

SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

www.societyhillcivic.com

Busy Times Ahead!

The holiday season will soon be upon us. It's a time for catching up with family and friends, a time for shopping, decorating, cooking, baking, and hopefully, a time for us to unwind and have some fun. Meanwhile, our civic association keeps plugging away, trying to stay on top of all things, large and small.

SHCA's November 17 General Membership Meeting will be graciously hosted by the Society Hill Synagogue. The keynote speaker is our own neighbor, **Paul Levy**, executive director of the Center City District, the independent municipal authority charged with improving quality of life throughout Center City. Paul will give us a briefing on Society Hill's parks and playgrounds.

After Paul's presentation, we will hear from **Dave Hammond**, the recently appointed executive director of the South Street Headhouse District, who will bring us up to date on South Street plans and happenings. Our third presenter will be **Stephen R. Hammell**, an environmental planner, who will introduce the "Cross Philly Walk," a proposed walking path across Center City that will link Penn's Landing to Schuylkill Park. We hope to see many of you at this pre-holiday civic association meeting.

Fall Clean-Up Day is November 13

Rain or shine, our Fall Clean-Up Day is Saturday, November 13 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. It's time to sweep your sidewalks, streets and alleyways. Please bag leaves and sidewalk trash (no household trash), and leave the filled bags at major intersections on Locust, Spruce, Pine and Lombard where they cross numbered streets by 1 p.m. If you need brooms, trash bags, or gloves, pick them up after 8 a.m. at Three Bears Park (300 block of Delancey Street) and return them by 2 p.m.

Important: **You must move your cars**, where posted, after 6 p.m. Friday evening — to prevent receipt of a ticket. No parking will be allowed on either side of the 300 and 400 blocks of Front Street, 200 and 700 blocks of Locust Street, 200 and 300 blocks of South 2nd Street, Lawrence Court, and the 400 block of Gaskill Street. Cars will be ticketed between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturday if they are not moved for street cleaning where posted. Return your car to the proper side of the street at 3 p.m.

If you have questions or would be willing to volunteer, please contact Lisa Karlin at lskarlin@earthlink.net or 215-512-5822, or Dana Hall at Dana.Hall@lighthousepartners.com or 215-351-9222.



Happy Holidays,
One and All!

We look forward to seeing you at our November 17 meeting, as well as our "strictly social" gathering to be held at Liberty Court on Wednesday December 8, the first day of Hanukah. Read more about both events on this page... and have a wonderful holiday season!

WED.

November

17

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Society Hill Civic Association Meetings
Wednesday, November 17, 2004

**Society Hill Synagogue,
418 Spruce Street**

- 6:00 p.m. Board Meeting**
All SHCA members are welcome to attend.
- 7:00 p.m. Meet & Greet Your Neighbors**
- 7:30 p.m. General Membership Meeting**
Invited speakers and their topics:
Paul Levy – Parks & Playgrounds
Dave Hammond – South Street Plans
Stephen R. Hammell – Cross Philly Walk
All Society Hill residents, businesses and institutions are invited to attend.

Holiday Social Set for December 8

All are invited to Society Hill's post-Turkey, "strictly social" gathering to be held on Wednesday evening December 8, from 7 to 9 p.m. This complimentary event for all Society Hill residents will be held at Liberty Court's sales center, a sample house located at 212 Lombard Street. The party is being very generously hosted by Arthur Fefferman, the developer of this new luxury townhouse project. At the social, we can all expect to partake of a wonderful spread that includes fine wines, beer and hors d'oeuvres — and get to know new neighbors. RSVP to Matthew DeJulio at 215-629-1288 or MattDeJulio@aol.com. Please join us at SHCA's November 17th meeting — for serious stuff — and at our community get-together on December 8th — just for fun!

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Submission Deadlines for January/February Issue:

Advertising Dec. 1

Editorial Dec. 9

Submissions

We want to hear from you. 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.

TRASH REMINDER – AGAIN!

When we issued a correction in the previous *Reporter* reminding you that there are two different Trash Pick-Up days — depending upon where you live in Society Hill, we inadvertently left out some streets.

On **Thursday** mornings prior to 7 a.m. trash and recycling is collected on numbered and named blocks **west** of 6th St.

On **Friday** mornings prior to 7 a.m. recycling and trash is collected on numbered and named blocks **east** of and including **both** sides of 6th St.

Remember that collection day is delayed by one day whenever there is a city holiday, such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, etc.

Recycling Plastics

The city does NOT have curbside recycling for plastics — put them in with your trash or take to places that do recycle plastics. For example:

- Washington Ave, under I-95, next to Rizzo Rink: first Saturday of month 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- 22nd & Spruce Sts: first and third Saturdays 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Volunteers Make a Difference

Society Hill is fortunate to have residents who care so much about our community, such as neighbors who thoughtfully pick up litter, and Dave Stevens, our "Graffiti Czar," who washes graffiti off Franklin Lampposts. Recently several events occurred in the neighborhood through the efforts of volunteers. The successful Three Bears Fall Festival, held on Saturday, October 2, was lots of fun for kids and parents alike and raised over \$8,000.

I wonder if any of you happened to notice the recent improvement in the Three Bears sculpture! Mama Bear, the victim of a partial lobotomy — due to an act of vandalism — has been repaired by an unknown, mysterious "Friend" who also mended other areas of the sculpture. We thank this unknown artist for his or her heartwarming labor of love!

Talk about anonymous gifts! If you've been in the vicinity of St. Peter's School recently, you may have noticed an improvement at the corner of 4th and Lombard Streets. The old chain-link fence has been removed, and as we go to press, it is being replaced with a tubular steel fence more in character with our community's streetscape. This attractive new fence was donated anonymously!

I'm pleased to report that on October 16th a group of volunteers gathered at Washington Square to plant over 5,000 bulbs that will flower in the spring. (See page 9.) On that same day, many neighborhood folks attended St. Peter's Harvest Festival, also run by volunteers. Despite the afternoon's showers, the event was a success.

On Saturday, November 13th, you will have an opportunity to volunteer for our Fall Clean-Up Day. Whether you live in a house, apartment or hi-rise building, we need your help in cleaning our streets, sidewalks and parks! Please see

page 1 and contact the event coordinators if you can join us!

Our overall volunteer efforts have been nationally recognized, as SHCA was recently nominated for a 2004 "Take Pride in America Award," a National Park Service program. Although not selected, we did receive a Certificate of Appreciation for our stewardship in enhancing our public lands. Regarding awards, I wish to congratulate Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church, as it has been awarded a \$450,000 grant from the "Save America's Treasures," a program of the National Park Service — for the purpose of improvements to preserve its National Historic Landmark building at 419 S. 6th Street.

If you were unable to attend our September 2004 General Membership Meeting, you missed an educationally enlightening presentation, summarized on pages 5-7. SHCA will continue to support efforts to ensure that Independence Mall is accessible to all city residents and tourists. At that meeting we were also given a brief presentation from the Philadelphia School District regarding the \$100,000 campus park improvement plan for the McCall School, which our neighborhood very much appreciates. Let's thank our community representatives who participate on the school's Campus Park Planning Team for giving their time to this worthwhile project. (See page 11.) Lastly, we heard a brief presentation from John Morely, who challenged State Senator Vincent J. Fumo in the recent election. Although invited, Senator Fumo was unable to attend the meeting because of previous commitments in Harrisburg.

I hope to see you at our forthcoming General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, November 17 at 7:30 p.m., to be held at the Society Hill Synagogue, 418 Spruce Street.



Tania Rorke
SHCA President

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Richard Stengel and Mary Pfaff

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Security Plan for Independence Square

Neighbors filled the pews of the Old Pine Street Church sanctuary at one of SHCA's most heavily attended General Membership Meetings. It was a hushed audience who came to learn about security and screening plans at Independence Park. Seated in this "church of the patriots" — where outside lay buried William Hurry, who rang the Liberty Bell the day of the first reading of The Declaration of Independence — neighbors listened to a panel who brought to life the story of America's birthplace and who questioned the current security perimeter around Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell and adjacent buildings.

The Independence Mall Business and Residents Coalition (IMBARC) — a grassroots group of citizens who challenge the rationale of the park's current security measures and future permanent plans — assembled for us a distinguished panel of experts for a forum on historical, archaeological, legal and security information related to Independence Square. IMBARC's Chairman, Carter Buller, Esq., moderated and was joined by Ann Meredith, president of the Lights of Liberty Show and co-founder of both IMBARC and the Coalition to Free Chestnut Street.

