



SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

www.societyhillcivic.org

Comprehensive Tax Reform Is Needed



Jeff Hornstein,
speaker at SHCA's
November General
Membership
Meeting

Mark Wednesday, November 14, on your calendar. That evening, Jeff Hornstein, president of Queen Village Neighbors Association, will be joining the Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) at its General Membership Meeting. Jeff will speak about the need for comprehensive tax reform in Philadelphia.

As reported in past issues, the Society Hill Civic Association has joined with 12 other civic associations to form the Tax Fairness Coalition. Earlier this year, the Coalition advocated for delay in implementation of the Actual Value Initiative (AVI) until the City had completed a thorough and fair assessment. Cooler heads prevailed and Council postponed the implementation of AVI over the recommendation of Mayor Michael Nutter.

This prudent move by Council offers an excellent opportunity for Philadelphia to take the time to broaden its tax reform and design a 21st century taxation system that is both competitive and fair.

The Tax Reform Commission's study of the City's tax system demonstrates that, as a city, we tax what others do not; our taxes are too high; and our taxes are unfairly imposed.

The Commission also found that Philadelphia compounds the problems of a high overall tax burden by relying too heavily on wage and business taxes — the taxes that are most likely to drive residents, businesses and jobs from the city. The city's incomparably high wage and business tax rates have damaged Philadelphia's economy over the past three decades, ultimately reducing tax revenue and the ability of the City and School District of Philadelphia to finance services.

Jeff Hornstein, former Service Employees International Union leader, lives in Queen Village and is now president of the Queen Village Neighbors Association. He's also president of the Philadelphia Jewish Labor Committee and has worked for the American Federation of Teachers.

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, we will hold our monthly Board Meeting at 6 p.m. in the Hospital's Great Court Conference Room. All current members of the Society Hill Civic Association are welcome to attend.

WED.	MARK YOUR CALENDAR
Nov. 14	Society Hill Civic Association Meetings Wednesday, November 14, 2012
	<p>Pennsylvania Hospital 8th & Spruce Streets</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting Pennsylvania Hospital Great Court Meeting 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>Speaker: Jeff Hornstein, President Queen Village Neighbors Association</p> <p>Topic: Comprehensive Tax Reform</p>

WALKING IN THE PARK
<p>Neighbors met for the Philly Walking in the Park kickoff on October 22. Coordinated walks through beautiful, historic Washington Square start at 8 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Come join us!</p>



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

BY STEVEN WEIXLER

Your Civic Association at Work

I can't quite say why, but I always find this time on the calendar to be invigorating — giving me the “umph” to set new goals as I head into the new year. Perhaps the arrival of brisk autumn winds blows away some of the cobwebs! The community life of Society Hill picks up as well, and there are many Civic Association members at work to make our neighborhood a better place.

You may have observed some of our efforts — others are less obvious, but just as important to our community. This summer, I was honored to participate in the re-dedication of both of Washington Square's guardhouses — recently restored to historic standards. SHCA, led by Sissie Lipton and her crew of stalwart volunteers, is a major force behind this project — and in keeping Society Hill's “front yard” well-groomed.

You cannot help but notice that the long-anticipated renovation of our sidewalk crossings and

repaving of streets is (slowly but surely) taking place. Our thanks go to preservationist groups, Councilman Mark Squilla and government agencies for all their hard work and collaboration. Thanks also to board members Martha Levine and Lorna Katz-Lawson for following this long process through to the final details.

I am effusive in my praise of the many people who contribute to our community through the Civic Association. As we approach our November Membership Drive, I encourage you to join us if you are not already a member or to renew your membership — and to contribute an additional amount if you are able. In addition, urge your friends and neighbors to join us in our work.

Our community life becomes stronger and more robust with the more people we represent and the more input we receive from involved and committed residents. Please help us meet our goals by joining SHCA!



**Steven Weixler,
President**

Return of the Guardhouse



National Park Service's Special Events Coordinator Andrew McDougall and SHCA Chair of the Washington Square Committee Sissie Lipton thank neighbor Joan Johnson (right) for her generous contribution that helped restore the Square's historic guardhouse.



Gather for Holiday Cheer

Jump-start the holidays with neighbors and friends on Monday, December 3! Gather for an evening of good food and drinks, plus lots of fun. Check SHCA weekly email blasts for more info.



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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Fall Clean-Up Day

There's nothing worse than walking through wet, soggy leaves as you go about your day! In addition, remember that our neighborhood brick sidewalks and cobblestone streets are positively dangerous with a slick coating of debris.

So, be a good neighbor on Saturday morning, November 17, and sweep up the piles around your house — and on your block. Remember to get those gutters cleared, as well as nearby walkways and alleys, before the city's sweeper trucks arrive sometime between 8 a.m. and noon.

Trash bags will be available — handed out by SHCA's Clean-Up Day volunteers — at the S. 5th Street SuperFresh, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Your bagged street leaves and litter (but no household trash) should be left by 1 p.m. at intersections on Locust, Spruce, Pine and Lombard Streets, where they cross the numbered streets. And, let's not forget Three Bears Park!

Wherever posted, cars must be moved to the opposite side of the street after 6 p.m. on Friday night — or they could be ticketed on Saturday morning, beginning at 8 a.m. Please note that to accommodate Saturday synagogue services, the 300, 400 and 500 blocks of both Spruce and Lombard Streets will be swept by 8:30 a.m. — leaving the south side of these streets available for congregants to park their cars.

All streets will be swept from Front to 8th and from Walnut to Lombard Streets (not including Walnut Street). There will be **no parking** on either side of the 300 and 400 blocks of Front Street, the 200 and 300 blocks of 2nd Street, and Lawrence Court. Although "Other Side Parking" signs will generally read "from 6 p.m. Friday until 3 p.m. Saturday," Society Hill's Block

Coordinators are encouraged to remove these signs as near to 1 p.m. as possible — in order to permit cars to be moved back to their usual side of the street between 1 and 3 p.m. — since this move will prevent those cars from getting ticketed.

Coordinating this fall's Clean-Up Day are Co-Chairs Spencer Finch (specfinch2@hotmail.com) and Bob Curley (bobpcurley@gmail.com). For last-minute Clean-Up Day questions, call Spencer at 215-592-0536 or Bob at 215-592-4251.

Clean-Up Day's Paper-Shredding and Electronic Recycling Services

This Clean-Up Day, SHCA is again sponsoring paper-shredding and electronic recycling services. The shredding service is for the convenience of Society Hill residents only (sorry, no businesses). It is only for confidential materials, since non-confidential papers should be recycled — not shredded.

- Services will be available in the St. Peter's School parking lot, at 3rd and Lombard Streets.
- Hours are from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (or earlier if the truck reaches capacity).
- Only paper is accepted — no CDs or disks.
- Electronic recycling will take televisions, microwaves, computers — anything with a plug.
- No large appliances like refrigerators or washing machines, please.

If you partake of these special services and are not yet an SHCA member, please consider joining our civic association — simply by filling out the form — either on page 33 of this newsletter or online at societyhillcivic.org. Any questions? Call 215-629-1288.



Snow is just around the corner!

Shopping for your Apple products just got a lot more convenient.



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from the Cold...
But Not from
Allergies.**



**Wouldn't it be nice if your allergies
would hibernate as the cold
weather seeps in?**

Unfortunately, between indoor dust mites, pet dander, mold, cigarette smoke and emissions from gas stoves, your allergies might just get worse as the temperature drops and you spend more time inside.

Symptoms such as a persistent cough or cold that lasts more than 2 weeks, congestion, headaches, lingering fatigue, difficulty breathing and respiratory infections can all be signs of winter allergies.

