

## Casinos, Condos, Controversy: Are We at a Crossroads?

### VOTE!

See pages 11-15 for information about SHCA's important General Membership Meeting on May 28, 2008.

Here we are in the 21st century, living in a thriving modern community among cherished relics of the 18th century. Society Hill — one of America's most historical residential neighborhoods — draws visitors from across the nation and around the world. These guests appreciate the architecture of our buildings and the harmony of our streets and parks. But for us, this is home: where our kids go to school, where our diverse population attends religious services of all kinds, and where some of us even earn our daily bread. The remarkable success of Society Hill, with its inspirational mix of old and new (whether people or places), is a model for other neighborhoods across the country.

Society Hill's rebirth was no accident. It required the vision of talented city planners and the passion of historic preservationists, as well as the enlightened but stubborn determination of a handful of young risk-takers who, more than 50 years ago, invested and worked to create the community we know and love today. For example, 200-year old Colonial townhouses then functioning as multi-family dwellings or boarding houses (and often

located next to factories and commercial enterprises) were thoroughly renovated and returned to their original purpose as private homes — in the process, revealing their intrinsic beauty.

Over these past 60 years or so, Society Hill has been faced with a variety of different challenges, but only one that would have had serious consequences. This occurred in early 1965 when the Interstate highway (I-95) was scheduled for construction — which would have effectively separated our neighborhood from the Delaware River and the ambitious but still unresolved development for Penn's Landing. After seven years of opposition by local activists, wisdom prevailed: I-95 was constructed below street level and covered — so that pedestrians would not be denied direct access to the waterfront.

Since that time, our civic association has worked effectively on many fronts to protect or improve the quality of life we enjoy. However, these days Society Hill is once again endangered by a questionable construction proposal whereby two gambling facilities — Foxwoods and Sugar-House — would be built along the waterfront on Columbus Boulevard, with catastrophic results for our residential neighborhood and other nearby communities. Our civic association, which represents all residents and local businesses, has coalesced in its unequivocal opposition to this casino threat. We're pleased to report that this opposition is fully supported by recently elected Mayor Michael Nutter. Since planning and zoning are important concerns for his administration, the Mayor has made it clear that any and all legal options will be explored to halt what would result in an economic and social catastrophe for our neighborhood and for the city as a whole.

Thus, we will collectively dig in our heels and stay the course, as we did during the I-95 conflict — even if it takes seven years to prevent the arrival of these casinos so close to our doorsteps. We remain optimistic that our voices will be heard and that democracy will ultimately prevail.

*continued on page 6*

<b>WED.</b>	<b>MARK YOUR CALENDAR</b>
May <b>28</b>	Society Hill Civic Association Meetings Wednesday, May 28, 2008
	<b>Zubrow Auditorium, Pennsylvania Hospital 800 Spruce Street</b>
<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Board of Directors Meeting</b> All SHCA members are welcome.
<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Meet &amp; Greet Your Neighbors</b>
<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>General Membership Meeting</b> All neighborhood residents are invited to attend.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Presentation by Nicky Uy of the Food Trust</b></li> <li>• <b>Annual Election of SHCA Board of Directors</b> SHCA members are encouraged to vote.</li> <li>• <b>Brief Presentation about Penn's Village</b> See page 18.</li> </ul>



  
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*Reporter*

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[www.societyhillcivic.org](http://www.societyhillcivic.org)

**Submissions**

We want to hear from you. Our goal is to print news of interest to Society Hillers – happenings in and around our community for residents, business people and professionals. Direct your editorial submissions and/or queries to Bernice Hamel via fax at 215-925-0877 or email [bernicehamel@comcast.net](mailto: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 – 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 only if signed and the writer provides contact information.

**NOTE**

*Franklin Light Poles  
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During the month of May, all the poles of Society Hill's unique Franklin Lights will be painted on a block-to-block basis. Look for fliers alerting you with the exact date for your block. We expect no disruptions, but we ask you not to touch the wet paint.

**Any questions?** Contact Martha Levine, Project Chair, at [marthalev@msn.com](mailto:marthalev@msn.com).

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


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RICHARD DE WYNGAERT

*“By doubting we all come at truth.”*

—Marcus Tullius Cicero

Once again, I find myself struggling to determine the breadth of our community's perspectives. Believe me when I tell you that this is a challenging endeavor.

Intellectually, I understand that perspective is neither right nor wrong: it simply *is*. However, if any perspective is to be really understood, it must be considered in terms of the system from which it stems. What are its organizing principles? This is not easily established. I have a difficult enough time truly understanding the roots of my own perspective, let alone determining the core ingredients of others' perspectives. Nevertheless, if we are to engage in meaningful dialogue — from which common ground may emerge — we must all try harder to at least appreciate perspectives that may be in conflict with our own. In conflict, there is growth. But in this case, there must also be respect.

In responding to the proposal for Stamper Square (aka: NewMarket) by Bridgeman Development — designed by Barry Eiswerth, a principal in the architectural firm H2L2 — our community has demonstrated a determined vigilance that clearly underscores our spirit. We should all be proud of the commitment and passion for Society Hill that has been expressed over the past few months. However, the vigilance that so clearly underscores our spirit just as clearly exacerbates our divisions.

Obviously, among us there exists more than one vision for Society Hill. Some residents support the density, the additional affluence and the commercial vitality which the addition of a five-star Starwood's Hotel and condominium complex would likely yield. Other residents of Society Hill feel the current proposal is too large and out of scale with the rest of Society Hill. They feel the historical integrity of Society Hill would be com-

promised. There is still another group, the “near neighbors” (those most immediately impacted by virtue of contiguous property) who desperately want something other than a hole in the ground and who, for the most part, are very supportive of this development. Finally, there are some people who, consistent with their response to many issues, will accept whatever ultimately happens. Regardless of which I may support, I can appreciate all positions. No view is without merit.

What gets lost, or occasionally forgotten, in the course of heated debate, is that we all love Society Hill. Neither side can claim greater love of country. Presumably, we all act in ways that we think will benefit Society Hill.

Where we part, I believe, is in identifying the course that we think will most effectively and comprehensively contribute to Society Hill's future vitality.

Unlike other recent challenges with which we've been faced, the current Stamper Square issue more evenly divides our community. There are no black and white hats being worn by the combatants. All views are legitimate. All warrant consideration. It is therefore imperative that we, as a community, continue to try and understand each other. We must remain positive and not allow discussion of the issue to degenerate into a hostile exchange, often fueled by suspicion.

We must acknowledge our different opinions and try to understand the belief systems, both individual and collective, that shape them. This is not easy. But to each other and to our community we owe a thorough examination of the spectrum of beliefs to which we subscribe and, as best we can, determine whether they are based in reality, or whether they are burdened with misconceptions. We also owe each other respect.



**Richard de Wyngaert,  
President**

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Among us there exists more than one vision for Society Hill.

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## POLITICS AND CASINOS

## Mayor & City Council Take A Stand Following PA Supreme Court Decision

Democracy continues to be thwarted in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It all began in July 2004 when the State legislature, *without any input from citizens*, voted to allow stand-alone gaming facilities to be built throughout Pennsylvania — two of which were slated for the City of Philadelphia. Following that shocking decision, which denied citizens their right to vote on such a controversial subject, the seven appointed, unelected members of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board (PGCB) issued licenses, in December 2006, selecting the two casinos to be built and operated in Philadelphia within two miles of each other along the Delaware River and adjacent to thriving residential neighborhoods, including our own.

At no time did Philadelphians have meaningful input into these licensing decisions, although there was a consensus among Philadelphians (including residents, city planners and many elected officials) that these two state-selected sites were the worst possible locations of the five sites under consideration. To add insult to injury, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court stripped the City of Philadelphia of its rightful authority to determine whether or not it would permit casinos to operate within its borders (by denying a citywide referendum in May 2007). Subsequently, the Court twice denied the city its authority to decide where such state-imposed facilities would be located. So it was no surprise that on April 1, 2008 (April Fools Day!) the joke was on Philadelphia citizens when the Pennsylvania Supreme Court stripped the City of Philadelphia, for a second time, of any regulatory authority over the zoning for Foxwoods, one of the proposed casinos. The Court ordered the city to give Foxwoods its zoning for a CED, which is a Commercial Entertainment District. (In December 2006, the Court issued a similar decision regarding the SugarHouse casino.)

In spite of these state-imposed constraints, City Council determined that it was essential to conduct hearings on the traffic, infrastructure, as well as social and economic impacts of Foxwoods. In fact, City Council was in the midst of this series of hearings when the Supreme Court intervened and in effect nullified Council hearings. However, in response to the Court's action, our recently elected Mayor, Michael Nutter, together with City Council thought that it was vitally necessary to continue to create a record of testimony on the wide range of issues directly related to the issuance of this CED

zoning classification. Thus, Council forged ahead with the third of four hearings last month, on April 4th. In an unexpected appearance before Council, Mayor Nutter offered dramatic testimony regarding his position on the subject when he said: "I want to be very direct about this. It is clear that the proposed Foxwoods site is wrong for Philadelphia and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.... This is not a game, this is not a joke, this is not just roll-over and let things happen. Those days are over. I want to make it very, very clear that...the casino operators should be prepared to engage in much more serious discussions and an exploration of their obligations to the City of Philadelphia than they have in the past."

A number of Society Hillers in attendance at this Council hearing appreciated Mayor Nutter's assertion that he had "no intention" of paying the \$14 million annual price tag for policing the areas around the two planned riverfront casinos — not to mention the \$18 million in start-up costs for a police operation if the casinos are built. Interestingly, Mayor Nutter repeatedly used the phrase "if casinos come to Philadelphia" to preface his concerns about the true costs associated with gaming. The Mayor stated that he had not budgeted for any of these costs in his five-year plan — "None of which the City should have to pay for..." The hidden costs of gaming was a theme echoed throughout the three City Council hearings held thus far, a subject which has received increasing attention by local and national media. For example, a feature article entitled "Bad Bet" recently appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*, (April 13) reporting that "the infrastructure required for gambling — from road building to hiring new police — is costly. Once you make those adjustments, the economic upside of gambling evaporates."

