

SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

www.societyhillcivic.org

Out of the Frying Pan and Into the Fire?

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

—Margaret Mead

Following a 20-month battle by thousands of Philadelphians and a coalition of many communities, Society Hill was invited to participate in a major press conference on September 10th announcing that the Foxwoods Casino had agreed to move from its initially proposed waterfront site — on Columbus Boulevard, so close to residential neighborhoods like our own — to a different location in the city. This news, coupled with the recent announcement that Society Hill was named “One of the Ten Best Neighborhoods in the United States,” seemed too good to be true. (See page 9 to learn more about the honor bestowed on our community.)

Dampening our short-lived joy, however, we learned at the September press conference that Foxwoods’ new proposed site would be located in the very heart of Philadelphia — just four blocks from Independence Hall, three blocks from City Hall, and sandwiched between the residential neighborhoods of Chinatown, Society Hill and Washington Square West. In addition, their new proposed site, at Market Street between 10th & 11th Streets, is a two-minute walk for thousands of potential lunchtime gamblers.

Communities adjacent to the Market Street site were told that a slots casino would be a spur

for economic development on the Market East corridor. However, community leaders expressed shock that they had not been consulted about this major development project, which would consist of 5,000 slot machines and the impact of tens of thousands of gambling patrons arriving in their neighborhoods each day. No specific plans or studies were presented at the press conference to support the case that the Market Street location was the best alternative location in the city.

One month later, on October 9th — at a meeting in Chinatown, run by Councilman Frank DiCicco, State Representative Michael O’Brien, as well as Terry Gillen and Andrew Altman, from Mayor Nutter’s office — 400 neighbors gathered to hear specific details about Foxwoods’ proposed Market Street site. But instead of receiving any concrete information about design plans, independent traffic studies, social and economic impact studies, cost/benefit analyses and the like — Foxwoods and the city offered nothing! Dozens of individuals then stood in line to voice their fears about having a casino so close to their neighborhood. (To learn more about the meeting in Chinatown on October 9, visit this PlanPhilly website: www.planphilly.com/node/4068.)

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WED.	MARK YOUR CALENDAR
November 19	<p style="text-align: center;">Society Hill Civic Association Meetings Wednesday, November 19, 2008</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Zubrow Auditorium, Pennsylvania Hospital Preston Building, 800 Spruce Street, 1st floor</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting All SHCA members are welcome.</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Meet & Greet Your Neighbors</p> <p>7:30 p.m. General Membership Meeting All neighborhood residents are invited to attend.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest Speaker and Presentation: Police Commissioner Charles H. Ramsey

Membership Meeting Guest Speaker Police Commissioner Ramsey

We are delighted that Police Commissioner Charles H. Ramsey has agreed to be SHCA’s featured speaker at our November 19th General Membership Meeting. Appointed by Mayor Nutter as Philadelphia’s Police Commissioner in January 2008, Ramsey previously served as Chief of Washington D.C.’s Police Department, from 1998 to 2007.

A graduate of the FBI National Academy, Commissioner Ramsey holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Lewis University in

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SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

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January/February issue
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Editorial: December 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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First,
WE DESIGN
Logos
that
Last.

1991



1993



HomeCare Associates
A worker-owned company

2000

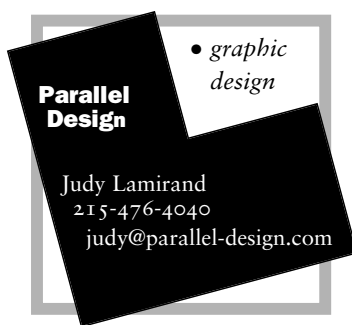


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P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

RICHARD DE WYNGAERT, SHCA PRESIDENT

SHCA continues to work vigilantly on behalf of our community. In this often vitriolic election year, amid the dizzying volatility that is reshaping the political and financial dynamic, our association finds ways to meaningfully impact our quality of life here in Society Hill.

Our September General Membership Meeting was a great success. In addition to Mayor Nutter and Councilman DiCicco addressing many of the issues affecting Society Hill in a refreshingly intelligent and nuanced manner, I was pleased to see so many new faces. I cannot recall ever seeing more of our neighbors in attendance at one of our general meetings. I encourage those of you who attended the meeting, held at the Zubrow Auditorium at Pennsylvania Hospital, who are not yet members, to seriously consider joining our civic association.

Equally positive news is that Society Hill has been recognized by the American Planning Association (APA) as one of the top neighborhoods in America! The American Planning Association — which is dedicated to the development of vital communities and excellence in community planning and citizen empowerment — has awarded the City of Philadelphia two honorary designations in its 2008 “Great Places in America” program. In the “Ten Great Neighborhoods” category, Society Hill was a winner, while South Broad Street’s “Avenue of the Arts” was awarded a “Great Streets” designation. Central to APA’s model

*I said to my soul, be still, and wait without hope
For hope would be hope for the wrong thing...*

*Wait without thought, for you are not ready for thought:
So the darkness shall be the light, and the stillness the dancing*

—T.S. Eliot, *The Four Quartets*

of a healthy and successful community are “citizens who actively participate in making the choices that determine their future.” I agree with their thinking and their choice! (And for more information about this great honor, please see page 9.)

Finally, I am very pleased to report that we have resurrected our TownWatch program. Without question, a successful TownWatch initiative is extraordinarily effective in promoting community involvement. There exist very strong correlations between a visible TownWatch program and decreased street crime. In addition to safer streets, TownWatch strengthens the covenant between the police and the community while also expanding one’s circle of friends for all participants. I believe that for Society Hill’s TownWatch to be successful — in the long run — we will need many neighbors to volunteer. Please consider the article on page 10 and think about giving it a try. I think you’ll be pleased.

Thanks again for all your continued support.



**Richard de Wyngaert,
President**

Membership Meeting Guest Speaker Commissioner Ramsey...

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Illinois and has served as adjunct professor at both Lewis University and Northwestern University. In his position as D.C.’s Police Chief he focused particular attention on security issues in the region following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Since taking charge here in Philadelphia, Commissioner Ramsey has exhibited inspired leadership. For example, he has replicated an educational program he first initiated in D.C. entitled “Law Enforcement and Society: Lessons of the Holocaust.” In that program, over 40,000 police officers explored the Holocaust Museum so as to learn the importance of respecting the law as well as respecting the rights of citizens.

According to an article in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* (October 17, 2008), “Ramsey thought that by examining the police role in the Holocaust, officers could better understand the role of law enforcement in protecting constitutional rights in the context of one of the world’s worst abuses of police power.” This program is now required for all FBI agents, and upon Ramsey’s arrival in the city it has been added to the curriculum of the Philadelphia Police Academy.

Ramsey’s stellar career includes numerous courses he has taught on police science and community policing throughout the United States. Our community looks forward to hearing what he has to share with us.

Out of the Frying Pan...

continued from page 1

“You call them gambling addicts. I call it a client base.”

Foxwoods’ Chief Executive Officer Michael Thomas to Helen Gym, Board Director of Asian Americans United

This October meeting was essentially a summary of the catastrophic effects wrought by gambling. It was not a forum to debate the merits of a 5,000 slot-machine casino being used to drive economic development on East Market Street. In fact, much authoritative research proves just the opposite. For example, a recent report by PICA (Pennsylvania’s Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority) analyzed the costs of gaming and concluded that “For every job created, local businesses lost one or more jobs.” Another study, conducted by the *New York Times*, found that “27 out of 57 counties with casinos experienced a net job loss.”

In spite of the fact that a comprehensive study was never conducted on the costs vs. benefits of installing thousands of slots machines in the heart of a major American city, our elective officials have placed the approval process for Foxwoods’ proposed Market Street casino on a very fast track. Zoning was introduced in City Council on October 16th, and consideration by the City’s Planning Commission occurred on October 21st. At press time, there were still

no design plans or studies made public. In spite of this, Foxwoods confirmed at a closed-door meeting of the Center City District, held at the Union League, that its target date for opening on Market Street is December 2009.

Responding to the entire lack of process, which denied public participation in decision making about the Market Street site, our Society Hill Civic Association has called for a true public process to be put in place for the siting or re-siting of any casino — not only Foxwoods, but also the currently proposed SugarHouse Casino (now sited on the waterfront near Northern Liberties and Fishtown). In a resolution approved by SHCA’s Board of Directors on October 15th, Society Hill has determined that it cannot accept Foxwoods’ Market Street site or any other similarly selected site — *unless and until* — an open, transparent and meaningful process is put in place. This resolution is reprinted on page 5.

We call for all our elected officials to demonstrate the leadership that citizens of Philadelphia want and deserve.

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HOT OFF THE PRESS

A Slots Parlor at 8th & Market?

At a Philadelphia Planning Commission meeting on October 21st (at press time!) we learned that a broad section in the heart of our city — from 6th to Broad and from Chestnut to Arch Streets — could be zoned “permissible” for a Commercial Entertainment District (CED).

To use the parlance of the Planning Commission, CED “permissibility” means that a licensed casino operator could ask a City Councilperson to introduce legislation that would lay down CED zoning at any location within a 24-block area, delineated by 6th and Broad, Chestnut and Arch Streets. The Planning Commission played down that possibility by stating, “Anyone who wants to develop a casino within these boundaries would still need: (1) someone to introduce zoning legislation in City Council and (2) a gaming license.” Assuming that there is always a possibility that someone in City Council could be convinced to introduce such legislation, let’s ask ourselves what are the possibilities of getting a gaming license in order to accomplish that objective?

