

SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

www.societyhillcivic.com

FOXWOODS

We've Been Sold Down The River!

Picture William Penn's "holy experiment," which he envisioned as "a greene country towne." Picture Benjamin Franklin at age 17 walking down Market Street, savoring the ambience of the relatively new City of Philadelphia. Picture Edmund Bacon who designed Society Hill's "greenways" so that people would have access to the community's significant historical buildings. Picture a tour group experiencing our revitalized community, which contains the largest inventory of 18th- and 19th-century buildings in America.

Picture your neighbor running a typical errand on a typical day while proudly recalling pioneer friends, many of whom worked long and hard and who spent their savings collectively transforming a run-down area into a national treasure. Now picture yourself in 2008 trying to navigate the streets clogged with automobiles and sidewalks filled with unlucky gamblers looking for hand-outs. Will this "unholy experiment" — the 16-acre Foxwoods Casino, recently licensed to be built so close to where we live and work — turn back the clock to a time in the 1950s when many of our

historical buildings functioned as factories and rooming houses, or even worse? Will the riverfront's last bit of green spaces be filled with commercial and unattractive buildings lit with neon lights 24/7? This is what many of us fear.

Society Hill residents, as well as other residents from nearby riverfront neighborhoods, such as Queen Village and Pennsport are, frankly, filled with shock and rage. How could we have been sold down the river for such a short-term gain? The state's justification is revenues. But at what cost? The cost of destroying Philadelphia's vibrant residential neighborhoods? If revenues are, in fact, raised for the benefit of the state through this gamble (an "unholy experiment") it could mean the end of our communities as we know and love them. Indeed, many of us will be simply stuck — not only because our roads will be clogged with casino buses and tourist traffic. More significantly, will anyone want to purchase homes or apartments in these congested neighborhoods? We have fought against this and will continue the fight, because the state has violated its own constitution by acting on behalf of our city. And we will demand full disclosure of any political shenanigans that played a part in this decision.

City Councilman Frank DiCicco joins us in this fight. He has very publicly stated his strong opposition to the Foxwoods site and is appealing the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board's (PGCB's) decision to issue a license to Foxwoods. He said, "There were a lot of concerns raised over this proposal. Concerns not just from community activists, but from engineers, city officials and politicians." He also finds it difficult to believe that the Board ignored those concerns, and he hopes to know the reasons why. The Councilman was less critical of SugarHouse, but expressed reservations about the site's proximity to near neighbors. We Society Hillers will work with him and nearby neighborhoods to fight Foxwoods.

Although we may never learn the reasons for these two particular choices, some of us believe the rationale is relatively obvious: These two

continued on page 7



WED.

January

17

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Society Hill Civic Association Meetings
Wednesday, January 17, 2007

**Old Pine Street Church,
412 Pine Street, Upstairs Sanctuary**

- 6:00 p.m. Board of Directors 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: Janice Woodcock the newly appointed Executive Director of the Philadelphia Planning Commission will speak about her role to help make Philly the next great city in the face of current challenges — including neighborhood concerns about riverfront gambling in our front yard. See the back page for more about Janice.



SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

January/February 2007
Society Hill Reporter

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Submission Deadlines
 March/April issue
 Advertising: February 1
 Editorial: February 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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P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

TANIA RORKE, SHCA PRESIDENT

Where has 2006 gone? I hope you have had enjoyable holidays, and that by now you've "recovered" from the very busy but festive - season. What is most likely, however, is that you haven't recovered from the shock of the announcement, made on December 20th, that the proposed Foxwoods Casino site so close to Society Hill (at Columbus Boulevard and Reed Street) has been chosen by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board as one of the casinos to be built in Philadelphia. Furthermore, the Gaming Board's second selection, SugarHouse Casino, will result in our community being sandwiched between two riverfront casinos, as this casino is located on north Columbus Boulevard at Girard Avenue.

Of course, I was concerned that Foxwoods — one of five bidders for the two selected casinos — was even a consideration. But frankly, I didn't think the Gaming Board would be so ill-advised and reckless to choose Foxwoods, because it is only 1 1/2 miles from Independence Hall, the site of our nation's birth. It is also only about one mile from our historic community, as well as several other successful and revitalized city neighborhoods filled with young families. Society Hill was reborn as one of the nation's most beautiful neighborhoods through the efforts of countless urban pioneers, many of whom are still with us today. I wonder what they must be thinking right now.

But on a more positive note, I'm pleased to report that this past year was filled with countless Society Hill Civic Association projects. Thanks to our many devoted and creative volunteers, we have accomplished a great deal. Here's a brief summary of our recent accomplishments, as well as future goals:

Last May many neighbors who generously contributed to our Franklin Lights campaign gathered at the DownTown Club to celebrate its success. Thanks to them and others, our street lighting has greatly improved. Prior to May 2006, our organization was shy of reaching its financial goal to improve all of Society Hill's "unique" street lights. The good news is that State Senator Vincent Fumo pledged the remaining funds needed to complete the entire project. Hopefully, by the time you read this issue of the *Reporter*, and if all work has proceeded according to schedule, the project will be completed and our streets will be brighter and safer. (Please see page 13 to learn what neighbors think about our new, improved Franklin Lamps.) We thank SHCA Vice President Martha Levine, who chaired this ten-year effort. Recently, she

was ably assisted by committee members Carol Colabelli and Rosanne Loesch, both of whom are SHCA Board Directors.

This past year we've also enjoyed the success of our Three Bears Park renovation. In August, the barricades that closed part of the park were removed and the playground was once again open — with new swing sets, benches and picnic tables, along with leveled bricks and improved play surfaces for the neighborhood's little ones. Phase I is now complete. This renovation would not have been possible without support and funding from City Councilman Frank DiCicco, Senator Vincent Fumo and State Representative Marie Lederer. These days more children are visiting the park than ever before. This coming spring, we hope to begin Phase II of the renovation, which will improve the east side of the park. Brick and slate repair is needed, as is additional lighting and improvements to the circular planter. Councilman DiCicco has already earmarked \$50,000 for this project, and the Friends of Three Bears are working to raise the remaining funds.

For the past two years, our organization has worked closely with Independence National Historic Park for beautification efforts at Washington Square. SHCA has funded numerous plantings throughout the park, and many believe that Washington Square has never looked better. Recently our civic association has received permission from the Park Service to replace the current spout in the fountain. A spring planting session is also in the works. Many thanks to Superintendent Dennis Reidenbach and Beverly Morris, park liaison, as well SHCA Board Director Sissie Lipton, for their efforts to make this partnership so beneficial to our community. Also, thanks to all individuals who donated time and money to make Washington Square such a valuable community resource.

Our Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee (ZHP) has been kept quite busy this past year. ZHP members have worked successfully with developers to ensure appropriate development for such sites as Liberty Court, the new development of town homes immediately south of Society Hill's boundaries on Lombard Street; the Art-Deco Ayers Building on Washington Square, now being converted to condominiums; and the hi-rise development at 500 Walnut Street. ZHP has also worked with many residents on a variety of home improvements and renovation projects. Paul Boni, who served as chair of this committee for several years, stepped down from this responsibility in June 2006.

continued on page 4



**Tania Rorke SHCA
President**

In spite of the never-ending challenges... I wish each and every Hiller a happy, healthy and prosperous year!

President's Message, continued from page 3

But we are fortunate that he continues to be an active participant in this very pro-active committee, and so I'm sure you join me in thanking him for donating countless hours of his professional time on behalf of our association and community. We are fortunate that Steve Weixler has capably taken on the committee's leadership.

While I look back on last year's many accomplishments, I must look forward to the challenges of 2007. As many of you may know, Mayor John Street signed an executive order last October creating the Central Delaware Advisory Group, which is designed to address development along our city's waterfront. Since development along the Delaware will have a major impact on our neighborhood, our civic association has taken an active role in this process. Please see page 9 which describes this newly formed Advisory Group and the public sessions focused on a "civic vision" for the Central Delaware. In mid-December many Society Hillers participated in a planning session held at the Independence Seaport Museum, but all those creative discussions and city planning sessions, called "PlanPhilly," may ultimately be

for little purpose if those two waterfront casinos (Foxwoods and SugarHouse) are built along the riverfront from south to north.

We continue to deal with ongoing challenges, including:

NewMarket: I hope we continue our discussions with the developer to ensure that an appropriate development will be built there, as it is the largest vacant property within Society Hill's boundaries.

Property Taxes: Our association will continue to research and address the proposed property tax changes, which could have a tremendous impact on all of us.

Clearly, the current year will be a defining time for our neighborhood, with many major decisions yet to be made. I hope you will choose to become involved, as we need as many caring folks as possible to help us with goals that range from A to Z. In spite of the never-ending challenges, I'm sure that, like me, you're still glad to be a Society Hiller! So, on behalf of the entire SHCA Board, I wish each and every one of you a happy, healthy and prosperous year!



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The Value of Vigilance

BY PAUL BONI, SHCA BOARD DIRECTOR

Our civic association has been engaged of late in taking strong positions. These positions include advocating for the preservation of the Dilworth House, supporting appropriate development at the NewMarket property and opposing the licensing of a slots casino at Columbus Boulevard and Reed Street (Foxwoods). While the civic association stands fully behind each of these efforts, of course not everyone in Society Hill agrees.

