

SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

March/April 2014

The Newsletter
of The Society Hill
Civic Association

www.societyhillcivic.org

SHCA Recruiting Board of Directors Candidates

Save the Date!
Sunday, May 18
Society Hill
Open House &
Garden Tour



The bylaws of the Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) require that elections for its Board of Directors and Officers occur annually. This year's elections will take place at our May 21 General Membership Meeting. Members will elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and four Directors-at-Large, all for a one-year term. In addition, four of the 12 Quadrant Directors will be finishing their three-year terms and will need to be replaced.

SHCA's Nominating and Election Committee proposes individuals for these positions. Additionally, others may be nominated by petition. To name yourself or a neighbor, submit a petition signed by 10 SHCA members. Nomination for Quadrant Director requires the signatures of 10 residents of that quadrant. Although not required, including information about the nominee is appreciated.

Those being recommended for a position must live within the boundaries of Society Hill, be at least 21 years of age and be a member of SHCA.

Visit societyhillcivic.org for more information about our civic association, its board and nominating process. Submissions must be

received by April 1 in order to be considered. All nominations will be listed in the next issue of the *Reporter*.

Send nominations to SHCA Administrator Matt DeJulio, c/o Society Hill Civic Association, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147 or to mattdejulio@aol.com.

Quadrant Confusion?

SHCA divides Society Hill into quadrants for the purpose of electing its Board of Directors. They are labeled Northeast, Southeast, Northwest and Southwest. Fourth Street serves as the dividing line between the east and west quadrants. Spruce Street is the dividing line between the north and south quadrants.

AHH, SPRING!



We can't wait for the blooms and blossoms.
See photos of tree work at Old Pine
Church on page 18.

WEDNESDAY MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March

19

Society Hill Civic Association Meetings
Wednesday, March 19, 2014

Pennsylvania Hospital
8th & Spruce Streets

6:30 p.m.

Board of Directors Meeting
Pennsylvania Grand Court Conference Room
All SHCA members are welcome.

7:30 p.m.

General Membership Meeting
Pennsylvania Hospital Zubrow Auditorium
All neighborhood residents are invited to attend.

Check the weekly email blast for speaker and topic.



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SOCIETY HILL

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Submission Deadlines

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 Advertising: April 1
 Editorial: April 3

Society Hill

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Website

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.

SHCA Board Officers and Directors

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Steven Weixler

Vice President

Jim Moss

Secretary

George Dowdall

Treasurer

Marc Feldman

Directors-at-Large

Bob Curley
 George Kelley
 Martha Levine
 Kim Williams

Northeast Quadrant

2014 Lenore Hardy
 2015 Heather Steiner
 2016 Lisa Unger

Northwest Quadrant

2014 Sissie Lipton
 2015 Diane Rossheim
 2016 Amy DeMarco

Southeast Quadrant

2014 Jane Ahn
 2015 Laura Temple
 2016 Jeff Berry

Southwest Quadrant

2014 Francisco Carreno
 2015 Marilyn Appel
 2016 Daniel Horowitz

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Bulletin Board



George Dowdall
As SHCA Secretary since 2010,

George Dowdall plays an important role in fostering communication, taking accurate minutes of meetings and being custodian of organizational records. In addition, he sits on committees that are responsible for updating the SHCA website, as well as its brochure.

George is a professor emeritus at St. Joseph's University where he taught both sociology and health services. He is currently an adjunct fellow at Penn's Center for Public Health Initiatives. He spent six months as a Congressional Fellow in Senator Joe Biden's office, and was a visiting lecturer for several years at the Harvard School of Public Health. His most recent book is *College Drinking: Reframing A Social Problem*.

George and his wife, Jean, are long time residents of our community, enjoying both its proximity to Center City and historic fabric. He is now writing an article about Society Hill for the *Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia*, and was just certified as a Philadelphia tour guide. Jean specializes in senior executive searches for colleges and universities and, as such, affords the couple journeys to exotic places like Bulgaria and the United Arab Emirates. They also manage frequent trips to California to visit their daughter and two grandchildren. The pair can be found almost every day at the Philadelphia Sports Club.

Judy Lamirand

Judy Lamirand has been taking the words and works of Society Hill writers and turning them into the eminently readable pages of the *Reporter* since she began working with SHCA in 2001.

Judy completed the Graphic Design program at the former Philadelphia College of Art, now the University of the Arts, while simultaneously working at a printshop in pre-press production. She and her business partner started their own design firm, Parallel Design, in 1991.

Since her firm joined SHCA as a business member, Judy has done the layout of every issue of the *Reporter*. She has produced and updated the membership brochure and put together the annual Washington Square Affair's invitation and program, as well as the materials for SHCA's Open House and Garden Tour.

Judy is a direct descendant of the former Society Hill resident, artist and museum operator, Charles Willson Peale. His portraits can be found at the Second Bank. Judy's work can be seen around the region: logos for more than 50 different organizations; the Combined Campaign banners, which are raised around City Hall every October; and at www.BeyondtheLibertyBell.org, a website which encourages Philadelphians and tourists alike to visit the many sites and museums within walking distance of the Liberty Bell.



Jim Murphy

Jim Murphy, a copywriter who loves Philadelphia and its history, has written 19 "Exploring the City" columns for the *Reporter*.

He also runs a busy freelance copywriting business from his Society Hill townhouse, focusing on direct marketing.

After working more than 13 years at Devon Direct Marketing and Advertising, Inc., then one of the largest agencies of its kind in the U.S., Jim went out on his own in 2004.

In 2008, he and his wife, Rosemary Noce-Murphy, an R.N., moved from Upper Darby to the city. Jim says, "It's the best move we ever made."

They walk everywhere, experience all the city has to offer, and at home enjoy seeing their only grandchild, who lives in California, on FaceTime.

Soon, Jim hopes to begin offering city tours to area residents. He became a certified member of the Association of Philadelphia Tour Guides in 2013.



Consider adding your time and 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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Meet Margaret and
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A PHILADELPHIA TREASURE

BY BERNICE & BERNARD HAMEL

The Wissahickon Valley

“Now the Wissahickon is of so remarkable a loveliness that were it flowing in England it would be the theme of every bard, and the common topic of every tongue...”

— From the essay “About the Wissahickon” by Edgar Allan Poe

After enjoying 26 marvelous years in Society Hill, this month marks the end of our first year since we’ve moved “up” to Chestnut Hill. One of the reasons we returned was to be closer to the Wissahickon Park. For over 50 years we have enjoyed this treasure in all seasons of the year, and we would like to share our enthusiasm and knowledge with friends and former neighbors.

The Wissahickon Creek has its headwaters in Montgomery County, and as the creek flows into the northwest part of Philadelphia, it forms a deep, almost alpine, gorge — the walls of the gorge formed by the creek can be as high as 300 feet. From Philadelphia’s earliest days, people in the city would flee summer heat and humidity, as well as Yellow Fever epidemics, to visit the highlands surrounding the Wissahickon. The top of Chestnut Hill is 500 feet above sea level — compared to Society Hill, which is approximately eight feet above sea level.

Fortunately, in 1869, the City of Philadelphia decided to protect the Wissahickon when it became a part of Fairmount Park. In the 19th century, writers and artists were attracted to the Wissahickon by its natural beauty. Many noted landscape artists of the 19th century created paintings depicting the area. Among these are Thomas Moran, James Peele and William Trost Richards. It is miraculous that the Wissahickon’s natural beauty has been preserved to this very day. Visitors who explore this vast land (consisting of 1,800 acres) can feel that they are very far from the city environment of Philadelphia — due to the Wissahickon’s hidden meadows, great vistas of the creek from hillsides, and many spots that are difficult to locate, but very rewarding when discovered.

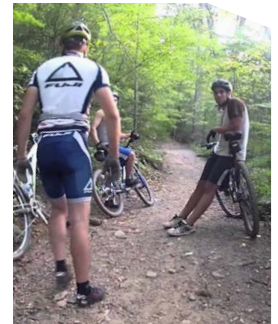
For those who have not yet visited the Wissahickon, a beautiful day can begin at the Valley Green Inn, currently under the joint care of the Friends of the Wissahickon and the Fairmount Park Commission. It is rumored that this historical inn was first established in 1683.

The present inn was built in 1850 — about the same time that the Wissahickon Turnpike (now known as Lincoln Drive) was completed.

A good beginning hike or bike ride would be along the creek on Forbidden Drive — since this trail is fairly flat and quite scenic. From there, more adventurous folks can walk along the upper trails — which are essentially hiking trails, and therefore require wearing good walking shoes. Or if the adventurer is fearless, he or she can ride a mountain bike on these trails. In fact, *Mountain Biking Magazine* has listed the Wissahickon as being “one of the 100 best places to ride in the entire nation.”

