



SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

www.societyhillcivic.com

A Unique "Town Meeting" Follows Clean-Up Day: Saturday, November 19

Saturday General Membership Meeting

Fate of the Dilworth house still unresolved!

Final hearing by the Historical Commission postponed again — as agreed upon by all parties. See page 17 for details.

This is a first for us! Never before has the Society Hill Civic Association conducted a General Membership Meeting on a Saturday afternoon. But then, never before have we enjoyed more than 1,000 paid-up households in our membership rolls. We hope this Saturday "town meeting" — which follows immediately after Clean-Up Day, at 1 p.m. — will encourage more inclusive participation from Society Hill residents. Free lunch and refreshments will be served at this Saturday "town meeting," which will be hosted by St. Peter's School, at Lombard Street between 3rd & 4th Streets.

Who are we? We are diverse in background, age and culture — proudly living within "America's most historic square mile." Whether we are busy young families raising children, recently retired couples or professional individuals, whether we occupy an apartment in a hi-rise or live in a townhouse, whether long-time residents or whether we have recently moved here from another state or country, we are your neighbors who meet and work together so as to protect, enjoy and savor our little corner of the world.

Please note that our SHCA meeting follows immediately Clean-Up Day, which begins at 8 a.m. and concludes by 12:30 p.m. — rain or shine! Volunteers are needed. Please pick up any necessary supplies — such as brooms, trash bags, and gloves — after 8 a.m. at Three Bears Park, on the 300 block of Delancey Street. We ask neighbors to sweep sidewalks, streets and alleyways. Remember to bag only leaves and sidewalk litter and debris (no household trash!) and leave these filled trash bags at major intersections on Locust, Spruce, Pine and Lombard Streets — where they cross numbered streets prior to 1 p.m. Return the borrowed brooms to Three Bears Park by 1 p.m. Saturday afternoon.

Important: To avoid being ticketed on Clean-Up Day, move your car to the opposite side of the street, where posted, after 6 p.m. on Friday evening, November 18. Also, please note that there will be no parking on either side of the following streets: 300 and 400 blocks of Front Street; 200 and 700 blocks of Locust Street; 200 and 300 blocks of S. 2nd Street; Lawrence Court, and the 400 block of Gaskill Street. Cars will be ticketed between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturday, November 19th, if they are not moved where posted. But the good news is that you can move your vehicles back to your preferred parking spots any time after 3 p.m.

If you have questions or problems related to this community-wide effort, please contact Clean-Up Day's chairperson, Dana Hall, at 215-351-9222 or danabhall@gmail.com.

City Trash Pick Up will occur one day later than usual after these Holidays:

Veterans Day Christmas Day
Thanksgiving Day New Year's Day

Please make a note of this and keep our sidewalks clean!

THUR.		MARK YOUR CALENDAR	
November	17	SHCA Board Directors Meeting	Thursday, November 17, 2005
		Old Pine Community Center, 7 p.m.	4th & Lombard Streets
		All SHCA members are welcome to attend.	
SAT.		SHCA General Membership Meeting	Saturday, November 19, 2005
November	19	St. Peter's School, 1 p.m.	Lombard Street, between 3rd and 4th Streets
		All Society Hill residents are invited to attend following the morning's Clean-Up Day activities.	



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Managing Editors

(November/December 2005)
Bernice T. Hamel
Marilyn Appel

Graphic Design

Judy Lamirand
judy@parallel-design.com

Reporters & Editors

Lenore Hardy
Carole LeFaivre-Rochester
Lana Noël
Sandra Rothman

**Advertising Manager
and Photographer**

Matthew DeJulio

Columnists

Paul Boni, Esq.
Tania Rorke
Ruth Sachs
Keri White
David Woods

Society Hill
Civic Association
P.O. Box 63503
Philadelphia, PA
19147

tel: 215-629-1288
fax: 215-629-9914
email: MattDeJulio@aol.com

Contributors

Andrea Layden
Martha Levine
Sissie Lipton
Jerry Landon & Peg Robb
Robert Skaler
Norma Van Dyke

Website

www.societyhillcivic.com

Submission Deadlines

for Jan/Feb Issue
Advertising December 1
Editorial December 15

The Reporter’s P.R. Liaison: Andrea Layden


Reporter team member Andrea Layden has agreed to assume primary responsibility as the major contact person for all press releases and announcements from community businesses and nonprofit organizations. Please send any announcement you wish to see publicized in future editions of the *Society Hill Reporter* to Andrea Layden directly, at either 37 St. James Court, Philadelphia PA 19106. For queries phone her at 215-922-6486 or send her an email at married2irish@msn.com.

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 should be submitted directly to Andrea Layden. All editorial or other submissions should be sent to Bernice Hamel via fax at 215-925-0877 or email: bernicehamel@comcast.net..

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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A Lot To Be Thankful For

As Thanksgiving approaches, I find myself thinking about things I have to be thankful for. This year, in light of the tragic events that have occurred in our country and around the world, my list is endless. With the hurricane that hit the New Orleans area, there are people who have lost everything. With the earthquake in Pakistan, the devastation is unimaginable. So many lives have been lost. So much is in ruin. It should not take disastrous events for us to think about how fortunate we are.

This November, the Society Hill Civic Association has a lot to be thankful for. We must thank State Representative Marie Lederer for a \$50,000 grant from the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to be used for the improvement of Society Hill. Sixty percent of this grant (\$30,000) is earmarked for the "Beautification of Society Hill" and forty percent (\$20,000) is earmarked for zoning and preservation issues. We as a neighborhood must decide what beautification improvements we would like to see implemented. In addition to the \$50,000 grant, we received a \$110,000 DCED grant through Senator Fumo's office specifically for our Franklin Light project.

SHCA is thankful to countless volunteers who work hard to maintain and improve the quality of our wonderful neighborhood. Where would we be without the professional teamwork of Society Hill "reporters" who keep us informed on a regular basis through this newsletter? We must thank each of them for their dedicated efforts. Also, we are most thankful to Paul Boni and members of the Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee for their diligent work on such major projects as the development of NewMarket, the Ayers building, 500 Walnut Street and, of course, preserving Dilworth House. We also appreciate the work of Sissie Lipton and her Washington Square Beauti-

fication Committee, as well as Martha Levine and members of the Franklin Lights project who are working to upgrade lighting throughout our neighborhood. Thanks also go to Keri White and the McCall School volunteers whose efforts will improve our neighborhood's only public school. Thanks to Wally Wing, our new "Graffiti Czar," and Michael Erdos, who recently reinstated our community's TownWatch program. Needless to say we appreciate all TownWatch walkers and always welcome additional volunteers.

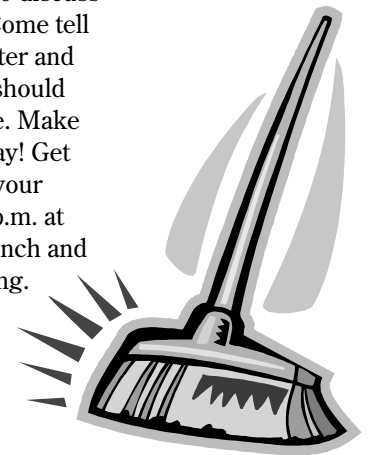
Let's also thank Dana Hall for chairing our Clean-Up Day Committee, whose volunteers will soon rid our sidewalks of trash and leaves on Saturday, November 19th. Of course, our entire civic association functions above and beyond anyone's expectations ever since Matt DeJulio became SHCA's administrator in 2001. Finally, we must be thankful to Ed Bacon. (See page 17.)