Each of us has a role to play in our civic experience. Consider NewMarket as an example. The developers have a right to maximize the value of their investment. Nearby neighbors have a right to protect the wellbeing of their families and the value of their homes. And our civic association has a responsibility to advocate for the best interests of the community as a whole. These various responsibilities will sometimes conflict with each other — that is OK. None of us has a monopoly over the growth and development of our neighborhood. If compromise is not possible, our voices will be heard by the Philadelphia Zoning Board of Adjustment and then, if necessary, by the courts, which are the entities that either issue, uphold or revoke licenses. All we can do is advocate or oppose.

The Society Hill Civic Association has a long and proud tradition of supporting compliance with the city's zoning code and historic preservation laws. That is what we have always done and that is what we will continue to do — it is our mission. Too often in this town, real estate developers and City Hall may have a cozy relationship. Too often it matters less what the project involves and more who the sponsors are, who their consultants are, and who they know. In advocating for compliance

with the zoning and historic preservation laws, we do our part to make sure that the rules are applied as fairly and evenly as possible. Philadelphia's Zoning Board, Historic Commission and the courts are there for us, and we do not shrink from exercising our rights. Moreover, we often prevail.

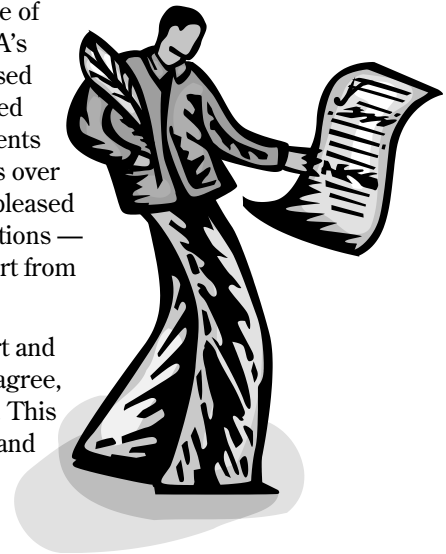
Here is the important point: If we do not advocate for Society Hill, no one else will. We cannot rely on City Hall to look out for our neighborhood's best interests. The character of Society Hill can be tenuous. If we do not remain vigilant, our neighborhood can lose its special character, one property at a time.

Dissent thrives. We have received a number of emails disagreeing with our position on the Dilworth House. Not too long ago we received a blistering note on our stand concerning the York Row properties. Obviously, Society Hill is a community of strong-willed and opinionated people.

But, fortunately, our civic association is proud to take clear and bold positions. In the face of debate and, yes, sometimes dissent, SHCA's recent membership numbers have increased dramatically. Last year, in fact, we instituted a membership fee schedule inviting residents to consider making financial contributions over and above standard annual dues. We are pleased that many folks have made extra contributions — we take that as a strong showing of support from our community.

So we thank you for your concern, support and involvement. And to those of you who disagree, we thank you for expressing your dissent. This is what makes us such a strong, effective and respected civic organization. We will continue to remain vigilant.

We do not shrink from exercising our rights. Moreover, we often prevail.



JOSEPH G. BRIN, AIA, ARCHITECT

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Independence Park's Security Measures

NPS Still Considering a Buffer Zone

When the National Park Service recently made its dramatic announcement (with Pennsylvania's two U.S. Senators present) about changes in the security plans — including eliminating the idea of a six-foot iron fence that would cleave the Square in half — they intentionally left one important item open for future discussion. While bowing to public pressure, which included strong statements by our civic association to eliminate “the fence,” the Park Service expressed interest in creating some type of buffer zone behind Independence Hall in order to segregate screened visitors from both the unscreened public and potential “backpack” bombers.

Superintendent Dennis Reidenbach has recently consulted government officials and citizens' groups, including Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) and the Independence Mall Business and Residents' Coalition (IMBARC) — of which SHCA is a member organization — to solicit ideas as to the type of buffer and its specific location.

Our neighbor Carter Buller has represented SHCA in these discussions. Consistent with resolutions adopted by SHCA's Board of Directors, Carter continues to press for open and free access to the park — which means **no buffer zone!** He and others have pointed out that you don't need buffers to segregate the screened visitors. They can be screened in the East Wing (one of the major victories reflected in the October 20 statement). Once screened, visitors can then be escorted to Independence Hall. More sophisticated security measures can protect the Hall from prospective “backpack” bombers. We expect to hear more from the Park Service on this subject early in the New Year.

Meanwhile we have been informed that the delay in implementing the changes that were announced on October 20 is due to the failure of Congress to pass the \$800,000 budgeted for this purpose. It is anticipated that the new Congress will act on this issue, as well as the entire NPS budget, when it convenes this month.



SHCA's resolutions continue to press for open and free access to Independence Hall and Park

We've Been Sold Down The River! *continued from page 1*

riverfront casinos would create a “convenient” north-to-south Las Vegas type strip of gambling opportunities, where the vacant spaces between them would be filled with undesirable entertainment venues. The PGCB decision was made because of the proximity of these two casino locations, clearly favoring casino patrons but giving no thought to preserving the integrity of our riverfront neighborhoods.

What do others have to say about this decision made by the Gaming Board? Philadelphia *Inquirer* columnist Inga Saffron says that “Foxwoods and SugarHouse — out of the five competitors — resulted in a ‘worst-case scenario’ for people who care about how our city functions and looks. The development will now almost certainly explode between these two gambling anchors.”

Residents from Society Hill and other waterfront communities are not taking the Foxwoods decision lying down. Here's what one citizen said in a letter to Mayor Street — who, by the way has praised the decision to select Foxwoods because it is owned primarily by minorities, including the Pequot Tribal Nation: “*We should not consider Foxwoods a done deal! Choosing this site in the face of massive opposition by the people, whose lives would be affected, is an outrageous insult to those people: that is, to us!*”

Countless comments have been flying through cyberspace since Foxwoods was chosen. Here are two examples:

- *I just don't understand this short-sighted approach to fiscal health. Many studies indicate that casinos will not produce a net gain. The “smart money” predicts that casinos will cost Philadelphia more than they will be of benefit to the city or the state.*
- *Let casino supporters move to Atlantic City and see what good — and harm — casinos have done to surrounding residential areas! What is the point of allowing a huge building with no windows to block our views, access, and future plans for our riverfront?*

We fervently wish for a process to alter the Foxwoods selection, but as a community we must begin to plan about how best we could insulate ourselves to survive the negative impact should the slots parlor ever become a reality — drawing 5.8 million gamblers a year just paces away from where we live and work. Councilman DiCicco pledges to delay zoning approval, and he will work with us as well as nearby communities to address these serious issues. A radical solution will be required to protect our neighborhood from the negative effects of a Las Vegas type strip in our front yard. We will work aggressively to find that radical solution.

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New Riverfront Advisory Group Appointed

One Step Forward and Two Steps Back

In light of the December decision by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board (PGCB) to allow a 5,000 slot casino to be built on Columbus Boulevard, it is vital, even mandatory, for our community to become involved at every stage of development along the Delaware River waterfront.

Last August Mayor Street formed the Central Delaware Advisory Group (CDAG), chaired by Janice Woodcock, the new Executive Director of the Philadelphia Planning Commission (see back page). Fifteen civic associations make up this group, of which Society Hill Civic Association is a major player — with Steven Weixler, Chair of our Zoning & Historic Preservation (ZHP) Committee, chosen as part of the CDAG Steering Committee. Included in the CDAG are representatives of governmental and business communities, as well as PennPraxis, a facilitative, non-profit consulting arm of the University of Pennsylvania's School of Design. The CDAG is charged with developing an initiative for the riverfront extending to Allegheny Avenue at the north and to the Navy Yard at the south. PennPraxis has a November 2007 goal for unveiling a "civic vision" that will provide public access to the waterfront, with open space and mixed-use development.

Waterfront development in the city has, of course, generated a multitude of interests. The Foxwood Casino project has interjected a new and disturbing set of challenges to this already stressed area. Since the creation of Penn's Landing over 24 years ago, plans for the waterfront have been considered — never implemented and never comprehensive, leading to hit-or-miss development up and down the river.

Many longtime Society Hillers may remember with pride that under the aegis of Mayor Dilworth, visionaries Edmund Bacon and Charles Peterson (despite their sometimes adversarial positions) articulated an approach to this area, resulting in the creation of our unique and highly desirable neighborhood — a positive benefit and excellent example of good urban planning. On the other hand, planning which does not thoroughly take into account the needs and desires of the community can have a highly negative impact. Take for example, the development of Interstate 95. We are essentially separated from our shoreline and from the large public places at Penn's Landing by the chasm of I-95. Increased traffic, with or without additional I-95 ramps, brought about by casino development and casino-goers,

will likely have an increasingly negative effect on local businesses and residential development — not to mention the effect on the vitality and vibrancy of the neighborhoods closest to the waterfront.