There is no special season to visit the Wissahickon, since each season offers its own distinctive charm and wonder. For example, after a snowfall in January, a walk along the creek offers a beautiful “snowscape.” Or, if the visitor is more courageous, a trip on cross-country skis along these trails can feel quite magical. From late March through May, spring is a marvelous season — with almost weekly changes in the budding branches and wildflowers along meadows and trails. In the hot days of summer, shady trees create a climate that can be between five and ten degrees cooler than the center of the city. Fall foliage brings color to the woods and an entirely different feeling or experience than the days of summer. And the Valley Green Inn offers many wonderful ways to end a day of hiking or biking. Visitors can sit by the fireplace on a cold, snowy day in winter or enjoy lunch on the Inn’s porch on a warm, sunny summer day.

To find one’s way up to the Valley Green Inn or to explore the area’s many trails, we recommend the map published by the Friends of the Wissahickon — which was originally organized in 1924 to protect this unique natural resource within the City of Philadelphia. To learn where to purchase this map, please call 215-247-0417.



Bicyclists on Forbidden Drive.

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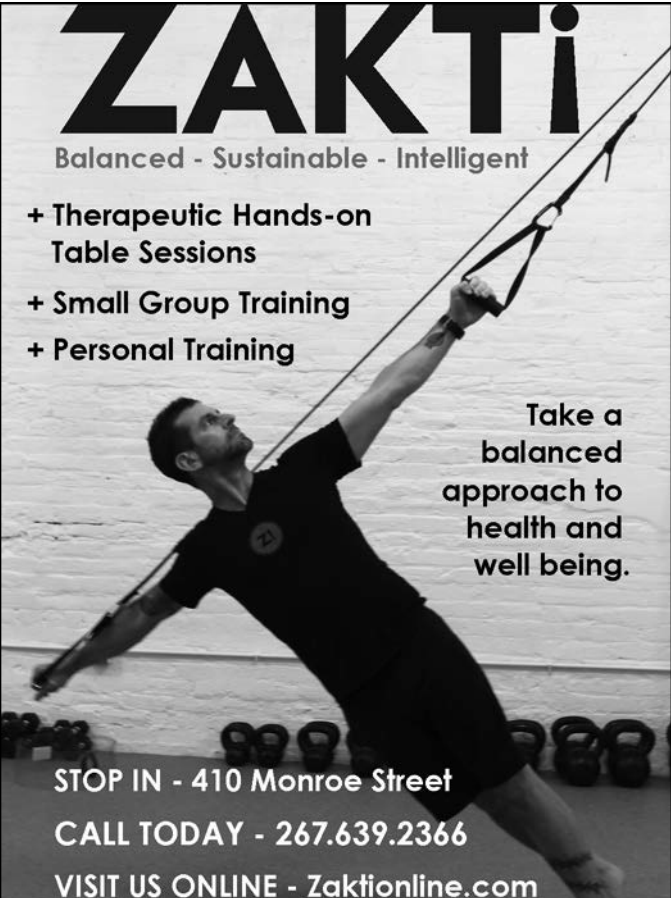
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Z O N I N G A N D H I S T O R I C P R E S E R V A T I O N

BY LORNA KATZ-LAWSON

Development ‘By Right’

The following represents the recent activities of SHCA’s Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee (ZHP).

233 South 6th Street

A representative from the First Church of Christ, Scientist recently presented a proposal to ZHP for an assembly area, a Sunday school and a reading room to be housed in the northwest corner of Independence Place’s commercial space, which faces Washington Square and runs along Locust Walk.

The meeting was well attended by neighbors, and their concerns about uses, noise and signs were successfully addressed. While religious assembly is a “by right” use in residential districts, it is restricted to being in a separate structure. The fact that it is proposed to be within the tower will trigger the need for a variance. If this proposal becomes an application, pending an agreement with the condominium association, it will require approval from the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

234-236 South 4th Street

Developer Scott Haffey returned to ZHP with his architect and attorney to present a more developed design. The revised plan had two front-loaded garages on Locust Street, some improvement in massing and a reduced number of living units in the multi-family building. It was changed stylistically from a clearly contemporary look, which was preferred by near neighbors, to a quasi-historic one. Height, open space, rear-yard setback and front-loaded garages are still non-conforming as shown, and would require variances. No hardship intrinsic to the property was suggested, even though it is the basis for granting a variance. How the developer will proceed is not yet known.

500-506 Walnut Street

The site now appears to be in new hands. According to architect Cecil Baker, developer Tom Scannapieco intends to build essentially to the plans previously approved and permitted by Licenses and Inspections, but has some minor changes to propose. These requests will be presented at ZHP’s March 10 meeting at Society Hill Synagogue at 7 p.m. Reminders will be distributed to near neighbors of the project closer to the meeting date.

317 South 6th Street

The revised design, which had some changes

from the original, previously unanimously denied by the Philadelphia Historical Commission (PHC), was verbally withdrawn at the Architectural Review Committee meeting on January 28. Several neighbors or their representatives attended the meeting. After the meeting, the applicant stated his intention to pursue renovations within the three-story building and add a roof deck and pilothouse. Although roof decks are permitted “by right” under the new zoning code, the design will still be subject to PHC approval.

School Sign Code

In January, a second meeting of the Crosstown Coalition, of which SHCA is a member, occurred with Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown, her Chief of Staff David Forde, and Legislative Aide Katherine Gilmore. Also attending were two people representing parent associations and one representing the School District of Philadelphia.

The Councilwoman, who co-sponsored Bill #130694 with Council President Darrell Clarke, conducted the meeting. Her goal was to get further information about the Fels Report that had been forwarded by the Coalition to her office, and to solicit ideas about how the bill might be improved. Readers will remember that this proposed legislation permits advertising monopoles erected in schoolyards, wall wraps on the building facades and billboards on school roofs. It allows billboards in places where they have been prohibited for decades.

The Fels Report concluded that any gain in city revenue produced by advertising signs on school property would be more than offset by a resulting loss in property tax, as all properties within 500 feet of a billboard suffer a property devaluation of \$30,000, on average, in Philadelphia. Figures used for the economic model came from current Office of Property Assessment records.

Parent association representatives who, like the civic associations, see the influence of commercial advertising on children as another unwelcome distraction from the school’s core education purpose, were particularly concerned about who would be assigned to setting up the standards for advertising content and then monitoring them.

The conversation is intended to continue.

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SAFE AND SOUND IN SOCIETY HILL

BY MARILYN APPEL

How To Label Your Valuables

If you've ever been burglarized, you know what a horrible feeling it is to walk into your home and find some of your treasures missing, from iPads to your grandmother's jewelry. It's sad, frustrating, and discouraging. Well, now there's **Operation ID**, a burglary deterrent system for homes, apartments and businesses. Operation ID requires you to label your valuables, so that your property can be easily identified and traced. Here's how it works.

You choose the items that you want to identify in case they're stolen; write down the name of the article (with or without a serial number); make a copy. Send the list to Officer Lori Smith at the Sixth District, 11th and Winter Streets, 19107 along with your own identifying number. (This ID number is your choice. Your driver's license number is good.) Keep your copy in a safe place. Officer Smith will send you as many stickers as you need, a minimum of 10 ID stickers (one for each item) to place strategically on the article. In addition, she will send you a sticker for

your window that states that you participate in Operation ID. This in itself is a deterrent to burglars who know what Operation ID is and how it works. The stickers do not come off, so a burglar, even if he/she knows the system, cannot pull them off.

Each household in Society Hill and elsewhere should register for Operation ID. Every district in the city is part of the system, so if your valuables are taken somewhere else in the city, they are still traceable.

But that's not all you can do to stay safe

Remember to keep your outside lights on at night and put your security system ON every time you walk out of the house and when you go to sleep for the night. You should also NOT walk and talk on your mobile phone because you will be distracted and fail to recognize what's going on around you. Remember that cell phones are the most stolen item in Philadelphia! Stay safe and register for Operation ID. For more information, call Officer Smith at 215-686-3063 or email her at Lori.Smith@phila.gov.


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All Gloria Dei's venerable trees remained standing in Hurricane Sandy, preserving the historic graves below.

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THIS OLD HOUSE

25 Tips for Spring Cleaning Your Historic Home

There are always special considerations for those with historic houses, even for something as common as a good spring cleaning. Here are our top tips:

Avoid abrasive cleaners. They usually contain some type of grit that can damage your home's historic materials; in fact, even high-pressure washing with plain water can be harmful.

