

SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

www.societyhillcivic.org

Preservation of Historic Districts

The Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) is pleased to host the September General Membership meeting on Thursday, September 14 at the Pennsylvania Hospital's Zubrow Auditorium. Please note that the date was changed from the third Wednesday of the month due to the Jewish High Holidays. We invite our community to listen to architectural historian and preservation profes-

sor Aaron Wunsch share his thoughts about the importance of preserving historic districts. Aaron Wunsch is a true advocate for preservation in Philadelphia.

Neighbors might remember when concerned residents worked hard to have Society Hill become an official city historic district. The designation has helped guard our community's historical character

by requiring vigilant adherence to zoning and historic preservation standards.

Historic preservation is, unfortunately, in a free fall in Philadelphia. Despite the city's storied past, the "Birthplace of the Nation" is losing historic buildings at an alarming and accelerating rate. Various factors are responsible for this situation. They include a drastically underfunded Historical Commission; an inadequate survey of historic resources; a lack of financial incentives to place buildings on the local register; and the combined forces of recent rezoning and a 10-year tax abatement for new construction, which have created a "Wild West" environment for development.

Remember, everyone is welcome to attend our General Membership Meeting. Simply arrive at Pennsylvania Hospital's Zubrow Auditorium, located on the first floor inside the main entrance at 8th Street near Spruce, before 7 p.m. All SHCA members interested in Society Hill issues are also welcome at our monthly Board Meeting, held earlier that same evening at 5:45 p.m. in the Great Court Conference Room.

Master Plan Update

This summer we worked on finalizing the Master Plan for Society Hill, based on feedback from the community about the June presentation of the plan and the recommendations of the staff of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission (PCPC). PCPC's staff liaison to our Master Plan Committee has been Ian Litwin, a professional planner. The final steps are submitting the Master Plan to the full commission for approval and getting legislation passed in City Council that will change zoning and modify the Society Hill overlay where recommended. The full City Council hearing process will be necessary to make these changes. Stakeholders such as property owners and neighbors should be assured that they will have a chance to testify to the council on any proposed legislation. SHCA will keep the community informed as these events progress.

JOIN IN THE FUN!



Bonnie Halda Photos

Thanks to neighbors on American, Delancey and Philip Streets, Society Hill hosts one of Philadelphia's best Halloween celebrations. Stop by Three Bears Park on October 31 and join in the fun! Visit threebearspark.org/category/events for more info.

THURSDAY

September

14

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Society Hill Civic Association Meetings
Thursday, September 14, 2017

(Please note the change from the third Wednesday.)

Pennsylvania Hospital, 8th & Spruce Streets

5:45 p.m. **Board Meeting**

Pennsylvania Hospital's Grand Court Room

7:30 - 9 p.m. **General Membership Meeting**

Pennsylvania Hospital's Zubrow Auditorium

Speaker: **Aaron Wunsch**

Architectural Historian at Penn Preservation

Topic: **Preservation of Historic Districts**

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SOCIETY HILL

Reporter



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Website
 Find past issues in color
 at www.societyhillcivic.org.

The views set forth in the opinion articles are the views of the authors and are not necessarily those of SHCA.

Submissions

If you have news that would be of interest to Society Hillers, email Sandra Rothman at 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

Back to Business

August is usually a time for SHCA to take a needed break from the steady work of overseeing the preservation, safety and beautification of our neighborhood. This August, however, a number of board members continued work on important projects, like the quality-of-life concerns presented by Spruce Harbor Park, the Master Plan for Society Hill and the agreement with Alterra regarding the 5th Street commercial properties, including ACME. Our community is very lucky to have such dedicated residents volunteering their time and, very often, their professional services, to our community.

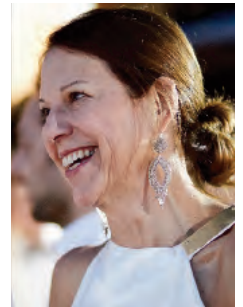
Although our fiscal year starts at the beginning of June, I always feel that the year officially commences at the September General Membership meeting, when we come together as a community once again to tackle the work of preserving this beautiful historic district. Many of us returning from vacations far from Philadelphia, including myself, feel a renewed commitment to working

with our fellow residents, neighbors and the city to preserve and enhance this most historic of Philadelphia neighborhoods.

Even by European standards, Society Hill is quite old. I enjoy telling my French relatives and friends the date my Society Hill house was built, because 1792 is impressively early even for French housing. We look forward to your participation at the General Membership Meetings every other month in the year 2017-2018.

Mark your calendars for the third Wednesdays of November, January, March and May. Exceptionally, this month, our kick-off General Membership Meeting is on a Thursday, September 14, due to the Jewish holiday Rosh Hashana during the third week of September. See you there!

Rosanne Loesch is an attorney and 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

Welcome, Claudia Carabelli

After 30 years in the suburbs (Abington) raising two sons, Ron and Claudia Carabelli dipped their toes in the city experience with a pied-à-terre on Washington Square. Three years ago they relocated full time to the 500 block of Pine Street. Both Ron and Claudia love being in the city and have never looked back.

Claudia's first career was as a critical-care RN for 10 years. She then returned to graduate school when the children were young and moved on to a 24-year career in school counseling, from which she just retired.

She currently works part-time with Hand2Paw, a nonprofit that connects at-risk youth with opportunities and internships in animal-care settings. Additionally, she has two therapy dogs and does a lot of therapy-dog volunteer work at area hospitals.

In her spare time Claudia likes to be involved politically, garden throughout the neighborhood, volunteer with Tree Tenders, work on various fabric art projects, bake, read and spend time with her little grandson. She looks forward becoming more involved with SHCA, where she serves as Director at Large.



Claudia Carabelli and her therapy dog Dexter

Check Out SHCA's New Website

We hope that you've found time to explore our new neighborhood website, introduced in the July/August *Reporter*. Go to www.societycivic.org to find up-to-date news about our community and the many services SHCA provides. It's easier to sign up for events, donate to one of SHCA's many worthwhile projects and renew your membership. A key feature allows for financial transactions to be made by credit card. We hope to provide the community with news in a timely fashion. Using the latest web design technology, the site will be updated and maintained, insuring the community is well informed about current neighborhood issues. Visit often, and please send your comments, suggestions and questions to Matt DeJulio at info@societyhillcivic.org.

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ADDRESSING SAFETY ISSUES

Police Service Area Town Hall Meetings

Police Service Areas (PSAs) are part of neighborhood policing, a strategy that focuses on community engagement and increasing the quality of life for all Philadelphians. The area constituting a PSA is determined by the city’s 21 police districts. Each of these districts is divided into either two, three or four PSAs.

