

SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

September/October 2019

The Newsletter
of The Society Hill
Civic Association

www.societyhillcivic.org

Quality of Life Q&A, New Voting Machines



G. Lamar Stewart,
General Membership
Meeting speaker

The Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) invites all neighbors to its General Membership Meeting on September 18 at the Pennsylvania Hospital's Zubrow Auditorium.

G. Lamar Stewart, Assistant Director of Community Engagement for the Office of the District Attorney of Philadelphia, will address the office's overall approach to criminal justice and its impact on quality-of-life issues in Society Hill before answering questions from our community.

In addition, starting before the meeting at 7 p.m. and continuing during the meeting, representatives of the Office of Philadelphia City Commissioners

will be present outside the doors of the auditorium to demonstrate Philadelphia's new voting system. Individuals will be able to practice with the voting machines to be used beginning November 2019, which will produce a verifiable paper ballot. We urge our members to take advantage of the opportunity to become familiar with these machines.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Simply arrive before 7:30 p.m. at Pennsylvania Hospital's Zubrow Auditorium, located on the first floor inside the main entrance at 8th Street near Spruce. Remember that our new voting machines will be set up by 7 p.m. for your perusal.



LESS LITTER ON YOUR DOORSTEP

There's a quick and easy way to reduce waste and limit trash in our community. You can acquire, at no charge, a **Circular-Free Property sticker**. No more take-out menus on your front steps or door knob tags for the latest restaurant or service. Those Thursday morning bags of sales circulars that blow all over on a windy day can be a thing of the past. Go to www.greenbeams.us/circular-free-philadelphia

a-step-toward-zero-waste/ to get your sticker order form. Complete the very brief form and mail it to the Department of Licenses and Inspections address listed. In a couple weeks, you will receive a small decal to be affixed to the bottom of your front door. Solicitors who continue to deliver unwanted circulars can be cited. Not to worry, you will still receive your mail, packages, newspapers and, of course, the *Society Hill Reporter*.

Wednesday,
September
18

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Society Hill Civic Association Meeting
Wednesday, September 18, 2019

**Pennsylvania Hospital
8th & Spruce Streets**

5:45 p.m. Board Meeting
Pennsylvania Hospital's Great Court Room

7:30 - 9 p.m. General Membership Meeting
Pennsylvania Hospital's Zubrow Auditorium

Topics: **How the City's approach to criminal justice impacts quality-of-life issues in Society Hill. Also, a tutorial on the City's new voting machines.**

Speakers: **G. Lamar Stewart, Assistant Director of Community Engagement for the Office of the District Attorney of Philadelphia; representatives of the Office Philadelphia City Commissioners**

GRANTS AWARDED



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SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

**NUSA
Award-Winning
Newsletter
2014 thru
2019**

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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 LARRY SPECTOR

As I write this message, the repaving of Spruce and Pine Streets is being completed. Bone-rattling rides over exposed manhole covers in milled streets, as well as noise and inconvenience, necessarily came with the project. The results show that the Streets Department deserves our gratitude for a job well done.

So, it's goodbye potholes and hello opposite-side bike lanes and parking. Let's hope these changes do not backfire. Every driver parking on Spruce or Pine Streets will now be opening his door not onto a sidewalk, but into a flow of traffic coming from behind. Be careful.

As you read this message, the summer draws to a close, and the effects of the South Street and Spruce Harbor Park crowds on Society Hill should gradually subside. As for South Street, we have done our best to assure greater police presence, a weekend curfew of 10 p.m. for minors under 13 and midnight for minors 13 and over, and towing of cars parked after midnight. Spruce Harbor Park is a success story for the city and is now expected to be a fixture on the waterfront. Hopefully, as a result of our work with the park's operators, the Delaware River Waterfront Commission, you've noticed improved efforts to clean up trash and some decrease in late-night disturbances. In the end, we must realize that we have to continually deal with these issues and that they come with our territory.

As for potential development in Society Hill, there is an impressive plan to build a large residence involving some demolition at the rear of structures at 230-234 S. 4th Street with new construction there and on the existing garden lot at 236 S. 4th Street — the corner of 4th and Locust Streets. Our Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee voiced concerns regarding some aspects

of the design. The Architectural Committee of the city's Historical Commission voted against approval, and the owner recently re-submitted the project with significant design changes.

The Nelson Building consists of three historic low-rise structures at 222-230 Walnut Street. A developer sought "conceptual" approval from the Historical Commission to demolish rear portions and replace them with a 19-story condominium. Thanks to Lorna Katz for voicing our opposition to the project before the Historical Commission's Architectural Committee and the Commission itself. Thanks also to Cindy MacLeod, who voiced opposition on behalf of the National Park Service. Approval for the concept was denied, as was the developer's request for guidance on what other size development might be acceptable on the site.

The Nelson building is an example of why we continue to press for adoption of our Master Plan, which would impose a 65-foot height limit on buildings on Walnut Street from 2nd to 4th Streets. Thanks to Mary Purcell and Paul Boni for leading this effort and gaining support from Councilman Mark Squilla, who intends to introduce our Plan when City Council reconvenes in September. The city's overwhelming desire to increase population density, sometimes even at the expense of historic preservation, remains antithetical to our Master Plan. As are several bills recently introduced, which are theoretically intended to discourage developers from demolishing old churches and other vulnerable buildings by excusing them from parking use and zoning classification requirements. We may be asking for your support if we decide to oppose such legislation in the fall.

I hope you had a pleasant summer. I look forward to being with you at our next General Membership meeting on September 18.



**SHCA President
Larry Spector**

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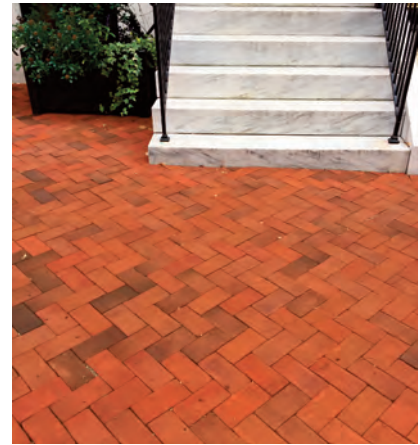
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Fix Your Bricks

Brick sidewalks in Society Hill and downtown Philly are being renovated to provide a smooth, safe walking surface for pedestrians. We have experience and have repaired many sidewalks and patios in the city. The upheaval caused by tree roots can often be carefully corrected without removing or killing trees. Call McFarland to inquire about fixing your bricks.

