

SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

www.societyhillcivic.com

Fighting Foxwoods

We say "NO" to this proposed casino

Saturday,
November 18 is
CLEAN-UP DAY!
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

See page 4
for details.

*Happy
Holidays!*



For about a year Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) has been contributing both financially and actively as part of a coalition of nearby neighborhood groups — called the Riverfront Communities United (RCU) — whose purpose is to prevent the proposed Foxwoods casino complex from being built so close to our respective communities — at Columbus Boulevard and Reed Street, immediately across from the Riverview Movie Theaters. As reported in a previous issue of this newsletter, SHCA Board Directors have been active participants at RCU's strategy meetings — ably led by Ray Swerdlow, chair of SHCA's newly formed committee that focuses on waterfront development. Society Hill, the northernmost neighborhood in RCU's alliance was, until recently, also represented by SHCA's President Tania Rorke and Board Director Paul Boni. Paul coordinated the traffic study crucial to countering Foxwoods' assertion that our riverfront communities would not be negatively impacted by the addition of this huge gambling mecca.

City Councilman Frank DiCicco has gone on record as a vocal opponent of the Foxwoods site. In fact, both he and Councilman Jim Kenney petitioned the governor to veto any legislation that would strip Philadelphia of local zoning

control as it relates to gaming. Nevertheless, the State Gaming Board will soon select two city sites from among five possible sites, four of which are located along the Delaware River and one in the Nicetown/East Falls area. No matter which two sites are ultimately chosen, the fabric of the surrounding neighborhoods will be dramatically changed by the presence of casinos. And if Foxwoods prevails, the complex will have giant neon signs and lights glowing around the clock, with buildings as tall as City Hall and daily traffic jams the likes of which we cannot fathom.

When RCU first organized as a group, all participating neighborhood groups agreed that we would not advocate for any of the five proposed sites. Rather we would focus on the potential selection of the Foxwoods site so close to our homes and businesses. We also received a pledge that all participating neighborhoods in the RCU coalition would remain non-political regarding any other issues, and that no professional or personal attacks on any of our elected officials would occur. The single objective for creating this coalition was to oppose the Foxwoods site specifically.

Unfortunately, however, this "non-political" pledge was soon broken. As often happens among groups with different leaderships and agendas, we found ourselves having to rethink our alliance when a press release was written and distributed without giving SHCA's representatives the opportunity to review it in advance — in violation of the agreement made when the coalition was first formed. On that basis, our civic association, representing Society Hill neighbors and businesses, decided to sever its participation with Riverfront Communities United group, as did the Queen Village Neighbors Association.

"If the State is going to force us to accept these casinos," said Councilman DiCicco, "at the very least, it must provide us with the necessary tools to protect our neighborhoods." We feel cautiously hopeful that as a respected civic association, SHCA will be capable of taking on this Foxwoods fight.

WED.

November

15

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Society Hill Civic Association Meetings
Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Society Hill Synagogue
418 Spruce Street

- 6:00 p.m. Board Meeting**
All SHCA members are welcome.
- 7:00 p.m. "Meet and Greet" Upstairs Sanctuary**
- 7:30 p.m. General Membership Meeting**
All Society Hill residents are invited.

Speaker: Councilman Frank DiCicco

Topics: City Property Taxes & the Foxwoods Casino plus issues that concern YOU!

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Submission Deadlines

January/February issue

Advertising:

December 1

Editorial:

December 15

Website

www.societyhillcivic.com

Submissions

We want to hear from you. Our goal is to print news of interest to Society Hill residents, professionals and businesses — especially happenings in and around our community. Direct editorial submissions and/or queries to Bernice Hamel via fax at 215-925-0877 or email: bernicehamel@comcast.net. To publicize an event, submit all press releases directly to Sandy Rothman. (See contact information above.)

Materials must be submitted in writing — sent via mail, email, or fax — and must include the name of a contact person. Edited submissions will be considered for publication if the subject matter is community-related and if space allows. Otherwise, upcoming events of interest may be listed in the Community Calendar. Letters to the Editors will be considered for publication — but only if signed and the writer provides contact information.

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Noteworthy Neighbor:
Michael Berkman

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

TANIA RORKE, SHCA PRESIDENT

During the month of November, our civic association begins its annual membership drive, and by now you may have already received your renewal letters. I'm pleased to report that for 2006, SHCA reached 1,060 household members — an all time high! We also introduced new levels of membership and, to our delight, many households chose to renew at these new higher levels. How do our funds get spent? A significant portion of SHCA's operating budget comes from membership dues and additional donations that are allocated for a variety of community services.

A service provided, for example, is that SHCA contracts with the Center City District to clean our streets and sidewalks every Friday morning, after trash pickup, due to all the debris left behind by the City's sanitation workers. Our neighborhood cleanliness project also involves SHCA volunteers who patrol the streets removing graffiti left by unsolicited "artists." Therefore, your SHCA dues and donations cover the cost of weekly street cleaning and graffiti cleaning products. Also, SHCA has funded major beautification efforts at Washington Square. All members (and residents!) benefit from such contributions made to our civic association.

In addition to receiving generous financial donations, many in our community donate significant amounts of time for a variety of volunteer efforts. For example, volunteers are focusing their efforts on opposing the issuance of a gambling license to Foxwoods, which proposes building a casino at Columbus Boulevard and Reed Street. SHCA strongly opposes this location because of the negative impact it would have on our neighborhood.

I'm glad to report that on October 12th, Mayor Street signed an Executive Order creating the Central Delaware Advisory Group. The goal of this group is a Master Plan to develop the waterfront — respecting the needs of all stakeholders, including local residents. Penn Praxis, a non-profit consulting arm of the School of Design of the University of Pennsylvania, will be working with this advisory group. Our civic association will be represented on this group, and we will keep you informed as we learn more about this process.

Lately many of our efforts have been focused on development. Over the past several months, I received numerous emails and letters regarding the possible development of the NewMarket site. Many of you also received letters on this subject — one from three individuals who represent the immediate residential neighbors of the NewMarket property, and another letter sent to you from SHCA's ZHP

Committee. In the previous edition of the *Reporter*, a letter from several immediate NewMarket neighbors was printed followed by an editorial response. Needless to say, there has been a great deal of discussion and communication among community residents regarding how best to develop this significant vacant site in our neighborhood.

At the present time, the current plan for the site calls for a 230-foot tower to be located at the Front Street side of the property. It also calls for the erection of town homes and a building on the Second Street side — between the Ross House, a historical building, and the Dark Horse restaurant. The developers have informed us that there will be a "public park" within the walls of the property that one may enter through the lobby of the Front Street building. I believe that what residents may receive from the property's developer should be irrelevant: because what I consider of vital importance is what the site will ultimately look like when developed and its overall impact on our community.

The SHCA Board is not opposed to development at NewMarket, nor any other potential site in our neighborhood. While height is definitely a concern, it is not the only concern at this or any other site. Currently, we are trying to communicate with the developer in the hopes that our organization, the developer and our community can reach a compromise that will be acceptable.

With any development, there needs to be discussion and thought about what is appropriate. This is true in Society Hill and in other areas of the city. The civic associations of Center City Residents, Queen Village Neighbors, Old City and Washington Square West all have Zoning and Historic Preservation Committees that meet with developers and negotiate plans for appropriate development in their respective neighborhoods. Hopefully SHCA, together with NewMarket's developer and our community, can negotiate successfully so that the new development will suitably fit in with our community, and we can then put this difficult and divisive issue to rest.

I look forward to seeing you at our next General Membership Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 15th at 7:30 p.m., at the Society Hill Synagogue, 418 Spruce Street. Councilman Frank DiCicco will be our featured speaker, addressing neighbors on a variety of issues — including the Foxwoods casino proposal, property taxes, and waterfront development. He will also answer questions on other issues of concern. Please join us for the final General Membership Meeting of 2006.



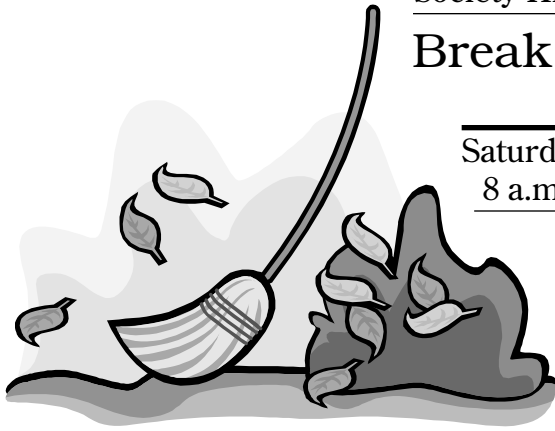
**Tania Rorke SHCA
President**

**SHCA now has
1,060 household
members —
an all time high!**

Society Hill's Fall Clean-Up Day

Break Out The Brooms...

Saturday, November 18, 2006
8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Rain or Shine



Pick up brooms, trash bags and gloves after 8 a.m. at the S. 5th Street SuperFresh, and then please sweep leaves from your sidewalks, streets, walkways, alleyways, as well as Three

Bears Park and McCall School property. Bag street leaves and trash — but no household trash, please! By 1 p.m. your bagged leaves and street debris should be left at major intersections on Locust, Spruce, Pine and Lombard Streets, where they cross numbered streets, as well as at Three Bears Park. Please return the borrowed brooms to the SuperFresh no later than 2 p.m.