Our Police Service Area holds a monthly, multi-neighborhood meeting where residents gather with the captain and other officers of the 6th Police District to learn about recent crime statistics and to discuss important safety issues. PSA3, which includes Society Hill and Wash West among other neighborhoods, meets at Pennsylvania Hospital auditorium on the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is on September 12 at 6 p.m.

Thanks to Officer Joe Ferrero, who conducted the PSA3 meeting on August 8. He introduced our new captain, John O’Hanlon, as commander of the 6th Police District. Read more about Captain O’Hanlon on Page 11.

The following two issues emerged at our meeting, and, as a result, we have some important contact information for you to keep on file.

Parking Problems

Residents cannot find available on-street parking due to the huge crowds visiting Spruce Harbor Park, which is open until 1 a.m. on weekends. South Street visitors are causing the same problem.

It has been suggested that we change our parking signs to “2 hour parking up to 2 a.m.” instead of the current 10 p.m. or 12 a.m. Parking sign changes must be done on a block-by-block basis and must have the approval of 60 percent of the residents of each block. Contact Bernadette Williams, representative from the Philadelphia Parking Authority. Email BWilliams@philapark.org for parking information.

Parking permits, including visitor permits for your guests, can easily be purchased at the Philadelphia Parking Authority at 35 N. 8th Street, 215-683-9730. To report parking violations on your block, call 215-683-9773.

Homeless Issues

This summer there have been groups of young homeless people camping out in our neighborhood. Some have dogs that have bitten people. This is in addition to the usual problems at the Shambles.

Officer Joe Ferrero strongly advises us to contact Brian Abernathy, first Assistant Deputy Managing Director, about any issues you experience with homeless people. Call Brian at 215-683-4615 and let him know your grievances, or email brian.abernathy@phila.gov.

If you see a homeless person residing inappropriately at a location and call 911, an officer will come out to tell the person to “move on.” They cannot force them to leave. Officer Joe Harper coordinates homeless outreach in Center City. Call 215-686-3095, or email joseph.harper@phila.gov. You can also call the Homeless Outreach Hotline at 215-232-1984.

Officer Joe Ferrero is a bike officer, as well as a plainclothes officer in a car, and is assigned to our district. He provides his cell phone number 215-375-0932 for our use, but cautions that we should always use 911 as the first resource when reporting an incident or crime. He has been helpful in moving recent groups camping out in Society Hill.



Officer Perry Thornton, Officer Joe Ferrero, and Captain John O’Hanlon

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200TH ANNIVERSARY

BY PETER J. OBST

The Year of Tadeusz Kościuszko

Honoring a Remarkable Fighter for Liberty and Freedom

The year 2017 marks the 200th anniversary of the death of Tadeusz Kościuszko, a fighter for the freedom of Poland and an active participant in the American War for Independence. Poland and its friends abroad are celebrating this year as the “Year of Tadeusz Kościuszko” in his honor.

He was born in 1746 near Kosów — now Kosava, Belarus — a scion of impoverished, land-owning gentry. He received an education at Poland’s newly founded Cadet Academy and then went to France on scholarship to continue his military studies.

When the War for American Independence began, he volunteered his services to the American cause as a military engineer. Since this expertise was much in demand, Kościuszko was given the task of placing fortifications on the Delaware River near Philadelphia. He was instrumental in building Fort Mercer and Fort Mifflin on the New Jersey side of the river.

Kościuszko’s work in planning the redoubts at Saratoga, New York, was praised by General Horatio Gates as crucial to the American victory. This battle was a turning point of the war, as it showed the world that Americans could fight and win, and it swayed the French to assist the colonies in their struggle for independence. Later, Kościuszko was given the crucial job of fortifying West Point on the Hudson River to block a British invasion from the north. This site was so well constructed the British never attempted to storm it. Justly, it acquired the title of “American Gibraltar.” The traitorous General Benedict Arnold unsuccessfully attempted to steal the plans for the British.

At the end of the American War for Independence, Kościuszko returned to Poland during times when the country’s borders and sovereignty were threatened by foreign encroachment from Russia, Prussia and Austria. In 1794 he led an armed insurrection to preserve Poland’s freedom, accepting his appointment as commander-in-chief before a massive crowd in the marketplace of Kraków, Poland’s ancient royal capital.

Though the insurrection was eventually suppressed, Kościuszko gained the love and respect of his countrymen because of his principled stand to give equal rights to all classes, including peasants, Jews and city dwellers.

After Tsar Paul I released him from Russian prison in 1796, Kościuszko came to the United States and stayed in a house in Philadelphia, at 301 Pine Street. There, a historical marker explains: “After serving as a military engineer during the American Revolution, he later led an uprising in his native Poland. Exiled, the General resided in this house from November, 1797, to May, 1798.”

He was visited by Thomas Jefferson and made new friends among Philadelphia society. In this house, he wrote a famous last will and testament, which specified that his money be used to free American slaves and to educate them.

The house is now a museum, the Thaddeus Kościuszko National Memorial, maintained by the National Park Service. It opened in 1976 in time for the American Bicentennial. A few years later in 1979, a statue of Kościuszko, sent as a gift from the Polish people, was dedicated on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

Kościuszko died in exile in Switzerland in 1817, since by terms of his release he was never permitted to return to his homeland. Yet, he left an enduring legacy of principles: his dedication to equality and freedom for all individuals under a fair system of laws. Early on, he addressed the issue of slavery in America and is sometimes called a pioneering abolitionist. His friend Thomas Jefferson called him “as pure a son of liberty as I have ever known.” His mortal remains rest in the Cathedral on Wawel Hill in Kraków, alongside Polish kings and other national heroes.

As part of the “Year of Kościuszko” the Philadelphia Chapter of the Kościuszko Foundation, working in concert with the Museum of the American Revolution and the National Park Service, is organizing a lecture by Professor Emeritus Gary Nash entitled “Kościuszko, Jefferson, and History’s Forgotten Man from Stockbridge.” It will take place on Saturday, September 23, 6 p.m., at the Museum of the American Revolution. Dr. Nash, a respected scholar and writer on the American Revolution, is coauthor of the book *Friends of Liberty: Thomas Jefferson, Tadeusz Kościuszko and Agrippa Hull*, which he will sign for his readers at the event. For more information and lecture reservations see: www.thekf.org/kf/chapters/philadelphia/events.



Tadeusz Kościuszko, whose will specified that his money be used to free American slaves and to educate them.



The Kościuszko House at 301 Pine Street, pictured in 1967 with its discoverer, historian Edward Pinkowski.