There are several potential scenarios where this could happen, but here is one example: SugarHouse, which already has a gaming license, decides to abandon its expensive but controversial site on the waterfront and chooses to develop the big “Disney” hole property, at 8th and Market

Streets, into a 5,000-slot casino. SugarHouse petitions the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board (PGCB) under the “portability clause” of Act 71, to move its license from the waterfront site to the Center City location. (Act 71 is the Pennsylvania State gaming law enacted on July 4th, 2004.) If the proposed CED legislation is passed by City Council, SugarHouse can assure the PGCB that it is legally permissible to lay down a CED at 8th and Market.

Supporters of this new CED legislation for the proposed 24-block area in Center City, say that under the original legislation (enacted in 2006), a casino operator with a gaming license could have sought zoning for *anywhere* in the city. But under the original CED legislation, crafted with waterfront locations in mind — which requires open space, setback and parking, etc. — a CED could not have been laid down in a densely built location, such as 8th and Market Streets. This proposed Center City zoning legislation changes the requirements of the CED to permit the building of a casino in a densely built area of the city by establishing new criteria. The newly proposed legislation would take a huge swath of the heart of Philadelphia and make it available to casino investors and operators. Decisions are being made rapidly, but you can stay current by going online to PlanPhilly.com and societyhillcivic.org.

SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION

RE: PROPOSED MARKET STREET SITE FOR FOXWOODS CASINO

AND NOW, this 15th day of October, 2008, at its regularly scheduled Board Meeting, by a duly conducted vote of the Board of Directors, The Society Hill Civic Association RESOLVES as follows regarding the Foxwoods proposal to locate a casino with slot machines on Market Street:

Whereas, the SHCA recognizes and accepts that two casinos with slots machines are to be built in the City of Philadelphia under Act 71;

Whereas, the proposed Market Street site was chosen in closed door meetings that did not include any input from affected communities, any design proposal or impact studies, or any objective and public assessment of how the Market Street site compares to a number of other possible sites as alternatives to both the proposed

Foxwoods and SugarHouse waterfront locations,

The SHCA opposes the closed process by which the Market Street site was chosen, and therefore has no confidence in the result.

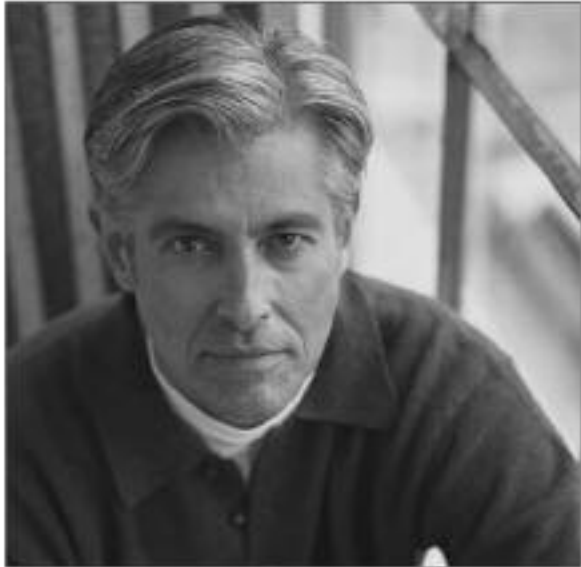
Therefore, be it Resolved, the SHCA cannot and does not support the proposed Market Street site *until and unless*, the following occurs:

- The City conducts an open and transparent process to consider all possible casino sites in Philadelphia, including those within 10 miles of race-tracks with slot machines (“racinos”);
- That each potential site undergoes a full, fair and public cost/benefit analysis;
- That each site is evaluated with full public participation;

- That the re-siting process affords proper respect for the general and widely held principle of the ballot initiative of May 2007 such that a casino is not situated abutting or in close proximity to residences, schools, playgrounds and places of worship;
- That the re-siting process affords proper respect for the historic and cultural resources of the surrounding area;

Be it Further Resolved that, given that the process for selecting the Market Street site lacked the transparency, objective assessment and community participation to which the citizens of Philadelphia are entitled under democratic principles of self governance, the Society Hill Civic Association cannot accept the Market Street site, or any other site similarly identified in the future, until the principles in this Resolution are followed.

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A Crapshoot in Our City's Center

BY HELEN GYM, BOARD MEMBER OF ASIAN AMERICANS UNITED

There's something ironic about the use of the term *casino culture* — to describe the recent Wall Street meltdowns. Everyone is lambasting our desire to gamble on high-risk deals with little public oversight. Ironic because, virtually overnight, we're looking at a casino on Market East — the very heart of our city — and “casino culture” might be a fair characterization of how public officials are handling the decision to move Foxwoods from its planned waterfront location.

Legislation has been introduced to rezone Market East to a casino district, even though there's no state gaming license for the site, no proposal, no impact studies, no cost assessments, and no design concepts. The waterfront communities had 16 months to review plans before the Planning Commission would even hear Foxwoods' proposal. For Market East, the Planning Commission will hold its first hearing Tuesday (October 21) and the public has nothing to review.

Clearly, Market East is a good site for both Gallery investors and the financially troubled Foxwoods, which laid off 700 employees earlier this month, including its CEO. But their self-interest isn't our public interest. Regardless of whether people agree casinos ought to be in Philadelphia, we make a mistake in rushing to rezone the Gallery, sidestepping a cost-benefit analysis and failing to build the case that a slots parlor is good for Center City.

We do know that an urban casino of this size is unprecedented in the nation. A 2007 report by the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority warned that not assuming any costs from the casinos created a “financial risk for the city,” referring to experts who said potential costs could be in the hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

The city has an opportunity to get this issue right. On a risk this great, why wouldn't we take the time to get the facts? Why wouldn't the city assess potential criminal-justice costs, or the negative economic impact on nearby small busi-

nesses, or the ripple effect of blown wages, bankruptcies and foreclosures? The rate of gambling addiction rises in relation to the proximity of a casino — and Chinatown is 50 feet away. What has the city done to assess the potential costs of child abuse, child neglect and domestic violence often associated with gambling addiction?

No matter how much marble and crystal architects install, a slots house is a slots house. Officials have yet to show what investors are lined up to spur Market East development. Until then, it is merely speculation and a gamble. In a shrinking economy, with regional casinos reporting their lowest profits in decades, how do we know that we won't be left with a cheap slots parlor on Philadelphia's central corridor?

The city does itself and its citizens a disservice in failing to disclose the full costs of the Market East location before it moves forward. At the least, we lose bargaining power with both the state and Foxwoods to offset potential problems. At most, in rezoning the Gallery, we potentially give Foxwoods leverage to appeal for a site license change.

Councilman Frank DiCicco's decision to prematurely introduce zoning legislation risks an important bargaining chip for possible controls on design, impact studies, and — most important — the speed of the process. Instead, he enables the casino juggernaut to forge ahead — with Foxwoods in the driver's seat. Considering the difficult economic times, the feigned powerlessness around the re-siting process sets a dangerous precedent. It's a serious dereliction of duty by city leaders, many of whom have publicly stated that casinos are no model of economic development. Citizens are left in a perilous place when government abdicates its role as guardian of the public good.

Mayor Nutter, seize control of this issue. Slow up the process now. The casinos are the governor's raw deal, but the decision about the Market East location falls squarely on the city's shoulders. We can't afford to gamble with our future.

Is a slots parlor really good for Market East? Where's the cost-benefit analysis?



Helen Gym

In its October 19, 2008 edition, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* printed this article about the lack of process when selecting sites for slots parlors in the city. Written by Helen Gym, a board member of Asian Americans United, we reprint this thoughtful piece,

with both the *Inquirer's* permission and the author's permission. It is an excellent summary regarding Foxwoods' decision to move from its previous chosen site (on the waterfront at Columbus Blvd.) and re-site into the very heart of Center City.

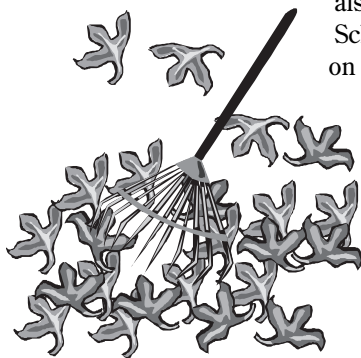
COMING SOON

Clean-Up Day – Saturday, November 22

On Saturday, November 22nd — rain or shine — Society Hillers will “attack” all the fallen autumn leaves and any sidewalk debris throughout our entire neighborhood!

Here’s the deal: All streets will be swept from Front to 8th and from Walnut to Lombard Streets — not including Walnut Street — but including the blocks that surround Pennsylvania Hospital: 9th Street between Pine and Spruce Streets.

Please remember to sweep leaves into the streets from your sidewalks, walkways, and also from Three Bears Park and the McCall School — before the sweeper trucks arrive on Saturday morning from 8 a.m. until 12 noon.



You can bag your leaves if you prefer not to sweep loose leaves into the street. These bagged leaves should be left by 1 p.m. at the following intersections where they cross numbered streets: Locust, Spruce, Pine, and Lombard Street. The bags can also be left at Three Bears Park.

Brooms, bags, and gloves will be available for your use at our local SuperFresh (on 5th Street) from 8 a.m. through 1 p.m. Please remember to return these brooms to SuperFresh by 2 p.m.

Please note: Block coordinators will post parking regulations before Friday: Where posted, cars must be moved to the opposite side of the street on Friday after 6 p.m. If not moved, cars may be ticketed beginning 8 a.m. on Saturday morning. However, to accommodate synagogue services, the 300, 400, and 500 blocks of Spruce and Lombard Streets will be swept by 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, which will leave the south side of these streets available for congregant parking.

To avoid being ticketed, please remember to move your cars back to the proper side of the street between 1 and 3 p.m.