To avoid being ticketed, cars must be moved to the opposite side of the street after 6 p.m. Friday evening — until 3 p.m. Saturday — *where posted*. Cars will be ticketed between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.

on Saturday — with the exception of synagogue blocks on Spruce and Lombard Streets (the 300, 400, and 500 blocks on both streets). To accommodate synagogue services, these blocks will be swept by 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, leaving the south side of these streets available for parking.

Note that there will be no parking on either side of the 300 and 400 block of Front Street; 200 and 700 block of Locust Street; 200 and 300 block of Second Street; Lawrence Court, and the 400 Block of Gaskill Street. Cars will be ticketed between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. if they are not moved where posted. You can return your cars to the “usual” side of the street by 3 p.m. on Saturday. If, by any chance, you are erroneously issued a parking ticket (which happened to several folks at last spring’s Clean-Up Day), please see Wally Wing, SHCA’s Clean-Up Day coordinator, who will be stationed at the SuperFresh.

Finally, if you have any questions or problems or can volunteer your time and services, contact Wally Wing at 215-592-9951; or email: wally.wing@verizon.net.

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HOT OFF THE PRESS

Encouraging News! Independence Park Will Revise Security Measures

In the September/October 2006 issue of the *Reporter*, we ran an article entitled “Don’t Fence Us In” regarding the security and screening facilities proposed by the National Park Service at Independence National Historical Park (INHP). That plan would have divided historic Independence Square with a six-foot high iron fence. This fence around Independence Hall would essentially deny citizens free access to the park — which until recently always evoked for residents and visitors alike a feeling of connection to our nation’s rich past. Adding insult to injury, the plan proposed to screen Independence Hall visitors inside an historic building that was once our nation’s first Supreme Court building.

Our civic association — a member of the umbrella group called “Independence Mall Business and Residents Coalition” (IMBARC) — went on record to oppose the park’s security measures as an affront to our nation’s symbol of freedom. In a letter sent to the INHP’s Superintendent Dennis Reidenbach, we expressed our belief that modern surveillance techniques and improved patrolling would better serve the public’s need for security than highly visible and unsightly barricades. Furthermore, such barricades surrounding Independence Hall create negative publicity — telling the terrorists that they’ve won.

On Saturday, October 21st the park’s security plan made “front-page” news in *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, which reported the previous day’s NPS press conference, attended by IMBARC, that announced a revision of security measures for Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell.

The new Director of the National Park Service, Mary Bomar — who previously served as INHP’s superintendent (from 2003-2005) — reported that

in response to public comments and a close review of the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the existing security processes, several changes will be made in keeping with the spirit of “independence.” These changes will include:

- Eliminating the proposed six-foot high fence around Independence Square — where in 1776 the Declaration of Independence was first publicly read;
- Removing existing bicycle barricades around the recently built Liberty Bell Center, as visitors will be screened inside the new center itself;
- Eliminating a proposed new structure for screening — as an addition to the Liberty Bell Center;
- Screening visitors in the East Wing of Independence Hall instead of Old City Hall (the original Supreme Court building) — the East Wing is 15 feet closer to Independence Hall and is less historically significant — so it can be strengthened to minimize bomb damage;
- Altering the process of security screening at both Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell;
- Incorporating new technological measures to provide effective yet less obtrusive security.

Thanks to all who have spoken up in favor of more appropriate security measures, the expenditure of about \$2 million will now be redirected towards many needed improvements for the park’s buildings, starting with Old City Hall — America’s first Supreme Court building.

We look forward to a more sensible security system so that, for residents as well as visitors, a walk through Independence Square will evoke a feeling of being connected to our nation’s past. The people’s park will be returned to the people.



Return the people’s park to the people. Don’t Fence Us Out!

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December 9th:

Head House Books, Mural Arts, and St. Peter's School

Jane Golden leads a trolley tour of her favorite murals, a viewing, at St. Peter's School, of a short documentary on Mural Arts, followed by a signing of Jane Golden's new book, *More of Philadelphia Murals and the Stories They Tell*.

December 16th

Lisa Roberts, designer, neighbor and friend, will discuss and sign copies of her beautiful new book: *Antiques of the Future*, a compelling survey of modern design and its impact on our daily lives.

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One of the “giants” in the green industry, Paul has so many great accomplishments it is hard to know where to begin and to keep this a message and not a book. We say, “Thank you Paul.” Thank you for helping to preserve tens of thousands of trees, shrubs and ground covers. Thank you for maintaining thousands of beautiful properties, which make up this beautiful city. Most of all, thank you for teaching our arborists and all of our great employees how to maintain and preserve the health and well being of trees and shrubs in an urban environment.

Reducing his workload this year, Paul's role with the company will be to continue teaching and advising on property management practices. McFarland Tree & Landscape Services is proud to continue Paul's philosophy and beliefs in the many years to come.

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New Lights Brighten Society Hill

BY MARTHA LEVINE, CHAIR, FRANKLIN LIGHTS CAMPAIGN

Installation of the new Franklin Lights throughout Society Hill is currently in progress. The work began, as scheduled, on September 5, 2006, and will continue into November. As planned, the contractors started at Front and Lombard Streets, proceeded west to complete Lombard to 7th Street (the 700 block had no Franklin Lights), and all of Pine and Spruce Streets. Next on the agenda are the numbered streets starting with 2nd Street (Front has no Franklin Lights) and working towards 8th. The smaller streets, Delancey, Cypress, Stamper, etc., will be completed as they intersect the numbered ones. When installation is completed, the amount of light in Society Hill will be doubled, from 50 watts per light to 100, for a brighter, safer neighborhood.

As with any renovation project, there are some glitches. If you noticed that many of the new lights were burning 24/7, the reason is that some of the first lights installed were cycling on and off at night. To fix this problem, the contractor decided to burn them all day — as a test. They did this by covering the photo sensors temporarily. As the lights begin to function properly, they will adjust the sensors to turn on only after dark. All of the Franklin Lights, as well as all of the street lighting here in Philadelphia, have photo sensors, which allow them to turn on at sunset and off at sunrise. If you spot a new light that is not working properly—either completely off or cycling off and on every few minutes—please contact me at the number below, so that I may alert the contractors to adjust it. Remember, this is a work in progress and we need your help in troubleshooting any problems, because the contractors are not here at night when the lights go on.

The good news is that parked vehicles will not need to be moved for the contractors to gain access to the lights. Nucero Electrical Contractors have a device which lifts them up to the level of the light fixture for the replacement. Therefore, if you see them working on your block, you need not move your car. The contractors are also trying to be extra careful not to damage the many hanging baskets of flowers, which must be removed temporarily.

Old Franklin Lights are available to any neighbor who wishes to have one or more for a garden or second home, but only those lights in best condition will be offered—without wiring and posts.

These lights are City property, and SHCA has been given permission to give them away on request. If you would like to have one, please consider making a modest donation to SHCA.

Commemorative plaques are available, free of charge, for anyone who has contributed to the project at the \$1,500 level. We have a growing list of families and individuals who have requested a plaque for the light of their choice — whether it be in front of their house or at some other desired location. Another option is for a group of neighbors to give collectively at that level (six households at \$250 each, or ten at \$150 each). Yes, contributions are still welcome! But please write your tax-deductible check made out to The Society Hill Fund — a 501(c)(3) organization — not to SHCA, and then mail it to P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147.

As I walked down Spruce Street recently, I was amazed at how much more light we now have on the sidewalks. Still, I encourage all homeowners to continue to turn on their front door lights. Due to the large space between each Franklin Light (the spacing has not changed since the original lamps were installed in the 1960s), there are darker spots in between these lights. Your front door lights that burn at night help fill that void.

Since the Franklin Lights replacement project is a major investment in Society Hill, we want everything to go as smoothly as possible. Please be vigilant to help this process move along successfully. We welcome your comments or questions. Contact Martha Levine, marthalev@msn.com, or 215-629-0727.



Installation of new Franklin Lights throughout Society Hill is currently in progress!

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Society Hill Synagogue Hosts Discussion on Urban Violence and Children at Risk

The *Philadelphia Inquirer*, October 15, 2006 focused on violence against Philadelphia children. Couple that issue with the recent string of child gunshot victims, and it should make you shudder. What to do? Society Hill Synagogue, in an effort to deal with the growing problem, will be hosting a two-day discussion on violence against children the weekend of November 17-18. On Friday evening, November 17 at around 9:00 p.m.,

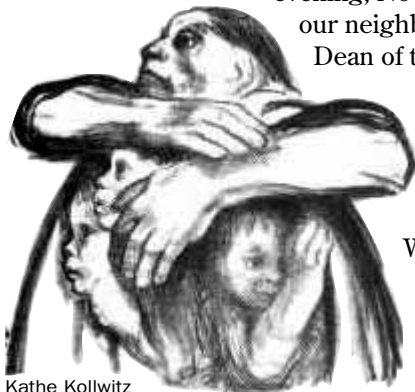
our neighbor, Dr. Richard Gelles, Dean of the School of Social Policy and Practice of the University of Pennsylvania, will speak on urban violence and at-risk youth. There will be time for questions. We invite you to attend.

