

SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

www.societyhillcivic.org

Hope for Our Riverfront – Without Slots

BY PAUL BONI, SHCA VICE-PRESIDENT & BERNICE HAMEL

Foxwoods' principals informed Gov. Rendell that they are considering alternate sites.

As this issue of our bi-monthly newsletter goes to press, we are feeling cautiously optimistic by the news that Foxwoods' principals informed Governor Rendell that they are considering alternate sites. Formerly Foxwoods insisted that its slots parlor would be built only at its chosen riverfront location — just south of Society Hill, at Columbus Boulevard and Reed Street, across the road from the Riverview Movie Theaters. Amazingly, the Governor claims not to know what alternate sites are under consideration. Many obstacles and questions still exist and, indeed, a similar loosening must also occur regarding the SugarHouse slots parlor, which would be an equal distance north of our neighborhood, also on the Delaware waterfront, and less than 200 feet from homes.

We must now take a moment to thank those who have worked so hard to bring us to this pivotal point. Most important, we appreciate the political bravery of Mayor Michael Nutter, who has stood up to the special interests, stood up to the political forces in his own party, and spoken out against the hostility of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court — all of which are to blame

for this “casino crisis” in the first place. We could not have come this far without Mayor Nutter, and we applaud him for his courageous leadership.

We also thank all neighborhood activists — particularly SHCA Board Director Rosanne Loesch, who spearheads our work at the Philadelphia Neighborhood Alliance (PNA). This coalition of community groups (www.phillyalliance.org) is dedicated to relocating the two proposed slots parlors that were awarded licenses by Pennsylvania's Gaming Board. Our civic association has a strong presence in the PNA — whose mission and efforts we fully support — and so we appreciate Jan Felman, who also represents us as a PNA delegate. Indeed, our neighborhood is fortunate to have so many residents involved with groups who have a voice in this debate — including Casino-Free Philadelphia (www.casinofreephila.org), a grassroots group trying to prevent slots parlors from operating anywhere within the city. While SHCA does not endorse Casino-Free's mission opposing the location of any gaming parlor within the city's borders, we do recognize that many neighbors agree with its objective.

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September

17

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Society Hill Civic Association Meetings
Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Zubrow Auditorium, Pennsylvania Hospital
Preston Building, 800 Spruce Street, 1st floor

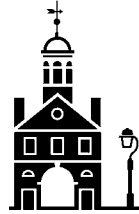
- 6:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting**
All SHCA members are welcome.
- 7:00 p.m. Meet & Greet Your Neighbors**
- 7:30 p.m. General Membership Meeting**
All neighborhood residents are invited to attend.
- **Featuring: Councilman Frank DiCicco**
 - **Guest Speaker: Superintendent of Independence National Historical Park, Cynthia MacLeod**

Introducing Independence Park Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod

We are pleased to announce that Councilman Frank DiCicco will welcome the community at our next General Membership Meeting and briefly apprise us of local affairs following a long and busy summer. In addition, we are delighted that Cynthia MacLeod, the recently appointed Superintendent of Independence National Historical Park, will be our guest speaker.

Superintendent MacLeod began her new role at Independence Park in February 2008, replacing former Director Dennis Reidenbach who is now serving the National Park Service (NPS) as its Northeast Regional Director.

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SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

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Submission Deadlines

November/December issue
 Advertising: October 1
 Editorial: October 10

Website

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. 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.

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

BY RICHARD DE WYNGAERT

Let the Games Begin!

“Baseball breaks your heart. It is designed to break your heart. The game begins in the spring, when everything else begins again, and it blooms in the summer, filling the afternoons and evenings, and then as soon as the chill rains come, it stops, and leaves you to face the fall alone.” —A. Bartlett Giamatti

The blissful meandering nature of summer always seems to infuse September with the bounce of possibility. For me, summer provides an opportunity to suspend, or at least consider treating differently, my incumbent responsibilities. Summer has always provided a venue to contemplate alternate ways of doing things. It renews the imagination.

Aside from my personal travels, this summer has been stirring, enveloping and forceful: magnificent athleticism and global cooperation during the Olympics in Beijing; an unrelenting credit mess wreaking havoc on the economy; Russia and Georgia’s confrontation (war?) over boundaries, alliances and political ideologies; the domestic political debate punctuated by the Republican and the Democratic conventions; the defining months of the Major League Baseball season and the beginning of the NFL season.

In the end, however, the quality of our lives is most profoundly experienced and shaped not by global or national events, but by our connections and by the details of our day-to-day existence. Without question, being away clearly underscores and makes me appreciate the rich community of which we are a part. Fertile history. Impressive architecture. Good friends. We are all most fortunate indeed to live in such a great neighborhood.

SHCA continues to work vigilantly to ensure that the elements and details that contribute significantly to our community are not compromised. Among some of the most pressing issues: sound waterfront development; traffic mitigation; Zoning and Historic Preservation issues; crime and vandalism; economic development and beautification. These are some of the situations and issues of which our civic association is ever mindful. If there is an issue that concerns you, please bring it to our attention. We seek to represent all residents of Society Hill.

If you are not currently a member, please consider joining. See page 33 for membership details and application. With your input and help, we can continue to address the vital issues of our community. Play ball... Let’s have a great year!



**Richard de Wyngaert,
President**

Introducing Independence Park Superintendent Cynthia McLeod

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Prior to her recent arrival at Independence Park, Cynthia MacLeod served as Superintendent of Richmond National Battlefield Park, where her role was to protect, preserve and interpret the cultural and natural resources of nine area sites related to the Civil War. She was also in charge of the Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site, which commemorates the life of the first African American businesswoman who rose to be a bank president. While in Richmond, MacLeod established new visitor centers for each park.

MacLeod began her impressive career with the NPS as an architectural historian in several regional offices across the country. She completed a program at Harvard for Senior Managers in Government, and her diverse background includes a Masters Degree from the University

of Virginia, where she majored in both zoology and comparative literature.

We expect that Superintendent MacLeod will focus her presentation on several topics close to our hearts. These may include:

- INHP’s new security system and the removal of those bicycle barricades;
- Improvement plans for Washington Square; and
- The park’s Centennial Initiatives (see page 7).

Most likely there will be an opportunity for a question-and-answer period. Most importantly, this is a wonderful opportunity to meet Superintendent MacLeod and learn about her current and future plans for the park. Independence Park, after all, is our own front yard!



**Park Superintendent
Cynthia McLeod will
speak at SHCA’s
September General
Membership Meeting.**

Hope for Our Riverfront

continued from page 1

By no means are we confident that Foxwoods will choose to move its slots operation away from the riverfront and away from any residential neighborhood. Nevertheless, we feel that this is a moment for thanks and reflection. When these two gaming licenses were awarded in December 2006, many people thought the locations were a “done deal” and urged us to make the best of it. Some thought that to stand against the proposed locations would be tilting at windmills. We admit that we, too, had our doubts! However, after 20 months of almost non-stop work, *We The People* have begun to make progress. Although we have not yet won, our progress to date can be a lesson about the power of grassroots democracy. We will step up our advocacy for as long as necessary.

You may recall how this “casino-crisis” first began: during the Fourth of July weekend in 2004, our state legislature passed the Gaming Act in the dead of night and our Governor signed it in the early morning hours of July 4th — without any public awareness or debate. While many were aware of the Governor’s pro-casino bent, few thought that the Gaming Act would require two 5,000-machine slots parlors in Philadelphia larger than most Atlantic City casinos! Also, few predicted

that, in passing this law, the politicians would be careful not to specify their locations. Instead a new agency was invented to outsource the job. This “new” agency is the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board.

This was the ultimate in government unaccountability — as the City of Philadelphia has the right to make its own zoning and land-use decisions. In fact, the role of our City Planning Commission is to plan the city’s growth and make expert professional recommendations to City Council, which then passes zoning laws to guide what goes where. Through our zoning code, City Council makes the decisions about where to place skyscrapers, where to install sewage treatment plants and even where landfills are to be situated. Yet for the locations of these two slots parlors, our state government surreptitiously stole Philadelphia’s power and gave it away to a newly created agency packed with unelected political appointees.

