

SOCIETY HILL

# Reporter

www.societyhillcivic.com

Welcoming and Saying Farewell to Community Activists

## May 19th Election of Directors & Officers



**Mary Bomar,  
Superintendent of  
Independence National  
Historical Park**

It's election time again — shortly after the April primary, the Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) will conduct its annual election. Wednesday, May 19th is a chance for all members to elect a new slate of officers and board directors representing our community's four quadrants. We need your participation, and ask that you review the profiles of all those good folks up for election. These generous neighbors willing to devote time and skills on behalf of our community deserve your support. Make a point of arriving in time to vote.

Most important, we must elect a new president, as Liza Seltzer is now retiring. (Please see her farewell President's Message on page 3.) We very reluctantly part with Liza, but send her bundles of thanks for so splendidly serving Society Hill this past year and for all the time she lived here and contributed to our quality of life. We send to Liza, her husband, Jonathan, and their three children our very best wishes as they move into their new home and community in June.

The good news is that Tania Rorke is SHCA's presidential nominee. Many neighbors already know Tania for her outstanding leadership regarding Three Bears Park, where she currently serves as the group's chairperson. (Please see a brief profile of Tania on page 4.)

In addition to the election, our featured speaker for the evening will be the Superintendent of Independence National Historical Park, Mary Bomar. Superintendent Bomar, who helped build the Oklahoma City National Memorial after working with survivors of that city's bombing, has been here on the job only since January 2003. But since then she has found herself in the midst of major challenges concerning the park's security measures as well as lack of funding for the landscaping of Independence Mall. For current information about the park's security measures, we recommend visiting the website of the Independence Mall Business and Residents Coalition (IMBARC) — of which SHCA is a member group — at [www.freeindependencemall.com](http://www.freeindependencemall.com).

WED.

May

19

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Society Hill Civic Association Meetings  
Wednesday, May 19, 2004

6 p.m.

**Board Meeting**

**St. Peter's Church Parish Hall, 313 Pine St**

The Parish Hall is a large townhouse located next to St. Peter's Way.

All SHCA members are welcome to attend.

7 p.m.

**General Membership Meeting**

**St. Peter's Church Main Sanctuary, 3rd & Pine**

Annual election of officers and directors.

Meet and query our featured speaker, Mary Bomar, Superintendent of Independence National Historical Park. All Society Hill residents are invited to attend.



"Mix & Meet" your  
Neighbors at our  
Spring Social.

**Wednesday, May 26, 7 - 9 pm!**

**Hosted by The Dark Horse Restaurant  
421 South Second Street**

All SHCA members who enjoy refreshing drinks, delicious hors d'oeuvres and delightful conversation are invited.

Non-members are welcome to bring \$40 SHCA membership dues. So join us! 20% discount for those who stay to dinner. RSVP: SHCA Administrator Matt DeJulio at 215-629-1288 or [MattDeJulio@aol.com](mailto:MattDeJulio@aol.com)

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SOCIETY HILL

# *Reporter*

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Carole LeFavre-Rochester

#### **Editorial Team**

Marilyn Appel  
Andrea Layden  
Sandra Rothman

#### **Columnists**

Paul Boni, Esq.  
Keri White  
David Woods

#### **Contributors**

Jean Bryan  
Cynthia Jones Eiseman  
Michael Erdos  
Robin Komita  
Martha Levine  
C. DeWitt Peterson  
Liza Seltzer  
David Stevens

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#### **Deadlines for Next Issue**

**Advertising:** June 1

**Editorial:** June 14

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#### **Website**

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#### **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. To publicize an event in the *Reporter*, press releases or 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. Edited material may appear if there is space; otherwise upcoming events may be listed in the Community Calendar. Only signed Letters to the Editors will be considered for publication.

### In this Issue...

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Three Bears Park

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Noteworthy Neighbors:  
Paul Levy and Carrie Rickey

#### **Letter to the Editors**

Nancy Frenze, a longtime Society Hill resident, sent the following amplification for the "Condo Corner" article in the March/April *Reporter* which described St. James Court:

"St. James Court is one part of the much larger Washington Square East Redevelopment Authority parcel which consisted of two low-rise condominiums, Independence Place Towers, Washington Square garage, and a private club which was to serve all unit owners — now the Philadelphia Sports Club. Also, the RDA's plans refer to Skidmore, Owings and Merrill as the plan's architects, not Cope, Linder, Walmsley Associates, who are listed as consultants."

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## A Busy Year

As many of you know, I will be stepping down as SHCA President at the end of this month. While I have loved working with everyone on our Board to help make our neighborhood a stronger place, I will be moving from Society Hill in June and therefore cannot continue to serve.

This has been a busy year for our civic association. I feel truly fortunate to have had such an outstanding team to work with on the growing portfolio of projects that SHCA is currently undertaking.

For example, SHCA has played an instrumental role in supporting plans for the renovation of Three Bears Park. Under Tania Rorke's able leadership, this project has evolved from a plan to replace only the playground equipment to a more comprehensive overhaul of this neighborhood hub — to make it safer and more appealing to children and adults alike. A new committee has been formed, co-chaired by Tania and architect/SW Quadrant Director Robin Komita. (See page 27 for more about this committee.)

SHCA also made important strides this year in improving neighborhood safety. We formed Safe & Sound Society Hill, co-chaired by Michael Erdos and Martha Levine. This new committee coordinates all anti-crime initiatives that affect Society Hill — both physical and quality-of-life issues. SHCA also helped foster the resurrection of Society Hill Town Watch, independent of SHCA but collaborating with us. The president of Town Watch is SE Quadrant director Michael Erdos. This group patrols our streets on a regular basis.

We also made progress this year toward upgrading the quality and brightness of Franklin lamps throughout the neighborhood. This long-term project, chaired by Martha Levine, received a gift of \$110,000 through State Senator Vincent Fumo's office that will allow nearly one-quarter of the lamps to be upgraded. (The electrified Franklin lamps, installed during the time of our community's rebirth about 50 years ago, are unique to Society Hill and were based on Benjamin Franklin's original street lamp design.)

Improving quality-of-life in and around Washington Square received growing attention this year from SHCA. Our Washington Square liaison, Sissie Lipton, helped to secure a gift from the producers of the film "National Treasure" that will go towards renovating the

internal mechanism of the Square's fountain. In addition, Kelly Nelson and Sandy Rothman are working with Independence National Historic Park (which in March of this year has taken over responsibility for the Square) to form a Gardening Committee to improve its appearance.

Keri White continues her McCall School initiatives by helping to resurrect and serve on its Home & School Association. She also called to the attention of School Superintendent Paul Vallas the fact that the McCall School lacks a playground. Funding and plans are now in place to add an on site playground later this year.

As always, Zoning & Historic Preservation have been front-burner issues for the association this year. Paul Boni and his excellent committee dealt with a wide range of issues, including a legal appeal against the substitution of fiberglass to replicate destroyed marble cornices during construction of the St. James Tower complex (a project which SHCA otherwise endorses). The committee also mobilized our neighborhood to oppose a bill before City Council that would undermine the meaning and value of historic district designation throughout Philadelphia. In contrast, our historic district has been supported by a gift of \$50,000 through State Representative Marie Lederer's office. The funds will be used to support the efforts of this important committee, as well as provide general support for the community's safety and beautification.

Other ongoing projects, such as the *Society Hill Reporter*, our bi-monthly newsletter co-edited by Bernice Hamel, Carole LeFaivre-Rochester, and Sandy Rothman, and our Weekly Sidewalk Sweeping & Graffiti Removal, chaired by Dave Stevens, continue to contribute to making Society Hill the special community it is. Let me say that these are just a sampling of our association's accomplishments over the past year, all of which resulted from the hard work of dedicated volunteers and SHCA board directors. I wish to offer my heartfelt thanks to each of you for everything you do for the neighborhood and for making this year such a productive one.



**Liza Seltzer**  
SHCA president

## GOOD NEWS ABOUT TAX REFORM

City Council will hold a public hearing on tax reform legislation as part of the process to consider the city's annual budget and five-year financial plan. This hearing may very well determine the future of tax reform in Philadelphia. Scheduled for: Monday, May 10, at 9:30 a.m. in City Hall, Room 400. Click [www.philadelphiataxreformnow.org/content/view/4](http://www.philadelphiataxreformnow.org/content/view/4) for more information. To testify for tax reform, contact Philadelphia Forward at 215-563-3881.

## MEET THE CANDIDATES

## Tania Rorke—Nominee For SHCA President



Tania Rorke

**T**ania Rorke has come up through the ranks — beginning service to our community as a Block Coordinator, then as a Southeast Quadrant board director, and today she is SHCA's nominee for president.

Tania grew up in Holyoke, Massachusetts, earned a B.A. from the University of Massachusetts, and then went on to acquire an M.S. in Occupational Therapy from Springfield College in Springfield, Massachusetts. She and her husband Tom relocated to Philadelphia in 1997. Until their first daughter arrived, Tania was employed by Pennsylvania Hospital, where she managed the outpatient therapy department and worked as an occupational therapist. These days Tania keeps very busy raising her two girls and volunteering for good causes. She is President of The Friends of Three Bears Park. Through her leadership, the Friends' organization has raised sufficient funds to replace unsafe and outdated playground equipment with new equipment that meets modern safety standards. She is also involved with the

Auxiliary of Pennsylvania Hospital, chairing its Maternity Committee and co-chairing its 2004 Fantasy Ball, a large fundraiser for the Auxiliary. In addition, she volunteers her time and energy to St. Peter's School, St. Peter's Church, and The Junior League of Philadelphia.

In her new role as SHCA President, Tania will continue to work closely with many neighbors to foster our community's quality of life following the lead of SHCA's previous two presidents, Liza Seltzer and Malcolm Lazin. She hopes to focus her energies on several pending issues — including the appropriate development of both Foglietta Plaza and Penn's Landing. She is also concerned about how South Street impacts our immediate neighborhood, and hopes to develop a coalition of volunteers to work with the South Street Headhouse District to address some of the problems that derive from that corridor. She looks forward to working with SHCA members, old and new, so that Society Hill continues to be the city's most desirable place to live.

