



SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

www.societyhillcivic.org

High Stakes for Philadelphia

Casino Update: Not Too Late To Weigh In

City officials will testify before the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board at a special hearing Tuesday, September 24 at the Convention Center, 1101 Arch Street, Room 108. The hearing, which begins at 11 a.m., is a critical step in the selection of a second Philadelphia casino from the pool of six applicants. Open to the public, the hearing will also be streamed live from the Gaming Control Board website at gamingcontrolboard.pa.gov.

The casino will be selected based on a number of factors: fiscal soundness of the company, ability to deliver on projected revenues, proposed site, number of jobs projected, as well as the strength of their problem gambling programs.

Concerned citizens must question what will be more important to this board, generating as much gaming revenue for the state as quickly as possible? Or selecting a project that would give the biggest boost to Philadelphia's redevelopment?

The six proposals fall into two camps. Three are in South Philadelphia and offer stand-alone, big-box casinos with hotels. They are Casino Revolution, Hollywood Philadelphia and Live! Casino & Hotel.

In the other three projects, the sponsors are playing up other amenities such as retailing, restaurants, spas and hotels. Those are the Provence on North Broad Street, Market8 in Center City and Wynn Philadelphia on the Delaware River waterfront in Fishtown.

More information on the six applicants can be accessed from the Quick Links section of the Gaming Control Board's website home page

titled "Philadelphia Casino Applicants Information" at gamingcontrolboard.pa.gov. You might also find it interesting and informative to read the series of casino reviews that Philadelphia *Inquirer* Architecture Critic Inga Saffron has written on her blog, Changing Skyline. Access these at philly.com/philly/blogs/changing-skyline/.

Where Philadelphia's next casino ends up will have a lasting impact here. We should concentrate now on determining which site will bring the most gain and do the least damage to the city. To have that kind of impact, the next license should go to a project designed not only to draw gamblers, but also tourists hoping to take advantage of the region's hospitality, thus fostering additional and faster economic growth. That means the project must offer more than just gaming — and more than just restaurants. It means major concert facilities, meeting rooms, retailing and undoubtedly a hotel. It means a resort. It means creating a place that people outside the region will want to visit.

Those who want to submit written comments on the license applicants will have until September 30. Address these to Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, P.O. Box 69060, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17106-9060.

FALL IN SOCIETY HILL



WEDNESDAY

September

18

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Society Hill Civic Association Meetings

Pennsylvania Hospital, 8th & Spruce Streets

6:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting
7:00 p.m. General Membership Meeting
Check weekly SHCA email blasts for speaker and topic.



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Society Hill

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Find past issues of the *Reporter* with color photos at www.societyhillcivic.org.

Submissions

We want to hear from you. Our goal is to print news of interest to Society Hillers – happenings in and around our community for residents, businesses and professionals. Direct your editorial submissions and/or queries to Sandra Rothman by phone at 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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Bulletin Board



Sissie Lipton, Evelyn Spritz, Myrna Asher, Andrea Layden and Bari Shor.

Congratulations to the Washington Square Affair Committee for the resounding success of this event, which was held in June. Months of hard work paid off in a big way. See pages 18 and 19 for pictures of the fun and festivities.



Marc Feldman

Marc Feldman has been SHCA Treasurer since 2011. His duties include managing and monitoring the financial affairs of our civic association, and then reporting back to the Board.

Marc and his wife, Nancy, have lived in Society Hill since 1997. They raised their two sons, now happily married, in nearby Cherry Hill, New Jersey. The couple especially enjoy their two adorable grandchildren, a three-year-old boy and a one-year-old girl.

Prior to retiring in 2009, Marc served as the Chief Financial Officer for the American Board of Internal Medicine, a non-profit organization based here in Society Hill in the Penn Mutual Building at 5th and Walnut Streets.

Marc's easy personality, his experience and a winning way with numbers have made him number one in our books!



Pictured are Sally Smith, Mary Tracey, Kevin Miller, Lorna Katz-Lawson. Not shown: Mel Buckman, Harry K. Schwartz, Carter Buller, Dan Horowitz, Mike Wass and Bonnie Halda

ZHP performs the important task of monitoring residential and commercial applications for zoning variances, and reports to the Board on issues that affect the integrity of our neighborhood.

The committee is always looking for interested people to add to its ranks. You don't need any special qualifications; being its "eyes and ears" on the street is important. As part of ZHP, you'll learn about the city's Zoning Code, as well as the Federal

Government's *Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring and Reconstructing Historic Buildings*. You'll also discover the workings of such city agencies as the Architectural Review Committee and the Philadelphia Historical Commission.

If you're interested in joining the Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee or finding out about SHCA's other committees, email Administrator Matt DeJulio at MattDeJulio@aol.com.

The Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) is fortunate to recruit talented, hard-working neighbors who love our community and work hard to make it even better. See what happens behind the scenes.

Consider adding your talents to an SHCA committee. You'll meet interesting people and make meaningful contributions to Society Hill, one of America's premier neighborhoods.

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STREET CLOSING SCHEDULE

Resurfacing Disrupts Neighborhood

A two-month, six-million-dollar street resurfacing project in areas of the southeast quadrant of Center City began in early August and is expected to continue until the end of September.

Work began on 8th Street and will move on in the following order:

- 8th Street, from Market to South Street
- 9th Street, from Market to South Street
- Locust Street, from Broad Street to Washington Square
- 12th Street, from Market to South Street
- 11th Street, from Market to South Street
- Lombard Street, from Front to 2nd and 9th to 13th Street

Residents should expect parking restrictions along the streets — temporary “No Parking” signs will be posted in advance of each scheduled activity.

Crews will be milling and paving the surface from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. Manhole adjustment and resetting of utility boxes will be scheduled during the day between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.



Philadelphia Streets Department promises this scene won't repeat itself in Society Hill for another 20 years!

Historically Designated Street Restoration

The Streets Department has announced a pilot for the 2013 construction season. The pilot will allow property owners who live on the City's Historically Designated Street Network to arrange with their own contractor(s) for repair of a street surface which was opened for plumbing work.

The pilot test runs from July through December 2013, at which time the Streets Department will review to determine if the policy can continue permanently. Visit philadelphiastreet.com/transportation-highways-historical-streets.aspx for more information or call 215 686-5581.

' FIX THE BRICK '

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Help! I've Fallen and I Can't Get Up!

That's a line you never want to hear coming from a pedestrian walking on your sidewalk.

Yet some of us could hear this call for help in the near future. Why? Because many of the sidewalks in Society Hill have uneven brick and cement surfaces that could cause trips and falls, leading to serious injuries.

Not your problem? Not true — your property includes your house, plus the sidewalks extending to the curb.

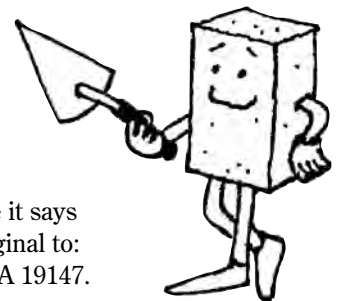
What — you say, it's not that bad — the sidewalk three doors down is worse. A hazardous sidewalk on your property is your responsibility. If a person falls and is injured, it's your liability! You could be sued.

Never fear! Here's SHCA to the rescue. We will reimburse any Society Hill homeowner who has

a sidewalk leveled at 40% of the total bill up to \$300. This is a deal. Over 100 households have taken advantage of this subsidy, so why not you?

Here are the simple steps:

- 1** Have a few masonry contractors give you estimates to level your sidewalk.
- 2** Choose a contractor that suits your budget and needs.
- 3** Have the work done.
- 4** Make a copy of the invoice (make sure it says front sidewalk repair) and mail the original to: SHCA, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147.
- 5** Receive a check from SHCA for 40% of the total bill (up to \$300).



Rick the Brick

For more information, contact us at marthalev6@gmail.com or 215-629-0727.



