

Is Our Community Under Siege?

New Development Plans for NewMarket



Architect's rendering of the 40-story hi-rise tower proposed by NewMarket's developers

Society Hill as we know it is at a crossroads. While things have been quiet these past few weeks regarding the Dilworth House, the vacant NewMarket property (from Front to 2nd Streets and Pine to Lombard Streets) is an immediate concern. Over 70 Society Hill neighbors attended a Zoning & Historic Preservation (ZHP) Committee meeting on April 18th to hear a presentation by NewMarket's developers. The developers envision a tower building that could be up to 40 stories tall, depending on its ultimate configuration.

To obtain the desired profit, the developers instructed their architects to design a project of 350,000 to 400,000 square feet of building/living space. The plan is for a hi-rise tower that contains condos selling for about one million dollars apiece, or more. That amount of square footage can be obtained only by building vertically, to as high as 40 stories, which is well beyond the 35-foot height limitation imposed by the city's zoning code. In addition, there would be a 310-space underground garage dedicated only for condo owners.


Neighbors asked many pointed questions at this presentation — particularly why new townhouses were not considered in the design plan. The developers claimed that the Philadelphia Planning Commission would not approve a low-rise project because, according to the developers, a hi-rise is more “friendly to the urban environment,” whereas a low-rise project would “invite crimes, including rape and murder.”

The next day SHCA officers met with senior management at the Planning Commission. The Commission reported that they have not yet been approached by NewMarket's developers. Indeed, the Commission told our team that had they been approached by the developers, they would have been told in no uncertain terms that the Commission would not support any proposal for a hi-rise tower at NewMarket.

What can YOU do? To advocate for good decisions, both for NewMarket and the Dilworth House, SHCA is continuing to raise funds for lawyers, architects and other professionals. As previously reported, a generous couple is willing to match dollar-for-dollar up to \$100,000 in contributions to our “war chest” for these two properties. To date SHCA has raised almost \$50,000. But much more is needed. If you haven't yet sent your check payable to the Society Hill Civic Association, indicating “Challenge Fund,” we ask that you do so today. Send it to SHCA's P.O. Box 63503, Phila, PA 19147. And for more information on SHCA's plans to keep NewMarket's development in scale with the surrounding neighborhood and preserve the Dilworth House, see page 19.

Finally, plan to attend our May General Membership Meeting where John Gallery, executive director of the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia will be our featured speaker. Also, it is time to elect a new slate of SHCA officers and directors. Please see pages 8 to 13 for brief profiles of these fine candidates who will certainly have their work cut out for them in the coming months.

WED.	MARK YOUR CALENDAR
May 18	Society Hill Civic Association Meetings Wednesday, May 18, 2005
	Pennsylvania Hospital Corner of 8th & Spruce Streets
6:00 p.m.	Board Meeting Cheston Room, 2nd floor (above the Zubrow Auditorium) All SHCA members are welcome to attend.
7:30 p.m.	General Membership Meeting Preston Building, Zubrow Auditorium 1st floor in the Preston Room Annual election of SHCA officers and directors Featured speaker: John Gallery, Executive Director Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia All community members are invited to attend.



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Submission Deadlines

for July/August Issue:

Advertising June 1

Editorial June 13

Submissions

We want to hear from you. Our goal 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 by the submission deadline above.

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



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Working Together to Shape Our Future

The Dilworth House has been very much on our minds lately, as a symbol of his strong commitment to Society Hill's redevelopment, Mayor Dilworth chose to locate his family home in what was then a very run-down neighborhood. That act was strengthened by the significant roles of both Edmund Bacon and Charles Peterson (see page 5) and other "pioneers" — some of whom are still with us today. This dedication resulted in the revival of Society Hill as we know it.

Back in those early days, two separate groups organized to support the neighborhood's continuing improvement. By the mid-1960s, they merged to become the Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA), which aimed to adopt basic policies underlying the area's redevelopment, calling for "a residential district in the human scale, urban in character, yet quiet, dignified and compatible with the area's history." SHCA's bylaws specifically stated that "in order to assure that our neighborhood adheres to these goals for a residential area, we must preserve our historic homes, support the concept of single-family, owner-occupied dwellings, lower density, prevent the spreading of commercialism, and reduce congestion."

In 1976, SHCA decided to conduct its affairs as a corporation, defining its mission as follows: "...to promote the improvement of the Society Hill area of Philadelphia, including its cultural, educational, and civic activities, and the preservation and restoration of its historic buildings; to represent the residents of Society Hill in matters affecting the City of Philadelphia generally and Society Hill in particular; and to interpret the value and significance of Society Hill to the public." This continues to be SHCA's mission today.

Over the past year, our board has faced several challenges. Fortunately, we have a dedicated, well-informed and independent-minded board of directors who represent the interests of our neighborhood's four quadrants, as well as its condominium hi-rises. For guidance, the board relies on both SHCA's bylaws and the city's current zoning codes. Although residents may not always agree with all of the board's decisions, always arrived at through a democratic process, we do occasionally receive kudos for some decisions, while for others we may be criticized. That's democracy — we can't please all the people all the time!

However, all of us have *chosen* to live in Society Hill for our own personal reasons. While our civic organization is not opposed to change, we must think carefully about what kind of changes are appropriate. During the 1950s and 60s, the city's Redevelopment Authority played a very large part in supervising and assisting Society Hill's development. But that was then, and this is now. Today we cannot rely on the city's offices to determine what is best for our neighborhood. We as a community must be active in our own decision-making process.

This summer the board will review SHCA's bylaws, reassess its objectives, and begin creating a strategic long-term plan. As you can see in this issue of the *Reporter*, we have many enthusiastic nominees who will soon join the board. (Meet them on pages 8 to 13). Each individual will bring his or her own point of view. And, although only a sample of our neighborhood's many wonderful residents sit on the board at any given time, we always want to hear the opinions and suggestions of others. We ask for your participation so that all voices may be heard.



Tania Rorke
SHCA President



Mix & Meet Your Neighbors at Our Spring Social!

Tuesday, May 24
6-8 p.m.
Hosted by
Spasso, Italian Grille
34 S. Front Street
All SHCA members who enjoy meeting and mixing with new and "old" neighbors are invited to join us

for refreshing drinks, delicious hors d'oeuvres and delightful conversation. Pick up your coupon for one complimentary alcoholic beverage at the door. Stay for dinner and get a 10% discount. Non-members

are invited to join SHCA on this occasion. Bring \$40 for annual membership dues and join us! RSVP: SHCA Administrator Matt DeJulio at 215-629-1288 or MattDeJulio@aol.com

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Free Party for Our Neighbors aboard the Moshulu!

Tuesday, May 17, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

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Craig LaBan, Inquirer

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 Ceremony Honoring Edmund N. Bacon & Charles E. Peterson

SHCA Honors Society Hill's "Founding Fathers"

With great pleasure we announce that on Thursday, May 26 at 5:30 p.m., the eve of Memorial Day weekend, our civic association will complete a project that has been several years in the planning: an unveiling ceremony and celebration of a permanent marker to honor the two gentlemen most responsible for the beloved community we call Society Hill: Edmund N. Bacon and the late Charles E. Peterson. Our entire community is invited.

As you probably know, these two men brought their internationally recognized professionalism and powerfully spirited personalities to the effort that resulted in the rebirth of our neighborhood, beginning in the mid-1950s. Many other Philadelphians contributed to the overall effort, including citizen "pioneers" within our midst. It was Bacon in his role as executive director of the city's Planning Commission from 1949 to 1970, and Peterson, historical architect and a founder of our nation's historic preservation movement, who provided the impetus that led to our neighborhood's revival. Through their efforts a decrepit neighborhood of old houses, factories and warehouses became a national model for revitalization.

We encourage all Society Hill residents to attend this ceremony and the brief reception that follows. The celebration will take place on the north side of Spruce Street, between 3rd and 4th Streets, in front of St. Joseph's Way (one of Bacon's many "greenways"). We are delighted to report that Mr. Bacon, accompanied by family and friends, will join us. Several of Mr. Peterson's friends will also be attending. If Mr. Peterson were alive, he could see the marker from his front window. Before he died last year at age 97, he lived in a restored Girard house on the 300 block of Spruce Street, amidst his beloved papers and books.