If you have any questions or problems prior to Clean-Up Day, please feel free to call Wally Wing at 215-592-9951. Any time during Clean-Up Day you can phone either Wally or Ralph Colabelli, at 215-284-8473 — until about 3 p.m.

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Society Hill Awarded “Great Place” in America

We knew it all along — Society Hill is a great neighborhood! Now the rest of the country knows it too! In October, the American Planning Association (APA) named Society Hill as one of the country’s “Ten Great Neighborhoods” for 2008.

The APA has a program that annually identifies (and honors!) ten great neighborhoods, as well as ten great streets and ten great public spaces — anywhere in the nation. These places are “celebrated for their exemplary character, quality, and planning — a true sense of place, cultural and historical interest, and a vision for tomorrow.” Society Hill was recognized as a place that offers a better way of life — combining enjoyment of our urban space with accessibility to cultural activities, functionality, and community involvement.

The Executive Director of the APA, Paul Farmer, noted that Hillers can be particularly proud of the “spirit and fortitude of the civic leaders and pioneering residents who proved that you don’t

have to level a neighborhood in order to spur urban renewal.” The late Ed Bacon was credited with preserving Society Hill’s legacy years before passage of the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act — enabling us to maintain “varying architectural styles, mixed uses, and social diversity in a downtown urban setting.”

Philadelphia’s Redevelopment Authority and Historical Commission were also singled out for praise — for working with the Society Hill Civic Association when it enacted “a large-scale and innovative revitalization plan in the 1950’s and 60’s.”

Philadelphia was, in fact, doubly honored this year — as it is the only city to have received two APA awards: The Avenue of the Arts (aka: South Broad Street) was recognized in APA’s “Ten Great Streets” category.

To see a complete list of the 2008 awardees or to learn more about the American Planning Association, visit their website at: www.planning.org/greatplaces.

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SPECIALTY SHOP

Renewed TownWatch Coming Our Way

We are very pleased to announce that Society Hill will once again have its own TownWatch, which we hope will be functioning by the end of this month, thanks to the efforts of two impressive professionals who have stepped up to revitalize our neighborhood's TownWatch program (SHTW). With great pleasure we introduce Bruce S. Luckman and Lea Brister May, who are co-chairing and organizing SHTW.



Bruce S. Luckman is a trial lawyer specializing in consumer financial litigation, who represents a national consumer reporting agency in individual and class action cases. For more than twenty years Bruce and his wife, Diane, have lived on the 500 Block of Delancey Street with their two children. Whether walking the family's two dogs, Bear and Harley, or offering trick-or-treaters his concoction of chili and jalapeño/cheddar corn bread on Halloween night, Bruce is always devoted to our very special neighborhood. He strongly believes that patrolling the streets while walking his dogs (or strolling side-by-side with a friend or two) will be a perfect way to improve our security and strengthen our sense of community. Helping to organize and reinvigorate Society Hill TownWatch is a natural way for him to give back to the neighborhood that he and his family love.



Lea Brister May is a former Assistant Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. While working for the Commonwealth she prosecuted a wide range of white-collar crime cases in its Criminal Bureau. After spending almost ten years in Boston, she and her husband, Chris, and their child relocated to Philadelphia last year. Lea (pronounced "Lee") is delighted to be co-chairing Society Hill's rejuvenated TownWatch, as she is eager to see our neighborhood become safer for every one of us. She also feels that Society Hill has such a proud historical heritage that it would be a shame to allow that heritage to be compromised due to inadequate public safety programs — either for current or future generations. She believes that a new group of TownWatchers will not only provide that extra bit of security for all residents, but that neighbors patrolling our streets together will also encourage new friendships — a win/win for us all!

So, if and when you see either Bruce or Lea and their team of volunteers strolling the streets, we hope you'll greet them — as they'll be easy to recognize wearing TownWatch t-shirts.)

What Society Hill TownWatch will provide for us!

First, SHTW means that each of us will feel more secure knowing that many neighbors are volunteering their time and energy to provide additional safety throughout the community. For now the program will operate in the evenings only, but perhaps in the future it can be expanded to daytime patrols.

Are you wondering about who these generous neighbors might be — so willing to donate their personal time for our security? They are YOU, as well as your next-door neighbor and that fellow down the block who you may recognize but whose name you haven't yet learned. So, if and when you bump into any TownWatchers as they stroll our streets, we hope you'll greet them — and perhaps express your interest in joining the group. (All dog walkers and power-walkers are especially welcome to participate — because you're already out there — so you may as well join the team.)

Lea and Bruce are off to a great start as co-chairs of our TownWatch, which will oversee the more than 50 volunteers who have already signed up. Specifically, volunteers will be asked to join a patrol no more frequently than once or twice a month — from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings. A home-base operator will provide assistance and information to all patrollers each patrol night.

Bruce and Lea have enlisted neighbor Ben Gross to construct a website for efficient online scheduling and security-related blogging. This website — www.societyhilltownwatch.com — will be fully operational by the end of November, at which time each TownWatch volunteer will be given a log-in and password to the site.

SHTW will soon conduct its first official meeting for all who have expressed interest. At this "meet and greet" session, participants will receive their TownWatch t-shirts and other needed items, such as cards with emergency and other important City Service telephone numbers. Reflective TownWatch vests, to be worn by patrollers, will be maintained at a central location.

For more information about this soon-to-be TownWatch program, or to volunteer your services, please contact Co-Chairs Bruce, at bluckman@mstkw.com or Lea, at leaandchris@earthlink.net.

Permanent Site for SHCA's Archives

At SHCA's October 15th Board of Directors meeting, the Urban Archives at Temple University was chosen as the permanent repository for our civic association's history. The Board unanimously approved a report given by SHCA's Archives Committee which had been created by the Board to determine where to deposit its archives for now and the future.

The Committee, chaired by Stanhope Browne, included Matt DeJulio, Cynthia Eiseman, Bernice Hamel and Carole Le Faivre-Rochester. Although Carole resigned from the Committee shortly before it completed its work, she had been especially helpful in evaluating Temple's suitability.

The Committee — aided by two members with previous expertise in archival matters and two outside professionals in the field — considered seven Philadelphia institutions as possible places to deposit our community's history. It evaluated each of the seven choices by applying several criteria, including: the focus of collections, conditions of storage, practice as to organizing and cataloging the material, and policies

concerning public access. The archive experts (two committee members and two outside professionals) urged that one of the most important factors to consider when evaluating each institution is the extent to which it would be recognized by scholars as an obvious place to learn about Society Hill.

The Committee was unanimous in its recommendation of Temple's Urban Archives, as it is *the* recognized repository for Philadelphia material of the 20th century and beyond. Its director impressed the Committee with her professionalism. The facilities were also impressive, as was the cataloging of other community archives. In fact, the Temple facility has been chosen by more than fifteen Philadelphia civic associations — including the Center City Residents' Association — as their permanent repository.

A new SHCA Archives Committee will soon be formed to work out the arrangements with Temple and to oversee the transfer of materials over the years.

Temple University's Urban Archives

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NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Street Work In Our Neighborhood

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Over the last six months SHCA's Safe and Sound Committee has been in continuous contact with the Philadelphia Streets Department in order to keep you abreast of the ongoing street work occurring throughout the neighborhood. This endeavor — as part of the Department's Southeast Quadrant Neighborhood Improvement Project — extends from Front Street to Broad Street and from Chestnut to South Streets.

As you may recall, about six months ago neighbors saw the sudden excavation of our streets and witnessed cars being towed away with little notice to owners. Then the workers disappeared for quite some time, and now they are back. The purpose of the current work — expected to continue for another six months — is to install new state-of-the-art traffic signals, comparable to those in other major cities, at every Society Hill intersection. The original excavation, begun last spring, laid the cables for these new traffic signals.

Regarding the scope of work being planned for Society Hill and the expected timetable, here's what we can now expect in the coming months:

1 New controller boxes (48" x 28" x 24"), mounted on cement foundations, will be installed, one at each intersection. The boxes control the signals, which can be monitored at a central station.

- 2** At nearly every intersection, sidewalk bricks have been removed to install the new "c-poles" that will support these new signals. We have been guaranteed that these **removed bricks** were clearly marked and **will be replaced** in the exact location from whence they came.
- 3 All new poles and traffic signals will be erected.**
- 4 Handicapped ramps** that are concrete will be resurfaced with concrete that will have a color truncated, non-slip mat installed, as approved by the American with Disabilities Act.
- 5** Hopefully by March 2009, many of our **streets will be milled and resurfaced** — which is expected to rid the surfaces of those frustrating and unsightly dips and ditches.
- 6** Along with the resurfacing of these streets, the project manager indicated that the brick handicapped ramps will likely be reconstructed. They will likely determine, in a test model, whether to redo the brick or to convert the ramps to cement. You can see similar mats on South Street, although Society Hill's mats will be brown.

We hope that this summary report will help prepare neighbors for any further inconvenience during this improvement project. And for additional information, you can contact SHCA's Safe and Sound Committee Co-Chair, Martha Levine, at marthalev@msn.com or 215-629-0727.



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Photos of Washington Square Wanted

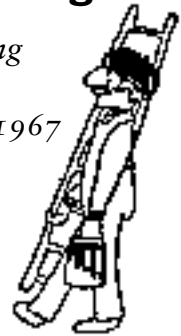
Bill Double, a research volunteer for the National Park Service, is compiling a book on the history of Washington Square as part of a series entitled "Images of America." He is requesting old photographs or other images that neighbors may have pertaining to the Square — specifically, images of people, houses, buildings, street scenes and activities to illustrate Washington Square's fascinating history and neighboring community. If you have any photos you would be willing to share for this project, please contact Bill directly at 215-546-0991 or wgd2@comcast.net. All photos will be returned in good order, and will be credited to their owners.