**Note:** Three days before Nutter officially took office as mayor, former Mayor Street signed an agreement with Foxwoods to cover the cost of funding extra police needed to accommodate the casino.

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"...the proposed Foxwoods site is wrong for Philadelphia and the Commonwealth..."

—Mayor Nutter

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### WHERE ARE WE AT PRESS TIME?

SHCA's Casino Committee, together with the Philadelphia Neighborhood Alliance — now in its 17th month of cooperation and consisting of 27 communities throughout the city — are united to re-site these casinos. Meanwhile, we continue to work with elected officials on the local and state levels, city administrators and planners to move both Foxwoods and SugarHouse to more suitable sites that are far away from densely populated residential neighborhoods. For up-to-date coverage and more information, visit [PlanPhilly.com](http://PlanPhilly.com) or [www.societyhillcivic.org](http://www.societyhillcivic.org).

## Casinos, Condos and Controversy

*continued from page 1*

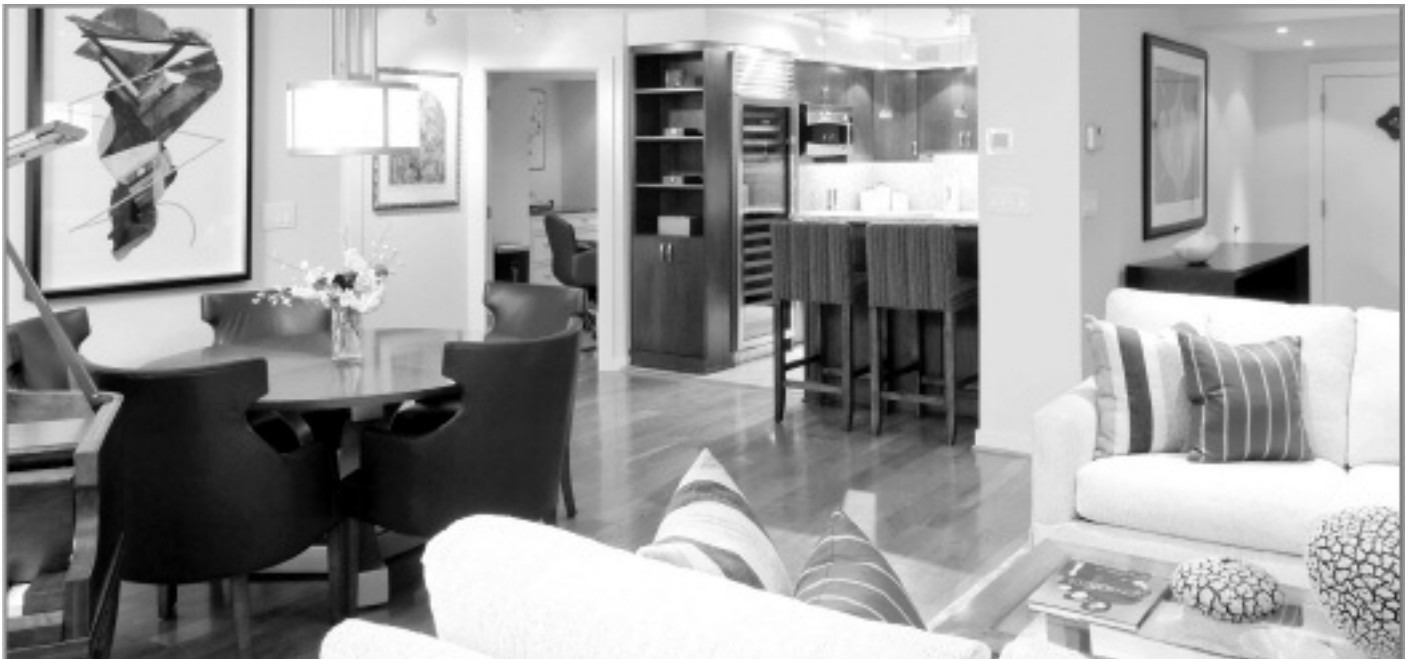
**“With drama like this, who needs the Wilma Theater!”**

Another challenge we currently face in our role as stewards of Society Hill is the proposed development for NewMarket — located between Front and S. 2nd and Pine and Lombard Streets. This would be a combination hi-rise condominium and luxury hotel complex — called “Stamper Square.” Needless to say, most residents feel strongly that this long-vacant site should be developed — sooner rather than later — since this 1.5 acre ‘hole in the ground’ is the only remaining blight in Society Hill. While the developer’s intended purpose and fundamental design for the complex is almost unanimously applauded by the community, a basic disagreement regarding its proposed height and scale in relation to nearby homes and structures has generated controversy — especially given its location across from Head House Square, a National Historic Landmark.

This difference of opinion has caused an outpouring of passionate views on both sides with respect to the value and importance of conserving the historic scale of our neighborhood vs. the value of moving forward with an ambitious and

high-end development that would bring desired amenities. Design plans include a 15-story building offering 80 luxury condominium apartments that would attract many permanent residents, as well as a 150-room, four-star hotel (Starwoods) featuring a gourmet restaurant. The development also incorporates a landscaped, mid-block path that echoes Society Hill’s walkways. However, the 15-story height of this development proposal has generated much discussion at well-attended community meetings — causing a long-time neighbor to quip: “With drama like this, who needs the Wilma Theater!”

The true challenge we face is to reach a compromise — first, among ourselves and then with Stamper Square’s investors and developers. Because we are united in our desire to bring closure to this unresolved debate regarding the building’s height, and because we cannot sacrifice our community’s spirit and goodwill, we remain optimistic that a reasonable solution will emerge and an impressive new condo-hotel complex will be built at the NewMarket site.



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## NEW MARKET SUMMARY

## SHCA and the Stamper Square Proposal

On February 27, 2008, SHCA's Board of Directors considered the proposed Stamper Square project. The Board had already received the recommendation from its Zoning and Historic Preservation (ZHP) Committee that the SHCA not support this project as currently proposed. At this February 27th Board meeting a full discussion and debate was held, and a motion to approve the proposed project met with a 12-12 vote — resulting in an evenly divided Board.

In the days following that vote, Councilman Frank DiCicco introduced a bill to rezone the vacant property to allow for the project as proposed. He reported to the press that given the Board's division, he wanted to bring the debate into City Council so that all sides could be heard. On March 10th, SHCA's ZHP Committee voted unanimously (with one abstention) to recommend to the Board that the Civic Association oppose this rezoning bill. Then on March 25th the developer presented the project to the Architectural Committee of the Philadelphia Historical Commission. A motion to approve the project was met with a 2-2 vote.

On April 3rd, SHCA's Board held a meeting at which Councilman DiCicco gave a presentation and answered questions about the rezoning bill. The Board then discussed the matter and, by a vote of 12-8 (with 2 abstentions), approved the following motion: "The Society Hill Civic Association is opposed to the effort to rezone the former NewMarket property and will advocate our position to the City."

On April 15th the rezoning bill was considered by the Philadelphia Planning Commission, which unanimously recommended its approval. The next day, on April 16th, City Council's Rules Committee considered the rezoning bill and unanimously voted it out of committee favorably. The bill may go to the full City Council as early as May 1st — at a time when this newsletter is being printed. If approved, the bill will then be sent to the Mayor's desk for his consideration. At some point, this project will likely be submitted for consideration by the City's Historical Commission, at which time it can either approve the proposal (with or without conditions) or deny it.



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## Letter to the Editor

The Stamper Square proposal has caused much heat in our community. I am in favor of the current proposal, but recognize that there are others who oppose it. I will not get into a recitation of the pros and cons — much time and effort has already been spent doing this over the last several months. I think that the Board's inability to come to a position in favor or opposition to the developer's current proposal is indicative of a true divide in our community. Therefore, until a clearer consensus develops, I suggest the SHCA neither actively support nor oppose the current proposal. There is simply too much acrimony and hard feelings in our neighborhood to believe that even were the Board to have a "majority" position that it would actually reflect the community.

*Matt White, SHCA Board Director*



*The Grand Ballroom*



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# That Was Then, This Is Now, What Will Be?

COMMENTS BY STEVEN WEIXLER

**Editor's Note:** *Steven A. Weixler is a Director of SHCA's Board and current Chair of the Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee. This column represents his personal opinions rather than the position of the Committee, and does not constitute a statement on behalf of the Society Hill Civic Association.*

Our community has recently faced an unusual challenge in considering a developer's proposal for the vacant former NewMarket site. As always in a community of committed and concerned neighbors, there has been considerable debate on the direction we should take in answering this challenge. Although our neighborhood has benefited greatly from the expertise of planners and architects like Edmund Bacon and the passion of several generations of dedicated residents, the story of Society Hill's cultural value does not begin — or end — there.

The Free Society of Traders gave our neighborhood its beginning and its name long, long before the success story of rejuvenation. Along with others, the Society founded a commercial center, made investment in significant buildings and ran profitable enterprises. The iconic Head House is the living symbol of these beginnings of Philadelphia's economic success. Men like Nicholas Biddle and Samuel Powel lived in the fine houses we still preserve because our neighborhood was thriving and commercially successful.

Recent memory equips us well to tell the story of Richardson Dilworth's foresight and Edmund Bacon's innovation. Society Hill was a good choice for Bacon. We have the largest concentration of Georgian building stock outside the British Isles. The economic conditions of the late 19th and early 20th centuries left these buildings deteriorated but intact. The Redevelopment Authority was on hand to manage millions of dollars for infrastructure improvement, new construction and site clearance. This created a windfall we all enjoy — a plan that made urban design and economic sense in realizing its goals.

