

SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

www.societyhillcivic.org

Edmund N. Bacon: One of Philadelphia's Most Significant City Planners



Edmund N. Bacon, 1910-2005, will be the subject of a "Historical" Presentation at the March 17th General Membership Meeting.

World famous city planner Edmund N. Bacon is the subject of this month's Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) General Membership Meeting on March 17th at 7:30 p.m. We are fortunate to host Dr. Scott Gabriel Knowles (Assistant Professor of History & Politics at Drexel University) who will speak to us about a recently published book of essays he edited and contributed to that reflects on Bacon's 1959 essay titled "Philadelphia in the Year 2009." Professor Knowles will be joined by two prominent experts in planning who contributed essays to the book: Harris Steinberg, Executive Director of PennPraxis (the consulting arm of the University of Pennsylvania School of Design) and Gregory Heller, President of the Ed Bacon Foundation.

As you probably know, Ed Bacon is recognized as one of the most important city planners of the 20th century and is considered one of the "fathers" of Society Hill's rebirth. Bacon served as Executive Director of the Philadelphia Planning Commission from 1949 to 1970, and his design concepts helped shape the city's physical landscape. In fact, his body of work was of such significance that he appeared on the cover of *Time* magazine in 1964.

The impetus for Dr. Knowles' book — titled, *Imagining Philadelphia: Edmund Bacon and the Future of the City* — was Bacon's aforementioned essay written during the time of the booming post-World War II economy. In this essay, Bacon outlined his vision of Philadelphia from an urban planning perspective — 50 years into the future to the year 2009. The various contributors to Knowles' book evaluate the accuracy of Bacon's prophecies from a variety of perspectives, both positive and some quite critical.

Viewpoints from these writers run the gamut: whether praising Bacon's prophetic visions of what Philadelphia's priorities would be in the year 2009; or critiquing his failure to anticipate the economic decline of industrial cities such as Philadelphia. An example of Bacon's enlightenment was that he foresaw the need to create a recreational "park" along the Schuylkill River. He also recognized the importance of promoting cultural tourism; the economic power of historic preservation; and the need to emphasize regional urban planning. Bacon's critics, on the other hand, point out that his predictions for the future failed to anticipate how city planning would be affected by declining populations or the erosion of a city's industrial-based economy — even though some people at the time foresaw the beginning of such events. From today's vantage point, assessment of Bacon's planning legacy is mixed — as is his record on historic preservation, despite his role in Society Hill's ultimate success.

You won't want to miss this enlightening and lively presentation by Dr. Knowles and his fellow essayists who will summarize Ed Bacon's strengths as well as his weaknesses. More relevant to us, perhaps, is Bacon's everlasting contributions to Philadelphia — particularly his role in the revival of our neighborhood, which today is one of the most thriving historic communities anywhere in the nation.

Read more about the March meeting on page 6.

WED.	MARK YOUR CALENDAR
March 17	Society Hill Civic Association Meetings Wednesday, March 17, 2010 Pennsylvania Hospital, 8th & Spruce Streets
5:45 p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting Pennsylvania Hospital Grand Court Room All SHCA members are welcome.
7:30 p.m.	General Membership Meeting Pennsylvania Hospital Auditorium All neighborhood residents are invited to attend.
Topic:	Edmund N. Bacon, One of Society Hill's "Fathers"
Speaker:	Scott Gabriel Knowles, Ph.D., Author of recently published book about Bacon



MW design group, llc

modern design for garden and home

view our portfolio of projects at

mwdesigngroupllc.com

267.872.8814



SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

Managing Editor
Bernice T. Hamel

Editorial Board
Marilyn Appel
Jane Biberman
Mary Costello
Bill Double
Carole LeFavre-Rochester
Lenore Hardy
Rosanne Loesch
Sandra Rothman

Columnists
Jane Biberman
Hans Bombeck
Paul Boni
Rosanne Loesch
Frank Signorello
Steven Weixler
David Woods

Contributors
Lorna Katz Lawson
Martha Levine
Tania Rorke
Catherine Signorello

Graphic Design
judy@parallel-design.com

Press Release Liaison
Sandra Rothman
315-C S. 2nd Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
e-mail: norfad@aol.com
tel: 267-671-0554

Advertising Manager
Matthew DeJulio
mattdejulio@aol.com

**Society Hill
Civic Association**
P.O. Box 63503
Philadelphia, PA 19147
tel: 215-629-1288
fax: 215-629-9914

Submission Deadlines
May/June Issue
Advertising: April 1
Editorial: April 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.

In this Issue...

Pages 4-5
The Big Picture:
Gambling in Philadelphia

Page 7
Communities Work Together:
Crosstown Coalition

Page 8
Legislative Watchdog
Report

Page 9
Zoning & Historic
Preservation Reports

Page 13
Central Delaware
Advocacy Group

Page 17
Accidental Tourist:
Villa del Tepoz Fuego

Page 23
2010 Census Reminder

Page 30
Noteworthy Neighbor:
Aline Gray



WEIXLER PETERSON LUZI

EXCEPTIONAL INTERIORS • EXTRAORDINARY LIVING

215 • 592 • 9570 www.wplinc.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY ROSANNE LOESCH

Enlightened City Planning

Looking out my window this snowy February afternoon, it is hard to believe that spring will ever come! But it cheers me up to think that by the time you receive this newsletter in early March, spring will be almost here. Before we tackle the job of filling window boxes and urns and planting city gardens, however, please mark your calendar for our March 17th General Membership Meeting! We are honored to host three distinguished guests to speak about a recently published book of essays with fresh new perspectives on famed urban planner, Ed Bacon.

Not coincidentally, our first two 2010 meetings have been filled with the theme of enlightened city planning. In January, planning expert Marilyn Jordan Taylor treated us to a superb presentation on waterfront development. Dr. Taylor managed to conjure up for our audience the vision of a first-class waterfront on the Delaware River that she sees emerging from the Master Plan, which is currently being created and critiqued by experts and citizens alike.

Given the importance of finally achieving a waterfront plan worthy of our historic city, and of the ongoing sweeping project to rewrite and reform Philadelphia's zoning code (see Jan/Feb *Reporter* article at societyhillcivic.org), it is no surprise that sound city planning is on our minds. It's the basis for all beautiful and successful cities. So come out to the March meeting and chase those winter blues away!

Looking ahead to Society Hill's spring priorities, our Board members and volunteers are busily organizing the Spring Clean-Up, scheduled for Saturday, May 15th. It will then be time to sweep away the last vestige of winter from our sidewalks and walkways, shred old personal papers

and recycle household electronics. Our May General Meeting will feature the annual election of SHCA Officers and Directors, and a program on why "Neighborhoods Matter" in the zoning process. Also, don't forget to mark two important dates on your calendar for this spring: The Society Hill House Tour will take place on Sunday, May 23rd and the "Washington Square Affair" fundraiser on the evening of Thursday, June 10th. The respective chairs of these two events, SHCA Board Directors Martha Levine and Andrea Layden, are hard at work to make both the House Tour and the Washington Square party exciting, successful, and lots of fun. Finally, the many supporters of Three Bears Park should save the date for the park's "Spring Fling" on Saturday, May 22nd.

While you are out and about this spring, look for the newly planted saplings that SHCA obtained through the city's "Tree Tender" program. We are most grateful to neighbor Hans Bombeck for chairing our Tree Tenders Committee. His enthusiasm and diligence in following through with the required paperwork and approvals made possible this important streetscape improvement.

We are also thankful for the dedicated volunteer efforts of Frank Signorello in chairing our "Fix The Brix" Committee. This vital initiative — giving property owners a financial incentive to repair brick sidewalks along the public boundaries of their properties — adds greatly to the safety and aesthetics of our neighborhood. His work is much appreciated.

I wish all of you a well-deserved respite from the snowiest Philadelphia winter on record. Here's to a panoply of daffodils, azaleas, magnolias and tulips in our neighborhood this spring!



**Rosanne Loesch,
President**

Save the Date:
Spring
Clean-Up Day
Saturday,
May 15th

Personalized Mac Training

Call for info today!

Center City
2212 Walnut St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-988-7777

www.springboardmedia.com



The Bigger Picture of Gambling in Our City

BY GUEST COLUMNIST PAUL BONI, ESQUIRE,
ATTORNEY FOR CASINO-FREE PHILADELPHIA

Casinos will be allowed to offer “free and easy” credit, permitting people to gamble with borrowed money.

Would you like to know the latest news regarding SugarHouse and Foxwoods? Unfortunately events unfold fast — making it difficult to provide the most up-to-date information in this periodic newsletter. For instance, at the time of this writing (late February), Foxwoods is scheduled for a March 3rd hearing in Harrisburg on whether its gambling license should be revoked. Undoubtedly, by the time you read this you will have already learned whether that hearing actually occurred, and if so, how it turned out. (For the latest news about Philadelphia casinos, visit www.CasinoFreePhila.org where you can sign up for frequent email updates and action alerts.)

However, in all likelihood, the March 3rd hearing will have only a marginal effect on our state elected officials’ intention of placing two casinos in our city. Over the past few months, our state government in Harrisburg has presided over a massive expansion in state-sponsored predatory gambling. It approved a so-called

Table Games law to allow “games” such as blackjack and craps to be “played” in Pennsylvania’s casinos and to tax those revenues at a ridiculously low rate; but the bill actually contains some lesser-known, more important “gifts” to the casinos. Chief among these “gifts” is allowing casinos to offer free and easy credit that permits people to gamble on borrowed money. Here is the scene: A gambler is playing the slots and has lost all her cash, “maxed out” on the daily limit of her bankcard and reached the limit on her VISA, MasterCard or American Express. No worries! The casinos will now provide her with free and easy credit to keep her gambling until dawn. Yes, these casinos are open 24/7.

This easy credit scheme is an important issue for another reason: five years ago, when the Pennsylvania slots law was first enacted, our legislature issued a press release bragging that the law prohibited credit for gambling on slot machines. So we’ve just witnessed a complete and dangerous flip-flop!

Annual
Spring Plant Sale
at the
Physick House
321 S. 4th Street
“Source for the
Rare and the Wonderful”

Friday, Saturday, Sunday,
April 30 to May 2
10 am - 6 pm

Sale-Before-the-Sale
Thursday, April 29 5-8 pm
\$5 per person includes
refreshments

More information? Pre-order form?
Call 215-925-9537

READING TERMINAL MARKET

.....

“This is Philadelphia’s
town square.”

