



SOCIETY HILL

# Reporter

www.societyhillcivic.com

## Boom or Boomerang?

### The Perils of Prosperity

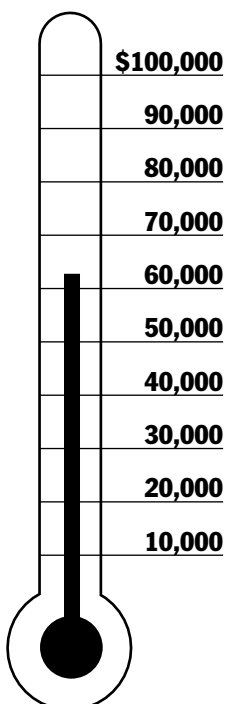
If you were unable to attend our important General Membership Meeting at Pennsylvania Hospital on May 18th, you missed an enlightening presentation. Ironically, the prosperity that our neighborhood worked so long and hard to achieve is now being threatened. Since its rebirth in the late 1950s, Society Hill has been a model for cities all across the country — successfully demonstrating how to revive an area filled with historic houses while welcoming new and modern construction.

A comprehensive presentation made by John Gallery, Executive Director of the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia, brought the paradox of Society Hill's revitalization success into full perspective — reporting many development schemes on the horizon that could undo all these years of work and devotion. Rather than try to summarize his remarks we decided to publish his complete talk as an insert in this issue of the *Reporter*. The supplement will enable you to share with others or save for future use John Gallery's analysis of the pros and cons of Center City's current development boom — hopefully to prevent a "boomerang" response, but also as a warning to developers who are in for the "quick fix." We residents are not here for the quick fix or because of the bottom line. We're here because we value our community of diverse folks, young and old, from all over the country.

In this issue of the *Reporter* we also feature the highly successful and stirring ceremony describing the unveiling of the interpretive marker our civic association installed to honor Edmund N. Bacon and Charles E. Peterson, the two individuals largely responsible for Society Hill's renewal. Please see photos and a summary of this ceremony on pages 4-5.

We remind neighbors that SHCA will not conduct a General Membership Meeting during the summer months, although our Board of Directors will meet in July, on the third Wednesday of the month, as always: July 20th at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held at St. Peter's Parish House, 313 Pine Street. All civic association members are cordially invited to participate. We'll take a rest during the month of August, but you can expect a report of all summer activities and events in the September issue of this newsletter — which is delivered to all Society Hill residents — homeowners, condo dwellers and renters, whether or not you are current members of the civic association. Our goal is to keep you informed. And we hope that the information we share with you through the efforts of volunteers will enable all Society Hillers to remain engaged in the well-being of our neighborhood — because involvement and discussion (and, yes, even disagreement) are necessary for our wonderful community to blossom throughout the 21st century.

### Challenge Fund Climbs Toward Goal




### \$60,380 Raised for Challenge Fund

This newly created special fund will help pay legal fees resulting from today's explosion of development challenges that threaten our peaceful, historic community. SHCA membership dues are not and never will be included in this Challenge Fund. Your annual membership fees are applied to many services that keep our neighborhood clean and safe. (See page 29 for a list of how your annual dues are spent.)

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SHCA Board Meeting  
Wednesday, July 20, 2005  
7:00 p.m.  
St. Peter's Parish House  
313 Pine Street

All SHCA members are welcome to attend.



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**Submission Deadlines  
for Sept/Oct Issue**  
**Advertising** August 1  
**Editorial** August 15

**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

## Board Welcomes New Directors

At SHCA's May General Membership Meeting we said farewell to several Board Directors who had fulfilled their elected terms. I would personally like to thank out-going Vice Presidents Paul Boni, Bonnie Halda, Kelly Nelson, and Jim Moss; Recording Secretary Luisa Boverini, and Quadrant Directors Lee Dennis, Keri White, Lisa Karlin, Robin Komita, and Frank Signorello.

Now, I welcome SHCA's four incoming Vice Presidents: Michael Erdos, Bernice Hamel, Carole LeFaivre-Rochester and Martha Levine. Colleen Farrell will remain as Treasurer and Lana Noel is the Recording Secretary. Your elected Quadrant Directors are: Northeast – Gordon Baltuch, Paul Boni, Matthew White; Northwest – Rosanne Loesch, Sissie Lipton, Diane Rossheim; Southwest – Anine Burlingame, David Harwitz, Wally Wing; and Southeast – Carol Colabelli, Richard deWyngaert, Sandra Rothman.

Appointed to represent their respective condo associations on SHCA's Board are Bonnie Halda (Society Hill Towers), Andrea Layden (St. James Court), Norm Lieberman (The St. James), Richard Weeks (Independence Place) and Steve Weixler (Hopkinson House). At press time, Penn's Landing Condo is seeking a representative to SHCA's Board, as Ellie Boyarski resigned due to work obligations.

#### **New Committees Forming: We Want You!**

As you probably know, this has been a very challenging year for our civic association, so the current Board will certainly have their work cut out for them. We also need your help. We are seeking interested and/or experienced neighbors to become involved as we assemble new committees to address the following issues:

- a Legal Committee consisting of attorneys willing to address the legal issues we are now facing;
- a Fundraising Committee to help raise money from individuals or agencies for various projects;
- a Franklin Lights Committee to deal with the logistics of following through on this partially funded project (see page 15);
- a Feasibility Committee to look into the possibility of SHCA changing its not-for-profit status to

a fully nonprofit organization, so people can make tax-deductible contributions;

- a Strategic Planning Committee to develop a long-range plan for our organization;
- a Website Committee (or individual) to make SHCA's website more user-friendly and timely;
- a Gambling Analysis Committee to deal with the possibility that casinos will be located in our immediate region. It is vital that we have a voice in this development.

Whether or not you've been engaged with us recently or in the past, we welcome all residents willing to participate in any of these committees or endeavors. Needless to say, without volunteers our neighborhood Town Watch would not exist, Clean-up Day would never occur, the *Reporter* would not get written or published, zoning and preservation issues would not be addressed, there would be no improvements at Three Bears Park (with new playground equipment being installed this summer), nor would there be plans for a playground or library at McCall School, and graffiti that regularly pops up throughout the neighborhood would not be removed. In addition, Welcome Baskets would not be presented to newly arrived Society Hill home and condo owners, nor would our Washington Square beautification project exist.

Finally, without a group of devoted volunteers, the wonderful new plaque installed on Spruce Street — honoring Charles Peterson and Edmund Bacon for their contributions to the restoration of Society Hill — would most likely not have occurred. All of these are or have been volunteer projects accomplished by your neighbors, most of whom are SHCA members and many of whom may be your friends.

As residents of Society Hill, we each have a vested interest in what happens in our community. Although you may not support all the decisions this Board has made in the past or will make in the future, I do hope you can support our primary goal: to maintain and preserve this incredible neighborhood, made possible by dedicated folks who trusted the future, which they've left for us to live in and enjoy.



**Tania Rorke**  
SHCA President

## Edmund Bacon & Charles Peterson Honored —

**“The visions of Bacon and Peterson, though opposed, were each vitally necessary in the revival of Society Hill. They stand together in our pantheon and on our marker.”**

The May 26th ceremony that unveiled an interpretive marker honoring Society Hill’s two modern “Founding Fathers” was an emotional and fulfilling experience for all in attendance.

At 95 years of age Edmund N. Bacon may be frail, but he was thoroughly delighted by the handsome marker describing his role as Executive Director of the City Planning Commission from 1949 to 1970. Indeed, he stood up before the large and enthusiastic audience, and he spoke generously of his counterpart, Charles E. Peterson, regretting that Charlie did not live to see the marker that honors their leadership in Society Hill’s rebirth. He also said that the credit really goes to those who came to live here, who restored houses or otherwise made it a true neighborhood. He repeated with great emphasis, “It’s you, you, you!”