The neighborhood and the economics we are experiencing today present a different set of challenges to Society Hill's continued success. An apartment at Society Hill Towers, although conceived to attract moderate-income residents, is now a high-value investment. The District as a whole enjoys the highest median home price in the metropolitan region. There is scarcely a postage-stamp-sized parcel of real estate available for new development in the entire neighborhood. As for NewMarket, its concept of mall-style mixed retail in Society Hill did not prove successful.

Parking was difficult, quality merchants found a lack of clientele, the building became a blight and neighbors have been left with its ugly remains. Bacon's zoning plan was good, but like any urban plan, had some misconceptions.

I have waited and watched for a decade in the hope that a good development for the NewMarket site could be found. Movie star Will Smith provided some excitement when he invested a reported \$3 million in the site and proposed a "W" Hotel. The community had no great hue and cry about its 125-foot height. But real estate development is a risky business with many variables, and the project was not realized. Throughout a period of great expansion in real estate investment, NewMarket and its C2 zoning sat unwanted. The only bidders asked us for heights of 240 to 406 feet.

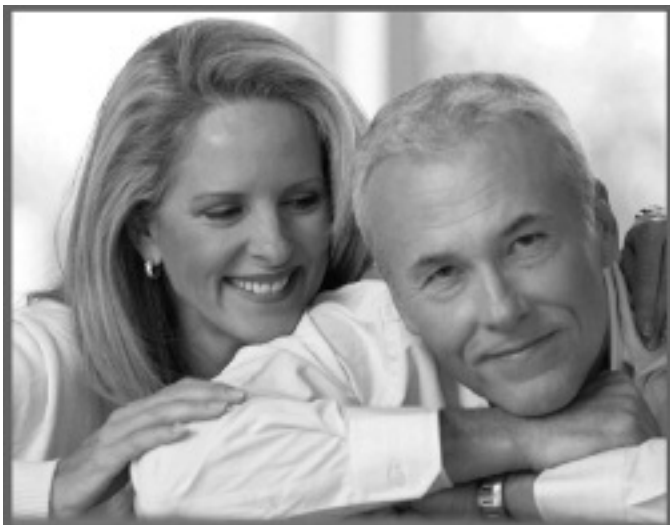
Now we are hearing from an entrepreneur who would like to make an investment he believes would be commercially successful and carry economic benefit to the area. He has convinced a leading hotel company to bring their upscale customer base to the neighborhood, along with new residents. Architect Barry Eiswerth, a long-time neighbor and principal of the international firm H2L2, has supervised the design of a building with the context of the neighborhood in the forefront of his concept. Architecture critic Inga Saffron commented: "One of the very good things about the layout and massing of Stamper Square is that it connects with the grid in multiple urban ways. It also pushes those two, now modest, mid-rise towers to the far edge of the site, so they hardly interfere with the blocks of low-rise townhouses." The developer has engaged the immediate neighbors and our community to address our concerns. His proposal for tax increment financing would allow substantial tax revenue from the project to flow directly to improvements in our community. This is particularly important to the Head House Square area in attracting new and more appropriate investment.

It is my hope that our generation of Society Hill will continue in the spirit of its founders and consider the value of this development in the same light. A vibrant, successful neighborhood requires investment and forward-thinking.

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As always in a community of committed and concerned neighbors, there has been considerable debate on the direction we should take...

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## HAIL &amp; FAREWELL

## SHCA General Membership Meeting: Annual Board of Directors Election

The Society Hill Civic Association will conduct its annual election of Board officers and quadrant directors at its next General Membership Meeting — to be held at Pennsylvania Hospital's Zubrow Auditorium (800 Spruce Street) on Wednesday, May 28th, at 8 p.m. We urge all SHCA members to attend and vote for these civic-minded candidates, while we bid farewell to SHCA's departing Board officers and quadrant directors, as well as welcome their willing replacements.

SHCA's President Richard de Wyngaert asked Vice President Jerrold Moss (known to us as "Jim") to chair the 2008-2009 Nominating and Elections Committee. Richard also appointed two current officers to serve on this Nominating Committee: Vice President Rebecca (Becky) Stoloff and Treasurer Kevin Miller. Other committee members were four directors about to conclude their terms as quadrant directors: Paul Boni (Northeast); Carol Colabelli (Southeast); Sissie Lipton (Northwest); and Wally Wing (Southwest).

According to SHCA's By-laws, each officer is elected for a one-year term, but can serve for up to three consecutive years, if re-elected. Quadrant directors are elected for three-year terms, while any director representing a condominium association — e.g. Hopkinson House, Independence Place, Society Hill Towers or Penn's Landing Square — is appointed by its own membership for a one-year term. Each of these condo appointees can serve for a maximum of three successive one-year terms. (These representatives will be named and their brief bios featured in the July/August issue of the *Reporter*.)

This year some "retiring" officers will now assume quadrant directorship roles for the next three years, while a few quadrant directors will be elected as officers. We especially thank outgoing Vice President Carole LeFavre-Rochester for her energetic service over the past three years. Recording Secretary Marilyn Appel has fulfilled her three years in that role and will now represent the Southwest Quadrant — completing the two years remaining on Vicki Lupica's directorship. Bonnie Halda, who has represented the Society Hill Towers for the past three years, has now agreed to serve as SHCA's Recording Secretary. Martha Levine, who has functioned as a Vice President for three years will now represent the Southwest Quadrant; Bernice Hamel is retiring as Vice President, and has agreed to represent the Southeast Quadrant. We are indebted to three retiring Quadrant Directors — Paul Boni (Northeast), Carole Colabelli (Southeast), and Sissie Lipton (Northwest) — who have graciously agreed to serve as Vice Presidents.

### Vote on Proposed Articles of Incorporation Amendments

Another vote on the agenda for this May 28th meeting will ask members to support proposed amendments for SHCA's Articles of Incorporation so that our association can apply for nonprofit status. This would allow donations made to SHCA to be tax-deductible when used for neighborhood projects. A brief explanation of these amendments will be given, prior to a membership vote, as the proposal was approved by SHCA's Board of Directors in December 2007.

Wednesday,  
May 28, 2008  
7:30 p.m.

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## NOMINEES FOR SHCA OFFICERS

**Brief biographies appear on the following pages for new candidates only.**

**Continuing officers and directors are listed with only their committee activities highlighted.**

We heartily welcome all new officers and quadrant directors whose brief biographical summaries are featured. Ongoing directors and officers are named and their primary SHCA activities listed, while all condominium representatives who are appointed by their membership associations will be featured in the next issue of this newsletter.

### President

#### Richard de Wyngaert

Continuing in his second year as President, Richard represents SHCA in the Philadelphia Neighborhood Alliance — a coalition of 27 civic groups (consisting of 300,000 residents) seeking to re-site Foxwoods and SugarHouse to non-residential communities.

### Vice Presidents

Three new Vice-Presidential nominees have been asked to serve beside the two ongoing Vice Presidents, Becky Stoloff and Jim Moss.

#### Paul Boni, Esq.

Paul has been a valued and highly visible Northeast Quadrant Director who has now been asked to serve as a Vice President. A former Chair of our ZHP Committee, Paul advocates strongly for compliance with the city's zoning code and historic preservation laws. With a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania, earned in 1990, Paul has an independent legal practice located in Old City, which focuses on environmental, zoning and land-use law. Among Paul's *pro-bono* activities, he represents Casino-Free Philadelphia, and he is, of course, an active member of SHCA's Anti-Casino Committee. He lives in an historic "trinity" townhouse. When not working for his clients and our community, Paul enjoys fine films and the city's wonderful variety of restaurants.

#### Carol Colabelli

In 1997 Carol and her husband, Ralph, moved from the Art Museum area to Society Hill's Blackwell Place. A native Philadelphian, Carol is currently semi-retired from her partnership in Professional Meetings International — a worldwide meeting management company. Now that her Southeast Quadrant Directorship comes to an end, she looks forward to serving SHCA as a Vice President. Carol values the opportunity to participate in community projects — such as Society Hill's Franklin Lights improvement initiative. She is also a member of SHCA's Social Committee, as well as a local activist opposing the two proposed casinos. She and Ralph love spending time together with their three children and two grandchildren. In their travels throughout the United States, Europe and Asia, they focus their interest on culture and cuisine.

#### Sissie Lipton

Sissie and her husband, Herb, have lived at Independence Place for over 20 years. After serving for three years as a Northwest Quadrant Director, she has agreed to become a Vice President. Sissie continues her leadership role in developing a successful liaison committee for Washington Square, which works with the National Park Service to improve the standards and amenities of our neighborhood park. Sissie was responsible for the recent installation of the historically accurate bronze lily pad in the park's fountain. She also serves on the board of the Wilma Theater, and is a past president of the Friends of Moss Rehabilitation Hospital. She and Herb raised three wonderful and highly successful children — one of whom, Eric Lipton, is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist with the *New York Times*.

### Continuing Vice Presidents

#### Rebecca Stoloff

Past SHCA president and long-time active member of SHCA's ZHP Committee and 2008 member of the Nominating Committee. She is Vice President of the Head House Conservancy.

#### Jerrold "Jim" Moss

Chair of SHCA's Nominating Committee and a member of its Legal Committee, Jim is a Board Director of the Head House Conservancy.

### Recording Secretary

#### Bonnie Halda

Bonnie has been a resident of Society Hill since 1990 when she moved to Philadelphia from Denver, Colorado. Professionally she has 30 years experience as an historical architect, with an emphasis on working with communities to preserve and protect their historic buildings and districts. Currently she holds a management position with the Northeast Region of the National Park Service and is responsible for the preservation assistance programs within thirteen states and the District of Columbia. She and her husband, Richard Lush, are both active members of SHCA's Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee. She is also a Board Director of the Head House Conservancy. For the past three years Bonnie served our civic association as representative of the Society Hill Towers; previously she was a Vice President.