— *The Guardian (U.K.)*, May 2009

FRESH & LOCAL
EVERY DAY

READING TERMINAL MARKET
12TH & ARCH - MON-SAT 8 A.M. - 6 P.M. SUN 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.
READINGTERMINALMARKET.ORG - 215-925-9537

Another industry “gift” in the Table Games bill is the preemption of Philadelphia’s smoking ban. This was unconscionable — not only because of the public health implications for non-smoking gamblers and for those who work in casinos — but also because our elected officials went out of their way to force this preemption. Here is the sequence of events: When Councilman Nutter left office to run for Mayor, our city passed one of the strongest smoking bans in the state. Philadelphia’s ban specifically covered casinos and required them to be smoke-free. It was bold, it was strong and it was important. So important, that when Pennsylvania lawmakers later debated a statewide smoking ban (which was riddled with numerous exceptions — including, of course, an exception to allow smoking in casinos) our lawmakers deliberated over whether Philadelphia’s more restrictive ban should be allowed to remain in effect. Fortunately, and with special thanks to our local and state elected officials and to our Governor, when the state ban was finally enacted it expressly preserved Philadelphia’s smoking ban. That’s right, it preserved our right to make public health decisions for ourselves and it allowed our local smoking ban to remain intact — including the prohibition of smoking in Philadelphia casinos. That’s what makes this Table Games bill so outrageous. Our elected officials committed yet another dangerous flip-flop: they preempted our smoking ban for the casinos, after all.

So now your family, your friends, your neighbors, your co-workers and employees will be able to patronize a local casino and have free alcoholic drinks, free credit (after they’ve lost all the money they’ve come with), and smoke to their heart’s content — while gambling on a slot machine until the sun comes up.

We know that the vast majority of us can occasionally visit a casino and spend a budgeted amount, and that only a small percentage will become compulsive gamblers. But this is an industry with a business model where 90 percent of its profits come from 10 percent of the gamblers. (“Winner Takes All,” by *Wall Street Journal* reporter Christina Binkley, 2008, page 184) Whether or not one thinks we all bear personal (and complete) responsibility for our prosperity or suffering, no one dares assert that anyone actually intends to become a compulsive gambler — or, for that matter, that government should encourage individuals to engage in potentially addictive conduct. But with government approval, our casinos will provide you coupons for \$150 in free plays. The free alcohol, the smoking, the easy credit, the various “comps” that lure gamblers to play more and that some gamblers believe justify their losses — none of this is coincidental.

And, finally, even the most strident libertarian could admit, on a purely selfish financial basis, that the side

effects of compulsive gambling (e.g., the foreclosures, the bankruptcies, the embezzlement, the fraud, the divorces, the suicides and the child abuse) impose massive financial costs and increased taxes on those who will never set foot inside a casino. As the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority reported in 2007, the law enforcement costs alone related to two Philadelphia casinos could be as high as \$200 million per year. Guess who pays for that!

It gets worse. Researchers agree with what your common sense would suggest: rates of addiction rise the closer a casino is located to where people live and work. Proximity matters and convenience is king. Most of the research focuses on what happens when a casino is within 50 miles or 10 miles of homes. If casinos come to Philadelphia, we will have the distinction of being the largest city in the country to host casinos. Millions of residents, workers and commuters will be just minutes away. And the more addiction, the greater the costs to the rest of us. Isn’t it enough that we already have two massive casinos (Harrah’s in Chester and Parx in Bensalem) bookending our city?

To me, this is not a debate about gambling. The debate is about predatory gambling — using gambling as a government program to prey on human weakness for profit. Casinos (and lotteries, by the way) are the most predatory institutions in America today. No issue better symbolizes what ails our economy and our democracy. So how can we fix it?

Casino-Free Philadelphia is concerned about the Big Picture. That’s why we are helping to organize a movement to push back against predatory gambling and to reform our government in the process. Please join us in our work, which includes, of course, being keenly involved in the day-to-day lurches and setbacks of SugarHouse and Foxwoods. We do our best to oppose the casinos, whether in court, the state house, or the media; we organize neighbors and friends; we inform the public about the facts; we force greater transparency; and, we remind politicians who they need to serve.

Will Foxwoods find a new investor and stay committed to its riverfront property? Or will it seek to move (again) to Market East? If so, what are the implications of introducing a massive casino into the heart of a major city? We will be involved in each of these questions and for answers, well — we will have to wait and see. But Big Problems remain no matter what happens in the short term. There’s no need to ask a rhetorical question about that — it’s a declarative statement!

Casino-Free Philadelphia’s mission is to stop casinos from coming to Philadelphia and to close any that open. Visit online at www.CasinoFreePhila.org. Paul Boni can be contacted at paulboni@bonilaw.com.

COMING SOON

2010-2011 SHCA Board of Directors Elections

Our civic association's election of officers and directors for the year beginning June 1st, 2010 will take place at our May 19th General Membership Meeting.

All of the following officer positions are available for a one-year term: President; five Vice-Presidents; Recording Secretary; Treasurer, and four Quadrant Directors. Each of Society Hill's four quadrants are represented by three Board Directors, and each Director serves for a three-year term.

To nominate someone, including yourself, please submit a letter to the attention of SHCA's Nominating Committee Chair, Benita Fair Langsdorf, a current Vice-President. Include information about your suggested nominee (and if nominating yourself, consider sending your resume).

Send these nominations to SHCA's Administrator Matt DeJulio, c/o Society Hill Civic Association, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147 or to mattdejulio@aol.com, and he will forward your nomination(s) to the Committee Chair. Submissions must be received by April 1st in order to be considered.

Please visit www.societyhillcivic.org for more information about our civic association, board, or nominating process.

Which quadrant do you live in?

For the purpose of electing SHCA Board Directors, Society Hill is divided into four quadrants: Northeast, Southeast, Northwest and Southwest. Fourth Street serves as the North-South dividing line between the east and west quadrants. Spruce Street is the East-West dividing line between the north and south quadrants.

Another Speaker for SHCA's March 17th General Membership Meeting

Lt. Lanzetta to Review City's Latest Police Initiative

Our March 17th General Meeting will begin with a brief review of the city's latest policing initiative. You may recall that at SHCA's January meeting, Lt. Rick Lanzetta, of Philadelphia's 6th District Police, introduced a new approach to

policing priorities — Police Service Areas — driven by the particular safety and security concerns of each neighborhood's residents. At his March meeting presentation, Lt. Lanzetta will elaborate on this new police initiative.



Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church

Please join us for worship
Sundays at 10:30am
Nursery Care Available
Sunday School
Ages 3 - grade 8

412 Pine Street
215.925.8051
www.oldpine.org

Cosmos

Fine Nail Salon
a nail salon
for men & women

Mon-Fri 9:30 am - 7 pm
Sat 9:30 am - 6 pm
21 South 7th Street
215-627-1020
1308 Sansom Street
215-545-5456

THE CROSTOWN COALITION

Communities Want Meaningful Role In the Zoning Process

Philadelphia is now in the second year of a process to completely reform and rewrite the city's outdated zoning code.

The previous issue of this newsletter reported that our Society Hill Civic Association helped establish the "Crosstown Coalition" — a group of neighborhood associations working to engage communities in the zoning reform process. This Coalition will give individual communities a voice in redesigning the new code.

The goal of our Coalition is to codify a zoning approval process that gives communities and citizens a "road map" for shaping development that affects them. We are particularly mindful of the years of expertise of neighborhood zoning committees, such as SHCA's, that should be leveraged to evaluate and comment on new development proposals. We think that meaningful community input actually makes for better development projects.

The Coalition has been involved in ongoing meetings with members of the recently established Philadelphia Zoning Code Commission (the Commission), the official group charged with revamping the city's zoning code. Our Coalition has already developed a list of priorities and suggestions that we recommend should be included in the revised code. We have participated in the Commission's public outreach meetings and prepared position papers. Significantly, we have launched our own website: www.NeighborhoodsMatter.org.

The Crosstown Coalition has expressed various concerns to the Commission — including our priority concern that would assure any individual or group the right to participate in any hearing

where developers seek zoning approvals. Currently the city allows this right as a courtesy (called "standing"), but it is not specified in the present Zoning Code. Crosstown Coalition representatives presented their views on "standing" in the form of a legal opinion, entitled, "Participation of Community Groups at the Zoning Board."

We were informed that Alan Greenberger, Executive Director of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission, as well as a Board member of the Zoning Commission, has been working on the issue of "standing" with the city's Law Department. We are hopeful that our arguments will convince the Commission to codify the role of community in the development process.

At the time of this writing the Crosstown Coalition awaits publication of "Module I" of the new Zoning Code, which will cover "Administration and Procedures." This part of the code will lay out the rules governing critical aspects of the zoning process — including the transparency of the process and methods by which participants can review and critique development plans. We hope to see that the Coalition's recommendations will be included — specifically the important concept of "standing." Alan Greenberger has assured stakeholders that Module I will be open to editing and revision until it goes to City Council for a vote — probably this fall.

Take a Minute to Support Our Work

Please help support SHCA's work on the effort to improve the new zoning code. Visit our Coalition's website, www.NeighborhoodsMatter.org, and click on the "Sign the Petition" link to support our recommendations. It's important that we gather many online signatures.

GRAND OPENING



**QUEEN VILLAGE
FAMILY DENTISTRY**

JEFF CABOT, DMD

WWW.QUEENVILLAGEFAMILYDENTISTRY.COM
215-925-7330

1 on 1 ultimate fitness
with Kimberly Garrison
specializing in women's fitness



Services

- The Garrison Method™
- Nutritional Fitness
- Bridal Fitness
- Pregnancy Fitness
- Breast Feeding Coaching
- Family Fitness
- Fit After 50, 60 and Beyond
- Corporate Wellness

267. 847. 5733
PO Box 58158, Philadelphia, PA 19130
info@1on1ultimatefitness.com | www.1on1ultimatefitness.com

Legislative Watchdog Report



Zoning
Updates

No Height Restrictions For Waterfront Parcels Except “Residential” or “C-2 Commercial”

Councilman Frank DiCicco introduced a bill (#100014) that amends the “Central Delaware Overlay District” — which is the interim zoning for the seven miles along the Delaware waterfront. This bill states that “no height restrictions shall apply to any parcel within the boundaries of [the waterfront] district.” After the amendment became public, many communities, including Society Hill, expressed concern about such a sweeping rezoning of waterfront parcels. At the time this newsletter was being prepared for press, Councilman DiCicco modified the language of the amendment to state that, “Except for parcels of land zoned residential or C-2 commercial, no height regulations shall apply to any parcel within the boundaries of this [waterfront] district...” Councilman DiCicco’s office provided the following explanation of the original amendment and why it was changed: “The original legislation was an effort by the Councilman to clarify that dense development is to be encouraged along the waterfront. The Waterfront Overlay was always meant to encourage this type of development, and hence we wanted to be sure that height restrictions in competing overlays were preempted.”

