

SOCIETY HILL

# Reporter

January/February 2014

The Newsletter  
of The Society Hill  
Civic Association

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

## Stay in the Loop

Best wishes  
for a happy,  
healthy and  
prosperous  
New Year!

To limit the huge increases some residents are seeing under the Actual Value Initiative (AVI) tax-reform effort, the City of Philadelphia has initiated the Longtime Owner Occupants Program (LOOP). Recall that AVI is a citywide property tax assessment overhaul that determines real estate taxes on a property's true market value, instead of a predetermined rate.

The program will benefit lower-income homeowners who have been in their homes for at least a decade and saw their property assessments increase by 300 percent or more this year. For 10 years after they enroll, LOOP participants will be taxed on no more than triple their old assessments.

### Loop Eligibility Requirements

- The property's 2014 Market Value minus the \$30,000 Homestead Exemption must be more than three times the 2013 Market Value.
- Homeowners must own and have lived in this property as their primary residence since or before July 1, 2003.
- The property is a single-family or a multi-unit property with no more than three residential units and one commercial unit.

- Real estate taxes on the property must be paid in full or be up-to-date on a payment plan.
- There are income limits based on household size.
- The property cannot have received a tax abatement now or in the past.

Residents must apply by January 15. More information and a tool to check eligibility and amount of savings are available by calling 215-686-9200, or visiting [www.phila.gov/loop](http://www.phila.gov/loop). Assistance and information is available in multiple languages online and over the phone.

WEDNESDAY

January

15

6:00 p.m.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Society Hill Civic Association Meetings  
Wednesday, January 15, 2014

**Pennsylvania Hospital**  
8th & Spruce Streets

**Board of Directors Meeting**  
Great Court Meeting Room  
All SHCA members are welcome.

*The first General Membership Meeting of 2014 is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, 2014, at 7:30 p.m.*

### A DECEMBER DELIGHT



**Society Hill is transformed into a winter wonderland. Enjoy more photos on page 18.**



SOCIETY HILL

*Reporter*

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**Civic Association**

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Find past issues of the *Reporter* with color photos at [www.societyhillcivic.org](http://www.societyhillcivic.org).



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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](mailto: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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 2015 Heather Steiner  
 2016 Lisa Unger

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2014 Sissie Lipton  
 2015 Diane Rossheim  
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**Southwest Quadrant**

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# Bulletin Board



If **Greg DiTeodoro** looks familiar to you, it could be because he hand-delivers a copy of the *Reporter* to every household in our community.

This native South Philadelphian, who has lived in Society Hill since 1993, wears many hats and has many talents. His B.S. degree from Drexel University, in Accounting and Computer Systems Management, gives him the skills to manage SHCA's books.

Greg is also a Certified Massage Therapist, as well as a personal trainer and yoga instructor. Add to that a real estate license and work as a professional musician and vocalist, and you have one busy man!



**Marilyn Appel** is another of Society Hill's energizer bunnies, a woman who has only gotten busier since retiring in 2003 as Assistant Dean from what is now Drexel University College of Medicine.

The Appels are original community pioneers. They quickly learned the realities of living in a transition zone when their eight-year-old daughter was mugged while trick or treating and suffered a broken nose defending her Halloween loot! Unbelievably, their seven-year-old was robbed the next day on her way to purchase some groceries.

Marilyn was so impressed with the kindness and professionalism of the Sixth District Police Station that she became involved as a representative of the citywide Police District Advisory Council (PDAC), and has served as chair of the Sixth District since 1980.

**Many thanks to Mary Purcell, who helped SHCA members jump-start the holidays by organizing our Winter Social at Bridget Foy's in early December. A good time was had by all!**



Active in our civic association since its inception in 1967, Marilyn is currently a Southwest Quadrant Director, heads up our Safe and Sound Committee and writes the *Reporter's* Safe and Sound column. Interestingly, out of 22 citywide PDACs, only Sixth District publishes a crime update.

Marilyn combined her love of cooking and music when she edited a fund-raising cookbook for the Academy of Vocal Arts a few years ago. Her newest project is hot off the press and benefits the Philadelphia Orchestra. Titled *Kitchen Compositions: A Symphony of Recipes*, it features over 150 mouth-watering recipes from the orchestra's musicians and staff. To order, call Marilyn at 215-922-2626.

All residents are encouraged to attend the monthly **6th District PDAC meeting**. Free lunch is included. The mission of this police – community partnership is to enhance the quality of life, improve public safety, reduce fear and lower the incidence of crime in Society Hill. Let Captain Brian Korn hear your concerns and issues regarding our community. Call Police Community Relations Officer Julie Carpenter, at 215-686-3063, for more information.

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# Stop Wishing for Great Skin!



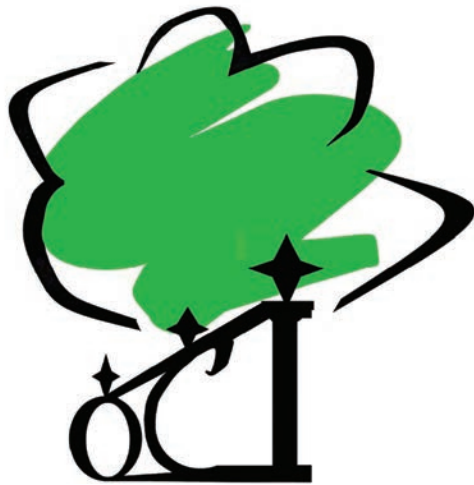
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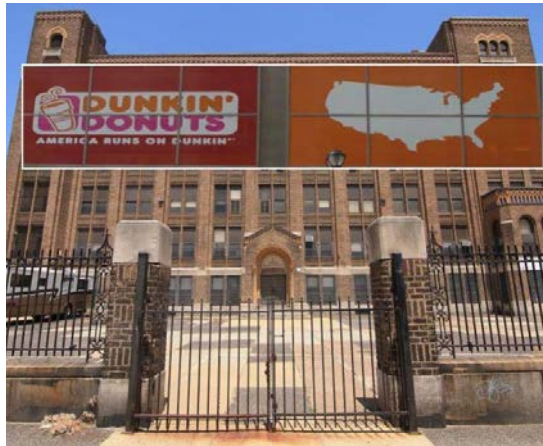
# McCall School Vulnerable to Ad Blight

Take a walk around our neighborhood. Make note of the McCall School at 325 South 7th Street. Can you see the school from your home? Do you walk or drive past it in the course of your day? If so, you may soon be looking at a constantly flashing billboard, hawking ads for sneakers, fast food and sodas.

The School Billboard Bill, # 130694, would permit soaring monopoles erected in the schoolyard, huge wall wraps on the building facade and towering billboards on the school roof. It allows billboards in places where they have been prohibited for decades.

As one of the largest landholders in the city, the District's properties are in every neighborhood, and located in the places where families live and children play. In order to safeguard youth from the negative influences of advertising, Philadelphia has prohibited billboards and advertising signs within 660 feet of schools for 22 years. This bill strips away 45 years of laws regulating billboards.

You can be a public voice for public space! Voice your concerns to the bill's author, Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown at 215-686-3438/39, or blondell.reynolds.brown@phila.gov. Contact Scenic Philadelphia to find out how you can help by calling 215-731-1796, or emailing oreden@scenic.org.



Do you want this intrusion in our community?

### Last-Minute Update:

**It's come to our attention that City Council has closed its 2013 legislative session without taking a vote on this issue. Councilwoman Reynolds Brown stated that the community has raised legitimate concerns, and that more time is needed to consider them. This is proof that your voice is heard — keep up the pressure!**

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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**


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BY LORNA KATZ-LAWSON

Recently, there has been an uptick in requests by developers for preliminary discussions with the community before any formal applications have been submitted to the city. The SHCA Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee (ZHP) has been working on these issues.

**410 South Front Street**

Despite weather, the project is finally “out of the ground” with newly cast concrete retaining walls and columns. Toll Brothers has furnished a construction schedule to SHCA that will help neighbors understand the development’s ongoing timeline. (See story on page 23.)

**317 South 6th Street**

The applicant submitted an amended application to the Philadelphia Historic Commission (PHC) for restoring portions of the front façade of the property to the period when the building functioned as a store. These include an Italianate cornice and pent eave at the third-floor roof. The proposed fourth floor wall and roof were changed to a mansard, which would lower its visibility when viewed head-on from the west side of 6th Street. The design will be presented to the Philadelphia Historical Society’s Architectural Review Committee.