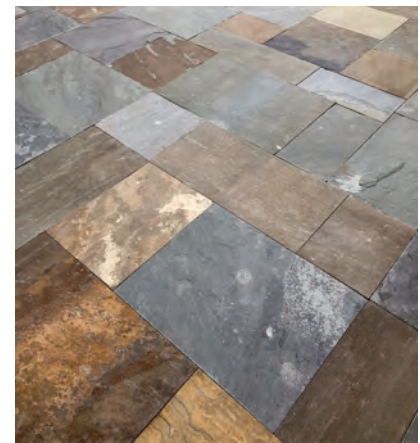


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NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY SLEUTHS

BY JANINE BLACK AND BARRY ARKLES

The 1700s French Quarter Near Society Hill

Neighbors may wonder why French flags wave throughout the communities around Society Hill on Bastille Day, July 14. In fact, France has had a long-time influence on Philadelphia. Napoleon's older brother Joseph Bonaparte, the former King of Spain, looked to Philadelphia for refuge in 1815, living at 260 S. 9th Street. At the time, Philadelphia was already a center of French commerce and culture. By the late 1700s, approximately 10 percent of the population of Philadelphia, out of 45,000 total, was French.

Refugees Flee to Philadelphia

Hundreds of refugees from the French Revolution (1789-99) arrived in Philadelphia from continental France, including future King Louis Philippe, his two brothers and diplomat Prince Charles Maurice de Talleyrand. The Revolution distracted French administrators and military from the active defense of the French-held Lesser Antilles, islands located between Haiti and French Guiana. With French military recalled to the continent, the English took advantage of the situation by militarily taking over the islands by the mid-1790s, displacing island émigrés to ports of refuge.

Ongoing instability in French government prompted many locally famous people to take refuge in Philadelphia. Talleyrand, today a byword for crafty diplomacy, came to make a quick fortune in land speculation. Staying from 1794 through 1796 at 4th and Market Streets, Talleyrand investigated possible land purchases, including 100,000 acres from Robert Morris, but reneged on his commitment to a creditor-harassed Morris. More fortunate Frenchman came and created their wealth and dynasties in Philadelphia. Michael Bouvier (262 S. 3rd Street) came to America after Waterloo. Cabinet-maker by trade, he made a fortune in land speculation, although he is perhaps best known for his descendant, Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis. Frenchman Stephen Girard came in 1776 as a sea captain, becoming a banker and philanthropist, and one of the wealthiest residents. During the War of 1812, he underwrote the U.S. government, saving it from financial collapse.

In addition to the French Revolution, slave revolts on the French-speaking islands also boosted French immigration in the U.S. Half of the world's coffee and sugar was produced on Saint Domingue, the part-French/part-Spanish island of Hispaniola. Here slave rebellions erupted in 1791 and lasted nearly a decade, spreading through the neighboring islands. Many French-speaking refugees, both black and white, 15,000 from Saint Domingue alone, fled the islands and sailed to France, or eastern ports of Charleston, Baltimore and Philadelphia. These refugee ships, carrying the dreaded yellow fever disease, soon became an unwelcome sight to locals.

Philadelphia was hard hit as four waves of yellow fever began in the waterfront areas where the ships unloaded, then spread through the rest of the city during the 1790s. This pestilence killed thousands of residents, only to disappear each year when cold weather arrived, killing the mosquitoes, the unrecognized carrier of the disease.

French Commerce in Philadelphia

French-speaking refugees created their own communities around churches and business districts in Philadelphia. Early immigrants from France coalesced in the area near Market Street and east of Independence Hall; immigrants from the French islands settled initially south of Cedar Street, today known as South Street, in Moyamensing.

In the 1700s, High Street — Market Street — was a busy commercial district and center to American and French business and culture. The cluster of French hotels, French businesses and businesses catering to French clientele abutted the State House — Independence Hall. In the cemetery of St. Mary's Catholic Church on S. 4th Street near Locust, numerous French names and names from the island of St. Domingue found on tombstones suggest a strong presence of church members with French and French Island origins.

Hotels, now common in the area, were once scarce. American-style "inns" handled most overnight travelers. "Hotel," a French word, brought to mind two large hotels run by Frenchmen, the Union and the Indian Queen Hotels. Side by side, these hotels, outbuilding and stables took up most of the east side of the block on S. 4th Street between Market and Chestnut Streets. The Union Hotel was opened by Frenchman John Francis in 1793 and was home to two U.S. vice presidents, Adams and Jefferson, plus several congressmen during their stays in Philadelphia. Francis sold the Union Hotel and bought the Indian Queen Hotel in 1804.

Our Official French Quarter

Today, the official French Quarter is well demarcated with signs and located west of Broad Street, near Rittenhouse Square. It is anchored by the Sofitel Hotel and numerous French restaurants and businesses. *Alliance Francaise*, a French language school located at Broad and Walnut Streets, offers opportunities to learn French and participate in French cultural events for the numerous Francophiles in Philadelphia.

**Indian Queen Hotel**

Drs. Janine Black and Barry Arkles are residents in Society Hill since 2000 and longtime Francophiles.