### Treasurer

#### Kevin Miller

A professional CPA, Kevin is serving a second year as SHCA's Treasurer.

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3) *Torah Yoga*  
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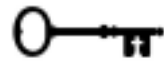
**Conversations in Equity  
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Sunday, May 18, 10:00 am  
*The Crisis in Darfur,*  
with Fatima Haroun

Sunday, June 1, 10:00 am  
*What Does God's Justice Look Like?*  
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Saint Peter's House, 313 Pine Street

Worship at 9:00 and 11:00  
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## NOMINEES FOR SHCA QUADRANT DIRECTORS

### Southeast Quadrant

#### **Bernice Hamel**

Bernice has wielded the “power of her pen” for several community causes, although she is first and foremost a writer of short fiction. The founder and managing editor of this newsletter (for over 15 years), she has served SHCA as vice president for the past three years. A long-time member of SHCA's Zoning & Historic Preservation Committee, Bernice is president of the Head House Conservancy, which led the major preservation effort that rescued Head House, a National Historic Landmark. In 2001 Bernice was awarded a Citation by the Mayor of Philadelphia for promoting education and awareness of the city's history. She and her husband, Bernard, treasure living in their historic home, built in 1762, which their four out-of-town grandchildren love to visit.

#### **Jane Ahn**

Member, NewMarket Committee

#### **Sandra Rothman**

Writer/editor of the *Society Hill Reporter*

### Southwest Quadrant

#### **Marilyn Appel**

Marilyn's numerous activities have earned her several awards for community service, including three Governor's Awards and the first D.A.'s Urban Genesis Award. One of Society Hill's first “TownWatchers,” she also co-chairs SHCA's Safe & Sound Committee and serves as a columnist/editor of this newsletter. With an Ed.D. from Temple University and a B.S. degree from Brandeis, Marilyn works as a professional reviewer of grant applications for federal agencies. She and her husband, Harry, both “opera buffs,” have lived in their Spruce Street home for about 40 years. They enjoy hosting guests in their beautifully restored residence — originally the home of Richard Allen, founder of the Mother Bethel AME Church — which is now a most desirable local B&B establishment.

#### **Martha Levine**

Martha has served as a Board Director over the last several years. Perhaps she is best known as SHCA's Chair of the Franklin Lights Committee which oversaw fundraising and replacement of 500 new Franklin Lights — thus significantly improving the quality of light in our neighborhood. With an MBA in marketing, Martha created our community's Welcome Basket program — presenting new neighbors with baskets full of goodies from local shops and businesses. She maintains and updates our community's List of Recommended Contractors. She continues to co-direct Society Hill's annual house and garden tours, coordinated by the Friends of Independence National Historical Park. Also she oversees SHCA's 50 Block Coordinators. Martha lives with husband, Howard Sedran, a lawyer, and their daughter, an 8th grader.

#### **Anine Burlingame**

Member, Welcome Baskets Committee;  
Member, Franklin Lights Committee

### Northeast Quadrant

#### **George Kelley**

In February of 2007 George moved from Bryn Mawr to his home on Spruce Street. As a former two-term President of the Wynnewood Civic Association, he soon volunteered for service in “his new community” and was invited to work with SHCA's Zoning & Historic Preservation Committee. He was then appointed as a Block Coordinator and has voluntarily committed many hours (and sore fingers) to removing graffiti and vandal stickers from signs and other public property throughout Society Hill. As a retired corporate attorney, he assisted SHCA's Legal Committee in its anti-casino lawsuit and has been especially active in that campaign. George resides with his partner, Toby Needleman, and has two grown children. He is a current president of his condominium association in Sea Isle City, New Jersey.

#### **Gordon Baltuch, M.D.**

Member, Safe & Sound Committee;  
Member, Franklin Lights Committee

#### **Matthew White, Esq.**

Chair, Legal Committee;  
Member, NewMarket Committee

### Northwest Quadrant

#### **Steven Weixler**

A long-term resident of Society Hill, now retiring as a Board Director representing residents of the Hopkinson House, Steve has dedicated his services as Chair of our association's Zoning & Historic Preservation Committee for the past two years. His current committee leadership follows several years as an active ZHP member, and he frequently presents our neighborhood's interests at City Hall hearings. A principal in the Society Hill-based interior design firm Weixler, Peterson and Luzi, Steve's work has appeared in *Architectural Digest*, *Florida Design*, and *Philadelphia Style*. He has won numerous awards, and his own condominium at Hopkinson House was featured as an example of stylish city living on HGTV's program “Interiors By Design.” He is a Board Director of the Head House Conservancy.

#### **Baldo Carnecchia**

Member, Legal Committee and Ad-hoc Casino Committee

#### **Rosanne Loesch**

Member, SHCA's Ad-hoc Casino Committee  
and writer/editor of the *Society Hill Reporter*



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## SAFE AND SOUND IN SOCIETY HILL

BY MARILYN APPEL

## Hot Off The Press!

**311 Customer Service**

Philadelphia's new Police Commissioner, Charles H. Ramsey, and Mayor Michael Nutter will initiate a new plan to save you from calling a million different numbers to get something done in the city or in our neighborhood. This exciting concept was described on April 14th at a meeting of the Citywide Police District Advisory Council, which I chair. Here's the scoop — and remember, you read it first in the *Society Hill Reporter*!

Suppose you want an abandoned auto removed from your block, here's what you would do: call 311 to report your complaint. You will receive a reference number, which will track your complaint until the auto is removed. You can check on the progress of your complaint online by typing in the reference number. This 311 system is geared to customer service, requiring feedback. For example, you will be asked how quickly you received a response to your call. Was the response satisfactory? Was there follow-up, and was the issue resolved? Note: the 311 system will not conflict with 911, which will continue to function essentially for emergencies. This new 311 system will be connected to all city departments, and will be housed in City Hall. The room is already under construction, a complete new staff will be hired, and 311 should be functioning by the end of this year. We'll keep you updated in future issues of the *Reporter*.

**Upgrades for Police Facilities**

If you've never been in the offices of the Sixth Police District, at 11th and Winter Streets, its condition would surely surprise you: ceilings falling down, bathrooms you wouldn't want to use, floors in terrible shape, etc., although, at last the leaky roof was finally fixed! However, if you think the Sixth District is the only one suffering such neglect, unfortunately that is not the case. Throughout the city many police facilities are just like this. Would you want to work under such conditions? When new Police Commissioner Ramsey toured every District in the city, he realized that these facilities must be repaired, which he's planning to do. I'm sure our police officers can't wait...and happier police officers... well, you finish the sentence.

**Regarding 3rd and 4th Streets**

After receiving many emails about the poor condition of 3rd and 4th Streets between Lombard and Walnut (the route of the horse drawn carriages), this reporter contacted our police Captain and Councilman Frank DiCicco. Simply by accident, when calling Chairs of other Police District Advisory Councils, I connected with one chairperson who happens to work in the Streets Department. Hold on to your hats — here's another scoop: this chairperson is sending an engineer to evaluate the situation. The streets will take time to fix because Verizon is laying down fiber-optic cable on 3rd and 4th Streets and throughout Society Hill. After that work is completed the streets will be repaired — from curb to curb. The engineer will determine the kind of cover the street requires — either the traditional cover, on which potholes seem to appear endlessly, or a more expensive but more durable product, called a "hot patch." The horses would be required to stay off these streets until the new surface is completely dry. Cross your fingers — these potholes may eventually get fixed!

**Neighborhood Crime Alerts**

If you wish to be regularly informed about local police reports and criminal incidents, via "blast" email, please indicate your interest on the Membership Application form, on page 31, and send it to the office. Or, write a note to SHCA Administrator Matt DeJulio — [mattdejulio@aol.com](mailto:mattdejulio@aol.com) — asking him to add your name to SHCA's list of police updates and alerts.

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## PENN'S VILLAGE

BY TANIA RORKE

## Neighbors Helping Neighbors

As you may know, a "Village" is soon coming to Philadelphia: Penn's Village is a neighborhood, nonprofit corporation with the goal of providing support to residents of Society Hill, Old City and Queen Village who wish to remain in their homes as they age. A variety of support services will be provided, enabling members to live healthy and meaningful lives in their own homes.

Penn's Village will offer its members an introductory menu of services beginning June 1, 2008. These services will include (but are not limited to) transportation — such as rides to the doctor, grocery store, or other destinations; in-home assistance — including occasional meal preparation, pet care, paper work management, minor housekeeping chores, companionship, regular check-ins, and organizational assistance; technological and electronic assistance — e.g. computer help; social events and educational programs, advocacy, home safety assessments, adaptations and repairs, as well as timely access to and assistance at both Pennsylvania and Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals. This "Volunteer First" organization will provide these services using talented and well-screened volunteers — at no charge. However, when a volunteer is not available, Penn's Village will make arrangements for services from carefully vetted vendors at specially negotiated rates. If a member prefers to use only paid vendors rather than volunteers, Penn's Village will gladly accommodate that preference, as well.

The Village will offer three types of memberships. "Charter Memberships" are available at \$2,000 for a household and \$1,300 for an individual. This includes membership fees for the first two years, as well as a tax-deductible donation.

"Regular Memberships" are \$750 for a household and \$500 for an individual for one year. In the future the organization plans to offer a "Membership Plus" option for residents who want to join Penn's Village but cannot afford the full membership fee.

Strategic partnerships with Pennsylvania Hospital, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks have been established. In fact, Landmarks is generously providing the organization an office in its Physick House, at 321 South 4th Street. In addition, Village organizers are currently in the process of establishing relationships with highly recommended personal care and in-home medical care companies.