**238-240 South 4th Street**

This property, which housed the Episcopal Diocese, with its accessory garden and parking lot, was sold to Allan Domb. He proposes to restore the property back to the two original houses, and add garages served by a shared curb cut and driveway. In addition, he wants to add a garden pavilion and pergola along Locust Street. Most of the concern and discussion centered on the fate of the garden on the north side of the street at 234-236 S. 4th, which is so beloved. Mr. Domb said he would sell it to a developer and that it could “of right” be sub-divided into three lots.

The committee and neighbors took issue with the proposed replacement of the windowed façade, which we all look at from Locust Street, with a blank, four-story, brick bearing wall. The owner and architect agreed to return to the community once they make a formal application to the city.

**234-236 South 4th Street**

Scott Haffey, of Haffey Homes LLC, presented a concept for developing this property with two single-family homes that would flank a multi-family condo. All would face Locust Street. The design as conceived would require many variances, including height, open space and parking.

Neighbors were very disappointed by the developer’s approach to the project, believing it to demonstrate little sensitivity to the special character of the neighborhood. The block is made up of significant historical houses, the Magnolia Garden and Rose Garden of Independence National Historical Park and St. Mary’s School and Residence, not to mention the substantial homes along 4th Street.

**513 Spruce Street**

Architect Robert Thomas proposed adding a fourth-story addition to the present structure, creating an additional bedroom and bathroom. Details of the design need to be worked out with the immediate neighbors to mitigate any potential negative impact before an application is submitted. A zoning variance and approval of PHC would be needed to build the design.

**McCall School**

Representatives from a parent group presented a proposal for temporary banners to be affixed directly on the school building, and also on three city highway-style lighting poles on the east side of 6th Street, to announce their new cultural enrichment program “Silk Road Connections.” ZHP voted to support the project, but made clear that approval was limited to the six-month time period specified.

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**Revising the Sign Code**


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SHCA has been actively involved with the ongoing city initiative to revise the sign code. When the new zoning code was being written, it became clear that with the advent of digital LED signs, the issues were too complex to be dealt with by the August 2012 time frame, so the old sign code simply was carried forward in the new zoning code.

However, work did continue on it and Councilman Henon recently introduced Bill # 130656. SHCA, along with other civic associations, took issue with several pieces of the bill. Unlike the development process for the rest of the zoning code, where there had been broad public outreach, this section had been written more or less under cover, leaving our constituents largely uninformed.

We were able to sit down and discuss our concerns with the Councilman’s staff. As a result, Councilman Henon agreed to postpone the vote that was supposed to occur in December until 2014. They also agreed to provide us with the most current version of the bill for review and visit with communities to make presentations on the topic.

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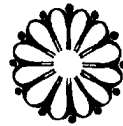
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**SAFE AND SOUND IN SOCIETY HILL**

BY MARTHA LEVINE

# Protect Yourself and Your Home

**S**HCA's Safe and Sound Committee is responsible for bringing you the weekly crime report, in order to keep you posted on any criminal activity in Society Hill. Did you know that in the last six months there were three home burglaries? It's important to realize that all three could have been prevented if the owners had used their security systems.

The weekly crime report comes to us directly from Captain Korn of the Sixth Police District and is forwarded to you by our administrator and block coordinators. Recently we invited the three officers from the Sixth Police District pictured below to speak and have a Q & A at our December general membership meeting.



**Officers Robert Savino and Julie Carpenter, along with Lt. Kevin Rice**

Here are some of their tips to help prevent crime in our neighborhood:

**Security Systems**

- Most homes have a security system installed, so why not use it? Set your alarm whenever you leave the house, even for a short trip to the supermarket, and when you go on vacation.
- Always set your alarm when you go to sleep.
- Most home burglaries take place when people are away from home, but have failed to set their alarms.
- Place your alarm company decals prominently on both front and back windows.

**Lighting**

- Make sure you have front and rear door lights lit every night after dark and all through the night. Using a timer or photo sensor makes the lights go on automatically, which is helpful if you are away from home.
- Turning front door lights on helps to brighten the whole neighborhood and make it safer.

**Planning a Vacation?**

- Buddy with a nearby neighbor to keep an eye on each other's homes. Agree to pick up any newspapers or mail that accumulates on the doorstep when one of you is away — a sure sign that no one is home. In winter, make an arrangement to shovel snow for each other if one is away.
- Notify your security system company and tell them when you will be away.
- If you have a contractor working in your house when you are away for even a few days, make sure you set up a special alarm code (not your usual one), so that the house is not left unarmed after the contractor leaves.
- Keep a few lights on inside the house or use a timer for lights. A totally dark house advertises that no one is home!

**Absolute Musts**

- Always lock all exterior doors and windows, especially windows on the first level.
- Always close your garage door to keep out undesirables, who may walk in uninvited. There have been break-ins where the owners left a garage door or garden gate open or unlocked, and found someone wandering in the rear of the house.

**Street Safety**

- Be mindful of your surroundings while walking on the street, day or night. That means NO TEXTING while you walk!!
- If you see a suspicious person or group of unsavory characters, change your route. Avoidance is best.
- Keep your keys in your pocket, not in your bag, so if the bag is taken, you will still have access to your home and the thief won't.
- If someone demands your wallet, cell phone or valuables, give it up. Your life is more important.
- As you approach your home, look behind to make sure no one has followed you home. Have a key handy as well.

Although Society Hill is a relatively safe neighborhood, we have had some worrisome crimes. Let's hope our future crime reports show that crime is down. In the meantime, be prepared and protect yourself and your home.



**Checklist**

**See a Franklin Light that's out?**

Call 311 to report it.

**Keep Our Sidewalks Safe.**

Turn on your front door lights after dark every night.

**Shovel your sidewalks** no later than six hours after a snowfall and clear a path of 36 inches or risk receiving a fine of up to \$150.

**See graffiti** on our neighborhood public spaces? Email [Todd@graffitiremovalexperts.com](mailto:Todd@graffitiremovalexperts.com). For removal on private property, call 311 or 215-686-8686

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## MUSIC (A L) MATTERS

BY DIANA BURGWYN

## Great White Whales and Serbian Weddings: Opera Today



“Do you think I’ll like it?” asked my friend Claire when I invited her to a performance of Viktor Ullmann’s opera *The Emperor of Atlantis*, staged this past fall by the Curtis Institute of Music.

“You can always sneak out if you don’t,” I said.

Claire’s question was one I hear often from people who are familiar with only the traditional operatic repertoire — e.g. beloved works like *Tosca*, *Rigoletto*, and *Carmen*. What they are really asking is: “Will this opera I never heard of be melodic, will I understand it, or will it be too avant-garde for my taste?”

The Ullmann work, a fable that pits a deluded, warring emperor against Death, was composed in 1943 in Terezín, a Nazi concentration camp near Prague, where the Jewish composer was imprisoned during World War II. (He was later gassed to death.) It is shatteringly beautiful, with music that ranges from poignantly lyrical to harshly dissonant.

Claire did not budge from her seat. She was riveted by the claustrophobic stage set, which featured a chain-link fence, within which all the action took place, by the vivid musical characterizations and by the miracle of its creation under such horrific circumstances.

Sometimes we deprive ourselves of rewarding operatic experiences by allowing our fears of the new to overcome our natural curiosity. The Rave cinema in West Philadelphia was barely half-full for Dmitri Shostakovich’s *The Nose*, composed in 1927-28, and shown as part of the Metropolitan Opera Live in HD series.

Many didn’t attend because they were turned off by the nonsensical plot, based on a short story by Nicolai Gogol, about a man who, after noticing that his nose has left his face, charges after that newly independent appendage, which has no intention of being re-attached. Those of us who decided to give the opera a try stood in the lobby at intermission marveling at its irreverent zaniness and its musical exuberance — not to mention the non-stop, eye-popping visual aspects. So what if we didn’t get the Russian “in” jokes or the political connotations?

Today’s audiences are enjoying the fruits of a growing freedom on the part of opera composers, who make use of such forms as folk music, jazz, world music, rap and electronic music — some-

times intriguingly combined. There are no limits on subject matter, from a sex-obsessed, down-and-out British countess to a crazed sea captain determined to kill the great white whale that chewed off his leg.

