasonable and swift resolution of conflicts, as well as eliminate the lack of accountability among city and state agencies.

This new initiative will be a quarterly forum giving private and public parties the opportunity to review issues related to South Street and its nearby residential neighborhoods. Participants will include community and business representatives, elected and appointed city officials, as well as several departmental heads — e.g. L&I, Police, Commerce, as well as the Managing Director's office. Participation is also expected by Pennsylvania's Liquor Control Board and the Pennsylvania State Police.

Currently unnamed, this proactive task force will communicate at the "top," addressing major issues such as Mardi Gras, Greek Picnic, or the recent changing of the guard at the police mini-station. General safety and security concerns, as well as long-term goals for our community will be addressed. The forum should be up and running by early fall and promises to make a positive difference in the future.

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## Coalition of Neighborhood Associations is Reborn

That there is strength in numbers was evident on July 10 when more than 70 people, representing civic and TownWatch associations from all over Philadelphia, gathered in Center City at the Friends Select School with the goal of reinstating the Coalition of Philadelphia Neighborhood Associations (CPNA).

Colleen Puckett, president of the Queen Village Neighbors Association, convened the meeting hoping to gauge interest in reestablishing the organization, founded in 1995 in response to the threat of riverboat gambling along the city's waterfront, which was killed through CPNA's actions. Recently, it was decided that a large group of voters from a broad, citywide coalition would again get the attention of city leaders. In addition, such a coalition would serve as a source of information for communities all across the city.

Feedback at this meeting was positive and enthusiastic. Neighborhood leaders and community activists, representing 32 different civic groups, discussed CPNA's structure and future goals. Interest in helping one another with zoning and L&I enforcement issues was expressed. Also, the coalition expects to play

an important role in the next election cycle. Lively applause greeted Ed Goppelt— founder of the City Hall watchdog website [hallwatch.org](http://hallwatch.org) — when he offered to help the coalition set up its own CPNA website. Goppelt's website is a resource for anyone dealing with Philadelphia's City Council.

At SHCA's July 2002 Board meeting, members voted to rejoin CPNA, as we had been an original partner in opposition to the riverfront gambling proposal. We now expect to continue working together for the betterment of our neighborhood and Philadelphia as a whole.



### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO A TREASURED NEIGHBOR!**

We're happy to report that Charles E. Peterson has returned home from a recent hospital stay in time to celebrate his 96th birthday on August 23! One of our community's original pioneers and a legend in his own time, Charlie single-handedly led a

spirited campaign to name our community "Society Hill" in the early 1960s — when the prevailing wisdom preferred "Washington Square East." Happy Birthday Charlie!! So glad you're feeling better...and we're glad to live on the hill!!

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# Home Ownership – A Double-Edged Sword

## The privileges and responsibilities of ownership go hand-in-hand.

For many people, owning a home is the American Dream come true. Positives of home ownership far outweigh negatives — the federal income tax deduction on mortgage interest tops the list. Among other advantages is the sheer pleasure factor. For each of us, as the saying goes, “our home is our castle” and we are each the king or queen of our personal fiefdom. But home ownership is not without rules, restrictions and regulations that may involve financial responsibilities to the owner. Moral responsibilities play a part, too. Neighbors need to be good neighbors, but simple as that truism would seem to be, as Mark Twain put it: “Nothing so needs reforming as other people’s habits.”

The *Reporter* will run a series of articles reviewing the responsibilities and liabilities of home ownership. In our investigation of city laws on the books we contacted several agencies and politicians. Amazingly, the Mayor’s Action Center, Councilman DiCicco’s office and other city departments state that, to their collective knowledge, no single document exists that clearly delineates homeowner responsibilities and rules that can help us to be good neighbors.

As a result of our investigative queries, Councilman DiCicco has recognized the need to compile a guidebook on the subject, which his staff will begin assembling. Meanwhile, you may call his office at 215-686-3458 if you have general questions. For specific questions, call either your insurance company, the appropriate

city office or utility, or even an attorney. Laws, such as they exist, regarding owner responsibilities are subject to interpretation and cannot be assumed to be legally binding or correct. Our series begins with the following two topics:

• **Trees**

If a tree is wholly on your property (e.g. the sidewalk in front of your home), you own it, whether or not you planted it. Owners are responsible for a tree’s overall health; its root system, which can loosen or damage brick pavement; and its branches that may hang over a neighbor’s yard or crash against a neighbor’s window. Damage from your tree — for example, from use of chemical sprays — is your liability. If your tree or a part of it (e.g. a falling branch) harms a person, woe to you. Needless to say, if a tree on your property dies, you must promptly have it removed.

• **Sidewalks and Pavements**

You are responsible if a passerby trips and is hurt on your property’s sidewalk because of loose bricks or damaged pavement (which may be caused by a tree’s growing roots). Snow or ice removal from the sidewalk and steps is a homeowner’s responsibility. Technically, Philadelphia’s Streets Department requires you to remove snow or ice within six hours after the weather event ends — so use common sense and shovel the areas in a timely fashion. It is a good idea to have someone tend to your snow and ice removal if you are to be away.

We hope that home ownership continues to be joyful, not burdensome for you. And please try to be the neighbor you’d want to live near.



**It is a homeowner’s responsibility to remove a dead tree from his or her property.**

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**Then...**

The Merchants Exchange is pictured in 1848 in this lithograph by Derooy after Augustus Kollner.

**NEW LIFE FOR MERCHANTS EXCHANGE BUILDING**

**...and Now**

Independence National Historical Park has recently moved its headquarters to the historic Philadelphia Merchants Exchange at Third and Walnut Streets. This Greek Revival gem, designed in 1831 by renowned architect William Strickland, has been

sitting vacant for years. Beautifully restored, it now houses the park's archives, as well as all administrative offices. At the dedication speech in 1832, Solicitor John Kane remarked, "The building which we have founded shall stand

among the relics of antiquities, another memorial to posterity of the skill of its architect — and proof of the liberal spirit and cultivated taste, which, in our days, distinguish the mercantile community." This seems as appropriate today as it was then.