The planning process has already begun. The Advisory Group's leadership has made it clear that participation in articulating concerns, needs and desires of communities contiguous to the riverfront are absolutely crucial to the creation of a successful and comprehensive plan. Initial organizational meetings have been held, with our own Steve Weixler in attendance. Also, our civic association has now formed a Central Delaware Waterfront Committee, made up of Board directors and interested community members. This group will meet monthly throughout the next year to address issues and disseminate our neighborhood's concerns and ideas both to the Advisory Group and to the Steering Committee.

Anyone is welcome to join us. We want to hear your voices! For more information on the Central Delaware Advisory Group, visit the website at www.planphilly.com. Watch for new developments in forthcoming issues of the *Reporter* or contact Steve directly at stevenweixler@verizon.net.

CIVIC INVOLVEMENT INVITED

Note: One day after the announcement that two riverfront casinos, Foxwoods and SugarHouse, were chosen as sites for Philadelphia's casinos, SHCA received a message from PennPraxis's "PlanPhilly." Below is a summary of the email:

Our process continues to move forward with civic engagement in waterfront communities and working with stakeholders to shape the forthcoming civic vision for the waterfront. However, the most significant news is the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board's decision to place two casinos in the project area: Foxwoods at Columbus Boulevard and Reed Street in Pennsport, and SugarHouse at Delaware Avenue and Shackamaxon Street in Fishtown. The decision of where to site casinos has loomed over the planning process since its inception, acting as an elephant in the room at each of our Advisory Group meetings, riverfront walks and public forums.

Now that it has passed, we will seek to address the impact of casinos and advance the communities' values through the planning process. The values which surfaced in recent public forums are guideposts for development on the waterfront, and we will work to hold the casino operators to designs that meet these people-friendly values. The planning process may be more difficult now, however, since two casinos will be sited on the river. But please know that we are up to the challenge, and look forward to helping your community residents amplify their voices to shape their neighborhood's relationship to the waterfront. For a summary of the values expressed in recent PlanPhilly public forums, visit www.planphilly.com/node/91

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Why You Should Support Our Civic Association

Here are just some of the ways SHCA works for your benefit!

Society Hill is thriving. We are fortunate to live in this wonderful neighborhood, in the midst of what National Geographic has recently said is America's (once) and future next great city.

For some of us, Society Hill is the unique collection of living history that we cherish as we go about our daily lives in the midst of America's most significant, extant collection of 18th and early 19th-century dwellings and buildings. For others, it is the ability to walk to scores of restaurants, theaters, and live performances (as well as work places), while in the midst of William Penn's "Greene Country Towne." And for others, it's our neighbors and friends who make the city feel like a small town. Society Hill is an exquisite balance of the modern and antique, metropolitan and sylvan, sophisticated and simple.

The Society Hill Civic Association is proud of our contributions in preserving and protecting this balance, which makes our community so livable. Here are just some of the ways SHCA works for your benefit:


- 1 The *Society Hill Reporter*—one of the most informative publications of its kind—delivered free to your home every other month;**
- 2 Beautification efforts for Washington Square Park;**
- 3 Advocacy that promotes sensible hi-rise development in keeping with our National Treasure neighborhood;**
- 4 Refurbishment and improved illumination for all our community's Franklin Lights;**
- 5 Access to a list of preferred contractors;**
- 6 A subsidy to any resident who plants a new tree in the neighborhood;**
- 7 Support for our neighborhood TownWatch which prevents and reports crime;**
- 8 A Welcome Basket program that introduces new residents to the neighborhood;**
- 9 Weekly sidewalk cleaning and semi-annual Clean-Up Days, held each spring and fall;**
- 10 Sponsorship of two social events each year.**

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

2007 Membership Drive Underway

SHCA's 2007 membership drive began on November 1, 2006, and as of the beginning of December, 584 members have either joined or renewed. We're up 1.2% from the same time last year. Dues raised thus far, including additional contributions, total \$44,134 — up 1.6% from last year. Our total membership goal for calendar year 2007 remains 1050. Let's hope we exceed it!

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2007 or would like to become a new and valued member, please fill out the adjacent form and mail it today — either with a check or credit card information. If you have any questions, feel free to contact SHCA's Administrator Matt DeJulio at 215-629-1288 or mattdejulio@aol.com.

Nominations Sought for SHCA Board


Elections for SHCA's Board of Directors and officers occur annually, according to SHCA's bylaws. This year, elections are expected to occur in the spring. Any resident interested in participating as a director or officer of our civic association is invited to do so — simply by making your interest known.

Please contact SHCA's Administrator Matt DeJulio to indicate your interest or to inquire about what this responsibility entails, as well as to learn which Society Hill quadrant you happen to live in — if you don't already know. (FYI: Society Hill is divided into four quadrants, and each quadrant is represented by three residents.) Individual quadrant directors are usually elected for a three-year term. Also, apartment and condominium complexes in our neighborhood (e.g. Society Hill Towers, Penn's Landing Square) are always represented by one director on the association's board — so that all voices can be heard.

SHCA's Nominations Committee is scheduled for early in the spring, so we ask that you reach Matt to submit a recommendation to the Committee or offer your own interest to serve. You can reach Matt at mattdejulio@aol or 215-629-1288. He'll gladly answer your questions and relay your interest in becoming a Board Director, if there is a vacancy in your quadrant. If not, however, we hope you'll attend monthly Board meetings and become involved — so that when a vacancy does arise, you'll be nominated.

SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Membership Application/Renewal Form



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- \$ 40 Senior/Student

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- \$60 Business with fewer than 5 employees
- \$ 100 Businesses/Institutions with 5 or more employees

Additional contribution for

<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 Lights
<input type="checkbox"/> Zoning/Historic Preservation	<input type="checkbox"/> PA Hospital's Pine St. Building
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Society Hill Reporter</i>	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Check Enclosed Total	\$ _____
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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: _____

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OUR NEW FRANKLIN LIGHTS

Questions and Praise from Neighbors

BY MARTHA LEVINE, FRANKLIN LIGHTS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Questions & Answers

Q. When will the Franklin Lights project be completed?

A. The majority of Society Hill's blocks have already had new lights installed. At press time, there are only a few streets that require new replacement lights. As with any renovation project, there were some unanticipated delays, causing the contractor to request an extension for completion in early 2007. Some problems were due to malfunctioning parts that needed to be replaced, as well as some PECO problems.

Q. Why are the Franklin Lights on my block burning 24/7?

A. After the contractor installs the lights on each block, the lights will burn 24/7 (for several weeks) as a test to insure that the lights are in good working order. This test requires covering the photo sensor on each light fixture so that it will stay on day and night. The sensor on these lights triggers the light to go on or off, based on the amount of ambient light available. During daylight, the sensor turns off the light and at night, turns it on. When each new light is functioning correctly, the photo sensors will be uncovered so that each light will be turned off during the day and turned on only at night.

Q. Why are some lights blinking on and off?

A. Contractors scratch their heads in wonder over this problem. Apparently, the sensitive photo sensors on some new lights cause the lights to turn off when any change in ambient light occurs. The apparent remedy will be to desensitize these photo sensors a bit by covering them with special tape.

Q. How many lights in all were replaced, and what is the wattage per light?

A. The total number of lights replaced throughout the neighborhood, including a few still remaining to be replaced, is 500. The new wattage per light fixture has increased from 50 watts to 100 watts, providing twice as much illumination for each fixture.

Q. What is being done to make the poles look as good as the light fixtures themselves?

A. Starting in March, when the temperature hopefully reaches 50 degrees, all the poles for the "new" lights will be painted. We ask that you do not paint any light poles on your street — because we will provide a standard, unified color throughout Society Hill. Also, if we have the funds, we hope to hire a professional painter to do the entire job.

Q. I've noticed that a few old lights on my block were not replaced along with all the others. Why not?

A. The contractors report that when replacing the lights one-by-one on every block, most old lights were relatively easy to disassemble but some were not. They will deal with this problem in a cost-efficient way by calling in a specialist who will remove all those difficult old lights at the same time. Please be patient, because all the neighborhood's old lights will eventually be replaced.

Q. How can I get a plaque for a Franklin Light near my home?

A. Anyone who has contributed \$1,500 (or more) for one Franklin Light will have the option of a personal plaque erected on a light of one's choice — at no charge. Although plaques will be affixed only after all the poles have been painted, we are happy to take your requests now.

Q. Is it now too late to contribute to this worthwhile project which benefits us all?

A. We certainly welcome additional contributions for any future or unexpected expenses related to this worthy, community-wide project. Needless to say, we are grateful to all generous Society Hill neighbors and businesses who have made it possible for us to proceed with the project. In addition, we owe a great deal of gratitude to both Councilman Frank DiCicco and State Senator Vincent Fumo for their invaluable assistance in securing substantial funds which helped this project become a reality.



Praise

"Now when I walk home from work each evening, I feel much safer, because these new lights are brighter."

"What a difference these new lights have made! There has always been a safety concern, especially for the smaller streets in the neighborhood, such as Stamper Street."

