

SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

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SHCA Meeting - Prepare for the April 27 Primary



Senator Vincent J. Fumo

How will you vote when you visit the polls at the April 27 primary? If you are uncertain, or desire more information to make an educated decision, we urge you to attend our Society Hill Civic Association's (SHCA) General Membership Meeting, on Wednesday, March 17, at 7:30 p.m. at the Old Pine Community Center, 4th and Lombard Streets.

Because local elections affect our lives directly, we have invited Senator Vincent J. Fumo to be the evening's featured speaker. We'll also have the opportunity to meet two Democratic candidates competing to be our State Representative, Marie Lederer and Sheila Ballen.



Marie Lederer

One year ago, Senator Fumo addressed the SHCA at its March general membership meeting where he responded to our concerns. He will again offer a few remarks, followed by a question-and-answer period. In his role as chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, he has played a major role in developing the state's annual budget and establishing spending priorities. His long list of legislative achievements includes supporting state aid for cities, increased funding for schools and crime prevention; helping small businesses; and promoting higher minimum wages for working people. Fumo has been the state senator from our First District since 1978 and is running for re-election.



Sheila Ballen

Last year our civic association received the largest gift ever when State Representative Marie Lederer procured a \$100,000 state grant designated for capital improvements to help us fund the very ambitious, but costly Folglietta Plaza project. As a member of the House of Representatives serving our 175th District, Lederer's special interests are senior citizen legislation, health care and education. She is a standing member of the Human Services Committee, the Committee for Tourism and Recreational Development, and the Urban Affairs Committee.

Sheila Ballen has worked inside government and also as an advocate for such causes as public education reform, environmental protection, consumer rights, small business development and good government initiatives. Ballen served as Communications Director for Good Schools Pennsylvania and for the Philadelphia Empowerment Zone in Mayor Rendell's administration; also as the statewide field director for Allyson Schwartz; and as campaign manager for Councilwoman Happy Fernandez. She serves on boards and volunteers for many worthy causes including Women's Way and Mural Arts Advocates.

This is your opportunity to meet the candidates and question them about local issues that concern you. We look forward to seeing our neighbors at the meeting.

WED.

March
17

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

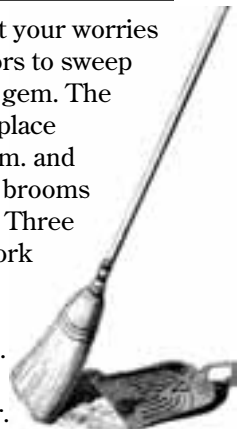
Society Hill Civic Association Meetings
Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Old Pine Community Center
4th and Lombard Streets

- 6:00 p.m. Board Meeting**
All SHCA members are welcome to attend.
- General Membership Meeting**
All Society Hill residents are welcome to attend.
- 7:00 p.m. Meet Your Neighbors**
- 7:30 p.m. Meet the Candidates**

A CLEAN SWEEP

Grab a broom and bag and set your worries aside — as you join neighbors to sweep our community into a sparkling gem. The annual spring clean up will take place Saturday, May 1 between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Just pick up one of the brooms and bags that will be available at Three Bears Park. It may sound like work but, really, it's a lot of fun. Tania Rorke has organized this event, but she can use some assistance. Contact her at 215-370-6485 or TRorke@aol.com to volunteer.



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Vicki Chatley
Sandra Rothman

Editorial Board

Bernice Hamel
Carole LeFavre-Rochester

Contributors

Paul Boni
Matthew DeJulio
Cynthia Jones Eiseman
Michael Erdos
Andrea Layden
Martha Levine
Liza Seltzer
Keri White
David Woods

Graphic Design

judy@parallel-design.com

**Business Manager
and Photographer**

Matthew DeJulio

Deadlines for Next Issue

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Editors: Bernice Hamel
Carole LeFavre-Rochester
Sandra Rothman

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Advertising: Matt DeJulio
Society Hill Civic Association
P.O. Box 63503
Philadelphia, PA 19147
tel: 215-629-1288
fax: 215-625-9914
email: MattDeJulio@aol.com

Web site

www.societyhillcivic.com

Submissions

One of the goals of the *Reporter* is to print news of interest to Society Hill residents – especially happenings in and around our community. If your organization would like to publicize an event in this newsletter, copy should be submitted to the SHCA office by email, mail or fax. Material must be submitted in writing and

include the name of a contact person. Your edited material may appear if there is space; otherwise upcoming events may be listed in the calendar. Signed letters to the Editor are always welcome and may be published. The *Reporter* is a bi-monthly newsletter. The next issue will be distributed on May 8 and 9.

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- restaurant
- informal catering
- box lunches

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Taxing Topic for Philadelphia

If attendance is any indication of community interest, the Forum on Philadelphia Taxes held at SHCA's January general membership meeting touched on a topic of significant concern to Society Hill residents. More than 100 neighbors came to hear Ed Schwartz, chair of the Philadelphia Tax Reform Commission (TRC), and Jonathan Saidel, four-term city controller and outspoken land-valuation tax advocate, on January 21, 2004, the day before Councilman Michael Nutter introduced in City Council a package of bills that would implement the recommendations of the TRC.

Under Schwartz' leadership, the TRC offered a series of interrelated recommendations for changes in local tax structure to enhance the City's competitiveness as a residential and business location. Key points include:

- Restructure, simplify and improve the real estate assessment process
- Create a taxpayers advocate to represent property owners in assessment appeals
- Utilize buffering techniques to guard against large, unexpected property tax increases
- Phase in land-value taxation, which would reduce taxes for most residents while removing a key impediment to economic development
- Adopt a budget-based real estate tax system to ensure that the City collects only the taxes it needs to provide valuable and essential services to residents
- Gradually reduce, reform and finally repeal the Business Privilege Tax, which is levied on both the gross receipts and net income of firms doing business in the City
- Accelerate the City's program of reductions in the Wage, Earnings and Net Profit Tax rates, to achieve a goal of equalizing the resident and non-resident tax rates at 3.25 percent by 2014.

At the SHCA Forum, Schwartz and Saidel discussed the relative merits of a number of these recommendations. While Schwartz defended the recommendations as realistic and reasonable steps toward a more robust local and regional economy, Saidel argued that these recommendations are not enough. Unless more drastic measures are taken — such as complete reformation of the Board of Revision of Taxes — we will not be able to stem the flow of jobs being lost to suburbs, which in turn will make it easier for taxpayers

to choose the lower taxes and generally better schools offered in the suburbs.

The one thing the speakers agreed on is that Philadelphia residents need to speak up now. Unless we let our elected officials know that we care deeply about this issue, chances are very little will change in Philadelphia's tax structure, our fiscal problems will worsen and it will be harder to keep businesses and families in the city. There are three things you can do to follow up:

- 1.** Write, email or call our City Council representatives, especially the "at large" members, to let them know that you want a fairer, more transparent tax structure. Contact information for Philadelphia City Council members is available at: www.phila.gov/citycouncil/index.html. The Mayor's budget address is scheduled for March 18, 2004, so you must act immediately if you want your voice to be heard.
- 2.** Join the Coalition for Fair Taxes. This organization strives to keep folks informed about the status of tax legislation and provides alerts when action is needed. Find out more at www.phillytaxes.org.
- 3.** Share this information with your neighbors, friends and everyone else who cares about Philadelphia. Ask them to take action, too!