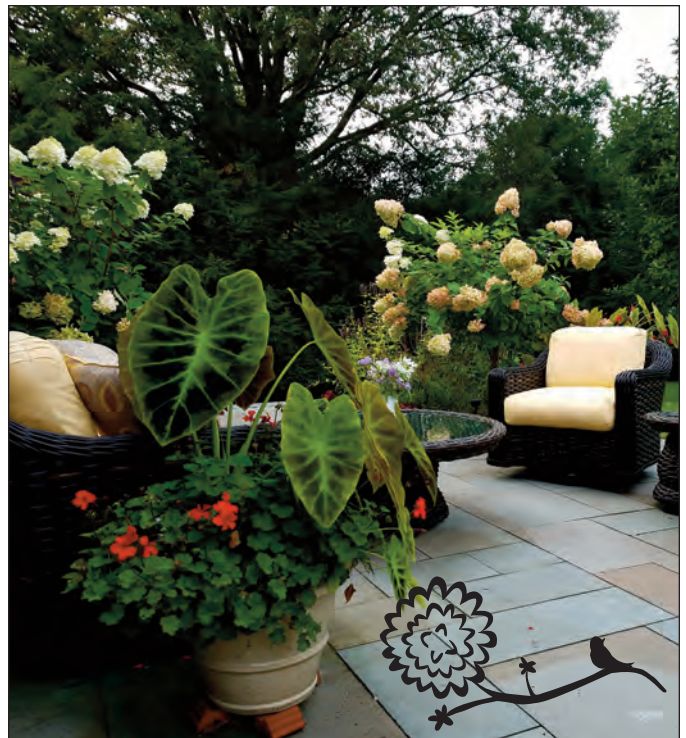
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WEED PATROL UPDATE

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

Should Weeds Be Criminalized? If Only.

While one kind of weed continues to gain acceptance, another persists in creating community eyesores. The one weed is thought to ease pain, help with anxiety and decrease stress. It's legally accessible through certain channels, and people are more than willing to pony up the money for it. The other type of weed plagues our neighborhood, grows unchecked and makes things look a mess. Some people pay to eradicate it. Go figure.

All kidding aside, the Weed Patrol continues weekly Tuesday morning forays into Society Hill. Yes, even in this heat. We are a dedicated group, now sporting Kelly green T-shirts, compliments of Barbara Oldenhoff, an original, hardworking member of the team.

It's become obvious to the Weed Patrol that some neighbors chronically neglect the outside of their properties, either oblivious to the blight or seemingly uncaring. Others maintain home fronts that could grace the cover of Architectural Digest. Kudos to them! Do we perhaps have an abundance of closet hoarders whose homes look

just as unkempt on the inside? I doubt it. For some odd reason they must have gone weed blind. Could this be an actual diagnosis? Should they see an ophthalmologist? I don't think so. If healthy and able-bodied, they should probably just step outside and get down to business.

Here's the **REMEDY**.

Remove any trash.

Eradicate the weeds. Give them a firm tug or loosen roots first to pull tough ones.

Mulch cleared tree beds. Spread mulch three inches deep and three inches away from the trunk.

Encourage your neighbors to do the same. Help them out as needed.

Don't use Roundup weed killer! It's toxic to humans and groundwater.

Yes to sweeping regularly. It clears organic debris that cultivate weed growth.

Let's make Society Hill look like the tourist destination that it is. **Weed on!**



7th St. tree pit: Before



7th St. tree pit: After



Barbara Oldenhoff hard at work weeding

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Liberty Tree


by Thomas Paine

In a chariot of light, from the regions of the day,
The Goddess of Liberty came,
Ten thousand celestials directed her way,
And hither conducted the dame.
A fair budding branch from the gardens above,
Where millions with millions agree,
She brought in her hand as a pledge of her love,
And the plant she named Liberty Tree.

The celestial exotic stuck deep in the ground,
Like a native it flourished and bore;
The fame of its fruit drew the nations around,
To seek out this peaceable shore.
Unmindful of names or distinctions they came,
For freemen like brothers agree;
With one spirit endued, they one friendship pursued,
And their temple was Liberty Tree.

Beneath this fair tree, like the patriarchs of old,
Their bread in contentment they ate,
Unvexed with the troubles of silver or gold,
The cares of the grand and the great.
With timber and tar they Old England supplied,
And supported her power on the sea;
Her battles they fought, without getting a groat,
For the honor of Liberty Tree.


But hear, O ye swains (tis a tale most profane),
How all the tyrannical powers,
Kings, Commons and Lords, are uniting amain
To cut down this guardian of ours.
From the East to the West blow the trumpet to arms,
Thro' the land let the sound of it flee;
Let the far and the near all unite with a cheer,
In defense of our Liberty Tree.



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'FIX THE BRIX'

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Say Nix to Loose Bricks

We want our neighborhood to be clean, safe and beautiful. Many of us regularly sweep our sidewalks and plant colorful blooms in our flower boxes. Some conscientious neighbors even pull up the unsightly and ubiquitous weeds that plague us.

Brick Sidewalks

Society Hill has a system of brick sidewalks that was created back in the 1960s, during the redevelopment period. They look attractive, but don't always cooperate — the bricks move unless cemented in place. Although over 200 households have already participated in our popular "Fix the Brix" subsidy program and leveled their front sidewalks, too many sidewalks are still a hazard. No one wants their sidewalk to be the cause of another person's injury.

Tree Pits

I have noticed many loose bricks, especially at tree pits. This is not only unsightly, and can cause tripping, but these bricks could be used to break

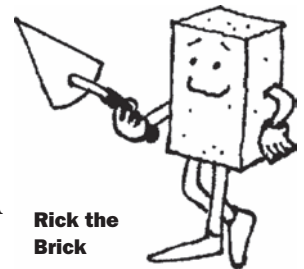
car windows or worse. If you have a tree in front of your house, check to see if there are loose bricks. If so, remove them and store for future use. Another option is to have an arborist or mason use the extra bricks to better arrange your tree pit. Some tree pits are too small, restricting water access into the pit.

How to Navigate 'Fix the Brix' Program

- Take a photo of the problem area, brick or cement, and email to me at marthalev6@gmail.com.
- Choose a mason or arborist to do the work. If needed, we can email you a suggested list.
- After work is completed to your satisfaction, mail us your paid invoice. Make a copy for yourself. If possible, include a copy of the cancelled check.
- In several weeks, receive a check for 40 percent of your total invoice up to \$400 for current SHCA members; 40 percent up to \$300 for non-members.



Loose Belgian blocks around a tree pit are a tripping hazard.



