

SOCIETY HILL

# Reporter

www.societyhillcivic.org

## Improving the Lives of Philadelphians

After Philly's long and historically sweltering summer, we will soon have an opportunity to catch up with one another at the next Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) General Membership Meeting: Wednesday, September 15th, at 7:30 p.m. in Pennsylvania Hospital's Zubrow Auditorium, 8th and Spruce Streets. At this session two engaging speakers — Tania Rorke and Vann Delaine — will describe their respective nonprofit organizations that improve the lives of many Philadelphians.



**Vann Delaine**  
Center for Literacy

Vann Delaine represents the **Center for Literacy** — a highly successful program that enriches the lives of more than 3,000 of the approximately 550,000 Philadelphians who have below-basic reading skills. These individuals, of all ages

and backgrounds, are unable to compete in our knowledge-based economy. Indeed, many cannot even complete simple job applications. Since 1968 the Center for Literacy has been serving adults,

youth and families in its 65 locations throughout the city. The Center improves communities by turning the tide on unemployment, poor health and crime among Philadelphia's underserved and underprivileged populations. Its success depends on more than 200 volunteer tutors who support the Center's professional staff. Vann Delaine, as Program Manager, is responsible for providing training and support for Center City volunteers. He will describe the Center's vital work and also present a seven-minute introductory video.

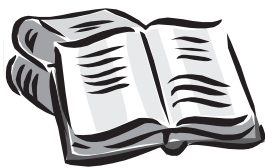
Our other invited speaker will be Society Hill's Tania Rorke — who served as SHCA's President for three years. Tania is one of the founders of **Penn's Village**:



**Tania Rorke**  
Penn's Village

an innovative, non-profit organization that enhances the lives of many Center City residents. The program provides household and support services, such as home-delivered, personally selected nutritious meals at reasonable costs. Members email or call a single telephone number for a variety of enriching activities and services — such as requesting a drive to a doctor's office or supermarket. Although Penn's Village relies on the professional services of its preferred vendors, volunteers provide additional support based on their own interests, skills, talents and, of course, personal schedules. Originally focused on serving older adults, Penn's Village now offers a range of membership levels so that neighbors of all ages can take advantage of specific services that interest them.

We look forward to welcoming a large and enthusiastic turnout for our September 15th meeting. Hopefully, these two different but compelling presentations will inspire Society Hill neighbors to consider donating their time and abilities to support these life-affirming services.



WEDS

Sept.

15

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Society Hill Civic Association Meetings  
Wednesday, September 15th, 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 Zubrow Auditorium  
All neighborhood residents are invited to attend.
- Speakers:** **Vann Delaine**, Program Manager for Volunteer Training, Center for Literacy  
**Tania Rorke**, Director, Penn's Village



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# Reporter

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

**Submissions**

We want to hear from you. Our goal is to print news of interest to Society Hillers – happenings in and around our community for residents, business people and professionals. Direct your editorial submissions and/or queries to Bernice Hamel via fax at 215-925-0877 or email [BerniceHamel@comcast.net](mailto:BerniceHamel@comcast.net). To publicize an event, submit all press releases directly to Sandra Rothman. (See contact information above.)

Materials must be submitted in writing – via mail, email, or fax – and must include the name of a contact person. Edited submissions will be considered for publication if the subject matter is community-related and if space allows. Otherwise, upcoming events of interest may be listed in the Community Calendar. Letters to the Editors will be considered for publication only if signed and the writer provides contact information.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY ROSANNE LOESCH

Time for *La Rentrée*

The arrival of September always makes me think of the French concept of *La Rentrée*, which literally means “the re-entry.” After those long French vacations, not only school children begin a new year, but everyone “re-enters” regular life — like astronauts re-entering the earth’s atmosphere. It surprises me that we don’t have a special word in English for the new beginning that heralds the end of summer. Even though most of us don’t start a new school year anymore, I sometimes feel that we never lose that “new school year” feeling when autumn rolls around. There is something invigorating about starting life and work anew after summer vacations and travels.

For Society Hill Civic Association, which starts a new fiscal year and welcomes a brand-new Board of Directors every June 1st, it is really in September (after an August break) that we throw ourselves again into the work of planning the year’s activities. With this in mind, I invite you to attend SHCA’s September 15th General Meeting to meet new members of our Board and to hear short presentations from two organizations that may be of interest to you — Penn’s Village (which has expanded its services beyond Society Hill’s boundaries) and the Center for Literacy (which could be a wonderful volunteer opportunity to give the gift of literacy to those in need).

Other events that you may want to know about and attend include our September 30th delicious and convivial fundraiser for the preservation and maintenance of historic Head House Square — to be held under the Shambles’ wood-shingled roof. The event is being organized by the Head House Conservancy and will be co-hosted by our civic association and neighboring communities, Queen Village and Old City. Also, if you want to help keep our neighborhood pristine, I suggest you consider attending the Saturday, September 25th anti-graffiti workshop. (See page 9.)

Don’t delay putting our November 17th SHCA General Meeting on your calendar to hear a discussion about the horse-drawn carriage tour business in Society Hill with invited speakers, as well as a presentation on the nation’s first major Jewish Museum, scheduled to open in November, just blocks from our community. Another new neighbor, whose mission complements our own so well, is the American Revolution Center, located

in the former site of the Independence Park Visitor Center. Then in December SHCA will host a “Holiday Party” for members only — at a venue to be announced! To receive your very own email invitation, don’t delay in signing up for SHCA membership by contacting SHCA Administrator Matt DeJulio at 215-629-1288 or mattdejulio@aol.com. (See page 29.)

Planning is already in the works for a second fundraiser for Washington Square — following the wildly successful “Washington Square Affair” held in the park last June. SHCA’s entire Board extends a very big “thank you” and congratulations to Andrea Layden and her “Washington Square Affair” Committee for their yeoman’s work, enthusiasm and creativity. (See page 16.)

On behalf of the Board and the community, I also want to thank all the hardworking members of SHCA’s “behind the scenes” committees (see list to the right). Members of these committees contribute their expertise, time and energy to advocate for and preserve the vital interests of our neighborhood. In particular, Martha Levine is to be commended for the successful conclusion of a multi-year project to upgrade the electric wattage of our wonderful Franklin street lamps and have all their poles freshly painted. They really look fantastic! (Read more on page 25.)

Behind many SHCA efforts — such as the Franklin Lamps upgrade and painting project — are volunteer lawyers from our Board and community who donate their legal services to write contracts and provide legal advice. I sincerely thank them for their important contributions. In addition, I want to express my deep gratitude to Bernice Hamel for the amazing publication she has written and edited every two months for the last twenty years. I often think that Society Hill is known as much for the *Society Hill Reporter* as it is for its historic architecture. We’ll have more on this topic in the November/December issue, because it will be her last as Managing Editor. We sincerely hope to find a new lead editor or team to fill her rather large shoes.

Finally, I wish you all a productive “*Rentrée*”! Don’t delay in becoming a member of your neighborhood association, and think about how you can contribute to making Society Hill an even better place to live.



**Rosanne Loesch,  
President**

#### SHCA Committees

- Anti-Graffiti
- Block Coordinators
- Casino
- Central Delaware Advocacy Group (CDAG)
- Clean-Up Day
- Finance
- “Fix the Brix”
- Franklin Lights
- Grants
- Legal
- McCall School
- Membership
- Police Advisory
- Safe and Sound
- Social Events
- Tree Tenders
- Washington Square
- Welcome Basket
- Zoning & Historic Preservation (ZHP)
- Zoning Code Coalition

## The Society Hill Reporter: Its History and Role in Fostering a Strong Sense of Community

BY BERNICE T. HAMEL

For 20 years the *Society Hill Reporter* has been our community's bi-monthly newsletter, keeping neighbors regularly informed on a variety of local issues — both positive and challenging. Whether homeowners or renters, whether long-time “pioneers” or newcomers, and whether or not neighbors are current members of our proactive civic association, this free newsletter is distributed to all Society Hill residents, as well as all local organizations and businesses.

Ever since I created the *Reporter* I have served as its Editor-in-Chief. Prior to that time a Xeroxed, four- to eight-page publication — known as *The Resident Newsletter* — kept neighbors informed on a variety of topics. Nancy Frenze and the late Ruth Dugan served as its primary editors throughout the 1980's. Then, in the late 1980's, a bold front-page headline announced that the newsletter was closing up shop since its editors planned to retire. That's when I stepped in, because as a relative newcomer to the neighborhood I appreciated being clued-in on local issues through that modest but friendly newsletter. At the time I was working as a fiction writer and not a journalist, but I thought I could temporarily fill the slot. I renamed this “new” newsletter the *Society Hill Reporter*.

These past 20 years have been very exciting: the *Reporter* has developed from a brief handout to a regularly delivered, free source of relevant information for Society Hillers. Its publication and distribution to all homes, businesses and professionals within the neighborhood — regardless of whether recipients are civic association members — has resulted in a major interest and increase in SHCA membership. In fact, our civic association has grown from approximately 200 to 300 annual members to more than 1,000 members over the years. This dramatic enrollment increase has, of course, been aided by many other dedicated

volunteers who contribute regularly to the neighborhood: for example, Martha Levine's “Welcome Basket” initiative — whereby she hand-delivers to community newcomers attractive baskets filled with many items donated by a variety of local shops and businesses. These Welcome Baskets certainly encourage new neighbors to join our civic association.

