

SOCIETY HILL

# Reporter

www.societyhillcivic.com

## Auspicious Beginning for 2005



**Richard Stengel,  
President and CEO  
of the National  
Constitution Center**

We are delighted to announce that the first General Membership Meeting of 2005 for the Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) will feature Mr. Richard Stengel, President and CEO of the National Constitution Center (NCC). As reported in last issue's "Noteworthy Neighbors," Richard, his wife Mary Pfaff and their two young sons are recent and welcome "emigres" to our little corner of the world.

In March 2004 Richard Stengel arrived at the Constitution Center, following a distinguished career as writer, journalist and former national editor for *Time* magazine. A world traveler, Richard spent the 1990s in South Africa, during which time he wrote a book about how its system of apartheid affected the lives of three different families: one white, one black and one Indian. He also collaborated with Nelson Mandela on Mandela's autobiography, *Long Walk to Freedom*.

We expect that Richard's presentation will provide an overview of NCC's unique role as both a museum and educational center for visitors of all ages, from all walks of life, and from all over the world. Since it first opened its doors on July 4th, 2003, the NCC has hosted more than one million visitors who have been

engaged in understanding the hows and whys of government. Whether providing programs for scholars or entertaining youngsters at many levels — NCC's range of programs reach out so that all can appreciate what the Constitution says and what it means in our lives.

So do join us for our meeting, which will be cordially hosted on January 19 by the Old Pine Street Church, at 412 Pine Street. Learn how the National Constitution Center is honoring and perpetuating democracy's ideals, and prepare to ask a question or two of our new neighbor Richard Stengel.

### ASK - A - HILLER

## Society Hill Trivia!

Recently, a neighborhood jogger asked us how many laps around Washington Square make a mile. We found that each side of the Square is one-tenth of a mile; therefore a jogger or walker would have to go around the Park two-and-a-half times to complete one mile.

Society Hill is full of historical, geographical, political and recreational trivia. Send us your questions, and we will find answers for you!

WED.

January

19

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Society Hill Civic Association Meetings  
Wednesday, January 19, 2005

**Old Pine Street Church,  
412 Pine Street**

- 6:00 p.m. Board Meeting** (convening downstairs)  
All SHCA members are welcome to attend.
- 7:00 p.m. Meet & Greet Your Neighbors**
- 7:30 p.m. General Membership Meeting**  
Invited Speaker:  
Richard Stengel, President & CEO  
National Constitution Center  
All Society Hill residents, businesses and institutions are invited to attend.

## A Word About the Reporter

The Society Hill Reporter arrives at your doorstep promptly every other month by means of a dedicated and experienced team of volunteers. Each of these neighbors has offered time, talent and energy to ensure that pertinent news in and around our neighborhood is communicated to you. But the newsletter can also be your means of speaking to the community. If you have news to share, please contact SHCA. Suggestions for articles are always welcome and will be considered based on appropriateness and available space. You will find our new column "Senior Scene," conceived and written by neighbor Jean Bryan with the help of Ruth Sachs, a new Reporter contributor, on page 4.



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**Submission Deadlines for March/April Issue:**  
**Advertising** February 1  
**Editorial** February 14

**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.

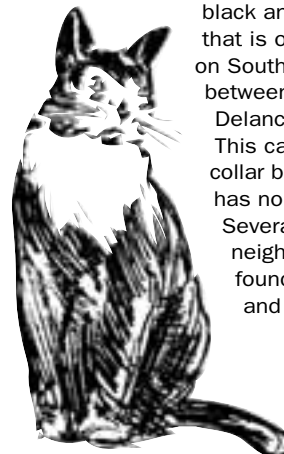
Material must be submitted in writing and include the name of a contact person. Edited material may appear if there is space; otherwise upcoming events may be listed in the Community Calendar. Only signed Letters to the Editors will be considered for publication.

**YOUR PETS NEED YOU!**

**Where is your black and white cat?**

Do you own a friendly black and white cat that is often found on South 2nd Street, between Spruce and Delancey Streets? This cat wears a collar but the collar has no I.D. tag. Several concerned neighbors have found the cat cold and hungry, and

have taken him into their own homes because they don't know where he lives. If you own this cat, or any cat, who is allowed to wander outside, please be sure that he wears a collar identifying you as the owner — so neighbors can return him to **you**, especially when the weather is nasty.



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P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

# Happy New Year!

It is the New Year. As you make your New Year's resolutions, we ask you to remember your neighborhood. There are many things that you can do to improve the quality of life in our community. At the risk of adding to your already long list of New Year's resolutions, please consider the following courtesies:

- Be kind this winter and shovel your sidewalks as early as possible following a snowstorm. The law requires homeowners to clear their sidewalks within 48 hours. (Last winter we received many complaints regarding not only the inconvenience, but more importantly, the hazard of unshoveled sidewalks. The sidewalk in front of your house is your responsibility as the homeowner. Should someone slip and fall, this could become your liability!)
- We receive many complaints about weekly trash collection. Trash pickup in Society Hill is on Thursday and Friday mornings, depending on your street. Initially, the Streets Department informed us that if we put our trash out before 10 p.m. we would receive violations. SHCA negotiated for an earlier time that would be more convenient for residents. We can now put out our trash as early as 7 p.m., the night before pickup. Unfortunately, there are many complaints about trash containers/bags that are put out to the curb days before pickup. Should this be a chronic problem on your block, please call SHCA Administrator Matt DeJulio, so he can contact the Streets Department, who will likely issue a fine to the offending resident. Also remember that trash receptacles at major street intersections are for pedestrian litter and never for household trash.
- Finally, please remember that for those weeks when a national holiday occurs, trash pickup will be the day **after** our regularly scheduled trash day.

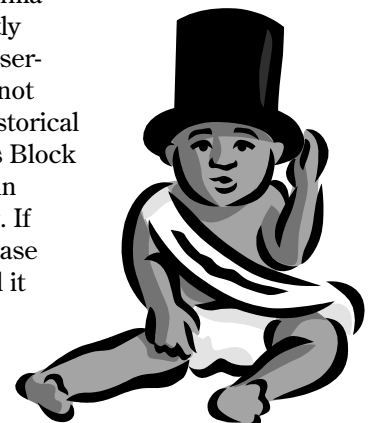
These courtesies that you perform throughout the New Year will make a big difference in our community.

What will the Civic Association do for the neighborhood? The next few months will be very busy ones. In November, Governor Rendell passed House Bill 1954, which addresses the right to challenge zoning decisions in our city. As you know, SHCA has a very active Zoning and Preservation Committee, which works on behalf of the community to maintain the standards we all cherish. SHCA has been asked to partner with SCRUB, an anti-billboard and anti-bligh organization based in Philly, along with other civic associations to challenge this unwelcome law. We will keep you posted on how this progresses.

Another timely issue we must contend with early in this year is the possibility that the Dilworth House, a single-family home on the east side of Washington Square, may be torn down or significantly altered. SHCA has learned that a developer may seek permission to demolish the home to make way for a high-rise residential building. The Dilworth House is symbolically significant in our neighborhood because it represents Mayor Richardson Dilworth's initiative, which helped jump start Society Hill's renaissance at a time when this part of the city was essentially a slum. The house, designated "significant" by the Philadelphia Historic Commission, is currently protected by Philadelphia's Historic Preservation Ordinance. Under this law, it cannot be demolished or altered, unless the Historical Commission grants permission. SHCA's Block Coordinators have circulated a petition in hopes of preventing this from occurring. If you have not yet signed the petition, please see page 5, add your signature and send it to us as soon as possible. Thank you.



**Tania Rorke**  
SHCA President



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## SENIOR SCENE

BY JEAN BRYAN

## Debut of a New Column: Senior Scene

A new feature for Hillers on the plus side of 50!



Demographic diversity is an appealing fact of life in Society Hill. Three Bears Park is filled with frolicking little ones. Youngsters gather at our neighborhood schools. Teens and young adults contribute to the energy of the area. And last, but not least, we see older residents out and about “doing their thing.”

Did you know that 30 percent of Society Hill’s 5,000 residents are 50 years old or older? That fact has prompted a new *Reporter* column — geared to the interests of this age group. The column is intended to enrich the lives of our 50-years-old-and-older population — “junior seniors” and “senior seniors” alike.