Rick the Brick

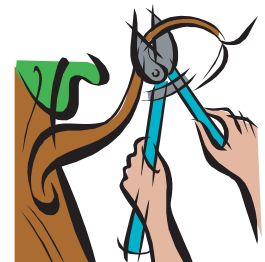
DEAD TREE AND PRUNING SUBSIDIES

Because Philadelphia Parks and Recreation is unable to maintain and remove dead trees in a timely manner, SHCA offers property owners 50 percent of the cost of removing and replanting a tree, up to \$500 for SHCA members and up to \$400 for non-members.

To qualify for reimbursement, the property owner must show proof of the tree and stump removal, and the cost of the removal and the planting of a replacement tree. SHCA will also reimburse

a property owner up to 50 percent of the cost to hire professional services to prune their street tree, up to \$300 for SHCA members and \$200 for non-members, no more often than every two years. Remember, property owners are liable for any damages caused by falling limbs. Submit paperwork to Matt DeJulio at mattdejulio@aol.com.

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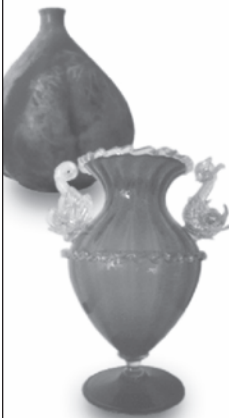
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KEEPING POSTED

BY AL CAVALARI

Reflections on a Historic Moment

Historic sites use artifacts to take us back in time to the days of an earlier era. This postcard published in the first decade of the 20th century shows the Syng Inkstand, named after silversmith Philip Syng, who crafted it for the Pennsylvania colonial government in 1752. Every signer of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution was once reflected on its surface. Make a pilgrimage to the West Wing of Independence Hall, where the inkstand is always on display, and no ticket is ever required for entry. Stand silently before it and ponder the following scenario.

The Constitutional Convention ran from mid-May to September 17, 1787, and it almost fell apart at many points along the way. Washington would later declare it was a miracle that the convention succeeded. On the final day, one can imagine the delegates assembled, with the great labor behind them, looking forward to the ceremonial signing so they could go home.

But wait! Rufus King of Massachusetts brings up the matter of what to do with all the records that had been created. Are they to just be forgotten? Might not they be important in the future? From the few lines in James Madison's notes describing this moment, one can imagine the reaction of the those present. I envision the delegates all casting puzzled glances at each other, and muttering things like, "Well yeah, he's right. What are we going to do with the records?" Then I imagine all eyes gradually settling on Washington.

Either destroying the records or placing them with Washington is exactly what King proposed, and this becomes the last vote of the entire convention. General Washington is the one man that everyone can trust. A question is then hurriedly called and passed, that Washington should take all the papers for safekeeping.

Not so fast. Washington has a curve ball for them. He asks just what they want him to do with the papers. Should he make them available? Should he let people copy them? What if convention delegates or even outsiders want to borrow them? Again, the delegates must have felt that they were halfway out the door. More sideways glances and mutterings and then the final resolution of the Federal Convention's great journey was made. Madison writes, "It was Resolved nem: con [with no one speaking against] 'that he retain the Journal and other papers, subject to the order of the Congress, if ever formed under the Constitution.'"



This postcard published in the first decade of the 20th century shows the Syng Inkstand, made for the Pennsylvania colonial government in 1752 by silversmith Philip Syng.

Philip Syng was the grandfather of the "Father of American Surgery," Philip Syng Physick, whose house still stands at 321 S. 4th Street.

Three simple words: *if ever formed*. With them we can understand that these men, who had come so far from home and had endured excruciating work to create the plan of government they hoped would save their failing union of states, knew full well that the nation they had collectively imagined in that room might in fact never even come to be. If a government were never formed, the entire endeavor would have been merely a tedious academic civics exercise.

With these words they were acknowledging that as they were about to say farewell to each other, they may be also saying farewell to any hope of a United States of America. The final resolution might as well have said, "If the gains of our revolution are preserved, if our countrymen choose actually to unite under this system we have created, then the first congress should decide what to do with our papers." Then, in turn, each delegate picked up a quill pen from the Syng inkstand, dipped it in the ink, and signed the document. That's when this humble little object became a precious historical artifact.

Three days later, Franklin wrote a letter in which he explained how difficult it was for the Convention to incorporate all the different interests and views of the various delegates into a document upon which they could reach an agreement. He speculated that it may well not find the same reception when it went to the various states, saying "We have however done our best and it must take its chance." When you ponder how lucky we are to have our nation, remember that as the founders stood before this inkstand, reflected on its surface, they put on record their understanding that this nation might not survive its birth.

Al Cavalari is a certified member of the Association of Philadelphia Tour Guides. For a day job, he operates the Flag Guys®, a flag business in upstate New York. send comments to Al at flagguys@aol.com.



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SAFE AND SOUND IN SOCIETY HILL

Connect With the Philadelphia Police Department

It is important for all neighborhoods to have a connection and engage with the Philadelphia Police Department. Even low-crime areas like ours have concerns about public safety and quality of life issues.

Society Hill is in the 6th Police District with boundaries bordering from Lombard north to Poplar Street, and from the Delaware River east to Broad Street. Captain John O’Hanlon is the commander of the 6th Police District.

For updates on crime and other important information about our district, go online to www.phillypolice.com.

- Click on **Current Crime Stats** to get updates on crime in Philadelphia.
- Click on **Districts and Units**, then on 6th District, to get crime news and other news in our district specifically.
- Click on **Forms and Reports** to submit a roll call complaint for chronic neighborhood problems; or
- Click on **Submit a Tip** email: tips@phillypolice.com. These reports are sent to the top police officials and translate to more police coverage for us. A chronic problem will not get fixed unless we make sure police officials know about it.

Philadelphia has 21 police districts and each is divided into four smaller subdivisions called PSAs or Police Service Areas. PSA3 includes Society Hill and Wash West plus others.

The PSAs were established to increase community engagement and improve quality of life for all neighborhoods. The monthly meetings involve

the presentation of updated crime stats and a forum between residents and the police, giving residents a chance to ask questions and raise concerns about any problems in their community. It is a two-way street and helps build a relationship between the police and each neighborhood. The police learn more about our neighborhood and we, in turn, obtain valuable information from them. “We need the community just as much as the community needs us”, says Lt. Marc Hayes of the Philadelphia Police Department.