The consistent presence of the *Reporter* in our community provides an active link between SHCA, all residents, businesses and organizations. It is produced at absolutely no cost to SHCA, as its advertising revenues cover all expenses — including professional design fees, as well as printing and distribution costs. Although the *Reporter* often generates additional revenue for various worthy causes, such as our recent Franklin Lamps improvement program, the purpose of the newsletter is not and never has been to produce income for the civic association. Its purpose is to keep neighbors informed about events or happenings that may affect the quality of life we enjoy here on “the Hill.” It helps to unite residents by keeping us in the loop with relevant and useful news, as well as offering enlightening and educationally “fun” information through feature articles — such as David Woods' popular “Noteworthy Neighbors” column and Jane Biberman's “Accidental Tourist” column that describes the many wonderful sites located within or just steps away from our neighborhood.

The success of this newsletter — all written and edited by volunteers — is founded on several key principles: collegiality, inclusiveness and a spirit of neighborliness. The *Reporter* is managed by an advisory committee — its “Editorial Board” — which has always welcomed anyone prepared to roll up his or her sleeves to help produce the newsletter — whether writing, editing or proofreading submissions.

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Also, the *Reporter's* Editorial Board is closely connected to SHCA's governance. Currently, for example, SHCA Board Directors who write or contribute to the *Reporter's* Editorial Board include: Lorna Katz Lawson, Rosanne Loesch, Steve Weixler and myself. Most importantly, SHCA's President is given the opportunity to speak directly to readers through a "President's Message" that communicates his or her concerns and commentary. These submissions are proofread only for clarity, grammar and such.

The *Society Hill Reporter* has always operated with editorial independence. Key decisions about what materials should be included are made by consensus of our working group, and there has never been any interference or censorship by SHCA's Board of Directors. This cooperative and inclusive system has worked splendidly to produce a community newsletter that we can be proud of despite the various challenges we've been faced with over the years — including our current opposition to casinos so close to our homes.

As announced in the previous issue of this newsletter, I plan to retire as Editor-in-Chief at the end of this year. I remain "cautiously optimistic" that one or two local writers will step forward to cooperatively take on the role as Managing Editors — so that the *Reporter* will continue to serve the neighborhood we love. However, since six issues each year may be too heavy a burden for volunteers who have work and family responsibilities, I recommend that

beginning in 2011, the number of editions be reduced to five each year. This would be a more manageable workload that hopefully will encourage additional neighbors to volunteer their writing, editing and proofreading services. After all, with today's up-to-date technologies, including SHCA's website and the fact that most neighbors are connected to one another via email, I feel confident that SHCA can provide relevant neighborhood information between production of the newsletter's five annual issues.

Because the *Reporter* keeps neighbors connected and contributes to Society Hill's uniquely modern yet most historical identity, we should do what we can to see that it endures. It is important that readers understand the urgency of finding one or two individuals to either individually or collectively assume the role of Editor-in-Chief, beginning in January 2011. If no neighbor is willing to accept this "passing of the baton," the continuity of our newsletter is in jeopardy.

Of course, I will be happy to answer any questions anyone may have, and will be as helpful as possible to guarantee that the *Reporter* continues its mission as a source of reliable and relevant information and enlightenment that fosters our community spirit. By all means feel free to contact me directly — at [bernicemamel@comcast.net](mailto:bernicemamel@comcast.net) — or through SHCA's reliable Administrator, Matt DeJulio, at 215-629-1288 or [mattdejulio@aol.com](mailto:mattdejulio@aol.com).

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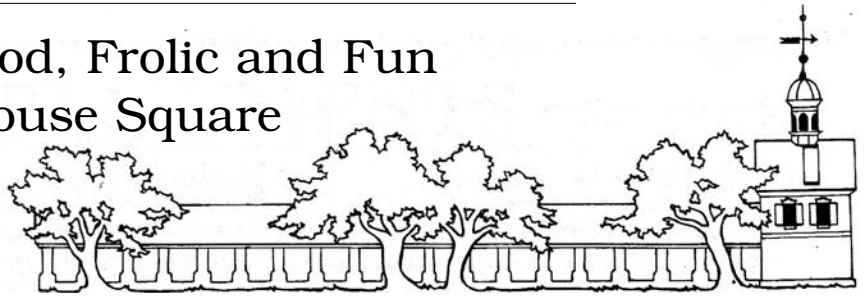
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH

## An Evening of Food, Frolic and Fun at Head House Square

**A**FUND-raising event for the ongoing restoration and longtime preservation of historic Head House Square will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday evening, September 30th. The Head House Conservancy — in partnership with the Society Hill Civic Association, Old City Civic Association, Queen Village Neighbors' Association and South Street HeadHouse District — is “cooking up” another wonderful social event that will raise additional needed funds for further improvements of this most historical site. We hope to duplicate the remarkable success (and fun!) of our collaborative Soiree held last September. The Head House Conservancy (our local, nonprofit organization) netted more than \$30,000, which made it possible to complete a series of urgently needed repairs to the structure that included: replacement of the Shambles' plaster ceiling; an updated electrical system and improved lighting; masonry repairs; and painting. This year our goal is to raise funds in order to repair and refurbish the clock at Head House — which was made in 1819 by Isaiah Lukens, the clockmaker who created the clock at Independence Hall.

As you probably know, the colonnaded market sheds at Head House Square have the distinction of being America's only surviving Colonial-era marketplace. Attached to these outdoor market sheds — called “the Shambles” — stands our nation's oldest volunteer firehouse, built in 1805. This city-owned structure was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1966. However, years of neglect and abuse caused its deterioration, so that by the late 1980's the Secretary of the Interior identified it as a “threatened and endangered landmark.” In 1990 a group of concerned Society Hill citizens organized to raise funds and repair the structure. The Head House Conservancy raised more than \$200,000 from friends and neighbors — and fully restored the building, both inside and out. Today the 205-year-old firehouse serves as headquarters for the South Street HeadHouse District, which manages the property. And once again, the 265-year-old Shambles serves our community as a Farmers' Market on weekends — adding new life to the streetscape, while recalling this landmark's unique history.

But like any structure, Head House requires ongoing maintenance and improvements.



Please join us and attend the *Soiree at the Shambles* on Thursday night, September 30th. This will be one weekday evening when you won't have to cook or clean up — because several of our area's most desirable and popular restaurants will be offering their “signature” dishes. Contributors, at press time, include: Amada, The Artful Dodger, Bistro Romano, Bridget Foy's, Café Nola, Chick's Cafe, Downey's, Fork, Hoof and Fin, Lovash Indian Cuisine, Moore Brother's Wine, New Wave, Olive, Percy Street, Philadelphia Java Company, Pizzeria Stella, Ristoranti Panorama and Xochitl. This is a wonderful opportunity to dine and enjoy fine wine, as well as meet and socialize with neighbors.

All contributions to the Head House Conservancy are tax-deductible, as it is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. We hope you will consider any one of these sponsorship roles:

- **Shingle Sponsors** for a donation of \$75 each.
- **Brick Sponsors** donate \$150 each.
- **Cobblestone Sponsors** will be invited to a “Pre-Soiree Patrons' Party” at a beautiful Society Hill home for \$300 each.

If you are a member of SHCA, you have already received your invitation to the Soiree. We thank neighbors Steven and Sonia Grasse (of Quaker City Mercantile) for their generosity in designing the beautiful invitation again this year. If you are not a member but are interested in attending our delightful community event, you can receive an invitation simply by contacting Conservancy Board Director Tania Rorke — at 215-370-6485 or [trorke@aol.com](mailto:trorke@aol.com). A limited number of tickets will be available at the Soiree.

**Interested in volunteering?** Our Soiree Committee welcomes any assistance. Again, please contact Tania Rorke.

Remember: By working and partying together, we can preserve our community's unique Colonial legacy while enjoying the wonders of this 21st century. We look forward to celebrating with you on Thursday, September 30th, and, of course, we greatly appreciate your generosity.

*Soiree  
at the  
Shambles*

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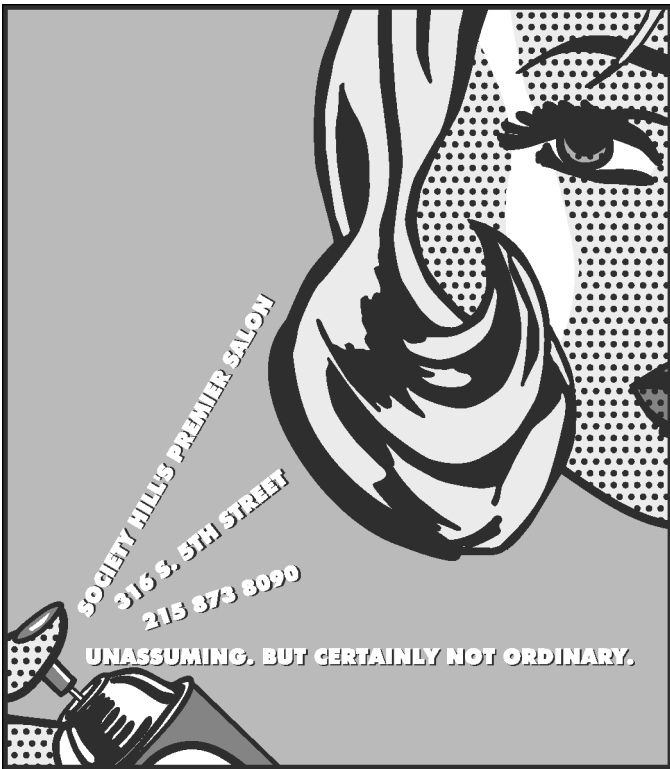
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## SHCA Battles Vandalism & Graffiti

Dedicated members of our civic association, under the hands-on leadership of SHCA's Anti-Graffiti Committee, are mounting an ongoing volunteer effort to keep our streets clear of all visible forms of vandalism usually inflicted late at night and in the early hours of the morning. Although much of this blight is corrected before you may even be aware of it, keeping our historic streetscape clean is a never-ending project. Any slackening on our part would sadly reveal the full extent of this serious problem.