We’ll encourage your interest at the outset by introducing an extraordinary asset to our community, and indeed, to our city at large: the Temple Association for Retired Persons (TARP). For those of you who ascribe to the theory, “Use it or lose it,” TARP could be indispensable to your brainpower, as the organization describes itself as a “lifelong learning academy.” We heartily recommend reading about TARP online at the Temple University Center City (TUCC) website, [www.temple.edu/tucc](http://www.temple.edu/tucc), or calling 215-204-1505 to ask for a brochure or even ask questions of the most pleasant real person who answers! The variety of class offerings is astounding. On quick glance, we noted offerings in psychology, computers, current events, finance, history, law, literature, music, science, chess, bridge, theater, films and writing. One class was new: “Managing Clutter.” How eclectic can it get?

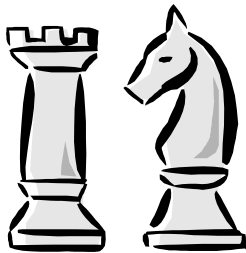
TARP is located at 1515 Market Street, and all classes take place at that location during the day. The highly qualified teachers are members of TARP too. Four locations offer discount parking, and taking public transportation to and from our area is a breeze. Additionally, TARP presents its free and public “Friday Forum,” at 10:30 a.m. every Friday, with a different speaker each week. Last fall’s speakers included foreign affairs columnist Trudy Rubin, Joel Spivak from “Philadelphia Trolleys,” Elliot L. Shelkrot, executive director of the Free Library of Philadelphia, and Jane Eisner, OP-ED columnist for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. Ms. Pat Rooney is the Director of TARP, and her enthusiasm is contagious!

Registration for TARP classes is January 10-12 and classes begin January 24. Late registration is allowed up until the second week of class. The registration fee is \$95 plus a \$5 activity fee for the semester, which allows one to take as many classes as desired.

As we pondered the direction of this new column, we concluded that aside from providing information about existing resources of various types, we want to know what our senior readers would prefer. Therefore, we need your participation: your input will dictate our future course. Our team’s “brainstorming” resulted in all sorts of questions. Do you want learning or volunteer opportunities? Do you have a skill you are willing to teach to Society Hill neighbors? Some ideas that popped up were home repairs, computer skills (from beginner to more advanced), foreign language instruction, cooking or baking skills, needle art skills, painting or music or other artistic endeavors, or use of technological advances (think cell phone, digital camera, CD burner, etc.) that some of us have trouble grasping fully. Wouldn’t it be super to find someone to give a few lessons in any of these areas or others?

Still more ideas: Would you like organized trips within and outside the city? How about a book club? Maybe square dancing or line dancing lessons? Regular “get-togethers” for wine and cheese or even dinner parties? Yoga or meditation or senior-level exercise or stretching? Maybe a men’s or women’s weekly or monthly lunch group? Would you like to meet others who share an interest in fishing, skiing, hiking, biking, or other activities? Would a “personal shopper” be helpful — for groceries, clothing or errands? So many ideas were being bandied about that we began to see this column, in part, as service oriented...a sort of “clearinghouse” or matchmaker: you send the idea and we may be able to help those interested in the same things to find one another or find a teacher or venue to accommodate that request.

We have begun this column with much enthusiasm and hope that all of us on the plus side of 50 will remain helpful to others, interested in learning and forever young at heart. We eagerly await your participation with your answers to the following questionnaire.



**SENIOR SCENE QUESTIONNAIRE**

Please email responses to Jean Bryan at [jbryan52@bellatlantic.net](mailto:jbryan52@bellatlantic.net) or [MattDeJulio@aol.com](mailto:MattDeJulio@aol.com) or fax to 215-629-9914 or mail it to the Society Hill Civic Association, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147.

Feel free to give detailed answers or offer suggestions you think will help launch this effort on behalf of Society Hill's seniors.

Please include your name, email address and/or your phone number. Remember to indicate "Senior Scene" on the subject line of the email or as the title of your fax. Many thanks.

Please note that an upcoming column for Senior Scene will be devoted to volunteer opportunities.

**Tell us about your primary interests:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Learning** Do you wish to learn in an established academic setting (such as TARP)?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Do you wish to learn from fellow residents in Society Hill?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 What do you wish to learn?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Teaching** What do you want to teach?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Would you like to teach in your home, the home of your students, or in a public venue?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteering** What is your volunteer interest?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Socializing** How would you like to make new friends? A book club? A movie night? A dinner club?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercising** Are you looking for companions for exercise or recreational activities that will require an appropriate trip, say, to ski trails or hiking trails?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Are you looking for regular exercise, such as stretching, walking, pilates, etc. that is geared to seniors in an established exercise facility?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Would you like to exercise with others in "the great outdoors" or someone's basement?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**PETITION TO PRESERVE THE DILWORTH HOUSE**

This petition, created by the SHCA, has been circulated in other neighborhoods by our sister civic associations. If you haven't already added your name to the petition that was distributed throughout our community by our dedicated team of Block Coordinators, please cut out this page and sign it.

**Fax this page to SHCA Administrator Matt DeJulio, 215-629-9914 or mail it to the Society Hill Civic Association, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147. Thank you.**

We, the residents of Society Hill, are **OPPOSED** to any alteration or demolition of The Dilworth House, located at 223-225 S. 6th Street (on the east side of Washington Square). The house was built in 1957 as the personal residence of Mayor Richardson Dilworth, one of the most significant political figures in the history of the City. Mayor Dilworth chose this location to show his strong commitment to the renewal of what was then a severely blighted part of town. His house stands as a reminder of an important chapter in the history of Society Hill. The house was designed by the distinguished architect George Edwin Brumbaugh, who helped restore Washington Square.

The building is currently protected by Philadelphia's Historic Preservation Ordinance. Under this law, the building cannot be demolished or altered, unless the owner obtains permission from the Philadelphia Historical Commission. Advised that a developer now intends to seek such permission (to make way for a high-rise residential building), we sign this petition to advocate that the property be saved. The Dilworth House should stand intact and unaltered in perpetuity.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_



Learn More About Us

SHCA's Mission & Functions

**Volunteers work together to enhance the quality of life in our neighborhood.**

The beginning of the New Year is an appropriate time to inform (or remind) readers about the nature of our civic association — an inclusive, pro-active, volunteer community organization serving more than 5,000 families, individuals and businesses. The only paid, part-time staff member on our team is Administrator Matthew DeJulio, who coordinates all committees and is a key source of communication and information for all. Without his dedication and skills, SHCA would not be the highly respected and professional organization it has been for the past several years.

All of SHCA's officers and its board of directors are elected annually, and any resident interested in participating as a director or officer is invited to do so by making his or her interest known.

SHCA's mission is simply to enhance the quality of life we enjoy in Society Hill! To that end, we support positive initiatives and respond

to new challenges that face the community. Continuing services include: providing cleaner, safer and greener streets; monitoring zoning and development concerns; tracking the issuance of liquor licenses; cooperating with other neighborhood associations; lobbying elected officials when necessary; and keeping the neighborhood regularly informed of local issues — both through hosting public forums and by publishing the highly readable and informative bi-monthly *Society Hill Reporter* — distributed at no cost to the community.

SHCA's leadership role in helping to establish a local branch of our public library was a successful initiative that took years to accomplish. The Independence Branch Library, at 7th & Market Streets, was but a dream until a group of community volunteers contributed their time and professional expertise — supported by major financial donations from throughout our entire neighborhood.

Another significant SHCA initiative was accomplished in 1999 when Society Hill successfully attained historic designation under the city's Historic Preservation Ordinance (Section 14-2007 of the Philadelphia Code). SHCA's vocal preservationists led a complicated effort involving a broad spectrum of community support to provide the protection and enforcement mechanisms that would preserve our revitalized streetscape. Since then our neighborhood has been protected, giving us a stronger voice in controlling our destiny, and today Society Hill is recognized as one of the most historic residential neighborhoods in the United States.