This handsome interpretive marker, designed to be compatible in design and scale with others in our neighborhood — for example those at Society Hill Synagogue, St. Peter's Church and Head House Square — is a project of the Society Hill Civic Association, initiated and completely funded by membership dues. It will inform passersby about our community's rebirth, thanks to the efforts of these two modern "founding fathers," and it will be a reminder to all about what good citizens can accomplish.



Edmund N. Bacon



Charles E. Peterson



*The Society Hill Civic Association
invites you to attend
an unveiling ceremony
for the interpretive marker dedicated to
Edmund N. Bacon and Charles E. Peterson*



*Describing their contributions
to the revival of Society Hill*

Thursday, May 26, 2005, 5:30 p.m.

St. Joseph's Way and Spruce Street

Reception follows in the "greenway"

In case of rain, the reception will be held at St. Peter's house, 313 Pine Street.

RSVP and for more info, contact Matt DeJulio at 215-629-1288 or mattdejulio@aol.com.

All are invited to attend the Bacon/Peterson plaque unveiling ceremony and reception with complimentary refreshments afterwards!

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A Cautionary Fable

The Tales of Tommy The Time Traveler

Last week I had a visit from a relative affectionately named “Tommy the Time Traveler.” Tommy parked his time machine in the basement and I saw that the time dial registered the year 2025. As Tommy took me for a walk through the neighborhood, he showed me photos that he brought back from the future.

“Let’s start on the west end,” he said. “See that grand 35-story condominium between Spruce and Pine, 7th and 6th?” I nodded yes. “Yep, that’s called the McCall Palace, which was built about ten years ago. The school district felt that the maintenance on a vintage 1906 building was too costly and sold the land for a bundle.” “Oh no, those poor folks on Spruce — spending all that money and time before the ZHP committee to get those roof decks,” I moaned.

“Now let’s walk up 7th to Washington Square,” Tommy exclaimed. I replied “Nice to see those grand early 1800 Duncan Building facades are still here, but what’s that building behind them?” “Oh, that’s the 20-story addition to Franklin Hospital, extending all the way to Delancey,” Tommy quipped. “With the number of baby-boomer empty-nesters settling in the area in the 2010s, hospital beds were in short supply.”

“Oh surely in Washington Square, things will be the same. It’s protected by the Park Service,” I stated with an air of confidence. “Oh no, the Meredith House is gone and there’s another 30-story building on the Square.” “Yep,” Tommy said, “the Keys Plaza. Seems as though in 2020 the owner of the historic Lea & Febiger building retired and moved to Florida. He made a deal with a developer and the city in return for the protection of the Keys Gallery as a museum in perpetuity.”

“Well,” I mused, “at least I’m glad to see that the Dilworth House is still standing with nothing behind it. Chalk that one up to the diligence of a strong SHCA in the early 2000s.” Tommy interrupted me, “Not so fast! Look over to the right. That’s Independence Three and Four, built in 2010 and 2017 after the Pennsylvania Sports Club closed shop.” “Good grief,” I said, “what has 5th Street become?” “No more parking there — it’s sort of a mini superhighway to the bridge,” Tommy said. “A lot of St. James Court people moved into that condo near the river.”

“Oh, that’s OK,” I replied cheerfully, “I’m sure they love Society Hill Towers.” “Nope,” Tommy chuckled, “Towers is now the Pei Hotel and Lounge, doing great business with all those new riverboat gambling establishments. Those Towers homeowners are now in the new towers at NewMarket. That’s where all the changes began in 2007.”

“Yikes!” I shouted, “I thought we were only giving developers an inch! What happened to SHCA?” “They were there,” Tommy said, “They had the numbers to fight for the neighborhood, but they just did not have the funds to face the court battles.”

Moral of this tale:

Is this the Society Hill you would like to see in twenty years or what you want for your children?

If not, send money to SHCA’s Challenge Fund today. SHCA is here, but it can’t fight legal battles without your financial support. Send your donation to SHCA, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147.

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ELECTION INFORMATION

2005-2006 Slate of Officers and Board Directors

According to SHCA's bylaws, officers and directors can serve in their respective roles for up to three consecutive years, after which they must retire those positions. Paul Boni moves from being vice-president to director in the Northeast Quadrant and Bonnie Halda moves from being vice-president to a condominium representative for Society Hill Towers. The following Society Hillers have been nominated to represent their respective quadrants.

* New to posts.

Year in parentheses indicates expiration of term.

Condominium representatives are chosen by their respective organizations and may serve for several years.

Officers**President**

Tania Rorke

Vice Presidents

Michael Erdos

Bernice Hamel

Carole LeFavre-Rochester

Martha Levine

Secretary

Lana Noël

Treasurer

Colleen Farrell

Quadrant Directors**Northeast Quadrant**

* Paul Boni (08)

* Gordon Baltuch (07)

* Matthew White (06)

Northwest Quadrant

* Roseanne Loesch (06)

Sissie Lipton (07)

Diane Rossheim (07)

Southeast Quadrant

Richard De Wyngaert (07)

* Carol Colabelli (07)

* Sandy Rothman (06)

Southwest Quadrant

* Anine Burlingame (06)

* Wally Wing (08)

* David Harwitz (07)

Condominium Representatives**Hopkinson House**

Steve Weixler

Independence Place

Richard Weeks

Society Hill Towers

* Bonnie Halda

St. James Court

Andrea Layden

Penn's Landing Square

* Ellie Boyarski

St. James**(8th and Walnut)**

* Norm Lieberman

SHCA Officers & Directors will be elected at the General Membership Meeting to be held on Wednesday, May 18th at 7:30 p.m. at Pennsylvania Hospital

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ELECTION INFORMATION

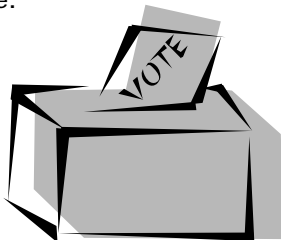
Meet the Candidates for Board Officers

Below, we present biographical summaries of each of the new and continuing nominees who have offered to contribute their time and skills on behalf of our community.

Tania Rorke, President

Tania Rorke begins her second year as president, after an inaugural year filled with challenges that she handled admirably. A former Block Coordinator and Southeast Quadrant director, Tania leads our association, which now faces even more challenges this coming year. She and her husband, Tom, live with their two young daughters and the family dog in their Delancey Street home. Until their first daughter arrived, Tania was employed by Pennsylvania Hospital, managing the outpatient therapy department and working as an occupational therapist. These days she keeps very busy raising the girls and volunteering for good causes. As President of the Friends of Three Bears park, she has led that organization through its fundraising efforts to replace the park's unsafe and outdated playground equipment. Renovations are due to begin this summer. She is also involved with the Auxiliary of Pennsylvania Hospital, as well as St. Peter's School, St. Peter's Church, and The Junior League of Philadelphia.

Tania will continue to collaborate with neighbors and nearby communities on several long-term and short-term projects that will affect the quality of life we enjoy in Society Hill. Immediate issues include two proposed hi-rise developments. She also hopes to develop a strong coalition of volunteers to work with adjoining communities and the South Street Headhouse District to address problems that derive from that corridor. Tania looks forward to working with SHCA members, old and new, to keep our neighborhood one of the most desirable places to live.

**Michael Erdos, Vice President (2006)**

Michael Erdos and his wife, Diana, have lived on the 300 block of Delancey Steet since moving to Philadelphia in 1997. This past year they were joined by a son, now eight months old. Michael received his B.A. from Dickinson College, an M.A. from Oxford University, and a JD from Yale Law School. He is currently Chief of the Public Nuisance Task Force, a unit that addresses drug houses, nuisance bars, and other quality-of-life issues in the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office. Michael has also served as a Special Assistant at the United States Attorney's Office. Most importantly, he has reinstated the Society Hill Town Watch (SHTW), and he is president of this independent group of about 50 volunteer neighbors who patrol our streets several days and nights weekly. SHTW is allied with our association's "Safe and Sound Society Hill Committee," which he co-chairs with Martha Levine.