The damage our committee deals with — under the general label of “graffiti removal” — includes scraping off hundreds of unsightly plastic and paper stickers of all sizes and removing paint and marker scrawls from street, traffic and SEPTA signs, posts and installations. Defacements also are removed from mailboxes, corner newspaper sales boxes, traffic control boxes, trash bins, stanchions, lamp posts and other unprotected surfaces. In addition to these correctable forms of vandalism, permanent damage is sometimes inflicted on signs, trash bins and containers through bending, twisting and battering. An example would be the mutilation of the street sign at 3rd and Delancey, which was repeatedly straightened and finally had to be removed. Accompanying these serious damages are all kinds of sidewalk and street litter, such as food wrappings, beverage containers and the contents of newspaper kiosks (boxes) that have been vandalized. Fire hydrant caps that are unscrewed and left to dangle must be properly replaced.

The results of these brazen acts are not only unsightly, but they suggest that “hoodlums” are in control of our neighborhood, since they are able to perpetrate these misdeeds on a regular basis — without detection or punishment. This sends a message that our streets are unsafe at night, which could lower the value of our homes.

It is a sad fact that, in our underfinanced city, the law enforcement system seems to be unable or unwilling to bring this problem under control. Our only acceptable answer is to have a “zero tolerance” program in which the results of these destructive activities are promptly cleaned up and corrected — thus, denying the perpetrators any satisfaction for their misdeeds. (A number of years ago, SEPTA successfully introduced such a zero-tolerance program for its vehicles.)

SHCA's Anti-Graffiti Committee needs additional volunteers to continue its effective work. Anyone willing to assist is asked to contact SHCA's Administrator, Matt DeJulio, at 215-629-1288 or [mattdejulio@aol.com](mailto:mattdejulio@aol.com). Hands-on volunteers will receive all necessary training and materials. Other concerned citizens are encouraged to monitor their blocks and immediate neighborhoods by reporting to the committee, through Matt DeJulio, any instances of vandalism or graffiti.

Because of SHCA's success, representatives from other areas of the city have asked us to assist them in setting up similar programs. Accordingly, on **Saturday, September 25th, from 10 to 11 a.m.**, our committee will conduct an orientation and workshop. If interested in attending, please contact Matt and he will provide the exact location. Representatives of several Center City civic associations have been invited to participate in this session along with members from the Police Department. Please consider joining us for this informative meeting.

Not only do SHCA's Anti-Graffiti efforts make our city a safer and more pleasant place to live and work, but they demonstrate to residents and visitors alike that *We the People* possess the civic pride and determination to restore Philadelphia to its historic and rightful place as a world-class city.




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# SugarHouse (and Another Casino?) ...Closer to You

BY PAUL BONI, ESQUIRE

This month the SugarHouse casino is scheduled to open on the Delaware River waterfront, at the border of Northern Liberties and Fishtown — less than two miles from Society Hill! What does this mean?

It means that Philadelphia will become the largest city in the United States with casino gambling. This predatory industry thrives on setting up casinos closer and closer to populous neighborhoods. Opening in Philadelphia means that casinos have achieved their greatest goal — to become extremely accessible and convenient to millions of poor and middle-class residents.

What will be the rates of addiction here in Philadelphia? It may take a few years for people to become hooked, but it will happen. Data from other states show that it will hit people of all types — from all races, ethnicities and socio-economic backgrounds. Your circle of friends and family will not be immune. Studies show that rates of addiction jump when a casino is within 50 miles of a community and again within 10 miles. No one knows what addiction rates will be when the casino is across the street. As quoted in the *Inquirer*, the president of the nearby Parx casino, in Bensalem Township, bragged that “most” of the people in the Parx database visit that casino three or four times every week.

The more addicts and problem gamblers, the more it will cost people who never walk into a casino. The Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority (PICA) estimated that casinos in Philadelphia could increase law enforcement costs by as much as \$200 million each year. Guess who pays for that! And these law enforcement costs would not be the result of

muggings in the parking lot; it will be from fraud and embezzlement and other ways that people try and raise money to chase their losses. There are many other costs as well: bankruptcy, foreclosures, divorces — all these will increase. And due to the extraction of so much money from our local economy, we will also see a net loss of jobs.

How will our lawmakers represent us? This is a government program, after all. SugarHouse will make about 90% of its revenue off of slots, which are taxed at 55%. Already we see SEPTA bus lines rerouted; we see a new off-ramp being built off of I-95 at Girard Avenue; and soon we will see public dollars being spent on a waterfront light rail line. Government has a lot at stake here, and wants people to arrive at SugarHouse easily and quickly. Our State Representative is Mike O’Brien and State Senator is Larry Farnese. Will they ever hold open hearings in Philadelphia on the financial implications of SugarHouse? Will Mayor Nutter attend the ribbon cutting? How about Councilman DiCicco?

SugarHouse will also affect whether — and where — the Foxwoods casino for South Philadelphia is built. The more profits SugarHouse makes, the more eager Wall Street will be to finance Foxwoods. Up until now, the financial projections for a casino in Philadelphia are only estimates. But the better SugarHouse does, the more lending institutions will trip over themselves so as to finance Foxwoods. Of course, the converse is also true: the worse SugarHouse does, the more difficult it will be for Foxwoods to open. We shall see. Please be an active participant in our democracy and speak up. Your voice matters.

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When the SugarHouse casino opens, Philadelphia will become the largest city in the U.S. with casino gambling.

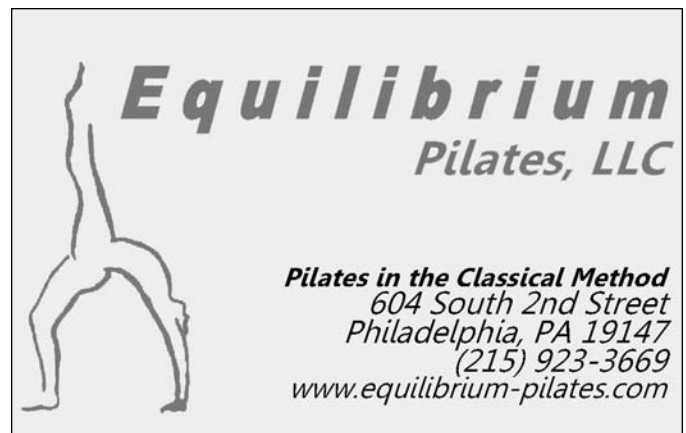
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**NOTE:** Mr. Boni’s views are his own and do not necessarily represent those of the Society Hill Civic Association. He can be reached at pboni@bonilaw.com.



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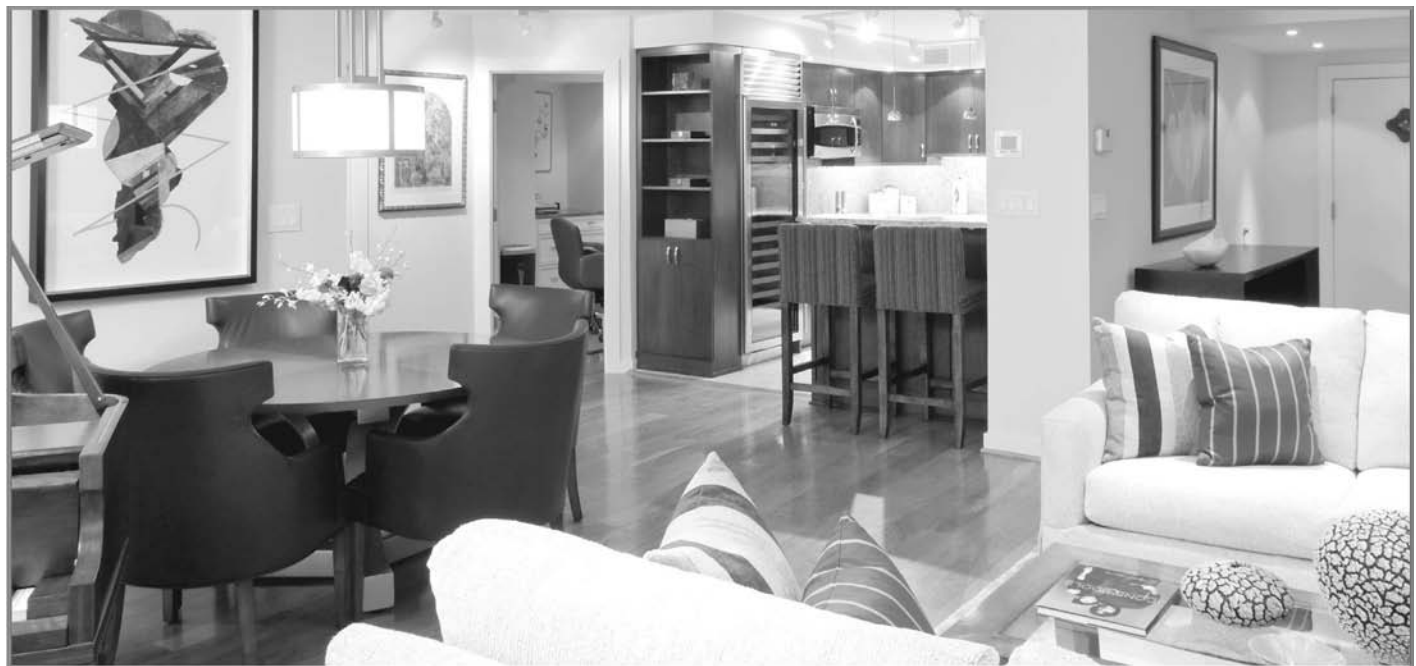
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## UPDATE

## The Dilworth House: Plea for Preservation Sustained

On May 19, 2010, Common Pleas Court Judge Idee C. Fox sustained the decision of the Board of L&I Review — reversing the Historical Commission’s approval to demolish the rear portion of the Dilworth House — the mid-1950’s home built by former Mayor Richardson Dilworth to demonstrate his commitment for renewing our historical neighborhood. This Court decision ensures — at least for now — that the Dilworth House will be preserved as it was when he and his wife, Ann, lived in it during the 1950’s.

