

SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

www.societyhillcivic.org

Sidewalk Project Ramping Up

Ramp project agreement reached.

The paving and ramp project, initiated by the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), that was stopped shortly after it began in March, will resume this fall and next spring. The exact timing is currently under discussion in talks between the City and the contractor. At the request of the Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA), the project was halted because important aspects of the work directly affecting properties in our National Historic District had not been reviewed by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission as required when federal funds are used to finance a project.

Since April, the Commission has conducted a review of how the project impacts the historic districts of Center City Philadelphia, including

Society Hill, where the street work will take place. The City of Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and the "Consulting Parties" (the affected neighborhoods and concerned organizations such as the Preservation Alliance) have had a number of meetings and exchanges that have led to an agreement for a plan to go forward.

There are four main aspects to this plan:

1 New ramps will be mostly brick and mats will be black.

Only the "ramp" portion of the street corners will be constructed in cement. The rest of the corner — the sloped "wings" on the side of the

continued on page 5



Alan Butkovitz

City Controller Alan Butkovitz to Speak

Mark Wednesday, September 21st, on your calendars. That evening, City Controller Alan Butkovitz will be joining the Society Hill Civic Association at its General Membership Meeting. In addition to introductory remarks, he will be available to answer questions regarding issues of concern to the audience. This meeting presents an excellent opportunity to learn more about services provided to our community

by the city and its efforts to rectify neighborhood problems. The General Membership Meeting will take place at 7:30 p.m. in the Zubrow Auditorium on the first floor of Pennsylvania Hospital, just inside the main entrance at 8th Street near Spruce. All neighbors are invited to attend. Prior to the General Meeting, at 6 p.m., we will hold our monthly Board Meeting at the Hospital's Great Court Conference Room. All current members of the Society Hill Civic Association are welcome to attend.

Alan Butkovitz has been the city's chief fiscal watchdog since 2005. His investigations and audits have found more than \$400 million in potential revenues and savings for Philadelphia taxpayers. It was Butkovitz's proposal to create harsher penalties for drunk drivers who kill that became the law which mandates 10-year prison terms for any drunk driver who causes an automobile accident that results in a death. Butkovitz was also widely praised for leading a three-year bipartisan investigation of violence in Philadelphia public schools. He was born and raised in Philly and lives in the Northeast section with his wife and their two children.

WED.	MARK YOUR CALENDAR
September 21	<p style="text-align: center;">Society Hill Civic Association Meetings Wednesday, September 21, 2011</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Pennsylvania Hospital, 8th & Spruce Streets</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting Pennsylvania Hospital Great Court Conference Room All SHCA members are welcome.</p> <p>7:30 p.m. General Membership Meeting Pennsylvania Hospital Zubrow Auditorium All neighborhood residents are invited to attend.</p> <p>Topic: City Services: Rectifying Community Problems Speaker: Alan Butkovitz, City Controller</p>



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 Civic Association**

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Submission Deadlines

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 October 10th

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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, businesses and professionals. Direct your editorial submissions and/or queries to Sandra Rothman by phone at 267-671-0554 or email norfad@aol.com. To publicize an event, submit all press releases directly.

Materials must be submitted in writing – via mail or email – 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 Editor will be considered for publication only if signed and the writer provides contact information.

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

BY STEVEN WEIXLER

As a student of architecture, I read Edmund Bacon's description of his partnership with then-Mayor Dilworth in a unique experiment for the "Great Society" of the 1960s called Society Hill. Instead of razing all old buildings and putting up new, and (some) later discovered to be mostly unlivable, high-rise towers, these planners found a way to integrate modern and old in a functional way. So imagine my amazement when I left Chicago 40 years later to arrive in this great city and find the thriving result of their leadership in our little corner of the world — still working just fine, with residents of all character having a keen and loving appreciation for its history. Today, as I assume the responsibilities as president of your civic association, I think of myself as a "second-generation pioneer" in the wonderful rejuvenation of Philadelphia and its historic neighborhoods.

We have interesting and exciting challenges ahead in the next several years. I consider meeting these challenges to be my mandate as I serve you and the SHCA. As you will read in this and upcoming issues of the *Reporter*, veteran and new members of SHCA and its Board are working in many ways to make our neighborhood a better place to live, to preserve its historic character, and to bring it into the 21st century.

Just coming under consideration is a new development which shows promise for the former NewMarket site between Front and 2nd Streets and Pine and Lombard Streets. Although details

are scarce at press time, the SHCA's Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee, chaired by Lorna Katz-Lawson, will be examining this proposal for an all-residential, low-rise project, which appears to be much more compatible with our historic neighborhood than the high-rise hotel and condominium project that caused so much confusion and dissent several years ago.

Another characteristic of life for a historic neighborhood in a modern city is featured in this issue, and that is the handicapped ramp project at street corners throughout Society Hill. We all understand a community's obligation to consider the safety and well-being of people with disabilities. Past SHCA President Rosanne Loesch has worked hard for the last few months to negotiate with the Streets Department and deal with dense City bureaucracy to arrive at what I believe is a sensitive solution, balancing aesthetic considerations with practical concerns.

I will work with SHCA's Board of Directors on a range of new initiatives aimed at bringing Society Hill more closely in contact with its sister neighborhood associations — Queen Village, Washington Square West, Old City and Pennsport. The election of a new Councilman, "councilmanic" redistricting, the advent of zoning code reform and real estate tax revision, as well as the beginnings of the new plan for the Delaware Riverfront, should provide many opportunities for Society Hill to continue being the pioneer it has always been known to be.



**Steven Weixler,
President**

I think of myself as a "second-generation pioneer."

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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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COVER STORY

Sidewalk Project Ramping Up

continued from page 1

ramps and the landings above the ramps — will be constructed in brick. SHCA will have the right to review the particular brick that will be used for the wings and landings where it was agreed that new brick could be used, but certain corners with landmark properties may require the use of the existing brick. As before, sidewalks adjacent to the landings will be reconstructed using existing brick where possible. The mat with the truncated domes will be black, and the surrounding cement ramp will be tinted a dark grey color, to be approved by SHCA.

2 Existing ramps will be re-done to conform to new design.

The City has agreed that, in order to achieve our goal of uniformity, it will redo all existing ramps to conform to the new design outlined above. Cement wings and ramps will be replaced with brick and the red mats will be replaced with black.

3 Cheek walls will be avoided where possible and will be constructed in brick where necessary.

“Cheek walls” are cement curb-like structures poured next to the building foundations that are exposed when the sidewalk must be lowered to obtain the required incline for the ramp — see photo at right. The City has agreed that, going forward, cheek walls will be avoided whenever possible, i.e., when the exposed foundations appear to be both structurally stable and water tight, they will not be routinely constructed as was the plan when the project began.

When a sidewalk must be lowered to meet ADA slope requirements, the sidewalk next to the building will be preliminarily excavated to determine if the condition of the exposed foundation wall is such that exposure will not create a problem. If so, no cheek wall will be constructed. When inspection of the exposed foundation indicates that a cheek wall is needed, it will be constructed of brick, rather than in cement as originally planned, and will be as narrow and low as possible, given the requirements of the particular site. It is anticipated that most of the brick cheek walls will be no wider than the width of one brick and no higher than two bricks.

Further, the City has agreed to consult with SHCA’s technical consultants for this ramp project on the particular cheek wall design whenever a cheek wall is needed. The parties agreed that this individualized attention was necessary, because so many of the corners in Society Hill are complicated by utilities, railings and steps, basement doors and the like. Lastly, a finishing material will be applied to the foundation wall that will serve the dual purpose of sealing/waterproofing the wall, as well as providing a barrier between the brick cheek wall and the foundation. This latter point preserves the “reversibility” of the cheek wall installation. If desired, a building owner, at a later time, could remove the cheek wall and fill in with appropriate materials — thus eliminating the need for a cheek wall altogether.