This shockingly undemocratic process was just the first of a series of misleading decisions made by our state government, which went unopposed by anyone in City Hall. Of course, once these licensing decisions were made public, Councilman Frank DiCicco did

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fight extremely hard for us, his constituents. But by then the die had been cast by the passage of this infamous Gaming Act. To make matters worse, any opposing grassroots and civic initiatives — all of which were perfectly legal — were struck down by a hostile state Supreme Court. Even editorial boards of newspapers from across the state have questioned whether the Court is comprised of judges concerned more about politics than about the law. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court appears to have been vehemently pro-casino every step of the way: from knocking the May, 2007 citizen-driven referendum that would place a 1,500-foot buffer between homes and casinos off the ballot, to ordering the city to pass zoning legislation. This Court has been a powerful obstacle to reconciling slots parlors and good land use planning.

The latest affront by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court occurred on August 22, 2008, when it upheld former Mayor Street’s administration, which granted riparian lands (i.e., lands that are or were parts of the river) to the SugarHouse slots parlor — proposed for the Northern Liberties and Fishtown neighborhoods. The Court allowed Mayor Street’s Commerce Director, Stephanie Naidoff, to interpret a 100-year-old maritime

statute that expressly limits riparian lands for usage by “piers, wharves and other harbor structures” to apply as well for slots parlors. This was a land-grab pure and simple — because the law clearly provides that it is only the state that can grant rights to build on the riparian lands. Nevertheless, we continue our work to move SugarHouse from our shared and historic waterfront.

Now, as we move forward, we recognize that our efforts do not depend on a particular zoning law or a maritime provision or even on the ruling of the highest court in the state. The success of our efforts will depend on whether our *elected officials*, who have the ability to correct the court’s unfair and mistaken land use decisions, will accept responsibility.

We are mindful that Foxwoods is currently considering a move — not because any facts on the ground have changed since December 2006, by which time both the City’s Streets Department and PennDOT had already approved Foxwoods’ traffic plans. The only thing that has changed since that time has been the progress of *We The People* in standing up to government and demanding better. We intend to continue.

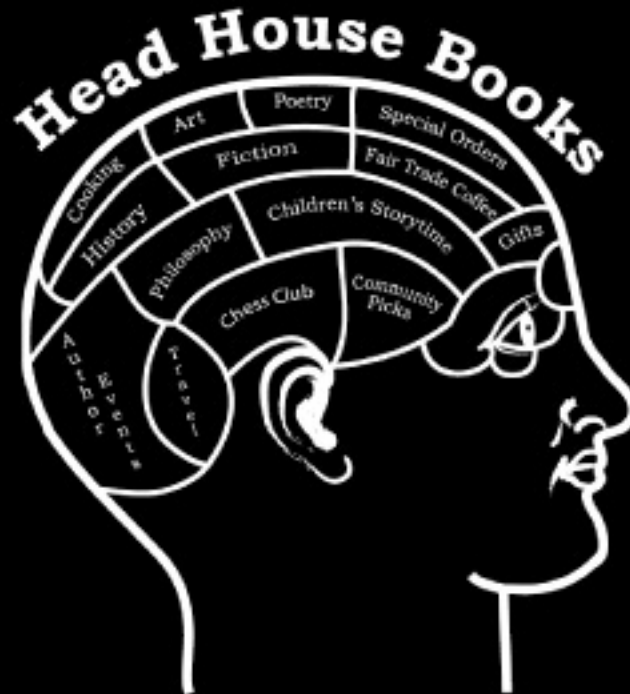


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– *Philadelphia Magazine* August 2008

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INDEPENDENCE PARK'S CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE

Visitor Survey Offers Guidelines For Park Improvements

As part of an ongoing effort to improve visitors' experiences at Independence National Historical Park (INHP) and also as part of its Centennial Initiative, the park recently issued a report on a survey administered to 1,800 visitors in the summer of 2007. This survey — the first in twenty years — attempted to determine who these visitors are; where they go and when; the quality of their experiences — e.g.: did the park meet their expectations; and whether they found the provided services adequate, helpful, or enjoyable. The survey's results will be a key component of INHP's "Long Range Interpretive Plan."

Approximately 55 percent of the 1,800 visitors who received the survey responded: Generally, 72 percent of the park's summer visitors are families, 5 percent are commercial tours, and 1 percent other educational groups. Residents from outside the region made up 89 percent of all visitors: for 40 percent of them, Independence Park was their reason for traveling to Philadelphia, while for 60 percent a trip to Philadelphia was why the park was a stop on their tour.

Overwhelmingly, respondents reported high regard for park rangers and ranger-led programs. Regarding park safety issues, 63 percent of surveyed visitors said they felt "very" safe, while 27 percent said they felt "somewhat" safe. Most often cited as the cause for uneasiness are the city's "homeless" and "pan-handlers." In response, the park has stepped up its patrols and now coordinates its monitoring efforts with the 6th District Police, the Center City District, and the city's Office of Social Services.

Good news for Independence Square! Due to improvements in security equipment, those unsightly metal barricades will soon be removed and be replaced by small-scale garden bollards, surveillance cameras and motion detectors — hopefully, a welcoming spirit of the park's historic character will be restored. Also in 2009, as part of INHP's Centennial celebration, four exciting new exhibits will be launched. Look for them at President Washington's House, the Edgar Allan Poe House, the Deschler Morris House and the Thaddeus Kosciusko House.

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ZONING & HISTORIC PRESERVATION REPORT

 BY STEVEN A. WEIXLER, CHAIR, ZHP COMMITTEE


Visions Arising...

Big plans are being made for the future of our riverfront. The next issue of the Reporter will feature a full update on the work of the Central Delaware Advocacy Group on behalf of the Civic Vision.

While we assume (and hope) that most neighbors have enjoyed a restful summer, SHCA's Zoning & Historic Preservation Committee has continued to assist Society Hill homeowners in navigating the sometimes difficult process of preservation and renovation — so as to preserve and enhance the quality of life in our unique community. And as you probably know, we are always willing to provide advice, support and help to neighbors, while we also monitor larger projects that may have an impact on our neighborhood as a whole — including, for example, the following sites:

Stamper Square

After a long period of public debate and concern, Bridgeman Partners has applied for and obtained the support of Philadelphia City Council for rezoning the former NewMarket site (Front to 2nd Street between Pine and Lombard Streets) to allow construction of a 150-room, four-star hotel and 77 condominium apartments. A special committee of our civic association has been working to negotiate agreements with the developers that would maximize the benefit to our neighborhood and minimize both the short and long-term potential drawbacks. Councilman Frank DiCicco has been instrumental in this process and consistent in his support of Society Hill. We soon hope to have an agreement with the developer that will allow a new addition to the neighborhood that — unlike its predecessor's proposal — will be successful and will contribute to the overall quality of the neighborhood. On August 19th, the Philadelphia City Planning Commission voted to approve the Plan of Development — paving the way for this project to move forward. If the Philadelphia Historical Commission approves the architectural design, groundbreaking is expected by the first quarter of next year.

Three Bears Park

SHCA continues its collaboration with the Friends of Three Bears Park in maintaining and preserving this beloved, family-friendly urban park on the 300 block of Delancey Street. The Friends are planning a repair and improvement project this fall, which is described on page 13 in this issue. Please continue to help our civic association and the Friends in preserving this unique Society Hill asset.

Preservation Alliance For Greater Philadelphia

SHCA has long been a member of the Historic Districts Council of the Preservation Alliance. Our neighborhood is a nationally recognized model for welcoming new development projects within stringent historic preservation laws and guidelines. The Alliance is now collaborating with "Preserve Philadelphia" — an advocacy group working to create partnerships to advance preservation — in the creation of a citywide effort to educate decision makers in government on the benefits of historic preservation. Society Hill will be a prominent example that demonstrates effective strategies for integrating preservation into city planning and development decisions. Additional information on this subject will soon be available at www.preservationalliance.com.

Dilworth House

Paul Boni, SHCA Vice-President and long-time advocate for historic preservation, has been working for several years as the leader of our civic association's effort to save this significant landmark structure from demolition. Please see page 11 for his brief history and update about this Society Hill site, located across from Washington Square park at 223-225 S. 5th Street.

For more information on these and other related topics, please visit SHCA's website at www.societyhillcivic.org. Or feel free to contact me directly via email, as my email address is listed on the site.