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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

Restorations and Revisions

The following represents recent activities of the committee:

600-602 Addison Street (aka 601-603 Lombard Street)

Zoning plans approved earlier in the year by the Philadelphia Department of Licenses and Inspections (L&I) were presented to the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) of the Philadelphia Historical Commission (PHC). The drawings had been revised with new elevations that were very large scale and glassy. Several near neighbors representing both residents and Mother Bethel Church testified in opposition to the building's appearance. SHCA sent a letter of opposition stating that the building's character was now distinctly unsympathetic to the district. ARC, which makes recommendations to the PHC, approved the massing, but denied the choice of materials and over-scaled windows that lack sensitivity to its context.

516 Cypress Street

This project, which had been denied at the Zoning Board of Adjustments (ZBA) in mid-February, was re-submitted by the developer in a modified version that eliminated the parking garage. It was subsequently approved "of right," i.e. consistent with the zoning code, and a permit was issued by L&I.

However, eight homeowners from Cypress and Delancey Streets filed an appeal based on case law that supports the idea that if two properties have been in use as a single property for a certain number of years, they essentially become a single property. In a residential district, it is

illegal to have two primary houses on a single property, thus it was argued that L&I had erred in granting the permit. After review by the City Solicitor, the ZBA upheld L&I's decision.

252-256 South 3rd Street

Three neighbors, whose houses are part of a group of modern homes, applied to PHC to replace their original cast concrete, bull-nosed edged front steps with new granite steps with square edges. Due to the lack of any other granite on the building or in the historic district generally, the ARC, which received the presentation from the homeowners, recommended denying the application. ARC believes the steps are a significant feature of the buildings and should be replicated, not redesigned.

293 Locust Street

This application was to legalize the installation of new sliding doors that appear on the north, west and south facades of the I. M. Pei-designed townhouse, listed in the Society Hill Historic Register as "highly significant." Due to where the locking mechanism is placed, the doors are not two equal panels as originally designed, and the one with the lock has a widened vertical stile. Two of the three facades are visible from Locust Street. ARC recommended denial and PHC will make its decision soon.

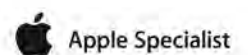
410 South Front Street

Although work did not start at the site as expected in mid-July, SHCA has heard from a reliable source that meetings are occurring regularly to set up the construction phase of the project and groundbreaking should occur soon.

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Energy Efficiency and Historical Buildings

Historical buildings were built when neither advancements in technology nor construction technology was in abundant supply. Early designers made the most of building materials and design options to construct buildings with a powerful combination of harnessed natural resources and innovative design that worked together to maximize energy efficiency.

Everything from exterior paint colors, locations of balconies, numbers and placement of windows, to physical placement of buildings on lots was carefully considered to maximize heating, lighting and ventilation in traditional construction.

The results are astounding, and studies have shown that properly restored and maintained 18th- and 19th-century buildings can be just as energy efficient as new construction, and in many cases even more energy efficient.

The historical wood windows in your building contribute to that energy efficiency, and, contrary to urban legends, new replacement windows are not more energy efficient than historical wood windows. Typically, studies that conclude such a finding have compared new replacement windows with historical windows that have not been maintained or restored, are decaying, and have no complementary energy retrofits, such as weather-stripping and storm windows.

Studies on energy efficiency also usually fail to consider “embodied energy.” Embodied energy represents the energy it took to manufacture a product. They say the greenest building is the one already built. This is true when you consider the embodied energy — an existing energy investment that will never be able to be recaptured once you destroy the product it’s embodied in.

Historical wood windows have an embodied energy value that includes all the energy from harvesting and milling the wood to transporting and manufacturing the windows to installing them in your historical building. Preserving existing windows conserves that embodied energy and reduces the use of additional energy when making replacement windows. When you take all energy into consideration for defining the energy efficiency of windows, historical wood windows are far more energy efficient than replacement windows.

Tips For Improving Energy Efficiency

Heating season is here, and energy efficiency is on everyone’s mind. Here are some tips for improving the energy efficiency in your historic home.

1 Have a maintenance appraisal performed.

When not properly maintained, there are many ways a historic home’s energy efficiency suffers — such as air leaks into and out of the home. A maintenance appraisal performed by a qualified contractor will locate any source of air leakage and provide you with a plan-of-attack to remedy the problem without damaging the historic aspects of your home.

2 Schedule an energy audit.

This could really be tied for the #1 spot; both the maintenance appraisal and an energy audit are absolutely essential things that need to be done BEFORE you implement any energy-improvement measures. The energy audit will evaluate your home’s current energy performance and identify any deficiencies in both the envelope of your home and/or the mechanical systems.

3 Implement these findings.

Hire a qualified contractor to eliminate any air infiltration, repair windows and perform the other maintenance affecting your home’s energy efficiency. Hire a qualified energy contractor to replace any mechanical systems found to be detrimental to your home’s energy efficiency. Make sure both of these contractors have a proven track record of working with historic buildings in a way that does not damage the architecture and its features.

4 Change your habits.

Install timers or motion detectors on lights, attach self-closing mechanisms on doors that might otherwise hang open, install fans and raise the thermostat temperature, use CFLs in your lights and turn off “vampire” devices that use electricity in standby mode or whenever they are plugged into an outlet.

5 Install insulation.

There is a lot of misinformation regarding the best ways to insulate your house, and some of them can even permanently damage your home. Have the historic contractor and energy consultant you hire work together to devise an insulation plan specifically tailored to your home, so you won’t compromise its architectural integrity.

Save energy when you save and restore the windows original to your home.

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PHILLY FOOD LOVERS

BY CLAIRE BATTEN

Gluten-Free Philly

There's a gluten-free wave sweeping the United States. Celebrities Miley Cyrus and Gwyneth Paltrow are just two popular figures who have helped bring attention to the food intolerance known as Celiac Disease that affects one in 133 Americans today.

If you're a true Celiac, wheat has just got to go. Consumption of gluten protein in any form — wheat, rye, barley and even oats in some cases — triggers a physical reaction in which your auto-immune system goes into overdrive and your body starts attacking itself. So bread, pizza, pasta and cupcakes are off the menu. You'd be surprised how pervasive gluten is in the American diet.

We found out my daughter was a Celiac in January, and have been on a steep learning curve ever since. While it's easy to find rice-based substitutes for most savory food, the gaping black hole appears in the search for gluten-free baked goods. If you're a chewy goeey cookie fanatic, then you're going to be disappointed; it's crunchy cookies from now on.

Unfortunately, most of the pre-packaged, supermarket gluten-free baked goods fall short of expectations — sort of a cross between shoe leather and cat litter. The texture is mostly just wrong, and — worst of all — they leave a nasty, starchy aftertaste. However, one of the advantages of living in a great city like Philly is that there are many enlightened individuals pioneering real gluten-free alternatives.

Walking distance from Society Hill, in the heart of the Italian Market, is **Taffets Bakery**, 1024 South 9th Street. What a find! Innovative owner Omer Taffet is a self-taught baker who started the store because his mother is a Celiac. He started experimenting with different types of starches and flour substitutes, and now has his own proprietary brand of flour, which yields astounding results.

Taffets smells like a real bakery, and the bread has proper crusts rather than the limp doughy edging that passes for crust on most gluten-free loaves. The baguettes are worthy of a French bakery!

Omer tipped us off to **Sweet Freedom**, a bakery and patisserie located nearby at 1424 South Street.

Sweet Freedom is vegan (dairy-free, casein-free and egg-free), as well as gluten-free. It surely lives up to its tagline, "Baking you Happy"!

Life continues to look up. We just learned that Mark Vertri's restaurants, including the eponymous **Vetri**, carries gluten-free options. What a treat!

Closer to home, Bridget Foy's advertises gluten-free options, as does Zahav, and Xochitl. For a full listing of gluten-free friendly restaurants in our neighborhood, check out urbanspoon.com/tn/21/1/2032/Philadelphia/Gluten-Free-Friendly/Old-City-Society-Hill-restaurants.

If you want to try baking, the **best** gluten-free blogger around is Elana Amsterdam (www.elanaspantry.com), who uses blanched almond flour as the lynchpin for her recipes (available from Amazon).

We made her Almond Butter Blondies, and they were better than any wheat-based version I've tasted!