- 1 Use a low-pressure wash for exterior surfaces.
 - 2 Scrub persistent grime with a natural bristle brush, never metal.
 - 3 Try a steam cleaner to loosen dirt and grime on hard, impervious surfaces.
 - 4 Test in an inconspicuous area when trying a new cleaning method.
- Take care when washing and waxing wood.** Whether it's floors, ornate decorative elements or furniture, your home's historic wood has many more years of life left with the correct cleaning.
- 5 Dust with clean, soft rags, such as old cloth diapers.
 - 6 Never use an aerosol polish or one with silicone.
 - 7 Clean painted and finished wood surfaces and floors with a mixture of Murphy's Oil soap, water and 2 to 4 drops of ammonia per gallon of water.
 - 8 Use Butcher's Wax for wood floors and to touch up wood finishes.
 - 9 Dust thoroughly around, beneath, behind and inside all wood furniture.

Cleaning other surfaces in your historic home. Wood isn't the only historic material that needs a gentle touch when cleaning — you need to be gentle with masonry surfaces like brick, marble and stone, as well as historic glass.

- 10 Clean historic windows with a 1:1 mixture of distilled water and isopropyl alcohol and a few drops of ammonia.
- 11 Wash marble once a year with a weak solution of ammonia and distilled water. If needed, marble can be buffed with Renaissance Wax.
- 12 Metal and brass surfaces should be wiped with a cotton cloth, never polished or washed with any kind of chemical or abrasive cleaner.
- 13 Use biocides to remove lichens or mold from historic brick and stone surfaces.

Your antique collection needs special care, also. Whether you are a collector of rare books, sculptures, fine china, decorative glass or ceramics, use these tips for cleaning the antiques that are important to you:

- 14 When dusting books, dust from the bound edge to the paper edge, away from the binding.
- 15 Make sure there is ventilation behind books on the shelf and behind bookcases.
- 16 Dust ceramics with a natural bristle brush.
- 17 Do not clean the painted or gilded decoration on glass.
- 18 Do not use aerosols or any sprays near paintings.
- 19 Use a brush with natural hairs to dust picture frames; never use cloth or feather dusters.
- 20 Wear gloves to avoid damaging porous materials with oils from your fingers.

Historic textiles need special considerations.

The urge to wash historic textiles is a strong one, especially during a spring cleaning. Unfortunately, not all textiles were originally intended to be washable, especially in our modern machines. The best way to preserve historic textiles is to maintain them in a way that avoids the need to be cleaned. If cleaning is unavoidable, here are some suggestions:

- 21 Avoid methods such as Fullers earth, rolling bread over textiles or using milk.
- 22 Use wet or dry cleaning only as advised by a reputable conservator.
- 23 Never press or steam historic textiles.
- 24 Remove dust or loose dirt through a net mesh or muslin screen.
- 25 Cover your nozzle with a stocking for those textiles that cannot be vacuumed through a screen.



Special Offer

We've just released *Preservation Primer, Volume 2: Planning Your Historic Building Project, Choosing a Contractor, and What Mediocre Contractors Don't Want You to Know* — the second in a series of Primers developed to guide homeowners in restoration and renovation projects. Because we know that you are as dedicated to preserving our architectural heritage as we are, we're offering you a free primer. Call 717-291-4688 or email dkeperling@historic-restorations.com for your copy.

Experienced father/daughter preservation team Chuck Groshong and Danielle Groshong-Keperling own and operate Historic Restorations, a firm that specializes in historic buildings.

PHILLY FOOD LOVERS

BY KERI WHITE

Delicias Arepas

How thrilled were we to learn that the award-winning food truck, Delicias, opened a brick-and-mortar restaurant at 4th and South? *Muy Feliz!* Owner Lynette Gueits Sutton has launched a BYO that is worth a visit... and another... and another!

When asked about how she entered the food business, Lynette explains, "After my son went to preschool, I wanted a career that lent itself to a more flexible family life. My real estate investment job was not flexible, and the market was taking a turn at that point, so I was looking for a change. Although I'm not formally trained, I've always had a passion for cooking, especially the flavors from my Puerto Rican background. We bought an established food truck, and then expanded to a second truck when our following grew. Customers kept saying to us, 'Why don't you open a restaurant? We want your food for dinner.' I have a Wharton MBA, and I kept coming back to the most elemental economic tenet of supply and demand."

As to how she landed on 4th Street, Lynette explains: "We chose this area because it seemed to have a lot of opportunity. This is a lively, diverse community, and we felt that there was room here for a BYO restaurant that has an upscale vibe, but is moderately priced." About the neighborhood, Lynette becomes downright gushy: "The community has been so welcoming. We love getting to know our customers, and the best thing in the world is when we see someone come back for a second visit with a friend, another couple or the family. It tells me that they enjoyed their experience with us enough to share it, and that just thrills me. In addition to the neighbors, the South Street Headhouse District has truly embraced us. They have been so incredibly supportive in helping spread the word. We are lucky to be a part of this organization."

We visited Delicias for dinner right before Christmas and started with the empanadas, opting for a beef and a chicken. The crisp exterior was perfectly executed, housing savory, flavorful fillings, and drizzled with an intriguing mango sauce flecked with cilantro.

We also chose a salad, which was perfectly dressed with a jalapeno ranch dressing, topped with crumbled *queso fresco*, and liberally laden with an assortment of fresh, crisp produce.

And we couldn't resist the yucca fries, which were like a French fry's crisper, more exotic cousin. The green cilantro-chili dipping sauce was transcendent; I was tempted to pour it over ice with a splash of tequila.

But that wasn't necessary. The jalapeno cilantro margaritas mixed with our own tequila were more than sufficient refreshment. In addition to livening up the party, the unique drink options make Delicias an economical choice for a restaurant. The menu offers five different juice-based mixers and recommendations on pairings with various liquors. For example, rum is suggested to spike the Pineapple Mango Mojito. Patrons are, of course, welcome to bring beer or wine, as well.

By the time our main courses arrived, we were getting full; portions are generous. My *Masitas de Cerdo* — marinated pork, grilled and served with grilled red onions, was tender, flavorful and quite large; I brought more than half of it home to the delight of my children, who enjoyed it for lunch the next day.

My husband had *La Robinita*: grilled chorizo with sweet plantains, which he also enjoyed, but again, we took the bulk of it home.

Each of the main dishes is served with Lynette's justifiably famous *arepas*. These handmade corn cakes are like a Mexican pita; they can be filled and eaten like a sandwich, or just enjoyed as an accompanying nibble to the rest of the meal. Much of the menu is gluten-free, including the *arepas*. There are chicken, seafood, and vegetarian options available as well.

We did not sample dessert, but it consists of a selection of gourmet cupcakes from Sweet Box, which is (you guessed it) another popular food truck.

Delicias is currently open Tuesday through Sunday for dinner starting at 5 p.m. We'll certainly be paying them another visit soon.



Arepas are handmade corn cakes — like a Mexican pita.

Delicias Arepas
526 South 4th Street
267-687-7631
deliciasarepas.com

We couldn't resist the yucca fries, which were like a French fry's crisper, more exotic cousin.

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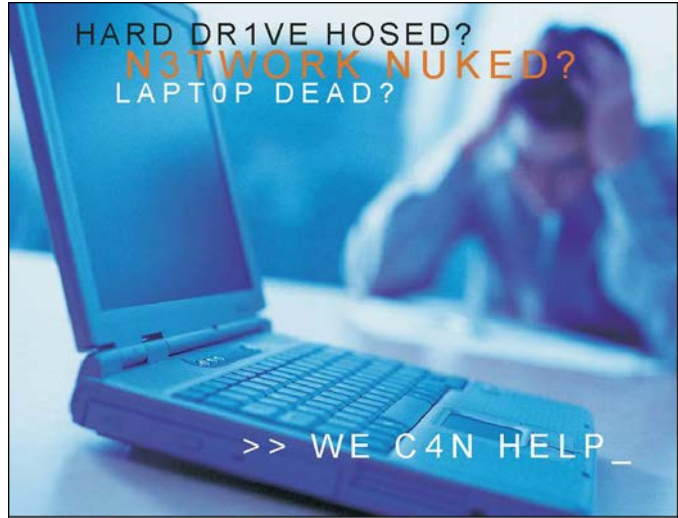
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EXPLORING THE CITY

BY JIM MURPHY

City Hall

Whether you love it or hate it, Philadelphia's remarkable City Hall is unique, impressive and a world leader in several categories.

Built over a 30-year period at a cost of \$24.5 million, the French Second Empire structure is the largest all-masonry load-bearing building in the world.

