



SOCIETY HILL

# Reporter

www.societyhillcivic.org

## Master Plan Kick-Off



*Best wishes for a joyous holiday season and a healthy, happy New Year!*

The Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) invites all neighbors to the General Membership Meeting on November 16, which will feature a kickoff meeting with the Philadelphia-based urban planning firm, KSK.

SHCA selected KSK to create this master plan for Society Hill, which will evaluate our neighborhood from the Delaware River to 8th Street and from Walnut to Lombard Streets. This evaluation will consider appropriate zoning and future development, as well as suggested improvements and maintenance plans for all buildings, parks and open space. Community input is vital to the success of this plan.

The Steering Committee interviewed three firms highly qualified to do the Master Plan before unanimously selecting KSK, a firm headed up by architect and planner John Gibbons. KSK has teamed up with Urban Partners, a consulting firm headed by preservationist/architect/planner John Gallery and economic consultant James Hartling, as well as Viridian Landscape Studio, landscape design consultants headed by Tavis Dockwiller. KSK and Urban Partners produced a very successful plan for the Logan Square

Neighborhood Association, a far larger and possibly more complex area.

All stakeholders in our neighborhood must be identified first, so that each group can have a voice in the planning. Some stakeholders our committee has identified are: residents of town homes, condominiums and apartments; religious institutions and schools; and non-profits such as Pennsylvania Hospital, the Physick and Powell Houses and the Athenaeum. In addition, we value the input from business owners, as well as Independence National Historic Park, which owns Washington Square and the Magnolia and Rose Garden parks. We welcome, also, the participation of owners and stakeholders of open spaces and memorials such as Harbor Park, the Vietnam War Memorial, Foglietta Plaza, Three Bears Park and Head House Square.

We are very excited to introduce the team to you on Wednesday, November 16 at 7:30 p.m. at Pennsylvania Hospital's Zubrow Auditorium, located on the first floor inside the main entrance at 8th Street near Spruce. Please come with your neighbors and any questions you may have about the Master Plan timeline or process.

<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>MARK YOUR CALENDAR</b>	<b>DECK THE DOORS</b>
November <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">16</span>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Society Hill Civic Association Meetings</b> Wednesday, November 16, 2016</p> <p><b>Pennsylvania Hospital</b> <b>8th and Spruce Streets</b></p> <p><b>Board of Directors Meeting</b> Pennsylvania Great Court Conference Room All SHCA members are welcome.</p> <p><b>General Membership Meeting</b> Pennsylvania Hospital Zubrow Auditorium All neighborhood residents are invited to attend.</p> <p><b>Topic:</b> A Master Plan for Society Hill</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> KSK, Philadelphia-based urban planning firm</p> <p><b>Also:</b> Hall Mercer, Pennsylvania Hospital Mental Health Center</p>	

Bonnie Halda photo

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SOCIETY HILL

*Reporter*



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Find past issues in color at [www.societyhillcivic.org](http://www.societyhillcivic.org).

**Submissions**

If you have news that would be of interest to Society Hillers, email Sandra Rothman at [sandra.rothman@aol.com](mailto:sandra.rothman@aol.com). Materials must be submitted in writing and include the name of a contact person. Edited submissions will be considered for publication if space permits. Letters to the Editor must be signed, with contact information.

**SHCA Mission Statement**

The aims and purposes of SHCA are to promote the improvement of the Society Hill area of Philadelphia, including its cultural, educational and civic activities, and the preservation and restoration of its historic buildings; to represent the residents of Society Hill in matters affecting the City of Philadelphia generally and Society Hill in particular; and to interpret the value and significance of Society Hill to the public.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY ROSANNE LOESCH

# Preserving the Unique Historic Character of our Community for Future Generations

Please come out for our General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, November 16 to meet KSK, the outstanding urban planning firm selected to do a Master Plan for Society Hill (read more on the front page). Your participation in the master planning process is critical to its success.

We anticipate continued pressures for development even in a neighborhood such as ours that is already in large part fully developed. This could take the form of filling in what is now open space or building higher structures or denser structures, as is now allowed in the new zoning code, or through the process of obtaining a variance. The need for variances was supposed to be mostly eliminated by the new zoning code. It was one of the stated primary purposes of reforming the code. However, while there has been an overall reduction in the number of variances being requested, to our chagrin, they are still occurring with high frequency, especially for larger projects. In addition, no special consideration was given to overlays for historic neighborhoods such as ours.

The Zoning Commission concluded that the Historic Commission review process, which all new building or exterior renovation in historic districts such as Society Hill must undergo, was enough of a protection. However, many in the historic preservation community are not sure that this is enough. Our overriding goal, therefore, in determining future development is to make sure that the unique and historic character of a community we value so much is preserved for future generations. In addition, there are corners of our neighborhood that could be made even better, and we hope by engaging in this planning process KSK can help us propose plans to upgrade these areas.

We look forward to meeting with you on November 16.

**Rosanne Loesch** is an attorney and former president of SHCA. She, her husband and two children have lived in an historic house on Spruce Street since 2002 and, before that, lived for 14 years in the Washington Square West neighborhood.



**Rosanne Loesch, SHCA President**

## FIOS INSTALLATION PROGRESSES

Verizon has begun work to deliver Fios capability at the request of individual homeowners in Society



**Work on American Street**

Hill. Residents may choose between connections made under the sidewalk or else "daisy chain" connections made through adjoining basements, with the agreement of all homeowners in a block. Unless a daisy chain is agreed upon, connections will be made under the sidewalks.

Senior Engineering Manager Brian Magee has visited many of the homes that qualify for the Daisy Chain Project. Laura Lippincott is now

assisting him. You may be hearing from Laura as the project moves forward, and Verizon schedules site visits to place duct, fiber or both in basements. Laura can be reached at 215-591-6495 or [laura.m.lippincott@verizon.com](mailto:laura.m.lippincott@verizon.com). Feel free to contact her with questions or concerns.

Remember that each day the company will excavate only as much as can be completed that day; sidewalks will not be left disturbed overnight.