Thanks for taking a few minutes to contribute to making Philadelphia a more affordable, livable city.

Thank You

SPECIAL THANKS TO PAUL BONI

On behalf of the entire Society Hill Civic Association, I would like to publicly thank Paul Boni for the excellent job he has done handling the SHCA's case against the York Row developers who are attempting to replace antique marble cornices (damaged by neglect) with fiberglass imitations. Paul's preparation for and performance at the hearing was extraordinary.

Paul did a superb job of organizing both

the appeal and ZHP committee members as witnesses in the most efficient and effective way to support SHCA's case. The fact that he was completely unruffled by the legal and political complexities of the case is a credit to his wisdom and professionalism.

Paul dedicated an enormous amount of time to this case, in addition to his other responsibilities as ZHP Chair. SHCA truly appreciates this,

regardless of the outcome. If we are not successful in winning this appeal, it will not be because we failed to present a compelling case. And if we are successful, Paul and his team will have saved the facades of these priceless examples of 18th-century row houses from demolition by neglect — an enormous contribution for which the entire city should be grateful.

Thank you, Paul, for all you do for SHCA.



Liza Seltzer
SHCA president



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CITY GOVERNMENT

Chamber of Commerce Hosts Tax Reform Meeting

Concern that the Mayor may not be paying sufficient attention to the findings of the Tax Reform Commission (TRC) spurred a meeting of interested citizens representing business firms, neighborhood associations and homeowners on February 11 at the headquarters of the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce.

Mark S. Schweiker, president and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce, introduced City Councilman Michael A. Nutter, who was responsible for legislation in 2002 creating the TRC, which was then ratified by the voters in that fall's election. Councilman Nutter has since been removed from the Finance Committee as a result of political maneuvers by fellow council members who support the Mayor's agenda, which will be

announced in March. He gave a rather grave assessment of where things stand now in terms of an overhaul of the city's tax structure. Nutter stated that it is critical for citizens to follow the debate carefully and write, call, and email their council representatives so the important findings of the TRC are not ignored.

Brett Mandel, who worked in Controller Jonathan Sidel's office, is leaving that department and setting up a specific advocacy group, yet to be named, which will have its own web site. Brett said that citizens must rise up between now and May to have their voices heard. SHCA will disseminate additional information once we know the web site and how to support this advocacy group.

Good government exists only where concerned citizens take an active role in the political process.

Historic Districts In Jeopardy

Preservationists Up In Arms!

On January 22 a bill, No. 04003, was introduced in City Council that threatens the very concept of a "historic district" and drastically changes the existing historic preservation ordinance. Authored by City Councilwoman Jannie L. Blackwell, this bill would transfer the authority to designate historic districts from the Philadelphia Historical Commission, which is comprised of architects, historians and city representatives, to City Council, which is a political body. **It gives City Council the ability to abolish the "historic district" designation for Society Hill**, which would eliminate the protection our community and other City areas presently designated historic receive, and could ultimately...well, let's not even go there!

In addition, the bill would prevent the designation of historic properties in any area targeted for redevelopment (i.e. poor communities) and is equal to declaring that such neighborhoods (e.g. Mount Airy, Germantown) have no buildings worth preserving and their residents have no right to enjoy the pleasures that come from living with history. It also exempts any property that has been identified as part of an urban renewal plan from being designated historical. The bill would prevent property owners from being able to use proposed state tax credits, now being debated in Harrisburg; although federal tax credits have long existed. The bill is similar to one that Blackwell previously introduced in 2002 that preservationists fought long and hard to defeat.

Here we go again! !

Contact the Mayor and City Council representatives today to express your views on **tax reform** and **Bill 04003**.

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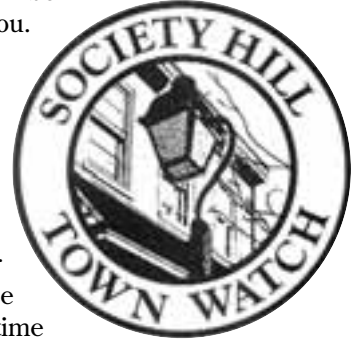
Society Hill Town Watch Lends a Helping Hand

On a late December evening, a Society Hill resident was robbed in the 400 block of Spruce Street as she was walking home from work. The perpetrator brandished a bottle and escaped with the victim's purse. Traumatized by this violent crime and fearing for her safety, our neighbor turned to Society Hill Town Watch (SHTW) for help.

Henceforth, SHTW will escort the resident home during scheduled patrols. Doing so will not only protect her, but will also restore her confidence that Society Hill is one of Philadelphia's safest neighborhoods. Indeed, it is our mission to make sure Society Hill remains safe. We will accompany any resident facing a similar need. If you would like a SHTW member to

walk with you to or from your home, we will be more than happy to try to accommodate you.

Town Watch is currently patrolling our neighborhood several days or nights each week. You can recognize us by our reflective vests and armbands, as well as by our logo-emblazoned t-shirts and windbreakers. More than 50 of your neighbors have already participated in our patrols, either out on the street or as a base operator. Please consider joining us. The time commitment is small, but the rewards are great. Lend us your helping hands...and feet! To join Society Hill Town Watch or to learn more, contact SHTW President Michael Erdos at 267-251-0749 or michael.erdos@phila.gov.



Safe and Sound Society Hill Committee

Safe and Sound Society Hill is a committee of the SHCA that was formed last July to address crime in our neighborhood. The committee is looking to expand its focus to include all quality of life issues. To create an even more pleasant neighborhood than we have at present, please let the committee know what matters are important to you.

Here are some issues that impact our lives in Society Hill:

- Crime (vandalism, robberies, assaults, etc.)
- Hazardous traffic areas
- Excessive noise (such as motorcycles)
- Sanitation
- Sidewalk safety (uneven bricks)
- Street lighting

One goal is to increase the police presence in our community, but to do so we must have a

realistic picture of how much criminal activity takes place in Society Hill. Some crimes are simply not reported, which is to our detriment. All crimes, including acts of vandalism and minor theft, should be reported as follows:

- 1 Call 911.
- 2 Have an officer come to your house to make out a report. This should not be done over the phone.
- 3 Follow up several days later to be sure the report is accurate.
- 4 Contact SHCA's Safe and Sound Society Hill Committee by calling Martha Levine (see below) so we can compile a database to compare with police statistics.

Please give us feedback on any quality of life issues that matter to you by contacting Martha Levine, committee co-chair, at 215-629-0727 or marthalev@aol.com.

Oops!

Due to a typographical error the telephone number of Marilyn Appel, who is a member of SHCA's Safe and Sound Committee, was listed incorrectly in the January *Reporter*. The number is 215-922-2626.

To clarify any confusion, the Safe and Sound Committee is part of SHCA. Town Watch is a separate organization.