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Twenty New Trees for Society Hill

BY HANS BOMBECK

Yes, twenty new trees are what we hope to see next spring under the TreeVitalize program — sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS), and the Fairmount Park Commission.

SHCA and your local (PHS-trained) “Tree Tenders” have submitted applications for the planting of twenty healthy new trees to replace dead or dying ones, and to fill empty tree pits in our neighborhood with fresh green. Although the application process involved some red tape, adding green to the neighborhood will provide Society Hill homeowners such benefits as:

- Increase in property values
- Added beauty and character of our streetscape
- Reduced need for air-conditioning
- Reduction of pollutants in the air and water
- Reduction in storm water runoff
- Buffering of noise

When the time comes — that is, after the Fairmount Park Commission swings into action —with its removal of dead trees and old stumps, as well as the opening of old pits or the creation of new pits, we will be looking for the assistance of able-bodied Society Hill neighbors for the planting of our new free-of-charge trees. And perhaps more important, we will need help with their subsequent watering and general care — especially during the first years of establishment.

Although there is no guaranty that we will receive all the trees we have requested, we remain optimistic. In addition, we are anxious to see the return of several trees in front of two significant local landmarks: Old St. Mary’s Church, on S. 4th Street, and Holy Trinity Church, on Spruce Street.

For questions about TreeVitalize and/or to volunteer as a “Tree Tender,” please contact Hans Bombeck, at 215-627-1356 or Garrett Smith, at 215-760-1213. Your participation in our Tree Tending program is most welcome.

Caring for Your Street Trees

The city environment poses many challenges for street trees, usually planted in very small cut-outs in the sidewalk, known as tree pits, which reduce the tree’s life expectancy to about one-fourth the life expectancy of the same tree planted in a lawn area.

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We regularly monitor the tree’s growth, pruning the McFarland

way—outer crown thinning and reduction—which allows the tree to fit its location and encourages a positive growth habit. Our trees are able to endure heavy storms with minimal damage because of these practices.

Without this attention to your street trees, you are inviting the risk of losing a most valuable asset.

Street trees benefit our lives in many ways: Their high crowns shade us; their flowers color our streets; their leaves improve our air quality, and overall, trees increase our property values. In short, street trees are the accents to the historical architecture of this great city.



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SHCA Has a Gavel at Last

BY STANHOPE S. BROWNE



In the mid-1960's a group of Society Hill neighbors, myself included, accomplished a merger of the competing Society Hill Area Residents Association and the Home Owners and Residents Association to form the Society Hill Civic Association. Events at recent meetings of our association have shown that our long-ago founding group committed a terrible sin of omission. We failed to provide SHCA's first association president (and succeeding presidents) with a gavel!

Those recent events I refer to occurred at our General Membership Meetings devoted primarily to the controversial Stamper Square development. While one member was speaking, another member would interrupt, causing others to protest, all with louder and louder voices. When the President tried to restore order, he could not be heard unless he also shouted. Chaos!

The gavel is the perfect solution in such instances. It has a voice all its own. Wielded properly it can be heard above the shouting. It is absolutely neutral. It singles out no one in particular, voices no criticism and plays no favorites. Its "*thwack, thwack, thwack*" simply says with great authority "*Will everybody please shut up!*" Then the president can peacefully give to one person the right to speak.

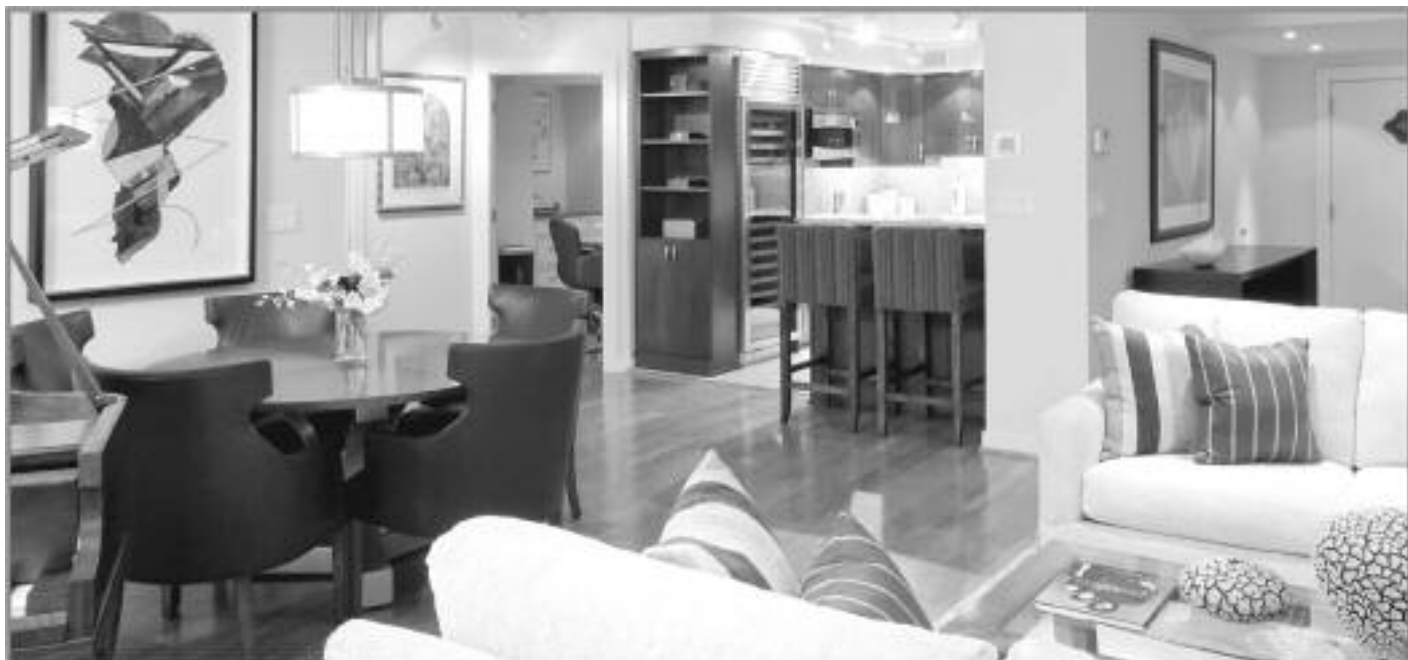
Shortly after my revelation, I purchased a brand-new gavel, complete with the Association's full name engraved upon it, as well as a sounding block to pound upon. I presented these two objects to SHCA's current President, Richard de Wyngaert, at the October 15th Board of Directors meeting. As one of the few survivors of the 1960's merger committee, I have at last completed that committee's duties.

Now I will offer some interesting little facts. The French have gavels, but they are used primarily in governmental assemblies and in auction houses. The French word for gavel is *marteau de president*, which literally means "hammer of a presiding officer." Unlike our American practice, gavels are generally not used more widely for meetings of private groups such as civic associations and foundation boards. Moreover, in France there is no equivalent to our American *Robert's Rules of Order*. In other words, there is no generally understood and accepted set of rules for conducting non-governmental meetings. German and Dutch lawyer friends of mine tell me that the situation in Germany and Holland regarding gavels and meeting rules is roughly the same as in France.

Thwack!

Thwack!

Thwack!



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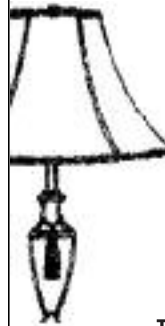
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SAFE AND SOUND IN SOCIETY HILL

Statistics Indicate Some Ups and Downs

BY MARILYN APPEL

The Latest Stats

We received from the police the latest statistics comparing last year with what's been happening in Society Hill through September 30th. There is good news and bad news. Although not public knowledge, there were two rapes compared to one last year; robbery at gunpoint was up 27%. (Remember, if you are ever confronted like this — give it up! Your life is more important; and ladies — keep your keys separate from your purse); other kinds of robberies were down by 57%; theft from auto is up 18% but theft of auto is down 25%. Although bicycle thefts are not reported separately, note that many bicycles have been stolen from garages and back yards.

Resurrection of TownWatch

It is well known that communities that have active TownWatch programs have lower crime rates. We are pleased that we now have neighbors who are organizing our own local TownWatch and many neighbors willing to serve on the team. We always need more! If you would be willing to patrol our streets once or twice a month, please contact Co-Chairs Bruce, at bluckman@mstkw.com or Lea, at leaandchris@earthlink.net, who will get you started. Dog walkers are particularly good patrollers, because they are out on the streets at least twice a day. So check out page 10 to learn more and sign up now.

We've Said It Before and We'll Say It Again

- 1 Walk in well-lit streets, especially after dusk.
- 2 Don't take back alleys just because these are the shortest way to reach your destination.
- 3 Don't talk on a cell phone while walking anywhere in the city.
- 4 If you think you're being followed, cross to the other side of the street.
- 5 Don't leave anything obvious in your car (e.g., a GPS unit, small change, etc.) and lock your car even in a gated lot.
- 6 Purchase the best possible bicycle lock, because bikes are increasingly being stolen even when locked.
- 7 If you're alone late at night — whether girl or guy — take a cab home and ask the driver to wait until you enter your house.

In other words, **always be aware of your surroundings and lock your home & car doors, bike, etc. We want you and your property to remain safe!**

Cell Phones

We are still collecting old or used cell phones. Bring yours to 414 Spruce Street, as they are then given to the DA's office where they are reprogrammed for the elderly, the abused or the infirm. Please remember to bring along the charger, if you have it. Thanks!