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Philadelphia Veterans Honored

Korean War Memorial is Dedicated

They came by the hundreds — veterans and their wives, children and grandchildren, black, white and Asian, on a sunny Saturday in June to remember their comrades. They came to the 38th Parallel Place (once a part of Dock Street) to dedicate the Korean War Memorial honoring Philadelphia veterans who died or who are still missing 49 years after the end of the so-called “Police Action” or “Forgotten War” that began on June 25, 1950. They came, after years of discussion, politicking and fundraising, to see the fruits of their efforts, a four-column, black-granite monument symbolizing the four years of the war. Frank Vitella, chief architect for the project, described the memorial as having a “tomb-like feeling.” He explained that there is a symbolic axis, the 38th Parallel, with a lone tree that signifies hope for peace. The monument took over ten years to complete, delayed by lack of funds. Veterans groups held bake sales, raffles and other activities to raise the needed \$600,000. Mayor Street made note of the city’s contribution — that final amount needed when volunteer efforts fell short. Dignitaries from Korea attended, as well as members of Philadelphia City Council.

Ed Herr, a Philadelphia vet dressed in khakis, remarked that the Korean War was the first attempt to stop Communist aggression — to draw the line in the sand, so to speak, at the 38th Parallel. It was about time, he said, that generations after him remembered the Korean War vets’ contributions. Looking around the crowd, one could see veterans proudly displaying their ribbons and medals.

Thus the Korean War Memorial joins other important monuments in Society Hill dedicated to America’s war dead: the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the burial ground for Revolutionary War soldiers in Washington Square. This newest memorial has added significance. The Korean War was the first conflict fought with desegregated armed forces. Two years before its start, on July 26, 1948, President Harry S. Truman desegregated all branches of the armed services by executive order. Though the took effect immediately, change was gradual. But by the end of the Korean War, the services were integrated. It is fitting to honor members of the Philadelphia contingent who gave their lives with this monument.

The new Korean War Memorial was dedicated in June.



Neighborhood Updates

**2nd Street Repaired at Last**

Restoration and replacement of the granite cobblestones on the 300 block of South 2nd Street was completed during the weeks of July 15 - 23, after that block had been intermittently closed for a variety of “hazardous conditions.” Water-main problems and sewer violations were claimed by both the city’s Water and Streets Departments, which operated independently, while other agen-

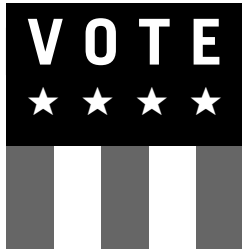
cies such as L&I and the Philadelphia Gas Works were also caught up in this bureaucratic maze that lasted for two months.

Thanks to the “emergency” intervention of Councilman DiCicco’s Chief of Staff, the cast of characters representing different city departments was at last narrowed down, so that timely and proper repairs to the pavement were made by Water Department contractors.

**NewMarket Development Stalled**

The NewMarket Neighborhood Association, reports that “the hotel investors” which refers to Harry Smith (actor Will’s brother) and Portman Associates (the development firm whose chief business architect for this project is Roger Zampell) will have no more news on progress of the so-called “Will Smith Property” and the NewMarket site until January 2003.

## Every Vote Will Count on November 5

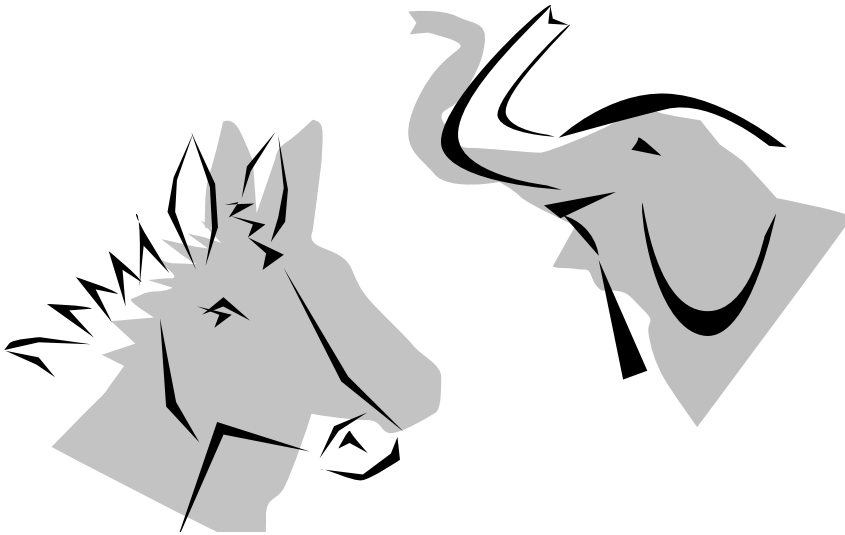


The results of last May's primary tell us that Southeastern Pennsylvania's voters can and do strongly influence election results — *when* they get out and vote. A look at the statistics shows that Ed Rendell's victory over Bill Casey in the Democratic primary for Governor was a direct result of voter turnout in Philadelphia (37%) and the four surrounding counties (36.4%).

You would think turnout would be significantly greater in our community, with its high levels of education, income, and interest in civic affairs. But you would be wrong. In the 18th Ward of the 5th Division, where Society Hill residents vote at the Salvation Army daycare center on 3rd Street, Peggy Davies was judge of elections for 18 years. She kept voter turnout statistics for many of those elections. Since 1992, average turnout has been just 40%. Turnout for the May 2002 primary was 39%.

If you want to see Southeastern Pennsylvania's interests advanced in the general election this fall, do your part and vote on November 5. You will have the opportunity to cast your ballot for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, State Representative and State Senator. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The last day to register is October 8. Pick up a registration form at the Independence Branch Library, at any post office or state store, or in City Hall's Room 142. Fill out the form and mail it in. It's that easy — and that important.



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COMMENTARY

# Agitation: A Philadelphia Tradition

Admit it! If you are a Society Hill resident, chances are you're an agitator, if not an outright activist. It seems to be a common characteristic we share. And, yes, it does make us pesky and aggravate those we agitate — often government officials and real estate developers — as those are the groups that have the power to change the environment in which we live.

We choose to live in Society Hill because it offers the amenities we are seeking. The attraction may be proximity to culture, shopping and restaurants or living in an area steeped in history or the fact that residents care about their neighborhood. And because we care, we fight to protect the historic fabric of our section of Philadelphia, to enhance existing common spaces and to better the quality of everyday life.