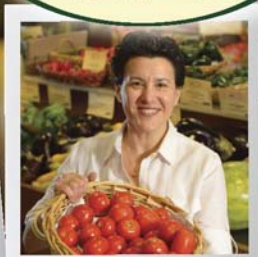
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NOVEMBER 5

Bagged Leaf Recycling

The Streets Department's 2012 Bagged Leaf and Recycling Program will begin on Monday, November 5, and will run through Friday, December 14. There will be curbside collection of bagged leaves for the entire city. Follow these steps to recycle your leaves:

- Leaves will only be collected in biodegradable paper bags.
- Leaves set out in other bags or containers may be collected as rubbish.
- Set leaf bags curbside next to trash and recycling on your trash day.
- Do not mix trash or other recyclable materials with bagged leaves. This contaminates leaves and makes them unfit for recycling purposes.
- Use as many bags as needed, maximum 40 pounds each.

JANUARY 5

Holiday Tree Recycling

Greenlimbs will collect Christmas trees and holiday greens on Saturday, January 5, in front of the Whole Foods Market at 929 South Street. The resulting mulch will be given a second life in various neighborhood gardens.

Last year, chipping sponsor Cenova chipped 338 trees. These efforts, combined with others throughout the city, kept more than 2,000 trees from the landfill! This year, the goal is to collect and chip 500 trees.



Help leaves and trees join the back-to-nature movement!

HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR

Become a Volunteer Driver

Penn's Village, a volunteer-driven, non-profit organization that connects members to a wide array of supportive services, is looking for volunteers to take members to doctor appointments and grocery shopping. If you have the time to help, please contact Penn's Village at info@pennsvillage.org or 215-925-7333.

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**As a sideline, Jim also writes "Exploring the City" for the Society Hill Reporter*

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2013?

Put this on your calendar!
January 6, 5 to 8 p.m.

Celebrate Twelfth Night
at The Physick House
 321 South 4th Street

Cocktail Buffet • Open Bar • Traditional King Cake • Music
 \$75 Benefits the Preservation Fund
 For reservations and information, call 215-925-9537

Old St. Mary Church † Holy Trinity Church

252 S. 4th Street 6th & Spruce Streets
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Old St. Mary's was the first Cathedral of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Holy Trinity Church was established as the first National (German) Catholic Church in the United States. Celebrate your holidays and holy days with us.

Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 22
 Holy Trinity Church, 9 a.m.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary
 Holy Trinity Church
 Friday, Dec. 7th, 5 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 8th, 9 a.m.

Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24
 Old St. Mary Church, 4 p.m.

Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25
 Old St. Mary Church, 10 a.m.

New Year's Eve, Monday, December 31
 Old St. Mary Church, 4:30 p.m.

New Year's Day, Tuesday, January 1, 2013
 Old St. Mary Church, 10 a.m.

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

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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 be prepared 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.

220 South 6th Street

Thanks to tireless efforts of long-term resident and SHCA member Nancy Frenze, the Dilworth House is now ready for winter. There are new gutters, the plywood has been moved to the inside of the windows, the grounds are cleaned up and the building structure is sound.

410 South Front Street**(aka New Market or Stamper Square)**

The Board of Licenses and Inspections cited several items that were not conforming to code regarding Toll Brothers' proposed condominium project. In October, the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) heard the Toll Brothers' appeal arguing that because the proposed project is far less complex in terms of uses (and far less dense in terms of population) than any of the previous proposals considered and/or supported by the community, there is not much difference between what they are asking for and the Code requirement.

Attorneys representing near neighbors challenged Toll's counsel; however, letters of support had also been sent from other near neighbors. SHCA provided a letter of no opposition, as did Councilman Mark Squilla (see page 21).

Contingent on SHCA support is an agreement with Toll Brothers preserving the existing design's height and the public plaza on 2nd Street, as well as regulating operations during the construction period and thereafter. This will assure a peaceful coexistence between the existing and new neighbors once the building is occupied and governed by its condominium council.

Due to the detailed presentation by Toll's attorney and expert witness, and the resulting long cross-examination by multiple attorneys, the ZBA schedule ran out of time and the case had to be continued again. It's the hope of all parties, pro and con, that the intervening weeks will be well used to resolve issues that are still in dispute.

601-603 Lombard Street

In April, ZBA unanimously denied this application to create three lots from the original and to build two single-family houses with garages, but the applicant had subsequently appealed this decision. However, in September, the lawyer for the City informed SHCA and near neighbors that the applicant has withdrawn the appeal.

312-322 Walnut Street Through to Willings Alley

The zoning variance needed to increase the density of the building by 11 units was approved at ZBA. The additional apartments were created by adding four penthouse units on the roof of the building and making each of seven other apartments (which had been wider and single-level) into 14 narrower, bi-level apartments.

In exchange for non-opposition to the proposed increase in density, parties to the community agreement with the developer negotiated additional requirements to offset the impact. These included off-site parking, limitation on number of tenants who can have dogs and provision of 24-hour manned security at the building.

411 Spruce Street

The ZBA approved the application for a rear garage with roof deck, revised to allow a partial green roof and a pervious courtyard. These revisions intend to reduce impact on the neighboring property for loss of light and air, mitigate the loss of open space and compensate for loss of water to the earth through natural filtration created by the double garage structure.

214 Walnut Street (aka The Ritz Five)

Mosaic Partners LP, a local company representing the Texas-based owners of Landmark Theatres (who also own and operate the Ritz Theatres) met informally with the ZHP Committee to get feedback on their plan to demolish the existing structure. They intend to build a new structure to house eight smaller, double-stacked theatres. These would be outfitted with amenities, such as lounge-type furnishings and alcoholic beverage service within the theatres. In addition, an 85-unit apartment tower would be built on top of the proposed theaters. The proposal includes no plans for on-site parking. The company also proposed usurping part of historic Dock Street for an outdoor café. Landmark is trying to consolidate its theatre operations and plans to close the Bourse location, which they currently rent.

800 Walnut Street

The ZBA heard an appeal for large, illuminated signs proposed by Penn Medicine for the rooftop of their new outpatient facility being constructed on top of the existing parking garage and Wawa on the corner of 8th and Walnut Streets. One sign would face south toward the Society Hill Historic District and the other would face north. Although the building is located in the Washington Square West Civic Association boundary, the impact falls on homeowners within Society Hill.

Community Organization Registration

It's "official." Philadelphia City Planning Commission sent written notification that SHCA has been accepted as Society Hill's Registered Community Organization (RCO). Check out the district by going to phila.gov/li, then right-click on "Zoning," select "Maps" and then click on "RCO."

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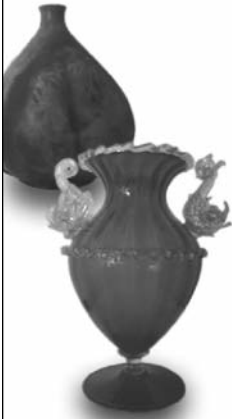
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' FIX THE BRIX '

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Improving Sidewalks, One Brick at a Time

The Physick House, at 321 South 4th Street, is one of Society Hill's beloved museum houses. It has had a problem for many years in the form of a ridge, six feet in length, on its brick sidewalk on 4th Street. Over the years, this irregularity has become a serious tripping hazard for walkers. Because of limited budgets, most museum houses struggle to maintain their structures. The Physick House is no exception and, thus, was concerned about this costly repair expenditure.

As a relatively new member of the Physick House Committee, I suggested that the house should investigate SHCA's "Fix the Brix" program; 40% (up to \$300) of the bill would be reimbursed for sidewalk leveling. This program is available to all Society Hill homeowners who level their sidewalks — brick or cement.

The committee agreed to hire mason Tony Micela to do the work and allotted an amount for the repair. After two days work, the ridge was gone, replaced by a smooth surface — leaving it much easier to navigate. In addition, tree roots that were dislodging some bricks near the curb were pruned and the bricks were neatly and meticulously tucked back in their proper places. What a difference this has made for both safety and aesthetics! Take a walk over to the Physick House and see for yourself.

If you have a sidewalk — brick or cement — that is a hazard or just uneven, SHCA can help "fix those brix!"