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SOIREE AT THE SHAMBLES

A Success Beyond Our Wildest Expectations



Thank you, thank you — to all partygoers, generous patrons, suppliers and supporters for participating in the Soiree at the Shambles — one of our community's most successful events ever! The Soiree netted \$45,000 to help cover the cost of repairs, improvements and enhancements for our community's prized National Historic Landmark.

On a beautiful Wednesday night in Society Hill (September 10th), both "old" and new neighbors came out of the woodwork to join the fun, while helping contribute to the preservation of Head House and the Shambles. This Social succeeded beyond our wildest dreams — thanks to the incredible generosity of all partygoers, corporate and individual sponsors and the many local restaurants that contributed their "signature dishes" for the enjoyment of all.

It was a win-win for the entire community and for the Head House Conservancy, the nonprofit organization devoted to preserving Head House and the Shambles.

This "kooky" Soiree fundraising idea was first cooked up by Tania Rorke, former SHCA President and a Board Director of the Conservancy! She then rounded up a long list of Committee Members — guaranteeing interest and support — as well as a core team to work together and manage all the Soiree's countless details. This team included Tania, of course, and current Board Directors of the Conservancy: President Bernice Hamel, Vice-President Becky Stoloff, Matt DeJulio (SHCA Administrator) and Dave Hammond (Executive Director of the South Street Headhouse District). In addition, countless Soiree Committee members offered their time, talents, and generous patronage.

We want everyone who worked on the Soiree to know we thought it was one of the best parties we've ever attended.

Thanks, let's do it again!

— A Queen Village neighbor

Preview Party hosts Babette & Harvey Snyder flank SHCA President Richard de Wyngaert



THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

We'd like to acknowledge the following bighearted and charitable donors without whom the Soiree would not have been so marvelously realized:

**Preview Party Hosts,
Babette & Harvey Snyder**

Their personal warmth and generosity set the tone for a most remarkable evening.

**Soiree Invitation Designers,
Gyro Worldwide Advertising:**

Creators of the Soiree's beautiful and informative invitations, which encouraged wide participation.

Special Thanks for Special Friends:

We send our heart-felt additional "Thanks" to these Soiree Supporters & Suppliers:

**The Society Hill Dance Academy
Chartreuse Flowers
The String Band Connection
Philadelphia Brewing Company
Verdoni Imports**

Also, we thank all vendors from the **Food Trust's Sunday Market**, held at the Shambles.

Contributing Restaurants

Each of these restaurants provided samples of their "signature dishes" — which resulted in a wide variety of delectables enjoyed by partygoers:

The Artful Dodger

Bistro Romano

Bookbinders

Bridget Foy's

Café Nola

Chick's Cafe & Wine Bar

City Tavern

Coquette

The Dark Horse

Fork

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Kildare's

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Mustard Greens

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Philadelphia Java Company

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City Tavern presented its "signature dishes."

SOIREE AT THE SHAMBLES

*KUDOS to all the hard-working folks who produced
The Head House Soiree — a truly exceptional event...
And who gets credit for arranging the weather?
Are you available for bar and bat mitzvah parties?
— A Society Hill Towers resident*



Soiree Organizers (left to right) Becky Stoloff, Tania Rorke and Bernice Hamel



Ed & Michele Plachter, Alex Haines, Catherine Signorello, and Allen Hall (left to right)



SHCA Vice President Carol Colabelli with her husband, Ralph



John Taxin, owner of Bookbinders, at left, and SHCA Treasurer Kevin Miller



At left, Colonial Mayor Stamper, portrayed by Ben-Zion Friedman, and John Weidman, Deputy Executive Director of The Food Trust, organizer of the Sunday Market at the Shambles



The Mummers' String Band Connection provided merriment.

*Thank you and Congratulations!
The Soiree at the Shambles was
excellent! Well planned, well
executed — and fun! We could not
have been more impressed with
the arrangements or the turnout.
Hope you made a BUNDLE!!*

— A Society Hill neighbor

The Central Delaware Advocacy Group

A REPORT BY STEVEN A. WEIXLER,
SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

Society Hill is at the center of our riverfront's future.

Important events are happening along the Delaware River, and Society Hill is, indeed, at the center of our riverfront's future. For nearly two years I've represented our neighborhood and civic association in the work of the Central Delaware Advocacy Group (CDAG), and I'd like to give you an update on CDAG's plans, as well as some background information.

A Little History

In late 2006, Mayor Street issued an Executive Order creating the Central Delaware Advisory Group. Championed by First District Councilman Frank DiCicco, it mandated the creation of a comprehensive Master Plan for redevelopment of a seven-mile stretch of the Delaware River — from Port Richmond to the Whitman Bridge. Such an ambitious plan has not been attempted in Philadelphia since Edmund Bacon's groundbreaking work more than fifty years ago. The order included representation from fifteen riverfront civic associations, including Society Hill, as well as from thirty agencies and entities of state, local and federal government. PennPraxis, an arm of the University of Pennsylvania Schools of Design, headed by Harris Steinberg, was named consultant. They enlisted urban planning experts from around the country and abroad. Work began in November 2006 with outreach to the citizens of riverfront neighborhoods to identify our hopes and values for the future.

An Elephant in the Room

CDAG had barely begun its year-long process of innovative urban planning when our state government announced its choices for two casino sites in locations on the riverfront — which could be wildly understated as “sensitive.” Those of us representing civic associations were outraged to learn that the Street administration expected CDAG to draw up a plan that included these casinos. Meeting after meeting was consumed in bitter debate. I felt at the time that it was impossible for us to say that we were making responsible plans if we included the huge liabilities these behemoth casinos would bring to our respective neighborhoods. The PennPraxis-led process was described as “a fraud and a sham,” and many residents were not convinced that the plan was meaningful. Civic representatives met several times to consider walking out of the process in protest. Our working sessions, with thousands of

Philadelphians participating, were productive in the task of identifying our shared vision for a better riverfront; but these meetings also functioned as a “forum for fear, frustration and anger” regarding the casino issue.

Course Correction

By mid-April 2007, the civic representatives had realized that failure to produce a realistic and significant urban plan would be a great opportunity lost. We contended that the massive public protest on the casino issue would likely continue beyond our deadline (which recent history amply validates) and that if the casinos weren't built at the state-designated sites, our work would be largely wasted. Support within CDAG began to grow for an urban-planning principle known as “build/no build,” in which the Master Plan could be adaptable, but which did not necessarily include the massive anti-urban and automobile-intensive casino designs then proposed.

CDAG colleague and Society Hill Civic Association Vice President Jim Moss and I examined Mayor Street's Executive Order. We realized that the Central Delaware Advisory Group had the mandate to direct its consultant, PennPraxis, in the creation of a realistic “Civic Vision” for the future of our waterfront. In April 2007, I introduced a “proposal” at a public meeting of CDAG which Inga Saffron, architecture critic for *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, described as “a resolution the Group was not sure it could make”: A plan for the riverfront not including casinos. Remarkably, CDAG adopted the resolution and our task became much more productive. Over the summer of 2007, we began to define the “broad strokes” of our neighbors' hopes.

In November, at a standing-room-only presentation at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, the “Civic Vision” was presented by Harris Steinberg. (Please visit www.planphilly.com and click the link for “Civic Vision” to see this plan in full.)

This ambitious plan calls for:

- Extending Philadelphia's street grid across I-95 to the river's edge — to encourage public riverfront access;
- Creating a pedestrian-friendly boulevard;
- Building a continuous recreational trail;
- Creating dedicated transit and bike lanes;

As we have learned during the public debate on riverfront casinos, in solidarity and cooperation neighbors can achieve large things.

- Ensuring a public riverfront park every half mile; and
- Providing a 100-foot riverfront greenway for improved water quality and wildlife.

But turning this vision of a mixed-use extension of Philadelphia neighborhoods to the river requires concerted action.

So Far, So Good...

The civic associations involved are keenly aware that a good plan requires continuing advocacy. As Governor Rendell said early in the process: "I've seen riverfront plans come and I've seen them go, but you've got to get somebody to write the checks." With that in mind, the closing session of Mayor Street's process included a resolution of all civic associations involved to take up the long-term work of realizing the "Civic Vision" for the waterfront. We understood that our hopes could languish on the shelves of government or subject to the preferences of the development community. We committed to a multi-year effort to achieve our plan with cooperation among Philadelphians loyal to their neighborhoods, the full attention of our government, and a mutual relationship with development capital.

Thus, the Central Delaware Advocacy Group came into being. The William Penn Foundation showed great commitment to the future by agreeing to fund our fledgling group. Harris Steinberg and his PennPraxis staff agreed to be consultants. Dr. Harris Sokoloff, of the University of Pennsylvania School of Communication, offered his resources. Mayor Nutter's progressive new administration saw the "big picture" and publicly supports the clear potential for Philadelphia.

The civic associations involved in this planning process are taking their lessons with them into this new decades-long effort. As we have learned during the public debate on riverfront casinos, in solidarity and cooperation neighbors can achieve large things. Society Hill and Queen Village have a unique perspective to contribute. In the 1960's and 70's, neighbors acting together for the common good prevented the specter of Interstate 95 and the neighborhood-damaging presence of a South Street Cross-town Expressway raised on ugly concrete trestles. Our example encourages CDAG in facing new challenges.

"Will Any of This Happen In My Lifetime?"