Hall History: Historian Charlene Mires, an associate professor of history at Villanova University and author of *Independence Hall: In American Memory*, portrayed Independence Hall as the "bridge from past to present." For 225 years, the Hall has played host to the ever-shifting political, religious and cultural currents of the times. Where once a country broke free from the grasp of monarchy, its citizens later united to end discrimination and slavery. Whether for public or official use, the Hall was the hub of change. It was at its peak during the 19th century when city government, courts, police, and even the city dog pound were housed there. The groups that assembled to proclaim their messages included Civil War veterans, labor parties, abolitionists led by Frederick Douglass, and women's rights advocates escorted by Susan B. Anthony. Eventually the Hall's tenants moved out of the building, reducing its use to infrequent government-sanctioned events.

Archaeological Finds: Dr. Rebecca Yamin, a leading archaeologist and senior project manager at John Milner Associates, talked about the

discoveries found underneath Independence Square. Since the 1950s, archaeologists dug more than 3,600 linear feet of trenches and recovered 30,000 artifacts. Finds included Native American and Revolutionary War artifacts; pieces of houses, privies, walls and fences; and landscaping episodes from as early as the late 1780s and as recent as 1915.

During the recent excavation, Dr. Yamin and her team were able to search for the observatory used to view the Transit of Venus in 1769. Its platform may have served as the site from which the Declaration was first read to the public. Further exploration revealed more than 2,000 artifacts and remnants of the Vaughan Walk, the first formal walk installed in the Square. Vaughan was a close friend of George Washington, and his naturalistic design for the Square was modeled after the landscape at Washington's Mt. Vernon home. Remnants of the past three centuries provide a tangible story of the Square's history and remind us that this sacred piece of ground still holds numbers of intact remains.

Legal Issues: Regarding the federal government's intent to erect a fence around Independence Square, local attorney and SHCA member Daniel Layden posed the following two questions: 1) What is the source of law showing the government's authority? 2) What are the restrictions on that authority's power? Layden's preliminary research led him to a memo, dated July 14, 1950, stating that the National Park Service (NPS) under the Department of Interior is required to maintain the park's security, although the City of Philadelphia has ownership; thus all changes or improvements must be agreed upon by both federal and city governments. In terms of restrictions of power, after the State House was erected early in the 18th century, a 1736 Pennsylvania statute was passed to maintain the property on which the building stood to "remain a public open green and walks forever." Once Pennsylvania government left the State House, Independence Square was offered for sale, and in 1818 the City of Philadelphia acquired the deed, within which are contained the 1736 statute restrictions. The city has maintained ownership of both the land and the buildings ever since. In 1950, the NPS became property manager under a 99-year lease. *continued on page 7*



At SHCA's September meeting, Carter Buller (left) and NPS's Phil Sheridan talked about security plans for Independence Park.

"From the American Revolution to the turn of the millennium, Independence Hall has been a place for celebrating the nation's triumphs and mourning its tragedies.

"Yes, it is the home of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, but it is also a place where Americans worked out the essence of what the country is."

*Dr. Charlene Mires
Philadelphia Tribune,
August 20, 2002*

Excerpted Letter from Park Superintendent Mary Bomar

September 20, 2004

**Regarding
Independence
Square:**

"...No decision has been made regarding the location, or even the number, of screening facilities, if any. I am personally against building on Independence Square. However, this is not a decision I will make unilaterally. I have, time and again, pledged that there will be a public forum to discuss those issues. ...As I have stated in the past, 'We will leave no stone unturned as we consider all the options. No final decision has been made, or will be made, without a public forum on the subject.' We must bring

this process to a conclusion among all concerned parties, since without a long-term plan, the temporary security measures will remain in place. Ultimately, we must determine what, if any, security provisions are required at INHP, and the preferred design to match those precautions. At that point, I will fulfill my pledge for a public meeting so that all interested parties can speak their minds about the Department of the Interior's preferred alternative."

*Mary A. Bomar, Superintendent
Independence National Historical Park*

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Independence Square Security Plan...

continued from page 5

Evaluation of the Square as Security Risk:

Last to present was Bill Chadwick, whose risk-consulting firm performed an independent evaluation of Independence Hall's security measures in 2003. He discussed the risk of a terrorist attack on Independence Hall, the effectiveness of the park's security measures to reduce that risk, and alternative or less obtrusive measures that would be far more effective in reducing the risk.

Chadwick explained that his team, using standard risk assessment methodology, had determined that the risk from a terrorist attack on Independence Hall was low because such an attack would not advance the three demonstrated objectives of terrorists:

- 1) inflicting mass civilian casualties;
- 2) obstructing government operations;
- 3) causing grave economic harm.

While demolishing Independence Hall or any other historical or iconic site would have a psychological impact on Americans, that impact would pale in comparison to the horrific acts regularly committed by terrorists. Other factors indicating a low-risk level include: the absence of any intelligence suggesting that the park has been targeted; and the fact that historically there have not been terrorist attacks at national parks. Chadwick added that if there were, in fact, a credible threat, we would be seeing security measures far different from those presently in place.

As to the effectiveness of present security measures, Chadwick noted that regardless of how high or low the risk of attack is rated, security measures such as bicycle racks, fences, and closing a single block of Chestnut Street do virtually nothing to reduce the risk of an effective attack. Given the range at which car bombs are effective, streets would have to be closed for several blocks in every direction to afford meaningful protection from a car bomb. He also said that the best security practice calls for screening individuals as close as possible to the secure facility so they cannot pick up or receive devices through the fence after having been screened and before they enter the facility.

Chadwick recommended that NPS establish a complete and integrated operational security plan — including emergency response and

recovery steps, escalation protocols, graduated security, and efficient communication links to other security forces. Furthermore, and perhaps most significantly, security measures must be implemented to reduce the opportunity to attack the Hall from the rooftops of nearby tower buildings. He also suggested routine employee and vendor screening to reduce vulnerability to “inside” attacks.

Q&A Session: The floor was opened to a question and answer period. The park's Public Relations Officer Phil Sheridan reminded the audience that a Park Service public hearing on the subject of security design will occur sometime in the future, and explained why Superintendent Mary A. Bomar did not participate as an invited panelist. (Her letter is excerpted on page 6.)

Carter Buller and Ann Meredith fielded questions and offered final comments. Buller clarified IMBARC's position on using reasonable security measures, such as the ones proposed in IMBARC's cooperative effort with architect Laurie Olin, who was hired by the NPS to design a new plan for Independence Mall. In Olin's plan, screening would continue in already existing buildings, but the park would be kept open and free. His proposal suggests screening visitors as they enter the Liberty Bell Center and also the non-historic East and West Wings of Independence Hall, which could be “bomb-proofed” in a way similar to the Liberty Bell Center. This arrangement would eliminate the need for fences and would sufficiently screen visitors under most conditions.

The security issue of this national treasure remains of great interest to area residents, as evidenced by the large membership turnout. In fact, as neighbors strolled out of the meeting, they discussed their renewed appreciation and support, not just for preserving our monuments of liberty, but for honoring those who lived and died to establish a free America.

For more information, visit IMBARC's website, www.freeindependencehall.com, where you can review Chadwick Associates' report “Evaluation of Select Security Measures at Independence National Historic Park” dated February 4, 2003. Also visit NPS's Independence Square website, www.nps.gov/inde.




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Ann Meredith
co-founder of both
IMBARC and the
Coalition to Free
Chestnut Street

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Getting Down & Dirty in Washington Square

Neighbors “Dig In” to Plant Flowers

On Saturday, October 16th, a bright autumn morning before the afternoon rain, many Society Hill neighbors “dug in” to plant thousands of bulbs throughout Washington Square — 4,000 English Bluebell bulbs, several flats of pansies, and 1,000 daffodil bulbs — all bought and paid for by SHCA. Our volunteer planting crew members were delighted by the generosity of neighborhood establishments which provided complimentary refreshments: Citizens Bank offered juice, coffee, water and donuts; City Tavern served freshly baked banana bread; and “Washington Square” — the new Steven Starr restaurant across from the park — provided box lunches and drinks. All these treats were greatly appreciated!

