

SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

www.societyhillcivic.org

Civic Vision Moves Closer to Reality



Artist's concept of
the Festival Pier.

The Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) is pleased to invite you to our September 19 General Membership Meeting to meet Dianne Mayer, Chair of Communications for the Central Delaware Advocacy Group. Dianne will present a slide show and take questions regarding the riverfront Master Plan.

As we all know, Philadelphia has a rich history, a happening downtown, first-rate architecture and an exciting urban culture. Yet one of our greatest assets, the Delaware River waterfront, has been neglected and forgotten until recently.

Things started to change in 2003 when PennPraxis (the "clinical" arm of the School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania) and the Philadelphia *Inquirer* hosted a series of public forums and sponsored a design charrette that eventually became the Civic Vision for the Central Delaware Waterfront. This plan proposed new river trails and other public amenities, as well as new connections to adjacent neighborhoods, including an innovative proposal to overcome the barrier effect of I-95 in the Penn's Landing area. The plan also made recommendations for the creation of development zones along the river.

The Central Delaware Advocacy Group, a volunteer-based, nonprofit organization composed of a coalition of civic and nonprofit organizations, including our own association, was formed to advance the implementation of the Civic Vision. Dianne Mayer will discuss incorporating this plan into the new zoning code that went into effect August 22, 2012. In addition, she will address the advocacy efforts needed to make sure this work (representing the input of over 4,000 citizens) is not neglected in the City's planning process.

We look forward to seeing you on September 19th to hear your comments and questions about this important topic. After all, a world-class riverfront at our doorstep will only enhance the quality of life (and the property values) for all who call Society Hill home.

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 SHCA members are welcome to attend.

WED.

Sept.

19

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Society Hill Civic Association Meetings
Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Pennsylvania Hospital
8th & Spruce Streets

- 6:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting**
Pennsylvania Hospital Great Court Meeting Room
All SHCA members are welcome.
- 7:30 p.m. General Membership Meeting**
Pennsylvania Hospital Zubrow Auditorium
All neighborhood residents are invited to attend.
- Speaker: Dianne Mayer**, Central Delaware Advocacy Group
- Topic: An Update on Riverfront Master Plan**

TRICK OR TREAT?



Claudia and Conner are ready for the Halloween Costume Parade at Three Bears Park! Check out the annual event on Wednesday, October 31, 5 p.m. Pizza and prizes are part of the fun.



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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Civic Association

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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 717-715-5791 or email sandra.rothman@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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2014 Francisco Carreno
2015 Marilyn Appel

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

BY STEVEN WEIXLER

Advocating for Tax Fairness

I have written several times about property tax reform and why it's such an important issue. The Society Hill Civic Association has joined with 12 other organizations to form the Tax Fairness Coalition (TFC). Earlier this year, our Coalition advocated for delay in implementation of the Actual Value Initiative (AVI) until the City had completed a thorough and fair assessment. Logic won the day and Council postponed the enactment of the initiative over the recommendation of Mayor Michael Nutter. Now our Coalition is studying the methods the City is using to assess values and discussing the course of advocacy when the legislation moves forward in the fall. Here is a report from our Coalition:

Report from the Tax Fairness Coalition

Recently, TFC representatives met with Mr. Richie McKeithen, head of the City's Office of Property Assessment (OPA) in response to questions from the community regarding the methods by which OPA is reassessing Philadelphia's nearly half a million residential properties for the purpose of implementing the property tax overhaul known as the Actual Value Initiative (AVI). It is worth noting that this office determines only property values — not the property tax rate or tax policy.

Assessment in a city like Philadelphia is a multi-step process, made more difficult by the lack, heretofore, of regular reassessments. First, every property's history had to be analyzed by integrating records from various city departments, including zoning records; building permits and plans; deed recordings; and licenses. This process helped to eliminate a backlog of thousands of records.

Next, the city was broken into 200 Geographical Mapping Areas, roughly six-square-block areas, to allow the evaluators to compare similar properties in similar geographies and then to compare similar properties in different geographies, all with the goal of "equalization," or making sure that truly comparable properties are valued similarly.

Then in August 2011, OPA launched an aggressive field inspection program. Evaluators pounded the pavement and attempted to gain access to houses

across the City — on a purely voluntary basis — to ascertain conditions. As in other urban centers, many Philadelphians were reluctant to give the assessors access, so they left door hangers requesting basic information.

OPA finished the field inspection program this summer and is moving into the next phase: building the statistical model that will generate the "actual value" of every property in Philadelphia. This model will be based not only on the information collected from the field, but with the data obtained from Licenses & Inspections, regarding improvements to properties, and from Realtors' sales databases and other sources.

OPA's methods differ from those used by a "fee appraiser" working for a mortgage company. Mass appraising nearly half a million residences for the purpose of assessing property taxes is a very different exercise than evaluating a single property for the purpose of determining a mortgage. OPA's goal is to take into account as many factors as practical to get "as comparable as possible." In the end, homeowners will have the opportunity to dispute OPA's assessments through the appeal process. It is expected that up to 40,000 residents will do so.

The appeal process will begin directly with OPA via review by an Assessor. It will then proceed to the Board of Revision of Taxes, ending, if necessary, in Commonwealth Court.

TFC drew two conclusions from the meeting. First, OPA seems to be run by capable people who are implementing the mass appraisal process in a reasonably competent and efficient manner. We can have some confidence that the "actual values" that are produced will be based on real, defensible criteria. After the first year, there will be an ongoing process of evaluation and reassessment, but assessments should stay more or less level once the model is built and tweaked — unless, of course, there are major changes in broad market conditions like the 2008 financial crisis.

continued on page 5



**Steven Weixler,
President**

Civic leaders meet with Office of Property Assessment to discuss real estate tax reform.

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UPDATE

ADA Ramps and Paving Project

Although the Philadelphia Streets Department recently resumed the paving and ramps project begun in March 2011, many residents have been disheartened by how long the work is taking — a feeling shared by the City and SHCA. Several factors are contributing to delays, including the extreme heat that prevents laying concrete and the lack of availability of sub-contractors.

Adding to the delay, each corner needs to be re-examined to make sure an installation is feasible before doing the actual work. There are conditions or structures that would prevent some corners from being constructed in accordance with the Federal specifications. It could be the location of historic building entrance steps, a large subterranean utility vault or the presence of a cobblestone street. Where these features present an impediment to compliance, the corners were deleted from the current work schedule and will be dealt with at a later date, through funding sources other than Federal stimulus money.

To date, designs have been reviewed for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 8th and Front Streets, but only 3rd, 4th and 8th Streets have been finalized and approved as of August 1. Work has been done on 4th Street, but not all corners are completed. The scarifying, or grooving, of Walnut Street began August 1, in anticipation of re-milling the following week.

Neighbors can speed up the process by removing any planters, art objects, or furniture sitting on the sidewalk that might obstruct the area required for the ramp or the adjustment area between the ramp



and existing sidewalk. (FYI, it is unlawful to place objects on the public sidewalk without a permit.)

Men working at the 8th & Lombard ramp on the southeast corner.

SHCA has requested dates when each block can expect work to be done and the City has relayed that request to the general contractor, but nothing has been presented yet. We do know that 8th Street is next on the schedule.

The Civic Association is grateful for the untiring efforts of Streets Department’s David Perri and Darin Gatti, who continue to help us resolve the often sensitive and complex issues that abound with this project.

If you have any specific questions, please contact SHCA Administrator Matt DeJulio at 215-629-1288 or email mattdejulio@aol.com.

Extreme heat prevents laying concrete and contributes to project delays.

President’s Message *continued from page 3*

Second, it was noted that there are still many questions regarding the outcome of this data. At what rate will we be taxed? What policies will be implemented to protect the vulnerable? What is being done to shift the burden from residential to commercial property? Are there other sources of revenue being explored?

For now, there are three things that you must know about AVI (which will not go into effect until 2014):

- In December 2012, property owners will get a tax bill for 2013 based on pre-AVI assessments, calculated according to the old formula (assessed value x 0.32 x 9.77%).

- In February 2013, property owners will get notice of the new AVI assessment. This will be the basis for calculating their 2014 bill, which will arrive much later in the year. The OPA will set a deadline for filing appeals to dispute the new value that has been assigned to their property.
- From February until June of 2013, as part of the budget process, City Council will use this new AVI assessment data to devise tax policy. It is only then that homeowners will be able to actually calculate their 2014 AVI tax bill.

Thanks to Jeff Hornstein, President of the Queen Village Neighbors Association.

Visit opa.phila.gov/opa.apps/FAQ/faq.aspx for further information about property assessment.