But our complaints are entwined with suggestions for improvement and a cooperative spirit to work with government and others to achieve worthwhile goals. No, we aren't always right. But we stir up the pot, encouraging open discussion. And through discussion, a variety of options

are explored, increasing the likelihood that the optimum decision will be reached.

What would Mardi Gras and the Greek Picnic be like without our involvement? These events are far from perfect, but they now have a less negative impact on the neighborhood than in prior years. Through our Civic Association we strive to ensure that new construction and major renovations will blend with the architectural heritage that makes Society Hill a visual delight. Sometimes the Civic Association takes the lead in promoting a project, as is occurring now with Foglietta Plaza. Often we provide consultation and input.

So be proud of being a "nudge." It promotes clean streets and freedom from graffiti. It results in Franklin lamps made more colorful with decorative flower baskets. It insures that public spaces, such as Washington Square, will meet the needs of residents as well as tourists. And if you are on the receiving end of our agitation, remember that we are concerned with maintaining the vibrancy of Society Hill, and the ultimate result will benefit you, as well as us.

## Tuesday is Market Day!



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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## St. James/York Row Project

In the May/June issue of the *Reporter* we ran a piece critical of the developers' custodianship of three Federal-era row houses adjacent to the PSFS building. The developers, Alan Casnoff and Peter Shaw of P&A Associates, replied to that article in a letter to the editors, dated May 22, 2002.

**To the Editors:**

We are the developers of the St. James apartment complex which is under construction on the block surrounded by 7th Street, Walnut Street, 8th Street and St. James Street. We are very concerned about an article which appeared in the May/June 2002, *Society Hill Reporter* which set forth certain alleged facts concerning the preservation of the facades of the York Row townhouses which are situated on Walnut Street. The article stated that, "Peter and Alan Casnoff of P&A Associates... have failed to take necessary steps to preserve the architectural features of three Federal-era row buildings on Walnut Street.... Recently, it was discovered that the contractors planned to discard original shutters, doors and window and replace them with 'in-kind' materials."

That statement is factually incorrect. We have always confirmed to anyone who asked that our construction contracts require that the York Row townhouse facades remain and that we will preserve all of their architectural features to the extent that they are in condition to be preserved. Not only is that what our contracts provide, but it is our intention and commitment to retain and restore the original shutters, doors and windows. It would appear that most, if not all, of the original shutters, doors and windows will be preservable.

The article further states that we entered into an agreement with the Civic Association on this subject. We have not entered into any agreement with the Society Hill Civic Association, so we are unclear as to what this statement refers to. As developers, we have always been committed and remain committed to historic preservation. A review of our other historic projects throughout the city (the Wallace Building, the Corn Exchange

Building) will clearly indicate to everyone that we have a long-standing commitment to quality historic preservation.

In conversation with various individuals in the Society Hill Civic Association, including Malcolm Lazin, Matt DeJulio, Bernice Hamel and Paul Boni, we have indicated our frustration, not with the fact that the article was written, but rather that before the article was written, no one contacted us to determine whether any of the allegations set forth within the article were accurate. We were made to look like villains trying to "put one on" the community. Everyone is asked to watch us and report our violations. In fact, the writer of the article admitted that she had no first-hand knowledge of the facts. Someone told her what she then transcribed as gospel.

It is interesting to note that the Department of Licenses and Inspections received several calls from Society Hill neighbors concerned about the construction approach being used with the York Row Townhouses. Department inspectors visited the site and assured us that they agree with the construction approaches we are using.

We hope in the future that anyone who has concerns about any aspect of the St. James development will contact us personally so that we may explain to them what our position is with respect to their concerns. We want to be good neighbors, to be treated fairly by the neighborhood, and to produce a quality development for the neighborhood and the city. We hope that when the St. James is completed everyone will agree that our mission has been accomplished.

Very truly yours,  
Peter L. Shaw and Alan E. Casnoff

**The Editors Respond:**

In previous *Reporter* articles describing the St. James we have praised the ambitious development which will combine re-use of historical buildings with new construction resulting in a 47-story residential tower providing 307 rental units, all with on-site parking, as well as adjacent offices, retail spaces and a destination restaurant.

Our primary concern in the May/June article was to encourage P&A Associates to use every effort and means available to protect and retain York Row's architectural heritage. We will never know whether or to what extent deterioration of the buildings' facades occurred during the decades-long era of irresponsible owner-

ship, or if their deterioration was exacerbated during the brief period the current developers have owned the property.

Society Hill's long-term renewal and harmony depend on the advocacy of its dedicated volunteers, including those who have monitored or questioned elements in the St. James project. If the community's passion for preservation has harmed P&A's reputation in the slightest, we most sincerely apologize. That was not our intention. We have always applauded their initiative in this impressive undertaking, and we look forward to the project's successful completion, which will greatly improve this corner of our city.



ZONING & HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Society Hill's Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee (ZHP) continues to work with property owners in the neighborhood. As always, the committee urges owners to present their plans to the ZHP before applying for approvals from the Historical Commission or variances from the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA). Presentations can be arranged by contacting committee chair Paul Boni at 215-989-0034 or paulboni@bonilaw.com; or SHCA administrator Matthew DeJulio at 215-629-1288 or matthew.dejulio@gte.net.

Please note that ZHP's remaining meetings for the year 2002 are scheduled for September 9, October 14, November 18 and December 9. If you're interested in participating, please contact SHCA's office, at 215-629-1288, for time and place.

**Project Notes**

• *524 Delancey Street*

Architects representing the owner of this two-story property made a presentation to the ZHP at our regularly scheduled July 15 meeting. At the committee's invitation, several members of the neighborhood also attended. The plans for this property include the construction of a third story — meant to restore a third story destroyed by a fire many years ago. The ZHP voted to provide a letter of support for the project.

• *400-414 Walnut Street*

The ZHP has decided to appeal the Zoning Board's decision to the Court of Common Pleas. A more detailed report is provided in the President's Message on page 3. The committee thanks the Philadelphia Contributionship ([www.contributionship.com](http://www.contributionship.com)) for contributing (pun intended!) to our legal fund for this litigation.