Without the benefit of a steel frame, this mammoth structure of some 700 rooms is larger than the U.S. Capitol building, has a floor space of 630,000 square feet and may be the largest municipal building anywhere!



Atop it sits a 37-foot, 27-ton sculpture of William Penn, also thought to be the largest statue on top of a building any place in the world.

City Hall itself, at 548 feet in height, was designed by architect John McArthur Jr. to be the world's tallest building.

But because construction took over 30 years, the Eiffel Tower and the Washington Monument, both taller, were completed first. Neither of them, however, is an occupied building.

Interesting oddities:

- The clock faces in City Hall Tower, visible for miles along Broad Street, are 3 feet larger in diameter than Big Ben, the legendary clock in London's Palace of Westminster. They look smaller, though, because City Hall's clocks are 362 feet above ground, compared to Big Ben at just 180 feet.
- Architect McArthur placed a likeness of himself across from the goddess of architecture at the east portal.
- While many people think the City Hall Tower has a ringing bell, it doesn't. The bell you hear in center city is the 17-ton Founder's Bell. It's located at the top of the tower of the former PNB Building, One South Broad Street, across from City Hall.
- Thanks to a longstanding gentleman's agreement, no building in the city could rise higher than William Penn's Hat. One Liberty Place broke that agreement in 1987, however, when it soared past Pennsylvania's founder by almost 400 feet.

- Independence Square, where Independence Hall, Old City Hall and Congress Hall are located, was once a potential site for the new City Hall, too. After that location was wisely taken off the table, citizens voted to place the new building at Centre Square, rather than Washington Square. (Centre Square, the geographic center of Philadelphia's original city, was the largest of five squares founder William Penn designated as public areas.)

By the time City Hall was completed, it was covered in soot, had homeless people living in its portals and bats flying in the hallways.

Possibly the only thing that kept City Hall from being demolished in both the 1920's and 1960's was this: it would cost as much to demolish the building as it did to construct it.

Fortunately wiser heads prevailed. And while urban critics like Lewis Mumford savaged the building, calling it "an architectural nightmare," others took a longer view.

The American Institute of Architects says Philadelphia's City Hall is "perhaps the greatest single effort of late nineteenth-century American architecture."

But go see for yourself. Take a tour, view the 250 sculptures and visit the sumptuous rooms.

Then peer down from the observation deck just below William Penn's statue and enjoy a spectacular view of the city he planned. It just doesn't get much better than this.

Some critics wanted this extraordinary structure – once the tallest occupied building in the world – demolished before it was even completed in 1901.



FAST FACTS

Address:

City Hall Visitor Center, Room 121, Broad and Market Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19107 (close to the 13th Street entrance)

Phone: 215-686-2840

Time to build: Over 30 years

Cost to build: \$24.5 million

Claim to fame: Tallest occupied building in U.S. until 1909

Number of bricks: 88 million (equal to 14,700 row houses)

Number of sculptures:

Over 250, by Alexander Milne Calder

Big numbers:

Some of the walls are 22 feet thick; one granite slab weighs close to 40 tons; 37 tons of pigeon guano was removed in 1993, when the building was pigeon-proofed

Height: 548 feet

Style: French Second Empire, influenced by the Louvre in Paris

Chief architect: John McArthur Jr.

Tower-only tours:

9:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m., Mon. - Fri. Elevator leaves every 15 minutes. Limit: 4 adults. Adults, \$6; seniors, students, military, \$4; children under 3, free. The tower is not handicapped accessible.

Interior tours:

(including Tower): 12:30 p.m., Mon. - Fri. 90 min. to 2 hrs. long. Adults, \$12; seniors, students, military, \$8; children under 3, free.

Note: Reservations available in-person or by phone the day you visit, not before.


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MUSIC(AL) MATTERS

BY DIANA BURGWIN

Take Off That Hat, Lady!

Back in Mozart's time, audiences were expected to eat, drink and gossip while music was being performed. In a word, music was entertainment. Jump to Verdi's era, and the vocal Italian audiences would walk around during an opera performance, conversing so loudly that they covered the voices of the singers. When they liked an aria, they would demand an encore; when they disapproved of a singer, they'd throw radishes or turnips at them instead of flowers.

That all began to change when opera composer Richard Wagner entered the scene and classical music took on a loftier image, with audiences expected to listen attentively.

Today, concert etiquette is a sensitive and tricky subject. Presenters of classical music hesitate to impose rules that might turn off new audiences. But being exposed to thoughtless behavior can be infuriating to music lovers, who sometimes lose their cool as a result.

Some years back, when I was at a concert with a music critic friend, he hissed at the chattering woman sitting in front of us. At intermission, her companion, a very large man, stood up, leaned into my friend and announced, "You do that again to my wife, and I'll knock out your teeth." I was so nervous that I left them and took refuge in the ladies' room. My friend must have calmed down, because when I returned he still had his teeth.

Another time, it was I who was the offender. I was taking notes during a performance for a review I'd been assigned, and my pen had a tiny flashlight at the top, which enabled me to see what I was writing. At intermission, a guy I didn't know made a beeline for me and accused me of ruining the concert. I snarled back at him. Later I learned, to my horror, that he was a new and important Philadelphia music critic. Now we are the best of friends. But I will never again use a pen with a flashlight at a concert.

The list of what people object to at musical events is long. For starters: unwrapping candy during the music with infinite slowness, in the misguided impression that it won't be heard. Other objectionable activities: flipping pages of the program in boredom, bouncing up and down like a bobblehead in time with the music, jangling one's bracelet, snoring or snuggling. (Sorry, that last one might be romantic to the couple but not to those who are sitting behind them.) You get the picture.

Among the worst is coughing — not once or twice but so often and heartily that it drowns out the music. That brings out my worst impulses. Why can't that germ-ridden woman exit the hall, at least until her coughing spasm is over? Better yet, why doesn't she go home? Best of all, throw her out! Conductors are particularly upset by a lot of coughing. At a recent concert in Chicago, Michael Tilson Thomas was so unnerved by it that, at intermission, he threw cough drops at the audience.

Let us not forget ringing cell phones. Typically, in most halls, an announcement is made prior to the performance reminding the audience to turn them off. But that doesn't stop some people. At a recent New York Philharmonic concert conducted by Alan Gilbert, the marimba sound of a cell phone was heard. Gilbert stopped the orchestra. The owner of the phone tried to look innocent, letting it ring on and on until he was singled out. "Get him out of here!" shouted concertgoers.

I really believe that it is important to be aware of ways in which our behavior might be offensive to someone else. And if we are the offended one, it's much better to express the problem nicely rather than rudely — something, I have to admit, I've not mastered.

The craziest experience I've had in that regard was when I took my seat at an opera and was reading the program notes. Suddenly, someone behind me pounded my shoulder and said loudly: "Will you take off that hat, lady? I can't see a thing!" Frozen, I put my hand to my head and turned around. The accuser was chortling delightedly. He was a friend of mine who I hadn't seen in decades and he was mightily pleased with having tricked me — especially since I wasn't wearing a hat.



Concert etiquette: a sensitive and tricky subject.

SPOTLIGHT ON CURTIS

The Curtis Institute of Music is one of the greatest conservatories in the world. Its students are well on their way to big careers. Some April/May highlights are:

April 12 at 1:30, 2:15 and 3 p.m.

Music in the Galleries: Departures. A monthly solo and chamber music program held in various

galleries of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Curtis' prize-winning Dover String Quartet perform Webern and Beethoven.

April 13 at 8 p.m.

Curtis Symphony Orchestra. Verizon Hall, Kimmel Center. Works of Stravinsky, Penderecki, and Tchaikovsky. Curtis president Roberto Díaz

will solo and pianist/conductor Ignat Solzhenitsyn will conduct.

*May 1 - 3 at 7:30 p.m.
May 4 at 2:30 p.m.*

La Cenerentola by Gioacchino Rossini. Prince Music Theater. Other adaptations of the Cinderella story pale next to this delightful opera, performed by Curtis voice students and orchestra.

OUT AND ABOUT

Getting to the Root of the Problem

The graveyard at Old Pine Church has slowly evolved into a great community open space. It beckons passersby to stop, rest and reflect on the past. Burials began in 1764 as soon as the Penn brothers deeded the property to a group of Presbyterians. Today the old tombstones mark the resting places of over 4,000 late 18th and very early 19th-century Philadelphians, including 235 Revolutionary War soldiers.

Time, though, has taken a toll. This autumn, the Session of the Church authorized the removal of two 100-year-old, decaying Norway maples,

whose overhanging limbs endangered a great number of gravestones. In addition, the roots of these trees threatened to topple the iconic 1837 cast-iron fence onto the Pine Street sidewalk. Part of the continuing renovation of this churchyard has also been restored gravestones, biographical sketches for hundreds of the buried and placards enabling self-tours.