That was the question posed to me by a neighbor at the Convention Center in November 2007, and it has been the focus of CDAG's efforts in the last several months. Since then, the new Central Delaware Advocacy Group has been at work on many fronts. We have formed an organization of "neighbors helping neighbors" which crosses traditional lines of self-interest. We are working actively to engage property owners and development capital in the largely blighted districts of the former industrial riverfront. We are in serious dialogue with members of Mayor Nutter's administration charged with planning and development to support the growth of our working port, our neighborhoods and their economic life. We are working closely with Councilman DiCicco for interim zoning, which will promote the Civic Vision until long-term zoning reform can be enacted on recommendation of the Zoning Code Commission. In June 2008, CDAG presented an "implementation plan" intended to cover the first ten years of this long process. (Visit www.planphilly.com and click the link for "Action Plan.") We set forth concrete and productive immediate steps for a decades-long effort to give Philadelphia a world-class waterfront, and we have had notable success in our early efforts.

Mayor Nutter said it best at CDAG's June presentation: "For decades, 'planning' in this city — deciding what gets built, or, maybe more important, what doesn't — has been constructed on insider politics, nourished by the twin poison pills of bureaucracy and chaos, and sustained by a philosophy that those wanting to build something here and have enough money and connections can do whatever they want." (*Daily News*, June 25, 2008).

As our community's representative to the Central Delaware Advocacy Group, I am inspired by the many members of the Society Hill Civic Association who have invested years in dogged effort to preserve and enhance our neighborhood. Stanhope Browne, Carter Buller and others too numerous to name have provided an example to the entire community of riverfront neighbors, which I hope to continue.

The Central Delaware Advocacy Group is committed to the economic prosperity of the riverfront and a partnership between government and neighbors. We will be visiting the Society Hill Civic Association soon to hear your concerns and ask for your support.

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ACCIDENTAL TOURIST IN MY OWN BACKYARD

A COLUMN BY JANE BIBERMAN

Eastern State Penitentiary or “Going to the Cats and Dogs”

In the board game Monopoly, “Go to Jail” is an unlucky card to receive. But in Philadelphia, time spent at Eastern State Penitentiary (ESP) can be a rewarding experience, something I only recently learned. You see, I’m probably one of the few people in the neighborhood who didn’t know that ESP is one of the most famous historical landmarks in the city. Located on Fairmount Avenue at 22nd Street, it was turned into a remarkable museum in 1994. Since then thousands of people the world over have toured the forbidding Gothic castle.

When the prison first opened its massive doors in 1829, ESP attracted global attention — because it was the first “penitentiary” ever built, and its design was considered revolutionary. Based on the Quaker precept that isolation and self-reflection (penitence!) was the true way to repentance, ESP placed prisoners in individual cells separated by twenty inches of masonry, rather than assembling them all together in one huge room. The facility was admired by many, but deplored by others. In fact, when Charles Dickens visited the prison in 1841, he was appalled by the cruel and unusual suffering engendered by solitary confinement.

Well, recently, on a bright fall day, I spent more than two hours walking the halls and grounds of Eastern State Penitentiary, stopping to look at the exceptional art installations — all of which comment on some aspect of prison life. I happened to know Linda Brenner, whose sculptured plaster “Ghost Cats” have been “roaming” ESP for four years. An award-winning Philadelphia artist, Linda won one of ESP’s prestigious art competitions and created 39 plaster cats in memory of Dan McCloud, a former prison employee who fed the colony of cats that remained at the prison after it was closed in 1971. For almost 30 years, McCloud came faithfully three times a week. His motto was “Take Care of God’s Creatures and He Will Take Care of You.”

“Ghost Cats” is one of ten revolving art exhibits on view at ESP. “The installation was never meant to be permanent,” says Linda, “but it

proved so popular that it will remain for several more years.” Currently, visitors are given a map to help them find the cats, which are ingeniously scattered around the ten-acre facility. Children particularly enjoy this treasure hunt. Of the other arresting exhibits, “I Always Wanted to Go to Paris, France,” by Alex Hoyer, is truly eye-catching. Viewers may spend countless hours watching excerpts of movie prison scenes shown on three separate televisions.

I visited ESP’s extraordinary website (www.EasternState.org) before I went, but the on-site audio tour narrated by actor Steve Buscemi (of “The Sopranos”), is even more compelling. It highlights all of the interesting historical aspects of the penitentiary. For example, I learned that during its 142 years of operation, more than 75,000 men and women served time there. In later years, as the prison evolved, two of its most notorious inmates were Al Capone, whose lavish cell features an Oriental rug; and bank robber “Slick” Willy Sutton, whose attempted escape by tunnel is recreated in a fascinating documentary shown in his cell.

Perhaps ESP’s most beloved prisoner was “Pep the Cat-Murdering Dog,” a black Labrador Retriever who was incarcerated in 1924. According to prison folklore, Pennsylvania governor Gifford Pinchot sentenced Pep to life without parole for killing his wife’s cherished cat. Pep’s sad mug shot is on view in a gallery of historic old photos.

A visit to Eastern State is truly both entertaining and educational. Tourists are confronted with many issues related to crime and punishment. I felt in turn sad and curious. Linda’s cats did help lighten the experience. And after the tour, if you’re interested in purchasing a replica of one of Linda’s “ghost” cats, as I did, you can contact her directly at Brennerwoman@earthlink.net. In any event, go directly to jail before winter sets in. You won’t want to escape too quickly!




Linda Brenner and one of her sculptured plaster “Ghost Cats”




Was ESP’s most beloved prisoner, “Pep, the Cat-Murdering Dog” guilty or framed?

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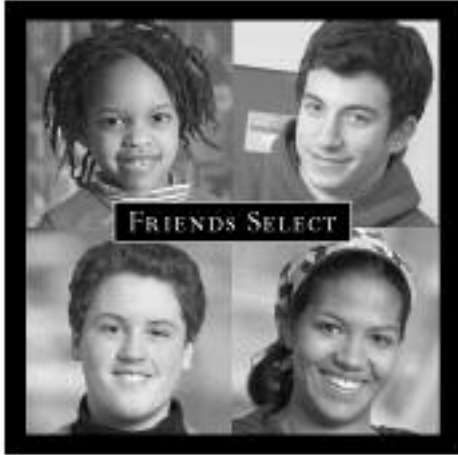


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KIDS' LIFE IN THE CITY

BY CATHERIE SIGNORELLO & SONIA GRASSE

Politeness Rules

What parent hasn't been horror-struck by a youngster's manners at some point or another? We apologize profusely when he won't say *excuse me*, won't say *hello* or won't say *thank you*. We cower through meals with grandparents, feigning surprise when our child eats with his feet on the table. Just getting a meal onto the table feels like enough at the end of most days — let alone inviting the “etiquette police” to dine with us.

Some say that the concept of etiquette had an unlikely start. It began in the 18th century when King Louis XIV's gardener had to find a way to keep party guests from trampling about in the king's gardens. At his wits' end, the gardener finally posted signs: “*etiquette*” (in French), which essentially said, “Keep Off the Grass.” Although the king issued an official decree for people to actually obey these signs, “*etiquette*” over time has come to mean all the little signs that help us know what to do with ourselves in social situations. It is, indeed, soothing to know that manners were equally as hard to enforce among raucous noble guests as among today's children. But, here in the city, in 2008, just how relevant is etiquette?

Regardless of how each of us was reared, we can probably agree that there are social conventions which keep the big wheel of civilized life turning without squeaking. These are things we mindlessly pass on to our children — such as saying *please* and *thank you*, not interrupting, or holding the door and sharing.

Next come the manners that take more work, but still seem important and praiseworthy — looking a person in the eye and using a firm handshake fall into this category, as do writing *thank you* notes and RSVP-ing to invitations. Who among us has not been on both sides of this? Hey, life is busy! Sometimes an RSVP just never gets called in, even when it has an email option. (Would Emily Post approve?) But then admit it, we've all been ticked off when a guest leaves us guessing.

Beyond this, manners enter a gray area. Is it OK for children to address grownups

by their first names? Are we teaching our children to rise when a guest enters the room? Do children of this generation and this geographical location ever use *sir* or *ma'am*? What about children (or guests) being raised in multi-cultural homes who have to juggle and prioritize customs?

All these questions leave us searching for a parenting panacea. (And no, we don't mean Mommy's Little Helper!) If we consider emotional intelligence in conjunction with conventional etiquette, we can see more clearly. In an attempt to allay concerns over whether we're succeeding at teaching manners, we think: “as long as I have a kid who is kind, has self-esteem and is a good friend, what more can I want?” At that point, dining with utensils becomes icing on the cake.

Self-awareness, self-management, social awareness and relationship management are tenets of emotional intelligence, according to Daniel Goleman in his book *Emotional Intelligence: Why It Can Matter More Than IQ*. Fortunately for us, Society Hill and the broader city is an environment that naturally supports our children's emotional intelligence. Urban living is not conducive to waving at friends from the insides of cars. Our children are literally on the street, continually interacting with neighbors and others. They see, first-hand, families working hard for their community through volunteering, having opinions that count, and looking out for one another. Simple sidewalk exchanges and excursions on foot are awash with opportunities for them to learn.

Another great guide to raising kids in a way that fosters self-esteem, kindness and motivation is *The Confident Child: Raising Children to Believe in Themselves* by Terri Apter. Not surprisingly, we found the chapter “How To Be an Imperfect Parent Without Ruining Your Child's Life” particularly compelling.

With emotional intelligence squarely on our radar rather than just etiquette, it gets easier to see one of our three-year-old's [identity hidden to protect his parents] new habit of procuring “nose treasures” and passing them out like embossed calling cards as a sign of generosity!



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NEW AND EXCITING

Zahav: Local Restaurant Making News

The *Jewish Exponent* mentioned it first, and recently Rick Nichols reported it in the *Inquirer* — so you probably already know that Zahav means “gold” in Hebrew. But did you know that Zahav was named one of the “two best restaurants” in Philadelphia by *Esquire*? Located on grounds of the Society Hill Towers, Zahav faces the Ritz movie theater at 2nd and Walnut Streets. (Its official address is 237 St. James Place.)