You are also invited on Saturday, November 18, at 1 p.m. for a panel of distinguished Philadelphians who will discuss many of the aspects of urban violence and what Philadelphians are doing to address the problem. We will be joined by students from the Philadelphia Futures Program for a concluding discussion. If you are concerned when you see the faces of small victims, join us to learn what we might do to stem this pernicious wave of violence.

Panelists will be Dr. Elijah Anderson, Distinguished Professor, University of Pennsylvania; Dorothy Johnson-Speight, Founder, Mothers in Charge; Marcienne Mattleman, Director, ASAP (after-school programs); and Shelly Yanoff, President, PCCY (children's advocacy organization). The panel will be moderated by Michael Days, Editor, *The Daily News*.

For more information, contact Society Hill Synagogue, 215-922-6590.

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SOCIETY HILL TOWN WATCH

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Will your 2007 New Year's resolutions include...

- ...making new friends?**
- ...getting more exercise?**
- ...volunteering to help your community?**
- ...having the safest neighborhood possible?**
- ...staying informed about crime and safety?**
- ...rediscovering our beautiful neighborhood?**

If so, please consider following in the footsteps of dozens of your neighbors and joining Society Hill Town Watch. Contributing even a couple of hours of your time each year will be a win/win situation for everyone... everyone except for the criminals, that is. Or simply join to become a part of our e-mail group in order to receive periodic crime updates. Make 2007 happy and safe!!! To join or for more information, call 267-251-0749 or send an e-mail to michael.erdos@phila.gov.

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

Disturbing Neighborhood Incidents

Vandals steal antique flower pots: In the wee hours of the morning vandals stole several pots from the 400 and 500 blocks of Spruce Street. Another favorite place for vandals is S. Front Street, but vandalism is happening all over the neighborhood. Make sure you report any incidents to the police. If they don't know it's happening, the police can't be in the right place at the right time. Regarding your antique or valuable planters, we suggest securing them.

Robberies at gunpoint: These have recently occurred on the 300, 400 and 500 blocks of Spruce Street. Sorry to be repetitious, but we say this in every issue of the *Reporter* — you must be aware of your surroundings at all times! Know who's walking behind you or coming toward you, stay off your cell phone, carry your house keys separate from your purse, and don't carry a purse if you don't need to. Be especially careful at alleyways and alcoves. Always carry a few dollars to throw as far from you as possible and then run in the opposite direction if you're ever approached by a possible mugger.

SuperFresh hit: A large window at our local SuperFresh market on S. 5th Street was broken — another case of vandalism in our area. Note that loose bricks are not only dangerous for walkers, but they can be used to throw through windows — causing damage not only to our supermarket or businesses along 5th Street, but to residential and car windows, as well.

Prune your trees: You are responsible for the tree in front of your house. If it's overgrown, it can be a hazard, not only to cars and pedestrians, but it can decrease the illumination from our wonderful new lights.

Our Franklin Lights: In case you haven't noticed — it's a lot brighter throughout Society Hill these days. (See page 7.) Hopefully, Society Hill will experience fewer muggings and less vandalism now that our streets have increased voltage due to SHCA's years' long and vigorous campaign. We'll try to compare the crime stats for September and up-coming months — now that these new lights have been installed.

September Crime Stats: 12 incidents of vandalism; 3 stolen vehicles; 6 thefts from vehicles; 1 burglary (arrest made); and 2 robberies at gunpoint. We have been informed of incidents that occurred at the beginning of October, but these will be reported in the forthcoming January/February 2007 issue.

911 REMINDER: If you see a crime happening, call 911 immediately. If you witness an incident of vandalism, you can call 911, as well. But please note that criminal activity always receives priority response by police. Therefore, if you do not get a prompt response reporting an act of vandalism, please call the Sixth District Police—and request the Community Relations Officer at 215-686-3063. **Do not phone the South Street Mini-Station, as that is not a Society Hill police district.**

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Talking Trash!!

Tack this reminder onto your bulletin board

The Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) wants to remind you of the “rules of the road” so that you can avoid being fined for a variety of infractions — ranging from \$25 to \$300. In general, if you follow these rules, you won’t be “trashed,” but don’t count on it — because the City’s Sanitation Department is often inconsistent or arbitrary!

Time to set out trash: Set out your trash no earlier than 7 p.m. (Thursday nights) but no later than 7 a.m. on collection mornings (Friday). Whenever there is a legal holiday, pickup will be delayed one day — requiring that you put out your trash no earlier than 7 p.m. on Friday night (for early Saturday morning pickup). Don’t forget: in November we celebrate Thanksgiving, and December is, of course, the Christmas holiday season! So putting out your trash must be delayed for both these holidays, or you could be fined at least \$25.

Amount of trash permitted: For each household, 12 bags or six containers of refuse are permitted on trash day. Anything in excess of these limits must be collected by a private trash hauler.

Cardboard boxes: These must be broken down and tied in a bundle.

Recycling: Use the plastic bins provided for recycling. Recyclable items include: glass bottles and jars, aluminum beverage cans and metal food cans. Newspapers, magazines, junk mail, and telephone books can be recycled in paper shopping bags. The penalty for not recycling can be \$300.

Yard waste: Up to five 32-gallon cans or 10 bags of yard waste can be left for pickup. No single container can weigh more than 40 pounds. Tree branches must be cut into pieces no longer than 4 feet and tied in bundles not more than 2 feet thick. The limit for yard waste, including branches, is 280 pounds.

Bulk items: Only two bulk items are allowed per week, and these are collected separately from the regular trash pickup. Appliances are considered bulk items, whereas construction debris is not — contractors must remove their own debris.

Snow: Within 6 hours after snowfall or freezing rain you must clear a path at least 30 inches wide on your sidewalk. Do not shovel or sweep the snow into the street. (Where else to put it is a good question!) The fine for failing to do this is

\$25, with up to \$300 for each violation. If you have an absentee landlord who hasn’t made arrangements to clear a path, you may call 215-686-5560.

Sidewalks: Keep your sidewalk trash and litter-free. Sweep litter into receptacles, not into the street.

Corner trash receptacles: Never place household waste into public receptacles. By the way, the litter receptacle at the corner of 3rd and Delancey, close to Three Bears Park, was recently removed. Hopefully, a trash receptacle with a lid will be installed at that spot, since trash from the park is often deposited there. We’re also concerned, because these corner trash receptacles seem to be disappearing throughout the neighborhood.

Officers from the Streets and Walkways Education and Enforcement Program (SWEEPS) are responsible for enforcement of all these rules. Clearly, they make errors. Let’s hope they err on the side of fairness.

If you see neighbors violating the rules, gently remind them of the penalties. By the way, SHCA is considering sending letters to repeat offenders.

URGENT: For ALL residents living west of S. 6th Street, your trash pickup day is one day earlier—Wednesday instead of Thursday!

For bulk pickup of items such as appliances, televisions and the like, call 215-686-5582.



Put out your trash on the wrong day and in the wrong place, and you will wish you had left it in!

IRONIC NOTE & FAIR WARNING!

<p>Last month one of our <i>Reporter</i> team members was erroneously fined when she received in the mail a \$25 ticket from City Hall for putting out trash too early. Because she has never put out her trash prior to 8 p.m. on Thursday nights — nor does she ever fail to observe the one-day delay on legal holidays — her first response upon receipt of this mistaken fine was to fight City Hall — on principle! (She’s a</p>	<p>stickler for rules and always pays attention to them, because, after all, she’s the one who keeps reminding neighbors about this subject in the newsletter!) However, before running off to City Hall, she was reminded that she was wrongly fined previously — for parking on the street beyond the usual two-hour limit — even though she has a Society Hill (District 5) Parking Sticker prominently displayed on the car.</p>	<p>To correct this wrong, on principle, she ended up spending an entire morning at City Hall waiting her turn to complain to the “authorities.” By noon she was finally called upon, and as soon as she reported the City’s error, that fine was dismissed. But regarding this recent trash fine, she was unable to sacrifice another half day of work to fight City Hall on principle. She sent a check for \$25, but she’s still steaming!</p>
--	--	--

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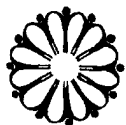
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Celebrating Camaraderie

SHCA's Fall Social: Best Yet!!

On October 4th, about 150 members of our civic association enjoyed one of the most successful community socials in our history — camaraderie and networking at its very best! Soothing cocktails and cocktail music engendered much gaiety and relaxed conversation. A sample from some overheard conversations:

"Well, I just finished my novel last month."

"Are there any cute single guys around?"

"What was the name of that hotel we stayed at in Paris?"

"My grandchildren were all in for the holidays."