A vote was taken at SHCA’s February 17th Board Meeting at which time there was a unanimous vote to oppose the amended bill sponsored by Councilman DiCicco that proposes to eliminate height limits on most structures built along the Delaware River waterfront. The Board agreed that, unless a compelling reason can be demonstrated, no re-zoning should be approved until the Master Planning is finished. The Board was also concerned that no site plans have been made public as to how the proposed lifting of all height restrictions would affect the current zoning of individual properties along the seven miles of waterfront.

New Bill Strips Neighborhoods of Our Right to Enforce Billboard Laws

The Society Created to Reduce Urban Blight (SCRUB) has alerted the public of a recently introduced bill (#100013) that removes key language from the 20-year-old law regulating Philadelphia billboards. According to SCRUB, the new bill, recently introduced by Councilman DiCicco, strips all city neighborhoods, including ours, of the right to enforce current billboard laws. SCRUB states that “Billboard prohibition and removal has enhanced revitalization efforts in and has protected every corner of the city for 20 years, but the proposed legislation...would dramatically increase digital, vinyl and billboard advertising on Market Street.” SCRUB further warns that every city neighborhood will be negatively impacted — as this bill removes the language containing the legal basis for regulating billboards and non-accessory outdoor advertising signs in Philadelphia. Read more at www.planphilly.com/scrub-letter-regarding-billboard-legislation.

No Variances for Tax Deadbeats

Councilman Frank Rizzo is sponsoring a bill that would require an applicant for a zoning variance to certify to the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) that all taxes are paid in full (or that a payment plan with the city is in place). A citywide coalition, called “Neighborhoods Matter,” of which Society Hill Civic Association is a founding member, has started an online petition so that citizens can show their support for this bill. Please visit the site indicated below, named “All CitizenSpeak Campaigns,” and scroll down to “No Zoning Variances for Tax Deadbeats.” Then to show your support for it, please sign on, at www.neighborhoodsmatter.org/no-variance-for-tax-deadbeats.

Patricia Bentz CPDT, CDBC
Certified Dog Trainer & Behavior Consultant

“Going to the Dogs”

K-9 Training & Behavioral Therapy

- One-on-One Obedience Training at Home
- Behavioral Consultation
- Puppy Head-Start
- Reward-Based Methods Only



(215) 551-5254

Queen Village

Hours by Appointment

Gift Certificates Available

R. Chobert Decorating Co.

*Painting/Wallcovering
Interior/Exterior
Creating Beauty Since 1967*

Rupert Chobert

641 Reed Street
215.389.7788 TEL
267.977.7443 CELL
215.755.6655 FAX



Zoning & Historic Preservation Reports

New Restaurant at Washington Square

Despite today's struggling economy, many in Society Hill are still creating new businesses and improving their properties. In commercial development, you may have noticed that the vacated Oceanaire Restaurant, at 7th and Walnut Streets, has been replaced by another restaurant, called CHOPS. This steakhouse (also offering seafood selections) has been a successful restaurant in Bala Cynwyd. Its owner, Alex Plotkin, is pleased to locate his second CHOPS restaurant here at Washington Square.

At SHCA's January ZHP meeting, Mr. Plotkin gave an excellent presentation pointing out that as a former Society Hill resident, he is most respectful of Washington Square's history. He, therefore, gladly accepts the same basic agreement between our civic association and Oceanaire — which minimizes any negative impact the operations of a restaurant might have on this historic Square so close to residential properties.

Stamper Square

This is an update regarding the largest vacant property in Society Hill: the former NewMarket site located near Head House Square, between Front and S. 2nd Streets, bordered by Pine and Lombard. The current developer has again come before the Philadelphia Planning Commission seeking approval for his proposed project, known as "Stamper Square." This would be a 15-story development that includes a hotel, restaurant and condominium apartments. His return to the Planning Commission was required because, at the request of a neighbor, the Court of Common Pleas recently overturned the Planning Commission's prior approval for the project. With only one day's notice to our community, the Commission unanimously reapproved the project. It is expected that court review will again occur.

The developer, as he has been saying for years, continues to assert that financing is imminent. Meanwhile, the rezoning of this property will expire in a couple of months, and the developer will have to seek yet another extension of the zoning for his project from City Council.

221 Pine Street Residence

The owner of this house, which dates to 1860, proposed to demolish its rear addition and roof dormer. The entire side profile of this building is highly visible from both 2nd Street and Pine Street — since it is contiguous to the open parking lot of the Wachovia Bank, at the corner of both streets.

A subcommittee of Philadelphia's Historical Commission recommended denial of the owner's proposal, because "character-defining" elements of the building would be lost and no engineering report substantiates a need for the proposed demolition. Under the law there are hardly any justifications for demolishing such historically protected structures. Strict proof would be required.

The full Historic Commission agreed with the subcommittee's recommendation and unanimously rejected the owner's proposal. In general, the law prevents the loss of historic fabric in any Society Hill building (even a rear addition or dormer) unless extraordinary circumstances justify the proposal — an appropriate standard for our renowned historic district.

629 Pine Street

SHCA's ZHP Committee heard and supported a proposal for a new front door for this residence. The architect/owner of this home presented her contemporary design plan which suitably fits the historical building. (Yes, even a new front door is regulated by the historic preservation ordinance!)


119 Pine Street

(Note: This address was originally three properties consisting of an empty lot at 117 Pine; and the houses at 119 and 121 Pine.)

At SHCA's February ZHP meeting, proposed additions and renovations were presented for this house with its open side yard. The current proposal for this now single-family residence is for a rear elevator tower and an enlarged roof deck, with several new window openings in the east wall facing the property's side yard. This open side yard and the entire east façade above the first floor are visible from Pine Street, and therefore must conform to the city's Historic Code.

While ZHP members did not object to the rear elevator and glass penthouse proposal — which would replace the historic dormer not visible from Pine Street — the Committee unanimously disapproved of the proposed deck overhanging the side yard. It recommended that the deck be pulled back from the roof's original profile so that it would not be visible from the street.

Committee members were also concerned with the design of the proposed new windows, as they would be inconsistent with applicable historic standards. After all, replacement windows must always be of appropriate design for any structure in the historic district of Society Hill. (See guidelines on page 11.)



At the Center of Learning


Open House
Thursday, March 4, 8:45 a.m., Pre-K-12

FRIENDS SELECT


A Quaker, pre-K - 12, diverse, coed, college preparatory school located at the corner of Center City Philadelphia
17th & Benjamin Franklin Parkway • Philadelphia
215.561.5000 x 104 • friends-select.org

At St. Peter's School, students establish the foundation for a fruitful and principled life.

St. Peter's School is an independent multid denominational school educating boys and girls from preschool through eighth grade.



ST. PETER'S SCHOOL
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE SINCE 1834



Visit St-Peters-School.org for complete information.
319 Lombard Street • Philadelphia, PA 19147 • 215.925.3963




PANORAMA

Authentic Italian Cuisine

- Over 150 Wines by the Glass
- Winner of Wine Spectator's "Best of Award of Excellence"
- Private Wine Cellar Dining

Free Parking During Lunch

Old City
Front & Market Streets
215.922.7800
www.panoramaristorante.com

Guidelines For Society Hill's Historic District

Our civic association worked for many years so that Society Hill would become a “certified historic district” within the city’s laws — in order to guarantee a level of protection and preservation for any building within its borders. We, therefore, remind all homeowners that Society Hill’s Historic District designation applies to every building in its boundaries. Even if your house was not built during the Colonial or Federal period, you must still adhere to the requirements of the district’s historic preservation laws.

Often owners are unaware about where to begin when undertaking repairs or replacements for deteriorated doors, windows, shutters, front stoops and the like. Therefore, they may unwittingly contract for items that are inappropriate. When that happens they can then face violations.

As a service to our readers, we offer guidelines for replacement of windows taken from “The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties,” which is referenced by Philadelphia’s historic code. These guidelines are clearly written, fully illustrated and easily comprehensible to the layperson. Herewith is an excerpt of these guidelines. Please clip and save for future reference.

CLIP & SAVE

Guidelines For Window Replacement

Although retention of original or existing windows is always desirable, there is a point when the condition of a window may indicate need for replacement. The decision process for selecting replacement windows should not begin with a survey of contemporary window products that are available. Rather, the first step should begin with a look at the window(s) that require replacement and its relation to the appearance of the building’s façade.

It is recommended that owners of historic properties develop an understanding of how the window reflects the period, style, or

regional characteristics of the building, and should consider the following design details:

- 1** the pattern and size of window openings
- 2** proportions of the frame and sash
- 3** configuration of window panes
- 4** muntin profiles
- 5** type of wood
- 6** paint color
- 7** glass characteristics
- 8** associated details, such as arched tops, hoods, or other decorative elements

For further information, please check out the Secretary of the Interior’s “Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties” by visiting: www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/standguide/rehab/rehab_windows.htm



258 S. 18th Street
Philadelphia
215.546.4270

Design | Construction | Decorating
on Rittenhouse Square

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD DESIGN TEAM



np
nelson-plachter | design

Creating beautiful spaces WITH AN EDGE
always functional | always gorgeous

FOR A 1 HOUR FREE CONSULTATION,
CONTACT US AT 267-258-7627

offering a full range of design services - interior & exterior space planning - npdesigninc.com



SOCIETY HILL'S PREMIER SALON
316 E. 5TH STREET
715.875.8090

UNASSUMING, BUT CERTAINLY NOT ORDINARY.

salon @ 5th

PRACTICING
21ST CENTURY
MEDICINE
SINCE 1751



Dr. Michael Buckley, MD



We believed in focusing on the patient long before it was popular. And today, being a teaching and research hospital that's part of Penn Medicine gives us more than our share of world-class professionals and leading-edge technologies. But what truly sets us apart is what we call "relationship-based care." It's our signature. And it means that you, our patient, are part of the team. From diagnosis to treatment and recovery, you're involved and informed. Your opinion matters. In fact, you and your family are right at the center of every decision we make. We respect you, we communicate with you, we go to extraordinary lengths for you. So if you think you need to choose between advanced care and a caring environment - you don't. The best of both are right here.