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

### Start Holidays Early with Friends & Neighbors

Mark your calendars! All SHCA members are invited to the **Annual Holiday Social on Tuesday, December 6** from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Bridget Foy's, 200 South Street, 3rd floor. The \$15 cover includes hors d'oeuvres. A cash bar is available and \$5 wine will be available.



RSVP by Friday, December 2 with your payment, in order to provide the restaurant with an accurate account. Make check out to SHCA and mail to SHCA, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147.

If you wish to attend and are not yet a member, join by filling out the form on page 25 or visit [societyhill.org](http://societyhill.org). Please email [Mattdejulio@aol.com](mailto:Mattdejulio@aol.com) with your questions.

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## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

## Fall Clean-Up Day

Winter is around the corner. With it comes the ice and snow that make our sidewalks dangerous for pedestrians. Add accumulated leaves and litter, and the bricks and cobblestones become especially treacherous. So let's roll up our sleeves, get out the brooms and rakes and join our neighbors for Fall Clean-Up Day on Saturday, November 12. This year, sweeper trucks will be on the streets on Friday evening, November 11, to pre-clean before cars are moved to the alternate side.

We ask you to sweep around your house and on your block. Remember to get those gutters cleared, as well as nearby walkways and alleys, before the city's sweeper trucks come back sometime between 8 a.m. and noon. Consider stepping up to the plate if you notice your neighbor is away or a rental property needs a little TLC. And let's not forget Three Bears Park! It's worth noting that because of city budget cuts, SHCA is picking up half of the bill for the sweeper trucks this year. State Representative Michael O'Brien is paying for the shredding services and staff from his office will be there to answer any and all questions. Trash bags will be available, handed out by SHCA's Clean-Up Day volunteers, at the South 5th Street Acme Market, from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Your bagged leaves and street litter, but no household trash, should be left by noon at intersections on Locust, Spruce, Pine, or Lombard Streets, where they cross the numbered streets.

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

— leaving the south side of these streets available for congregants to park their cars. All streets will be swept from Front to 8th and from Chestnut to Lombard Streets.

There will be no parking on either side of the 300 and 400 blocks of Front Street or the 200 and 300 blocks of 2nd Street and Lawrence Court. Although "Other Side Parking" signs will generally read "from 6 p.m. Friday until 3 p.m. Saturday," Society Hill's Block Coordinators are encouraged to remove these signs as near to 1 p.m. as possible — in order to permit cars to be moved back to their usual side of the street between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. and prevent those cars from getting ticketed.

### Shredding and Recycling

St. Peter's School Parking Lot  
3rd and Lombard Streets  
November 12, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
(earlier if the truck reaches capacity)

SHCA is sponsoring paper-shredding and electronic recycling services on the November 12 Clean-Up Day. The shredding service is for the convenience of Society Hill residents only — sorry, no businesses. It is only for confidential materials; non-confidential papers should be recycled, not shredded.

- Only paper is accepted. No CDs or disks.
- Electronic recycling will take anything with a plug, except televisions and computer monitors.
- No large appliances like refrigerators or washing machines. Also, no smoke detectors are accepted.

If you use these special services and are not yet an SHCA member, please consider joining SHCA by simply filling out the form, either on page 25 of this newsletter or online at [societyhillcivic.org](http://societyhillcivic.org). Any questions? Call 215-629-1288.



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## BIKE LANE OPINIONS EXPRESSED

## Residents Speak Out About Delineator Posts

Over 150 neighbors packed Pennsylvania Hospital's Zubrow Auditorium at SHCA's September general membership meeting. Jeannette Brugger, Pedestrian and Bike Coordinator for the City of Philadelphia, gave a power point presentation about the proposed delineator posts along Philadelphia's bike lanes, including those on Spruce and Pine Streets. The plan is in its very early stages and the City is reaching out to neighborhoods for feedback.

Not only did the audience have an opportunity to learn more about the initiative, but Jeannette also welcomed their comments and questions. It appeared that the majority of the audience was in favor of bike lanes, with some neighbors noting how bikes have cut down on motor vehicle traffic in our community.

Residents voiced their concerns about the narrowness of Pine and Spruce Streets, compared to other streets in the city with bike lanes.

Widths of our streets are 25 and 27 feet with three lanes: a park lane, a travel lane and a bike lane. The installation of delineator posts would complicate or prevent vital temporary parking and cause traffic congestion and safety risks for tasks as important as loading or unloading children and the elderly, since many of our homes have no rear access. The audience offered many more examples of cause for concern: parcel deliveries, trash collection, emergency vehicles, and snow removal were some. There was also some discussion about how these posts could be unsightly, as well as inappropriate, for a historic district such as Society Hill. There was broad consensus among residents that bike lane delineators will not work for Spruce and Pine Streets.

All in all, it was a good exchange between our residents and the city's representative. SHCA will continue to work for what we all think is best for Society Hill and will keep you well-informed regularly.

## GETTING INVOLVED

## Many Ways to Support McCall School

General George A. McCall Elementary School, 325 S. 7th Street, serves over 700 children living in Society Hill, Washington Square West, Old City and Chinatown, from kindergarten through eighth grade.

Dynamic principal Rose Rock leads McCall School, aided by a strong Home and School Association (HSA) led by President Laurel Landau. The HSA, which has 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, serves as a liaison among parents, students and administration and handles the school's fundraising efforts. In recent years, in light of the limited budget, HSA has replaced a badly damaged playground safety surface, funded the librarian's position, brought much technology into the school and provided textbooks and workbooks. It also recently hosted the Fourth Annual Casino Night & Silent Auction and raised over \$40,000! We were thrilled to have so many neighborhood attendees.

McCall thanks Society Hill Civic Association and its members for their ongoing support. Because of generous contributions, McCall is able to offer its students tremendous opportunities and remain one of the top schools in Philadelphia.

**If you are able, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to our Annual Campaign.**

Make a check out to "McCall Home & School Association" and send to McCall Elementary School, ATTN: McCall Home & School Association, 325 South 7th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106 or contribute online at [www.meetingmccall.com/donate/](http://www.meetingmccall.com/donate/).

**Here are other easy ways to help McCall:**

**Shoparoo:** Download the Shoparoo app onto your phone. Simply scan your grocery receipts and Shoparoo donates money back to the school.