SCAM ALERT

Be suspicious if someone shows up at your door claiming a FedEx c.o.d. package intended for you was delivered to his address by mistake and that he paid the fee. He will ask you to "reimburse" him for the c.o.d. fee. This is a scam that several neighbors have reported

to police. The suspect is described as a white male, about 5 feet 8 inches tall, with brown hair and wearing glasses. He appears not to have shaved in several days. He was last seen wearing a blue winter coat and a hat. If he comes to your door, ask him to wait outside and call the police.



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 UPDATES

Gardening in the Square

Spring is reported to be just around the corner and with it come delicious dreams of digging in the dirt. Alas, plans for beautifying our beloved, but shabby, Washington Square are paralyzed in bureaucratic machinations. The Society Hill Civic Association yearns to form a Friends of Washington Square whose mission would be to plant and maintain the park. We anticipate community events, fundraising opportunities and possibly a gala ball – all designed to foster neighborhood spirit and unity.

Unfortunately, the Square has yet to be handed over to the National Park Service. When this eventually happens, we will be guided by rules and restrictions differing from those of Fairmount Park, which oversees Philadelphia's green spaces including Rittenhouse Square. Currently the Park Service wants a Society Hill volunteer group to operate through the Friends of Independence Park and not be the separate entity we envision. While we wait to sort this out, we suggest to all the good people who have expressed an interest in gardening and want to move forward that they contact the Volunteer Coordinator at Independence National Historical Park, 215-597-1293, www.NPS.gov/INDE. In the meantime, we express our thanks to the good men of Ready, Willing & Able who are keeping the Square tidy.

Ready, Willing & Able

Philadelphia is a city of parks and green spaces. Ready, Willing & Able, a holistic, residential, work and job skills training program, saw those green spaces as work opportunities and quickly adapted its Community Improvement Project to include land maintenance. This non-profit organization, started in New York 10 years ago by the Doe Fund Inc. and opened in Philadelphia in 2001, targets the segment of the homeless population considered the hardest to serve: single, able-bodied adults, the majority of whom have histories of incarceration and substance abuse. To qualify, the applicant must be "ready, willing and able," both physically and mentally, to work and maintain a drug-free lifestyle.

Ready, Willing & Able, headquartered at 12th and Bainbridge Streets, also serves as a residence for 68 men enrolled for 18 months to two years. They receive a variety of social, educational and vocational services. Graduation is achieved when full-time employment and permanent housing are secured and sobriety is maintained.



Dragon Slayer Found!



A New York developer will soon replace these derelict structures with new town homes architecturally compatible with existing historical buildings.

In the November/December issue of the *Reporter* we commented on the dilapidated eyesore of unfinished townhouses near the intersection of 2nd and Lombard Streets and asked if there was anyone out there who could slay this dragon. Well, a knight has been found! AFC Realty Capital Inc., a New York real estate investment company, has purchased the site and will complete the project known as Philips Square at Headhouse Court. Thirty-six single-family homes will be built in addition to the existing 12 units. Construction will commence in early spring, much to the relief of nearby neighbors who have endured not only a blighted landscape, but also the presence of unsavory and illegal activity taking place on the premises.



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U P D A T E S

Street Signage

In our last issue, we wrote of the problems that arose when street signs were removed, especially from the 100, 200 and 300 blocks of Delancey Street, for the filming of “National Treasure” in late summer.

The Society Hill Civic Association worked with Councilman Frank DiCicco’s office to get signs rehung. A Society Hill task force was formed to address the replacement of signs as well as other street signage problems. Chief Traffic Engineer Charles Trainor III was contacted and, hopefully by the time you read this, all necessary signage that was removed for the filming will have been replaced.

Sometimes one problem—in this case, the removal of street signs—begets another. Residents realized that where and how signs are placed for safety and information do not necessarily result in uniformity and beauty. Should poles be erected where signs are

needed or would fastening signs to Franklin lampposts be acceptable? Opinions will vary, of course. Some will sigh with dismay as additional poles use limited green space and appear awkward and unattractive. Others will opt for extra poles rather than have signs obstruct the graceful, historic touch that the Franklin lampposts provide.

Mr. Trainor, for whose help the group is most grateful, and the Society Hill task force will meet again in the spring to hash out these issues. You can help. When your block coordinator surveys your street, remember the saying, “Speak now or forever hold your peace.”

Your opinions and ideas count. They will help the task force express to city officials what residents of Society Hill believe will foster the coexistence of ambiance and practicality with respect to street signage.



Street signage continues to be an issue in Society Hill.

Changes on South Street

David Hammond Is New SSHD Director

The South Street Headhouse District (SSHD) acquired an Interim Executive Director with the appointment of David Hammond on January 1. David is very familiar with South Street. He and his wife, Barbara, have been residents of Queen Village for the past seven years. They had been residing in Media, but, as David notes, “We found that we were spending a lot of time in the neighborhood so we figured we’d just move here. We were previously suburbanites but now we cannot even think about living anywhere else.”

After he retired from Kmart, following 35 years in retail management, David attended a SSHD board meeting, intending to volunteer to serve on a committee as he has an interest in the street and the area. Instead he found himself taking on a much larger responsibility, at least until April 30, while the search is underway for a new executive director. David is “looking forward to working with the community” and feels it is very important that the executive director live in the neighborhood. His goal is to make the street fun, clean and safe.



The well-known Book Trader is moving to Old City.



This building, once home to the popular Knave of Hearts restaurant is undergoing total renovation. Is it true a Japanese restaurant will soon occupy the premises?

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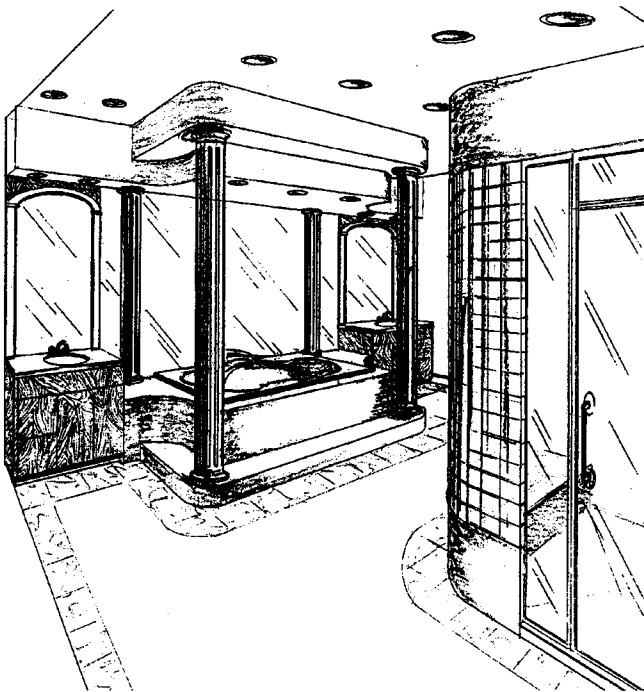
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It's Up to Us to Preserve Our Historic Neighborhood

Society Hill is one of the most historic residential neighborhoods in the United States. Its extraordinary rebirth in recent decades was accomplished within the framework of overall redevelopment controls, based on preservation guidelines that helped create and protect this community we all now enjoy.