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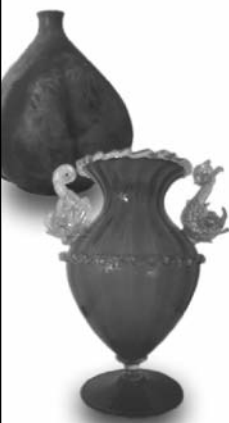
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ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Welcome on Board!

At our May General Membership Meeting, SHCA members voted for a new slate of officers and directors. The only newcomers are Diane Rossheim, who will represent the Northwest Quadrant; Heather Steiner, the Northeast Quadrant; Laura Temple, the Southeast Quadrant; and Kim Williams, who was voted Director-at-Large. We most heartily welcome them and thank all neighbors who donate their time and efforts on behalf of our civic association!

Diane Rossheim is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, where she majored in history and political science. She has lived in Society Hill since 1979, first on Willings Alley and presently at the Hopkinson House. Diane's career includes both owning a bookstore and co-authoring a guidebook to Philadelphia. Currently, she is a tour guide with a keen interest and knowledge of our city's architecture, history and cultural heritage. Diane is a shareholder of both the Athenaeum and the Library Company. She also holds memberships in the Friends of the American Philosophical Society, the National Constitution Center, the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Barnes Foundation.

Heather Steiner, a resident of Bingham Court, is a graduate of Boston University and Moore College of Art, majoring in marketing and design. She has won awards for her graphic design, including the prestigious "Pepperpot Award" for Excellence in Marketing Communications. Heather has been a motivational speaker for Monster.com in their effort to encourage students to greater heights. She is also an executive board member of the Young Friends of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Heather and her husband Julius are passionate about rescuing dogs. She is an advisory board member for Akita Rescue. You may encounter the couple walking their Akita around Society Hill. Or you may see them cycling down Spruce Street as they log in a minimum of 100 miles per week!

Kim Williams, who holds a Master of Science in Social Work, has 30 years of experience in the administration of continuing care retirement communities. He is President/CEO of Simpson Senior Services, which owns five retirement communities in the greater Philadelphia area. Kim has served as an officer and board member of several professional associations and is currently Chair-Elect of the national United Methodist Association. He recently served as Rector's Warden for Saint Mark's Church and currently co-chairs its Capital Campaign. Kim has two daughters and lives with his wife, Rosanne, in the 400 block of Pine Street.

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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

BY LORNA KATZ-LAWSON

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 prepare for the process of approval by the Philadelphia Historical Commission (PHC), which is required for any 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.

410 South Front Street (aka NewMarket or Stamper Square)

In July, PHC voted formally to approve the Toll Brothers project, in concept, with the understanding that the developer must continue to work with PHC staff and the community to re-design the public plaza and to develop building façade details.

Toll Brothers presented its project as had been shown at the public meeting at Bistro Romano in June, except for some façade modifications in response to recommendations made both by ZHP and PHC's Architectural Review Committee (ARC). The changes are: real limestone in lieu of imitation stone on the building, less limestone on the Front Street façade, no glitzy finishes and a re-designed space fronting 2nd Street to truly function as a public space within the context of the Head House Shambles and nearby historic commercial buildings.

232 Delancey Street

Near neighbor and ZHP member Carter Buller successfully lead an effort to correct dangerous conditions at this unoccupied residence being managed by an estate attorney. After engaging the Department of Licenses and Inspections to issue violations, emergency roof repairs were made by the estate. It seems that it also started the ball rolling for other improvements to make the house habitable again in the near future.

237 St. James Place

The Committee heard a presentation by Steven Cook, partner of Zahav's, to expand the restaurant into the vacant storefront south of their existing facility. The additional space is intended to house two private dining rooms for special functions (for 25 and 50 people respectively), some additional office space and a catering kitchen. They also hope to add another entrance from the 2nd Street walkway. Many townhouse owners on St. James and Phillip Street and people from the Towers attended. Issues discussed included kitchen exhaust and opposition to outdoor music, as well as noise from large groups congregating outside. ZBA heard and granted the case with a proviso for no entertainment.

601-603 Lombard Street

This application — to create three lots from the original and to build two single-family houses with garages facing Addison Street — was unanimously denied by ZBA in April and has recently been appealed by the applicant. Larry Spector, a lawyer who is a near-neighbor opposed to the project, agreed to represent SHCA and many of the opposing neighbors at Appeals Court.

312-322 Walnut Street Through to Willings Alley

Work on this project to convert the former office building into 66 market-rate residential dwelling units has been slowed down due to union issues and pre-emptive removal of 19 windows without permit. However, in a review at the Architectural Review Committee, the developer asked for support for a rooftop addition of four apartments with roof decks in lieu of the existing smaller penthouse. ARC recommended approval for the addition, as well as replacement of the steel windows with aluminum ones. They required that sampling be done to the frames to reveal the authentic historic color, recommended that the penthouse fascia be metal and insisted on approval of the window details.

A zoning variance is still needed to increase the density of the building by 11 units. Parties to the community agreement are currently negotiating additional requirements to offset the impact of the increased density. The developer must agree to these before ZBA will continue its support.

411 Spruce Street

This application for a rear garage with roof deck was continued at ZBA, as the owner has agreed to revise some of the design to reduce impact on the neighboring property and mitigate the loss of open space originally proposed.

Advocacy Activities


New PA Utilities Commission Regulations

SHCA submitted its response to the proposed amendment to 52 PA Code Paragraph 59.18 Meter Location Docket No. L-2009-2107155. This will change how utilities can operate and install equipment throughout Pennsylvania. Our statement was written by ZHP member Harry Schwartz with input from Carter Buller.

Community Organization Registration

ZHP member Daniel Horowitz, who had taken the training course at the City's Citizen Planning Institute to understand and learn how to use the new zoning code, completed SHCA's registration application. Philadelphia City Planning Commission sent a written confirmation of receipt of our application materials, but as of this date we have not received notification of our acceptance as a Registered Community Organization.

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'FIX THE BRIX' IS ALIVE AND WELL

BY MARTHA LEVINE

How Six Families Made a Difference

With the help of SHCA's "Fix the Brix" program, six Society Hill families were able to make a big difference in our community.

St. Peter's Walkway, located between Spruce and Cypress Streets, has been a pedestrian hazard for many years, due in part to a significant ridge in the brick path, as well as uneven and dislodged pavers.

Two years ago, some of the homeowners who live adjacent to the walkway discussed getting it repaired, because many people have tripped and fallen there. Unfortunately, the City of Philadelphia was not interested in stepping in to fix it. Although this walkway is not the front sidewalk to any of their homes, the neighbors wanted to do something to maintain it and ensure pedestrians' safety.

I then received an anonymous letter from a neighbor who had fallen and injured a hip on the path. This inspired me to re-contact the six St. Peter's Walkway neighbors to see if they were still interested in getting involved. Since there were funds in SHCA's "Fix the Brix" program, each homeowner would be reimbursed 40% for his/her part of the repair. They all agreed to explore the possibilities.

The group met with a mason who has done many jobs in Society Hill over the decades and is on the Society Hill List of Contractors. He completed the work to everyone's satisfaction, making sure there will be no more injuries on this walkway. SHCA thanks these neighbors for their valuable and selfless contribution to our community.

The "Fix the Brix" program still has funds to assist any Society Hill homeowner or neighborhood that wishes to level front sidewalks — brick or cement. We offer 40% of the total cost of the repair up to \$300 per household.

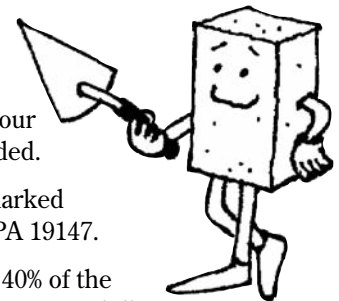
Here are the easy steps to proceed:

- 1 Get estimates from a few masons.
- 2 Choose a mason and have the work done to your satisfaction. In some cases, an arborist is needed.
- 3 After work is completed, mail your invoice (marked paid) to SHCA, PO Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147.
- 4 In several weeks, you will receive a check for 40% of the total bill up to \$300. Remember to keep a copy of your bill.

To learn more about "Fix the Brix" or to get a list of suggested masons and arborists, contact me at: marthalev@msn.com, or 215-629-0727.



Turn to page 18 for a look at the work done on St. Peter's Walkway.



Make Every Vote Count. Remember to Take Your Photo ID to the Polls Nov 6!

A new Pennsylvania law requires a photo ID every time voters go to the polls. Election officials recently announced plans to reduce the number of documents required to obtain a photo ID card, however, voters who do not already have a driver's license or other acceptable photo ID will still have to travel to offices of PennDOT to obtain new cards. But citizens will not have to produce birth certificates and Social Security cards, as is currently required to prove their personal identities to PennDOT personnel.