4 The look of existing cheek walls will be mitigated.

A number of cheek walls were constructed before the project was halted. The City and SHCA agreed that removing those existing cement cheek walls and replacing them with brick might jeopardize the foundations of the properties concerned. In order to avoid that risk, the parties agreed that existing cheek walls will not be removed, but will be tinted a dark grey so that they will visually recede into the surrounding materials. However, in two locations adjacent to planting bed retaining walls, the City will remove the cheek walls completely.

Society Hill Civic Association is gratified that its actions have resulted in an agreement that both satisfies the needs of disabled pedestrians and protects the historic environment. SHCA thanks the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for conducting the review. We thank the City for its strong cooperation, particularly, Dave Perri and Darren Gatti, and extend a special thanks to these elected representatives who went to bat for us: Congressman Bob Brady and Councilmen Frank DiCicco and Jim Kenney. We are most grateful to the Director of the Preservation Alliance, John Gallery, for his insight and advocacy. Lastly, SHCA thanks the members of the Ramp Committee — Rosanne Loesch, Lorna Katz Lawson, Jim Moss, J. Pattison, Martha Levine and Steve Weixler — who spent many volunteer hours participating in this review.

Sidewalks around the ramps will be reconstructed using existing bricks.



Cheek walls already constructed will be tinted a dark grey. Cheek walls to be constructed will be made of brick, not cement.

GET ON BOARD!

A Spin Around the Block

This is the first of several articles highlighting SHCA's committees.

Have some time on your hands? Want to meet new people? Care about making a difference in our community? If you can answer "yes" to these questions, joining a SHCA committee might be the right thing for you. The next several issues will introduce those committees where your energy and expertise would be put to good use.

First, learn more about our Block Coordinators (BCs), a committee chaired by Martha Levine since 2001. Martha, best known for her work on the Franklin Lights, Welcome Baskets and the Society Hill Open House and Garden Tours, established BCs to help communicate important news and events to every household on every block in our neighborhood, as well as to receive community feedback. More than 50 volunteers currently serve as point persons and help with a variety of tasks:

- Announce Clean-Up Days, Open House Tours, special meetings, events and more by forwarding email or copying and distributing flyers.
- Pinpoint new residents so that we may greet them with a Welcome Basket.

- Encourage newcomers to join SHCA.
- Forward weekly crime report email blasts.
- Report problems such as street light outages or damage and graffiti.
- Look out for the well-being of their blocks.
- Go a step beyond what's required to organize block parties and special events.

If there is an opening on your block and you would like to be considered for a Block Coordinator, please contact Martha Levine at marthalev@msn.com or 215-629-0727.

This fall all Block Coordinators will place a notice in the mail slot of every home on their blocks to introduce themselves. They will be asking for your email address in order to more efficiently communicate SHCA news to you. If interested, please fill out the form and return it to your BC. Your email will be kept confidential and will not be shared with other neighbors unless you wish.

Thanks to all of our dedicated Block Coordinators, who have provided invaluable service to our neighborhood over the last 10 years.



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Take Advantage of "Fix the Brix"

BY MARTHA LEVINE

SHCA has a current budget of over \$10,000 dedicated to our "Fix the Brix" Program. Take advantage of it while it lasts.

"Fix the Brix" is an incentive program whereby Society Hill homeowners who level their brick or cement sidewalks can be reimbursed up to 40% (or \$300) of the cost. Since September 2009, when the "Fix the Brix" program began, more than 70 households have had their sidewalks repaired. SHCA has paid almost \$17,000 to assist neighbors so that we can have sidewalks that are safer and more attractive for all. Remember, you are responsible for any injuries incurred on your sidewalks. Limit your liability by making your property safe for pedestrians.

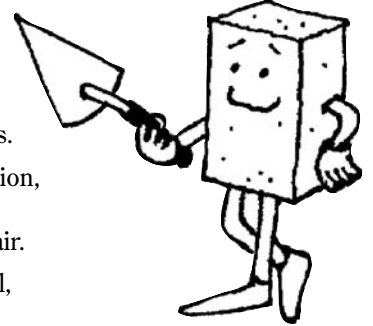
One satisfied participant said recently: "It's a great program and extremely user-friendly. We got a list of contractors, selected one, had the work done, and sent in our invoice. The check came in no time. We are very satisfied."

Here's how to get started:

- Contact SHCA for a list of recommended masons and arborists.
- Get several estimates for work to be done on **front sidewalks only** — neither backyards nor alleys qualify. Choose a contractor who suits your needs.
- When work is completed to your satisfaction, submit a copy of the invoice to SHCA. Make sure it specifies front sidewalk repair.
- Receive a SHCA check for 40% of the total, up to \$300.

Caveat: if you have a corner property, you may want to wait until the ramps project by the Streets Department is completed, as it may disturb some bricks.

To receive a list of suggested masons and arborists by email or postal service, contact Martha Levine at marthalev@msn.com, 215-629-0727, or Frank Signorello at fsignorello@gexchange.com. At the completion of the work, mail your invoice copy to SHCA, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147.



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Society Hill neighbors Janet Herring and Dan Rothermal have had their lives enriched by their association with OLLI. Janet and Dan enrolled when they retired. Janet, a former educator,

has had the opportunity to chair events and join several committees, in addition to taking classes. Dan, music director of the Savoy Company for 31 years, says, "the academy is a great place to keep your mind agile. You meet interesting people from all walks of life, make new friends."

Center City Campus will hold an Open House on Tuesday, September 6th and Wednesday, September 7th. Information sessions are scheduled at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Classes will begin on September 19th. OLLI is located at 1515 Market Street, Suite 525, Philadelphia, 19102. Additional information is available by calling 215-204-1505 or visiting www.temple.edu.olliv.

Tuesday & Wednesday, September 6th & 7th

Open House at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Temple University Center City Campus

Step Up the Pace: Join the Walkie-Talkies!

The summer heat has cooled down! So this is a great time to lace up those sneakers and take to the sidewalks with a welcoming group of neighbor gals who enjoy socializing and walking to stay healthy and fit. Newcomers are especially encouraged to participate with "old-time"

Walkie-Talkies on any Tuesday or Thursday morning — except when it's raining! These year-round, one-hour walks that explore our wonderful neighborhood always begin promptly at 8:15 a.m. Just show up at Three Bears Park a few minutes before that time (Delancey Street between 2nd & 3rd Streets). Any questions about this free and friendly exercise routine? Just phone Bernice at 215-925-4363.



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NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Penn's Village: Look How We've Grown!

As you might know, Penn's Village is a grassroots, volunteer-driven organization that aims to provide anything and everything you might need to age safely and with dignity at home in your own neighborhood. It is deeply committed to a holistic quality-of-life approach to support members' needs and foster a spirit of neighborliness and community belonging.

Penn's Village has grown significantly over the last three years. We now provide services in all Center City neighborhoods, and have partnered with Pennsylvania Hospital, Thomas Jefferson University and other health care and social service agencies in the Philadelphia area. In response to the challenging economic times, we have restructured our membership levels to allow individuals to join at a rate that reflects their needs. As a result, we have seen a steady increase in our number of members. Our number of volunteers has also grown, allowing us to meet the needs of our membership.