Elana's Almond Butter Blondies

1 16-ounce jar almond butter

In a large bowl, use a hand mixer to blend almond butter until creamy.

1 cup agave nectar

Add agave and eggs and mix. Then add salt and baking soda, combining all ingredients thoroughly.

2 eggs

½ teaspoon salt

Add half of the chocolate chips into the batter.

1 teaspoon baking soda

Pour batter into a greased baking dish (9x13")

1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips

Scatter the other half of the chips on top of the batter, and bake at 325° for 35 minutes.



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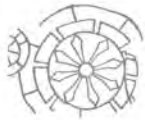


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EXPLORING THE CITY

BY JIM MURPHY

The Ben Franklin Bridge

Most of us take the big, beautiful Ben Franklin Bridge for granted.

We hop on, try to get across quickly and hope its frequent traffic jams don't delay us too long.

But the next time you look at the bridge, or drive, pedal, jog or walk across it, consider one fact: When it opened in 1926, this was the longest suspension bridge in the world!

Known originally as the Delaware River Bridge, the structure was built by a design dream team: bridge engineer Ralph Modjeski; design engineer Leon Moisseiff; and renowned architect Paul Philippe Cret, who also designed the Rodin Museum, Rittenhouse Square and more.

After opening ceremonies by the Delaware River Joint Bridge Commission, some 100,000 people strolled across the bridge.

President Calvin Coolidge personally dedicated the structure on July 5, the same day he opened the Sesquicentennial Exposition of 1926.

Long-desired by people on both the Camden and Philadelphia sides, who wanted fast, easy access across the Delaware River, the new bridge was an instant success.

In his book "Philadelphia's Lost Waterfront," historian Harry Kyriakodis says the bridge attracted 35,000 vehicles a day. Initial tolls were 25 cents for a car, 15 cents for a horse and rider, and 30 cents for a horse-drawn carriage.

Today, some 100,000 vehicles and 40,000 PATCO Speedline passengers travel across it daily.

Before the bridge was built, Kyriakodis says, ferries carried 100,000 people a day across the river, departing every three minutes at peak times. But the bridge quickly put most of them out of business.

Seven Things You May Not Know About the Bridge:

- During construction, the joint commission rejected the name Franklin Bridge. Its successor, the Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA), had more sense, renaming the span the Ben Franklin Bridge in 1956, the 250th anniversary of Franklin's birth.
- The bridge had no speed limit when it opened, says WHYY.org. Drivers were expected to use common sense.

- The bridge's first traffic accident occurred before it even officially opened. A driver attempting to get ahead in line ran into the back of another car. The driver was fined \$25.
- Historic St. George's United Methodist Church, America's oldest in continuous use, is now known as "the Church that moved the bridge." When it was slated for demolition to accommodate the bridge, church leaders protested in court. They won, and the bridge was shifted slightly southward, missing the church by just 14 feet.
- The bridge also affected St. Augustine's Roman Catholic Church. When Fourth Street was lowered by about 15 feet to allow for the approach of the bridge, says Harry Kyriakodis, the entrance to the church also was lowered and the rectory removed.
- The huge anchorages on both sides were designed not only to anchor the bridge, but also to serve mass transit trolley passengers. Each contains a tiled room with seven beautiful mosaics. But because trolley lines in New Jersey started converting to bus lines before construction was complete, the waiting rooms never opened to the public. And after the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001, they never will be, says DRPA Communications Director Tim Ireland.
- Because New Jersey wanted tolls to pay for the bridge and Pennsylvania did not, says highway historian Steve Anderson, work stopped for a time. "There were even proposals to tear down the bridge," he says. When word leaked out from Philadelphia's City Hall that the powerful Vare organization was skimming money for the project, Pennsylvania agreed to construct tollbooths. Work resumed on the bridge a week after the story broke.

Breathtaking views

A great way to enjoy the bridge's spectacular vistas is to use the South Walkway, which starts near 5th and Race Streets. It's open for bikes, pedestrians, and joggers. But if you are walking, be careful and "hug" to the right to avoid speeding bikers and joggers. Some will let you know they are close by. Some won't.

On the day it opened — July 1, 1926 — this was the longest suspension bridge in the world.



The Ben Franklin Bridge, then known as the Delaware River Bridge, under construction.

FAST FACTS

- Tower-to-tower length: 1,750 feet
- End-to-end length: 8,300 feet
- Number of lanes: 7
- Height: 135 feet above the river
- Tower height: 382 feet
- Years to build: 4½ years
- Cost: \$37,103,765.42
- Fatalities during construction: 15
- Website: drpa.org

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ON OUR SHELF

BY RICHARD DE WYNGAERT

Will Cities Save Our Planet?

***Cities Are Good for You: The Genius of the Metropolis*, by Leo Hollis**

What makes a city a city? What is its defining characteristic? No doubt there exist many parts and factors. We all have our opinions regarding a city's nature and about what works. Perhaps, more numerous are our expressed opinions about what does **not** work.

In his compelling new book, *Cities Are Good for You: The Genius of the Metropolis*, British historian Leo Hollis posits a take on cities at odds with the less flattering view often extolled in literature: from Dante's beastly depiction of Florence and Florentine politicians in *The Inferno*, to the Romantic philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau, who considered cities lawless pits, to the great American industrialist Henry Ford, who believed "we shall solve the city by leaving the city. Get the people into the countryside, get them into communities where a man knows his neighbors... there is nothing to do but abandon the course that gives rise to them."

For many, cities have long been considered bad for us: they compromised our humanity, drained our resources, threatened our traditions and tore apart families. Hollis takes another approach and highlights their promise, identifying what cities mean to us, rather than focusing exclusively on their ostensible costs — often myopically calculated. For Hollis, what cities yield and their future promise is eminently more important, given that 50% of the world's population currently lives in cities, and that number will likely climb to 70 percent by 2050.

Cities are complex, chaotic, disordered and often misunderstood. Cities are vital. In an effort to more comprehensively understand the city and how it works, Hollis explores the historical context and formation of the city. He examines how and why they were formed before leading us on an instructive journey through time — from New York to Mumbai to Zurich to Hong Kong. We visit the slums, the business districts and the dazzling skylines. This journey aims to shake us up and awaken our senses, thereby allowing us to see the city in new ways. We survey the thoughts and writings of leading architects, urban planners, archaeologists, economists, artists, designers and sociologists.

Ultimately, supported by scientific findings, academic studies, stories, anecdotes and first-hand observations, Hollis concludes that the city and urban life is infinitely more than a physical place. The city is a place of multiple connections — an incubator of new ideas and solutions. The city is a creative and dynamic complex system within a system, characterized by multi-layered experiences and forces, which self-organize and advance our collective skills and knowledge base. The city is synergistic. There exists a powerful emergence: novel structures and patterns, which arise from a dynamic interplay. Put simply, the whole of the city is far greater than the sum of its parts.

The global challenges we face today are enormous (e.g., climate change, massive migration, economic fragility, water and food scarcity, dysfunctional governments). Hollis concludes that urbanization, the movement from the country to the city, and the synergies and creative solutions that emerge, may well be the only way to a healthier planet. This movement back to cities may save us from the population explosion that is at the core of our challenges: "Humanity stands at a tipping point between disaster and survival, and the city is the fulcrum upon which our future balances."

Let's hope he is right.

Other Books to Consider

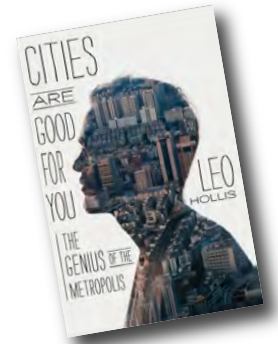
The Metropolitan Revolution: How Cities and Metros Are Fixing Our Broken Politics and Fragile Economy by Bruce Katz

Triumph of the City: How Our Greatest Invention Makes Us Richer, Smarter, Greener, Healthier, and Happier by Edward Glaeser

The Death and Life of Great American Cities by Jane Jacobs

Ed Bacon: Planning, Politics, and the Building of Modern Philadelphia by Gregory Heller

We're delighted that Richard De Wyngaert, former SHCA president, has joined the *Reporter* staff. Richard is the owner of Head House Books, our neighborhood's only independent bookstore at 619 S 2nd Street. Comments may be directed to radewyngaert@headhousebooks.com. When ordered through Head House Books, **20 percent of the proceeds** of the sale price of any books cited in this review **will be donated to SHCA** — please reference *The SHCA Reporter*.