Pennsylvania Hospital
Still Changing Health Care™

800.789.PENN | pennhealth.com

 Penn Medicine

CENTRAL DELAWARE ADVOCACY GROUP

 BY STEVEN A. WEIXLER, SOCIETY HILL DELEGATE

In the Public Eye: “Civic Vision”

The work of the Central Delaware Advocacy Group (CDAG) is entering an important new phase. The continued participation and support by our Society Hill community is just as important now as it has been for more than three years. We have been closely involved in the creation of a set of design principles that carry our hopes for all seventeen-and-one-half miles of the riverfront. Known as “the Civic Vision,” these ideas for a thriving urban waterfront must be kept in the public eye and in the minds of policymakers and planners. Society Hill, along with other riverside communities, has stepped up and worked hard to create this advocacy group.

CDAG has played an integral part in the writing of a protective zoning ordinance for the area along the river. Like any law, it has its compromises, but it adds restrictions to existing zoning laws in the area east of the interstate highway, which will help support vigilant communities such as ours. Most significantly, CDAG’s lobbying helped to sidestep the potential for a wave of new and possibly inappropriate project approvals prior to formulating a Master Plan for the riverfront.

Philadelphia’s Planning Commission has ordered the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation (DRWC) to produce comprehensive land-use and urban design plans which will guide development of this now mostly desolate part of the city. At our civic association’s previous General Membership Meeting, on January 20th (co-hosted with CDAG) we heard a presentation from DRWC’s Director, Marilyn Jordan Taylor, who is also Dean of the University of Pennsylvania School of Design. Dean Taylor outlined the exciting next steps in the life of Philadelphia’s historic shoreline. There was an enthusiastic turnout to hear her presentation. Other neighborhoods along the Delaware River attended SHCA’s meeting, as they, too, are interested and committed to the best possible future for the riverfront.

The DRWC has conducted interviews with highly qualified, experienced designers and consultants — selecting Cooper-Robertson Partners as its primary designers. Work is in the early stages, but the contract documents which will guide the team incorporate the “Civic Vision for the Central Delaware,” which

was completed by PennPraxis, an arm of the University of Pennsylvania School of Design. Public feedback and involvement is a requirement for this “civic vision” process. Therefore, three large public meetings will be scheduled for feedback. In addition, fifteen to twenty smaller meetings, focused on more specific aspects of the design plans, will take place. The agendas will be publicized and all interested residents are encouraged to participate. CDAG has been specifically named as the primary partner for this civic engagement, and this is where neighborhoods such as ours become essential.

In my work with CDAG, I’ve often thought of some similarities to the riverfront work we’re doing now in relation to the history of Society Hill’s renewal — which began in the 1950’s — when the neighborhood was run down. Its former businesses, factories, housing and other buildings had fallen into disrepair or had disappeared. Concerned citizens inspired by visionaries — including Edmund Bacon, who will be the featured topic of discussion at SHCA’s March General Membership Meeting (see page 1) — disapproved of the land’s waste and saw potential for new uses. Government leaders were persuaded to agree and directed planners and professionals to work with citizens in the revision of the area’s “landscape.” Through political action, government funding was obtained for new infrastructure and other improvements. Private developers were then attracted by the potential for investment in this growing “new” area, and built high-quality projects. Many individuals and families were inspired to rescue and restore some of the city’s oldest buildings rather than see them demolished. All parts of these efforts were interrelated, and over the years they had a snowball effect —resulting in the neighborhood we are so proud of today.

The central lesson is this: dedicated people made their vision known to government and to decision-makers. They kept working, and are still working, to see their vision become reality. This is something valuable that we in Society Hill can offer to our neighboring riverfront communities as we begin the long revitalizing process — perhaps sometimes a discouraging process, but which ultimately will reach achievable goals.

Let’s turn
our vision of
the riverfront
into reality.



3rd and Pine Streets
215.925.5968
www.stpetersphila.org

Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday

March 28, 9 and 11 AM

Maundy Thursday

April 1, 7:30 PM

Good Friday

April 2, 12:00 PM

Passion Walk (Family Service)

April 2, 3:00 PM

Easter Sunday

April 3, 9 and 11 AM



Open hearts. Open minds.

Old St. Mary Church † Holy Trinity Church

252 S. 4th Street

6th & Spruce Streets

Old St. Mary's was the first Cathedral of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Philadelphia. Holy Trinity Church was established as the first German National Catholic Church in the United States. Celebrate your holidays and holy days with us.

Lenten Schedule

Stations of the Cross

Holy Trinity Church
Every Monday in Lent
12:05 p.m.

Holy Thursday

Old St. Mary Church
April 1st, 7 p.m.

Good Friday Service

Holy Trinity Church
April 2nd, 12:05 p.m.

Easter Sunday

Old St. Mary Church
April 4th, 10 a.m.

Mass at Old St. Mary Church is celebrated every Saturday at 4:30 p.m. and every Sunday at 10 a.m. Weekday Mass is celebrated at 7:30 a.m. in the chapel of Old St. Mary Convent/Residence at 5th and Locust Streets. 215-923-7930



BEST OF PHILLY 2008

Philadelphia Gardens, Inc.

GARDEN INSTALLATION AND DESIGN

TONI ANN FLANIGAN PHILADELPHIAGARDENS.COM 215.951.9193

Society Hill's New Trees

BY HANS BOMBECK

Society Hill has been enhanced by ten new trees planted during our fall Clean-Up Day. Many property owners, volunteers, and certified Tree Tenders from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) pitched in and worked on seven blocks in our community. Their effort was part of "Philadelphia Green," a program that has added almost 1,000 trees throughout the city in a single weekend.

Fairmount Park Commission experts selected tree species by considering the location for each new tree based on its exposure to sunlight, traffic conditions and pit size. The hope is that these trees will thrive with the coming of spring's warmer temperatures and, of course, with regular watering.

Five new trees will be planted sometime this spring near Holy Trinity Church, at 6th and Spruce Streets. Society Hillers willing to participate in the planting are asked to contact me directly. Additional plantings will occur next fall.

Applications to receive these trees will be accepted on a limited basis, although availability is not guaranteed. Interested? Please send your request to me — at hansbombeck@verizon.net or 215-627-1356.

Caring for Society Hill's Established Trees

SHCA's Tree Tenders encourage local homeowners to prune their older trees. Please consider participating in this block-by-block effort if a tree on your block appears unsightly or might be threatened by disease or become a potential hazard to pedestrians. For example, exposed stumps, injured branches and tree barks can become hosts for diseases, which can shorten the life of any tree.



Neighbors planted ten new trees in Society Hill on Fall Clean-Up Day.

Because every homeowner stands to gain from the beauty and environmental benefits of our street trees, on any block, we suggest that the cost of SHCA's proposed pruning program be shared by an entire block. Thus, all needy trees on that block will be taken care of at the same time and total expenses will be significantly reduced. Block coordinators and residents are asked to review the needs of their respective blocks and then to contact me for help — at hansbombeck@verizon.net or 215-627-1356.

Tree Tender Training

In years past a good number of Society Hillers signed up for regularly scheduled PHS "Tree Tenders" classes, offered at no cost. SHCA's latest "graduates" are father and son: Gaylord and Campbell Holder.

Interested in learning how to plant and care for trees? Free classes in Philadelphia are scheduled for spring (May 5th, 12th & 19th) and fall (October 13th, 20th & 27th). Register online for these evening sessions, each requiring three hours, by visiting www.PHSONline.org and clicking on "Enroll in Tree Tenders Classes."



JOANNE MILLER CHARLIE CROCCO

Horticultural Services

Let us design build & maintain your landscape.

70+ years combined experience in the Society Hill area.

215-297-5579

PHILADELPHIA WINDOWBOX COMPANY

phone 610-310-1973



info@philadelphiawindowboxcompany.com
www.philadelphiawindowboxcompany.com

We are honored to print the *SOCIETY HILL Reporter*



SERVICES
 Pre-Press
 Variable Data
 Graphic Design
 Full Service Offset
 High Speed Copying
 Digital Color Printing

PRODUCTS
 Newsletters & Manuals
 Brochures & Invitations
 Legal Documents
 Oversized Color
 Stationery
 NCR

1310 Sanson Street
 Philadelphia, PA 19107
 T 215.717.5151
 F 215.717.7420

11 East State Street
 Media, PA 19063
 T 610.586.8429
 F 610.586.4513

www.media-copyonline.com

MediaCopy
Focusing on you and your company's needs

Creating harmony in body and mind

Judy Moon and Associates

CONVENIENT, RELAXING MASSAGE THERAPY
 Washington Square South
 in the Hopkinson House

ABMP Certified 207.071.0001 www.judymoon.com

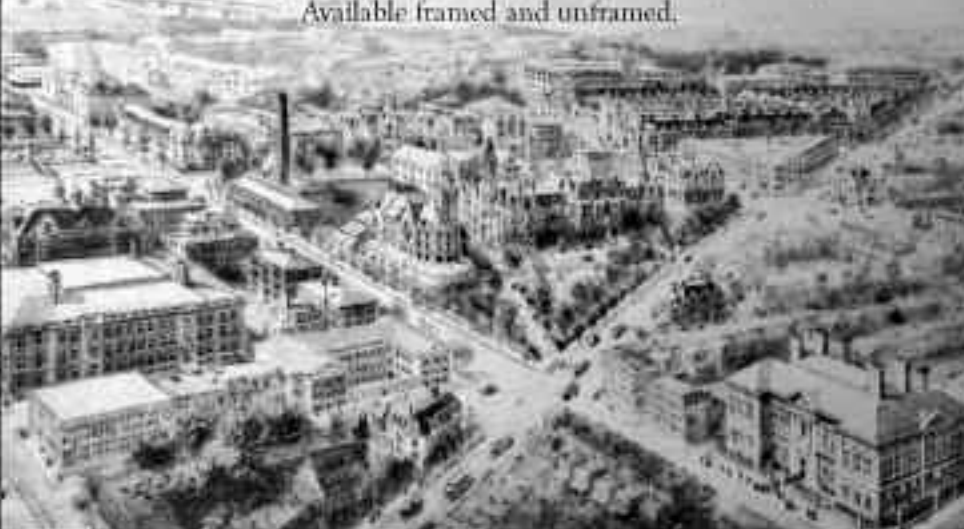
RITTENHOUSE
Needlepoint

1737 Chestnut Street
 2nd Floor 
 Philadelphia, PA 19103
 T 215-563-4566
www.RittenhouseNeedlepoint.com

INSTRUCTION • COFFEE • CONVERSATION

RICHARD RUMMELL'S PANORAMIC COLLEGE VIEWS
University of Pennsylvania

Hand-colored copper-plate engraving • 17 3/4 x 29 3/4" image size
 Available framed and unframed.