To learn more about Penn's Village — its services, membership and volunteer opportunities — you are invited to attend an introductory session on Monday, May 19th at 6 p.m. at **Old St. Joseph's Church, 321 Willings Alley** (just south of Walnut Street, between 3rd and 4th Streets). Laura N. Gitlin, Ph.D. will be the featured speaker. She is Director of the Center for Applied Research on Aging and Health, Jefferson College of Health Professions. And don't forget: a brief explanation about Penn's Village will be given at SHCA's General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, May 28th at Pennsylvania Hospital's Zubrow auditorium, 7:30 p.m. Tania Rorke, a Village Board Director, will also answer your questions.

Penn's Village is a neighbor-to-neighbor endeavor. Your interest, participation and possible commitment as a volunteer would be most welcome. The more volunteers, the more often these needed services can be provided at no charge.

**A description of volunteer opportunities and volunteer application form is enclosed as an insert in this newsletter.**

**Please fill it out and mail it to: Penn's Village, 321 S. 4th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106.**

**Any questions? Please contact Penn's Village Board Director Tania Rorke at 215-925-4544 or [trorke@aol.com](mailto:trorke@aol.com).**



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# PENN'S VILLAGE

An "Olde" Philadelphia Neighborhood

## Member Registration Form

Penn's Village is a neighborhood nonprofit organization whose goal is to provide support services so that individuals can remain safe and comfortable in their homes. Some services will be provided by volunteers and available to members free of charge; others will be provided by preferred vendors and members will pay specially negotiated fees. Although we strive to serve as many neighbors as possible, Penn's Village cannot take the place of a health care provider, an assisted living facility or nursing home for those who require medical care or intensive custodial services.

### Membership Category

Charter 2 Years	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$1,300	<input type="checkbox"/> Household \$2,000
Regular 1 Year	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> Household \$750

**Charter Memberships include a tax-deductible donation.**

### Member Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Let Us Know

Penn's Village will continually add new services.

Please let us know which are most important to you so that we will be better able to establish priorities.

- Routine home service, such as food shopping, home repair and transportation.
- Organized group activities, such as lectures, book clubs and social events.
- Health and mobility services, such as advocacy and referrals to home care agencies.
- Financial and legal assistance, such as help with wills or income tax preparation.

Do you or members of your household have a special talent to share with Penn's Village?

If so, please indicate:

Are you or members of your household available to volunteer?  Yes  No

While I do not think I need the services offered at this time, I would like to support Penn's Village!  
Please make checks payable to Penn's Village - The Society Hill Fund.

I wish to support Penn's Village with a tax-deductible contribution in the following category:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Angel (\$5,000 and up)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron (\$2,500 to \$4,900) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor ((\$1,000 and up)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend (\$250 to \$999)     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor (\$1 to \$249) |  |

Please mail completed applications and donations to Penn's Village, 321 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106. Or fax your application to 215-925-7332.

Please contact Tania Rorke at 215.925.7333 or [info@pennsvillage.org](mailto:info@pennsvillage.org) if you have any questions.

# PENN'S VILLAGE

An "Olde" Philadelphia Neighborhood

## Volunteer Position Descriptions

You are invited to become a Penn's Village volunteer and enhance our efficiency in the categories described below.

### Transportation

- Volunteer Drivers will pick up members and return them to their homes. When appropriate, the driver will assist the member to and from the front door and help carry groceries into the house.
- Destinations of trips typically will be to grocery stores, doctors' appointments, meetings, social and educational events in Philadelphia.
- Prior to driving, each volunteer driver must submit a "safe driving" record check, a security check and provide the Penn's Village office with a valid copy of his/her driver's license; car registration and insurance, which will be kept on file in the Penn's Village office.

### In-Home Assistance

*Some duties may include:*

- Help with paperwork.
- Help with minor housekeeping chores.
- Visit members by phone or in person on a regular schedule.
- Provide companionship, and take members on walks or outings.
- Help prepare a meal or provide a meal.
- Take pet for a walk or care for pet during a member's brief absence.

### Light Home Maintenance

*Some duties may include:*

- Change light bulbs, hang curtains, reset clocks, test smoke detectors, etc.

### Gardening Advice and Help

*Some duties may include:*

- Watering and caring for plants during a member's brief absence.
- Offering gardening advice and/or assistance.
- The volunteer will contact the member and set up an appointment to visit the home and determine what is needed. The member and volunteer will decide on the work to be done during the member's absence.

### Social Events and Educational Programs

*Some duties may include:*

- Initiate and arrange events of interest for members.
- Locate and recommend programs and social events.

### Technology Assistance

*Some duties may include:*

- Identify computer, VCR, or other technology problems and provide the solution or recommend a professional service.
- Help members learn new computer programs.
- Hold a technology workshop on a subject of your interest.

### Penn's Village Office Support

- Assist with phone calls, mailings, filing.
- Enter information into the database.
- Assist with developing and maintaining a Penn's Village newsletter.
- Accounting and record-keeping.

# Waste Not, Want Not

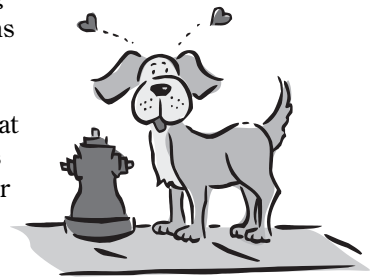
BY KELLY NELSON

With Mayor Michael Nutter making a cleaner Philadelphia one of the top priorities of his administration, there is a strong sense that citizens can do a better job of keeping city streets clean. We in Society Hill pride ourselves on keeping our neighborhood tidy but we can do more to improve the quality of life and make the Hill more inviting to our many guests.


Take, for instance, the problem of pet waste. It goes without saying that dog owners are legally (not to mention ethically) required to clean up after their four-legged friends. Many pet walkers may not be aware that storm run-off of non-human waste represents a significant source of bacterial contamination in urban watersheds. Animal feces are also responsible for parasitic diseases such as giardia and hook and roundworm infestations as well as many bacterial infections, including salmonella. And let's not get started on the rats!

Health issues aside, pet urine, with its very high levels of concentrated nitrogen, burns grass,

shrubs and flowers — causing significant damage to the lovely landscaped areas that city gardeners tenaciously nurture. A case in point is the carefully tended spot across from Blackwell Place on Stampers Street (between Pine and Lombard, and 2nd and 3rd Streets). For years, Blackwell Place residents have spent time and money keeping this area nice and have been making progress of late. Unfortunately, some dog owners refuse to acknowledge the posted “No Dogs” signs. As a result, pet urine has killed many of the shrubs that now must be replaced, and the dogs themselves have trampled the spring daffodils and other plants. “No Dogs” signs mean that the owners of that property are requesting that you keep your dogs away. Likewise, “Curb Your Dog” signs mean that you should have your dog do his business on the curb — not on the flowers that your neighbor has taken time to plant next to the curb. So next time Fido lifts a leg, scoot him over to a plant-free spot. Your neighbors and their gardens will thank you.




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Photo: J.B. Abbott

# Kids' Beat

A COLUMN BY KERI WHITE

Spring has thankfully, finally arrived — following a long winter with way too much time spent indoors — which often led to cabin fever, crankiness, and in worst-case scenarios, interrupted sleep. As we do our pastoral dances, I offer you a list of fun local activities — whether indoor or outdoor, whether sunny or rainy — that will surely help you fill long afternoons.

**Independence Seaport Museum:** Kids of all ages love this nearby museum. They can visit the *Becuna* submarine and the *Olympia* battleship, as well as climb into boats, do hands-on activities and gaze into a large, saltwater aquarium. (Columbus Blvd. & Walnut Street; 215-925-5439)

**Home-Grown Scavenger Hunts:** These customized activities can keep kids busy and happy—and they're educational. (I was a teacher in my former life.)

For toddlers: have them identify colors (e.g. find blue things) and shapes (e.g. find circles).

For preschoolers: have them find animals (birds, squirrels, dogs); people engaged in a variety of jobs and activities (letter carrier, baby-sitter, construction worker, jogger); or vehicles (bus, trash truck, taxi, car).

For older kids: activities related to historical themes are appropriate — especially as we live in such a historical community. Have kids search the neighborhood for a busybody, a boot scraper,

the home of a significant historical figure, or an example of Flemish bond brickwork.

When these challenges are completed, go out for water ice as a reward for successfully completing the scavenger hunt.

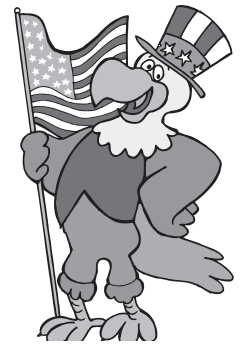
**Take a carriage ride:** Yes, it's for tourists. No, the guides are not always accurate. But kids love these rides, and you can often arrange to be dropped off near your house at the conclusion of any loop.

**Hop on the Philly PHLASH:** It's less expensive than a carriage ride. (See below for information.)

**Have a picnic:** But if it rains, take it indoors! Nothing says "thrill" to a kid like eating lunch on the living room floor.

**Walk on the Ben Franklin Bridge:** Save this adventure for a mild, sunny day with minimal wind. Kids love the sensation of standing above the traffic, looking down at the river and seeing the city skyline. If you're really lucky, you might even see a PATCO train pass by.

**Cook — though not a soufflé:** Give any bored, and ideally, hungry, kid an edible surface (slice of bread, a tortilla, graham crackers), a sticky substance (peanut butter, hummus, jam) and decorations (carrots or raisins, for faces; broccoli, for trees; chocolate chips, nuts, etc). They might even eat it.



## Kid's Quote

"Why did Betsy Ross have a gift shop?"