Philadelphia’s own professional company, Opera Philadelphia, is in the forefront of new music. Last season’s Pulitzer Prize-winning *Silent Night* by Kevin Puts vividly brought to life the true story of a Christmas Eve truce between enemy nations during World War I. More recently, the company staged *Svadba* (Wedding) by Ana Sokolovi. A charming *a cappella* opera, it is sung by a group of friends of the bride-to-be in the tight harmonies of Serbian folk music.

In March, Opera Philadelphia will present *Dialogues of the Carmelites* by Francis Poulenc. Set in a convent during the French Revolution, it is a deeply religious and tragic work, now frequently performed. Though composed in 1956, it is highly lyrical and conservative in harmonic language. (Indeed, Poulenc was somewhat apologetic about this, commenting: “You must forgive my Carmelites. It seems they can only sing tonal music.”)

In June we will hear a new opera, Ricky Ian Gordon’s *A Coffin in Egypt* (Egypt, Texas, that is), described as “a haunting tale of passion, infidelity and murder.” It was composed for the mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade, whose operatic characterizations have ranged from a hormone-driven adolescent boy to the mother of a convicted killer. Now she adds a 90-year old *grande dame* to her repertoire.

The opera that I most look forward to, having heard it a few years back, is *Ainadamar* (Fountain of Tears) by the Argentine composer Osvaldo Golijov, composed in 2003. With the added features of a baroque passion play, it is the story of the controversial life and violent death of renowned Spanish poet and dramatist Federico Lorca, as told by his devoted friend, Catalan actress Margarita Xirgo. The work incorporates Arab and Jewish idioms, as well as Spanish flamenco.

Audiences and critics alike have been wildly enthusiastic about *Ainadamar*, and I suspect you’ll agree with them. Don’t wait too long to get your tickets — the opera will be presented in February.

We are happy to welcome new columnist Diana Burgwyn, who has been writing about music for many years as a critic, feature writer and program annotator. She recently was the Philadelphia critic for *Opera Now*.



All of **Shakespeare's comedies** contain a song except for one. Do you know which?

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**PHILLY FOOD LOVERS**

BY KERI WHITE

# Market by Day, Supper Club by Night

Aimee Olexy, decorated doyenne of elegant farm-to-table dining, has done it again. Talula's Daily, her Market/Cafe by day and Secret Supper Club by night, has taken Washington Square and its surroundings by storm.

The Market is an inviting, well-lit cafe just steps from Olexy's temple of taste, Talula's Garden. Hurried visitors can grab-and-go with coffee and pastry selections near the entrance. Stepping further into the space reveals a bustling eat-in/take-out gourmet shop with an open kitchen in the rear.

Diners can opt for prepared salads, sandwiches, beverages and sweets from a refrigerated case, or order from the counter. This being an Aimee Olexy project, Talula's Daily boasts an impressive cheese menu. In addition, there are daily sandwich specials, frittatas, salads, pastas, roast chicken, macaroni and cheese...I could go on. The point is that there is something for everyone.

I've visited with foodie friends who opt for the stinkiest cheese board and anything laden with truffles. I've also taken my picky and unadventurous son, who was delighted with the macaroni and cheese and grilled chicken breast.

We've also had the pleasure of sampling the Secret Supper Club. Talula's Daily shuts down in the evening and reopens as an intimate semi-private restaurant. The menu is set for the month — it's a \$50 *prix fixe*, which includes an appetizer, soup or salad, main course, cheese course and dessert. Wine and beer are extra; the Secret Supper Club has a well-chosen list. Reservations are essential; we visited twice during the autumn with large groups. It was great fun, but there were couples and small parties on hand, as well.

We particularly enjoyed, from the October menu, the grilled lamb meatball and haloumi cheese kebabs, the autumn salad of brussels sprouts, pears, and locally grown mushrooms, and the maple pudding with ginger snaps. Standouts on the November menu included Goose Charcuterie and Skate Wing En Papillote.

Slight adjustments to the monthly menu can be made in the case of allergy or strong aversion. There is a vegetarian menu available with advance notice, but generally this is a place for omnivores.


For more information, visit [www.talulasdaily.com](http://www.talulasdaily.com).



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# Kids

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## EXPLORING THE CITY

BY JIM MURPHY

## Christ Church

*This magnificent house of worship was the tallest building in the U.S. for 56 years.*

With a soaring 196-foot steeple that towers over newer structures nearby, Christ Church is both a spectacular historic building ... and living history at its best.

**No musty old buildings** or artifacts untouched by human hands here. Instead, this is a flourishing, active modern parish — where members still worship under a brass chandelier (with real candles) that has hung since 1744.

Parishioners continue to be baptized at a 15th century octagonal walnut font used by William Penn in 1644. And, says senior guide and historian Neil Ronk, “The bells we rang for the Revolution will ring for a wedding tonight.”

Ronk, an engaging, enthusiastic storyteller who publishes his own blog, “History Made Fresh,” said he was going to tell the best man at that evening’s nuptials, “Thomas Jefferson was best man at a wedding here.”

Started as a small log and brick building in 1695, the original church structure was not all that impressive. Alice of Dunk’s Ferry, an oral historian and Christ Church’s oldest known parishioner, told people “she could place the palm of her hand on the ceiling of the center aisle and walk the entire length without removing it.”

**Little did she realize** that this church, whose brick tower resembles one at St. James’s Church, Piccadilly, London, would become known as “the nation’s church” — because of the Revolutionary leaders who worshipped here.

Besides being the first parish of the Church of England in Pennsylvania, it was also the birthplace of the American Episcopal Church.

George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Robert Morris, Benjamin Rush, and Betsy Ross all rented pews here. (Washington’s pew was number 56; Franklin’s, number 70.) You can even sit in their pews and imagine what it was like to be in this church during the Revolutionary War. (To get to those pews, you actually walk over some 20 graves installed inside the church from 1699 to 1796.)

The church’s famous 2-acre burial ground, which is three blocks away at 5th and Arch

Streets, includes seven signers of the Declaration of Independence, five signers of the U.S. Constitution and 1,400 markers in all. (It’s closed January and February. Admission is \$1 for children and \$2 for adults. Burial ground tours are available through the Independence Visitors Center.)

**Seven facts you may not know about Christ Church:**

- The tower, added in 1754, made the 7-story church the tallest building in the U.S. until 1810, and in Philadelphia until 1856. The addition was financed by two lotteries organized by Ben Franklin.
- Christ Church contains the largest Palladian window built in American in the 18th century.
- Since the Revolution in 1776, Christ Church has had just 10 pastors. One of them died in the first month.
- From 1747 to 1767, about 25 to 33 percent of Philadelphia’s free and enslaved Africans were baptized here.
- Eight bells, cast in 1754 by the same Whitechapel Bell Foundry that created the problem-plagued Liberty Bell, announced the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 8, 1776. They did not break, and continue to ring weekly.
- Christ Church’s original bronze 350-pound “Great Bell,” cast in 1702 and no longer needed after the steeple was built, was effectively lost for 250 years. Now found and said to have a magnificent tone, the bell is being readied for public display and celebration. Dedication of the new exhibit area is scheduled for July 4, 2014.
- Christ Church is thought to be the only place in the original 13 colonies to depict English royalty on the outside of a public building. A bas-relief of George II appears above the Palladian window on Second Street.

**A final thought:**

Unlike much of Philadelphia’s history, Christ Church is as modern as today’s breaking news. As historian Ronk puts it, “What is a place like this for if you can’t use the items?”



1876 engraving from *Scribner’s Monthly*

**FAST FACTS**

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**Founded**

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**Current Building Opened**

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**Architectural Style**

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**Number of Visitors per Year**

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## THE JEWISH QUARTER OF PHILADELPHIA

PART FIVE IN A SERIES BY SANDY ROTHMAN

## Change Comes to the Quarter

When eastern European Jews settled in our community at the end of the 19th century, they were only blocks from the Liberty Bell, whose inscription came from Leviticus, one of the five books of Moses. It says, "Proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."

These refugees initially embraced their new religious freedom by tenaciously clinging to the past. They worshipped in rented row house *landsleit shuls* with friends and family from the villages they left behind in Europe, faithfully following ancient rituals and customs.