Mr. Peterson’s secretary for many years, Hilda Sanchez, read a letter from Peterson’s niece, Karen Peterson, who regrettably could not be present to represent her uncle. Mr. Peterson, who died in August 2004, had been told about the marker before his death. He was present in spirit.

The official ceremony was seamlessly and sensitively conducted by Stanhope Browne, a “pioneer” Society Hill resident. Stan not only witnessed, but also participated in our community’s revival, which began in the late 1950s, transforming a decrepit series of blocks filled with old houses, factories and warehouses into the vital neighborhood it has become. Many current and past community residents, as well as several elected officials, participated in the ceremony and the reception that followed in St. Peter’s Parish House at 313 Pine Street. (See accompanying photos.)

Stan gave a brief history of Society Hill’s redevelopment. Several individuals seated in the audience were key participants in that renewal. Stan introduced each of them and described their respective roles. Some had neither seen Mr. Bacon nor their peers for many years. The coming together of these former collaborators — those named in an “Honor Roll of the Living” — was an extremely touching moment for each of them, as well as for those in the audience. But the substantial majority of those persons involved in Society Hill’s redesign and rebirth are no longer with us, and so Stan read their names as the

“Honor Roll of the Departed” — a very poignant element in the ceremony. Although the marker celebrates the two leaders of the community’s renewal effort, it also states that “many Philadelphians contributed, including elected officials, public administrators and private citizens” — hence the two Honor Rolls (see page 5).

In addition to these touching moments in the ceremony, Stan told a number of anecdotes that described the events of that period. He recounted that when Judge Edwin Lewis, the moving force behind the creation of Independence National Historical Park (INHP), was asked at his 90th birthday party how he had finally succeeded in that long effort, Lewis replied with gusto, “You just have to out-live the bastards!”

Stan noted the presence of Ted Newbold, who was in charge of persuading prospective homeowners to restore houses in Society Hill. When asked if the neighborhood was safe and if good people were moving in, Newbold’s response was to show them side-by-side houses on the 200 block of Spruce Street, saying, “The house on the right was restored and is occupied by Jared Ingersoll, namesake of his ancestor who signed the U.S. Constitution, and in the house on the left lives Henry Watts, Chairman of the New York Stock Exchange. Will that do?”

Stan Browne concluded his presentation by acknowledging what everyone knew at the time: that Mr. Bacon and Mr. Peterson were constantly critical of each other. Stan went on to say that “Bacon was a city planner, who looked to the future, and saw shining new cities recovering at last from the Great Depression and World War II. Peterson was a preservationist, who looked to the past and saw the lessons its buildings teach us — about where we came from and who we are. Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton strongly disagreed with each other, but the opposing visions of both were absolutely necessary for the founding of the American republic. In like fashion the visions of Bacon and Peterson, though opposed, were each vitally necessary in the revival of Society Hill. They stand together in our pantheon and on our marker.”

If you have not yet set your eyes on this two-sided interpretive marker which describes and illustrates with “before and after” examples the contributions made by Bacon and Peterson, as well as other caring citizens, we recommend that you

# Interpretive Marker Is Dedicated at Ceremony



**Ed Bacon stands beside the marker with SHCA's "Fab 5" team, our civic association's volunteers who suggested the marker's creation and worked for several years to see it come to fruition. From left to right: Libby & Stanhope Browne, Penny Batcheler, Bernice Hamel, Ed Bacon, and Darlene Cavalier.**



**Emcee Stanhope Browne stands at left. Seated are Ed Bacon and Greg Heller, President of the Ed Bacon Foundation, and standing behind them are State Representative Marie Lederer, Councilmen Frank DiCicco and Jim Kenney.**

Photos by Richard Lush

stroll down Spruce Street, midway between 3rd and 4th Streets. On the north side you will find St. Joseph's Way and the attractive new "gift of history" given by our civic association to visitors, neighbors and passersby.

The Society Hill Civic Association sincerely thanks the many people, institutions and businesses who helped create the marker, and we express our heartfelt gratitude to all who assisted in organizing and preparing the ceremony and reception.

## HONOR ROLL OF THE DEPARTED

### Elected Officials

Mayor, then U.S. Senator Joseph S. Clark  
 U.S. Senator Hugh Scott  
 Mayor Richardson Dilworth  
 Mayor James H. J. Tate

### Special Roles

Judge Edwin O. Lewis, "Father" of INHP  
 Walter Phillips, idea man for Mayors Clark & Dilworth  
 Arthur Kaufmann, head of Gimbels, who hosted the seminal 1947 Better Philadelphia Exhibition

### City Planning Commission

Holmes Perkins  
 Damon Childs  
 Clarence Preston Andrade  
 Roy Larson  
 Oscar Stonorov

### Historic Preservationists

Grant Simon  
 Margaret Tinckom

### Redevelopment Authority

Clarence G. Alhart  
 Michael Von Moschzisker  
 Francis J. Lammer

### Old Philadelphia Development Corp. (OPDC)

Agent of the Redevelopment Authority and deserving of its own marker as the key organization which implemented Bacon's plan  
 William Day  
 Agnes Ingersoll  
 John Robbins  
 William Rafsky

### Greater Philadelphia Movement

Harry Batten  
 Gustave Amsterdam  
 R. Stuart Rauch

### Key House Restorers

Arnold Nicholson  
 Jared Ingersoll, with wife Agnes (see above)  
 Henry Watts

## HONOR ROLL OF THE LIVING

**Robert L. Geddes\***  
 architect and planner, and former Dean of the School of Architecture, Princeton University

**John Bower\***  
 architect and planner

**Gerald M. Cope\***  
 architect and planner

**James Nelson Kise\***  
 architect and planner

**Jason R. Nathan,**  
 administrator of urban renewal funding by the Federal Government for Society Hill

**Walter D'Alessio,**  
 the Redevelopment Authority's man in charge of Society Hill, later the Authority's head.

**Theodore T. Newbold,**  
 OPDC's man in charge of selling houses for restoration

**John Andrew Gallery,**  
 many posts in City government, now Executive Director of the Preservation Alliance

**Craig Schelter,**  
 many posts in City government, now a consultant

**Paul Levy,** Executive Director of Central Philadelphia Development Corp., successor to OPDC, and Executive Director of Center City District

\*The last name of each of these men is now the lead name of a distinguished Philadelphia architecture and planning firm.



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 Regime Change
 

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## Wally Wing Steps up to the Plate



**Wally Wing, Graffiti Czar**

David Stevens, “Graffiti Czar” of Society Hill since 2001, has relinquished his position to Wally Wing. When Wally asked David if he could help in some way, David said, “Yes, you can have my job.” Surprise! Wally took it, along with the various cleaning solutions that are needed to succeed. We welcome Wally to this very important position and we wish him and his quadrant helpers well — and hope they find satisfaction from their labors.

Our graffiti cleanup system has been functioning since David first created it. Each of Society Hill’s four quadrants has a “graffiti monitor” to report to: it’s Wally in the Southwest Quadrant (215-592-9951); Dwight Bechtel in the Northwest Quadrant (dwight01@hotmail.com); and new recruit Richard deWyngaert in the Southeast Quadrant (radewyngaert@comcast.net). The Northeast Quadrant is seeking a volunteer monitor.

Neighbors: Please alert your appropriate quadrant person when graffiti is first spotted in your immediate area. Another contact is the city’s Graffiti Abatement Team, which provides free power washing on private property to owners who request the service. That number is 215-685-9556.