Under the new requirements, the new photo ID cards will be available to registered voters who can provide a birth date, Social Security number and two proofs of residency, such as utility bills. PennDOT will check immediately with the Department of State on the voter's registration status and, if confirmed, issue a voter ID card on the spot. There will be no cost incurred in obtaining this card.

New Homestead Exemption Information

In our July/August issue of the *Reporter*, we informed readers that, even though Philadelphia did not yet have a Homestead Exemption tax relief program, the deadline was approaching for filing for the 2013 tax year. Since that issue went to press, the city introduced a Homestead Exemption plan beginning in tax year 2014. If you have already submitted an application, it will be processed and held for future years. If you have not yet applied, the city will send you an application in the mail in early September. Applications received by November 15 will be reflected on the Assessment Change Notices going out in February 2013. Applications received after that will continue to be processed, but may not be shown on the Assessment Change Notices.

A Homestead Exemption means that if you own your home and live in it, you can qualify for a reduction of your home's reassessment — thereby reducing your tax bill. Rental homes or vacation homes do not qualify. Mixed-use properties qualify and will benefit from the exclusion for the portion of the property that is the owners' primary residence. There are no age or income restrictions and all homeowners in the city are encouraged to apply.

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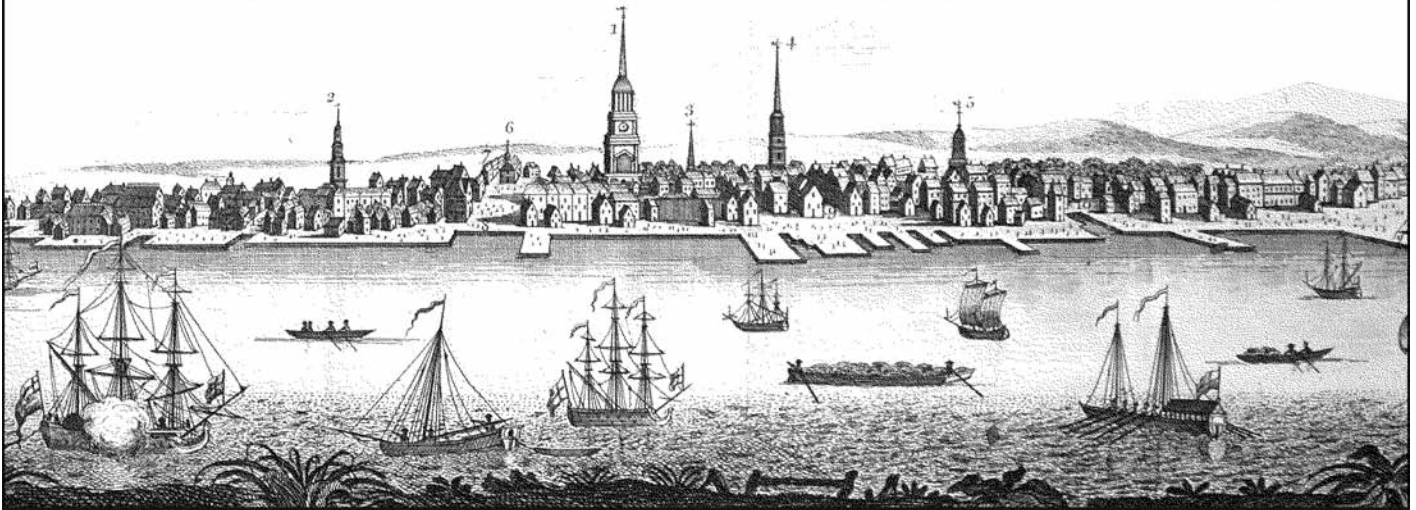


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EXPLORING THE CITY

BY JIM MURPHY

Historical Society of Pennsylvania

Want to see history really come alive? Just stroll over to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP).

Here you'll find an astonishing collection of unique documents, watercolors, genealogical records, letters, diaries and more. Together, they provide a rare behind-the-scenes look at our country's triumphs and tragedies.

What's more, they allow once-dim historic figures to become real flesh-and-blood people.

For example, here you can read Tobias Lear's vivid eyewitness account of George Washington's last minutes of life. Or, learn about the heavy human price of slavery in the pages of William Still's *Underground Railroad Journal, 1852-57*.

"Luckily, no one ever got hold of it," says Lee Arnold, Senior Director of the Library and Collections at HSP. Capture of the diaries by the wrong hands could have put many people in danger.

Why? William Still carefully listed the old and new names of the runaway slaves, described their appearance and sometimes revealed who was hiding them. In addition, he meticulously noted what it cost to harbor the runaways, clean their clothes or buy new ones to disguise them.

The Society's extraordinary collection includes:

- The first handwritten draft of the U.S. Constitution, July 1787
- The first map of Philadelphia, 1683
- A copy of the Emancipation Proclamation signed by Abraham Lincoln, 1864
- A copy of "The Star Spangled Banner," handwritten by Francis Scott Key, about 1840
- The earliest surviving American photograph — taken in 1839 near Chestnut and Juniper Streets

One of the more interesting treasures is a draft copy of the Constitution written by James Wilson of York. One side of the page contains the draft text, with corrections on the other side.

Another begins: "We the People of the States of..." and lists the full 13 states (including "Providence Plantations"). Later he refers to the country's new name as "United People and States of America." Obviously, some of that language changed in the final version.

While some of these treasures are only available to the general public during special exhibitions, HSP is expanding its digital portal — which already has over 55,000 digitized images — to include even more important documents online.

"Preserving American Freedom," part of a new special project funded by Bank of America, will present key documents in way that allows for research, understanding and analysis. The target date for this effort is early 2013.

HSP's physical collection is staggering in both size and value. It contains more than 20 million manuscripts and graphics (such as 35,000 prints and maps, 20,000 watercolors and drawings, and 250,000 photographs) plus over 600,000 printed items (including 10,000 published family histories), all in 19 storage areas.

After a merger with the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, HSP has become a leading repository for immigrant and ethnic history.

Researchers at HSP get free access to Ancestry.com, and the society possesses all the collections of the Genealogy Society of Pennsylvania (which cover every state east of the Mississippi). For military buffs, HSP also has an extensive Civil War collection.

Some 4,500 visitors use the society's resources in person each year. Half are researching family histories. The others are scholars, historians, professors and writers.

In the Reading Room, you can request three documents at a time, and you'll get them within 45 minutes. "That's faster than the Library of Congress," Lee says.

To preserve its extraordinary collection, HSP houses these precious documents in a special fireproof building. When built in 1910, there was no wood inside except for the banister, not even for bookcases or furniture. Ingenious glass fire doors close automatically in the event of a fire.

When you visit 1300 Locust Street, think about the fact that you are in the same building as General George Meade's account of the Battle of Gettysburg, a printer's proof of the Declaration of Independence and Martha Washington's cookbook!

There's something for everyone here.

Many of America's most treasured documents are housed at 1300 Locust Street



Fast Facts:
Historical Society of Pennsylvania
1300 Locust Street
215-732-6200
hsp.org
Call or see website for exact hours.



William Still, whose "Underground Railroad Journal, 1852-57" provides specific details about many of the slaves he helped escape to freedom.

Photos courtesy of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

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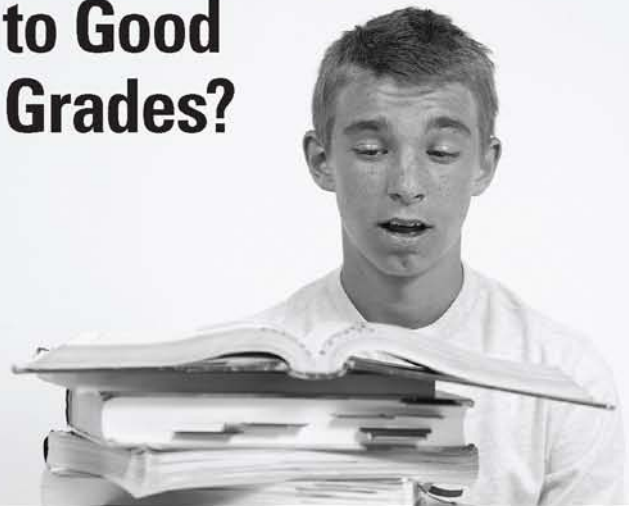
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ON OUR SHELF

BY CLAIRE BATTEN

A Classical Investigation

I recently rang up author Madeline Miller to talk about Homer. Not the accident-prone cartoon husband of Marge Simpson, but rather the illustrious Ancient Greek poet who authored the *Iliad*.