Let us not take our neighborhood for granted. We all need to have a more active role in maintaining and improving Society Hill so that it continues to be the wonderful place we choose to live and raise our families in. We are now responding to several requests by members to hold at least one annual General Membership Meeting on a Saturday. Therefore, on Saturday, November 19th at 1 p.m. — immediately following that morning's Clean-Up Day activities — we will meet to discuss issues important to you, our members. Come tell us what you think we could be doing better and give us your suggestions about how we should spend \$30,000 to beautify the streetscape. Make Saturday, November 19th Society Hill Day! Get involved! Start the morning by cleaning your sidewalks and streets. Then join us at 1 p.m. at St. Peter's School for a complimentary lunch and our autumn General Membership Meeting.



Tania Rorke
SHCA President

Mark your calendar: Saturday, November 19th is Society Hill Clean-Up Day!



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WASHINGTON SQUARE HAPPENINGS

As you probably know, our civic association has been collaborating with Independence National Historical Park to help beautify Washington Square. This cooperation has enabled the park and SHCA volunteers — with the assistance of select landscape companies — to put together plans, on a step-by-step basis, in order to yield the best results.

On October 6th, a wonderful crew of volunteers helped clean out weeds throughout the park — and they also planted 600 daffodil bulbs, 120 mums and 12 flats of pansies. The beds were tilled, compost was added and the area mulched. Lisa Barton along with her crew from Valley Crest Landscape Company, worked side-by-side with our volunteers. Independence Park hosted the day's event by serving coffee, donuts and bagels. Representatives from the Tuck Foundation, from Washington, D.C., came to observe the event and see how well such a collaboration can work!

Independence Place, the S. 6th Street apartment buildings located directly across from Washington Square, donated about 60 rose bushes and 60 boxwood plants. Heidi Shober of Enchanted Garden Design of Philadelphia, planted the roses along the sides of the memorial. She also added the boxwoods to a few corner entrances. SHCA is having all these plants watered regularly so they will thrive and look beautiful for now and next spring.

We are currently drawing up landscaping plans to enhance each entrance at Washington Square, as well as the memorial area. Also, a plan to repair



Sissie Lipton (left) and Beverly A. Morris, Volunteer Coordinator for Independence National Historical Park, coordinated the planting session at Washington Square.

the fountain and the pool is in the works. You should know that our Society Hill Civic Association has funded all these improvements. Therefore, we hope that neighbors who enjoy the enhanced environment of “our” Square will support SHCA by joining (if you aren't yet a paid-up member). A specifically designated donation to the Washington Square Fund to help support this ongoing maintenance and beautification project would also be very much appreciated. If each of us contributes just a minimal amount we will accomplish a great deal.

Finally, please remind dog owners and dog walkers to steer their pets away from these new flower beds so that we may all enjoy the beautiful plantings. If you can contribute your time as a volunteer, or you'd be willing to make a modest financial contribution to the Square's improvement, feel free to learn more by contacting either Sissie Lipton, Chair of the Washington Square Committee at 215-925-2112, momlipton@aol.com; or SHCA's Administrator Matt DeJulio at 215-629-1288, mattdejulio@aol.com.

Looking for Park Photos

Independence National Historical Park (INHP) is seeking historical photos of Washington Square — especially of the fountain from 1957-1967. Please share any photos you may have by calling Paula Etkin at 215-597-7131. INHP will scan your photos and return them to you promptly.

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Vote “YES” at the Polls!

Dear Neighbors:

There will be a proposed charter amendment on the ballot in the primary election on Tuesday, November 8th, which takes one small step toward “breaking down the cozy relationship between politicians and their campaign donors” (*Inquirer* 10/2/05). Society Hill voters are urged to go to the polls and vote “yes.”

In the wake of federal corruption trials that illuminated Philadelphia's pay-to-play culture, City Council passed legislation to better regulate the process by which city contracts are awarded. It is a non-parti-

san proposal which passed in City Council 16-1. However, because enforcing this regulation requires a change to the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter, it has to be put before the voters. If a majority of people who vote on November 8th vote “yes,” this Amendment will become law.

Reformers are concerned that this bill might fail due to expected small voter turn-out in the election, possible “unanticipated” political opposition and the “muddy wording of the initiative question itself.” Why is this initiative important? While this amendment will not, in itself, turn around the political culture of the City, failure on the part of voters to pass this charter

change reinforces the image that Philadelphia only gives business to companies and individuals with deep campaign pockets. Failure to pass this charter would be detrimental to the City's growth and prosperity, reinforcing the perception that Philadelphians don't care.

So why should you care? Because these are your tax dollars at work. When we pay more than we should for a contract which greases the wallet of a campaign contributor, we have fewer dollars for services that enhance our quality of life. In one particularly egregious example, at the same time that the Mayor was threatening to eliminate the City's subsidy to the Philadelphia Museum of Art

(PMA), we paid one campaign contributor a commission which, in itself, equaled the entire PMA subsidy—on a re-insurance contract that the Managing Director two years in a row recommended canceling because it hadn't been used in seven years. Due to the great hew and cry of Philadelphians, money was “found” to restore the PMA subsidy. Still, this useless contract was renewed.

We hope you will go to the polls and vote “yes” on this ethics bill.

Sincerely yours,

*Norma Van Dyke,
Philadelphians United to
Restore Ethics (P.U.R.E.)*

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History of the Dilworth House

The following letter was written to the Chairman of the Philadelphia Historical Commission by Robert Skaler, NCARB, Architect.

We wish to share it with you.

Dear Sir:

I am the author of the recently published book entitled *Society Hill and Old City* published by Arcadia Publishing as part of their "Images of America" series. It focuses on Society Hill before its gentrification. I was privileged to have the opportunity to photograph and publish some of the archival photographs taken by the historian Charles Peterson before his photographic archives were sent to the University of Maryland. Many of Peterson's photographs, taken by him in the mid-1950's, show Society Hill as a tattered remnant from colonial days, its once gracious houses used as factories, warehouses and tenements. However, Peterson never thought of Society Hill as a slum, but rather as a "has been neighborhood." In the 1930's the First Presbyterian Church on South Washington Square moved to West Philadelphia leaving their Haviland designed Greek Revival Church to fall into disrepair. Many of the great houses on Spruce Street and even some on once fashionable Clinton Street in Washington Square West were divided into rooming houses. The two houses at 223 and 225 South 6th Street that were demolished to build the Dilworth House were vacant and abandoned for many years. It is even said that if the Athenaeum had the money, it would have moved as well: fortunately they stayed put.

When Richardson and Ann Dilworth decided to build on Washington Square there was little "society" left in Society Hill. The fact that two houses that were torn down were empty for many years prior to Dilworth buying them was symptomatic of the state Washington Square was in during the mid-1950's. In John W. Cornell Jr.'s history of J. S. Cornell & Sons, entitled *History of a Philadelphia Builder, written in 1975*, Cornell writes about the Dilworth house on page 51:

"After careful consideration of possible restoration of the two houses at 223 and 225, architect G. Edwin Brumbaugh stated that these two properties were only 100 years old and to restore them was not feasible or worth the cost. The decision was to tear them down and build a new house in the 18th Century design, akin to the Morris House."

J. S. Cornell & Sons had in 1952 restored the Morris House for Harry Batten, a staunch supporter of Society Hill's restoration.

Richardson and Ann Dilworth considered them-

selves pioneers, as did many other new residents in Society Hill in the late 1950's. They held meetings in each other's homes, encouraged others to move there, helped each other with their restoration problems, battled with the city to preserve historic houses that were scheduled for demolition and sponsored events like Society Hill Week with Richardson Dilworth and C. Jared Ingersol as co-chairmen in 1971.