By the way: David has not retired — he is still supervising the weekly litter cleanup by the Center City District team that the SHCA hires and pays for. The team comes around the day after trash collection, cleaning up the mess often left behind by the “Sanitation” Department. David wants no credit for his four years of volunteer service, but we all know that cleaning graffiti and removing trash is always labor intensive and often thankless. So we thank you David, for all you’ve done to maintain the beauty of Society Hill.

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Controversial Stealth Amendment Added to State House Bill 1954

Philadelphians Want their Legal Voices Back

Citizens rallied at City Hall on June 13, 2005 to support a bill to restore Philadelphia taxpayer rights. Mark Cohen (D - Phila) and 22 others will co-sponsor the introduction of this legislation in Harrisburg. An important force in assembling the rally and in fighting the legislation was Mary Tracy of SCRUB (Society Created to Reduce urban Blight).


What is this legislation about? Well, in November 2004, the Pennsylvania legislature passed Bill HB 1954 that would authorize the City of Philadelphia to increase fines charged for code violations. Tacked on to the bill — in the middle of the night, by the way — **was an amendment excluding community groups from legal standing in zoning cases.**

Tom Ferrick, *Inquirer* columnist, published an article on February 11, 2005 describing this unfair

law, which over time, would effectively bar civic and neighborhood groups from regulating zoning and development in their own neighborhoods. This, in effect, would allow attorneys to challenge the standing of any group to come before the Zoning Board of Adjustment — including, for example, our own civic association.

Most legislators were unaware of this amendment to HB 1954 and are only now realizing the deleterious effect it would have on neighborhoods, as well as the salutary effect it would have on select industries in Philadelphia and on developers — especially of hi-rise condominiums. Society Hill Civic Association, along with many other groups, including SCRUB, The Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia, Center City Residents Association, etc. will support Mark Cohen's effort to repeal the amendment to HB 1954 and restore Home Rule.

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Craig LaBan  
Philadelphia Inquirer

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

**Don't Just Complain, Come up with a Plan!**

Dear Editors,

If you own a townhouse in Center City, consider yourself a lucky surviving member of a dying species. In a few years you will likely be obsolete. The City of Philadelphia, without actually proclaiming such, has apparently declared war on the Center City row house as a residence. The future of home living is in hi-rise apartments.

The enemy is developers, converters and investors. But the real phantom menace is the city's lack of a planning blueprint for the 21st century. Hi-rise condos are part and parcel of the wave of the future. The transition is being eased through conversions of vacant properties, but the future is "Up There."

*Two, four, six, eight,  
we don't want to demonstrate.  
One, two, three, four,  
if we don't, they'll develop some more!  
Yes, my friends, we've got Trouble  
Right here in Center City  
With a capital "T"  
And that rhymes with "D"  
and that stands for Developers.*

I participated in a demonstration, yes I did! I actually waved a sign... But there we were, in a misty drizzle in Washington Square, holding signs saying "Save Dilworth Now." We still have that pioneering community spirit which led to the Revolution in 1776. Let's have more of it.

But wait. All the useless posturing and gesticulating won't resolve the crisis, and neither will pontificating. Recall the film "The Bells of St. Mary's." Therein is a lesson. Ingrid Bergman (Sister Benedict) has a vision of building a school next to the parish church, but lo, there is a developer who is building there a factory. Then, Sister Benedict prays that the property will be transferred to the church, and lo, that is the way the story goes. The developer is hailed as a good-hearted soul and everyone is happy with the conclusion.

Point: If SHCA wishes to halt this condo construction at Dilworth House, what alternate use can it propose for the property? We want to save a useless building as a symbol of the community's rebirth, but bottom line, assuming we save the house — what do we do with it? It won't reduce our taxes.... Ignorance never settles a question. Don't present me with a problem. Develop a solution.

*So, like we did in the 60s and 70s,  
Once more into the breach  
Once more we storm the beach  
D-Day is everyday.  
Save your neighborhood  
or see it developed away!*

Onward and upward, *citius-altius-fortius*, give 'em hell. Fight those developers. But remember, if a developer had not invested time and money in building your home, you wouldn't be living there. Let's get some cooperative spirit into this condo mania, or we'll all be part of a dying Pennsylvania. This is simply a plea for better organization and long-range community planning. Let's do some cooperative brainstorming.

*Robert Devoe, Hopkinson House*

**Praise for The Society Hill Reporter**

Dear Editors

Each time I receive the *Society Hill Reporter* I am impressed with the quality of its content and design. I know how difficult it is for the Preservation Alliance to produce its newsletter (which only comes out three times a year) and that makes me even more impressed with the quality you achieve with your more frequent *Reporter*. It's always up-to-date and I always learn something new. Someday I hope we will do as well. So I wanted to send you my appreciation for your work in organizing and getting it produced and my appreciation to everyone else who contributes to it.

*John Andrew Gallery, Executive Director,  
Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia*

**SOCIETY HILL GARDEN TOUR 2005**

On a sunny afternoon, nearly 200 people, decked out in their finest wide-brimmed hats, took part in the 2005 Society Hill Garden tour. Eighteen magnificently groomed gardens were showcased — from the tiny brilliantly flowered "pocket garden"

to the large elegant "exterior room" retreats. Tour goers certainly enjoyed the hidden beauty of these gardens.

Although the totals aren't complete, our civic association, as co-sponsor for both the Society Hill House Tour (5/1) and

the Garden Tour (6/5), will receive a handsome check (about \$8500) which will be applied to neighborhood projects.

Linda Skale and Martha Levine, Society Hill's House and Garden Tour Coordinators, extend their thanks to all

homeowners who shared their beautiful homes and gardens this year. Thanks also go to the many volunteers who hosted these tours, as well as special thanks to all who showed their interest and support by attending.





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## Noteworthy News from Washington Square

### Volunteers Brave the Rain

Despite a rainout on the first try, Independence National Historical Park (INHP) and the Society Hill Civic Association hosted a beautification of Washington Square on May 14th. Forty-two volunteers planted annuals and shrubs, made possible in part by a grant to INHP from the National Park Foundation — through the generosity of the Tauck Foundation and Take Pride in America. Lunches for hungry volunteers were provided by Whole Foods Market, with City Tavern donating its famous bread.

Volunteers for the many INHP programs are always needed. Contact Beverly Morris at 215-597-1293 for more information on how you can help. The website for the National Park Foundation: [www.nationalparks.org](http://www.nationalparks.org) and for the Tauck Foundation: [www.tauckfoundation.org](http://www.tauckfoundation.org).



**Our enthusiastic team of volunteer "green thumbs"**

### Dogs Take Note

(For dogs or persons owning same). Dog-Gone It! Keep out of the fountain! Your hairs clog the drainage system, which requires constant and expensive maintenance by us humans. We don't want to lose the fountain. SO, KEEP OUT! And also keep out of the flowerbeds. Many people worked hard to plant the flowers. Don't trample them.



**Please keep your pets out of the fountain and flower beds!**

### Traffic Restrictions Around The Square

The Center City District (CCD) is moving ahead with installation of new, vastly improved lighting around the Square. The lights will be similar to the ones installed along Walnut Street and other sections of Center City.

Beginning in August and most likely lasting until or through November, residents can expect the existing two traffic lanes on 6th Street (abutting the Square) reduced to one lane between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Two lanes of traffic will remain open during rush hour, but metered parking on 6th Street will be prohibited.

Half of the entire \$450,000 project is funded by CCD. The balance is contributed by businesses, condominiums and homeowners on the Square. The Society Hill Civic Association also hopes to make a contribution toward this project, the amount yet to be determined.