The PSA3 meetings are conveniently located and are scheduled on the second Tuesday each month. **The next PSA3 meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 10, 6 p.m.**, at Pennsylvania Hospital auditorium, 8th and Spruce Streets. Lt. James Nagel will preside.

The full calendar of PSA meetings is on the phillypolice.com website. If you have a concern or complaint, join us for a discussion and have your voice heard.

Remember, **911** is the way to go if you need police help quickly.



Remember, if you need police help quickly, dial 911.



EXERCISE & SOCIALIZE

The **Walkie/Talkies** meet at Three Bears Park, Delancey Street between 3rd and 4th Streets, on Tuesday morning at 8:15 a.m. for a one-hour stroll through our historic community. Anyone is welcome to participate in this non-stressful, one-hour exercise and socialize program.

“Philly Is Walking In The Park!” meets at the fountain in the center of Washington Square, 6th and Locust Streets, at 8 a.m. 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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YOUR BOARD AT WORK

SHCA Initiates Grants Program

This past spring, the SHCA board initiated a grants program to disperse \$50,000 to neighborhood non-profit organizations. One criterion is that the funds must be used for projects or programs that benefit Society Hill, as well as a large number of people. The grants needed to be given by the end of our fiscal year, May 31, 2019.

Eight SHCA board members volunteered to serve on the committee, to help create a list of potential grant recipients, and to become a liaison who would reach out to a grant recipient organization.

Each organization's use of the funds had to align with SHCA's mission statement, which is:

"The aims and purposes of the association are to promote the improvement of the Society Hill neighborhood 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."

To be eligible to receive a grant, each potential recipient was required to provide a brief description of the organization and project or program, as well as a budget. We needed to know the expected results, a time frame to achieve them and a plan to reach goals.

The following list of organizations and projects/ programs were approved:

- **Three Bears Park: Tree root and branch pruning**
- **Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church: Repair of church front steps**
- **Starr Garden: PA system for playground**
- **South Street Headhouse District: Lukens Headhouse clock restoration**
- **Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks: Physick House gate widening project**
- **McCall School: STEM/robotics program**
- **Old Pine Community Center: Community youth program**
- **Philadelphia Vietnam Veterans Memorial: POW/MIA monument project**
- **Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks: Powel House façade restoration project**
- **Old Pine Conservancy: Cast iron fence conservation project at Old Pine Street Church**
- **St. Peter's Church: Churchyard tree replacement project**

The organizations were delighted to receive these unexpected gifts in the range of \$1,100 to \$6,000, but mostly at the \$5,000 level. SHCA is proud to help these nonprofits and wishes them luck in their endeavors.



St. Peter's churchyard tree replacement grant



Grant to Mother Bethel for repair of church steps



Grant for POW/MIA monument project



Headhouse Clock Restoration grant



Grant to Old Pine Community Center

OUT AND ABOUT

PHOTOGRAPHS BY FRED MANFRED

Washington Square Volunteers & Visitors

We are happy to announce that the Sixth Washington Square Affair will take place on June 3, 2020! This festive and fun event has raised a significant amount of funds, all going to the improvement and beautification of our most special park.

This past year, under the inspired leadership of Sherley Young, work began to provide four-season interest in the Square, using predominantly the native perennial plants that are necessary to sustain the native birds, insects and animals.

New projects will include security cameras, curb repair; pruning the canopy of 203 trees to let light better reach the grounds, continued park maintenance, and efforts to control turf erosion, water run-off and mud.

Washington Square is part of Independence National Historical Park (INHP). Working with INHP, our dedicated and enthusiastic team of volunteers has enhanced our historic Square, as these photos confirm.



Sherley Young



Suzy Davis & Patricia Serrano



Ed & Pat Coyle



Dennis Ilstein



Patricia Kapur, Shara Brunner and volunteer



Before



After

OUT AND ABOUT

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BONNIE HALDA



ON THE GO

BY KELSEY WHITE

7 Days in London with 7 Close Friends



The girls at Windsor Castle

Travelling in a group is difficult. Conflicting interests, tastes and budgets present just a few challenges. So naturally I had some apprehension when I, along with six of my closest friends from school, booked a flight to London. It was not a typical college spring break trip of excess

drinking and crisping in the sun. Instead, combining the individual strengths, experiences and interests that make us a dynamic group at home, helped facilitate a wonderful trip to London.



View from top of St. Paul's Cathedral

There were no disputes over some of the more mainstream sites like Windsor Castle, Fortnum and Mason's Tea Room and Westminster Abbey — all of which were fantastic and accessible by London's advanced metro and rail systems. I recommend purchasing tickets for sites and trains in advance; it's a time saver and the prices are lower online. However, when it came to more specific trips such as Oxford, Stonehenge and a night at the theater, it was not as easy to come to unanimous decisions. Thankfully, we collectively learned that unanimity is boring. And experiences that were not at the top of our priority list enriched our respective trips, because we saw and learned about things we otherwise would have overlooked.



Afternoon Tea in Fortnum and Mason

We all agreed that the British Museum was a fantastic site. It felt like both a trip around the world and a trip through time, featuring artifacts from ancient Europe, Africa and Asia. This stop is essential, even for anti-museum folk. It appeals to all interests: sports, culture, science, the list goes on. I implore the adventurous history buff to make a day trip to Stonehenge, because, as natural erosion occurs, it is unclear how much longer the monument may stand. Take heed, it is not a site for everyone, as some of my comrades pointed out upon arrival — “Three hours to look at rocks!” However, some thoroughly enjoyed the mysterious, ancient wonder of the world. The lesson here is, while experimentation is great, know thyself. Splitting from the group can be empowering and liberating. If old rocks are of no interest — and who can really blame you? — save the trek and go elsewhere.

London is a hub for fashion and shopping. We spent a leisurely afternoon wandering around Harrods, which constitutes more of a museum than a store to those of us on a college-student budget. Harrods has a champagne lounge on the fourth floor, the perfect place to relax and reflect amidst haute-couture. Covent Garden is a less crowded area offering lots of high-fashion stores and smaller boutiques. It was lovely to escape the rain by moseying through the interesting shops.