Washington Square (the park, not the restaurant!) is now under the jurisdiction of Independence National Historical Park (INHP). Thus, maintenance of the Square’s grounds are now the responsibility of INHP personnel rather

than the city. Therefore, park management seeks our community’s ongoing assistance to help keep the Square green and beautiful — requesting from each volunteer a minimum commitment of eight hours each month. All planting of flowers, shrubs and trees is coordinated and approved by park staff, which provides orientation for volunteers, as well as gardening tools stored on site.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a “green thumb” volunteer for Washington Square, please contact SHCA’s Washington Square Chairperson Sissie Lipton at momlipton@aol.com; or SHCA’s Administrator Matt DeJulio at 215-629-1288 or mattdejulio@aol.com. Matt can get you in touch with Beverly Morris, our new park contact for volunteers. We send kudos to all who participated in the fall planting event. Society Hill neighbors can look forward to a beautiful spring season at Washington Square!

**Volunteers
planted more
than 5,000 bulbs
in the park.**



Sissie Lipton, above left, chair of SHCA’s Washington Square committee, welcomes Citizens Bank Manager Susan Morgan and her donation of juice, coffee and donuts. City Tavern provided banana bread, and lunch was donated by “Washington Square” restaurant.



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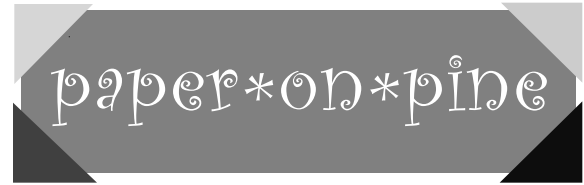
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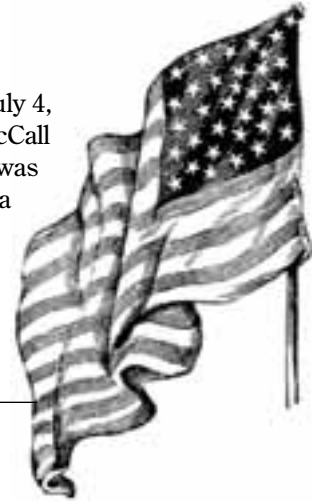
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MCCALL SCHOOL UPDATE

McCall School Flies Beautiful New Flag

If you happen to walk down 6th Street at either 9 a.m. or 3 p.m., you are likely to see an Honor Guard in the process of raising or lowering our national flag at the McCall School. This wonderful new tradition came about when Hans Bombeck, friend and neighbor of the school, saw the size and condition of the flag flying in the school's yard. He felt strongly that a more prominent and brighter flag should be displayed, and he generously provided one.

The flag that now hovers above the McCall School was flown over the White House on July 4, 2004, and was dedicated to the children of McCall School by U.S. Representative Bob Brady. It was presented to the school by Mr. Bombeck at a ceremony on September 22nd. A student Honor Guard, taught the proper technique for handling the flag, raises and lowers the flag daily, a patriotic practice the school plans to continue in years to come.



New School Playground

McCall School is the fortunate recipient of \$100,000 toward campus improvements at 6th and Delancey Streets. Paul Vallas, CEO of the School District of Philadelphia, selected McCall as a candidate for this program last March when he saw the school's need. At the September SHCA Meeting, Board directors voted unanimously to support the project, placing an SHCA director on the school's Planning Team.

In accordance with School District protocol, McCall's Home & School Association assembled a Planning Team consisting of representatives from the school, SHCA, and the community. The Team is working to create a recreation space that meets the needs of children while respecting the concerns of neighbors. Team members have been responsive to the suggestions of their constituencies and have brought many diverse ideas to planning sessions.

At press time, no definite plan has been created, although the Team considers a play structure (jungle gym) as the top priority for children at recess. Other items under consideration include improved fencing and landscaping, as well as a small practice surface for athletic activities. The play structure will meet all safety codes with respect to rubber surface, height restrictions, and distance from fences and doorways. All equipment will be constructed of stainless steel, which is most durable and resistant to graffiti, and will be "maintenance-free" — an industry term describing products that require minimal maintenance. In addition, new Philadelphia School District custodial contracts have been negotiated to include responsibility for the outside of the building as well as the interior. This is a major shift in policy, and one that, according to Mr. Vallas, will address community concern over maintenance of the schoolyard.

The Team is well aware of security concerns, and design professionals on the Team have a good sense of how best to deal with these issues. Nobody wants the playground to be an attraction for inappropriate or illegal activity. Vigilance and planning will ensure that any risk in this regard is minimized.

There is tremendous enthusiasm within the school and community for this campus improvement project. More than 500 neighbors signed a petition supporting an improved playground at the site. Currently, the schoolyard is an unattractive, empty space which does little to motivate the community to embrace it. When the new equipment is installed, along with other possible beautification measures, there will be an investment in maintaining the area — increasing school pride and community desire to maintain the attractive new playground. The School District reports this trend repeatedly in neighborhoods throughout the city — even in disadvantaged areas. A cooperative group of students, parents and faculty, along with neighbors will remain vigilant about the school's new recreation area to keep it safe, clean and inviting.

Society Hill has first-hand experience with this very concept. The play structure at St. Peter's School serves a similar purpose, and for years has operated without any problems. There is no reason to believe that a playground at McCall School will be any less successful in enriching the school and neighborhood than the neighboring structure at 3rd and Lombard Streets.

The McCall Team expects to finalize a design plan within the next two months. Hopefully, the job will be put out for bid soon after, so that construction can begin in early spring and the project can be completed in May.



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LETTER TO THE EDITORS

A Neighbor Responds to McCall Proposal

To: the Editors of the *Society Hill Reporter*

The School District of Philadelphia has designated the McCall School, at 6th and Cypress Streets, as the site for schoolyard improvement. Although there is no plan to date, \$100,000 has been allocated for this purpose.

The purpose of this letter is to set the record straight and clear up the misconception that nearby neighbors are opposed to any changes. Generally, most if not all of the neighbors are in favor of schoolyard improvements, because McCall needs to improve its general outside appearance. However, unless carefully planned, there are likely to be unintended consequences of which the immediate neighbors will bear the full burden. Therefore, because we have first-hand experience in understanding the issues confronting the schoolyard and how our quality of life could be impacted, it makes sense that our views should be seriously considered in the planning. In that way, the plan will be fair and balanced — taking into consideration the needs of the students of McCall and our right to have a reasonably safe and quiet neighborhood, especially after the school day ends.

Unless the project is properly planned, we believe that there will be security and maintenance issues. The space should be designed to provide play space primarily for the McCall School children, and at the same time, should not provide a setting for undesirable behavior by loiterers, homeless people, and teens after school hours. For example, while a climbing

apparatus or jungle gym is generally considered a good idea, the addition of benches, or any kind of seating, is not. Seating will provide an invitation for loitering. Similarly, nothing should be constructed that will provide shelter for sleeping or illicit activity. The proposed jungle gym should not be oversized or have covered areas. Careless planning will undoubtedly create a public nuisance. As we are all aware, we cannot rely on our over-burdened and under-staffed police force to monitor the area.

Whatever is constructed needs to be maintained on a regular basis. Since maintenance on school grounds has been lacking in the past, any new additions would add a further burden. It is worth noting that our local playground, Three Bears Park, costs thousands of dollars each year for its upkeep, and requires a major annual fundraising effort to raise the necessary amount. Despite great efforts, graffiti on the jungle gym is a chronic problem, as are trash items, hazardous to children, which are strewn on the ground. Accordingly, we suggest that a substantial fund be set aside from the initial \$100,000 for maintenance in order that new additions do not become an eyesore or a hazard.

All of us who are immediate neighbors of the McCall School hope that our thoughts will be heard in the planning process — so that we can come to an agreement that will benefit the school, the community, and ourselves.

Yours truly,
Martha Levine Sedran

SOCIETY HILL TOWN WATCH

Watch Over Society Hill...From Your Living Room!

Please consider joining Society Hill Town Watch even if you have no inclination to go on foot patrols. Simply sign up to be in our e-mail group or to serve as a base operator and you can still play an important role. By receiving our e-mails, you will be apprised of each of the reported crimes occurring in Society Hill, noteworthy arrests, and other news about crime and security. Armed with this information, you can better assist the police protect our neighborhood by being their “eyes and ears,” whether you are outside or indoors.

Acting as a base operator for SHTW patrols offers another great way to make a contribution. Equipped with a walkie-talkie or a telephone, you can go about your daily or nightly home routine while being available to take calls from the patrollers and, if necessary, call 911. As with our patrols, you can serve in this capacity as often or as infrequently as you wish. To join our team, or to learn more about Society Hill Town Watch, call 267-251-0749 or send an e-mail to michael.erdos@phila.gov. Thanks!