The Kościuszko House Memorial today.



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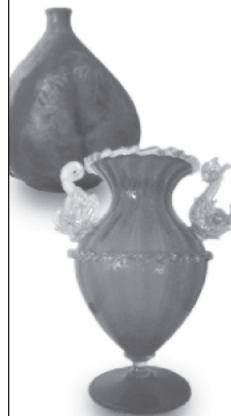
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TRASH RECEPTACLE UPDATE

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Big Bellies Go Belly Up

If you are a pedestrian around Center City, you can't miss the terrible, neglected condition of the Big Belly trash receptacles. There are two types: the solar-powered trash compactor and the recycle unit for bottles and paper.

These units were installed in our neighborhood in the summer of 2009 with the promise from the Department of Sanitation that they would be serviced several times a week. The department also promised that any damage or malfunction of these units would be addressed promptly.

Fast forward to 2017, and many of the Big Bellies are begging for help. Some very visible problems are: overstuffed cans in need of trash collection, broken handles, graffiti on the exterior, malfunctioning indicator lights (red lights mean full of trash) and strong offensive odor — apparently they did not have plastic liners in the units. Need we say more?

I see these damaged units all over Center City. I take photos of problematic ones and forward them to my contact at the Sanitation Department. This week, after several emails/photos from me, I received an email from Carlton Williams, Commissioner of Streets.

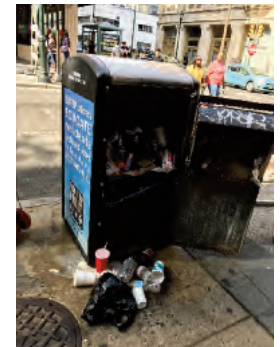
Commissioner Williams stated that, "The Streets department is in the process of executing an agreement that will provide for the acquisition of new Big Belly waste and recycling receptacles, related to maintenance and software licensing,

and authorizing an advertising concession at no cost to the City of Philadelphia. The city is acquiring 275 new units at no cost to tax payers that will replace badly damaged units in Center City. We will be refurbishing the remaining 125 units by the end of the year."

The new contract will require the firm to clean and maintain the units and will have a routine inspection schedule to keep them in good condition. All of this replacement and refurbishment will take place beginning this autumn. A portion of the advertising revenue will be used to make improvements intended to extend the longevity of the entire system.

At Commissioner Williams invitation, several SHCA board members will meet with him in early September. If you have suggestions or comments about the Big Bellies that would be helpful, please contact me at marthalev6@gmail.com or 215-629-0727.

Martha Levine, Vice President of SHCA and an active board member, has created and chaired many projects, such as Block Coordinators, "Fix the Brix," welcome baskets and the Franklin lights restoration project. She also co-chairs the yearly house tour.



Overstuffed, damaged and graffiti-tagged Big Bellies are eyesores.

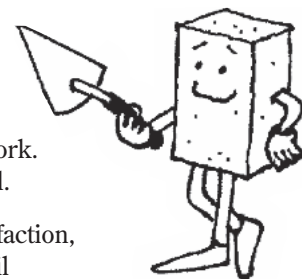
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You, Too, Can Have a Safe Sidewalk

To date, over 200 property owners have participated in "Fix the Brix," a subsidy program SHCA initiated to help make our neighborhood safer. Still, too many brick and concrete sidewalks pose a safety risk. If your front sidewalk fits that category, consider fixing your brix.

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- Participants in the program will receive a subsidy of 40 percent of the total invoice for the leveling of their sidewalks, brick or cement. Current SHCA members receive up to \$400; non-members receive up to \$300.
- First take a "before" photo of your problem sidewalk and email to me at marthalev6@gmail.com.
- Choose a mason, or arborist, to do the work. We can provide a suggested list if needed.
- After the work is completed to your satisfaction, make a copy of your paid invoice and mail the original to us at: SHCA, PO Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147. If possible, include a copy of your cancelled check.
- A check will be sent to you within a few weeks.



Rick the Brick



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Sidewalks

- Brick Replacement



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SAFE AND SOUND IN SOCIETY HILL

BY MARILYN APPEL

Welcome to Our New Captain

John O’Hanlon, age 54, is one in a long line of police officers. It’s definitely in his genes: his father (also John), son, brother, nephew, uncle and cousin serve or have served, too. Sadly, John’s uncle was killed on the job in 1985.

Captain O’Hanlon’s career has been quite varied, and it makes him uniquely fit for our district. He started out as a prison guard in 1985. In 1987, he joined the police and was sent to, of all places, the 6th District, under then Commanding Officer Clifford Barcliff. He left in 1991 to go to Highway Patrol, and when he passed the Sergeant’s exam, he moved on to the 9th District (Center City west of Broad). When he became Lieutenant, he moved on to the 24th District (which is where his son is assigned).

After a five-year stint as a detective, beginning in 2011, he went to the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), where he helped officers having trouble with drug, alcohol, psychological or other issues to resolve their problems. He passed the Captain’s exam in 2016 and in July of 2017 was assigned as Commanding Officer of our

6th District. He has certainly had a wide range of experiences and is happy to be our new captain.

On a more personal note, John is very proud of his wife (a nurse), his son (mentioned above), his two daughters (one of whom is a nurse, the other a dental hygienist) and his three grandchildren. He says that he has no hobbies to speak of, but is an exercise buff. He considers the 6th District very challenging with an excess of 65,000 people coming into our district to work, a consistently large number of tourists and many events, both scheduled and unscheduled.

Captain O’Hanlon intends to continue the open door policy, which means that if you call and he’s there, he’ll be happy to speak with you. Contact the captain at CO_06@phila.gov or call 215-686-3060.

Congratulations to Captain John Ryan, who has left the 6th District and moved to the homicide division.

Marilyn Appel has served as chair of our 6th District’s Police Advisory Council since 1980.



Captain John O’Hanlon

IN THE SQUARE

Washington Square Art Installation

On the Threshold (Salvaged Stoops, Philadelphia)

Philadelphia-based artist Kaitlin Pomerantz has a thing for abandoned stoops. She is one of 20 artists selected to participate in Monument Lab, a public art and history project sponsored by Mural Arts, that kicks off this September. More than 20 installations will be staged in outdoor public spaces around the city, each a response to the question, “What is an appropriate monument to the current city of Philadelphia?” Pomerantz’s answer? The row house stoop.

A threshold between private and public space, the stoop functions as an area of social interaction, relaxation and participation. The project invites us to consider the vast changes taking place in the landscape of Philadelphia, the city’s architectural and social histories, and what is being lost as well as being preserved in a time of rampant development.