As the Jews became assimilated, however, the synagogue community began to look "outside" to the New World. Membership became much larger and was open to any Jew. Instead of renting, the congregation bought its own building, and the younger members began to gain influence. They gradually introduced new ideas, improvements and innovations, such as the Reform temple, greater inclusion of women and Zionism.

district, it's constructed in a Roman Baroque style. Happily, new owners claim they will be transforming the property into residential units in the near future.

**Vibrant Religious Communities****Congregation Keshet Israel**

Built as a Universalist church during the Washington-Adams administration, the building at 412 Lombard Street has been used as a synagogue since 1889; today it's the home of Congregation Keshet Israel.



If walls could talk, visitors might hear the voices of a long line of historical leaders who spoke from the building's podium over a 200-year period. These include Vice President John Adams; Dr. Benjamin Rush, signer of the Declaration of Independence; Rabbi Bernard Levinthal, a founder of Yeshiva University and Zionist Leader; Joseph Priestly, discoverer of oxygen; Joseph Smith, founder of the Church of the Latter Day Saints; and Pennsylvania's Governor Edward Rendell.

In more recent years, there has been a renaissance at the synagogue, including the refurbishing of the building and its trappings. A new generation of observant Jews has built an energetic community here.

**Congregation B'nai Abraham**

Before there was a wayfarer's inn or a relief society, B'nai Abraham served as a shelter for the immigrant and the stranger, and was the first Russian synagogue built in the Jewish Quarter. It is historically significant as being the oldest building in Philadelphia that was built as a synagogue and has been in continuous use as such.

**Recycling Abandoned Churches**

Jewish immigrants made many compromises in America, including using abandoned church buildings instead of waiting a generation to build a new synagogue — something unheard of in Europe. Many of these early synagogues still stand in Society Hill, some repurposed, some abandoned, while others are vibrant spiritual communities.

An example of a repurposed synagogue stands at 771 S. 2nd Street, today a condominium. The rounded windows flanking the central door go back to 1811, when the building was founded as the Third Baptist Church meetinghouse. The structure was purchased in 1905 by the Neziner congregation, which was named after a small *shtetl* in southern Russia. It was the only synagogue in the Jewish Quarter to have a front courtyard, a place where weddings were traditionally performed in the "Old Country." Eventually membership declined and the building was sold to a developer in 1983.

The building at 6th and Kater Streets, recently an antique market and now abandoned, was once home to Chevra B'nai Reuben, Anshe Sfarad, the city's first Hassidic congregation. A rare free-standing building in a densely packed row house



771 S. 2nd Street



6th &amp; Kater Streets



THE JEWISH QUARTER OF PHILADELPHIA

The congregation has occupied this site, at 521-27 Lombard Street, in two buildings for 114 years. They bought the First Colored Wesley Methodist Church in 1885, and outgrew it by 1909. The building was replaced with what stands today, a structure described as “Romanesque with a touch of Byzantine.”

Several years ago, a burst water pipe was the impetus for a major restoration project. Today the beautifully restored synagogue is open for daily Orthodox prayer and welcomes all worshippers and visitors.

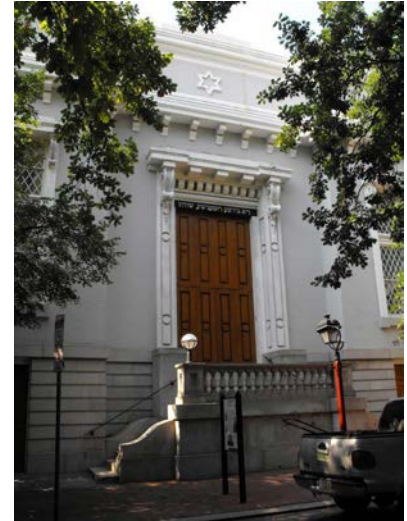
**Society Hill Synagogue**

The historic building at 418 Spruce Street was erected in 1829 for dissenting congregants of the First Baptist Church, founded in 1698 on North Second Street, and christened the Spruce Street Baptist Church. Three Jewish congregations have subsequently occupied the space, including the current Society Hill

Synagogue who purchased the dilapidated structure in 1967.

Extensive restorations have been done to the interior and exterior of the building over the past 30 years. The congregation, however, decided to keep the Yiddish lettering above the massive entrance doors, which translates to “The Great Roumanian Shul.” They thus honor the memory of some of the very first inhabitants of the Jewish Quarter, as well as the Quarter itself.

If you have not visited Society Hill’s four beautiful historic synagogues, including Congregation Vilna Shul at 509 Pine Street (discussed in the November/December issue), I suggest you do so. All are lovely testaments to our community’s unique past.



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OUT AND ABOUT

# Let It Snow!

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snow when he falls in a drift, the first  
snow that reveals secrets

like the flake on his sleeve  
always to be remembered because it brought  
knowledge of crystalline perfection, infinite diversity to be tasted  
with his own salt tears,

the immeasurable prodigality  
of the universal worlds in which we are lost,  
the first and blinding snow of childhood.

**From "The Snowstorm"  
by Loren Eiseley**



Let's make a snowman — One,



Two,



Three!

OUT AND ABOUT

Let It Snow!



Bonnie Halda, Reporter photographer

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ON OUR SHELF

BY RICHARD DE WYNGAERT

# Better to Laugh Than Weep

Most parents, when raising a child, struggle with finding the right approach, one that both suits their own personality and provides some assurance of a positive outcome. Successfully navigating the landscape of “teachable” moments often requires this finely calibrated approach: a balance somewhere between severe restrictions that may girdle your child’s independent spirit and a laissez-faire hands-off approach that may pave the way to a well-tailored orange jumpsuit. In my unexceptional experience, the correct response to much of what we parents encounter often requires patience, trust and a steely willingness to be “un-friended” by your child (short periods of time that seem like forever).

On the subject of parenting and raising children correctly, there is no shortage of advice and how-to books. Some are mostly clever, characterized by humorous anecdotes; some are quite laughable; some offer solutions not particularly germane to the circumstances I’ve encountered as a parent; some read like textbooks.

Thankfully, another subset within the genre provides helpful and engaging guidance for the broad spectrum of situations that every parent eventually encounters. To this select group, long-time Society Hill neighbor Keri White’s new book, *The Mommy Code*, is a welcome addition. Keri White blends humor with utility by providing colorful tales of typical mommy challenges and concrete, proven ways to meet them. Although there is humor — frequently laugh-out-loud humor — the book is chock full of truly useful tips. White’s gift suggestions, tips for entertaining *en famille* and birthday party ideas are clever, innovative and very user-friendly.

She offers solid advice on social media, dealing with daddies, the care and keeping of nannies, “mommy-ing” in difficult financial times, managing other peoples’ kids and a particularly hilarious chapter on the “mom vs. mom” playground wars.

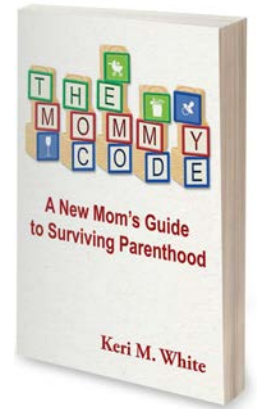
When asked about the genesis of the book, White explains: “I had been writing an etiquette blog, [thesocialgrace.com](http://thesocialgrace.com), for about four years, and, increasingly, I was fielding questions about parenting. In particular, my readers were flummoxed by the social ramifications: hosting a family-friendly dinner party without anesthesia; dealing with a mommy-bully who broadcasts her superiority, because she makes organic baby food from veggies she grew hydroponically in her window box that she built herself from reclaimed wood; resisting causing bodily harm when your husband fails to find the milk in the fridge. It seemed that there was a need for this type of book, and, having read a lot of those dry parenting manuals, I thought that a fresh, light-hearted take on the subject would be a welcome change.”

She was right.

Head House Books will be hosting a book signing for *The Mommy Code* in February. Check for details at [HeadHouseBooks.com](http://HeadHouseBooks.com).

*The Mommy Code* is available as both a book and e-book at Head House Books, at [www.themommycodebook.com](http://www.themommycodebook.com), as well as other online retailers.

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 *Reporter*.