To make a completely tax-deductible gift to help further this important work, write a check to Old Pine Conservancy and mail it to Old Pine Church, 412 Pine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106.



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Bringing the branch to the street.



Cutting the branch for chipping.



Feeding the pieces into the chipper.

OUT AND ABOUT

Laying Venerable Norway Maples to Rest



Cutting the last branch.



Cutting the trunk.



Securing the last branch.



Planning crew giving directions.



Observing the work in progress.



Trunk slices show the decay inside the tree.



If you miss these beautiful trees, visit them at Blue Cross RiverRink, Penn's Landing, 201 South Columbus Boulevard, where they have been recycled into benches and mulch!

Bonnie Halda, Reporter photographer



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ON OUR SHELF

BY RICHARD DE WYNGAERT

'Nothing Endures but Change'

— Heraclitus (c. 535 – c. 475 BCE)

The pace of change in today's world is unprecedented and exponential. We are taking extraordinarily creative steps, making possible solutions to some of the world's most vexing problems. Nevertheless, the pace is dizzying and, upon reflection, occasionally disquieting.

Are the sweeping technological changes of the 21st century more or less bewildering than those wrought on earlier cultures? This is unclear. To paraphrase what Heraclitus astutely noted in the 6th century BCE: shifts happen. And although most historical changes were arguably less tectonic in nature than the 21st-century changes, the affected cultures were much less accustomed and more resistant to change than ours. Existentially, these smaller shifts may have been equally dis-equilibrating.

When I look to the future and try to gauge the trajectory of where we are going, where we will be, I feel awkward and clumsy, incapable of comfortably extrapolating from current trends a vision of what our world will look like in 50 years. Questions abound: we are social animals, but what will "being social" look like in 50 years? Will we still enjoy the luxury of a "private" self, a self that is preserved, cocooned if you will, from an open-book world? Will our connections be broader and shallower, rather than fewer and deeper? Will future relationships still satisfy the need to meaningfully and quietly connect, or will the need atrophy? As a future condition, will privacy be important, or is it absurd to even contemplate?

The impacts of our current information flow and data gathering give rise to these, and many more, elemental questions. The changes to the way we conduct our daily lives and what we now tacitly accept are sweeping and often difficult to appreciate. We enter into information transactions every day. Many of us use apps and most make weekly, if not daily, credit card purchases. All of this activity results in a data point, which contributes to a file from which our portrait is drawn. Quite willingly, we exchange information for convenience. Short-term, this transaction feels great. However, often discounted is the permanent record of our choices.

Big Data is changing what we see and how we are viewed. Our digital shadows are staggering: our photographs, our adolescent follies and our enduring foibles have all been captured. Who owns and controls this data? The government? The corporations? Should we control how our data points are used? How much government surveillance is acceptable? How does this erode trust? How much trust can we afford to lose and still have a vital democracy? How will our digital shadows frame our future opportunities and circumstances?

This is not new. Much has been written on this subject. I've listed a number of books that contemplate the vast technological changes that define our time, explore what our tendencies say about us as a culture, and address our responsibilities. If we are going to be key players in this unfolding drama, we should know the script well.

One of my favorites is *Uncharted: Big Data as a Lens on Human Culture* by Erez Aiden and Jean-Baptiste Michel. This book tells the story of the Google Ngram Viewer, a technology developed by the two authors in collaboration with Google. The Ngram Viewer deconstructs history and gleans meaning by discerning linguistic patterns and word usage, now measurable because of more than 30 million books scanned and digitized by Google. This technology yields enormous insight into the economic activities and prevailing values of historical cultures. The authors' style is perceptive, engaging and very funny, which makes following a very important and complicated subject enjoyable.

Other Books to Consider

Big Data: A Revolution That Will Transform How We Live, Work, and Think, by Victor Schonberger and Kenneth Cukier

The Second Machine Age: Work, Progress, and Prosperity in a Time of Brilliant Technologies, by Eric Brynjolfsson and Andrew McAfee

Smarter Than You Think: How Technology Is Changing Our Minds for the Better, by Clive Thompson

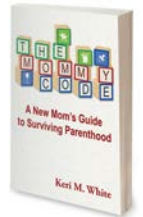
The Power of Habit, by Charles Duhigg

The Future of the Mind: The Scientific Quest to Understand, Enhance, and Empower the Mind, by Michio Kaku

Thursday, March 13

Meet Keri

Join Society Hill neighbor and *Reporter* columnist **Keri White** at Head House Books, 619 South 2nd Street, at 7 p.m. Keri will discuss her recent book, *The Mommy Code: A New Mom's Guide to Surviving Parenthood*, published by Knollwood Books.



Richard de Wyngaert owns **Head House Books**, 619 S. 2nd St. Direct comments to radewyngaert@headhousebooks.com. **20% of the proceeds** of the sale price of any books cited in this review **will be donated to SHCA** when ordered through Head House Books. Please mention the *Reporter* when making your purchase.

SOUTH STREET HEADHOUSE DISTRICT

BY CLAIRE BATTEN

Finding Your P's and Q's

A trio of boutiques brings premium menswear back to South Street.

Philadelphia's Fabric Row was once the epicenter of men's tailoring. Immigrant tailors clustered around Fourth Street and peddled their wares and services on the blocks between South and Catharine Streets. Today, Fabric Row sells more than just fabrics and dressmaking paraphernalia. These colorful blocks have expanded and now feature an eclectic mix of salons, fashion boutiques and trendy urban stores.

The first in a trio of new menswear retailers is **Armour Philadelphia**, 704 South 4th Street. It's definitely worth a visit if you are on the hunt for high-quality clothing at mid-range prices. The store features beautiful wool sweaters, leather belts and gloves, and interesting outerwear. Owner David Grimes will happily steer you through the classic collection of men's clothing.

The second retailer making waves in our neighborhood is **Totem**, 529 South Street. Totem also stocks shoes, leather accessories and a wide assortment of interesting menswear. It carries much-loved men's brands such as Fred Perry, Ben Sherman and my husband's current fave brand, Penguin — check out their slim-cut polos, European-fit shirts and the funky, playful linings in Penguin's casual jackets.



To read Armour's fashion blog, check out armourphiladelphia.com



P's and Q's owners have a superb eye; they carry brands that they personally like to wear, such as Penfield, Norse Projects and more niche underground brands. Creative Director Rick Cao explains why they set up shop here on South Street. "South Street is our safe harbor; we grew up here. All the stores on South

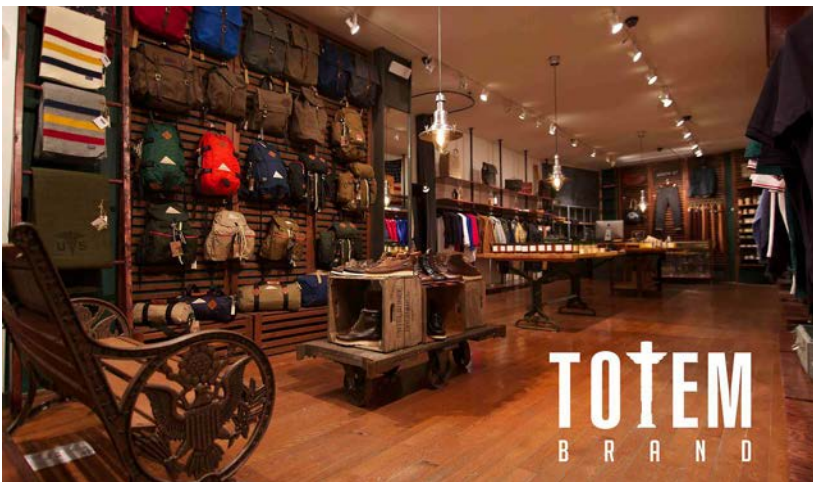
Street are independents and are family-owned. We're not trying to compete with the franchised retail outlets in other parts of the city. South Street has its own vibe. It's a fun place."

I asked about the unusual name of their store, which is hard to remember initially — but then sticks. "We wanted something that tied in with Philadelphia. Historically, Philadelphia was the first place to print a commercial newspaper. The term "P's and Q's" relates to printing; when setting lead type you had to be careful not to mix up p's and q's. So there's history here. But also, South Street gets a bad rap sometimes, so we're saying 'mind your p's and q's,' i.e. let's see you on your best behavior when you come visit. This end of South Street has a quieter residential vibe; a lot of our customers are local."