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A Brief History of the Dilworth House And Its Current Status

BY PAUL BONI, SHCA VICE-PRESIDENT & FORMER ZHP COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Dilworth House was built in 1957 as the residence for Mayor Richardson Dilworth, symbolizing his personal support for the revitalization of what was then a run-down area filled with historic structures — including several related to the birth of our nation. This overall urban renewal effort was part of Mayor Dilworth's wish to create a world-class city, river-to-river. Designed by architect G. Edwin Brumbaugh, the Mayor's residence — at 223-225 S. 6th Street, directly across the east side of Washington Square — did, in fact, help to inspire investment in what was then often called "Old Philadelphia."

Our civic association, together with a consortium of near neighbors, is advocating for its preservation, because to sacrifice this symbolic house would be a serious loss for the city. The threat comes from the fact that its current owner, a real estate developer, wishes to demolish over half of the house and graft onto its rear a 15-story condo designed by renowned architect Robert Venturi. Much as SHCA supports new development, and while many of us appreciate the talent of Mr. Venturi, we believe that historic preservation in the community counts for more. After all, Philadelphia's Historical Commission classified the Dilworth House as a "significant" building — which provides the highest level of protection afforded by the city's historic preservation program.

Our advocacy now focuses on zoning. We believe that the developer's plans are significantly at odds with the city's zoning code. Without boring you with the legalities, we take this opportunity to highlight one particular, so-called "unity of use" issue: The developer has entered into a "unity of use" agreement with the immediately adjacent Athenæum, enabling him, so he says, to present his zoning application as a combination of both properties. By doing so, and because the Athenæum has no wish to make its own building any taller, the developer asserts that he can use the unused allowable capacity above the Athenæum and transfer that volume for extra height on the proposed new condo.

We believe this is not an appropriate procedure under the law or at least in this circumstance. In other cities and in other situations, there is a procedure — sometimes called "Transfer of Air Rights" — but that's not what is being used here. It remains to be seen how Philadelphia's Zoning Board of Adjustment will consider this and other significant zoning issues presented by the developer's application.

For more information about the ins and outs of our efforts, please visit SHCA's special website, at www.SaveDilworthNow.org. You can sign our petition online.



Dilworth House

WALKIE-TALKIES

Neighbors Still At It: Struttin' Their Stuff!

With so many community challenges facing us today, we remind you that Society Hill is still a friendly and most welcoming neighborhood. One great way to meet some neighbors (who may live only a few blocks away, but for practical purposes may seem to be miles away) is to join the Walkie-Talkies — an informal walking group that costs zero dollars, brings only pleasure, and helps members remain fit. The benefits of physical activity are numerous. In fact, a recent Harvard publication supports the idea that most adults should get 30 minutes of moderate intensity exercise most days and that even if your exercise is minimal, it is better than none.

We urge any gal interested in a bit of exercise to show up at Three Bears Park on any Tuesday or Thursday morning — not later than 8:10 a.m. Unless it rains, whoever shows up on any morning will begin trekking by 8:15 a.m. — for about an hour. Routes vary, as do participants. Additional benefits include enjoyable conversation, as well as finding new friends. Questions? Contact Bernice at 215-925-4363 or BerniceHamel@comcast.net.



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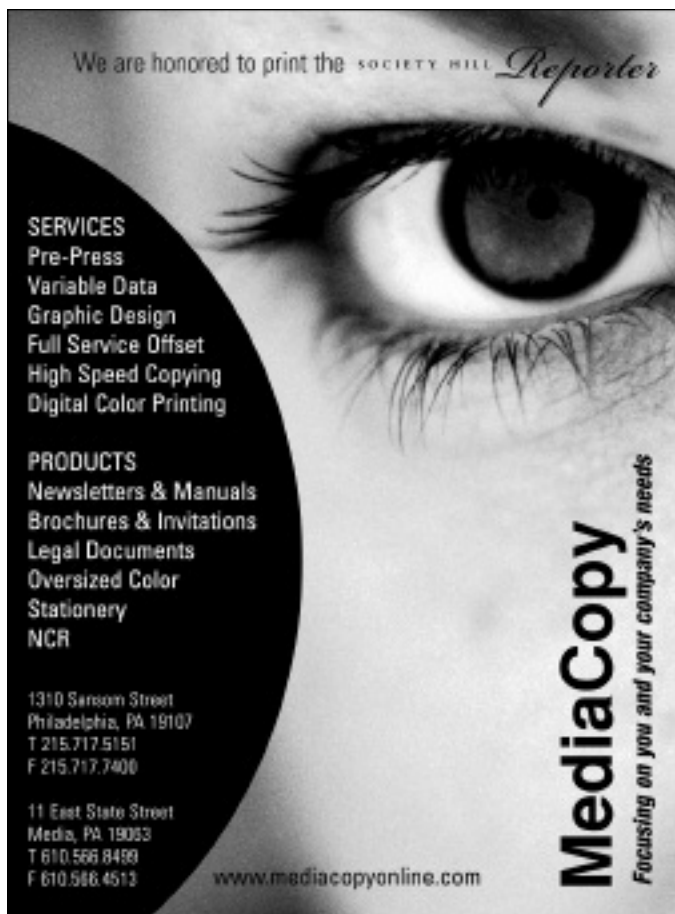
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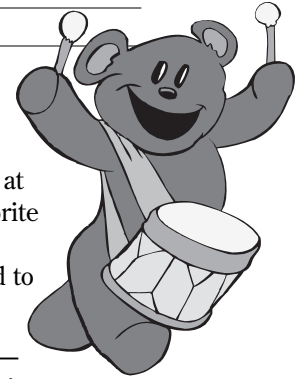
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THREE BEARS PARK

Fun Fall Activities



Plan to Attend the Annual Fall Festival –

Please mark your calendars for this year’s Fall Festival — to be held Saturday, September 20th, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fun activities for the kids include a moon bounce, pony rides, face painting, games and balloons. For moms and dads, there’ll be a bake sale, a raffle and organic food goodies!

Proceeds from the festival will fund the park’s weekly maintenance and upcoming events — including Halloween and Easter festivities.

Halloween Parade – On Friday, October 31st, at 5:30 p.m., bring the kids — dressed in their favorite costumes — to Three Bears Park for our annual Halloween Parade. Pizza and juice will be served to the little ones, and a fun time will be had by all!

Volunteers Needed – If you can offer to help — either for the park’s Fall Festival or the coordination of our Halloween festivities, please contact Catherine Signorello, President of the Friends of Three Bears Park, at 215-919-3189 or Csignorello23@msn.com.

Plans for Phase II Park Improvements

Future funds, such as those raised by the Fall Festival at Three Bears Park, will be spent for Phase II of the park’s upgrades and renovation. As you may recall, the first phase occurred several years ago — thanks to grants secured by Councilman Frank DiCicco, State Senator Vincent J. Fumo, State Representatives Marie Lederer and Michael O’Brien. Their generosity paid for all new playground equipment, paving repairs for the play area, plus new benches and landscaping. The Friends are hoping to begin Phase II of their renovations in the near future. These improvements will focus primarily on the eastern half of the park — to include repairs of the slate, brick and concrete paving, as well as parts of the brick sidewalk area along Cypress Street; new lighting throughout the park; new landscaping of the round planter; and the cleaning and pointing of the park’s storage sheds.

In July, the Friends of Three Bears Park presented their plans before the Historical Commission’s Architectural Review Committee and were expected to present before the Historical Commission in August. However, they voluntarily withdrew their application when the Architectural Committee recommended denial of the proposed changes.

The Friends had hoped to remove the concrete bollards on the eastern side of the park, which had been approved and recommended by the Department of Recreation, as well as the city’s law department — due to liability issues. They had also hoped to install a low iron fence around the perimeter of the circular planter — to deter children from trampling over the flowers and plants. But the Architectural Committee recommended denial for the bollard’s removal, as its members felt it would alter the intentional design of the park. The Committee also recommended denial of the proposed iron fence, as it did not want to “legalize” the planter — which had never received official approval from the Historical Commission when that planter was converted from a water fountain. (FYI: The park’s round planter was originally designed as a water fountain, but the fountain was often abused as a bathtub by the homeless. When our community decided to turn off the water and dedicate the round space for a planter, city approvals had not been sought.)