Madeline is the namesake daughter of longtime Society Hill resident, Madeline Miller, who is best known in our neighborhood as a former teacher at St. Peter's School.

Miller moved from New York to Philadelphia at age 13, attended the Shipley School in Bryn Mawr, and then went to Brown University, where she read the classics. Now living in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she teaches Latin, Madeline and her fiancé still spend many weekends in Philadelphia making preparations for their October wedding.

Her first novel, *The Song of Achilles*, recently won the Orange Prize for Fiction — an internationally recognized award that celebrates “excellence, originality and accessibility” in women’s writing. Madeline joins the ranks of previous celebrated winners such as Zadie Smith, Rose Tremain and Nigerian writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (who won the award for one of my all-time favorite novels, *Half of a Yellow Sun*).

The Song of Achilles has been a hit with the critics and, surprisingly, the general reading public. I say surprisingly, because of its subject matter: the novel retells the classical story of the Trojan War, but from a unique perspective. The story is represented through the eyes of Patroclus — a marginal historical figure who receives slight mention in any classical source, including the *Iliad* (aside from being acknowledged as the lover of the epic’s hero, Achilles).

Madeline’s starting point and inspiration was a throwaway comment in the *Iliad*. The author explains: “As Patroclus lies dying, a slave mourns his death saying: ‘You were always gentle.’ Now Ancient Greek heroes may be ‘bold’, ‘brave’ and ‘fearsome’... but they are never ‘gentle.’”

This epithet piqued Madeline’s interest; she wanted to understand Achilles’ anger over the loss of Patroclus, the “gentle” man in an epic crammed full of major-league heroes. And Achilles’ anger is god-like. It overshadows the *Iliad* which, after all, opens with the lines: “Sing, Goddess, the anger of Peleus’ son Achilles...”

In this instance, it’s Agamemnon who enrages Achilles and his rage continues to dominate the action at Troy. A pivotal episode in the war occurs when Achilles slaughters Hector in a blind fury at the death of Patroclus.

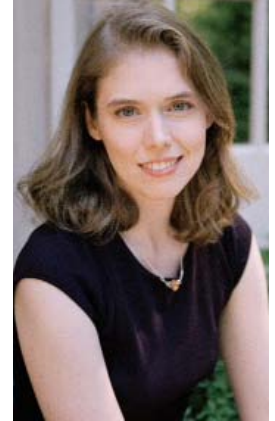
As a classical scholar, Madeline was driven to explore the nature of Achilles’ rage. As a writer, she reimagines the love story between Patroclus and the demi-god, Achilles.

Madeline works like a forensic detective, first tracking down clues from Greek writers and, later, Roman versions of the Trojan War. She does this in a bid to build a photofit picture (a technique used by the police for building up an accurate image of someone to fit a witness’s description) of the indistinct character, Patroclus. She succeeds.

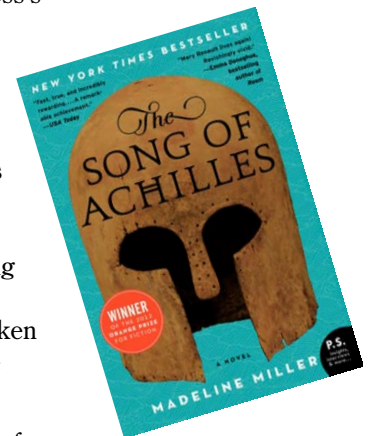
The Song of Achilles is a ravishing piece of fast-paced writing. Unlike the two-dimensional original heroes, the characters in Madeline’s novel are fully fleshed-out creations driven by recognizable passions and motivations. Agamemnon is an irritating despot. Thetis (the cruel sea-goddess and meddling parent of Achilles) ends up a broken mother weeping at Achilles’ graveside. The characterizations are utterly believable.

Madeline has produced a learned retelling of an ancient myth that will appeal both to scholars and schoolchildren and everyone in between. I devoured the novel in one weekend!

The Song of Achilles, published by Bloomsbury, is available from good bookstores, including Head House Books at 619 South 2nd Street.



Author Madeline Miller



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George Reilly

George Reilly, owner of The Twisted Tail, is a man with a passion for heat. Despite his roots in the English Midlands, George is devoted to the cuisine of the American South and has brought his enthusiasm for barbecue to Society Hill. Billed as a

Southern Style Bourbon House and Juke Joint, The Twisted Tail offers live music, a wide range of craft beverages and barbecued gastro-pub fare.

Owning a restaurant in the States was not originally on George's agenda. "I had finished school in England and Europe and I decided to check out the U.S. Since I was born in Detroit while my dad was working for General Motors, I've always had dual citizenship but had never spent any real time here. My plan was to spend two years touring and working in the U.S., get to know the country, then return to England and settle down." Thirteen years (and a lovely American wife) later, George now calls Philadelphia home.

Veering back to the subject of barbecue, George continues: "We tend to associate this type of cooking with the American South, but really, all that "barbecue" means is cooking directly over a flame. This is done all over the world. The differences come down to the type of fuel used, whether it's charcoal or wood. And of course, what you grill and how you flavor it. But the fundamentals are the same. At our restaurant, the chefs embrace the art of live-fire grilling by carefully tending a pit built of top-quality charcoal that delivers a flavor-packed meal!"

In addition to finger-licking good menu choices like St. Louis Ribs with twisted greens (\$18) or sesame encrusted Cedar Plank Salmon (\$16), the Twisted Tail offers an impressive list of whiskeys and bourbons. For instance, the Twisted Flight

(\$16) offers tastes of Shine corn whiskey, Old Pogue small-batch bourbon and Blanton's single-barrel bourbon.

And if you're in the mood for a foot-stomping, finger-snapping good time, drop in on a Sunday evening from 5 to 9 p.m. for the Open Blues Jam, or every Wednesday night from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. for more blues with the house band.

On the rare occasions that George is not at the restaurant, he enjoys cooking for friends and family. He was kind enough to share one of his go-to recipes, Grilled Citrus Chili Pork Loin.

Sides? George recommends sweet potatoes, hoppin' john (a traditional rice and black-eyed pea dish) or creamed corn. Still have some room for dessert? Try mixed-berry shortbread with fresh whipped cream.

Discover the cuisine of the American South.

To learn more about The Twisted Tail, go to www.thetwistedtail.com/. For more of Philly Food Lovers, please visit phillyfoodlovers.com, find them on Facebook at Philly Food Lovers and Twitter @phillyphood.

GRILLED CITRUS CHILI PORK LOIN

1 pork loin (approximately 4.75 inches in diameter)

Marinade

4 oranges
 3 TBSP clover honey
 3 TBSP soy sauce
 chili peppers, chopped, to taste
 chili paste (such as Sriracha) to taste

Zest oranges and squeeze juice into a large bowl or Ziploc bag big enough to hold pork. Mix in remaining marinade ingredients. Place pork in marinade and coat thoroughly. Refrigerate overnight. Before cooking, allow pork to come to room temperature. Cook on well-heated grill for 30-45 minutes, basting frequently with extra marinade until done.

Note: This marinade works equally well on chicken, using the same technique — reduce cooking time for chicken.

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OUT AND ABOUT

Your Membership Dues at Work

What do your membership dues do?

SHCA's mission is to promote the improvement of Society Hill, including its cultural, educational and civic activities, as well as the preservation and restoration of its historic buildings. The Association is also committed to representing its 2,600 households in matters affecting the City of Philadelphia generally and Society Hill in particular.

Why is your membership so important? Besides providing funding for our many neighborhood improvement projects, numbers speak volumes when our board advocates on your behalf.

There's truth to the adage that a picture is worth a thousand words. See for yourself how member dues help to enhance our community.



SHCA provides funds and volunteers to help keep Washington Square beautiful for visitors and residents alike.



Sidewalks became twice as bright as a result of SHCA's refurbishment of Franklin Lights.



SHCA offers a \$150 subsidy to residents who plant new trees, with the help of Tree Tenders, in our neighborhood.



SHCA's "Fix the Brix" program, offering homeowners a subsidy for repair of uneven sidewalks, has made our community safer.



On behalf of SHCA, Martha has presented more than 640 Welcome Baskets over the years, introducing newcomers to businesses, services and cultural opportunities.

OUT AND ABOUT



SHCA keeps our community clean by funding graffiti control and weekly sidewalk sweeping, as well as fall and spring Clean-Up Days that include street washing, plus paper shredding and electronic recycling services.



SHCA hosts several social events each year, giving the community opportunities to meet and greet neighbors in convivial settings.



Bi-monthly SHCA General Membership Meetings present speakers addressing a wide range of quality-of-life issues, such as the City Planning Commission's program pictured.