**Box Tops:** Clip and collect "Box Tops for Education," which are on many common household brands like General Mills, Hefty and Ziploc and bring them to the school.

**Amazon:** Many Amazon purchases made through [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) are eligible for a percentage donation to McCall. Just make sure you select "McCall Home & School Association" as your charitable organization of choice.

For questions or to volunteer at the school, please contact Laurel Landau at [president@meetingmccall.com](mailto:president@meetingmccall.com).



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## KEEPING POSTED

BY AL CAVALARI

## Grave Doubts About Betsy Ross

This postcard from 1935 shows the second resting place of Betsy Ross at Mount Moriah Cemetery, near Cobbs Creek in southwest Philadelphia. So where is the first place, you might ask? And is there a third grave site?

Initially, Betsy was interred in the Free Quaker Burial Grounds at North Fifth Street. She was one of the last members of a congregation known as the "fighting Quakers," those who could not reconcile themselves to the Quaker principals of pacifism when the need to defend the country against the British arose.

It's uncertain why her remains were removed from this cemetery and reinterred at Mount Moriah twenty years after her death in 1836. Fortunately, for those who wish to pay their respects, her body, or what remained of it, was again moved in 1976 to the courtyard of the Betsy Ross House, 239 Arch Street.

Hidden City Philadelphia reports that city officials decided to move the Ross grave to Old City for



**Betsy Ross's second grave site, is in Mount Moriah Cemetery near Cobbs Creek in southwest Philadelphia.**

the Bicentennial Celebration in 1976. They found no remains under her stone and so continued to dig out a large area of the family plot, until the first bones found were declared to belong to Betsy Ross. Today, the Mount Moriah site is marked with a bare flagpole.

**Al Cavalari** is a certified member of the Association of Philadelphia Tour Guides and gives tours as a volunteer for the National Park Service. For a day job he operates The Flag Guys, a flag business in upstate New York.

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## STEPPING BACK IN TIME

BY SANDRA ROTHMAN

## Progressive Play at Starr Garden

Society Hill is a neighborhood built on layers of history, made visible by the historic artifacts all around us. Some, like the Shambles at 2nd and Pine Streets or the Man Full of Trouble Tavern at 2nd and Spruce Streets, unambiguously declare their place in our history with their architectural presence. Others are not so obvious.

Take, for instance, Starr Garden Playground at 600 Lombard Street. The colorful murals, whimsical sculpture and play equipment locate it solidly in the twenty-first century. A deeper examination, however, tells a story that unites White and African American activists in their quest to improve the lives of children caught up in the worst problems associated with industrial and urban change. Guiding and informing this pursuit was a Progressive-era undertaking known as the American Playground Movement.

### Children and the Industrial Revolution

In the years that followed the Civil War, the United States emerged as an industrial giant with a labor force of millions of newly arrived immigrants and vast numbers of families migrating from rural areas to cities like Philadelphia in search of job security and prosperity.

The jobs available required long hours and offered little pay. Often every able family member had to work simply to keep the family above the poverty level — including children as young as three. These small children endured some of the harshest situations, including long work hours and dangerous conditions.

Working children were quite visible to the public in the second half of the nineteenth century and the first decades of the twentieth. They caught the attention of photographers and journalists and incurred the moral outrage of middle-class reformers. It eventually became the view that school augmented by play, not exploitive work, should be the domain of childhood.

### The American Playground Movement

The American Playground Movement was a reaction to the problems that resulted from this rapid immigration, industrialization and urbanization. Shaping this response were new theories in child psychology, education and medicine that claimed play was essential to child development.

Although Philadelphia had its share of outdoor play spaces, including a six-acre state-of-the-art



*A walking tour through local history.*

**A group of children playing on a see-saw, Starr Centre Association of Philadelphia, c. 1920**

Children's Playground in Fairmount Park, they did not meet the movement's definition of "real" playgrounds because they lacked trained leaders who could ensure that play became a vehicle for moral and social transformation. It was, therefore, play's potentially transformative powers that provided the movement's driving force.

### Theodore Starr

Now we must travel back in time to meet a young philanthropist named Theodore Starr. Recognized as a keen businessman, Starr had a deep commitment to poor African American and immigrant families living in Philadelphia's fourth, fifth and seventh wards. His concern for their social welfare led to the development of a number of enterprises, including public playgrounds and children's gardens. What was unique in Starr's philosophy was the intentional inclusion of the African American community and its leaders in the advance of those initiatives.

### The African American Community

This neighborhood, on the edge of today's Society Hill, was of historical importance to African American life in Philadelphia. Since 1787 it had been the home to a landmark Black-led organization, Mother Bethel African Methodist Church. A variety of other churches and Black-owned businesses kept the area vital to the social, political, economic and intellectual life of African American Philadelphia.

One of its esteemed leaders, Reverend Henry Phillips, encouraged Starr to invest in the neighborhood. Starr participated directly in establishing the Progressive Workingmen's Club, a social club for Black men. It's believed that his interaction with the children of the club members

*continued on page 13*



**Theodore Starr (1841-1884) was eulogized by Reverend Henry Phillips as "One of God's noblemen. Among a host of philanthropists, he was one of the few who not only possessed a good heart, but that common sense which it is so absolutely necessary to have, if any permanent good is to result..."**  
Delivered at The Church of the Crucifixion, 620 South 8th Street, 1887

# Hello Neighbors and Happy Fall!

The dust has finally settled and I am excited to call Society Hill "HOME". After 10 wonderful years in a condo on Rittenhouse Square, I was ready to cross Broad Street and find a brownstone in this lovely neighborhood! After only a month, I have been welcomed by many wonderful neighbors, made the Sunday Farmers Market one of my weekly routines, morning coffee trips to Milk and Honey, movies at The Ritz and indulged in delicious dinners at Fork, Mustard Greens, Serpico and more!

In the past 12 years I have represented many buyers and sellers in this historic neighborhood and hope to continue doing so! You may have received a custom quarterly market update mailed to your home and if not, I am happy to add you to my mailing list. It's a terrific piece about what is happening in the Philadelphia Market and I think you will enjoy it!