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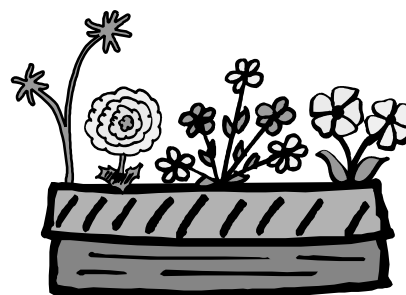
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## 2004-2005 SHCA Slate of Officers & Directors

According to SHCA's bylaws, officers and directors can serve in their respective roles for up to three consecutive years, after which they must retire from those positions. Our two retiring vice presidents will continue their dedicated service to our community as quadrant directors: Bernice Hamel will represent the Southeast Quadrant and Martha Levine the Southwest Quadrant. Luisa Boverini will continue as SHCA's Recording Secretary, while Colleen Farrell, previously a Northeast Quadrant director, will replace Frank Hoban as treasurer.

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### Introducing SHCA's Officers

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#### **Paul Boni, Esq., Vice President**

Now in his third year serving SHCA as a vice president, Paul Boni has chaired our association's Zoning & Historic Preservation Committee for almost three years. His exceptional administrative skills, professionalism and leadership have guided committee members as they collaborate to maintain Society Hill's zoning and preservation achievements and goals. Paul, who acquired his law degree in 1990 from the University of Pennsylvania, earned an undergraduate degree from Emory University. He has his own law practice in Philadelphia where he focuses on environmental and land use law, and enjoys living in his historic "trinity" home. When not working on behalf of his clients or our community, Paul tries to find time to see good films, enjoy sports activities and take advantage of our area's wonderful restaurants.

#### **Bonnie Halda, Vice President**

Bonnie has been a resident of Society Hill since 1990 and lives in the Society Hill Towers, serving SHCA as a vice president since 2002. She has over 25 years of experience as a historical architect, and holds a management position with the Northeast Region of the National Park Service. Currently a member of our civic association's Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee, she was also part of the charrette planning team for Foglietta Plaza and has participated in public meetings to discuss the future of Penn's Landing.

#### **Jerrold "Jim" Moss, Esq., Vice President**

Jim has lived with his wife Marsha at Society Hill Towers for twenty years. For the last ten years Jim has served on the Towers' Council. Prior to his current nomination as vice president, Jim served on SHCA's board of directors for six years, three as a vice president. He retired briefly due to SHCA's term limitations in its bylaws, which he helped draft. Jim practices law with Astor Weiss Kaplan and Mandel, where he concentrates in commercial litigation and business transactional work.

#### **Kelly Nelson, Ph.D., Vice President**

Kelly grew up in Texas and spent several years in Washington, D.C. before coming to Philadelphia in 1990 with attorney husband, Raymond Quaglia. Ray and Kelly moved to Society Hill in 2000 when expecting their now four-year old daughter. They also have a 20-month-old son. Kelly has a long-standing personal and professional interest in urban affairs and is an ardent believer in the virtues of urban communities. Her hobbies include shopping at Reading Terminal Market, cooking, and trying to finish the most recent *New Yorker* before the next one arrives. Prior to serving as a vice president on SHCA's board last year, she spent three years as a Southeast Quadrant representative.

#### **Luisa Boverini, Recording Secretary**

Luisa Boverini, originally from Lynn, Massachusetts, moved to Philadelphia in 2000 when she became a doctoral student at the University of Pennsylvania studying for an Ed.D. in Higher Education Management. This year Luisa has again agreed to serve SHCA as its Secretary. She says that "participating in the Society Hill Civic Association enables me not only to learn about my community, but to make a contribution as well." Last August, Luisa married Dr. Jeff Heit and they are living happily ever after at the Hopkinson House.

#### **Colleen Farrell, Treasurer**

Colleen Farrell, a Philadelphia native, is a paralegal who works for Independence Blue Cross specializing in monitoring healthcare legislation and campaign finance/lobbying laws — for federal, state, and local compliance. She is also an established real estate sales person affiliated with Russo Real Estate in Center City. With a Masters from the Fels School of Government at the University of Pennsylvania, Colleen has been active in Women's Way, the Philadelphia League of Women Voters, the Ronald McDonald House and the Juvenile Justice Center of Pennsylvania. Previously she served as an SHCA Northeast Quadrant director and is now pleased to serve as its treasurer.



Meet the  
Candidates


 Meet the  
Candidates

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 Northwest Quadrant Directors
 

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**Sissie Lipton\* (2007)**

Sissie and her husband, Herb Lipton, have lived at Independence Place for 18 years. Previously they lived in Rydal, Pennsylvania, where they raised three wonderful, successful children — one of whom, Eric Lipton, is a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist with the *New York Times*. Sissie serves on the Wilma Theatre Board, is a Trustee of the White Williams Scholars, and is a past president of the Friends of Moss Rehabilitation Hospital, where she was co-chair for many Artists with Disabilities exhibits. While serving as SHCA's representative from Independence Place, Sissie helped to develop a committee for Washington Square Park, a liaison with the National Park Service to maintain the standards and amenities that our neighborhood park deserves.

**Diane Rossheim\* (2007)**

Diane Rossheim is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and has lived in the Society Hill area since 1979 — first on Willings Alley and now at the Hopkinson House with husband, Bob Rossheim. Diane's varied career includes owning a bookstore and co-authoring a guidebook to Philadelphia. Currently she is a tour guide for several organizations, as she has a keen interest in our city's architecture, history and cultural heritage. Locally, Diane is a 25-year member (i.e. shareholder) of The Athenaeum, a member of the Friends of Independence Historical Park, the Washington Square Citizens' League and, of course, SHCA. As the grandmother of eight, Diane happily reports that baby Rudy, born just last month on April 6, is doing beautifully.

**Lisa Karlin (2005)**

Lisa Karlin has lived in Philadelphia all of her working life. She currently works in Horsham, PA with small businesses as a retirement plan consultant. She "endures" her daily commute to suburbia because she loves Center City's diversity and culture, including the ballet, orchestra and great restaurants. A 1997 graduate of Penn State University, she also attended the Institute for Paralegal Training. Lisa and her partner of 20 years, Paula, live with their dog, Matisse, the "mayor" of Washington Square, and they love to escape to their beach house in Delaware. Lisa has been happy to represent the Northwest Quadrant of our community since 2002.

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 Southwest Quadrant Directors
 

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**Robin Komita, AIA (2006)**

Robin Komita, a White Plains, New York native, holds a degree in Industrial Design from Carnegie Mellon University. A registered architect and member of the American Institute of Architects, she is currently employed as an Associate with Becker Winston Architects. She and her husband, Mario Moussa, have lived in Society Hill since 1995, where they are raising their three children. Robin is currently co-chairing the Three Bears Park Oversight & Design Committee with Tania Rorke, which is coordinating the park's entire rehabilitation. Occasionally Robin finds time to enjoy tennis, swimming, biking, yoga, and gardening. She and Mario especially enjoy restoring their 1890's historic home.

\* New Post for this person

**Martha Levine\* (2007)**

Martha Levine, a Society Hill resident for 18 years and past vice president of SHCA for three, initiated and/or chaired several projects — including our Welcome Basket and Block Coordinator programs. She has encouraged more than 200 neighbors to install exterior light fixtures on their homes for safety purposes, and she now co-chairs the recently formed Safe & Sound Society Hill Committee. Martha compiles and shares with residents SHCA's Preferred List of Contractors, and she has been working with city officials to improve the lighting of our Franklin lamps. A former elementary school teacher with an MBA in Marketing, Martha has for the past few springs co-chaired Society Hill's Open House Home and Garden

Year in parentheses indicates when term of service will expire.

Tours. She and her husband, Howard Sedran, are the parents of a 4th-grade daughter.

**Frank Signorello (2006)**

Frank Signorello, a Center City resident since 1987, now lives on Lombard Street with his wife Catherine. Frank is president and part owner of Global Exchange Group, Inc., a firm specializing in international banking services. Frank proudly reports that Global just celebrated its 10th year in business and has been recognized as one of the fastest growing firms in the Philadelphia region for three consecutive years. His educational background includes a bachelor's degree in economics, business and finance from Mt. St. Mary's College and a Master's degree in Environmental Studies at the University of Pennsylvania.

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## Northeast Quadrant Directors

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**Lee Dennis (2005)**

Lee and her husband, Geoffrey, have lived in their S. 3rd Street 1813 house for the past six years and in Society Hill for four years prior to moving into their historic home. Lee enjoys attending auctions to fill the home with wonderful collectibles, and she also donates her talent and energies for several good causes. In Society Hill, she serves as vice chair of the Powel House Committee, but she also serves on other city-related boards — e.g. the Big Picture Alliance, which teaches filmmaking to inner-city students, and Philadelphians for Literacy, which is developing day care and early learning programs for the city's low income neighborhoods. She also serves on the board of The Friends of Benjamin Franklin House, U.S.A., which is turning Ben's house in London into a museum.

**Keri White (2006)**

Keri and her husband, Matthew, an attorney, moved to Society Hill ten years ago and have been members of SHCA ever since. As the parents of two young children they are enthusiastic supporters and promoters of our area's parks. Keri is involved at the McCall School where her son attends second grade. Prior to her current full-time job as stay-at-home mom, Keri was a seventh grade teacher. A free-lance writer for the *University City News* and other clients, she recognized the need to provide relevant information to the increasing number of young families who now live in our neighborhood — so that they stay in the neighborhood! *Reporter* readers enjoy Keri's "Kid's Beat" column which keeps these young families informed about the pleasures and challenges of living here.

**Lana Noël\* (2007)**

A Temple University graduate, Lana Noël has called Philadelphia home for 15 years. She and husband Josh Nadel prefer to raise their son Gabriel in an urban setting. "Society Hill is a great place for children," she says. "This community is full of wonderful neighbors, terrific parks and green areas, and family-friendly restaurants, shops, and cultural venues." Lana's hope is that Society Hill will continue to be a beautiful, nationally important neighborhood cared for by its residents and admired by its visitors. Formerly an administrative director, Lana has set aside her business career to raise her son and pursue vocal studies.