From September 16 through November 13, an assortment of stoops Pomerantz has collected from demolished houses throughout the city

will be installed in Washington Square, where they will temporarily serve as public art, seating and a community conversation piece.

Why Washington Square? One of William Penn’s five original public squares, it is an integral part of our own neighborhood of Society Hill, with its success story of historic preservation alongside redevelopment. It’s also close to Jewelers’ Row at 7th and Sansom Streets, where public outcry has erupted over the threatened demolition and redevelopment of five historic buildings in the nation’s oldest diamond district. The steps also honor, with their mass and monumentality, the park’s early history as a burial site for the poor, Revolutionary War casualties, Yellow Fever victims and African Americans.

There will be an in-progress installation preview at the park from 1 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, September 12, on the east side of the square. More info about all of the Monument Lab projects can be found at monumentlab.muralarts.org.

WELCOME

Diana Kelebay is the new Store Director for our 5th Street ACME. Recently from the Gladwyne store, she has been with the company since 1982. Since Diana prides herself on exceptional customer service, she wants to meet the community, and hear your comments and suggestions. So say hello the next time you’re there!



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KEEPING POSTED

BY AL CAVALARI

The Justice Bell, Sister to the Liberty Bell

When collecting historic postcards, those that capture a specific event are of particular interest. They are more special than a view card of the same place on any other day. The card depicted here is an example of how Independence Hall, an iconic symbol of our founding story, serves as a place where other types of memories may be stored.

There are likely untold millions of postcards depicting this place, but this one challenges us to remember that, after the famous events of 1776, the quest for liberty was not over for half of the population: women. With August being the month our constitution eventually was amended to permit women the right to vote, and the event shown on this card having taken place in September, now is a timely occasion to look at this card.

On August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment was ratified, ending state and federal prohibition of women voting. On September 25, Independence Square hosted a large celebration where the guest of honor was not the Liberty Bell, but the Justice Bell shown here — also known as the Women's Liberty Bell. The idea was that because women were excluded from the meaning of the Liberty Bell, they needed a bell of their own.

In 1915, the very year that the Liberty Bell was on tour out to the West Coast and back, women took their own replica bell on a 5,000-mile trip that visited every county in Pennsylvania. The clapper — the bell's club-like striking device — was symbolically chained in place, keeping the bell silent. A flyer that accompanied the bell on this trip read, "The Liberty Bell 1776 rang to 'Proclaim Liberty' to create our nation. The Women's Liberty Bell will ring to establish justice to complete our nation. Help break the chains that hold the bronze clapper silent. Vote 'Yes' on the Suffrage Amendment on Election Day Pennsylvania." The bell did not ring until women got the vote five years later in 1920.

This card catches that event, showing Catherine Wentworth, who rang the bell for the first time after women got the franchise. She was the niece of Katharine Wentworth Ruschenberger, who had conceived of and paid \$2,000 for the bell. The card is also a reminder that, like any family, our national family has memories, and we store them in our historic sites like Independence Hall. What memories we choose to recall and how the

stories are told are an important part of who we are.

In her book *Independence Hall in American Memory*, Charlene Mires looks at how focusing on the cherished stories of national birth don't serve us well if they overshadow the stories of those whose liberty was left incomplete. Rather, Mires contends, Independence Hall can be illuminated as a "place where successive generations have struggled to define the essence of American national identity."

It took women a long time to complete this struggle. Way back in 1876, Susan B. Anthony had interrupted the 4th of July celebration at Independence Hall by reading the Declaration of Rights of the Women of the United States. The issue was finally decided by a vote to amend the U.S. Constitution on August 18, 1920, in the Tennessee legislature.

The legislative body had been deadlocked. In a moment of high drama, 24-year-old State Representative Harry Burn suddenly changed his vote in a role call. That morning he had received a letter, still in his pocket, from his mother, in which she urged him "Don't forget to be a good boy" and to "vote for suffrage." The next day he took the floor and gave reasons for having changed his vote. He stated, "I know that a mother's advice is always safest for her boy to follow, and my mother wanted me to vote for ratification."

When the struggle was over, the women who began it had not lived to see it finished. Those who completed it were not born when it had begun.

Per the terms of Ruschenberger's will, the Justice Bell now resides in the Washington Memorial Chapel at Valley Forge, where you can see it close up.

I've been looking for this card for years, and I finally found one this spring.

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. Send comments to Al at flagguys@aol.com.



A vintage post card showing the Justice Bell, also known as the "Women's Liberty Bell."

"Don't forget to be a good boy... vote for suffrage."

— Harry Burn's Mother

"A mother's advice is always safest for her boy to follow."

— Harry Burn



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SPRUCE STREET HARBOR UPDATE

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Some Solutions to a Problem

Recently, we reported on a community meeting held on June 14 with Joe Forkin, president of the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation (DRWC), where neighbors aired their grievances about the negative impact Spruce Harbor Park has on our neighborhood. The park is located at Spruce and Columbus Boulevard and is a free public venue attracting hundreds of visitors, mostly from outside Center City, every day and evening.

Some of the issues mentioned were trash and cleanliness, parking congestion, public urination and need for police supervision due to excessive late night loud noise and partying in our streets.

To further understand how the park operates, we decided to meet with Joe Forkin in order to walk the park, get a lay of the land and review some of these issues, in the hopes that they could be ameliorated to the satisfaction of all.

Trash and Cleanliness

Since the June 14 meeting, Joe has instructed the DRWC cleaning crew to collect trash and make sure the sidewalks are free of debris Thursday through Sunday mornings, from Penn's Landing to 4th Street and from Dock to Lombard Streets. New large trash receptacles have been placed along the south side of Spruce from Columbus Boulevard to Front Street. We were told that visitors are not permitted to leave the park carrying food or drink. We asked for more trash cans to be set up on the north side of the Spruce Street block and on Columbus Boulevard.

Rest Rooms

We wanted to check out the location and the number of rest rooms to help eliminate public urination on Society Hill sidewalks. We found that there are two sets of



rest rooms, but the locations are set back off the path and not readily visible. We recommended four or five conspicuous signs directing people to the rest room locations. This has been implemented (see photo).

Police Monitoring

To deal with late night rowdy behavior by visitors leaving the park, DRWC has hired two police officers, one in a car and one on a bike, to

monitor the area from Friday to Sunday, 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. One officer sits in his car near the park, while the bike officer patrols the area up to 4th Street. Hopefully this will quell the lingerers who have been partying well into the wee hours in front of residents' homes and cut down on vandalism to property.