Bernice T. Hamel, Vice President (2006)

Bernice Hamel has been a community activist all her adult life. With an M.A. in Creative Writing from Temple University's English Department, she has wielded the "power of the pen" for several worthy local causes. She is president of the Head House Conservancy, which led the restoration and preservation effort that rescued this iconic National Historical Landmark. A founder of the *Society Hill Reporter* and recently a Southeast Quadrant Director, she will now serve as a vice president. For 18 years she and her husband, Bernard, have treasured living in their historic home (built in 1762), while their two sons and three grandchildren love to visit. In 2001 Bernice was awarded a Citation by the Mayor of Philadelphia for promoting education and awareness of the city's history.

Martha Levine, Vice President (2006)

Martha Levine, a Society Hill resident for 19 years, has initiated and/or chaired several projects we have come to know and love: our Welcome Basket program for newcomers and our Block Coordinator program. She promoted the installation of automatic timers for front door lights, so that now over 200 households have installed outdoor lights for our neighborhood's safety. Martha co-chairs the Safe and Sound Society Hill Committee, and she compiles Society Hill's List of Contractors. Currently she is working with city officials to upgrade the quality of light for all the neighborhood's Franklin Lamps. A co-chair of the annual Society Hill Open House and Garden Tours each spring, Martha, is a former teacher who lives with her husband, Howard Sedran, and their daughter, a student at St. Peter's School.

Carole LeFavre-Rochester, Vice President (2006)

Carole, a native Baltimorean, has lived and worked in the area for over 30 years. She is Editor Emeritus of the American Philosophical Society from which she retired in 2001. Carole keeps her skills current by editing one or two books a year — such as Walter Isaacson's recent biography of Benjamin Franklin and Sara Feinstein's biography of Nahum Bialik. A co-editor of this newsletter, she is active in her synagogue and other organizations, including the Parents of North American Israelis. She is a board director and weekly volunteer for the Philadelphia Jewish Archives Center. Carole has a Masters Degree in Religious History from Temple University with two years post masters work in Judaism and Early Christianity. She and husband, Michael, make their home in Penn's Landing Square.

Lana Noël, Recording Secretary (2006)

Lana will serve as the new recording secretary. She has previously served as both block coordinator and board director. Lana joined the *Reporter* editorial team last year. Her educational background includes a B.A. in Psychology from Temple University as well as several art and writing courses taken at Moore College of Art and New York University, respectively. Much of her business career has been spent in communications, human development and writing. Lana lives with husband, Josh Nadel, and young son in one of the many houses built during Society Hill's renewal in the 1960s. One of Lana's passions is singing: she studies with the director of a Temple University choir and sings with the prestigious Philadelphia women's choir Anna Crusis, an organization for which she also volunteers.

Colleen Farrell, Treasurer (2006)

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



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ELECTION INFORMATION

Meet the Candidates for Quadrant Directors

Northeast Quadrant**Gordon Baltuch, M.D. (2007)**

Gordon Baltuch is a neurosurgeon at Pennsylvania Hospital where he is the director of the Center for Functional and Restorative Neurosurgery. He was listed recently as a Philadelphia "Top Doctor." Gordon and his wife, Vivian — a maxillo-facial surgeon at Jefferson Hospital — live in a 200-year-old townhouse on S. 3rd Street with their two small children. A native Montrealer, Gordon was educated at Harvard, Stanford and McGill. In 2003 the Baltuchs, seeking a more residential neighborhood, moved with their family from Rittenhouse Square to Society Hill. Gordon, who often walks home from work late at night, is interested in keeping Society Hill as safe and family friendly as possible, while preserving its unique historic and urban character.

Paul Boni, Esq.(2008)

Paul Boni is stepping down as SHCA's vice-president because its bylaws restrict term limits to three years. However, he continues to chair our association's Zoning & Historic Preservation Committee, where his exceptional administrative skills, professionalism and leadership have guided committee members as they collaborate to maintain Society Hill's zoning and preservation laws. Paul, who acquired his law degree in 1990 from the University of Pennsylvania, has his own practice located in Old City focusing on environmental and land use law. He enjoys living in his historic "trinity" townhouse at Bell's Court (off Spruce Street). When not working on behalf of his clients and our community, Paul tries to find some time to see good films. He also takes advantage of our area's wonderful restaurants.

Matthew White, Esq. (2006)

Matthew White, a Society Hill resident since 1994, lives in a historic home on Spruce Street with his wife, Keri, and their two children. Matt, who wants to help our association protect its many assets, has recently focused his efforts on the McCall School. He believes that a dynamic and thriving local public school will help Society Hill attract more families with children, which will enhance the community's stability and growth. A partner in the law firm of Wolf, Block, Schorr and Solis-Cohen, Matt specializes in business litigation and dispute resolution. He is a graduate of Harvard College and Vanderbilt Law School, and is on the Executive Committee and General Counsel for Jewish Family & Children's Services of Philadelphia.

Southeast Quadrant**Carol Colabelli (2007)**

Carol Colabelli, a native Philadelphian, attended Hallahan High School and Temple University. She and her husband of 42 years, Ralph, moved to Society Hill in 1997. They have three children: John, Lisa (married to Mario, with one son, Mateo) and Marie. Carol is owner and partner of Professional Meetings International, a worldwide meeting management company servicing the pharmaceutical industry. Ralph is retired from First Union Bank. The couple has traveled extensively throughout the U.S., Europe and Asia. This year they look forward to the birth of another grandchild in June and the wedding of their son in September. Their other interests include going to the theater, reading (especially history books), as well as exploring Philadelphia and other cities, focusing on their culture and cuisine.

Richard De Wyngaert (2007)

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

Sandra Rothman (2006)

Sandy Rothman moved to Society Hill from Chester County five years ago and is still captivated with our neighborhood's singular beauty and rich history. For many years she earned her living by leading book discussion groups and also leading tours to the prehistoric caves of France. A former teacher, Sandy has recently returned to her first profession. She is now teaching English as a Second Language in the Philadelphia school system to elementary students who are recent immigrants from many countries. She was a co-editor of the *Society Hill Reporter* for the past four years and hopes to rejoin the team eventually. Sandy lives at Penn's Landing Square with her son, Alexander, now a junior at Harvard, and her Bichon pup, Coco.

Southwest Quadrant**Anine Burlingame (2006)**

Anine has lived in Philadelphia for almost two years. She and her husband, Mark, and their four children lived in Lancaster Pennsylvania for twenty years. While Mark was busy as a cardiothoracic surgeon in Lancaster, Anine spent her time raising their children and doing extensive volunteer work. She describes herself as a "typical baby boomer" coming back to the city which she enjoys very much. She and Mark love living in Society Hill. They still maintain a residence in Lancaster for Mark's practice. Anine spends most of her time here with three dogs, a cat, and, of course, children who keep coming home. She looks forward to meeting her neighbors and making new friends.

David Harwitz, M.D. (2007)

David Harwitz is a homegrown product of the neighborhood, having graduated from McCall School, Central High, University of Pennsylvania and the Hahnemann University School of Medicine. Following completion of his residency in New York City, he returned to Society Hill. David and his wife, Marcia, an advertising executive with Dorland Global Health Communications, married (circa 1993) and purchased a highly charming and highly demanding house on Lawrence Court, circa 1792. Currently, he is a child, adolescent & adult psychiatrist practicing in Camden, New Jersey, principally as Medical Director of an intensive children's behavioral health program. In their remaining time, David and Marcia are gradually availing themselves of all the culture, cuisine and community which Philadelphia has to offer.

Wallace Wing (2008)

Wallace Wing, a graduate of Bowdoin College in his home state of Maine, served two years as a second lieutenant in the Army Finance Corps. Wally worked for 37 years for the General Electric Company, primarily in international taxation in New York City. There he met his wife, Sherry Shamansky. The Wings relocated to Philadelphia eight years ago with Maitel, a 15+-year-old cock-a-poo. Now retired, both are active members of Rodeph Shalom Synagogue, the Philadelphia Sports Club, and Friends of Independence Park. They are both poll workers and serve as hosts for Society Hill's annual Open House Tours. Last year their home was featured on the tour. Wally has been a Twilight Tour guide at Independence Park and is currently a community Block Coordinator.