"My husband and I are avid runners. We both noticed how much easier it is now as we navigate in the dark. No longer do we curse the dim lighting after we've tripped over uneven sidewalk bricks. Thank you, SHCA, for championing the Franklin Lights project. Your hard work has not gone unnoticed and is deeply appreciated."

For more information, or to report a new light that is not working properly, please contact Martha Levine, 215-629-0727, marthalev@msn.com

Interested in making a new or additional contribution? Make your tax-deductible check payable to: The Society Hill Fund, P.O.Box 63503, Phila, PA 19147.



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SAFE AND SOUND IN SOCIETY HILL

BE AWARE!

Auto Rear Window Paper Trick:

In these post-holiday days of shopping and returning merchandise, you could get fooled. You step into your car — in one of these huge parking lots — and as you shift into Reverse you notice a piece of paper in the middle of the rear window obstructing your view. To remove the paper, you shift back into Park and jump out of the car, with the keys still dangling from the ignition. When you reach the back of your car, the car-jacker appears, slips into the car and speeds off. Your purse remains in the car along with the rest of those gifts you planned to return. Plus your home and identity are now compromised. What to do? Never remove any paper that obstructs your view while in a parking lot. Drive away and remove it later. This is the latest car-jacking tactic.

Pick-pockets on the Loose:

Two men, dressed alike, were standing in the front of the bus — being very solicitous and allowing all other riders to be seated. Here's what happened on our own, local #42 bus! A Society Hill neighbor was recently pick-pocketed — for the first time in his life — and he's up there in age! The thieves skillfully operate by allowing other riders to squeeze between them, and then they remove wallets out of the rear pockets of men; or they insert their hands into women's purses (those without zippers, of course). The men carry leather jackets over their arms, and each carries a large plastic bag into which the loot is loaded. This reporter visited the police Sixth District and told the Captain about the incident. The Captain showed photos of the men, and those particular two were arrested on the #23 bus as it passed Walnut Street.

However, although those two are now in custody, they are not the only scoundrels perpetrating this pick-pocket maneuver. Here's how to protect yourselves:

Men: Keep wallets in your breast pocket; or, place a rubber band around your wallet. It's more difficult to remove a wallet from a pocket if it is surrounded by a rubber band — because the band sticks to your clothing.

Ladies: Carry only purses with zippers across the top, and make sure the zipper is closed; hang the purse over your head, so that it is tight against your body, under your arm.

You know about LOX, but do you know about LOCKS ?

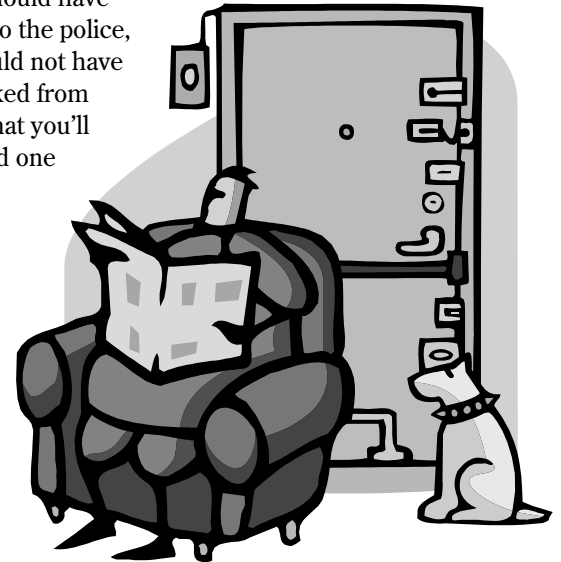
All entry doors to homes should have deadlocks. But, according to the police, did you know that you should not have locks that must also be locked from the inside? The danger is that you'll misplace the inside key, and one day you may need to exit quickly due to a fire or another emergency, but the key won't be available.

Windows are easy — just drill a small hole through the wooden part of the inside and outside windows and place a long nail through both. This works even when you want to keep a window open. Open the window as far as you'd like — but smaller than anyone can climb through — and do the same thing: drill a hole through both windows and use the same long nail through both.

Here's another reminder about locks — this one for your car: DO NOT keep a spare set anywhere *under* the car — thieves know exactly where to look. They no longer need to "jump-start" the car. They just look for that extra set of keys and, voila! They drive off!

Say Hello to Police Officers Kustra and Diaz

Society Hill's two foot patrol officers, Kustra and Diaz, would like to meet you. If you see them on the street, please welcome them with a friendly greeting... By the way, Officer Kustra was given a Center City Crime Prevention Award for apprehending a suspect sought in a string of gunpoint robberies. Hurray!



If you want to be safe and sound in Society Hill, remember these warnings.

YOUR OLD CELL PHONES STILL WANTED

Yes, we're still accepting your old cell phones at 414 Spruce Street. These phones are reprogrammed to call only 911, and are then distributed to abused women and the elderly for their safety.

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Jazz Vespers at Old Pine Church



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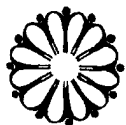
Rev. Daniell Hamby, preaching

Sunday, February 18, 5pm

Ed Dennis Quartet

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Pennsylvania Hospital's Pine Street Building

BY LORNA LAWSON

On the evening of November 16th — despite hurricane-like wind and rain — a hearty group made it to Pennsylvania Hospital's Zubrow Auditorium to celebrate a kick-off event named: "A Restorative Initiative Designed to Preserve and Protect the Structure that Symbolizes Our Nation's Inception of Medical Treatment and Medical Education."

In addition to being a stunning example of Federal period architectural design, Pennsylvania Hospital's Pine Street building has always played an important role in the community. This National Historic Landmark served as our nation's first hospital and the first institution exclusively for the treatment and care of the sick, poor and mentally ill. Currently, its public outreach programs invite use of its extensive archive and library facilities. Tourists and locals visit its art collection. In addition, outreach provides education for Philadelphia's schoolchildren through its "Learn to Grow Program," which is co-funded by W. Atlee Burpee.

The evening's presenters included Roger W. Moss, PhD., executive director of the Athenaeum. Dr. Moss provided an overview of the hospital's history; its changing uses and ownership; and ultimate completion of the centerpiece building that contains the renowned surgical amphitheatre. Other speakers included Alvin Holm, AIA and chair of the "Save the Pine Building Advisory Board," who is Philadelphia Chapter president of the Institute of Classical Architecture & Classical America; and Samuel Y. Harris, a structural engineer/architect and specialist in historic structures.

If you have recently observed the building, you probably have noticed quite a lot of deterioration. Not only does the building need repair, but the quality of these repairs — now that the building is on the National Register of Historic Places — needs to be executed at a high level as mandated by law.

The conditions analysis, provided by Sam Harris, identified and rated all the repair areas. Based on severity and potential for causing more imminent serious damage, Harris detailed a three-phase plan for the restoration work *per se*, and the fundraising effort. The first project now in progress is restoration of areas where water is entering the building — such as broken downspouts, cracks in the masonry walls, water-rotted window frames, and paint delamination. Subsequent phases will deal with larger or more expensive work, such as roof replacement and restoration, structural repairs and mechanical/electrical infrastructure.



As Society Hill's much-loved example of the best our community has to offer, this building certainly deserves our support and care. We are pleased to report that Councilman Frank DiCicco and neighbor Joanne Denworth are members of the Building's Advisory Board, together with several other distinguished professionals. A major fundraising effort is underway with the hope that our community will support efforts to restore Pennsylvania Hospital's Pine Street Building.

At press time we are very pleased to report that Pennsylvania Hospital's Pine Building has received a \$350,000 grant from the National Park Service's "Save America's Treasures" program to address a number of the exterior deterioration problems.





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ZONING & HISTORIC PRESERVATION

 BY STEVEN WEIXLER, ZHP COMMITTEE CHAIR

As you've read in recent editions of the *Reporter* this past year, SHCA's Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee has been grappling with a host of issues that could have a serious impact on the quality of life in our neighborhood. An important role of the committee is to translate the consensus of our civic association's mission — whether legal or advocacy action — for several prominent projects, as reported in this column. Although not as public, many valued members of the committee have spent hours of their time on less visible Society Hill projects. While these smaller projects do not necessarily affect the entire neighborhood, they are a part of our responsibility to the civic association, which represents the entire community.

Our work requires us to advocate before and monitor two separate city government agencies. First, the Department of Licenses & Inspections (L&I) is responsible for the enforcement of many codes, most notably the Zoning Code for our area. Second, since Society Hill is a registered Historic District, the Philadelphia Historical Commission protects all buildings within the district's boundaries, relying on the city's Preservation Ordinance, as well as national guidelines established by the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation. Both these agencies serve as vital mechanisms for the protection of our architectural heritage, and SHCA's ZHP Committee works closely and carefully with them.

What does this mean to the individual homeowner in Society Hill? We are a unique example — a model, in fact — for successful urban planning. For many years, our association has cooperated with neighbors regarding renovation, reconstruction and improvement of their individual properties, with two goals in mind. First, we support homeowners as they make the considerable financial (and emotional!) investments required to alter an 18th-century building into a contemporary home — offering guidance as they move through the required process of approvals. Second and most significantly, our civic association guards the overall character of the neighborhood — for the benefit of one and all. Our green spaces, beautifully restored historical buildings, and new but compatible architecture illustrate vigilant adherence to the district's zoning code and preservation ordinance.