We also heard from several partygoers that the \$10 cover charge was an excellent idea, contributing to the overall success of the evening. In fact, SHCA's Administrator, Matt DeJulio, remarked that the event had only about twenty "no-shows" (folks who forfeited their paid entrance fee) as opposed to the usual number of about 75 "no-shows" at our previous social events. Matt also noted that the number of those who attended without having made prior reservations was reduced to a handful — compared to as many as 50 people who at past socials would arrive minus reservations. We even signed up seven brand-new SHCA members that evening! Thanks to neighbor Lois Beck, SHCA's Social Coordinator, it seems that our civic association has finally hit upon a more effective formula for arranging events.

Many thanks to all our wonderful neighbors who joined in the fun. And many thanks especially to our host — the Sheraton Society Hill, which offered delicious and generous portions of, for example, penne with sun-dried tomato sauce; wild mushroom tortellini in red wine sauce; sesame coated chicken; roast tenderloin of beef in peppercorn sauce; and roasted turkey breast — as well as, of course, a variety of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres trays. A lot of bang for the buck! Plus, a delightful time was had by all!

Can't wait to know what Lois "cooks" up for our spring social! We hope to see you there.



From left to right, SHCA Board Directors Martha Levine, Sissie Lipton, Bernice Hamel, Matthew White and Rosanne Loesch



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SHCA's President Tania Rorke stands between Colleen Farrell, Board Treasurer, and Jim Moss

ZONING & HISTORIC PRESERVATION

CO-WRITTEN BY STEVEN WEIXLER, ZHP COMMITTEE CHAIR
AND PAUL BONI, PREVIOUS CHAIR

Marketing New Ideas for NewMarket

The Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) continues to advocate for much-needed but appropriate development at the NewMarket site — the vacant parcel of land between Front and Second, Pine and Lombard Streets. As you probably know, earlier this year the owner/developer proposed to construct a 230-foot high condo tower (nineteen stories) on Front Street. Pictured below is the proposal, as depicted by the developer's architect.



An architect's rendering of the nineteen-story, 230-foot high condo tower proposed by the site's developer.

After many private meetings with the developer, a public meeting with the neighborhood, and careful deliberation over the course of about eighteen months, both SHCA's Zoning & Historic Preservation Committee and the Board of our civic association voted unanimously to oppose that proposal. Society Hill, one of this country's premier historic neighborhoods, is purposefully zoned so that all new development is relatively small in scale. In fact, the zoning code restricts new residential development to a height of only 35 feet.

We believe the proposed concept is completely out of scale and character with our neighborhood. In a meeting with the most senior officials of the Philadelphia Planning Commission focusing specifically on NewMarket, we were told that the height limit is a fundamental aspect of land use regulation in Society Hill. The Commission explained that small-scale zoning is deliberate at this site and its surrounding area, emphasizing that ours is a historic neighborhood. Councilman DiCicco also advised us that he firmly believes the current zoning at NewMarket is appropriate.

This vacant NewMarket site is the largest undeveloped parcel of land in our neighborhood. Its potential for development will inevitably attract significant proposals. Our civic association believes that we should advocate for a development of very high quality and architectural distinction — as it is our obligation to protect this heritage and pass it along to future generations. In fact, our community's official "Historic District" designation requires it.

We recognize that for several years Society Hill has lived with blight on this particular site. First, an unsuccessful shopping mall became a derelict building. Later the structure was demolished. We were then left with a vacant lot so poorly secured by its owners that it has become a convenient target for graffiti and disruptive behavior. All of us living in Society Hill are concerned with its poor condition. We would like to see the site developed. We would like to see new development, and we want to see growth in our neighborhood's population. What we seek is a balance between these goals.

We have asked NewMarket's owner to present us with new viable alternatives, but he has failed to do so. Instead, unfortunately, he has embarked upon a strategy that has set neighbor against neighbor. As of December 2005, the developer signed a written agreement with a number of homeowners on the south side of the 100 block of Pine Street and the north side of the 100 block of Lombard Street (not all of the people on those blocks have signed), in which those homeowners provided their support for a tall condo tower. As part of this agreement, these homeowners would receive various amenities: some would have their backyards legally extended by receiving additional land annexed to their properties; parking privileges in the tower's underground garage would be given — with two or three parking spots each; these homeowners would be offered the opportunity to purchase condo units in the tower at pre-public prices; use of the open area in the center's courtyard would be provided as a "private" park garden.

Perhaps you are one of the many Society Hill or Queen Village residents who recently received a letter from three of these adjacent homeowners — who purported to speak for twenty-four other

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

unsigned and unnamed homeowners — explaining their support for the proposed tower. That letter did not accurately describe the project, nor did it disclose the terms of the deal made by its authors. Their letter also misrepresented the situation as one that involves a choice between two extremes: either a tall tower or a hole in the ground. That is a false choice. Immediately following receipt of that mailing, SHCA received a few letters and emails from folks stating that they agree with the neighbors who support a tower. While we respect their opinions, we clearly disagree with them — so about a week later we sent our own letter to all SHCA members stating our reasons for opposing the proposed development. Since then hundreds of Society Hill residents have signed our online petition — thereby, increasing our community's bargaining power to negotiate for a better design.

Given the developer's non-compliance with the site's height limit (at least six times more than allowed by law), we hope there is a good chance that the system — of which we are a part — will produce a dramatic reconfiguration of this project such that the next proposal will differ significantly from the current design. But since the current proposal is the only one on the table, we will take this opportunity to point out its other failings, as follows:

1| The proportions of the building, driven by the requirement to provide enough floor space for 130+ units, is squat and short. The rendering shows a building whose narrow sides are wide enough to become a major part of the composition. Worse, these sheer sidewalls lack sufficient windows — a result of some of the adjacent neighbors' insistence that no windows be allowed (even 200 feet above their heads).

2| The east and west faces of the building that do have windows lack any design features that relate to its surroundings. The long horizontal lines of the

balcony floors running end-to-end contradict the more vertical nature of the large and small buildings in the area. The continuous ribbons of windows, punctuated at asymmetrical intervals by bays, share no proportional relationship to the neighborhood.

3| The presence of such a high building on Front Street would produce a negative pedestrian experience. If Front Street is filled in, it could be filled in with small buildings that are comparable in size to the adjacent houses.

4| The interior courtyard garden or plaza has been advertised as a desirable amenity, but it would not be accessible to the neighborhood — because it would be invisible.

5| The proposal calls for plugging the gap on S. 2nd Street between the Dance Academy and the Dark Horse with a new building. This would have the unfortunate result of blocking the current design's main access into what would be the private inner courtyard.

In summary, while the design's height remains the defining dispute, there are other important areas of disagreement. Despite our attempts, we have yet to be able to break through the initial posturing of the developer. We believe that if we can arrive at a consensus on the general height and massing of the development, then we are hopeful we can resolve these other issues.

Trying to advance this process, we have decided that our civic association will attempt to perform a feasibility study to examine options — taking into account the unique opportunities of this property and the interests of the greater community. This study may take a couple of months, but we believe it will be to everyone's benefit — including the developer's — who has indicated a willingness to consider our feedback. For more information, or to keep you posted, please visit www.savenewmarketnow.org.

It's not a choice between a tall tower and a hole in the ground. That is a false choice. We would like to see the site developed in character with our historic neighborhood.


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UPDATE

Man Full of Trouble Tavern: Still “Troubled”



Where, oh where, has our Troubled sign gone?

For the past month or more, we have received several phone calls from historic tour guides who expressed concern about this colonial-era building, located at the corner of Spruce and S. 2nd Streets. In mid-October, SHCA’s Vice-president Bernice Hamel noticed that the building’s colorful and “iconic” pictorial sign that publicly announced this historic structure was missing. Was it removed intentionally by the building’s absent owner, the University of Pennsylvania? Or was it an act of vandalism?

A long-time member of SHCA’s Zoning & Historic Preservation Committee, Bernice has tried to maintain ongoing communication with Penn for several years. In fact, just two or three months ago she contacted Penn reporting damage made to the building’s wooden cellar door — probably by vandals who punched a hole in it — which could have led to access into the building’s interior. Penn speedily fixed the problem — but only temporarily — because a patch of unpainted wood now covers the damage. Since then there

has been no “cleaning up” or improvement made to the cellar door’s appearance. This hastily made patch makes a statement that the building is uncared for — but more importantly, it is a public statement that the building is unoccupied.

In addition to the poor physical condition of the building’s facade — such as fading and peeling paint, plus the messy cellar door repair — a more serious breach of trust has recently occurred. After more than a year of being assured that Penn would repair the pictorial sign, nothing was done. Then one day in October, Penn simply removed it — without notifying any concerned neighbors. Bernice feared a worst-case scenario, and promptly contacted Penn’s dean. We were then relieved to learn that he purposefully had the sign removed because portions of both sides were in very poor condition. According to the dean, a new and durable replacement of the sign is expected to be installed, hopefully, in about one month. Regarding the sloppy cellar door patch, we were thanked for calling it to the dean’s attention, and he tells us to expect to see a new door installed soon.