One thing we certainly all agreed upon was cuisine. My plan-oriented friends did extensive research on interesting restaurants. Due to historical colonization, England boasts some of the best Indian food in the world. We made a reservation at Dishoom, which came highly recommended by a local friend, and it did not disappoint. The family-style Indian cuisine was perfect for our group. We also tried a Middle-Eastern spot called Delamina East. The meal was excellent, a rival to Society Hill's Zahav, but the cocktails really stole the show. We tried local foods as well. The Burrow Market, near Notting Hill, is an open-air market with regional produce and specialties. We sampled local cheeses, pastries, breads and sandwiches, all of excellent quality and taste.

We chose not to visit the London Eye, a common tourist spot. Opinions varied on this, but we were persuaded by the logical group members that tickets are overpriced, queues are absurd, and there are other ways to take in panoramic views of the city. The Aqua Shard is a modern, glass skyscraper featuring two rooftop bars. Enjoy a drink, or a few, here in the evening. Tickets are required, but reasonably priced. We also found that St. Paul's Cathedral, home to an opulent interior and crypt, features a beautiful city view. Visitors can ascend to the dome of the cathedral for wonderful sights.

We took in this view near the end of our travels, only to realize that, despite extensive site seeing, day tripping and walking, London is massive, and there was much left to explore. So, we ended our trip on a special note with the understanding that we would return some day — together.

Next stop: a long weekend in Boston.

Kelsey White grew up in Society Hill and is a rising junior at Boston College, studying Communication and International Relations.



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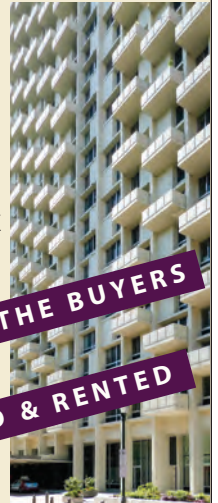
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ON OUR SHELF

BY VIKTORIA LANGE

The Tenth Muse

Life is unfathomably complex. Figuring out our place in the world can feel as mystifying as an advanced mathematical hypothesis.

For Katherine, the narrator of Catherine Chung’s *The Tenth Muse*, identity is quite literally tied up in numbers. A rare mathematical talent sets Katherine apart from her peers early on, and sets her on her life’s trajectory: to become an ambitious mathematician and solve the Riemann hypothesis. Yet Katherine’s genius is not the only thing that makes her an outsider. She is half Chinese in 1950s midwestern America, a time and place still reeling from the repercussions of World War II. Her family is an island unto itself, without any other known relatives, in a town where family is everything. Finally, she is an ambitious woman in a time when women were shut out of academic circles.

We witness the world through Katherine’s piercing, matter-of-fact commentary. The injustices she endures at the hands of her male colleagues will leave readers breathless with an all-too-familiar shock, and yet Katherine is not a victim for long. She perseveres, redirects and remains ever ambitious, sometimes to a fault. Ambition drives her mathematics career, but it also pushes her to confront the ultimate question: where did she come from?

This question will launch readers into Katherine’s journey of self-discovery. From the American

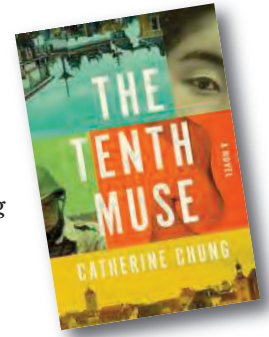
Midwest to the East Coast’s elite universities, from 1960s Germany to France to war-ravaged Japan, Katherine’s mysterious past unspools with the beauty and complexity of the equations that drive her.

While *The Tenth Muse* is a work of fiction, Chung writes from a certain amount of experience; she earned a mathematics degree before pursuing her writing career and is herself a Chinese-American woman in fields still dominated by male influence. This experience is infused in the fictional Katherine, whose brushes with romance and betrayal are laid bare in Chung’s prose, to emotional effect.

Readers will be gripped by Katherine’s pursuits, her triumphs and her flaws. She is the ultimate heroine, ahead of her time and brilliant, with all obstacles in her way. *The Tenth Muse* checks many boxes while still drawing us in to its every facet; it is a heroic tale, a family mystery, a historical fiction, a feminist example.

Life is complex — as is math — for many of us. In Katherine, however, we find inspiration in uncovering the past, and hope for the women for whom she blazes a trail.

Richard De Wyngaert is the proprietor of Society Hill’s only local, independently owned bookstore, Head House Books, located at 619 S. 2nd street. Events Coordinator **Viktoria Lange** wrote this article.



Bring in a copy of this review and receive 20 percent off any one title in our store or ordered online at www.HeadHouseBooks.com.

SHCA List of Contractors

Free to all current members, this 14-page list provides names and contact information for general contractors, painters, electricians, plumbers, roofers, masons, HVAC landscapers, tree-care experts, window replacements — you name it. To have the latest updated list mailed to you, or if you have a contractor that you would like to recommend, please contact contact Martha Levine at marthalev@gmail.com or 215-629-0727.





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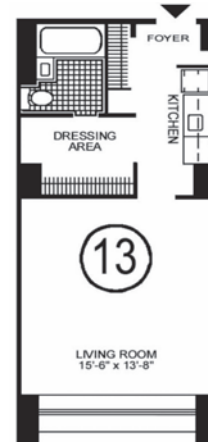
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Built in 1829 by Joseph Norris, this historic home became known as The Cadwalader house thanks to Judge John Cadwalader who both resided in and had his legal office there. Cadwalader was best known for serving one term in the US House of Representatives and then later becoming a United States District court judge, an appointment made by his good friend President James Buchanan. Over the years the residence has served as the home of the Mutual Assurance Company and offices for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.



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HEADHOUSE FARMERS MARKET

BY LISA KELLY, THE FOOD TRUST

Autumn's Bounty

Late summer to early fall is one of our favorite times of the year. It's marked by back-to-school events, the start of the NFL season, and cooler evenings in the city. Fresh produce is still abundant at our Farmers Market at Head House Square.