## Powel House News

### Interpretive Marker Installed

On June 8th, the Friends of the Powel House, at 244 S. 3rd Street, held a lovely garden party to help raise funds for repainting the woodwork on the facade of this historic residence — the home of Samuel Powel, Philadelphia's "Patriot" Mayor and his wife, Elizabeth Willing. If you haven't visited the Powel House recently, we suggest you take a tour of this grand Georgian building — to see where the Powels entertained the leaders of the American Revolution.

Tours are given regularly, with hours clearly indicated on the recently installed new interpretive marker directly in front of the house. The Landmarks Society, which owns and operates the Powel House, had this attractive new sign designed and fabricated to be visually compatible

with others in our neighborhood. It was installed at about the same time in late May as the new marker honoring Society Hill's "Modern Founders," Ed Bacon and Charles Peterson. (See related article on pages 4-5.)

### Tour Guides Needed

At the June Powel House garden party, longtime Society Hill resident Bob Breeding, who heads the group of volunteers conducting tours of the historic house, reported that additional tour guides are needed.

If you would be interested in volunteering a bit of your time to become a guide, providing visitors a glimpse into the world of America's colonial elite, please contact Bob at 215-925-0714. Training, of course, will be provided.





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 Summer Is Here & So Are The Ducks
 

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## The Ducks are Back, with a Vengeance

Many neighbors are fed up with “Ride the Ducks,” a for-profit tour company that had agreed to respect Society Hill’s quiet residential streets. But the season had barely begun when several residents complained that these vehicles are noisier than ever. Apparently, the drivers of these amphibious vehicles disregard the “no quacking” rule that had been negotiated between SHCA’s previous President Liza Seltzer and Scott Lewis, the firm’s managing

director. Recently neighbors reported seeing the vehicles cruising along 5th Street, which is not on their “approved” route. So let’s get proactive: If you see a “duck boat” with riders quacking away on what should be a quiet street, report it to Scott Lewis at 215-351-0307 or slewis@phillyducks.com, giving him the day, time and vehicle number of the offending driver, who should know better. (See page 23 for IMBARC’s resolution regarding these vehicles).

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### Not All It’s Quacked Up to Be

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#### NEWS ABOUT SOCIETY HILL’S “REPORTERS”

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## Meet the *Reporter’s* Newest Recruit



### Lennie Hardy

Lennie Hardy, (aka Lenore K. Hardy), a native New Yorker, first moved to Philadelphia in 1973, where she lived in Society Hill Towers, just around the corner from her current family’s resi-

dence — a beautifully restored 1820s home on Spruce Street. During those “in-between” Society Hill years, Lennie lived in Philly’s Fairmount section. Then last year she purchased this “new” home, which has taken a full year to renovate from top to bottom. Now she and the family are ready to enjoy the summer in their new digs.

Lennie, a graduate of Middlebury College, also holds a Master’s Degree from Columbia University’s Library School. Since the year 2000 she has been Director of Health Sciences Libraries at Drexel University. When she’s not working, Lennie can be found playing bridge at the Center City Bridge Club, cooking a gourmet meal for friends, or traveling — often to San Francisco where her daughter lives. Incidentally, Lennie joined the *Reporter’s* team just one week after she moved into the renovated home. Still not unpacked and with boxes lining the foyer, she answered the doorbell to enthusiastically sign SHCA’s “Save the Dilworth House” petition, indicating how much she’s learned about our community from faithfully reading the *Reporter* over the year while commuting between Fairmount and Society Hill. As a result, Lennie can now add one more activity to her recreational and social calendar.

### David Woods Elected to College of Physicians

We congratulate our “Noteworthy Neighbors” columnist David Woods who was recently elected a Fellow of the 200-year-old College of Physicians of Philadelphia. The College, founded in 1787, is an educational and cultural institution dedicated to promoting a greater understanding of medicine and the roles of physicians in contemporary society. Among the College’s 24 original founders were Benjamin Rush, a physician and signer of the Declaration of Independence, and John Morgan, founder of the nation’s first medical school. Fellows are elected for having made a significant and scholarly contribution to the world of medicine. David holds a doctorate in health policy and is the author of four books and several hundred articles and reviews. By the way, David’s election as a Fellow of the College was proposed by onetime “Noteworthy Neighbor” Dr. Robert Reinecke, and seconded by Dr. William Kissick, former professor of medicine at Penn.

### A “Champ” is born to Dan & Andrea Layden

Andrea Layden has had a really good excuse for not working on this issue of the *Reporter*, as she has been busily adjusting to the sleep cycle of future writer Ciampone Kennedy Layden who recently joined our world. If you’re wondering about the derivation of the “Champ’s” name, here’s the story: Ciampone is Andrea’s grandmother’s surname. Her family’s history can be traced back to the 1700s. Kennedy is another old family name from Andrea’s husband, Dan. It was Dan’s mother’s surname. We all welcome “Champ” who was born at 9:20 a.m. on Friday June 3, 2005, weighing in at 7 pounds, 10 ounces. His big sister Lucia, now 22 months old, is quite enamored of him — at least, for the time being.



**Noteworthy Neighbor’s columnist David Woods**



**“Champ” cheered on by Mom**

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## The Man Full Of Trouble Tavern

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### Do Troubles Lie Ahead?

The University of Pennsylvania, which owns the historical building at 127 Spruce Street, known to us as “The Man Full of Trouble Tavern,” reports that it has finally completed a series of much-needed renovations.

Previously our community was told that the site would be used only for short-term stays by visiting faculty or for meetings. However, a June classified advertisement in the *Inquirer* featured a photo of this unique building, which is actually two adjoined trinity houses, as the University is now seeking renters at the monthly rate of \$2,500 unfurnished or \$2,900 partially furnished. But we wonder: how can short-term visiting faculty stay in an unfurnished or partially furnished house?

Concerned community members who have kept an eye on this former museum — the only remaining colonial tavern, built in 1759 — contacted Jean Bryan, a *Reporter* team member who in recent years has been in touch with Penn

through Dean Sedehi. The Dean informed her that he is using the services of professional management firm Campus Apartments because “they are better equipped to screen renters.” Yet, in a communication just days prior to our discovery of the ad, he told her he would be willing to give neighbors an “Open House” sometime in the fall to see how the University has restored the interior.

Of course, we are grateful that Penn has renovated the building and fully repaired the façade by repainting and replacing the roof with appropriate cedar shingles, because we know that occupancy is needed for any building to be properly maintained. But when we expressed surprise about the ad, Dean Sedehi said that Penn’s goal is to find renters who would occupy the space for “a regular period of time (i.e. a year) instead of lots of turnover.” That seems to be a different objective from what he reported earlier about using the building primarily for visiting faculty or special meetings.

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## Franklin Lights Update

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### Let there be light!

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By the time this *Reporter* reaches your home in July, SHCA will have finally received its promised but long-awaited \$150,000 state grant. As you may recall, \$110,000 of this grant is targeted for the replacement of our old and deteriorating Franklin Lights with a new, state-of-the-art model approved by SHCA’s Board of Directors two years ago. Although retaining Benjamin Franklin’s basic design, but electrified and installed during Society Hill’s rebirth in the 1960s, this new model, with advanced technology, will provide better, brighter, and less glaring light for our streetscape. Most neighbors welcome the idea of better visibility for both a sense of security and for sure footing as we walk at night.

However, the state funds, combined with \$100,000, guaranteed by the City of Philadelphia — for a total of \$210,000 — will cover only half of the funding necessary to complete the re-lighting of all of Society Hill’s streets. A proposed idea to include all blocks with new lights would be an agreed-upon matching program, whereby the government pays for half of each block’s lights while individual homeowners would collectively pay the other half.