• *Bookbinders*

At a special ZHP meeting held on July 1, the owner, Mr. John Taxin, and his development team presented to committee members and representatives of the Society Hill Towers Association its ambitious redevelopment plans. These plans include consolidation and upgrading of the historic restaurant building and new construction of a residential tower along the north side of the property on 2nd Street. On-site parking is proposed for the project's residents. After hearing the presentation, the ZHP decided to grant the owner a letter of support. Taxin indicates that he has obtained the necessary zoning variances.

• *342 S. 5th Street*

For our regularly scheduled July 15 meeting, this owner submitted plans for the renovation of a rooftop deck and railing. The ZHP will provide a letter of support for the project.

• *Man Full of Trouble Tavern*

We are pleased to report that the building's owner, the University of Pennsylvania, intends to make all repairs and renovations to the "Troubled Tavern" as historically accurate as possible. Penn has agreed to reconsider their original plans for installing a new gutter system, opposed by our committee, because it was an exterior design element that did not replicate the original gutter. When all plans are finally agreed upon by both Penn and ZHP, we expect that Penn will begin its work.

Paul Boni, committee chair, held an informal status meeting with neighbors and representatives of the Society Hill Towers Association. The Towers Association kindly treated all attendees to a wonderful barbeque dinner.

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CONDO CORNER

## Penn's Landing Square

"Condo Corner" will bring you up to date on condo news and describe the historical and architectural features of the distinctive condominium and high-rise associations located throughout Society Hill. We hope to strengthen the relationship among all our community's residents — whether row home or apartment dwellers.

Within the understated exterior of Penn's Landing Square there are 110 homes connected by sidewalks, numerous lovely gardens, soft lights, a swimming pool, an activities room, and remarkable views of the Ben Franklin Bridge across the Delaware River. "Our oldest resident is 91 years young," says Manager Winnie Gregg, "and we have newborns and toddlers, as well. We are home to empty-nesters, newlyweds, singles and retirees. People choose to live here for years, and it is not unusual for owners to purchase a second unit."

Penn's Landing Square was designed by Philadelphia architect Louis Sauer and built during 1971-72. It has won numerous design awards. Architects and students from around the globe still come to tour the complex and admire its contemporary design—in an historic urban setting, with extensive gardens, access to outdoor space, and underground (and oh-so-loved) residential garage.

According to Philadelphia tradition, one percent of the budget was allocated to art,

and Christopher Ray created sculptures representing the seasons which hang on the outside gates. Later, the owners of 122 Spruce commissioned Mr. Ray to design and sculpt the entrance gate to their home.

The corner of 2nd and Spruce Streets was once the old Food Distribution Center. Before that, in Philadelphia's earliest years, Nicholas Moore lived in some portion of this land. Moore was the organizer of the Society of Free Traders, a project founded by William Penn. The Society's mission was to build industrial and commercial facilities and promote trade, and its headquarters were on a very slight elevation near Pine and Front Streets — providing our neighborhood with its original name, "the Society's Hill."

Penn's Landing Square prides itself on its commitment to being a viable part of the neighborhood and being a good neighbor. The condominium complex is a member of the Society Hill Civic Association, as are many individual residents.



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## Who's Been Messing With Our Park?

A representative of the Friends of Three Bears Park — that wonderful oasis nestled between Delancey and Cypress Streets at 3rd and 4th Streets — recently addressed the Society Hill Civic Association with some concerns. After dark this playground, designed for infants and toddlers, has become a gathering place for a group of decidedly older “kids.” Some simply congregate and disperse quickly, while others may have unlawful intent.

Damages range from mild (removable chalk graffiti, cigarette butts and litter) to serious vandalism (slicing the steel-reinforced toddler swings, throwing raw eggs on play surfaces and urinating on the slides). Calls to the police — both 911 and the local mini-station — have met with limited response and insufficient patrolling of the park at night.

Cooperation is needed among neighbors, the Civic Association, the Friends of Three Bears Park and local authorities to resolve these issues. Insufficient lighting, for example, was deemed a major problem and will be addressed soon by the Friends — an independent, self-supporting neighborhood organization committed to improving the park's quality of life for families, children and visitors.

If you see unacceptable activity there, be sure to report it to the police. Also please direct your park questions to Jocelyn Jenik, chair of the Friends of Three Bears Park at 215-629-1165 or JJENIK@aol.com.



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NOTABLE NEIGHBOR FROM THE PAST

# Lorenzo Da Ponte, Mozart Librettist

This intriguing “man of the world” once called Delancey Street home.



**The 500 Block of Delancey Street was once home for Lorenzo Da Ponte, Mozart's librettist**

During the year 1818-1819, the Italian poet Lorenzo Da Ponte (1749-1838), was a Philadelphia resident who lived on what is now the 500 block of Delancey Street. Da Ponte, best known as Mozart's librettist, is listed in the 1819 city [Philadelphia] directory as a “French instructor.” Da Ponte's address during this time period shows up as #27 Powell. Powell Street existed as a single city block on what is currently the 500 block of Delancey Street. Some would say that he lived at what is now 529 Delancey, but of that we cannot be certain.

Lorenzo Da Ponte was an intriguing character. Born Jewish, he converted (with his family) to Roman Catholicism at age 14 and adopted the local bishop's name, Da Ponte. In Venice he was a priest and poet who earned a living by teaching. Some of his poetry, considered risqué for his day, resulted in his exile from Venice. The young man then traveled throughout Europe, ending up in Austria where he was court poet in Vienna. There Mozart recognized Da Ponte's talents and suggested collaborating on an opera based on Beaumarchais's controversial *La Folle Journée, ou la Mariage de*

*Figaro* which became *Le Nozze di Figaro*, first performed in 1786. The pair collaborated on two more operas: *Don Giovanni* (1787) and *Così Fan Tutte* (1790).

Da Ponte's American sojourn began with his arrival in Philadelphia in 1805. Here he set up a millinery shop, but like many of his ventures, for example, a grocery in New Jersey and a bookstore in New York, it was not successful. He lived in Sunbury, Pennsylvania for almost a decade, traveling from there to Philadelphia many times to attend to business interests. In 1819 Da Ponte moved to New York City where his expertise and cultural knowledge was put to good use at Columbia University. He became professor of Italian studies there. In 1833 he helped establish the Italian Opera House in New York.