In the vast majority of cases the SHCA's Zoning & Historic Preservation (ZHP) Committee supports and advocates for the projects presented to us and the community; most of the success stories are not reported in this column. However, there are rare cases where the ZHP Committee and the owner do not see eye-to-eye about protecting the authenticity and historic value of our street-scapes. The following two matters are examples of those rare cases where we did not agree with the project proponents and believed the circumstances warranted our attention.

Appeal of Marble Replication on the St. James Apartment Tower at Washington Square:

On January 6 SHCA appealed to the Licenses and Inspections (L&I) Review Board the 2003 decision of the Historical Commission approving developers P&A Associates' request to replace the collapsed marble cornice at York Row with a fiberglass replica. We argued that the Commission ignored the historic preservation law requiring lost features to be replaced in the same material if the destroyed material (in this case, marble) is still available.

This was our first time before the L&I Review Board and we were in for a treat. We arrived at the hearing and learned for the first time that P&A was intervening in the case, having hired Mayor Street's former law firm, Klehr Harrison. A few minutes before the hearing the P&A lawyers gave us a written Motion that they handed up to the Board, seeking to intervene to present new evidence and seeking to dismiss our appeal because, as P&A argued, the civic association was not sufficiently "aggrieved" by the Commission's decision. (This notwithstanding that it was the civic association that, over the past year, routinely complained to P&A and to L&I that the façade was in danger of collapse.) We argued that the law does not

provide the developer the right to participate in the proceedings at this stage; indeed, the law states that the dispute is between the appellant and the city, and that only the city can defend its own decision. Nevertheless, the Board allowed P&A the ability to present its "evidence."

P&A's case involved the testimony of a well-respected Philadelphia consulting engineer who testified that the 200-year-old cornice collapsed not because of the contractor's negligence but because of a "freakish" occurrence of "wind shear" that must have occurred at 8th and Walnut on that particular day. On cross-examination the engineer admitted he was retained only after the collapse and that he had no data of the wind conditions in Philadelphia on the date in question.

A representative of P&A, whose recollection was perfect at times and blank at others, provided additional testimony. The civic association presented its evidence as best we could in light of the sometimes-hostile Board. The Board took the case under advisement.

Another interesting incident occurred after the hearing. One of our ZHP members, finding himself in the elevator with the Board members, quite correctly identified himself so that no deliberations would be had within his earshot. One of the Board members replied, "That's ok. You guys really seem to want marble. What color do you want the fiberglass on your tombstone?" Shortly thereafter we received a letter from the Board announcing their one-line decision that they had voted to "affirm the City."

Conclusion: We are considering an appeal and we will keep you updated. We have already succeeded to the extent we have shown the Commission and the developers that we will not be idle in the face of what we consider to be their failure to replace the historic fabric of our neighborhood.

Special thanks to Mel Buckman and Lorna Katz Lawson for assisting in the preparation of the zoning case.

continued on page 15

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Z O N I N G & H I S T O R I C P R E S E R V A T I O N

continued from page 13

630 Pine through to Addison:

Over a year ago the absentee owner came to the ZHP and proposed the concept of subdividing the property and building a single-family residence on Addison; at that time he did not present any written plans, only the concept. The purpose of the project was to increase the market value of the properties for immediate resale. At the time we did not object to the proposal in concept but we said we would advocate for compliance with the code's dimensional requirements, such as the requirement that each lot have at least 30 percent of open space (which is something that could have easily been accomplished).

This past month the owner came before us again; this time with written plans that would create two lots, one with 22 percent open space and the other with 18 percent open space. At our meeting he also made a gesture by making an oral representation that at some point in the future he would change the multi-family rental property on Pine into a single family home. Some of the attendees with experience with oral representations questioned whether this would ever coming to pass; they referred to even the best-intentioned developers who sometimes run out of money and fail to complete parts of their project.

A few neighbors attended the meeting and stated they would like to see a house on Addison because it would replace the trash-strewn lot that currently exists; others saw a benefit in the owner's pledge to consolidate the Pine Street house in the future.

The ZHP Committee considered the matter but we could not see any hardship that would justify the owner's desire to take up so much open space. Both lots could have been developed nicely without abusing the code. Indeed, the house proposed for Addison would have been one of the largest on that side of the street, while both houses would have miniscule backyards thereby contributing to the overbuilding of our neighborhood. We understood the neighbors' desire to see the elimination of a trash-strewn lot but we wrestled about rewarding an owner for failing to maintain his property.

Hearing our objections, the owner agreed to revise the plans to meet the open space requirements and to resubmit the new plans to our committee. However, unfortunately, that

never came to pass. Instead, the owner took a petition door-to-door seeking support (the ZHP got word of this and we circulated our own letter advising everyone of the civic association's position); and then the owner proceeded to go to the Zoning Board with his attorney (from Mayor Street's former law firm).

The ZHP Committee appeared at the Zoning Board to protest. We brought witnesses, photographs and other exhibits to demonstrate the lack of hardship and to show that the project could be revised easily with sufficient open space. Seeing our case, the owner agreed to talk with us off the record and we decided on a continuance of the appeal. A few days later, we all agreed to the following:

- (1) the property will be subdivided with a new house built on Addison;
- (2) the project will be reduced in size so that each lot will have at least 30 percent open space (we have already approved new plans);
- (3) the Pine Street house must be consolidated into a single-family residence and issued an occupancy permit before the new house on Addison receives its occupancy permit;
- (4) all plans for the exterior must be submitted to the ZHP Committee prior to being submitted to the Historical Commission; and
- (5) the owner must submit to the ZHP Committee any application for the placement of a dumpster on a public way, prior to the application being submitted to the city.

All of these conditions are in writing and are made a part of the variances for the other dimensional requirements that the ZHP Committee agreed not to contest.

The owner is allowed to subdivide his property and build the Addison Street house; the neighbors on Addison will now be able to look at a beautiful new home instead of a trash-strewn lot; the neighbors on Pine will (hopefully) welcome a nice new long-term owner-occupier neighbor; and the new residents of the Pine Street house and the Addison house will be able to enjoy their nicely-sized backyards in their beautiful, historic — and still not overbuilt — neighborhood of Society Hill. We are hopeful this meets with general approval and we thank all neighbors who participated.

— PAUL BONI, CHAIR

Please see 'Historic Districts in Jeopardy' on page 5 to learn about the threatening new anti-preservation bill facing Society Hill and our entire city.

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Kids' Beat

A COLUMN BY KERI WHITE

A "Starr" in Our Neighborhood

Living in Society Hill with children means crossing a series of bridges. The first one arrives when we realize we can stay here with a baby and join the stroller brigade. We traverse another when we identify the appropriate playgroup, music class and baby gym to meet the family's social needs. Preschool, kindergarten, art, dance, karate and soccer present more bridges that we cross when we arrive at them.

In fact, the adage "We'll cross that bridge when we come to it" is a way of life for those of us who are not neurotically planning our children's lives through graduate school. (In the interests of journalistic integrity, I confess to fluctuating between the two extremes with no rhyme or reason to the pattern. My husband will heartily verify this.) One of the best places for children in Society Hill is Three Bears Park. It is beautiful, safe, clean and filled with wonderful kids and grownups. We all dread the day when our children will outgrow Three Bears. The bad news is, that day will come.