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ELECTION INFORMATION

Candidates for Quadrant Director continued**Northwest Quadrant****Sissie Lipton (2007)**

Sissie Lipton and her husband, Herb, have lived at Independence Place for 19 years. They raised three wonderful and highly successful children — one of whom, Eric Lipton, is a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist with the *New York Times*. Sissie serves on the Wilma Theater Board, is a Trustee of the White Williams Scholars, and is a past president of the Friends of Moss Rehabilitation Hospital, where she was co-chairperson for many Artists with Disabilities exhibits. Sissie continues her leadership role in developing a well-functioning committee for Washington Square, which she initiated while serving as SHCA's representative from Independence Place. This liaison committee with the National Park Service maintains the standards and amenities that Washington Square deserves.

Rosanne Loesch (2008)

Rosanne Loesch, her husband, Yves Quintin, an attorney, and their teenage children, Laura and Charles, have been Society Hill residents for the past three years— living in a Federal period home, built in 1792. Until their move to our neighborhood they lived for 14 years in a home in Washington Square West, just a few blocks away from their current residence. Rosanne first arrived in Philadelphia to attend the University of Pennsylvania Law School. She is fluent in French, having lived in France off and on. Rosanne is on the organizing committee of the French Heritage Society, which is dedicated to preserving French architectural history in both France and the United States. She and her family travel often to their second-favorite country, France, especially Brittany.

Diane Rossheim (2007)

Diane Rossheim is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, class of '52! She has lived in the Society Hill area since 1979 —first on Willings Alley and now at the Hopkinson House— with husband, Bob Rossheim. Diane's varied career includes owning a bookstore and co-authoring a guidebook to Philadelphia. She is currently a tour guide for several organizations and has a keen interest in our city's architecture, history and cultural heritage, as well as current developments. Locally, Diane is a 26-year member (i.e. shareholder) of The Athenaeum, a member of the Friends of Independence National Historical Park, the Washington Square Citizens' League and, of course, SHCA. Diane is proudly the grandmother of eight.

Meet The Condominium Representatives**Hopkinson House: Steven A. Weixler**

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

Independence Place: Richard Weeks

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

Penn's Landing Square: Ellie Boyarski

Ellie Boyarski and her husband, Joel, relocated to Philadelphia from New York four years ago. Ellie is a psychiatric social worker with a Masters Degree from Fordham University. She has a private psychotherapy practice in Society Hill, specializing in issues relating to women and families. She serves as a director on the board of Penn's Landing Square, and is also the executive director of a private, nonprofit agency called CADE, which provides services through classroom instruction, small group and individual mentoring. Ellie and Joel lived in Paris for one year and enjoy traveling, good food, wine, and especially the wonderful environment of our historic neighborhood.

Society Hill Towers: Bonnie Halda

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

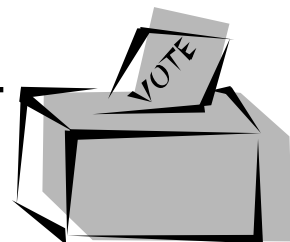
St. James Court: Andrea Layden

For the past year Andrea Layden has been a *Society Hill Reporter* team member. She enjoys contributing her efforts to benefit our community. She and her husband, Dan, are the proud parents of a beautiful daughter, and await the imminent birth of a sibling for her. Andrea, a graduate of Widener University, spent eight years as an insurance adjuster with State Farm Insurance Company. After her daughter's arrival she switched to a part-time position. A second-generation Italian-American, she and her husband were married in Florence, Italy five years ago, and are now applying for Italian-American co-citizenship.

St. James Hi-rise: Norm Lieberman

Norm Lieberman, a retired teacher and coach for the Philadelphia school system, has lived in our area for over thirty years. He is the first director on SHCA's board who has been selected to represent the recently built and occupied hi-rise building—the St. James—located at the corner of 8th and Walnut Streets. Norm continues to officiate at track, swimming, and cross-country events. He is Chief Coordinator for officials at the Penn Relays. Norm was a national licensed race car driver with the Sports Car Club of America. He and his wife, Sylvia, have been married for 35 years, and they have a strong interest in improving our neighborhood.

Come and Vote for SHCA Officers & Directors
at the General Membership Meeting to
be held at Pennsylvania Hospital on
Wednesday, May 18th at 7:30 p.m.



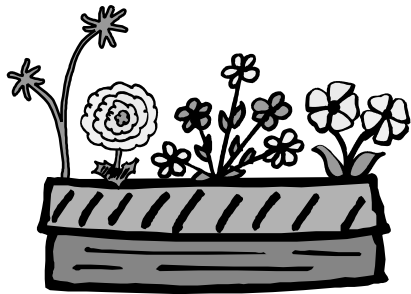
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- Thursday 5/19 ... 9 - 10am
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- Tuesday 5/24 6 - 7pm
- Thursday 5/26 6 - 7pm

Old Pine Community Center 4th & Lombard Call Randi at 215.928.1433 for info

COMMUNITY PARK HAPPENINGS

Spring Planting at Washington Square

Spring is here and it's time to think about a Spring "tune up" for Washington Square. On April 30th the Society Hill Civic Association, and Independence National Historical Park (INHP) teamed up to clean Washington Square and plant shrubs. On Saturday, May 14 from 9 a.m. until noon, we will plant flowers to spruce up all of Washington Square. Please bring your gardening gloves and join us.

Last March SHCA members met with INHP personnel, including Volunteer Coordinator Beverly Morris, to plan the continued beautification of Washington Square. She announced a \$38,000 Volunteerism Innovation Program Grant from the National Park Foundation to assist with the care of Washington Square. With this grant the park will create student internships and an Urban Gardeners Corps. This Corps will support Washington Square by funding equipment, shrubs and annuals. The grant was made possible by the National Park Foundation through a donation from the Tauck Foundation.

Washington Square Etiquette

Washington Square is a national shrine. While enjoying the Square on beautiful summer days, remember the following:

- Don't allow children or dogs to play in the center fountain.
- Always keep dogs on leashes.
- No chalk writing on sidewalks.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed to plant and maintain flowers in the pots and hanging baskets in St. Peter's Way, located on the south side of the 300 block of Pine Street. This charming walkway, which runs between Pine and Delancey, is swept weekly, but is in need of a loving hand (or two!) to help reach its full potential. Won't someone step forward to beautify this special walkway? If you are interested, please contact SHCA President Tania Rorke at 215-925-4544.

Three Bears Park

Park Renovations Scheduled to Begin Soon

Long awaited improvements to Three Bears Park will begin this summer, thanks to the efforts of Tania Rorke, the very busy and determined president of both Three Bears Park, an independent organization, and our own SHCA. Tania recently met with Councilman Frank DiCicco who assured her that \$100,000 has been earmarked for the park. Demolition of the old playground equipment will begin on July 15 and on August 1, usually a slow month in the park, it's new improved surface will be laid.

Finding the funds for all the park's improvements, however, continues to be a challenge. For example, the cost of replacing or repairing the park's brick sidewalks is \$130,000! Tania met with the Recreation Department's Building Maintenance Superintendent and he is willing to make several more park improvements—all at no charge! These include repair to the drinking fountain on the park's west wall; removal of the fountain's defunct internal plumbing, relocation of park benches, if possible, to the area along the west wall; and also installation of light fixtures. The Department will look into

the possibility of developing an irrigation system for the planter.

More good news: Senator Fumo's office recently gave the Friends of Three Bears Park an application for additional funding for park upgrades. It is quite possible that all the park's plans for improvements will be realized in a shorter time than expected. Let's hope so!



Stay In The Loop – Keep Email Address Current

SHCA has been assembling an email address book of association members so as to email information that arrives too late for inclusion in our *Reporter*. We use this list sparingly. In early March, we emailed notices to 556 households (out of our over 1000 members) about trash removal and gambling in our neighborhood. Forty-one of those emails were bounced back as undeliverable!

Did you receive these emails? If not, perhaps you recently changed your electronic address or neglected to include it on your membership form, or we couldn't decipher your address. Please take the time now to contact

Matt DeJulio, SHCA's administrator at mattdejulio@aol.com. He will be happy to add your email address to our database. With so much happening in our neighborhood these days, you can ill afford to be left out of the loop.

If you have a sticker near your mail slot cautioning against receipt of unsolicited flyers, you may not be receiving your bi-monthly *Reporter*. Therefore, to receive each issue by mail, we will add your name and address to our special U.S. mail delivery list. Please contact Matt DeJulio. See page 2 for his contact information. Our newsletters will keep you informed and up-to-date on community matters.