Jazz Vespers at Old Pine Church



Sunday, November 21, 5:00pm
The Midiri Brothers Sextet
Rev. Tim Safford, preaching

Sunday, December 19, 5:00pm
'Father' John D'Amico Trio
Rev. Deborah McKinley, preaching

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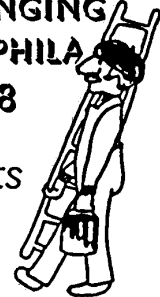
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SAFE AND SOUND IN SOCIETY HILL

Tips For Personal Safety

Your best protection against crime is “to be aware of your surroundings,” according to Brian Korn, Captain of the Sixth District Police. Even though crime in the Sixth is down by 6% year to date, Society Hill has experienced a rash of criminal type activity since September — two of the incidents are considered to be violent crimes. Captain Korn reports that over 80% of victims “drop the ball.” The police need your cooperation to identify and apprehend perpetrators, but victims seldom follow through.

Captain Korn has assured us that additional patrols have already been allocated to Society Hill and that they will remain in place as long as it takes to reduce the number of crimes in our neighborhood.

If you have ever been a victim of a mugging or an assault, (and if the police arrive within an appropriate amount of time), the police will usually drive you around the neighborhood to see if you can spot the perpetrator; then take you to Central Detectives to look through mug shots. This is where victims tend to lose interest and few take the time to look through the books. However, without this step, police have very little to go on. When a crime is in progress, especially in the dark, it is very difficult to see or determine facial features, hair style and color, clothing or other identifying characteristics. Moreover, most of us are not trained to be professional observers. But the police need something to start an investigation. Focus on one or two distinctive features — hard to do if you’re the victim, but necessary if you want the perpetrator off the streets.

What can you do to avoid becoming a victim? First of all, walk with another person or a big dog with a loud bark and big teeth. Victims in

our neighborhood have all been men or women walking alone. Second, always take the safest, best-lit path from one place to another. Many of our streets are poorly lit, so we continually recommend that all houses have front-door lights that turn on at dusk and stay lit until dawn — preferably with automatic timers. Day or night you should always be aware of your surroundings and the people around you. Third, try to avoid groups of males on the streets — take an alternative route, if you can, or ring someone’s doorbell.

Call 911! But remember that our Sixth District police officers are at the mercy of 911 dispatchers. An officer may appear on the scene immediately or arrive 30 minutes later. Please note that crimes are assigned by 911 dispatchers according to a list of priorities. (Look for a list of priorities that send police to a crime scene in the next issue of this newsletter.) Also, please realize that cops are people — some can be kind, considerate and sympathetic, while others can be cold and stick only to the facts.

In the final analysis, you can avoid serious incidents by staying alert, trusting your instincts and communicating confidence. That’s City Smarts! As city neighborhoods go, Society Hill continues to be a safe place to live and work.

If you see a suspicious individual or a crime being committed, call 911.

File a report by having a police officer come to your house. Call Community Relations Officer Brown at 215-686-3063 to make sure your report was filed.

Contact Martha Levine, co-chair of Safe and Sound Society Hill at marthalev@msn.com or 215-629-0727.

A Giant Thank You

to all Society Hill Block Coordinators!

Many thanks to our reliable Block Coordinators, who distribute relevant and timely SHCA fliers whenever necessary. You are an invaluable resource.

Ronald V. Donato, Jr., MBA

Vice President

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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 R E P O R T

BY PAUL BONI

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

214 Spruce Street

The owner of this historic property intends to restore the lost historic fabric from the facade of this house. Plans include installing an iron railing along the side of the front steps leading up to the front door. Other houses along this street have iron railings, but this one was lost some time ago. The owner has conducted research into the style of the railing that would have been included in the original construction. His plan also includes restoring the siding along the sides of the dormer. Again, the owner has researched the type of siding

that would have been used when the house was built. Our Committee was pleased to receive this thorough presentation and agreed to support the owner in his application to the Historical Commission. We applaud these types of efforts and look forward to yet another historically accurate restoration.

The Powel House Museum (244 S. 3rd St)

The ZHP Committee has approved the request of the Powel House to install two bollards along the curb on S. 3rd Street, the purpose of which is to protect this most historic house from speeding vehicles that — believe it or not! — sometimes jump the curb. A few months ago a vehicle hit the house's front railing and marble steps, causing some damage. The design of the bollards has been carefully developed and will be consistent in style with those at Independence National Historic Park — resembling bollards that were in place during the 18th century to protect — again, believe it or not! — sidewalk pedestrians from startled horses who would also “jump” the curb. The more things change, the more they stay the same!



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Three Bears Park Fall Festival:

The Fall Festival raised more than \$8,000!

Despite the occasional drizzles, this year's Three Bears Park Fall Festival was a great success. Smiling faces were seen on children as well as adults, all enjoying the many wonderful activities, such as pony rides, a moon bounce, face and pumpkin painting, a bake and food sale, and more. The Festival raised over \$8,000, for which the Friends of Three Bears Park are most grateful!

The Friends would especially like to thank these businesses: Dean Bielicki, operating partner at Johnny Rockets, who for the past several years has donated all the hamburgers, hotdogs, and buns for the food sale. Thanks to Jerry Roseman and Alia Bonna, owners of the Philadelphia Java Company, who provided coffee; Nikki and John Luciano, neighborhood residents who contributed sausage, pepper and onion grinders; and John and Stephanie

Reitano, from Capogiro, who donated delicious gelato. Other food contributors were Super-Fresh, Whole Foods, Famous 4th Street Deli and Essene. The next time your shop at any of these community establishments, please give them your personal thanks. Finally, we thank all who donated gift certificates and/or services for the Festival's Silent Auction, as well as all you wonderful people who attended and supported the Festival. Without your personal involvement, we could not have raised the more than \$8,000.

What do the Friends do with these funds? Well, recently, a good bit was spent on the circular planter. Terri Saulin, a local sculptor, was hired to make the planter's charming Bear Paw Prints. Over the past spring and summer, the Friends replanted the entire circular area (formerly the fountain), thanks to design work



Chris Coyne, Claire Batten and Jim King – chefs extraordinaires – cooked hamburgers and hot dogs donated by Johnny Rockets!



Children were delighted with the balloon sculptures.



Giant thanks to Philadelphia's Police and Fire Departments, which invited the children to explore a real police car and fire truck.

Fun for Mama, Papa, and Baby

donated by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green Program. Replacement of many plants, which were trampled by kids, was costly. Please ask your kids to stay on the paw prints when they frolic along the planter. By the way, the circular planter was entered into the City Garden Contest last July, and received an honorable mention. Finally, you should know that the Friends pay for park cleaning three times every week.

The Friends' long-term goal is, of course, the much needed facelift that will replace the play structure, play surface, and provide attractive new benches — which was the incentive for renovating the entire park. Financial grants were secured from both Senator Fumo's and Councilman DiCicco's offices, which will help cover the cost. Hopefully the improvement project will

soon get underway, as the Friends are definitely making progress. They have chosen a footprint for the new play space and are currently interviewing landscape architectural firms for the development of a Master Plan.

All the park's fundraising efforts are crucial — not only for completion of this ambitious project — but because the park receives no city funds for equipment maintenance. The Friends of Three Bears Park is a nonprofit organization, so that all donations are tax deductible. We hope you will continue to support the park, allowing it to continue to be the special place it has been for so many years — but even better! Also, if you have any ideas for future events or activities, please contact Tania Rorke at 215-925-4544. We would love to have your participation, as there can never be too many park volunteers!



Pumpkin decorating, face painting, and a moon bounce attracted young fairgoers.