The current owner, a real estate developer, purchased the building in 2003 and planned to demolish it in order to construct a high-rise condo building. Our civic association has opposed that plan ever since. The Preservation Alliance, SHCA, and condominium owners adjacent to the site have opposed the demolition or alteration of this property, which is listed as “Significant” in Society Hill’s designated Historic District.

The history of the developer’s proposal unfolded on two tracks: historical preservation and zoning.

### Historical Preservation

The owner mounted a legal, political and public relations campaign to delist the house from Society Hill’s historic registry. SHCA opposed his campaign, and the city affirmed that the house does have significant historic value. In response, the developer said that he would chop off the back half of the building and graft onto it a tall back addition. His justification to the Historical Commission was that this would not be a demolition, but rather an alteration, and the Commission approved his rationale. SHCA, together with a group of Concerned Citizens, then appealed to the L&I Review Board; L&I overturned the Commission’s decision. The owner appealed to the Court of Common Pleas, which agreed with us.

### Zoning

The owner sought variances from the Zoning Board of Adjustment, which held three days of hearings, then granted the developer’s variances. Both SHCA and Concerned Citizens have appealed. This appeal currently awaits review in the Court of Common Pleas. Stay tuned!



**The Dilworth House**  
223-225 S. 6th Street  
— across from  
Washington Square

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## SHCA’S “FIX THE BRIX” PROGRAM

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#### “Fix the Brix” Can Assist You

We provide a list of neighbor-recommended, skilled masons and/or arborists from which you can receive cost estimates.

We offer a generous reimbursement to all homeowners who “Fix Their Brix” — 40% of the total cost, or up to \$300 maximum.

#### How you can get started

For information, or to receive a list of masons and/or arborists, please contact Frank Signorello at [fsignorello@gexchange.com](mailto:fsignorello@gexchange.com).

- You may choose several contractors from SHCA’s list — so don’t tarry! Call for estimates.
- Select the contractor who meets *your* needs.
- After the work is completed, mail your invoice to: Frank Signorello, c/o SHCA, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147.

You will then receive SHCA’s reimbursement check, as well as gratitude from all Society Hill neighbors! Thanks for your cooperation and for helping keep our sidewalks both safe and beautiful!

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It is every homeowner’s responsibility to provide safe sidewalks.

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## CENTRAL DELAWARE ADVOCACY GROUP

BY STEVEN A. WEIXLER

## Working Toward Building A World-Class Waterfront

The Central Delaware Advocacy Group (CDAG) continues to represent the interests of residents from neighborhoods along the Delaware River. We are involved in efforts on several fronts: monitoring the progress of the city's Zoning Code reform; advocating before the Planning Commission for clear and fair regulations; and assisting our neighbor civic associations in dealing with new proposals for development. We are also actively engaged with PennDOT and other stakeholders — seeking ways to refine the design for the reconstruction of I-95 at Girard Avenue. (No small task, since the roadway will eventually be ten lanes wide, which will have a major impact on the riverfront area!)

First and foremost on CDAG's agenda is our advocacy for a riverfront Master Plan under development by the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation. The design process is divided into three phases, as follows:

**Phase 1:** A collection of data from various sources is now complete. Last June the public was presented with those results. One example — extending Philadelphia's street grid to the river — is an important principle in reconnecting neighborhoods to the Delaware. It was found that a surprising number of streets actually run under the I-95 barrier, and with better design solutions, these forbidding underpasses and difficult intersections at Columbus Boulevard and Delaware Avenue can become more friendly.

**Phase 2:** Concept development is well underway. The design team has begun to translate the potential and drawbacks of the seven-mile stretch of riverfront and apply a "laundry list" of requirements and government agencies needed to produce a successful design process. A considerable amount of feedback is required and some "back to the drawing board" moments will be inevitable. But we're beginning to see urban design concepts translated into ideas for actual sites.

### HOT OFF THE PRESS

#### Repaving Spruce & Pine Streets Delayed

The city has just informed us that there has been an unexpected delay to the repaving schedule for Spruce & Pine Streets. Originally expected to be resurfaced in the spring or summer of 2010, the work has been delayed until November, at the earliest, and possibly not until spring 2011.

In July CDAG hosted two meetings that encouraged public feedback between the urban design team and neighbors. Many of these ideas may eventually be included in the development of the Master Plan. Participants suggested solutions to various challenges, such as streets that need drastic improvements and where to situate public amenities. They also wondered if these amenities would be sports-oriented, more pedestrian friendly, or more suited to the quiet enjoyment of the Delaware passing by.

Neighbors were also asked to focus on ways to improve the use of three areas that are directly controlled by the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation: Pier 53; the Great Plaza at Penn's Landing; and the Festival Pier at Spring Garden Street. Finally, we were asked to review photos and renderings of successful waterfront urban design concepts from other cities.

**Phase 3:** An important advocacy challenge will begin later this month, in September, for CDAG — since the conceptual plan must be translated into actual design guidelines and standards. This will be the final product of years of work, which City Council and the Planning Commission must implement in order to fulfill Mayor Nutter's 2008 pledge to give Philadelphia a "world-class waterfront."

On the evening of September 22nd, there will be a large public presentation of the design concept by the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation. Please watch for an announcement of time and place in SHCA's weekly e-newsletter or contact Matt DeJulio at 215-629-1288.

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Looking ahead to the coming decade.

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## WASHINGTON SQUARE FUNDRAISER

## An Affair To Remember

Each year when the Friends of Rittenhouse Square hosts its annual “Ball on the Square,” volunteers post signs at tent entrances as the party is being set up. These signs inform curious onlookers that this long-time park event “sells out early” and warns anyone wishing to be guaranteed an invitation that it is best to become a member of the Friends’ organization. Little did SHCA’s party planners realize — back in the fall of 2009 — when they started planning our civic association’s first-time fundraising “Washington Square Affair” that they, too, would be faced with a sold-out event within weeks of mailing invitations.



**Left to right: SHCA Board Director and Washington Square Affair Committee Chair Andrea Layden, Carol Collabelli, and SHCA Board President Rosanne Loesch.**

The Washington Square Affair Committee — chaired by SHCA Board Director Andrea Layden — knew it was “inventing the wheel” as volunteer Committee members sat down to plan this brand-new event. Never before had such a fundraiser been held in the Square, but now with permission from Cynthia McCleod, Superintendent of Independence National Historical Park, \* our civic association’s volunteers enthusiastically plowed ahead.



**Herb and Sissie Lipton, Washington Square Committee Chair.**

Committee members worked countless hours deciding the parameters of this first-time Washington Square Affair. How big would the tent need to be and where would it be placed? What kind of food and entertainment would be offered? But, most importantly, volunteers wondered how to publicize and market this new fundraising event and attract the kind of participation and support necessary to offset its costs. At the outset, the Committee hoped to sign up 200 attendees and dreamed of raising \$30,000 — wondering if that number would be realistic.

Months later, a dozen local restaurants had signed on to donate food, wine and beer for 200 attendees; a Philadelphia-area artist had donated

an image of her painting for the invitation; tents and equipment were rented; and early corporate and private donors had pledged significant sponsorship. The invitations were ready to go and the Committee held its collective breath to see the response. Within a week, they knew that there would be at least 200 neighbors ready to attend and probably many more. Donor restaurants were then asked if they could provide for 300 attendees, and each generously agreed to increase the number of their servings from 200 to 300. The tent size was also increased, and needed supplies were all recalculated. A short time later the party had expanded to well over 350 attendees, and there were still people calling to purchase tickets. The party planners knew they had to declare the event “sold-out” or risk running out of food and space in the tent.

Then on a balmy June 10th evening, 320 people gathered under a tent to enjoy a sampling of good food, good music and mingling with neighbors and friends — all ardent supporters of the Square. Our “Washington Square Affair” had raised \$50,000 after expenses, which was well over the \$30,000 “dream figure” hoped for at its outset. In fact, an important portion of the total amount raised was helped by many generous donors (at \$500 or more) who attended the Affair’s “pre-party” which was so graciously hosted by Bernard and Joan Spain in their nearby home.