The process is easy:

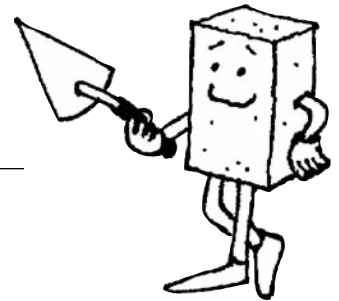
- Get several estimates for the work to be done.
- Choose a masonry contractor from our suggested list or your own mason.
- Have the work done to your satisfaction.
- Submit an invoice after you have paid the contractor — make sure it states the work is for your front sidewalk. Keep a copy for yourself. If possible, include a cancelled check.
- Mail to SHCA, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia PA 19147. Receive a check from SHCA.

For more information, contact SHCA at 215-629-1288 or mattdejulio@aol.com.

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.



Masonry contractor Tony Micela (pictured on the right) and assistant Mario did a superb job on the brick sidewalk project at the Physick House to the satisfaction of all. Tony has served Society Hill for many years and is on the Society Hill List of Contractors.



Winter Tips for Homeowners

Fireplaces/Chimneys

Many older homes in Society Hill have multiple fireplaces. Before using your fireplace(s), make sure each chimney is properly lined, not just cleaned. The City of Philadelphia has an ordinance requiring this. Failure to do so could result in a fire. To find a chimney specialist, check our Society Hill List of Contractors.

Snow Removal

Did you know that a city ordinance states that eight hours after the end of a snowfall, the owner must clear his front sidewalk with a path of 36 inches or receive a citation? If you plan to be away during the winter months, make arrangements with a neighbor to have the sidewalk cleared in your absence. In addition to the citation, you could be liable for a person's injury due to slipping on the snow or ice.

Heating System

Have your heating system checked before you turn on the heat for the colder months. It will make your system run more efficiently and save you money on your heating bills. Check our Society Hill List of Contractors for a list of heating and air conditioning specialists.

Gutters

After leaves start to fall, some may collect in your rooftop gutters. Have your gutters checked so they won't clog up the flow of water after a rain or snow. This is usually a job for a roofer.

To have a copy of the **Society Hill List of Contractors** mailed to you, email marthalev@msn.com or phone 215-629-0727. You must be a current SHCA member to receive a list.

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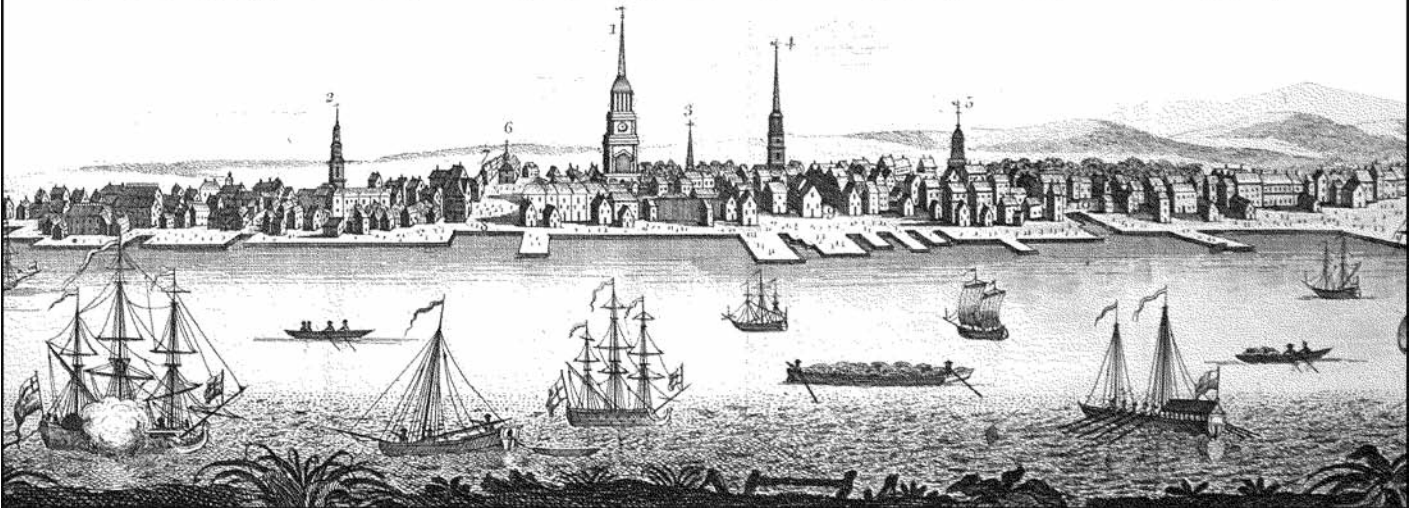
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EXPLORING THE CITY

BY JIM MURPHY

Isaiah Zagar

After moving to Philadelphia from the suburbs in 2008, I was fascinated by the colorful, shimmering mosaics I found on Gaskill, Leighow, and South Streets.

But I didn't know who had created them.

So, I went to "the Google" — as President George W. Bush called it. Surprisingly, one of the first stories I found on artist Isaiah Zagar, the man responsible for more than 200 mosaic murals in the city, was from the *Seattle Times'* Sally and John Macdonald.

Digging deeper, I learned about Zagar's opus, Philadelphia's Magic Gardens, a labyrinthine and unique sculpture garden on South Street. I read about the documentary, *In A Dream*, that his son, Jeremiah, had made about him. And finally, I sat down one morning with the artist himself — a friendly, polite, soft-spoken man, for breakfast at the Fitzwater Café.

Zagar told me he was born in the city at Osteopathic Hospital (then at 48th and Spruce), grew up in Brooklyn, and received a B.A. in Painting & Graphics from Pratt Institute in New York City.

After serving in the Peace Corps for three years in rural Peru (with no electricity or heat), Zagar and his wife Julia moved to the Germantown section of Philadelphia. In short order, he suffered "reverse culture shock," and found himself in a mental institution.

He felt like a failure and even attempted suicide. Then he started to live again. His recovery period took nine months, the gestation period of his son Ezekiel.

Reinventing himself, Zagar and his family moved to South Street in 1968, then a downtrodden, depressed, crime-ridden area just waiting to be demolished for the Crosstown Expressway.

Zagar regained his confidence by focusing on a successful period in his life at Pratt, where, on a summer scholarship, he worked with Clarence Schmidt, a noted practitioner of the outdoor art environment.

The Zagars developed a new strategy: get a piece of real estate cheap, open a store, sell Isaiah's art as well as folk art they brought back from Peru, and "make the place our business and our home into an outside environment."

Done, done, and done.

Zagar learned construction techniques, "unbuilt" the Eyes Gallery space at 4th and South, and redid it using materials found at abandoned warehouses, including glass, tile, shoe ornaments, and more.

Top tidbits from our conversation:

His biggest mural: The old firehouse at 1016-18 South Street. When he completed it, he said, "Now I have entered the consciousness of Philadelphia."

His favorite mural: "Animal Dreams" on the side of Society Hill Playhouse. "It's in a beautiful, quiet location with homes and trees."

Where he'll work: Any blank wall made of unpainted masonry, open to the public for 24 hours daily, and within one-half mile of his workshop at 10th and South Street.

Problematic location: Society Hill, whose Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee believes his work "is inconsistent with the neighborhood character." Zagar says, "It's off the map for me." If he did a job, "there would be such consternation, anger would erupt."

Society Hill Playhouse: When Zagar saw that a painted mural on the north side of the building was decaying, he asked Deen Cogan, owner and operator of the playhouse, if he could do a mosaic there. She said yes, upsetting two nearby residents who made quite a fuss. The result: "It's wonderful," Deen says. "You have no idea how many people come by and take photos of it. They love it."

Philadelphia's One Percent for Art Program: "I have never gotten past the first stage in 25 years. It's very important that I did not get it. I would be stilted." And stilted is one word you probably will never see used to describe Isaiah Zagar's work.