At the turn of the century, the publishing firm of Littig & Co. commissioned Richard Rummell (1848-1924) to create watercolors of the nation's most prestigious colleges and universities. From these watercolors, copper-plates were engraved and engravings were struck from each plate.

Arader Galleries commissioned a master printer to pull a limited number of re-strike engravings from these original plates. Printed on heavy wove paper and hand-colored, these handsome views make splendid gifts.

Other available views:
 Yale University, Harvard University, Brown University, Dartmouth College, Penn State, Bucknell University, Dickinson College, Lafayette College, Lehigh University, Princeton University, Swarthmore College, and more.

Please contact us for more information.
 1308 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107
 (215) 735-8811 • info@aradergalleries.com

Arader Galleries

ACCIDENTAL TOURIST IN MY OWN BACKYARD

BY JANE BIBERMAN

My Mexican Home: *Villa del Tepoz Fuego*

To be honest, this tiny boutique hotel in Tepoztlan, Mexico, is not exactly “in my own backyard,” but it does feel like home to me. And there is a Philadelphia connection. My father, Ralph, and his sister, Beatrice (Bebe), lived in this sleepy Mexican village in the early ‘70s, and I often visited them there. Dad eventually settled in nearby Cuernavaca, where he died in 1977. Aunt Bebe, now 87 years old, stayed there until 1984 when she moved back to the States. Both Aunt Bebe and I decided it was “high time” to vacation in Tepoztlan this past Christmas. Researching Expedia.com, we discovered the *Villa del Tepoz Fuego*.

When we arrived at Mexico City’s sparkling new airport, Bruce Kramer, the owner of the Villa, was there to chauffeur us to Tepoztlan, a 90-minute drive with breathtaking views.

His wife, Marci, greeted us at the front door as if we were members of the family. The Baltimore-born couple told us they had purchased what had been a private home and turned it into a Bed & Breakfast about five years ago. They spent all their time and money renovating the property — creating six exquisite rooms and suites, each decorated with Mexican crafts and paintings. Marci turned the Villa’s neglected grounds into a ravishing garden, while Bruce created a jewel-like spa with three beautifully appointed treatment rooms.

The young couple soon realized that guests didn’t want to leave this quiet paradise for lunch or dinner — so they expanded the kitchen and began providing meals until 10 p.m. They found a gifted chef, Noé, and hired Rodrigo, the best waiter/margarita maker/major domo west of anywhere, to graciously serve their discriminating visitors.

For a week, Aunt Bebe and I relaxed, read, swam and ate heavenly food. Two free (and incredibly great) massages were included. When I joined a yoga class, my aunt took cooking lessons with Marci and Noé. We ate the delicious results. I often exercised by taking 20-minute walks to the *zocalo* (town square), along the colorful cobblestone streets. Ricky, Bruce’s friendly dog, loved to accompany me. (Lucy, Marci’s calico cat, stayed home chasing butterflies across the lawn.) The town is famous for its cathedral, colorful *mercado*, friendly locals and year-round



perfect weather. The spectacular beauty of the place, located in a valley and surrounded by mountains and volcanoes, may be seen in such films as *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* and *The Long Goodbye*.

One day I rented a horse from a nearby stable and enjoyed a scenic ride around the neighborhood. Some Villa guests came expressly to hike Tepozteco, the town’s historic pyramid, but my aunt and I had climbed it decades ago. Except for a 40-minute taxi drive — to visit Cuernavaca, see awe-inspiring Diego Rivera murals at the Cortez Palace and enjoy drinks in the peacock-filled gardens of Las Mananitas (a five-star inn) — we stayed at “home” in the B&B. After watching dramatic sunsets and dining on the patio by a roaring fire, we sat around talking with other Villa guests. We didn’t watch the wide-screen TV in the den or check our email on the house computer for the entire week.

It’s always risky divulging a hidden jewel like “our” Villa — for fear that the handful of precious rooms will be occupied when next we want one. But I can’t help recommending that you check out www.villadeltepozfuego.com and check in with the Kramers.



Bruce and Marci Kramer

coffee hit my lap.
i hit the mailbox.



Accident Forgiveness
Part of On Your Side® Rewards

Gannon Coyne and Associates, Inc.
Deanna Gannon Coyne
coyned@nationwide.com



Nationwide®
On Your Side
Auto Home Life Business

213-215 Haverford Avenue
Narberth PA 19072
Tel: 610-660-5151
Fax: 866-721-4442

108 South Street
Philadelphia PA 19147
TEL: 215-574-9080
FAX: 866-721-4442



©2009 National Mutual Insurance Company and Affiliated Companies. This is not a contract. Please read the actual policy. This is not a contract. Please read the actual policy. This is not a contract. Please read the actual policy. This is not a contract. Please read the actual policy.

2011011



Sometimes,
unconditional love
is finicky...
and has four paws.

**Find the love
of your life!**

Morris Animal Refuge
1242 Lombard Street, Philadelphia, PA
www.morrisanimalrefuge.org
(215)735-3256

Mon & Sat: 11am - 4pm
Tue, Wed & Friday: 11am - 7pm
Thu & Sun: closed



The Refuge provides a full range of preventive, protective and adoption services for abused, neglected and abandoned animals. You can make a direct and immediate impact on the lives of one of these animals by "saving a life today!"



Thanks for Being a Great Neighbor!!

The Hyatt Regency Philadelphia at Penn's Landing
Extends a Discounted Rate of

\$149.00

To Companies and Residents of Old City and Society Hill

Please call 1-800-233-1234 or visit
www.hyattregencyphiladelphia.com to book your reservation. Reference booking code 54237 to receive the special rate.

Offer is available Jan. 1st, 2011 - December 31st, 2011. Rate based on availability.



Hyatt Regency Philadelphia at Penn's Landing
301 S. 44th St. Philadelphia, PA 19104
P 215-426-1434 F 215-222-9600
www.hyattregencyphiladelphia.com



Friends of Independence
National Historical Park

**Support
the National Park in Your Backyard -
Join Friends of Independence today!**

For more information about
Friends of Independence:

★ Call 215.861.4971

★ E-mail: atn@friendsofindependence.org

★ Visit our website: www.friendsofindependence.org

Spring Into Three Bears Park!

Spring is approaching, and before long we will see colorful tulips in bloom — in the circular planter at Three Bears Park.

This beloved community park, located on the 300 block of Delancey Street, has undergone many changes in the past few years: a new playground, brick and slate repairs (still waiting for a few pieces of slate to arrive), new benches and tables, and a makeover for the circular planter. Lighting and electrical repairs will be addressed this spring when funds become available. Tania Rorke, a former President of the Society Hill Civic Association, has worked tirelessly to secure grant funding for these improvements, for which our community and the Friends of Three Bears are deeply grateful. With these improvements, Three Bears Park remains a place that both young and old enjoy.

Over the last several years The Friends of Three Bears Park has helped maintain this Society Hill treasure, and for the past two years neighbor Catherine Signorello has served as President of the Friends group. In January she stepped down and Jane Saul has accepted the responsibility. We gratefully thank Catherine for her excellent efforts, while we cheerfully welcome Jane for taking on this leadership role. A native Philadelphian, Jane actually grew up playing in Three Bears Park, and today she lives in Society Hill with her husband and two young children.

Exciting park events will soon be on the horizon. Because of needed slate repairs made last fall, the park's Annual Fall Festival was postponed. But why wait until next fall? Instead, look for our Three Bears "Spring Fling" scheduled for Saturday, May 22nd from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Rain date will be Sunday, May 23rd.) Please mark your calendars and plan to join us. Many

fun activities will be offered for your kids and grandkids — including a moon bounce, pony rides and face-painting. Grownups will be kept busy with a food and bake sale, silent auction and children's "swap." For this swap, please contribute any outgrown clothes (gently used or new) and toys that are no longer needed, so that they can become newfound treasures for our neighbors' kids! We ask that you bring these swap items to the park by 10 a.m. on the morning of the Spring Fling. Proceeds from this event will provide weekly maintenance and cleanup for the park, as well as ongoing improvements.

Of course volunteers are needed. If you can assist in the coordination of our Spring Fling, or if you have any items to donate for the silent auction — such as gift certificates for restaurants, area shops and stores — or even a free hotel room — please contact Jane Saul. Also, a volunteer is being sought to create a website for the Friends of Three Bears. If this is your area of expertise and you can help us design this Friends' website, please contact Jane Saul. She can be reached at threebearspark@gmail.com or 215-990-7709.

Three Bears Park requires ongoing maintenance, and in past years much of its funds came from state grants and our Fall Festival. But due to current funding cuts, the Friends must now rely on *your* generosity. Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to the "Friends of Three Bears Park" and mail your check to 324 Delancey Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106.

Three Bears Park is a community jewel that neighbors of all ages enjoy. When spring eventually arrives (hopefully soon!) come see colorful tulips in full bloom and watch happy children squeal in delight as they circle around the beautiful, colorful planter.



Three Bears
"Spring Fling"

Save the Date:

Saturday,
May 22nd
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Move Closer to Balance

Personal Trainer
(customized exercise programs for all, specializing in seniors)

Certified Massage Therapist
(therapeutic, relaxing, peaceful, professional)

Greg DiTeodoro
215-254-3463
gdi-teodoro@aol.com
gift certificates & house calls available

The Dental Healthcare Group

Dr. Jeffrey M. Rosenberg **Fine Dentistry**

411 Hambridge Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147
215-992-4747

Serving Society Hill for over 25 years.
Philadelphia's Best!


New Patient Experience:
Receive \$50 Off Your First Hygiene Visit.

CHILDREN'S DENTAL ASSOCIATES, P.C.
STEPHEN D. COHEN, D.D.S.



PEDIATRIC
DENTISTRY
AND
ORTHODONTICS
Since 1973

607 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pa 19106
www.kiddy2th.com
215-925-6251



Equilibrium
Pilates, LLC

Pilates in the Classical Method
604 South 2nd Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147
(215) 923-3669
www.equilibrium-pilates.com

BE UNIQUE
WEAR
ONE-OF-A-KIND ART JEWELRY
from
ADORNAMENTI
A Collection of Jewelry

1106 Pine Street
215-922-2722

DECORATE YOUR HOME
ONE-OF-A-KIND CONTEMPORARY CRAFTS
from
SHOW OF HANDS
A Collection of Crafts

1006 Pine Street
215-592-4010

*We contribute to Welcome Basket.
We are located on Historic Antique Row.*



Just the way you like it. Save time and money on insurance.