Each light fixture costs \$1250, with most blocks containing eight lamps per block. To date, several Society Hill households have pledged to contribute \$100, \$200, \$500, and up to \$1250 toward a new Franklin Light on their respective blocks. If you would be willing to contribute to this matching plan or want more information, please contact Martha Levine at [marthalev@msn.com](mailto:marthalev@msn.com) or 215-629-0727.



TOWN WATCH

## National Night Out Planned for August 2

On National Night Out, Town Watch groups and neighbors across the country demonstrate anti-crime solidarity. Last year's event was very successful and a lot of fun. More than 60 neighbors, members and non-members alike (including District Attorney Lynne Abraham), came out to show their support for SHTW.

So come on over and do one or more of the following things:

- Enjoy free food and drink prepared by SHTW members or donated by local establishments.
- Say hello to your neighborhood crime-fighting volunteers and to 6th District police officers.
- Find out more about Society Hill Town Watch and crime prevention.
- Sample SHTW by taking a short candlelit stroll through our beautiful neighborhood.
- Sign up for Society Hill Town Watch — participate as little or as much as you'd like. What better time to join than National Night Out!

For more information, call SHTW at 267-251-0749.



### National Night Out

Tuesday, August 2, 2005

7:30 - 9:00 • Meet and greet

9:00 - 9:30 • Candlelight patrol of Society Hill  
Three Bears Park

(Delancey Street between 3rd and 4th Streets)

Location in the event of rain: Society Hill Towers Plaza Community Room, 261 St. James Place



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## SAFE AND SOUND IN SOCIETY HILL

## New Signs Increase Pedestrian Safety

### Pedestrian Safety

Throughout the neighborhood new 25-mile-an-hour speed limit signs have been installed, and "No Turn on Red" signs that had been missing from three intersections were replaced. A second Society Hill vehicle speed study was conducted, with results to be reported in the next issue of the *Reporter*. Also under study: safer ways for pedestrians to cross at greenways and cars moving in the wrong direction on one-way streets. Neighbors often complain about thoughtless drivers who drive in the wrong direction on Cypress Street, immediately north of Three Bears Park. This is particularly dangerous because so many young children often cross that street. Other hazardous streets where drivers are often seen steering their vehicles in the wrong direction are Manning Street between 4th and 5th, and Lawrence Street driving north from Pine. We ask neighbors to jot down the license numbers of these violators, if they can, so that we can report them.

### Armed Robber Captured

Within days of each other three armed robberies occurred on 3rd and Pine, 4th and Locust and 4th and Spruce Streets — and an attempted robbery occurred at Willings Alley. The thief was described to police, as was his bicycle, and he was caught several days later. Recently released from jail, this perpetrator lived just south of South Street. His M.O. was well known to the 3rd District Police, who tipped off the 6th District. He was picked up. The frightened folks who were robbed at gunpoint will probably get no solace from the fact that his "gun" was a fake.

### Dog Safety Alert

According to the Society Hill Veterinary Clinic, four small dogs have been viciously attacked by larger neighborhood dogs. Neighbors: Please keep your dog on a leash — it's the law!

### Helicopters

Recently city helicopters have been flying lower and lower over our homes, disrupting our peace. A letter-writing campaign has begun, but thus far there has been no response to our complaints. If you can think of anything else we neighbors can do about this disturbance, please contact SHCA's Administrator Matt DeJulio. (See page 2.)

### Vandalism on 5th Street

Obviously someone doesn't like our window boxes or our planter boxes. It's a mess when someone or several "someones" pull over our beautifully planted boxes — dirt all over, plants strewn up and down the street. The latest was on the 400 block of Spruce Street, a few weeks after the incidents on 5th Street. The police put non-uniformed officers on patrol and they caught several vandals — one at the Philadelphia Sports Club and two young men, one from King of Prussia and one from Turnersville. The 5th Street neighbors secured their planter boxes with airline cable and the neighbor on Spruce Street secured his window boxes with metal straps. It's what we have to do to keep the neighborhood spruced up (no pun intended). The police will not respond unless you are reporting vandalism at your own house; however, you can request an officer to come and take a look at the destruction. A print from a digital camera will also confirm the damage.

### Old Cell Phones

Hundreds of old cell phones contributed by neighbors have been sent to the DA's office and reprogrammed to call only 911 — for the specific use of abused citizens and the elderly. Thanks to all who have donated them, and please keep them coming to 414 Spruce Street (preferably with their chargers).



**A vandalized planter caused a mess on the steps of a residence at St. James Court.**



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**ZONING & HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

BY PAUL BONI, ZHP COMMITTEE CHAIR

We are fortunate to be living in a time where economic trends are enabling our neighborhood to grow — both in population and amenities. Our civic association is pleased to support a number of projects that contribute greatly to these developments. With optimism, we report on positive changes occurring at Washington Square:

**The N.W. Ayers Building**

This historically important building, constructed in 1929 and one of the best examples of Art Deco design in Philadelphia, will be converted into approximately 60 luxury condominiums with on-site parking.

A few weeks ago, a joint meeting was held with SHCA's ZHP Committee and our counterparts from the Washington Square West Civic Association. Many neighbors representing both communities attended the meeting to hear a presentation from the Goldenberg Group and the Brown Hill Development firm who are partnering on this exciting project. The developers, of course, recognize the importance of this Art Deco building. Indeed, this was one of the strongest reasons why they were attracted to the project. Their conversion will be a huge boon to Washington Square, and our civic association is pleased to support the project generally. Sixty new luxury condos in one of Philly's most desirable buildings...awesome!!

There are a number of matters we will be involved with — for example, the developers' penthouse design is an open issue. But our relationship with them is cordial and productive due to their willingness to come to our civic association early and often to work with us to obtain consensus. Stay

tuned for more details about this exciting new development in the next issue of the *Reporter*.

**The Oceanaire Seafood Room**

Good things continue to happen at Washington Square. (Hey, didn't we just say that?) The huge main room of the PSFS bank building will be transformed into the upscale Oceanaire restaurant ([www.theoceanaire.com](http://www.theoceanaire.com)). With about seven locations around the country, the Oceanaire is expected to open at 7th and Walnut in early 2006, serving fresh seafood, flown in daily, with accompanying amenities such as a lounge and oyster bar. This project will respect the historically significant architecture of the beautiful PSFS bank building. What a wonderful complement to our newly renovated hometown landmark, the Old Original Bookbinders at 2nd and Walnut, [www.bookbinders.biz](http://www.bookbinders.biz).

**Improvements at Washington Square**

We enumerate the recent encouraging improvements happening at Washington Square thus far: the conversion of the Lippincott building into luxury condos with attractive new penthouse units; the conversion of the Saunders Building into more luxury condos and its gorgeous penthouse addition; the construction of the 42-story St. James residential tower; renovations to the PSFS bank building; the creation of Stephen Starr's Washington Square Restaurant; the proposed conversion of the Ayers Building into about 60 luxury condos; the incoming Oceanaire restaurant, and the new Starbucks on the 700 block of Walnut.

**Quick quiz:** What do all of these projects have in common?

**Answer:** All enjoy the full support of the SHCA!



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Society Hill's List of Recommended Contractors:

Summer Care for Your Home

Summer is a time for travel and fun, but don't forget to take care of your most costly possession, your house! Before you head for the beaches or across the ocean, think about some home maintenance matters. SHCA can help you get a head start on repairs by making accessible our Society Hill List of Contractors, a comprehensive directory of contractors of all types. This current list, assembled over several years, is available to all SHCA members on request.