The good news is we have a fantastic alternative for older kids that simply requires a bit of TLC. The really good news is that we have in our midst a dynamic, motivated, active neighbor, Nicole Kilcullen, who has launched The Friends of Starr Garden. Nicole is a resident of Gaskill Street, and the mother of three beautiful daughters. She became interested in this

project when her oldest outgrew Three Bears. She began her work last fall when she met with the new park director, Mary Grace Gordon. Mary Grace is enthusiastic about neighborhood involvement and looks forward to working with residents. She comes to us from Murphy Playground in South Philadelphia where she supervised a large playground facility offering after-school programs, camps, athletic activities and a swimming pool. With a degree in fine arts, Mary Grace hopes to put the art room to good use soon. She also envisions Yoga classes and is open to any other programs the neighborhood might support.

After meeting with Mary Grace, Nicole polled neighborhood moms on what they would like to see at Starr Garden. The response was overwhelming. Suggestions about trash cleanup, equipment repair/replacement, tree tending, gardening and scheduling after school programs and camps rolled in, along with more grandiose plans for athletic leagues, art and dance classes, partnerships with local businesses and political involvement.

The kickoff meeting for The Friends of Starr Garden will be held Monday, March 22, 7:00 p.m., at Starr Garden, 5th and Lombard Streets. For more information, contact Nicole Kilcullen at 267-475-5714 or Nicole.Kilcullen@verizon.net. Join her and cross another bridge!



**Starr Garden –
A community facility
in need of a little TLC
to make it shine.**

Kid's Quote

"Mom, do you think my dance recital will be at the Kimmel?"

**Jessica, age 6,
Society Hill Kid.**

McCall School Enrollment Grows

The success of the McCall School Initiative and its recent coverage in the Philadelphia *Inquirer* and on WGTW (Channel 48) has sparked interest in the school. Parents throughout the city are seeking to enroll their children at McCall. If you are planning to send your child there in the fall, please notify Reah Force at 215-351-7350 to reserve a spot and help the school retain optimum class size.

NOTE: There is no need for notification if your child is presently attending McCall.

Spring Into Your Park

In conjunction with Society Hill's spring clean up, the Philadelphia Horticultural Society and The Friends of Three Bears Park will be preparing the park for a summer of fun on Saturday, May 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Activities will include placing flowers and greenery in the center planter, cleaning out the small buildings, pulling weeds and more. Rakes, brooms and bags will be provided. Come on out to support Three Bears Park and, at the same time, enjoy a few hours with friends and neighbors. To volunteer please contact Tania Rorke at 215-925-4544 or TRorke@aol.com.



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THE BOOKSHELF

First City: Philadelphia and the Forging of Historical Memory

written by Gary B. Nash. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2002

Reviewed by Carole LeFavre-Rochester

How does a city define its history? Does it look at its legal documents, maps or buildings? These are certainly part of the mix. Equally important, however, at least to Gary B. Nash, professor of history at UCLA and a transplanted Main Liner, are the artifacts collected by individuals and, in Philadelphia's case, scholarly societies. In *First City*, one in a series of books on Early American Studies from the University of Pennsylvania Press, Nash relates that *First City* evolved from his participation in a 1989 exhibition at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. This exhibition, entitled "Visions and Revisions: Finding Philadelphia's Past," focused principally on three venerable societies that have collected memorabilia, books, artifacts and art for some two centuries: the Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP), the Library Company (LC) and the American Philosophical Society (APS).

As Nash looks at collections, he treats the city's history "synoptically, in a series of era-based chapters, where particular elements of social and cultural history are provided within a framework of economic and political history." The collections in HSP, LC and APS, among others, give "rich evidence of Pennsylvania's patchwork of cultures." He asks us to gaze "bifocally" at Philadelphians in various stations of life because these collected artifacts provide an understanding of bygone eras. Thus, he depicts Philadelphia's slave and free-black populations, its business class, women as entrepreneurs, organizers of charitable works and suffragettes, its working poor as well as the aristocrats in Society Hill mansions.

Nash's study is enhanced with over 130 illustrations carefully chosen for what they can tell us about our history. There are portraits, many of them by Charles Willson Peale, engravings by William Birch, multiple broadsides and cartoons, as well as the cityscapes by Peter Augustus Kollner — these latter showing ordinary citizens going about their daily lives. Nash's captions are purposefully lengthy and full of detail. Figure 83, for example, is an engraving by William Still that depicts a slave family rescued on a Philadelphia wharf. But we also learn in the caption that Pennsylvania law forbade slave transit through the state to other cities.

First City is not an easy read, but given the author's reputation as a preeminent historian of America, it is a fascinating composite of Philadelphia's communities as they existed in peace and wartime, during celebratory fairs and exhibitions and political crises. That these scholarly institutions, including the Athenaeum and others on the Parkway, continue to hold the city's past among their treasures is a tribute to them. Inga Saffron in her *Inquirer* article of February 1, 2004 deplored recent builders' salvage of facades — "facadectomies" she called them — with no respect for their past or the buildings they graced. Nash admitted that during the 19th century "obliterating old buildings was for many Americans a way of freeing themselves from the tyranny of forerunners." Fortunately for us, the scholarly institutions' attempts to cultivate Philadelphia's historical memory through their collections continues to the present time, although with varying degrees of success.



Independence Branch Needs Your Help

You probably know that the recently passed Pennsylvania state budget has slashed public library funding by 36.5 percent. If you have visited the Independence Branch Library recently, you have seen the big signs announcing the consequence of these cuts. The library

is making no new acquisitions. That means no new books, no new magazines, no newspapers, CDs, videos or DVDs. Nothing for children. Nothing for adults.

Librarians say that what they now need most to help the library best serve its patrons are gifts of

cash. This will enable staff to buy the collection materials that are in greatest demand — and to respond to quickly changing needs. Some neighbors have already stepped forward to help the Independence Branch make up for these cuts by making gifts

totaling more than \$2,000 for collection materials. Can we raise another \$8,000 by June 1, for a total of \$10,000?

Society Hill neighbors helped create our library just three years ago and have continued to sustain it. It has become the most popular branch

in the entire Free Library system. Please protect your investment now by making a generous gift.

Make checks payable to *Friends of Independence Branch Library* and mail to the Friends at 18 South 7th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106.

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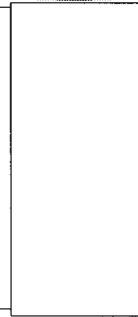
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Bargains Galore at Great Block Party!

Old Pine Presbyterian Church will mark the 25th Anniversary of its annual Flea Market and Rummage Sale on Saturday, May 8 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Proceeds will benefit Heifer Project International, which purchases animals in breeding pairs—including water buffalo, pigs, goats, rabbits, chickens and llamas—to give to needy families throughout the world.

Over 30 artisan vendors will line the 400 blocks of Pine and 4th Streets while the giant Rummage Sale is underway at the Old Pine Community Center, 4th and Lombard Streets. Food will be available, along with pony rides and other activities for children.