When You Visit Philadelphia's Magic Gardens: Expect to be simply overwhelmed by colors, objects, and a dazzling array of tiles in this artistic tour de force. Your eye just doesn't know where to go first or next because the entire place is a feast for the eyes. Wherever you glance in this labyrinth — up, down or sideways — you see something new and different: blues, greens, reds; discarded figures, bottles, wheel rims, reflecting tiles, and more. There's even a chuppah, a canopy where marriages are performed. Children love the gardens because they can go down steps, through tunnels, and explore on their own. It's a truly unique and enjoyable experience for all ages.

The Mosaic Artist Who Makes Philadelphia Glitter



Isaiah Zagar in front of his favorite mosaic, "Animal Dreams," at the Society Hill Playhouse, 507 S. 8th Street.

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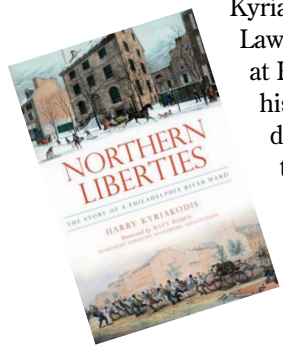
Ups and Downs of Northern Liberties and Billy the Kid

In his latest book, *Northern Liberties: The Story of a Philadelphia River Ward*, local historian and author **Harry Kyriakodis** unearths the story of this remarkable riverside community. He traces over 300 years of the neighborhood's evolution — from its rise as a premier industrial district, to the destruction of much of the original cityscape in the 1960's and its subsequent rebirth as an eclectic and vibrant urban hub.



Since the time of William Penn, the Philadelphia neighborhood of Northern Liberties has had a tradition of hard work and innovation. This former Leni-Lenape territory became one of the industrial River Wards of North Philadelphia after being annexed by the city in 1854. The district's mills and factories were powered not just by the Delaware River and its tributaries, but also by immigrants from across Europe and the city's largest community of free African Americans.

The Liberties' diverse narrative, however, was marred by political and social problems, such as the anti-Irish Nativist Riots of 1844.



Kyriakodis, a staff attorney for the American Law Institute, has lived at Pier 3 Condominium at Penn's Landing since 1997, when and where his fascination with Philadelphia's waterfront district began. He has collected what is likely the largest private collection of books about the City of Brotherly Love — more than 2,000 titles, old and new. In addition, Harry is a founding and certified member of the Association of Philadelphia Tour Guides and gives walking tours and presentations on unique yet unappreciated parts of the city.

Visit www.historypress.net for information about purchasing this book, as well as Harry's first work, *Philadelphia's Lost Waterfront*.

Society Hill neighbor **Staci Schwartz** is an award-winning children's author, as well as a physician who has practiced in Geriatric Rehabilitation Medicine. Her latest book is *Billy the Baaadly Behaving Bully Goat*, a story about the challenges of dealing with a school bully. It is due to be published next month by ComteQ Publishing, an independent press specializing in Holocaust memoirs and tolerance education.

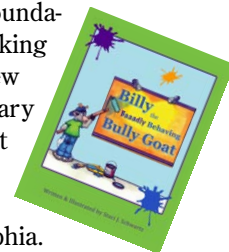
When Staci became a mother, she realized that there were many "little life lessons" that she wanted to share with her daughter. It occurred to her that a fun way to present these messages would be to write and illustrate stories, in rhyming verse, that they could read and act out together. Staci enjoyed creating and sharing these tales so much that she began to write and illustrate children's books full-time.



Staci Schwartz reads her book to third graders.

Her first published book, *The New Bear on the Block*, is about tolerance, friendship, and avoiding the impulsive judgment of others. *Billy the Baaadly Behaving Bully Goat* expands on those themes and invites readers to describe what it feels like to be bullied, to identify bullying behavior, and to think about the people in their lives who could help them if they are exposed to bullying.

Several years ago, Staci met Dr. Paul Winkler, Director of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, who was looking for materials that could lay the foundation for tolerance education. She is now working closely with Dr. Winkler to introduce her new book into New Jersey's public schools' primary grade curricula. The goal is to supply at least one copy of this book to every New Jersey public elementary school. If successful, Staci will pursue the same goals in Philadelphia.



Visit www.stacischwartz.com for more information.

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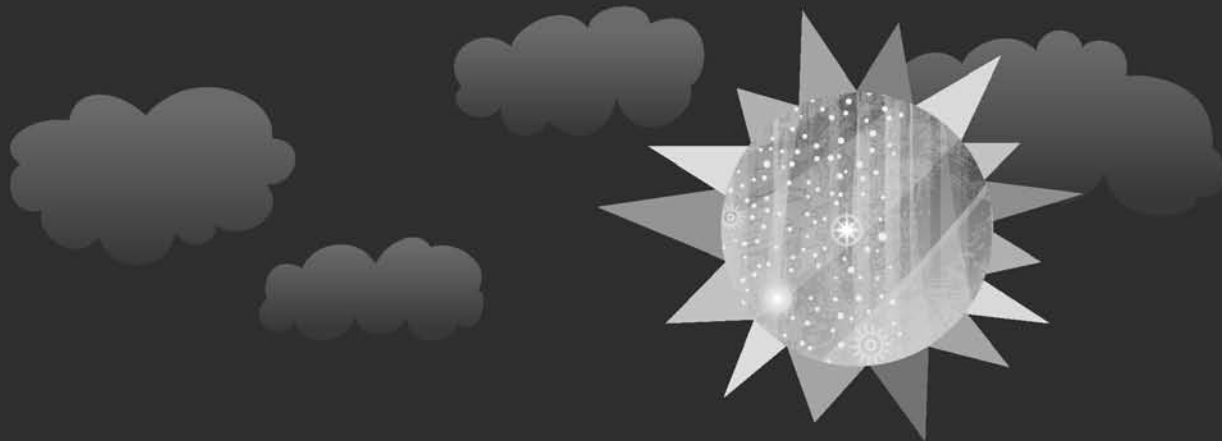
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PHILLY FOOD LOVERS

BY CLAIRE BATTEN

A Taste of Italy in Our Own Backyard

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the local neighborhood eatery, **Bistro Romano**. The restaurant, which is situated in a gorgeous converted 18th-century granary, features exposed brick walls, timber beams, and an impressive wine cellar. The restaurant recently won an award for excellence from *Wine Spectator* magazine, so we know that their wine collection is first-rate!

Keri White and I sat down to chat with proprietor Michael Granato and to sample his regional Italian-inspired cuisine. It's interesting to note that his wife and business partner, Joette Adams, is Chair of the South Street Headhouse District.

Twenty-five years ago, Michael was a CPA working for Price Waterhouse, but he knew this wasn't the life for him. "I thought to myself, 'I have to find something I enjoy more. I love food, good wine and entertaining.' In a conversation with a bartender one evening, I learned about a vacant building for sale. I bought it and Bistro Romano was born."

As Michael explains, the restaurant draws inspiration from every region of Italy. "All four of my grandparents were Italian. One was from Sicily and the others came from Naples. Every year I travel back to Italy to stay fresh and research new ideas for our menu. This year Joette and I traveled to *Villa d'Este, Lago di Como*. I worked

alongside a chef who was supervising about 30 other chefs in a major local restaurant. I came back with new recipe ideas for stuffed pastas and also a Limoncello tiramisu, which is now on our menu."

The night we visited Bistro Romano, my fellow Philly food-lover Keri and I dined on veal *saltimbocca* and a Caesar salad, tossed tableside. (Remember those?) Of course we just had to try the homemade, stuffed pastas, which were *che bello*. We also chowed down on a trio of ravioli comprised of sausage, Parmesan, and

broccoli rabe; mushroom and pancetta in a butter and sage sauce; and then a lobster and ricotta ravioli in a sherry cream sauce. The sausage pasta was our favorite — but only by a slight margin!