SHCA advocates for the preservation and restoration of its historic buildings and keeps tabs on current issues, halting the use of unsightly cheek walls and concrete ramp aprons in the ADA Project.



American Revolutionary War soldier Joe Becton catches up on the future with an issue of the *Society Hill Reporter* — delivered to every household in our community. He can also sign up for our weekly email Newsletters and Crime Reports to stay on top of local events of interest.

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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

BY MARILYN APPEL

Be an Alert Neighbor

So what else is new? The downspout “dragons” are on the loose again. They want copper and they’re brazen (seen running down the 300 block of Spruce Street with copper pipe in hand, then coming back later to finish the job). More than eleven new incidences of copper thefts, mainly downspouts, have occurred in Society Hill. The 6th District Police have deployed a plainclothes team and additional uniformed patrol units to our area. In addition, they are conducting frequent checks of area scrap metal facilities to see if the thieves can be tracked down. If your downspout has been stolen, please call 911 to have a report taken.

If you see a person removing a downspout, call 911 and give a good description of the person(s) or vehicles engaged in any suspicious activity. Several residents have given information resulting in questioning of some contractors working in the area. Update: Thanks to an alert off-duty Park Ranger, a couple was seen stealing brass covers from standpipes and subsequently arrested. You, too, can be an alert neighbor.

If you see it or hear it, say it. CALL 911.

If you leave it, they’ll take it. If you leave computers, GPS units, cell phones, money or anything else that looks valuable in your car, someone will come along and take it. Furthermore, if you leave your car unlocked, thieves may not break a window, but the vehicle itself becomes easy prey.

Window-washing scam is here again.

Never hire someone who rings your doorbell, claims to have just washed your neighbor’s windows and asks if you want to have yours done. Don’t be fooled; it’s a scam! We’ve encountered this type of rip-off in the past: A man rings your doorbell and proposes washing your windows at \$10 apiece. He means \$10 per pane of glass (12 small panes for most windows), and this can add up to \$120 per window! He gets angry if people refuse to pay, and intimidates many homeowners into giving him the money.

Even if you need your windows washed, refuse this solicitation. Use the SHCA List of Contractors to find a window washer that is known to us. **For a copy of the SHCA List of Contractors, email marthalev@msn.com or call 215-629-0727.**



The site of one of many missing downspouts.

IT PAYS TO BE ALARMED

Protect Your Home from Intruders

Society Hill rarely experiences home burglaries, yet we had one this summer and another this past spring. In both cases, the security alarms were not set. Here are tips to keep your home safe from intruders:

Always **set your security alarm to “on”** before leaving the house and when you retire to bed.

Make sure you have **security company decals prominently displayed** on your front and rear windows, as well as your garage door.

Lock your doors after you return to the house, and check on them before you go to sleep.

Have front and rear door lights on after dark and through the night, preferably with a timer or photo sensor so they go on automatically. This is especially important if you are away from home for an extended period of time. Include a motion detector that will shine a bright light if anyone enters the back of your property.

When you go on vacation, or will be away for even a few days, **ask your closest neighbors** on either side to keep an eye on your house.

Notify your security company when you are going away, and give them dates and cell phone numbers.

Arrange for someone to **remove newspapers and mail** that accumulate on your front doorstep – a sure sign that no one is home.

Leave some lights on. A completely dark house is another signal that the house is empty.

Keep garage doors closed at all times. Open doors mean intruders can look into your home (and try to gain access) or climb over walls to other houses.

If a contractor is working at your house while you are on vacation or away, give him a special alarm code to arm the property in your absence.



Jan Stephano

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New Season for Welcome Baskets

BY MARTHA LEVINE

SHCA thanks all of the generous and loyal contributors to our Welcome Basket program. Anyone who became a first-time homeowner in Society Hill during the last year (September 2011 through September 2012) is eligible to receive a basket that contains fresh foods, valuable information and gift certificates — to area theaters, restaurants, shops and services.

If this describes you or someone you know, we would be glad to welcome you to the neighborhood. Please contact us to set up an appointment for a presentation in your home that takes about half an hour.

Contact SHCA board member Martha Levine at marthalev@msn.com or 215-629-0727.



Long-time Welcome Basket contributors Paul Harris (left) and John Arneth, proprietors of Show of Hands Gallery (crafts) at 1006 Pine Street, and Adornamenti (jewelry) at 1106 Pine Street, are preparing for an upcoming Steuben glass show.



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 - Distrito, 3945 Chestnut Street
 - Chifa, 707 Chestnut Street
- La Buca Ristorante, 711 Locust Street
- Mustard Greens (Chinese), 622 S. 2nd Street
- Positano Coast Restaurant, 2nd & Walnut Streets
- QBBQ & Tequila, 207 Chestnut Street
- Ristorante Panorama, 14 N. Front Street
- Union Gourmet @ 5th Street, 318 S. 5th Street
- Village Belle, 757 S. Front Street

Specialty Foods

- Homemade Goodies by Roz, 510 S. 5th Street
- Metropolitan Bakery, 262 S. 19th Street (Rittenhouse Sq.)

Specialty Shops

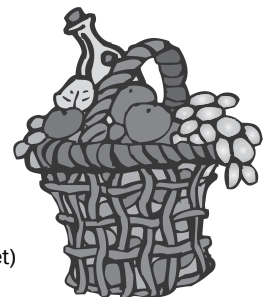
- Adornamenti (jewelry), 1106 Pine Street
- Happily Ever After (toys), 1010 Pine Street
- Head House Books, 619 S. 2nd Street
- Hello Home, 1004 Pine Street
- Lolli Lolli (children's clothing/toys), 713 Walnut Street
- Paper On Pine (invitations/stationery), 115 S. 13th Street
- Show of Hands Gallery (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
- 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 (south of 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 Streets
- Piffaro, The Renaissance Band, 215-235-8469
- Society Hill Playhouse, 507 S. 8th Street
- The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, Kimmel Center, 215-545-1739
- The Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble, Old Pine Church
- Wilma Theater, 265 S. Broad Street

Other Services

- Judy Moon Massage Therapy, Hopkinson House, 604 Washington Sq.
- Liberty Tree & Landscape Management, 215-725-3637
- Lux Spa and Fitness at the Omni Hotel, 401 Chestnut Street
- Riff Cleaners, 314 S. 5th Street
- Salvatore Custom Drapery & Installations 215-547-2880
- SCULPT—Personal Trainer, 215-803-0723
- The Worth Collection (women's fashions), 215-925-8813
- Yoga Child (children & adult classes), 903 South Street



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838-40 Lombard Street

\$1,795,000

Heavenly 5BD/4.5BA home with rooftop terrace, elevator, and garage, complete with granite and stainless kitchen, cozy den, 4 piece marble tile bath, and private yard with patio and gardening area.

529 Delancey Street

\$950,000

This is a spectacular, completely renovated 3BD/3.5BA home with 2 master suites, 2 dens, and a charming garden, featuring a living room with pillars, crown molding and chandelier. This home has also been designed with multiple wet-bars, Juliet balcony, and a rooftop terrace.

318 S. Juniper Street

\$649,900

Stunning 2BD/2BA home designed with hardwood floors, granite and custom tiled kitchen, and lovely garden area, complete with parking that is all set within minutes from the city life!

241 S. 6th Street 1503

\$359,000

Recently renovated 1BD/1BA condo unit with wide open space, hardwood floors throughout, and granite kitchen with cherry cabinets, featuring floor to ceiling windows and sliders leading out to a private balcony.

143 S. 2nd Street

\$279,000-699,000

Located in the heart of Society Hill, boasted with breathtaking views, the Moravian offers a beautiful marble and glass lobby with 2 elevators, concierge service, and gorgeous hardwood floors throughout, welcoming the more than enough natural light. In addition, every unit has been acoustician designed to mute sound between and within the units for more serene living.



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S E P T E M B E R 1 1

Yo, Philly Party

Starr Garden, Philadelphia's oldest playground (600-44 Lombard Street) invites neighbors to its "Yo Philly Party," complete with free water ice, soft pretzels, prizes, and DJ Patty Pat, on Tuesday, September 11, from 5 to 7 p.m. Philadelphia Parks & Recreation awarded Starr this party for the winning video submission to the 2012 Love Your Park Contest!

The Starr Garden Neighbors has been working hard, along with Pennsylvania Horticultural Society through their Green Machine Grant, to redesign and maintain the garden on the north and east sides of the recreation center. A major planting will take place later this fall. Stay tuned for details.

If you would like to be involved in our revitalization efforts and/or you would like to join our email distribution list, email StarrGardenNeighbors@gmail.com.