**HVAC (heating, vents, air conditioning)**

It is best to have a certified HVAC technician service your air conditioning system before turning it on — similar to a tune-up for your car. It's not too late now, so if you haven't yet done so, the summer still looms ahead. Call to have a technician inspect your unit, clean air filters, check electrical connections, the refrigerant and the humidifier. For an extensive list of qualified and neighbor-recommended HVAC companies, check your Society Hill Contractor List.

**Trees and Plants**

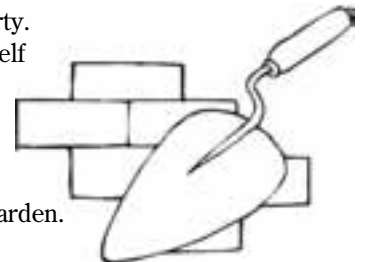
We often forget that trees need our tender loving care. If there is a tree in front of your home, it is *your* responsibility. Many trees in our neighborhood are mature and in need of pruning because they block out too much light and air. Bartlett Tree Experts recommend that although the best time to do a major pruning is in the winter, summer is a good time to prune damaged or dead limbs that can cause injuries to passersby. Also don't forget to water around the base of the tree regularly to keep it hydrated all summer long. For a list of experts in tree service, check the arborist section in our List of Contractors.

**Security System**

When you travel, it is wise to notify your security system company and provide them with the dates of your absence and phone numbers where you can be reached in an emergency. Also, it's a good idea to ask a neighbor to keep an eye on your home and to take in the mail and newspapers or circulars that may be left on your doorsteps — so that your home does not appear to be vacant.

**Brick and Masonry**

Summertime is a good time to repair uneven or broken bricks on the sidewalk in front of your house — as you are responsible (and could be held liable) should someone trip and fall because of a missing or uneven brick on your property. Prevent injuries to others and protect yourself against liability by securing these bricks. On a more positive note, we recommend our List of Contractors for mason and brick experts who can help secure your sidewalk bricks or create a new brick patio for your garden.



**Lighting**

When on vacation this summer, do not advertise your absence. Your exterior lighting, both front and rear, should be on automatic timers or sensors to turn them on and off — whether you are home or away. Also, for adequate lighting, use the appropriate wattage bulb for these fixtures. For a list of electricians and lighting stores, see our List of Contractors.

Remember, all contractors on the Society Hill List have been recommended by your Society Hill neighbors and the list is always updated. To receive your list in the mail (sorry, no faxes!) please contact Martha Levine at marthalev@msn.com or 215-629-0727.

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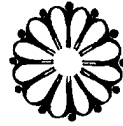
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Sunday, August 21, 5 pm

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# Society Hill Synagogue

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## Summer Schedule of Religious Services

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 Independence Mall Business & Residents Coalition (IMBARC)
 

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## IMBARC Holds Public Meeting on June 6

On June 6th, the Independence Mall Business & Residents Coalition (IMBARC) sponsored a public meeting, held at the Lights of Liberty at 6th and Chestnut Streets. The meeting was open to all residents, businesses and groups having an interest in the future of Independence National Historical Park. It was co-chaired by Carter Buller, a long-time resident of Society Hill and chair of IMBARC, and Ann Meredith, IMBARC's president and President & CEO of the Lights of Liberty Show. There were three presentations at this meeting, as follows:

### **The Lafayette Building, (northeast corner of 6th & Chestnut Streets)**

The owners of the Lafayette Building, known as the Northern Group Inc., propose to convert the building to condominiums by adding ten to twenty stories on top of the existing ten-story structure. Spokespersons for the building's owner were Alexander D. Dembitzer and Antonio Silva of Wallace, Roberts & Todd, architects. They showed sketches of a proposal for an 11-story addition, although they stressed that no final decisions had been made. However, in the Q and A session, they declined to specify either a time line for the proposal's development or for another more specific presentation to IMBARC. Nor did they tell us when they plan to apply for a variance from the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) regarding issues such as height and bulk.

### **6th Street Congestion Issues**

IMBARC has long been concerned with the congestion and noise on the west side of 6th Street between Market and Chestnut Streets, caused by the fact that it is the "staging area" for tour operators, such as the Duck Boats, Trolley Tours, etc. At IMBARC's request, the city's Deputy Managing Director, Frances Dougherty, spoke to the group. Dougherty answered questions from the audience concerning noise levels, the horse and carriage operations and safety issues relating to these tour businesses.

### **The Dilworth House**

Paul Boni, Esq., chairperson of SHCA's Zoning and Historical Preservation Committee (ZHP), gave a presentation on behalf of our association's efforts to save the Dilworth House. For additional information and updates, please visit the newly created website dedicated to preserving this significant building on Washington Square, which influenced the complete revival of Society Hill that began in the 1960s.

Following this public meeting the board of IMBARC further considered these three issues and adopted the following resolutions:

1. RESOLVED: IMBARC opposes any plan that would increase the current height of the Lafayette Building, because any such increase would adversely affect the scale of other structures in the immediate vicinity of Independence Square and the Park's Block One (5th & 6th Streets between Walnut & Chestnut Streets). Moreover, it would interfere with the view of the tower of Independence Hall.

2. RESOLVED: IMBARC endorses the plan of the Managing Director to relocate staging for Big Bus, Trolley Tours, Ducks and other vehicular sight-seeing tour operators to the west side of 6th Street between Arch and Market Streets — effective no later than September 12, 2005. IMBARC will write a letter of endorsement to the Managing Director, with copy to Councilman DiCicco and other elected officials. We will thank Dougherty for his attention to this serious matter, which has been of great concern to IMBARC and others interested in the quality of life in and around Independence National Historical Park.

3. RESOLVED: IMBARC agrees to lend its name to the "Coalition to Save the Dilworth House Now" because IMBARC is opposed to the demolition of any structure adjacent to Independence National Historical Park — which by ordinance of the City of Philadelphia is deemed to be of "significant" historic value. We trust this is helpful and wish the Society Hill Civic Association and other members of the Coalition every success in their efforts to save the Dilworth House.

To learn more about IMBARC, visit its website, [www.freeindependencehall.com](http://www.freeindependencehall.com)

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Visit [www.savedilworthnow.org](http://www.savedilworthnow.org) for more information and updates about the Dilworth House.

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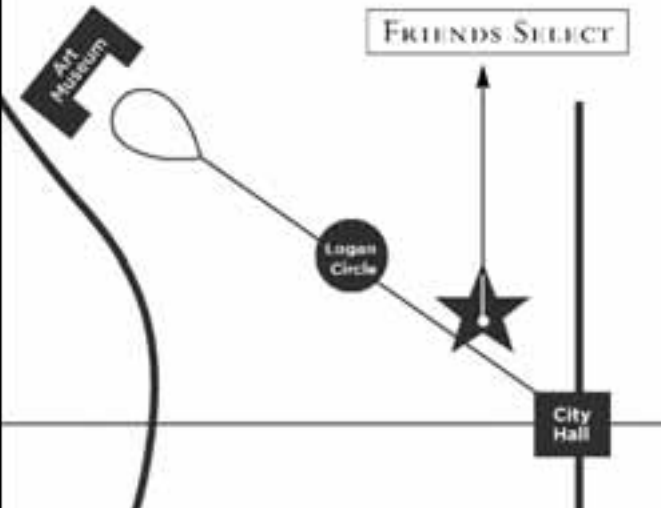


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# Kids' Beat

A COLUMN BY KERI WHITE

## Cool Summer Fun for Kids at Home

Summer can be challenging for the urban family. The novelty of free, unstructured time wears off quickly and begins to weigh heavily as school closes, the mercury rises, day camp ends, and all of the "walk to" activities that make the city so family friendly are shuttered for the summer months. When the temperature soars above 90, the park becomes unappealing, and the family vacation may be weeks away. What's a creative, involved, hands-on parent to do for enjoyable, non-destructive, non-toxic activities to pass the time?