**SHCA, By the Numbers: Join Us!**

Here's some recent "history" that may be of interest: SHCA's records reveal that only ten years ago, in 1994, there were a mere 400 members! By 1998 the number climbed to 728, and we jumped to 884 members in 1999. Then in 2001, we dipped down to 817, but made a dramatic leap to 952 in 2002. By 2003 we reached 979 members, and by 2004 we reached our long-sought goal of 1,000 members. So we must be doing something right!

Your donations and volunteer efforts make a difference. We are a blessed community, indeed, to have such caring and committed neighbors! If you haven't yet rejoined for 2005 — or you're a new resident, please fill out and mail this coupon today.

**SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

**2005 Membership Application/Renewal**



Renewal     New

---

\$40 Household       \$100 Business

\$60 Businesses with under 5 employees      \$

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Additional contribution for  Sidewalk Cleaning     Washington Square

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Total enclosed      \$

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Check if you wish to receive

Guide for Property Owners       Historic Windowpane Plaque

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

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

An Intriguing Proposal

The Cross Philly Walk

A slide presentation and introduction to the concept of a "Cross Philly Walk" was given by Environmental Planner Stephen R. Hammell at SHCA's November 17 General Membership Meeting. Here is a summary of this exciting proposal for a Center City walking path that would link Penn's Landing and Schuylkill Park.

The Cross Philly Walk is conceived as an East-West pedestrian path across Center City, using historic rights-of-way through the Society Hill, Washington Square West, and Rittenhouse-Fitler Square neighborhoods. The proposed Walk will connect Penn's Landing on the Delaware River to the Schuylkill River Trail, Fairmount Park and University of Pennsylvania campus in West Philadelphia. The path will follow Front, Delancey, Addison, Panama, Waverly, Green (Court), and Pine Streets, which like so many of our scenic, serene and historic "lanes," make strolling here such a sublime experience. It will offer easy access to cafes, restaurants, galleries, cinemas, concert halls, bookstores, historic sites, charming neighborhoods and the quality parks that make our town such an urban gem.

The Cross Philly Walk anticipates the reconstruction of the South Street Bridge from 25th to 30th Streets with a new and separate pedestrian section. With the other Schuylkill bridges, the new South Street Bridge will tie our sophisticated downtown and our world-class university more closely together. Hotels at either end of the walking route in Center City and West Philadelphia are even contemplating offering bicycle-powered rickshaw service in their respective neighborhoods!

The Cross Philly Walk project will erect attractive ceramic signs to guide walkers along its 28 turns; and produce pocket pamphlets



with maps and a list of attractions. It will be publicized by slide shows at local cinemas, as well as print and broadcast advertising. Steve Hammell, a Penn-trained Environmental Planner who practices in the Philadelphia metropolitan area, conceived the idea for the Cross Philly Walk while working on other greenway projects in and around the city and while jogging between Philadelphia's two rivers on weekends. It is expected that federal, state, and foundation grants, as well as corporate contributions will finance the project, and that a recognized nonprofit organization will oversee its completion. The Philadelphia Police and Streets Departments already provide security and maintenance.

How better to celebrate our unique blend of landscape, cultural and recreational amenities, commercial, corporate and industrial strengths, intellectual power, convenient location, rich history and polyglot population than by establishing Philadelphia as the Walking Capital of America?

Environmental planner Steve Hammell is mapping out a new way to appreciate the beauty and amenities of our City.

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**S A F E & S O U N D S O C I E T Y H I L L**

## Understanding Police Response Priorities

**B**e aware of your surroundings! In the previous issue of this newsletter we reported on police response time to crimes, and we promised to give you more specific details on the Police priority system. As already noted, our Sixth District Police Force is essentially at the “mercy” of Police Radio (911) and its priority system. Priorities run zero to six, with zero being the highest priority. Although dispatchers have the most control over how a crime is identified by priority, the fact is that when several calls come in for the same incident, the computer automatically increases the incident’s priority.

The highest priority, Priority Zero, is “Officer Down (Police Assist)” — meaning that a violent crime has just occurred and a police officer needs help. The next highest priority, the one we are most concerned with, is Priority One, where violence is occurring at the time of the call, or has occurred within about 15 minutes of the report. For example, a person with a gun gets increased attention, but people with other weapons, such as a knife or baseball bat will get almost as much attention — especially if the crime is still occurring at the time of the call. If someone is screaming in the street or there is an abduction or assault in progress, this gets attention as Priority One, because the words “in progress” indicate that a serious threat is occurring at the moment.

Priorities Two through Five are reports of crime that have occurred outside the 15-minute window, where there is no longer a serious threat to a person — e.g. mugging, disturbances in a house, business, school, public bus, or an auto accident. If someone is seriously hurt, a fire emergency rescue crew will be sent to take the person to the nearest hospital. Complaints such as loud music, illegal parking, fire alarms, stolen autos, abandoned auto or property or crank calls are categorized in these lower priorities. The priority number increases as the crime is less serious and less immediate.

Priority Six is the Differential Response Unit, where no officer will be sent, because the crime has occurred and there is very little that can be done except to write a report. Usually the complainant will receive a call back from this unit so that the police can obtain additional information.

Speaking of information: if you happen to observe a crime, or you are the unfortunate victim of an incident, try to be as observant as

possible — under the circumstances. Any distinguishing characteristics you can identify will help police find the perpetrator(s).

A description such as “man in a black leather jacket” does not help. Try to notice any specific physical characteristic that will help the police identify him or her, such as eye or hair color, special clothing, facial hair, birthmarks, etc.

**Improved Traffic Control:** Safe & Sound Society Hill is pleased to report that with Councilman Frank DiCicco’s help, we’ll get better traffic control with 25 mph speed signs on alternate blocks. The Streets Department is replacing missing STOP and NO TURN ON RED signs. Also, traffic engineering specialists are conducting volume and speed studies on specific blocks. Their findings will be reported to us and we will consider appropriate traffic calming measures.

**Lighting:** Remember to turn on your outside lights an hour earlier for standard time. Increased illumination leads to increased safety. (See page 11 for information about a plan to improve our street lighting.)

**November 6th Flea Market:** Thanks to everyone who contributed to this very successful event — by donating items or baked goods to sell, helping organize, set up or break down the market, making cash donations and, of course, purchasing great “finds.” Our committee raised almost \$1,000 for the 2004 Christmas Party, which was enjoyed by about 230 first graders and their teachers in the Sixth District.

**Cell Phones:** Please continue to drop off old cell phones to 414 Spruce Street. They’ll be reconfigured to call 911 and given to victims of domestic abuse or the elderly. Keep them coming!



**A N N O U N C E M E N T**

**Society Hill Town Watch Community Meeting**

Thursday, January 20, 2005

Plaza Community Room

Society Hill Towers

7-8 p.m.: Patrol Training by Doug Evans,

Operation Town Watch

8-9 p.m.: General Meeting,

including Q&A with Philadelphia Police Dept.

All Society Hill residents are welcome to attend!

To RSVP or learn more about SHTW, call

267-251-0749.



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 Private Funding Considered to Improve Lighting
 

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## Franklin Lamps Project

Benjamin Franklin designed street lighting for Philadelphia in the mid-to-late 18th century. Franklin's street lighting was revolutionary for its time because it was the first lighting system in America. When Society Hill was undergoing its rebirth in the 1960s, Franklin's lamp design was duplicated: a lantern with four glass panels, suspended by a goose-neck bracket mounted onto a post. Franklin's source of light was a burning wick, which rested in a pan of oil, and a funnel emitted the smoke and kept it from blackening the panels. Even then, pragmatic Ben saw the benefits of good community lighting for safety and a sense of well-being.

Although Society Hill was in the forefront of lighting progress in Ben's day, we have failed to keep pace with available modern technology. Our current electric lighting system, circa 1960's, is outdated and ineffective, leaving many of us "in the dark" when it comes to safety and security.

Several years ago, when SHCA's Lighting Committee became aware that our Franklin Lamps were in disrepair and needed to be upgraded, they contacted Joseph Doyle, Chief Lighting Engineer for the City of Philadelphia. One fall evening, he brought a team of technicians to 2nd and Spruce Streets, where they used instruments to evaluate lighting output (measured in foot candles). They were amazed to find that our Franklin lights scored far below the acceptable national standard for city street lighting. Concerned about liability should an incident of crime or injury occur due to poor lighting, Doyle's team was anxious to remedy the situation by working with our community. That was more than five years ago.