Wishing you all a fabulous fall and holiday season!

*-Kristen*

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STEPPING BACK IN TIME

continued from page 11

caused him to shift the focus of his charitable work specifically in the direction of African American children.

**A Quaker's Role**

Anna Hallowell, an elite Philadelphia Quaker activist, had shown an interest in African American education when, as a fifteen-year-old girl, she began teaching Black children in her backyard on Sunday afternoons. When, in her early forties, Hallowell began to focus her efforts on the establishment of free kindergartens, African American children were among those included in the first programs.

Hallowell began her collaboration with Theodore Starr when she chose to establish a kindergarten program in a building he owned on the 700 block of what is now Rodman Street. In 1882, Starr spearheaded the transformation of an adjoining trash heap on a vacant lot into a playground and park for the kindergarten. It ran parallel to Lombard Street from 5th to 8th Streets and was located in an area crowded with tenement buildings, backing up to a soap factory.

Named Starr Garden Park, it was the seed of the future Starr Garden Playground, which opened in 1904 and was Philadelphia's first municipal playground and recreation center. Starr left the property to Hallowell when he died in 1884, at the age of forty.

Starr Garden expanded through the condemnation and demolition of nearby homes and buildings, a common method of playground development. By 1905, when another Quaker philanthropist, Susan Wharton, claimed Starr Garden as "Philadelphia's first real playground," it encompassed an entire city block.

Today, Starr Garden Playground continues to serve our neighborhood with its Little League



Outdoor playground recreation was incorporated into the curriculum of school across the Philadelphia area, including the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind (later renamed the Overbrook School for Blind Children). (Library of Congress)

baseball diamond, two basketball courts, jungle gym and colorfully painted recreation center.

**Sandra Rothman**, a retired educator for the School District of Philadelphia, is the editor-in-chief of the Reporter.

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--	---

☎ RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED ☎

OUT AND ABOUT

## Why Join SHCA?

SHCA is committed to promoting the improvement of our neighborhood, including its cultural, educational and civic activities, as well as the preservation and restoration of its historic buildings. Part of its mission is to represent its

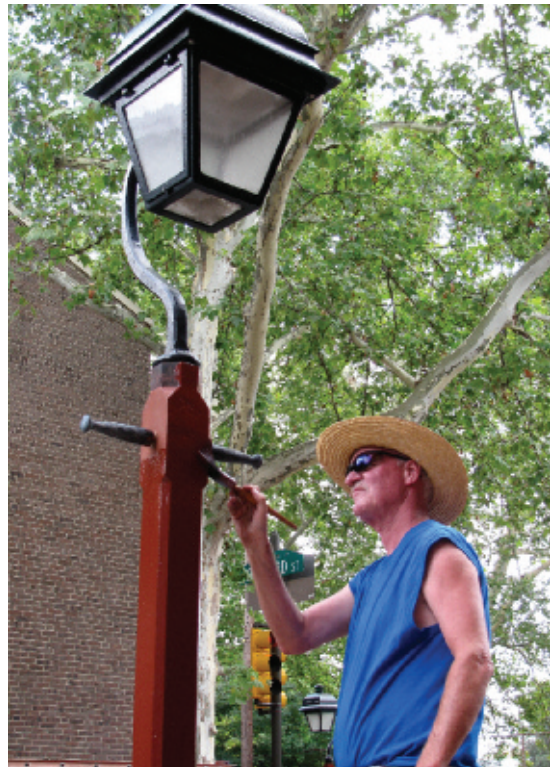
2,600 households, including yours, in matters affecting the City of Philadelphia generally and Society Hill in particular. See for yourself how member dues help to enhance our community. Then go to page 25 to learn how to join.



**SHCA pays for immediate removal of graffiti on our public spaces.**



**SHCA holds six general membership meetings yearly to provide information about neighborhood issues and foster community spirit. Here, residents voice opinions about the bike lane delineators being considered for Pine and Spruce Streets.**



**Walking at night became a brighter prospect thanks to the Association's Franklin Lights Project, which doubled the illumination on our sidewalks.**



**SHCA has presented more than 780 Welcome Baskets over the years, introducing newcomers to cultural opportunities, businesses, and services.**



**SHCA provides funds and volunteers to help keep Washington Square beautiful for visitors and residents. Sissy Lipton is seen overseeing neighbors who are planting annuals.**



**SHCA's "Fix the Brix" program, offering a subsidy for repair of uneven sidewalks, has made our community safer and more attractive. More than 183 homeowners have received \$45,167 in subsidies since 2009.**

OUT AND ABOUT



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



Every spring, SHCA sponsors the Society Hill Open House and Garden Tour. This popular fundraiser shows visitors, who come from far and wide, the special and beautiful place we call home!



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



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



SHCA advocates for the preservation and restoration of its historic buildings, as well as representing the community's interests concerning zoning issues like the proposed redevelopment at 309 South 5th Street.



SHCA negotiated 40 resident parking spaces on Front Street, below South, for neighbors to lease on a monthly basis.



Past, present and future — we keep neighbors informed with the Reporter that is delivered free to every household in our community. American Revolutionary War soldier Joe Becton can also sign up for our weekly email Newsletter and Crime Report to stay on top of local events of interest.



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because I feel  
so lucky  
to live here.*



## ON OUR SHELF

BY RICHARD DE WYNGAERT

## Richard's Holiday Picks

The Gift-Giving Season is upon us, and with it comes the challenge of finding the perfect book for everyone on your list. Here are some of my favorites to help you in your search. Happy hunting and Happy Holidays!

**Fiction****Moonglow** by Michael Chabon

Unfolding as a deathbed confession, this is a tale of madness, of war and adventure; of sex, desire and love; of existential doubt; and of the destructive impact and the creative power of lies. Spellbinding.

**The Mothers: A Novel** by Brit Bennett

Set within a contemporary Black community in Southern California, Brit Bennett's mesmerizing first novel is an emotionally perceptive story about community, love and ambition.

**To the Bright Edge of the World** by Eowyn Ivey

In the winter of 1885, decorated war hero Colonel Allen Forrester leads a small band of men on an expedition that has been deemed impossible: to venture into the vast, untamed Alaska Territory.