In 2010, Penn's Village and its talented, screened and trained cadre of volunteers provided more than 1,985 services for our members, ranging from friendly visiting with a homebound member to changing a light bulb in a ceiling fixture, delivering meals, arranging rehab and home care following a hospitalization, and assisting someone with a move from a house to an apartment in an elevator building.

In June, the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) sent out letters to its members within our geographic service area endorsing the benefits of Penn's Village and inviting them to join as members or volunteers. We invite you to do the same. We are always looking for volunteers who are interested in working in our office, or assisting us in meeting the diverse needs of our growing membership. We are also looking for volunteers with website or database experience. For more information, please visit www.pennsvillage.org, call 215-925-7333 or join us at 2227 Rittenhouse Street on Sunday, September 18th (see sidebar below).

Primitive and contemporary birdhouses featured in Japanese documentary



Sunday, September 18th "The World City Walk Philadelphia" Documentary Screening

Please support Penn's Village on Sunday, September 18th, from 5 to 7 p.m., by joining your neighbors at 2227 Rittenhouse Street to view a free Japanese documentary, "The World City Walk Philadelphia." This documentary focuses on our unique streets, highlighting an assortment of primitive and contemporary birdhouses for local sparrows. The birdhouses bring smiles to the faces of all passersby. Tourists snap photos and playgroups come by on "field" trips to look at the birdhouses, identify the flowers beneath them and watch the mama birds feeding their young. Please RSVP at 215-925-7333 or email us at info@pennsvillage.org.

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NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Dreaming of a Good Night's Sleep?

Dr. Lisa Unger, a board-certified internist with advanced training in the field of nutrition and a resident of Society Hill for the past 25 years, had a grand dream: To start a free, community-based medical speaker series which would help people make knowledgeable healthcare decisions by providing up-to-date information about good health, well-being, and disease prevention. That dream is soon to become a reality with the help of a medical advisory committee and Society Hill neighbors, both of which are committed to improving the quality of life for people in our community.

Dr. Unger says, "While we recognize that nothing can replace individualized medical care, we are excited and proud to offer the people of our community the opportunity to speak with, and learn directly from, distinguished, scholarly medical professionals."

The series, **Society Hill — Hot and Healthy**, will be launched on Monday, November 7th

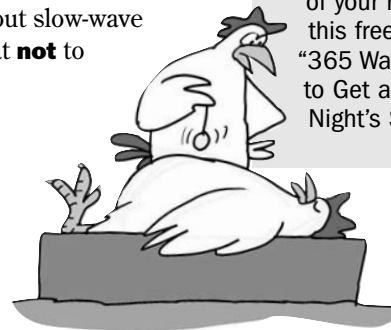
from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Society Hill Synagogue (418 Spruce Street) with the lecture "365 Ways to Get a Good Night's Sleep." The speaker is Ronald L. Kotler, M.D., Clinical Professor of Medicine, cofounder and director of the Pennsylvania Hospital Sleep Disorders Center and author of the book of the same title. Refreshments and a discussion will follow.

A good night's rest eludes many. Dr. Kotler, recently featured on Oprah, will tackle critical issues affecting that all-important third of our lives. He will present simple steps to assure the best sleep ever. Learn about slow-wave sleep, sleep hygiene, and what **not** to do when trying to fall asleep.

For more information about this exciting new neighborhood initiative, call 215-922-6590.

**Monday,
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History Buff Alert

“Philadelphia’s Lost Waterfront”
Harry Kyriakodis
The History Press, \$16.49

The wharves and docks of William Penn’s city that helped build a nation are gone — lost to the onslaught of more than 300 years of development. Yet the bygone streets and piers of Philadelphia’s central waterfront were once part of the greatest trade center in the American colonies. Local historian Harry Kyriakodis chronicles the history of the city’s original port district — from Quaker settlers who first lived in caves along the Delaware through the devastating yellow fever epidemic of 1793 and its heyday as a maritime center, to the 20th century, which saw much of the historic riverfront razed. Join Kyriakodis as he strolls Front Street, Delaware Avenue and Penn’s Landing to rediscover the story of Philadelphia’s lost waterfront.

Craft Lover’s Alert

35th Annual Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show, November 10-13
Pennsylvania Convention Center

Don’t miss the 35th Annual Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show, where 195 master craft artists from across the United States, along with 25 guest artists from Scotland, will exhibit works in ceramic, glass, metal, wood, fiber, jewelry and art to wear. The Craft Show Committee will transform the Pennsylvania Convention Center Hall “F,” at the corner of 12th and Arch Streets, into a sensory explosion of red carpet, dazzling booth displays, lively interactive artist demonstrations, an online auction and a raffle. Guests can stroll the wide red-carpeted aisles at their leisure, stopping at each booth to meet and purchase from the makers of handcrafted, decorative and functional, one-of-kind objects. For information: www.pmacraftshow.org or 215-684-7930.

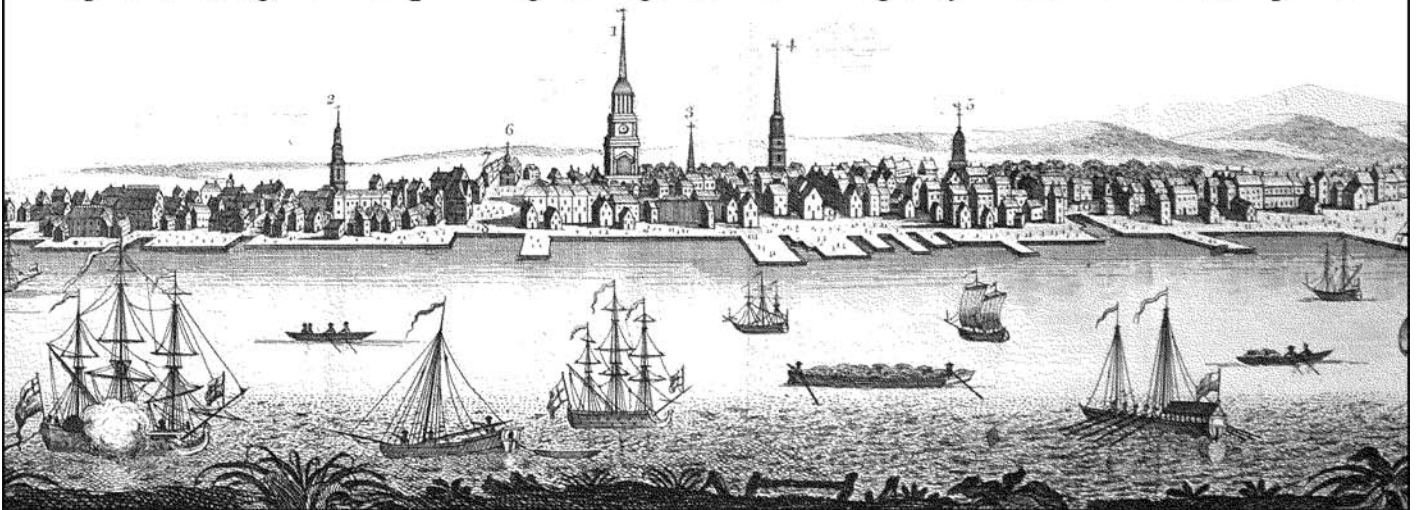
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ZONING AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

BY LORNA KATZ-LAWSON

Crosstown Coalition Advocacy Activities

We recommend that the Zoning Code be revised to recognize the unique character of historic districts.

SHCA's Zoning and Historic Preservation (ZHP) Committee meets monthly to address community concerns related to both zoning and historic preservation. It helps homeowners who would like to make changes to the exteriors of their properties understand and be prepared for the process of approval by the Philadelphia Historical Commission (PHC), which is required for exterior changes, and for any zoning variance which may be needed. We urge you to submit your plans or ideas to the ZHP committee before submitting them to PHC.