If you're planning alterations to your home, please contact us. Our committee members, all volunteers, will offer their professional experience to assist your design plans.

Meanwhile, we want to update you on the following significant projects our committee has been monitoring — as follows:

York Row: 8th and Walnut Streets

As you probably read in the September/October issue of the *Reporter*, The Society Hill Civic Association achieved an important victory in the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania regarding our efforts to retain the historic features and character of this significant row of 1812 vintage town houses. Our able attorney, Mike LiPluma (www.liplumalaw.com) made oral arguments on our behalf, and the Court sent down a decision supporting our association's position that requires the direct replacement of damaged marble elements of these facades. Since that time, the developer has filed briefs with the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania asking the Court to hear an appeal of the Commonwealth Court decision. Mr. LiPluma filed a brief on behalf of our civic association contending that the Commonwealth Court was correct in its ruling. At press time, we are waiting for news of the Supreme Court's decision whether to hear an appeal.

Dilworth House: 223-25 S. 6th Street

The Society Hill Civic Association, along with the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia, has long contested the proposal to demolish large portions of Mayor Dilworth's former residence to allow the construction of a hi-rise luxury residential building. Last September both groups appeared before the Philadelphia Historical Commission to state that "demolition in substantial part" was not in compliance with the City of Philadelphia's Preservation Ordinance or the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Preservation of Historic Buildings. The Commission decided to allow the requested demolition as a part of the developer's presentation of his plan "in concept," with later review of a final design. Our civic association and the Preservation Alliance have joined with nearby neighbors in an appeal of the Commission's decision. The City of Philadelphia's Department of Licenses and Inspections has not yet scheduled a hearing on our appeal, but we will keep you informed as developments occur.

Former NewMarket Site:
Front to 2nd Streets, Pine to Lombard Streets

Our civic association continues to make efforts to encourage a dialogue with the developer of this site and with the many neighbors who would be affected by development of this property. We are hopeful that our efforts can result in the construction of a project that will enhance our community's quality of life and is respectful of neighbors. For more information, visit www.SaveNewMarketNow.org.

Finally, as we begin a new year, I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to my ZHP colleagues for their knowledge, experience and dedication. Fair advocacy for our neighborhood would not be possible without the generous and committed people who serve on SHCA's Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee.

Kids' Beat

A COLUMN BY KERI WHITE

A Good Time Was Had By All

For those of you who have not partaken of the wondrous family offerings of the Arden Theatre, I urge you to remedy that immediately. I have just seen *BFG* (stands for “Big Friendly Giant,” lest you think this column has become R Rated). This is Arden’s delightful adaptation of the Roald Dahl novel of the same name. I accompanied my son’s

4th grade class to the performance, and a good time was had by all. (I swear — they were thoroughly transfixed for 90 minutes without exception, and I did not require any headache medication afterwards!)

The Arden children’s productions are uniformly terrific. We have attended them religiously for the past three years, and the current season does not disappoint. *BFG* runs through January 28, and is ideal for children 5 and up. *BFG* is followed by *Ferdinand the Bull*, also for kids 5 or older, based on the book by Munro Leaf and Robert Lawson (running from April 11-May 13). *Ferdinand* is a flamenco-flavored musical set in 1930’s Spain about a bull who wants only to tend his beloved flowers, a desire that conflicts with his father’s dream of making him a famous bull in the ring. Arden’s children’s season closes with *Looking-glass Alice*, a dazzling, acrobatic rendition of Lewis Carroll’s stories. *Alice* runs from May 10 to June 10 and is recommended for children 8 and older. Ticket prices range from \$14 to \$30, with substantial savings for subscriptions and group discounts. Visit www.ardentheatre.org or call 215-922-1122 for tickets.

In addition to these great productions, the Arden offers a variety of educational and extracurricular opportunities for theatrically inclined kids. There is a one-week summer camp program, which my daughter attended last year and loved — they actually produced a quality performance by week’s end! There are also a multitude of Saturday workshops for kids; some are eight-week commitments, while others are for one day only. Topics address a range of interests: singing for musical theater, costume design, “play in a day,” clowning, puppet making, choreography and improvisation — to name a few. For information on these delightful programs, visit www.ardentheatre.org, or call the office at 215-922-8900.

Kid’s Quote

“Mom, I WILL NOT put my real birthday on ‘WEBKins’! It is very dangerous to put personal information on the Internet!”

Jessica, age 8, Society Hill Kid



Arden Theatre presents a Big, Friendly Performance!

First-Graders' Party With Santa Claus (aka: the Sixth District Police)

The wonderful policemen from our Sixth District entertained, fed and distributed holiday gifts to 275 needy first graders from the Sixth District — many of whom might not have been recipients of such wonderful holiday bounty. These pupils and their teachers were extremely appreciative, and they especially enjoyed meeting Santa Claus. Thanks go to the District's Community Relations Officers for organizing the party; the host church at 10th and Wallace Streets; the police officers and individuals who wrapped each and every gift; and all others who helped set up, cook, and contribute to the party spirit. Special thanks also go to all the businesses and individuals who contributed to this holiday fund. Believe it or not, collections have already begun for next year's holiday season! Please consider sending your contributions to the "Sixth District Christmas Fund" at the Sixth District, 235 N. 11th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

McCall School Enters Cyberspace

We are pleased to announce that the McCall School Cyber Library is now up and running. Due in large part to community support, McCall received a state-of-the-art technology center which is now buzzing with activity. Teachers are using the promethean board, funded by Rohm & Haas, to teach lessons daily. Students conduct research, online enrichment programs for math and literacy, and take all of their benchmark tests online in this "cybrary." The grand opening celebration was held on January 5th, with Paul Vallas, CEO of the Philadelphia School District as the keynote speaker. Members of the McCall School community, as well as local and School District supporters were on hand to celebrate this wonderful addition to our neighborhood school.



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SENIOR SCENE

A COLUMN BY JEAN BRYAN

This issue of the *Reporter*, as other recent issues, addresses the concept of “Aging in Place,” as an alternative to either retirement homes, assisted living or skilled nursing facilities. The seedlings have been planted: first in our thoughts and then, more practically, with a generous \$5,000 grant from the Society Hill Civic Association to determine the feasibility of such a program in Society Hill and perhaps surrounding neighborhoods.

I was excited to learn that other communities have adopted plans to deal with the challenges of senior living. One such program, located in Haddonfield, New Jersey, is called “Interfaith Caregivers.” This particular program is a volunteer effort supported by various faiths, service groups and residents. The volunteers include students, professionals, empty-nesters, moms (even those with small children) — in short, those who want to help their elderly or disabled neighbors. Interfaith Caregivers provides a two-part training session and also carries insurance for all its volunteers — including liability, accident, and auxiliary automobile coverage. The variety of free services they provide to needy folks includes transportation, companionship, respite care, telephone reassurance, shopping and errands, assistance with paperwork, and reading to individuals who are visually impaired.

Interfaith Caregivers produces a newsletter called *The Caring Time*, which in its September 2006 issue indicated that 359 clients are served by 398 volunteers — a noble and viable effort by so many to facilitate “aging in place” for the elderly or disabled. (For more information, please visit their website at: www.ifchaddonfield.org or call 1-856-354-0298.)

Let’s hope that Society Hill will be among other successful communities that develop workable plans to keep older neighbors at home. Don’t forget to email SH1682@gmail.com to let our planners know that you are available to assist in this effort.

TARP Reminder

The Temple Association for Retired Persons (TARP) — which is located nearby at 1515 Market St., Room 222 — continues its Friday Forums that are free and open to the public. To learn about TARP’s list of upcoming speakers and their subjects, please call 215-204-1505. Not only will you hear stimulating presentations, but you

will also have a chance to socialize with others, as participants have the opportunity to “meet and greet” from 10 until 10:30 a.m., which is then followed by the program for that day.

Additional Activities

One goal of this column is to promote events that bring people together in pleasant, social circumstances — such as dinners, movies, cultural activities and so forth. We have had a few people step up and organize such events... but not frequently enough, and I’m as guilty as anyone. I do, however, keep a list of those folks who have asked to be included if and when a “Senior Scene” event is planned. With the cold months now upon us, wouldn’t it be nice to gather together for wine and cheese or a late-afternoon movie followed by a casual dinner in the neighborhood? If you are interested or willing to organize such an event or get-together, please let me know — either by email at jeanbryan@gmail.com or phone, at 215-925-6416.

The Walkie-Talkies

One resounding and continuous success has been the Walkie-Talkies. This group of “new friends” has been meeting regularly every Tuesday and Thursday morning at 8:10 a.m. for about an hour of non-strenuous but energetic walking and enthusiastic chatting. The hour passes quickly because the conversations are so interesting... stimulating the brain and strengthening the body... a great way to begin the day. No planning ahead is needed. In fact, you don’t even have to be 50 or older to join. And new faces are always welcome! Show up, impromptu, at Three Bears Park no later than 8:05 a.m. — as long as it’s not raining or snowing. Remember to wear a smile!