Bonnie Silverman
215-922-3544
bonnie@silvermanfinancial.com
www.silvermanfinancial.com

We'll shop around to find you great rates on auto and home insurance. We partner with The Hartford, a company with nearly 200 years of strength, stability and wisdom, to take care of everything from bringing you the best rates to helping you file claims. And switching is easy, we'll handle all the paperwork. So call us to see how much you could save.



MILBERT INSURANCE
A TRELIS GROUP COMPANY



Welcoming Two New Reporter Editors: Mary Costello and Bill Double

The *Society Hill Reporter's* team of devoted columnists and editors is delighted to announce that two additional professional writers have stepped up to the plate and have already begun to volunteer their editing and proofing skills for this regularly published and distributed community newsletter — which encourages a spirit of neighborliness among residents, businesses and professionals.

Mary Costello Mackrell is a 1998 graduate of the University of Maryland who majored in journalism. She started her career at Discovery Networks, where she worked in its Maryland headquarters and New York office producing on-air promotions, writing ad sales newsletters, and creating content for advertisers on their business-to-business website. In 2007, Mary moved to Philadelphia to join her soon-to-be husband, John. She then worked as the Regional Manager for Comcast's Acquisition and Events Marketing Department, creating customer communications and advertisements. Following their wedding in 2008, Mary moved to Los Angeles to accompany John while he completed a fellowship in Radiology at the University of Southern California. In their year out west,

Mary worked as a Marketing Manager for DIRECTV. She and John moved to Society Hill last November and are very happy to be settled here. They are expecting their first child in April!

Bill Double, a free-lance writer and history enthusiast, is a graduate of Temple University who returned to Philadelphia after retiring from the staff of the New Jersey legislature in Trenton. While researching the origin of the old horse-trough fountain on South Washington Square, as a volunteer at Independence Park, he became convinced that the Square's story deserved a wider telling.

Thus, his book — *Philadelphia's Washington Square* — was published in 2009 by Arcadia in its "Images of America" series. He hopes it will stimulate interest in the rich history of Washington Square and its surrounding area. (The book can be conveniently purchased at Head House Books, located at 619 S. 2nd Street.)

Bill has contributed numerous articles to local publications, and until recently he edited the newsletter for the United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia. He and his wife, Patricia, a librarian at Penn's Biddle Law Library, are enthusiastic city dwellers.



Philadelphia's Washington Square, written by Bill Double, is available for sale and may be found at Head House Books.

New Website Tells Neighborhood Stories

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP) recently launched an interactive website — www.PhilaPlace.org — that connects stories to places across time in Philadelphia's neighborhoods. HSP collaborated with the city's Department of Records, the University of Pennsylvania School of Design, other institutions, community organizations and individual community residents who share their stories.

This impressive website presents the history of Philadelphia and its neighborhoods through the experiences shared by ordinary people from different backgrounds. Their narratives are woven together with historical records and photos, to present an interpretive multimedia picture of the rich history, cultures, and architecture of our city's past and present neighborhoods.

The site initially portrays the Greater Northern Liberties/Lower North Philadelphia and Old Southwark/South Philadelphia neighborhoods,

focusing on their civic life and politics, immigration and migration, and social reform and philanthropy. At its launch, in December, the site included over 150 stories featuring photos, maps and documents. For example, site visitors may be surprised to learn that the building which currently houses the Phillips Temple Christian Methodist Church, at 3rd and Fitzwater Streets, was originally a synagogue, then a dance hall, then a union hall — before becoming a church in the 1970's.

PhilaPlace.org also features virtual neighborhood tours, K-12 lesson activities for schoolteachers, and allows visitors to create tours of up to 25 of their favorite places. Site visitors can contribute their own stories by clicking onto the "Add a Story" button and following simple instructions. Want to learn something new or fascinating about our city? Take a few minutes to visit www.PhilaPlace.org.

Take a few minutes to visit www.PhilaPlace.org



**90%
of My
Business
Comes From
Referrals**

**Family • Friends • Neighbors
Satisfied Customers
Other Realtors**

Rosemary Fluehr, GRI
Associate Broker
215-440-8195 – Direct
215-627-6005 – Office
rosemary.fluehr@prufoxroach.com



530 Walnut Street
Suite 260
Philadelphia, PA 19106



Wouldn't it be nice to enjoy all the pleasures of being outdoors in the springtime without suffering the dreadful symptoms of allergies?

Treat your allergies at ALLERGY & ASTHMA SPECIALISTS, PC, the premier medical practice in the Delaware Valley caring for adults and children with allergies, asthma, eczema and recurrent infections.

We are the only allergy practice in the region offering Sublingual Immunotherapy (SLIT), the medical term for drops under the tongue. This offers you an alternative to allergy injections, while allowing you to treat yourself at home. So say goodbye to your allergies and welcome in the Spring without the sniffles.



**For Food Allergy Testing
and Challenges, call:**

1-800-86COUGH

www.86cough.com

- Blue Bell • Pottstown • Jenkintown
- Center City • King of Prussia
- Lansdale • Doylestown • Colledgeville



JEFFCITYBLOCK
ASSOCIATE BROKER

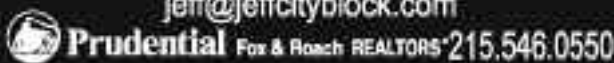
As your neighborhood real estate professional, I promise that you will receive my personal, dedicated service, which will always include:

- (1) absolute honesty, trustworthiness, and objectivity;
- (2) an unsurpassed knowledge of your neighborhood (I grew up in Society Hill, lived there for many years, and have sold many Society Hill homes);
- (3) a strong work ethic and single-minded determination to meet your goals; and
- (4) a sophisticated, proven understanding of negotiating and contracts. I am always available to get the job done.

Contact Jeff "City" Block, Esquire for all of your real estate needs.

DIRECT LINE - 215.790.5662

jeff@jeffcityblock.com



2010 Census Reminder

The first phase of the 2010 U.S. Census is under way, and eventually more than 140,000 U.S. Census workers will count everyone across the entire USA — gathering information about each person living at every address — including name, age, gender, race, property ownership and whether any people living at the residence on April 1st sometimes live somewhere else. Households will be contacted by mail, telephone or may be visited by a U.S. Census worker — but will **not** be contacted via email. Be on the lookout for email scams, and never click onto a link or open an email attachment that claims it is coming from the Census Bureau.

Please note that the questionnaire form mailed to your household asks ten specific questions. It is one of the shortest Census forms in history. You can see the form online at 2010.census.gov. It does **not** ask for your Social Security number or your annual income. Although the 2010 Census asks you whether you own your residence with a mortgage, own it free and clear, or rent it, the Census form does **not** ask for your bank account number(s), credit card numbers or any

other financial information. Census Bureau employees will *never* solicit donations.

If the mailed form is not returned in time, the household will be contacted by Census Bureau workers by telephone or in person. If a person claiming to be from the Census bureau rings your bell, ask for that person's identification and badge before answering any questions. (He or she will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag and a confidentiality notice.) **A Census taker will never ask to enter your home**, but will ask you the ten Census questions outside or on your front porch. If someone claiming to be a Census worker demands to come inside, do not let that person in. (The Better Business Bureau suggests that you never invite anyone you don't know into your home.)

For more information, check out these websites:
www.bbb.org/us/article/10306 or
www.snopes.com/fraud/identity/census.asp

And do consider sharing this basic census info with your family and friends.



Meet Our New Community Police Officer, Lt. Rick Lanzetta

As noted on page 6, SHCA's March 17th General Membership Meeting will offer a brief talk by Lt. Rick Lanzetta representing our Police Service Area PSA3. Now that the same police officers and their supervisors will serve Society Hill on a continual basis, they can better know our neighborhood, its residents and possibly any chronic crime locations or disorder problems. Lt. Lanzetta plans to hold monthly community meetings to address your issues. Time and place to be announced. Contact him with any problems or concerns at LTRL66@gmail.com or 215-686-3060.

Crimes in the Neighborhood

While we are pleased to report that recent crime statistics in our district have been reduced, we continue to recommend taking these sensible precautions:

- If possible do not walk alone late at night or early in the a.m.;
- Leave nothing visible in your parked car;
- Keep your bicycles locked;
- Make sure everyone in your apartment building firmly closes the front door.

If you're interested in receiving periodic crime reports emailed to neighbors, please contact SHCA's Administrator, Matt DeJulio at mattdejulio@aol.com or 215-629-1288.

Penn's Village and Community-Based Planning

Penn's Village is a community of neighbors working together to provide Center City residents with the support and services they need so that they can remain in their own homes as they age or if they have special needs. Recently Penn's Village celebrated its first anniversary, and participants have learned a great deal from their experiences, as well as from the experiences of other such villages across the nation.

As these supportive "villages" mature, they become part of the fabric of their respective neighborhoods — each is recognized as a vital community resource that is supported enthusiastically by its residents. The future of Penn's Village will be shaped by each of its own members.

As the first phase of a strategic planning process for Penn's Village, several discussion panels will soon be convened — in order to better understand and serve participants from each local neighborhood. Please consider joining us on the panel for Society Hill. This discussion will require approximately one hour of your time and will conveniently take place here in our own community — although the date and time has not yet been determined.

Interested in participating or learning more about Penn's Village? Contact Tania Rorke at info@pennsvillage.org or 215-925-7333.



The contractor with the BBB A-1 Rating

FULL HOME REMODELING

**Kitchens • Baths
Carpentry • Repairs**

*Serving the Philadelphia and
South Jersey areas since 1989.*

609-654-8385

609-923-5103

jimwehner@comcast.net

Fully Insured
Reg. # 13VH00112900

Molding Contractor



Stair Work



Built-ins & Mantels



Crown Molding



Colored Ceiling



Mantels



Wainscot & Door

Home Trimwork™ is a tribute to quality and creativity. We come to your home with design ideas to make your home a "Model Home" With decorative moldings, mantels, pillars, built-in cabinets, stair work, wood floors, and painting. Our talented team provides a full service design-supply-install.