In the end, SHCA created a winner with the Affair’s smashing success. Our civic association wishes to thank Independence National Historical Park for its support of the event, and Committee Chair Andrea Layden, together with Committee volunteers and all of the Affair’s generous donors and participants. We hope to party with you at next year’s Affair on the Square! But to receive an early invitation and guarantee your participation, please consider becoming a member of the Society Hill Civic Association, which works year-round for the betterment of our entire community. To join us, please see page 29.

**\*NOTE:** For many years Washington Square was city-owned property, managed by the Fairmount Park Commission. In 2005, Independence National Historical Park assumed ownership and responsibility for the Square. Of course, SHCA looks forward to continuing its support of this Square, which is so close to our homes as well as our hearts.

2010 OPEN HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR

## Society Hill in the Public Eye

The 32nd annual Society Hill Open House & Garden Tour, held on Sunday, May 23rd, was a huge success. This popular event always generates substantial funds that directly benefit various neighborhood improvement projects. In fact, after SHCA's yearly membership revenues, these tours are the second-largest source of income for our civic association. This year SHCA grossed a total of \$14,404 by attracting 486 attendees from far and wide. This was slightly fewer than last year's 553 attendees — probably due to the weather forecast that threatened continuous thunderstorms for that day. Nevertheless, and somewhat surprisingly, at least half of these tour goers came from areas outside Center City — giving them a chance to appreciate the gem we have here in Society Hill.

This year, the tour featured eight private residences and four gardens, as well as the Powel House, Old Pine Street Church, and the Inn at the Morris Hotel. At \$25 per ticket, tour goers certainly got their money's worth! We thank all the gracious homeowners and property owners who allowed us to showcase their exceptional homes, gardens and historical sites.

We are grateful to our volunteer "house-sitters" (several of whom serve annually) who welcomed all visitors, answered their many questions, and provided information and security at each site. Special thanks go to SHCA Administrator, Matt

DeJulio, for mailing out thousands of brochures to folks from all over the tri-state area — which, of course, was the key to attracting large numbers of tour goers. We also thank Judy Lamirand, of Parallel Design, who created the event's beautiful brochure and poster, as well as Media Copy, the firm that printed the them. (Incidentally, Parallel Design and Media Copy are also responsible for layout and printing of the *Society Hill Reporter*.)

Many thanks to the following businesses and firms for sponsoring our beautiful brochure: Mike McCann, "the Real Estate Man"; National Watch & Diamond; K. Yoder Design; Show of Hands Gallery; Plumer & Associates, Inc. Realtors; Kevin M. Waggle Masonry; Nelson-Plachter Design; R. Chobert Decorating Company; Bartlett Tree Experts; Media Copy; McFarland Tree & Landscape Services; and the law firm of Levin, Fishbein, Sedran & Berman.

Lastly, it is with great appreciation that we thank Linda Skale and Martha Levine, who, for the past ten years, have coordinated Society Hill's Open House & Garden Tours. Together they have worked enthusiastically and diligently to produce unforgettable and successful events. "Although organizing and managing the tour is very labor-intensive, and sometimes even frustrating," said Martha, "we do it because we love this neighborhood."



## Small World, Big Block Party

On a beautiful, sunny June 17th, more than sixty neighbors from the 500 block of Spruce Street and Manning Walk met in the archway and enjoyed each other's company with a variety of refreshments, while the lower part of Manning Walkway became a playground for their children.

In the space of two hours several "It's a small world" stories were heard. For example, two neighbors discovered that they were MIT alumnae who simultaneously attended the university — one as an undergraduate and the other as a graduate resident advisor in the same dormitory. Another partygoer discovered that a neighbor's younger brother and her daughter were friends and alumni of Lower Merion High School.

Party details were coordinated by block captains Nancy Frenze and Garrett Smith. Sharon Haynie produced and distributed the invitations. Neighbors supplied refreshments, tables, chairs and flowers. Rosanne Loesch, SHCA's President, stopped by to exchange greetings with neighbors at this party — which will likely be scheduled again, in a year or two.



Photo: Garrett Smith





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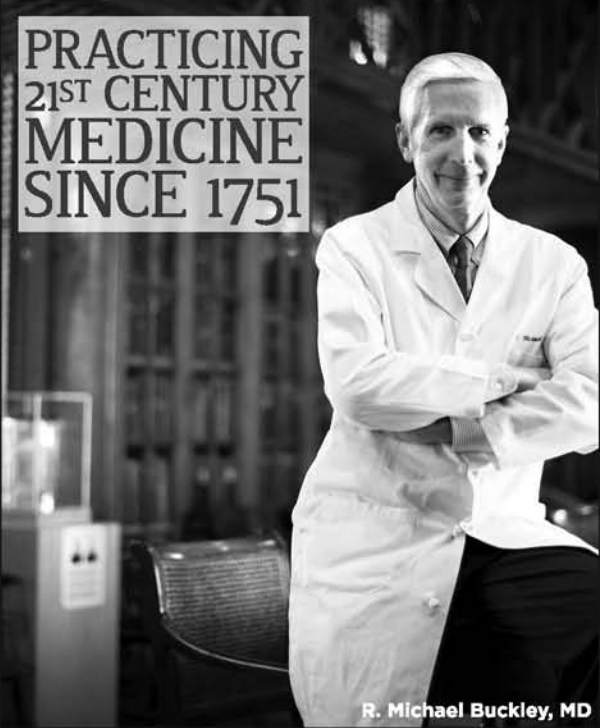
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## ACCIDENTAL TOURIST IN MY OWN BACKYARD

BY JANE BIBERMAN

## The Arden Theatre in Old City

In July, I was one of 24 Philadelphians who traveled to Ontario with “Excursions From the Square”\* to attend the Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Shakespeare Festival in Stratford. Needless to say, we were all peripatetic theatergoers. So I was shocked

to hear one participant say that she had never gone to the Arden Theatre in Old City because it was too far from her Rittenhouse Square home. The month before, I was even more surprised to learn that a Washington Square neighbor (a “culture vulture”) had never attended a play at the Arden. Naturally, I took her that very night to “Sunday in the Park With George,” which I had already seen and enjoyed but was eager to see again.

The Arden was founded in 1988 by Terry Nolen, Amy Murphy and Aaron Posner. It has grown from a small theater company that first occupied space at the Walnut Street Theatre Studio, and then moved to 10th and Ludlow Streets in what had been a youth emergency center. They called it “St. Stephen’s Alley,” home today of the Lantern Theatre Company.

In 1995 the Arden’s founders purchased a 50,000-square-foot building at 40 N. 2nd Street — a former trade school in a neighborhood of factories. It was then renovated to contain two performing venues: the 360-seat F. Otto Haas Stage and the 175-seat Arcadia Stage, as well as the Independent Foundation Studio, used for special events such as opening nights and readings. The completely renovated Arden Theatre now features a bi-level lobby with box office; elevator and restrooms; rehearsal and classroom space; as well as administrative and production offices.

“Fifteen years ago, we were pioneers in the neighborhood,” recalls Terry Nolen. “We and the restaurant *Fork* are credited with transforming the area, and we played a significant role in the economic revitalization of Old City, which now has over 35 restaurants. The Arden has strong ties to the community and a reputation for artistic excellence and educational innovation.”

The theatre’s location (just north of Market Street, next to Christ Church) lies in the heart



“Sunday in the Park With “George”

of Old City, which, as its name implies, is the oldest part of Philadelphia, founded by William Penn in 1681. Governor Ed Rendell said, “When I think of nonprofit organizations that are having a major economic impact on their neighborhoods, none comes to mind sooner than the Arden.”

In addition to award-winning productions — including two plays each year for kids — the Arden brings in 5,000 schoolchildren from different schools in Philadelphia, Ridley Park and Camden. Beginning in June The Arden offers a summer theater camp for children. Drama classes are also offered to children and teens. And except for January, February and March, the Arden participates in “First Fridays” by holding interactive art projects in its lobby.

A new play, “Ghost-Writer,” by Michael Hollinger, kicked off the 2010-2011 season on September 9th, and a free theater class at the Arden Drama School Open House is scheduled for Saturday, September 25th. (For information about the Arden’s programs and productions, please call 215-922-1122.)

I certainly plan to see most of the Arden plays this season, but I’ll also walk or take the bus to Center City to attend productions at the Wilma, the Suzanne Roberts Theatre, the Academy of Music, the Prince, the Adrienne, Plays and Players and the Merriam — to mention several. Further west are the Annenberg Center at Penn and the Mandell Theater at Drexel. Philadelphia is definitely a “theater town” — so support your local companies!

#### \*EXCURSIONS FROM THE SQUARE

is a Philadelphia organization that schedules cultural day trips as well as long-distance vacations that feature museum visits, architectural tours, theater, opera, ballet, etc. For information, call Ellen Kay Coleman at 215-732-8487 or visit [www.squaretrips.com](http://www.squaretrips.com).