Proposed Zoning Code

After drafting white papers which state the organization's official position, Crosstown Coalition sub-committees are working on various sections of the proposed zoning code. These will be forwarded to City Council and to the Zoning Code Commission in September.

PHILA 2035 Comprehensive Plan

SHCA submitted comments to the City that were largely drawn from those written for the Preservation Alliance by ZHP committeeman Harry Schwartz. Some of the stronger recommendations insist that preservation be stated as a goal of the 2035 Plan and not simply a planning tool; to that end, the Historic Commission should be granted plenary control, not just advisory comment over new construction in historic districts; the Zoning Code should be revised to recognize the unique character of historic districts; and more study and analysis of past planning efforts should be done in order to evaluate outcomes and make future planning more efficient and less costly.

ADA Ramps/Street Project

For a project update, see front page.

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Z O N I N G A N D H I S T O R I C P R E S E R V A T I O N

Recent Zoning & Building Applications

Front and 2nd Streets

In early August, Brian Emmons of Toll Brothers presented a proposal for a residential development at the former NewMarket site located between Front and 2nd Streets and the homes on Pine and Lombard Streets. The presentation was made in order to get community feedback as part of Toll's due diligence investigation, as well as a prerequisite to finalizing their decision to purchase the property before the end of August.

The proposal is for a four-story luxury condominium building, containing 70 units, with 90 underground parking spaces. In plan, the building is configured in a T-shape with the top of the "T" running along Front Street and the other leg running east to west, basically bisecting the site. The resulting open space on the north and south sides will be landscaped for the private use of the residents, while the area extending out towards 2nd Street will be landscaped and accessible to the public, with private security surveillance. Access to the site from all four streets would be through secured gates into the garden area that leads to the building's front door. A few units along Front Street will have direct access to the street.

The existing site is now commercially zoned C-2, which requires commercial use at grade and restricts the building's height to 35 feet. Toll Brothers, needing either variances or an ordinance to develop the site exclusively for residential use and to build to the proposed 60-foot height, plans to use the variance process.

When asked about the extent and methods of the demolition work, given the extremely fragile condition of existing retaining walls that separate the properties, Mr. Emmons stated that Toll Brothers was aware of some of these problems and would be soon setting up a meeting with the abutting neighbors to clarify the issues and work out a plan.

The presentation was preliminary with many questions asked, but no opposition was expressed to either the proposed use or the height. No informal vote was taken on the proposal. As the project gets further developed, it will be presented to the ZHP committee, which will make a recommendation to the SHCA Board. The Board, in turn, will submit its recommendation to the City.

2nd and Pine Streets

An application was submitted for the construction of a structure appended onto the Wells Fargo Bank's west wall along Pine Street to provide

an additional ATM that complies with accessibility requirements for the disabled.

At the Philadelphia Historical Commission's Architectural Design Committee meeting, SHCA questioned why an additional ATM could not be provided inside the bank, especially since the bank is already equipped with an access ramp on its north façade. The bank representatives claimed they did not have enough room inside the bank for the ATM — a questionable conclusion, given the number of unoccupied workstations there. Alternatively, it was suggested that the existing ATM could be lowered to accommodate ADA requirements. This, too, was rejected. Wells Fargo apparently wants more visibility.

No zoning variance is needed for this project — only PHC approval. ARC recommended a number of design changes to streamline the structure and prevent it from looking like an inferior historic reproduction. The bank accepted some modifications to the amount of lighting and signage requested by ARC. Subsequently, PHC unanimously approved the revised simpler, more modern design.

530 Delancey Street

ZHP heard a presentation for a very small addition at the ground floor rear of the property. The addition would bring the rear wall of the house into alignment with the next-door neighbor, but also reduce by a small percentage the amount of open space below the minimum 30% required by the Zoning Code. Given the slight change and absence of neighborhood comments, ZHP voted unanimously not to oppose the application.

221 Pine Street

The new owner has appealed a previous decision of the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) denying a variance to allow for two-family use that was consistent with ZHP's letter and testimony at the hearing and the Philadelphia Planning Commission's recommendation. On behalf of SHCA, ZHP has filed applications making it possible to continue to appear as a concerned party in the Court of Appeals. As yet, no court date has been given.

341 Pine Street

Due to procedural errors at the Department of Licenses and Inspections, previously issued construction permits for a rear addition with a third floor roof deck have been temporarily rescinded until an appeal can be made before ZBA.

Toll Brothers proposes residential condominiums for the former NewMarket.

OUT AND ABOUT

June 9th, 2011, Washington Square Affair



Art and Bobbi Karafin, Herb and Sissie Lipton



Merle and Rob Becker, Suzanne and Norman Cohn



Barry Milberg, Laurie Phillips, Don and Barbara Havilland



Harvey Snyder, Dan and Andrea Layden, Babs Snyder



Shawn Myerson, Jon and Fran Blum, Stan Myerson



Lisa Roberts, Victoria Steiger, Joan Johnson



Sueyun Locks, Suzanne Binswanger, Neal Colton, Françoise Colas, Jill Colton



**Washington Square Affair Committee Members
Andrea Layden, Nancy Feldman, Sissie Lipton, Evelyn Spritz,
Myrna Asher, Benita Fair Langsdorf, Merle Becker, Pat Coyle**

OUT AND ABOUT

Pre-Party and Benefit Raise Nearly \$100,000



Mary Brown, Kim Balaschak, Helga Levin



Martha Levine, Pat Coyle



Marge Neuwirth, Cherry & Hans Bombeck, Nancy Zambelli



Mr. McClelland, Lynn Kohn, Larry Kecker, Susan Tomita



Bernard and Joyce Gelman, Judy Silberman, Pat Agger



Dee and Dr. Tony Balsamo, Benita Fair Langsdorf



Steve Leshner, Karen Kaufman



Vincent Tagliente, Stephen Pileggi, Mr. Pileggi



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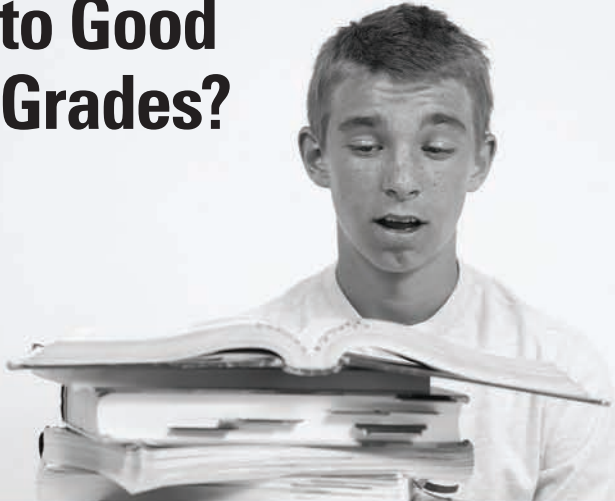


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EXPLORING THE CITY

BY JIM MURPHY

The Irish Memorial

It's early morning at Front and Chestnut Streets in Old City. If you're not looking for it, you could easily pass right by Philadelphia's powerful and poignant tribute to the millions of Irish immigrants who fled in "coffin ships" to the U.S. between 1845 and 1850... and to the million others who died in Ireland.

But look east toward the Delaware River and suddenly, out of the morning mist, you see them: 35 larger-than-life figures that make up the monumental Irish Memorial — sculpted by Glenna Goodacre. The Association of Philadelphia Tour Guides Handbook says the massive memorial, which opened to the public in 2003 and commemorates *An Gorta Mor* (or the Great Hunger of 1845-1850), is the largest bronze work in Philadelphia.