Whenever possible, produce is sourced

locally from Pennsylvania and New Jersey — and this shows in the menu.

The restaurant is extremely popular with regulars, many traveling in from New Jersey to attend the wine tastings, Mystery Murder Dinners, or the piano nights. For a full listing of events, see www.bistoromano.com.

Bistro Romano was kind enough to share its recipe for its rich Limoncello tiramisu. Perfect for the Holidays! The recipe can be found on our food blog, www.phillyfoodlovers.com.

**Bistro Romano**

120 Lombard Street
 Mon-Thu: 4:30-10 p.m.
 Fri-Sat: 4:30-11 p.m.
 Sun: 4-9 p.m.
 215-925-8880

John & Kira Help Philadelphia Schools Create Mini-Urban Gardens

John & Kira's handmade chocolates are a regular fixture at Sunday's Headhouse Farmers' Market. We can never decide which flavor of ladybug chocolates to buy; should we go for the raspberry or the chocolate mint? The company has now made the choice even more challenging with the addition of the Urban Garden Chocolate Bars, which come in two flavors: chili pepper and almonds or tangy orange and rosemary. We were delighted to learn that

both these sweet treats are made from ingredients grown in Philadelphia school gardens by the students. According to John, the company's goal is to educate these local children about the pleasures of growing your own food. "Some of these kids have never seen a chili pepper growing or seen a rosemary bush," he says. "We want them to enjoy gardening and understand where their food comes from." Now you can feel virtuous about eating that last square of chocolate!



OUT AND ABOUT

Strolling Through Greenways

 Pedestrian
 Paths Planted
 With Native Flora



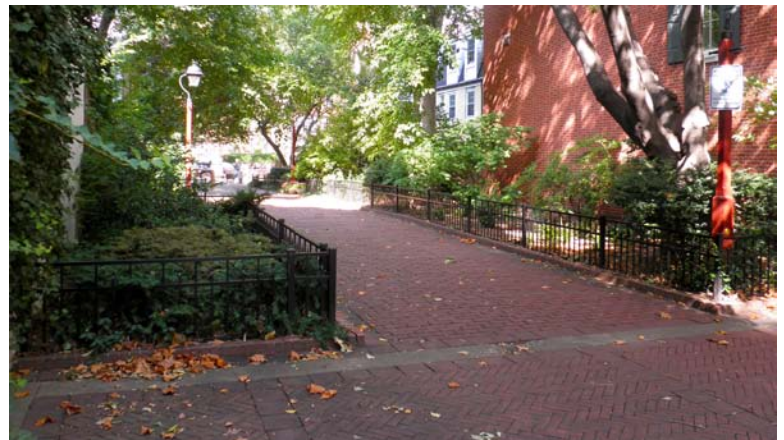
Society Hill's lovely greenways and charming pocket parks provide a welcome respite from the bustle and noise of living in the heart of the city. We owe a debt of gratitude to the genius of noted urban planner Edmund Bacon, as well as the talent of renowned landscape architect John F. Collins, FASLA.

In 1958, the Washington Square East Renewal Plan began the revitalization of our deteriorated community. Ed Bacon realized that removing incompatible, dilapidated structures would leave gaps in the neighborhood fabric. Instead of filling these holes with new buildings, he proposed tying them together into a network of greenways that ran through whole blocks.

He once explained the processional element of this system: each time a pedestrian comes

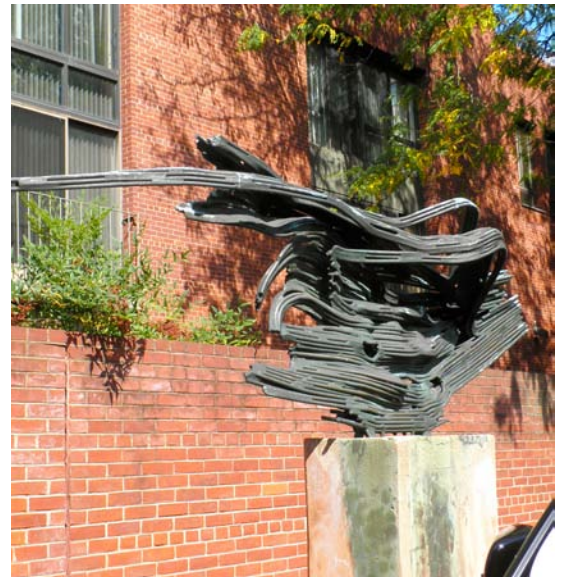
to a destination, he or she turns 90 degrees and heads for another landmark. Ed had come across this orientation scheme in China, where there is an ancient belief that by constantly changing direction people can shake off any evil spirits that may be following them.

John Collins was hired to design the landscape. He added richly patterned brick sidewalks and walls, alleys, benches, trees and site-specific light standards and bollards. These, combined with small courtyards, pocket parks and outdoor sculptures, helped to unite the unique blend of historic and modern architecture. Collins used only plants and materials found naturally in the Philadelphia area. His work reflects an understanding of human proportion and behavior and how design can respond to this knowledge.



OUT AND ABOUT

Finding Kangaroos and Pocket Parks





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Why Is New Market Stalled?

BY PAUL BONI

I've long advocated for a project at New Market that would comply with the Zoning Code. Our historic neighborhood rightly enjoys the protections of small-scale zoning limitations. To stand with the Zoning Code means that I have opposed — and organized others in opposition to — projects of undue height, mass and density.

We have done so even though some of the New Market near neighbors supported those proposals. In my opinion, some of those neighbors had granted their support in return for private gain, such as free or cheap parking spots. That is their right.

In my opinion, we've gotten lucky this time around. The economic recession had a silver lining: the bidding up of New Market's value over the past 10 years finally burst, with the owners falling on hard times and the property being sold for about half the price. The new owner can now make decent money by proposing something modest.

The new owner is Toll Brothers, and I don't claim they are perfect; but a benefit they bring is that they can self-finance this project. More appetizing to me, however, is that the current proposal would not abuse the Zoning Code.

To that extent, property owners have the right to do whatever they want, so long as it complies with the law. I'm content with this project and, coming from me, that says a lot. Also, content, by the way, is the Civic Association, which has voted its full support.

So what's the holdup? Well, at this point, Toll Brothers is at the Zoning Board seeking relatively minor variances. Some of the near neighbors have hired attorneys and are appearing at the Zoning Board to oppose the project. Specifically, these are the residents of the 100 Block of Pine, on the eastern end of the south side of the street (with some exceptions) and the condominium association on the north side of Lombard. I do not fault anyone for exercising their legal rights. I just hope that people keep in mind the best interests of the neighborhood at large and don't tie up this project in court for years.

The second day of Zoning Board hearings will have occurred on October 31, 2012, while this issue of the *Reporter* is on the press. Here's hoping matters were resolved... or that they will be soon.

Mr. Boni is a former member of the Civic Association's Board of Directors. His opinions are his own.

AND THE WINNER IS...



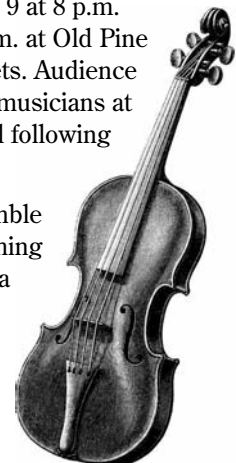
Congratulations to Society Hill neighbor Debbie Kowit (center) for winning first place in the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society City Gardens Contest — container garden category!

NOVEMBER 9 & 11

Chamber Concerts at Old Pine Church

The Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble presents the first pair of concerts in its 36th season on Friday, November 9 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, November 11 at 2 p.m. at Old Pine Street Church, 4th and Pine Streets. Audience members are invited to meet the musicians at a free reception in the church hall following each concert.


The Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble is the oldest continuously performing chamber ensemble in Philadelphia and the only chamber group in residence in Society Hill. For more information, call 215-542-4890.