Meet the  
Candidates

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## Southeast Quadrant Directors

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**Michael Erdos (2006)**

Michael Erdos, his wife, Diana, and their three cats have lived in Philadelphia since 1997. Michael received his B.A. from Dickinson College, an M.A. from Oxford University, and a J.D. from Yale Law School. He is currently the Assistant Chief of the Economic and Cyber Crimes Unit of the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, as well as a Special Assistant at the United States Attorney's Office. Prior to becoming a prosecutor, he worked on behalf of women's rights. Michael has reinstated the defunct Society Hill Town Watch (SHTW), and is president of this independent group of about 50 volunteers who patrol our streets several days and nights weekly. SHTW is allied with our association's "Safe and Sound Society Hill Committee" with whom Michael collaborates regularly.

**Bernice T. Hamel\* (2007)**

Bernice Hamel has been a community activist for all of her adult life. With an M.A. in Creative Writing from Temple University, she has wielded the "power of the pen" for several local causes. Bernice is president of the Head House Conservancy, which led the restoration and preservation effort that rescued this National Historical Landmark. A founder of the *Society Hill Reporter* and recent SHCA vice president, she will now represent the Southeast Quadrant. For 17 years she and her husband, Bernard, have treasured living in their historic home (built in 1762), which their two sons and three grandchildren love to visit. In 2001 Bernice was awarded a Citation by the Mayor of Philadelphia for promoting education and awareness of the city's history.

**Richard De Wyngaert\* (2007)**

Richard De Wyngaert, his wife, Susan, and their three daughters love Philadelphia living and have been Pine Street residents in Society Hill for more than ten years. Formerly an auctioneer and fine arts dealer, Richard now works in private asset management. A graduate of Georgetown University, he is currently a board member of St. Peter's School and is active in many community institutions and initiatives. Richard is particularly interested in influencing Philadelphia communities through education and transformative projects that empower youth and improve neighborhood dialogue and connections. He is very committed to Society Hill and to addressing issues that concern residents which might threaten to compromise its future.



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## Condominium Representatives

Condominium representatives are chosen by their respective organizations and may serve for up to three consecutive years.

### Hopkinson House:

#### Steven A. Weixler\*

Steve Weixler is a long-term resident of Society Hill. An architect and principal in the Philadelphia-based interior design firm Weixler, Peterson & Luzi, his work has appeared in *Architectural Digest*, *Florida Design*, and *Philadelphia Style*. He has won numerous awards, and his own condominium at Hopkinson House appeared on HGTV's "Interiors By Design" as an example of stylish life in the city. Steve's concern about the preservation of our community's historic architecture is one reason he has been a dedicated professional member of SHCA's Zoning & Historic Preservation Committee, appearing often at City Hall hearings representing our community's best interests.

### Independence Place:

#### Richard Weeks\*

Richard Weeks, a New Jersey native, moved to Independence Place four years ago after living in New England for almost 25 years. His educational background includes an undergraduate degree in psychology and mathematics and a Master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He retired from banking and elementary school teaching as well as several administrative positions, including a ten-year position as manager of an English antiques business on Nantucket Island. Having lived most of his life in similar historic communities, he is pleased to be able to contribute his talents and time to Society Hill.

### Society Hill Towers:

#### Fran Newberg, Ed.D.\*

Fran Newberg, a Philadelphia native, was raised and educated in the city. With a doctorate in Educational Leadership, she began her career as a grade school teacher in South Philadelphia. Currently she serves as a curriculum liaison and project manager for the School District's Office of Educational Technology, where she has launched and implemented a system that will bring the tools of the Internet, database management and customized student resources to the fingertips of teachers and principals throughout Philadelphia schools. Fran resides with her husband, Jeremy, and their two daughters at Society Hill Towers. They are members of the Society Hill Synagogue and have a deep appreciation for the opportunities and challenges of city living.

### Society Hill Towers:

#### Henry ("Hank") Bowen\*

Henry Bowen grew up in New Jersey and graduated from Rutgers University. After several years in the Air Force, Hank joined the Ford Motor Company, but most of his career was spent running medium-sized businesses for a venture capital company. Currently he is CEO of the Delaware Valley Floral Group, one of the largest floral importers in the U.S., serving the market from Washington to New York. Hank and his wife, Shirley, nurtured a combined household of ten children — including fourteen grandchildren and one great-grand daughter. They love Society Hill and our community's proximity to city amenities. Also they love sailing the Chesapeake, and they hope to do as much sailing as they can this summer.

### St. James Court:

#### Andrea Layden\*

For the past year Andrea Layden has been a team member of the *Society Hill Reporter*. She and her husband, Dan, are the proud parents of a beautiful daughter, born in August 2003. Andrea, a graduate of Widener University with a degree in Finance, spent eight years as an insurance adjuster with State Farm Insurance Company, but after her daughter's arrival she switched to a part-time position. A second-generation Italian-American, Andrea's wedding was held four years ago in Florence, Italy. She and her husband are now applying for Italian-American co-citizenship. Andrea enjoys meeting and mixing with neighbors, and now that she spends more time at home with her daughter, she enjoys contributing her skills to benefit our community.

### Penn's Landing Square:

#### Carole LeFavre-Rochester

Carole LeFavre-Rochester has been writing and co-editing the *Society Hill Reporter* for the past few years — following her retirement three years ago as editor for the American Philosophical Society, one of America's oldest and most prestigious learned societies, where she worked for almost a quarter of a century. Carole has been an on-again, off-again Philadelphia resident for most of her adult life. She and her husband, Michael Rochester, who will soon celebrate their tenth wedding anniversary, love Society Hill living. Carole finds herself quite busy, involved with the Society Hill Synagogue and as a board director of the Philadelphia Jewish Archives Center. She continues writing, editing, consulting and doing research.



Meet the  
Candidates

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**Problem:** Broken windows on 4th St including house windows, windows and doors at St.

Mary's, and car windows vandalized by groups walking from South Street up to Old City late at night on weekends.

**Solution:** Captain Korn has assigned three uniformed police details, who are dedicated to the area, covering several shifts. This special task force will continue throughout the summer months during weekends. In addition, a plainclothes team has been assigned to the area throughout the week to address the recent rash of car break-ins and vandalism.

**Follow-up:** Several quality-of-life arrests and enforcements have been effected, including curfews, hazardous moving violations, disorderly conduct and vandalism.

**Problem:** Stalking in Society Hill (See page 13 in this issue of the *Reporter*).

**Solution:** BE AWARE and BE OBSERVANT. Carry a cell phone and call 911 if you see suspicious behavior.

**Problem:** Cars coming down 6th St. or turning right onto 6th St from South Washington Square often don't stop for pedestrians crossing the street.

**Solution:** Have you seen the new "Pedestrian Crossing" signs on 6th St.? They're big yellow signs to keep you safe (when not blocked by huge trucks).

**Problem:** Motorcycles without mufflers careening up, down and around Society Hill

**Solution:** New noise ordinance allows police to confiscate noisy motorcycles. So far, almost 100 motorcycles have been confiscated. In addition, the police now have special equipment for recording decibels and have been trained to use it.

**Problem:** Loose bricks on sidewalks, around trees or just piled up against buildings. These create a hazard in two ways. First, they are a danger to pedestrians, especially at night when it is difficult to see them. Second, they can be used as weapons to hurl through windows or to mug someone. (See Letter to the Editors by Bob Devoe on page 30.)

**Solution:** Individual homeowners need to be made aware of the dangers. If there are loose bricks in front of your house — fix them. Be a good neighbor : if you see loose bricks elsewhere, tell the owner or replace them yourself. Keep Society Hill safe — do your part.

**Problem:** Pot holes and other street repairs needed.

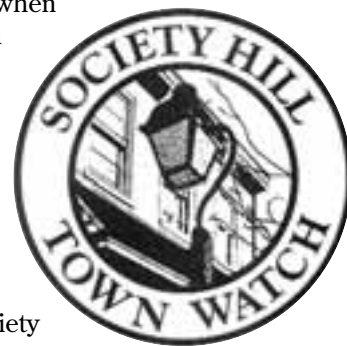
**Solution:** SSSH is still working on this.

**Problem:** New Thursday after 10 p.m. trash pick-up causes challenges.

**Possible solution:** Call the Streets Department at 215-686-5520. A real person will answer. His name is Frank Leo and he's collecting, not trash, but your feedback on this late Thursday night trash pick-up time. Presently, you must put out your trash between 10 p.m. Thursday and 6 a.m. Friday. A proposal is in the works to turn back hours to 7 p.m. on Thursday night. This proposal is coupled with increased enforcement and increased fines for putting out trash too early. Since this is a quality of life issue, SSSH is also collecting your feedback — call Martha Levine at 215-629-0727 or email her at marthalev@aol.com.

**Problem:** It's dark out there at night!

**Solution:** Martha Levine's four years of toil has borne fruit — the "green" kind in the form of funding. (See President's Message on page 3.)





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## WATCH YOUR CHILDREN!

## There's A Stalker In Our Area

By now many of you have heard about the man who recently followed a woman with her four-year-old daughter from Three Bears Park down 4th Street and into the TLA video store. We don't want to scare you, but we do want you to be on special alert. Society Hill is usually a very safe neighborhood, and we must keep it that way. But sometimes an unpleasant or frightening incident happens, and it can happen anywhere — even here.

The woman first became aware of the man following her in his car after she and her child, seated in a stroller, left Three Bears Park and headed toward 4th and Pine Streets. She remembered seeing him and his car parked on Delancey Street. As she walked down 4th Street, he opened his window and asked her some questions about her daughter. She became wary and ducked into the TLA. The man then parked on 4th Street and entered the coffee shop directly across the street from TLA, always keeping an eye on the two of them. He then walked into the TLA, where the surveillance camera caught a picture of him looking down at the child. In the meantime, the woman had called her husband who phoned a male friend to arrive on the scene and help out. Mother and child left the TLA and the stalker exited after them, pretending to be speaking on his cell phone, although he paced back and forth directly in front of the child's stroller, while the woman waited for her friend to arrive. Soon the woman's friend met the mother and child in front of TLA, and then the three walked west on South Street, where the stalker could not follow in his car. The stalker's license plate number was recorded, the car identified and a police report was filed.