Da Ponte published his memoirs in 1823 (translated into English in 1929) and they have been the germ for many articles and several books about this creative Italian expatriate. In a 1991 article, Luigi Sera, Cultural Attaché at the Italian Consulate in Philadelphia, described Da Ponte's importance: “An authentic bridge between Europe and America, the figure and work of Lorenzo Da Ponte still transport across time and distance.”



**Lorenzo Da Ponte**



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**√ The Seller's Checklist for the Listing Interview √**

Key Questions to Ask	Antonio Atacan	Others
Have you won any awards in your professional field?	Yes, I have won several awards from the Philadelphia Association of Realtors including, the "Top Selling Realtor, Citywide" in 1999, 2000 and 2001.	?
Do you have a well-known, professional website that is updated daily and ranks on the 1 <sup>st</sup> page of Yahoo, MSN & other search engines that is utilized by both local & relocating buyers?	Yes, my website, <a href="http://www.CenterCityRealEstate.com">www.CenterCityRealEstate.com</a> is the <i>only</i> Center City specific multi-award winning website. It features detailed information on every MLS home for sale and sold in the past 3 years and is updated daily! My site consistently ranks on the first page of major search engines and it gets over 100,000 hits monthly. All of my listings have virtual tours and are featured on the 1 <sup>st</sup> page of my website for maximum exposure. I am also the CyberStar of Philadelphia ( <a href="http://www.cyberstars.net">www.cyberstars.net</a> )	?
Do you know Society Hill?	Yes, I am a Society Hill resident and a member of the Society Hill Civic Association	?
Do you offer the most possible exposure to potential buyers locally, nationally and worldwide?	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 are very knowledgeable about my inventory of listings and are highly motivated to show and sell them to their qualified clients.	?
Do you offer a client feedback system that will keep me informed on the progress of the sale process?	Yes, my staff and I are in constant contact with my clients by phone and e-mail. My clients are never left wondering what is being done to sell their home. We also collect client and agent comments and forward their feedback to you weekly.	?
Are you a Top-Producer with a proven track record of sales in Center City?	Yes, this year alone I have sold over 150 homes and have produced over \$34 million in sold & pending sales in Philadelphia. Last year I was ranked #66 out of Prudential's 44,000 agents and in the top 1% of Realtors in the United States!	?
Are you a member of the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) and do you provide virtual tours for your listings?	Yes, because the MLS services thousands 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 internet. If your home is not on the MLS, only the listing agent and a small percentage of possible home buyers will know that your home is for sale.	?
Do you have any 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 and 3 Marketing & Settlement Assistants dedicated to sell my listings for the most money, in the least time, with the fewest problems.	?
Do you hold open houses?	Yes, I have successful, excessively advertised, and well-prepared open houses.	?
Do you advertise regularly?	Yes, I advertise extensively in the Inquirer, Philly Weekly and other publications.	?
Do you guarantee I will be totally satisfied with your services?	Yes, I absolutely guarantee that you will receive unsurpassed services that meet your highest expectations on all levels, throughout the entire sales process.	?

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**B L O C K C O O R D I N A T O R S**

# Busy Summer For Block Coordinators

Even the intense summer heat failed to melt the enthusiasm of SHCA Block Coordinators who continued to spearhead neighborhood improvement projects:

**Serena Skwersky** organized residents in Lawrence Court to paint 12 Franklin lampposts located on the 400 block of Cypress, Lawrence Court and Lawrence Street. **Jean Broadley**, with the help of neighbor **Steve Gagne**, painted all the lampposts on 7th Street from Pine to Lombard Streets.

PECO installed above-ground utility poles on the 100 block of Lombard Street for the New Market construction project, but neglected to remove them when they were no longer needed. **Norma Van Dyke**, coordinator for the 100 block of Lombard Street, with assistance from SHCA Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee Chair Paul Boni, persuaded PECO to remove the poles, which are illegal in Society Hill, although not on the south side of Lombard Street.

**Adriana von Pein** was busy as usual cleaning debris and weeding, watering and pruning plants and trees along St. Peter's Walkway, as well as 4th and 5th Streets between Spruce and Pine.

When neighbors complained about an unsightly, potentially dangerous dead tree on the 600 block of Spruce Street, **Martha Levine** organized a group of residents to contribute to

the cost of its removal by a private firm. The group looks forward to planting a replacement tree in the fall. Martha also called the Philadelphia Water Department in July, when residents detected a foul odor emanating from the sewers at 5th, 6th, Spruce and Cypress Streets. All four sewers were cleaned within a week.

SHCA's Block Coordinators answer questions and assist in solving problems — serving as liaison between neighbors and the association. They also accomplish a variety of chores to make Society Hill a more attractive place to live, such as watering the flower baskets that hang on Franklin lamps. (Let us hear about other volunteer efforts!) To learn the name of your block coordinator, contact either SHCA administrator Matt DeJulio, at 215-629-1288 or [matthew.dejulio@gte.net](mailto:matthew.dejulio@gte.net), or Martha Levine at 215-629-0727 or [marthalev@aol.com](mailto:marthalev@aol.com).

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## Sprucing Up Spruce Street

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**Applause** to Society Hill Towers for its colorful, carefully chosen and beautifully maintained plants and for maintaining the landscape around the Man Full of Trouble Tavern, at 2nd and Spruce Streets.

**Applause** also to Penn's Landing Square for its presentation of flowers and shrubs at the corner of 2nd and Spruce Streets.

## THANK YOU, WELCOME BASKET DONORS!

We appreciate three new enterprises that have recently joined our list of generous Welcome Basket donors. They are: **The Pennsylvania Ballet**, plus two restaurants — **Mustard Greens** and **Cr perie Beau Monde**. Our Welcome Basket program celebrated its 4th anniversary in July 2002 — with a total of 220 baskets delivered to new Society Hill homeowners. The baskets are filled with fresh foods, area information, and gift certificates to restaurants, theaters, salons, and shops — all generously donated by local businesses. If you are a new home or apartment owner in Society Hill, as of 2002, please contact Martha Levine for a basket.