In the *Evening Bulletin* on July 15, 1971 Peter Binzen wrote:

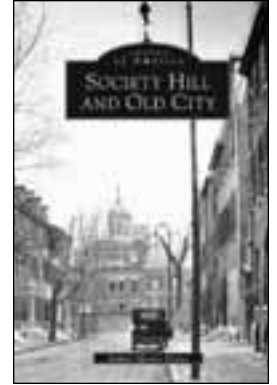
"It was during Dilworth's tenure in City Hall that Society Hill was launched. Most observers agree that it couldn't happen today. 'We couldn't start it today because all the priorities in urban renewal now call for housing the poor,' said Maybelic Segal, project director for the Redevelopment Authority. 'This kind of project couldn't get off the ground today,' said another authority official, 'it's obviously successful, but it's too big a target for politicians.'"

In conclusion, as Peter Binzen wrote 34 years ago, "it couldn't happen today," Richardson Dilworth did what no other former Philadelphia mayor since has had the courage to do: move into an area of the city which was blighted and forgotten, build a substantial home and live there. Imagine if Mayor Street courageously decided to build a substantial house on Norris Square, a square in the heart of depressed North Philadelphia, and live there and then ask his friends and associates to move there, as well as restore homes there.

So where do former Philadelphia mayors have their residences? Wilson Goode lives in Overbrook, practically in Montgomery County. Frank Rizzo lived in Chestnut Hill, and Edward Rendell lives in East Falls.

I have devoted an entire page in my book to the Dilworth House and stated "Mayor Dilworth's house is a monument to his confidence in the city's future, leading the way to the eventual restoration of a neglected neighborhood." The house should remain standing as a monument to this courageous and farsighted mayor, Richardson Dilworth.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Skaler, NCARB Architect
Preservation Officer for the Philadelphia Chapter
of the Victorian Society in America



The cover of *Society Hill and Old City*, written by Robert Skaler.

We are pleased to report that Richard deWynngaert, an SHCA Board Director and owner of Head House Books, which will open on November 11, has offered to contribute the profit of the sale of these books to our civic association. Most Society Hill folks will want to own this book, so purchase yours at Head House Books.

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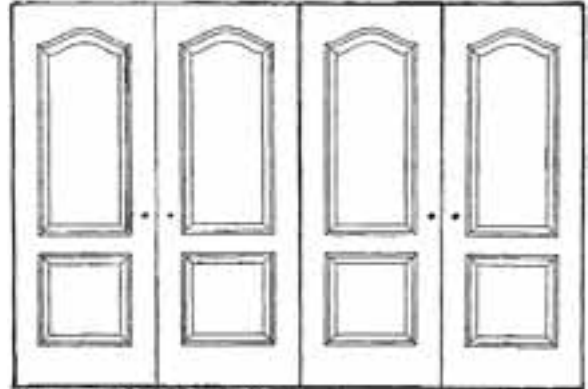
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SHCA Committees Active In Community

Society Hill Civic Association's ALL VOLUNTEER committees regularly undertake community initiatives, remaining vigilant about matters that impact "America's most historic square mile." All residents are encouraged to join our very pro-active association and participate in its various activities.

Below is a list of committees and their chairs, followed by a statement about how and why SHCA membership benefits community members.

- **Clean-Up Day Committee**

Twice a year a solid core of citizens get out their brooms and trash bags to clean our sidewalks and streets. We are always seeking volunteers to assist on that busy day—coming up soon on Saturday, November 19th, beginning early morning to noon. Committee Chair: Dana Hall, 215-574-1944, dana.hall@lighthousepartners.com

- **Foglietta Plaza Committee**

Development of this major undeveloped plot of land in the neighborhood has led to a planning study from the Olin Partnership. Committee Chair: Malcolm Lazin, 215-732-7375 mlazin@equalityforum.com

- **Franklin Lights Committee**

Society Hill's nearly 60-year-old "Franklin" lights, which add a unique quality to our historic neighborhood, are in urgent need of upgrading to promote better quality of light for our safety. This committee seeks to raise funds to match city funds and a state grant for their improvement. Committee Chair: Martha Levine, 215-629-0727, marthalev@msn.com

- **Fund-raising Committee**

Due to increased demand for legal and professional assistance to face several challenges, such as "overzealous" developers, as well as lighting improvements, refurbishment of Three Bears Park and Washington Square, SHCA has initiated this new committee. Co-Chairs are Marilyn Appel and Carole LeFavre-Rochester.

- **Gaming Committee**

To deal with the advent of casino gambling that could affect quality-of life issues, this committee will advocate on our behalf with governmental officials. Committee Chair: Open

- **Liquor Control Committee**

This committee works with both residents and the Liquor Control Board to insure that laws are enforced. Committee Chair: Mel Buckman, 215-925-2167, mjb2167@aol.com

- **Man Full of Trouble Tavern Committee**

This committee is dedicated to seeing that the "troubled historic tavern" at 2nd & Spruce Streets, first opened in 1759 and now a property owned by the University of Pennsylvania, is well-maintained and preserved. Co-Chairs: Bernice Hamel, 215-925-4363, bernicehamel@comcast.net & Jean Bryan, 215-925-1909, jbryan52@bellatlantic.net

- **McCall School Committee**

In 2003 SHCA decided to develop stronger ties with Society Hill's only public school so as to improve the quality of education provided to our community's children. Committee Chair: Keri White, 215-592-9633, whiteMKCK@comcast.net

- **Membership Committee**

This committee seeks to increase SHCA membership, for both residential households and businesses, with special emphasis on encouraging greater participation from condo residents. Membership income provides the primary source of funds for most activities. Committee Chair: Richard deWyngaert, 215-829-4496 radewyngaert@comcast.net

- **Social Events Committee**

As a member of SHCA you are invited to all social events—an ideal way to meet neighbors, make new friends and keep informed about common interests. Committee Chair: Open

- **Safe and Sound Society Hill**

(SSSH)—Dealing with crime, pedestrian safety and quality-of-life issues, the SSSH committee works to determine what criminal activity exists by documenting all incidents reported by local residents. Also it educates residents on the importance of correctly reporting crimes to police, and it always communicates our needs to the 6th Police District. SSSH helps sponsor TownWatch, where residents organize to walk the streets at night to ward off crimes. When such incidents occur they are reported immediately. Committee Chairs: Michael Erdos, 215-629-5857, michael.erdos@phila.gov and Martha Levine, 215-629-0727, marthalev@msn.com.

In addition, The 6th Police District Advisory Council brings issues to the 6th District Police. Committee Chair: Marilyn Appel, 215-922-2626, harmara@verizon.net. Also, the South Street Police Advisory Council maintains a close liaison with local law enforcement. Committee Chair: Debby Robinson, 215-922-6718, manmusic@aol.com

- **Sidewalk Cleaning/ Graffiti Control Committee**

SHCA contracts for weekly sidewalk cleaning from the Center City District (CCD) following the City's trash pick-up day. We contract on a quarterly basis with CCD to remove graffiti. Neighbors are encouraged to use new graffiti removal solvents and paint, provided FREE by SHCA, to keep our historic Franklin light posts and other public spaces free from blight. Dave Stevens (sidewalks), 215-923-1349, dottdav@aol.com and Wally Wing, (graffiti control), 215-592-9951 wally.wing@verizon.net



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SHCA Committees Active In Community

continued from page 9

• **Society Hill Reporter Committee**

This newsletter covers news and subjects of interest related to our community. It is written, assembled, edited and published by a dedicated team of volunteers in six bi-monthly issues and distributed to over 4000 households. Advertising accepted, with a 10% discount provided to SHCA members.