SOCIETY HILL TOWN WATCH

A Bicycle Built For Society Hill: Joe Ferrero At Your Service



Society Hill Town Watch (SHTW) is pleased to announce the latest initiative to enhance safety and security within our neighborhood. Police Officer Joe Ferrero, the Sixth District's newest bike patrol officer, is not only patrolling with his special cell phone in tow, but is eager to speak with anyone in Society Hill who needs police services. Feel free to call Officer Ferrero at 215-787-7864 if you need his assistance or if you are experiencing chronic problems related to crime or need an officer to swing by on the spot.

But remember that 911 should continue to be your first call in any emergency!

Scam Alerts:

1. A gentleman who comes to your door claiming to collect for Town Watch is collecting for himself. Town Watch is NOT seeking funds. Do not encourage this scam artist by giving him a donation.
2. A middle-aged man claims to be a neighbor, is "locked out of his house" and needs \$20 to "get to his son's house," or "to pay a lock-

smith," or some other excuse. He says he'll repay you in a couple of days. Comes back with a check for more than \$20 and asks for the extra in cash. Got the picture? Close your door; in fact, don't open it in the first place.

Would you like to be in our **e-mail group** and receive periodic updates about crime in Society Hill? Would you like to go on a patrol one day or night this summer and try us out for size? Call 267-251-0749 or send us an e-mail at michael.erdos@phila.gov.

The City's Tenth Annual Anti-Crime Conference and Award Luncheon.

On Saturday, May 21st, from 9 a.m. until noon, there will be very informative safety sessions and opportunities to meet people from other Town Watch groups across the city. Anyone interested in attending should contact Mike Erdos at Michael.erdos@phila.gov.

Observant Neighbor Coup:

Caught red-handed in Lawrence Court, a man selling marijuana. You too can help by doing what this neighbor did—call 911.

There is only one officer in the Sixth District who can write tickets to enforce the city's trash laws and keep our streets clean.
Call 215-686-3063 and ask for the Sanitation Officer.

Mixed News For Franklin Lamps Project

SHCA will soon receive its long-awaited \$110,000 from the State of Pennsylvania to upgrade the lighting in our Franklin Lamps. Thanks go to State Senator Fumo for his efforts. Together with a contribution of \$100,000 from the City of Philadelphia, our community will have nearly half of what it needs to improve the quality of light throughout Society Hill.

The Franklin Lamps, unique to our community, were installed about 40 years ago during Society Hill's redevelopment period. Based on Benjamin Franklin's ingenious design for street lights, these electrified versions do not illuminate our streetscape well enough considering today's improved technologies. While we love

our lamps and wouldn't dream of altering their classic design, the light they generate is inadequate by today's safety standards. Most are dim and many are in disrepair.

Although part of the cost for improving the lights has been funded by the city and state, an additional \$290,000 is needed in order for every Society Hill block to have updated lights. At this writing, about 25 neighbors have made pledges to help "enlighten" our streetscape. Pledges range from \$100 to \$1,250, the cost of a single updated Franklin Lamp. The need is obvious and we hope to provide better lighting for our entire neighborhood sometime in the near future.



SAFE AND SOUND IN SOCIETY HILL

Don't Be a Target – Tune In to Your Surroundings

Be aware: This column began several months ago with a warning — be aware of your surroundings! If you watch people walking down the street, you will notice that many of them are intently conversing on cell phones, totally unaware of what's happening around them. Others are plugged into ipods, paying no attention to their surroundings. We are not out to scare you, but criminals are opportunistic — they take advantage of situations and people who are tuned out. Please - keep your eyes opened, know who is at your side, your back and in front. Don't be an easy target.

Crime stats: Now, for some good news. The crime stats from 2004 show that overall crime is down by 17%. Thefts from autos and theft of autos are down by 25% and 32% respectively. There were still 89 thefts from autos and 43 stolen vehicles. Remember that one of the reasons crime is down is Town Watch. Although the numbers are down slightly, we can't be complacent. Burglaries showed the biggest decline — 53%, but robberies remained even. Specifically, burglaries involve property; robberies involve people, so we should be more concerned about robberies. The police have added special details to try to reduce robberies.

In the first two months of 2005, there have been three stolen vehicles, four thefts from autos, one burglary, one purse snatching, and six incidents of vandalism.

Identity thefts: In the last issue we talked about identity theft and, alas, the day after the *Reporter* came out, one of our neighbors filled out a questionnaire, purportedly from AOL, asking for his name, Social Security number, bank account number, mother's maiden name, etc. After he mailed the completed questionnaire, he realized his mistake. If he had read the *Reporter*, he would have known all the necessary phone numbers to call. Instead, he had to take the time to find the phone numbers, cancel his cards and start afresh. Save your *Reporters* — they are filled with this kind of important information.

Trash: Recently a neighbor who moved out of his apartment put out all his trash bags on Wednesday. By Thursday morning the bags had been picked through by every homeless person who passed by, leaving trash all over the sidewalk. The debris was not collected until Friday morning — but not before police were notified and the owner of the apartment building cited for three different offenses. A Center City District employee cleaned up the mess. Note: Your SHCA dues contribute to our weekly street cleanup by the Center City District following the city's trash pickup.

Old Cell phones: We're still collecting them. They are reprogrammed to dial only 911 and given to abused women or the elderly. Drop them off at 414 Spruce Street.

Good news — crime stats from 2004 show that overall crime is down by 17%.

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ZONING & HISTORIC PRESERVATION

 BY PAUL BONI, ZHP COMMITTEE CHAIR

In this column we take a break from our usual reporting on various small projects to focus on the latest news regarding two of the most important zoning and historic preservation issues facing Society Hill in a very long time: saving the Dilworth House on S. 6th Street (at Washington Square); and evaluating a proposed development plan for the vacant parcel of land we know as NewMarket – located between Front and 2nd Streets (at Head House Square) and Pine and Lombard Streets.

To advocate for wise decisions from the city boards and commissions, we are continuing to raise funds for SHCA's "war chest," which will enable us to hire outside lawyers, architects and other qualified professionals to present our case before these city agencies. As reported in the last issue of this newsletter, a very generous couple has agreed to match all monetary contributions, up to their maximum total donation of \$100,000. At this time, SHCA has raised almost \$50,000, but will most likely need to raise another \$50,000 to reach our goal of \$100,000—thus, with our neighbor's matching gift we'll reach a grand total of \$200,000. Please make out your checks to the Society Hill Civic Association and write "Challenge Fund" in the memo section. Mail the checks to SHCA, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147. You can also arrange to make an anonymous donation by contacting Paul at paulboni@bonilaw.com. We stress that the Civic Association will use these funds only for preserving the Dilworth House and for advocating appropriate development at NewMarket,

Proposals by NewMarket's Developers

On Monday, April 18th about 70 Society Hill neighbors, including many members of SHCA's Board, attended a presentation by representatives of NewMarket's developers (Sant Properties). They presented two "conceptual" plans, emphasizing that they are not final, but rather open for discussion. One design offered a 40-story hi-rise condominium tower along Front Street, the other a 30-story condo tower. Plans for the remaining parcel of the property varied — possibly a public garden or a large retail space. Either plan would have a 310-space underground parking garage.

All neighbors who spoke or asked questions were adamantly opposed to the tower concept — whether 40 stories, 30 stories or whatever the developer might someday offer as a "concession." The reality is that the city's zoning code clearly imposes a 35-foot limit on the height of any new residential building at the site, and the zoning code should be complied with as much as possible.

At the meeting, ZHP's Chairman, Paul Boni, and several neighbors emphasized that the scale of the design is a

critical issue. Paul quoted a few sentences from the previous Sunday's *Inquirer* in which a local architect said that, "when designing infill in historic districts, two of the most important issues are materials and scale." In response, the developers' architect disagreed strongly and argued that low-rise buildings are no longer constructed as infill these days. He said that to comply with the zoning code buildings would have to be designed in 1700s-style architecture. (Note: the C2 zoning classification for NewMarket was updated as of the late 1970s!)