Arden Theatre Company  
 Bridget Foy's South Street Grill  
 Chef's Market  
 Cosi  
 East End Salon  
 Fork  
 Fresh Fields  
 Homemade Goodies by Roz  
 Judy's Caf e  
 Knave of Hearts  
 Lights of Liberty  
 Mann Center for the Performing Arts  
 Metropolitan Bakery  
 Mom's Bake at Home Pizza  
 Mums and Pops Confectionery  
 National Liberty Museum  
 Old City Coffee  
 Overtures Restaurant  
 Panorama Ristorante  
 Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble

Philadelphia Shakespeare Festival  
 Philadelphia Sports Club  
 Pileggi on the Square  
 Pink Rose Pastry Shop  
 Riff Cleaners  
 Rita's Water Ice  
 Ritz Theatre  
 Salon @ 5th  
 SCULPT-Fitness Training by Randi Skibinsky  
 Sffizio Restaurant  
 Shop Rite  
 Show of Hands Gallery  
 Soapbox  
 Society Hill Playhouse  
 Starbucks Coffee, Inc.  
 Superfresh Food Market  
 TLA Video  
 Wilma Theatre  
 Zeke's Deli



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**Old Pine Community Center  
25th Anniversary Party**

Saturday, October 5th

Celebrate 25 years of fun and  
service to the community.

Broadway Performers • Jazzercise  
Clowns • Crafts • Children's Games  
Entertainment • Food • Fun

Festivities run from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Tree Planting ceremony with local dignitaries  
11:00 AM

Come join the fun at the  
Community Center located at the corner of  
Lombard and 4th Streets

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Maryellen Cammisa  
**215.922.4200**



**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

SHCA's membership has reached an all-time high of 923 members! We must be doing something right, so congratulations, one and all.

**Welcome, New Members**

With open arms we welcome eight brand-new businesses or institutional members:

**Capital Planning**

**Friends Select School**

**Gaskill House**

**Bread & Breakfast**

**Maxwell Realty**

**Media Copy Center**

**MW Design**

**National Watch**

**Randi Skibinsky**

**Personal Fitness**

We also welcome the renewal of business member:

**Gannon-Coyne Insurance**, a Nationwide Insurance agency

**Need A Contractor?**

**Check Out SHCA's**

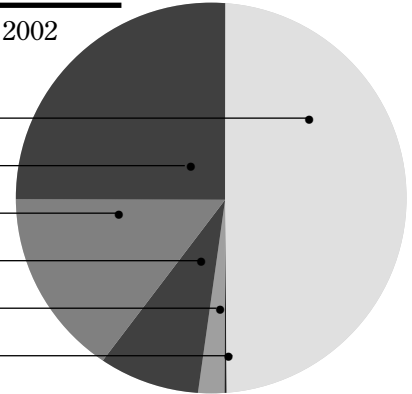
**List of Contractors**

The SHCA Preferred List of Contractors is a compilation of painters, electricians, plumbers, roofers, ironworkers and other tradesmen who have been recommended by satisfied Society Hill neighbors. Available to community residents at no cost, the list is one of many services provided by the Civic Association. The list is not, however, an official endorsement of these contractors, and so we suggest that prior to hiring any contractor on the list you contact his/her previous clients. (Please note that due to its length, it cannot be faxed but will be mailed to you.) Whether or not you're members of SHCA, you can obtain the list by calling Martha Levine. But if you're not yet a member, do consider joining!

**Financial Report, June 1, 2002- May 31, 2002**

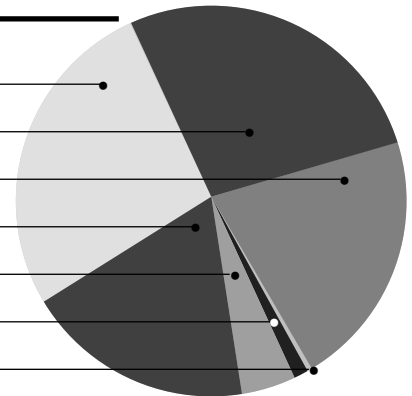
**Income**

\$ 50,920	Membership
\$ 25,522	Reporter Advertising
\$ 15,000	Charrette Funding
\$ 8,298	Open House Tours
\$ 2,220	Tree Payments
\$ 190	Other



**Expenses**

\$ 29,084	Reporter
\$ 28,638	Administrative Expenses
\$ 22,449	Landscape Improvements
\$ 19,716	Charrette Fees
\$ 4,678	Web Development
\$ 1,250	Police Substation
\$ 470	Historic Preservation/Zoning



**SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

**Membership Application/Renewal Form**



Renewal     New

\$40 Family  
 \$100 business  
 \$60 businesses with under 5 employees      \$

Additional contribution for     Anti-Graffiti/  
 Tree Tending     Lighting    Litter Control      \$

Check if you wish to receive  
 Guide for Property Owners     Historic Windowpane Plaque

Total enclosed      \$

I/We would be interested in working with one of SHCA's committees.  
 My/Our interests include:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Name      \_\_\_\_\_

Address      \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. #      \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip      \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone      \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone      \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail      \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to Society Hill Civic Assoc., P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147**

If you cannot afford membership dues, please donate what you can.



# Society Hill Dance Academy

*At Head House Square*

*invites you to help celebrate our grand opening...*

- ∞ Stop by and have a look around. Meet others in our Society Hill community.
- ∞ Learn about our special offers and “custom” dance packages. Sign up for an introductory dance lesson.
- ∞ Enjoy our parties, outings & dance exhibitions given by professional & amateur dancers.
- ∞ Beginner? Seasoned competitor? We have the staff for all your needs.

*Latin ∞ Ballroom ∞ Social Dancing*

Walk up our marble steps to  
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Dance to the rhythms of Latin music; flow with the  
elegance of the waltz; enjoy Philly’s own jitterbug,  
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## Free Concerts at Old Pine Church

Sunday, September 15 @ 5:00 PM

*Jazz Vespers*

**Fred Simmons Trio**

Sunday, September 29 @ 4:00 PM

*Music at Old Pine*

**Chamber Music for Guitar and Flutes**

Sunday, October 20 @ 5:00 PM

*Jazz Vespers*

**Philadelphia Art Heritage Ensemble**

Sunday, November 3 @ 4:00 PM

*Music at Old Pine*

**Music for Brass, Choir and Organ**

412 Pine Street

215-925-8051

## Fall Programs at Independence Library

For more information, stop by at 18 South 7th Street or call 215-685-1633.