S E P T E M B E R 2 7

Neighbors Being Neighbors

Penn's Village is sponsoring "The Doctor Will See You Now — Achieving a Successful Doctor/Patient Relationship," with Dr. Don Friedman, at the Society Hill Towers on September 27, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Penn's Village, founded in 2008, is a community-based, nonprofit organization operated by and for neighborhood residents who wish to remain in their own homes as they age or have other special needs. Volunteers are the backbone of Penn's Village. Last year, Village volunteers fulfilled more than two thousand requests from its members. Volunteer opportunities range from working on everyday organizational tasks to providing member services or assisting with administrative tasks.

If you are interested in exploring a membership and/or volunteering opportunities, please contact Avalie at 215-925-7333 or email avalie@pennsvillage.org.

S E P T E M B E R 1 6

Raise the Roof

Less than a year after celebrating its 250th anniversary, St. Peter's Episcopal Church at 3rd and Pine Streets was forced to close its doors due to the deteriorating condition of the sanctuary roof. The decision to close the building was made in May following a structural analysis report conducted by S. Harris Ltd.

The closure has been a major shock for the congregation, one of the few Episcopal churches to experience growth in membership over the past 10 years. But parishioners acted quickly, organizing a fundraising campaign called the "Raise the Roof Capital Campaign." They are reaching out to members of the congregation, the community and endowment organizations to find the funds to make the necessary repairs.

"Raise the Roof" kicks off officially with a block party, which is free and open to the public, on September 16, at 12:30 p.m. on the 300 block of Pine Street.

O C T O B E R 1 1

Friends' 40th Anniversary Gala

On Thursday, October 11, the Friends of Independence National Historical Park will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary with a night of festivity, reflection, revelry and honors. The Celebratory Gala, including cocktails and dinner, will take place in and around the American Revolution Center (formerly the Visitor's Center) and the First Bank of the United States (a building not open to the public for more than 20 years) on Third Street. The celebration will include a salute to Addie-Lou, one of the Friends founders, and Hobie Cawood, Park Superintendent from 1972 to 1992.

If you are unable to make our Thursday event, feel free to join in on Friday evening for a gathering of Young Friends — young in age or in spirit — which will take place at the same location.

For more information, please visit our website www.friendsofindependence.org.



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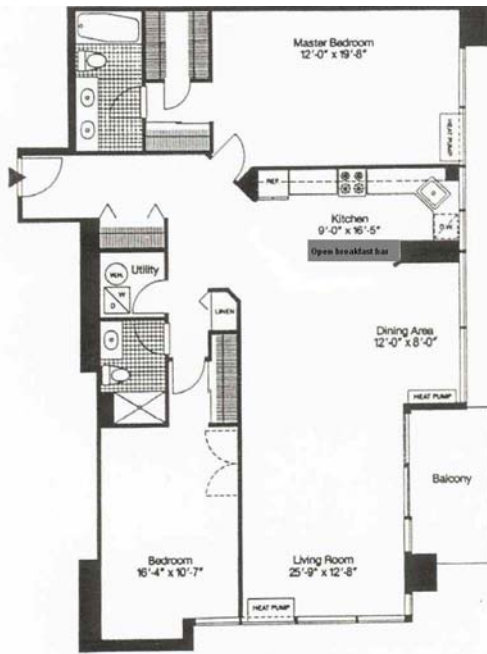
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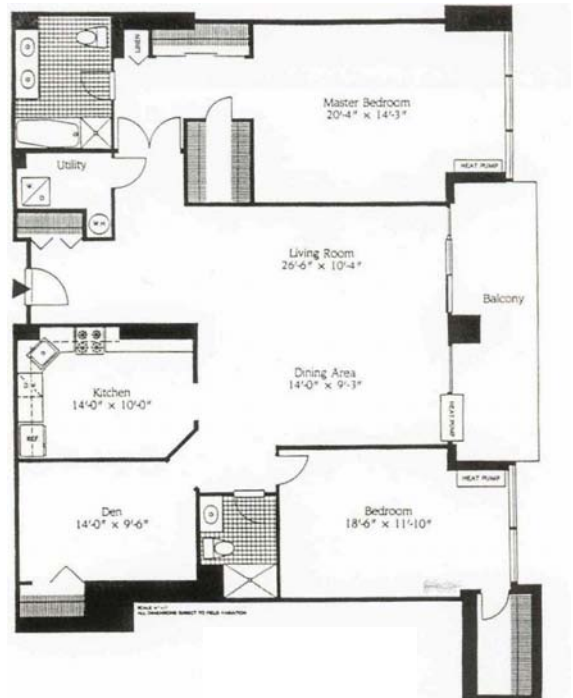
Pristine Two Bedroom, Two Bathroom

Completely renovated residence with panoramic southern view and private balcony. There is an open chef's kitchen with high end appointments and Waterworks designer bathrooms. 1387 sf \$699,900



Light-filled and Spacious Two Bedroom Plus Den

Open and bright with a balcony that runs almost the entire length of the home. There are wood floors, an open kitchen and generous master suite. 1937 sf \$790,000



Three Bears Fall Festival

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 13, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the Three Bears Fall Festival, our annual day of fall fun! There will be a moon bounce, face painting, pumpkin decorating, games, balloons, fire trucks and a food and bake sale. Proceeds from the Fall Festival will fund weekly maintenance and clean up, as well as improvements to the park and community events like the Halloween and Easter Festivities. If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer or donate to the Fall Festival, please contact Rachel Cohen at 215-275-6586 or rcohen824@gmail.com. Raindate: October 14.



An S.O.S. From Three Bears Park

Three Bears Park, on Delancey between 3rd and 4th Streets, is in need of care. Unfortunately, we will all see a considerable difference in our beloved little park if we do not take care of it now!

The Friends of Three Bears Park has the park cleaned on a weekly basis. Costs for cleaning the park are \$5,280 a year. Weeds must be removed from tree pits and the bricks need to be power washed — this would cost approximately \$1,000. There are also many trees with dead branches. The cost is approximately \$10,500 to have them trimmed for safety's sake.

We are reaching out to the community for help. If you find yourself in the park with your kids, or enjoy the significant contribution that the park makes to the beauty of our neighborhood, please consider making a donation. As of mid-July, we have raised \$3,500 towards our September goal of \$10,000.

Many thanks to the Grasse and Miller families, who have generously agreed to match 25% of each donation, up to \$1,000, for all donations made through September 15. An anonymous donor has agreed to do the same. This means your \$100 donation will actually translate to \$175!

And there are still opportunities to donate or name a bench or table in the park. The cost of a bench is \$1,700 and the cost for a table is \$2,000. A plaque with a name you designate will be placed on it.

Checks can be made out to the Friends of Three Bears Park and can be mailed to: 305 Delancey Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106. All donations are tax-deductible.



In June, Sherl "Joe" Winter presented a replica of his Three Bears sculpture to Mayor Nutter, in recognition of all that the mayor has done to foster the arts in Philadelphia.

Order this Miniature Reproduction of the Three Bears Sculpture

The sculpture of three white granite bears that gives the park at 3rd and Delancey Streets its name is a beloved part of Society Hill. Sculptor Sherl J. Winter envisioned this work as interactive, and children of all ages have embraced it since it was installed in 1966.



Recently he has reproduced the figure in miniature, giving anyone who has ever been to the park (or enjoyed playing there as a child) the opportunity to revisit it at home.

The low introductory offering price is \$125.

It is approximately 6" high x 7" x 5.5" and made of virtually indestructible cast stone.

To place an order or for more information, please contact sculptor Sherl J. Winter at: 215 242 0978 or sjwinter00@comcast.net or visit www.winterartstudio.com.

Recent Sales in Society Hill



229 Spruce Street



411 Spruce Street



261 S. 4th Street



614 Spruce Street

Society Hill Homes For Sale



306 S. 2nd Street
 Historic 1816 Townhouse with
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OCTOBER 22

Philly Walking in the Park

United we walk for health and fun! Join Dr. Lisa Unger, along with volunteers from HELP Now! and Society Hill — Hot and Healthy! for coordinated walks three mornings per week through beautiful, historic Washington Square.

While nothing can replace individualized medical care, Dr. Unger is excited and proud to offer the people of our community this opportunity to band together for better health and well being, while building peaceful connections. Dr. Unger will also offer monthly lifestyle tips which will be thematically incorporated into the walks.

Interested people will meet in Washington Square, near the fountain, at 8 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays — excluding national holidays, and rainy, snowy or below-freezing mornings. The walks will last about 30 minutes and, upon completion, participants can exercise further, sit together on the park benches or just get on with the day. The kickoff date is Monday, October 22. If necessary the rain date is Wednesday, October 24.