At the meeting, one major and persistent argument made by the developers' architect was that NewMarket failed because serious crimes occurred there — including rape and murder. He said that to build another low-rise development would invite the same types of crime. He repeated this theme a few times throughout the presentation, which made the developer's proposal less credible, because other than condo dwellers most Society Hillers live in low-rise townhouses that are quite safe. A few people spoke up advocating for the development of luxury townhomes rather than a tower condominium.

The developer's architect also made repeated references to lessons learned from a residential project constructed in Roxborough. For that project, the architect said that the City Planning Commission actively requested that the developer build a high residential tower (with open space next to it) instead of a low-rise. He said that the Planning Commission definitely "would" want the same thing here; implying that they had met with the Commission about NewMarket.

The next morning, four SHCA members met with four officials in the senior management of the City Planning Commission. These officials informed SHCA representatives that the Planning Commission was never approached by these developers (or anyone else about NewMarket recently). The officials said that they are quite familiar with the site and they would never support a hi-rise tower there. They emphasized the C2 zoning code and the importance of scale. All four officials recognized the low-rise character of our historic neighborhood.

SHCA will continue to advocate for appropriate development at NewMarket, which in our view means it would be in keeping with the zoning code.

The Dilworth House, 223-225 South 6th Street

The developer has not taken any public action recently. We are told, however, that he is still quite actively pursuing his preparations to seek Historical Commission approval to demolish the mansion to make way for a 13-story condominium building. We too are continuing with our advocacy work.



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SOUTH STREET HEADHOUSE DISTRICT NEWS

 BY DAVID HAMMOND, SSHD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Why Is There No Bookstore On South Street?

That is the number one question that comes to the South Street Headhouse District (SSHD) office. There seems to be an impression that no one from the District has tried to encourage a bookstore for the area. That could not be farther from the truth!

What commercial property owner would not want a major book retailer as a tenant? Many such property owners or their brokers have actively recruited Borders, Barnes and Noble, and similar companies to no avail, because the District does not fit their profile. SSHD has recently hired Gina Pierantozzi, a Queen Village resident, as District Retail Coordinator. With her efforts we will have the chance to

change that assumption by providing potential retailers with updated demographics of the District and its surrounding neighborhoods.

The District is not a mall or a shopping center with the power to determine its mix of desired stores, however. In fact, until recently there was no attempt to influence the selection of stores on the Street. But with a Retail Coordinator on staff, we hope to make a positive difference gradually—by attracting new or successful businesses that are more in keeping with the surrounding neighborhoods' needs, while still maintaining our image as the "hippest street in town." Feel free to contact us at 215-413-3713 or southstretailmix@aol.com.

Something Old, Something New In The Shambles

Look forward to the Craft Fair in the Shambles each summer? You will still be able to browse among the woodcuts, clothing, jewelry and other items creative vendors bring each year—but only for seven weeks out of the 21 in this forthcoming summer season. The SSHD decided to offer more variety under the Shambles during the warm months when tourists and natives are out and about. In addition to the Craft Fair, there will be seven weddings and other one-day events. Although the Creative Collective provided a steady

income in past years for the District, SSHD is willing to accept a loss of revenue in favor of using the space for different functions. If you are interested in renting this historic outdoor space at 2nd Street between Pine and Lombard Streets, contact Dave Hammond, Executive Director, South Street Headhouse District, PO Box 63675, Philadelphia, PA 19147. Phone him at 215-413-3713 or fax him at 215-627-7035.

Trivia: 'Shambles' is a Middle English word used to describe a marketplace. The Shambles at Head House Square (located at S. 2nd Street between Pine and Lombard Streets) is probably America's oldest surviving colonial marketplace.

ABOUT THE DISTRICT

The South Street Headhouse District (SSHD), a business improvement district formed in 1993, is a Special Services District created by City Council and patterned after the success of the Center City District. SSHD provides additional sanitation and police services beyond what the city provides—funded only by businesses within the District's defined boundaries and contributing an additional 7% of their city property taxes as a special assessment. SSHD's boundaries include all of the South Street area from Lombard Street to the north, Bainbridge Street to the south, Front Street to the east, and 11th Street to the west. It also includes Fabric Row which runs along 4th Street from South to Christian Streets.

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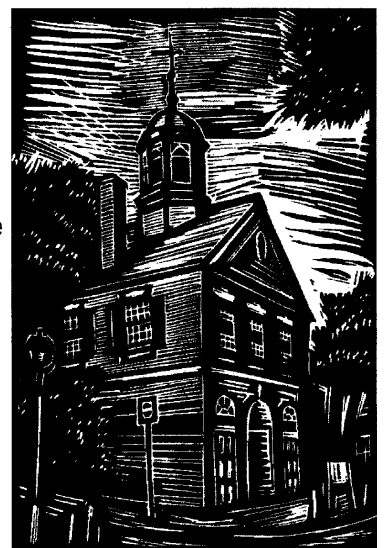
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 Mother Bethel African-American Church Will Host

A Touch of India Festival

By Bernice Hamel

What are the connections among a Brooklyn-born Jewish woman, Philadelphia's Mother Bethel African-American Church, and Calcutta's sick and destitute children? Oh, that answer is simple! It's about one person showing compassion for the some of the world's neediest children and doing something about it with creativity, determination — and the support of caring people.

With great pleasure I invite you to meet Rosalie Giffoniello, my childhood friend and Volunteer Extraordinaire, often referred to as "the Jewish Mother Teresa" who will bring a cultural event to Society Hill. On Saturday, June 11th, from 1 to 5 p.m. in the afternoon, Mother Bethel Church (6th and Lombard Streets) will be the site of a celebration of Indian music, dance, cuisine, laughter, and much more. "A Touch of India" Festival will help raise funds for Empower the Children (ETC), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, headquartered in New Jersey, that Rosalie created specifically to deliver educational opportunities and nutritional services to children in dire economic circumstances.

Rosalie, a retired teacher from New Jersey, has lived in Calcutta for the past five years. Inspired by the humanitarian work of Mother Teresa, she has created a variety of programs that enrich the lives of destitute and handicapped children — overseeing twelve programs that provide education, food or shelter to some of the world's most needy.

Rosalie, who has appeared on PBS programs and at the National Education Association, spends eight months of every year in Calcutta following her passion. For example, one program provides daily lunches to 1,200 high school girls — often the only nutritious meal they receive. For the other four months Rosalie is back in the U.S.A, raising awareness and funds needed to keep Empower the Children's various programs afloat.

Please join us at Mother Bethel Church, which has offered its beautiful setting for this event. Taste India's delicious food, music and dancing, while helping kids at the same time. Ninety percent of every dollar donated to ETC goes directly to the children, because it has no administrative or overhead costs, as specified in its bylaws.

Meet Rosalie while she's here in our little corner of the world and be inspired by how one person can make a world of a difference. Visit ETC'S informative and attractive website at: www.etc-empowerchildren.org, or contact me at 215-925-4363 or hamelbt@aol.com. Minimum donation for the festival is \$20 per adult; \$10 per child, which includes delectable Indian food and delightful entertainment, enjoyable for people of all ages, especially kids! Your tax-deductible checks should be made out to Empower the Children.

Mark your calendar!

Saturday, June 11, 2005, 1-5 p.m.

Authentic Indian refreshments served



Rosalie Giffoniello spends eight months a year helping needy children in Calcutta. Here, she visits four happy boys from the Bulbulir Basa Orphanage.

Yoga Child

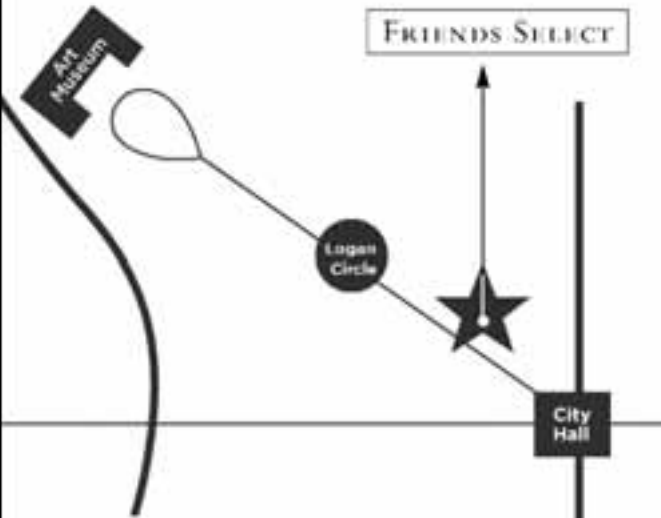


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Kids' Beat

A COLUMN BY KERI WHITE

Family Movies from A-Z

TLA Video, located in our neighborhood at 517 S. 4th St., is showing once again that it is a family friendly business. During the month of May, TLA will run specials aimed at the younger set. These programs grew out of Rental Manager Kennie Bowen's realization that the store's monthly specials always feature grown-up films, but kids and families are a vibrant and significant part of TLA's clientele.