"Dull, inert cities, it is true, do contain the seeds of their own destruction and little else.

But lively, diverse, intense cities contain the seeds of their own regeneration, with energy enough to carry over for problems and needs outside themselves."

—Jane Jacobs,
The Death and Life of Great American Cities

THE JEWISH QUARTER OF PHILADELPHIA

PART THREE IN A SERIES BY SANDY ROTHMAN

A Shvitz, A Nosh and the Cakewalk

Bubba and Zayda Find Ways to Chill

Recently, on a hot summer day, I explored our neighborhood like an archaeologist, unearthing buried remnants of my son Alexander's paternal family history. The layers I uncovered comprise a vibrant part of Society Hill's past that has almost disappeared from sight.

As I peered down alleys and side streets, searching for evidence of Alexander's relatives, who lived and worked in the former Jewish Quarter of Philadelphia, I could almost hear the humming of thousands of *katerinkas* originating from sweatshops that dotted what is now Society Hill. My son's *bubbas* and *zaydas* worked long hours in difficult circumstances, and I wanted to find evidence that their lives were not simply "all work and no play." Surely they found ways to relax, to be intellectually stimulated, or to just have fun.

Time for Fellowship

I first paused at 715 Pine Street, formerly the location of the Elizabetgrad Beneficial Association, one of Philadelphia's many Jewish social institutions called a *landsmanshaft*. Based on its members' shared origins, these hometown clubs were the vital and creative grassroots response of a transplanted population. Besides providing burial services for members and aid to the deceased's family, they fostered friendship and brotherly love.

It warms my heart to consider Sam Rothman sharing a cup of tea and a laugh at the Belzer Bessarabian Beneficial Association and reconnecting with friends from Filesht, his *shtetl* near Belz, Bessarabia. Possibly they joined together to sing a popular song of the day, "Belz, my little town of Belz, My home, where I dreamed so many beautiful dreams."

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New Ideas and Lively Debate

Next, I ventured to the corner of 2nd and Pine. Now a Wells Fargo bank, in the late 1800's, it was the home of the Sixth National Bank and was two stories higher than it is today. Rooms on these two floors were designed as social meeting places. The Tourgenieff Club, named for the famous Russian writer, was one of the popular intellectual societies that met here.

The Hebrew Literature Society also met here but eventually moved to 310-312 Catharine Street. After a fourteen-hour working day, the older generation could listen to a lecture in Yiddish. For the younger Jews, it was a venue for exposure to new ideas, argued passionately in smoke-filled rooms. The finest Jewish speakers lectured here, including professors from the University of Pennsylvania and the great Yiddish dramatists.

An Evening at the Theater

Speaking of great dramatists, Philadelphia had a lively Yiddish Theater culture produced in several locations in and near the Jewish Quarter. In addition, amateur theater thrived at places like the old firehouse at 512 South 3rd Street. It's possible that one hundred years ago, young Emanuel Bauman put down his heavy hawker's pack and took his wife Rose to a reading of the popular *Der Peddler* by the Russian Jewish folk poet Eliakum Zunser.

More likely, the cash-strapped couple bundled up the kids and trekked down to 334 South Street, home to the Crystal Palace — the Quarter's first cinema theater, also called a nickelodeon. Seventy years later, Alexander's father and I sat on those same hard seats (then in the Theatre of the Living Arts), enthusiastically booing and cheering our way through 15 episodes of the original Batman serials. The site, now a concert hall venue, is today called the Fillmore Philadelphia.

Paradise on Earth

It makes me smile to imagine the *zaydas* wrapped in heavy white towels, cigars clamped between their teeth, having a *shvitz* at one of the Quarter's many private bathhouses. In our neighborhood, this very popular activity took place at Bershad's Russian and Turkish Baths, 436-442 Lombard Street, before it was razed in 1970.

A former bathhouse, now condos, still stands at 313 Monroe Street, one block south of Bainbridge Street. Peek through the gates into the white tiled courtyard and you can observe what was once Abe's Baths, a place the owner himself called a true "earthly paradise."

Immigrants came here, some directly from the Emigration Station, to ease their aches and pains and *kibitz* with friends. For a little extra, they could buy a good kosher meal and a glass of *schnops* and play cards late into the night. Abe even offered his clients a clean bed to sleep in.

That Takes the Cake!

Large immigrant families were usually housed in small, cramped quarters, which often served as workplaces as well. When hosting special occasions such as weddings, a *bris*, or a *bar mitzvah*, it was necessary to rent out rooms in one of the Quarter's many halls. New Central Hall, now a store, still stands at 610 South 3rd Street. It was also used for "pleasure socials," a popular form of youth entertainment at the turn of the twentieth century.

An especially interesting version of the pleasure social was the Cakewalk. This costumed, strutting dance originated on southern plantations, where African American slaves competed for the prize of a cake. Introduced at Philadelphia's Centennial Exposition of 1876, it took the city by storm. The Cakewalk was the first American dance to cross the color lines. The Tannheuser Wheelmen Bicycle Club even presented a "Hebrew Cakewalk," with ragtime songs performed entirely in Yiddish!



A Nosh

The heart of the Jewish café district was located along the 500 block of South 5th Street. Many of the original buildings still stand on the west side of the block. Sadly, however, Himmelstein's, Uhr's Roumanian Restaurant, the Colonial Café and Stern's Hotel exist in memory only.

Gone, also, is the iconic Levis Hot Dogs at 507 South 6th Street. I fondly remember Alexander's father introducing me to a specialty of the house, "Champ Cherry Soda," the perfect drink to wash down a "dog with the works."

Satisfied with evidence that the Jewish Quarter provided ample opportunities for fun and relaxation, I'll next tackle the opposite end of the spectrum, examining its spiritual and religious aspects.

Note: Translated, these Yiddish terms are: *bubba*/grandmom, *zayda*/grandpop, *shvitz*/sweat, *nosh*/snack, *katerinkas*/sewing machines, *shtetl*/village, *kibitz*/chat, *schnops*/strong alcoholic beverage, *bris*/circumcision, *bar mitzvah*/boy's 13th birthday

OUT AND ABOUT

Washington Square Affair

Thanks to Mother Nature, the Washington Square Affair was a two-act play this year. Despite dire predictions for a major storm, the pre-event cocktail party was held on June 13 in Joan and Bernie Spain's beautifully renovated penthouse condo overlooking the Square. A good time was had by all, and, even better — everyone got to party again on June 20, when the postponed Affair resumed.

The weather was perfect this time and the crowd of over 300 guests enjoyed great food, wine and music. Students from Philadelphia High School

of Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) lent their talents to the festivities by dancing, then pulling guests onto the dance floor, which added to the excitement of the evening.

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this year's event successful, including all the wonderful caterers who donated food. Proceeds from the gala will be used for the continued beautification and maintenance of Washington Square. Turn to page 3 for a photo of the Affair Committee; all pictures were taken by Joecy Wu.



Sissie Lipton, Joan Spain, Cindy MacLeod



Matthew Menard, Chuck Deusch



Arthur & Bobbie Karafin, Sissie & Herb Lipton



Rachelle Munic, Julia Harmelin, Bernard Spain



Joan Spain, Fran Freedman



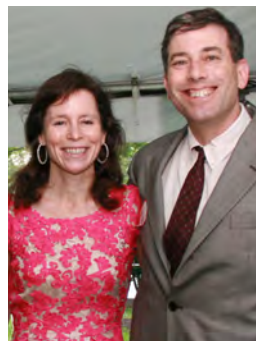
Merle Becker, Andrea Layden, Benita Fair Langsdorf



Jan Stephano, Brian Daggett, Bari Shor



Judy Hurtig, Leslie Maras



Lisa Unger, Ken Fleisher



Greg DiTeodoro, Dawn Sena, Sally Piccone

OUT AND ABOUT

Washington Square Affair



Bruce & Sharon Thayer



Judith Sills, Fred Stein



Malcolm Lazin



Martha Levine



Brian Scarpetti, Henry Palmer



Students from CAPA



Guests, Joyce & Bernard Gelman



Fr. Paul, Santo DiDonato, George Koch, Jr.