Photos by Tania Rorke and Judy Lamirand

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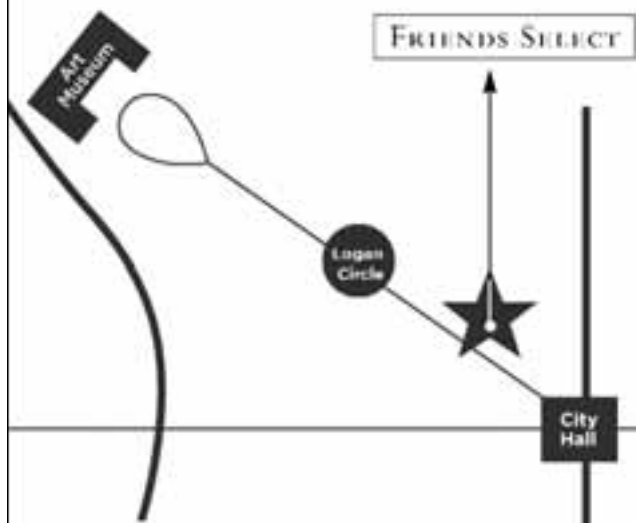
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Kids' Beat

A COLUMN BY KERI WHITE

Society Hill is now the world headquarters for a new record label! Bingo Records, a recording label aimed at kids and families, is owned by Ric Cohen and Michael Silver, both long-time Society Hill residents. Ric and Michael are musicians who aspired to rock stardom, but alas, landed in entertainment law! Both are dads who suffered through the “Wiggles” and “Barney” soundtracks, which were particularly grueling for them. Bingo cut its first CD this year — *Beatles' Hits for Kids* — an obvious choice, because of the Beatles' simple rhythms and accessible lyrics. Their goal is not to create a “kiddie Beatlemania,” but rather to provide high-quality sound featuring classic songs that adults can enjoy — thus, avoiding torturous rides to the shore as “I love you, you love me...” drones on endlessly.

Based on their personal experience and interviews with music educators and elementary school teachers, Cohen and Silver believe that kids prefer to listen to other kids, as they have an easier time singing along with children's voices. They used the Music Training Center, in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, as a source

for recruiting talent and also as their recording studio. More than fifty kids auditioned, but only six were chosen to become the “Bingo Kids.” Ranging in ages from 7 to 13, they provide most of the vocals on the album.

The technique for creating a CD is an intricate process. Cohen and Silver began their initial project by critically listening to the original Beatles' songs, breaking them down, and recreating them — using vintage instruments, such as the 1963 Hofner bass similar to the one used by Paul McCartney at Abbey Road Studios. After laying down the classic, high-quality instrumentals, they added the kids' vocals.

Their long-term vision is to have Bingo Kids' versions of major recording stars that will appeal to parents. Currently, they are halfway through *Beatles' Hits Volume II*, and are considering future CDs featuring the Beach Boys, Elton John, and Motown, to name a few.

The CD is now available online at www.bingorecords.com or by calling 215-627 5544. My 5-year old loves the CD; her favorite song is “Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da.”

Kid's Quote

“Mom, when William Penn lived here 300 years ago, were you a little girl?”

Aiden, age 5

Timely Tips from the Society Hill List of Contractors

Chimney and Fireplace Care

If you live in an old house, as many of us do, and have a working fireplace or two, now is the time to prepare it for the fall and winter. A frequently used fireplace should be cleaned and inspected annually by a qualified chimney contractor, but if you use your fireplace only occasionally, a cleaning and inspection every three years is sufficient. Regular cleanings will ensure safe and efficient fireplace operation, and will prevent excessive smoke from entering your home. Remember, dirty chimneys can cause fires.

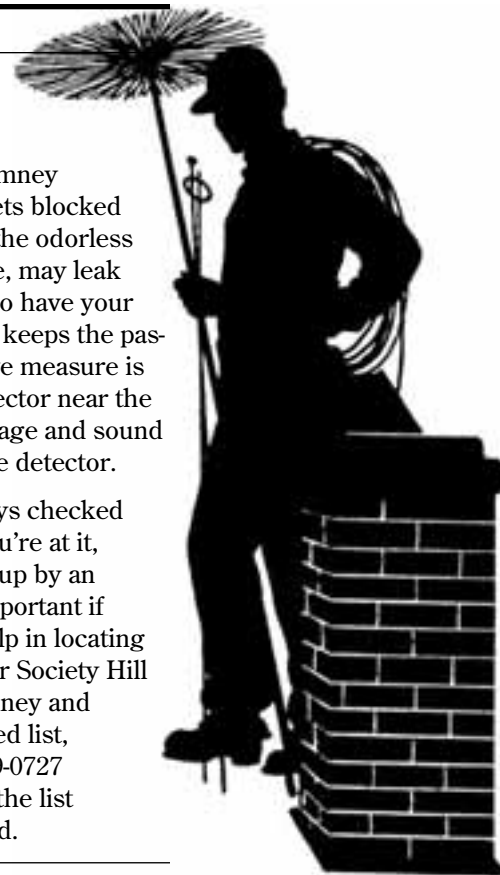
If your house is more than 70 years old, it is recommended that your brick chimneys have a stainless steel liner installed for the safe use of the fireplace. The reason is simple: bricks and mortar in old chimneys begin to break down and crumble, falling downward into the fireplace. Wooden joists that become exposed at the chimney's ceiling and floor levels may catch fire.

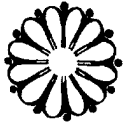
There are two types of chimneys: those that vent from woodburning fireplaces and those

that vent from heaters. If the chimney leading from your gas furnace gets blocked by crumbling brick and mortar, the odorless but deadly gas, carbon monoxide, may leak into your home. It is imperative to have your heater chimney lined, because it keeps the passageway clear. Another protective measure is to install a carbon monoxide detector near the heater, as it will pick up any leakage and sound a signal similar to that of a smoke detector.

Do not delay! Have your chimneys checked for safe conditions. And while you're at it, have your heating system tuned up by an HVAC specialist — especially important if you have an older heater. For help in locating a chimney contractor, check your Society Hill List of Contractors, under “Chimney and Fireplaces.” To receive an updated list, contact Martha Levine at 215-629-0727 or marthalev@msn.com. Sorry, the list is too long to be faxed or e-mailed.

Chimney information courtesy of Kevin Waggle and Bob Hughes of Chimney Contractors. Thanks!





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CHANUKAH AT RS

Chanukah Cooking Lessons with Chef Lynn Buono of "Feast Your Eyes" Sunday, November 21 at 11:00am
Children's Concert with the Nelsongs Sunday, December 5 at 10:30am
Chanukah Tot Shabbat Saturday, December 18 at 9:30am

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SUNDAY SERVICES

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Upcoming Calendar Events

November 21
Consecration Sunday Service
9&11am
Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner, following 11AM service

November 21
Third Sundays at Holy Communion Concert 2pm

November 24
Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service 7pm; Location TBA

November 25
Thanksgiving Worship & Community Service 8am-Noon
Cooking for and feeding the homeless

December 4
First Saturday Service & Santa Lucia Festival 5pm

December 1, 8, 15, & 22
Advent Services 7pm

December 24
Christmas Eve Worship Services; Times TBA

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RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Historic Houses of Worship Prepare for the Holiday Season

Some of the most important religious holidays will soon be upon us. As we go to press, many of Society Hill's places of worship have not made their holiday schedules available yet. Please contact them directly for specific information related to the holiday season. In this column and in future issues of the newsletter, we will keep you informed of newsworthy happenings regarding our community's diverse houses of worship.

Holy Trinity Catholic Church (see Old St. Mary's)

Holy Trinity remains closed throughout December. Parishioners will receive a survey regarding their thoughts on future use of the church. Father Chiaravalle would like everyone to consider the factors that are involved in having future mass schedules.

Keshar Israel 215-922-7736

Keshar Israel, near the corner of Lombard at 4th Streets, welcomes its new Rabbi, Ira Grussgott. The Rabbi, who also functions as cantor, recently joined Keshar Israel after serving a congregation in Northeast Philadelphia for ten years. Rabbi Grussgott enthusiastically welcomes new members to the "shul," which has a Hasidic flavor encouraging participation, and he will be teaching new classes at the synagogue. Keshar Israel will offer Hebrew School on Friday mornings, with the pre-school known as "Tot-Shabbat."

Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal 215-925-0616

On October 18th, a press event was held at Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church, at 6th and Lombard Streets, to announce the award of a \$450,000 "Save America's Treasures" grant, from the National Park Service, to the Mother Bethel Foundation. The grant will address serious and threatening structural problems to help preserve this National Historic Landmark church building. The award was presented by Lynn Scarlett, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management & Budget, Department of the Interior.

Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church 215-925-8051

Old Pine continues to have a variety of music programs. Be sure to find out whether the performances are at the Church (412 Pine Street) or Old Pine Community Center (corner of 4th & Lombard Streets).

Holiday Church highlights include:

Dec. 12, 10:30 a.m.: Savior of the Nations Come: The Old Pine Adult Choir will present these special lessons and carols.

The 3rd Sunday of each month always brings the wonderful sounds of the Jazz Vespers at the Church. November will feature Midiri Brothers Sextet, and December 'Father' John D'Amico Trio.