My parents didn’t want to move to Florida, but they turned 60, and it was the law.

Jerry Seinfeld,
comedian and actor



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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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Aging in Place “With a Temporary Setback”

BY CAROLE LE FAIVRE-ROCHESTER, SHCA VICE PRESIDENT

It was a dark and stormy night, full of expectations for Thanksgiving the next day... and I broke my foot! I learned very quickly what a temporary handicap can do to one's usual routine. Lucky enough to have a full bath and pull-out bed on the first floor of our apartment, I thought about those who do not have such conveniences at hand. What if you break a limb, have a long-term illness or simply want to stay where you are in our neighborhood as you age? How prepared will you be? Do you know where to acquire a wheelchair or a walker? Do you know how to make your home more “user-friendly?” Do you know your near neighbors?

I have to say that in my case, I have “dear” neighbors. Some delivered to my husband and me a full Thanksgiving dinner. Others offered help of all kinds. And that is why so many of us want to remain in Society Hill. Ours is a community of caring people.

Several neighbors have worked for months to discuss how those of us who love Society Hill can stay in place as we age. We are now ready to ask you for your opinions and suggestions. This issue of the *Reporter* includes a separate, inserted survey (see yellow pages), which we hope you will complete and mail back to us. Thank you so much.

A NEW REPORTER TEAM MEMBER

Introducing Jane Biberman

Journalist Jane Biberman is hoping to contribute her professional skills to the *Society Hill Reporter*. The former editor of *INSIDE* magazine of the *Jewish Exponent*, Jane writes for a variety of publications. She divides her time between an apartment at Independence Place and her “farmette” in Bucks County where she keeps her beloved horse, Ziggy Stardust. Jane is also a “dog person.” She wrote frequently about her first adopted dog, Snapper, for the *Philadelphia Inquirer Magazine* and *The Pennsylvania Gazette*, the alumni magazine of the University of Pennsylvania. “I found my next mixed-breed dog, Fleur, in Rittenhouse Square,” says Jane, who later recounted their adventures together in her travel column for *Metro*.

When Fleur died in '98, the manager of the Rittenhouse Claridge, where Jane had lived for 30 years, wanted a dog-free building, but she had already rescued a four-year-old Sheltie. Jane had to look for a new home.


“Independence Place was the answer,” she says. Since living in Society Hill she has made many new friends in Washington Square, and recently joined SHCA's Walkie-Talkies group. (See Senior Scene, page 23.) Jane also loves walking to the Ritz movies as well as the Arden and Lantern theaters. She says, “When I have out-of-town visitors, I'm proud to take them to the Athenaeum,



the Constitution Center, Independence Hall and to all our great neighborhood restaurants.”

In addition to writing, riding and walking dogs, Jane is an accomplished artist who was represented by the Windy Bush Gallery in New Hope. She has studied at the Fleisher Art Memorial and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. Jane regularly profiles artists for her column in *Montgomery County Town and Country Living* magazine.

“I've never been active in neighborhood concerns before, but the *Society Hill Reporter* has awakened me to many ‘issues’ (my least favorite word) that residents must be informed about — from street lighting to hi-rise development.”



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Society Hill's two "Landmark" House Museums

The Powel House and The Physick House

Surely, all Society Hillers are familiar with our community's two beloved house museums: the Revolutionary-era Powel House, located at 244 S. 3rd Street; and an elegant Federal mansion, the Physick House, located at 321 S. 4th Street. These properties are owned and administered by the Society for the Preservation of Landmarks (commonly referred to as the "Landmarks Society" or simply "Landmarks"). This private, nonprofit organization was created for the purpose of recognizing and preserving significant historic sites. In fact, the Powel House inspired the creation of Landmarks in the 1930s, at a time when this grand Georgian house was in seriously threatened condition. Yet it had been the home of the first mayor of Philadelphia in the new state of Pennsylvania, where Powel served as the city's mayor both before and after the American Revolution — truly a remarkable politician! (But that's another story...)

Both Powel House and Physick House are showplaces that represent the best of the historic material culture in our neighborhood. Together with the creation of Independence National Historical Park in the late 1950s, these buildings inspired the birth of Society Hill as we know it today — when pioneering citizens began purchasing and restoring dilapidated historical houses that they and their families moved into by the early 1960s. It was during that period when Landmarks acquired and restored the Physick House, which had been the residence of the "Father of American Surgery," Dr. Philip Syng Physick, from 1815 to the time of his death in 1837.

Currently, each of Landmarks' properties has a live-in site manager, as well as a devoted preservation committee of volunteers involved in fundraising. But the Landmarks Society is comprised of a very small staff, while members of its rather large Board are not necessarily involved with operation and maintenance of the sites.

In recent years the Board became discouraged by the decline in tourism of these two house museums — most likely brought about by the relocation of the park's Visitor Center north from its original Society Hill address at 3rd and Chestnut Streets to 6th and Market Streets. This drop-off in tourism caused Landmarks to enter into a process of self-evaluation —

beginning last year in 2006 and funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts, its Living Legacy Program (LLP). Based on the premise that America has too many historic house museums, Landmarks' participation in LLP could result in the sale, closure, or extensive alteration in use of these two notable Society Hill sites. The catch-phrase of the LLP is "alternative uses" — ranging from "no change" to complete de-accession and sale. The Physick House is particularly vulnerable, because it is comprised of three real estate parcels.

Participants in the LLP discussions have been very divided on every level. In general, Board members and other "stakeholders" on the house committees who are neighborhood residents or historic preservation champions are advocating for as little change as possible. But there are many suburbanites represented on the Board of Landmarks, including several residents of New Jersey, who have expressed little sympathy for our community's "preservationist" point of view — for reasons which are unclear and, frankly, confounding!

Most recently Landmarks initiated a new venture called "Landmarks Contemporary Projects," which is staging avant-garde films, exhibits and concerts at the two house museums. These "alternative uses" — which only temporarily impinge on the sites' historic interpretations and perhaps would encourage tourists who otherwise do not visit historic sites — could be a viable solution as an alternative to sale. This venture has, in fact, marginally increased the "bottom line" for Landmarks. But a proposed increase in frequency and size of catered-event rentals at the two houses, which the Board is seriously contemplating, could accelerate degradation of these properties and negatively affect surrounding or nearby residences.

Although some "experts" believe that there are "too many historic house museums throughout America," residents and visitors to our small corner of Philadelphia very much value these two "priceless" jewels. To lose them for any "alternative use" would surely be an irretrievable loss for Society Hill, the City of Philadelphia and the entire region. Concerned Society Hill residents will stay engaged in these developments and we will keep the neighborhood informed.



**Physick House,
321 S. 4th Street**



**Powel House,
244 S. 3rd Street**



Powel House, interior

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The Winemore Family And Their 18th-Century Spruce Street Home

BY KATHIE GROLL AND BOB BALLANTYNE

In September 1732 the Ship *Johnson Galley* docked in Philadelphia, bringing to America some early settlers from the Palatine area of 18th-century Germany. Having sailed from Rotterdam, it stopped in Deal, England to have the passengers “certified” for transport to the colonies, as was the custom.

Aboard the *Johnson Galley* was a Paulus Wynhamer, his wife Catherine, and three “boys under 16,” Philip, Henrick, and Jacob Wynhamer. Careful tracing of church records indicate that on board was a family whose surname changed across the period of a half century from the Germanic Wynhamer, to an anglicized version, Winemore (and sometimes Winamore). Somewhat later another “n” was added to finally become standardized as Winnemore.

The Winemores were not one of the better-known old Philadelphia families. Changing the name from the German form to a more English spelling or pronunciation was apparently at the time a common practice. The spelling of names was not standardized in colonial and early post-colonial times, so there are several variations in the following paragraphs.

The original Wynhamers (also spelled Weinhamer), Paul and Catherine, were members of the First Reformed Church of Philadelphia. Later, their child Philip Winemore and his family were members of the 3rd Presbyterian Church — now known as the Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church.

According to an old colonial deed book, the property at 220 Spruce Street was owned in 1743 by James Lounes. It was soon thereafter sold to William Arbour and, finally, on January 25, 1745 to Philip “Winamore,” who built and owned a house there until he sold it on December 7, 1779 to John Jarvis for “6,000 pounds lawful money of Pennsylvania.”

The adjoining property at 222 Spruce Street, now known as the William Arbour House, was owned by Arbour in 1743 and sold two years later to Phillip Winemore. Forty years later Philip Winemore willed the house to his

daughter Maria Marshall, who at her death willed it to her daughter Mary Rush. The property was owned by the Rush family until 1852. Thereafter the properties at both 220 and 222 Spruce appear to be owned by one person, John Bernadow.

In the 1745-1784 time frame, Philip Winemore also owned property on the west side of Delaware and Fourth Street, the south side of South Street, and the north side of Union between Second and Third. He is listed in early tax and census records as both a “porter” and a “drayman” — an operator of a large horse-drawn carriage called a dray.

Although the Winnemore name never became a common one, Winnemores now live in all regions of the United States, from Pennsylvania westward to California. Winnemores fought on both sides in the Civil War.