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SAFE AND SOUND IN SOCIETY HILL

BY MARILYN APPEL

911, 411, and Now 311

As we know, 911 is mainly for emergencies (no charge); 411 is for information (there may be a charge — outrageous from your cell phone); and now there's 311 which was set up several years ago to take care of non-emergency problems that had to do with City Departments. Remember the days when you got a list of city phone numbers, probably from your City Council Representative? You filed it and then couldn't find the list when you really needed the Water Department or the Streets Department. All that has changed because of 311 — or has it?

I decided to do a little research. First, I went to our Police Captain, Brian Korn, who told me that calling 311 helps to eliminate the need to sort through the 500 phone numbers and hotlines available to contact the City government. When you call 311 to report problems, such as potholes or abandoned cars, the service will get in touch with the appropriate department which will address the issue within a given time period. A tracking number helps you determine the progress, especially if the problem wasn't fixed within the original time frame.

Sounds great! And mostly it really works, but let's proceed to my call to 311.

I do have a legitimate problem with other people's trash being left in front of my house — bags and bags, big bags, little bags sometimes open or overflowing or even trash not in bags. I called 311 and explained my problem and was told that they did not handle trash, but they would connect me with the Streets Department. I stayed on the line for almost 15 minutes and finally hung up. Thinking I might get a better response at a less busy time, I called 311 again the next day. Again, I was told to contact the Streets Department.

I said, "Before you send me off to the Streets Department, please tell me what 311 does handle." The list is not endless, but here are some examples — trees obstructing traffic signs, illegal dumping, snow removal, overflowing, dirty or smelly trash cans, graffiti removal from traffic control boxes, burned-out streetlights and licenses and inspection issues.

Vandalism — what you don't get in SHCA's weekly email blast is news about vandalism. A couple of weeks ago it happened from 3rd to 6th Streets on Spruce — plants pulled out and strewn all over the sidewalk, pots turned over or actually thrown against doors. My beautiful window box was pulled off the ledge, smashed to pieces, plants thrown all over. All this happened at 4 a.m. — waking my daughter, who looked out the window. But here's some advice — she looked OUT but not DOWN, or those vandals would have been caught because she would have called 911 immediately. This message applies to the "Downspout Dragon" as well — don't just look out your window — look down and around and we may yet catch these guys. Don't think it's not going to happen to you — it might!

Have your front door light turned on from dusk to dawn — the brighter the better. A rear door light and/or a motion detector is also essential. A timer or sensor will automatically turn them on.

Cell phones — Your unwanted cell phones will be re-programmed to call 911 and given to persons who have been abused, or to the elderly who have no way of seeking help when they need it. Bring them to 414 Spruce Street — don't forget the chargers!

**Call 311**

Serve your neighborhood in a small but important way:

If you see a Franklin Light that is out or blinking or an overflowing Big Belly trash receptacle, call 311 to report it.

It's a great service and they will come out within five to 10 business days.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT GRAFFITI?

It's ugly and disgusting. You can help rid Society Hill of the plague of graffiti! If you see graffiti on a public space, report it!

How? Contact SHCA by email: mattdejulio@aol.com or phone SHCA at 215-629-1288 and give exact location. It will be cleaned up within a few days. Remember, graffiti invites more graffiti.

To combat graffiti on your own property, the City of Philadelphia provides homeowners with power-wash services. To request this service, call 215-686-0000 or report graffiti online at www.phila.gov/antigrffiti/removalform.html.

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B L O C K P A R T I E S G A L O R E

Reveling, Rain or Shine



Block party, 500 blocks of Manning Walk, Spruce Street and Cypress Street

Undaunted by rain, neighbors on the 500 blocks of Manning Walk, Spruce and Cypress Streets recently got together for a block party. Revelers arrived with plenty of food and drink, squeezed into Carolyn and Chris Stanish's 4-car garage and, suddenly, the weather became irrelevant!

Raising the Roof

Fundraising efforts to fix the roof of St. Peter's Church at Third and Pine Streets are well underway. The campaign was kicked off with a lively block party on September 16. Parishioners and neighbors converged on the 300 block of Pine Street, enjoying jazz and hot dogs while getting motivated for the final six weeks of fundraising. The parish was forced to close its church building in May because of deterioration in the roof trusses. Estimated costs of repairs are \$1.7 million. To date, the church has received \$1.25 million in pledges and donations and was scheduled to reopen at the end of October.



Parishioners and contractors examine the deteriorated trusses in the roof of St. Peter's Church.



Fundraising kickoff party, 300 block of Pine Street.

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Jan Stephano ABR, CSR

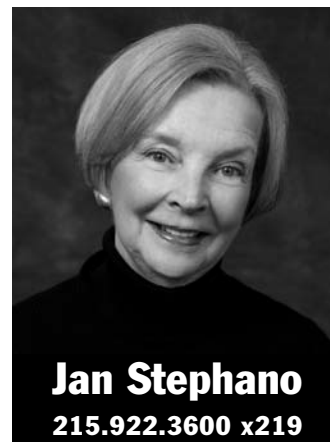
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Shofuso Japanese House and Garden

With the addition of its new year-round Sakura Pavilion classroom space, the Friends of the Japanese House and Garden announces a series of winter programs at Shofuso Japanese House and Garden. For more info, call 215-878-5097 or visit shofuso.com.

*Saturday Mornings,
November through March*
Weekly Japanese Tea School

Sunday, December 9
Japanese Tea Sweets-Making Class
Adults will learn to make several seasonal "sweets" that are typically served at Japanese tea ceremonies.

*Sundays, January 13,
January 27, March 3*
Children's Japanese Craft Classes
Kids will make fun seasonal crafts based on traditional Japanese holidays. These Sunday afternoon classes will be conducted at the new Sakura Pavilion classroom.

LADIES: EXERCISE & SOCIALIZE

Join The "Walkie-Talkies"

Although it's considerably colder these days, winter's imminent arrival will not prevent several neighborhood women from joining Society Hill's year-round, FREE exercise and FUN social program. On any Tuesday and Thursday morning (when not raining or snowing) newcomers are always most welcome to participate with Walkie-Talkie "old-timers" for these one-hour strolls that explore Society Hill's charming streetscapes. All participants are, of course, reminded to bundle up before showing up prior to 8:15 a.m. at Three Bears Park — located on Delancey

Street between 2nd & 3rd Streets. This friendly, healthy and non-stressful physical activity also encourages the development of new pals amongst local gals. So don't be shy! Show up and give the Walkie-Talkies a try. Any questions? Feel free to phone Bernice at 215-925-4363.



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The Murano #3207 Abbots Sq Townhouse #4
306 S 2nd St