Currently the Friends’ have withdrawn their plan to remove the bollards and install a fence around the circular planter, but they do hope to begin the next phase of upgrades as soon as adequate funding is put in place.



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HELLO & FAREWELL

Welcoming Two New Columnists

We are pleased to welcome two wonderful moms — Sonia Grasse and Catherine Signorello — who have agreed to co-author our ongoing *Reporter* column focused on the blessings (not-to-mention challenges) of raising children here in Society Hill. Their new co-authored column, entitled, “Kids’ Life in the City” is introduced on the facing page. We also send oodles of thanks to retiring **Keri White**, who for the past several years, wrote this newsletter’s informative and excellent “Kids’ Beat” column.

Sonia Grasse and her husband, Steven, are die-hard city dwellers who are the parents of two young children: a 7-year-old and a 3 1/2-year-old who, in true city form, can hail taxis! Sonia and Steven have lived “on the Hill” together for eight years, although Steven was a resident four years earlier. All family members love living here, and Sonia particularly appreciates the loving care that Hillers enthusiastically invest in the community — resulting in our well-maintained, tree-lined streets. “The lifestyle and historic charm we enjoy in this part of Philadelphia is unmatched,” she says, and “there truly is no other neighborhood in which I’d rather be!” Sonia and Steven are the owners of Gyro Advertising, who graciously contributed their design talent to create the beautiful invitations promoting the *Soiree at the Shambles*, held on September 10th.

Catherine Signorello and her husband, Frank, have also lived in Society Hill for eight years — although this does not include their two-year “lapse in judgment,” when they left the city just prior to the birth of their first child — which she blames on pregnancy hormones. While they did enjoy living in Lambertville, New Jersey, they definitely missed the energy, people and lifestyle of Society Hill. In September of 2007, they enthusiastically returned to the neighborhood. Last year their 4-year-old son attended preschool at the Society Hill Synagogue and this month begins attending St. Peter’s School, while eagerly awaiting the arrival of a baby sister or brother, due in December. Catherine is serving as President of the Friends of Three Bears Park and will oversee its forthcoming upgrades. (See page 13 to learn about the park’s improvement plans and programs for this season.)

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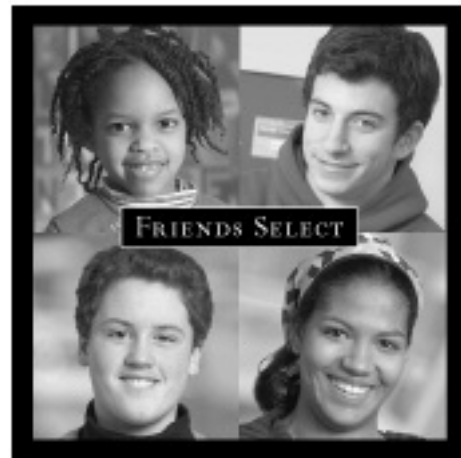
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KIDS' LIFE IN THE CITY

BY SONIA GRASSE & CATHERINE SIGNORELLO

Back-to-School Lunches (Or: The Litter-less Lunch)

We don't know about you, but we are up to our ears in ways to green our life and home. There has been so much reporting on greening in the print media (which we are then constantly toting to the recycle bin), that half the time we just want to call it a day. Yes, the idea of making our own cleansers out of vinegar and baking soda is inspiring, but with young ones in the home and businesses to attend to, we barely have the time and energy to clean our home, let alone cook our cleaning products from scratch. We're sticking to environmentally friendly store-bought for now, thank you very much. So what can a busy parent do?

Since packing lunch is something that many of us do nearly every day, it seems fitting to address ways to pack a litter-less lunch for your little one (or self, for that matter). We do all eat lunch, after all.

There are two ways to approach the litter-less lunch. Ironically, one involves buying more stuff; the other, how we pack the lunch. Hidden within the ways we assemble a packed lunch are many opportunities to have a truly positive effect on both the environment and our wallets.

The elements of a typical lunch usually break down into five components: lunch-bag, food, beverage, utensils, napkin. All of these things can be re-imagined in an environmentally friendly way — beginning with the lunch-bag itself. Ideally, it would be a reusable thermal bag to keep food at a safe temperature. The food within can be packaged in a variety of earth-loving

ways: in waxed paper bags (c'mon the early 60's are so in — Mad Men anyone?); a chic bento box; a stainless steel Greentainer; or, of course, good old Tupperware. Don't forget the thermos — leftover spaghetti always tastes better warm.

Another online alternative is a gadget called a "wrap-n-mat," which when closed holds a sandwich, and then unfolds to become a placemat. It's machine washable to boot. (It can be found at www.ReusableBags.com.) Your beverage, of choice, can be diluted (saving money, saving teeth, which are not recyclable) and served in a reusable drinking bottle that also doubles as an additional cooling pack in the insulated lunch bag. Both Essene Natural Food Market at 719 S. 4th Street and Whole Foods in Center City sell a selection of these reusable bottles.

As for the utensils, if you don't trust Junior with your good silver, "Preserve Tableware" makes dishwasher-safe, reusable and recyclable utensils from 100% recycled plastic (www.idealbite.com). If you prefer metal, "The First Years" makes a wonderful set called "Tumble Mates" (for sale on NetKidsWear.com). Lastly, forego paper napkins in exchange for its greener and more elegant cousin — the cloth napkin.

Most days we just pat ourselves on the back for being city moms and navigating our children through their day. But, if we can increase our green pride by doing our part for the environment, too, then we're all for it. If only this green business would help them to eat their greens.



Bento box



Greentainer



Wrap-n-mat



Tumble Mates



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PENN'S VILLAGE

Join Our 'Coming Out' Parties!

Just three month's old and already Penn's Village is making a positive difference in the lives of Old City, Queen Village and Society Hill neighbors who wish to remain in their homes as they grow older or have special needs. Each month additional residents from Old City, Queen Village and Society Hill sign up as members and volunteers. Thus far, spirited volunteers have assisted members with grocery shopping, home repairs, computer support, transportation to doctors' appointments, daily, weekly or monthly check-ins and miscellaneous errands, while also providing companionship. Most wonderful is that over 95 percent of these various services were provided by volunteers. In addition, we have already hosted two enjoyable social events — a picnic lunch and tour at Bartram's Gardens and a tour and lunch at the Fairmount Water Works.

To celebrate, Pennsylvania Hospital and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital are hosting "coming out" parties for Penn's Village! On Wednesday, September 17th, Pennsylvania Hospital will host our first "coming out" party — at The Society Hill Towers community room, from 5 to 7 p.m. On Tuesday, October 14th, Jefferson Hospital will host our second "coming out" party — at the Locks Gallery, also from 5 to 7 p.m. Please consider joining us and learn what Penn's Village can do for you or a member of your family! Reservations are requested. If interested, please contact Tania Rorke at 215-925-7333 or info@pennsvillage.org.

The Village's growing menu of services are all member-driven, as members' needs determine the services provided. No need or desire is too small or too large. Thus far, the range of services includes: **Transportation** (to doctors, grocery stores or other local destinations); **Convenience** (pick-up prescriptions, groceries, laundry or mail

during vacations, water plants, pet care, gift shopping, errands, etc.); **Household Help** (home repair, home safety assessments, meal preparation, paper work, bill paying, sweep/shovel sidewalks, trash removal, computer training & problem-solving); **Information and Events** (trips, activities, educational seminars & programs, dining groups & book clubs); **Health Support** (timely access & assistance at both hospitals, in-home personal care, explanation of benefits & information on prescriptions, exercise, personal training); **Peace of Mind** (companionship, regular check-ins, advocacy). Members call only one number to access this variety of services and activities: 215-925-7333.

Volunteers are vital members of the Penn's Village team who can choose either direct contact with members or assist behind the scenes. All enhance the lives of members and strengthen the work of Penn's Village — thus, strengthening our entire community. Additional volunteers are always needed. If you're interested, please contact 215-925-7333 or info@pennsvillage.org.

See what Penn's Village can do for you. If you don't require any of its services currently (and most fortunately!), but you may sometime in the future, please consider joining and supporting Penn's Village — so that it will still be here *if or when* you need it. Meanwhile you can always take advantage of its social and educational events.