**History****Time Travel: A History** by James Gleick

A mind-bending exploration of time travel: its subversive origins, its evolution in literature and science, and its influence on our understanding of time itself.

**Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race** by Margot Lee Shetterly

The phenomenal true story of women at the leading edge of the feminist and civil rights movement, whose calculations helped fuel

America's greatest achievements in space.

**The Book: A Cover-To-Cover Exploration of the Most Powerful Object of Our Time** by Keith Houston

A revelation of all the stuff from which a book is made, and a rich story of civilizations, empires, human ingenuity and madness. The momentous and surprising history behind humanity's most important and universal information technology.

**Business**

**In the Company of Women: Inspiration and Advice from Over 100 Makers, Artists, and Entrepreneurs** by Grace Bonney

Interviews from over 100 influential and creative women of all ages, races and backgrounds. It's chock-full of practical, inspirational advice.

**Art**

**Intimate Geometries: The Art and Life of Louise Bourgeois** by Robert Storr

With more than 1,000 illustrations, this book comprehensively surveys an immense oeuvre unmatched in depth.

**Travel****Atlas Obscura** by Joshua Foer

A gorgeous, inspiring collection — equal parts wonder and wanderlust. It celebrates the most curious destinations around the globe with compelling descriptions, hundreds of photographs, charts and maps.

**Sports**

**The Baseball Whisperer: A Small-Town Coach Who Shaped Big League Dreams** by Michael Tackett

The true story of a small Iowa farm town that, over the course of several summers, became a powerhouse for collegiate baseball. Steered by vision and perseverance, an old coach brought kids in from all over the country and taught them how to become ballplayers and men.

**Cooking****Herbarium** by Caz Hildebrand

An exceptionally stylish encyclopedia of herbs designed to enrich our understanding of all their uses, from cooking to medicine. An ideal gift and a must-have for your own kitchen.

**Children**

**Cleared for Takeoff: The Ultimate Book of Flight** by Rowland White

A beautifully illustrated study of aeronautical history, beginning with Icarus.

**Some Writer!: The Story of E.B. White** by Melissa Sweet

In this stunning, fully-illustrated biography of legendary author E.B. White, Sibert medalist and Caldecott Honor winner Melissa Sweet uses White's letters, photos and mementos, as well as her original collaged art, to tell the true story of one of the most beloved authors of all time.

**The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, the Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog** by Adam Gidwitz

Crossing paths at an inn, 13th-century travelers impart the tales of a monastery oblate, a Jewish refugee and a psychic peasant girl with a loyal greyhound who join forces to escape persecution.

**Tales from the Arabian Nights: Stories of Adventure, Magic, Love, and Betrayal** by Jo Napoli and illustrated by Christina Balit

Classic stories and dazzling illustrations of princesses, kings, sailors and genies who come to life in a stunning retelling of the Arabian folktales.

**Tomi Ungerer: A Treasury of 8 Books**

Classic picture books by the legendary author brought together in one lavish slip-cased volume.

**A Celebration of Beatrix Potter: Art and Letters**

by More Than 30 of Today's Favorite Children's Book Illustrators

2016 marks the 150th birthday of Beatrix Potter, making it the perfect time to pay tribute to the beloved author! Each illustration is accompanied by text from the artist explaining what that character means to them.

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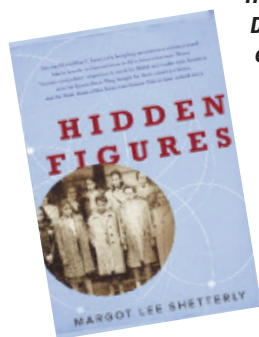
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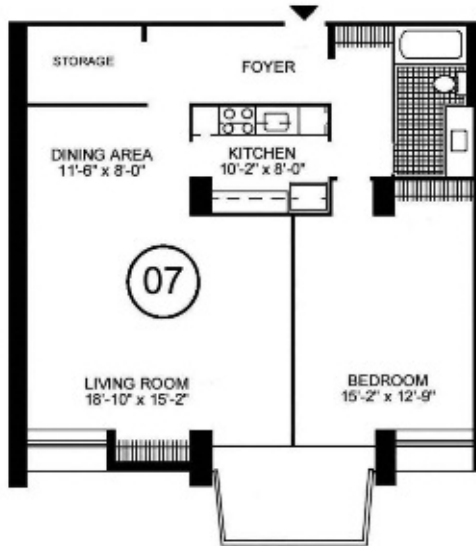


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**Richard De Wyngaert** is the owner of Head House Books, Society Hill's only local, independently owned bookstore, located at 619 South 2nd Street.



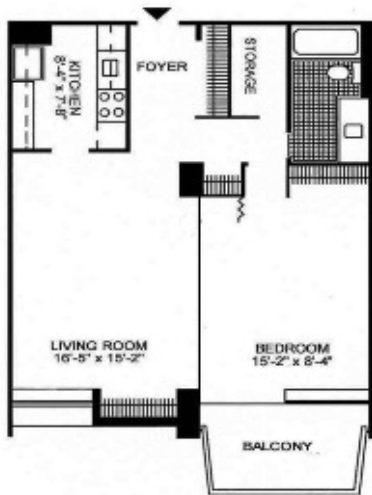
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**SAFE AND SOUND IN SOCIETY HILL**

BY MARILYN APPEL

# Welcome, Captain John J. Ryan

Captain Ryan lives in the far northeast section of Philadelphia, in a house built in 1896. His pride for his historic Somerton home has helped him be very appreciative for the history of Society Hill. The same people have occupied many of the houses in Somerton for years. In fact, he is only the fourth owner of his house, which attests to the fact that his is a very stable neighborhood.

Ryan has had a challenging and exciting 23-year career with the police. Captain Ryan started out in the 12th District before being transferred to the 17th. He spent the next eight years as a detective in the Strike Force, first investigating what's called "open air drug sales" and from there to "internal" investigations — actually buying drugs as an undercover cop. After many years of this dangerous duty, he was transferred to the Special Victims Unit, which helps victims of different kinds of crimes. In 2007, he passed the Sergeant's exam and started his rise to Captain. Ryan spent some time in South Philadelphia, went on to the 15th District and then came to us, here in the Sixth. He's had varied experiences, which makes him a well-rounded police officer. He has an open door policy, meaning he's willing to talk to you directly at 215-686-3063.