Enjoy the last of the summer produce, and be on the lookout for fall newcomers such as sweet root vegetables and early squash. Interested in new ideas on how to make best use of this wonderful produce? Look no further than The Food Trust's website. As part of our educational mission, we publish a bevy of mouthwatering and healthy seasonal recipes online. One of my current go-to recipes is peach salsa, which makes use of the last of the peaches and the luscious summer tomatoes that are still growing locally. For this and other seasonal recipes, check out http://thefoodtrust.org/uploads/media_items/recipe-of-the-week-peach-salsa.original.pdf.

Now, allow me to introduce you to two vendors: Birchrunch Hills Farm and Happy Cat Farm.

Birchrunch Hills Farm is a family-owned dairy farm in the highlands of Birchrunchville, Chester Springs. The Miller family offers handcrafted raw-milk cheese. Cheeses featured are: *Birchrunch Blue*, a raw milk, natural rind, semi-soft cheese

that is rich and creamy with delicate blue flavors; *Equinox*, a raw milk, washed rind, traditional mountain-style cheese that features nuttiness combined with a hint of sharpness; and *Fat Cat* cheese, which is both earthy and tangy with a grassy finish. Seasonal and fresh cheese is available all year from the farm, and a selection of cheeses is available for purchase at the Headhouse Farmers Market. For their latest news, produce and events calendar see www.birchrunchhillsfarm.com.

Speaking of cats, we'd like to introduce one of the newer merchants at the Headhouse Market, **Happy Cat Farm**. Tim and Amy are the owners of this organic, local farm, which prides itself on the magnificent array of heirloom tomatoes, large and small. At its farm store, Happy Cat also sells tomato seeds — just in case you get the gardening bug and want to try to grow your own produce. Happy Cat has also developed a range of tomato-based sauces and condiments, which often make an appearance at the Farmers Market.

To capitalize on the produce of both merchants, we've included a recipe from Birchrunch Hills Farm's website, which features their delectable blue cheese. Grab some fresh tomatoes from Happy Cat and start cooking!



Sue Miller with Equinox Cheese



Tim at Happy Cat Farm

Tomato Blue Cheese Tart

Makes 6 to 8 servings

Ingredients:

- 1 sheet frozen puff pastry, thawed according to package directions, or
- 1 basic pie crust
- 6 ounces Birchrunch Hills blue cheese, at room temperature
- 1/2 to 2 tablespoons whole milk or half-and-half
- 2 to 3 medium-size heirloom or other tomatoes
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon extra virgin olive oil

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. On a floured surface, roll out the puff pastry into a circle 1/4-inch thick and about 10 inches in diameter. Transfer it to a 9-inch tart pan. Pat into the bottom and sides and trim the edge, so it's even with the rim. Put it in the freezer to chill for 15 minutes.

In a small bowl, using a fork, crumble the cheese and mash together with the milk, starting with 1/2 tablespoon, until the consistency is spreadable but still has some lumps. Set aside.

Slice tomatoes about 1/4-inch thick. Arrange on paper towels and blot to remove most of juices. Set aside.

Remove pastry from freezer. Bake until light golden brown, about 20 minutes. Remove from oven and let cool for 15 minutes.

Spread the cheese mixture evenly over the bottom of the pastry. Cover with the tomato slices in a tightly packed single layer. Sprinkle with pepper and drizzle with olive oil.

Bake until the crust is deep golden brown, and the tomatoes have collapsed, about 10 minutes. Transfer to a rack and let stand for 20 to 30 minutes before serving.

To serve, gently slide a knife around the edges to release any pastry that might be sticking, then remove the bottom and place the tart on a serving plate. Cut into wedges. Serve warm.



The Food Trust, in partnership with Get Healthy Philly, operates more than 25 farmers markets in Philadelphia, including the Head House 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. To get involved with The Food Trust, see our website www.thefoodtrust.org.

INDEPENDENCE PLACE

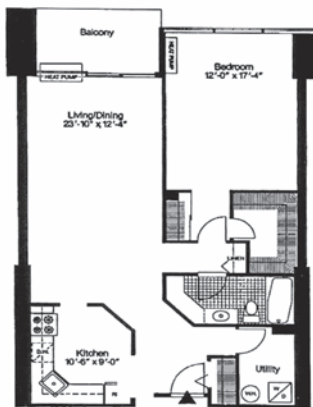
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SOUTH STREET HEADHOUSE DISTRICT

BY KERI WHITE

New Royalty to Reign on South Street

Adam and Ido Zaken have a vision for South Street, and it starts with **The Philadelphia Queen**, their new boutique hotel located at 5th and Bainbridge. Adam explains, “When people ask me ‘Why there?’ my immediate response is ‘Because we need it!’ South Street is bracketed by two of the most beautiful neighborhoods in the city, Society Hill and Queen Village. These communities have amazing homes, great restaurants, wonderful shopping — and South Street is funky and friendly and cool and should be a tourist destination. All great cities have that edgy area, South Street is ours, and we want to be part of optimizing it.”

The Zaken brothers brought in master craftsman and builder Richard Veitch and gave him free rein to create a work of art in the form of a boutique hotel. Veitch painstakingly restored seven existing structures and fused them together, utilizing top grade materials such as zinc, wood, brick and steel. Adam adds, “Without Richard, this doesn’t happen. He is truly an artist. I can’t say enough about his talent and dedication to making this hotel unique, custom and an absolute work of art.” When asked about the adherence to hand-crafted building, Adam is unequivocal in stating, “We are looking to set a precedent. All other landlords and developers just acquire buildings and invest in finding the tenants they will rent to and what will go in there. We focused our resources on design and quality custom construction. We believe that ultimately pays off because people will be drawn to it, and it will inspire others to do the same in this area.”

South Street Headhouse District Executive Director Mike Harris agrees and says, “The launch of this boutique hotel is exactly what South Street needs. We applaud Adam and Ido for their vision

and congratulate Richard Veitch for his incredible work. Their dedication to historical preservation is commendable, and the addition of a luxury boutique hotel with a high-end restaurant will be a game-changer for the South Street Headhouse District.”