Emmet, age 7

## Quick as a Phlash

Need a Ride? Center City's popular purple trolley loop, PHLASH, has been back in service since May 1st. For quick and easy connections between our city's historic attractions and cultural institutions, this is a convenient way to go — as the trolley makes 21 major tourist stops — providing an inexpensive transit option for both visitors and neighbors alike.

So when your out-of-town guests drop in, just hop on and hop off the purple trolley and enjoy Philadelphia in a Phlash! Philly's PHLASH service runs daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. — from now through October 31. Fares are \$2 for a single ride, while all-day passes are \$5, and family passes are \$10.


Society Hillers: You and your guests can hop on a PHLASH at the Independence Seaport Museum (at Penn's Landing); at 3rd and Market Streets; or 6th and Market Streets.

New for this season: each PHLASH vehicle on the route will show an on-board video describing the area's many attractions. To learn more about the PHLASH route, check out: [www.PhillyPhlash.com](http://www.PhillyPhlash.com).



Bring the kids on down to visit Three Bears Park!

photo by  
Bernie Cleff



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**HEAD HOUSE FARMERS' MARKET**


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## Now In Business & Thriving

We are pleased to report that our community's wonderfully popular Farmers' Market at Head House is now enjoying its second season — at S. 2nd Street between Pine and Lombard Streets. The market opened on May 4th and will operate on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through the season to Thanksgiving — beneath the Shambles of historic Head House. "Our market was so successful last year," said manager Katy Wich, "that we decided to open two months earlier this year. We are thrilled to see how many customers are again enjoying it."

Along with market favorites — such as chicken pot pies from Griggstown Quail Farm, Princeton New Jersey and feta cheese from Patches of Star Dairies, Nazareth, Pennsylvania — the market

will feature new products including, for example, artisan game sausage and salami from Talula's Table in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania and fresh milk from Birchrun Hills Farm, Birchrunville, Pennsylvania.

The Head House Farmers' Market is a project of The Food Trust, a nonprofit organization working to ensure that everyone has access to affordable, nutritious food. This year, the Farmers' Market is sponsored by V8. (To learn more about the fascinating history of Head House, see page 36.)

Questions? Contact Katy Wich at 215-575-0444, Ext. 134. For additional or online updates and information, visit [www.headhousemarket.org](http://www.headhousemarket.org) or [www.thefoodtrust.org](http://www.thefoodtrust.org).




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On Saturdays, a smaller version of the farmers' market is being held under the Shambles from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. — and will operate through to Thanksgiving.

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## And Don't Forget: The Chef's Market

We locals are very fortunate to have so many choices in our neighborhood to purchase not only basic groceries, but also fine foods, gourmet selections, as well as expertly prepared dishes — all year round and seven days a week. Many of us take for granted the shop that we rely on for special occasions and needed food items or prepared meals. The Chef's Market, on South Street, is truly a gourmet's delight — so close to our homes (and our hearts). What would we do when friends surprisingly drop in for a visit and we need to serve a meticulously prepared dinner? We run off to The Chef's Market, that's what we do.

So after you've purchased your fresh veggies and fruits from the farmers market at Head House on any Saturday or Sunday during the coming season, remember to pick up that "something special" — which is just around the corner at the Chef's Market on South Street, between 2nd & 3rd Streets.

Ed and George have been serving our community for more than twenty years, so let's give them our support.

### NOTE about The Food Garden

By the time you read this, the convenience supermarket situated on property of the Society Hill Towers will be closed. However, we hope that in the near future a new vendor will move into the vacant shop and will be another friendly place for neighbors to purchase that quart of milk, loaf of bread, and needed groceries or supplies.

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# A Very Brief History of Dock Creek

BY LENORE HARDY

Have you ever heard of Coocaconoon? Probably not — it means “Place of Pines” — and it’s what Native Americans called the Dock Creek area before any Europeans came on the scene. The small tidal basin into which the three branches of Dock Creek flowed was a favorite spot for the Delaware tribes to gather whortleberries, served as a handy inlet and outlet for their canoes and offered “an ideal site to set fish traps...gather seaweed and cut hay...from the marsh grass.”

Contemporary accounts report that William Penn came from Pennsbury Manor in a barge and landed at the foot of Dock Creek in October 1682. It was then a “low and sandy beach” where a ferry took passengers from the Blue Anchor Inn to “Society Hill” on the opposite bank. Settlers expected this spacious cove or “harbor” to become an expansive and permanent dock, thus the name “Dock Creek.” What was the long and winding path from that lush, green waterway to what we see today — Dock Street — with no trace of water at all?

In the late 1600’s Philadelphia’s leading citizens, like Edward Shippen — a wealthy merchant who served as mayor and chief justice — built grand houses on Second Street with lawns that “descended to Dock Creek.” Other prosperous locals included William Frampton, the owner of a brew house, bake house and inn on Front Street; and Samuel Carpenter, whose “Coffee House” was near Front and Walnut. This bucolic paradise didn’t last long. Manufacturing and a growing population brought business development, which in turn brought pollution, dirt and disease.

As early as 1699 citizens were blaming tanneries, located on the cove, for periodic epidemics of tuberculosis, smallpox and typhoid fever. It’s not absolutely clear that the

tanneries were responsible, but water was needed to process the hides and ingredients like lime and dung used to cure hides were discarded into the Dock’s watershed.

By 1730 at least eight tanneries, distilleries, a brewery and slaughterhouse were in operation along the banks of Dock Creek; grand jury records report complaints about “impassible roads, jammed sewers and standing pools of water” that persisted until mid-century.

Nine years later Benjamin Franklin, among others, petitioned the provincial Assembly to move the tanneries to a more remote part of the city. Many of the petitioners who owned property in the area accused the tanners of lowering property values; the tanners, while admitting to offensive smells, proposed self-policing instead of moving and promised to clean up their act. The Assembly found for the tanners but the issue continued to fester.

In 1747 a committee composed of leading citizens — Franklin, John Stamper, Samuel Rhoads and Samuel Powel, among them — conceived of a massive public works project aimed at reclaiming the Dock. Arguments over whether private or public monies should fund the construction occupied the years until 1765, without resolution.

This failure to act ultimately determined the fate of the Dock. In 1765 an arched conduit covered with brick was built over part of the creek to create a sewer; residents recalled that “few people regretted it, as at high water great patches of green mud floated on it and fish that entered the creek soon floated belly up.” In 1818 the closed sewer was continued to the river and the road that runs on top of the old stream bed became Dock Street.



PENN LANDING AT BLUE ANCHOR INN.—PAGE 127.

This account is just a brief overview of a fascinating slice of Philadelphia history. To find out more about the settlement of the waterfront and Dock Creek, consult the sources below.

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**For more information about Dock Creek, visit the website of the American Philosophical Society Museum:  
[www.amphilsoc.org/museum/undaunted/dockcreek.html](http://www.amphilsoc.org/museum/undaunted/dockcreek.html)**

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## ACCIDENTAL TOURIST IN MY OWN BACKYARD

BY JANE BIBERMAN

## The Cradle of Liberty

**Question: Which building in the 55-acre Independence National Historical Park contains more original 18th-century furniture than reproductions?**

- a) Carpenters' Hall
- b) Free Quaker Meeting House
- c) Congress Hall
- d) Independence Hall



You probably know the answer, but I didn't until recently when I decided to take an informative tour of Independence Hall, where the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution were debated and signed. (This was originally the Pennsylvania State House, built in 1753.) Although I live only a block away and have walked my sheltie pup on the south lawn hundreds of times in the past ten years, I never ventured inside — not because its basement once served as the city's dog pound, but because I don't like crowds. And frankly, I took it for granted.

What inspired me was HBO's outstanding miniseries *John Adams*, especially the scenes in Philadelphia, which I later read were filmed in Richmond, Virginia. Although Paul Giamatti may not resemble our second president, his eloquent words are the real thing. And who wouldn't admire Laura Linney as his noble wife, Abigail? So on a damp and drizzly day in April, before the peak tourist season, I headed to the Visitor Center to get a timed ticket, which it turned out wasn't needed for the abbreviated 10-minute tours given between 4 and 6 p.m.

After entering on Chestnut Street and going through the obligatory security check, I joined a relatively short line of about 200 tourists on the outh side of Independence Hall. This part of the experience — only a 20-minute wait because 90 people at a time are admitted — was unexpectedly entertaining. I chatted with tourists from as far away as the Mid-East and as close as the Mid-West. I guess I looked like a native, because they all asked me the same question: Where can we buy a Philadelphia cheese steak? One couple wanted directions to the infamous Geno's, while another told me they were shocked to discover that Pat's isn't a large, indoor restaurant.

Once inside, we were collectively awed. Neither virtual tours online nor David McCullough's book or television programs can replace the thrill of seeing the actual chairs that George

Washington and John Adams sat on. Okay, the chair that Adams used is located next door in Congress Hall. There was only a short line to enter, and we tourists were soon seated in the "Lower House" of the first home to the U.S. Congress. After a brief talk by a knowledgeable Park Ranger, we climbed the stairs to the former Senate, or "Upper House," where Adams presided in the aforementioned chair as Senate President.

If you remember your American history, you'll know that Washington's second inauguration, as well as his transfer of the presidency to Adams in 1793, took place in this building. More important, as the guide reminded us during the 20-minute visit, the Bill of Rights was introduced here in Philadelphia, in 1789, and submitted to state legislatures for ratification. These first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution then became law in 1791. Congress Hall is also the correct answer to the question posed in bold, above.




**U.S. Senate Chamber on the second floor of Congress Hall**

Thousands of people from around the world will travel to our city this summer to see historic landmarks. I'll just have to get in line. To borrow the words of my neighbor, Joy Lindy, who has toured the 20-block area of Independence Historical Park countless times, "The country started here and I am proud of Philadelphia for keeping it."