Editorial Submissions: send to Bernice Hamel bernicehamel@comcast.net; Marilyn Appel harmara@verizon.net; Carole LeFaivre-Rochester caroleaps@aol.com; Lana Noel noelnadel@comcast.net; Press releases & Calendar items: Send to Andrea Layden, 215-922-6486, married2irish@msn.com Business Manager & ads: Matt DeJulio, 215-629-1288, mattdejulio@aol.com

• **South Street Headhouse Development Committee**

In light of the numerous changes that are taking place in the South Street Headhouse District, which can directly impact our neighborhood, this committee is charged with representing SHCA's views. Committee Chair: Anine Burlingame, 215-925-0542, celloluv@aol.com

• **Strategic Planning Committee**

Looking to protect the long-range interest of our neighborhood and aiming to develop a comprehensive strategy on how to deal with various issues, this new committee is charged with developing an overall strategic plan. Committee Chair: Tania Rorke, 215-925-4544, trorke@aol.com

• **Trees & Tree-Tending Committee**

All Society Hill residents are encouraged to replace damaged trees and/or plant new trees in front of their homes — contributing to our "Greene Country Towne" and following William Penn's ideal for Pennsylvania's first city. A \$300 SHCA subsidy for any new tree is provided to homeowners who plant new trees. Committee members also tend to flowers around tree bases and to baskets that hang from Franklin lampposts. Committee Chairs: Karen Skafte, 215-925-2656, Cherry Bombeck, 215-627-1356 and Laura Lane DeVoe, 215-925-8486

• **Washington Sq. Committee**

Transfer of this most historic public park from the Philadelphia Fairmount Park Commission to the National Park Service, with the necessary improvements mandated, has been an important part of SHCA's agenda for

the past few years. This committee has periodic meetings with Independence National Park professionals to see that attention is paid to the Square's beautification through the planting of flowers and new shrubbery. Attention to the fountain and the Square's eternal flame are also key issues. Committee Chair: Sissie Lipton, 215-925-925-2112, momlipton@aol.com

• **Welcome Basket Committee**

If you're a new home or condo owner in Society Hill, you'll receive a friendly "Welcome Basket" filled with fresh foods, information, and gift certificates, contributed by local businesses. Committee Chair: Martha Levine, 215-629-0727, marthalev@msn.com

• **Zoning & Historic Preservation Committee**

This vital committee reports to SHCA's Board on issues that affect the integrity of our neighborhood and monitors residential and commercial applications for zoning variances or any alterations to facades of homes in Society Hill's Historic District. Such issues are often reviewed before either the City's Historical Commission or the Zoning Board of Appeal. Committee Chair: Paul Boni, 215-989-0034, paulboni@bonilaw.com



Additional Benefits Enjoyed by SHCA Members

Historic Windowpanes

Any SHCA member living in an historic townhouse is entitled to receive a FREE windowpane plaque, which identifies the home's vintage and style and also its builder, if known.

In addition, a FREE 48-page booklet on how best to maintain one's historic home is provided, upon request, by contacting Matt DeJulio at 215-629-1288 or mattdejulio@aol.com.

Contractors' List

A resource for all types of home repairs. Receive your FREE list of preferred contractors. Learn more on page 19 and request your copy by contacting Martha Levine at 215-629-0727 or marthalev@msn.com.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!



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Open Houses

**Friday, November 11, 8:45 a.m.
Tuesday, December 13, 8:45 a.m.**

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

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• **Sunday, November 6, 2005**
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• **Sunday, January 8, 2006**
Program begins at 2:00pm

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What's New at McCall School

McCall Elementary School welcomes a new principal this year, Ms. Carol Domb. Ms. Domb's educational and business background, coupled with her strong connection to Center City, make her the ideal person to lead McCall. Previously she worked in the North Penn School District as a special education teacher and elementary school principal. She then transitioned into a career in real estate, focusing on Center City — but she has returned to her first love: working on behalf of children. Her warmth and kindness shine through in her dealings with the entire school community, and the faculty and students are thriving under her competent direction.

As principal, making a connection with our neighborhood is an important goal for Ms. Domb. She has already met with several of McCall's neighbors, SHCA leaders and members to discuss various issues of interest to our community.

She participated in the Three Bears Fall Festival on behalf of McCall and also represented the school at the Center City District School Fair. Community outreach is a high priority. McCall looks forward to many happy and fruitful years under her stewardship.

In addition to McCall's new leadership, the school will soon be enjoying a new playground. After months of planning and meetings, which included incorporating suggestions from neighbors, the playground equipment has been delivered. At press time, installation is scheduled to begin October 27, while duration of the work is projected to be two weeks. The jungle gym will be mounted on a rubber safety surface and will accommodate 70 children at one time. After school hours until dark, and during the daytime on weekends and holidays, all of Society Hill's children are welcome to enjoy the new, improved play equipment. Have fun!



McCall Principal
Carol Domb

Adopt A Franklin Light

Are You En-LIGHT-ened?

The Society Hill Civic Association invites you to invest in the future safety and security of our neighborhood by joining our campaign to **"Adopt a Franklin Light."** We need to replace 400 of our outdated 50-watt Franklin lights with a new state-of-the-art 70-watt model retaining the original Franklin design. Through City and State contributions, we currently have a fund of \$220,000, but need an additional \$380,000 from individual and corporate contributions to complete the project throughout our neighborhood.

IT'S UP TO US NOW! The upgraded lighting will happen only with the help of all of us who live and take pride in Society Hill. Because it is fair and cost effective to replace lights throughout our entire community — so that no one is left in the dark — we ask all neighbors and businesses to pitch in with a contribution. Whether you live in a house or condominium, your contribution will get us closer to our goal.

You may have received, or will receive shortly, an "Invitation To Give" to the **Adopt a Franklin Light** campaign. The invitation asks you to make a tax-deductible contribution to help secure a Franklin Light on your block. Please consider the suggested levels of support, and make your check payable to The Society Hill Fund, our community's nonprofit 501 (C)3,

tax-exempt status. Mail to The Society Hill Fund, Franklin Lights, Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147-3503.

We thank neighbors Mary Keefe and Dan Kelly, of MGA Partners, an architectural firm, for the design of the solicitation card, as well as Pamela Sinkler Todd for the card's illustration of our unique Franklin Lights.

We are in the process of acquiring corporate sponsorship for the **Adopt A Franklin Light** project. However, we need all the help we can get. If you know of a business that would be willing to participate by giving a matching gift, please let us know.

And in 2006, to mark the 300th anniversary of Benjamin Franklin's birthday, we are planning a celebration to pay tribute to the genius who created, among many things, the first public lighting system right here in Society Hill. It is his original design of street lights, "modernized" during the community's revival, that gives our streetscape its unique character.

Look for your invitation to join the Franklin Lights project soon and for more information about this 300th celebration now being planned. Questions? Contact Martha Levine, Committee Chair, at 215-629-0727, marthalev@msn.com.



Suggested Levels of Support:

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Safe and Sound Society Hill & Town Watch

Call 911

For your protection and the well being of our community, SHCA's Safe & Sound and Town Watch Committees recommend that you call 911 immediately if you see someone who fits any of the descriptions below. These individuals have been seen and have been reported as committing the following crimes in our neighborhood.