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UPDATE

The Dilworth House

On August 8, 2006, the Philadelphia Historical Commission heard a proposal by its owners, Turchi Properties, to demolish portions of the Dilworth House and to build a hi-rise on the site. Paul Boni, Esq., SHCA Board Director and former Chair of SHCA's ZHP Committee, appeared on behalf of our civic association. Together with John Gallery, Executive Director of the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia, they argued that the developer's proposal constituted "demolition in significant part" and should not

be allowed under Philadelphia's Preservation Ordinance. Nevertheless, the Commission voted to allow the proposal to go forward. Since that time, resident associations of several nearby community condominiums — Independence Place chief among them — have retained counsel and are appealing the Historical Commission's decision to the City's Department of Licenses and Inspections Board of Review. SHCA and the Preservation Alliance have joined in that appeal. We will keep you informed as the appeals process moves forward.



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Kids' Beat

A COLUMN BY KERI WHITE

As the holidays approach and schedules become increasingly hectic, it is essential for us busy moms to remember to take time for ourselves. Of course, this season coincides with the budgetary crunch of the holidays when an expensive, but much-needed, visit to a day spa or a shopping spree for new Manolos may not be fiscally responsible. Fear not, Society Hill moms! Opportunities abound for low cost, relaxing escapes just blocks from home. So perhaps "Moms' Cheap Retreat" is a more descriptive headline for this particular column.

If pampering is your choice indulgence, try **Jean Madeline Aveda Institute** (315A Bainbridge St; 215-574-0334). Cosmetology and Esthetique students perform a variety of services for a fraction of what you would pay at a typical salon or spa. Enjoy a scalp massage, shampoo and blow dry for \$12, or a one-hour aromatherapy wrap body massage for \$30. While the atmosphere is lacking fountains and candles, the staff is professional and courteous, the facility clean, and the Aveda products are fragrant and of high quality.

Are you a Foodie? Dinners out plus the cost of nighttime sitters can be prohibitive! Why not "do" lunch? Many local restaurants offer *prix fixe*

lunches at a fraction of the cost — same great food, not so expensive. Some of my favorites include: **Amada** (217 Chestnut Street; 215-625-2450) where you can enjoy a two-course lunch for only \$12.50; Then there's **El Vez** (13th & Sansom Streets; 215-928-9800) offering the two-course "pequeño dinero" lunch for \$12.99. Let's not forget the **Philadelphia Fish & Company** (207 Chestnut Street; 215-625-8605) where you can fill up on the three-course executive lunch featuring soup, salad, and an entrée for only \$12.

How about a movie and meal for a "reel" getaway? The **Ritz Theatres** offer \$6 bargain tickets for weekday matinees and also all-day Wednesday! Follow the show with dinner at **Pagoda Noodle Café** (125 Sansom Walkway; 215-928-2320) where you can score a hearty bowl of noodle soup for around \$6. Same price tag on **Philadelphia Fish & Company's** bar menu — with the purchase of a drink, you can enjoy any item from their \$6 selections, such as a burger, a fish entrée, hummus, or daily specials.

At this rate, you'll be able to buy those Manolos...

Seasons greetings to all of our Society Hill families; may all of your holiday wishes come true!

Kid's Quote

"Bliss? Is that a Stephen Starr?"

Sofia, age 6
Society Hill Kid

Three Bears Park Fall Festival Was a Sure Hit

The smiling faces of children and adults proved this year's Three Bears Fall Festival held on September 30th a resounding success. All seemed to enjoy the many wonderful activities: pony rides, a moon bounce, face painting, balloons, baked goods and food sale as well as a school fair. Many neighborhood businesses donated their time and goods to raise funds for the park, and a total of over \$8,000 was raised!

The Friends of Three Bears Park are thankful for the community-wide support of this event, and they send heartfelt thanks to many folks and businesses. Thanks to Dean Bielicki, the operating partner at Johnny Rockets, who for the past several years has donated all of the hamburgers, hotdogs and buns for the festival's food sale. Also special thanks go to Jerry Roseman and Alia Bonna, owners of the Philadelphia Java Company, who donated coffee; Nikki and John Luciano, who donated sausage, pepper and onion grinders; and DiBruno Brothers for donating hoagies. Other food and monetary contributions came from

Famous Fourth Street Deli and Whole Foods. Nor can we forget Philadelphia's Police and Fire Departments who showed up, allowing children to explore their vehicles. In addition, many businesses donated gift certificates and services for the festival's Silent Auction. We cannot thank all those generous businesses enough — so we ask that neighbors show appreciation by patronizing them whenever possible.

Our thanks also go to Alyssa Rickels, who coordinated the festival's food sale; Alex Haines, who coordinated children's games; Dana Hall, coordinator of the bake sale; Kelly Nelson, who put together the school/community resource fair; Jackie Promislo and John Steinhouse, who coordinated the sale of Gently Used Items; and Jackie Lewis and Claire Batten, who arrived to set up at 10 a.m. but left well after dark — after the park was cleaned and every penny counted! Finally, The Friends of Three Bears Park would like to thank all who attended, volunteered and supported the Fall 2006 Festival.



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New Contributors Add to SHCA's Welcome Basket Program

SHCA is gearing up for another season of Welcome Basket presentations to new Society Hill home and condo owners.

If you are a relatively new Society Hill home or condo owner (or you have a friend who is) and we have not contacted you yet, please let us know you are here. Contact Martha Levine at marthalev@msn.com or 215-629-0727. SHCA is eager to welcome you in our most generous way.

We now salute the following businesses and organizations that recently joined our program and will be contributing goodies for these Welcome Baskets: Mum Puppet Theatre, at 115 Arch Street — an intimate Old City theater whose presentations include puppetry, mime, mask, music and acting; Positano Coast, at 2nd & Walnut Streets — a neighborhood restaurant and wine bar; Lantern Theater, at 10th & Ludlow Streets — a dynamic theatrical venue in an intimate setting; and Marmelstein's, at 760 South 4th Street — the well-known fabric and trim store on Fabric Row.

SUPPORT OUR WELCOME BASKET CONTRIBUTORS

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Caramel (coffee/expresso), 725 Walnut St.
Olde City Coffee, 221 Church St.
Olde City Coffee, Reading Terminal Market
Philadelphia Java Company, 518 S. 4th St.
Starbuck's Coffee Inc., 347 South St.
Starbuck's Coffee Inc., 8th & Walnut Sts.

Food Stores

Chef's Market, 231 South St.
Fork, etc. (prepared foods), 306 Market St.
ShopRite, 29 Snyder Ave.
SuperFresh Food Markets, 5th & Pine Sts.
Whole Foods Market, 929 South St.

Specialty Foods

Homemade Goodies by Roz, 510 S. 5th St.
Pink Rose Pastry Shop, 630 S. 4th St.
Rita's Water Ice, 239 South St.
Zeke's Deli, 318 S. 5th St.

Museums/Theaters/Entertainment

Annenberg Center for Performing Arts, 36th & Walnut
Arden Theatre Co., 40 N. 2nd St.
Atwater Kent Museum, 15 S. 7th St.
Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, 215-545-1739
Ghost Tours of Philadelphia, 215-413-1997
Independence Seaport Museum, 211 S. Columbus Blvd.
Lantern Theater Company, 10th & Ludlow Sts. *
Lights of Liberty Show, 6th & Chestnut Sts
Mum Puppet Theatre, 115 Arch St. *
National Liberty Museum, 321 Chestnut St.
New Jersey State Aquarium, Camden, N.J.
Pennsylvania Ballet, 1101 S. Broad St.
Phila. Chamber Ensemble, Old Pine, 400 Pine St.
Phila. Chamber Music Society, 215-569-8080
Phila. Shakespeare Festival, 2111 Sansom St.
Phila. Theatre Company, 1714 Delancey St.
Philomel Concerts, 215-487-2344
The Prince Music Theater, Broad & Chestnut Sts.
Ritz Theatre, 2nd & Walnut Sts.
Society Hill Dance Academy, 409 S. 2nd St.
Society Hill Playhouse, 507 S. 8th St.
TLA Video, 517 S. 4th St.
Wilma Theatre, 265 S. Broad St.

Other Services

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Wayne Edwards, 1525 Locust St.
Riff Cleaners, 314 S. 5th St.
James Scott AID, Interior Design, 215-922-2737
Pearls by Leah, 215-627-4049
Robert Anthony Interiors, 136 N. 2nd St.
Society Hill Veterinary Hospital, 2nd & Lombard Sts.

Restaurants

Ava Restaurant, 518 S. 3rd Sts.
Bridget Foy's Grill, 200 South St.
City Tavern, 138 S. 2nd St.
Crêperie Beau Monde, 624 S. 6th St.
Deux Cheminees, 1221 Locust St.
Farmicia Restaurant, 15 S. 3rd St.
La Buca Ristorante, 711 Locust St.
Mustard Greens, 622 S. 2nd St.
Overtures Restaurant, 609 E. Passyunk Ave.
Panorama Ristorante, 14 N. Front St.
Pizzicato Restaurant, 248 Market St.
Positano Coast Restaurant, 2nd & Walnut Sts. *
Sfizzio Restaurant, Society Hill Towers

Salons

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

Specialty Shops

American Pie Crafts, 718 South St.
Linu Boutique, 1034 Pine St.
Marmelstein's, 760 South 4th St. *
Matthew Izzo, 928 Pine St.
Paper on Pine, 1008 Pine St.
Show of Hands Gallery, 1006 Pine St.
Wireless Zone, 322 South St.