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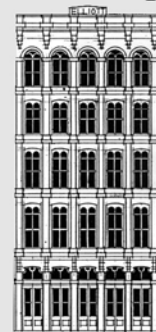
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## SOUTH STREET HEADHOUSE DISTRICT

BY CLAIRE BATTEN

## Moving Full Steam Ahead

Late summer in 2013, Toll Brothers City Living broke ground on a major new development in our neighborhood — 410 at Society Hill (the former NewMarket site, which sits on S. Front Street between Pine and Lombard). Historically, Toll Brothers has been associated with supersized suburban developments. But in recent years, the company has built a reputation for itself for innovative urban residential developments, spearheaded by Toll Brothers City Living, the company's Urban Development Division. I caught up with project manager Shawn Frawley and marketing executive Todd Dumaresq to see firsthand how things are progressing.

In November, when we interviewed Toll Brothers, the project was moving full steam ahead with the contractors working on both the underground parking and preparing for the concrete footers. By the time this article appears — if all has gone to plan — the project will be well advanced with the concrete podium laid and about 80 percent of the parking structure completed. The next major stage over the winter is to lay out the building for framing. Said Mr. Frawley: "Our goal is to have the project completed by late summer 2015."

Aside from the interesting brick and glass façade, the area that is most relevant to our neighborhood is the public space that will run alongside the Dance Academy and lead onto the Shambles at 2nd Street. This area has been christened "The 2nd Street Plaza," and will be a landscaped public space that bridges the 410 community and Headhouse Square. (Note: this Plaza is not to be confused with the Headhouse Plaza that runs between South and Pine Streets.)

Another distinguishing feature of the 410 development, which is attracting attention nationwide because of its environmental credentials, is the green roof. The rooftop courtyard will be comprised of 39,300 square feet of grass covering a storm water basin. This rooftop will not only be aesthetically striking, but it will also be functional; the roof is designed for storm water collection and drainage. This feature is a rarity in any city development; in Philly, this is a first!

At time of writing, the starting price for an apartment in 410 at Society Hill was around \$500,000 for a one-bed, one-bath



**2nd St Plaza as viewed from the Shambles at 2nd and Pine Streets**



**Project construction progress as of December.**

893-square-foot apartment. Clearly Toll Brothers City Living is pitching at the high end of the residential market, a fact that is confirmed by their overall pricing structure, which tops out at around \$1.6 million. This may sound steep, but many units have already been sold: of the 55 units in the new development, apparently 13 units are under offer.

I was curious to learn where the interest is coming from...who is out buying? According to Mr. Dumaresq, many buyers are Center City inhabitants, some from the existing Society Hill neighborhood. Generally, these early sales are attributable to an older demographic: empty-nesters who currently live in three or four-story townhouses who are planning for the future. Like many Center City residents, they love the idea of the underground parking coupled with the gated community and luxurious single-level living.

I concluded the interview with the question that most affects us as local residents. What future disruption can we expect to see? (I confess this question is loaded. I live on the 100 block of Pine and my garden backs on to 410 at Society Hill.) We were assured that there are no plans to close Front Street for extended periods, even for deliveries. "The most intrusive part of the project, the demolition and site clearance, is probably behind us now," says Frawley. So far, I'm happy to report that Toll Brothers has respected the standard working day for their construction operations: the clamor doesn't start 'til 7 a.m. and there is currently no construction on the weekend. As Frawley says, "We can't make everyone happy all the time, but we do our best to be reasonable and be respectful of our neighbors."

While the diggers may be noisy, there's a real upside to this development as Mike Harris, Executive Director at South Street Headhouse District explains:

"This is a luxury development, which will bring in new residents and families to our neighborhood. A number of apartments have been sold, which shows that Society Hill is an attractive proposition to people already convinced by city living, as well those from the nearby suburbs.

"This development is good news for the business district and the neighborhood generally, and we appreciate that Toll Brothers has gone out of its way to be a good neighbor."

## WELCOME BASKETS

BY MARTHA LEVINE

## A Welcome Gift to New Homeowners

The Society Hill Welcome Basket Program presents a welcome gift to new, first-time homeowners in Society Hill. To our knowledge, we are the only Philadelphia neighborhood that has such a program. Each large basket is filled to the brim with fresh foods, neighborhood information and many gift certificates to restaurants, theaters, shops and services contributed by local business and organizations — 60 in all.

**Thanks to our Newest Contributors!****South Street Philly Bagels**

613 S. 3rd Street  
www.southstreetphillybagels.com

A family-owned-and-operated bagel bakery that offers fresh New York-style bagels daily. The early Sunday lineup of locals hints at an ardent following. The menu includes an impressive variety of bagels, with toppings ranging from lox and cream cheese to chicken salad, whitefish and veggies. A catering menu is available. Hours: 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day.

**Talula's Daily**

208 West Washington Square  
(at The Ayer)  
www.talulasdaily.com

"Sweet, Savory, Simple" is the motto of this market and café, a place where neighbors shop, meet and dine on wholesome, farm-fresh foods. Communal tables offer a chance for lively conversation. Supper at Talula's Daily starts at 7 p.m.

and offers a fixed menu with five courses — it's like sitting in the kitchen and eating a home-cooked meal without doing the dishes! Hours: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., seven days a week.

**Le Pain Quotidien**

801 Walnut Street  
www.lepainquotidien.com

Le Pain Quotidien, which means "daily bread," started as a small bakery in Brussels and now has 200 locations on five continents. The specialty is artisanal rustic loaves of bread, but they also offer a full sumptuous lunch and dinner menu. Communal dining allows people to connect over delicious food and good company. Hours: 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily

**Petmoir**

www.petmoir.com



Beautiful, timeless photographs with a descriptive tale of your pet's life captured in a hardback, coffee-table-style memoir that will fill you with love and smiles, now and always. Ten percent discount to SHCA members. Phone: 215-803-0723. Email: randi@petmoir.com

As always, we thank our loyal Welcome Basket contributors, listed on page 25, and encourage you to patronize their businesses.

**If you are a new first-time home/condo owner since 2013, please contact us to let us know you are here. Email: marthalev6@gmail.com, or call 215-629-0727.**



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**2014 SOCIETY HILL WELCOME BASKET CONTRIBUTORS**

**Coffee Shops**

Old City Coffee, 221 Church Street/Reading Terminal Market  
Starbucks Coffee Inc., 8th & Walnut Streets

**Food Stores**

SuperFresh, 5th & Pine Streets

**Restaurants**

Bistro Romano, 120 Lombard Street  
Bridget Foy's, 200 South Street  
City Tavern, 138 S. 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  
Le Pain Quotidien, 801 Walnut Street  
Mustard Greens (Chinese), 622 S. 2nd Street  
Positano Coast Restaurant, 2nd & Walnut Streets  
Ristorante Panorama, 14 N. Front Street  
Talula's Daily, 208 W. Washington Square  
Village Belle, 757 S. Front Street

**Specialty Foods**

Homemade Goodies by Roz, 510 S. 5th Street  
Cookies By Design, Society Hill Towers  
Metropolitan Bakery, 262 S. 19th Street (Rittenhouse Square)  
South Street Bagels, 613 S. 3rd Street  
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 S. 2nd Street  
Industry (fashion accessories), 1020 Pine Street  
Hello Home, 1004 Pine Street  
Kitchenette (cookware), 117 S. 12th Street (12th & Sansom)  
Lolli Lolli (children's clothing/toys), 713 Walnut Street

Paper On Pine (invitations/stationery), 115 S. 13th Street  
Show of Hands Gallery (crafts), 1006 Pine Street  
Yarnphoria (yarn and supplies), 1016 Pine Street

**Theaters/Entertainment**

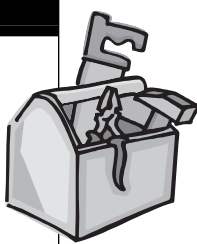
Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 3680 Walnut Street  
Arden Theater, 40 N. 2nd Street  
Ballet X at Wilma Theater, 265 S. Broad Street  
1812 Productions (all comedy theater), 215-592-9560  
Ghost Tours of Philadelphia, 610-587-8308  
Independence Seaport Museum, 211 South Columbus Boulevard  
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 S. 7th Street  
Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre, 2111 Sansom Street  
Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, 321 S. 4th Street  
Philadelphia Theatre Company, S. Roberts Theater, Broad & Pine Streets  
Piffaro, The Renaissance Band, 215-235-8469  
Society Hill Playhouse, 507 S. 8th Street  
The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, Kimmel Center, 215-545-1739  
The Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble, Old Pine Church  
Wilma Theater, 265 S. Broad Street

**Other Services**

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

**SOCIETY HILL LIST OF CONTRACTORS**

For over a dozen years, SHCA has provided a 12-page extensive list of neighbor-recommended contractors of all types. And it's free to current SHCA members. Do you need a roofer, electrician, mason or general contractor? Contact us and we will mail you a newly updated copy for free! Sorry, it's not online. Thanks for your membership.  
Contact: marthalev6@gmail.com, or call 215-629-0727.