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Caring For Your Tree

Water is crucial for your tree's survival, especially in the first year after planting. Water your tree when the soil looks dry at least once or twice a week. Slow watering is best.

Weed and clean the area around your tree periodically and prevent toxic substances from entering the soil.

Have a tree pit that is big enough for the size of the tree so it can collect rainwater. If the pit

is too small and the soil is too compact, the soil can't allow water and air to reach roots.

Mulch helps conserve water, control weeds and keep roots cooler in summer and warmer on winter.

Plant flowers around the tree, especially annuals, which do not compete with the tree.

If your tree is diseased or dead, you need to consult with an arborist. A dead tree can have falling limbs and be a hazard to residents.

This is an urgent matter.

Important: Trees need professional pruning to keep them healthy and to allow light onto sidewalks for safety reasons.

A dark sidewalk can be hazardous — people need to see where they are going. Overgrown trees can block illumination from streetlights at night and make people feel less safe.

It is your responsibility as a homeowner to prune your trees, so that they are not overgrown! For a list of reliable arborists, contact Martha Levine at marthalev6@msn.com or call 215-629-0727 for a Society Hill List of Contractors.

Many of the above facts came from the Philadelphia Horticultural Society website, www.phsonline.org.



People actually feel happier living in a tree-lined neighborhood.

Now You See It, Now You Don't

Todd Kelley, an urban “magician” of sorts, mixes his chemicals and potions and then applies a little elbow grease. Poof! Unsightly graffiti and acid-etchings on glass disappear, leaving cleaned surfaces unharmed and looking like new.

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- 241 S 6th Street 1607 \$834,900**
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- 838-40 Lombard Street \$1,545,000**
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WELCOME BASKETS

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Gearing Up for a New Season

As we gear up for the new season of Welcome Basket presentations to new first-time Society Hill homeowners, we welcome several new contributors.

The Bagel Factory, 510 Walnut Street, is located in the Penn Mutual Building and offers delicious fresh bagels daily, as well as breakfast and lunch menus. Contribution: one bag of bagels per basket.

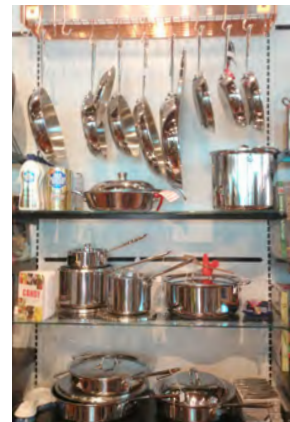
Phila. Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, 321 South 4th Street, maintains and preserves four historic museum houses in the Philadelphia area, including two in Society Hill — the Physick and Powel Houses. They will contribute free passes to the two houses in Society Hill.

Kitchenette has recently re-located to 117 South 12th Street (near Sansom), the area now called

Midtown Village. It is a delightful and colorful store that prides itself on selling an extensive inventory of top quality cookware, bakeware, cutlery, small appliances, gadgets and more. A fun shopping experience! Their contribution: one \$25 gift certificate per basket.

Please help us thank all of our loyal contributors by patronizing their businesses and organizations. Only through their generosity and consistency can we sponsor this well-loved program.

New to Society Hill? If you are a new first-time home/condo owner (sorry no renters) here in Society Hill as of 2013, please contact us. Email: marthlev6@gmail.com or phone: 215-629-0727. The baskets are presented in your home by appointment.



Check out Kitchenette, 117 South 12th Street, for a fun shopping experience.

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Bridget Foy's, 200 South Street
City Tavern, 138 South 2nd Street
Core De Roma, 214 South Street
Creperie Beau Monde, 624 S. 6th Street
Fork, 306 Market Street
La Buca Ristorante, 711 Locust Street
Mustard Greens (Chinese), 622 South 2nd Street
Positano Coast Restaurant, 2nd & Walnut Streets
QBBQ & Tequila, 207 Chestnut Street
Ristorante Panorama, 14 North Front Street
Village Belle, 757 South Front Street

Specialty Foods

Homemade Goodies by Roz, 510 South 5th Street
Metropolitan Bakery, 262 S. 19th Street (Rittenhouse Square)
The Bagel Factory, 510 Walnut Street (Penn Mutual Building)

Specialty Shops

Adornamenti (jewelry), 1106 Pine Street
Happily Ever After (toys), 1010 Pine Street
Head House Books, 619 South 2nd Street
Industry (fashion accessories), 1020 Pine Street
Hello Home, 1004 Pine Street
Kitchenette (cookware), 117 South 12th Street (12th & Sansom)
Lolli Lolli (children's clothing/toys), 713 Walnut Street
Paper On Pine (invitations/stationery), 115 South 13th Street
Show of Hands Gallery (crafts), 1006 Pine Street
Yarnphoria (yarn and supplies), 1016 Pine Street

Theaters/Entertainment

Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 3680 Walnut Street
Arden Theater, 40 North 2nd Street
Ballet X at Wilma Theater, 265 South Broad Street
1812 Productions (all comedy theater), 215-592-9560
Ghost Tours of Philadelphia, 610-587-8308
Independence Seaport Museum, 211 South Columbus Blvd.
InterAct Theater Company, 2030 Sansom Street
Lantern Theater Company, 10th & Ludlow Streets (south of Market)
Lights of Liberty - featuring Liberty 360, 6th & Chestnut Streets
Museum of American Jewish History, 5th & Market Streets
National Liberty Museum, 321 Chestnut Street
Pennsylvania Ballet, Academy of Music, Broad & Locust Streets
Philadelphia Chamber Music Society 215-569-8080
Philadelphia History Museum, 15 South 7th Street
Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre, 2111 Sansom Street
Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, 321 South 4th Street
Philadelphia Theatre Company, South Roberts Theater, Broad & Pine Streets
Piffaro, The Renaissance Band, 215-235-8469
Society Hill Playhouse, 507 South 8th Street
The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, Kimmel Center, 215-545-1739
The Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble, Old Pine Church
Wilma Theater, 265 South Broad Street

Other Services

Judy Moon Massage Therapy, Hopkinson House, 604 Washington Square
Liberty Tree & Landscape Management, 215-725-3637
Riff Cleaners, 314 South 5th Street
Salvatore Custom Drapery & Installations 215-547-2880
SCULPT — Personal Trainer, 215-803-0723
The Worth Collection (women's fashions), 215-925-8813



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Professional Builder Magazine, December 2012.



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COME . SIT-STAY . READ !

Common Courtesy and Doggie Etiquette

Recently a Society Hill pedestrian was walking on Spruce Street, between 5th and 6th, when she encountered a young woman inattentively walking her large dog while talking on her cell phone. The dog, on an illegal extendable pulley leash, jumped on our neighbor and pushed her to the street, causing her to sustain injuries on her scalp, thigh, elbow and knee.

We understand that city-dwelling dog owners are faced with greater challenges than their suburban and rural counterparts. Without a large, fenced yard for exercise, the city dweller must take to the streets three or more times a day with Fido or Fifi in tow. Crowded sidewalks replete with joggers, construction scaffolding and doublewide strollers turn each outing into an obstacle course.

Therefore, it's imperative that both canine owners and their pets follow city laws and also practice basic commonsense courtesy to keep our community safe.

It's the Law

Section 10-104 of the Philadelphia Code prohibits any large animal other than a sterilized cat to run at large on any public street. All animals (except that sterilized cat) must be on a leash not exceeding six feet, including the handgrip. But speaking of cats, a feline-phobic neighbor at 2nd and Delancey Streets is being terrorized by a large black cat that's allowed to run loose all day and night.