The woman was wise to be wary, wise to enter a store where she felt she would be safe, and wise to phone her husband and male friend for help. What else to do in a case like this is to call 911 immediately, tell police what's happening and where you are. Also, call a relative or a friend (or anybody you know who's nearby) to get that person to accompany you. Luckily, in this case, a friend was available, although the police would have appeared on the scene eventually had she stayed put.

As we go to press, we have additional disturbing news to report, because on April 21 a similar incident occurred to a second woman. Comparing descriptions, this is the same stalker who is surely up to no good, as he is appearing in our neighborhood where children congregate. The stalker happens to be a very ordinary looking Caucasian male, about 35 years old, who could easily be mistaken for some child's dad. In height he's about 5'10" or 11, weighing about 190 pounds. He has a long, lean face with no facial hair, and his hair is short. When last seen he was wearing baggy jeans.

Michael Erdos, President of Society Hill Town Watch and Co-chair of Safe and Sound Society Hill, is following up on these episodes, acting as a liaison between Society Hill and law enforcement as our community addresses both these incidents and the possibility that this or some other stalker could strike again. Meanwhile, we suggest that you not be shy about calling 911 if you fear that someone is following you. When in doubt, do not hesitate to call 911. We also recommend carrying a cell phone. It's always better to be safe than sorry!

### CITY SMARTS

#### Look Out

- Stop and look both ways before stepping off the curb.
- Don't jaywalk — pedestrians only have the right of way at intersections and marked crosswalks — but do the drivers know that? So look anyway!

#### Be Aware

- of your surroundings;
- of people around you. (See "Stalker" article on this page.)

#### Be Safe

- Stay in well-lit areas.
- Carry your keys and cell phone separately.
- if you are threatened or accosted, give up your money, purse, or valuables — your life is more important!

#### Be Observant

- Stay calm.
- Try to get an accurate description (clothes, license number, age, race, body build, etc).

**Report all crimes or potential crimes**

**CALL 911**

## New Mini-Station Command

Lieutenant Gerard "Gerry" McShea, a 26-year veteran of the Philadelphia Police Department, has recently assumed command of the South Street Mini-Station. He has had experience in various Districts and comes to us following three years in the 39th District and prior to that, five years at the 18th District. Lt. McShea enjoys his work and takes great pride in what his officers do. Their goal is to cut crime in the South Street area and its surrounding neighborhoods, including, of course, ours.

In the short time he's been here, he has managed to get ten bike patrols on the streets and is completing his own training as a bike patrol officer. The Mini-Station's officers have completed their training in new technological equipment which records excessive noise from radios, cars, motorcycles, and other forms of transportation, which should cut down some of the problems neighbors complain about. Do you have a complaint? The Mini-Station's phone number is 215-922-6706.

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## It's Quacking Season

It's spring again; the tourists are back, and we welcome them. But our welcome is tempered with a bit of trepidation as we remember last year's quacking Duck vehicles, Big Buses, Trolleys and horse-drawn carriages. Some worry about their commercial appearance, but most complain about the noises they generate with amplified speakers. Some neighbors feel these noisemakers are unreasonable and violate our community's tranquility; others feel there are already too many tourist vehicles clogging our streets. Whatever the concerns, these profit-making companies do have people lining up for rides and more companies are lining up to come into our neighborhood.

Most residents believe that any tours through Society Hill should be historic in nature and this precludes the need for quacks. We have suggested that the Ducks be provided with headphones for each seat, something they have been reluctant to provide. If the goal of the tour is to have fun by making lots of noise rather than have our most historic houses and their noted colonial occupants described, then the tour does not belong in Society Hill.

The general manager of Philly's Ride the Ducks, Scott Lewis, claims he understands our community's concerns and says that many residents of Society Hill are his friends. He believes that his firm has already addressed complaints. For example, he directed his drivers to lower the volume and change some of the routes. Ducks is trying to make South Street their main "quacking" venue. Some neighbors welcome the vehicles and have

taken the tours themselves, while some business owners, particularly on South Street, claim the interaction is a welcome addition. People who take the tours certainly seem to have a good time. But due to complaints, Duck drivers have been advised that there are now "Quack-Free Zones" where riders are asked not to use their quacking devices, Lewis says.

Safety is a major concern to many people. Riders, particularly children, are not required to wear safety flotation harnesses. These Ducks are amphibious vehicles and for half the tour they cruise the river. While the Duck folks say that there are sufficient numbers of flotation devices for each rider should there be an accident, we'd like to know that tourists have been fully informed about them, particularly those for the little people.

In any case, there is now a larger, similar-looking vehicle and competitor tour company. Beware the "Super Duck" that has been spotted through the area carrying 49 people (not affiliated with Ride the Ducks). Look for further information on this company in our next issue.

It is important that we remain diligent about these tour companies that profit by featuring Society Hill on their tours. We encourage you to share your thoughts and opinions with our civic association, with Councilman DiCicco's office and the tour companies themselves. We are not against tourism; we know it is good for the city, but we ask that people be respectful of the historic neighborhood we have worked so hard to preserve.



**Ducks have been spotted in Society Hill again.**

### Get Down and Dirty in Washington Square!

Winter's long-anticipated departure combined with the March transfer of Washington Square Park to the National Park Service means beautifying can finally begin to happen at this venerable piece of Philadelphia real estate, located at 6th and Walnut Streets. To kick-off the spring season, the Park Service plans a gardening session for Saturday, May 15 from 9 a.m. to noon. Volunteers are needed

to plant colorful annuals — generously donated by the Sons of the American Revolution— around the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Park will supply the tools. In case of inclement weather, the event will be rescheduled for Saturday, May 22 at the same time. Contact Matt DeJulio, mattdejulio@aol.com or 215-629-1288 to reserve your place on the "green team."

### A SOCIETY HILL MYSTERY

#### Who Filled the Flower Boxes?

Steven Chernelkoff, owner of Salon @5th (opposite the SuperFresh) thought his flower boxes had been stolen one morning in early March. He arrived at work that morning and they were gone! The following morning, they were returned, filled with beautiful and colorful arrangements of tulips, spring flowers, and decorations. Is there a



stealth gardener on the loose? Chernelkoff can get no info on where

they came from or who dun it! Have you got any clues? Let us know!

## UPDATE

## Man Full of Trouble Tavern



**Man Full of Trouble:  
What next?**

Those of us who live near the Tavern at 2nd and Spruce Streets gaze quizzically at it from time to time as workers brighten the exterior with new paint. We wonder if this constant reminder of our colonial past will forever stand vacant. Does the University of Pennsylvania, its owner for several years, really have plans for it? Dean Ramin Sedehi, Vice Dean for Finance and Administration, School of Arts and Sciences, told *Reporter* interviewers in February 2004 that the University is excited at the prospect of putting the building to suitable use. But the Tavern's physical configuration precludes its being accessible easily to tourists with some disabilities.

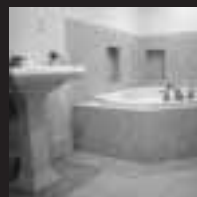
Jean Bryan reports that nothing inside is actually historic now — it had already been “renovated” as opposed to restored before being given to Penn. Penn has discussed several ideas for the building's eventual use and has concluded that it might be best used as living quarters for someone connected to the University — perhaps a researcher or a visiting faculty member. Another idea is to use the

space for small retreats or meetings. Penn wants to stay flexible and see “how things play out” as the building is used and may then come up with additional ideas or fine-tune the ideas they have now. “Trial and error” and “play by ear” are the watchwords as the building begins to be used. A hopeful sign is that they were ordering furniture in February and expect to have the Tavern occupied this summer.

Penn reports that the section of brick wall that appears to be eroding (facing Spruce Street, not 2nd Street) and which causes neighbors lots of concern cannot be repointed. The Historical Society projects that this small wall is the only remaining piece of a very old building which had been attached to the original Man Full of Trouble Tavern. Penn claims that this fragile-looking wall is structurally sound. In any case, the University understands that a building in use and occupied by people is what keeps a structure viable. They are committed to seeing the Man Full of Trouble Tavern inhabited by more than the illustrious ghosts from its historic past.



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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**


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Society Hill is one of the most historic residential neighborhoods in the United States. In 1999 Society Hill was designated an “historic district” pursuant to Philadelphia’s Historic Preservation Ordinance providing a measure of regulatory oversight for all buildings within the district. This is the only way to preserve the historic architectural sense of our neighborhood that drew most of us here. Once we lose historic fabric, it is lost forever.

SHCA’s Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee (ZHP) continues to work with property owners in the neighborhood. The ZHP urges owners to present their plans to our committee before seeking approvals from the Historical Commission or the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA). Presentations can be arranged by contacting Paul Boni, ZHP chair, at paulboni@bonilaw.com, or Matt DeJulio, SHCA Administrator, at MattDeJulio@aol.com or 215-629-1288.

Committee recommendations are reached by our team, most of whom have been members for several years. We are architects, engineers, lawyers, real estate professionals and longtime neighbors who appreciate the importance of preserving our historic buildings and understand the city’s zoning laws. We thank our experienced and dedicated team. In alphabetical order, they are: Penny Batcheler, Peggy Bishop Lane, Morris Chomitz, Susan Feagin, Ken Fleisher, Bonnie Halda, Bernice Hamel, Peter Hynes, Lorna Katz Lawson, Howard Lander, Richard Lush, Ellen Miller, Peg Robb, Ted Savage, Sally Smith, Becky Stoloff, Mary Sturdivant, Mike Wass and Steve Weixler. We meet monthly and throughout the month members are busy at City Hall and other city sites, as we attend and participate in hearings of the Historical Commission (both Architectural Review Committee and full Commission hearings) as well as hearings of the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Please note our committee will soon be welcoming a couple of new members; we’ll let you know who they are, if and when they survive the hazing process (just kidding!).