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⊕ RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED ⊕

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

# Penn's Village



Time and again, Penn's Village (PV) is proving itself a gift to center city residents who find it difficult to get around as easily as they once did. A number of Society Hill residents already embrace Penn's Village in a variety of capacities — as volunteers, committee members or as Villagers receiving services. It is not unusual to hear a volunteer say, "I am grateful that Penn's Village brought us together. Our visits are as much a gift to me as to him."

For the uninitiated, Penn's Village is a neighbor-to-neighbor non-profit organization founded to help people remain independent and in their own homes as they age or develop special needs. The service area extends from river to river and from Washington Avenue to Spring Garden Street.

Nearly everyone can benefit from PV in some way, and we are always looking for new members. Here are the basic categories of membership:

- **Villagers** receive services such as transportation to medical appointments or grocery shopping, training on mobile phones or tablets and vetted

lists of local service providers. They are also invited to attend educational and social programs without cost.

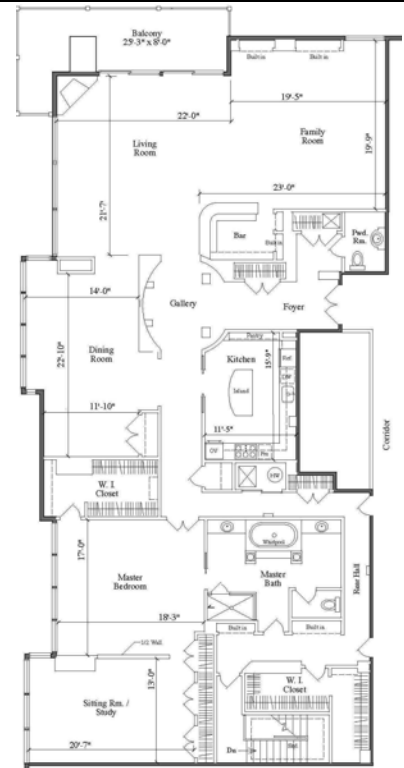
- **Social members** can attend our educational and social programs for free and have access to our preferred provider list.
- **Contributors** can attend our educational and social programs for a modest fee.
- **Volunteers** drive neighbors to medical appointments, run errands, teach computer skills, provide friendly visits and/or assist with administrative tasks. Volunteers are welcome to help out in one area or several.

If you like the concept, if you hope that Penn's Village will be there when you, a family member or friend needs it, or if you are looking for services now, or a place to volunteer a few hours of your time, we invite you to learn more about Penn's Village. You may join, learn about upcoming events, or contact us with any questions, at 215-925-7333, Pennsvillage.org, or info@pennsvillage.org.

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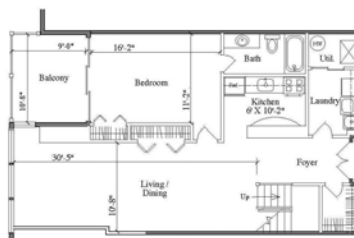
## Luxury Living Around Washington Square



### Independence Place

241 S. 6TH STREET

Bi-level penthouse featuring magnificent living spaces, a chef's kitchen, luxurious master suite and panoramic river and city views. 4403 sf  
**\$1,800,000**



NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

## Athenæum Hosts Afternoon Hot and Healthy Series

Society Hill – *Hot and Healthy* is a free, community-based medical speaker series created to empower people to make knowledgeable decisions about their health. It provides up-to-date information promoting good health, well-being and disease prevention. Founding Director, Dr. Lisa Unger, the Medical Advisory Committee and the Society Hill Neighbors Committee are excited to launch a new afternoon series in Society Hill to be held in collaboration with the Athenæum of Philadelphia, which will be celebrating its 200th anniversary in 2014.

The Athenæum is an independent member-supported library and museum that engages members and the general public to join actively in the cultural and intellectual life of Philadelphia and participate in historical, literary and educational activities. The Athenæum is located at 219 S. 6th Street, on the east side of Washington Square.

Programs will be held at the Athenæum and begin at 2:30 p.m. All are free and open to the community, but reservations are required. To reserve, call 215-925-2688. In case of inclement weather, the Athenæum will be closed when the Philadelphia public schools are closed.

Free medical speaker series afternoons in Society Hill

Wednesday, January 22

**Prevention and Detection of Skin Cancers**

Rosalie Elenitsas, M.D., F.A.A.D.  
Professor of Dermatology, Director of Dermatopathology  
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

Tuesday, March 11

**How to Prevent Heart Attacks**

Robert B. Norris, M.D., F.A.C.C.  
Chief, Department of Cardiology  
Pennsylvania Hospital

Friday, May 9

**365 Ways to Get a Good Night's Sleep**

Ronald L. Kotler, M.D., D.A.B.S.M.  
Clinical Professor of Medicine  
Director, Pennsylvania Hospital Sleep Disorders Center

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**NOW AVAILABLE:**

**1036 S. Randolph Street in Queen Village-** Lovely 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home, wide open space, finished basement, decked-in yard, and 1-car parking! This property abuts a double lot, which is currently used as a community garden. Asking price is \$350,000.

**338 S. 3rd Street in Society Hill-** Charming 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom home, den, wood burning fireplace, newer stainless and Corian kitchen, and lovely sun deck. Asking price is \$519,000.

**627 Lombard Street in Society Hill-** Great investment opportunity to own a rarely offered Society Hill duplex! 1st flr unit boasts 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom, Pergo floors, eat-in kitchen, door to private red brick yard w/ fence; 2nd flr is bi-level 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom with hardwood floors, large sundeck, landscaped yard. Basement has common access. Asking price is \$525,000.

**511 South Street on World Renowned South Street-** Fantastic business opportunity for a restaurant, retail store, or more! Features 2-car parking, 3 exposures, high ceilings, nice wood floors, and spacious basement with mechanicals. Asking price is \$797,000.

**717 S Columbus Boulevard 1601 at Penns Landing-** 16 stories high, 3 bedroom, 2.5 bathroom condo, 2-car garage parking, 8 wide patio doors, spacious kitchen, and huge (partially covered) deck; also offers pool house, club house space, workout room, and community deck! Asking price is \$1,149,000.

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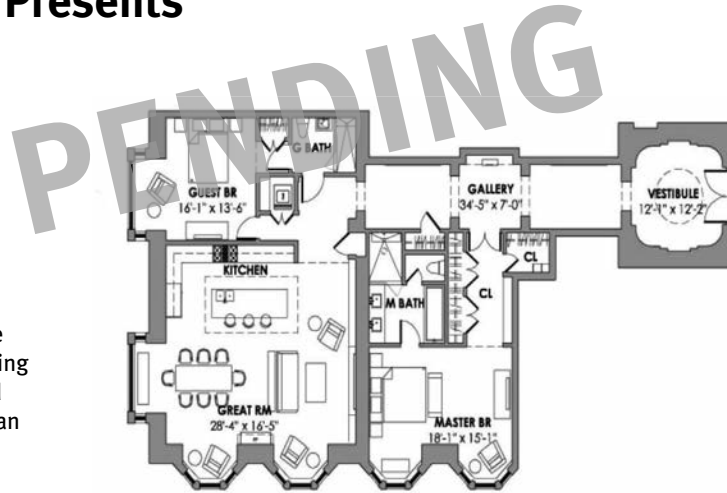
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## Allan Domb Real Estate Presents The Bank Building

421 CHESTNUT STREET

### Opportunity to Create a Custom Home

Raw space that offers a buyer the chance to build a custom home while incorporating original building details such as exposed brick and barrel ceilings; the adjacent plan is one idea for the space! 2,017 sf  
**\$539,900**