Note: The authors believe themselves to have the most extensive genealogies of the Winemore/Winnemore surname. Kathie Groll’s husband is a direct descendent of Philip Winemore, but Bob Ballantyne has a break in proven genealogy with his great-great grandfather William Winnemore (1813-1876). Groll lives in Des Plaines, Illinois, and Ballantyne in Gilbertsville, Pennsylvania.



Before



After

How You Can Help Some Good Kids

A Little Time Makes a Big Difference

Put your spare time to good use...providing stimulation & fun for some Philadelphia kids.

Many of us have been stunned by the recent violence in Philadelphia; the murder rate is the highest it has been in ten years. The most shocking statistics, however, have been for juvenile violence, and regrettably, this is on the rise. With the public school's budget being cut, every day more and more students are left behind to engage in at-risk behavior.

What can we do, and how can we help? One answer is surprisingly simple: Run an after-school club. No one can argue with the fact that after-school programs do wonders for children and their communities. Kids that participate in after-school activities are less likely to be involved in at-risk behavior and more likely to succeed in school.

Since its inception in 2002, After School Activities Partnerships (aka: ASAP) has rallied Philadelphia in a broad campaign to increase after-school clubs in schools and communities throughout the city. "The goal is simple," says Marciene Mattleman, longtime Society Hill resident and president of ASAP, "donating one hour of your time each week in an after-school program can make a big difference in a child's life."

In four and a half years, ASAP has created 705 after-school clubs, with over 70 different types of activities — including knitting, Scrabble, chess, yoga and basketball. ASAP volunteers share their passions and interests with kids by running a club once a week at a site that is convenient for them.

Thus far, ASAP has reached more than 8,500 children in Philadelphia, but the need is still great. There are still 50,000 kids left unsupervised in the afternoons. We can make a difference for them — because it's mentoring at its best.

Often, when an old year ends and a new year begins, we take stock of our lives and see what can be improved. Many of us look inward and pledge to lose weight or quit smoking — actions that will improve our health and well-being. In this new year, let's look outward to our community to see how we can improve the lives of some schoolchildren. If you have a hobby or special interest and would be willing to lead or participate in an ASAP after-school club focused on that subject or activity, please contact Society Hill resident Peter English, the Projects Coordinator at ASAP. He can be reached directly at penglish@phillyasap.org or 215-545-3077.



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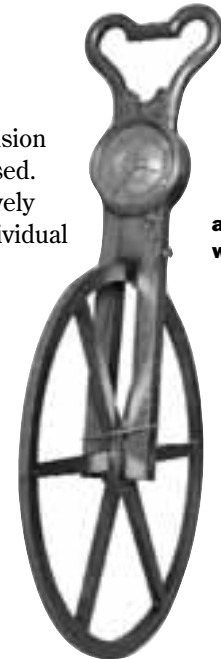
Check Out the Atwater Kent Museum

The streets of Philadelphia, from the days of William Penn to the present, are the subject of the current exhibit at the Atwater Kent — our city’s official history museum. The jewel in the crown of “How Philly Works: Streets as Barometers of Urban Life” is the 1701 City Charter written by William Penn. It’s the oldest document in the city’s custody that relates to its early municipal government.

Included in this exhibit — on view from now until September 2007 — is a 1785 waywiser, which is a large wheel-like instrument used to measure the length of street blocks; police paraphernalia, dating from the late 1800s; a Freihofer’s Bread Company pushcart from 1900; a banner from the 1840s opposing immigration; and outsized parade puppets used for protest marches that were lent by Spiral Q., a puppet theater company (www.spiralq.org).

Paintings, photographs, prints and documents illustrating Penn’s unique vision of Philadelphia streets are also showcased. The exhibition is drawn almost exclusively from the City Records Department, individual City departments and Atwater Kent treasures. The museum — located at 35 S. 7th Street — is open Wednesday through Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. Admission \$5 for adults; \$3 for seniors and children 13 to 17; free for members and children under 12.

For more information, visit www.philadelphiahistory.org.



a 1785 waywiser

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<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Real Estate Q & A with Antonio</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Just Listed! South 7th Street near Delancey</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Gracious & Spacious Historic Federal Home 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths Original pine floors, 3 fireplaces, deck & more... Offered at \$725,000</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Antonio doesn’t just list properties, He actually sells them too!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Antonio sold 2 of my Society Hill homes. Both times he exceeded my expectations and sold my homes in about a month. He has a genuine talent in sales & marketing.” —Mike Luci, Pharmaceutical Sales</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Antonio Atacan is the New Generation of Realtors. He is consistently ranked one of the top Realtors in the United States.</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Antonio Atacan Direct: 215-917-1213 Brokerage: 215-627-3500</p> </div>
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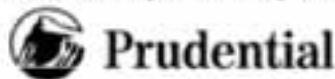
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- 220 Locust Street #16EFG** **\$1,150,000**
Sumptuous corner condo unit in exclusive Society Hill Towers, completely renovated with 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2100 SF of living space, custom kitchen, new hardwood floors throughout, and floor to ceiling windows with magnificent views! **Virtual Tour #4624981**
- 239 S. 3rd** **\$1,495,000**
L.M. Pei townhouse, fully upgraded, 4 bedroom, 2.5 baths, circular stairs, full finished basement, stainless appliance, oak floors and herber carpet, marble bath, beautiful large yard and parking. **Virtual Tour # 4850835**
- 617 Pine** **\$1,495,000**
Lovingly restored, 4 bedroom, 2 bath, two car garage parking, deck, dream kitchen, finished basement, two fireplaces, and central air. **Virtual Tour #4817537**
- 102 Delancey** **\$1,725,000**
Gorgeous extra-wide, 3 bedrooms, den, 3.5 baths, parking, exercise room and fabulous rear yard, gas fireplace, central air, and a wonderful deck. **Virtual Tour #4718857**
- 247 S. 7th** **\$789,900**
Beautiful 3-4 bedroom, multi-level home, 2-car parking, wood floors throughout, garden terrace, high ceilings, spectacular moldings, central air and ceiling fans. **Virtual Tour #4762054**
- 624 Pine** **\$749,900**
Stunning, 3-4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, den, 1-car deeded parking, family room, bright custom kitchen, plenty of closets, fireplace, terrace & rear garden, and central air. **Virtual Tour #4825655**
- 130 Spruce #35A** **\$524,900**
Wonderful, Penns Landing Square, bi-level, 2 bedroom, 2 baths, 1,300 square feet, 1-car garage, central air, and sliding doors to a secluded courtyard. **Virtual Tour #4876938**
- 409 Gaskill** **\$499,900**
Lovely, 4 bedroom, 2.2 baths, lots of original details, random width wide plank floors, crown molding and baseboards, renovated kitchen, stainless appliances, and a lovely landscaped garden. **Virtual tour #4749744**
- 210 Locust #15H** **\$289,900**
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- 418B Fitzwater St 104 Lombard St
- 226 Lombard St

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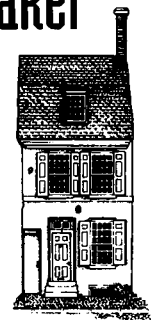


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Thinking of a 2007 Home Renovation?

Now is the time to think about any home renovations you might be planning this year. The problem is that many folks don't know where to start when looking for reliable and competent contractors. With the help of SHCA's List of Recommended Contractors, you have an advantage — every contractor on our 12-page list has been highly recommended by at least one satisfied Society Hill neighbor.

The list is organized by category, which includes every kind of work needed for the home, such as: general contractors, painters, electricians, gardeners, plumbers, roofers, interior designers, sound system and home theater installers. And yes, we've even included a "miscellaneous" category. Generally, many of the most successful contractors have their spring schedules lined up early in the year — so don't delay in setting up an appointment for any contractor you may need.

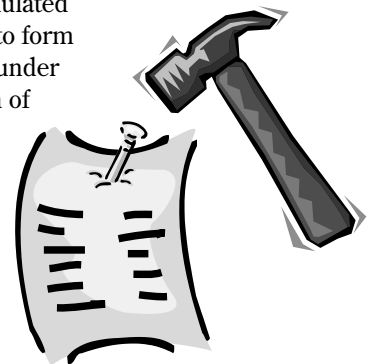
Remember, we suggest that you request at least two references from the neighborhood. Also remember that winter weather can cause home-related problems, so be prepared, especially regarding the following:

- 1** Old fireplaces should be used only if there is a chimney liner in place, especially in older houses — because deteriorating mortar and bricks can cause a fire in the chimney. Hiring a contractor for this purpose is a small expense that can prevent a fire. It's well worth having your fireplaces examined if you haven't yet done so.
- 2** It is best to have your heating system checked annually by a reputable expert — so that you will have a clean, healthy indoor environment while saving money on heating bills.
- 3** Roof gutters that are blocked by accumulated leaves can cause roof leaks and icicles to form from the roof. If you suspect this, look under our category of "roofers" for a selection of reliable roofing contractors.

To receive your copy of Society Hill's List of Recommended Contractors, please contact Martha Levine at 215-629-0727 or marthalev@msn.com.