Zahav is billed as a non-kosher Israeli restaurant. Solomonov, former sous-chef at Vetri and then chef at Marigold Kitchen, makes “gold” out of Israeli street food. He and Steven Cook, a partner at Zahav, are also owners of Marigold Kitchen. Zahav holds 100 people, and a small room, called the Quarter, is where special dinners are served on Thursday nights. To learn what’s being served on any Thursday evening, just add your name and email address to their email list — at info@zahavrestaurant.com.


Food critic Rick Nichols, substituting for Craig LaBan, awarded Zahav three bells, and the *Exponent* published some of its interesting recipes.

Dining Updates

- **Amada**, at 217-219 Chestnut Street — was described in *Esquire* — the first time *Esquire* has ever listed a Philadelphia restaurant.
- **Coquette**, at 5th and Bainbridge, now has a *prix fixe* menu, as well as *a la carte*. It also offers a Sunday Jazz Brunch.
- **Supper**, across from WholeFoods on South Street, has a very popular BYOB *prix fixe* dinner the first Sunday of every month at 6 p.m. For your reservation, call early at 215-592-8180.

Named one of the “two best restaurants” in Philadelphia by *Esquire*


Note: Previously reported in this column was a restaurant named “707”— located at 707 Chestnut Street. It has since closed.



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Society Hill Sales Report, 3rd Quarter

From July 1, -September 30, 2008, home values in Society Hill, 19106 continued to increase, surpassing sales for the same period in 2007. To view the entire Society Hill and Center City residential Real Estate Sales Report, visit www.AtacanGroup.com/blog


	2008	2008	2007	2007
	Townhouses	Condos	Townhouses	Condos
Total sales	13	9	9	10
Lowest	\$555,000	\$257,500	\$585,000	\$288,000
Highest	\$2,700,000	\$927,500	\$1,925,000	\$746,000
Avg. Dom	113 Days	63 Days	101 Days	75 Days
Avg. Price	\$1,211,000	\$463,000	\$996,000	\$449,000
%	+19	+3		

Actual Recent Society Hill Client Question

Client: “I’d love to buy something, and I have seen a lot of great homes, but I think prices are still coming down. I’m paying a fortune in rent, but I’ll wait, I don’t want to lose money!”



Antonio: “In my entire career, I have never seen a better time to buy in Center City, Philadelphia. It is a Buyer’s Market! There is an excellent selection of properties, sellers are willing and eager to negotiate and interest rates are nearing an all time low! Act now, especially, if you are throwing away your money in rent and not receiving tax deductions or equity. Wharton School’s nationally renown real estate scholar, Kevin Gillen, recently released a report indicating that Philadelphia is as a whole very stable and its real estate value continues to see gradual, healthy increases. Furthermore, he does not see any factors that would indicate that values would take a dramatic downturn in the future. Moreover, we discovered that due to extremely low interest rates now, even if values did dip precipitously, buyers would still fare better paying more now with lower interest rates, than at lower prices with higher rates later.”

Loan Amount on Average Society Hill house/condo	Monthly Payment at 6.0% Interest Rate	Loan Amount if prices decreased 5%	Payment with 5% decreased Price & 7.0% Interest Rate	Difference in monthly payment
\$1,200,000	\$7,194	\$1,140,000	\$7,584	+ \$390
\$465,000	\$2,787	\$442,000	\$2,939	+ \$152



ANGELINA'S STORIES FROM THE DOLL HOUSE!

I am having a super fall in Society Hill this year! My Pre-K class at Saint Peter's is wonderful. My brother Julian just started Nursery School with Ms. Terry at Society Hill Synagogue and he loves it too! I am having a big Halloween party at my house with scary zoo animals. As always, I'll do my trick or treating on Delancey Street. Look for me, I will be dressed as a princess, of course.

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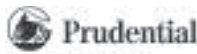
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SHCA's Block Coordinators Go Electronic

BY MARTHA LEVINE

In 2001 SHCA initiated its Block Coordinator program for the purpose of improving communication between our civic organization and Society Hill residents. In this program, each block appointed one or two neighbors to serve as Block Coordinators. Since then they have handled a variety of tasks — including, for example: serving as the primary contact person with SHCA for his/her block; distributing fliers to their blocks for important events, such as reminders for Clean-Up Day, Open House Tours, community social events; encouraging neighbors to join our civic association; and recommending the names of new Society Hill residents who qualify for “Welcome Basket” gifts.

New Method of Communication for the 21st Century: Email

In the last couple of years some of our most organized Block Coordinators began to collect email addresses so that they could communicate more efficiently with their neighbors. Based on their success, SHCA sent letters to all Block Coordinators suggesting that they also collect email addresses from their neighbors so that important or timely information could be

communicated expeditiously and eliminate the labor-intensive distribution of fliers through individual mail slots.

Email Advantages

There are several advantages to communicating by email with Block Coordinators — as they can easily forward to you timely reminders, such as changes in trash collection days (due to holidays), and provide recent crime reports received by the 6th Police District. Please note: Your email addresses will be kept private and will not be shared with anyone.

Please Return Our Forms

For many blocks, thus far, we have had good responses using emails between neighbors and SHCA Block Coordinators. If you have received a letter in your mail slot from your Block Coordinator, requesting consent to communicate with you by email, but have not yet supplied your email address, we urge you to do so at your earliest convenience. Thanks for promptly returning the form to your Block Coordinator.

Feel free to contact Martha Levine, SHCA's Block Coordinator Chair, at marthalev@msn.com or 215-629-0727. Let's stay in touch!

(No, We're Not Using Robots!)

Welcome Baskets Attract New Contributors (and New Customers!)

SHCA's Welcome Basket program is pleased to announce that the following new services, a restaurant and a boutique, now under new management, have recently joined our group of generous contributors.

Yoga Child — yoga classes for adults and children of all ages — at 903 South Street

The Pampered Chef — home cooking products and tips for meals — at 215-219-0231

Advanced Spinal Care Center — full-service chiropractic care — at 1129 Pine Street

Core De Roma Restaurant — intimate, family-owned trattoria — at 214 South Street

Pileggi Boutique — now under new management and with a new look, this boutique offers upscale, exciting women's fashions from trendy to classics — at 715 Walnut Street

We send many thanks to our long list of contributors who make our Welcome Baskets such valuable and delightful gifts for Society Hill's newcomers! However, if your business or service is not yet a contributor to this most successful program, please know that you are most welcome to join our list of donors. (It's also a great way to spread the word about your business or service!) Simply contact Martha Levine, at either marthalev@msn.com or 215-629-0727.

P.S. If you are a new or first-time homeowner in Society Hill, please let us know — so that you can receive your own personal Welcome Basket filled with all kinds of goodies. Go ahead — contact Martha at her email or phone number, listed above.





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Motorcycles: An Unmuffled Roar

Cities are increasingly becoming hostage to “noise terrorists,” those who make a racket intent on upsetting the general public. To residents who treasure peaceful neighborhoods, this is an incivility that contributes to rising levels of noise pollution and frustration across the nation.

A case in point recently occurred in our own Society Hill community on what was an otherwise beautiful September evening. Many residents were enjoying the last balmy breezes of summer wafting through open windows while the streets were full of neighbors being neighborly. Without warning, several hundred motorcycles, two and three abreast, came roaring down Spruce Street for nearly half an hour. The noise was deafening; exhaust fumes filled the air. Needless to say, windows were quickly shut, pedestrians took cover and an enjoyable evening came to an abrupt end.

Responding to constituent complaints, Councilman Frank DiCicco introduced, on September 25, legislation to address noisy motorcycles. A proposed \$1,500 fine will be slapped on anyone using or installing after-market mufflers that boost the loud factor. “These guys think it’s OK to rev their engines, roar down the street and disturb our neighborhoods,” DiCicco said. “They have no thought for the people around them.”

“Woken up in the middle of the night. Car alarms set off. Babies startled. Frightened walking down the street. All of us have had an experience, and it is time we share them,” stated our Councilman. “Please write my office. Make your voice heard and maybe we can finally get these riders’ attention.” Councilman DiCicco can be reached at Room 332 City Hall, Philadelphia, PA 19107 or www.phila.gov/CityCouncil.

Councilman DiCicco Seeks to Silence Motorcycles

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor,

In the last few years, I have spent so much time visiting my aging father at his home on the 500 block of Spruce Street that it has become my second home.

On Friday evening, September 19th, I was here again, when around 8:30 p.m. I was almost shaken from my seat by the noise of motorcycles roaring through the neighborhood. Fumes seeped into the house. I peeked out the front door: a squadron of helmeted riders, two or three abreast, had completely taken control of the streets! The shock waves from their unmuffled motors reverberated off the brick walls. Was this a fascist take-over? Or somebody’s way of hinting that the civil peace we take for granted is an illusion, that the wolf-dogs are really in charge of us placid civilian sheep?

But don’t jump to conclusions: perhaps these folks have come out to fundraise for children with muscular dystrophy or some other worthy cause. I checked the Internet. No scheduled motorcycle events here that day. And anyway, is this a way to support a good cause?

After 15 to 20 minutes of uninterrupted din, the bomber squadron began to move off to other neighborhoods, leaving just a few sporadic engine-gunners and clouds of exhaust here. I wonder. Do residents here really have no choice but to accept being stormed, fumigated and just plain disrespected by bikers like these and by whatever laws give them the “license to intimidate”?

Yours truly,
Peter Luborsky, Kimberton PA

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1011 CLINTON #4 **\$823,900**
Fabulous 3BD/2.2BA, totally renovated, custom finishes, den,
gas fireplace, Juliet balcony.