P's and Q's runs evening gatherings once a month, focusing on designers and brands they like to sell. These events are educational and have been attracting a lot of interest: "It's not just a case of get a free glass of wine and spend the evening drinking, we want people to understand the background of the brands we love and meet our designers." To find out more about this ongoing program, visit the company's website www.psandqs.com.

Rick is optimistic about the future of South Street, saying: "Unlike the rest of Center City, which seems to be moving towards big name retailers, South Street has always been about specialist independents. We think that we're heading in the right direction; we're gonna take back our retail crown."

For information about other retailers and merchants in the South Street Headhouse District, see the informative website www.southstreet.com.



For further information about Totem's menswear collection, visit totembrandco.com

Last, but not least, is the men's boutique **P's and Q's**, 820 South Street, a block up from Whole Foods, and conveniently located a few steps away from Starbucks. What a great way to spend a Saturday morning: pop into P's and Q's, bang out your food shopping, then relax at the Starbucks.

LANDMARKS' PHYSICK HOUSE ROOF

Looking for Some Angels!

The Physick House, 321 South 4th Street, is one of Society Hill's elegant historic museum houses, one in desperate need of a new roof. After 50 years, the current roof is at the end of its life.

The house is owned and maintained by the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks. Its Physick House Preservation Committee has undertaken the huge task of restoring the roof. Estimates run between \$100,000 and \$125,000 and, sadly, there are few grants to be had for the maintenance of historic buildings. They intend to raise the funds through private donations, events and parties. In other words, they're looking for civic-minded angels to write a check; any amount will help.

Please make checks out to Landmarks, Physick House Roof Fund. Mail to: Physick House, 321 S. 4th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106.

For information, call 215-925-2251, press 1, then 5 (Jorja). Landmarks is a non-profit 501(c)3. Be assured that 100 percent of your donation is tax-deductible according to IRS regulations.

The house is named after Dr. Philip Syng Physick, the "Father of American Surgery," who lived there from 1815 to 1837. In the first half of the 20th century, the house came into bad times and was neglected.

In the late 1960's, the philanthropic Walter Annenberg family bought the house and did a major restoration, including a new roof. They considered using it for themselves or donating it to the city as a mayor's residence, but the city refused it. The house was eventually donated to Landmarks to use as a museum. With the help of consultants, the Annenbergs bought or obtained most of the furniture collection. Some of the collection was given or loaned by Dr. Physick's descendants. The garden was restored through funds from the Haas family (Rohm & Haas).

If you have never been inside this beautiful house, give yourself a treat and visit soon — it's open to the public Thursdays through Sundays, from 12 to 5 p.m.

August 4-8
August 11-15

Not Too Soon to Think "Summer Camp"

Young Summer Sleuths explore history, colonial crafts and fine arts, as well as taking several field trips. Participants use both the Physick and Powel Houses.

For more information, call 215-925-2251, press 1, then 5.

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For pre-order form, starting April 1, go to www.philalandmarks.org or call 215-925-2251.

All proceeds benefit the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, which supports both of our beautiful historic museum houses in Society Hill — Physick House and Powel House.

HELPFUL WINTER AND SPRING TIPS



Snow Removal – Your Responsibility

Snow in March or April? Unfortunately, it's still a possibility. So remember to clear a 36-inch path in front of your house within six hours of a snowfall. Corner properties must also clear sidewalk on the side of the house. Avoid a hefty citation.

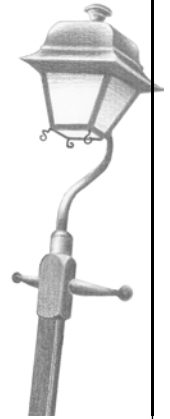
A Graffiti-Free Society Hill – Is It Possible?

You can help control this unsightly nuisance. Do you see graffiti on any public surface – poles, mailboxes or walls? SHCA has hired Graffiti Removal Experts to help. Email todd@graffitiremovealexperts.com to report a location. For private property graffiti removal, call 311 or 215-686-8686.

Keep Society Hill Bright and Safe

Our neighborhood has two light sources that can keep our sidewalks well lit after dark: our 500 Franklin Lights and our individual house front door lights. We need both for security and to see our path while walking at night.

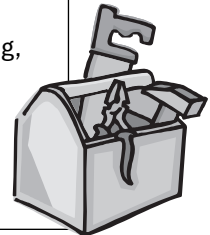
- 1** See a Franklin Light that is out or blinking? Call 311 for service.
- 2** After dark, flip the switch on your front door light, or use a timer or photo sensor to automatically turn on the light. Keep it on all night.



Get a Perk for Supporting SHCA



If you are a current SHCA member, you may request a 12-page Society Hill List of Contractors. This extensive list of contractors and services are under categories, such as general contracting, plumbing, electrical, painting and so much more. Contractors have all been highly recommended by your Society Hill neighbors. If you want a copy of this desirable list, please contact us and it will be mailed to you – sorry, not available online. This offer is for current 2014 members only. Email marthalev6@gmail.com or call 215-629-0727.



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'FIX THE BRIX'

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Have You 'Fixed Your Brix' Yet?

If you are like me and enjoy a stroll around the neighborhood for errands and pleasure, you had better look down. Unfortunately, our lovely bricks have not stayed in the same place where they were installed in the late 1960's. Even one misaligned brick can send you airborne if you're not observant.

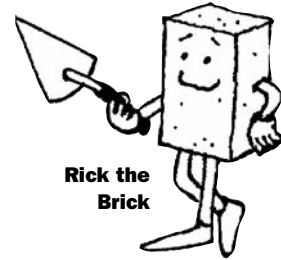
The City of Philadelphia says your front sidewalks are your responsibility, not the city's. So take a good look in front of your house, and if there is even one brick that might trip and send someone flying, have it leveled. SHCA is here to help by offering an incentive — we will reimburse 40 percent of the total invoice up to \$300 to any homeowner who has their front sidewalk leveled.

Ask us for a suggested list of masons and arborists to forward to you. Sometimes the problem is tree roots, so an arborist is needed. So far 120 households have "fixed the brix" with good results. Think of it this way: you are doing your part to make the neighborhood better and safer than ever, and SHCA is helping with a reimbursement.

Here are the simple steps to take to repair your sidewalks:

- 1** Get a few estimates from qualified masons/arborists — we have a recommended list if needed. Just ask.
- 2** Choose a contractor who suits your needs and budget.
- 3** Have the work done to your satisfaction.
- 4** After you pay the bill to your contractor, make a copy of the invoice (make sure it states front sidewalk) and mail the original to: SHCA, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147.
- 5** Receive a check from SHCA within a few weeks.

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



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MARK YOUR MARCH CALENDAR

A Guide's View of Philadelphia 2014

There are four lectures remaining in this highly acclaimed nine-part lecture series about Philadelphia history, sites, architecture, sculpture and noted residents, presented by the Association of Philadelphia Tour Guides (APT).

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. Each lecture is \$25 at the door.

Monday Evenings in March Philadelphia History Museum, 15 S. 7th Street

Monday, March 10, 6 p.m.

The Civil War and the Great Centennial

Anthony Waskie, Professor, Temple University

Monday, March 17, 6 p.m.

The Industrial City

Jeffrey Cohen, Senior Lecturer at Bryn Mawr College

Monday, March 24, 6 p.m.

The Parkway and the Modern City

David Brownlee, Professor, University of Pennsylvania

Monday, March 31, 6 p.m.

Philadelphia: Today and Tomorrow

Meryl Levitz, President and CEO of Visit Philadelphia
Alan Greenberger, Deputy Mayor for Planning

Free Afternoon Medical Speaker 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 in collaboration with the Athenaeum of Philadelphia, 219 S. 6th Street.

Programs will be held at the Athenaeum and will 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 cases of inclement weather, the Athenaeum will be closed when the Philadelphia public schools are closed.

Tuesday, March 11, 2:30 p.m.

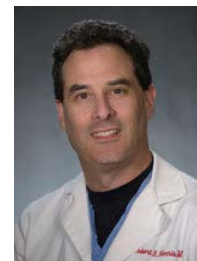
How to Prevent Heart Attacks

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

Friday, May 9, 2:30 p.m.

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



Dr. Robert B. Norris



Dr. Ronald L. Kotler

Oh, Rats!

You will be distressed to learn that the Philadelphia Rat Control Department has been informed of rat sightings in Society Hill. Calls to Philadelphia's Rat Complaint Line indicate there is a problem here. (Yes, the city does have an office dedicated to this, and the phone number is 215-685-9000.)