CALL FOR A FREE IN-HOME QUOTE:

(215) 435-4726

VISIT US ONLINE FOR PROJECT IDEAS:

www.HomeTrimwork.com

Licensed & Insured
PA: PA093315
NJ: 13VH05147680
ID: 2008203441



NATIONAL WATCH & DIAMOND

2010 Census
Reminder &
Caution



OVER 300 PRE-OWNED ROLEX IN STOCK

Also Cartier, Breitling, Ebel, Patek, Vacheron, Audemars and
a Large Assortment of Diamond Bezels and Dials.



*Buy with Confidence
from an Established Store!*
**1,000 Certified Diamonds
GIA, EGL & AGA**

ROLEX is not an official dealer. Look out Rolex's warranty so large stores.

8th & Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Visit Our Web Site: **nationalwatch.com**

1-215-627-WATCH

FIX THE BRIX

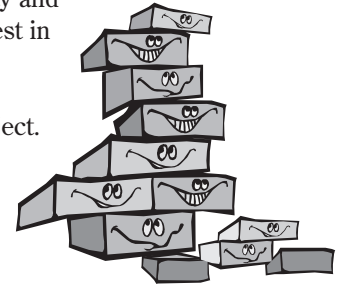
Every Homeowner's Responsibility

BY FRANK SIGNORELLO

At the time of this writing, in mid-February, all of us are surrounded by mountains of snow. Nevertheless, we optimistically foresee the future and our eventual need to "fix the brix" (now buried beneath all that white stuff). By the time you read this, we are hopeful that the snow will be gone and we should then begin to consider our community's sidewalks and the need to fix those bricks.

Surely you know that every homeowner (and apartment building owner) is responsible for shoveling a path in front of his or her property within six hours after the end of any snowstorm. This is not only for pedestrian safety, but also for your own safety and liability. After all, you don't want to get sued if someone trips and falls! Same thing goes for those wobbly or protruding bricks in front of your house. Please remember that *you* are responsible for providing a safe and level sidewalk in front of your home or apartment building.

Here are local statistics: eighteen households recently had their bricks fixed; between forty and fifty more households have expressed interest in the project, several of which hope to group together for this task. Take advantage of our civic association's funded "Fix the Brix" project. Remember — you will receive a 40 percent reimbursement, up to \$300, from our grant — to help fix *your* brix!



For more information or to receive a list of arborists and masons, please contact me at fsignorello@gexchange.com. Or call SHCA's Administrator Matt DeJulio at 215-629-1288.

Your next step will be to obtain estimates from several contractors. Choose one, and after the work is completed, just mail the invoice to Matt (SHCA, Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA, 19147) to receive your reimbursement.

It's that easy, so get started now!

Cell Phone Donations

SHCA's Safe & Sound Committee continues to collect old cell phones that are given to needy senior citizens and abused women. These phones are reprogrammed by the police to call only 911. Drop off your used cell phone at 414 Spruce St. Much appreciated!

www.CenterCityRealEstate.com
Center City's Complete Source for Real Estate

Office: 215.627.3500 Direct: 215.917.1213

The Atacan Group
THE NEW GENERATION OF REALTORS

Market Snapshot
of Listings by Status

Property Type	Status	Average of Original Price	Average of Listing Price	Average of Sold Price
Townhome	PENDING	\$1,514,907	\$1,833,133	
	SOLD	\$1,725,949	\$1,815,433	\$1,815,433
Condominium	PENDING	\$491,457	\$493,343	
	SOLD	\$506,798	\$481,457	\$481,457

■ Average of Original Price ■ Average of Listing Price ■ Average of Sold Price

A Few of the Least and Most Expensive Homes Sold in Society Hill in 2009

604 S Washington Sq 5XX	\$150,000
604 S Washington Sq 2XX	\$200,000
220 Locust St 2X	\$218,750
200 Lombard St 5XX	\$222,500
604 S Washington Sq 3XX	\$225,000
7XX Rodman St	\$225,000
604 S Washington Sq 17X	\$230,000....
3XX S 2nd St	\$1,200,000
2XX Gaskill St	\$1,225,000
2XX W Washington Sq	\$1,353,000
2XX Delancey St	\$1,467,290
6XX Addison St	\$1,500,000
5XX Spruce St	\$1,575,000
2XX S 4th St	\$3,000,000

For more detailed reports please visit
CenterCityRealEstate.com/blog

J.D. Power & Associates, ranks
KELLER WILLIAMS BEAUTY #1
 in Client Satisfaction AGAIN!

Keller Williams Realty is the fastest growing brokerage because its business model educates and empowers both its agents and its clients.

Based on 2008 & 2009 survey of home buyers rating their recent experience with Keller Williams, Prudential, Coldwell Banker, Re/Max, & Century 21.

SOCIETY HILL PRESERVATION DREAM!



NEW PRICE!

**310 Cypress
\$645,000**

- c 1790 3-story brick façade of Flemish bond with glazed headers
- Living room; authentic paneling, blue marble around working fireplace
- Eat-in-Kitchen overlooking garden
- Master bedroom/grand living room has working fireplace with original marble mantel and paneling
- Two 2nd floor bedrooms, one with built-in bookshelves; 3rd floor bedroom has working fireplace with original mantel & marble surround
- Basement with washer/storage

Jan Stephano ABR, CSR

*Lives, Knows,
Sells Center City!*

jstephano@plumerre.com
www.janstephano.com

40 years your neighbor
23 years your realtor



Plumer
& Associates, Inc.
Realtors



Jan Stephano
215.922.3600 x219

Thinking of Selling?
Call Mike McCann, "The Real Estate Man"

#1 Prudential Sales Associate
in the *entire United States!*

Get a **FREE, no-hassle** estimate of value
Your home may be worth more than you think!

Seller's Hotline 215-778-0901
Buyer's Hotline 215-440-8345

**GO TO WWW.MCCANNTEAM.COM
TO VIEW OUR AMAZING VIRTUAL TOURS!**

Our 2009 Sales in Society Hill!

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 503 SPRUCE #14 | 102 DELANCEY |
| 521 PINE #100 | 511 ADDISON Ct. |
| 521 PINE #200 | 130 SPRUCE #17B |
| 521 PINE #300 | 333 S 7TH |
| 314 S 2ND | 322 LOMBARD |
| 213 DELANCEY | 110 PINE |

Current Listings

- 814-16 PINE** **\$5,499,000**
Grand, meticulously restored Italianate brownstone, 5-7BD/5.2BA, 9 fireplaces, 3,000 sf of garden space, roof deck, 2 car garage w/ additional parking, original woodwork, chandeliers, state of the art kitchen.
- 832-36 LOMBARD** **\$3,999,000**
Magnificent, 9500 sf, 5BD/3.2BA, oversized European kitchen, sunroom, terrace, large bedrooms, custom cabinetry, library/screening room, wine cellar, 2 car parking.
- 100 PINE** **\$1,295,000**
Unique and stunning renovation, 3BD/3.5BA, walled fountain, garden, elevator, great views, fireplace, wine cellar.
- 222 GASKILL** **\$1,225,000**
Gorgeous, high quality, 4BD/3.5BA, garage, family room, deck, elevator, hardwood floors, security system, 7 years left on tax abatement, roof deck.
- 304-06 S AMERICAN** **\$659,900**
Beautiful 2BD/2.5BA, restored 1808 trinity, original pine floors, fireplaces, brick patio, office, sitting room, den, 1 year prepaid parking.
- 730 LOMBARD** **\$479,900**
Fabulous, contemporary 3BD/2.5BA home, separate office, great views, large private courtyard, wood-burning fireplace, central air.

CALL

MIKE McCANN

"The Real Estate Man"

For Personalized Service and Fast, Efficient Results.
Serving the Center City Community for 20 Years!



Prudential

Fox & Roach REALTORS®

215-627-6005 / 215-440-8345

www.mccannteam.com

An Independently Owned and Operated Member of
The Prudential Real Estate Affiliates, Inc.



www.DreamHomePHILA.com



Gail Finnegan

Francisco Carreno

Two Realtors® Working for You

Plumer
& Associates, Inc.
Realtors

226 South St.
Philadelphia, PA 19147

215.922.3600 x 310

FC@DreamHomePHILA.com

SUNDAY, MAY 23

Society Hill Open House Tour

Mark your calendars! You won't want to miss Society Hill's Open House and Garden Tour — scheduled for Sunday, May 23rd, 1- 5 p.m.

SHCA is sponsoring its 32nd annual tour of eight to ten distinctive private homes — some with beautiful gardens. This year's Tour Coordinators, Linda Skale and Martha Levine, report that: "Each year we present a brand-new selection of homes and gardens. There is rarely a repeat of a house that was featured on a tour conducted in the previous five years." For this year the program will add a "tasty ingredient" — all tour-goers will be given discount coupons to enjoy a meal that afternoon or evening at their choice of a neighborhood restaurant.

How you can help: We call for volunteers to step forward and contribute their time for a

period of two hours. In return each volunteer will receive a complimentary ticket to tour all homes and gardens to be used when they are off duty. Remember, this is a benefit for our community, because 100% of the proceeds will directly benefit our civic association for neighborhood improvement and beautification projects.

Tickets: \$25 per person. Advanced ticket purchases encouraged. Ticket sales available by April 1. To purchase your ticket, please contact SHCA at 215-629-1288, or email: mattdejulio@aol.com. Checks, VISA, or MasterCard accepted.

Additional information will be provided in the May/June issue of the *Reporter*, but if you have any questions please contact Martha Levine at marthalev@msn.com or 215-629-0727.

Save the Dates!

Open House and Garden Tour tickets will go on sale beginning April 1st.

THURSDAY, JUNE 10

Washington Square Affair

Society Hill Civic Association will host our biggest party since 1776 on the evening of Thursday, June 10th — the "**Washington Square Affair.**" This affair to remember will strengthen our community spirit while raising SHCA funds to help cover the costs for beautification and maintenance that contribute to keeping the Square the green oasis we all enjoy so much. We're counting on everyone to help make this party a roaring success.

For over two hundred years, Washington Square has remained one of the city's most important public parks — annually visited by thousands of local residents and tourists from all over the world. Our civic association contributes to and participates in the park's care and maintenance through donations and volunteer support to Independence National Historical Park, which assumed management responsibility for the Square in 2002.

Come party with us! Please consider becoming a sponsor of the Washington Square Affair — an event that will include a tented party on the park's lawn — with food, music, wine and great fun. This is an opportunity for you to help us in reaching our fundraising goals and to aid in the continuing preservation of this most treasured landmark.