1. Black male, 5'7", 230 lbs., robbery, point of gun.
2. Masquerading as a UPS driver, a black male with full beard (no UPS driver has a full beard), 5'10", 170 lbs., tried to rob someone at a doorway, point of gun. Always look for the UPS truck before you open your door to anyone claiming UPS delivery.
3. Third and Cypress Streets, a woman with two children was approached by a white male, 5'10", about 35-40 years old with blondish-brown hair (some gray) and a noticeable scar running from top of his nose to his chin. He held a knife to her stomach demanding cash and credit cards and tried to gain access into her home, but was discouraged and fled when he saw and heard workmen inside the house.
4. Robbery at Three Bears Park: A woman's purse and its contents that were stashed inside the pocket of a baby stroller was recovered several blocks away from the park — minus the cash. Also found in Three Bears — cocaine paraphernalia. Be careful.
5. Again, warnings about intersections — if you're driving, look for the light or stop sign, which may be hidden by overgrown trees. If you're walking, be careful of drivers who don't see the light or the stop sign. Be especially careful if you dare to walk across the street in the middle of any block. We're hoping to place caution signs and/or zebra stripes for mid-blocks that are often crossed by pedestrians, especially greenways such as the mid-300 block of Spruce Street where SHCA placed its interpretive marker thanking Ed Bacon and Charles Peterson for their contributions to the rebirth of Society Hill. Please note: There are 25 intersections in Society Hill with overgrown trees that block visibility to traffic lights and stop signs. Overgrown trees near these lights and signs are the owner's responsibility: if the tree is in front of your house — it's yours! Please have it pruned.

6. If a sign says "No Turn on Red" — it means just that. Drivers often ignore these signs — dangerous for both cars and pedestrians — so please be careful. Drivers race towards Columbus Blvd. and 1-95, especially during rush hours, and they try to make every yellow light, often driving through on red. We've all done it at one time or another. Therefore, don't accelerate too fast on the green — that's often when accidents occur. Also, don't try to make every light, your safety is more important than saving a couple of seconds.
7. Sunday night is a big night for crime — there are fewer people on the streets. Be more cautious; know what's happening around you, especially on Sunday evenings.
8. Credit card "scammers" are still out there — never, never, never give anyone who calls you the three-digit security number on the back of any of your credit cards.

The Good News:

Town Watch Walkers: You may soon be able to enjoy a complimentary cup of coffee at Starbucks, at 8th and Walnut Streets, if you're on patrol and wearing your SHTW gear. We're trying to formalize the arrangement with Starbucks and other coffee houses in the neighborhood.

Also, FYI: Officer Ferraro patrols on his bike at night, east of 4th Street. He's very dependable and committed. In September Officer Ferraro received a "Police Officer of the Month" award for the previous month. This is an honor bestowed by his peers for extraordinary performance during that month. For emergency situations, Officer Ferraro's cell phone number is 215-787-7864. But always call 911 first!

The Sixth District has added patrols because of the gunpoint and knifepoint incidents described above. We appreciate Captain Korn's commitment to our safety and security.

Cell Phones

We are still collecting old cell phones to give to the DA's office for reprogramming that calls only 911. These phones are given to abused men or women and also to senior citizens, so please bring your old cell phones to 414 Spruce Street.



September Society Hill Crime Statistics

Robberies – 2
Aggravated Assault – 1
Burglaries – none
Purse Snatch – 1
Thefts from Vehicles – 3
Stolen Vehicles – 2
Vandalism – 5
No level of crime is acceptable. That being said, these numbers are lower than the summer statistics — particularly with regard to thefts and burglaries.

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Z O N I N G & H I S T O R I C P R E S E R V A T I O N

 BY PAUL BONI, ZHP COMMITTEE CHAIR

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

The Dilworth House, 223-225 S. 6th Street:

The Society Hill Civic Association and the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia continue to try and save this important building from the wrecking ball. In between postponements of hearings scheduled by the City's Historical Commission, the developer and a consultant or two met with Mayor Street at the property — uh oh, that doesn't sound good. So we believed it was important for us to meet with the Mayor as well. With a little help from State Senator Vincent Fumo and Councilman Frank DiCicco, we finally did meet in the Mayor's office on October 18th.

We are pleased to report that we had an excellent with the Mayor lasting almost two hours. The Mayor was extremely engaged and interested in the house, and he was also concerned about what its demolition would mean to the integrity of Philadelphia's historic preservation program. As you may know, Mayor Street has always taken historic preservation seriously; he "gets it." Years ago, in fact, he was involved in the drafting of the City's Historical ordinance and, as he demonstrated during our meeting, he is quite fluent in the details of the program. We are hopeful that the Mayor will conclude that the facts and the law lead inescapably towards preserving this important house. After all, at the end of July, as so many of you witnessed, the Historical Commission's Designation Committee voted unanimously to reject the developer's 14-point

argument — recommending that the Dilworth House be saved. The most recent update we have to offer is that the parties jointly requested another postponement of the Commission's hearing so that the Mayor can have more time to consider the matter.

Keep up to date: visit www.savedilworthnow.org. If you haven't yet done so, please be sure to sign the online petition so that we can send you an email with any breaking news (we won't use your email address for any other purpose!). Thanks so much to all our supporters and all the friends of the Dilworth House. We'll never stop trying to save the Dilworth House. (For more information about why this house is so significant to the history of Philadelphia, see page 7.)

New Market (or NewMarket for you sticklers):

Front to 2nd Street, between Lombard & Pine Streets

There has been much rumor and speculation throughout our neighborhood about what might be happening at New Market. We'll leave all that off the page, but we can tell you a few things with some degree of confidence: (1) the developer is continuing to push plans that would construct a building very high into the sky: reports from the City are that the current proposal is for something 297 feet high (yikes!); (2) nothing even close to that height will ever be built on New Market, because it would be so out-of-scale to the rest of the neighborhood; (3) that's because for this key location virtually the entire neighborhood is against something that would so dramatically and negatively impact the character of Society Hill; and, (4) we are eager for the developers to present their project to our civic association so that we can see if there might be other design proposals acceptable to the community at large. Finally, and perhaps the most important part of this report is that SHCA represents our community, and ZHP Committee members are more than willing to continue meeting with neighbors to discuss this significant vacant property. We've met with many concerned neighbors so far and we'll continue to do so. Working together, I believe we'll succeed.

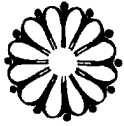
O B I T U A R Y

Edmund N. Bacon
 A Society Hill "Founding Father"

We are sad to report that Edmund N. Bacon, 95 years old, died at his Philadelphia home on October 14, 2005, five months after he was the honored guest and recipient of SHCA's May 26th ceremony praising his contributions to Society Hill's renewal. Bacon played a major role in the Hill's revitalization, serving as director of the Philadelphia Planning Commission from 1949 to 1970.

One of our community's two modern "Founding Fathers," SHCA's interpretive marker describes and illustrates on one side Bacon's contributions, while preservation architect Charles E. Peterson — who did not survive to see the plaque's realization — is honored on the other side. Visit the permanent plaque located on Spruce Street, midway between S. 3rd and S. 4th Streets.

To learn about the Ed Bacon Foundation or to make a contribution, please contact its President Greg Heller, at 215-473-4900 or gheller@parksidehistoric.org.



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CHRISTMAS SEASON

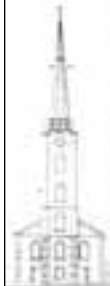


December 10 at 5:00 p.m.
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AN EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Scouts Clean Tombstones in Old Pine Graveyard

After more than 200 years, tombstones in the historic Old Pine graveyard, at 4th and Pine Streets, were showing their age. The stones, some dating back to the Revolutionary War, were covered with fungus, dirt & ivy.