Washington Square also has a rodent problem, mainly caused by visitors feeding the birds and squirrels. "We keep an active eye on rodent levels in Washington Square and take steps when they reach a certain threshold, based on health and safety concerns," says Josh Heise, Integrated Pest Management Coordinator at Independence National Historical Park. "We use humane snap traps as opposed to using poison, because we're concerned about pets, as well as humans, who use the Square."

And in terms of "do's and don'ts" for visitors, Josh asks that park users not add personal trash to trash cans in Washington Square. That only fills the cans up faster, making it harder for park staff to keep them clean, and it also adds a different type of waste material, making their job even harder.



HELP KEEP US RODENT-FREE

- Do not put out food for birds, such as breadcrumbs, crackers and seeds. Birds can find plenty to eat on their own.
- Put all trash in tightly covered cans, not just in plastic bags.
- Do not discard food in your trash — use your garbage disposal instead.
- Recycling containers should be washed, leaving no food residue on them.
- Pick up after your pets. Dog excrement attracts rats.

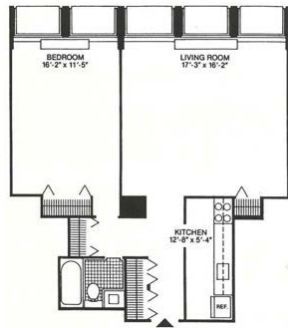
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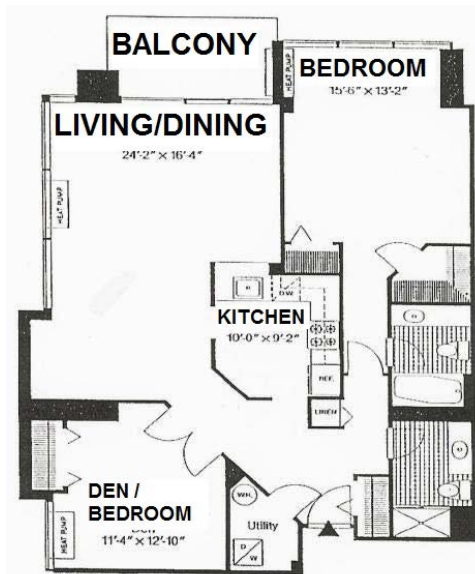
241 S. 6TH STREET

Luxury Living Around Washington Square

Beautifully updated two bedroom, two bathroom with a private balcony and intimate southeast city views. The home features wood floors; an open renovated kitchen with wood cabinetry, stainless steel appliances and a large island; and two designer bathrooms with custom appointments. \$519,900



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EXERCISE & SOCIALIZE

It has been a brutal winter in Philadelphia! Celebrate spring by joining one (or both) of our neighborhood morning walking programs.

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 throughout our 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 in!



Philly Is Walking In The Park! gathered recently for a Heart-Healthy Valentine's Day get-together at Talula's Daily, 208 W. Washington Square.

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210 WEST WASHINGTON SQUARE

**Four Bedroom Five and a Half Bath with
Treetop Views of Washington Square**

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 city views to the north, south and west. 4476 sf **\$3,995,000**



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THE CADWALADER HOUSE

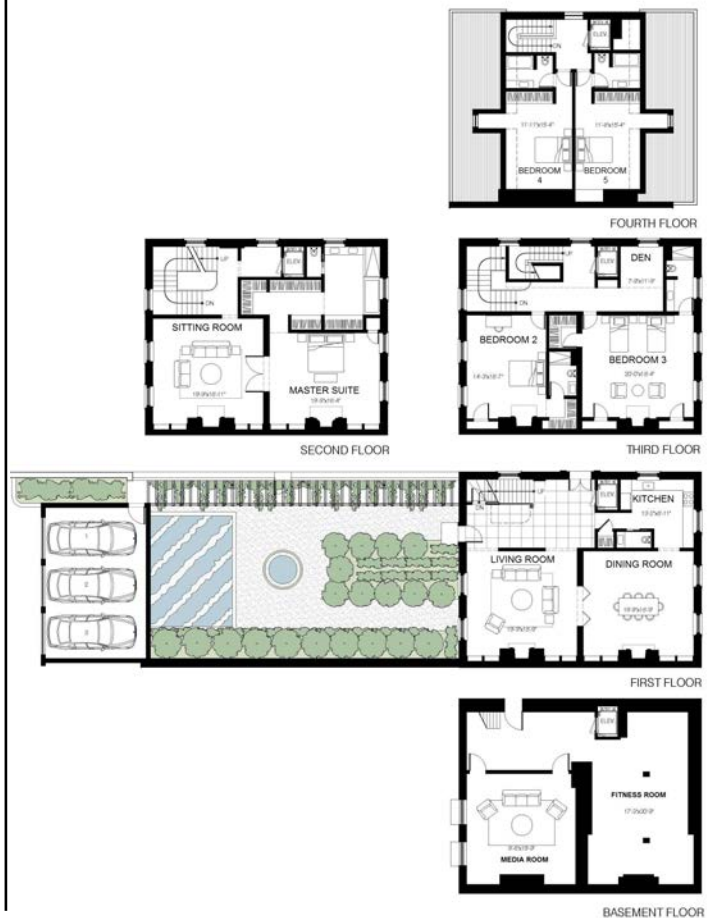
240 SOUTH 4TH STREET

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**

**THE SHIPPEN-
WISTAR HOUSE**

238 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 1700's and early 1800's. 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**



IN MEMORIAM

Carter R. Buller, Esq.

We are sad to announce the death of civic leader and attorney Carter R. Buller, who passed away on January 8 at the age of 80.

Mr. Buller was born April 21, 1933 in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and was the son of William Earl Buller, D.O., and Dorothy McCoy Buller. He was a graduate of Allentown High School and a member of the class of 1955 of the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University.

Following three years as a supply officer in the U.S. Navy, and graduation from Yale Law School in 1962, he practiced for his entire career with the law firm of Montgomery, McCracken, Walker and Rhoads. A partner of the firm, he founded and chaired the labor and employment law department, served in many management positions and guided the firm's transition from its offices on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway to its current location in the Fidelity Building at 123 South Broad Street. He was particularly proud to represent Bryn Mawr College, the Budd Company and Mack Trucks, whose plant in Allentown was near his boyhood home.

Mr. Buller was active in city politics and fully engaged with civic life, serving as chair of the Committee of Seventy, the Society Hill Civic Association and, per the request of then-Mayor Rendell, the Philadelphia Orchestra Millenium Task Force, following the orchestra's labor action in 1996. He also served as chair of the board of trustees of Methodist Hospital, where he received the 1998 Dr. Scott Stewart Award for service, and was trustee and trustee emeritus of Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, where he took great pleasure in addressing the intricacies of healthcare administration and working with exceptional colleagues.

A noted equestrian, Mr. Buller spent a year away from law school in 1959 training for the 1960 Olympics, where he and his horse, "Stay Put," served as an alternate for the U.S. Equestrian team.

World-wide travel with his family, historic preservation, music, outdoor life, antiques, farms and fine clothes were his great interests; his family, friends and sense of civic responsibility were his deepest passions.

A gentle man of refinement, generosity, integrity, patience, laughter and enjoyment of others, Mr. Buller is survived by his wife of 49 years, Jo Ann, his twin children Valerie (Kenneth Wilson) and Pierce (Amber), his granddaughters Josephine and Clara Buller, and his brother Roderic Buller (Marie).

In lieu of flowers, donations in Mr. Buller's name may be sent to the Jefferson Foundation of Thomas Jefferson University and Hospitals, the Eagles Mere Conservancy, the Philadelphia Orchestra or the American Philosophical Society.



Carter R. Buller, 1933-2014

PIER 53 PROJECT



A South Philadelphia resident remembers his Sicilian grandfather living in the Italian Market area and making his own wine; a young Norwegian girl becomes a lady's maid, works with a family in Rittenhouse Square and marries a Danish sailor; an Irish teenager labors hard at a variety of jobs until he gets enough money to buy a bar in Kensington, and then becomes involved in local politics.

These are some of the stories collected to date for the Pier 53 Project.

From the 1870's to the mid-1920's, Pier 53 at Washington Avenue Green was the Ellis Island of Philadelphia, welcoming about a million immigrants into the United States. And each one has a story.

Do you know if your ancestors are among them? And would you like to share that story?

For more details, about how you can participate, check out www.washingtonavenuegreen.com. Click on Pier 53 Project, the rightmost link on the menu bar.