*Update on 210 W. Washington Square:*

As you may recall from our prior reporting, the SHCA — thanks to the assistance of SHCA’s liquor-control “czar” Mel Buckman — has a written agreement with the Starr Restaurant Organization for the construction and operation of a new restaurant opening on the west side of Washington Square. Among the provisions is a requirement that the owners present to the ZHP Committee any proposed façade changes or plans for sidewalk seating; and we have interacted with them on both of these issues in the past couple of months. A prime feature of the restaurant will be its outdoor courtyard, to the south of the building. This courtyard will be the restaurant’s main entrance, and the owners are proposing to separate the courtyard from the sidewalk by installing a barrier of

frosted glass serving as a door and entrance. The owners propose to install modest awnings above this courtyard.

We have reviewed and approved all these plans, and believe that they are consistent with the historic features of the surrounding buildings. In addition, we believe that the artistic design can be left to the discretion of the owners. As to the sidewalk seating, we have confirmed that the tables will be limited to one row, situated against the building, with sufficient space for pedestrians to walk along the sidewalk. While the opinions of the neighbors are just one of the factors we considered when making our decision, we note that the neighbors who attended our meetings have been almost unanimously supportive of the restaurant and the limited sidewalk seating. We will continue to work with the owners on additional issues, such as signage, when such details are proposed.

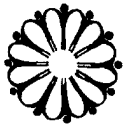
**Proposed City Bill to Revise the Historic Preservation Ordinance:**

As you may have read in the newspapers and in our previous newsletter, Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell has proposed a bill that would strip the Historical Commission of much of its authority and relegate the Commission to becoming a mere advisor to City Council. Bill No. 04003, introduced in January, would not only make it more difficult for additional qualified districts to become designated as “historic,” but it would also enable City Council to “undesignate” existing districts. For instance, City Council could remove Society Hill’s historic designation, which we acquired after our community worked so hard for this level of protection.

Blackwell’s bill is likely a result of the developer/landlord/real estate lobby, mostly in other parts of the city, which fears such designations. For whatever the flaws in the current system, the proposed bill would be a major overkill and would essentially gut our existing protections. Surely the answer to preserving our city’s historic fabric is not to politicize the entire process!

Fortunately, the public and almost every member of SHCA’s ZHP Committee have written letters to elected officials in opposition to Bill No. 04003. Nonprofit organizations, such as the Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia have also participated in the public debate. At the present time, Councilwoman Blackwell has reconsidered the bill, which is similar to one she introduced in 2002 and which preservationists fought to defeat. Also, we’ve recently learned that a task force will be assembled, comprised of members with diverse viewpoints, and that public meetings will be held to obtain citywide input. This is obviously an issue that we will monitor very closely. Please stay tuned for future reporting, both here and in our city newspapers.

—PAUL BONI, CHAIR, ZHP COMMITTEE



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## The Reporter Reports: Farewell & Greetings

### Vicki Chatley says Adieu

In our mobile society, people come and go — so it is not surprising that Vicki Chatley, SHCA's Southeast Quadrant director and a key *Reporter* team member who we had the pleasure of working with for the past two years, has last month picked up and moved to a warmer, sunnier climate. As a farewell gift to our community, however, she managed to co-edit the March/April 2004 *Reporter*, just days before the moving company arrived to transport her possessions to Sarasota, Florida.

Vicki Chatley brought enthusiasm and dedication to our team. She loves to write and the newsletter gave her a convenient outlet following her retirement as Director of Administration for the Eagles. As she put it, "After I started working with the Eagles in May 1983, I found I was spending almost all my waking hours in Philadelphia. I was born in a city, although a small one, and I prefer city living... so when I left the Eagles, I decided to get back to writing and stay here in the city that feeds my love for colonial history."

Since Vicki's course of study in college was English composition and her intent was to become a newspaper reporter, it was a natural transition for her to volunteer her writing skills for the *Reporter*, as well as her hands-on, administrative skills for the Ronald McDonald House.

We will miss Vicki and think longingly of the sun and warmth she now enjoys in sunny Sarasota.

### Marilyn Appel Steps Up to the Plate

The good news is...Marilyn Appel has joined the *Reporter's* editorial and writing team. Marilyn and her husband Harry have been Society Hill residents for 37 years where they raised their two grown daughters who are now parents themselves. Marilyn, an experienced writer with a doctorate in Education, recently retired as Assistant Dean at Drexel University's Medical School (formerly Hahnemann University Medical School) where she taught physicians "how to teach" and also raised many millions in grant funds. She has authored several books, monographs and dozens of articles in her field and related fields. About twice a year Marilyn travels to Washington D.C. to evaluate grants submitted to the federal government by medical schools.

Many of you may know Marilyn through her involvement with the Sixth Police District Advisory Council (PDAC), which she has chaired, in addition to chairing the citywide PDAC. Or you may know her through the Philadelphia Opera Guild, where she has been serving as president subsequent to her role as secretary and vice president. Most likely, however, you know Marilyn because she and her husband, a retired financial analyst, operate Society Hill's very successful Bed and Breakfast out of their historic home on Spruce Street. While Harry is primarily responsible for running the business, Marilyn happily socializes with guests and makes them feel at home. We are most fortunate that Marilyn has stepped up to the *Reporter's* plate.



Marilyn Appel

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# St. Peter's Gravestones Restored

*"...and every stone shall cry."*

This last phrase of a touching hymn could apply to the gravestones surrounding 243-year-old St. Peter's Episcopal Church in the 300 block of Pine Street. The ravages of time, pollution, and vandalism have reduced most memorials to shadows of their former selves. If stones can cry, perhaps they also can smile about the restoration work that is currently underway in the churchyard. Carr Conservation Inc., which restored Christ Church's historic burial grounds at 5th and Arch Streets, has identified 268 markers that will be repaired at St. Peter's, a task which is being funded by the Historic St. Peter's Church Preservation Corporation.

The clergy and members of St. Peter's feel that an important part of the church's outreach is to maintain this quiet oasis of open space for residents and tourists alike. We invite you to spend quiet time here. You can help us maintain the property by reminding people to keep their dogs on a leash, not to climb on trees, and not to endanger gravestones by running around or playing ball.



**A CRYING STONE:** This recently vandalized grave marker with the top knocked off is one of five broken since December. It will be repaired this year by John Carr.

## UPDATE

# Independence Branch Library

Our neighborhood public library at 18 South 7th Street continues to be the most popular, most heavily used branch in the Free Library system. Hundreds of people flocked to the branch's Third Anniversary celebration on February 28.

The little girl who was so brutally attacked at the branch in early February is making a good physical recovery and has returned with her family to use the branch. They were among those attending the anniversary party. Library administration has worked with the Philadelphia Police Department to improve security not only at Independence Branch but at all Free Library facilities.

In the last issue of the *Reporter*, we reminded you that state funding cuts have eliminated all funding for library acquisitions. Many generous people have stepped forward and donated over \$7,700 to the Friends of Independence Branch Library to help make up this gap in purchases of collection materials. *The New York Times*, *Philadelphia Inquirer* and other

newspapers, including Chinese-language papers, are just some of the items available at the branch, thanks to these generous donors.

We need to raise an additional \$2,300 to meet our goal of \$10,000 by June 1. Please send a gift to the Friends now, so that you will find good vacation reading at the library this summer.



## LIBRARY DONATION COUPON

**Y**es! I want to help the Independence Branch Library maintain its collection. Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift for collection materials.

\$100    \$50    \$25    \$10    other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

The official registration and financial information of the Friends of the Free Library of Philadelphia may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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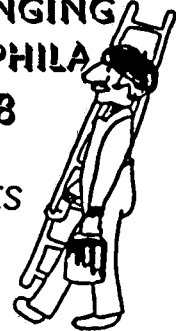
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## Our Two Farmers' Markets

### Saturday Market: The Food Trust

#### 2nd and South Farmers' Market, Opens Saturday May 15

Society Hill residents don't have to go far to get fresh, sweet, and juicy produce during the spring and summer months. Check out the 2nd and South Farmers' Market, open every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., right here in Society Hill. The market will open Saturday, May 15th with a variety of homegrown and homemade or freshly picked food.

Many of last year's farmers will return this spring. Somerton Tank Farms, a Philadelphia farm, will offer a wide variety of gourmet greens and unusual vegetables. Sugar Hill Botanicals, which specializes in tomatoes from Accomack, Virginia, will return as well. Fisher's Farmers' Market will sell organically grown produce such as sweet potatoes, peppers, and mushrooms. Stauffer Farms offers organically grown produce, flower arrangements, gourds, and other plants. Northstar Orchard returns in early August with apples and Asian pears, soaps, ciders, jellies, butters and sauces. Margerum's Herbs sell fresh and dried herbs and spices, together with greens and pumpkins. B & L Grassland Farms sell eggs and grass-fed meats every other week. More vendors are expected to sign up in the next few weeks.

The Food Trust, a non-profit organization with farmers' markets in Philadelphia, Chester, Norristown, Phoenixville, Coatesville, and Camden works to ensure that everyone has access to affordable, nutritious food.

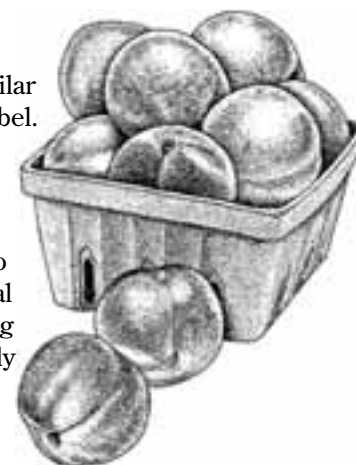
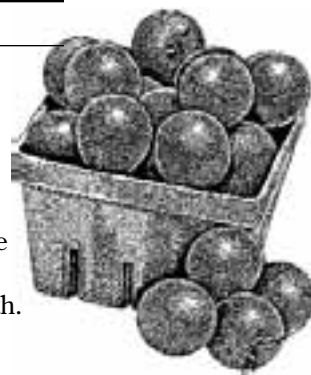
### Tuesday Market: Farm To City

#### South & Passyunk Farmers' Market, Opens Tuesday May 18

Come on down to South Street for fun and good food on Tuesdays at Philadelphia's biggest and oldest outdoor farmers' market, now in its ninth year. The South & Passyunk Farmers' Market will open its 2004 season on Tuesday, May 18th. The market, located on Passyunk Avenue, is just east of 5th at South Street.