Interested vendors should call Mary Hall, 215-925-8501, during business hours. Rummage donors can bring clean, gently used clothing; appliances in working condition; games; tools; equipment; books and records to the Center between May 1 and May 6, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Physick House Plant Sale

The Physick House, 321 South 4th Street, will hold its annual Plant Sale the first weekend in May. You will have the opportunity to select from a wide variety of blooms suitable for either hanging baskets, shady and sunny gardens, or even your rooftop deck. So come out and enjoy the beauty of the Physick House's splendid 19th-century garden while you make your selections. Please mark your calendar. And although this annual fundraiser runs Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, many things sell out the very first day. Kindly call the Landmarks office at 215-925-2251 for more information, or Jacqueline Shultz at 215-922-6926.

House Tour Benefits Society Hill

Plan to join us for the Society Hill Open House Tour on Sunday, May 2, 2004, 1:00-5:00 p.m. We will showcase at least eight beautiful private homes, as well as a museum and two houses of worship. You will visit some of Society Hill's finest examples of 18th and 19th century homes, as well as those featuring outstanding contemporary design. What a great way to taste the history of our neighborhood while picking up some decorating ideas.

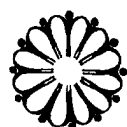
Society Hill is part of the Philadelphia Open House program, which is also sponsoring 34 other tours in the Delaware Valley, including Northern Liberties; Victorian Germantown; "Day with the Duponts;" Overbrook Farms; Greenwich, New Jersey; "Lewis and Clark Walking Tour;" "Saints and Sinners" tour of churches and pubs; and many more. "Explorations of Doylestown" and "Immigrant Jewish Philadelphia" are newcomers. So choose a tour and come on out for a great day!

Ticket prices vary according to the location. Each community serving as a host is presented with a portion of the net proceeds. Last year SHCA received nearly \$9,000 for its house and garden tours, which money was allocated toward neighborhood improvement projects. Think of it as an excellent way to support your community while having fun.

Society Hill co-chairs Martha Levine and Linda Skale, who have successfully implemented outstanding tours in previous years, advise calling early for reservations. For a brochure or reservations, call the Philadelphia Open House office at 215-928-1188. To volunteer to house sit, call Martha at 215-629-0727 or marthalev@aol.com.



The lovely homes of Society Hill will be on display on May 2.



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The highest priced home sold for \$1,550,000.00

Homes were on the market for an average of 91 days

The average sales price increased 25% since 2000

In 2002, 63 homes sold for an average price of \$561,313 in 84 days

In 2001, 54 homes sold for an average price of \$541,188 in 76 days

In 2000, 59 homes sold for an average price of \$482,948 in 69 days

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CONDO CORNER

St. James Court – A Special Place

Stroll east from Washington Square down the tree-lined path of Locust Street Walkway and you will discover, tucked away from the hustle and bustle of city life, the condominium community known as St. James Court. The two-story dark brick facades with large paned windows add a subtly modern feel to this corner of Society Hill. They also shield a beautiful interior courtyard — a frequent stop on the annual Society Hill Garden Tour — decorated with just enough trees, reading benches, flowers and shrubs to remind one of William Penn's vision of a "Greene Country Towne."

Things, however, have not always been so picturesque. Indeed, the land currently occupied by St. James Court has experienced many reincarnations through the years. Part of the Walnut Street Colonial Prison once stood here, as did Saint Thomas African-American Episcopal Church. Most recently, this land was a dirt and stone parking lot for the nearby Lippincott Building. During the revitalization of Society Hill from a dilapidated Philadelphia eyesore, visionaries such as the architectural firm of Cope, Linder, Wamsley and Associates realized that the then new concept of "condominiums" would play a major role in that change. In 1970, the dream to convert this lifeless land into a place to call "home" was becoming a reality.

With the design completed by 1971, an advertisement was placed in the paper offering to sell the condos at prices ranging from \$45,000 to \$50,000. Within two weeks, each of the 44 homes (22 upper and 22 lower units) was sold. The developer, Norman Denny (who is also known for working with The Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority), completed St. James Court by 1972. One of the earliest condominium communities in Philadelphia, St. James Court is officially known as Washington Square East Condominium #1. The postal address lists all units under St. James Court and, over time, residents have adopted the name "St. James." Unfamiliar with the condominium concept, original St. James' residents, nevertheless, were told to develop their own condominium association, vote owner volunteers as board members, develop bylaws, etc. It is still managed today by the owners.



The area surrounding St. James Court has also experienced many changes. The Philadelphia Sports Club was originally intended to be a private club, including tennis courts and a swimming pool, for St. James residents. It also housed a highly rated restaurant known as the "Cobblestones." Locust Street Walkway, which was left as stones, became a grassy path. St. James residents, who were responsible for the upkeep, eventually decided bricks would be easier to maintain and created the lovely pedestrian walkway that exists today.

Many original owners are still residents and it's easy to see why. St. James maintains a beauty and friendliness that is emblematic of Society Hill in general. St. James Court is not just a condominium complex. It is a place where neighbors share cookie recipes at the yearly Christmas party, offer a helping hand in times of need and cheer the birth of a child. Whether it is the history we reside on, or the history we make by residing here, we truly are part of something special.

St. James Court retains William Penn's vision of a Greene Country Towne.



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SHCA NEWS

Committee Works on Parking Woes

SHCA has formed a parking task force under the leadership of Beatty Bock. The purpose is to find a solution to the lack of adequate parking in Society Hill. The group met at the beginning of February, with participation by two representatives from the Queen Village civic association, which wants to join with SHCA to attack this problem. It was decided to set up a meeting with the Parking Authority to explore the possibility of designating various locations as "residents only" parking. This is a concept that is successfully used by other municipalities. It sets aside specific blocks where only cars with resident stickers may park.

Nominations Sought for SHCA Leadership Positions

Now is your chance! Would you like to be part of a group of community leaders? Do you know someone who possesses leadership qualities? If so, now is the time to nominate this person as an officer or director of the SHCA. Positions for which nominations will be accepted are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Director. All nominees must be residents of Society Hill and members of the civic association. Officers are elected for one-year terms; directors are elected for three-year terms. Quadrant directors may be nominated with a petition that is signed by at least 10 SHCA members from within the nominee's quadrant. Officers may be nominated with a petition that is signed by at least 10 SHCA members from the general membership. All petitions must be submitted to the Nominating Committee. In addition, the Nominating Committee itself may propose candidates.

The bylaws prohibit Frank Hoban from being nominated to another term as treasurer. Please inform the Nominating Committee of any Society Hill resident who has knowledge of accounting procedures and who is a potential candidate for this position — or qualified for any other office.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Kelly Nelson, must receive all petitions before April 1, 2004. Send them to Matt DeJulio, Administrator, Society Hill Civic Association, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147. The slate of candidates will be published in the May *Reporter* and elections will be held at the May General Membership Meeting.

Makeover Madness

The SHCA list of contractors has recently expanded its interior design section to meet a growing demand for professional advice. Inspired by home design/makeover television offerings such as *Trading Spaces* and *While You Were Out*, there is a frenzy of remodeling and reorganizing in an effort to make our homes truly our castles. Whether it's renovating a bathroom, kitchen or your entire house, you will probably need some expert help. We have a list of neighbor-recommended designers to help you find the one who meets your needs.