Dec. 21, 7 p.m.: Longest Night Church Worship Service — designed for those who find the holidays particularly sad or difficult.

Dec. 24, 6 p.m.: Christmas Eve Worship: A family worship with impromptu crèche — come dressed as your favorite Christmas story character and bring your pet to depict animals at the manger.

10:30 p.m. Festival worship and candlelight celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Old St. Joseph's Church 215-923-1733

We are very disappointed to report that Old St. Joe's did not receive its desired (and deserved!) designation as a National Historical Landmark at the September hearing in Washington, D.C. Church historian Bobbye Burke told us that the committee was most cordial and encouraging for "OSJ" to pursue nomination further, but they need additional "physical" evidence — even a smidgen of historical fabric affirming the fact that a chapel existed there in 1733. A few bricks would do! Apparently all the historical written records, a large quantity of which were provided by Burke after countless hours of careful research, did not qualify as evidence. An archaeological dig seems to be the next step, and a future hearing will be held in May 2005.

Old St. Mary's Catholic Church 215-923-7930

Because Father Chiaravalle is still getting situated in his role as Pastor at Old St. Mary's, he intends to reach out to the parish through personal visits and calls over the next several months. October 2004 - October 2005 has been designated the year of the Eucharist, so he would like parish members to reflect on this, as it is the heart of the Catholic faith. Sunday bulletins will provide the new holiday schedule and other information.

Society Hill Synagogue 215-922-6590

Society Hill Synagogue offers adult education classes that are free for members, but charges a modest fee to non-members — for example, a Jewish Dialogue Group on November 17 & December 15 at 6:30 p.m. Express your views of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Other topics, such as "Nuts, Bolts and Beyond, an Introduction to Judaism" — complete a very busy calendar of classes. Please call for details and times.

The synagogue will have a special chamber music concert by members of the Philadelphia Orchestra on Sunday, November 14 at 3 p.m. The concert will be preceded by a discussion of the music by Paul Arnold, followed by refreshments. Tickets \$15.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church 215-925-5968

Nov. 24 at 7:30 p.m.
Thanksgiving Eve service

Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. Candlelight Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols

Dec. 24, at 5 p.m. Christmas Eve: Eucharist, hymns, children's pageant

Concert at 10:30 p.m.
Festal Choral Eucharist at 11 p.m.

St. Andrew's Ukrainian Catholic Church 215-925-7024

St. Andrew's, located at 5th & Pine Streets, closed its doors in May 2004, and the property is currently for sale. Members may attend other liturgy at the Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Cathedral on 827 North Franklin Street.

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Maj. David S. Franks, Jewish American Patriot

BY BERNICE HAMEL

Hero Receives Proper Burial Service

More than 200 years after he died in Philadelphia's 1793 yellow fever epidemic, a poignant and truly unique burial service was held on October 13, 2004 honoring the memory of Major David Salisbury Franks, a Jewish Revolutionary hero who was buried at a Christian cemetery. This was also the day that a Pennsylvania State Historical plaque was unveiled near the entrance of Christ Church Burial Ground, at 5th and Arch Streets, commemorating the life of Major Franks.

David S. Franks was born in Philadelphia into a highly respected Jewish merchant family. A brief history of his life indicates that he spent sixteen days in jail for defending the right of a protestor to call King George III a fool. This experience converted him to the colonists' cause. In the Continental Army, Franks quickly rose through the ranks, but fortune ultimately played a trick on him. As aide-de-camp to Benedict Arnold, then the military governor of Philadelphia, Arnold's treason eventually became known, and Franks fell under suspicion of complicity. To make matters worse, David S. Franks was often confused with his uncle, David Franks of New York City, who remained a notorious Tory. Although General George Washington had Franks assigned to his command, many officers of Franks' own regiment started a whispering campaign against him. After a thorough court investigation, Franks was, in fact, exonerated of treason, but a dogged political attack against him plagued him for the rest of his fascinating life — which included being Washington's emissary as he carried a peace treaty declaring the end of the Revolutionary War to Benjamin Franklin in Paris and to John Jay in Madrid.

At the age of 53, his fortune gone and the victim of his association with Benedict Arnold, David Franks died of yellow fever in October 1793. A Christian neighbor rescued his corpse from the coroner's wagon on its way to potter's field (now Washington Square), and he was buried in a common grave along with six other victims of the plague at Christ Church Burial Ground. Though saved from a pauper's fate, he was not buried among his fellow Jews at Mikveh Israel — the first Jewish cemetery in the nation on Spruce Street between 8th and 9th Streets.

Franks' courage, loyalty and willingness to expend his personal fortune for the cause of independence, plus his dogged determination to clear his name, deserve remembrance. Had he not had the bad fortune to serve under the infamous Benedict Arnold, Franks might rank with that of the best-known Jewish patriots of the Revolution, including his own brother-in-law Haym Salomon, legendary for helping fund the Revolution, whose gravesite at Mikveh Israel is revered.



Major David S. Franks



At last, 211 years after his death, David Salisbury Franks received a proper Jewish burial. The Christ Church Preservation Trust, the American Jewish Committee, and the Feinstein Center for American Jewish History joined together to honor Franks' memory. Rabbi Albert E. Gabbai of Congregation Mikveh Israel said the traditional Kaddish. A special marker within the graveyard was unveiled acknowledging the life of this forgotten American Jewish hero. Remarks and prayers were offered by Reverend Timothy B. Safford, Rector at Christ Church, followed by a procession led by the First City Troop Calvary and the playing of taps. The remembrance event was planned by Wayne S. Spilove, Chairman of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Lunch and a talk on "Early American Christian-Jewish Relations" was given by Dr. Lance Sussman at Mikveh Israel, Philadelphia's oldest Jewish congregation, founded in 1740.

Rabbi Albert E. Gabbai of Congregation Mikveh Israel accepts a colonial flag from a member of the First City Troop Calvary at the burial service for Major Franks, while Wayne Spilove, Chairman of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, looks on.

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Local Entrepreneurs Launch New Project

MyGuide for Seniors

Who says the spirit of free enterprise and the formation of capital have left Philadelphia behind? The City of Brotherly Love, despite its heavy and widely criticized tax burden, has so much going for it that local enterprises are born almost every day. An example is a new firm “MyGuide for Seniors,” which publishes directories and offers a comprehensive website providing information to senior citizens all across the nation — including the nearly 30 percent of Society Hill’s residents in the over-50 category.

Were you aware that there are 56 different retirement options available within a 15-mile radius of our zip 19106? MyGuide was created after a frustrating attempt to locate the right senior living community for a friend who lived in California but who had no family to depend upon. The need for information that is easy to understand, comprehensive, and at the fingertips of loved ones who may be thousands of miles away, was the underpinning for a spirited launch right here in our neighborhood a little over a year ago. Derrick (Rik) Morris, an SHCA member, is president of this new venture, and Jim Kelleher, another long-time SHCA member, is its CEO. The company already boasts a

staff of nine and will soon move to the 200 block of S. 4th Street.

The recently published book, *MyGuide to Communities for Seniors – Educational Resource Guide*, is a 258-page volume that is a compilation of hundreds of communities. It gives a concise analysis of how to choose from independent living communities, assisted living facilities, nursing and rehabilitation centers, or continuing care retirement communities. Needless to say, when individuals are faced with decisions of this kind, they are befuddled and in great need of advice.

The book— available on Amazon.com at only \$14.95 — is an offshoot of the firm’s website which has thousands of retirement communities listed geographically, by category and by specialty. The site cuts through the confusing array of advertising, allowing visitors to distinguish among different care categories and offering a glossary of terms. Its AnswerGuide provides links to articles by experts in the field.

If you are facing such decisions in the coming years, contact the firm at 800-851-4511 or visit the free website: myguideforseniors.com, which is easy to enter and navigate.

Reporter Team Members In The News!

Dr. Marilyn H. Appel traveled to Harrisburg on October 15 to receive the Governor’s Citizen Crime Prevention Volunteer Recognition Award. Marilyn and her husband, Harry, have been Society Hill residents for more than thirty years. For almost as many years, Marilyn has been a leader of our local Police District Advisory Council (PDAC), and it was in cooperation with the 6th Police District that Marilyn was given this recognition. We congratulate Marilyn and thank her for helping make our community a safer place to live.