Annual membership in Penn's Village costs \$500 for individuals and \$750 for households, while Charter Membership lasts for two years and includes a tax-deductible donation. To learn more, please contact Tania Rorke, Executive Director at 215-925-7333 or info@pennsvillage.org.



When & Where

Wednesday, September 17

5 to 7 p.m.
Society Hill Towers
Community Room
Host: Pennsylvania Hospital

Tuesday, October 14

5 to 7 p.m.
Locks Gallery
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Host: Jefferson Hospital

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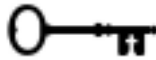
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SAFE AND SOUND IN SOCIETY HILL

BY MARILYN APPEL

Protect Yourself and Your Homes

While our neighborhood is essentially safe, it is, after all, but a small section of a major city where criminal incidents do occasionally occur. We remind you always to take appropriate measures to protect yourselves and your homes.

Recent Arrests

- On May 5th, apartments in the 500 block of Spruce Street were burglarized. Police lifted fingerprints, and a suspect, who lives in Kensington, was arrested in the 26th District (far from our 6th District). He remains in custody on high bail awaiting trial.
- At the beginning of June, visitors were walking on the 200 block of St. James Place, where they were held up at gunpoint. The suspect was arrested in North Philadelphia and charged with nine armed robberies throughout the city, including this one. He, too, is in custody on high bail awaiting trial.

Vandalism and Robberies

A bicycle locked to a fence on the 300 block of Willings Alleys was stolen; two cars had their windows smashed and glove compartments ransacked. These two incidents occurred on the 300 block of S. 6th Street — one day after the other.

Backyard Lights and Locks

How often have we said this? It would be good to have motion sensors in your backyard, garden or garage, and dead locks on your back doors. If your house has a French door leading out to the garden, we suggest you install a double lock that requires a key either to enter or leave the garden. The key should be kept nearby, but out of sight. And remember — light up the front of your house from dawn to dusk!

Or how many of you know about “Charlie Bars?” All you need is the right size broom handle or a “Charlie Bar” that can be purchased at a hardware store. Placed properly, no one can pry open your back door.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Philadelphia Sports Club MEMBER ALERT!

A neighbor and SHCA member reported that on August 26th several lockers were burglarized at the S. 5th Street Philadelphia Sports Club. These locks were professionally opened and many valuables were stolen — including cash, credit cards, keys, cell phones and personal identification. We recommend that club members *never* store any valuables in lockers.

Alert!

At 8:30 p.m. in the last week of August, two friends returning from a movie were held up at gun point on Delancey Street at Three Bears Park. The police were notified. They recommend that the park’s hedges be cut down.

CRIME TIPS

- Don’t walk alone at night or early in the morning. (This tip is for both males and females.) At point of gun — give it up! Don’t take chances with your life!
- Keep your home key separate from your money or your purse. If your purse is stolen, the thieves will know your address, but at least they won’t be able to get in without a key. Always be extra cautious late at night, but if you must be out at a late hour, take a cab home!
- Carry a \$10 or \$20 bill in a separate pocket. If you are held up (unless it’s by point of gun), throw the bill away from your attacker and run in the opposite direction.
- Even if you love dining *al fresco*, don’t hang your purse on the back of your chair.

It’s The Law

All apartment buildings must have outdoor lights in front AND in back — which automatically turn on at dusk and turn off at dawn. Our Safe & Sound Committee is in the process of collecting the addresses of all offenders, but if you are one of them or know of an

apartment owner in the neighborhood, let them know the law and that they may be fined for non-compliance.

After-Hours Muggings

Warnings continue about walking around the neighborhood alone late at night or in the early morning. Young adults are especially vulnerable to packs of “kids” looking for cash or jewelry.

- Recently a neighbor was mugged at 2nd and Spruce Streets at 1:30 a.m. He managed to get away and report it to the police.
- A visiting friend was mugged at about 2 a.m. at a local bar. Someone dropped a “ruffie” into his drink, dragged him out to the sidewalk and beat him up. He managed to poke his finger into the attacker’s eye and get away — because he fought back! (If you’re wondering what a “ruffie” is — it’s, ugh! — a nasty drug commonly used in “date-rapes.”)

I must admit it — I got conned.

As often as I caution everyone else, yes, it happened to me, and I admit gullibility! Here’s his description: white male, average build, average looking, practically in tears on your doorstep. He says he lives in the neighborhood and walks his dog by your house every day. He has different stories — the one I fell for was that he was “feeling so sick, has AIDS, has to go to the hospital and doesn’t have enough money for the E.R. co-pay.” Or he “has AIDS, must fill a prescription at CVS, and needs to borrow money to pay for it.” Yes, I really do feel stupid — so don’t let this happen to you!

If ever you become targeted by a con artist, panhandler or homeless person, one strategy that could work is to direct him or her to a nearby church rectory — since area churches, such as St. Josephs, often feed and help those who show up on their doorsteps. Such action exhibits your good faith and attempted assistance.

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ACCIDENTAL TOURIST IN MY OWN BACKYARD

BY JANE BIBERMAN

Mother and Me

Several years ago my mother and I were enjoying a late summer afternoon in the memorial cemetery of Old Pine Street Church, where we liked to read the inscriptions on the historic gravestones. We were sitting on a bench under a shady tree when some tourists — guidebook in hand — stopped to ask where to find the final resting place of Eugene Ormandy. My mom, who had rarely missed a Friday afternoon concert at the Academy of Music in half a century, assured them that the great conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra was not buried there. Of course, on a subsequent visit we discovered we'd been sitting right next to him.

My mother, Rhoda Bobrow Biberman, my faithful companion and fellow “accidental tourist,” died on May 29th, just three days before reaching her 93rd birthday. But for me, she is alive wherever I go in Society Hill.

We both moved to Independence Place about ten years ago and were eager to discover our neighborhood’s countless treasures — visiting together most of its famous landmarks on foot or by horse-and-carriage — but only on cool days or nights. The Arden, the Walnut and the Lantern theaters, as well as all three Ritz theaters were frequent destinations.

A great reader, Mom loved our next-door “neighbor” — the Athenæum — where she frequently borrowed books. And as a music lover, she regularly attended local Sunday chamber music concerts with my brother Robert — at the American Philosophical Society, St. Peter’s, “Old Pine” and the Fleisher Art Memorial Chapel. When I was a kid growing up in West Mt. Airy, Mom drove me to Fleisher for painting and drawing lessons —

so it was a special treat for her to attend concerts there by the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society.

Mom also loved “First Fridays” and would walk from the Locks Gallery on Washington Square to the Wexler Gallery in Old City. During the last few years, when walking became difficult for her, we spent hours in Washington Square, where she became a familiar figure. She loved to watch the fountain, the children, the birds and, of course, the dogs. Neighbors stopped to greet her and chat. A shy woman, Mom nevertheless made many new friends: condo residents and their cats and dogs; Jerry the mailman, Mrs. Inja Lee, the dry cleaner; Franny, at Robin’s Hair Design; Dottie and the volunteers at the Pennsylvania Hospital Bargain Shop, where she so enjoyed shopping.

My grandfather, Charles Bobrow, a Russian immigrant who came to Philadelphia as a boy in the late 1800s, established Bobrow Bros. Cigars in 1918. The factory, where Bold, Leda, Cliveden Hall and Topic Cigars were manufactured, was located at 220-222 S. 5th Street. Mom constantly marveled that she ended up living only a few blocks from where her father had begun his new life.

Perhaps it was no accident that my mother and I happened to settle in Society Hill, where the family’s roots first took hold...and where my richest memories surround me.



Jane Biberman and her mother, Rhoda Bobrow Biberman



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Our Successful Soiree at The Shambles

Last week on September 10th, a Wednesday Evening just prior to delivery of the *Society Hill Reporter*, a group of generous-spirited neighbors joined together to host the *Soiree at the Shambles* — a **fund**-raising social event to raise dollars for repairs and improvements at Head House Square — a National Historic Landmark structure located along S. 2nd Street between Pine and Lombard Streets. Our local consortium — consisting of the Head House Conservancy, the Society Hill Civic Association, Queen Village Neighbors Association, and the South Street HeadHouse District — collectively hosted this event. All donations toward the preservation of Head House were made out to the Conservancy, a local grass-roots, nonprofit organization.