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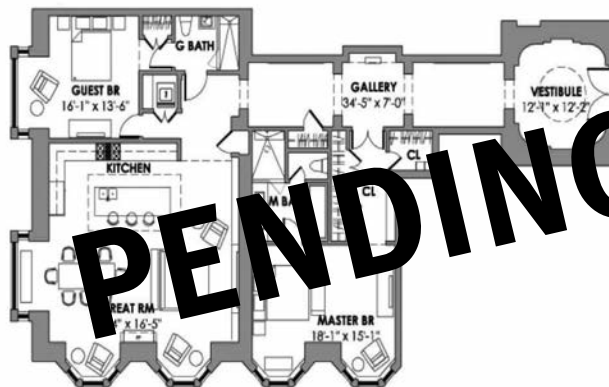
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421 CHESTNUT STREET

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\$539,900



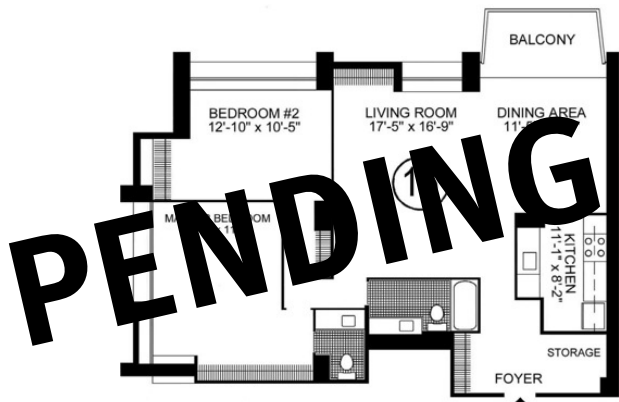
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604 S. WASHINGTON SQUARE

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



MEMBERSHIP

2014 Membership Drive Picks Up Steam



**New neighbors
Ron & LuAnn Brady**

Congratulations to **Mike Cibik** and **Ron and LuAnn Brady**, winners of SHCA's two drawings for \$100 gift certificates to local restaurants! Their names were chosen at random from the 772 members who returned their annual renewal before December 31.

The Brady couple purchased their home on South 2nd Street in January 2013 and, after nine months of renovations, moved in last August. Both are health care administrators. Ron works for a Catholic company based in Baltimore, and LuAnn is employed by Penn Medicine: University of Pennsylvania Health System.

The two enjoy taking care of their new house, exercising, reading, watching the Baltimore Ravens and spending time at their second home on the eastern shore of Maryland.

What they most enjoy about Society Hill is its amazing history, nearby restaurants (they're using their gift certificate to go to Amada), walking to everywhere they need to go and friendly neighbors. They think it's important to support SHCA, because it gives them an opportunity to take an active part in their new community and support both historic preservation and neighborhood development.

If you see Ron or LuAnn out and about with their two wonderful dogs, Olive and Rocky, say "hi" and welcome them to Society Hill.

Our harsh February weather has prevented a trip to the post office before the *Reporter* deadline. As of January 31, membership stood at 804 with 53 new members.

We invite each of Society Hill's more than 2,600 households to join SHCA. With your support, in addition to many neighborhood improvement projects, we will give you graffiti control, weekly sidewalk cleaning, and the beautification of our beloved Washington Square. We will advocate on your behalf regarding zoning changes, real estate taxes, casino development, street lighting, and more. You are also guaranteed a personal invitation to each of our social events.

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

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:

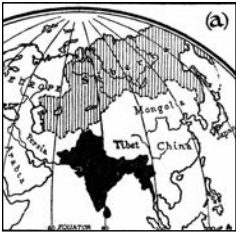
Society Hill Civic Association
P.O. Box 63503
Philadelphia, PA 19147



NIFTY NEIGHBORS IN MY BACKYARD

BY JANE BIBERMAN

From India to Society Hill

The journey
of the Musleah
family

“From the outset in the 17th century, and in each successive generation, we have maintained our distinctive traditions,” says Rabbi Ezekiel Musleah, whose family was “born in Bagdad, nurtured in India and matured in America.” The words of his great-grandfather have been passed down religiously: “Don’t change your name. Don’t break Shabbat. And be scrupulous about moral and ethical norms.”

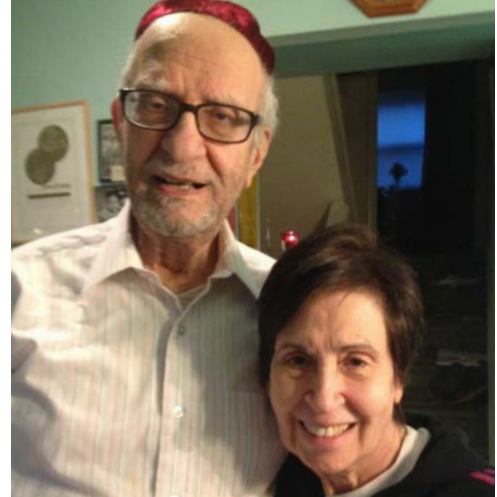
Rabbi Musleah carried out those admonitions as he traveled from Calcutta to New York and back again and then continued his journey to Philadelphia, which has been his home since 1964. “My family’s slogan is, ‘In the Name of God we will work and be successful.’”

In 1820, the Musleah family emigrated from Bagdad, where it had lived for decades. “In the early days in India, we pursued business and part of the family became very wealthy,” he says. Their business enterprise was two-fold: the export of opium to China, and the export of indigo.

“The other part of the family were importers on a smaller scale to and from the Far East and Europe,” says Rabbi Musleah. “My great-grandfather, Eliyahu Yosef Musleah, was the keen entrepreneur who dealt in wines, perfume, glassware and china. His hobby was to add to the family’s religious and domestic artifacts — Passover plates and decanters, prayer books and other books for Jewish study. Five generations lived and died in Calcutta. Four more live in America.”

Seated at the dining-room table with his wife, Margaret, whom he obviously adores, Rabbi Musleah shares chapters of his early life. With his father’s blessing, he studied for the rabbinate at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. After ordination, he returned to Calcutta to serve the tiny Jewish population there. He met and married Margaret, whose paternal ancestors shared similar roots in Bagdad. But as the Jews of India immigrated to Israel and the United States, the rabbi and his wife decided to settle in Philadelphia with their three daughters.

For 15 years, Rabbi Musleah served as religious leader of Mikveh Israel. He moved to Society Hill when the congregation moved from North Broad Street into new quarters on 5th Street. One of the highlights of his tenure was an invitation to the White House by President Gerald Ford in



July 1976 to commemorate the Bicentennial of the United States. “Mikveh Israel is older than the Declaration of Independence,” explains Rabbi Musleah, who has a framed photograph of the occasion on his living-room wall.

Today the rabbi is Torah reader at Beth Zion-Beth Israel, off Rittenhouse Square, and he arranges Jewish divorce (*get*) in the Conservative movement’s Beit Din. Margaret, who worked for many years as executive secretary to Allan Shaftel, former director of operations at the Federation of Jewish Agencies, now spends her retirement as a homemaker and assistant to her husband who is a prolific writer. His most recent book is *Bits and Pieces: Snitches and Snatches From a Lifetime of Thoughts, Anecdotes and Events*, published in 2011.

The Musleah home is filled with fascinating family artifacts and Judaica, such as ancient menorahs and ketubot (wedding certificates) and photographs of their family. It is a kosher home and Margaret loves shopping for fresh fruit and vegetables — at the Italian Market and Whole Foods in winter and Head House Square farmers’ consortium in summer.

Why do they love Society Hill? “We don’t really go to the movies or theater,” says Margaret, “but we love the fact that our home is so conveniently located.”

No more trips to India are planned, but the Musleahs travel frequently to New York and New Jersey, where their daughters and their grandchildren live — all carrying on the family traditions into future generations.

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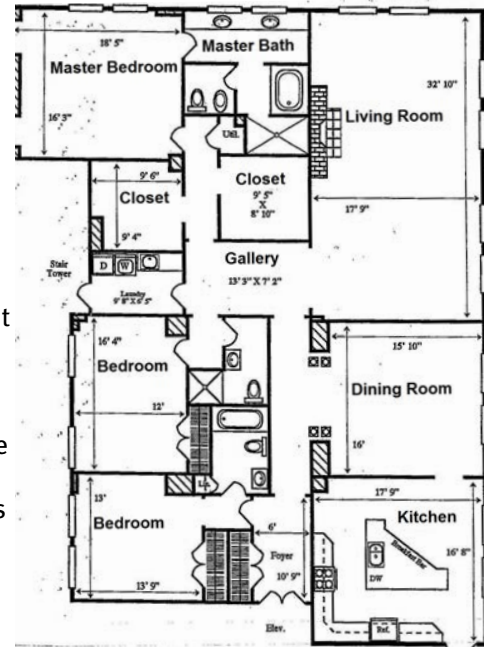
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