Walk closer and move around the "wedge" that's about 12 feet high, 30 feet long and 12 feet wide, and you'll see the story of the Irish migration in a nutshell: the famine, sickness and starvation; the immigrants leaving Ireland; and finally, the weary-but-hopeful travelers stepping onto American soil in Philadelphia.

Creator Glenna Goodacre, who beat out more than 100 other artists to win the commission for this sculpture, is also known for two other important works: The Vietnam Women's Memorial on the Mall in Washington, D.C., and for the bas-relief of Sacagawea, the Shoshone Indian who interpreted for Lewis and Clark, on the U.S. dollar coin.

A native of Lubbock, Texas, Goodacre says on LubbockOnline: "I wanted the monument to invite people to walk around it. So many people have picked out a face here or one there and told me it looks like Uncle Jack or Aunt Sue."

To me, the figure welcoming the immigrants to Philadelphia looks like a younger version of the late U.S. Senator Edward "Teddy" Kennedy.

After Goodacre created the "impressionistic" characters in a "mock monument," with 6-inch-tall figures, a California company enlarged it 16 times and set the figures in styrofoam. The foundry, Art Castings of Colorado, then spent a year sculpting the figures and the ship over the styrofoam steel core with 14,000 pounds of oil-based clay. Finally, it cast the statue and separated it into 400 pieces that were transported

to Philadelphia and welded together here. The resilient silicon bronze used in this sculpture is easy to maintain and repair, reports the Irish Memorial's website. A dark patina added to the bronze, along with a touch of green, will grow deeper over the years.

Placed near the memorial are eight information stations. While they provide a great deal of useful history, the engraved stations are hard to read (depending on the light) and appear to be placed in a rather random order.

The stations note that many of the Irish who came here were rural, uneducated people thrust into an unwelcoming city. Yet they continued to arrive in great numbers.

By 1850, 18 percent of Philadelphia's population was Irish. These new immigrants did the dirtiest jobs: digging canals and tunnels, building railroads and bridges, tending furnaces and more.

Some surprising facts:

- The potato blight that decimated the Irish crop originated in North America and travelled to Europe.
- While 500,000 Irish people were dying of starvation and disease in 1847, Queen Victoria's troops took millions of pounds worth of food at gunpoint from Ireland and shipped it to England.
- Some 263 immigrants who were natives of Ireland would go on to win the Congressional Medal of Honor, more than from any other foreign country.

Unfortunately, even though the Irish Memorial is just blocks away from two other important local sites — the Korean War Memorial and the Philadelphia Vietnam Veterans Memorial, both near Front and Spruce Streets — many area residents I spoke to are unaware it exists.

The lessons it teaches us are meaningful: immigrants can come here, triumph over tragedy and use their innate talents in a free country.

The city's largest bronze work is unknown to many residents.



“Let this memorial serve as a beacon of hope to all who come here. To them we say in greeting, ‘Cead mile failte!’ One hundred thousand welcomes!”

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PHILLY FOOD LOVERS

BY CLAIRE BATTEN

Aimee's Secret Garden: Talula's on Washington Square

The upscale restaurant **Talula's Garden**, a newbie to the Society Hill dining scene, celebrates urban gardening. Owner Aimee Olexy (formerly of Django), in collaboration with Stephen Starr, takes the concept of "Garden to Table" dining quite literally, creating a vibrant green retreat on Washington Square.

Peek through the birdhouses and nasturtiums lining the decorative railings to glimpse the secret garden within. To make the most of the space, planters overflow with fennel, basil, tomato plants, edible flowers and even salad greens. We spotted dandelion, butter lettuce and mizuna leaves — which later morphed into the house salad.

Eating at Talula's Garden feels like dining at a friend's house — an ambience reinforced by the use of mismatched tableware and relaxed, but attentive, service. The restaurant feels casual, yet special. There's nothing casual about the menu, however. Says Aimee: "Our menu is mostly influenced by the restaurants of Northern California, where the emphasis is on the purity of food, and chefs showcase the seasons."

Aimee is passionate about both the art and craft behind the making of food and also the dining experience. She describes herself as a *maitre d'* rather than a chef. (Matt Moon is the inspired executive chef at Talula's.) Aimee's goal is "to slow down the whole experience. We want people to linger and enjoy the food — whether they come in early for appetizers at the bar, drop in for dessert and drinks to round out their evening, or are here for the full four courses. I want to encourage the slow enjoyment of food. I want people to savor their experience."

Talula's menu features appetizers that hover around \$12 and main courses ranging from \$25 to \$35, with all sides priced at \$6. The cheese courses run from \$10 to \$18.

Prepare to be surprised by some of the combinations. Highlights of our meal were the slow roasted goat stuffed into tortelloni with fresh peas; caramelized scallops with pine nut milk, lemon, lovage, and watercress; spiced lamb shoulder with polenta; a sublime baby beet and almond salad; and a to-die-for "flight" of cheeses.

At Talula's, cheese is a religion, in part because it is Aimee's enduring passion — she traveled extensively, researching French and Californian

wines and cheeses, before settling in Philly. We picked the "Master Selection" — eight cheeses drawn from European and local Pennsylvanian farms. Our cheese expert explained the origin of each, the reasoning behind the choice and recommended wine pairings — the wine list is extensive and spotlights organic selections. Cheese is prepped and served at a special station, reminiscent of a food "altar" surrounded by more herb-filled window boxes; it makes for a dramatic focal point in the restaurant.

We interviewed other friends about their dining experience at Talula's. Said one Society Hiller: "Everything was faultless; the food was impeccably cooked, seasoned and presented. It was just perfect. The menu was really interesting, each item was surprising."

A fellow diner remarked: "This is the type of place where you can just as easily bring your biggest New York client or your mom and they'll both be impressed." Aimee and Executive Chef Matt Moon have lavished care and attention on every detail of the dining experience. Our neighborhood is fortunate to have this gustatory oasis in our midst.

Claire Batten and Keri White share this column. For more of both Claire and Keri's writings on food, see phillyfoodlovers.com/. Follow the Philly Food Lovers on Facebook: Philly Food Lovers and Twitter: [phillyhood](https://twitter.com/phillyhood).



"The garden brings life and beauty to the table."

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SAFE AND SOUND IN SOCIETY HILL

BY MARILYN APPEL

A Long, Hot Summer

It's been a difficult summer, not only because of the heat. If you've signed up for SHCA's weekly crime report email blast, you're aware of the six robbery/muggings that took place in Society Hill and Washington Square in June and July. There were three offenders responsible for these crimes. One surrendered, one was arrested and one is still on the loose as of this writing in mid-August. We are extremely grateful to 6th District's Captain Brian J. Korn for the intensive deployment and investigative initiative undertaken to identify and apprehend the two offenders, as well as for the work on the ongoing probe.

The police have been very responsive; increasing surveillance, putting more enforcers on the beat and generally being there when needed. The media have also been responsive and a big help in tracking down one of the muggers. In addition, a security video from a concerned homeowner in the area was quite helpful in identifying this suspect as involved in several of the incidents. We suggest you invest in one of these relatively inexpensive devices. I use mine to see who's at the front door as well as protecting my property and nearby neighborhood. (See article about SafeCam on the following page.)

The police appreciate your eyes and ears. Reports to police of narcotics being sold on the 300 block of South 3rd Street paid off. The 47-year-old living at the residence was found to have cocaine and marijuana in the house. He was arrested and charged with illegal narcotics sales.