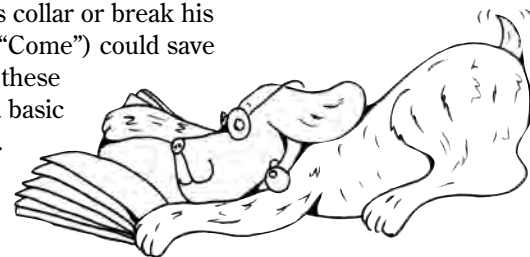
Etiquette Lessons

The well-trained city dog needs to respond to a minimum of four basic commands: "Sit-Stay," "Heel," "Leave it" and "Come." When you're

waiting at a traffic light, a dog in a "sit-stay" is out of harm's way. And while walking nicely on a leash is enough for most forays, there are times when your dog will need to be at heel position, which keeps her under control at your side.

The command "Leave it" is employed when it is necessary for Fido to avert his gaze. Whether he's being tantalized by chicken bones or a jogger, getting your dog to break eye contact with "forbidden fruit" before he acts enables you to draw his attention to safer rewards and pursuits. Or, should the dog slip his collar or break his leash, a recall command ("Come") could save his life. Most, if not all, of these commands are taught in a basic obedience/manners class.

Contact your local shelter for a referral to a class near you.



Basic Courtesy

Finally, Section No. 110210 of the Code requires pet owners to pick up after their pets. Pooper-scooper laws are essential for both the health and beautification of the community. Canine diseases and parasites are often shed in feces, which puts other dogs and children at risk. No one enjoys maneuvering through unsightly piles of dog waste when out for a stroll. Pick up feces using a plastic bag, and knot the top to control odor and flies before disposing of it in a waste receptacle. Train your dog to urinate in gutters or on nonliving vertical surfaces, such as lamp-posts or hydrants. Avoid trees and flowerbeds.

Failure to do so can result in fines up to \$300, not to mention dirty looks from your neighbors!

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\$1,100,000



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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



IN MEMORIAM

We are sad to announce the death of one of Society Hill's true pioneers, Stanhope Stryker Browne, who passed away on June 29 at the age of 81.

Stanhope was born July 22, 1931, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. His father, a philosophy professor, and his mother, the founder of the state's Planned Parenthood, shaped the boy's sharp mind and progressive policies. He once recalled taking a memorable trip with his mother to a mining town to deliver contraceptives to a woman who had more children than she could support.

After graduating from Princeton University in 1953 and Harvard Law School in 1956, where he served as an editor of the *Harvard Law Review*, Stan joined the Philadelphia law firm Dechert, Price & Rhoads (now Dechert L.L.P.). A specialist in estates, estate planning and trusts, he remained a partner in the firm from 1965 until he retired in 1997.

"He was a Philadelphia lawyer, but one with warmth and imagination," said architect Denise Scott Brown, a friend and client.

Stan met his wife, Libby, a French teacher, at a party in Chestnut Hill. They were married for 48 years. Together, they traveled widely, his wanderlust inspired by writer Richard Halliburton, a Princeton graduate who "wanted to find the romance of the world."

The couple and their two children, Katrina and Whitney, spent four years in Brussels. In the fall of 1976 he served on President Jimmy Carter's Transition Task Force.

In 1986, Stan was appointed honorary consul of France in Philadelphia; he served for 10 years.

After his retirement, he and Libby moved to Paris for three years.

Like the other stalwarts who bought into famed architect Ed Bacon's vision of transforming Society Hill into a thriving residential neighborhood, the Brownes bought and renovated their home, a former restaurant, in the early 1960's. They lived there until moving to a retirement home last year.

When Stan and Libby moved to Society Hill, it was a time they called "the tipping point" for the area's transformation. The couple quickly became involved in the local scene. Stan became a founding member of what became the Society Hill Civic Association, drafting bylaws for the fledgling organization. When some city planners wanted to "welcome the automobile" with I-95, which would have cut off Society Hill from the riverfront, the Brownes fought tooth and nail for seven years, with Stan heading up a Political Action Committee. Victory (access to the river) was eventually won.

A striking presence at six feet, 10 inches, Stan commanded respect without trying. At home, he relaxed in the kitchen, wielding a huge frying pan and huge wooden spoon to whip up mushroom omelets on Sunday morning. "Everything for him was big," his wife said.

Besides his wife and children, Stan leaves behind two granddaughters and a sister.

Gifts in his memory may be sent to either St. Peter's or Historic St. Peter's Church Preservation Corp., 313 Pine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106; or the French International School of Philadelphia, 150 North Highland Avenue, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004.



Stanhope Stryker Browne, 1931-2013

Mural Arts Expands Its Format

Marking its 30th-year anniversary, the Philadelphia Mural Arts Program is looking back at its history and contemplating the future with a participatory project called *What We Sow*. This project takes the future of Mural Arts beyond a genre-specific format and expands on the social and civic foundation of the mural tradition by addressing the relationship between local communities, regional ecologies, global economies and the politics of food production.

Through October 2013, Mural Arts will host and collaborate with partnering organizations to provide opportunities for the Philadelphia

community to explore the world of heirloom foods through workshops, artist talks, tastings, cooking demonstrations, tours and other events.

What We Sow culminates on Saturday, October 5, with *70x7 The Meal*, a visual and performance art piece that gathers people around a communal table to engage in conversation concerning the issues of heirloom foods and their role in creating a healthier food system for people and the environment. It will feature a simple menu of heirloom produce created by Chef Marc Vetri and catered by Cescaphe Event Group.

For more information, visit muralarts.org/whatwesow.

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Two bedroom plus den, three and a half bathroom showplace overlooking Washington Square and offering southern exposure. The condominium has a Joanne Hudson kitchen, designer bathrooms, lavish master suite and wonderful entertaining and living space. 3510 sf
\$3,500,000



Sun-soaked Three Bedroom Plus Study/Library

Sun-soaked three bedroom plus study/library, two and a half bathroom residence overlooking Washington Square with open floor plan, chef's kitchen, grand master suite and restored original building details throughout. 2716 sf
\$1,695,000

Allan Domb Real Estate Presents Hopkinson House

604 S. WASHINGTON SQUARE

Three Bedroom With Magnificent Views

Three bedroom, two bathroom residence on the penthouse floor of The Hopkinson House featuring magnificent views of Washington Square and sweeping views from the balcony of the Delaware River, Benjamin Franklin Bridge and Center City skyline. The home offers an open floor plan with generous living and entertaining space. 1700 sf
\$695,000



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Thursday, September 12, 7 p.m.

Starr Garden Movie Night

Starr's next community event, sponsored by Citibank, will be a free, outdoor screening of *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial*. Bring your chairs and blankets to 600-644 Lombard Street. Festivities, including gourmet food trucks and E.T.-themed crafts, will begin at 5:30 p.m.

To get involved in revitalization efforts or join the email distribution list, send a message indicating your interests to StarrGardenNeighbors@gmail.com.

Wednesday, September 18

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

September 24 - November 10

Powel House Botanical Art Classes

Sarah Maxwell, certified botanical artist and member of the Philadelphia Society of Botanical Illustrators, will conduct botanical art classes in the education room at Powel House, 244 South 3rd Street. Limited to six participants, the eight-week series will be held on Tuesday mornings, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

"It is wonderful to be able to look at nature and really understand it," says Maxwell. "We will follow the traditional structure: presentation, demonstration, and students working on their own. I envision two weeks of drawing, two weeks of black and white work on gray paper, followed by watercolor and colored pencil. My goal is that every student will finish a beautiful painting!"

The series, open to all levels of experience, costs \$200. To reserve a place, send a check, made out to Landmarks, to Jorja Fullerton, Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, 321 South 4th Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19106 by September 14. Email Sarah at smaxwell@fordham.edu for further

information and a supplies list.



Sarah Maxwell



Saturday, September 28, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

The Great 12-Hour Tour is Back! River to River, Vine to Pine, Rain or Shine

Back for a fourth year, The Great 12-Hour Tour is a celebration of Philadelphia and the hundreds of museums, cultural venues, sites and organizations that the city offers both tourists and residents.