In addition, the list contains the names of contractors that will implement the designs — general contractors, carpenters, plumbers, roofers, painters, electricians, masons and more. The list is a service to Society Hill neighbors and is free for the asking. However, we do encourage you to become a member of the civic association to support our efforts.

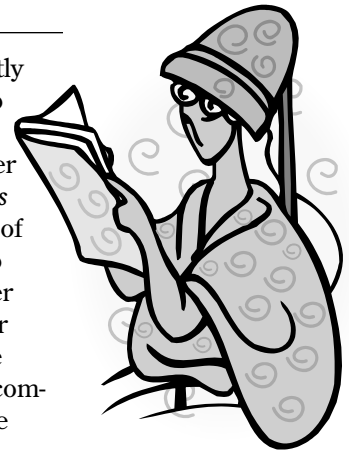
To request an updated contractor list be mailed (no faxes) to you, contact Martha Levine at 215-629-0727 or marthalev@aol.com. The list, as noted above, has been compiled from Society Hill neighbors' recommendations. No contractor is endorsed by SHCA. We strongly suggest you check references carefully.

'04 Membership Campaign Continues

As of mid-February, a total of 810 residents and businesses/institutions had forwarded their membership dues. This follows a second mailing that was sent out in January after the initial annual renewal began on November 1, 2003.

This is about 10 per cent ahead of the pace from last year — making our perennial SHCA goal of reaching 1,000 before year-end finally seem well within reach. Last year we ended up just shy at 979, but still a record high.

Of the 810 members to date, 74 are new. A total of 184 members from 2003 and 58 from 2002 have yet to renew their memberships. If you are among these folks, please fill out the form on page 27 and forward it with your check today. We cannot hit the 1,000 goal without you. So much of what SHCA does for the community depends on our own fund-raising ability. All memberships and extra contributions are acknowledged.



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Society Hill Jumps On Board

One Book, One Philadelphia



Calling all Society Hill readers! Be part of our city's **One Book, One Philadelphia**. Pick up a copy of *The Color of Water* by James McBride at your local bookstore or library and join neighbors for a lively conversation on Thursday, April 15, 7:00 p.m. Sandy Rothman, editor for the *Reporter* and a professional book group leader for the past 15 years, will facilitate the discussion. Call Sandy for details at 267-671-0554.

One Book, One Philadelphia is a collaborative community initiative launched in 2003 by the Office of Mayor John Street and the Free Library of Philadelphia to promote reading and literacy, as well as building community. Similar to more than 120 programs across the United States, it encourages the whole city, regardless of age or gender, to read and discuss a single book. Last year, Lorene Carey's *The Price of a*

Child was the hugely successful first selection, engaging more than 3,100 readers within the Library's 55 branches.

Journalist James McBride's award winning memoir, *The Color of Water*, reveals the remarkable story of his mother, Ruth. The daughter of a failed, itinerant southern Orthodox rabbi, she runs away to Harlem, marries a black man in 1962 and starts an African-American Baptist church in her living room. Around her narrative, McBride has written a powerful portrait of growing up, a meditation on race and identity, and a poignant, beautifully crafted hymn from a son to his mother. On *The New York Times* bestseller list for more than two years, this book promises a provocative discussion focused on themes of home, race, identity, family, love, religion and childhood.



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When we first met, I explained to them the benefits of signing a contract to work with a Buyers' Agent—making a 100% commitment to one agent who will make a 100% commitment to find them a new home. The Garramones were skeptical, but since they were referred to me by a satisfied client, they agreed. Next, I got them pre-approved for a mortgage. Being pre-approved not only helped them to focus on

a price range, it strengthened their offer by letting the seller know they were serious and could afford the home.

As the Garramones' Exclusive Buyers' Agent, I devoted my full energy and attention to finding them a home that would meet their needs. I gave them frequent phone and e-mail updates, and in *just 16 days* we found a condo which was EXACTLY what they wanted. They put in an offer with their pre-approval that was accepted.

Buyers looking for a new home sometimes feel it is better to have 4 or 5 agents working for them, but fail to realize that not one of those agents is giving them 100%.

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NOTEWORTHY NEIGHBORS

A COLUMN BY DAVID WOODS

George and Helen Niedermayer

The great late 19th-century clinician Sir William Osler was imported from Canada to become professor of clinical medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. He penned hundreds of aphorisms, among which were that being a primary care doctor was the most rewarding area of medical practice; that physicians should join medical societies (he was a member of several and spoke to the Philadelphia County Medical Society in 1901); and that members of the medical profession would do well to avoid wine.

Well, for Dr. George Niedermayer, two out of three seem to add up to a fulfilling professional and epicurean life. A courtly and longtime general internist, he is a member of the American, Pennsylvania and Philadelphia County medical societies. But he is also a wine enthusiast and a member of the Bordeaux Society. And anyway, Osler was a bit of an old prune who thought that women had no place in medicine and people older than 65 were definitely over the hill.

George, who has practiced medicine out of the couple's 18th century house on the 700 block of Spruce Street for 30 years, works alongside his wife Helen, his office manager. The medical quarters — reception area, office and examining rooms, occupy most of the ground floor, while

the living areas of the spacious and elegantly furnished home are on the upper floors. George also is on staff at nearby Pennsylvania Hospital, whose separation from the University Osler was lamenting in 1885. Now, of course, the hospital is part of the University of Pennsylvania Health System. In fact, the Niedermayers inhabit an area that has deep medical roots, with the Physick House close by, and the College of Physicians of Philadelphia having occupied a small house on 5th street in the 1800s.

The Niedermayers were married 15 years ago and have a 13-year-old daughter, Kristina, who attends St Peter's School, where Helen serves on the board of directors. George has three adult offspring from a previous marriage.

Asked if she plans to follow her father's footsteps into medicine, Kristina expresses enthusiasm. George is less sanguine, citing pressures of modern medical practice that include the threat of malpractice, control by the insurance industry, and pharmaceutical influence over medical education. Meanwhile Helen, who is of Ukrainian descent, is teaching Kristina that language.

The Niedermayers love what they call the small-town atmosphere of the area, walking to theater, shopping, school — and farther afield to Christ Church at 2nd and Market where George is a vestryman. He bought the house in 1974, "mainly," he says, "because of the parking space," a two-car area at the rear. They used to own a home at the Eastern Shore of Maryland but gave it up because "having two places just got too complicated."

Moving upstairs from their day-to-day professional life to their private one, the couple likes to cook together. With George being a churchman, an accomplished baker and a wine lover, he might well recite to Helen from Edward Fitzgerald's translation of the Rubiyat of Omar Khayyam:

*Here with a loaf of bread beneath the bough,
A flask of wine, a book of verse — and thou.*

Surely even Sir William Osler wouldn't quibble with that.



The Green Tree Perpetual Assurance Company

Episode V • From Fire Equipment to Folk Art

Leather fire buckets, among the oldest surviving pieces of fire-fighting equipment, were in use as early as fifteenth-century England, where they were made by pouchmakers. In 1666 each of the four districts of London was required by the city's Common Council to supply eight hundred leather buckets, and early English fire insurance companies also provided buckets for their policyholders.