OCTOBER 29

Mindful Eating

Society Hill — Hot and Healthy! is a free, community-based medical speaker series which provides up-to-date information promoting good health, well-being and disease prevention.

The series launches its second season on Monday, October 29, at 7 p.m. at the Society Hill Synagogue, 418 Spruce Street. Our first speaker, Dr. John Stern from Pennsylvania Hospital, will discuss food safety and how to navigate the meat and poultry aisles at the grocery store without a GPS. If you think fish is the answer, we need to see you! Our second speaker, Dr. Terri Brown-Whitehorn from Children’s Hospital, will speak about “Food Allergies: Myths vs. Realities” from the point of view of an allergist. Parents will be interested to know that there are new treatments for patients with food allergies. Did you know, for instance, that a child with a severe milk allergy is able to drink milk after treatment?

Come join us and bring questions and comments! Refreshments will be served. Call 215-922-6590 for more information.

Learn how to navigate the aisles of a grocery store — without a GPS!



Please join us for Society Hill Synagogue’s TGIShabbat, Potluck Dinner, & Open House Friday, September 14, 2012 at 6:15 p.m.

Don’t miss this opportunity to meet our Rabbi, Cantor, President, Board of Directors, and members of our congregation at the first TGIShabbat service of the season! Our TGIShabbat service is an hour-long, music-filled, joyous celebration of Shabbat — the perfect way to end a stressful week of work.

The evening will begin with the TGIShabbat service in our recently renovated Sanctuary, followed by a potluck dinner (prepared by our very own Board Members), delicious desserts, and schmoozing in our Social Hall.

SHS has programs, activities, and educational opportunities to fit all of your membership needs! We have a wonderful and very

popular Playschool for children ages 2 to 5, (including a.m. and p.m. Pre-Kindergarten classes), Sunday School for children in Pre-K through 2nd grades, Hebrew School for children in 3rd through 7th grades, and a dynamic Hebrew High School.

For further information, please contact the SHS office at 215.922.6590 or office@societyhillsynagogue.org.

We look forward to hearing from you!

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Office: 215.922.6590 Fax: 215.922.6599
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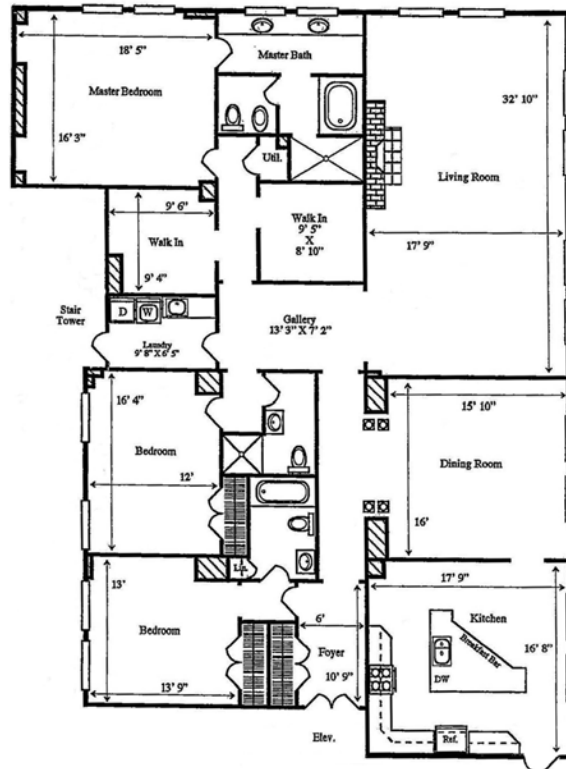


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Enter the residence through a secure elevator that opens directly into a foyer appointed in marble. A grand gallery runs the length of the home. Perfect for entertaining, the large sun-soaked living room offers west and south facing windows, coffered ceilings, a gas burning fireplace and large mahogany wet bar. The arched entry to the formal dining room has beautiful faux-painted columns. The chef's kitchen features cherry cabinetry; granite countertops; under-counter and recessed lighting; center island with breakfast bar; and stainless steel GE Monogram gas range with electric oven and hood, Bosch dishwasher and Sub-Zero refrigerator with freezer drawer.

The lavish master suite has his and hers walk-in California Closets and an ensuite bathroom appointed in marble with a Jacuzzi tub, oversized seamless glass enclosed stall shower, private commode and bidet, and double vanity with windows overlooking Washington Square. Two additional bedrooms each have their own full baths, one ensuite and the other adjacent. Additional home features include oak floors in the living areas and carpet in the bedrooms, twelve foot ceilings and eight foot windows throughout, two Bose sound systems and a spacious laundry room.

The condominium comes with one parking space in a secure lot adjacent to the building and two storage spaces.

\$1,995,000



IN MEMORIAM

Community Leader Will Be Missed



Jeffrey Rush

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Jeff Rush, 67, who died on August 14 of pancreatic cancer. Jeff, a business owner and longtime champion of Philadelphia residents, has been active for more than three decades with the Queen Village Neighbors Association

as a board member, vice president and president. He also held a post as Vice Chair of Central Delaware Advocacy Group and, most recently, served as a Commissioner on the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Jeff was a great civic friend of Society Hill and his presence will be missed. We send our condolences to his wife, Kathleen.

Donations may be made to QVNA (Box 63763, Philadelphia, 19147) for the establishment of the Jeff Rush Community Improvement Fund.

WELCOME

New Headmaster at St. Peter's School

St. Peter's School is pleased to announce the appointment of its new headmaster, Shawn Kelly. Shawn, who has more than 20 years of experience in education, holds an M.Ed. from Harvard University and a B.A. from the University of Rhode Island.

He comes to St. Peter's School from The McClelland School in Colorado and tells us: "I was drawn to the St. Peter's approach to educating the whole child. The school is known for its strong traditions, such as Harvest Festival and May Day, as well as its rigorous academic program, including teaching children the importance of art, music, athletics, theater and citizenship. The small class sizes make it possible for every faculty member to know every child, allowing that child to reach his or her potential. The safe, community atmosphere creates the best possible environment for learning. I look forward to working with this extraordinary community to continue to build this distinctive school."



Shawn Kelly

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Kathy, Patrick and the Conway Team

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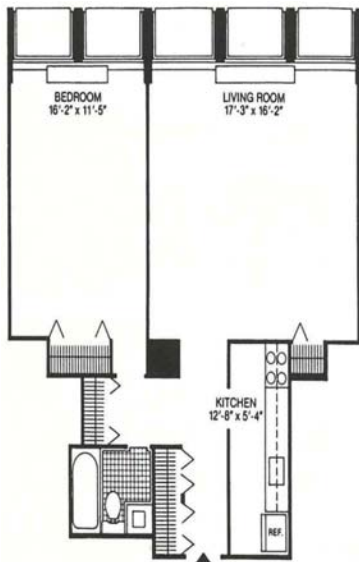
Allan Domb Real Estate Presents Society Hill Towers

200-220 LOCUST STREET



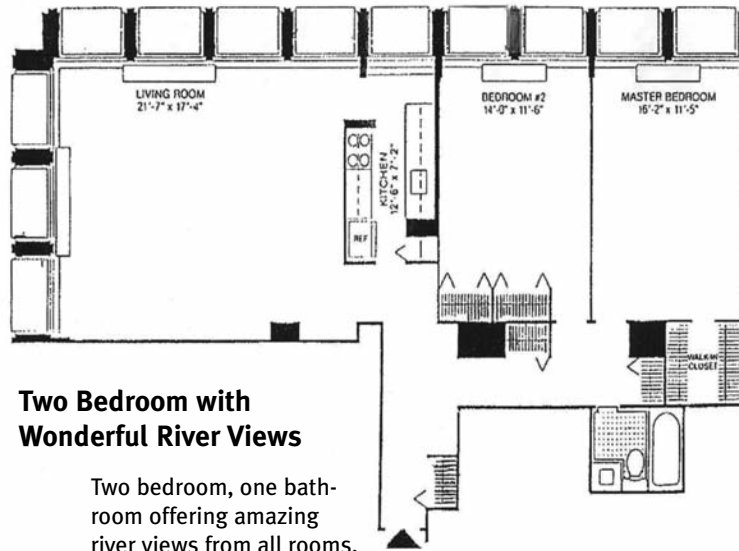
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\$269,900



Two Bedroom with Wonderful River Views

Two bedroom, one bathroom offering amazing river views from all rooms, wood floors throughout and generous closet space. 1200 sf
\$399,000

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Completely renovated three bedroom, three bathroom condominium with hardwood floors throughout, an open custom kitchen, beautiful bathrooms and wonderful river and city views! 1866 sf
\$779,900

2012 Membership Drive Comes Close to 2011 Total

By mid-August, 1,026 residents have either renewed their SHCA membership or joined for the first time. This represents 99% of our 2011 total membership of 1,033.