The first of two promotions will be "Mickey Mouse Mondays," which allows customers to rent catalogued Disney films for an entire week at a reduced rate (\$1.85). The second is called "Family Films from A to Z." This features an alphabetical list of high quality, but lesser known, children's films that will rent for a dollar for the 5-day rental period. The TLA staff worked hard to compile this list with the target market firmly in mind. Titles include such classics as "Anne of Green Gables," "The Bear," "The Phantom Tollbooth," as well as many independent films that would play at a kiddie Ritz theater, if such a place existed.

Bowen talks with animation about the Family Film Focus: "We have known these families for

years, and watching their kids grow up, learn about film, take an interest in the different titles we offer is a really fun and exciting part of my job. Our A-to-Z list provides something for everyone — some classics, some indies, lots of animation, but not the obvious choices."

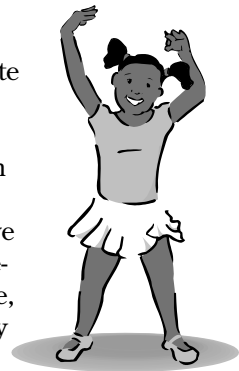
Update on Kids Beat from last issue:

You may recall my last column in the *March Reporter*, which discussed the few gaps in our otherwise perfect little world here in Society Hill. I am pleased to report that several civic-minded individuals responded with gusto to the request for a dance class. Starting April 28, ten little hoofers have begun taking modern, jazz, hip-hop and musical theater-style dance instruction from Ilaina Spinelli, a local graduate student with a background in dance. Society Hill Dance Academy agreed to rent the space at a reasonable rate, and the class filled within 24 hours of its announcement. So now we can cross that item off our "wish list." However, we are still waiting for a local soccer league, baseball league, children's clothing store, toy store, gymnastics class, and, of course, a community bookstore. Any takers?

Kid's Quote

"Is that real Prada?"

Elizabeth, age 8
Society Hill Kid



Don't Miss the Society Hill Garden Tour



Each year the Friends of Independence National Historical Park with Society Hill Civic Association bring you the Society Hill Garden Tour. This delightful self-guided walking tour is full of horticultural surprises hidden behind our historic 18th- and 19th-century houses. Gardens vary in size and details, many with a variety of plant types and design. These urban gardens are faithfully maintained by owners who consider them a place to escape from the hustle and bustle of the city.

Tickets are available the day of tour at the office of the Archdiocese of Pennsylvania, 4th and Locust Street, or contact the Friends of Independence Park at 215-861-4971, or www.friendsofindependence.org. Tour proceeds benefit our community through SHCA.



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SENIOR SCENE

A COLUMN BY JEAN BRYAN

Senior Questionnaire Yields Connections

Society Hill welcomes people of all ages, backgrounds and interests. This includes a fair number of the “over -50 crowd” for whom this column has been designed. In our first column (January), we published a questionnaire about what specific subjects would be of interest to our senior neighbors. Only fifteen people responded, but from this small group we found that nearly everyone wants to learn something — for example, basic or advanced computer skills, Italian, art and music appreciation, and Philadelphia history. Rugs? Yep. One person wants to learn how to hook rugs; another wants to be more knowledgeable about Oriental carpets. Several folks want to know how to knit and others want to acquire poker-playing skills or find mah-jongg partners. The bottom line for most people is that they would like to learn from neighbors.

Unfortunately, those in Society Hill interested in *teaching* seem to be in short supply! However, one gentleman would like to train MacIntosh computer users, and another person wants to teach tap dancing. Someone else offered to teach public speaking. There was a general feeling that we can use more socializing through dinners, wine-tastings, book clubs or films — all generating opportunities for discussion. A number of folks want to walk for exercising or attend senior-gearred exercise in nearby or local facilities.

On March 21, twelve neighbors who replied to the questionnaire assembled at Jean Bryan’s home for a planning session. Thanks to Joan

Less (jiless@comcast.net), two people agreed to attend a yoga lesson together. Pamela Sinkler Todd (pamtodd@voicenet.com) told Marilyn Appel (harmara@verizon.net) that she was game for public speaking lessons. Pamela is also interested in neighbors walking together — not “power walking” but brisk and interesting walks — because walking with others can be more enjoyable than a solitary stroll.

Contact Jeff Wiernik (ppyrus@aol.com) if you could use some Macintosh help or business consulting. Tap dancing? Terese Terry (tereseterry@yahoo.com) says this is a great way to exercise *and* have fun. Bernice and Jerome Kligerman reported that they participate in a local exercise program which they cannot say enough good things about. Contact JeanBryan (jbryan52@bellatlantic.net) for information about this particular facility. One woman really wants mah-jongg lessons — if there is someone who can teach her, please be in touch with Jean. Jean is also the contact if you’d like to have dinner somewhere in the neighborhood, preferably on a weeknight.

These twelve people were full of ideas, such as current affairs discussions and lectures by neighbors on various subjects. What about bartering skills? You can barter your carpentry skills for a neighbor’s cooking skills—a great way to share one’s talent while cutting down the cost of repairs. How will this idea of interest groups among Hillers perpetuate and grow? Well, first there has to be wider participation from seniors. This means YOU!

Society Hill Senior’s Networking Website Established

Great news! Thanks to the invaluable efforts of Bob Rossheim and Tobias Klauder from Society Hill Town Watch, we now have our own website through Yahoo. This website will serve as a conduit for senior networking to discuss ideas or share information. To join this free service, please email Jean Bryan (jbryan52@bellatlantic.net).





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New Businesses Welcome New Neighbors

We are happy to welcome several new businesses to our list of contributors: **Matthew Izzo**, 928 Pine Street, a "lifestyle store" specializing in jewelry, handbags, furniture and candles; **Philadelphia Java Company**, 518 South 4th Street, a warm, welcoming neighborhood cafe, offering coffee, tea, homemade pastries, panini, and salads; **Inu Boutique**, 1036 Pine Street, a shop specializing in fine and hand-woven European linen, tablecloths, curtains, shawls, bedding; **Starbuck's Coffee**

Inc., recently opened at the St. James, 8th and Walnut Streets. We extend our thanks to these contributors for their generous participation and hope you will patronize their establishments.

If you are a new homeowner (as of 2004), or know a new Society Hill neighbor, please tell us and we will make an appointment to bring you a basket. We need all the help we can get in contacting new folks, especially those in condominiums. Contact Martha Levine at 215-629-0727, or marthalev@msn.com.

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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
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Fork, 308 Market
Fork, etc. (prepared foods), 306 Market
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Zeke's Deli, 318 S. 5th

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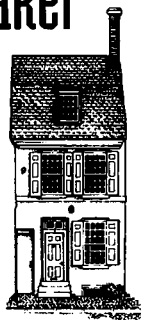


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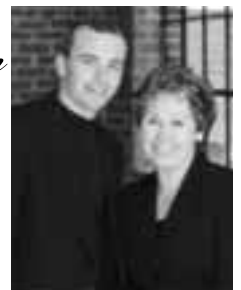
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NOTEWORTHY NEIGHBORS

A COLUMN BY DAVID WOODS

Dana and Allen Hall

**Meet the Halls:
a maelstrom of
perpetual motion**

Dana and Allen Hall are a quintessential couple for the 21st century who happen to live in a house built in 1786 and whose professional, parental, philanthropic, and social lives have all meshed into a maelstrom of perpetual motion.

In fact, between commuting part-time to New York, where they both work for Lighthouse Partners (an investment management company with more than \$4 billion in assets), and caring for eight-year-old twins, George and Mason, plus five-year-old Owen, they manage to find time to play an active role in Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and they also find time to sail their 32-foot yacht. Their two home-based offices contain six land lines, four computers, two mobiles, and two laptops.