Sports Clubs/Fitness Training

M. Jason Bailey, Fitness Professional, 215-901-5816
Philadelphia Sports Club, 220-250 S. 5th St.
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If you have an interest and want to get involved, please contact me or stop by our 5th Ward constituent services office at Suite 1000, 437 Chestnut Street. Thank you graciously for your interest in our great city and community. Please contact the 5th Ward GOP!

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OBITUARY

Norman Tissian, Former SHCA President

In late September Society Hill residents were saddened to learn of the passing of Norman Tissian, President of our association from 1999-2000. A long-term "Hiller," Norm had lived on the 200 block of Spruce Street in a historic townhouse, built in 1793. A few years ago he moved to an apartment at The Torraine, near Broad Street. Norm was the proverbial "man-about-town/bon vivant" who recently retired from his successful career in advertising and public relations. A good friend to many here in our community and throughout Center City, his presence is greatly missed by his sudden and unexpected death at age 76.

Born and raised in the Strawberry Mansion section of the city, this son of Ukrainian Jewish immigrants moved along in his career to become president of Spiro & Associates, one of Philadelphia's largest advertising firms. He retired in 2003.

Norm was always a major booster of Philadelphia. In addition to his tenure as SHCA President, he served on the Boards of the Philadelphia Historical Commission, the Greater Philadelphia Tourism and Marketing Corporation, the Wilma Theater, the Prince Theater, the Walnut Street Theater, the Philadelphia Art Alliance, the South Street HeadHouse District, and most recently, the Center City Residents' Association. He was the sole Board supporter of SHCA present during the Historical Commission's latest ruling with regards to the Dilworth House.

Norman is survived by two sons, AJ and Gabe, as well as a brother and a sister. A celebration of his life was held on October 23rd at the Philadelphia Art Alliance. Donations may be made to the Norman Tissian Scholarship Fund, c/o Star Foundation, 235 S. 17th Street, Philadelphia, 19103.



Norman Tissian



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BOOK REVIEW

Society Hill and French Philadelphia

SUBMITTED BY LYNN H. MILLER

*This fascinating article is an excerpt from the chapter "Society Hill," in the book **French Philadelphia: The French Cultural and Historical Presence in the Delaware Valley**. The book was written by Lynn H. Miller, Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Temple University and a long-time Society Hill resident. He based this edition of the book on one published by the late Annette E. Emgarth more than twenty years ago. A French translation by another Society Hill resident, Nelly Childress, is forthcoming.*

We believe that many readers will be delighted to discover a few bits about Society Hill's history that may otherwise be unknown.

Not every Philadelphian knows that Society Hill takes its name from the fact that it is a portion of the 1681 settlement of the Free Society of Traders. What Philadelphians do know is that today this quarter constitutes one of the most harmonious and beautiful residential neighborhoods in America. Society Hill contains some of the most desirable — and expensive — housing in the Philadelphia area. Every leafy street and alleyway can be toured on foot (there is no real hill to master in Society Hill). This district is said to hold more eighteenth-century houses in the Georgian style than any city outside London....

The **Physick House**, dating from 1786, is the only remaining example of a large free-standing Federal era residence in Philadelphia. In 1790, it became the home of Dr. Philip Syng Physick, who was the leading American surgeon of his day.

The Physick House contains some of the finest Empire furniture in the city, much of it replete with Napoleonic motifs. In the drawing room is a painting presented to Dr. Physick by Joseph Bonaparte (a Society Hill resident in 1815-16); a fine Aubusson rug is in the study; and upstairs, in the headquarters of the Society of the Cincinnati, are candlesticks that Lafayette presented to Washington. The Society of the Order of the Cincinnati was created after the War of Independence by the officers of Washington's army, which included the French army and naval officers. Membership has been handed down to the present day from the eldest son of these officers to the eldest sons of succeeding generations....

Around the corner from the Physick House, at 322 Spruce Street, once stood the house where

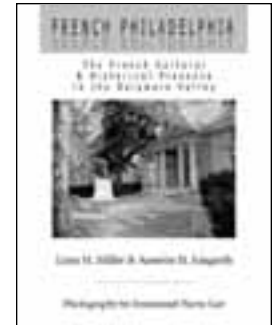
Louis-Philippe, the future "citizen-king" of France, lived in 1796, the first year of his exile in Philadelphia. The twenty-three-year-old duc d'Orléans, as he then was known, stayed as the guest of the Reverend William Marshall and his family. Nearly thirty-five years later, Lafayette would proclaim Louis-Philippe "king of the French, by the grace of God and the will of the people."

At 427 Spruce is the **Williams-Mathurin House**. Built in 1791, it is the only eighteenth-century diplomatic legation known to be still standing in the city. Its first occupant was Comte René Charles Mathurin de la Forest, Consul General of France. A later resident was Don José de Jaudenes, a commissioner of King Charles IV of Spain. The restored house is now a private residence. Its next-door neighbor is a handsome house that in 1796 was the residence of James Madison and his wife, Dolley. Madison would serve as President of the United States from 1809-17. Before they were married in 1794, Dolley had been the young widow of John Todd, who died in the yellow fever epidemic of 1793. The Todd house, on Walnut at Fourth Street, is open to the public.


A few steps north of Spruce Street on Fourth stands **Old St. Mary's Church** (1763) which, in 1808, became Philadelphia's Roman Catholic cathedral. The severe brick façade is crisply trimmed in white. Inside is a dramatic sculpture of the Pietà by Alfred Boucher, a nineteenth-century French artist and contemporary of Rodin.

In the graveyard are many French names; they include soldiers in the Revolution as well as Acadians who came here after they were expelled from their homeland in the 1750s. Among the French buried here are Michel Bouvier (the ancestor of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy) and members of his family, along with other early French settlers whose descendants have contributed to the development of the nation.

Old St. Joseph's Church lies tucked away in a courtyard off Willings Alley near Fourth Street. Founded in 1733, it is the oldest Catholic Church in Philadelphia. At its founding, St. Joseph's was also the only place in the English-speaking world where public celebration of the Mass was permitted by law. Here the Marquis de Lafayette, Comte de Grasse, Comte de Rochambeau, many French officers, and — on occasion — General Washington attended Mass.



This book, published by BeachLloyd Publishers (2006), is available at www.afphila.com, or by phoning 215-735-5283, or 1-866-218-3253. It features 134 pages, 59 color photographs, illustrations and maps. Cost per copy is \$18.95. Or call our neighborhood shop, Head House Books at 619 S. 2nd Street; 215- 923-9525.



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Volunteers Needed!

Pennsylvania Hospital has lots of volunteer opportunities for both adults and juniors (14-17 years old). Here are just a few possibilities — help patients select reading material from the mobile book-cart; assist in feeding patients during lunch; work in the gift shop or pharmacy; greet families in the intensive care nursery. Call the hospital at 215-829-5187 to request a volunteer application form.

Plastics Recycling Initiative

As previously reported, Dr. Daniel Becker is working to establish a community Partnership Recycling Program to benefit both the environment and our immediate community by collecting plastics and other household items for recycling. This ambitious project, still in its infancy, needs a basic core of volunteers to help begin coordination of this “green” program — to make Society Hill “green” in more ways than one — e.g. providing \$\$ for other needed neighborhood programs. Contact Dan at beckermailbox@aol.com or call SHCA’s Administrator Matt DeJulio at 215-629-1288.

The Society Hill Reporter, of course, is always seeking experienced writers, editors and proof-readers to assist in publishing our community’s bi-monthly newsletter. This newsletter is written, edited and proofed completely by volunteers and the final product is delivered reliably every other month, free of charge, to all residents whether or not they are current SHCA members. The amount of time and level of any volunteer’s commitment can be varied — usually based on one’s availability. Questions? Please contact Bernice Hamel at 215-925-4363 or bernicehamel@comcast.net.

Old Pine Community Center is looking for volunteers to help establish its Adult Literacy Program. The Center needs tutors in Basic Education, individuals who are bilingual in Spanish or Vietnamese, and anyone who can provide child care while parents are learning. For more detailed information, contact: Bethany Shaw, Center Administrator; 215-627-2493 or Bethany@oldpine.org

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SENIOR SCENE

BY JEAN BRYAN & CAROLE LE FAIVRE-ROCHESTER

Local "Staying Put" Program Moves Forward

Articles in the last two *Reporters* mentioned Beacon Hill Village, an "Aging in Place" program initiated in a wealthy enclave near Boston. The July/August 2006 issue explained that our own Society Hill Civic Association had funded \$5,000 in seed money "to study the feasibility of adapting the Beacon Hill plan to suit our needs." The September/October 2006 issue asked for volunteers to work on various committees now being formed in such areas as finance, medicine and social programs.

Beacon Hill Village took several years to become functional and we hope to shorten that time frame considerably. Neighbors have been meeting regularly since last spring and local hospital representatives have joined us this fall. We are studying programs already working in the Philadelphia area, particularly a well-run effort in Rhawnhurst and another in East Falls. We are deciding how far to broaden our base to include surrounding neighborhoods.