Early last year, in 2004, the city's Lighting Department, through its lighting manufacturer, presented a state-of-the-art model of a light fixture to SHCA's Lighting Committee. The fixture's general appearance remains the same, but its inner workings and stippled acrylic side panels produce a brighter, clearer light with a wider beam spread — to insure a well-lit streetscape. SHCA's Board members viewed the light fixture, were impressed, and voted to approve that model. We then asked the city to let us know when the lights would be installed throughout the neighborhood.

As with all projects, there is a need for adequate funding. SHCA has been promised \$100,000 from the city, and \$110,000 from the state, thanks to Senator Vincent Fumo. At \$1,250 per fixture, the entire bill to install new Franklin Lamps throughout our neighborhood comes to \$500,000. For economies of scale, it is best to install as many light fixtures as possible at the same time. Doing the math, we come up with a deficit of \$290,000. The question is how to cover this shortfall without waiting a year or more.

The SHCA Lighting Committee, which recently came under the umbrella of our Safe and Sound Society Hill Committee, is considering reaching out to individual homeowners to ask them to sponsor a Franklin Lamp near their homes. We call this concept "Adopt A Franklin Lamp," which can be accomplished on a matching basis. About half the number of lights on each block would be covered through the previously mentioned government funds, while funds for the other half could come from private donations. Most Society Hill blocks have eight Franklin Lamps, four per side. That means half, or only four lights, would need to be funded by donations from neighbors.

Some options are: A household could adopt one Franklin Lamp at \$1250; or a group of neighbors could share the cost of donating toward one light — so that each contributor would need to donate as little as \$100 - \$200. If we go this route, it would be possible to secure funding for lighting the major portion of our neighborhood — and get the job done sooner rather than later! We are looking into the possibility of asking neighbors to make their donations through a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization — perhaps The Society Hill Fund — so that their contributions are tax deductible.

Improving lighting in our neighborhood will need support if we are to see the "light of day," to borrow a phrase. These improved Franklin Lamps would provide residents and visitors the benefit of up-to-date lighting, which would enhance our sense of safety and security. The Safe and Sound Society Hill Committee will provide more information in the months ahead. For questions or comments, please contact Martha Levine, Franklin Light Coordinator, at 215-629-0727, marthalev@msn.com.




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Proposed new Franklin Lamp fixtures will be exact visual replicas of the originals, incorporating the latest lighting technology.

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You are Responsible for Your Sidewalk...

Let the Homeowner Beware!

Most Society Hillers are walkers, because, in our corner of the world, we can walk almost everywhere we need to go. Nonetheless, while walking we should look out for uneven sidewalks and other hazardous conditions. Workers can, and do, pull up our brick sidewalks to repair any number of problems, and often they do not replace the bricks properly. This can be an accident waiting to happen. And who is responsible when someone gets injured on your property? You, the homeowner, of course! Liability is a word that we should all keep in mind.

Recently, on the 500 block of Spruce Street, a plumber who works frequently in Society Hill sent two of his men to dig a six-foot deep hole to repair a sewer pipe. The bricks and dirt were removed to get to the problem, but once the repair was done, the men didn't replace all of the dirt. Instead, they carted away much of it, leaving a sagging dirt surface and bricks piled up on the side. They also failed to erect a barrier or place a warning sign near the hole. A barrier or sign would have prevented pedestrians from falling into the hole, which was right in the middle of the walkway. In the absence of a warning, that's exactly what happened. An unsuspecting neighbor stepped into the hole, fell, and suffered a deep leg gash, which required treatment at Pennsylvania Hospital's emergency room.

The injured neighbor made some calls and found out that the homeowner, who hired the plumber, rented the house out to tenants — so she was rarely there to supervise his work. The apologetic homeowner gave the neighbor the plumber's name and phone number. When the injured neighbor contacted the plumber, he was very unsympathetic and rude, claiming that no one else had complained and that he had little control over his workers.

As a result, the injured neighbor is now filing a claim with the plumber's insurance company. Ethically, the plumber should feel responsible for his workers' negligence. Realistically, he will feel the pinch when his insurance rates are raised. The bottom line is that the homeowner could be sued.

**DON'T BE THE TARGET OF A LAWSUIT**

- Take a good look at your property and make sure that nothing is on the verge of causing an injury to someone. A cornice of an apartment building on the south side of the 500 block of Spruce Street is in such disrepair that it could fall and hurt someone soon. The owner has been asked to fix this, but has done nothing thus far.

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- Clear wet leaves, snow and ice from your sidewalks to prevent pedestrian falls.

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- When a contractor is working on your property, supervise, supervise, supervise! His negligence will become your responsibility if it causes injuries to others.

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- Always ask your contractor what he is doing while he is on the job, and periodically oversee the work. Not only do you want to avoid a lawsuit, you don't want anyone to be harmed. Be a good neighbor!



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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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BY PAUL BONI

## Properties & Issues Being Addressed

**SHCA's Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee (ZHP) continues to work with property owners in the neighborhood. As always, the ZHP urges owners to present their plans to the ZHP before seeking approval 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.**

### **Dilworth House Under Attack**

The SHCA is gearing up to help fend off the much-rumored proposal of Turchi Properties, Inc. to seek to demolish or significantly alter the Dilworth House, located on the east side of Washington Square. Mayor Dilworth built this house in 1957 as a strong show of commitment to our neighborhood, which was quite run down at the time. It was a major step in rescuing Society Hill, and it encouraged other relatively wealthy buyers to settle into this part of town. *Inquirer* architectural critic Inga Saffron wrote a wonderful article on December 10 entitled "A Symbol of City's Renewal Deserves to be Preserved." We encourage you to read the entire article, which can be found at [www.philly.com/mld/philly/entertainment/10381163.htm](http://www.philly.com/mld/philly/entertainment/10381163.htm).

### **New State Law Causes Concern**

A few weeks ago Harrisburg modified the statute that controls how Philadelphia can operate under its City Charter. While the main modification was something we needed, a dastardly midnight rider was attached to the bill, reportedly at the behest of billboard companies, who seek to limit the ability of SCRUB, a successful city-based anti-blight group to challenge zoning variances (see [www.urbanblight.org](http://www.urbanblight.org)). The problem is that the law seems to take a swipe at anyone who wants to challenge a variance. Therefore, groups like SHCA and Center City Residents Association (CCRA), the main civic association due west of Society Hill, would also be affected. The rider is so poorly written that we are not sure if the legal standing of groups like SCRUB, CCRA and SHCA can actually be limited, but we know we are in for more legal wrangling in the courts

about what the new law means. For that reason, several groups, like SCRUB, CCRA and SHCA, are brainstorming about ways either to invalidate the new law or neutralize any effect it might have. Stay tuned for further updates.

For now, the moral of the story is that we can never take for granted the rights of citizens and community groups to participate in the legal processes governing the development of our neighborhoods. The most threatened areas of our city are not in Society Hill, since our neighborhood is already mostly residential; however, we see value in collaborating with other organizations to help maintain our collective ability to act as an effective check on government.

### **226-228 South 4th Street**

A young couple recently purchased these two separate, adjacent residential properties. The new owners indicate that they intend to live in one house but fix and sell the other. They approached the ZHP, seeking a zoning variance to change the shared lot line so that they can annex a small part of the rear open area at one property and enable them to enlarge the first floor kitchen for the house they intend to inhabit.

The ZHP was pleased to support this request. Though the change would result in the loss of open space, the two properties would still have sufficient open space as required by the zoning code (30% for houses in the middle of the street). However, a variance is still needed, because one of the resulting properties would have a narrower midsection than is otherwise allowed by the code. The ZHP believed that, in this instance, this is not inappropriate and therefore we support the proposal. (If only we could narrow our own midsections!)

Due to the prior owner's actions or inactions, the cellar doors became quite shabby and parts of the sidewalk crumbled near the curb. Accordingly, the ZHP conditioned its support for the variance on the new owner making these necessary repairs before starting construction on the expansion. We are pleased to report, as of press time, that the owner has installed beautiful, historically accurate cellar doors and will start sidewalk repairs soon.