We are seeking sponsors, generous individuals or businesses that are interested in giving larger donations to support this fundraising effort. All sponsors of the Washington Square Affair will be acknowledged in the *Society Hill Reporter*, which reaches over 3,600 households. Sponsors will also be thanked in the Affair's "Tribute Book" — a program book filled with the rich history of our Square that each attendee will receive. In addition, some sponsorship levels include high-rise recognition and invitations to a private pre-party. **Information about sponsorship opportunities can be found on SHCA's website — societyhillcivic.org — or by contacting SHCA's Administrator, Matt DeJulio, at mattdejulio@aol.com.**

We need to receive your response by March 26th, so that your name or the name of your business can be included in the Tribute Book. Of course, all donations are tax-deductible. For more information about the event, please be in touch with Matt DeJulio or SHCA Board Director Andrea Layden — who is serving as Committee Chair for the Affair — by sending an email to SHCA's Administrator Matt DeJulio, at mattdejulio@aol.com or by calling 215-629-1288.

Note: Invitations to the Washington Square Affair will be mailed to all SHCA members in mid-May, and additional information about the event will be included in the May/June issue of this newsletter.

Sponsor
"An Affair
To Remember"

**Plumer & Associates, Inc.
Realtors**


Plumer

Center City's largest independent Realtor.
Serving Philadelphia since 1923.


**Residential,
Commercial,
and Investment
Real Estate**

For a complete listing of Center City properties visit our website:
www.plumerre.com

226 South Street, Philadelphia
info@plumerre.com
215 922 4200




90% of our business comes from friends telling friends!



**Kathy, Patrick and the
Conway Team**

Recent Recipients of the most prestigious award attainable "The Pinnacle Award." This award is reserved for the Top Ten Prudential agents nationwide out of 68,000 agents in the entire U.S.A.

 Prudential
Society Hill
215.827.8005
www.conwayteam.com

KATHY 215.440.8190
kathy@conwayteam.com
PATRICK 215.440.8172
patrick@conwayteam.com

Independently owned and operated member of the Prudential Real Estate Services, Inc.

In Society Hill Real Estate



One Name. One call.
Izzy Sigman
*Philadelphia Board of Realtors
Diamond Award Winner*
*Outstanding service & results.
Every time.*

Recent Sales

Murano #1407	343 S 4th St
339 S 2nd St	1119 Pine St #104
130 Spruce - Penns Landing Sq #37B	

**If you're in the market for a new home,
I can help you find the perfect property...**

Call Izzy Sigman

Plumer
& Associates, Inc.
Realtors

226 South Street
215-922-3600 x 228 Office
215-806-6958 Mobile




**Your Realtor® For
Buying A Home
& Selling A Home**

Bari Shor

"Real Estate® MatchMaker"

- Bari works harder.
- Works smarter.
- Cares and *delivers* on your Center City Home Ownership dreams.



Call me, Bari Shor, 215-790-5678
Prudential Fox & Roach Realtors®
At the Rittenhouse, 210 W. Rittenhouse Sq., Philadelphia, PA 19103 215-546-0550

SHCA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

2010 Membership Drive Reaches 807

Based on early February’s “pre-blizzard” mail delivery receipts, SHCA’s 2010 membership drive has generated dues and extra contributions from 807 members. We heartily welcome the 46 new members included in this total, and we are most grateful for the support of all current members.

Regrettably, we have not yet heard from 267 folks who were members of our civic association in 2009. Nevertheless, we remain optimistic and hope to surpass the 2008 “all-time high” of 1,063 members. (Our total number of members for 2009 dropped to 1,034 — likely a result of economic conditions.)

For this year, which is still relatively young,” we sent out second reminders to 267 previous members who have not yet renewed for 2010. If that includes **you**, please consider sending in your dues today so that we will not need to contact you again.

Our civic association’s annual operating budget derives primarily from membership dues. The *Reporter’s* advertising revenue, while substantial, merely offsets expenses related to printing and delivering this free newsletter that keeps neighbors informed on a timely basis. Written, edited and assembled by volunteers, it contributes to Society Hill’s positive community spirit.

Remember that your annual membership dues pay for sidewalk cleaning, the “Fix the Brix” program, tree planting, graffiti removal supplies, social events, all administrative costs, and contribute to the maintenance and beautification of Washington Square. Without your dues, SHCA would cease to function.

To protect our unique neighborhood as well as your real estate investment, please fill out the adjacent form and mail it today with your check or charge number. Or, visit our website at societyhillcivic.org and pay using PAYPAL. If you have any questions, feel free to contact SHCA’s Administrator Matt DeJulio, at mattdejulio@aol.com or 215-629-1288.

**Exercise & Socialize
The Walkie-Talkie Ladies are still at it!**

Interested in meeting your neighbors and walking around our city streets for about an hour? A hearty group of ever-changing Society Hill gals value this informal exercise group, although the snow slowed us down a bit. With better weather on the horizon (and no rain), we encourage newcomers to show up at **Three Bears Park** any **Tuesday or Thursday morning**. Walks begin promptly at 8:15, and “new faces” are always welcome. Questions? Call 215-925-4363.

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
- \$ _____ Sidewalk Cleaning/Graffiti Removal
- \$ _____ *Society Hill Reporter*
- \$ _____ TownWatch/Safe and Sound
- \$ _____ Zoning/Historic Preservation
- \$ _____ No Casinos Near Neighborhoods
- \$ _____ Franklin Lights
- \$ _____ Street Trees
- \$ _____ Three Bears Park
- \$ _____ McCall School

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.

- Clean-Up Day
- Washington Square
- Zoning & Historic Preservation
- Franklin Lights
- Social Events
- Fundraising
- Dilworth House
- Property Taxes
- Local crime incidents & alerts
- Reporter*
- Casino Issues

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

NOTEWORTHY NEIGHBORS

A COLUMN BY DAVID WOODS

Aline Gray



Aline Gray and Charlie

working as a staff member for Adlai Stevenson. Hugh Hefner loaned Aline and her colleagues the use of his office where they put together mobiles and other artwork for the Democratic convention. Aline then went on to work for an architect and trained to be an interior designer at the Chicago School ... and started work on sculptures. Some of these limestone and bronze sculptures can be seen in her apartment — where, by the way, she lives with her rather elegant little Havanese dog, Charlie, who seems unfazed by all of the artifacts on display.

Her artistic *pièce de résistance* is an incredibly detailed doll house which took five years to produce. “It was an obsession,” Aline admits, noting that she single-handedly produced all of the intricate furniture, wallpaper, carpeting and various other details. And this lifelong Democrat proudly points out a photograph of herself with Nancy Reagan in the White House — as the First Lady admired the handiwork of Aline’s doll house.

Aline and her husband, Walter, were married in 1963. They moved to Philadelphia where, quite appropriately, they lived close to the Museum of Art. She worked at the Institute for Contemporary Art, at the University of Pennsylvania, where she developed a program designed to teach art appreciation to children.

Walter had three children from his first marriage, all of whom were educated in Europe and have lived there most of their lives. Aline and Walter also had three children together, now all grown, of course — with a grand total of fifteen grandchildren from both of Walter’s marriages. The couple moved to the Main Line, but ultimately settled in Society Hill, which Aline says she loves because of being surrounded by history — something that she believes many Philadelphians tend to take for granted. She also loves to hear the bells from our community’s various churches, but she wishes that taxi drivers would stop honking their horns within earshot.

Aline Gray clearly relishes her surroundings and the wider world beyond them — bringing to her clients and friends an aesthetic sense of what works. And of course an eye for what fits — and what’s fitting — in interior design.

Interior Design:



It’s all in the eye.

If one’s living space says a lot about who or what one is, then clearly Aline Gray is an artist and an aesthete. She is surrounded by *objets d’art* presented in an interlocking and minimalist style. These include an Amish quilt that graces part of one wall in her sunny, high-floor apartment; an exquisite bronze and ivory statuette of three dancers; a middle Egyptian carving; a bronze sculpture of a bull; and a piece of the Berlin Wall, as well as several ceramic items that, as Aline says, “are just things that I picked up along the way, because I liked their shapes.” Her sofa and chairs are 40 years old — of classic and timeless Ward Bennett design; the leather Barcelona chairs and stool are from a 1920’s design. A ‘Picasso’ pot stands on a small table in one corner.

Why do all the pieces seem to fit? Why do all the elements appear to belong to one another? Aline says: “It’s all in the eye; and I have a good eye.” But she comes to it honestly through extensive training and experience. A Chicagoan, like her husband from whom she was recently widowed, she graduated from Northwestern University with a degree in art history. There followed three or four years in Democratic Party politics,

FREEMAN'S

AUCTIONEERS & APPRAISERS SINCE 1805

Sell fine paintings, jewelry, furniture
& decorative arts with America's
oldest auction house



www.freemansauction.com

1808 Chestnut Street Philadelphia PA 19103 Tel: 215.563.9275

C A L E N D A R

Wednesday, March 17

SHCA Board Meeting
5:45 p.m.
Grand Court Room
SHCA General Meeting
7:30 p.m.
Auditorium
Pennsylvania Hospital
8th & Spruce Streets
See pages 1 & 6

Saturday, May 15
Society Hill Clean-Up Day

Saturday, May 22
(rain date, Sunday, May 23)

**Three Bears Park
"Spring Fling"**
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
See page 19

Sunday, May 23
Society Hill Open House Tour
See page 27

Thursday, June 10
The Washington Square Affair
See page 27



- Keeping you informed about our community
- Delivered free to your door six times a year
- Produced by your neighbors – all volunteers
- Supported by local advertisers

www.societyhillcivic.org

• *graphic design*

Parallel Design

Judy Lamirand
215-476-4040

Logos

Stationery

Brochures

Newsletters

Invitations

Annual Reports

Posters

Banners

Calendars

Books


Menus

This Society Hill Reporter!

AD


Allan Domb
Philadelphia's Largest Luxury Condominium REALTOR®


1845 Walnut Street, Suite 2200
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-545-1500
www.allandomb.com



The Bank Building, Unit 2A
41 CHESTNUT STREET

3 bedroom, 2.5 baths,
brand new construction, high ceilings, exposed brick, custom high end finishes, hotel amenities from adjoining Omni Hotel
\$1,795,000





The Lippincott, PHC
227 S. 6TH STREET

2 bedroom + den, 2.5 bath
bi-level penthouse designed by architect Cecil Baker, features high level custom appointments, elevator in unit, 2 terraces, 2617 sf
\$1,975,000