Parking Lots

We need to reduce the number of Spruce Harbor Park visitors parking in our neighborhood. Residents have difficulty finding parking anywhere after coming home at 10 p.m. or later, and are frustrated. Some neighbors have suggested changing our signs to limit parking to two hours up to 2 a.m., as a deterrent. The good news is that there are two lots available for visitors to park. The bad news is that you cannot see these lots from Columbus Boulevard, and the rate is \$17 — exorbitant for many.

We walked through the southernmost lot and learned that it is huge, with capacity for 292 vehicles. This spacious lot is not visible from the Boulevard and there is no signage. We asked to have large, bold visible signage to show access to the lot from both directions. It might cut down on the late night revelry as park visitors return to their cars in Society Hill after 1 a.m.

Summary

We are pleased that Joe Forkin has implemented some of our requests. At least four new conspicuous rest rooms signs have been posted at the park's central area. Also, one back-to-back parking lot sign has been erected at the traffic signal at 400 S. Columbus Boulevard. We are requesting additional signs further away from the parking lot to give drivers time to access the correct lane for entry. These issues are worthy of examination and remedy. We thank Joe for his time and efforts to help resolve these issues and to have the park be a good neighbor for everyone to enjoy.



Martha Levine with DRWC President Joe Forkin.



Parking lot sign erected on Columbus Boulevard.

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BY LISA KELLY, THE FOOD TRUST

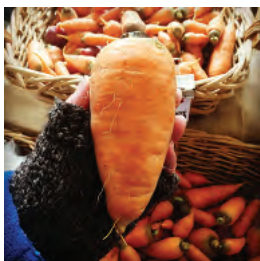
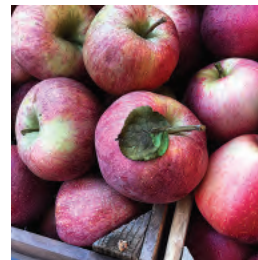
Nature's Colorful Bounty

The historic Shambles that stands at 2nd and Pine Streets was built in 1745 as an outdoor market. It is, in fact, one of the oldest surviving buildings of its type in the nation. Ten years ago The Food Trust decided to help return the building to its original purpose. Headhouse Farmers Market is now the Trust's largest, with over 40 vendors. It has been so

successful that it is now open all year on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. To cap off an action-packed 25th anniversary year, The Food Trust is hosting an end-of-year fundraiser at the Reading Terminal Market on Friday, December 1, from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. To buy tickets, which will go on sale starting October 1, visit www.thefoodtrust.org/25thanniversary.



Dana B. Cohen



Albert Yee

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. The Food Trust has been working to ensure that everyone has access to affordable, nutritious food and information to make healthy decisions.

HEADHOUSE FARMERS' MARKET



Lisa Kelly, Market Manager
Katy Wich, Program Director
Deb Bentzel, Sr. Associate
Carly Rapaport-Stein, Longtime Volunteer

Carolyn Huckaby



Yosef Gold



Melissa Weller



Albert Yee

Unless otherwise credited, photos by **Lisa Kelly** of The Food Trust. Find these and many more photos of Headhouse Farmers Market on Instagram.

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2,650 sf | **\$1,275,000**

ON OUR SHELF

BY RICHARD DE WYNGAERT

Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi

This debut novel is what one might call a “tour de force” if the phrase had not been rendered so inane by overuse. The book begins in the late 18th century, ends in the present day and in between navigates the ties that have irredeemably bound the experience of so many black people to the slave trade — both those who were enslaved and sent to America and those who remained behind in Africa.



The two opening sections are told, one each, from the perspective of half-sisters, Effia and Esi. Effia is married off by her family to a white slaver in West Africa; Esi is taken from her family in West Africa by slavers and sent to a Southern plantation in America. Their early lives are similar, but what might otherwise

have been small differences in circumstance force them down two irreconcilable paths — paths that will define the lives of their descendants, irretrievably, to the present day.

What the book does so remarkably is trace the divergent paths of one family tree. Gyasi never says anything so obvious as “we’re all defined by what came before us,” but manages to illustrate the point ever so poignantly. The chapters alternate between Esi and Effia’s descendants with each new narrator situated chronologically towards the present moment.

In America, we follow Esi’s descendants as they navigate plantation life, fugitive slave laws, sharecropping and Jim Crow laws. We also watch them deal with the jazz clubs of Harlem, the heroin epidemic and contemporary American high school life.

Effia’s descendants remain in Ghana until the book’s very last section and grapple with the slave trade, British colonization, Catholic missionaries and, eventually, college in present-day America.

If it sometimes feels like Gyasi is overburdening her individual characters in order to represent the many challenges black people have faced in America, the effect of her efforts is not lost. The evidence of this effort is perhaps most obvious with Sonny, Esi’s great-great-great grandson, who spends time in jail, works for the NAACP and is a recovering heroin addict.

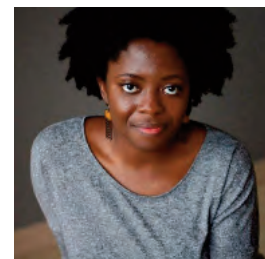
For the reader, the purpose of Sonny’s presence is predictable, while still managing to be illustrative. Perhaps the book could do without jail time, drugs and some of those experiences that feel so easy to assign to a black family’s journey from slavery to present day. But, when we as a society consistently fail to acknowledge the history that preceded injustices, such as the unparalleled incarceration rates of black men, Gyasi would have done us a disservice had she not made the connection abundantly clear.

The narrative thread of the characters left behind in Ghana may feel less like rungs on a ladder, but the message that the effect of history is omnipresent still rings loudly. Sonny’s counterpart, Yaw, the great-great-great grandson of Effia and James, a white British slaver, becomes a history teacher and teaches his students that history is written by those who hold the power. At the end of his chapter, his mother tells him, “Evil begets evil. It grows. It transmutes, so that sometimes you cannot see that the evil in the world began as the evil in your own home.”

Every single section, nearly every single sentence of Gyasi’s book is deliberate — and if the reader occasionally notices her effort, we forgive her because the book manages to cover so much ground without ever feeling like a summary.

Gyasi’s characters are widely flawed — they are heroin addicts, they commit unforgivable crimes, they abandon their families — but Gyasi’s matter-of-fact storytelling doesn’t encourage judgment. Instead, the slow stacking of shared history adds nuance to her characters, creating an almost visual effect where the reader can picture the physical weight of each preceding chapter being passed onto the back of each narrator.

The result is that the social commentary, if not groundbreaking, is visceral. Of course we’d like to think, as society’s prevailing narrative has it, that slavery is so far past us as to be irrelevant. The book reminds us how long the arm of history really is.