As the summer heated up, there were several assaults by teens on residents — beatings that left people badly injured. The city cites the culprits as members of a “flash mob,” a

group of people who decide to gather at a given place via email and social media. One of these flash mob crimes was at 212 S. 4th Street (near Walnut Street). The teens are believed to be students at a local charter school. Blaming the violence on a “relatively small number of complete knuckleheads,” Mayor Michael Nutter initiated a temporary weekend curfew for anyone under 18.

Your safety is your responsibility. Be proactive. And follow these tips:

“To-Do” Safety Tips

- Cross the street or change directions if you see a rowdy group ahead or behind you.
- Walk on well-traveled, well-lit streets; avoid walking alone in alleys and walkways.
- Store your cell phone or iPod in your pocket when walking, so as to be aware of your surroundings.
- Keep your purse close to you in restaurants, not hanging on the back of a chair.
- Men: carry your wallet in your jacket, not in your back pocket, since public transportation and restaurants breed pickpockets.
- Take a cab if you're alone late at night, and instruct the driver to wait until you're safely inside.
- Put your keys in your pocket, so as to be ready when you reach your door.
- Keep concealed any personal property which is inside your car.
- Turn your alarm on, both when you are asleep and when you are away from home.
- Be sure that one or two of your trusted, immediate neighbors or friends have a copy of your house keys — in case you need access to your home.

Wanted: Cell Phone Donations

SHCA's Safe and Sound Committee continues to collect used cell phones at 414 Spruce Street that are given to needy senior citizens and abused women. The police reprogram these phones to only call 911.

**SHCA Blast Emails – Stay Informed**

Technology has given us the means to share relevant news and information in a timely manner with all Society Hill residents. SHCA limits its emails to one newsletter on Fridays and an occasional special blast email. We encourage everyone to include their email addresses in our massive “group email list” — which currently consists of over 1,000 households. Contact Matt DeJulio, SHCA Administrator, at mattdejulio@aol.com or 215-629-1288.

S A F E A N D S O U N D I N S O C I E T Y H I L L

SafeCam — a New Police Initiative

The Philadelphia Police Department (PPD) announced the launch of **SafeCam**, a new online initiative, through phillypolice.com, which allows residents and businesses to register their security cameras with PPD. “SafeCam is an opportunity to become a part of your neighborhood’s crime prevention efforts,” said Commissioner Charles H. Ramsey. “Security cameras help to deter crime, and they can also assist in solving a crime after it has happened.” (See Safe and Sound article on previous page.)

Those who register will only be contacted by PPD if a criminal incident occurs in the vicinity of the registered camera. The Police Department will not be able to view private cameras through SafeCam, only their physical location on a map.

Registration is simple and takes about 10 minutes to complete the three steps. You will provide basic information and tell the Department where your cameras are located. There is no cost associated with registration and your information is confidential. Once you have completed your registration, a member of PPD will follow up with you to verify your information, and you will receive a PPD SafeCam window decal.

Become part of the Philadelphia Police Department’s SafeCam network. For more information, visit www.safecam.phillypolice.com.

Be a part of your neighborhood’s crime prevention efforts — register your security cameras with the police.

Improvements on American Street

This summer a neighbor living on American Street was robbed and mugged in the crime spree described in Safe and Sound on page 22. The horrific experience had several positive outcomes. Most importantly, the woman is okay, despite losing consciousness. However, almost as frightening as the incident was the fact that rescue crews were delayed in getting her to a local hospital emergency room, because the street sign was missing and has been for many years! SHCA’s Board was informed of this problem and immediately contacted the Streets Department who quickly had a new sign made and erected.

The same street had a gully mid-block due to a utility repair where the Belgian blocks were replaced incorrectly, resulting in a pedestrian hazard as well as an eyesore. A member of SHCA’s Board helped clean up the mess and is keeping on top of the Streets Department until the job is done properly and appropriately for a historic district. So, out of bad came good, thanks to our Board, local neighbors and the Streets Department. Look around your own property to make sure street signs and repairs are in order. If not, contact SHCA Administrator Matt DeJulio at 215-629-1288, or mattdejulio@aol.com.

S I G N S O F T H E T I M E S



<<<
After learning of the dangers to pedestrians and cyclists posed by turning vehicles, the Streets Department’s Traffic Engineering Unit created these new signs cautioning drivers to “yield to crossing pedestrians.”

>>>
New green signs show that the traffic signals are set at 20 miles per hour to discourage speeding.



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S.O.S. from Lawrence Court

Dear Society Hill Neighbors,

Our community is one of history and beauty. The Lawrence Court Walkways are part of that beauty. For many years its residents have assumed responsibility for maintaining the safety and beauty of the walkways. This is a purely volunteer-based project. Each year we send out a collection letter to raise funds. The funds help pay for cleaning, brickwork, tree and shrub maintenance, seasonal plantings and winter clean-up.

Unfortunately, this year we collected less than in the past, and we are running out of funding. For those individuals, families and businesses that already contributed in 2011, we thank you but are forced to request a little more of you — and of others who may not have donated. Any amount will help. We still need to raise a total of \$3,000 to keep the project going until the beginning of next year. If we don't raise the money, I'm afraid the project will cease to exist.

Please make your contribution out to "The Lawrence Court Walkway Project" and drop off or mail to 313 South Lawrence Court, Philadelphia, PA 19106.

Thank You!





Diane Pastor, Lawrence Court Walkways Coordinator

FRANKLIN LIGHT PLAQUES



Contractor Tony Aloï carefully affixes one of 25 commemorative plaques which have been placed on Franklin Light poles in Society Hill. Each plaque has an inscription written by every Franklin Lights contributor who donated at the highest level (\$1500 or more) to replace lights during SHCA's recent fund-raising campaign.



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<p>Contact Antonio at 215.917.1213</p>		<p>Contact KW at 215.627.3500</p>
<p>All 3 one-of-a-kind homes are OPEN on SUNDAY, September 18th from 12:00 to 2:00</p>		
	<p>Society Hill Towers 200 Locust Street, Penthouse 5, 6 & 7</p> <p>1st time opened! Distinctive 2000+ sq ft 3 bedroom, 3 bath home featuring a wall of floor-to-ceiling windows with panoramic river & city views. This home, with artist's studio, can be reconfigured to suit and is <i>perfect</i> for carefree living and entertaining. Bring all offers!</p>	<p>Corner Penthouse with \$1,000,000 Views</p>
<p>Society Hill Castle Priced way Below Market</p> <p>Reduced \$250,000 this is a very rare opportunity to own a 3300 square foot designer 4 Bedroom Bath home priced <u>under \$300 per square foot</u>. This original Deroy Mark masterpiece features historic architectural elements from around the world, including 19th Century Italian Double Doors, living room with 33 foot sky-lit ceiling, 18th century floors <i>actually</i> from Independence Hall, exquisite English Garden and too much more to list. Must-see to believe!</p> <p><i>For a private tour of this extraordinary home prior to the open house contact Antonio at 215.917.1213</i></p>		
	<p>413 South Perth a/k/a 720 Addison Street Extra-wide Home on Beautiful Park</p> <p>Tucked away on one of the most charming blocks in the city this corner home is loaded with features including original hardwood floors throughout, a brand new kitchen and a living room and master bedroom with Juliet balconies over-looking a quaint, hidden park. This lovely home is priced to sell at only \$469,000.</p>	
<p>For a list of the Best Priced or Most Exceptional MLS Homes for sale in Center City, e-mail Antonio@KW.com</p>		



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WELCOME BASKETS

Welcome, New Neighbors!