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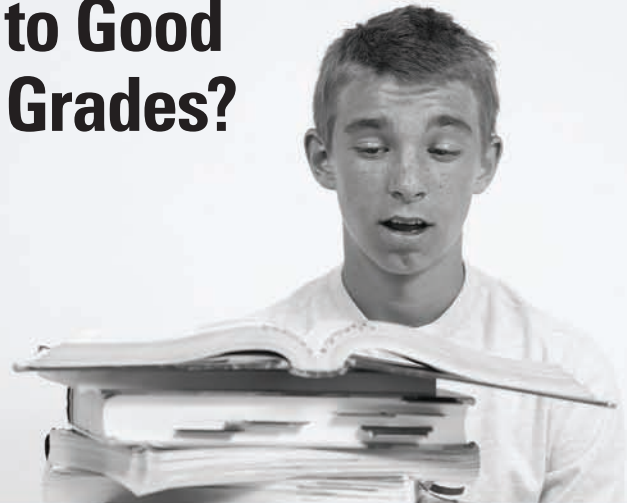
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## KIDS IN THE CITY

BY SONIA GRASSE &amp; CATHERINE SIGNORELLO

## Easier Said Than Done

A day doesn't go by in this parenting job that we don't question ourselves. If raising children was a book, the subtitle would have to be "Easier Said Than Done." And, of course, there are thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of *actual* books about parenting — written to help us along. But really, the myriad subjects and angles only seem to overwhelm us. We're left in the parenting section of our favorite local bookstore desperately thinking, "If there are so many choices, there must be ONE that is the perfect approach for me." So, we keep reading... and reading... and reading....

Well, we are here to say, "Stop the madness!" Let's just agree to simplify our approach to parenting so that we'll be left with plenty of time to put up our feet and read for pleasure. Easier said than done, right?

Maybe we can start by elimination. As for us, we've decided to begin by talking less: "How many times did I tell you to stop badgering your sister?" is going to be whittled down to "Stop touching your sister." Perhaps we'll add a "please" on the end, since we're both trying to raise children with manners and don't want to come across as militant to anyone who may overhear us.

We'd be remiss if we didn't admit that the idea of boiling down our communication techniques came from a parenting book we found in the library. We'd like to share with you its name and author, but we've gotten it all mixed up with the other 700 books on the subject of "communicating with children" which we browsed through on that day. Suffice it to say: this particular book suggested that the way to go when talking to your children is direct. Say it and leave it at that!

Who amongst us hasn't launched into a speech when just a sentence might have worked? Your child's eyes glaze over as you jump from telling him not to pinch his sister to psychoanalyzing where that reprimand

could lead him. So you finish up with an empathetic rendering about how when you were a child you did the same thing and blah, blah, blah. By the end of the day, not only are our kids tired of hearing from us, but we've driven ourselves witless from hearing our own voices.

We are not psychologists. Nonetheless, we're going to give our "take" on all this extra talking. We suggest that all this chatter comes from a place of fear: a fear that our kid's one-time behavior will multiply into a lifetime of loneliness, sadness, destitution, and [insert your favorite unseemly vision]. We are also going to suggest that raising kids is a journey, not an event — so it may be less stressful for us to always keep that "big picture" in mind.

Also, we've decided that when someone compliments our child we should try to adopt the "less is more" parenting style. We don't know about you, but we've already wasted a lot of energy trying not to seem boastful. There you are at Three Bears Park and someone compliments your little one on how nicely she shares. Why do we have to counter it with "Oh but not with her sisters, when she says 'mine, mine, mine!' As difficult as it can be to remember, our children are completely separate people from us. So accepting a compliment on behalf of one of them, through acknowledging their rightful strengths, is OK to do. "Thank you," is a complete and gracious sentence.

Now is the month that many of our children are starting a new school year. For us, old habits die hard, and we still feel that September marks a new year — even more so than January. So with the start of this "new year" we pledge to stay present in the moment rather than allow our fears to catapult us to an imagined future. And we also pledge to say a whole lot less. Easier said than done, eh?



## EXERCISE &amp; SOCIALIZE

Walkie-Talkies recently blossomed on their visit to the Morris Arboretum — a floral wonderland within the City of Brotherly Love. From left to right: Bernadette Formoso, Birtan Collier, Bernice Hamel, Martha Moore, and Lizette Wallack. Are you 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. 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.

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**Liberty Tree**

*by Thomas Paine*

*A song written early in the American Revolution.*

In a chariot of light from the regions of day,  
The Goddess of Liberty came;  
Ten thousand celestials directed the way  
And hither conducted the dame.

A fair budding branch from the gardens above,  
Where millions with millions agree,  
She brought in her hand as a pledge of her love,  
And the plant she named Liberty Tree.

The celestial exotic struck deep in the ground,  
Like a native it flourished and bore;  
The fame of its fruit drew the nations around,  
To seek out this peaceable shore.

Unmindful of names or distinction they came,  
For freemen like brothers agree;  
With one spirit endued, they one friendship pursued,  
And their temple was Liberty Tree.

Beneath this fair tree, like the patriarchs of old,  
Their bread in contentment they ate,  
Unvexed with the troubles of silver and gold,  
The cares of the grand and the great.

With timber and tar they Old England supplied,  
And supported her power on the sea;  
Her battles they fought, without getting a goat,  
For the honor of Liberty Tree.

But hear, O ye swains, 'tis a tale most profane,  
How all the tyrannical powers,  
Kings, Commons, and Lords, are uniting amain  
To cut down this guardian of ours;

From the east to the west blow the trumpet to arms  
Through the land let the sound of it flee,  
Let the far and the near, all unite with a cheer,  
In defence of our Liberty Tree.



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## Zoning & Historic Preservation Report

BY LORNA KATZ LAWSON

SHCA's Zoning & Historic Preservation (ZHP) Committee continues to meet monthly in order to address concerns related to both zoning and historic preservation in our community. For example, we recently conducted two sessions focused on both historic preservation and zoning issues for the residence at 341 Pine Street.

At our first meeting, the homeowners' proposal included creating an off-street parking space. ZHP members opposed this concept primarily because of "safety issues" — as it would be too close to a corner prone to auto accidents and also because the private parking space would result in the loss of one or two public parking spaces on Pine Street. Secondly, ZHP members felt that breaking up their garden wall with a large garage door was unsympathetic to our historic district and particularly to St. Peter's burial ground, which faces the property on the south side of Pine Street. In response, the homeowners withdrew their proposal for a parking spot and revised their application to include only infilling their second-story loggia and adding a third-story rear addition — the latter subject to approval by Philadelphia's Zoning Board of Adjustment.

A second ZHP meeting was held, at the request of the Zoning Board, in order to give the homeowners and their neighbors more opportunity to discuss design issues and iron out areas of concern. However, that discussion failed to resolve those issues. Based on a close vote of SHCA's ZHP Committee, we recommended to the Zoning Board a position of "non-opposition" to the revised plans. In the interim — between

the second meeting and the continuance hearing scheduled for August 11, at press time — no further progress was made. Consequently, the owners confirmed in writing that they would be withdrawing their zoning appeal and re-working the design as an "of right" project — i.e., one that does not require "relief" from what the Philadelphia Zoning Code prescribes.

Please know that proposals to alter or modify the exterior of any Society Hill property must always be reviewed and approved by Philadelphia's Historical Commission. More significant alterations are usually scheduled to be heard first before the Commission's Architectural Review Committee, which are attended by SHCA's ZHP Committee members — who report our Committee's evaluation or recommendations to the civic association. In many cases we may recommend modifications to the homeowners' proposal, so that it meets their needs while the completed project is appropriate for our historical neighborhood. To further this cooperative and neighborly spirit, we urge all homeowners to submit their facade renovation plans to our ZHP Committee *prior to* presenting those plans before the city's Zoning Board or Historical Commission.

Our ZHP Committee always welcomes Society Hill residents with experience in zoning or historic preservation to join us. To learn what is involved, please contact SHCA's Administrator Matt De Julio — at [mattdejulio@aol.com](mailto:mattdejulio@aol.com) or 215-629-1388. He will forward your interest to a ZHP member who will soon be in touch with you.

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We urge all homeowners to submit facade renovation plans to SHCA's ZHP Committee prior to presenting them to the city.

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## Society Hill's "Magnolia Garden"

When was the last time you visited the Magnolia Garden at Independence Park? Located on the south side of Locust Street, between South 4th and 5th Streets, the Magnolia Garden is a hidden oasis appreciated by neighbors, visitors and nearby office workers — as a place to enjoy lunch, read a book, or just sit on a bench and enjoy the sounds of the water fountain accompanied by bird songs.

This garden was first created in the mid-1950's by the Garden Club of America and presented to Independence National Historical Park. Its thirteen Magnolia soulangeana trees symbolize our nation's original thirteen colonies. They were planted in gratitude to "those amazing men to

whom power was given to create this nation." Ever since the 1980's, volunteer members of the Garden Club of America have assisted Independence Park by providing annual help that contributes to the garden's upkeep and any needed improvements — which includes, for example, a new circulating fountain.

Longtime Society Hillers, Keith Straw and Jean Bodine, have been committee members of the Garden Club of America in charge of the Magnolia Garden's Spring and Fall workday efforts since 1991. To participate in its ongoing maintenance, or if you have any questions, please contact either Jean or Keith at [JeanBodine@verizon.net](mailto:JeanBodine@verizon.net) or [KRStraw@comcast.net](mailto:KRStraw@comcast.net).





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ONE YEAR LATER

BY MARTHA LEVINE

## Fresh Paint Covers Lamp Posts



**The Sherwin-Williams Company named the glossy, brick-red Franklin Light pole paint “Society Hill Red” especially for us.**

The painting of all Franklin Lamp posts has finally been completed throughout Society Hill! We are delighted with their glossy brick-red finish — which the Sherwin-Williams Company named “Society Hill Red” especially for us.

We send special thanks to our painting contractor, Tom Burleigh, and his crew, who did a meticulous job by always going beyond the call of duty. For example, when neighbors forgot to remove their hanging flower baskets from poles about to be painted, Tom’s workers patiently knocked on doors to find temporary homes for those baskets.