Nearly all of the farmers from last year will return this season with their wide selection of local farm products. Michael Ahlert, formerly of Covered Bridge Produce, now has his own farm and will take their place. The Livengoods and Hausers feature John Marshall with his selection of goat cheese and meats, and Phil Landis who raises grass-fed beef, pork, lamb, and chicken. Al Dolinski, Jersey flower grower is also returning. Michele Harron, maker of soaps and lotions, is not here this year, but Devin Taylor has taken her place with a similar line of products on the "Neptune's Tears" label.

This market is run by Farm to City, a Queen Village business whose mission is to unite communities, families, and farmers year-round through good local food. Farm to City is a member of the Buy Fresh-Buy Local campaign for Southeast Pennsylvania, urging families to purchase their fresh foods directly from farmers. For more information about Farm to City's programs, visit its website at [farmtocity.org](http://farmtocity.org) or call 215-733-9599.



## Budget Cuts Jeopardize Atwater Kent Museum

Since 1938, the Atwater Kent Museum of Philadelphia, the city's official history museum, has been the center of Philadelphia history for citizens from every neighborhood — caring for and exhibiting objects from 300 years of city history. However, budget cuts announced by Mayor John Street will dramatically impact the

museum and will severely curtail programming for students, city residents and tourists.

Mayor Street now proposes cutting the six remaining salaried positions that are supported by the city at an annual cost of \$286,992. This amount is one-third of the museum's annual core budget with the

remaining two-thirds generated through grants, contributions and earned revenue to support school lessons, public programs, and exhibitions.

As the center of Philadelphia history, Atwater Kent leverages city support to raise program dollars. Projects supported by non-city funding include, for example,

stewardship of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Art and Artifact collection, and state-of-the-art computer technology throughout the museum wired for interactive visitor experiences and accessibility to the 100,000 objects in the collection.

Located at 15 S. 7th Street, one block west of Independence

Hall, between Market and Chestnut Street, the museum is open every day except Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: adults, \$5; seniors and children 13-17, \$3; members and children 12 or under, free. The Museum Store is open seven days a week from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Phone: 215-685-4830.

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A hand-drawn map showing the location of Friends Select. A box labeled 'FRIENDS SELECT' has an arrow pointing to a star at Logan Circle. Logan Circle is marked with a circle and labeled. A line connects Logan Circle to City Hall, which is marked with a square and labeled. The Art Museum is marked with a square and labeled. A curved line represents a street or boundary.

A college preparatory, coed, Quaker day school, pre-K through 12, at 17th on The Parkway in Center City Philadelphia. Admission and open house information: 215.561.5900 ext 104. [www.friends-select.org](http://www.friends-select.org)



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# Kids' Beat

A COLUMN BY KERI WHITE

**G**ail Silver, Society Hill resident and mother of two, has recently launched a business that could, at a minimum, provide some relaxation and rejuvenation for you and your family, and at a maximum, change your life. Yoga Child, located at 903 South Street, is a serene, immaculate, inviting yoga studio offering a variety of classes to the young and not so young, along with educational seminars, massage, and directed group gatherings.

Yoga Child offers classes for all ages and ranges of experience and ability, from the first timer to the full-fledged pretzel. The focus on accommodating families resonates through every aspect of the place. Classes are scheduled to coordinate children's with parent's yoga, but there is a wall dividing the two. Thus, you might be blissfully achieving the perfect tree posture while junior accomplishes the age appropriate equivalent next door.

There are also many opportunities for family yoga, which allows parents and children to share the yoga practice in an interactive, play-

ful, but still restorative and relaxing way. Each class opens with an "energy game" to release any pent up jumpiness; they then move into a "magical meditation," which instructs students to use their breathing to relax in a way that is meaningful to them (e.g. blow up a balloon). This is followed by a "journey," which reveals the theme of the class. Journeys might take the form of a safari, in which students mimic the yogic poses of animals such as a cobra, lion, tiger, or giraffe. They then play a quiet yoga game based on a thematically related song or poem, and close with the final resting pose.

In addition to creating a place for children and families to experience yoga, Yoga Child provides ample opportunity for kid-free classes and workshops. There are pre-and post-natal classes, beginner through advanced adult classes, and classes specifically designed for adults over 45.

To receive more information about programs at Yoga Child Studio, call 215-238-0989, visit [www.yogachild.net](http://www.yogachild.net) or email [gail@yogachild.net](mailto:gail@yogachild.net).

## Kid's Quote

"My teacher can't count! She said I'm 6 going on 30."

**Rebecca,  
age 6 going on 30,  
Society Hill Kid.**

## Starr Garden Initiative

**O**n Tuesday March 23, a group of concerned neighbors and Recreation Department employees met to discuss the future of Starr Garden, the park and playground at 6th & Lombard Streets. Mary Grace Gorman, Director of Starr Garden for the Department of Recreation, called this involvement "a wish come true." She is eager to work with neighbors to implement the programs and initiatives that we desire.

Over the next few months, the group will determine whether to form a new advisory board or resurrect "The Friends of Starr Garden." Either way, we will have the ability to fundraise on behalf of the park and devote resources to maintenance and improvement

programs, athletic leagues, classes, and new equipment. Neighbors voiced concerns about the condition of the park regarding cleanliness and safety. In an immediate effort to address these issues, Starr Garden joined forces with Society Hill Civic Association and Spring Into Your Park for a Cleanup Day on May 1. Several improvements have already been contracted by the Department of Recreation, such as a renovation of the ball field, new doors on the building, and repaving the picnic area.

To join this group, learn more about the Starr Garden project, or volunteer, please contact Nicole Kilcullen at 267-475-5714 or [Nicole.Kilcullen@verizon.net](mailto:Nicole.Kilcullen@verizon.net).

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## **Society Hill Residential Real Estate 2003 Year in Review**

### According to Trend Philadelphia's Multiple Listing Service

**There were 60 MLS single family homes sold in 2003**

**The average sale price was \$602,575**

**The lowest priced home sold for \$190,447.00**

**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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# 3 Bears Park Begins Master Planning Process

Three Bears Park needs a complete overhaul. The equipment, installed in the early 1980's, is deteriorated and no longer repairable. More important, playground safety standards have been substantially modified in the past 20 years. The need for a true Master Plan and planning process has become obvious. Therefore, a new oversight and design committee, with Tania Rorke and Robin Komita as co-chairs, has been formed consisting of representatives from the Friends of Three Bears Park and members of SHCA's Zoning & Historic Preservation Committee. The committee has come up with a list of specific goals, the most significant of which include:

- To maintain the concept of a community "greenway" (a.k.a. walkway) with access and vistas to Cypress and Delancey Streets
- To maintain a safe environment during the day and evening
- To enhance the toddler and children's play area by introducing recreational elements for adults
- To increase the seating area, as well as children's play equipment similar to existing apparatus

- To improve park lighting that is not intrusive to neighbors and to introduce signage describing the history of the park.
- To preserve many of the elements existing, such as the Three Bears sculpture, brick paving patterns, trees and other greenery
- To replace the unwieldy large round planter.

As original architects for the park, The Delta Group Landscape Architects was unanimously selected to provide a proposal offering three design alternatives that meet these goals. When completed the designs will be presented to the community and a plan will be selected.

We are grateful to City Councilman Frank DiCicco, who has set aside funds for Three Bears Park, and to State Senator Vincent Fumo, and State Representative Marie Lederer who have both assisted the Friends of Three Bears Park in applying for state grants totaling \$50,000. The Society Hill Civic Association and The Friends of Three Bears Park have also committed funds for the project, which is expected to cost approximately \$175,000 for the park's complete renovation.



**A complete overhaul is being planned for Three Bears Park.**

## Society Hill Neighbors Needed

As some of you may have noticed, there's more litter on our streets these days. That's because Adrianna Von Pein has moved away and is no longer living in Society Hill caring for Lawrence Court, Green's Court, and St. Peters Walkways, keeping these areas clean and neat. Although you may not have known that this one woman individually contributed to the overall cleanliness of our neighborhood, many of us did know and we will miss her greatly.

Here's a solution: The Friends of Three Bears Park, and residents from the 300 block of Delancey Street have adopted St. Peter's Walkway. We now need additional neighbors to assist in taking care of these other walkways. Whether you live directly on one of the "Greenways" or in another corner of our neighborhood, please help — even if it means bending over to pick up a piece of trash on the ground and dumping it into the corner litter basket.



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 Independence Seaport Museum, 211 S. Columbus Blvd.  
 The Kimmel Center, Broad & Spruce  
 Lights of Liberty, 6th & Chestnut  
 Mann Center for Performing Arts, 52nd & Parkside  
 National Liberty Museum, 321 Chestnut  
 New Jersey State Aquarium, Camden, NJ  
 Pennsylvania Ballet, 1101 S. Broad  
 Phila Chamber Ensemble, Old Pine, 400 Pine  
 Phila Shakespeare Festival, 2111 Sansom  
 Phila Theatre Company, 1714 Delancey  
 The Prince Movie Theater, Broad & Chestnut  
 Ritz Theatre, 2nd & Walnut  
 Society Hill Dance Academy, 409 S. 2nd  
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 Wilma Theatre, 265 S. Broad

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Bridget Foy's South Street Grill, 200 South  
 City Tavern, 138 S. 2nd  
 Creperie Beau Monde, 624 S. 6th  
 Deux Cheminees, 1221 Locust  
 Fork, 306 Market  
 Mustard Greens, 622 S. 2nd  
 Overtures Restaurant, 609 E. Passyunk  
 Panorama Ristorante, 14 N. Front  
 Sfizzio Restaurant, Society Hill Towers  
 Tiramisu, 528 S. 5th

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 Salon @5th, 316 S. 5th

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 Mums and Pops Confectionery, 932 Locust  
 Pink Rose Pastry Shop, 630 S. 4th  
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 Zeke's Deli, 318 S. 5th

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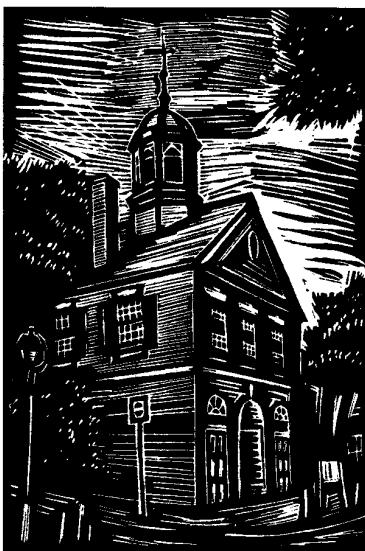
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LETTER TO THE EDITORS

City Sidewalks Hazardous to Your Health!