We were delighted that Mayor Michael Nutter agreed to serve as Honorary Chair of the Soiree, as he clearly values the significance of preserving our city’s historical treasures — and Head House Square is indeed unique — since it is America’s only surviving Colonial-era marketplace, attached to the nation’s oldest volunteer firehouse, built in 1805. We are pleased to report that so many of our area’s finest restaurants contributed generous samples of their “signature” dishes, with enough gourmet goodies to satisfy even the most hungry of our approximately 200 generous neighbors who participated.

We are also thankful (in fact, *thrilled*) that so many local businesses and companies stepped forward as Corporate Sponsors — placing their business ads in the Soiree’s beautiful “Tribute Book,” which was handed out to all partygoers. ...and while on the subject of the Tribute Book, we must point out and express our heartfelt appreciation to the talented team who designed the Soiree’s gorgeous invitations — which were mailed to all members of the Society Hill Civic Association and many Queen Village neighbors. These fabulous invitations were designed by Gyro Worldwide Advertising, a globally successful and innovative Philly firm, located nearby on S. 13th Street. In fact, Gyro’s owners are none other than Sonia and Steven Grasse, who are Society Hill residents. Sonia, by the way, is now contributing her writing skills to a new, ongoing column in this newsletter. (Please see page 15 to read her first column, “Kids in the City,” — co-authored with another Hiller, Catherine Signorello.)

Writing and publishing a “Soiree summary” *before* it has occurred is surely an act of faith! But we’ve got it — because we’ve got a great team working together to make it happen, as we contribute to the preservation of our community’s unique Colonial legacy, while enjoying the wonders of the 21st century.

To view photographs of the many smiling patrons of the Soiree, and for a more complete summary of one of our community’s most ambitious and successful fund drives in recent memory, you’ll just have to wait for the event to have occurred — which after the fact, will be featured in the November/December issue of the *Society Hill Reporter*.

NOTE: Any and all donations to the Head House Conservancy — for this event or at any time — are fully tax deductible. Remember: Our hands-on restoration efforts for Head House has resulted in the fantastically successful weekend Farmers’ Market — expected to operate through Thanksgiving and perhaps beyond. Please direct your inquiries to Bernice Hamel, President Head House Conservancy, 215-925-4363 or BerniceHamel@comcast.net. And please send your donations to Head House Conservancy, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147.



ST. PETER’S SCHOOL’S HARVEST FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 25th, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

St. Peter’s School will hold its annual Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 25th, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., on the school grounds in the 300 block of Lombard Street (rain date, Sunday, October 26th). The festival is free, open to all, and Society Hill neighbors are especially encouraged to attend.

Children will enjoy rides, games, and crafts. Many items for sale include spring-flowering bulbs, used books and toys, plus much more — including delicious food. The event is a long-standing neighborhood tradition that attracts hundreds of people from the school and the entire community.

Founded in 1834, St. Peter’s School is a multi-denominational school for boys & girls from preschool through eighth grade. It has a proud tradition of nurturing excellence in its students. For information, contact Development Associate Dorie L. Clayman, at 215-925-3963, ext. 418.

UPDATE

The Franklin Lights Improvement Project

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Please be patient as the last leg of our Franklin Lights Improvement Project — the painting of 494 poles — continues to frustrate all concerned. Unfortunately, our painter recently informed us that due to delays on his current, large-scale project, he will be unavailable to paint the poles in our neighborhood in October, as planned. Exterior painting simply should not be done with temperatures below 50 degrees. Spring would be our next option.

Hiring a qualified painter has been a challenge. The Franklin Lights are the property of the City of Philadelphia, and so the city sets the requirements for any prospective contractor for this job. He/she must be a paid union member and also be skilled in both commercial and industrial painting — such that your house painter would not qualify. The painting also involves coordination with the Streets Department and the Parking Authority, which must remove the parking signs on a block-by-block basis before the painting is done. In addition, we must communicate with the Streets Department so that

the work does not coincide with any messy street work being done for the installation of new traffic signals, which began this past spring and will continue throughout the fall and winter.

We regret the delay in completing the last phase of our Franklin Lights Improvement Project and ask you to be patient while we seek to hire another qualified painter — perhaps, if we're lucky — to accomplish the work in October. Therefore, if you know of a painter who may fit the city's labor requirements, please contact me and I will follow up. (Perhaps Michelangelo is free?) In any case, please do not attempt to paint any Franklin Light pole near your house.

Finally, for any generous neighbor who has contributed \$1,500 or more waiting for a plaque to be erected on the pole of your choice, do not despair— eventually these will be installed as promised.

For more information, or if you have questions, please contact me at marthalev@msn.com or 215-629-0727.

“If I have ever made any valuable discoveries, it has been owing more to patient attention, than to any other talent.”

—Sir Isaac Newton



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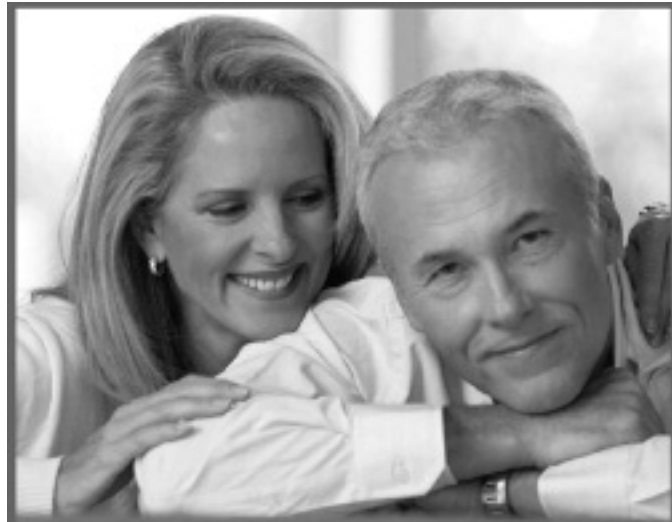
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ADD A BIT OF BEAUTY

Franklin Lamps & Their Flower Baskets

BY CHERRY BOMBECK

Prior to the 2000 Republican Convention, held in Philadelphia, several city entities and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) conducted neighborhood meetings to determine how best to spruce up the streetscape for our on-camera time. Representatives from the Society Hill Civic Association resolved to hang colorful planters from our streets' Franklin Lamps — unaware at the onset that the cost of having these planters watered by contractors would be prohibitive.


All blocks were canvassed for funding and asked to appoint a coordinator, while PHS masterminded the purchasing and deliveries. Unfortunately, the weather was horrendous, the plants too immature, and no study had been made of light requirements at different locations. There was little instant gratification. We struggled with what we had to work with. However, it was better than nothing.

Today, eight years later, two of Society Hill's blocks still manage to keep up appearances by a group effort that continues to provide colorful flowers that hang from these unique Franklin Lamp posts: S. 3rd Street between Spruce and Walnut, and the 500 block of Spruce Street. In the case of the latter, almost everybody contributes financially.

All flowers are obtained from our community's annual Physick House plant sale, and every device for water retention is used. Regular watering is the key issue — especially when the city turns into a "pizza oven" — since rainfall is not always adequate, except for the occasional protracted deluge. These baskets are communal property and provide an opportunity for neighbors to interact. Everyone pitches in by systematically looking after the plants and covering for each other during vacation periods, trips, or ill health. Working together in this small way has fostered community spirit while adding a bit of beauty to our streetscape.




A typical S. 3rd Street hanging flower basket.



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Society Hill Sales Report, 1st half '08

From **January 1, -May 31, 2008**, home values in Society Hill, 19106 continued to increase and our neighborhood remains one of the most stable in Philadelphia. To view the entire Society Hill and Center City residential Real Estate Sales Report, with complete addresses, visit www.AtacanGroup.com/blog


19106	2008 Townhouses	2008 Condos	2007 Townhouses	2007 Condos
Total sales	11	17	14	23
Lowest	\$652,200	\$270,000	\$410,000	\$265,000
Highest	\$2,750,000	\$2,375,000	\$1,537,500	\$1,700,000
Avg. Dom	155 Days	62 Days	76 Days	123 Days
Avg. Price	\$1,184,000	\$520,000	\$775,386	\$504,000

Actual Recent Society Hill Client Question

Client: "I'd like to see my house advertised everywhere, every week. Advertising sells! Why don't you do more advertising???"