Sorry, but due to the length of the list it cannot be emailed to you — so be sure to include your address.

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NOTEWORTHY NEIGHBORS

A COLUMN BY DAVID WOODS

Joan Saltzman and John Katz

A die-hard romantic who believes in the possibility of finding true love, even if the price might be a vital organ.

The first successful kidney transplants took place in 1952 in Boston and Paris. Since then, more than 15,000 have been done in the United States. About half of those are from living donors, and these are further characterized by living-related or living-unrelated transplants, depending upon whether a biological relationship exists between the donor and the recipient. In a survey in *Clinical Transplantation* of 176 spousal kidney transplants, 175 respondents said they would advise others to donate a kidney to a spouse.

Enter married couple of nine years, Joan Saltzman (donor) and John Katz (recipient). John — now retired after teaching film for several years in Canada and nine years more recently at the University of Pennsylvania — was diagnosed with chronic kidney failure in 1976. Joan — a self-described “late bloomer,” was looking for a Mr. Right. John, in turn, was one of 90,000 Americans looking for a donor kidney.

After the couple had been married for just a week, she for the first time at almost 50; he for the third, after two divorces, they visited a nephrologist who recommended a transplant. Initially, they thought of cadaver donors, but John’s condition was deteriorating. He became increasingly sick, tired and pale. Joan looked like a good match — not only as spouse but as donor.



In 1999, Joan gave John a priceless, life-saving gift — her left kidney. The transplant, she says, was done laparoscopically, which involved a three-day hospital stay and required two weeks’ recuperation. Her kidney now resides in John’s lower abdomen, while his original affected kidney has been left to atrophy.

But it’s not over yet. John has to take immunosuppressives to prevent rejection, and, he says, “they’re pretty toxic.” Moreover, he’s not allowed to lift anything over 25 pounds. The good news, though, is that Joan (a medical malpractice attorney) has written a book entitled *Mr. Right and My Left Kidney*. The press release for the book notes that it “is a funny, uplifting memoir of Joan Saltzman’s successful quest for the right guy. [It] is also for the die-hard romantic who believes in the possibility of finding true love, even if the price might be a vital organ.”



While John is now retired, he also continues to write. In fact, both he and Joan have advanced degrees in English Literature — he from Columbia and Harvard; she from Penn. The couple first met during the Montreal Film Festival and met up again for a Simon and Garfunkel concert in New York. Each year they travel to the Cannes Film Festival.

As one might imagine, the couple are huge movie buffs. They love Society Hill not only for its Ritz theaters, but also for its ready access to restaurants and markets — including South Philly’s Italian market and the Reading Terminal Market.

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends,” says the Bible. A close second, though, in this case, is surely that a wife give (gives or lays down) her kidney for her husband... to prolong and enhance his life... and their life together!

David Woods can be reached at hmi3000@comcast.net

The Green Tree Perpetual Assurance Company

Letter to the Editor

In a half-page plea in last year's September/October Newsletter you asked us all if we could think of a good use for the long-vacant Man Full of Trouble Tavern.

Well, we did. We are The Green Tree, the second oldest company in America "for Ensuring Houses from Loss by Fire." We were founded in this neighborhood on 29 September 1784 by a group of eighteen dissident members of the Contributionship (the oldest such company) who believed that the Contributionship's 1781 ban on street trees as a fire hazard was excessive. We sketched our history on the inside back cover of consecutive issues of the Newsletter for two years, ending in July/August 2005. Although this page is always labeled "Advertisement," we considered placing our story here a way of sharing our proud history—and an interesting story—with our neighbors while making a monetary contribution to our local civic association. We also advertised frequently in a half-page column on the inside front cover of the Newsletter, and in those same years we instituted a program to match the grants offered by SHCA to anyone who wanted to plant a street tree.

We have a long history as a resident of this neighborhood. From 1784 through 1796 we did business at various locations, often from the homes of our earliest Surveyors and Clerks, while holding board meetings in local taverns and coffee houses. For the following three years we were located at 4th and Union, now Delancey, at the commercial establishment of Matthew Clarkson, who was Mayor of Philadelphia from 1792 through 1795 and one of The Green Tree's first elected Trustees as well as its first Clerk. Some time after Clarkson's death in 1800, The Green Tree moved its offices to 111 Pine Street, and then in 1803 to 86 Pine Street Wharf in the offices of Wharton and Palmer, the latter being the second Clerk of Green Tree. The Trustees continued to meet in the city's taverns.

In 1812 the Trustees purchased Sarah Wistar's house at 54 Walnut Street, then a very fashionable neighborhood, for the company's offices. The house doubled as

an office and meeting place for the Trustees, and a home for the Treasurer and his family, who provided 24-hour protection for the company's valuable property and papers.

Directly across the street from 54 Walnut Street plans were underway for the construction of the Merchant's Exchange, to which The Green Tree subscribed \$1,000 in stock to support the venture. At the death of Palmer in 1829, Clement Stocker became the third Clerk of The Green Tree but, unfortunately, died soon thereafter. Reluctant to evict his family from their home, the Trustees persuaded his brother-in-law, Lawrence Lewis, to take over his position.

Lawrence Lewis continued his own commercial and philanthropic interests as well, serving as Director of the Bank of the United States, Manager of The Philadelphia Savings Fund Society, and Manager, then President, of Pennsylvania Hospital. He was also a member of the Select Council for a number of years and instrumental in introducing gas lighting to Philadelphia in the form of the Franklin light, whose descendants still illumine our neighborhood today.

At Lawrence's death in 1856, the Board authorized the sale of 54 Walnut Street and a month later purchased a property at 526 Walnut, opposite the State House garden. This property, again, was in the new fashionable residential section of town, and the company's affairs continued to prosper in the hands of successive generations of families with the names of Wharton, Lewis, Cadwalader, Sergeant, Biddle.

When The Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company offered The Green Tree \$100,000 for its property at 526 Walnut Street, the company accepted and purchased from John Cadwalader the two adjoining houses on the southwest corner of Fourth and Locust Streets—the Shippen and Cadwalader houses. After significant restoration and renovation, including the creation of a formal garden directly across Locust Street, The Green Tree moved into its new home in 1912.

In 1919, upon his return from the War and the death of his father Clifford Lewis, David Lewis was appointed



Treasurer of The Green Tree, the fourth of five successive generations of that family to hold the position. After further renovations, David Lewis moved into 240 South 4th with his family, while the adjacent Shippen house was partially leased by a private tenant and by the Colonial Dames, who remained there for many years.

By the 1980s, when the Shippen-Wister houses no longer provided sufficient space for the company's needs, The Green Tree purchased the office tower at 414 Walnut Street and the two contiguous properties rounding the corner on Fourth Street, and operated from these properties until 2001. During its tenure here, the company planted pear trees along the entire block and around the corner down Fifth Street for half the block. From our founding, we have understood the gift of noble old trees that grace our public spaces and clean our air.

Today we are once again a small, circumspect company, as in our past. We have few employees; no one comes to our door; we don't take up free parking spaces. We do, however, maintain our property and go about our business quietly, and we have a distinguished collection of Philadelphia fire-fighting memorabilia, fine paintings and prints, spanning two centuries that we were willing to offer on public view.

Over the past two centuries or more, we have operated out of residences and taverns and know how to be good neighbors. In seeking to occupy A Man Full of Trouble Tavern, we thought we had found ourselves an appropriate home. We also thought we were doing our neighborhood a favor by solving the problem of the Tavern in an exceedingly appropriate manner to our Society Hill neighbors and their guests.

January 17 Meeting

Featured Speaker: Janice Woodcock

Janice Woodcock was named the new Executive Director of the Philadelphia Planning Commission by Mayor John Street in October 2006. A registered architect in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Washington, Ms. Woodcock is an accredited LEED professional — which stands for “Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design,” a growing field in energy conservation and sustainable design.

Prior to arriving in Philadelphia, in the early 1990s, Ms. Woodcock worked as a planner for firms in Portland, Boston and Seattle — including the firm of Jones and Jones Architecture and Landscape Architecture, a leader in the environmental design field. In Philadelphia, Ms. Woodcock worked at the architectural firm of Cecil Baker & Associates on a wide range of residential,

commercial and public projects — including a Chestnut Street report called, “Turning on the Lights Upstairs,” a study of how to occupy the vacant upper floors of historic buildings. In 2004 she joined the city’s Capital Program Office for the Fairmount Park team where she served as Project Director until her recent appointment as the Planning Commissioner for the City of Philadelphia.

No doubt, Ms. Woodcock will have a lot to say about development along the Delaware River waterfront, and neighbors will raise many questions at SHCA’s first General Membership Meeting for 2007. Be sure to join us on Wednesday, January 17th at the Old Pine Street Church: 7 p.m. for “Meet & Greet.” The presentation begins promptly at 7:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY
CALENDAR

Wednesday, January 17
SHCA Board Meeting: 6 p.m.
General Membership Meeting: 7:30 p.m.
 see page 1 for more information

Wednesday, February 21
SHCA Board Meeting: 7 p.m.
 Location to be announced
 All members welcome

*Happy
New Year!*



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