Conducted by expert guides certified by the Association of Philadelphia Tour Guides, this free event showcases their talents, expertise and commitment, while featuring over 200 historic sites and attractions.

It kicks off at 8 a.m. at the National Constitution Center in Independence Park and winds to a close around 8 p.m. at the beautiful Fairmount Water Works on the Schuylkill River.

Taking place in four separate, three-hour phases, participants are invited to walk the whole tour from start to finish, or join at any of the staging points. Each launch site offers refreshments and public rest rooms.

Pre-registration is suggested. Visit GreatTourofPhiladelphia.eventbrite.com to sign up.

Wednesday, October 2, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Explore The World Without Leaving Town!

Since 1891, the Geographical Society of Philadelphia has supported exploration by presenting programs about the people, places and perspectives of the world. Luckily for Society Hill, it has recently relocated the Explorer Series from Center City to our own Ritz East, at 125 South 2nd Street.

The program features filmmakers, explorers and adventurers who present their exceptional views of the world through stunning visuals and captivating stories.

On October 2, meet Marlin Darrah and journey with him in his latest film, *Madagascar*. With machete in one hand and video camera in the other, Marlin traveled to this isolated island home to mammals, birds and plants that exist nowhere else on Earth. Enjoy touring the fourth largest island in the world, where ancient cultures blend and pirates made their haven.

Wednesday, November 13, 7:30 p.m. The Society's third GeoFest, a film and food festival featuring renowned

explorers, scientists and travelers, also takes place at the Ritz East. The festival opens on Wednesday, November 13 with actor Andrew McCarthy presenting the journeys and tales that molded and created the man that he is today.

Check out www.geographicalociety.org for more about GeoFest or the Society and its programs.

Wednesday, October 2, 7 p.m.

Society Hill — Hot and Healthy!

This is a community-based medical speaker series which provides up-to-date information promoting good health, well-being and disease prevention.

Starting its third season, *Hot and Healthy* will host "Is Alternative Medicine Right for My Aches and Pains?" at the Society Hill Synagogue, 418 Spruce Street.

Speaker Dr. Sharon L. Kolasinski, M.D., F.A.C.P., F.A.C.R., is head of the Division of Rheumatology at Cooper University Hospital in Camden, New Jersey. In the context of rheumatology, she will discuss herbal medicine and dietary supplements, as well as tai chi, yoga and mindfulness meditation.

Come join us for this free program and bring questions and comments! Refreshments will be served.

Saturday, October 26, 7:30 p.m.

Comedian Colin Quinn Brings Hit Show Unconstitutional to Constitution Center

The National Constitution Center presents popular stand-up comedian and "Saturday Night Live" veteran Colin Quinn for a performance of his hit one-man show "Colin Quinn Unconstitutional."

Reservations are required and can be made by calling 215-409-6700 or visiting constitutioncenter.org.

November 7 to 24

Meadowbrook Productions Presents "Address Unknown"

This powerful play tells the story of two German expatriates who left their homeland in 1918, just after World War I. Their letters chronicle the Nazi rise to power. The play brings to life the destructive forces of anti-Semitism.

It runs from November 7-24 at the Walnut Street Theatre's Studio 5 (825 Walnut Street). Purchase tickets online at MeadowbrookProductions.com. For more information call 215-870-9040 or email spa@sandphil.com. Group arrangements are available.

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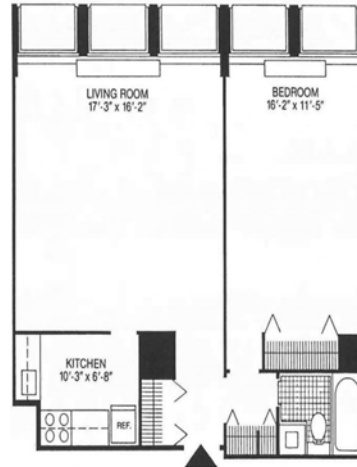
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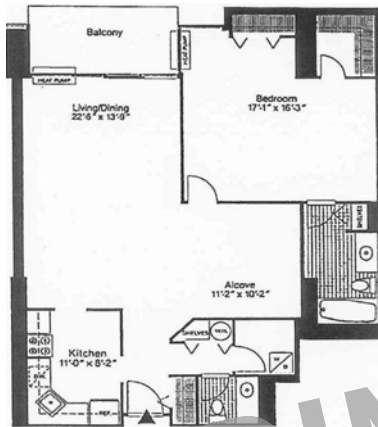
Bright and cheerful one bedroom on a high floor boasting dramatic city views, wood floors, updated kitchen and bathroom and great closet space.

712 sf
\$250,000



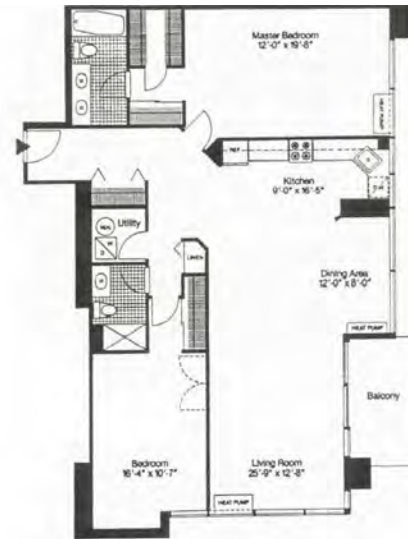
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233-241 S. 6TH STREET



Custom One Bedroom with Alcove

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\$525,000



Updated Two Bedroom with Southern Views

Two bedroom, two bathroom with balcony and expansive southern views, an updated open kitchen and bathrooms, wonderful closet space and lots of natural light. 1387 sf
\$775,000



Within Reach – Help Us Meet Our Goal!

2013 Membership Only Two Short of 2008 Record

By early August, 1,061 SHCA residents and businesses had already joined or renewed their membership — only two short of the record number reached in 2008 and well ahead of the 2012 total of 1,036. This year’s 94 new members have helped give our membership rolls a big boost.

However, we still have 65 members who have not renewed their 2012 memberships. If you have received a phone call from one of our membership committee volunteers, please respond to it, because we need your support. Our weekly email newsletter should remind you, also.

As a **special incentive** to all new members who renew at the \$100 Federal Friend level or above, we will provide a copy of the summary version of the *Philadelphia Historical Commission’s Register of Buildings in the Society Hill Historic District*.

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 re: 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 — the Holiday Social, the Washington Square Affair, the Soiree at the Shambles and the Spring Fling.

STEP UP TO BETTER HEALTH

Autumn brings Society Hill’s most glorious walking weather — crisp, sunny days that bring a bounce to our stride. Consider joining one (or both) of our organized walking groups to exercise and socialize in our beautiful neighborhood.

The **Walkie/Talkies** meet at Three Bears Park (Delancey Street between 2nd and 3rd Streets) on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8:15 a.m. for a one-hour stroll through our historic community. Anyone is welcome to participate in this non-stressful, one-hour exercise and socialize program.

Philly Is Walking in the Park! meets at the fountain in the center of Washington Square (6th and Locust) at 8 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for a half-hour, self-paced walk through our historic, beautiful park, led by neighbor Dr. Lisa Unger. All are invited to join us!

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.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Clean-Up Day | <input type="radio"/> Washington Square | <input type="radio"/> Zoning & Historic Preservation |
| <input type="radio"/> Franklin Lights | <input type="radio"/> Social Events | <input type="radio"/> Fundraising |
| <input type="radio"/> Dilworth House | <input type="radio"/> Property Taxes | <input type="radio"/> Local Crime |
| <input type="radio"/> Reporter | <input type="radio"/> Casino Issues | Incidents & Alerts |

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



NIFTY NEIGHBORS IN MY BACKYARD

BY JANE BIBERMAN

Dianne Semington and Craig Lewis

What's Wrong with this Picture?



Sadly, only a year after one of Society Hill's most popular couples was photographed at the Academy of Music's annual Ball, the former Democratic State Senator died suddenly this past January while on vacation with his wife in the Caribbean.