For information about the many tours offered by Independence Park, go to the Visitor Center, on 6th Street between Arch and Market Streets; call 800-537-7676; or visit [www.nps.gov/inde](http://www.nps.gov/inde).

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Every MLS Society Hill house sold From January-December, 2007		Front Street thru 7th Street, Pine Street thru Walnut Street	
500 block of Cypress	\$410,000	700 block of Spruce	\$920,000
Willings Alley Mews	\$465,000	200 block of S. 3rd St	\$955,000
200 block of Pine	\$470,000	200 block of St. James Place	\$955,000
300 block of S. American	\$565,000	200 block of Pine	\$965,000
Willings Alley Mews	\$585,000	500 block of Delancey	\$975,000
300 block of S. 3rd St	\$603,000	200 block of S. 3rd St	\$975,000
300 block of S. 2nd St	\$605,000	500 block of Delancey	\$990,000
300 block of Cypress	\$630,000	200 block of Delancey	\$1,100,000
200 block of Spruce	\$640,000	300 block of St. James Place	\$1,100,000
300 block of S. 2nd St	\$649,900	300 block of S. Phillip St	\$1,140,000
300 block of Delancey	\$650,000	200 block of St. Josephs Way	\$1,200,000
500 block of Lombard	\$660,000	500 block of Pine	\$1,222,450
300 block of S. 6th St	\$675,000	400 block of Pine	\$1,250,000
300 block of Cypress	\$680,000	600 block of Spruce	\$1,320,000
700 block of Spruce	\$690,000	200 block of Spruce	\$1,537,500
600 block of Pine	\$700,000	600 block of Spruce	\$1,725,000
500 block of Spruce	\$740,000	400 Block of Spruce	\$1,925,000
300 block of S. American	\$800,000	200 block of S. 4th St	\$2,575,000
200 block of Spruce	\$815,000		
<b>Total Townhouse Sales: 37</b>	<b>Average Sale \$967,128</b>	<b>Average Days on Market: 89</b>	

## Tiptoe Through the Tulips

Spring is a glorious time to experience the colorful splendor of Washington Square Park, one of the five original squares William Penn laid out in his 1682 survey when he envisioned Philadelphia as a “green country town.” Starting out as a pasture, later the Square served as a burial ground for American and British Revolutionary War soldiers, as well as indigent Native and African Americans and victims of yellow fever epidemics.

The Square’s connection to America’s struggle for freedom paved the way for its recent acquisition by Independence National Historic Park (INHP) — thus, guaranteeing the appropriate level of care for such a sacred spot. In the last several years there has been gradual improvement in the park’s appearance — thanks to INHP and SHCA volunteers who have planted hundreds of bulbs and annuals, as well as new shrubs and trees.

Recently the maintenance crew has been out aerating the lawn and checking the sprinkler

system for planting grass seed. Arrangements have been made to trim the rose bushes, clean, edge and mulch the flower beds, so that the park will be in “tip-top” shape this spring and summer. The fountain’s bronze lily pad is expected to be reinstalled by the end of May, at which time the water will be turned on. The Square’s corner entrances will also be beautified with additional plantings of shrubs.

Independence Park and our civic association — under the leadership of SHCA’s Committee Chair, Sissie Lipton — continue to be good partners in the stewardship of this hallowed gem in our midst. We need your help, however, to continue improving the park. Please make as generous a contribution as possible to SHCA — earmarked for Washington Square (see page 31). In addition, consider getting “down and dirty” with us at the end of this month when scores of neighbors will exercise their green thumbs planting annuals. Let Matt DeJulio know if you can join the fun, by reaching him at 215-629-1288 or mattdejulio@aol.com. Thanks!



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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

# At Press Time: SHCA Membership Reaches 972

As of April, a total of 972 households are current members of our civic association. We most happily welcome 110 new members, and are quite pleased that we have received 862 renewals thus far. However, at press time, we await word from 151 households who have allowed their memberships to lapse.

We remind you that it is now easier than ever to join or renew your membership in one of three different ways: (1) simply mail us a check; (2) send us your credit card information and number; (3) visit our web site — [www.societyhillcivic.org](http://www.societyhillcivic.org) — and pay by PayPal.

Last year SHCA's total membership reached 1,062 households. We are optimistic that all 2007 members who have not yet renewed will soon do so, as our objective is to meet last year's total. At the very least, we hope to reach our "minimum" goal of 1,000 members for 2008.

Because most of SHCA's budget is funded through annual membership dues, we ask you to help support our community-wide efforts by sending in your membership application or renewal today. Note: any contributions, in addition to regular membership dues are appreciated and can be earmarked for SHCA activities of your choice.

## A New "Twist" to Tea Time

**A Tea Dance for the young at heart: 55 and up!**  
Over the past 150 plus years, "Afternoon Tea" has had many incarnations. While the original traditions were born in a regimented English aristocracy, the evolving popularity of afternoon tea has allowed for people of all backgrounds to partake of its rituals, in one form or another. The Society Hill Dance Academy is excited to offer a new "twist" to tea time... and you are invited!

Friday, May 30th  
2:30 - 5 p.m.

Society Hill Dance Academy  
409 S. 2nd Street  
(near Pine Street)

2 advanced tickets/\$15  
\$10 per person at the door

Tea and Pastries served.  
RSVP: 215-574-3574.



### SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

#### Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Your Email (print clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

IMPORTANT: Today most everyone communicates via email. Please be sure that we have your current email address — so that you can receive important updates between publication of our community newsletter. All SHCA emails will be judiciously screened, and rarely will we send emails more than once a week. This convenient, 21st-century system helps save our civic association postage costs while keeping you regularly informed.

**Residential Memberships**

- \$ 1,000 Benjamin Franklin Benefactor
- \$ 500 Washington Benefactor
- \$ 300 Jefferson Benefactor
- \$ 150 Georgian Grantor
- \$ 100 Federal Friend
- \$ 50 BASIC HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP
- \$ 40 Senior/Student

**Business Memberships**

- \$100 Institutions—  
5+ employees
- \$ 60 Institutions—  
fewer than 5 employees

**Additional Contributions:**

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| \$ _____ Washington Square Beautification   | \$ _____ Franklin Lights  |
| \$ _____ Sidewalk Cleaning/Graffiti Removal | \$ _____ McCall School    |
| \$ _____ Society Hill Reporter              | \$ _____ Street Trees     |
| \$ _____ Town Watch/Safe and Sound          | \$ _____ Three Bears Park |
| \$ _____ Zoning/Historic Preservation       | \$ _____ Penn's Village   |
| \$ _____ No Casinos Near Neighborhoods      |                           |

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Charge VISA/MasterCard:

Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

The following topics are of special interest to me. I welcome receipt of email updates on these topics.

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clean-Up Day    | <input type="checkbox"/> Washington Square | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning & Historic Preservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Franklin Lights | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Events     | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dilworth House  | <input type="checkbox"/> Property Taxes    | <input type="checkbox"/> Stamper Square/NewMarket       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reporter        | <input type="checkbox"/> Casino Issues     | <input type="checkbox"/> Local crime incidents & alerts |

Return completed application to:  
**Society Hill Civic Association**  
P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147



## SHCA CELEBRATES UNIQUE PRESENTATION

## 500th Welcome Basket Given To New Neighbors

BY MARTHA LEVINE

It's hard to believe but SHCA has recently presented its 500th Welcome Basket — in April 2008. That's right! Five hundred Welcome Baskets have been presented to new, first-time Society Hill home and condo owners over the past several years. The lucky recipients of Basket Number 500 were not only presented with the basket filled with the usual array of fresh foods, valuable information and gift certificates to area theaters, restaurants and shops, they also received a fine bottle of wine to mark this special occasion.

Here's an excerpt from another recipient's "thank you" note:

*"Thanks for the impressive Welcome Basket from SHCA. We were delighted by the array of gifts. It's truly a pleasure to be part of this community."*

—Renee and Randy, S. 2nd Street



**New Society Hill neighbors Dr. Dan Dragomir, Dr. Carmen Paprascu, and their 18-month-old daughter Laura, were the grateful recipients of SHCA's 500th Welcome Basket.**

**Note:** We are always seeking to identify new home or condo owners who have recently moved to the neighborhood. If that is *you*, or you know of someone who is new to Society Hill, please contact Martha at: marthalev@msn.com; or 215-629-0727.

## WELCOME BASKET CONTRIBUTORS

Check out this list of generous and loyal businesses who continue to provide goods and gift certificates for SHCA's Welcome Basket program, and please help us show our gratitude by patronizing them.