David Woods, whose distinctive *Reporter* column “Noteworthy Neighbors” introduces Society Hillers to one another, has recently published a book related to his job as CEO of Healthcare Media International. David based his book on the successful newsletter he published, “Medical Practice Communicator,” a guide to help physicians sharpen their communication skills and improve relationships

with their patients — thus, avoiding errors and litigation. The paperback book, *Communication for Doctors*, published by Radcliffe Publications, can be ordered by phone: 1-800-538-1287. Or for more information, contact David directly at dwoods@healthpublishing.com.

Lana Noel, relatively new to our *Reporter* team, is a member of the nation’s longest-running feminist choir — the Anna Crusis Women’s Choir — founded in 1975. This choir is a premier performing music group, as well as an agent of social change, honored for its community service throughout Philadelphia. Lana will be performing in the choir’s Annual Winter Concert, which features a *cappella* singing in a variety of music styles. Come to hear and enjoy one of SHCA’s Board Directors in this beautiful 40-voice choral celebration. For tickets and information, call Anna Crusis at 215-864-5991 or visit www.annacrusis.org. (See back page Calendar for dates and times.)



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 St. Peter's School

Tradition: An Old Idea is New Again

There was a time when eggs were supposed to be good for you. Then that changed, and eggs were bad for you. Now eggs are good for you again. It's hard to keep track. Many school issues are like eggs — "In," then "Out," then "In" again. At St. Peter's School, we've been stubborn. We've held on to some traditions and "old ways" that now are deemed "cutting edge." For example, people used to take the school uniform for granted. Then it was declared "old-fashioned" and harmful to a child's individual expression. Now people recognize the uniform's many merits: it ensures a child is neatly dressed, provides a sense of common purpose, and offers an easy answer to every morning's question, "What will I wear today?" The result is that a growing number of schools, including those in the public sector, are returning to this old idea that's new again.

Take a look at the issue of music and art classes. Once a standard part of every school's curriculum, art programs were dropped when budget-cutting became common. The thinking then was that these courses were superfluous to academic subjects. Today we understand how children's brains differ from those of adults. We have learned that for children, art and music are the "basics," as they nourish and exercise more of the brain than the so-called "core" curriculum.

Or take the idea of neighborhood schools. There was a time when a school and its neighborhood were inextricably linked; children walked to school and home — even for lunch. Then that idea flew out the window. Big, centralized schools (that looked like factories!) became the ideal, and children spent many hours of their young lives seated in yellow buses. But the neighborhood school is again

the ideal: the K-8 school small enough for everyone to know each other, close enough for parents to become involved, and an integral part of the community.

Here at St. Peter's School, "antiquated" approaches are looking pretty good these days. Our children wear uniforms; they learn to sing, write, and play music; and many of them walk to school each morning, hand-in-hand with their parents, waving to neighbors, schoolmates — and Denise, the crossing guard — along the way. Old-fashioned, maybe, but wonderful for children who thrive in a world created for them, one that provides an exciting and safe place to pursue the challenging and joyful business of childhood.



Come to St. Peter's School Holiday Sale!

This spirit animates the St. Peter's School Holiday Sale, a Society Hill tradition, as we invite our neighbors to share the color and excitement of December in the city. The school annually hosts a fabulous indoor/outdoor Holiday Market full of lush, fresh-cut trees, custom-decorated or plain wreaths and swags, evergreen garlands, poinsettias, books, and a wide assortment of holiday gifts.



As in years past, the Holiday Sale is open to all neighbors, and of course, proceeds benefit the St. Peter's School Scholars Fund! Please join us on one of the dates and times noted below. We look forward to seeing you! For more information, contact St. Peter's at 215-925-3963.

Friday, December 3rd, 12 - 6 p.m.

Saturday, December 4th, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sunday, December 5th, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

St. Peter's School, 319 Lombard Street

 Philadelphia City Planning Commission Report

Center City Parking Study Now Underway

The Philadelphia City Planning Commission received a federal grant to undertake an evaluation of Center City parking policy. A professional consulting team is conducting the study. Its initial task involves interviews with individuals who have a key role or interest in the subject of quality-of-life for city dwellers. SHCA's President Tania Rorke is participating

in the study to provide feedback that could help strengthen Center City livability. At a workshop she recently attended, the group concluded that particular neighborhoods, such as Society Hill, Old City or Rittenhouse Square, have their own unique parking challenges and each will require a different set of solutions.

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Pennsylvania Hospital Cleans Up

In response to a neighbor's written plea, Pennsylvania Hospital has embarked on a routine cleanup campaign around its extensive properties. Executive Director Timothy O. Morgan responded in a letter to SHCA that the hospital's team has developed an action plan that includes the following: trash pickup for the parking lot side-door exit on Delancey Street at least twice a week; removal of loose or dangerous cobblestones from the tree beds and continued upkeep of these sites; routine cleaning of Spruce Street from 7th to 8th Streets; securing a contractor's proposal for sidewalk repair and water drainage at the 7th Street garage door exit. The team has already removed three unsightly planters on 7th and Spruce Streets that were accumulating trash rather than flowers, and have power-washed the formerly blackened steps of the Spruce Street houses. We certainly applaud these efforts and have asked them to remove any graffiti that pops up on hospital property. Should any residents wish to share related concerns with the hospital, we ask you to contact SHCA's Northwest Quadrant Director Lisa Karlin, at lskarlin@earthlink.net.



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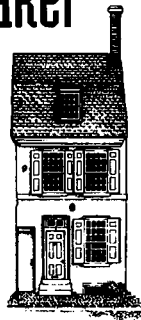


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SHCA REACHES MEMBERSHIP MILESTONE!

We Are 1,000 Strong!

In late September, SHCA's total membership reached 1,004 — an all time high, eclipsing last year's record of 979! We signed up 146 new members and brought in 71 business or institutional members — another record high. Most memberships represent households of more than one person, so we estimate that more than 2,000 residents support the volunteer efforts of our grassroots, activist civic organization.

SHCA Administrator Matt DeJulio points out that the *Reporter*, this informative bimonthly newsletter you are reading right now, is probably an important factor explaining why membership has swelled. Another likely reason could be our Welcome Basket program which delivers goodie baskets to new homeowners. However, he fails to point out his own vital role as he connects all the dots and keeps our association's hard-working committees and volunteers in the loop. Matt keeps us all on our toes!

Nevertheless, we do miss several "old-timers" who haven't paid their dues in recent years. If we're speaking to you, we hope you will reconsider and join us again. SHCA benefits the entire neighborhood in a variety of ways.

For the calendar year 2005, we are optimistically budgeting for 1,050 members, which will help pay for additional weekly street cleaning services. Every group of 50 new memberships will pay for four additional weeks of sidewalk sweep-ups — which means two clean-ups per week instead of just one. Since the city's weekly trash collection was shifted to early Friday mornings (for most of our neighborhood), the Board has approved four additional weeks of sidewalk cleaning on every Monday in the summer — to rid our streets of tourist litter and debris. We can continue paying for these Monday sweep-ups on summer mornings, but only with your support!

Membership renewal requests were mailed on November 1. If you have not yet returned yours, please do so today. If you have misplaced the letter or if you did not receive it because you are not a current member, please fill out the membership coupon at right and send it in with your dues. SHCA's basic membership dues have not been raised for the sixth consecutive year, but we ask you to consider making a \$20 contribution to help pay for additional sidewalk cleaning for the coming year. Your donations and volunteer efforts do make a difference.

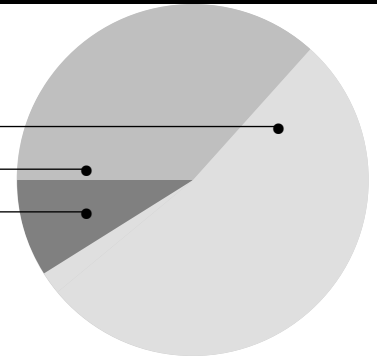
SHCA 2004-2005 BUDGET

June 1, 2004 - May 31, 2005

Income

\$ 56,800	55%	Membership
\$ 40,250	39%	Reporter Advertising
\$ 5,694	6%	Historic House Tours
—	0%	Interest

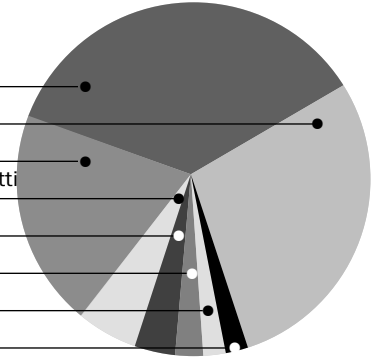
\$102,744 Total Income



Expenses

\$ 40,250	35%	Reporter
\$ 31,490	28%	Administrative Support
\$ 21,800	19%	Sidewalk/Clean Up/Graffiti
\$ 7,105	6%	Miscellaneous
\$ 4,275	4%	Safety & Security
\$ 4,000	4%	Zoning/Preservation
\$ 2,500	2%	Membership Drive
\$ 2,000	2%	Trees

\$113,420 Total Expenses



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Tree Tending Lighting Anti-Graffiti \$

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Guide for Property Owners Historic Windowpane Plaque

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My/Our interests include:

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NOTEWORTHY NEIGHBORS

A COLUMN BY DAVID WOODS

Richard Stengel and Mary Pfaff

The Constitution Center's new President moves to Society Hill to "walk the walk."