919 LATIMER **\$749,900**
Corner 3-4BD/3BA, hardwood floors, updated kitchen, wood-
burning fireplace, stainless steel appliances, sliding glass doors
to deck and brick patio, deeded parking.

322 LOMBARD **\$740,000**
Amazing, historically certified 3BD/2.5BA with 1-year prepaid park-
ing, office, finished basement, landscaped yard, fabulous sunroom,
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200-10 LOMBARD #811 **\$539,900**
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Two Neighborhood Concerts

The Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble will open the season here in Society Hill with a pair of concerts on Friday afternoon, November 21, at 2 p.m., and Sunday evening, November 23 at 8 p.m. Under the direction of Donald Montanaro, the ensemble is comprised of the city's finest musicians — all of whom are current or retired members of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

These concerts, held at Old Pine Street Church (412 Pine Street) are handicap-accessible. Individual tickets are \$25 at the door. Audience members are invited to meet the musicians at a free reception following each concert. For more information, please call 215-542-4890.

The program for this pair of concerts includes: Beethoven's Trio in B flat Major, for clarinet, cello and piano; Carl Nielsen's "The Fog is Lifting," for flute and harp; Christopher Steel's Trio for flute, cello and harp; and Ernest Chausson's Concerto in D Major, for violin, string quartet and piano.

Free Flu Shots for Penn's Village Members

Penn's Village will be offering free flu shots to Penn's Village members, volunteers and friends — thanks to its generous strategic partner, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. You can receive your free flu shot on the following days:

Wednesday, November 19
11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Weccacoe Playground building in Queen Village, between 4th & 5th Streets, Queen & Catherine Streets. Entrance to the building is on Catherine Street.

Thursday, November 20
4:30 – 7 p.m.

St. Peter's Parish House, at 313 Pine Street.

Penn's Village is an innovative, non-profit organization that enhances the lives of residents in Old City, Queen Village and Society Hill. We provide support, services and programs that enable our members to live healthy and meaningful lives in their own homes in a neighborhood they love!



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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

SHCA's 2008 Membership Tops Total for 2007 !

A total of 1,066 Society Hill neighbors are current members of our civic association since early October — four more than the year-end total for calendar year 2007! We are proud to announce this all-time high which includes 157 new members. However, we still wonder why 94 previous members have not yet renewed.

We are also most proud to report that recently (October 8th) Society Hill was named as “one of the ten greatest neighborhoods in the nation” by The American Planning Association, a Washington, D.C. organization. Specifically, our community was selected because it represents “the gold standard” for its sense of place, cultural and historical interest, community involvement, and vision for the future. (Please see page 9 for more information about this honor.)

Your SHCA membership renewal form for 2009 will be sent out sometime this month, so please be on the lookout for it in your mailbox. But if perhaps you are a former SHCA member who has now decided to renew, or if you're a new resident in Society Hill, please fill out and return the form. Alternatively, visit our website (societyhillcivic.org) and pay your annual dues either by PayPal or download the membership form and send us your check or credit card information.

As we've reported many times, most of SHCA's budget is obtained through membership dues. We, therefore, ask you to promptly renew for 2009 when the form arrives in your mailbox. And last, but not least: in addition to your annual membership dues, extra contributions are always most welcome and can be earmarked for specific activities of your choice.

Looking Ahead:

*2009 is coming up soon!
Time to Renew!
Have a Great Year!*

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. Nor will we share your email address with anyone else. 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"/> 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 |

Please return completed application to:

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

NOTEWORTHY NEIGHBORS

A COLUMN BY DAVID WOODS

Cynthia and James Eisman

If, as Mother Teresa, put it: “Good works are links that form a chain of love,” then surely Cynthia and James Eisman have done much to forge that chain. She’s helped raise funds for the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, the Academy of Natural Sciences and the Curtis Center, as well as serving in organizations that help the neighborhood — such as St. Peter’s Church Historic Preservation Board; and he, following retirement after 36 years with a large law firm, now works with the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia — an organization that does pro bono work in various fields of law. At present, he’s acting on behalf of Medicaid-enrolled children.

Although Cynthia and Jim have lived in Society Hill since the early 1970’s — when Jim served as a committeeman trying to rid the City government of patronage jobs — the couple are, for the moment, ‘camping out’ in Queen Village while their early 19th-century home is being refurbished. The renovations are extensive, says Cynthia, which include a new kitchen and new bathrooms, opening up the kitchen and dining room, lots of repainting and rewiring, and, she notes, “some really boring but utterly necessary outside work to prevent moisture seeping into the basement.”

David Woods can be reached at david.woods@rxcomms.com

Sounds like a lot of excavation ... something that might have some appeal to her, since she holds a doctorate in archeology from the University of Pennsylvania and has taken part in ‘digs’ as far away as Turkey and Italy; Jim, too, is a Penn alumnus, having graduated there in law after completing undergraduate work at Harvard.

While they are supposedly retired, their community work and extracurricular activities occupy them fully. For example, when Cynthia retired she decided to learn Italian. In addition she lists her interests as food and cooking, home and gardening, writing, reading and literature, and maritime history. Both of them enjoy the Metropolitan Opera, the Ritz movie theaters, and summer trips to Maine for hiking, canoeing and swimming. Recently, as the accompanying photograph shows, they were in China.

And reading? It’s eclectic and extensive — *The Economist*, *The New Republic*, and works of fiction, history, and archeology. In fact, they recently gave away 171 feet of books, presumably to make more space in their Society Hill house when renovations (proceeding slowly) are completed.

Meanwhile, of their actually very pleasant ‘home away from home’ in Queen Village, Cynthia says: “We’re still here until we’re there.” But here or there, she and Jim will surely continue to make their contribution to that chain of Good Works.

Forging links in
a chain of love.



**Cynthia and James
recently visited China.**



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CALENDAR

Wednesday, Nov. 19, 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Thursday, November 20, 4:30 – 7 p.m.

Free Flu Shots

See page 35 for locations and details.

Wednesday, November 19

SHCA Meetings

Pennsylvania Hospital's Auditorium

800 Spruce Street, see pages 1-3.

Saturday, November 22

Society Hill Clean-Up Day, see page 8.

Friday, November 21, 2 p.m.

Sunday, November 23, 8 p.m.

Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble Concert

Old Pine Street Church, see page 35.

Wednesday, December 17

SHCA Board Meeting

7:30 p.m., site to be announced.

Sunday, January 11, 2009

Twelfth Night Celebration

Physick House, 4:30-7:30 p.m.

PHYSICK HOUSE

Twelfth Night Celebration

Sunday, January 11, 2009

4:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Physick House, 321 S. 4th Street

“Eat, drink, and be merry” is the mantra of the Physick House Committee for this traditional gathering in Society Hill — where a piper cheers arriving guests, spirited music fills the house, and the warmth of this farewell to the Holiday season envelops you. Neither snow, nor hail, nor rain stops this gathering on Sunday, January 11th, which will begin at 4:30 p.m. It’s a wonderful way to meet old friends and get to know new neighbors.

Since the Physick House Museum does not receive state or city financial support, this annual event is an important fundraiser in our community’s mission to preserve this Federal-era mansion.

All members of The Philadelphia Society for Preservation of Landmarks will surely receive invitations to the Twelfth Night event, as will friends and neighbors who have participated in the past. To receive your personal invitation, kindly contact Jorja Fullerton, at 215-925-2251 or jfullerton@philalandmarks.org.

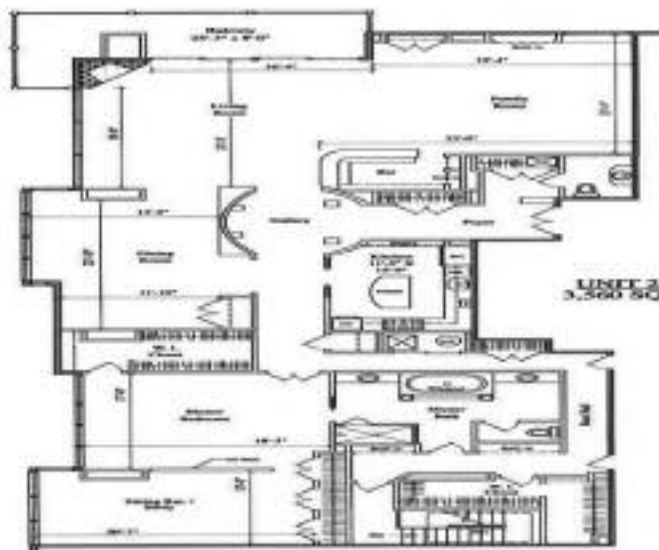
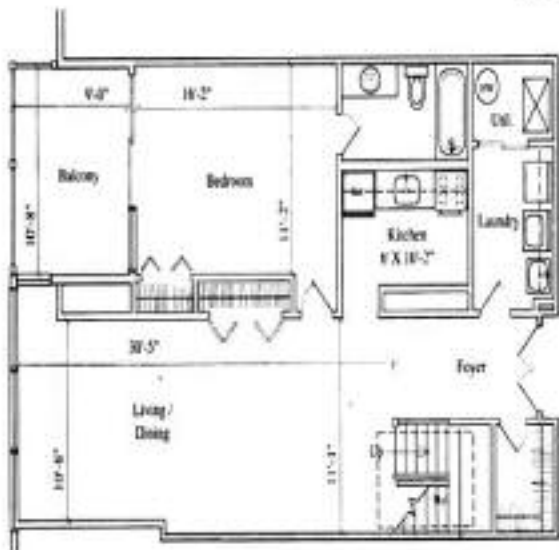


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