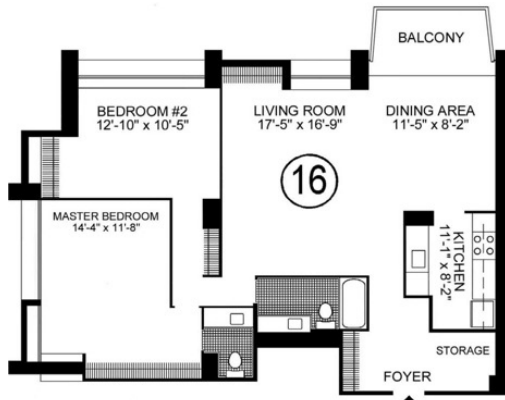
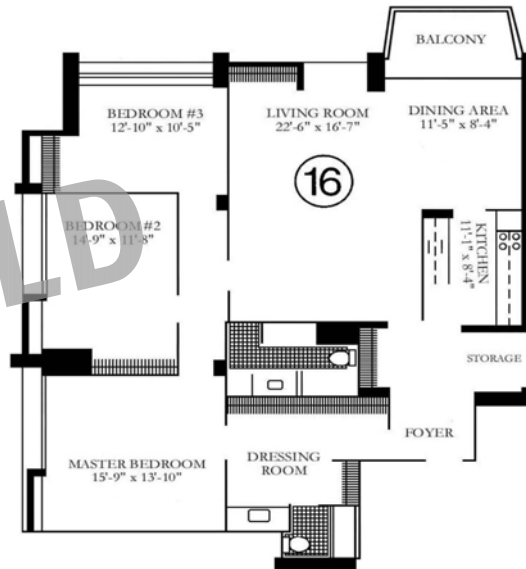


## Allan Domb Real Estate Presents Hopkinson House

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**



### Two Bedroom with Treetop Views

Two bedroom, one and a half bathroom home with treetop views of Washington Square, an open floor plan with generous living/entertaining and dining space, a private balcony and excellent closet space throughout. 1,200 sf  
**\$450,000**



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**NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS**


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**Knit and Nosh**

Neighbor Roz Bratt, owner of Homemade Goodies by Roz at 510 S. 5th Street, has a terrific idea and invites you to share in it. If you love to knit or crochet and share the company of fun, like-minded ladies (and yummy snacks), consider dropping by her cozy, cheerful shop anytime during open hours with your needles and yarn. Bring a friend or come alone and join the Linus Project, one near and dear to Roz's heart.

The goal of the Linus Project, named after Charles Schulz's engaging cartoon character, is to provide new, handmade blankets and afghans to children who are seriously ill or otherwise in need of comfort.

Call Roz for shop hours and more information at 215-592-9616.

**Recycle Your Shoes, Find Your Solemate**

Most of us have shoes we no longer wear, shoved in the back of our closets or pushed under the beds. Philadelphia Society for the

Preservation of Landmarks Education Program has a win/win solution to that problem that benefits the organization, helps make the world a little greener and, best of all, gives you room for new shoes!

ShoeBox Recycling will distribute for resale and reuse in its original form every pair of donated shoes at various local marketplaces here and around the world. Your pair will be someone else's very first pair, very special pair or a much-needed pair. And if you place a note in your donation, you can make contact with your shoes' new owner and find your solemate! What a great idea for your kids or their school!

For every pound of shoes collected, ShoeBox Recycling pays \$.50 towards Landmark's Educational Programs. Just 12 pairs of cast-off shoes can pay for a school student to attend a program at one of Historic Landmarks' house museums, where they learn about the history, art and culture of their own neighborhood. To learn more about the particulars, call Donna Baldino at 215-925-2251, extension 5.



**Congratulations to Jonathan M. Burton, site manager of the Powel House, who has accepted the position of Executive Director of the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks.**

**Museum Without Walls****Connect With Public Art**

Museum Without Walls is an interpretive audio program for Philadelphia's public art. Stories are told by people from all walks of life who are connected to the sculpture by knowledge, experience or affiliation. There are over 150 voices at outdoor art throughout Fairmount Park and Center City.

This free audio program invites passersby to stop, look, listen and experience public art in a new light, all on a variety of personal devices. Visit [www.museumwithoutwallsaudio.org](http://www.museumwithoutwallsaudio.org) to learn more.

**From the Lenapes to Modern Leaders**

**February 3 thru March 31 at 6-8:30 p.m.  
Philadelphia History Museum, 15 S. 7th Street**

The Association of Philadelphia Tour Guides (APT) invites neighbors to attend a series of lectures about Philadelphia's history, sites, architecture, sculpture and noted residents.

Experienced APT lecturers will share fascinating behind-the-scenes lore and anecdotes that have earned them a reputation as being among the best tour guides in the country. Visit <http://www.phillyguides.org/> to learn more.

**Exercise and Socialize**

Don't let cold winter days keep you from joining one (or both) of our neighborhood morning walking programs. Just lace up, bundle up and hit the pavements!

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.

Everyone is welcome to participate in this non-stressful, one-hour exercise & 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!



**Philly Is Walking In The Park! gathered recently for a CommuniTEA at The Bagel Factory, 510 Walnut Street. Robin Barg, owner of Day by Day Restaurant and Catering; Fran Burke, M.S., R.D., Clinical Dietitian, Preventive Cardiology Program, HUP; and Lisa Unger, M.D., F.A.C.P., a board certified internist trained in nutrition, gave an informative presentation on Heart-Healthy Eating.**

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## Allan Domb Real Estate Presents

### THE CADWALADER HOUSE

238 SOUTH 4TH STREET

Opportunity to create an estate home in this historic mansion on 4th Street in Society Hill! Built in 1829, the home's namesake is Judge John Cadwalader, best known for his prestigious legal career including one term in the U.S. House of Representatives and serving as a United States District Court Judge for the Eastern Region of Pennsylvania. The residence is five floor plus basement and has potential for up to two covered and one uncovered parking spaces and a pool. 9,003 sf  
**\$2,950,000**



FOURTH FLOOR



THIRD FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



BASEMENT FLOOR



FIFTH FLOOR



FOURTH FLOOR



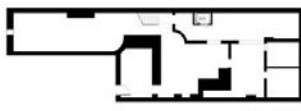
THIRD FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



BASEMENT FLOOR

### THE SHIPPEN-WISTAR HOUSE

240 SOUTH 4TH STREET

Opportunity to create an estate home in this historic mansion on the corner of 4th and Locust Streets in the heart of Society Hill! The house, built around 1750, was the former residence of Dr. Shippen and subsequently Dr. Wistar, two internationally known physicians in the late 1700s and early 1800s. The home has four floors plus a basement, a private garden and potential for up to three covered parking spaces and a pool. 4,670 sf  
**\$2,750,000**



## New Trash Setout Time

Effective October 1 through March 31, there will be a new setout time for trash and recycling collections citywide. Citizens will now be able to set out their trash and recyclables as early as 5 p.m. on the evening before the day of collection. The setout time from April 1 to September 30 will remain at no earlier than 7 p.m. The new regulation will ensure that citizens have the ability to put out their trash during daylight hours throughout the entire year.

Effective December 1, the regulations for setting out mattresses and box springs will also change by requiring residents to wrap those items in mattress covers in order to be collected. This regulation is being instituted to protect against the spread of bed bugs.

Mattresses and box springs that are not properly wrapped will not be collected nor accepted at Sanitation Convenience Centers. Mattress bags are available at many retail stores and on-line.

### 2014 Society Hill Reporter Advertising Rates

The Reporter is distributed to nearly 5,000 residents in 3,600 households including high rises between Front and Eighth Streets, and between Walnut and Lombard Streets. It is published six times a year.

Below are rates for advertisers who are business members of SHCA. The cost of membership is \$100 per year, \$60 for businesses with fewer than 5 employees. These rates represent a 10 per cent SAVINGS over regular rate card for non-members. Please check societyhillcivic.org for non-member rates, but note these are only placed after all member ads are placed.

To reserve space for an ad, call Lenore Hardy at 215-982-0298 before the first of the month prior to the month that the issue will be distributed. Check page 2 of the Reporter for advertising deadline.