He says the Sixth District is "very challenging" with so many socioeconomic and culturally varied neighborhoods. In case you've forgotten or never knew, the Sixth goes from the North side of Lombard to the South side of Poplar and from the Delaware River to Broad Street. It includes Society Hill, Chinatown, Northern Liberties, much of the waterfront and more.

Homelessness is a big problem. The Center City population expands each day by 65,000 people coming to work, including the homeless and panhandlers. This number is increased many fold when there is a special event in Center City.

It's not an easy job and we wish him well!

**Contributions** to the Children's Christmas Fund may be sent to Officer Julie Carpenter, Sixth Police District, 11th and Winter Streets, Philadelphia PA 19107. Please, we need to make this a great Christmas for those less fortunate than ourselves.

**Cell Phones:** We're still collecting. Drop off at 414 Spruce Street.

We also need **baskets** (12" to 20" in diameter) with handles. Also drop off at 414 Spruce.



**Captain John J. Ryan**

## EXERCISE AND SOCIALIZE

Dress warmly, wear sturdy shoes and take to the sidewalks this winter

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

**"Philly Is Walking In The Park!"** meets at the fountain in the center of Washington Square, 6th and Locust Streets, 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.



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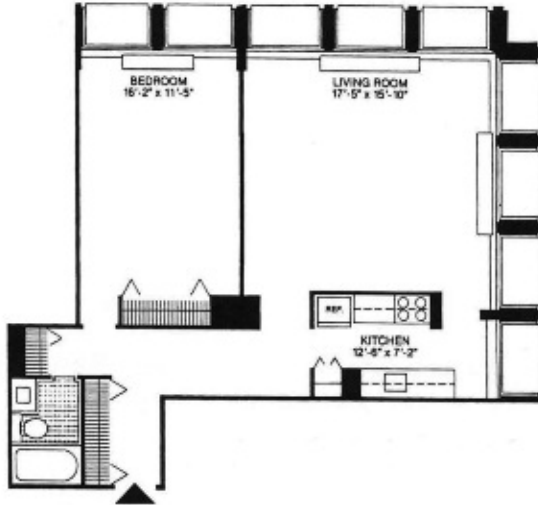
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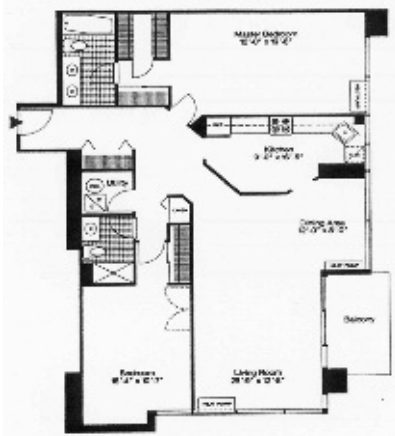
Corner one bedroom, one bathroom with a large living space boasting panoramic views of the Delaware River and South Philadelphia, tastefully updated kitchen, spacious master with a walk-in closet, 11' windows in every room, and hardwood floors throughout. 803 sf | **\$315,000**



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HEADHOUSE FARMERS' MARKET

BY KATY WICH AND LISA KELLY OF THE FOOD TRUST

# Red Brick: Locally Distilled Whiskey

The Food Trust continues to diversify its array of vendors at the Headhouse Farmers' Market. The latest addition is Red Brick Craft Distillery, a small-batch, local whiskey producer owned by Brian Forrest and Zach Cohen. Red Brick does everything from scratch and by hand, sources locally grown and malted barley and employs recipes and techniques developed over two-and-a-half years of research and testing.

The company uses four different types of malt to create their whiskeys and follows the "proofing rules" employed by producers of Kentucky Bourbon. Co-owner, General Manager and Head Distiller Brian explains, "We are not making Bourbon — that can only come from Kentucky, and it uses corn — but the method is similar and the results are excellent." Red Brick ages their whiskey in first-use, heavy char, five-gallon American white oak barrels. Brian continues, "The small size of our barrels accelerates the aging process; the whiskey spends seven to eight months in the barrels, and then we proceed with the bottling process."

Red Brick Barrel Strength, their signature whiskey, goes straight from barrel to bottle. It is aged at a robust 115 proof, producing a complex whiskey with plenty of heat and chocolate and toasted flavor overtones. Red Brick Single Malt Whiskey, at 82 proof, follows the industry standard. After the barrel aging, it is brought down to 82 proof via reverse osmosis with highly filtered water. By using the best filtration system available, the distillers at Red Brick remove elements like fluoride and chlorine from the water, which can affect the flavor of the whiskey. Both Barrel Strength Single Malt and Red Brick Single Malt will be on offer at the Headhouse Market.

Red Brick also distills white rum and pineapple rum, which are available at their distillery in Kensington, [www.redbrickcraftdistillery.com](http://www.redbrickcraftdistillery.com).

Brian describes the decision to become part of the Headhouse market: "We really are all about local, so the type of grass-roots customer base that we will meet at the Farmers' Market is a perfect fit. There was a new liquor law passed in August that allows Pennsylvania distillers to sell at Pennsylvania farmers' markets. We have since started selling at several local markets, and it's going great. We are thrilled to work with The Food Trust at the Headhouse Market."

When asked for a drink recipe Brian balked a bit: "As the distiller, it pains me to see our whiskey mixed. I think it is perfect, solo, as a nightcap or after dinner with a cigar. But people love it in a Manhattan, an Old Fashioned or a Whiskey Sour." As a unique, artisanal, local craft spirit, it is an ideal gift for the whiskey aficionado on your list, and it always makes a nice host gift.

The Headhouse Farmers' Market will continue to run Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through December 18, with the exception of Sunday, November 27. They will, however, hold a market on Wednesday, November 23, the day before Thanksgiving. Please be sure to visit your favorite merchants and stock up!