**Wednesday, September 18  
6:30 p.m.**

Stephen Fried, best-selling author and former executive editor of *Philadelphia Magazine*, reads from his book, *New Rabbi*, about the search for a rabbi at a Main Line synagogue.

**Monday, September 30  
6:30 p.m.**

Local author Jennifer Weiner reads from her hilarious book *Good in Bed*.

**Saturday, Oct. 26  
1 p.m.**

Fundraiser for the Chinese Language Collection with Martin Yan, TV chef and author of "Yan Can Cook." Gala luncheon with the author at 1 p.m., followed by free cooking demonstration by Mr. Yan at 2 p.m.

**Monday, October 28  
6:30 p.m.**

Lecture and book signing by Kenn Kaufmann, world authority on birding, called "today's Roger Tory Peterson." Kaufmann will lead a bird and butterfly walk in Fairmount Park the following morning.

## Chamber Ensemble Concert Series Begins

The Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble announces the first concert of its 26th season to be held Friday, October 25 at 8 p.m., to be repeated Sunday, October 27 at 2 p.m. at Old Pine Street Church, 4th & Pine Streets. Individual tickets are \$20 at the door.

Student tickets are \$5. Up to two teenagers will be admitted free with an accompanying paid adult. Concert seating at Old Pine is unreserved, and the church is handicap-accessible. For season tickets and other information, please call 215-592-7840.

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421 Spruce St. Facade rehabilitation, concrete removal & replacement, brick paver installation

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264 S. 3rd St. Brick patio installation, brick cleaning & patch painting  
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**232 S FOURTH STREET \$1,350,000**  
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**218 DELANCEY REDUCED! \$1,100,000**  
**Virtual Tour#1354719.** 4 bdrm, 2.5 bath home w/3-story atrium window, wood-burning fplces, patio w/fountain, master suite and custom marble baths.

**308 S 2<sup>nd</sup> STREET \$950,000**  
**Virtual Tour#3037395.** Magnificent and grand Circa 1810 historical townhouse. 12' ceilings, original floors, 3+bdrms, 2.5 bths, 3+ fplces + secld garden.

**723 Rodman Street \$595,000**  
**Virtual Tour# 4069833.** Charming corner 2/3BR Twhs w/lbry+den, 2 full baths, marble fplces, French Mercier oak flrs, antique wood panelling, sweeping curved oak staircase + many more fine details! Feels like London!

**323 Cypress Street \$515,000**  
**Virtual Tour# 4044835.** Beautiful detached 3BR Townhouse with 1.5 baths, finished basement + family room, rear yard, French doors and southern exposure.

**716-18 S Marshall Street \$419,900**  
**Virtual Tour#4065539.** Exquisite dble wide 2BR Townhouse w/2bths, den + garage parking! Hrdwd flrs, exposed brick, fplce, central air and huge yard!

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## A Report about the *Reporter*

The *Society Hill Reporter* is a source of communication for neighborhood residents, businesses and institutions. Whether you're a member of SHCA or not, we make every effort to keep you informed about what's happening currently, as well as acquaint you with historical events that have occurred here in this "revolutionary" little corner of the world.

The newsletter has gone through many incarnations over about 40 years, but it has always been produced by volunteer writers and editors responsible for each issue. Recently we have reformatted its appearance. More significantly, however, we have a vigilant new team of reporters dedicated to the mission of keeping locals well informed. Our Editorial Board consists of writers and editors who meet regularly to determine what topics to feature in any issue. For each issue two Editorial Board members serve as Co-editors, taking on the ultimate responsibility for coordinating production elements, such as scheduling the timetable. Responsibilities for all team members include investigative reporting, writing, editing and proof-reading, as well as meeting and collaborating with the designer.

In alphabetical order, our current Editorial Board consists of Jean Bryan, Vicki Chatley, Bernice Hamel, Carole LeFavre-Rochester, Sandra Rothman and Linda Witt, our most recent professional recruit. Feature columns appear regularly from Malcolm Lazin ("President's Message") and David Woods ("Noteworthy Neighbors"). The Reporter's Business and Advertising Manager is Matt DeJulio, SHCA's administrator, who often con-

tributes his own articles and serves as our primary photographer. With professional help from Judy Lamirand of Parallel Design, the final product is an attractive, accurate and reader-friendly newsletter.

The Editorial Board welcomes your contributions. Please contact Matt DeJulio if there are topics you'd like to see covered, or if you'd be willing to contribute an article relevant to neighborhood interests.

The *Society Hill Reporter* — SHCA's voice — is published six times a year. We want to be certain that you receive your FREE copy each time. All issues are hand delivered every other month to every residence within Society Hill's boundaries and are distributed in bulk to all condominiums or high-rises. If you do not receive your copies on a regular basis, we need to know why so that we can correct this interruption in service. Please contact Matt DeJulio, at 215-629-1288, to inform us.

### Welcome, Linda Witt

The Reporter's newest staffer, Linda Witt, and her scientist husband, Jim Marsh, relocated to Society Hill last October from Washington, D.C. A veteran journalist, Linda is the primary author of *Running As a Woman: Gender and Power in American Politics*, which is a history of women's participation in electoral politics, published in 1992. An alumna of the pre-AOL/Warner Time Inc., she was Midwest Bureau Chief of *Life* and *People* magazines and Executive Editor of the newspaper division. Linda, an avid gardener, is a grandmother of five, soon to be six.

**Back row: David Woods, Linda Witt, Judy Lamirand, Matt DeJulio and Carole LeFavre-Rochester**



**Front row: Sandra Rothman, Vicki Chatley, Bernice Hamel, cub reporter Robin, and Jean Bryan**

## NOTEWORTHY NEIGHBORS

## Roger Moss and Gail Winkler




---

**A Couple with a Shared History**


---

Roger Moss and his wife, Gail Winkler, complement each other in a unique partnership, as they are bound together by common interests and professions. Both hold doctorates in history — she from the University of Wisconsin; he from the University of Delaware — and the two share a passion for preserving historic buildings. Both are lecturers in the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate Program in Historic Preservation — and the pair have written numerous books together, including *Victorian Interior Decoration* and *Victorian Exterior Decoration*. Roger's literary output includes *The American Country House* and *Historic Houses of Philadelphia*, a very beautiful and popular book published in 1998 by the University of Pennsylvania Press.