We will consider air-conditioned museums, movie theaters, and other attractions as a given and attempt to offer home-based activities to wile away the long, hot, summer afternoons.

Never underestimate the value of water, regardless of the child's age. We have spent hours playing with the garden hose. This can be enhanced by the addition of a simple sprinkler, a really inestimable novelty. A small wading pool is another boon, and can even attract the older child if promoted properly. My kids (ages 6 & 8) still love to drag my entire collection of pots and pans outside to "cook" — they fill up large pots with water, splash everywhere, stir the "soup," take each other's restaurant orders (yes, we are a "foodie" family) and make a colossal mess. But they stay cool and entertain themselves in the process. This activity also provides a natural segue into the cleaning of the pots, which they then have to carry into the kitchen sink, fill with water and soap and clean the entire collection. (Note to any past and future dinner guests at the White House: The pots are always thoroughly re-cleaned by a responsible adult after this activity is completed.)

Younger kids love messy play, and shaving cream provides a clean, safe medium for this. The best place to enjoy this activity is on the dishwasher door. Just open the dishwasher, spray it with a few blobs of shaving cream and voila! Instant tactile stimulation. Kids can sculpt it, squish it, smear it, draw pictures in it, and when they are done, simply shut the door, start the quick cycle, and the cleanup is complete. Kids then need to wash hands (and arms, elbows, etc.) so this morphs into a lengthy hand-washing, sink-splashing session. If your child is likely to eat the shaving cream, yogurt is a reasonable substitute, but he/she will not emerge from the activity smelling quite as nice!

In my experience, kids love to cook. You can create a reasonable facsimile of fruit sorbet without the bother of an ice cream maker, and kids can participate. Choose very sweet, ripe fruit that is easy to cut. Peaches, plums, apricots, and berries work well. You will need about six cups of cut fruit. Peel the fruit, if needed, and offer each child some large, pre-cut pieces and a safe, dull knife. The idea is that the child cuts as much as possible. (Remember, we are looking to kill the afternoon). After each has completed the task at hand, place the cut pieces on a cookie sheet and put them in the freezer for about 45 minutes. (You may have to allow a video here to fill the time.) The fruit should be mostly frozen, but not solid. Remove from the freezer, place the fruit in a blender or food processor (kids can help with this) and add sugar to taste. Blend thoroughly, and enjoy immediately. If the texture is more liquid, call it a smoothie and offer straws around.

Remember, it's all in the marketing!

### Kid's Quote

"Who could live without chocolate?"

**Kelsey, age 6**  
**Society Hill Kid**



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## THE SENIOR SCENE

A COLUMN BY JEAN BRYAN

## Senior Group Plans Theater Outing

**S**tayin' Alive, Heat Wave, The Great Pretender — remember some of these songs of the 60s and 70s? Wanna hear 'em again (albeit with a slightly different twist)? The Off-Broadway hit "Menopause The Musical" is enjoying a hugely successful run at our local theater, the Society Hill Playhouse, located on the east side of 8th Street between Lombard and South Streets. The friendly folks at the Playhouse say the music and hilarity appeal to both men and women, although they concede that more women usually attend the performances. In fact, busloads of theatergoers travel from Washington DC and Maryland to partake of the merriment.

Weeknight performances begin at 8 p.m. and last 90 minutes with no intermission. Wouldn't it be fun to go as a group? We've selected the night of Thursday, August 4th, and hope this date will work for you. Ordinarily, groups purchase and pay for all their tickets at once, not individually. But thanks to Mrs. Deen Kogan, a longtime Society Hill resident and producer at the Society Hill Playhouse (which, incidentally, first opened its doors in 1960) we can purchase our individual tickets at the discount rate of \$40 rather than \$45.

Here's the deal: Go to the box office in person or call to order your ticket(s) at 215-923-0210. Remember to say that you are purchasing for the Thursday, August 4th performance, and that you are a member of *Society Hill's Senior Scene* group. If you pay cash, your ticket costs \$40; if using a credit card, you pay \$40 per ticket plus a \$5 handling charge each. However, there's no guarantee that we'll all sit side-by-side because each ticket is assigned a theater seat. So if you want to sit next to a pal, try to purchase your tickets at the same time. (Important note: The show is staged on the main theater located on the second floor, and there's no elevator in the Playhouse. If you'd rather not climb a flight of stairs, this show is probably not for you.)

But if steps cannot deter you for a fun night out, please let Jean know you plan to attend by emailing her at [jbryan52@bellatlantic.net](mailto:jbryan52@bellatlantic.net) or calling her at 215-925-6416. **Your purchase of ticket(s) and confirmation with Jean should be completed by July 18.** Perhaps we Society Hillers can get together before or after the play. At the very least, we can enjoy laughing together. Thank you Society Hill Playhouse and neighbor Deen Kogan! We'll call you if numbers warrant a get-together; otherwise, we'll see you at the show.



**Join other Society Hill Seniors for a performance of "Menopause The Musical" on Thursday, August 4th.**

## MORE SENIOR OPPORTUNITIES

**Togetherness!** On May 19th eleven Senior Scene folks assembled for dinner at Positano Coast. It was our first social gathering and everyone enjoyed meeting new friends or reacquainting with old ones. The restaurant was filled with Temple's many celebrating graduates, while loud music was blaring — so hearing what everyone had to say was challenging. Nevertheless, we agreed it was worth the effort to get together. We'll let you know the plans for our next get-together.

**Joyce Portnoy** has volunteered to teach French or coach those getting ready for a holiday in France. Contact her at [joycenina@comcast.net](mailto:joycenina@comcast.net).

**Pat Fusco** has volunteered to call those of you who prefer receiving information by phone rather than email. Do not let your preference for phone communication deter you from joining the Senior Scene. We'll be happy to stay in touch whatever way you are most comfortable. Call Pat at 215-925-3992 and give her your number.

**Pam Todd**, at [pamtodd@voicenet.com](mailto:pamtodd@voicenet.com), is organizing a group of Senior Scene walkers, because exercising with others is more fun and prevents us from finding excuses for not exercising. But since people walk at different speeds or have health needs or restrictions, all walkers will be "sorted out" during the first walk — according to needs or preferences. Pam will begin on August 1 or September 1 — whichever date folks choose.

Don't forget that we have teachers offering instruction in tap dancing, public speaking, Macintosh computers and business strategies. Email or call Jean if you've decided to pursue any of these activities, and she can direct you to that volunteer teacher.

**YAHOO!** Yahoo serves as our on-line Senior Scene bulletin board. Email Jean Bryan, at [jbryan52@bellatlantic.net](mailto:jbryan52@bellatlantic.net), if you have internet access and you wish to keep up-to-date by becoming a member of our Bulletin Board. Jean will help you register with the site, which is free.





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SHCA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

## 58 Members Needed to Reach Goal of 1,050

Membership in SHCA stands at 992, still short of our goal of 1,050 by 58. We welcomed 146 new members this year, but we have not yet heard back from 98 resident households. If you are among the non-renewals, please send your check today. But if there's a reason you have not renewed, we'd like to know why. Please write or call us to share your thoughts. Call 215-629-1288 or email mattdejulio@aol.com. Your comments will be respectfully reviewed by SHCA's Board of Directors.