On Saturday, October 15th, 16-year-old Brian Burke, a Senior Patrol Leader of Boy Scout Troop 176, led his troop in cleaning the deteriorating stones for his Eagle Scout project. Using soft brushes, spray bottles and bright orange buckets donated by Home Depot, the scouts scrubbed the green grime off of 20 gravestones. Taking advantage of the moist soil from five days of rain, they also ripped out the ivy and weeds growing around the tombstones.

Working under the tutelage of John Carr, senior architectural conservator with John Milner Associates, the scouts were taught the proper technique for handling the delicate stones. Ron Shaffer, a Society Hill resident and historian for Old Pine Presbyterian Church, supervised the

project as a church representative. Overall, 12 scouts and adults put in 26 hours of work on the graveyard.

Burke, a senior at St. Joseph's Preparatory School, said he chose the cemetery clean-up project to thank Old Pine Church. "The church was looking for someone to work on the graveyard, so I thought it would be a great Eagle Scout project."

One requirement to earn Eagle Scout rank is to plan, organize and execute a community project. In doing so, the scout also demonstrates leadership by securing the labor and materials, and successfully completing the job. Eagle is the highest rank in the Boy Scouts, and Brian Burke certainly deserves that honor.



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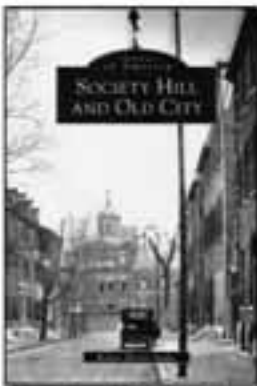
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NEW BOOKSTORES OPEN IN 19106 – AT LAST!!

The Drought is Over

Head House Books

The neighborhood is abuzz with talk about two new bookstores in our midst! On November 11 the new Head House Books will open its doors. Owner Richard DeWyngaert, a neighbor and SHCA Board Director, invites the community to visit his shop at 619 S. 2nd Street.

Having lived in Society Hill for the past twelve years, Richard believes that in a walking community such as ours, we should be able to find most of the basic sundries and services we need. He has felt the absence of a quality bookshop and has said, “We shouldn’t have to leave the neighborhood to buy a good book.” Richard is filling the gap right here in our own “backyard.”

Head House Books is dedicated to providing exceptional service and high-quality books across all subject areas. Richard plans to entertain various types of reading groups, reading hours and other programs for the entire family, based on customer interest and suggestions. * Website customers will have access to approximately one million titles, many of which, if not on the store’s shelves, will be available to ship in one to three days. By shopping his website, neighbors will contribute to the existence (and survival) of their own community bookstore.

Head House Books is truly a venture we’ll want to support — because down the road, we may risk becoming “bookstore-less” once again. Richard

notes that people generally buy more than half their books online, even though they rely on independent bookstores for browsing and spending “quality” time. However, Richard cautioned, if a community wishes to keep its local bookstore in business, this trend must be reversed. And he believes that neighbors here are ready to reverse the trend.

On his path toward creating a community bookstore, he is ever receptive to customers’ suggestions on how to make the shop more responsive to “their own” inclinations and preferences.

Richard describes his love for books and the pleasure he feels when he walks into a bookstore and discovers a book for the first time. Some of his favorite books “have found him” in this manner. Richard continues, “My wife and I love the bookstore Ex Libris in Sun Valley, Idaho, for just this reason. We find wonderful books that we hadn’t known existed before we entered the shop. The size of the store is small, but the spirit of the store is large. That is what I would like said about Head House Books.”

The store’s website www.HeadHouseBooks.com will offer 24-hour service, 365 days a year and the phone number is: 215-923-9525.

**Learn more about Head House Books’ child-friendly offerings in Kids Beat, on page 23.*



**Richard DeWyngaert,
owner Head House
Books**

“I want to create a community bookstore that becomes a stop along a neighbor’s beaten path.”

Voices & Visions: Books – Arts – Community

A bookstore and cultural community center offering an Internet Café for public use, is located in the Bourse’s Lower Level on 4th Street. The store, which opened this past July, seeks to provide excellent customer service and be a center for the voices of Philadelphia’s creative community. This renovated space (a former site of nightclubs and restaurants) includes the bookstore, a gallery, and an events and meetings space.

Owner, Angela Roach, a resident of Queen Village for ten years, saw a need for a bookstore on the east side of town. But she also wanted to create a premier cultural meeting place where artists could showcase their work, be it in

literature, visual arts, architecture, music, filmmaking, poetry or the performing arts. Voices & Visions is just that: a place for artists to meet, exchange ideas and collaborate in a supportive atmosphere.

The store celebrated its Grand Opening on September 8, with live music, book signings and readings. During the months of September and October Voices & Visions hosted several artistic events and installations. Upcoming events in November include: brown-bag lunch readings, a poetry event, a presentation by the author of the recently published *Society Hill and Old City*. And for the kids, a reading of the *Velveteen Rabbit* by Mumm Puppet Theater actors.

Voices & Visions is open seven days a week and offers online shopping and events schedules on their website: www.vandvx3.com. **215-625-4740**

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Kids' Beat

A COLUMN BY KERI WHITE

Community Bookstore with Kids Section

Rejoice, rejoice, families of Society Hill, for we are the recipients of a wonderful gift! Richard deWyngaert, a neighbor and SHCA Board Director, is opening a community bookstore, Head House Books, located at 619 S. 2nd Street, one block immediately south of Head House Square. This beautiful shop, with its soothing wasabi green walls, tin ceiling, oriental rugs and cherry bookshelves, is a bibliophile's paradise with a strong family focus. (See page 21 for additional information.)

The kids' section is in the rear of the store, a cozy, carpeted area set off a bit from the rest of the collection. By placing the kids' section there, Head House Books has considered the safety and comfort of the youngest customers and their parents. Kids will be quite secure in this partially enclosed area, so parents can browse worry-free.

Many child-friendly programs are planned for the bookstore — including story hours, customized birthday parties, parent/child reading groups and

partnerships with area schools to provide library lists, book donation opportunities and summer reading selections.

In addition to its interesting book collections and fun activities, Head House will offer an extensive selection of gift items including woodcut bookplates and many other novelties. Beautiful gift-wrap will be available for all items, making Head House Books the source for your holiday gift needs.

On those days (or nights) when you're too busy to shop in the store, you can shop online at headhousebooks.com. (In fact, I urge you to support our community store and add the site to your online favorites list — and then use it!) Head House Books also offers hand-delivery service to neighborhood customers when requested. Now that is customer service! At long last, we have a bookshop in our midst. Let's do our part to support and enjoy this fabulous new addition to our community.

Kid's Quote

"Mom, this dress is calling my name!"

Hannah, age 3
Society Hill Kid



YOUTH AID PANEL

Help Redirect a Young Life

Over the past sixteen years a few Society Hill neighbors have volunteered for Youth Aid Panel (YAP). Under the auspices of Michael Cleary, project coordinator from the District Attorney's Office, YAP's process is as follows:

A young client appears before this volunteer panel at the 6th Police District building at 11th and Winter Streets. The client, already having been screened by an Assistant District Attorney, acknowledges that he/she has committed an offense, such as taking a knife to school, shoplifting, or destroying property. After a discussion with the client and his/her parent or guardian, YAP volunteers may then interview each individually, followed by a private discussion among the panel members to design a specific contract for the client. This contract, lasting three months and monitored by a panel member, most often will have a requirement that the client perform some community service, write an essay, make restitu-

tion and attend one or two programs offered in conjunction with the YAP process. If he/she successfully completes the contract and stays out of trouble for one year, any record will be expunged.