Antonio: For 2 reasons: First, it so 20th Century! Today's buyer shops on-line. They go to professional websites like in Philadelphia AtacanGroup.com or nationally, Trulia.com, to virtually tour homes 24 hours a day and to view pictures of EVERY home for sale, to analyze statistics, compare prices, check out the neighborhood, review legal docs & more. Which is why I spend so much time and capital regularly developing the best site on the web. Second, advertising does sell, it sells the brand, it sells the image. Which is why in every real estate ad, you see the Realtor's picture and brokerage. Every experienced Realtor knows that the only reason to advertise is to promote yourself and get more leads. It is a rare, rare, rare occurrence to have someone call on an advertised listing and buy it. Have you ever bought a house you saw in the paper? I have not! Have you ever bought a house you saw on-line? I have & my clients too! In fact, according to the National Assn. of Realtors, today almost all urban, buyers start their search on-line.

Agree? Disagree? Comments? Thoughts?
Express yourself at www.AtacanGroup.com/blog



ANGELINA'S STORIES FROM THE DOLL HOUSE!

I am having a super summer in Society Hill so far! Between having camp at Society Hill Synagogue, taking ballet classes at Pennsylvania Dance Academy, acting classes at Walnut Street Theater, hanging out at 3 Bears and having loads of fun play dates I barely leave 19106 at all. I am missing St Peter's though, (& Ms. Woods!) I can't wait until September and so I can finally start Pre-K.

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SIGHTINGS OF 'BIGBELLY'

New, Hi-Tech, Solar-Powered Trash Cans

If you dropped litter into a distinctly different-looking trash receptacle during the summer, you unknowingly participated in a cooperative demonstration project of the Center City District and the city's Streets Department.

Early in July many Philadelphians gathered on the corner of 7th and Chestnut Streets to witness the crushing appetite of a creature called "BigBelly." Part trash can receptacle, part compactor, it is the world's only solar-powered cordless compaction system, and is one of three energy-efficient trash cans installed and being tested in Center City's commercial areas. The other two are located on the 1400 and 1800 blocks of Walnut Street.

This machine, manufactured in the USA, is constructed of galvanized steel and recyclable plastic — designed to keep pests out and litter in. While it uses the sun's energy to automatically compact trash at the point of disposal, it does not need direct sunshine — thanks to a 12-volt battery that is kept charged by a solar panel. In fact, this hi-tech trash can uses less than five watt-hours per day — the equivalent of energy needed to make a piece of toast!

Each BigBelly has the capacity to hold 200 gallons of trash — compared with the normal city litter basket holding 55 gallons — thus, cutting fuel use and greenhouse emissions

from trash collection by 80 percent. Safe and easy to use, its design has proven successful in urban streets, parks, colleges and arenas — in all weather conditions — since litter and trash are contained within the receptacle and there's no overflow onto city streets, compared with those open trash baskets used throughout the city.

The first BigBelly was installed in Vail, Colorado in 2004. Now these receptacles are used in over 50 municipalities from Baltimore to Sacramento, and in parks, zoos and campuses across the country. In fact, these good-looking machines can be found at Boston's Fenway Park (home of the Red Sox), Chicago's Millennium Park, Walden Pond (of Henry David Thoreau fame), Harvard University, and The Alamo in San Antonio, Texas.

Mark Alan Hughes, Philadelphia's Director of Sustainability and Senior Advisor to Mayor Nutter, stated, "Innovative solutions that promote a green and clean city — like BigBelly — are a small but critical piece of creating a more sustainable city and region." Center City District personnel have been collecting the compacted trash from these three test receptacles and tracking their performance and operational impact, as well as public perception to see how well the system performs in this pilot Philadelphia program.



Here's "BigBelly," a captivating creature with a crushing appetite

MISSING HISTORICAL MARKER

Beneficial Savings Bank to the Rescue!

We are pleased to report that SHCA found a donor to pay for the replacement of the missing historical marker on the Walnut Street Prison, at 6th and Walnut Streets — adjacent to Washington Square. With gratitude we thank Beneficial Savings Bank for their contribution.

As reported in the July/August special issue of the *Reporter*, the historical marker was demolished (with its text plate and sturdy metal post) in an auto accident a few years ago. SHCA's resourceful Administrator, Matt DeJulio, researched all of the historical markers in our neighborhood — placed by the Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission (PHMC). He uncovered this one "missing link," and immediately took action to seek a willing donor.

Beneficial is making this donation through our non-profit civic association, which through a PHMC subsidy, qualifies for a nearly 50 percent discount off the manufacturer's cost. We have been quite pleased with the rapid cooperation of the PHMC, and expect the "new" marker to be installed at its rightful place before the end of this year. And because we can never do enough to nurture tourism in our historical city, we are most grateful to Beneficial Bank for expressing their community spirit with this donation.

If you know of other "missing links" in the neighborhood that would warrant an historical marker, please contact Matt DeJulio, at Mattdejulio@aol.com. He will gladly guide you through the application process.

WELCOME BASKET UPDATE

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Welcome (wel' kem) adj. greeted, received, or accepted with pleasure.

Basket (bas' kit) n. a container made of interwoven material.

The SHCA Welcome Basket program, celebrating its ninth year, presents gift baskets to new, first-time homeowners in Society Hill. It has become an institution here in our neighborhood, with 520 baskets presented so far and many more to be scheduled. We certainly have our work cut out for us.

3,120 Bagels and Counting...

Several of the businesses that contribute fresh foods for our baskets have been on board with the program since its beginning. We would like to thank the owners of Zeke's Deli —

Mark Krauss and Paul Cohen — as they have been consistently loyal contributors from Day One. Over the years, they have contributed over 3,120 bagels to fill our baskets. Each Welcome Basket contains one bag of six bagels each — totaling 520 bags thus far!

Other long-time contributors are: Super Fresh, Homemade Goodies by Roz, Chefs' Market, Metropolitan Bakery, Pink Rose Pastry, and Old City Coffee. Check out our list of current contributors which has grown from six to more than 80. We hope you will consider patronizing them for their generosity and community spirit.

Meanwhile, we welcome these new contributors: Liberty Tree & Landscape Management, Metropolitan Moms, and we gladly say "welcome back" to the Society Hill Dance Academy.

We Want to Hear From You

If you are a new, first-time Society Hill homeowner, as of 2007-08, who has not yet received a basket, please feel free to contact us to set up an appointment. Or if you know of any business which might be interested in contributing to our program, please let us know. Contact Martha Levine, Welcome Basket Coordinator, at marthalev@msn.com, 215-629-0727.

"We adore everything in the basket — it is such a wonderful gesture of welcome to the neighborhood. We love living in Society Hill because we've gotten to meet lovely neighbors."

Leah and Andrew, Spruce Street



The owners of Zeke's 5th Street Deli — Mark Krauss and Paul Cohen

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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 Bistro Romano, 120 Lombard Street Bridget Foy's South Street Grill, 200 South Street Caribou Café (French Bistro), 1126 Walnut Street City Tavern, 138 S. 2nd Street Creperie Beau Monde, 624 S. 6th Street Fork, 306 Market Street Joe Pesce Restaurant, 1113 Walnut Street La Buca Ristorante, 711 Locust Street Mustard Greens, 622 S. 2nd Street Panorama Ristorante, 14 N. Front Street Philadelphia Fish & Company, 207 Chestnut Street Pizzicato Restaurant, 248 Market Street Positano Coast Restaurant, 2nd and Walnut Streets Sonam, 223 South Street Zot (Belgian cuisine), 122 Lombard Street

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BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PARKWAY

Major Transformation Projects To Begin Soon

The venerable Benjamin Franklin Parkway will soon undergo an extreme makeover. Originally designed in the early 1900s by French landscape architect, Jacques Greber, the Parkway isn't as pedestrian-friendly as was its original intention. The revitalization process will include changes to the entire length of the boulevard — from 16th Street to the Art Museum — with both pedestrians and bicyclists in mind — such that it will transform what is now a thoroughfare into a walkable urban environment.