Please be assured that no dues or other specified contributions to SHCA will be given to the Challenge Fund—a special fund dedicated to saving the Dilworth House and seeing that appropriate construction occurs on the empty NewMarket parcel of land. Your Membership Dues and any extra contributions you send can be earmarked toward paying for sidewalk cleaning, tree subsidies, anti-graffiti efforts, improved lighting, Clean-up Day expenses, flower planting in Washington Square, and other efforts spelled out on our financial page, which you can find on our soon-to-be updated website. Finally, the *Reporter* you are now reading costs SHCA almost nothing—because advertising revenue covers all printing and distribution expenses.

### Regarding the Challenge Fund

This voluntary fund is dedicated only for two purposes: the preservation of the Dilworth House and appropriate construction on the vast and empty NewMarket site. Thus far, many residents have donated generously to the fund, which is being matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$100K by a magnanimous couple. (See the thermometer on page 1.) Your SHCA Membership Dues will never be given to the Challenge Fund. We respect the fact that not all Society Hill neighbors agree with our efforts to save the Dilworth House, and some folks are unconcerned about what will be built on the NewMarket site, between Front and 2nd Streets, Pine and Lombard Streets.

Of course, SHCA's Board understands that not every member is in favor of every Board action, but we hope all residents will value the primary objective of the association—to maintain and preserve its unique mix of old and new, as well as welcome new appropriate development. SHCA members are always welcome to attend Board meetings to freely express their opinions.

### Many of the programs that your membership dues and contributions pay for:

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- 2** Repair of the Washington Square fountain
- 3** Regular communications with the National Park Service
- 4** New lighting around Washington Square
- 5** Encouraging appropriate Penn's Landing development and use
- 6** A \$300 subsidy to any resident who plants a new tree in the neighborhood
- 7** Support of our neighborhood Town Watch to prevent and report crime
- 8** Free delivery of the bi-monthly *Society Hill Reporter* to ALL residents, regardless of membership status—an important communication vehicle for all
- 9** The Society Hill Civic Association Website—filled with a wealth of information: [www.societyhillcivic.com](http://www.societyhillcivic.com)
- 10** The refurbishment of our unique Franklin Lights—coming soon
- 11** Semi-annual neighborhood Clean-up Day
- 12** Access to a list of preferred contractors used by neighbors
- 13** A 52-page Maintenance Guide for property owners
- 14** Sidewalk cleaning following weekly trash pick-up day
- 15** Anti-graffiti efforts throughout the neighborhood
- 16** Welcome Basket program for new neighbors
- 17** Our Block Coordinator program to alert neighbors to special events
- 18** Community meetings with city leaders
- 19** Our vigilant review of applications for liquor licenses
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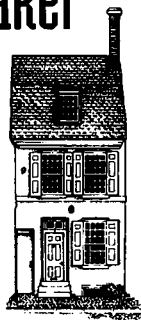


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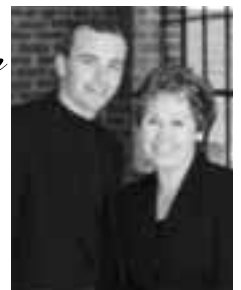
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## Prescriptions Available for People Lacking Coverage

A new coalition called “The Partnership for Prescription Assistance” has launched a private-sector program to help patients who lack prescription coverage to get access to the medicine they need. This coalition offers a single point of access to more than 275 public and private patient assistance programs — including more than 150 programs from pharmaceutical companies.

If you can use help paying for medicines and want to know if you may be eligible, call: 1-888-4PPA-NOW or visit the website [www.pparx.org](http://www.pparx.org).

## Philadelphia Contributionship Announces the Creation of Digital Archives

Recognizing the historic importance of its early records, The Philadelphia Contributionship, the nation’s oldest operating fire insurance company, is making public digital images of all of its extant early surveys. These hand-written documents provide a glimpse of the first inhabitants of Philadelphia and their homes, taverns and work places. The project encompasses surveys ranging from 1752 until 1906. Currently on-line are surveys compiled between 1752 and 1847.

Other key documents can be found on the site, as well — including the “Deed of Settlement” signed by those interested in forming a Philadelphia fire insurance company. Franklin’s is the second signature after Governor James Hamilton. Two others signers of the Declaration of Independence, John Morton and Robert Morris, also signed this document.

The Contributionship has undertaken this project in conjunction with The Athenaeum of Philadelphia as part of its Philadelphia Architects and Buildings project. Scanning is done at the Athenaeum and survey information can be accessed either through the Contributionship’s home site: [www.contributionship.com/about.html](http://www.contributionship.com/about.html) and then click on Archives, or through the Philadelphia Architects and Buildings site: [www.philadelphiabuildings.org](http://www.philadelphiabuildings.org).



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## NOTEWORTHY NEIGHBORS

A COLUMN BY DAVID WOODS

## David and Stephanie Costello

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**The Renaissance  
Man and the  
Dragon Boat  
Lady**


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Calling his work “the last renaissance job” and “the best job in the world,” David J. Costello, the headmaster of St. Peter’s School, amplifies that description, noting that his professional role is a combination of politician, lawyer, diplomat, theologian, psychologist and educator. No wonder he can be found in his 319 Lombard Street office in the early morning and as many as three nights a week.

The school, originally associated with St. Peter’s Church, has long since functioned as an independent private school welcoming children of all denominations — currently with 183 enrolled students between the ages of three and 13, and a teaching staff of 30. The school is situated just a few blocks from the home he shares with his wife of 35 years, Stephanie, on the 200 block of Locust Street.

David, a native Bostonian and graduate of Bowdoin College and Wesleyan, has spent his entire career as an educator — except for a two-year stint as a museum director. “I missed the children and the classroom,” he said, and so he returned to teaching math, his specialty, before coming to St. Peter’s five years ago.

Stephanie, a graduate of Wheaton, with a Master’s degree in education from Boston University and in social work from Smith, is an employee assistance consultant at Bryn Mawr Hospital. She also has a private practice in the area and teaches a course called “The Artist’s Way” at a bookstore at the Bourse. This course is about helping actors, writers, and other creative folks to “become free to be themselves.” Stephanie shares her husband’s eclecticism, combining professional work with a demanding physical avocation — paddling a giant, 22-crew Dragon Boat on the Schuylkill, a canoe-like craft that looks something like a Maori longboat.

The couple, who have two grown sons, are enthusiastic gardeners. They contribute their skills tending to annuals, perennials, and vegetables at the large garden of the Todd House, at 4th and Walnut Streets within Independence Park. (This is the historic home of Dolley Todd, wife of James Madison, the fourth President of the United States.)

Like many other denizens of Society Hill, the Costellos sing the praises of the area’s walkability, friendliness, architecture, and history. The couple’s interests include biking around the neighborhood and, like some previous Noteworthy Neighbors, David is an avid ornithologist, a *soi disant* avid avianist.

Personally, I’m often struck by the common denominators of our community’s “Noteworthy Neighbors” — as I’ve written some 30 or 40 of these columns — because they all have busy, fulfilling and varied lives; huge enthusiasm for Society Hill; and pervasive modesty about their significant accomplishments. The Costellos are exemplars of all that.




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dwoods@healthpublishing.com



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wednesday, July 20

**SHCA Board Meeting**  
St. Peter's Parish House  
313 Pine St., 7 p.m.

Tuesday, August 2

**TownWatch National Night Out**  
7:30-9:30 at Three Bears Park  
9:00-9:30 Candlelight Community Patrol  
See page 16

Thursday, August 4

**Senior Scene Group Theater**  
Society Hill Playhouse  
See page 27 for information

Now through the Fall

**Community Farmers' Markets**  
Every Tuesday at South & Passyunk Streets,  
2 - 7 p.m.  
Every Saturday at 2nd & South Streets,  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Every Wednesday Night All Through the Summer

**It's Movie Night At Head House Shambles**  
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215-413-3713 to find out what movie will  
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