One client's success story is described in the following portion of a letter, written by the young man's supervisor: "In working with him during ten weeks of the workshop, I saw a curious little boy, who in the beginning couldn't sit still or be quiet for even a moment, gradually transform into a young man who was proud of what he had learned to do. He took home sketch books and when he came back to class the following week, he was always eager and proud to show us what he had been working on all week."

The Youth Aid Panel needs volunteers. Please call Mike Cleary (at 215-686-6305) if you're interested, and leave your name, address, zip code and phone number if you reach a message machine.


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S E N I O R S C E N E

BY RUTH SACHS *

A recent series of articles in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* about the challenges and difficulties of growing older in the suburbs helps to highlight the advantages of life in a community such as ours. We “seniors” don’t have to look far for cultural, educational or volunteer opportunities — to say nothing of stores within walking distance of our neighborhood.

Volunteer Opportunities

One of the many advantages of having more free time is the chance to get involved in volunteer activities. A previous Senior Scene column focused on the wide variety of opportunities available at the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped at 919 Walnut Street (contact Meghan McDaniel at 800-222-1754).

Other activities close at hand that welcome new volunteers are the Saturday food distribution program at St. Peter’s Church. Anne Eiswerth and Emy Halpert run this program, and they can be contacted through the St. Peter’s Church office at 215-925-5968.

Another is the long-established lunch program, “Saturday for Seniors,” which provides seniors with a hot lunch, socialization and bag of food to take home. It is held at Old Pine Community Center, sponsored by Old Pine Church. For

more information, contact Liz Ostrander at 215-922-6179 or Mary at the Old Pine office at 215-925-8051. Incidentally, see page 30 as Liz and her husband Dick are featured as this issue’s “Noteworthy Neighbors.”

Volunteers are most welcomed and appreciated.

**Morning Walking Group
(a.k.a. “The Walkie-Talkies”)**

Pamela Todd informs us that she has finally got her women’s walking group up and running! The “Walkie-Talkies” combine brisk morning walks for regular exercise with good conversation. Meet this informally organized group at Three Bears Park a little before 8:15 a.m. any Tuesday and Thursday (unless it is raining). They leave at 8:15 sharp in whatever direction the group decides, and generally walk for about 40 to 50 minutes, trying to accommodate different paces. Pam says, “anyone reaching their exhaustion level can just peel off from the others and return home without shame!” She adds, “Men are very welcome as well, although they should be warned that we enjoy talking while we’re walking!” Contact Pam at pamelastodd@comcast.net or you can just show up at Three Bears Park on any Tuesday or Thursday at 8:15 a.m.

Introduce yourself and become a Walkie-Talkie!

**TARP’S Friday Forum Lectures**

A reminder that the Friday Forum lecture series continues at TARP (Temple Association for Retired Persons). On November 18, Robert J. Hall, former publisher of *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, will be TARP’s speaker. On December 2 a panel discussion on the Franklin tercentenary. “Happy 300th Birthday, Mr. Franklin,” was conceived and coordinated by longtime Society Hill neighbor Ellie Gesensway. Panel participants include Coxie Toogood, Historian, Independence National Historical Park; Roy E. Goodman, Librarian, American Philosophical Society; Nicole Twilley, Director of Public Programming, The Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary; and Ralph Archbold as Benjamin Franklin. On December 9, Dr. Marvin Wachman, Honorary Chancellor of Temple University, will be the speaker.

Details of TARP’s spring semester courses and activities will be published soon. Check their website at www.temple.edu/tucc.

Senior Associates Program**Auditing Classes at Penn**

The Senior Associates program of the University of Pennsylvania allows people who are 65 or older to be silent auditors in undergraduate lecture courses in Penn’s School of Arts and Sciences. There is a \$20 membership fee and a registration fee of \$180 per course — for a maximum of two courses. The schedule of Spring semester courses, given by many of Penn’s favorite professors, will soon be available. Prompt registration is recommended. Call 215-746-6907.

Finally, If you have information on activities, volunteer opportunities or any items that may be of interest to the over-50’s folks in our community, please contact our regular columnist Jean Bryan at jeanbryan@gmail.com, or at 215-925-6416. We hope to have some sort of social event towards the end of the year — again, contact Jean for details.

*In this issue Ruth Sachs is substituting as the Senior Scene columnist. Ruth is a licensed clinical social worker for Jewish Family and Children’s Service, specializing in services for older people. She’s a long-time Society Hill resident, together with her husband, Marvin and daughter, Katie.

Correction In the previous issue a fascinating city tour was described, but “Famous Criminals Tours” had its website listed incorrectly. Interested in learning more about this “Criminals Tour” throughout Old Philadelphia? Check out: www.FamousCriminalsTour.com



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P R E S S R E L E A S E S

Sing! Holiday Celebrations!

Community Messiah-Sing**Where the Audience is the Choir!**

St. Peter's Church will resound with the sounds of Handel's "Messiah" on Saturday, December 10, as the church sponsors a Community Messiah-Sing at 5 p.m. At a Messiah-Sing, the audience is the choir, as everyone is invited to join in singing the great choruses, such as "Hallelujah," accompanied by professional orchestra and soloists. The St. Peter's Choir will sit amongst the audience, offering moral and vocal support!

If you have a score, bring it with you, or there will be music available for borrowing. "Just listeners" are also welcome, but everyone, regardless of experience or expertise, is welcome to join in the singing. A \$5 donation helps defray the cost of orchestra and soloists.

This Messiah-Sing is part of the Third & Pine Series of community events offered by St. Peter's Church. For more information, call 215-925-5968.

A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols: Sing in Exultation

St. Peter's annual "Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols" takes place this year on Sunday, December 18, at 7 p.m. This popular service is performed according to the tradition of King's College, Cambridge. From the opening verse of "Once is Royal David's City," sung by a young chorister, to the massive sounds of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" sung by choir and congregation, the story of Christmas is retold in an atmosphere of majesty and grandeur. There is no admission charge; a free-will offering will be taken. This service is part of the Third & Pine Series of community events offered by St. Peter's Church. Last year the church was full. Doors

open at 6:30 with pre-service music beginning at 6:45 p.m. For more information, call the church at 215-925-5968.

Old St. Joseph's Church

Fr. Rick Malloy, S.J. (Society of Jesus), a Jesuit and professor of cultural anthropology at St. Joseph's University, will lead discussions on the topic of the relationship between the Gospel and modern secular culture on two successive Wednesday evenings, December 7 and 14, at Barbelin Hall at Old St. Joe's parish, at 7 p.m.. Entry to the Hall is through the Willings Alley courtyard. All are welcome.

Fr. John Donahue, S.J., a Jesuit and a professor of scripture at the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley (California) will make a presentation on the Gospel of Mark on Thursday, November 10, at 7 p.m. in Barbelin Hall at Old St. Joe's Church. Entry to the Hall is through the Willings Alley courtyard. All are welcome.

The Catholic Community at Old St. Joseph's Church on Willings Alley will celebrate Christmas with lessons and carols and Mass on Christmas Eve at 5:00 p.m. and again at 8:00 p.m. Masses on Christmas morning will be at 7:30 a.m. and at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.

Physick House:**Annual Twelfth Night Celebration**
Sunday, January 8, 4:30 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.

The Physick House Preservation Committee invites you to join this festive fundraiser in our community's beautiful house museum at 321 S. 4th Street. For \$50 per person, you'll enjoy the house in all its holiday splendor for an evening of tradition, wonderful food and cheer. RSVP Jacqueline Shultz at 215-922-6926.