Yaa Gyasi, author of *Homegoing*.

Congratulations to Head House Books for winning Philadelphia Magazine’s Best of Philly, Independent Bookstore 2017

Bring this article to Head House Books and receive 20 percent off any hardcover fiction and nonfiction title in the store, or have Headhouse Books donate it to SHCA on your behalf.

Richard De Wyngaert is the owner of Head House Books, Society Hill’s only local, independently owned bookstore, located at 619 South 2nd Street. Bookseller **Vivienne Woodward** is the writer of this review.

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WELCOME BASKETS

BY MARTHA LEVINE

What could be nicer than to move into Society Hill and be greeted with a Welcome Basket? That's SHCA's program for new, first-time homeowners in the neighborhood — condo owners, too. Each large basket is filled with fresh foods, important neighborhood information and many gift certificates to area restaurants, theaters, shops, services and museums. The baskets are presented in the home by appointment, which takes about one hour.

Look at the photos of our most recent recipients with their bountiful baskets. No wonder these folks are smiling!

If you are a new owner, or know of someone who is, and wish to have a basket presented to you, please let us know and we will contact you for an appointment. Contact us at 215-629-0727 or marthalev6@gmail.com.

We thank all of our many loyal contributors who contribute food or gift certificates to make these baskets possible. Help us say thank you by patronizing their businesses or organizations.



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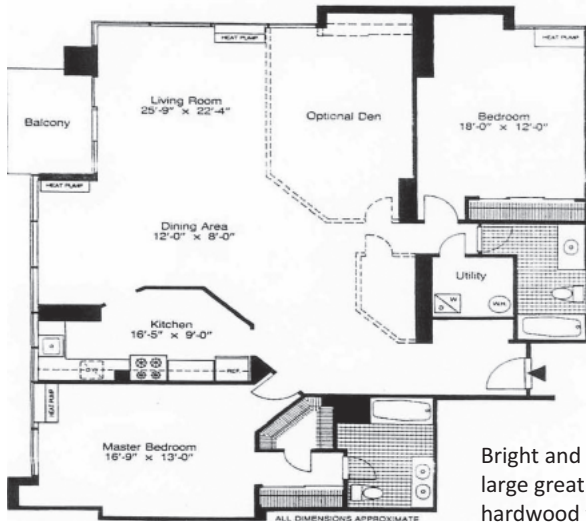
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SOUTH STREET HEADHOUSE DISTRICT

BY MIKE HARRIS

District Hosts Autumn Events

After a busy summer, the South Street Headhouse District (SSHD) is looking forward to a lively fall, with numerous events that deliver a wide variety of cultural, musical, culinary and civic programming.

GreenFest Philly, presented by the Clean Air Council

Sunday, September 10, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Bainbridge Green, 414 Bainbridge Street
Since 2006, this popular event has provided a unique opportunity for thousands of visitors to learn how to live life a little greener and healthier. The festival's 150-plus vendors, local businesses, supporters and sponsors help transform Bainbridge Green into a festive, fun and educational outdoor marketplace.

Dance Party with Sweetbriar Rose

Friday, September 15, 6 to 9 p.m.
Headhouse Shambles, 2nd and Pine Streets
The Shambles goes country for an evening! Come tap your feet and twirl your date to the folksy sounds of Sweetbriar Rose. The party will begin at 6 p.m. with Society Hill Dance Academy offering a free dance lesson. The band will perform from 7 to 9 p.m. Drinks and light fare will be available from Bistro Romano.

Oktoberfest

Brauhaus Schmitz
Saturday, September 16, 12 to 8 p.m.
700 Block of South Street

For the ninth year in a row, South Street will celebrate Oktoberfest, rain or shine, beneath a massive tent. With 10 German beers available on draught, traditional German food, live oompah music, German dancers and more, it is a do-not-miss celebration for beer lovers!

Philly AIDS Thrift 12th Anniversary Block Party

Saturday, September 16, 12 to 6 p.m.
5th & Bainbridge Streets
Philly AIDS Thrift is celebrating their 12th Anniversary with a Block Party and you're invited! Celebrity dunk tank, moon bounce, food trucks, dancing in the streets and so much more!

Philadelphia Flea Market

Saturday, September 16, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Headhouse Shambles 2nd and Pine Streets
Market with antiques and vintage merchandise.

Bainbridge Green Pop-Up Park

September 22 and 23, 5 to 10 p.m.
Popular monthly event will feature food and drink from Plenty Café.



Mike Harris, SSHD Executive Director

FRINGEARTS FESTIVAL

Philadelphia's 17-day, citywide celebration of creativity in contemporary performance will have a stronghold in and around South Street. SSHD Executive Director Mike Harris explains, "FringeArts is a natural fit for South Street; the creativity and energy of the festival match well with South Street's history as a diverse cultural center. Last year, we actively pursued the opportunity to host FringeArts performances, and we are thrilled to be a part of this signature Philadelphia institution. Our restaurants and bars are eager to host Fringe patrons, with options for every taste and budget."

The highlight of the FringeArts Festival for the District will be the **South Street Fringe-for-All**, September 13 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Shambles. Audiences will enjoy an evening of bits and spurts, as Fringe performers offer previews and prologues of their sundry shows. This evening will offer a unique opportunity for the community to preview performances and identify the shows they wish to see throughout the festival.

See below for other local Festival shows. For more information, tickets and full calendar, please visit www.fringearts.com/all-presentations.

FringeArts Festival Calendar of Events (please visit www.southstreet.com for details)

"The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui" by Bertolt Brecht, DBAD Productions
Headhouse Shambles, 2nd and Pine Streets
September 7, 10, 14, 17 and 21
"Liberty City Radio Theatre"
Headhouse Café, 122 Lombard Street
September 8 and 22

"(miss) Julie," Svaha Theatre Collective
Bainbridge Green, 414 Bainbridge Street
September 7-13
Glister
The Tusk, 430 South Street
Sept 7, 9, 14 and 15
Tattooed Mom, 530 South Street
September 12 and 17

Monarch
Fleischer Art Memorial
719 Catherine Street
September 6, 7, 15 and 17
The Waitstaff Comedy Troupe
L'Etage
6th and Bainbridge Streets
September 9, 10, 12 to 15, 17, 19, 20, 22 and 23

Mean Wendy Band
L'Etage
6th and Bainbridge Streets
September 18
Looking Ahead:
Bainbridge Green BrunchFest, Sunday, October 22
South Street Fall PumpkinFest, Saturday, October 28



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FUN AND FUNDRAISING

The 5th Annual Hill-Physick House Wine & Beer Party

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, October 25, 6 to 9 p.m., and tell your friends! Enjoy a convivial evening, including specially selected wines, craft beer, live jazz and a full buffet of sumptuous foods at the beautiful historic Hill-Physick House and gardens.