Philadelphia made no attempt to fight fires with public resources from its founding in 1682 until the end of the century. In 1695, the Colonists petitioned the provincial Council to supply ladders and leather buckets for public use. In response, the legislature passed a law that forbade firing a chimney to clean it, or allowing it to become so encrusted as to cause a fire. Fines of forty shillings were levied upon those whose chimneys caught fire from not having been cleaned, and ten-shilling fines were imposed on each household-er who failed to keep a bucket or pail handy for fighting fires. Fires were such an alarming threat that citizens were even fined twelve pence if caught smoking tobacco in the streets, day or night.

In 1700 a further Act provided for fines on a householder or shop owner who did not maintain two leather buckets for fighting fires. The act also banned the storage of more than six pounds of powder within forty perches of the nearest dwelling, under penalty of a ten-pound fine. The fines thus collected were used to purchase fire-fighting equipment, such as buckets and hooks "for the tearing down of houses on fire." With the hopes of improving the City's ability to fight fires, Philadelphia merchant Abraham Bickley imported the City's first fire engine from England in 1718 and then sold it to the City the following year. The hand-pumped engine proved useless, however, against a massive fire in 1730 that spread through most of the commercial district along the Delaware River.

On April 29, 1730, the Board of the Common Council discussed the purchase of an "Engine, Ladders, Buckets and Hooks for Extinguishing Fires" and decided to import two hundred leather buckets from England and to purchase two hundred here. A few years later, Thomas Oldman showed a sample of a leather fire bucket to the Board for their approval, and they agreed to purchase one hundred of them at nine shillings apiece "provided they are equally good with the sample he now offers, and well painted with oil colors." In addition to ordering new buckets periodically, old ones were repaired and mended by the city's saddlers and tanners. John Young, Jr. advertised in the *Pennsylvania Chronicle* of February 27, 1767, for example, that he was located "at the Sign of the English Hunting Saddle, corner of Front and Market Streets" where he "Makes FIRE BUCKETS in the very best manner, and has a quantity of extraordinary good ones ready made."

An article on the best methods of fighting fire appeared in Benjamin Franklin's *Pennsylvania Gazette* in 1733 and generated a great deal of public interest. In 1736 Franklin and a few like-minded citizens founded the first volunteer fire brigade, the Union Fire Company, of which he wrote, "our articles of agreement obliged every member to keep always in good order and fit for use, a certain number of leathern buckets, with strong bags and baskets for packing and transporting of goods, which were to be brought to every fire; and we agreed to meet once every month and spend a social evening together, in discoursing and communicating such ideas as occurred to us upon the subject of fires, as might be useful in our conduct on such occasions."

When the first volunteer fire companies formed in the mid-eighteenth century, each member was obliged to provide from two to six leather buckets marked with the name of the company, occasionally with the owner's name, and



painted to a pattern approved by all the members of the group. Until 1800, when the Schuylkill Water Works was established and hose companies commenced, leather buckets were an integral part of the equipment of a fire company, for the members used them to fill the fire engine, which in turn pumped the water and directed the spray. There were periodic bucket checks, and those members whose buckets were in poor shape were fined.

In addition to public fire buckets, each homeowner had his own pair of leather buckets hanging at the ready, and The Green Tree possesses many such buckets in its historical Collection. Buckets were clearly marked with the owner's name so that he could leave the scene of the fire without his buckets and send a servant or a child to collect them in the morning. Businesses, stores, warehouses, and banks all had their own fire buckets that were generally colorfully painted with the name of the enterprise and frequently had a building, a picture of a fire, or a mythological scene painted on the front.

Although fire buckets were still found in private homes by the mid-1800s, their use by fire companies had nearly ceased. Today they are highly prized as folk art from early Philadelphia, and many fine examples may be seen among the fire memorabilia on display at Fireman's Hall at 147 North 2nd Street. In addition, buckets and other early folk art related to fire fighting comprise this year's loan exhibition, *Folk Art on Fire*, on view from April 17th to 20th at the Philadelphia Antiques Show at the 33rd Street Armory. (To be continued.)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Friday, March 5
New Trash Collection and Recycle Pick-up Day
 Put items out after 10:00 p.m. Thursday but before 6:00 a.m. Friday

Tuesday, March 9
One Book, One Philadelphia
 Discussion of *The Color of Water* by James McBride
 Independence Library, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 10
Vicky Town – Storyteller
 Family Program
 Independence Library, 4:00 p.m.

Friday, March 12
Anime Program Presented by Max Doniso
 Program for teens
 Independence Library, 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 16
Smart Women Finish Rich
 Financial Program for Women
 Independence Library, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 17
SHCA General Membership Meeting
 Topic: Meet the Candidates
 Old Pine Community Center, 7:30 p.m.
 Please see front page

Wednesday, March 17
Self Help for the Hearing Impaired
 Independence Library, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, March 22
The Friends of Starr Garden
 Starr Garden, 7:00 p.m.
 Please see page 17

Wednesday, April 21
SHCA Board Meeting
 Old Pine Community Center, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 24
Homes-Away-From Homes Auction Gala
 Benefit for Hosts for Hospitals
 Entertainment, dinner, silent auction
 Tickets are \$25 per person
 Society Hill Sheraton
 For information contact 610-660-6667 or www.hostsforhospitals.org

Monday, April 26
Movie Some Like It Hot
 Independence Library, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, April 30 – Sunday, May 2
Physick House Plant Sale
 See page 21

Saturday, May 1
Society Hill Spring Clean Up
 Please see front page

Saturday, May 1
Spring Into Your Park
 Clean up at Three Bears Park
 Please see page 17

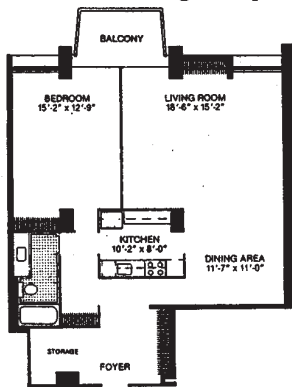
Sunday, May 2
Society Hill House Tour
 Please see page 21

Saturday, May 8
Old Pine Presbyterian Church Rummage Sale
 Please see page 21



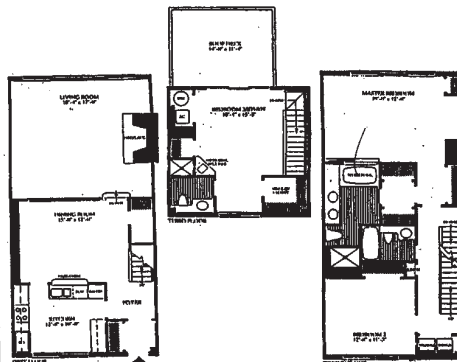
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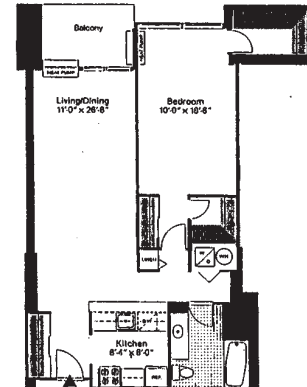
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