A big thank you goes out to the 91 new members. But we still wonder why 95 residents, some of whom have been long-time members, have not renewed after several notices. Please help us reach last year's total.

We always strive to obtain memberships from all 2,600 households located in our historic neighborhood. Why is your membership so important? Besides providing funding for many neighborhood improvement projects, which you can see detailed on pages 18 and 19, numbers speak volumes. When our board advocates on your behalf, it makes a greater impact if they can say they speak on behalf of the majority of residents. You're also guaranteed invitations to each of our social events.

Without member 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 have not renewed or are not a member. All comments will be shared with the board, which is representative of every quadrant in Society Hill.

Ladies: Step Up The Pace!

Join the Walkie-Talkies — Newcomers Always Welcome

Now that summer 2012 is history and the weather here in Philly is more agreeable, you have little excuse for not maintaining a more physically active schedule. We recommend that whenever possible you walk to the store rather than ride a bus. If you're not participating in an ongoing exercise program, we suggest that you consider joining our community's year-round, bi-weekly FREE exercise & FUN socialize program. On any Tuesday and Thursday morning (when it's not raining) lace up those sneakers and, prior to 8:15 a.m., show up at Three Bears Park (at Delancey Street between 2nd & 3rd Streets). These one-hour walks explore Society Hill's wonderful streetscape and encourage the development of new pals with neighborhood gals. Newcomers are especially encouraged to participate with Walkie-Talkie "old-timers." Any questions? Feel free to phone Bernice at 215-925-4363.



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/Single
- \$ 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
- Reporter
- Casino Issues
- Incidents & Alerts

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

A Dynamic Duo

Lisa Unger and Ken Fleisher could be Society Hill's most ardent fans. Their enthusiasm for their neighborhood is boundless. Ken, a real estate lawyer who was raised in Lower Merion, returned to Philadelphia after graduating from Harvard Law School. He walks to work every day to his office at Zarwin Baum in Center City. "We bought a beautifully designed home by Louis Sauer in 1996," says Ken, noting that Society Hill offers Tudor, Colonial and modern architecture. "We have all the cultural amenities at our fingertips and yet Society Hill is wonderfully quiet, green and residential. That's why we have a tremendous amount of civic pride." Ken devotes a considerable time to pro bono work and received the 2008 Pro Bono Publico Award from the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania.

A native of New York's Lower East Side, Lisa attended Stuyvesant High School, whose alumni include countless luminaries. She graduated at 15, won a scholarship to Harvard and went on to study medicine at NYU. After practicing for 25 years, she decided to "retire" from her job at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania last year in order to devote the rest of her life to giving back something to the community. "In my practice, I tried to emphasize preventive medicine with an emphasis on nutrition, but found it was hard to get patients to change their bad habits," she explains. "They were much more willing to take a pill than to diet and exercise."

Although the couple are admitted "foodies" who love eating out in all the neighborhood restaurants, both Fleisher and Unger are slim and fit. At 50, Lisa could pass for a much younger woman. "I do have a sweet tooth," she admits over a breakfast macaroon at the couple's favorite coffee shop, Java. "But Ken and I eat well and we both like walking and working out."

In 2011, Lisa launched Society Hill — Hot and Healthy, a free, community-based medical speaker series. Her mission is "to empower people to make knowledgeable decisions about their health by providing up-to-date information promoting good health, well-being and disease prevention." Because it was so successful, she followed it with a series of lectures in schools and offices called HELP Now! The acronym stands for Health, Energy, Lifestyle, Plan Now. At press time, Lisa was finalizing plans to begin Philly is Walking in the Park, a half-hour aerobic tour of the historic, beautiful Washington Square.

"I'm extremely blessed to live in this wonderful neighborhood," says Lisa. "I am so grateful to have the opportunity, through volunteer work, to give back to the community that has offered so much to me and my family over the past 26 years. I hope that my efforts will promote not only disease prevention, but friendship and acts of lovingkindness." Because Lisa is also a gifted writer, we wanted to share her personal reflections:



**Lisa Unger and
Ken Fleisher**

"In 1985, when I became engaged to Ken, I was a medical student in New York. Ken was living at the Hopkinson House. I remember visiting him, and being entranced by the beauty of Washington Square, which is practically on the doorstep of the apartment building. I loved strolling through the park, gazing at the lovely trees and flowers and sitting on a bench to read. I also truly appreciated the historic nature of the park, particularly the monument and eternal flame by the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

"When it came time to apply for a residency position in my chosen field, internal medicine, I explained to Ken that for the next three years, I would be on call every four nights and be required to sleep over at the hospital with little or no sleep during that period. Did he think it was a good idea to marry before I embarked on this very difficult training period? Without hesitation, Ken replied, 'If I don't marry you, I'll never see you!' He was right, of course, so we wed just before I finished medical school. Ken suggested I consider 'the wonderful hospital two blocks away' for my residency. I hadn't known that Pennsylvania Hospital was the first in the United States, founded by Benjamin Franklin. Not only was it the most magnificent hospital I had ever seen, but it also had an incredibly impressive brain trust of attending physicians.

"I began my residency at 'Pennsy' in 1986, and, although the next three years were very difficult, I look back on them with immense appreciation. The dedicated staff trained me to provide excellent patient care.

"But the greatest and most significant thing about Pennsylvania Hospital in my life was yet to come: I gave birth there to my first child, Evelyn, and several years later to my son, Michael. They are the greatest miracles of my life."

The next free Hot and Healthy lecture is Mindful Eating: Food Safety and Allergies. (See page 29 for more info.)

Allan Domb Real Estate Presents The Bank Building

421 CHESTNUT STREET

Brand New Custom Home Overlooking Independence Hall

Beautifully appointed two bedroom plus den, two and a half bathroom condominium with exposed brick barrel ceilings and walls, chef's kitchen and amazing bathrooms.
2,025 sf
\$1,100,000



Brand New Furnished Designer Residence

Magnificent two bedroom, two bathroom home that is available furnished, with high end finishes and features, as well as original building details such as exposed brick walls and arched doorways. 2,101 sf
\$1,100,000

Unique Opportunity to Create a Custom Home

Raw space that provides an opportunity to create a custom home overlooking Independence Hall—customize your own floor plan and finishes! 3,068 sf
\$1,150,000



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Tuesday, September 11
GreenFest Philly
 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Headhouse Square,
 2nd and Lombard Streets

Tuesday, September 11
"Yo Philly Party"
 5 - 7 p.m. Starr Garden,
 600 Lombard Street
 See page 25

Friday, September 14
Girls' Night Out
 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
 Fabric Row, 4th between
 Bainbridge & Catharine Streets

Sunday, September 16
St. Peter's "Raise the Roof" Block Party
 12:30 p.m.
 300 block of Pine Street
 See page 25

Wednesday, September 19
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
 See page 1

Friday, September 21
Mexican Independence Day
 6 - 9 p.m. Headhouse Square
 2nd and Lombard Streets

Thursday, September 27
"The Doctor Will See You Now: Achieving a Successful Doctor/Patient Relationship" with Dr. Don Friedman
 6 - 8 p.m. Society Hill Towers
 285 St. James Place

Saturday, September 29
Oktoberfest Block Party
 12 - 8 p.m.
 700 block of South Street

Saturday, October 13
Antiques Fair
 Headhouse Square
 2nd and Lombard Streets

Saturday, October 13
Three Bears Fall Festival
 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Delancey Street between
 2nd and 3rd Streets
 See page 27

Tuesday, November 6
General Election
 Remember to take your
 Photo ID and vote!



3rd and Pine Streets
 215.925.5968
 www.stpetersphila.org

Everyone is invited!

Saint Peter's Episcopal Church is hosting a Raise-the-Roof Block Party.

Join family, friends and neighbors as we kick off the fundraising campaign to fix the church roof.

When: Sunday, September 16, 2012,
 12:30 - 3:00 PM

Where: The 300 block of Pine Street

Admission is free

Enjoy food, games, entertainment,
 and face painting!



Open hearts. Open minds.

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Bi-level penthouse featuring magnificent living spaces, a chef's kitchen, luxurious master suite and panoramic river and city views. 4403 sf
\$2,295,000

The Lippincott

227 S. 6TH STREET

Sun-soaked two bedroom plus den with wonderful Washington Square views. The residence has two and a half baths, an open floor plan, perfect for living and entertaining, and high end finishes throughout. 2716 sf
\$1,275,000