Current Listings

240 Monroe St #2 1104 Pine St

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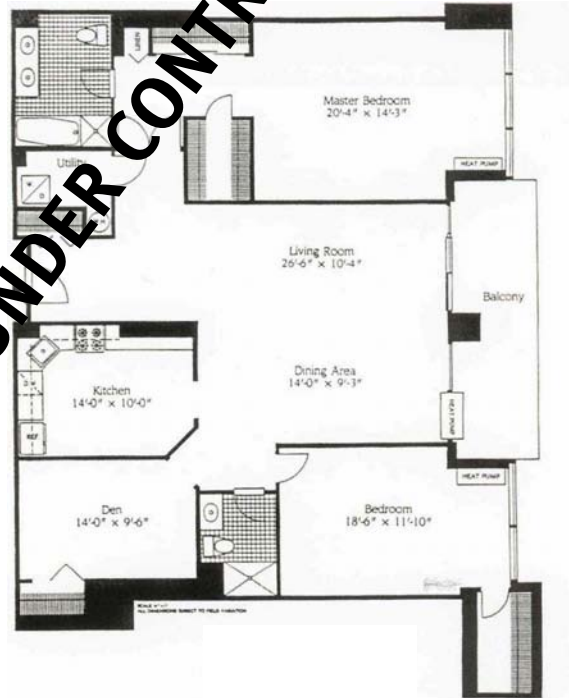
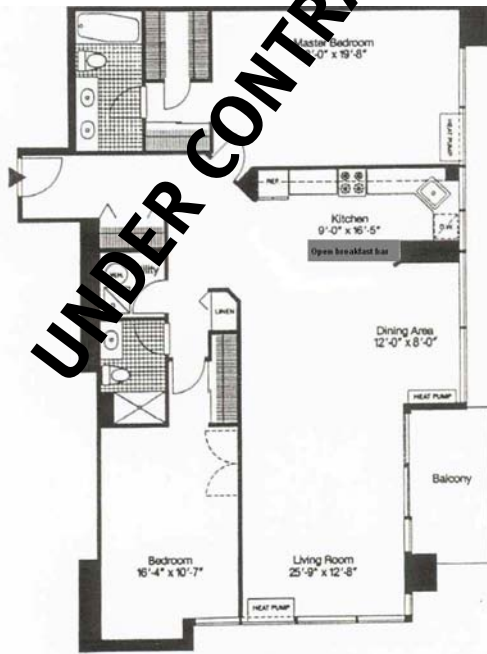


Light-filled and Spacious Two Bedroom Plus Den

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. \$790,000

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



UNDER CONTRACT

The Beat of the Street

BY MIKE HARRIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SOUTH STREET HEADHOUSE DISTRICT

The South Street Headhouse District (SSHD), which includes some 500 businesses, restaurants and bars, is filled with award winners! Eleven businesses in our lively district were recognized by *Philadelphia Magazine*, earning Best of Philly Awards, and 23 were deservedly placed on the 2012 Channel 17 Philly Hot List. I think this outpouring of recognition speaks to the wonderful variety, quality and energy here in the District. For a full listing of awards and winners, visit www.southstreet.com.

You may have heard by now about our “Live Local, Shop Local” initiative. We’ve introduced this loyalty program to reward patrons for supporting businesses in our District. Residents of Society Hill and surrounding neighborhoods will receive a loyalty card by mail, and additional cards will be distributed at SSHD events and the

Sunday Farmers’ Market. Present your card at participating businesses and enjoy special offers, seasonal promotions and discounts.

We are also thrilled with our SSHD mobile app that enables visitors to access information about merchants, specials, promotions, and events. It will also be synchronized with our loyalty program, so you can benefit from special offers as you live, work, shop and dine in the South Street Headhouse District.

SSHD will be welcoming some new businesses in the coming months, and we’re sure our neighbors will be pleased with these new amenities.

Please visit www.southstreet.com for more information about SSHD; follow us on Facebook@South Street Headhouse District and Twitter@officialsouthst for the latest! I’ll see you on the Street.



Mike Harris

Yo, Philly! Party

Revitalization efforts at Starr Garden, Philadelphia’s oldest playground, are going strong. Starr Garden Neighbors is celebrating its first anniversary and is proud of this year’s accomplishments. Most recently, on October 14, a new, beautiful garden was planted with help from Pennsylvania Horticultural Society through a Green Machine Grant. Neighbors contributed funds to install a small fence bordering the garden to protect it from dogs.

On September 11, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation rewarded the Starr Garden Neighbors with the “Yo, Philly! Party,” for the winning video submission to the 2012 “Love Your Park Contest!”

Starr Garden Neighbors will be participating in the citywide “Love Your Park Day” on Saturday, November 17. Please join us between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. as we rake leaves for compost, collect trash, remove graffiti, and plant daffodil bulbs. All ages are welcome.

If you would like to be involved in the revitalization efforts and/or you would like to join the email distribution list, please send an email indicating your interest to StarrGardenNeighbors@gmail.com.



Friends of Starr Garden receive a prize for their winning video.

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.

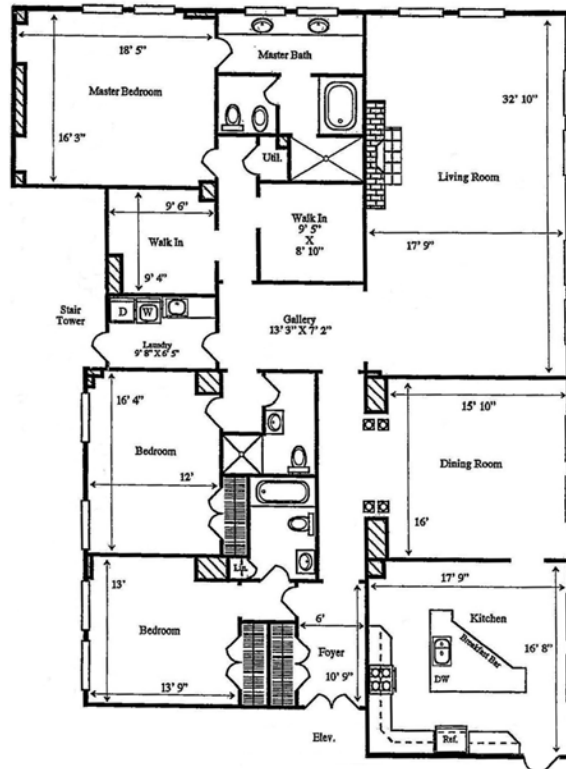
To place an order or for more information, please contact sculptor Sherl J. Winter at: 215 242 0978 or sjwinter00@comcast.net or visit www.winterartstudio.com.

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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.

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Beautifully Renovated Corner One Bedroom

Pristine corner one bedroom, that is being sold furnished, with city and bridge views, an open chef's kitchen, designer bathroom and custom finishes throughout. 803 sf
\$379,900

One-of-a-Kind Two Bedroom

Magnificent corner two bedroom, two bathroom with an open chef's kitchen, brand new master bathroom and wonderful river and city views.

1515 sf
\$599,900



2012 Membership Surpasses 2011 Total

Win a Dinner at a Restaurant of Your Choice!

By mid-October, 1,036 residents have either renewed their membership or joined the SHCA for the first time. This exceeds our 2011 total membership of 1,033.

A big thank you goes out to the 97 new members. But we still wonder why 93 residents — some of whom have been longtime members — have not renewed after several notices.

Membership renewal notices for 2013 will go out on November 1. Please return yours promptly so that we may avoid the expense of repeated follow-up. The names of all those who respond by December 31 will be placed in a drawing for two \$100 gift certificates to a local restaurant of their choice. Winners will be announced in the March issue of the *Reporter*.

We always strive to obtain memberships from all 2,600 households located in our most historic neighborhood. 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 on 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 majority of residents. You are also guaranteed a personal invitation to each of our social events.

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 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.

As the days get shorter and the weather turns colder, the homeless people in our community become more of a cause for concern. If you see someone living on the streets, please call the Project H.O.M.E. Homeless Outreach Hotline at 215-232-1984.

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 Incidents
- 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

Del Connor Calls the Physick House Home

Del believes in haunted houses. And he should know; he lives in one!

One day in the not-too-distant past, Del Conner opened the door of his historic home on 4th Street and discovered a strange woman standing on the doorstep. He relates the following story: “She hadn’t knocked and she had a strange pallor and a rather vacant expression on her face. ‘Do they say this house is haunted?’ she asked. I nodded. ‘Male or female?’ she wanted to know. When I said female, she simply turned away without another word.

“Later that afternoon,” he continues, “I was giving a tour of the Physick House to a young girl as a 13th birthday present. When she examined our family tree, she suddenly exclaimed, ‘Look, Dr. Physick’s wife died today — on my birthday!’ It happens that my great-great grandmother, Susan Dillwyn Physick, moved to this house when she was 13 years old.”

Conner, who is the great-great-great grandson of Dr. Philip Syng Physick, aka “Father of American Surgery,” does not discount the supernatural. “During the past seven years that I’ve lived here as site manager and chief docent, there have been too many coincidences to ignore,” he says, adding that he is writing a book on his family and some extraordinary happenings that have occurred over the years.