Society Hill houses and condos are selling well despite the sluggish economy, resulting in lots of new neighbors! SHCA wishes to greet all of these new homeowners with our welcoming gift: The Welcome Basket. The large carrier is filled with pertinent neighborhood information, fresh foods and gift certificates to area theaters, restaurants, shops, and services. As delighted basket recipients say, "It feels like Christmas or a birthday!"

If you have become a new, first-time property owner in Society Hill within the past year, and

you wish to receive a Welcome Basket, we want to hear from you. Please contact Martha Levine at marthalev@msn.com or 215-629-0727 to schedule a convenient time to receive the basket in your home.

The Welcome Basket program could not exist without the participation of these generous sponsors listed below. We thank them for their continued support, and we encourage everyone to patronize their businesses and services.



A Welcome Basket contributor since 2006, Cindy McDonnell is the proprietor of Paper On Pine, the only fine stationery store in Philadelphia offering a full staff of professional designers. Formerly on Pine Street, the store is now located at 115 S. 13th Street.

Thank and Support These 2011 Welcome Basket Contributors

Coffee Shops

Old City Coffee, 221 Church Street
 Old City Coffee, Reading Terminal Market
 Starbucks Coffee Inc., 8th & Walnut Streets
 Philadelphia Java Company, 518 S. 4th Street

Food Stores

Fork:etc. (prepared foods), 308 Market Street
 SuperFresh, 5th & Pine Streets
 Whole Foods Market, 929 South Street

Hair Salons

Salon@5th, 316 S. 5th Street

Restaurants

Bistro Romano, 120 Lombard Street
 Bridget Foy's, 200 South Street
 Chops Restaurant & Bar, 700 Walnut Street
 City Tavern, 138 S. 2nd Street
 Core De Roma, 214 South Street
 Creperie Beau Monde, 624 S. 6th Street
 Fork, 306 Market Street
 Garces Restaurant Group:
 -Amada, 217 Chestnut Street
 -Tinto, 114-16 S. 20th Street
 -Distrito, 3945 Chestnut Street
 -Chifa, 707 Chestnut Street
 Haru (Japanese), 241-43 Chestnut Street
 La Buca Ristorante, 711 Locust Street
 Mustard Greens (Chinese), 622 S. 2nd Street
 Positano Coast Restaurant, 2nd & Walnut Sts.
 QBBQ & Tequila, 207 Chestnut Street
 Ristorante Panorama, 14 N. Front Street
 Village Belle, 757 S. Front Street

Specialty Foods

Homemade Goodies by Roz, 510 S. 5th Street
 Metropolitan Bakery, 262 S. 19th Street (Rittenhouse Square)
 Zeke's Deli, 318 S. 5th Street

Specialty Shops

Adornamenti (jewelry), 1106 Pine Street
 Happily Ever After (toys), 1010 Pine Street
 Head House Books, 619 S. 2nd Street
 Lolli Lolli (children's clothing/toys), 713 Walnut Street
 Paper On Pine (invitations/stationery), 115 S. 13th Street
 Show of Hands Gallery (crafts), 1006 Pine Street

Theaters/Entertainment

Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 3680 Walnut Street
 Arden Theater, 40 N. 2nd Street
 Ballet X at Wilma Theater, 265 S. Broad Street
 City Food Tours, 1518 Walnut Street
 Eastern State Penitentiary, 2124 Fairmount Avenue
 1812 Productions (all comedy theater), 215-592-9560
 Ghost Tours of Philadelphia, 610-587-8308
 InterAct Theater Company, 2030 Sansom Street
 Lantern Theater Company, 10th & Ludlow Streets (below Market)
 Lights of Liberty – featuring Liberty 360, 6th & Chestnut Streets
 National Liberty Museum, 321 Chestnut Street
 Pennsylvania Ballet, Academy of Music, Broad & Locust Streets
 Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, 215-569-8080
 Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre, 2111 Sansom Street
 Philadelphia Theatre Company, S. Roberts Theater, Broad & Pine Sts
 Piffaro, The Renaissance Band, 215-235-8469
 Society Hill Playhouse, 507 S. 8th Street
 Chamber Orchestra of Phila, Kimmel Center, 215-545-1739
 Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble, Old Pine Church
 Wilma Theater, 265 S. Broad Street

Other Services

Judy Moon Massage Therapy,
 Hopkinson House,
 604 Washington Square
 Liberty Tree & Landscape
 Management, 215-725-3637
 Lux Spa & Fitness at Omni Hotel,
 401 Chestnut Street
 Pennsylvania Dental Associates,
 604 Washington Square South
 Philadelphia Dance Academy
 (children/adult classes),
 219 Cuthbert Street
 Riff Cleaners, 314 S. 5th Street
 SCULPT—Personal Trainer,
 215-803-0723
 Dental Healthcare Group,
 Dr. Jeffrey Rosenberg,
 413 Bainbridge Street
 The Pampered Chef
 (culinary products/meal tips),
 215-764-7478
 The Worth Collection
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 215-925-8813
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Abbotts Square Townhouse #4

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421 PINE \$999,900

Lovely, well-maintained 5 unit apartment building with common courtyard, garden and patio. Four 1BD units and one 2BD unit. Separately metered for gas, basement storage and laundry.

608 PINE \$650,000

Handsome, historically certified townhome with 3BD/2.5BA, wide plank pin flooring, fireplace, exposed brick, cathedral ceilings, sunny patio garden, sun room.

324 LOMBARD \$599,900

Historic 3BD/1.5BA home with den, office, greenhouse, spacious yard, 1 year prepaid parking, many original details throughout, fireplace, stainless steel appliances.

THE WILLINGS, 211-15 S 4TH FROM \$575,000

Beautiful 1-2BD units, high ceilings, recessed lighting, granite counters, exclusive residence with 24 hour doorman and many other great amenities.

438 LOMBARD \$525,000

Beautiful 3BD/2.5BA at Gaskill Mews, with den, 1 car deeded parking, common courtyard, sun porch, hardwood floors, gorgeous tree-lined block!

236 S HUTCHINSON \$400,000

Charming and recently renovated 2BD/1.5BA townhome with 1 car deeded garage parking, handsome façade, fireplace, pine floors, stainless steel appliances.

THE MORAVIAN, 143 S 2ND FROM \$399,900

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

2011 Membership Drive Reaches 1,018

SHCA membership through mid-August stood at 1,018 — a bit short of the 1,025 year-end total for 2010. We are hoping to surpass the 2010 total by the end of the year.

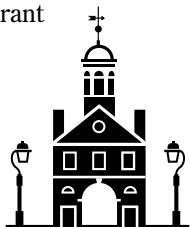
We thank the 87 new members who replaced the 93 neighbors from 2010 — who still have not renewed. We would sincerely appreciate some feedback from these 93 folks. If repeated solicitations in the mail just got lost in the shuffle, now is the time to rejoin your community's civic association. An application is adjacent to this report.

If you have never been an SHCA member or have not renewed for the past two years, now is your opportunity to join or rejoin. All such new or long-lapsed members will have their membership grandfathered into 2012, so in effect, you get four months of membership FREE.

Why is your membership so important? Besides providing funding for our many neighborhood improvement projects, such as graffiti control, weekly sidewalk cleaning and plantings in Washington Square, numbers speak volumes. When our board advocates on your behalf regarding zoning changes, real estate taxes, crime problems, ramp issues, trash receptacles, street lighting, bus re-routing, etc., it makes a greater impact if they can say they speak on behalf of the more than 1,500 households which are SHCA members and represent more than half of ALL residents in Society Hill. As a member, you also are guaranteed a personal invitation to each of our social events — the Spring Fling, the Washington Square Affair, the Soiree at the Shambles and the Holiday Social.