**Be sure your sidewalk is not an accident waiting to happen.**


My name is Robert Devoe. I've been a resident of Hopkinson House since 1981 and an SHCA member for some time. It's been a good life as a Center City resident. However, I've begun to feel my age recently (I'm a senior citizen), and walking the streets and sidewalks of my neighborhood is becoming a problem — not because of my health, but because of the conditions of the walkways.

Many of the sidewalks in my area are accidents and disasters waiting to happen. The paving is cracked, split, chipped, you name it. Bricks are loose; concrete is eaten away; curb-cuts are hazardous. After a hard winter such as we have experienced this year, ice and salt have eaten away at metal and stone (and flesh). The walkways are stained white, and footing in certain areas (such as Spruce Street from 6th Street to Broad) is extremely treacherous. Many of the intersections along Walnut Street seem as though they are ready to cave in. Even the sidewalks in front of several federal buildings and historic sites are dangerous to walk on.

These conditions seem to worsen from year to year. Whose responsibility is it to repair these conditions? Is it the individual property owners? Is it the city's? Perhaps the Commonwealth? Is there any plan (short-range or long-range) to repair anything? Has anyone ever studied the potential cost and timeline of any projected repairs? In the event of injury due to a fall, whom do I sue? How do I prove someone else's negligence? What recourse do I have? Knowing this city, I do not expect anything much to be done beyond basic repairs, line painting, and cosmetic surgery. I wonder, however, if anyone in city government really knows or cares about this problem.


EDITORS' NOTE: The pavement or sidewalk in front of every house is every property owner's responsibility. Please be sure that there are no missing or cracked bricks on your sidewalk that could potentially cause people to trip and fall and even injure themselves. If they do, you, the owner, will be liable! To prevent such accidents and to save you aggravation, please make any needed repairs as soon as possible — especially as tourist season will soon be upon us.

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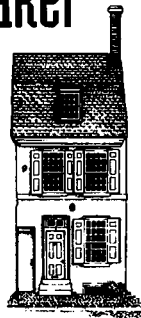


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Virtual Tour # listed below each home

234-36 S. 8th Street **\$1,500,000**  
**Virtual Tour #4250079.** Unique double corner lot with 5 bedrooms, 5.5 baths, with additional finished lower level with 3 offices w/ additional reception area and parking for 4-10 cars! Home features fabulous 2-story living room, elevator, balcony and so much more!

220+222 Spruce Street **\$995,000**  
**Virtual Tour #4329713** Fabulous historic double property with impeccable charm and character with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, refinished pine floors, fireplaces, 2-zoned central air, custom greenhouse with lap pool, and enchanting landscaped red brick garden! Said to be the oldest house in Society Hill!!

402-06 S. 2nd Street **\$439,900**  
**Virtual Tour #4230038** Gorgeous 2BD + den condo nestled in pristine ctyrd within heart of Society Hill. Spacious rooms, 3 full baths, 2 frplces, stainless kitchen, wet bar, porch, french doors, laundry room, walk-in closet and hw flrs t/o. Possible Parking! A gem right off Headhouse Square!

508 S. 3rd Street **\$369,900**  
**Virtual Tour #4338229** Very charming 1830s home in impeccable condition with 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, den, refinished pine floors, fireplace, and awesome roof deck with incredible city views!

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## NEWS YOU CAN USE

**Volunteers Needed!**

Are you a people person? If yes, then the Pennsylvania Hospital Volunteer Program wants you! They're looking for warm and friendly people to provide key services for visitors and patients. If you enjoy feeling valued, respected, and most of all, needed, then historic Pennsylvania Hospital is the place for you. Volunteer opportunities are available weekdays, evenings and weekends. Pennsylvania Hospital will benefit from your abilities and experience, so call the Volunteer Services Office at 215-829-5187.

*Saturday, May 15*

**Free Concert and Open House Presbyterian Historical Society**

A kaleidoscope of music from centuries past to the present is being offered from 2 to 5 p.m. at an Open House program by the Presbyterian Historical Society, 425 Lombard Street. The concert, performed by Musica Antiqua of South New Jersey at 3 p.m., will follow Open House exhibits, including a history of bibles from the Society's collection, the work of Presbyterian military chaplains from the Revolutionary War to the present, and other rare treasures. Refreshments will be served. RSVP by May 10 to: [refdesk@history.pcusa.org](mailto:refdesk@history.pcusa.org) or 215-627-1852.

*Tuesday, May 18*

**Pennsylvania Hospital Garden Bazaar**

The Auxiliary of Pennsylvania Hospital will host its annual Garden Bazaar on Tuesday, May 18th, beginning at 10 a.m. There will be an Elegant Elephant Sale hosted by the Committee for the Sick and Injured. Homemade items, a Bake Sale and a plant and flower sale will be offered, as well as a raffle with donated gifts from local vendors. Any questions, call the Auxiliary Office at 215-829-3270.

*Thursday, May 20*

**Open Doors Open Minds 27th Annual Women's Way Event**

WOMEN'S WAY, the nation's oldest and largest women's funding federation, raises funds and public awareness to fight for and achieve women's equality, safety, self-sufficiency and reproductive freedom through women-centered funding, advocacy and education.

WOMEN'S WAY will honor higher-education trailblazer Johnnetta B. Cole, Ph.D. on Thursday, May 20th at the Wyndham Philadelphia at Franklin Plaza, 17th and Race Streets. Reception at 5:30 p.m., with dinner and program at 6:30 p.m. Dr. Cole, president of Bennett College in North Carolina, is the "Lucretia Mott Honoree" and keynote speaker for the event. Tickets begin at \$80 each. For reservations contact Laura Hoogland, at 215-985-3328, Ext. 226 or [lhoogland@womensway.org](mailto:lhoogland@womensway.org).

*Saturday, June 5*

*(Rain date: Sunday, June 6)*

**Society Hill Towers Arts Fair**

On Saturday, June 5th, the Society Hill Towers will host an Arts Fair for our entire community. This first-ever Arts Fair will offer for sale a variety of arts and crafts treasures created by area artists and craftspeople. The Fair will also offer an appraisal service by a representative from Freeman's Auction House to provide current evaluation of your art works.

In addition, a Silent Auction will offer an assortment of desirable items such as paintings, jewelry, antiques, and Art Deco pieces. You can also place a "silent" bid for services such as a tap dance class, a massage therapy session, or a "cake a month" for three months - to name a few. Collectibles including handmade scarves, jewelry, watercolors, and books will also be offered for sale.

So please join the Society Hill Towers, at 2nd and Locust Streets, on Saturday, June 5th, anytime from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For additional information, contact Barbara Rosenberg at [babssrose@aol.com](mailto:babssrose@aol.com).

*Sunday, June 6*

**Society Hill Open House Garden Tour**

On Sunday, June 6th, from 1 to 5 p.m., we invite you to spend a few hours in the most delightful way by taking a self-guided walking tour of 18 Society Hill gardens. Whether you're interested in gardening or just want to be inspired by how creative people arrange their private outdoor urban spaces, this is the tour for you. This tour traditionally draws a large crowd of nature lovers, but it benefits our neighborhood to boot. As usual, our civic association will receive two-thirds of the profits from this tour, which is another good reason to attend. The proceeds will be used for neighborhood improvement projects, such as graffiti removal or lighting improvement. Both

the Society Hill Open House and Garden Tours are the third largest source of revenue for SHCA. For tickets, at \$30 each, call Philadelphia Open House Tours, co-sponsored by the Friends of Independence National Historical Park, at 215-928-1188.

*Thursday, June 24*

**Physick House: Jazz in the Garden**

Join the Landmarks Society at our neighborhood's historic Physick House, 321 South 4th Street, for "Jazz in the Garden," a musical garden party featuring the cool jazz sounds of the Toni Miceli Trio - on Thursday, June 24th, from 6 - 9 p.m.

Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and cocktails while socializing under the stars with friends and neighbors, and perhaps participating in "Adult Musical Chairs." An open bar will offer cocktails and a selection of wines, while neighboring restaurants will contribute a diverse array of delicious nibbles.

Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door. For Landmarks members, advance tickets are \$30. To reserve, contact Ms. Jorja Fullerton at [phila.landmarks@verizon.net](mailto:phila.landmarks@verizon.net) or 215-925-2251. The event will be held rain or shine!

*June 27 and July 16*

**Summer Jazz Concert Series At Old Pine Church**

A concert by the popular British pianist Neville Dickie is scheduled for Sunday, June 27th at 4 p.m. at Old Pine Church. It is a rare opportunity to hear this expert musician's various jazz styles, particularly his stride piano and boogie-woogie. Admission is \$15 at the door.

On Friday, July 16, Bob Seeley, Michigan's foremost boogie-woogie pianist, will appear at Old Pine at 7 p.m. Bob travels the USA displaying his dynamic approach to jazz, which can be appreciated in his latest CD, "Industrial Strength Boogie." Admission is \$15 at the door.



## NOTEWORTHY NEIGHBORS

A COLUMN BY DAVID WOODS

## Paul Levy and Carrie Rickey

It surely says much about Society Hill when a perceptive and discerning critic and an internationally noted expert in urban planning and development decide that this is where they want to make a home.

Executive Director of the independent municipal authority Center City District (CCD), Paul Levy, and the *Philadelphia Inquirer's* film critic, Carrie Rickey, say they looked all over Center City before making their move from Mount Airy to the home they've recently purchased on Pine Street.