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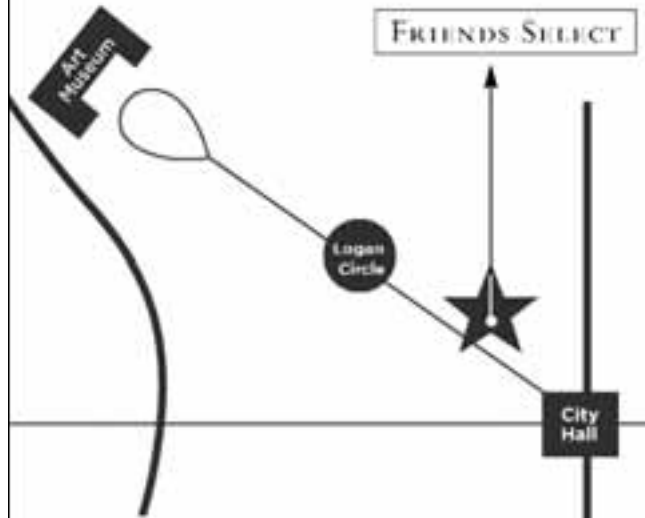
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# Kids' Beat

A COLUMN BY KERI WHITE

The post-holiday letdown is now upon us. Cabin fever is rampant, and we are all tired of cooking. May I suggest an evening out *en famille* to chase away the blues? I can already hear the rebuttals, "Thank you very much but my girth has widened enough from the holiday treats without adding South Street burgers, fries and shakes to the mix." Fear not, there are many restaurants in and around Society Hill that offer family-friendly dining in attractive settings with sophisticated food for grownups and familiar items for the less adventurous. Some of our family favorites are:

**Pad Thai • 604 S. 2nd • 215-592-1168**

Menu highlights that please my two children are the chicken satay (aka "sticken"), Thai dumplings, and wonton soup. There are extensive selections that appeal to grown-ups — a variety of seafood and meat dishes and curries, noodle and rice dishes, and many vegetarian options. A special treat for the kiddies: Thai iced tea sweetened with condensed milk. A special treat for the grown-ups: Thai beer. The elephant statue provides an amusing diversion if anyone needs to wander, and the staff is friendly and accommodating.

**Dark Horse Pub • 421 S. 2nd • 215-928-9307**

Here we find sophisticated bar food at its best. The menu provides the requisite chicken ten-

ders, burgers, fries and fish 'n chips for those of mundane tastes, but also offers items like grilled salmon, steak au poivre, crab cakes, paella and corn poblano soup. Adults can enjoy the offerings of a full service bar, and kids can enjoy the bird's eye view of Head House Square.

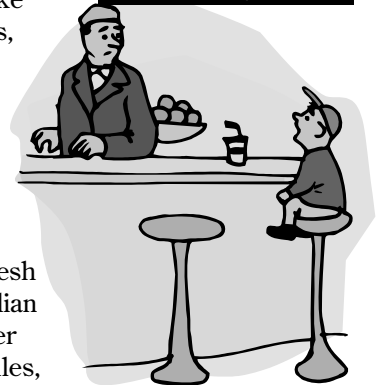
**Ava Restaurant • 518 S. 3rd •**

**215-922-3282** This neighborhood BYOB offers a wide range of choices featuring fresh ingredients while remaining true to its Italian roots. Italian food is always a crowd pleaser because virtually no child will refuse noodles, and Ava is willing to prepare them plain for the purist. For those with a more diversified palate, they suggest the chestnut tagliatelle or perhaps the pappardelle alla coniglio, plus many other options. The staff is welcoming and warm, and the atmosphere is friendly.

**Zocalo Restaurant • 3600 Lancaster Ave •**

**215-895-0139** West Philly isn't in the neighborhood, but this gem has a free parking lot adjacent to it. The authentic Mexican menu offers a range of options from chicken or steak tacos to corn crusted grouper. There are several vegetarian selections and a children's menu that is sure to please. Kids love the constant activity of the trolleys passing by, and *Madre* and *Padre* love the margaritas!

## Kid's Quote



"We're going to Buddakan, for drinks."

**Cormick, age 8**  
Society Hill kid

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Happy Birthday, Dear Benjamin, on January 14

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## Help Celebrate Franklin's 299th Birthday

A full-day celebration will be held on Friday, January 14 to commemorate Benjamin Franklin's 299th birthday and his contributions to the City of Philadelphia. Sponsored by a collaborative committee representing the institutions he founded, such as the American Philosophical Society (APS), the program will begin with a morning seminar to be held from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at Franklin Hall, 427 Chestnut Street, across from the APS library.

The seminar, which is free and open to the public, will focus on the theme "Franklin's Philadelphia: Understanding It and Preserving It." Speakers include: Coxey Toogood, historian at Independence National Historical Park (INHP); Penny Batcheler, retired architectural historian at INHP and a longtime Society Hill neighbor; Bruce Laverty, the Gladys Brooks

curator, at The Athenæum of Philadelphia, who will describe the Philadelphia Architects and Builders website; and John Gallery, executive director of the Preservation Alliance. The seminar will be followed by a procession with banners and color guards to Benjamin Franklin's gravesite at Christ Church Burial Ground, 5th and Arch Streets. All are invited to attend the seminar, but reservations are required.

Following the seminar, luncheon will be served at the Down Town Club, in the Public Ledger Building at 6th and Chestnut Streets, from 12:15 to 2:15 p.m., for \$50 per person. Featured luncheon speakers and honorees will be architects Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown. Reservations for the seminar, the luncheon, or both can be made by contacting Carol Smith at 856.429.8331 or cwsmith@verizon.net.



**Benjamin Franklin's 299th birthday will be celebrated on Friday, January 14, 2005.**





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RELIGIOUS SERVICES

# Music, Preaching, and Lectures Start New Year

### Holy Trinity/Old St. Mary's Catholic Church

Holy Trinity Church is now reopened. Masses will be held on the first Sunday of every month at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., and on the preceding Saturday at 5 p.m. All masses for the rest of the month will be held at Old St. Mary's Church, at 5 p.m. on Saturdays, and 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. on Sundays.

### St. Peter's Episcopal Church

On Sunday, January 16, the Amherst Early Music Ensemble will present "Drive Cold Winter Away," a program of medieval, renaissance, and baroque music. Beginning at 8 p.m., the program will feature soprano Julianne Baird, recorder player Marion Verburggen, and other early music specialists. There are no advance ticket sales; tickets will be available only at the door. Admission \$10/\$8 students and seniors.

On Monday, January 24, Historic St. Peter's Preservation Corporation will present "Benjamin Carr and his Circle," a concert of music by Philadelphia's first famous composer, singer, and actor, Benjamin Carr, and other Philadelphia musicians of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Organist Paula Pugh Romanoux, Artist-in-Residence and Principal Organist at St. Peter's, joined by her husband, Peter Hopkins, Choirmaster at the church, will play, sing, and talk about Philadelphia music during Carr's time. Free and open to all, 7:30 p.m.

### Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church

Ian Torrance, the new president of Princeton Theological Seminary, will preach the 10:30 a.m. Sunday, February 20 service, which is open to the public. Please call Mary Hall at 215-925-8051 for more information.

### Old St. Joseph's Catholic Church

Old St. Joseph's Church is anticipating the completion of its courtyard and parish hall construction project in mid-January.

A three-part lecture series is planned for February and March on the life and spirituality of St. Ignatius, the founder of the Jesuits:

- Wednesday, February 2, 7 p.m.  
*The Life of St. Ignatius*
- Wednesday, March 2, 7 p.m.  
*Examen of Consciousness*
- Wednesday, March 30, 7 p.m.  
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### Music at Old Pine Concert Series

*An Afternoon with Gabriel Fauré: Cantique de Jean Racine* and the Old Pine Adult Choir on Sunday March 6 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door.



St. Ignatius, the founder of the Jesuits, will be the subject of a lecture series to be held at Old St. Joseph's Church.