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407 Pine Street \$1,150,000
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320 Delancey Street \$890,000
Impeccably restored, historically certified 3 bedroom, 1 bath home with random plank pine floors, original fireplaces, charming kitchen, central air, and lovely landscaped garden! Virtual Tour #4557244

903 Lombard Street \$729,900
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256 S. 3rd Street \$719,900
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330 Lombard Street \$639,900
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Society Hill List of Contractors

Prepare for the cold months ahead by using the following tips.

Heating System

Before turning on your heating system, hire a heating contractor to provide a "Fall-Winter Tune Up," which may include air filters, humidifier cleaning, electrical connections, etc. A healthy system may save you money on your heating bills in the cold months ahead.

Tree Pruning

Fall is the best time to have your trees pruned. Many of our trees are overgrown — thereby blocking daylight as well as illumination from our Franklin Lights. Some trees are so overgrown that they block a driver's view of traffic signals, which can lead to auto accidents and injury. Please see that trees on your property are well tended, and if necessary, contact a tree-care expert by checking our List of Contractors.

Gutters and Downspouts

Have your gutters and downspouts checked by a roofer to make sure there are no problems with drainage. Poor drainage after a snowfall can cause ice to form around the top of a downspout. When it starts to melt, solid pieces of ice may fall on unsuspecting passersby. Homeowners would

be liable for any injury caused by this, so check our Contractors' List under "Roofers."

Snow Removal

Six hours after a snowfall has ceased, you can be ticketed for failing to remove snow from your sidewalk. Any person(s) falling due to your negligence could sue you for injuries caused by sidewalk snow or ice.

Fireplaces and Chimneys

All working fireplace chimneys and heating chimneys must have aluminum liners, especially those in older houses, because the absence of a liner could cause a fire. A clean chimney cuts down on indoor smoke when your fireplace is in use. Call a chimney specialist to clean your chimney and install a liner if needed.

For any of the above services (excluding snow removal, which is every homeowner's responsibility!) or for any of your home needs in any season, refer to Society Hill's comprehensive List of Contractors. This list is a service for all SHCA members, as each named contractor has been recommended by at least one satisfied neighbor. To receive your copy in the mail, please contact Martha Levine at 215-629-0727, or marthalev@msn.com.

ANNOUNCING:

"Salon@5th" Under New Management

Kyle Brooks has recently become the sole owner of "Salon@5th" which is located at 316 S. 5th Street across from Society Hill's Super Fresh. As stylist and co-owner, Kyle has been with the Salon for the past four years, having previously worked at salons in Rochester, New York and Blue Bell, Pennsylvania. In the near future Kyle is planning to renovate "Salon@5th" which offers a full line of hair care products and services for both men and women. The shop's additional hair stylists include John Brown, Brian Meehan and Lauren Oelkers, while Tina Mai offers a full array of nail services with Natali Villegax serving as her assistant. Kyle and his staff thank all clients who patronize the Salon and extend a warm welcome to new clients. And SHCA thanks the "Salon@5th" for being a good friend and frequent advertiser in the *Reporter*, which helps cover the cost of producing this newsletter.



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NOTEWORTHY NEIGHBORS

A COLUMN BY DAVID WOODS

Liz and Dick Ostrander

The words longevity and largesse come to mind in describing Dick and Liz Ostrander. Longevity because they have spent some eight decades on this planet; almost 60 years married to each other, and more than a quarter century as residents of Society Hill. And largesse because they have devoted several of those years to civic, community and church causes.

The pair arrived here from Cincinnati in 1971, bought a house built about that time and instantly became one of the area's "re-settlers." Dick's was a corporate move in his chosen career of broadcasting management. He had courted Liz while they took the same college course, and brought her, a teacher of English with a master's degree from The Ohio State University, "kicking and screaming," as she puts it, to Philadelphia. They have lived in the same house ever since... and during that time raised a son and a daughter, both now in their fifties.

That house, on 6th Street, they share with a "mainly" border collie named Pooh Bear, who has the unusual and admirable ability to herd the couple's two cats. The house is cozy, characterized by what the pair call eclectic art, and by a lived-in look that reflects more than 30 years of comfortable occupancy.

Dick retired at the customary age of 65 — an end-of-work cutoff point invented by Otto Von Bismarck in the 1880s when life expectancy was under 50 — he emerged from retirement at 70 to become president of the Society Hill Civic Association (from 1989-1993). Later, after serving as a founding board director of the South Street/Headhouse District — representing our residential community — he took the position as its executive director for seven years. Meanwhile, Liz spent some 20 years teaching proposal writing at the University of Pennsylvania, becoming involved along the way in community activities, including a stint as vice president of the SHCA.

The couple are active in Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church, and Liz is writing a history of that church to coincide with the 300th anniversary of the first presbytery in the area. Their charitable work has extended to United Way, where Liz helped develop a computer information program on local human and medical resources. Dick does two volunteer shifts at Pennsylvania Hospital.

This spry and active pair belie their age, and, in the interest of full disclosure, I know at least partly how Dick manages that feat since I occasionally encounter him at the Society Hill Sheraton's swimming pool and health club. Together, they also spent many years sailing on the Chesapeake, most recently in their 40-foot sloop. On dry land, their interests include the orchestra and the opera... and a continued delight in Society Hill's feeling of community and neighborliness.

"Longevity and largesse" describe Liz and Dick



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C O M M U N I T Y C A L E N D A R

Tuesday, November 8
Election Day: Don't forget to vote!
See page 7

Thursday, November 17
SHCA Board Meeting
Old Pine Community Center
4th & Lombard Streets, 7 p.m.

Saturday, November 19
Fall Clean-Up Day
8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
and

**SHCA General Membership Meeting
In a "Town Meeting" Forum**
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St. Peter's School, Lombard between
3rd & 4th Sts., 1 p.m.

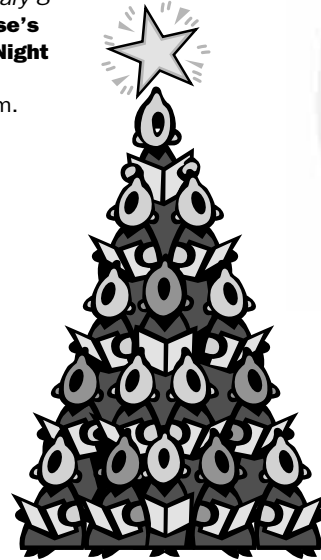
Tuesday & Wednesday, Nov. 22 & 23
St. Peter's Church
Thanksgiving Food Drive
Donations of canned food are welcome.
St. Peter's Food Cupboard provides food
to needy neighborhood families every
Saturday morning. For information,
call: Kate Randall at 215-925-5968
Volunteers needed.

Saturday, December 10
Messiah-Sing
St. Peter's Church, 3rd & Pine
5 p.m. \$5 donation.
For information, call 215-925-5968

Sunday, December 18
"Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols"
St. Peter's Church, 3rd & Pine
7 p.m. Doors open 6:30

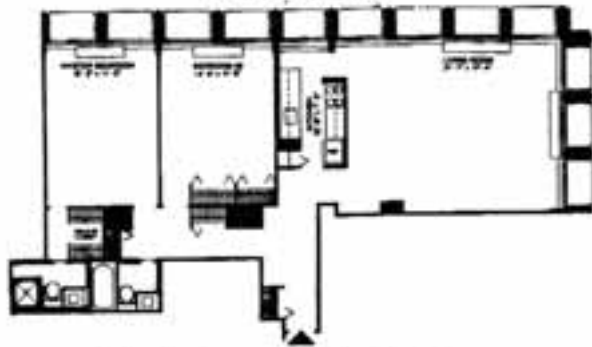
Sunday, January 8
**Physick House's
Annual 12th Night
Celebration**
4:30-7:30 p.m.
See page 27

*Happy
Holidays*



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