**Red Brick Whiskey is distilled in Kensington and aged in American white oak barrels.**

**The Food Trust**, in partnership with Get Healthy Philly, operates more than 25 Farmers' Markets in Philadelphia, including the Headhouse Farmers' Market, Philadelphia's largest outdoor market. For more than 20 years, The Food Trust has been working to ensure that everyone has access to affordable, nutritious food and information to make healthy decisions. For further information, visit [www.thefoodtrust.org](http://www.thefoodtrust.org).



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2,189 sf | ~~\$2,100,000~~ PRICE REDUCED \$1,750,000



3 bedroom plus den, 3 bathroom built from raw space featuring a spacious great room with a fireplace, balcony boasting sunrise city views, and adjacent dining room. There is a chef's kitchen, den with exposed brick, gorgeous hardwood floors and beautifully appointed marble bathrooms. Climb a stunning spiral staircase to the home's crown jewel, a second floor private roof deck offering city views to the north. 2,306 sf | \$1,795,000



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**SOUTH STREET HEADHOUSE DISTRICT**


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BY CLAIRE BATTEN

## Holidays, the Homeless and Safe Streets

### Winter Festivities

South Street Headhouse District (SSHD) kicks off the holiday season on Sunday, December 4, with its annual Winter Wonderland event. It's a wonderful time for friends and family to gather for music, dancing, caroling and more. Shop under the Shambles and even get photos with old St. Nick!

For the second year, SSHD will host a Hanukkah service led by Rabbi Yochonon Goldman from the Lubavitch of Center City. The first night is on December 24; a traditional service with prayer and singing will begin at dusk at 2nd and Lombard.

Fourth Friday entertainment will continue on historic Fabric Row through November and December. Vendors will be running special promotions and will be open for business for longer hours on November 25 and December 23 — perfect for last-minute holiday shopping!

### The Homeless

Many residents and businesses have approached SSHD concerning homelessness and panhandling. While we are doing everything we can to address the situation, it is important to remind people that there are limits and restrictions on what the police and city can do regarding vagrancy and panhandling in public spaces under current law and consent decrees.

We are working on a daily basis with the Office of Outreach Services, the Philadelphia Police Department and Project Home. The city's outreach workers are on the streets talking and counseling homeless people every day; you can recognize these advisors by their orange shirts. The Office of Homeless Services offers the following advice to residents in our district:

- Call Bridget at Homeless Outreach, 215-232-1984, to report people living on the streets.
- Buy a copy of the newspaper *One Step Away*. Selling this newspaper to the public offers people experiencing homelessness a meaningful opportunity to generate income. Vendors can frequently be found outside of Whole Foods, 10th and South Streets.
- Advocates suggest that you do not give money to panhandlers. Go to [www.phillysharedstreets.org](http://www.phillysharedstreets.org) to learn more and donate directly to organizations committed to ending homelessness.

The District understands the concerns about safety and vagrancy, while working to find a balance and a modicum of kindness and services for those in desperate need. Sometimes a kind word, or even just asking someone's name, helps with the societal disconnect that has trapped many homeless people. We encourage you to reach out, not with your spare change, but with your caring and concern this holiday season, as we strive to do the same.

### Keeping Our Business District Safe & Clean

SSHD has recently installed a number of new security cameras in and around Headhouse Shambles that record activity 24/7. They will enable the District to monitor the area and this public space more effectively. Thanks to the City of Philadelphia's Business Security Camera Initiative, SSHD now has facilitated the installation of more than 100 exterior security cameras on South Street and Fabric Row, more than any other business district in the city.

SSHD also works with both the Philadelphia Anti-Graffiti Network and Graffiti Removal Experts LLC to keep our district free of graffiti. Todd Kelley, founder of Society Hill-based Graffiti Removal Experts LLC, has been employed by SSHD for nearly two years to remove graffiti on a weekly basis.

Todd was also one of the people behind the control box artwork project, which led to local artists' decoration of the ugly control boxes in the Washington Square West area, but has since spread throughout our neighborhood. "I was inspired by the Mural Arts Program and wondered why we couldn't do something similar for the control boxes, which are a target for vandals because they provide a blank slate for graffiti. We involved both the University of the Arts and Paradigm Gallery, and the program has taken off. We've proactively reduced the amount of graffiti in the neighborhood." Todd can be reached via email at [todd@graffitiremovalxperts.com](mailto:todd@graffitiremovalxperts.com).

We wish you the very best and hope that you may share in the warmth of the season!

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**Claire Batten** and **Keri White** are the dynamic duo behind Philly Food lovers. They are business partners in KCC, a marketing and copy-writing agency




**Say hello to members of the cleaning crew from ACAM, who are responsible for keeping the District spotless.**


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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY MATT DEJULIO

# SHCA Membership Finishes at Another All-Time High

SHCA membership reached 1,127 by early October — an all-time high surpassing the previous high of 1,106 in 2015. This year, 144 new members gave our membership rolls a big boost, up from 140 last year. Unfortunately, 80 folks failed to renew versus 77 non-renewals last year.

Renewal notices for 2017 were mailed on November 1. Please return your annual dues as soon as possible and before December 31 if you wish to be placed in a drawing for a gift certificate to a local restaurant. New members this year who joined after July 1 will be grandfathered in through 2017.

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. All members are entitled to a **free** copy of our Guide to Historic Society Hill.


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 regarding zoning changes, real estate taxes, crime problems, ramp issues, trash receptacles, street lighting, bus re-routing, etc., it makes a greater impact if they can say they speak on behalf of the majority of residents. You are also guaranteed a personal invitation to each of our social events.

Without 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 is representative of every quadrant in our most unique historic neighborhood.