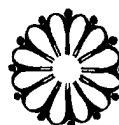


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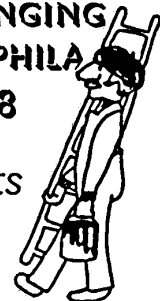
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## INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

## “People of Independence” Exhibit Opens

The magnificent Second Bank building within Independence Park was closed for a major utilities improvement project in November '02. This building, designed by William Strickland and erected circa 1820s, is one of the finest examples of the Greek Revival style in American history — saved from demolition because of its architectural beauty and adaptability. Over the years, the Second Bank has served many purposes. When Independence Park was created, it became the park's Portrait Gallery. For two years the park's collection of portraits was unavailable to the public, but on November 30, exactly two years to the day following its utilities renovation, the Second Bank reopened with great fanfare featuring a new exhibit that showcases the park's fine arts collection that addresses recent changes in historical scholarship. This new exhibit, now housed in a much more attractive setting, features the park's extraordinary collection of portraits of America's founding fathers and mothers. It tells many stories about what living in late-18th century America was like for people from all walks of life. The reopened Second Bank, on Chestnut Street between 4th and 5th Streets, is a must-see for Society Hillers of all ages, and is open to the public during the winter season Wednesdays through Sundays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.



**At right, Charles Willson Peale (Historical Interpreter Robert Gleason) creates a tableaux based on his famous self-portrait, "The Artist in His Museum." In the self-portrait, Peale lifts a red velvet drape revealing the contents of his museum. At the exhibit's gala opening, Gleason lifted a similar drape, inviting guests to preview the redesigned galleries in the historic Second Bank. (At left, Tom Caramanico, Chairman of the Friends of Independence National Historical Park, with Park Superintendent Mary Bomar.)** Fascinating fact: The talented designer of this newsletter, Judy Lamirand, is a direct descendant of Charles Willson Peale!

## Park Beautification Project Update

In November 2004 the National Park Service (NPS) began two new Independence Mall beautification projects: lighting Independence Hall's front exterior and landscaping the area adjacent to the new Liberty Bell Pavilion. Both projects are slated for completion by July 4, 2005.

The project's lighting design firm will showcase the Hall as the park's focal point. Special lighting will accentuate the building's features and create a natural effect by revealing the texture and color of the brick. An additional benefit will be the illumination of the nearby American flag, allowing it to be viewed at night.

Construction management company Hill International plans to install a central lawn area complete with benches, walking paths, trees and greenery. To maintain a consistent look throughout the Mall, the company will erect

along 5th Street a brick wall and lighting fixtures similar to those already installed north of Market Street. Additionally, the temporary screening facility will be removed. While work is underway, the sidewalk along 5th Street's west side will be closed to make room for construction trailers.

The park's original Visitor Center at 3rd and Chestnut Street is undergoing a major renovation, and should be completed in spring or early summer of 2005. The facility will serve both as an educational center for school children and as the park's archeological site. Visitors will be invited to watch as archeologists examine and organize all the historical treasures dug up from land on which the park is located.

Learn more about this exciting new park venue in the spring issue of this newsletter.

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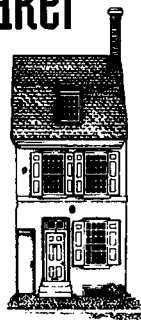


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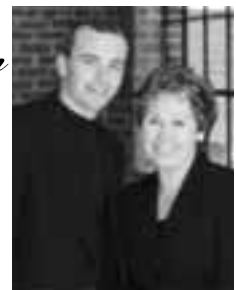


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## THIS OLD HOUSE

## From Allens to Appels: 414 Spruce Street

A house, whether made of brick or straw, is dynamic — a living, breathing structure with a history all its own. Its architecture and its people tell a never-ending story. Many historic Society Hill houses fit that description, but this story is about the house now known as 414 Spruce Street. This house, 200 years young, has been home to many. Its current occupants are Marilyn and Harry Appel.

Looking at it now, one could not imagine that in 1790 the land behind what is now the 400 block of Spruce Street was farmland. A young man purchased land with a wooden shack from a farmer. That man was Richard Allen, a slave who purchased his own freedom, and, with other slaves, founded the first Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. This thriving church, located at 6th and Lombard Streets, is the oldest parcel of real estate in the United States owned continuously by African Americans.

In 1805 Richard Allen built a colonial-type house that stood at 414 Spruce before the existing one. The Appels have a picture of the house taken in 1859, discovered in the archives of the city's public library, showing the colonial structure that included the original storefront. About 1865 the front of the property was demolished to take in the dormer and the side alley, and all the floor levels were raised — making the ceiling heights 13 feet on the first floor and slightly lower on succeeding floors. The marble steps were placed in front and double doors became the entrance. All the windows had “eyebrows” which places the house in the Italianate style of architecture.

In Richard Allen's day, the houses were numbered consecutively, and this house was referred to as 150 Spruce Street. When the house numbers were changed in the 1800s to conform to the north-south streets, this block became the 400 block of Spruce, and 150 became 414. In the 1940s, the house served as headquarters for a Republican Club. Following that it became a 13-room rooming house with one bathroom and an outhouse.

The Appels purchased the house in 1967 and moved in just in time for Halloween, 1969, not the best nor safest time to move into the neighborhood. In fact, on their first day here, their seven-year-old daughter was mugged on the way to the A&P (now the SuperFresh) on

S. 5th Street. The police were wonderful to her; they made her feel important and unafraid. Since then Marilyn has been an advocate for our Sixth District Police, and her younger daughter became a psychologist for the Police Employee Assistance Program.

Marilyn's older daughter experienced an unfortunate run-in with some teenagers who tried to take a bag of Halloween goodies from her. She grabbed a carton of eggs they were carrying and smashed them over the head with it — an early form of communication, and communication is the business she's in today.

Harry, with some assistance, gutted the entire house and rebuilt it from scratch, with its five bedrooms and five and a half baths. He left the electrical and plumbing duties to professionals, although Marilyn did all the tiling.

Photographs of the reconstruction are prominently displayed in the house, as are the many bottles dating from 1835-1845 that were unearthed in the basement.

Since the kids moved out sixteen years ago, the house has served the community as a Bed and Breakfast — one of the few in Society Hill. In keeping with the home's long history of changes, the latest evident remodeling is its 37-year-old kitchen. Soon, a new state-of-the-art kitchen with all of today's bells and whistles will be installed. (Harry is sitting this one out!) No, they have not discovered any ghosts in the house! But sometimes, very late on a quiet night, they can hear footsteps walking up a stairway somewhere near their bedroom wall...

Several years ago, with the help of an architectural historian, the Appels learned about the fascinating history of their house, and also learned how to conduct such research. If you want to look into the history of *your* historic house, feel free to get in touch with them. And if you have guests visiting but not enough space in your home to accommodate them, give the Appels a call. Theirs is a home-style, friendly place that visitors return to often.



Façade, altered in 1865



Façade, 1859  
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**SOCIETY HILL'S WELCOME BASKETS**


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## New Businesses Add Gifts to Welcome Baskets

We gratefully welcome six new businesses\* to our family of contributors, bringing the current total number of businesses and/or organizations in our Welcome Basket program to 59. As always, we extend sincerest thanks to our loyal and generous contributors and encourage Society Hillers to patronize these establishments.

### **New Residents and Thoughtful Neighbors:**

If you have recently purchased a house or condominium in Society Hill (or if you know of someone who has), please let us know by contacting Martha Levine at 215-629-0727 or marthalev@msn.com.