Without membership dues, SHCA would cease to function. Protect your neighborhood and your real estate investment. SIGN UP TODAY!!

Email mattdejulio@aol.com if you have any questions or wish to comment on why you are not a member. All comments will be shared with the board, which is representative of every quadrant in our most unique historic neighborhood.



SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

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

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

Business Memberships

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

Additional Contributions

\$ _____ Washington Square Beautification \$ _____ Franklin Lights

\$ _____ Sidewalk Cleaning/Graffiti Removal \$ _____ Tree Tenders

\$ _____ Zoning and Historic Preservation \$ _____ 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

NIFTY NEIGHBORS IN MY OWN BACKYARD

BY JANE BIBERMAN

Meet Anne Ewers

**An Artistic
Dynamo Makes
Her Mark on
Philadelphia**

When Anne Ewers was hired for the prestigious job as President and CEO of the beleaguered Kimmel Center four years ago, the board offered her two free trips to Philadelphia to find a place to live. “But I told them I only had time for one,” says this dynamic and decisive woman. In her signature efficient fashion, the former head of the Utah Symphony and Opera bought a house over Memorial Day weekend.

She spent two years renovating her house to earn its historic plaque and is very proud of it. When the work was completed, with her usual flair for staging, she hired a contingent of the Philadelphia Fife and Drum Corps to march down the street for the unveiling, to which she invited friends, close neighbors and colleagues. “It was August 20th,” she recalls with the clarity she has for all significant events.

Ewers was raised in Ottawa, Illinois, where as a 6-year-old she staged plays in her family’s garage. She moved to suburban St. Louis to attend Fontanne

University, where she earned one BA in theater and another in music in 1974. “I’m a soprano and I always planned on being an opera singer,” says Ewers. “But I decided very quickly that my career lay in directing rather than singing.” So she got a Master of Music in Opera Production from the University of Texas at Austin in 1977.

Two years later, Ewers was living in San Francisco as assistant stage director of the San Francisco Opera. She then moved east to become general manager of the ailing Boston Lyric Opera, where she quickly retired a \$450,000 deficit and built a healthy endowment fund. From 1991 until her move to Philadelphia, Ewers was based in Salt Lake City, where she first served as general director of the Utah Opera, which merged with the Symphony in 2002. During her tenure, she doubled the organization’s endowment from \$18 to 36 million, turned a \$1.8 million deficit into a \$360,000 surplus and founded the lucrative Deer Valley Music Festival.

Not surprisingly, it took Ewers only one year to retire the Kimmel’s \$30 million construction debt, raise its endowment from \$40 to \$72 million and end the 2007/2008 year with a \$1.2 million surplus. “It’s interesting,” she reflects. “I’ve never

taken a business course; I learned by doing.” She thinks it’s amusing that she was asked to address Wharton MBA students on running an arts program. “And I’ve been invited back to give another lecture this winter,” she laughs.

Warm and vivacious, Ewers is determined to make the Kimmel Center a cultural hub for the entire city — open and affordable to all. She is deservedly proud of the wildly successful Philadelphia International Festival, which she conceived and organized this past spring. In a three-week period, 177,000 people came through the doors, and on April 30th, 190,000 showed up for the final-day festivities on Broad Street — garnering \$10 million.

“Here’s the great thing about the festival,” says Ewers. “People were supportive! There was ethnic and age diversity, and that’s what’s so critically important. We need to embrace our entire community. We have a wonderful education outreach program and we go to schools so we can connect with kids and their families.”

Despite the recent bankruptcy of the Philadelphia Orchestra, Ewers is confident that it will not only survive but flourish under the direction of its young conductor-designate, Yannick Nézet-Séguin. “Orchestras across the country are struggling,” she notes. “We need to attract younger audiences and Yannick is phenomenal.”

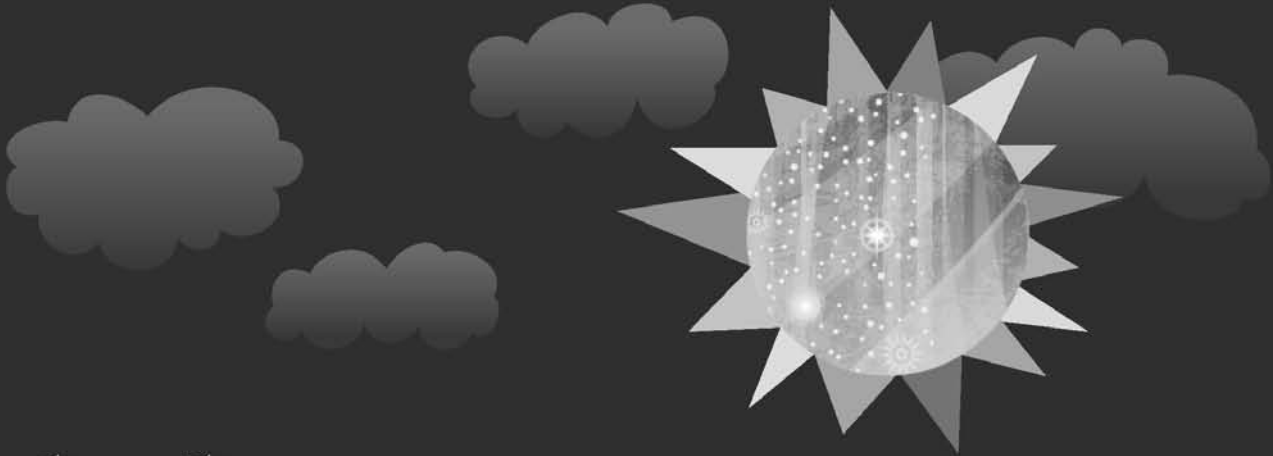
With her “fabulous partner,” Fred Hagen, whose construction firm worked on Verizon Hall and renovated the Academy of Music Ballroom, Ewers attends almost every performance held at the Kimmel Center, whose eight resident companies she regards as her children. In addition, she finds time to go to movies and concerts in Society Hill. She also supports efforts to improve Head House Square and Washington Square, which is why her day often starts with a 7:30 a.m. meeting and ends at midnight.

So Ewers would be the first to say she has it all: dream job, perfect mate and ideal home in one of the country’s historic and cultural capitals.

Looking back on her career, she says, “I went into direction and design and then producing opera, and now I’m in presenting. It’s been fascinating and each thing has prepared me for the next. I can’t think of another job I’d rather have. I have no desire to move on.”



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Tuesday and Wednesday,
September 6 and 7
Open House: Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)
See page 9

Sunday, September 18
"The World City Walk Philadelphia"
2227 Rittenhouse Street
See page 10

Wednesday, September 21
SHCA Board Meeting
6:00 p.m. Great Court Conference Room
SHCA General Meeting
7:30 p.m. Zubrow Auditorium
Pennsylvania Hospital
8th & Spruce Streets

Wednesday, September 21
Cooking with Garden Herbs
5:30 p.m., Cafeteria,
Pennsylvania Hospital

Wednesday, October 12
Herbal Medicine Today
5:30 p.m., McClelland Conference Room,
Pennsylvania Hospital

Monday, November 7
365 Ways to Get a Good Night's Sleep
Society Hill Synagogue,
418 Spruce Street
See page 11

Thursday through Sunday,
November 10-13
35th Annual Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show
Pennsylvania Convention Center
See page 13



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Independence Place

233 S. 6TH STREET

1 bedroom plus den (can easily be converted to 2 bedrooms), 3.5 bathroom penthouse with dramatic views of Washington Square and the Center City skyline. The residence has been completely renovated and features all custom finishes. 3153 sf
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