Part of the reason is propinquity. With the CCD's impending move to 6th and Chestnut Streets and the Ritz Theatre just a hop and skip from the couple's new home, they can both walk to work. Says Paul: "We liked the proximity to our seven-year-old daughter's school so she could sleep later in the morning and live closer to her friends...and we liked the ease and convenience of walking to restaurants, theaters and shops."

Even so, the pair could have settled in Queen Village where Paul served as president of that neighborhood's association between 1976 and 1981. Or they could have

chosen a home in Old City, from which Carrie could easily reach the Ritz Theatre where she typically spends three mornings and one or two evenings a week at movie screenings.

The differences might well be history, heritage and ambience. The couple's "new" home dates from the 1820's, and Paul, who has a doctorate in history, says that when he first came to Philadelphia from New York, "I immediately fell in love with the feel and fabric of the city." And what has occupied him ever since is keeping that fabric in good repair. First he served in former Mayor Bill Green's Office of Housing and Community Development; then in 1990 in the Central Philadelphia Development Corporation, which was originally formed in 1956 as the Old Philadelphia Development Corporation to help spearhead Society Hill's revitalization.

Carrie, a Californian who has a doctorate in cinema studies from NYU, started her professional career as an art critic and worked for the *Village Voice* before coming to Philadelphia to join the *Inquirer* in 1986. The pair were married in 1991. I asked Carrie to imagine herself marooned on a desert island with only a DVD player (presumably battery-operated) and a choice of just three movies. What would be her selections? After describing *Casablanca* as wonderful but as "the drinking buddy of movies," Carrie named instead *Singing in the Rain*, the Max Ophels film *Madame D*, and the Danish movie, *Ordet*. For good measure — and a little cinematic or desert license — she added *The Thief of Baghdad*, and anything with Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers.

So while Carrie deals with a vocation of the lights, camera and action of cinema, Paul oversees the lighting, security, and transaction of city services. What do they do for leisure? Walking their 100-pound yellow Labrador named Digby, gardening, reading to their daughter — and traveling. Paul speaks at national and international meetings; Carrie does so at American and foreign film festivals.

We congratulate them on their discernment and welcome them as new and noteworthy neighbors.

---

A discerning couple chooses Society Hill as their new home.

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# The Green Tree Perpetual Assurance Company

## Episode VI • Fire and Water

From the beginning Thomas Jefferson had his doubts about city life. In 1785 (*Notes XIX*) he expressed the belief that “those who labour the earth are the chosen people of God,” while manufacturers were subject to a “corruption of morals” and as city-dwellers formed mobs that were “cankers” on good government. In 1800 Jefferson wrote to Dr. Benjamin Rush, an early member of The Green Tree: “The yellow fever will discourage the growth of great cities in our nation & I view great cities as pestilential to the morals, the health, and the liberties of man. True, they nourish some of the elegant arts, but the useful ones can thrive elsewhere; and less perfection in the others, with more health, virtue, and freedom would be my choice.”

By 1793 this widely held view of a conflict between the wholesome life of the country and the sinful life of the city had reached epic proportions with the eruption of a mysterious fever in the City, which most believed to be the consequence of the diseased morality of city dwellers. Panic spread and many civic leaders followed the advice of Dr. Rush to all Philadelphians “that can move, to quit the City.” Matthew Clarkson, one of The Green Tree’s founders and its President at the time, was then Mayor of the City, and with his committee of twenty-six brave civic leaders he worked tirelessly to keep the City functioning. He was also exceedingly instrumental in keeping The Green Tree going, since for its first dozen years the Company maintained its offices in his countinghouse.

That June, thousands of refugees from a revolution in Santo Domingo arrived in Philadelphia, adding to the congestion of the City. Their stories of the revolt of slaves and a killing fever at home alarmed Philadelphians, who were suspicious that the strangers to the City would further fuel the twin moral contagions of slavery and fever. Dr. Rush soon diagnosed the illness as yellow fever and, in fact, the refugees did carry the fever with them—not in the recognized form of a debased

morality, but in two forms unrecognizable at the time: germs and mosquitoes. Although Rush was able to identify the fever, the course of treatment he and the other notable physicians of the City urged, bleeding and purging, proved less effective than the treatment advocated by one of the immigrants, Dr. Jean Devéze, who gave his patients rest, fresh air, and quinine. Dr. Devéze received no public credit for his more successful treatment since it competed with that offered by the City’s established physicians, but it was his so-called “French treatment” that cured Alexander Hamilton and his wife.

By the turn of the century, after nearly a decade of annual epidemics of yellow fever that had erupted with particular virulence in 1797 and 1798, Philadelphians were keenly interested in providing the City with a modern water supply. Green Tree trustee Robert Wharton was then the Mayor of the City and, like his predecessor Clarkson, he struggled to keep both the Company and the City going, as most of the City’s leaders had fled town. Although the cause of the fever was generally considered to be a moral question, most Philadelphians also associated the contagion with the fetid condition of the City’s drains and its reliance on an inadequate jumble of springs, cisterns, and wells for its water supply. Hope abounded that a plentiful and purified water system would mitigate the scourge afflicting the City. As an added benefit, and of particular interest to Mayor Wharton and other trustees of The Green Tree, a new water system could also increase the water pressure available to fight fires.

In 1798 City leaders, including The Green Tree’s trustee Daniel Smith, formed a Watering Committee to consider the problem. They commissioned Benjamin Henry Latrobe to design and build the water works at Centre Square, now the site of City Hall. Latrobe’s beautiful neoclassical structure, erected in 1801, housed the new system’s experimental steam engine to power its pumps. The Green Tree was an early subscriber



to this project, agreeing to purchase thirty shares with an advance payment of \$40 per share, provided that “Interest will be given for the same from the time of subscribing.”

By 1811 it was clear that the experiment was not a success, however, since the pumps were expensive to run, inefficient, and unreliable. Under the direction of Latrobe’s former assistant, Frederick Graff, the water works were relocated in a new structure in the style of a Federal country mansion built at the base of Faire Mount on the Schuylkill and supplied with two new steam engines to pump fresh water from the river below. After two explosions and a great deal of expense, the Watering Committee abandoned its man-made steam engines in 1822 in favor of the natural power of the dammed up river to run its pumps. The new system proved successful, undoubtedly to the immense relief of both the citizenry at large and to fire and insurance companies such as The Green Tree.

With a reliable source of water for the City, firefighting equipment became more sophisticated and more costly as the century advanced, and the trustees of The Green Tree recognized the need for some regular schedule of assistance for the fire and newly formed hose companies. They requested trustees James Read and William Poyntell to explore the matter with several other insurance companies. By 1807 representatives from five insurance companies had amassed \$817, which they divided amongst the nine companies in the City, Northern Liberties, and Southwark, in the first of a series of annual donations.

*(To be continued.)*

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

Monday, May 10, 9:30 a.m.

**Public Hearings on Tax Reform**  
City Hall, Room 400  
See page 3

Saturday, May 15  
(rain date Saturday, May 22)

**Washington Square Gardening Session**  
9 a.m. - noon. Volunteers needed.  
See page 15

Saturday, May 15

**Presbyterian Historical Society  
Free Concert and Open House**  
425 Lombard Street, 2 - 5 p.m.  
See page 33

Tuesday, May 18

**Pennsylvania Hospital  
Garden Bazaar and Bake Sale**  
Beginning at 10 a.m.  
See page 33

Wednesday, May 19

**SHCA Board Meeting**  
6 p.m., St. Peter's Parish House  
313 Pine Street

**SHCA General Membership Meeting**  
7 p.m., Election of Directors & Officers  
Featured Speaker: Mary Bomar,  
Superintendent of Independence Park  
St. Peter's Church, 3rd & Pine Street s

Thursday, May 20

**Women's Way 27th Annual Event**  
Wyndham Philadelphia,  
17th & Race Streets  
See page 33

Wed, May 26

**Spring Fling at Dark Horse**  
SHCA Social. See page 1

Thursday, May 27

**Atwater Kent Exhibit Opening**  
"The Philadelphia Game"  
15 S. 7th Street  
Open every day but Tuesday, 10 - 5 p.m.  
\$5 adults and seniors;  
\$3 children under 13

Beginning May 29, thru summer & fall

**Head House Crafts & Fine Arts Fair**  
Under Head House at Pine — rain or shine  
Jewelry, glass, woodwork, fabric, fine arts  
(No show July 10-11)  
Children's Workshop Sundays, 1 - 3 p.m.

Saturday, June 5  
(Rain date: Sunday, June 6th)

**Society Hill Towers Art Fair**  
10 - 4 p.m. See page 33

Sunday, June 6

**Open House Tour:**  
Society Hill Gardens & Courtyards  
1 - 5 p.m. See page 33

Thursday, June 24, Rain or Shine

**Jazz in the Garden with Toni Miceli Trio**  
Historic Physick House  
See page 33

Sunday, June 27

Friday, July 16

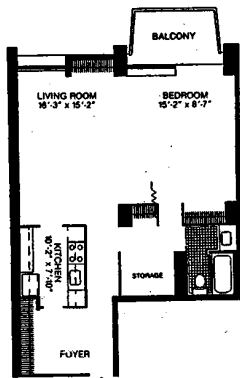
**Old Pine Presbyterian Church  
Jazz Concerts**  
See page 33



*'Society Hill and Washington Square's Premier Condominiums*

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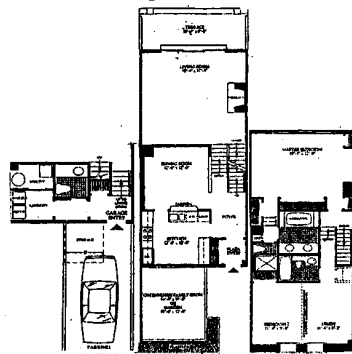
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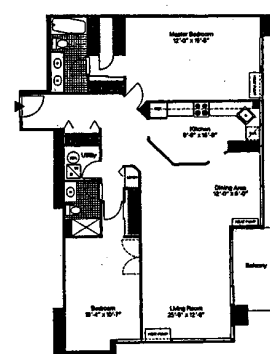
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