In addition to new curbing, paving, trash receptacles, benches and plantings on every block, each of the three pocket parks around Logan Circle — Sister Cities Plaza, Aviator Park and Shakespeare Park — will get face-lifts. An outdoor café is being considered for Shakespeare Park, located across from the Free Library. On the 2100 and 2200 blocks of the Parkway, the city will realign traffic lanes to slow things down, create new bicycle lanes and widen the sidewalks for pedestrians.

In conjunction with these improvements, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and the Fairmount Park Commission, will seize this opportunity to rejuvenate the garden of the Rodin Museum. Working from the garden's original 1929 landscape plan, also created by Mr. Greber, the project includes new lighting, pathways and benches, as well as many new plantings that will change seasonally.

These various improvements, to begin in 2009 and be completed by 2011, are projected to cost about \$17 million. Funding is being provided by a partnership consisting of the state, the city, and three charitable foundations: the William Penn Foundation, the John S. & James L. Knight Foundation, and the Pew Charitable Trusts. Overall, this ambitious Parkway project will enhance the city's landscape and will become a most welcome and friendly setting for Philadelphians and visitors alike. Let the work begin!



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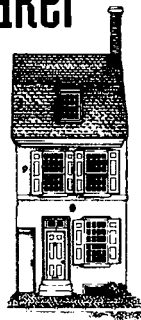


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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

SHCA Membership Now Totals 1,052

As of mid-August, a total of 1,052 members belong to our civic association: 910 renewals and 142 new members, which is an all-time high for new memberships. However, we are disappointed to report that 95 members from calendar 2007 have not yet renewed.

Last year we ended up with 1,062 members — and we are now only eleven members shy of beating last year’s total. If you are already an SHCA member, perhaps you know a neighbor who has recently moved into Society Hill. Or, perhaps you have a neighbor who, for whatever reason, has chosen not to renew membership in our civic association. We count on support from our existing loyal member base to help spread the word on what SHCA accomplishes for the community. We need to expand our base — the higher our numbers, the more clout we have when dealing with city officials.

Please remember that it is easier now than ever to apply or renew. You can either mail a check, send your credit card number, or visit our website and pay via PayPal. The adjacent coupon application is, of course, available for those who prefer snail mail.

Most of SHCA’s budget is provided through membership dues — so please send in your renewal today, or please join if you are not a current member. Of course, extra contributions are always welcome and can be earmarked for community activities or projects of your choice.

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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.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Residential Memberships</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1,000 Benjamin Franklin Benefactor</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$ 500 Washington Benefactor</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$ 300 Jefferson Benefactor</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150 Georgian Grantor</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100 Federal Friend</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50 BASIC HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$ 40 Senior/Student</p> | <p>Business Memberships</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Institutions—
5+ employees</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$ 60 Institutions—
fewer than 5 employees</p> |
|--|--|

- 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"/> Fund-raising |
| <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

NOTEWORTHY NEIGHBORS

A COLUMN BY DAVID WOODS

Dr. Robert Kay



This iconoclast has a blast tilting at windmills.

An iconoclast, according to my dictionary, is “a person who attacks cherished beliefs, traditional institutions, etc., as being based on error or superstition.”

Retired psychiatrist, Dr. Robert Kay, fits that definition rather well. In fact, self-deprecatingly describing himself as “the patron saint of hopeless causes,” he seeks to bring about radical reform of U.S. education, healthcare, mental health and the way we conduct foreign policy — especially where that involves going to war.

Starting with education, he says the system isn’t educating kids; rather, he contends, it’s teaching passivity and obedience. Kay’s goal in life, says the 70-something “frustrated social reformer of a kind,” as he also characterizes himself, is to turn schools and colleges into mind-expanding and ego-enhancing places where curious and creative children can keep on learning with enthusiasm and efficiency. Clearly the present system — one in which only an estimated one-third of college seniors can read or write with any degree of proficiency — is untenable, according to Dr. Kay.

On healthcare, he favors a Canadian or British-style government-run system; and on mental health, he advocates getting away from a focus on genetic and biochemical causes that are treated with psychotropic medications. Rather, he supports programs that seek to rectify the underlying cause of mental distress, which he believes is due to “the inept way we handle children.”

Robert Kay spent his formative years in the United Kingdom, but his father, a jeweler, brought the family back to the USA in 1939. He did his medical training at Tufts Medical School and his residency at Walter Reed Hospital in D.C. He then served in the army for seven years. Asked why he chose psychiatry as a specialty, he said, “it was probably to work through my own neurotic issues.” In Philadelphia, he practiced in community health centers and as a court psychiatrist. Married for nineteen years but long divorced, Kay has two sons and a daughter; and two grandchildren — who, one wonders, might or might not become the objects of his proposed reforms.

When not sending out scores of letters to the editors — few of which, he cheerfully acknowledges, ever see the light of publication — Robert works out, swims, and enjoys classical music and some jazz. He lives in a studio in Society Hill Towers in which almost all the walls are covered (mainly with maps) and where scores of books are piled high — although Kay admits that he’s not a big reader.

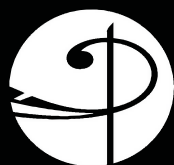
Curiously, the one item that is conspicuously absent from his bachelor-style domain is a computer. Why? Because, he says, “I’d probably become addicted to it.”

Another physician and writer, Oliver Wendell Holmes, said: “Rough work, iconoclasm, but the only way to get at truth.” Clearly, Dr Robert Kay believes that — and clearly enjoys doing that work. Like Don Quixote, he has a blast tilting at windmills.

FRIENDS OF THE INDEPENDENCE BRANCH LIBRARY

Are you one of many Hillers who supports several other local groups, such as Friends of Three Bears Park or Friends of Independence National Historical Park? If so, we hope you’ll consider becoming a Friend of the Independence Branch of the Free Library (7th & Market Streets). In just seven years, this branch has become one of the core cultural and educational institutions in the neighborhood. In fact, within six months of opening in 2001, it had the highest circulation of any branch library in the entire city — and it continues to hold that position today!

The Friends of the Independence Library remind city officials of the importance of libraries in general, and the importance of the Independence Branch in particular — by funding additions to the library’s collection (above what is provided by the city). The Friends also underwrite programs for young children, teens and adults. Please show support for our branch library by joining the Friends. For more information, contact the Friends at indyfriends@verizon.net. Also, the quarterly newsletter for this branch is looking for an editor. If interested, please let us know.



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w/ Teng Li, viola

Tuesday, October 28, 8 pm
Dvorak • Bartok • Mozart

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w/ Kim Kashkashian, viola
& Marcy Rosen, cello

Tuesday, November 18, 8 pm
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"The power of their performance came from the exquisiteness and eloquence the four players brought to their lines..." (*New York Times*).

JULLIARD QUARTET

Tuesday, November 25, 8 pm
Haydn • Wernick • Beethoven

"Each of the four has a notably beautiful tone, a sound that sings out but also blends... every bow stroke adds to its meaning and integrity" (*Chicago Tribune*).

PHILHARMONIC QUINTET FROM NEW YORK

Sunday, December 7, 3 pm
Shifrin • Maslanka • Ligeti

Known for their infectious sense of fun, energy, and musicality as much as their virtuosity, the ensemble's Philadelphia performance is sure to be 'serious fun.'

MUSICIANS FROM MARLBORO I

Thursday, December 11, 8 pm
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wednesday, September 17

SHCA Meetings

Pennsylvania Hospital
Zubrow Auditorium, 800 Spruce Street
6:00 p.m. Board Meeting
7:30 p.m. General Membership Meeting
See page 1

Wednesday, September 17

Penn's Village "Coming Out" Party

Society Hill Towers Community Room
5 - 7 p.m. See page 17

Saturday, September 20

Three Bears Park Fall Festival

Three Bears Park
11 a.m. - 3 p.m. See page 13

Tuesday, October 14

Penn's Village "Coming Out" Party

Locks Gallery
600 S. Washington Square
5 - 7 p.m. See page 17

Saturday, October 25

St. Peter's School Harvest Festival

300 block of Lombard Street
11 a.m. - 4 p.m. See page 22

Friday, October 31

Halloween Parade

Three Bears Park
5:30 p.m. See page 13



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