It was not only an irreparable loss to Dianne, but to the city and to the entire country as Craig's community activism, legendary leadership and exceptional kindness were far-reaching. "We met in the early 80's when Craig was in the Senate," recalls his widow, who came to Philadelphia from Chicago to serve as regional U.S. Secretary of Commerce.

"We found this wonderful house which was built in the 1790's," says Dianne as she gives me a brief tour of their handsome Federal home in the heart of Society Hill. "When we first bought it 28 years ago, we made the first floor into an apartment." At that time, she was City Representative under Mayor Wilson Goode. "Ten years later we redid it and took over the whole house."

Early American in feel, it is filled with walls of books ("Craig was a great reader who loved American history") and an eclectic mix of period and contemporary furniture and artwork. "One of the first things we bought was that large oil painting over there," says Dianne, pointing to a striking landscape by Philadelphia artist Diane Burko. An equally handsome canvas by Elizabeth Osborne graces another wall. "Craig and I really enjoyed going to art openings, and we bought a lot from the PAFA student shows."

Craig was responsible for another great acquisition: a 22-foot mural by Daniel Garber that is now the centerpiece of the James A. Michener Art Museum in Doylestown. "We became great friends with Michener when he was writing *Alaska*," Dianne relates. "He and Craig were both involved in Bucks County politics. It happened that an archivist at the Mont Alto campus of Penn State realized that 'A Wooded Watershed' was being used as a backdrop in the school auditorium. It had originally been commissioned for Pennsylvania's Sesquicentennial in 1926 and had been lost for 60 years!" As state senator representing the 6th district, which encompasses Bucks County and parts of Philadelphia, Craig found the money through a legislative initiative to purchase and restore it.

"It's such an exquisite painting," says Dianne, who was on the board of the museum when it first moved to its current location in the town's former prison in 1988. At the museum's recent 25th anniversary celebration, Craig was thanked posthumously for his priceless contribution.

During the time that Craig served in the senate, from 1972 to 1994, he and Dianne were involved in both city and suburban life. They own a river house on the former Biddle estate in Bensalem, which is an idyllic weekend retreat for family and friends. She spends most of her week in town.

"Our neighborhood is thriving! It is so alive with all the young people making their homes here," says Dianne, "Center City is really hot and so is University City. The restaurant scene is burgeoning. I would like to think that we had some responsibility for that when I was City Representative. We started the Book and the Cook, for example. All that is positive. But Philadelphia is in a state of such contrasts and contradictions. Our concerns are the aging infrastructure — bridges and roads — and our education system, which is one of the most important elements of any society. They have to be fixed.

"Philadelphia has to concentrate on its fundamentals," she continues. "What's emblematic is the divide between the haves and the have-nots. I think if the city could take hold of how much we have going for it, we could be one of the stellar cities of the world. And thankfully, we've kept our architecture, which will be valued forever. I just realized that this house is 100 years older than the state I was born in, North Dakota."

Speaking of her native state, Dianne and Craig established a fund at the Philadelphia Foundation, which Craig served for 10 years as board member, seven of them as chairman. "We set up our fund to provide scholarships to high school students in the town where I was born on the Canadian border," explains Dianne. In the past 10 years, 40 children have come to Philadelphia to study American history and get to know an urban environment. They arrive at the beginning of June every summer and stay for a week in a hotel. Their first stop is the top of City Hall, and then they spend most of their time in Society Hill and Independence Park. "We always invite them to our home for a formal dinner, so they can share their adventures with us. For many it is their first time in a big city or in a taxi or on a subway. One of the students later was accepted to Penn! It has been wonderful for us."

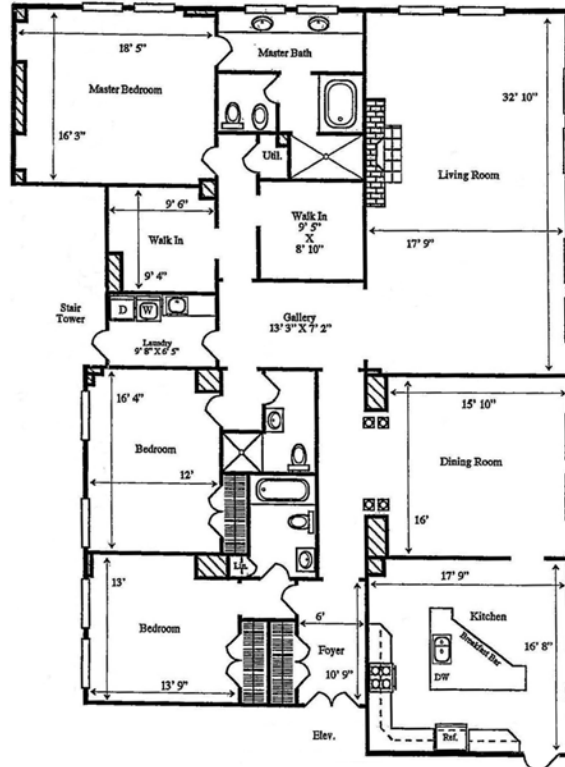
continued on page 34

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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



Dianne Semingson and Craig Lewis*continued from page 33*

It is still difficult for Dianne to embrace the fact that she now lives alone. Those who know her best say that she will carry on her husband's legacy as well as her own work. She has made lasting contributions to the city, including founding and co-executive producing Lincoln 200, Philadelphia's Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Celebration from 2007 and 2009. It brought 80,000 visitors to Independence Mall over July 4th weekend in 2009. She currently serves as chair of Avenue of the Arts.

"We are now engaged in extending the Avenue from Spring Garden Street to Temple University," says Dianne. "It's a \$14 million project on North Broad Street that will start next summer. There will be 49 light stands marching up the center of Broad and 300 trees will be planted. We want people to be able to walk from Temple down past PAFA and Drexel's Nursing School through the portals of City Hall."

In addition, Dianne is an executive member of the Committee of Seventy, "which champions

better government to help Philadelphia grow and prosper." She's been a longtime board member of St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, The United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania, the YMCA, and the Wilma Theater. At the same time, she runs DLS International, which she founded in 1990 to provide strategic planning and marketing communications services for many of Philadelphia-area corporations, foundations and community organizations. Understandably, her days are filled with board meetings, along with some very special occasions.

In October, Dianne is looking forward to welcoming Hillary Rodham Clinton to our neighborhood. "Craig was instrumental in moving the Philadelphia Liberty Medal to the Philadelphia Foundation from the Chamber of Commerce," she notes. "Then he was largely responsible for transferring it to the National Constitution Center, which we both support. It's an annual award to recognize leadership in the pursuit of freedom. He would be delighted to know that Hillary will be receiving it."

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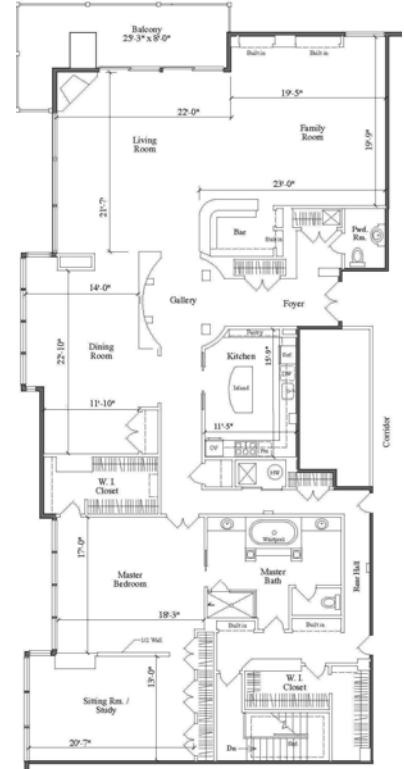
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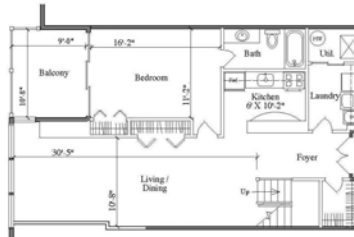
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