However, the team faced occasional frustrations — when they discovered that 15 lamp posts had missing plates that cover and protect their electrical wires. Without protective plates, the

exposed wires could pose a hazard, especially for children. The replacement plates had to be especially manufactured at the SHCA’s expense. In the meantime, Tom’s thoughtful painters carefully covered the openings with tape and painted around them so that no one would get hurt.

Tom was truly a pleasure to work with. For example: when he learned that the seven Franklin Lamp posts within Three Bears Park were not to be included in the overall painting project — since they are the responsibility of the Department of Recreation — he painted them at no extra charge. Indeed, he also painted at no charge all the lamp posts inside Liberty Court, the development of homes situated just south of the 200 block of Lombard Street.

We also appreciate the assistance from Kristin del Rossi and others of the Streets Department for the replacement of metal parking signs with cardboard substitutes. Last but not least, many thanks go to Joseph Doyle, Chief of Philadelphia’s Street Lighting. We didn’t have to fight City Hall to get help from Joe. He supported our project, and we couldn’t have achieved our goal without him.

Currently, we are preparing commemorative plaques for neighbors who donated at the highest level of \$1,500 or more for this project. Thirty households and organizations contributed at this level, and “their” plaques will be placed on a lamp post at a location of their choice, at no charge.

**Note:** If you see a Franklin Light that is out or blinking, please call 311 and report it — indicating its specific location by referring to its closest address — so that within 5-10 days the light will be serviced.

## BBs Cover Street Corners

BigBelly solar-powered trash compactors and recycling units arrived in Society Hill one year ago. To make litter collection more efficient and to promote recycling, the Philadelphia Streets Department purchased 500 compactors and recyclers. Society Hill received its share of BigBellies (AKA: “BBs) with one compactor placed at nearly every intersection, while the recycling units have been restricted to the more commercial corners of the neighborhood, per our request.

**BB Benefits:** These completely covered compactors eliminate unsightly and overflowing open litter baskets so that most trash is invisible to passersby, while the recycling units encourage pedestrians to recycle their paper coffee cups, water bottles, etc. Since collection of compacted trash occurs every four days rather than daily — these BBs cut city costs by decreasing the number of collections by 80%. This results in reduced labor costs, fewer collection trucks on the street, lower fuel and repair costs for sanitation trucks.

**Unresolved BB Problems:** These compactors and recyclers must be emptied frequently, because when full they are rendered useless as well as odorous. Regarding these “cleanliness” challenges, please remember that BBs are emptied daily during the summer months but less frequently in other seasons. (FYI: The city’s schedule for cleaning each BB, both inside and out, is every three months.)

- **Illegal dumping of household trash:** Designed strictly for pedestrian litter to keep our streets clean, we remind you that it is illegal to deposit household trash inside any BB. Surprisingly, some inconsiderate residents do dump their daily or weekly trash into BBs or leave filled trash bags beside them. Anyone violating the purpose of BBs can be reported and fined up to \$150.

- **Graffiti:** Graffiti is an ongoing problem on many neighborhood surfaces, including BBs. Report any graffiti on BBs by contacting SHCA’s Anti-Graffiti Committee through Matt DeJulio at 215-629-1288 or mattdejulio@aol.com.

**Help Keep Our Streets Clean:** Always store all household trash inside your home until collection day, and never use a BB for personal or household trash. Violators tend to dump their trash into BBs late at night. Report any such incident to the 6th District Police Sanitation Division at 215-686-3063.

### Do you see a flashing red light?

If you see a flashing red light or an overfilled BigBelly compactor or recycler, please contact SHCA through Matt DeJulio.

Each BB unit has indicator lights on the top signifying how full it is at any time: green=fine; yellow=caution or nearly full; and red=full and must be emptied.

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T E N D I N G   T O   T R E E S

BY HANS BOMBECK

## Permits Needed to Remove a Street Tree

As chair of SHCA's Tree Tending Committee, I would like to remind property owners that no healthy tree in Society Hill should ever be removed without first receiving approval from Fairmount Park's Street Tree Management. Unfortunately, I must report that a healthy tree in front of 225-27 Spruce Street was cut down this past spring. Apparently, the tree's removal was approved by Fairmount Park based on incorrect claims made by the property owner.

It was also brought to my attention that three mature trees — in front of 307 to 313 S. 3rd Street — were cut down soon after the above incident. According to SHCA's tree inventory records, these trees did have a few dead branches that should have been pruned, but they did not represent a serious hazard, and so their removal seems to have been unwarranted. I wonder if the respective property owners made an application,

and on what grounds they obtained Fairmount Park's approval — with or without prior due diligence. SHCA's Tree Tenders would greatly appreciate learning from these owners if an approval process was followed prior to having the trees chopped down, and if so, which city agency gave them the go-ahead. After all, we Tree Tenders expend a great deal of effort trying to keep the neighborhood green. In fact, to improve the beauty of our streetscape, we are participating with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's TreeVitalize Program to provide new trees whenever and wherever we can.

We ask all property owners and their arborists to work with us to see if any problematic tree can be saved — *before* you decide to take it down. Any questions? Feel free to contact me through SHCA's Administrator Matt DeJulio at mattdejulio@aol.com or 215-629-1288.

## Preventive Maintenance



photo by Paul Morano

## Why Your Trees Need Preventive Maintenance

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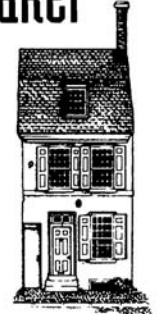


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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

# Membership Drive Reaches 1,014

Despite the summer hiatus, SHCA membership has continued to grow since our last report in May. Currently we are at 1,014 members vs. 929 just a few months back. However, we remain surprised and disappointed that 99 of the 161 households who had not renewed in May have not yet renewed. We remain hopeful that they will rejoin in the very near future.

Of course, we heartily welcome 89 new members who are helping us move closer to last year's total of 1,034 members. But if you are among the 99 former members who have not renewed, please send in your dues today. After all, our civic association's operating budget comes primarily from membership dues. *Reporter* advertising revenue, while substantial, simply offsets all expenses related to publishing and distributing the newsletter.

Your SHCA membership dues pay for sidewalk cleaning, the planting of new trees, graffiti removal supplies, the planting of flowers and general improvement of Washington Square, as well as general administrative costs. Without membership dues, SHCA would cease to function. Protect your neighborhood and your real estate investment!

Please fill out the adjacent form and mail it today with your check or charge number, or visit our website: [societyhillcivic.org](http://societyhillcivic.org) and pay by PAYPAL. Any questions? Please call 215-629-1288 or email [mattdejulio@aol.com](mailto:mattdejulio@aol.com).

## RECYCLING PLASTICS

As of August 1st, Philadelphia has expanded its recycling policy. You can now put all of those pesky #5's that you were dumping into trash bags into your recycling bucket.

**You have been recycling plastic containers marked #1 and #2:** soda and water bottles, milk jugs, detergent and shampoo bottles.

**Now, you can also recycle items marked:**

- #3 Rigid plastic containers and juice bottles;
- #4 Plastic tubs and lids from butter, margarine or similar products;
- #5 Yogurt containers and deli trays;
- #6 Plastic cups, plates and to-go containers;
- #7 Many mixed plastic containers and plastic products.

**For complete details, please visit:**  
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## SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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

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

Charge VISA/MasterCard:

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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

## Darlene and Robert Cavalier

BY DAVID WOODS

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**Three Cheers:  
Hooray  
for Science,  
the Sixers, and  
Society Hill!**


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The Cavaliers' 1774 house, on the 100 block of Delancey Street, may be ancient, but its inhabitants, Darlene and Robert, are decidedly modern... hovering, as they are, on the cusp of 40, with a young and active family.

Bob, who has practiced law in Center City since 1992, started his own firm of eight lawyers in 2000. Mainly, it deals in litigation relating to product liability and professional liability — defending accountants, lawyers, and media and maritime clients.

He and Darlene have four children — a twelve-year-old daughter and three sons, aged ten, eight, and four — and this is one “on-the-go” family, to be sure: Bob coaches three Little League baseball teams, and he took the kids to the final World Series game in Philadelphia (in 2008) and the one in New York (in 2009). All four children are active in sports. And while Bob says he comes from a long line of musicians “but I didn’t get the music gene,” his kids evidently

did — three of them play an assortment of drums, electric guitar and piano, and the youngest is tuning up to join them.

Darlene is very much an eclectic. Armed with a Master of Liberal Arts degree from the University of Pennsylvania, she became a writer and head of business development for *Discover* magazine. She went on to help revitalize the Office of Technology Assessment, developing a group called “Citizen Scientists” — people who might come from the ranks of birdwatchers, amateur astronomers, and others bent on humanizing and familiarizing the public with an awareness of the sciences. Because she’s a firm believer in involving the public in science, Darlene founded ScienceforCitizens.net and ScienceCheerleader.com, which have been featured in several top-flight publications — including, for example, *Newsweek*, the *Scientist*, and the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. This has led to speaking engagements at several universities that include Temple, Cabrini, and Harvard.

Darlene found time in all of this to be a one-time cheerleader for the 76ers and to complete a Philadelphia marathon. She also serves on the Board of Directors of St. Peter’s School, which recently celebrated its 175th anniversary — with its students involved in collectively performing 175 good deeds, including persuading Campbell’s Soup to donate 10,000 pounds of food to Philabundance!