As Executive Director of The Athenaeum of Philadelphia since 1968, Roger can walk to work across Washington Square in a matter of minutes from the Hopkinson House apartment the couple has lived in for 20 years. For 12 years before that, he commuted into the city from Bryn Mawr, but hated the waste of time. "Anyway," he says, "We're urban people." Gail agrees, noting that Society Hill offers the easiest form of city living — with ready access to theaters, markets and restaurants. "People in other parts of the country are amazed that we don't have a car," she says. When asked why they don't live in an Italianate piazza or a Gothic mansion — in light of their passion for restoring old buildings — Roger exclaimed, "Are you crazy? Our biggest problem is scheduling when we're going to see each other." Their lecturing, writing and traveling call for

housing that is far less demanding than the buildings they help preserve.

The Athenaeum is a membership-supported special collection library, founded in 1814, containing the premier collection of American architectural materials. "You can find there," says Roger, "information on any architect or building in Philadelphia from the past 300 years — and some 200,000 architectural drawings." Nonmembers are always welcome to visit the gallery's exhibits on architectural history and historic design when in the neighborhood of Washington Square Park. "Anyone," he says, "and most certainly neighbors, can make an appointment for access to the library's reference collections or a complete tour of the facility."

When not pursuing their mutual professional calling, Gail and Roger leave their apartment — and their two 12-year-old cats Nelson and Lady Hamilton — to spend time in Britain, where Roger is president of the board of directors of the British Cathedrals and Historic Churches Foundation, an American organization dedicated to the preservation of such magnificent structures as Salisbury, Winchester, Durham and Lincoln Cathedrals. They also enjoy travel to New Mexico, a climate, they agree, that is spectacular — where Santa Fe is a cultural Mecca second only to New York. Several ceramic pots handmade by Pueblo Indians from the Santa Clara tribe grace their apartment.

Gail and Roger are conscious of the legacy of their published works; and, far from competing, they clearly derive satisfaction from each other's achievements. "She's the one who's important, not me," says Roger. And Gail demurs.

— DAVID WOODS

---

**The Athenaeum of Philadelphia** was founded in 1814. This membership-supported library, a National Historic Landmark building in the Italian Revival style, is furnished with early 19th century American fine and decorative arts. Visitors are welcome in the first-floor gallery exhibits on architectural history and historic design. Reference collections and a tour of the complete building is available by appointment. Monday-Friday, 9-5.  
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**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**September**

September 6 - 16

**High Holy Days**

Check with your synogogue for dates and times

Sunday, September 15 @ 5 p.m.

**Jazz Vespers/Fred Simmons Trio**

Old Pine Church, 412 Pine Street  
Free. 215-925-8051

Wednesday, September 18

**SHCA Meetings**

Board Meeting @ 6 p.m.  
Membership Meeting @ 7 p.m.  
B'Nai Abraham Synagogue  
521 Lombard Street

Sunday, September 29 @ 4 p.m.

**Chamber Music for Guitar & Flute**

Old Pine Church, 412 Pine Street  
Free. 215-925-8051

**October**

Saturday October 5

**25th Anniversary Party**

Old Pine Community Center  
4th & Lombard Streets  
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free - Join the Fun!

Saturday, October 12

(rain date Sunday, October 13)

**3 Bears Park Fall Festival**

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Wednesday, October 16 @ 7 p.m.

**SHCA Board Meeting**

Old Pine Community Center  
4th & Lombard Streets

Saturday, October 19

**St. Peter's School Harvest Festival**

3rd & Lombard Streets. Free.  
11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Rain or Shine.

Sunday, October 20 @ 5 p.m.

**Jazz Vespers/Philadelphia Art Heritage Ensemble**

Old Pine Church, 412 Pine Street  
Free. 215-925-8051

Friday, October 25 @ 8 p.m.

Sunday, October 27 @ 2 p.m.

**Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble**

Concert Series Begins  
Old Pine Community Church  
See page 27.

**November**

Sunday, November 3 @ 4 p.m.

**Music for Brass, Choir & Organ**

Old Pine Church, 412 Pine Street  
Free. 215-925-8051

Tuesday, November 5

**General Election**

Vote at your polling place



SOCIETY HILL

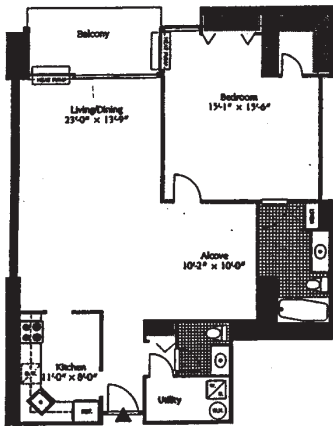
*Reporter*

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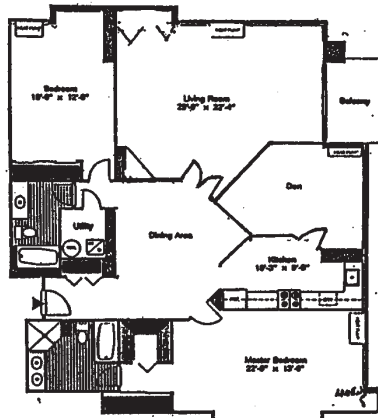
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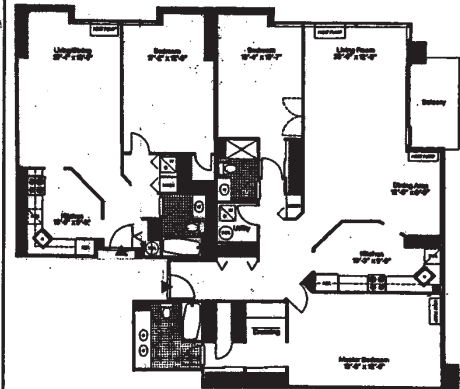
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