The National Constitution Center's new President and CEO, Richard Stengel, comes to the job with a highly praiseworthy record of accomplishment: A *magna cum laude* graduate of Princeton, a former national editor of *Time*, a Rhodes Scholar, a prolific author, and a senior adviser and speechwriter for 1999 presidential candidate (and fellow former basketball whiz) Bill Bradley.

Praiseworthy indeed. And, as a fellow journalist, I'm impressed. Awed, even. But one shouldn't allow praise to morph into outright flattery. For, as Stengel notes in his book, *You're Too Kind: A Brief History of Flattery*, almost all definitions of lying describe flattery as well.

"Whereas lying has traditionally been treated as a form of social deviance," he concludes, "flattery is at worst a misdemeanor." Moreover, as a custodian and champion of America's history and heritage, he points to changes in flattery over the centuries, suggesting in his book that the general feeling among the Framers of the Constitution was that the populace could not be trusted because they might be too easily swayed by demagogic flattery. Anyway, it's a fabulous book. Really. Honestly.

Stengel traded journalism for his new job because "I wanted to be inside the room," he says, "not outside it looking in. I was blown away by the Constitution Center." His goal is to make the Center a beacon for democracy — and above all to make it national and even international in its scope and influence.

While working in South Africa, in the 1990s, he celebrated that country's own long-awaited embrace of democracy, writing a book about the way apartheid affected the lives of three families — one white, one black, and one Indian; later he collaborated with Nelson Mandela on the latter's best-selling autobiography, *Long Walk to Freedom*.

In South Africa he met Mary Pfaff, who was born and raised in that country and worked there as a photographer for Agence-France Presse. Having press credentials for a foreign news agency gave Mary a license denied to reporters for South African media — and her photographs appeared in the *New York Times* and other international media — thus, giving the world a window on what was happening in that then-distinctly undemocratic country. The couple married in Manhattan in 1994, and have two boys. Both attend St. Peter's School.

Mary looked at 26 houses before settling on a mid-19th-century house on Cypress Street — in the heart of Society Hill and close enough to Three Bears Park to make it an ideal location for the children. Says Richard: "I felt chauvinistic about this city and that if I was going to work here I should walk the walk and talk the talk." As they settle into their new home, Mary, who trained in fine art, will resume her painting in oils. Not only does Richard celebrate American history in his new job, but both he and Mary absorb it in their proximity to the places and events that shaped that history.

All of which deserves praise. And perhaps even flattery, once defined as an extension of praise without motive.



David Woods can be reached at dwoods@healthpublishing.com

The Green Tree Perpetual Assurance Company

Episode IX • Arriving at Consensus

As the struggles to forge new democratic nations out of disparate warring factions continue in Afghanistan and Iraq, we may be reminded of our own early difficulties in arriving at that goal. The passage below is an excerpt from the papers of James Madison [Vol. III, p. 1596, Washington, D.C., 1840] that was bound in with Volume I of the unpublished history of The Green Tree by Clifford Lewis, Jr.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH, 1787.

IN CONVENTION, The engrossed Constitution being read,

DOCTOR FRANKLIN rose with a speech in his hand, which he had reduced to writing for his own convenience, and which Mr. Wilson read in the words following:

“MR. PRESIDENT:

“I confess that there are several parts of this Constitution which I do not at present approve, but I am not sure I shall never approve them. For having lived long, I have experienced many instances of being obliged by better information, or fuller consideration, to change opinions even on important subjects, which I once thought right, but found to be otherwise. It is therefore that, the older I grow, the more apt I am to doubt my own judgment and to pay more respect to the judgment of others.

Most men, indeed, as well as most sects in religion, think themselves in possession of all truth, and that where-ever others differ from them, it is so far error. ...But though many private persons think almost as highly of their own infallibility as of that of their sect, few express it so naturally as a certain French lady, who, in a dispute with her sister, said, ‘I don’t know how it happens, sister, but I meet with nobody but myself that is always in the right—*Il n’y a que moi qui a toujours raison*’.

“In these sentiments, sir, I agree to this Constitution, with all its faults, if

they are such; because I think a General Government necessary for us, and there is no form of government but what may be a blessing to the people if well administered and believe, further, that this is likely to be well administered for a course of years and can only end in despotism, as other forms have done before it, when the people shall have become so corrupted as to need despotic government, being incapable of any other. I doubt, too, whether any other Convention we can obtain may be able to make a better Constitution. For when you assemble a number of men to have the advantage of their joint wisdom, you inevitably assemble with those men all their prejudices, their passions, their errors of opinion, their local interests, and their selfish views. From such an assembly can a perfect production be expected? It therefore astonishes me, sir, to find this production approaching so near to perfection as it does; and I think it will astonish our enemies, who are waiting with confidence to hear that our councils are confounded, like those of the builders of Babel; and that our States are on the point of separation, only to meet hereafter for the purpose of cutting one another’s throats. Thus I consent, sir, to this Constitution because I expect no better, and because I am not sure that it is not the best. The opinions I have had of its errors I sacrifice to the public good. I have never whispered a syllable of them abroad. Within these walls they were born, and here they shall die. If everyone of us, in returning to our constituents, were to report the objections he has had to it, and endeavour to gain partizans in support of them, we might prevent its being generally received and thereby lose all the salutary effects and great advantages resulting naturally in our favor among foreign nations as well as among ourselves, from our real or apparent unanimity. Much of the



strength and efficiency of any government in procuring and securing happiness to the people, depends on opinion—on the general opinion of the goodness of the government, as well as of the wisdom and integrity of its governors. I hope, therefore, that for our own sakes, as a part of the people, and for the sake of posterity, we shall act heartily and unanimously in recommending this Constitution (if approved by Congress and confirmed by the Conventions) wherever our influence may extend, and turn our future thoughts and endeavours to the means of having it well administered.

“On the whole, sir, I cannot help expressing a wish that every member of the Convention, who may still have objections to it, would with me, on this occasion, doubt a little of his own infallibility and, to make manifest our unanimity, put his name to this instrument.”

He then moved that the Constitution be signed by the members.... Whilst the last members were signing, Doctor Franklin, looking towards the President’s chair, at the back of which a rising sun happened to be painted, observed to a few members near him, that painters had found it difficult to distinguish in their art a rising, from a setting, sun. I have, said he, often and often, in the course of the session and the vicissitudes of my hopes and fears as to its issue, looked at that behind the President, without being able to tell whether it was rising or setting; but now at length, I have the happiness to know that it is a rising and not a setting sun. *(To be continued.)*

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

November

Saturday, November 13

Fall Clean-Up Day

Help clean up our neighborhood!
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
See page 1

Sunday, November 14

**Philadelphia Orchestra:
Chamber Music Concert**

Society Hill Synagogue, 3 p.m.
See page 23

Wednesday, November 17

SHCA Meetings

6 p.m.: Board Meeting
7 p.m.: General Membership Meeting
Society Hill Synagogue
See page 1

November 24 – January 1

**Holiday Services at
Churches & Synagogues**

For partial list, see page 23

December

December 3, 4, 5

St. Peter's School Holiday Sale

319 Lombard Street
See page 29 for sale hours

Saturday, December 4, 8 p.m.

Sunday, December 5, 2 p.m.

Anna Crusis Choir Winter Concert

Chestnut Hill United Methodist Church
8812 Germantown Avenue
\$15 in advance; \$18 at the door;
(Sunday, children 12 and under \$5)
Contact Anna Crusis: 215-864-5991
See page 27

Wednesday, December 8

Holiday Social at Liberty Court

All Society Hillers invited
212 Lombard Street
7 - 9 p.m.
RSVP required. See page 1

Wednesday, December 15

SHCA Board Meeting

7 p.m., site to be determined



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