**Coffee Shops**

Old City Coffee, 221 Church Street & Reading Terminal Market  
Phila. Java Company, 518 S. 5th Street  
Starbucks Coffee Inc. 347 South Street  
Starbucks Coffee Inc., 8th & Walnut Streets

**Food Stores**

Chefs' Market, 231 South Street  
Farm Fresh Express (delivery of organic foods), 607-423-7111  
Fork:etc. (prepared foods), 308 Market Street  
ShopRite, 29 Snyder Avenue  
SuperFresh, 5th & Pine streets  
Whole Foods Market, 929 South Street

**Hair Salons**

Pileggi on the Square, 717 Walnut Street  
Salon @ 5th, 316 S. 5th Street

**Restaurants**

Amada, 217 Chestnut Street  
Ansill Food & Wine, 627 S. 3rd Street  
Ava Restaurant, 518 S. 3rd Street  
Bridget Foy's South Street Grill, 200 South Street  
City Tavern, 138 S. 2nd Street  
Creperie Beau Monde, 624 S. 6th Street  
Farmacia Restaurant, 15 S. 3rd Street  
Fork, 306 Market Street  
Joe Pesce Restaurant, 1113 Walnut Street  
La Buca Ristorante, 711 Locust Street  
Mustard Greens, 622 S. 2nd Street  
Overtures Restaurant, 609 East Passyunk Avenue

Panorama Ristorante, 14 N. Front Street  
Philadelphia Fish & Company, 207 Chestnut Street  
Pizzicato Restaurant, 248 Market Street  
Positano Coast Restaurant, 2nd and Walnut Streets  
707 Restaurant, 707 Chestnut Street  
Sonam, 223 South Street

**Specialty Foods**

Homemade Goodies by Roz, 510 S. 5th Street  
Metropolitan Bakery at the Metro Café, 15 S. 3rd St.  
Naked Chocolate Café, 1317 Walnut Street  
Pink Rose Pastry Shop, 630 S. 4th Street  
Rita's Water Ice, 239 South Street  
Zeke's Deli, 318 S. 5th Street

**Specialty Shops**

Adornamenti (jewelry), 1106 Pine Street  
Ethnics Furniture (Indonesian) 928 Pine Street  
Happily Ever After (toys), 1010 Pine Street  
Head House Books, 619 S. 2nd Street  
Linu Boutique (linen items), 1036 Pine Street  
Lolli Lolli (children's' shop), 713 Walnut Street  
Lush (bath products), 1428 Walnut Street  
Marmelstein's Fabric & Trim, 760 S. 4th Street  
Paper On Pine, 1008 Pine Street  
Pinot (wine accessories), 227 Market Street  
Show of Hands Gallery (crafts), 1006 Pine Street

**Sports Clubs/Fitness Training**

M. Jason Bailey, Fitness Professional, 215-901-5816  
Philadelphia Sports Club, 220-250 S. 5th Street  
SCULPT- Fitness Professional, 215-928-1433

**Theaters/Entertainment**

Annenberg Center for Performing Arts, 3680 Walnut St.  
Arden Theater, 40 N. 2nd street  
Atwater Kent Museum, 15 S. 7th Street  
1812 Productions, 215-592-9560  
Ghost Tours of Philadelphia, 610-404-8474  
Independence Seaport Museum, 211 S. Columbus Blvd.  
Lantern Theater Company, 10th and Ludlow Streets  
Lights of Liberty, 6th & Chestnut Streets  
Mum Puppettheater, 115 Arch Street  
National Liberty Museum, 321 Chestnut Street  
Pennsylvania Ballet, 1101 S. Broad Street  
Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble, Old Pine St. Church  
Philadelphia Shakespeare Festival, 2111 Sansom Street  
Philadelphia Theatre Company, Suzanne Roberts Theater, Broad and Pine Streets  
Philomel Concerts, 215-487-2344  
Piffaro, The Renaissance Band, 215-235-8469  
Prince Music Theater, 1412 Chestnut Street  
Society Hill Playhouse, 507 S. 8th Streets  
Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, 1520 Locust St.  
Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, 215-569-8080  
Wilma Theater, 265 S. Broad Street

**Other Services**

Ananda Spa & Fitness Center, 400 Walnut Street  
Judy Moon Massage Therapy, Hopkinson House  
Riff Cleaners, 314 S. 5th Street  
Society Hill Veterinary Hospital, 2nd & Lombard Sts  
Simplified Living LLC (solutions to your needs), 215-813-3506  
Worth Collection (women's clothing), 215-925-8813

## NOTEWORTHY NEIGHBORS

BY DAVID WOODS

## Seana Covello and Gregory Martinelli

A pair of  
Generation Xers  
who fit the mold.



I wonder if you've noticed the recent trend towards lumping people together not by ethnicity, or social class, or by liberal or conservative tags...but by what might be called 'generation labeling.' Thus, we have the "Baby Boomers," those born between 1946 and 1964; the Generation Xers, 1965 to 1976; and the Millennials, 1977 to 1998.

Among the 51 million Generation Xers are Seana Covello and Gregory Martinelli, an engaging thirty-something couple who embody many of the characteristics attributable to their age group. The publication *Law Practice Today* describes those characteristics as "pragmatism, self-reliance, technological savvy, the ability to multitask," as well as involvement in what the periodical calls "a killer life." The publication also notes that many in this generation "expect immediate and ongoing feedback and are equally comfortable giving feedback to others." It goes on to suggest that because lots of Xers grew up

as "latch-key kids" — as Seana did — "this led to traits of independence, resilience and adaptability" — attributes the couple can also lay claim to.

Seana, a dermatologist, and her husband Gregory, a tax lawyer, pretty much fit that mold. They both have extremely busy lives, with Gregory commuting to Washington, D.C. three times a week, and Seana single-handedly running a bustling medical practice. That practice used to occupy the ground floor of the house in which they now live on the third floor, subletting the second floor to her sister, who is also the manager of Seana's practice, which recently moved to a more spacious location.

As their surnames suggest, the pair have strong Italian roots, with Seana being of half Irish extraction as well. She graduated from Fordham and Hahnemann Medical School, and completed her residency at Jefferson Hospital. Gregory graduated from Notre Dame in law, taking an LL.M. at Villanova University, with minors in philosophy and theology.

The couple moved to Society Hill from Rittenhouse Square where, they say, they never knew anyone; but here, they agree, they made local friends almost immediately. "It's villagey," says Gregory, "and people seem to put down roots here." They attend Old St. Joseph's Church, where they were married; and when not involved in their frenetic work lives, the pair head off year-round to their house at the beach. To ward off professional stress, Seana enjoys biking while Gregory is a kayaker and surfer; he also plays jazz guitar. Both are keen football fans.

Their simple "non-work" lifestyle is reflected not only in their choice of local restaurants — Bindi, Chick's wine bar, and South Street Souvlaki — but also in the apartment they share with their boxer, Miles. One characteristic that stands out (maybe it's a Generation X thing) are two floor-to-ceiling bookshelves that house an eclectic collection of mainly nonfiction works, particularly on politics... although Greg insists that he has no wish to embark upon a political career. The shelves, I learn, hold 60 books each and come from Design Within Reach. They're also something of a balancing act in much the same way as Xers manage to balance work and play; perhaps, too, they're a manifestation of Seana and Greg's Gen X pragmatism, adaptability and technological savvy.

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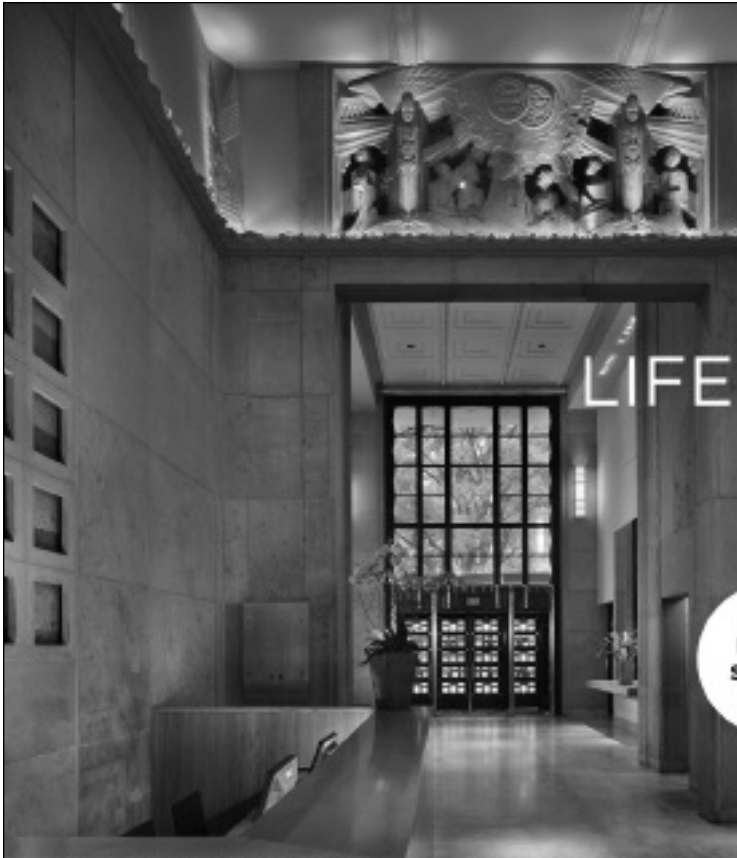
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Illustration By SEAN EASY



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**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

*Monday, May 19*  
**Penn's Village: Introductory Session**  
 Old St. Joseph's Church  
 321 Willings Alley, 6 PM  
 See insert and page 18

*Wednesday, May 28*  
**SHCA Meetings: Board Election**  
 Pennsylvania Hospital's Auditorium  
 800 Spruce Street  
 See pages 11-15

*Wednesday, June 18*  
**SHCA Board of Directors Meeting**  
 Time & location to be announced

**Date Rescheduled: September 10**

The Head House Conservancy — in partnership with the Society Hill Civic Association, the South Street Headhouse District and Queen Village Neighbors Association — are planning a “fun” fundraising event to help cover the cost of needed repairs and improvements in our on-going efforts to maintain this National Historic Landmark. Originally scheduled for June 4th, but now rescheduled, our fundraiser will offer a wonderful selection of *hors d'oeuvres* from local restaurants, accompanied by live music. Please mark your calendar for Wednesday, September 10th and plan to join the Soiree.

If you don't already know, Head House is the oldest firehouse in the USA (at S. 2nd and Pine Streets), which is attached to “the Shambles,” America's oldest surviving Colonial era marketplace.

All proceeds from our September fundraiser will help pay for this Landmark's many needed repairs. There will be a “Tribute Book” to help underwrite the event, and corporate sponsorships are most welcome. Please consider placing a business ad or sponsoring a page of “old” pictures about this unique historic site right here in our own neighborhood. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Tania Rorke at 215-370-6485.



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