#### AD RATES FOR MEMBERS

SIZE	1 issue	3 issues	6 issues
FULL PAGE			
7.3" x 9.75" vertical	\$ 585	\$1,605	\$3,155
HALF PAGE (BACK)			
7.3" x 4.75" horizontal	\$ 515	\$1,420	\$2,655
HALF-PAGE			
7.3" x 4.75" horizontal			
3.5" x 9.75" vertical	\$ 330	\$ 905	\$1,660
QUARTER PAGE			
3.5" x 4.75" vertical	\$ 165	\$ 440	\$ 835
BUSINESS CARD			
3.5" x 2.25" horizontal	\$ 90	\$ 210	\$ 385

## Starr Garden Update

Revitalization efforts at Starr Garden are progressing! We are striving to constantly maintain and beautify Philadelphia's oldest playground.

On November 16, we participated in the city-wide Love Your Park Day. With more than 60 volunteers of all ages, we collected over 100 bags of leaves for compost, several bags of trash and planted hundreds of daffodil bulbs.

Please join us on Monday, January 20, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a day of service in the park to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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

### Monday, January 20

Starr Garden  
600-44 Lombard St.  
Martin Luther King Jr.  
Day of service  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### Help the Homeless

Remember, if you see someone living on the streets this winter, please call the Project H.O.M.E. Homeless Outreach Hotline at 215-232-1984.

**parallel design**

Find our designs online.

**BeyondTheLibertyBell.org**  
**Parallel-Design.com**

215-476-4040

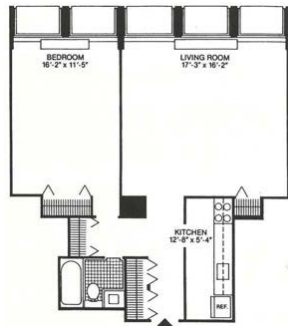
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## Allan Domb Real Estate Presents Society Hill Towers

200-220 LOCUST STREET



### One Bedroom with Dramatic Southern Views

One bedroom on a high floor with dramatic southern views, floor-to-ceiling windows, lots of natural light and an open floor plan. Potential investment opportunity! 700 sf \$269,900



### Corner One Bedroom + Den with Amazing River Views

Seamlessly combined home with one bedroom plus a den and two baths on a high floor with panoramic river and city views and a fantastic master suite. 1325 sf \$499,900

## Allan Domb Real Estate Presents The Ayer

210 WEST WASHINGTON SQUARE



### Four Bedroom Five and a Half Bath Combination with Treetop Views

Seamless combination of two Washington Square facing homes. The residence features four bedrooms and five and a half bathrooms including a master suite with a sitting room and his and hers baths, an expanded Bulthaup kitchen, designer bathrooms, two great rooms, high ceilings and oversized windows. In addition to treetop views of Washington Square to the east, the condominium offers views to the north, south and west. 4476 sf \$3,995,000





# SHCA Kicks Off 2014 Membership Drive



**Dr. Robert Kay's membership renewal was among the very first to appear in SHCA's mailbox last month. He has been supporting our civic association since 1996 and says, "I believe in community participation. Caring about and helping your neighbors is all part of being a high-level primate!"**

**Dr. Kay retired from a practice in the community mental health field in 2006, and now does *pro bono* psychotherapy work. In addition, he's very involved in bringing education techniques to the attention of the community.**

By early December, slightly over 500 SHCA residents had already renewed their membership — a drop from the nearly 600 who so renewed at the same time last year.

If you have delayed in sending in your renewal, please do so today if you expect to participate in the drawing for two \$100 gift certificates to local restaurants. Winners of the dinners will be announced in the March/April issue of the *Reporter*.

In any event, we welcome each of the over 2,600 households to join SHCA. 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, casino development, 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.

As a **special incentive** to all new members who join 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**.

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

Email [Mattdejulio@aol.com](mailto:Mattdejulio@aol.com) if you have any questions or wish to comment on why you are not a member. All comments will be shared with the board, which represents every quadrant in our most unique historic neighborhood.

## SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

### Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_  
(print clearly)

IMPORTANT: Today, most everyone communicates via email. Please be sure that we have your current email address — so that you can receive important updates between publication of our community newsletter. All SHCA emails will be judiciously screened, and rarely will we send emails more than once a week. Nor will we share your email address with anyone else. This convenient, 21st-century system helps save our civic association postage costs, while keeping you regularly informed.

#### Residential Memberships

- \$ 50 Basic Household Membership
- \$ 40 Senior/Student/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 OWN BACKYARD

BY JANE BIBERMAN

## Sherry Shamansky and Wally Wing

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 Married  
by Design
 

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They were strangers on a train traveling to Manhattan. Sherry got on at Dobbs Ferry and Wally at Hastings-on-Hudson. “It was my first day on a new job,” recalls Sherry. “I was going to head up a brand-new subsidiary of Visiting Nurse Service of New York. Wally was on his daily commute to General Electric, where he had worked for 34 years in international accounting. He took the empty seat next to me.”

“Not by design,” says Wally who had planned on reading his newspaper. But Sherry was ignorant of “train behavior” and started a conversation. She explains: “I later learned that you’re not supposed to talk to your seatmate if he’s holding up a paper.” But Wally took the empty seat next to her the next morning — “I guess by design,” he admits — and they talked for the next nine months. “We finally decided to have a drink after work, although I don’t drink,” says Sherry. “Then I invited him to Thanksgiving dinner — and he stayed for the rest of his life.”

Sherry, who is originally from Ohio, and Wally, who is from Maine, had moved around the country many times during their respective careers. Wally had attended Bowdoin College and Sherry got her master’s and doctorate from Yale, where she crossed paths with the Clintons. Wally was drafted and entered Officers Candidate School, hoping to see the world, but ended up in the Army Finance Center in Indianapolis. “We *did* see the world together — after we got married,” he smiles.

“That was in 1991 although we were together five years before that,” adds Sherry. After she took a job in Seattle, Wally, who was then working in

Schenectady, retired and joined her. Sherry was vice president of nursing at Group Health Cooperative of Puget Sound and a professor of nursing at the University of Washington.

The couple moved to Society Hill in 1997 when Sherry’s job, along with all of the vice president for nursing positions citywide, was eliminated. She joined what was then Smith Kline Beecham, which was developing a new diabetes drug and wanted her to develop a diabetes disease management program.

“We bought this house over a weekend,” she relates, indicating their handsome four-story home. “I didn’t care where we lived so long as there was a room to hold my grand piano. I worked my way through college playing and singing in a bar.” (Musical celebrity Michael Feinstein happens to be her first cousin.)

“The house was built in 1808 and we held a 200th birthday party for it,” says Wally, adding that they are not moving again. Both Sherry and Wally and their 7-year-old Cockapoo, Lola, are well known in the neighborhood. Wally was on the board of the Civic Association for three years and is currently a block coordinator. He succeeded Dave Stevens as graffiti czar for 10 years and has chaired Clean-Up Day for five or six years. Both Wally and Sherry work at the polls, and Sherry has been tutoring students for five years at the McCall School.

“I tutor kids in literacy skills and math, which I first started doing with Congregation Rodeph Shalom,” she relates. “I grew up as a Reform Jew and Wally converted to Judaism in 2007. We became B’nei Mitzvot together after 18 months of study. We both learned a lot and it was very special,” she says.

The couple frequently attends theater and has a subscription to the Philadelphia Orchestra. “We both enjoy the city’s museums and the Constitution Center,” says Wally, adding that they are passionate filmgoers who see many movies that come to the Ritz theaters. Their favorite neighborhood restaurants are Souvlaki, and Mustard Greens.

“We still like to travel,” adds Sherry. “We’ve visited all seven continents.” But more and more, they just like to enjoy the pleasures of home and Society Hill.

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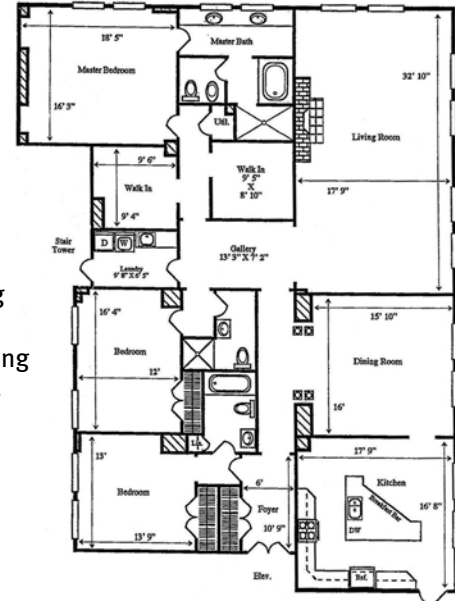
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