*To all of the people at SHCA, especially Martha Levine:*

*The generosity of the many merchants who contributed to our newcomer's gifts was astonishing and heart-warming! We are excited to be a part of this welcoming neighborhood, and hope to "give back" during our residency here.*

*We so appreciate your energy and input — gathering those wonderful gifts and spending time with us, explaining what and who are where, and how the various processes work.*

*With our thanks and best wishes,  
Arnold & Diana Thackeray, S. 3rd Street*

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Super Fresh Food Markets, 5th & Pine  
Whole Foods Market, 929 South Street

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Annenberg Center for Performing Arts, 36th & Walnut  
Arden Theatre Co., 40 N. 2nd  
Atwater Kent Museum, 15 S. 7th Street\*  
Ghost Tours of Philadelphia, 215-413-1997  
Independence Seaport Museum, 211 S. Columbus  
The Kimmel Center, Broad & Spruce  
Lights of Liberty Show, 6th & Chestnut  
Mann Center for Performing Arts, 52nd & Parkside  
The National Liberty Museum, 321 Chestnut  
Pennsylvania Ballet, 1101 S. Broad  
Phila Chamber Ensemble, Old Pine, 400 Pine  
Phila Shakespeare Festival, 2111 Sansom  
Phila Theatre Company, 1714 Delancey  
The Prince Music Theater, Broad & Chestnut  
Ritz Theatre, 2nd & Walnut  
Society Hill Dance Academy, 409 S. 2nd  
Society Hill Playhouse, 507 S. 8th  
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Ava Restaurant, 518 S. 3rd Street\*  
Bridget Foy's South Street Grill, 200 South Street  
City Tavern, 138 S. 2nd  
Creperie Beau Monde, 624 S. 6th  
Deux Cheminees, 1221 Locust  
Farmicia Restaurant, 15 S. 3rd Street\*  
Fork, 306 Market  
Fork, etc. (prepared foods), 306 Market Street\*  
La Buca Ristorante, 711 Locust Street\*  
Mustard Greens, 622 S. 2nd  
Overtures Restaurant, 609 E. Passyunk  
Panorama Ristorante, 14 N. Front  
Pizzicato Restaurant, 248 Market Street\*  
Sfizio Restaurant, Society Hill Towers

### **Salons**

Brescia Salon, 118 South Street  
John Romano's, Curtis Center  
Pileggi on the Square, 717 Walnut  
Salon @5th, 316 S. 5th

### **Specialty Foods**

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Metropolitan Bakery, 1114 Pine and 126 Market  
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Pink Rose Pastry Shop, 630 S. 4th  
Rita's Water Ice, 239 South Street  
Zeke's Deli, 318 S. 5th

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**Laurels to Three Heroes**

Three quick-witted men recently came to the rescue of our neighbor and her young daughter during a 5 p.m. mugging that occurred on the 500 block of Delancey Street. Fortunately, Joe Brennan, a UPS driver, heard her screams and saw the 13-year-old running after the man who had just pushed her mother hard to the ground and grabbed her purse. A nearby construction worker from Cherry Hill, Stephen Agresta, joined the fray and the two of them literally sat on the perpetrator. Then another good neighbor, Ed Coyle, arrived on the scene, trussed up the perpetrator's legs with his belt, and the three men held onto the fellow until the police arrived. Fortunately, Mom thought to scream loud, which alerted the Good Samaritans who bravely came to her aid. We're happy to report that mother and daughter are doing fine.

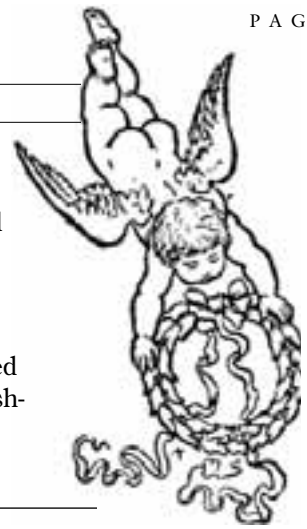
**Laurels to Generous Contributors**

Thanks to Lorenzo's Pizza and Pietro's Pizza for their generous donation of pizzas that fed the voracious appetites of our witches, goblins

and superheroes at Three Bears Park Halloween festivities on October 31. Thanks also to the parents who handed out pizza and juice to the children.

**Laurels to Volunteers**

Thanks to the "green thumbs" of Lee Gutman and Jean Drake, who completed planting the final boxes of bulbs in Washington Square — which will help make the park more colorful next spring.



**No, Thank You!**

To the couple who wrote to SHCA saying they will not renew their membership because they believe we are "permitting" a large political banner to remain mounted on the property at the corner of 3rd and Spruce Streets ("Potamkin for Governor"): we are not "permitting" this situation. As this is perhaps the most frequent complaint we receive from our members, we have done our best to make the City aware. Please do not think poorly of SHCA for the City's slow response. We hope that the homeowners with the banner will realize they are causing more harm than good.



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**JANUARY 1981**

Jeff watches the Eagles play in the Super Bowl from his home in Addison Court.

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Jeff very optimistic he will be watching the Eagles play in the Super Bowl from his home in Cypress Square.

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## Holiday Social – December 8th

About 200 enthusiastic neighbors showed up at our Holiday Social in Liberty Court's Sample House—a great setting at 212 Lombard Street. Wonderful folks, wonderful spread and wonderful fun. Graciously hosted by Arthur Fefferman.



**Keri White, SHCA Board Member, and Tania Rorke, SHCA President, greet guests at the December 8 Holiday Social.**



**David Woods and his wife, Shelly Wolff, who recently celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary. Congratulations.**



**Bari Shor and Martha Levine, SHCA Board Member**



**Stan & Nancy Frenze with Lee Gutman**

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## NOTEWORTHY NEIGHBORS

A COLUMN BY DAVID WOODS

## Jonathan and Julia Goldstein

**A young couple puts down roots in Society Hill.**

Jonathan and Julia Goldstein have taken to heart the crusty British newspaper editor C.P. Scott's dictum: "Television: the word's half Greek and half Latin; no good can possibly come of it." They don't own a TV; nor, for that matter, do they own a car.

But these two recent arrivals in Society Hill from faraway Rittenhouse Square, do own a house. And what a house! The enormous, early 19th century, five-story home they moved into in November with new baby Katharine, New Zealander Au Pair Kirsty, and Bassett hound Mr. Barney, is what's known as a "fixer upper." As Julia puts it: "This place was a mess; but the bones were good."

And the Goldsteins — she's a lawyer at Dechert, LLP specializing in corporate mergers and acquisitions; he'll graduate from Penn Law School in May — have already started putting some attractive flesh on those bones. The house, lived in by generations of the same family for 100 years, had — to put it generously — gone somewhat to seed. But, after only a few weeks of their occupancy, worn linoleum is yielding to bright bamboo floors and faded wallpaper to pastel shades of paint.

While Julia is proud of her Southern roots, having grown up in Atlanta and graduated with a degree in history from Rice and acquiring her JD and MBA at Duke, she has some illustrious

heritage in this part of the country: Two grandfathers were professors at Rutgers, one of whom became president of that university. But it took some persuasion on Jonathan's part to lure her northwards after the two had met in Houston where they were both working for the same dotcom company, "before dotcoms were cool," as they put it.

Jonathan went on to found his own computer solutions company, which was listed as one of the *Philadelphia Business Journal's* fastest growing companies. The *Journal* also named him among the 40 most influential Philadelphians under 40.

He took that influence into the political arena, running once as a Libertarian candidate and once as a Republican candidate for the Pennsylvania State Assembly; and as a consultant to the Bush-Cheyney and Arlen Specter campaigns in the recent election. To mix in some literary flavor, he served for four years as president of the century-old Franklin Inn Club.

Now, he says, "I'm Mister Mom." But he's by no means finished with politics. "I'd like to see a vibrant two-party system in Philly," he says.

Jonathan and Julia feel truly settled in Society Hill, even after this short a time. Says Julia: "There are more strollers than cars here; it's a great place to bring up children." The couple is eager to put down roots and to become an integral part of the community. They are, they agree, totally committed to Philadelphia in general and our neighborhood in particular.

So how do they get around without a car? They stroll. "But we also love Philly Car Share," says Julia. "And all the bus routes seem to start here," adds Jonathan.

Then there's the question of the absent television. Well, they're computer whizzes, so they get most of their news and information online — with an infusion of *The Economist*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and *Forbes*. And, who knows? Maybe, since they're also thirty-something mega-achievers, and with Julia's degree in history and Jonathan's in philosophy, they'll find time to get some Latin and Greek in, too. Despite Mr. Scott.