Beacon Hill offers its members assisted living at home, nursing care, and professionally led exercise and wellness groups. Maintenance and daily-living needs, such as grocery shopping, home repair and odd jobs, rides to places such as the doctor or the airport are also provided. Beacon Hill's concierge service is well organized and readily accessible. Its website is: www.beaconhillvillage.org.

We believe that our local efforts must start by investigating services available through city, state, and private organizations, including religious institutions. We have many valuable services already in place, courtesy of the Philadelphia Corporation for the Aging (PCA), for example.

We now have had the assistance of professionals from Pennsylvania and Jefferson hospitals. In the near future you will receive a survey to ascertain what you might expect of an aging-in-place program that will make it possible for you to "stay put." You may simply want to know that the quality of life you have now can be essentially maintained. You may need more specialized assistance and we hope to direct you to those who can help. We will soon have an office and a phone number to answer your questions. Bob Rossheim is maintaining a database with email communication among staff and a growing list of neighbors interested in the concept of "aging at home"—including those who have already indicated an interest

in volunteering. **BUT YOU ARE NEEDED!** We will be expanding, as we visit local institutions and centers to hear what you think and learn what you need to continue to live comfortably in our waterfront neighborhoods. Please consider giving us some of your time and expertise. Let Bob know by emailing him at SH1682@gmail.com.

You can imagine that such in-depth study requires organized committees focused on fact-finding and committed to careful planning to develop a program that is viable for Society Hill and surrounding neighborhoods. When our office is set up, we will need volunteers to handle the phone. Meanwhile, we warmly thank those who have invested time in getting the program started, particularly Jo Ann Buller and Bob Rossheim.

This project is still in its infancy. But isn't it exciting to imagine the possibility of aging at home with support if or when needed — to make our "golden years" truly golden! Stay tuned for progress reports as we steadily work to make this "Staying Put" project a reality.

Did you know that buying a lottery ticket assists the elderly statewide?



WALKIE-TALKIES

We're Still Struttin' Our Stuff!

With so many serious community challenges to report these days, we remind you that the Walkie-Talkies are "still in business" having fun and struttin' their stuff — every Tuesday and Thursday mornings. And please know that you don't have to be over 50 to become a member of this enthusiastic group of walkers. Nor do you have to show up every Tuesday and Thursday. Just join us whenever you can if you want healthy but not excessively demanding exercise with an always different mix of great gals. As long as it's not raining, show up at Three Bears Park any Tuesday or

Thursday morning at 8:10 a.m.— because we begin walking promptly at 8:15. Our forays usually last about an hour as we always discover interesting blocks within walking distance (sometimes as "far away" as Rittenhouse Square), and always we have interesting topics to talk about. The Walkie-Talkies proudly completed its one-year anniversary in October, and one of these days, we're gonna celebrate! Questions? Contact Pamela Sinkler Todd at 215-925-0646; pamelastodd@comcast.net or Bernice Hamel at 215-925-4363 or bernicehamel@comcast.net.

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

SHCA Membership Goal Achieved

As of early October, SHCA surpassed its goal of reaching 1,050 members for the calendar year 2006. After signing up seven new members at our wonderfully successful community social — held at the Sheraton Society Hill on October 6th — our membership rolls stand at an all-time high of 1,060. This is a 3.5% increase above our total of 1,031 for the calendar year 2005, whereby SHCA's income generated from annual membership dues climbed 34.3% — from \$55,710 in 2005 to \$74,828. Especially noteworthy is that we welcomed 131 new members, another all-time high.

Our only disappointment is that 99 members from 2005 have failed to renew. We have yet to hear back from these folks or business organizations their reasons for non-renewal. Nevertheless, we continue to move ahead, and by the time you receive this issue of the *Reporter*, membership renewal forms for 2007 will have been mailed. If you have not yet done so, please fill out the form and return it with your check or credit card information so that there will be no interruption in the services provided by your civic association. Your prompt response cuts down on our need for a costly second mailing. Alternatively, you can use the handy membership application form on this page.

Please return your membership dues for 2007 today and help us continue our important work.

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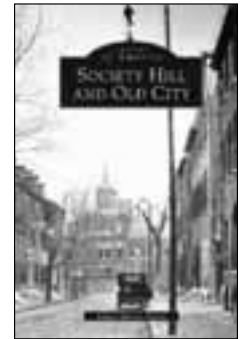
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification of Washington Square | <input type="checkbox"/> McCall School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sidewalk Cleaning/Graffiti Removal | <input type="checkbox"/> Street Trees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Town Watch/Safe and Sound | <input type="checkbox"/> Franklin Lighting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning/Historic Preservation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Society Hill Reporter</i> | \$ _____ |

Check Enclosed Total \$ _____

Charge VISA/Mastercard

Number _____ Exp Date _____

Signature _____

I would like to volunteer for the following committee(s):

- Clean-Up Day Washington Square Town Watch
- Zoning & Historic Preservation Newsletter Other: _____

Return completed application to:

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



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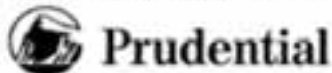
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- 102 Delancey** \$1,725,000
 Gorgeous extra-wide 3 BD, den, and 3.5 BA with parking, exercise room, gas fireplace, a wonderful dock and fabulous rear yard. **Virtual Tour # 4718857**
- 617 Pine** \$1,495,000
 Lovingly restored 4 BD, 2 BA home with 2 car parking, a dream kitchen and deck as well as a finished basement, two fireplaces, and central air. **Virtual Tour # 4817537**
- 220 Locust Street #16EEG** \$1,299,900
 Sumptuous corner condo unit in exclusive Society Hill Towers, completely renovated with 3 BD, 3 BA, 2100 SF of living space, custom kitchen, hardwood, and floor to ceiling windows with magnificent views! **Virtual Tour #4624981**
- 1016 Spruce #3** \$895,000
 Grand 4-5 BD, 3 BA tri-level in a courtyard setting. 2 units masterfully combined with hardwood, wood burning fireplaces, a huge kitchen, gorgeous master bedroom suite, and a common pool and rooftop. **Virtual Tour # 4650350**
- 247 S 7th** \$815,000
 Beautiful 3-4 BD multi-level home with 2 car parking, wood floors, high ceilings and moldings, central air and a gorgeous garden terrace. **Virtual Tour #4762054**
- 256 S. 3rd Street** \$719,900
 Wonderful large duplex with 2 BD owner's unit with modern kitchen and bath, separate dining room, and cedar deck plus 1 BD, 1 BA unit and 2 car parking!! **Virtual Tour#4558799**
- 330 Lombard Street** \$639,900
 Wonderful 4 BD, 1.5 BA with hardwood and pine floors, 2 fireplaces, high ceilings, and lovely balcony overlooking pretty landscaped yard! **Virtual Tour#4607767**
- 409 Gaskill** \$519,900
 Lovely 4 BD, 2.2 BA home with original details, random width plank floors, crown moldings, renovated kitchen, stainless appliances and a lovely landscaped garden. **Virtual Tour#4749744**
- 1215 Spruce**
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Virtual Tour # 4811746, 4811740, 4811743

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126 Delancey St 615 Pine St
 440 Fitzwater St 339 S 2nd St
 418B Fitzwater St 104 Lombard

Call Izzy Sigman



226 South Street
215-922-4200 x 228

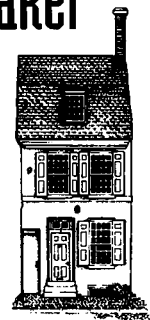


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Landmark Tours Offered

Landmark Tours, formerly known as "Walk Philadelphia," offers over twenty-five guided tours in Center City and nearby neighborhoods. Volunteer guides interpret the past, present and future of the Philadelphia region — as expressed through architecture, urban design and social history. All tours take place on the weekends and last about two hours, but it's possible to arrange private group tours and other customized trips.

Sponsoring these tours is the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks (aka: Landmarks) which is a new venture for this non-profit membership organization originally founded in 1931 to preserve the Powel House, here in Society Hill at 244 S. 3rd Street — once the home of Samuel Powel, Philadelphia's Mayor both before and after the American Revolution.

Over the years Landmarks expanded its role and has dedicated itself to preserving and operating four historic house museums — of which two are Society Hill treasures: Powel House and Physick House. In addition, Landmarks owns Grumblethorpe, located on Germantown Avenue, as well as oversees the maintenance of Historic Waynesborough, a large property on the Main Line.

Most "Hilliers" are quite familiar with the Physick House and Powel House, our two beloved neighborhood house museums, but if you want to learn more about them, or to learn more about Landmark Tours, please visit their website at: www.philalandmarks.org. or send an email to: tours@philalandmarks.org. You'll also learn how you can help support Landmarks by becoming a member of the Society.



Society Hill's Physick House, at 321 S. 4th Street, is one of more than 25 Landmark Tours.

To view the Multiple Listing Service visit: www.CenterCityRealEstate.com Portal

Real Estate Q & A with Antonio

Q: Has the bubble burst?

A: No, but the market has changed from a seller's market to a buyer's market. Largely due to a massive increase in inventory coupled with a lack of consumer confidence and interest rates hikes.