As if this weren't enough to induce breathlessness in an interviewer, Dana is the 2005 recipient of the "Women Who Make a

Difference Award" from the National Council for Research on Women. The award, also bestowed on five other high-profile winners — including Teresa Heinz Kerry — is for leadership in bringing women together to do good for a particular industry...especially through the 2500-member organization she founded — 100womenindefund.org, which has raised more than \$5 million for charities. Dana was also recently appointed to the Board of Trustees of the National Constitution Center, and says she is "a lapsed squash enthusiast who has run in five marathons." Somehow she managed to find time to head up Society Hill's Clean-Up Day on April 16, coaxing hundreds of people to get involved in the project.

Phew!

Allen, formerly a trader in commodities futures, is a graduate of William and Mary College. He is very much involved with his alma mater, where the Halls have established a scholarship.

The pair are huge Philadelphia boosters — "poster children for the city," as they put it. They have lived in Chicago and New York; but after a three-year stint in Bermuda, they chose Philly, arriving here in 1997. They looked first at Rittenhouse Square before settling on Society Hill. "We're big walkers," says Dana, and music lovers, too. Regulars at the Tin Angel, Trocadero, and the TLA, they managed to persuade Allen's younger brother, Charlie, an accomplished musician, to move here from San Francisco.

Do the Halls ever stop their whirlwind of activity? I see little evidence of it: They even sent me what amounted to a transcript, a reprise, of our discussion. But if they seldom stop, they certainly stoop. On Friday nights in spring and summer you can find them on the stoop of their home sharing snacks and talk with their neighbors. That's urban community living — and noteworthy, too.



David Woods can be reached at
dwoods@healthpublishing.com

Thursday, May 12, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

The Green Tree Perpetual Assurance Company

Episode XI • Perpetual

The following excerpts from the unpublished history of The Green Tree by Clifford Lewis, Jr. describe the concept and origin of perpetual homeowner's insurance.

At a dinner party given in his honor, Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, neurologist, author, scholar, member of The Green Tree Board from 1858 to 1914 and Chairman from 1902 through 1906, settled an argument on the date of Franklin's birth by stating urbanely, "Franklin was born in Philadelphia in 1723 at the age of seventeen." By way of coincidence, the Perpetual Policy was born to The Green Tree in Philadelphia in 1801 when the Company was seventeen years old.

Prior to that time, Green Tree policies, as was the case in similar fire insurance companies in England, were bought outright for a lump-sum deposit and issued for a term of seven years, renewable on expiration without payment of additional deposit. How then did The Green Tree become what is now generally known as "one of the two old perpetual companies"? What happened seventeen years after the founding of the Company that made it expedient to change the form of writing insurance?

The answer to this question lies in a story that begins in France when the backwaters and countercurrents of the French Revolution actually swept into the office of The Green Tree of Philadelphia. The Atlantic Ocean was, even in that day, neither wide enough nor deep enough to separate one hemisphere from the other. Even in the closing years of the Eighteenth Century, Americans found they could not afford to be isolationists either in politics or in national economy.

How quickly a single turn of events can change the relation between two countries! France had been our ally during the Revolution; since then the United States and France had been the best of political friends. In 1793, Thomas Jefferson wrote a long letter to Gouveneur Morris, United States Minister to France, saying, "Mutual good offices,

mutual affection, and similar principles of government seem to destine our two nations for the most intimate communion." That was in March. Later in the year, events arising from the actions of Edmond Charles Genêt, France's first Minister to the United States, made Jefferson change his mind—and change it to a radical degree. A cold war with France was set in progress.

The real problem confronting Washington, Adams, and the Congress between 1793 and 1798 centered on French demands that the United States come to her rescue in the mounting tensions between France and England, in the same way that France had come to the rescue of the American Colonies in our War for Independence against England.

While we were considering the problem of how to remain neutral, war with France seemed daily more imminent, the situation more and more desperate, and the need for arms and materiel increasingly urgent. The Revenue Act of 1799 imposed a tax by means of a stamp on fire insurance policies, invoices, bills of lading, and legal documents of all kinds as a way of raising the funds necessary to finance the war. In the case of insurance policies, the tax ranged from twenty-five cents on policies of less than five hundred dollars, to a dollar per policy for those of greater value.

For the next two years patriotism prevailed and the tax was duly paid without much protest. Compliance with this mode of raising money for ships and ammunition, however, involved considerable footwork on the part of the Clerk between the office of The Green Tree and the Office of the Collector of Internal Revenue. Stamps for the tax were not simply affixed to the policy or document, but had to be impressed into the fabric itself. It was therefore necessary for each policy to be taken to Black Horse Alley and Second Street, and there to have the stamp officially impressed. Approximately five hundred old policies with the Stamp Tax impressed in the upper left-hand corner are among those in the cancelled



policy files of The Green Tree.

Meanwhile, the idea of writing insurance in some new form must have been discussed at the monthly meetings of the Board. The threat of war and the necessary preparation for it created a state of tension that continued indefinitely, becoming neither worse nor better. In 1801 a committee was formed to discover whether something could be done to ease the strain on policyholders, whose insurance was expensive enough in itself, without the addition of an unpopular tax. Among the thirteen members of the Board of The Green Tree at the time there was at least one man astute enough to realize that a tax paid on policies requiring no renewal, would be paid once and for all and would thus amount to less tax than would be the case if policies were renewed every seven years. The Green Tree records do not mention whose idea this might have been.

In a Special Meeting held on the 30th of July 1801 at the City Hall, the Trustees and Members of The Green Tree agreed to a New Deed of Settlement. In the first Deed of Settlement, October 1784, the Fourth Article states that "the Insurance to be made by this Society shall be for Seven Years in each Policy." In the revised and amended Deed of Settlement of July 1801, the Article reads, "every Policy hereafter to be issued by the Trustees shall continue in force for so long a time as the premium paid thereon shall remain with the Society." By this Amendment, the Perpetual Policy began its long and useful life.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Free Historic Preservation Workshop
How to Research Your Old Home**

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania
1300 Locust Street. For information
Call Kritina Leidy: 215-732-6200, ext. 235;
or kleidy@hsp.org

Saturday, May 14, 9 a.m. - noon

**Washington Square Committee
Spring Planting Session**

RSVP: Matt DeJulio: 215-629-1288;
mattdejulio@aol.com
See page 15

Saturday, May 14, 12 - 4 p.m.

**Pennsylvania Hospital's
Antiques Appraisal Day:
Freeman's Auction experts**

8th & Spruce Streets
\$10 per appraisal
See page 33

Tuesday, May 17, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Moshulu Spring Social

Invited: All Hillers, Queen Villagers,
Old City & Pennsport residents
See page 4

Wednesday, May 18

SHCA Board Meeting, 6 p.m.

Cheston Room, 2nd floor
Pennsylvania Hospital,
8th & Spruce Streets

SHCA General Membership Meeting

7:30 p.m.
(Election of Directors & Officers)
Zubrow Auditorium, first floor
Pennsylvania Hospital,
8th & Spruce Streets
See page 1

Sunday, May 22, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Society Hill Synagogue Spring Fair

Crafts, plants, auction, kids' activities!
418 Spruce Street Free!

Tuesday, May 24, 6 - 8 p.m.

SHCA's SPRING FLING SOCIAL

Hosted by Spasso
34 S. Front Street
See page 3

Thursday, May 26, 5:30 p.m.

**Plaque Ceremony/Reception Honoring
Edmund Bacon & Charles Peterson**

See page 5

Sunday, June 5, 1 - 5 p.m.

Society Hill Garden Tour

\$30 per person
Day of tour, purchase tickets at:
Archdiocese of PA, 4th & Locust Street
Or call: 215-861-4971
www.friendsof independence.org

Tuesdays, June, 7, 14, 21, 28, 10:30 a.m.

Toddler Story Hour

Independence Branch Library
18 S. 7th Street

Saturday, June 11, 1 - 5 p.m.

A Taste of India Festival

Mother Bethel African American Church
6th and Lombard Streets
See page 23

Monday, June 27, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

**Sneak Preview 14th International Gay
and Lesbian Film Festival**

Independence Branch Library
18 S. 7th Street



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