“My great-great-great grandmother, Elizabeth Emlen, whose ghost may have appeared on my doorstep, had one of the first pre-nuptial agreements in America,” he relates. “Despite being the daughter of Quaker minister Samuel Powel Emlen, she was a wealthy party girl. They lived together for 15 years and had several children before preparing to move into this house. When Elizabeth learned that her husband wanted to cut down a fine old tree in the garden, she asked for a separation and bought a mansion of her own around the corner on Pine Street. Had she not had the pre-nup, Elizabeth could have been turned out destitute. But Dr. Physick got the four children because they were considered property.”

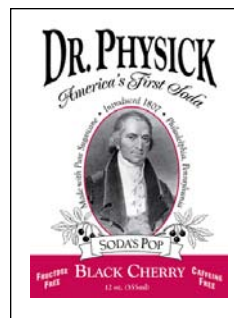
This is just one of the hundreds of stories Conner tells visitors to the mansion, sometimes called the Hill-Physick House. It was built in 1786 by Madeira wine importer Henry Hill. “My great-great-great grandfather occupied the house from

1815 until his death in 1837,” says Conner.

“He was one of the few doctors who stayed in Philadelphia to treat victims of the 1793 yellow fever epidemic.” Dr. Physick often operated in what is now the small medical museum on the second floor of the house. “Over the years, 11 visitors have fainted in that room when I’ve described his cataract and gall bladder operations — performed with no anesthesia or antiseptics — and with the crude instruments he invented on display.” Some of his more illustrious patients were Dr. Benjamin Rush, Chief Justice John Marshall, Dolly Madison, and President Andrew Jackson.

Conner welcomes an average of 500 visitors a month to the Physick House, up from 50 or 60 when he took over. “I may give the best tour in Philadelphia,” he says with justifiable pride. “If you come here a dozen times, I will give you a dozen different tours.” There are seven period rooms and each contains an incomparable collection of French-influenced 19th-century furniture and paintings, including a portrait of Elizabeth by Sully and a Venetian landscape by Canaletto.

“Dr. Physick’s home is the only Federal house museum in the city,” he points out. The enormous fan light above the double entrance doors is unique, as is the oval document chest in the breakfast room that was used by Colonial Governor John Penn. The faux-effects wallpapers throughout are breathtaking. There are rare pieces, like the wood knife case in the dining room (forks were considered gauche at the time). Renovated in 1966 with the generosity of Leonore Annenberg and the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, it is an increasingly popular destination on Society Hill tours. This is in large part due to the entrepreneurial efforts of Conner. In 2007, he started a soda pop company to commemorate the bicentennial of the drink Dr. Physick created when he discovered its healthful benefits. It is on sale throughout the historic district and



Conner also ships cases of Soda’s Pop — a dark cherry carbonated drink — all over the country. With the soda, he inaugurated the annual Philly Phyzz Festival in the spacious garden of the house. Hundreds of people show up for the affair, which usually takes place on the second weekend in July.

NIFTY NEIGHBORS IN MY OWN BACKYARD

And that's not all. Conner, who is an artist, illustrator and sculptor by training, also designs and sculpts cast-iron firebacks, modeled on original colonial designs. "They are large plates that are placed inside the fireplace to protect the back wall and reflect heat," he explains. Some of his handsome plates, which cost between \$200 and \$500, are on display in the Physick House kitchen and in the nearby Powel House.

A supporter of all landmark sites in Society Hill and Old City, Conner recently completed seven years as president of Philadelphia's Historic Neighborhood Consortium, which, among other things, produces the popular Beyond the Bell brochure which features 50 cultural attractions. He was able to get SEPTA onboard as one of its sponsors; and by adding their routes, tourists can now easily reach their destinations by public transportation.

A founding board member of the Association of Philadelphia Tour Guides, Conner adapted his bird's eye view map of Philadelphia for its brochure. (Making bird's eye view maps, which he does for a number of organizations, is another


of his talents.) "The Tour Guides Association has established a comprehensive training course, guidebook and certification program for the city's tour guides," he notes, adding that the non-profit has been a boost to Philadelphia tourism.

Although his family is imbedded in the history of Philadelphia, Conner seems to be the only one on its illustrious tree impassioned with his roots. "My daughter is somewhat interested," he says. "But at this point she is more like Elizabeth Emlen — a party girl."

And speaking of which, Conner opens the door of his house — this time to a waiting tourist.


Del Connor with a bottle of Dr. Physick's Soda Pop. The mechanism of the clock behind him was made in London by Thomas Wagstaff and sent to Philadelphia for Dr. Physick's father, Edmund Physick, last Proprietor General and Keeper of the Great Seal of Pennsylvania for the Penn family. Edmund had the cabinet made, attributed to cabinetmaker John Head, in Philadelphia. Except for a few short periods, it has been ticking since 1766 and displays the day of the month and phase of the moon.





nancy l. machinist JD, LCSW
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Society Hill Office

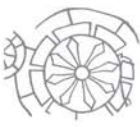


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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wednesday, November 14

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

Holiday Happenings – Here and Near

Thursdays, Nov 15 - Dec 27

Tippler's Tour: Yuletide Cheers and Beers
5:30 p.m.
historicphiladelphia.org



Thursday, November 22
Thanksgiving Day Parade
Benjamin Franklin Parkway

Friday - Sunday, November 23 - 25
Thanksgiving at the National Constitution Center
constitutioncenter.org

Friday - Sunday, November 23 - 25
Colonial Chocolate Making at Betsy Ross House
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
historicphiladelphia.org

Friday, November 23
Constructing Play: Classic Building Toys
Philadelphia Center for Architecture
www.philadelphiacfa.org

Saturday, Nov 24 - Monday, Dec 24
The Philadelphia Christmas Village
LOVE Park, 15th & JFK
philachristmas.com

Sunday, Nov 25 - Wednesday, Jan 2
Adventure Aquarium's Christmas Celebration
adventureaquarium.com

Saturdays and Sundays, November 25 - December 23, plus Monday, December 24
Franklin Square Holiday Celebration
Holiday crafts, cookie decorating and visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus.
historicphiladelphia.org/franklin-square/visitor-info/

Monday, Nov 26 - Wednesday, Jan 2
Enchanted Colonial Village
Please Touch Museum
pleasetouchmuseum.org

Monday, Nov 26 - Monday, Dec 31
Macy's Holiday Light Show & Dickens Village
Macy's Grand Court light show with Wanamaker Organ music
visitmacysphiladelphia.com

Saturday, Sunday, Dec 1, 2 and 8, 9
Historic Houses of Fairmount Park Holiday Tours
215-685-0274

Saturday, December 1
Deck the Alley 2012
Elfreths Alley Museum
www.elfrethsalley.org

Sunday, December 2
17th Annual Peace Around the World: Passport to Cultures
Penn Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology
penn.museum

Saturday, December 8
Lucia Fest and Christmas Market
The American Swedish History Museum
americanswedish.org

Sunday, December 9
Tenth Annual Latkepalooza
Enjoy gourmet latkes and music



from the West Philly Orchestra.
Gershman Y
401 South Broad Street
www.gershmany.org

Monday, December 24
Moo Shu Jew Show
Spend Christmas Eve with comedians and a Chinese feast.
Ocean Harbor Restaurant
www.gershmany.org

Monday, December 31
Betsy's Birthday Bash
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
historicphiladelphia.org

Monday, December 31
Franklin Square's Kids' New Year's Eve Countdown
3 - 6 p.m.
historicphiladelphia.org/franklin-square/visitor-info/

Monday, December 31
Philadelphia Orchestra New Year's Eve
The Kimmel Center
www.kimmelcenter.org

Sunday, January 6
Twelfth Night Party
Physick House
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Independence Place

241 S. 6TH STREET

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\$1,800,000

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