Over the last few years, our fundraising efforts had targeted funds to replace the deteriorating 50-year-old roof. Fortunately, the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, our parent organization, obtained a large grant to pay for the costly roof replacement. Now we can focus our efforts exclusively on raising funds to maintain this beautiful historic museum house, which requires significant funds to preserve it for the future.

Tickets are \$50 in advance and \$60 at the door. If you are under 40, tickets are only \$40. For information and to purchase tickets, call the Hill-Physick

House at 215-925-2251, press 1 (for admin), then 5 (for Jorja). Or go online to the PhilaLandmarks website at www.philalandmarks.org/events.

If you have never visited the Hill-Physick House, this is your opportunity to step inside for a good cause. Last year, upon entering the house, one party attendee said, "Wow, this is so beautiful that I'd like to live here."



IN MEMORIAM

Robert Joseph Gill M.D.

We're sad to inform neighbors that Robert "Bob" Joseph Gill died on July 25 at the age of 96 in his home on Spruce Street, across the street from Old Pennsylvania Hospital, where he practiced medicine for 50 years. From 1956 to 1999, he practiced medicine as a staff physician at the hospital, where he served a term as head of the Department of Hypertension and Vascular Disease while maintaining his private practice in Internal Medicine in offices across the street.

His historic house, known as the Evans-Biddle Kitchen House, was built in the 1790s by merchant Whitten Evans, who kept both an elephant named Columbus and a huge tortoise in the back garden, which local children were permitted to ride.

Bob was very interested in history — American history, building histories and especially the history of his home and office. He was particularly proud that he was the second doctor to live in the residence, the first having been Dr. James Kitchen, a 19th-century Doctor of Homeopathy. When working in his lovely garden behind the house, he would often unearth discarded medicine bottles and jars believed to have been from Dr. Kitchen's medical preparations.

He was husband to the late Thelma and father of Bruce C., Garth D., Graham B. and Letitia; he is also survived by five grandchildren. Contributions may be made in his name to either Christ Church "All Saint's Fund" or Lehigh University.



Robert Joseph Gill M.D.

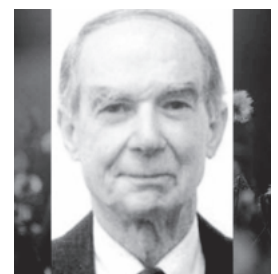
Samuel Bridges Sadtler

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of Samuel Bridges Sadtler, who passed away on June 25 at the age of 79 following a lengthy illness.

An early pioneer in the restoration movement of historic homes in Society Hill, Sam remained active until his death, enjoying his organic garden at his farm in Greenwich, New Jersey, and working on the restoration of the Bacon Neck School

House. He was a devoted steward of historic buildings and a firm believer that they should be preserved and passed on to future generations.

He was married to Laura C. Sadtler (née Cline) for thirty years. His daughter Sarah and brother Stephen also survive him. Donations in Sam's memory may be made to the Greenwich Presbyterian Church, 630 Ye Greate Street, Greenwich, New Jersey 08323.



Samuel Bridges Sadtler

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OUR CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

BY JANE BIBERMAN

Bringing Up Baby

Picture a sparkling spring morning on my small farm in Bucks County, about an hour north of Society Hill. A handsome white donkey named Mick Jagger grazes in an emerald-green pasture. But something is wrong with the scene; his companion, Angie, is nowhere in sight. As I was soon to learn, Angie was in her stall nursing a brand-new baby donkey!! Perhaps two exclamation points may be permitted because no one, including my vet, knew she was “in foal,” or pregnant. When I rescued her from the kill pen of Camelot Sales, an auction facility in Cranbury, New Jersey, this past January, Angie was half-starved, all patchy skin and sharp bones protruding from her hips. As the spring grass came in, she gained weight, but was still too thin. Then suddenly, to everyone’s shock, she delivered the most adorable, perfect little creature ever born: Bowie. On Mother’s Day!

Now, four months later, Bowie has tripled in size. He will continue to nurse until November when he is weaned, but now he also grazes in the pasture alongside Angie and Mick, his stepdad. A donkey’s gestation period is usually between 11 and 14 months, so Mick is not the proud father as many think. If anything, he is a little jealous of the baby, who gets all the attention from friends, neighbors and passersby that regularly stop by to take pictures and offer carrots.

It’s true that Bowie is the cutest baby ever born. And the smartest. And the most precocious. He was braying, albeit like a baby lamb, at only three weeks old! He had his tiny hooves trimmed at a month old. Today, he walks with me on a lead rope — when he’s not nipping the back of my jeans for attention. He comes when he’s called — sometimes.

A friend recently asked me, Why donkeys? Why, indeed.

It all started with my horse, Ziggy Stardust. I fell in love with the nine-year-old bay thoroughbred in 1994, and he changed my life. Ziggy was living in Bucks County, so I rented a small house with a barn and pasture nearby so I could drive back and forth to my apartment in Society Hill and my job in Center City. In this fashion, I was able to work and ride several times a week. Gradually, I began spending more and more time in the country.

Ziggy died unexpectedly in February 2016. His sudden death at 31 left me with a broken heart and an empty barn. That’s when my vet, Louise,

rescued a small white donkey from Camelot. Mick was suffering from pneumonia and bronchitis, but Louise trailered him to my barn, where she nursed him back to health. As she had hoped, I fell in love with Mick. Sweet and affectionate, he is as kind, loving and devoted as my dog Trixie, and just as smart, if not smarter. He’s potty-trained, literally. If I leave an empty pot in the pasture, he’ll neatly fill it with manure.



Bowie

Donkeys are also adventurous. Just the other day, absent-minded companion that I am, I left Mick’s stall door ajar, so he decided to explore the neighborhood. After I ran up the road shouting, “Mick Jagger,” a friend called me to say my rock star was grazing in her backyard, proving that the grass is always greener.

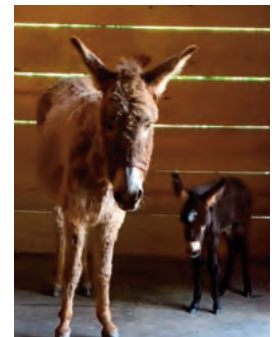
In Bucks County, donkeys are popular as pets as well as equine companions. They’re frequently used as therapy animals because of their gentle natures. I hope Bowie will be a therapy donkey, too. In the meantime, I’m enjoying his daily development. It’s thrilling to watch him learn something new and grow into his enormous long ears. Now I finally understand why my friends are so obsessed with their grandchildren. After all, I’m a proud grandmother now, too.