The couple say they love living in the city, especially “hanging out” with neighbors and spending leisure time at the Union League, where Bob is an actively engaged member responsible for its Lincoln Day festivities. The Cavaliers also rent a house on Long Beach Island every summer for seven weeks of sailing, fishing and surfing... and they travel to Costa Rica every year, as well.

When they aren’t “out and about” with their busy lives, they can be found in their comfortable and historic home where they have lived for fifteen of its 236 years and which today is hopping with six active humans plus their Labradoodle (a mixed-breed Labrador Retriever + poodle) named “Flower.”



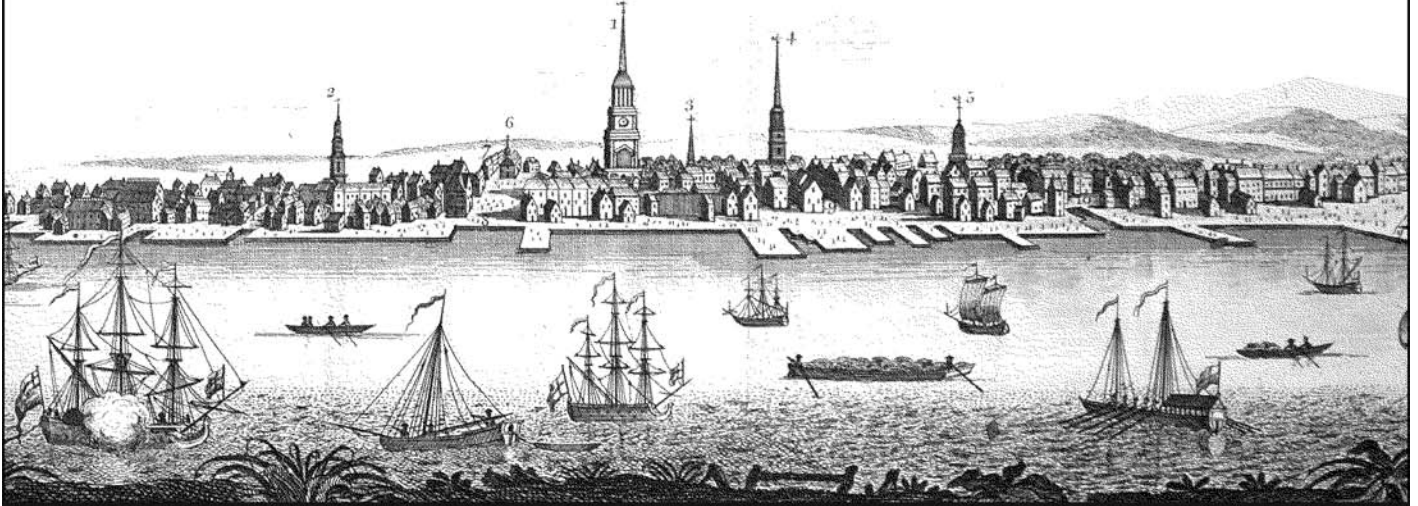
**Darlene and Robert Cavalier and their four children.**

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David Woods can be reached at  
HMI3000@comcast.net

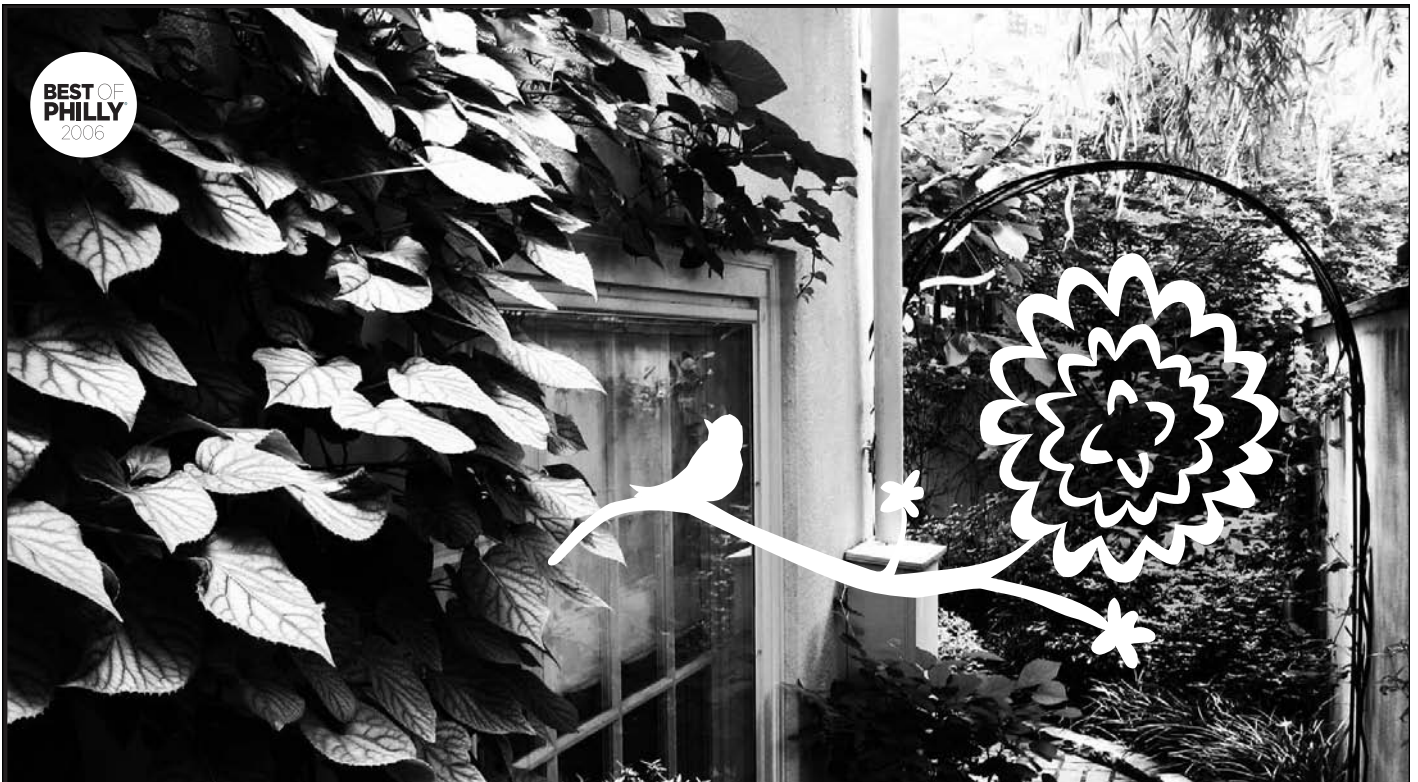
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*Saturday, September 11*  
**Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Fall Garden Festival**  
 Rain or shine, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
 Philadelphia Navy Yard  
 Free and open to the public

*Wednesday, September 15*  
**SHCA Board & General Membership Meeting**  
 Pennsylvania Hospital  
 5:45 p.m. Board Session  
 Grand Court Room  
 7 p.m. General Meeting  
 Auditorium, 7th & Spruce  
 See page 1

*Saturday, September 22*  
**Design Presentation: Delaware Waterfront**  
 Contact Matt DeJulio for time and place.  
 See page 15

*Saturday, September 25*  
**Anti-Graffiti Workshop**  
 Contact Matt DeJulio for place.  
 10-11 a.m. See page 9

*Thursday, September 30*  
**Soirée at the Shambles**  
 7 p.m. See page 7

*Wednesday, October 20*  
**SHCA Board Meeting**  
 7 p.m. Location TBA



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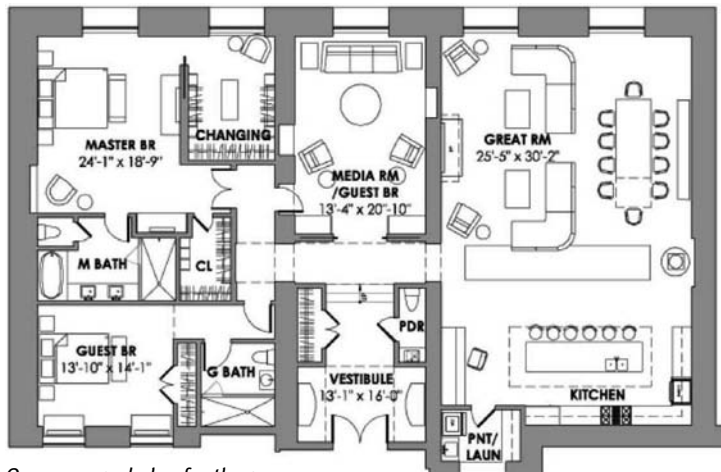
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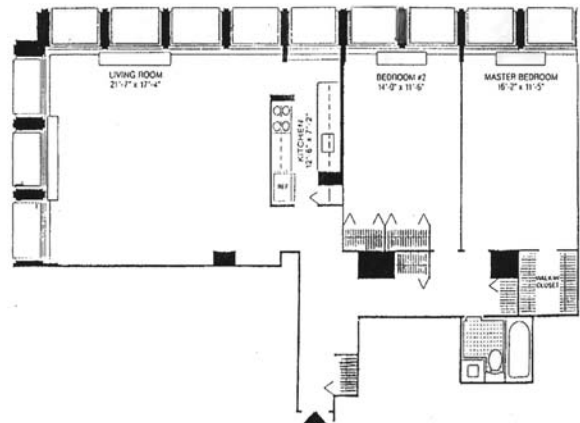
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