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# The Green Tree Perpetual Assurance Company

## Episode X • Sharp Divisions



*The following excerpts from the unpublished history of The Green Tree by Clifford Lewis, Jr. suggest the good and the bad that erupt in a new Nation when economic, social, and political division is fatally inflamed by a religious fervor that inevitably drives partisans to Civil War and the assassination of a President.*

By 1857 Civil War was beginning to seem ominously inevitable. The question of abolition was talked about daily at every level, but towering behind that tragic problem was the even graver one: Shall the Federal Union endure? Certainly its existence was challenged—by the North with its growing industrial wealth, by the South with its one-crop agrarian interest, serving a minority population that resulted in inequalities in the weight and strength of Government.

In Illinois, Abraham Lincoln was expressing his opinion about the “House Divided” in his famous speech, saying, “I believe this government cannot endure permanently half-slave and half-free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved. I do not expect the house to fall, but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other.”

The Abolitionist Movement was a moral rather than an economic source of discontent in the Northeast, where it was overlaid with a patina of New England religious fervor. Men who argued the question of slavery had a tendency to identify it with evangelical Protestantism. Orators and preachers used the approach common in religious revivals: “Slavery is a Sin. Abolish it. Repent and be saved.”

In the summer of 1861, the Green Tree Board passed a resolution subscribing \$10,000 toward arming the State Militia; a year later they contributed \$5,000 to the Volunteer Fund, out of which bounty was paid, as approved by an Act of Congress, to each man enlisting in the Regular Army. By subscribing to a fund for this purpose, The Green Tree helped to speed the recruitment

of troops. It appears that when recruiting officers were not furnished with such funds, a premium was credited to the soldier, which was paid at the first muster roll after his enlistment. Inasmuch as Governor Curtin had asked for \$3 million for this purpose, it is plain that such subscriptions as were given by The Green Tree were more than a patriotic gesture.

The Inquirer for 27 October 1862 confirms one of the legendary anecdotes about President Lincoln. The President was visiting the scene of battle at South Mountain, or the Catocin, as the account says it ought to be called, near Sharpsburg, Maryland. This was the battlefield where the Rebels gave the Union its first touch of steel and smell of blood and gun smoke. An old farmer from the neighborhood was selling apples and cider to the crowds of visitors to that locality, Lincoln and his company among them. At first the President refused his offer of a glass, but when told by the farmer that “It’s real good — it’s prime, Union cider.” The President accepted the tall, cool drink “to the huge delight of General McClellan and his staff, who were accompanying President Lincoln on his tour.”

Humanitarian interests in many categories had their beginnings in the nineteenth century; the Civil War gave wider scope and impetus to a practice becoming common — serving humanity wherever the need seemed greatest. In 1863, although The Green Tree was falling behind the record number of policies it wrote in the previous year, the Board was able to give \$1,000 each toward the support of the Union League Regiment, the First City Troop, Captain Spencer Miller’s Battery, the Refreshment Saloon, and the Sanitary Commission. Both the last two organizations had units ministering to the needs of troops returning to Philadelphia from battle areas far afield.

Later, \$5,000 was given to Lincoln Institute for orphaned sons of soldiers killed in the War; contributions of \$1,000 each were given to the Pennsylvania, University, and

Episcopal Hospitals to secure two beds in each for firemen injured while fighting fires; to the Wills Eye Hospital, a contribution was made to supply care for families of veterans with impaired vision. Further, \$2,500 was given to the Church Home for daughters of firemen killed or disabled while on duty and \$500 for the relief of the family of the late Fire Marshall, who died as a result of many years’ exposure while sifting evidence of arson. Another \$2,500 was given to the family of the late General George G. Meade, “in token of the great respect and esteem with which all Philadelphians held him; an acknowledgement of his success at Gettysburg, by which this City was saved from danger and The Green Tree saved from the contingency of great pecuniary loss.”

When President Lincoln was assassinated on the evening of Good Friday, 14 April 1865, The Green Tree’s response to the tragedy was recorded in an item on The Green Tree Treasurer’s expense account: “Putting the house into National Mourning, including the flagpole.” On the evening after news of the assassination had been telegraphed across the Nation, invitations issued for the opening of the new clubhouse built for The Union League — to which a majority of The Green Tree Board belonged — were received by the Treasurer and his family. Festivities were postponed, of course, Trustees and Treasurer, as did everyone else, put away their ties and tails to join the Nation in grief at the passing of the Great Emancipator. Many of them stood in the crowd that filed silently into the State House to pay a last tribute to Lincoln as he lay in state for two days in the Declaration Chamber.

*(To be continued.)*

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**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

Friday, January 14

**Ben Franklin's 299th Birthday**  
Seminar, Parade & Luncheon  
For more info: 1-856-429-8331  
See page 17

Sunday, January 16, 8:00 p.m.

**Amherst Early Music Ensemble:**  
"Drive Cold Winter Away"  
St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
\$10, \$8 Students & Seniors  
See page 19

Wednesday, January 19

**SHCA Meetings**  
6 p.m. Board Meeting  
7:30 p.m. Gen'l Membership Meeting  
Old Pine Street Church  
See page 1

Thursday, January 20, 7-9 p.m.

**Society Hill Town Watch Meeting**  
Society Hill Towers Plaza  
Community Room  
See page 9

Thursday, January 20, 7-9 p.m.

**Public Forum: Construction for the Richard & Sarah Allen Museum**  
Mother Bethel Church  
All Neighbors Welcome

Monday, January 24, 6:00 p.m.

**Featured Speaker: Carrie Rickey, Inquirer Movie Critic & Neighbor**  
Friends of Inde. Branch Library  
18 South 7th Street

Monday, January 24, 7:30 p.m.

**Benjamin Carr and his Circle**  
St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
Free, See page 19

**Lecture Series: The Life and Spirituality of St. Ignatius**  
Feb. 2 @ 7 p.m.: Life of St. Ignatius  
March 2 @ 7 p.m.: Examen of Consciousness  
March 30 @ 7 p.m.: Dynamics of the Spiritual Exercises  
Old St. Joseph's Catholic Church  
See page 19

Sunday, February 20, 10:30 a.m.

**Ian Torrance - Speaker**  
Old Pine Presbyterian Church  
Open to the public.  
See page 19

Sunday March 6, 2 p.m.

**An Afternoon with Gabriel Fauré Cantique de Jean Racine**  
Old Pine Presbyterian Church  
\$10 in advance, \$15 at the door  
See page 19



*We wish all  
of our neighbors  
a Happy,  
Healthy and  
Peaceful  
New Year!*



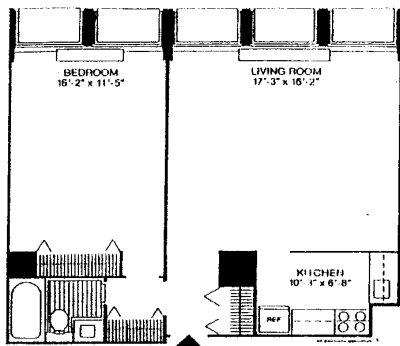
SOCIETY HILL

*Reporter*

[www.societyhillcivic.com](http://www.societyhillcivic.com)

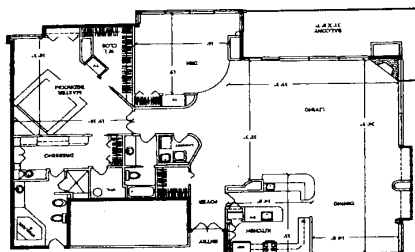
*Society Hill and Washington Square's Premier Condominiums*

**Society Hill Towers**  
210 Locust Street



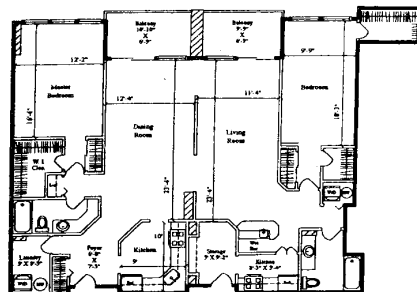
One bedroom, one bath, with southern exposure  
**\$244,900**

**Independence Place**  
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Penthouse 2 bedroom, 2 baths, spectacular panoramic views of river and bridges, wrap around balcony  
**\$1,195,000**

**Independence Place**  
241 S. 6th Street



Two 1 bedrooms combined to form a spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath home, 2 Balconies, an upgraded kitchen, and a wet bar.  
**\$725,000**



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