So don’t be surprised if you see me walking my dog in Washington Square while shoving photos of Bowie in your face. By the way, are donkeys allowed in the park?

Do you have a pet tale you’d like to tell? Please email it to sandra.rothman@aol.com, or give us the facts and we’ll write it for you.



Jane and Mick



Angie and Bowie

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Presenter: Dr. William Taylor, University of Alabama

For more information visit www.oldpine.org



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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY MATT DEJULIO

2017 Membership Closes in on 2016 Record Year

By early August, 1,121 Society Hill residents had either renewed their SHCA membership or joined for the first time, about on par with last year at this time. With only six more memberships to generate, we are on course to equal or exceed the all-time high of 1,127 reached at the end of last year.

So far, 114 new members have signed up this fiscal year, down somewhat from last year. We still have 109 members whose dues are in arrears, slightly higher than last year at this time. If you have delayed sending in your renewal or wish to join, please do so today. If you are not receiving our weekly email newsletter, please go to our newly redesigned website to sign up. You may also pay your dues conveniently by credit card there.

We welcome each of the over 3,600 households in our neighborhood to join SHCA. Your civic association helps protect your real estate investment by funding many of our improvement projects, as well as providing subsidies to neighbors who plant trees and fix their sidewalks. We help enhance your quality of life when we advocate on your behalf regarding zoning changes, real estate taxes, crime problems and traffic issues. All of this is accomplished through the hard work of our dedicated board of directors, committee members, block coordinators and, most importantly, your membership dues.

Without member dues, SHCA would cease to function. Protect your neighborhood and your real estate investment. **Sign up today!** Email Mattdejulio@aol.com with questions or comments which will be shared with our board members representing every quadrant in our unique, historic neighborhood.

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

EXERCISE & SOCIALIZE

Autumn brings cooler mornings, which makes it an invigorating time to walk and talk. We invite you to join one or both of Society Hill's walking groups.

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.



Society Hill
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Membership Application

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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

\$ _____ 5th Street Legal Fund \$ _____ McCall School

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Charge VISA/MasterCard:

Number _____ Exp Date _____

Signature _____

The following topics are of special interest to me. I welcome receipt of email updates on these topics.

- Clean-Up Day
- Washington Square
- Zoning & Historic Preservation
- Franklin Lights
- Social Events
- 5th Street Development
- Dilworth House
- Property Taxes
- Local Crime Incidents
- Reporter
- Fundraising
- 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

Meet Ronn and Ellen

It seems like a happy coincidence that brought the Shaffers to our neighborhood, but it was in the cards.

Ronn and Ellen Shaffer, who live in a charming brick Georgian house on Spruce Street, are highly civic-minded and give untiringly to our community. Since moving here in 2000, they've been active members of the nearby Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church. "When we joined, the minister asked us what we planned to contribute to the church family," relates Ronn. "We volunteered to take on the graveyard."



Ronn and Ellen Shaffer

What they've contributed over the past 17 years has been enormous, benefiting not only the church, but the neighborhood, the entire city and far beyond. Amateur historians, Ronn and Ellen began researching "who's who" in Old Pine's Revolutionary War graveyard. "Ellen is adroit at reading 18th-century manuscripts," says Ronn. "Over a period of time, we studied volumes of leather-bound records and other documents to discover the graves of 285 soldiers, 74 sea captains and 8 privateers." Every Memorial Day for the past 16 years, Ronn has placed a 13-star patriotic flag on each of their graves.

Today, visitors from around the world may take self-guided tours, thanks to the many informational plaques that were researched by Ronn. On weekends, he often leads visitors through the historic site, pointing out the resting places of Latimers, Caldwelles, Ingersolls and many others. The three-year-old wooden sculpture of the church's first pastor, the Reverend George Duffield, carved from the stump of a Norwegian maple tree, is a big draw. Beginning in 1774, Duffield served as co-chaplain to the First Continental Congress.

It seems like a happy coincidence that brought the Shaffers to our neighborhood, but it was in the cards. Where else would history buffs interested in 18th- and 19th-century architecture and restoration live? Well, as it happens, Ronn and Ellen have lived in several historic homes, all of which they restored. There was the 1865 Victorian house in Powelton Village, the 1820 Daniel Fortiner House in Haddonfield, New Jersey, and the 1753 Bishop Farmstead in Burlington County, New Jersey. This last they bought in 1980, placed on the National Historic Register, restored and lived in for 22 years — raising two daughters, several dogs and lots of sheep. "We started out with just Victoria and Albert, having no idea sheep were so prolific," Ronn admits.

In 1988, following Ellen's heart attack and triple bypass surgery, the Shaffers, concerned about medical care, decided to move to Philadelphia. In 2000, they sold the farmstead to the Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA). PPA proved to be great custodians in modifying the home, old carriage house and Louden barn and installing geothermal heating and cooling, keeping the property environmentally up-to-date. The Shaffers are frequently invited to special events and to conduct tours.

Ronn, born near the mountain-resort town of Eagles Mere in north central Pennsylvania, came to Philadelphia to study interior spatial design at the Philadelphia Museum School of Art, now the University of the Arts. Four years later he met Ellen, who was studying to be a nurse. Married in January 1962 and drafted days later into the army, he missed active duty in Vietnam, although he contributed his skills in an important and fascinating way: "I was stationed at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, where I served in the Army Corps of Engineering Training Aids Division. We made huge fiberglass terrain maps of various areas in Vietnam, which were cut into sections, shipped to California and reassembled so instructors could walk on them to orient troops, seated on bleachers, as to where they would be sent."

Discharged in 1964 on a Friday, Ronn became manager of exhibit installation for three pavilions at the last World's Fair in New York the following Monday, launching a 32-year career in the fast-paced world of exhibit design and construction. Ellen joined him, and they worked side by side for 26 years.

Two years before Ronn retired from exhibiting, "I decided to augment retirement by becoming a personal property appraiser, taking required courses at two universities. Today I assist people who are downsizing. Senior citizens, in particular, are often misguided in how to go about something that can be very emotional. For one client I placed an oil-on-canvas painting at a Connecticut auction that sold 'to the phone' in 92 seconds for \$876,000."

The Shaffers don't anticipate moving again. "When the time comes, our final resting place will be in the Memorial Garden of Old Pine Street Graveyard," says Ronn. "We can only hope that time is a long way off!"



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