Q: Why have I seen the same homes for sale for months all over the neighborhood? Will I be able to sell my home if I list it?

A: In a buyer's market different strategies are needed from pricing to marketing. It is no longer enough to just put the listing on the MLS for it to sell. Buyers need to be targeted (especially in the higher end of the market), pricing needs to be realistic and negotiations need to be creative. There are currently 114 homes for sale in Society Hill.

Q: Are you uniquely qualified to sell my house?

A: Absolutely. On the business end, I am an award winning Realtor and an extremely accomplished entrepreneur who studied marketing at Wharton. On the personal side, I live in Society Hill, my brokerage is in Society Hill, my daughter attends Society Hill Synagogue pre-school, my son goes to the Hall-Mercer play group. My wife is active in the community and if there is anyone who can sing the praises of and knows all about the best neighborhood in Center City it is me, Society Hill's top selling resident residential Realtor.

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Historic Federal Home.

4 bedrooms, 2 full baths

Original pine floors, 3 fireplaces, deck & more...

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NOTEWORTHY NEIGHBORS

A COLUMN BY DAVID WOODS

Michael Berkman

A precocious, numismatic, charismatic overnight success

My dictionary defines precocious as “exceptionally smart, ahead of age in understanding.”

This word surely applies to Michael Berkman, who at the tender age of eighteen, bought a condominium apartment here in Society Hill, where he still lives. Today, at just-turned twenty-two, he owns ninety rental properties and a collection of rare American gold coins.

Interviewed in his tasteful 12th floor offices at Broad and Sansom Streets, Michael talks enthusiastically about how he started collecting coins at the age of fourteen, won two \$5,000 prizes for essays on coin collecting, sold his first five-figure item when fifteen, and how that collection helped finance his entry into the world of real estate. He then went on an intense numismatic odyssey — reading trade journals, going to auctions and conventions and learning from dealers at trade shows. “I was a coin geek,” he says.

Michael now employs two real-estate sales staffers in his office, plus a manager for the properties. He also employs twelve construction workers who restore mainly single-family properties, most of which are in West Philadelphia — an area he describes as “a real community” requiring some degree of renovation. And, speaking of degrees, Michael, like such high-flying entrepreneurs as Bill Gates and Richard Branson, doesn’t have one. He came straight from high school in the Washington D.C. suburbs to Philadelphia, and after a brief stint at Drexel University his career as a fledgling tycoon took off.

What does Michael do for fun? “Business is my primary hobby,” he reports. But actually, his interests in architecture, history, finance, old watches and travel do connect with his enthusiasm for buildings and coins. Last year, he logged 140,000 miles mainly traveling to coin conventions, and on a recent trip to France he, no doubt, had his eye on a few *anciens francs*. And his interest in watches, he explains, is because they are often sold alongside coins. Multiple editions of numismatic journals line his office, and his other choices of periodicals are equally fiscal-centric, such as *Forbes* and *Business Week*.



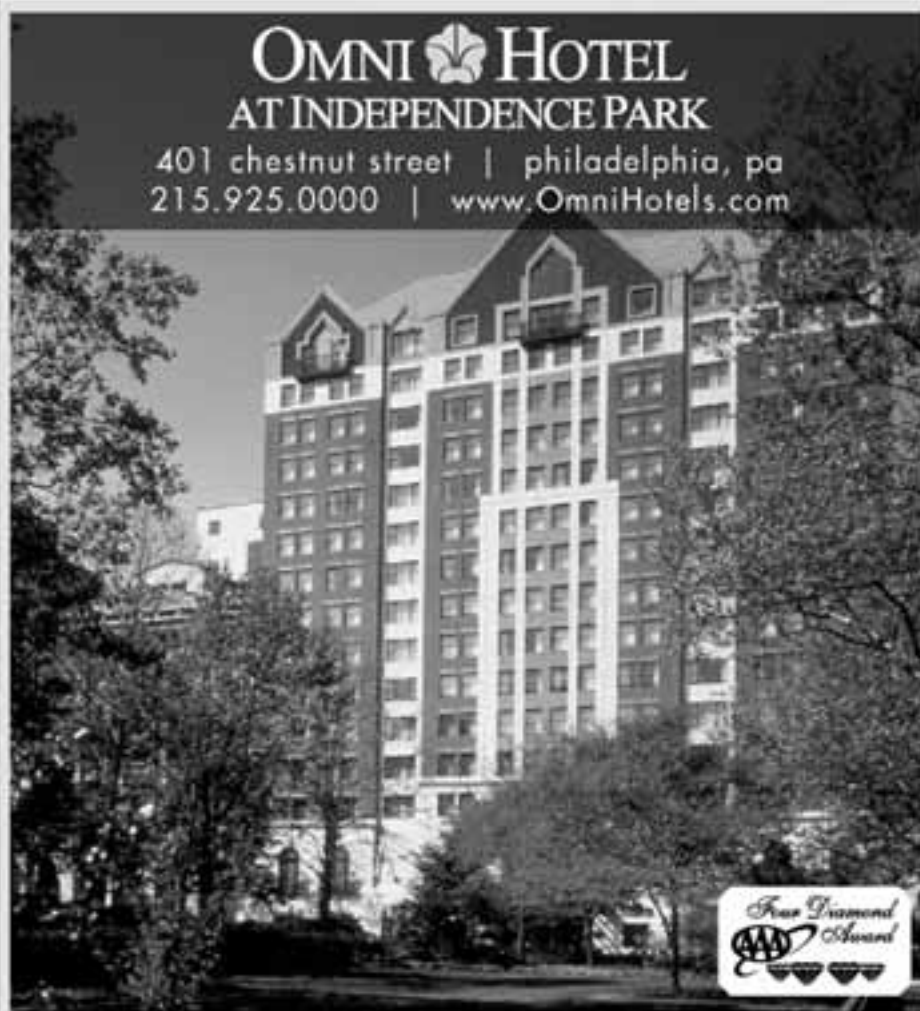
As for history, Michael notes that Society Hill is one of the few places where people live in historically significant houses. “Whenever I travel,” he says, “I avoid tourist traps and focus instead on exploring neighborhoods ... and seeing how people live.” He says he has yet to encounter anything like Society Hill with its unique blend of buildings that appear exactly as they did 200 years ago ... often adjacent to more recent structures that complement them. He describes Philadelphia as a city of character and flair.

Does Michael have a formula for his overnight success? There are two, he suggests: buying at a discount; and, as he learned from the coin business, there’s more profit in buying than in selling. Asked how one might get started in coin collecting, he advises focusing on a particular composition or design, and viewing it as an aesthetic pursuit rather than a guaranteed investment.

While for the moment Michael would like to acquire additional properties, he also plans to provide consulting services to other investors. What he doesn’t realize is that the passion he exudes for his chosen career has, no doubt, fueled his remarkable achievements. To say nothing of the alchemy of turning gold into real estate.

Talk about money breeding money! And, oh yes, Michael is single.

David Woods can be reached at hmi3000@comcast.net



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

November

Wednesday, November 15

SHCA Board Meeting
6 p.m. — Downstairs
General Membership Meeting
7 p.m. "Meet & Greet"
7:30 p.m. — Upstairs sanctuary
Society Hill Synagogue
418 Spruce Street

Friday & Saturday, November 17-18
"Children at Risk" two-day Program

Friday, 9 p.m.; Saturday, 1 p.m.
Society Hill Synagogue
418 Spruce Street
See page 8

Saturday, November 18

Society Hill Clean-Up Day

8 a.m. — 1 p.m.
See page 4

Sunday, November 26

Craft & Holiday Fair

Hand-crafted Jewelry Designs
Featured in galleries—now
direct to us: includes
Elayne Cohen's "Jewels of Hope"
The Hopkinson House Solarium
604 S. Washington Square
Noon — 5 p.m.

December

Sunday, December 3

"Creative Expressions"
Arts & Crafts Show
Hopkinson House Solarium
604 S. Washington Square
11 a.m. — 4 p.m.

Thursday-Sunday,
December 7-10

St. Peter's School Holiday Sale
319 Lombard Street
Call for time and details:
215-925-3963

Saturday, December 9

Santa Breakfast
St. Peter's School
Open to all

Wednesday, December 20

SHCA Board Meeting
Location to be announced

Holiday reminder for trash pickup:

Since Thanksgiving falls on Thursday,
November 23 and Christmas follows the
next month, we remind all residents to
put out their trash one day later in both
cases: Friday nights after 8 p.m. for
early Saturday morning pickup.



*Happy
Holidays*



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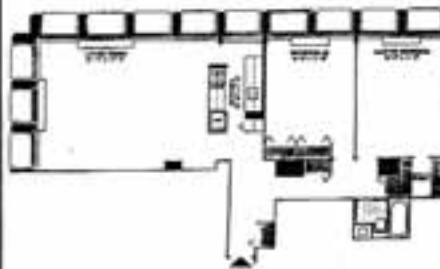
604-36 S. Washington Square



One bedroom, balcony, 1003 sq. ft.
\$339,900

Society Hill Towers

200 Locust Street



Two bedroom, one bath
in excellent condition
\$475,000

One Independence Place

241 South 6th Street



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