**Matt DeJulio** is a retired publishing executive. He has served SHCA as its administrator since 2001.



## 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.

<p><b>Residential Memberships</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> \$ 50 Basic Household Membership</p> <p><input type="radio"/> \$ 40 Senior/Student/Single</p> <p><input type="radio"/> \$ 100 Federal Friend</p> <p><input type="radio"/> \$ 150 Georgian Grantor</p> <p><input type="radio"/> \$ 300 Jefferson Benefactor</p> <p><input type="radio"/> \$ 500 Washington Benefactor</p> <p><input type="radio"/> \$ 1,000 Benjamin Franklin Benefactor</p>	<p><b>Business Memberships</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> \$ 100 Institutions — 5+ employees</p> <p><input type="radio"/> \$ 60 Institutions — fewer than 5 employees</p>
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**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="checkbox"/> Clean-Up Day	<input type="checkbox"/> Washington Square	<input type="checkbox"/> Zoning & Historic Preservation
<input type="checkbox"/> Franklin Lights	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Events	<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising
<input type="checkbox"/> Dilworth House	<input type="checkbox"/> Property Taxes	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Crime
<input type="checkbox"/> Reporter	<input type="checkbox"/> Casino Issues	<input type="checkbox"/> Incidents and 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

## Carol and Alan Fuchs: The Wandering Jews



**Carol and Alan Fuchs at their former home in Vermont.**

If not for their kids, Rabbi Alan Fuchs and his wife, Carol, might be living in New England. It's the usual story: "Our two sons and our five grandchildren were too far away," says Alan, who is rabbi emeritus of Congregation Rodeph Shalom on North Broad Street, where he was senior rabbi for 10 years before retiring in 1998. "We lived in Vermont and then New Hampshire for almost nine years and were very active in educational programs for the disadvantaged at Dartmouth College," explains Carol. "We loved it," she adds. "But our son, Daniel, moved to Horsham from South Carolina, and we can now drive there from Society Hill in no time." Their other son, Douglas, resides in Connecticut, which isn't far, either.

Carol and Alan have lived all over the map, together and separately. Alan was born in Patterson, New Jersey, and Carol is from Albany, New York. They met on a blind date. Alan was then a fourth-year student at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. After they were married in 1964, the young couple lived in France, where Alan served as an army chaplain. In 1968, he returned to become senior rabbi at Congregation Keneseth Israel in Elkins Park for nine years. "During that time, we lived at Blackwell Place near St. Peter's Church," says Alan. "Then we moved twice more — to Pittsburgh and Cincinnati, where I had rabbinical posts."

After almost a decade away, they bought a condo

at The Ayer on Washington Square in 2007. But that's not the end of their travels. In mid-September when I interviewed them, they had just moved a half block away to the St. James, preferring a rental in case they move yet again to a retirement community.

Sitting in their cozy apartment with wraparound views of the city and the river, there are no boxes in sight. "Our son, David, moved us in one day," Alan explains, adding, "We do have hundreds of books in boxes we plan to give to Rodeph Shalom some day." Douglas often visits with his wife and two kids. "He is police chief in Newtown and had to tell 20 families their children were never coming home from school," says Alan.

"On 9/11, Douglas was honored as a first responder at the White house," notes Alan, who attended the ceremony. He has met every president since Carter, except for George W. Bush. "I was interim rabbi at a synagogue in Chappaqua when 9/11 took place," he recounts. "At Rosh Hashanah, about 10 days later, Bill Clinton came to services and addressed the congregation. There wasn't a dry eye in the temple," he recalls.

The Fuchsés not only know the Clintons, but also are close friends with Chelsea's mother-in-law, Marjorie Margolis Mezvinsky, at whose marriage Alan officiated. Coincidentally, the Clinton-Mezvinsky engagement party was held at the St. James in Suzanne and Norman Cohns' penthouse.

Wherever he's lived, Alan has always stressed "our human and Jewish responsibilities: caring for our world, helping others, opposing ignorance and intolerance." It's an ethic shared by Carol, who has been an educator throughout their marriage. After Wheaton College, where she was president of the student body, she attended Columbia University Teachers' College and taught the deaf for several years. After her marriage, she began to tutor special needs students and ran a day care center. Today, both she and Alan are dedicated to educating the less fortunate. Carol helped Marcine Mattleman, who lives across from them on Washington Square, start Philadelphia Futures, a nonprofit organization that provides Philadelphia's low-income, first-generation-to-college students get the tools, resources and opportunities necessary for admission and success in college. "We transform lives by breaking down the barriers that have histori-

**NIFTY NEIGHBORS IN MY OWN BACKYARD**

cally excluded them from succeeding,” explains Carol. The students Philadelphia Futures serves are provided with a comprehensive, time-tested array of programs designed to reduce institutional, academic, social and financial barriers.

Carol started a summer enrichment program for students and their parents at Dartmouth. “My father’s blood ran green,” she jokes. “Many of our family members went to Dartmouth, and with a faculty and community of professors, we’ve had spectacular success since it was established 16 years ago. About 20 percent of our students have gone on to college.”

Carol is also active with Kipp Charter Schools in Philadelphia. “My passion is sponsoring and mentoring inner-city and disadvantaged kids,” she says. It’s a passion shared by Alan, who also volunteers in Kipp schools and is active with Opportunities Industrialization Centers (OIC), founded by Leon Sullivan, which offers job training primarily to African-American inner-city children who never graduated from high school. The couple has been mentoring one student for years. He graduated from high school and went on to attend Dartmouth and Yale Law School. Alan not only teaches at Dartmouth in the

summers, but also offers seminars in Bible and Judaism at Rodeph Shalom. “In Hanover, New Hampshire, a huge magnet for retirees, some 1,200 people took my classes,” he says.

When they aren’t busy volunteering, Carol and Alan may often be found at the Walnut Street Theater or the Ritz movies. They enjoy walking around the neighborhood as well as to the Kimmel for Orchestra concerts. “What I really love is Sweet Charlie’s across the street on Walnut,” confesses Carol. “Alan prefers ice cream from Trader Joe’s. It’s the only thing we fight about,” she jokes. They also like to eat Vietnamese food at 11th and Washington. Then there are all the museums — the National Museum of American Jewish History, the African American Museum and the Constitution Center with its many programs.

“Society Hill is a lovely place to live,” says Carol. There’s only one thing they dislike. “We would like to see traffic stop at stop signs,” they declare in unison, “especially at the corner of 7th and Locust Streets.” Amen!

**Jane Biberman**, freelance writer and former editor of *Inside Magazine*, has contributed to many publications.

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