The Zaken brothers have a strong affinity for the South Street neighborhood, having sort of grown up here. Their father, Ilan, owned several businesses on South Street, including Dr. Denim and The Net. As partners in the family business Mira Properties, the brothers own several apartment buildings and properties on South Street. They understand the community and are eager to help maximize its tremendous potential.

Adam says, “In addition to the tourist angle, a boutique hotel is an asset to the neighborhood. City homes are generally not huge, so we can provide accommodations for out-of-town guests. And we are very deliberately not planning to have room service. The point is to encourage people to go out and experience all the great things this area has to offer. If they are sitting in their rooms, they miss that.”

The hotel, run by the Sonder Hotel Group, will house a spectacular rooftop bar and the flagship restaurant Emmy Squared, the acclaimed New York pizza and hamburger eatery. There are also four street-level retail spaces that have been constructed as part of the property; one will house a café, and the Zaken brothers are carefully curating the remaining three spots to deliver a unique and stylish blend of amenities for guests and neighbors.

For information about the grand opening of The Philadelphia Queen, as well as other events, please check www.southstreet.com.



Seven sites equal one new boutique hotel at 5th and Bainbridge.

South Street Closing Time Moved Up

Recently South Street Headhouse District (SSHD), in conjunction with the police department, undertook a series of initiatives to disrupt crowd patterns in order to increase public safety and public space management. These initiatives include police curfew enforcements, distribution of curfew signs to local businesses, restricted parking on the 200 and

300 blocks of South Street, as well as coordinated street sweeping and trash pick-up at 2:30 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

The key component of the initiative was the voluntary cooperation of the late-night food establishments to close at 2 a.m., the same time as the area bars. These businesses that agreed to close are Jim’s Steaks South Street,

Lorenzo’s and Sons Pizza, Ishkabibble’s 1 & 2 and Wawa at Headhouse Plaza.

Efforts will continue through the remainder of the summer. Participating late-night businesses are taking financial impacts, however, in agreeing to participate in this initiative for the good of the overall community. South Street Headhouse District will continue to work with city

agencies, public officials, civic associations and the business community to further assess and implement public safety efforts.

SSHD Clean and Safe Committee meets on a monthly basis. All are welcome. For more information, please visit www.southstreet.com or contact info@southstreet.com.

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WELCOME BASKET PROGRAM

BY MARTHA LEVINE

A Welcoming Treat for Newcomers

We look forward to the new Welcome Basket season to begin this fall. Last season, October 2018 to June 2019, SHCA presented 41 baskets to new first-time home and condo owners. The baskets prompted many new folks to become SHCA members.

Each basket contains fresh foods, neighborhood information and many gift certificates and vouchers for theaters, restaurants, shops, services and museums, all generously contributed by local businesses and organizations.

If you are new here as of 2018-2019 and have not yet been contacted for a basket presentation, please let us know if you are interested. All Welcome Baskets are presented by appointment in the owner's home. To reach us for an appointment, contact Martha Levine at marthalev6@gmail.com or call 215-629-0727.



Alexa, Eliza, and Terry Ragsdale with Lola



Michael, Jourdie, Liza and Kate Triebwasser

We extend our sincerest thanks to the following loyal business and organization contributors and encourage you to help us say thank you by patronizing them.

2019 SOCIETY HILL WELCOME BASKET CONTRIBUTORS

Coffee Shops

- Greenstreet Coffee, 1101 Spruce Street
- La Colombe Coffee, 100 S. 6th Street
- Passero's Coffee Roasters, 834 Chestnut Street

Food Stores

- Acme Market, 5th & Pine Streets

Restaurants

- Ants' Pants, 526 S. 4th Street
- Bistro Romano, 120 Lombard Street
- Bistrot La Minette, 623 S. 6th Street
- Cavanaugh's Headhouse, 421 S. 2nd Street
- City Tavern, 138 S. 2nd Street
- Creperie Beau Monde, 624 S. 6th Street
- Fork, 306 Market Street
- Frieda's Café, 320 Walnut Street
- Garces Group: Amada, 217 Chestnut Street, and others
- Gnocchi, 613 E. Passyunk Avenue (near 5th & South)
- High Street on Market, 308 Market Street
- La Buca Ristorante, 711 Locust Street
- La Forno, 636 South Street
- La Scala's Restaurant & Bar, 615 Chestnut Street
- Malbec Argentine Steakhouse, 400-402 S. 2nd Street
- P. J. Clarke's, 601 Walnut Street
- Pizza Fresca, 703 Chestnut Street
- Positano Coast Restaurant, 2nd & Walnut Streets
- Talula's Daily, café & take out, 208 W. Washington Square



Specialty Shops

- Adornamenti (jewelry), 1106 Pine Street
- Evantine Design, 715 Walnut Street
- Head House Books (independent bookstore), 619 S. 2nd Street
- Paper on Pine (invitations/stationery), 115 S. 13th Street
- Paul Morelli Design Inc. (jewelry), 1118 Walnut Street
- Show of Hands Gallery (crafts), 1006 Pine Street

Theaters/Entertainment

- Annenberg Theater for the Performing Arts, 3680 Walnut Street
- Arden Theater, 40 N. 2nd Street
- 1812 Productions (all comedy theater), 215-592-9560
- Ghost Tours of Philadelphia, 610-587-8308
- InterAct Theater Company, at the Drake, 302 S. Hicks Street
- Lantern Theater Company, 10th & Ludlow Streets (south of Market)
- National Museum of American Jewish History, 5th & Market Streets
- National Liberty Museum, 321 Chestnut Street
- Pennsylvania Ballet, Academy of Music, Broad & Locust Streets
- Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, 215-569-8080
- Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, 321 S. 4th Street
- Philadelphia Theatre Company, Suzanne Roberts Theater, Broad & Pine Streets
- The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, the Kimmel Center, 215-545-1739
- The Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble, Old Pine Church, 412 Pine Street
- The Philadelphia Orchestra, the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, Broad & Spruce Sts.
- Wilma Theater, 265 S. Broad Street



Specialty Foods

- Homemade Goodies by Roz, 510 S. 5th Street
- Knead Bagels, 725 Walnut Street
- Metropolitan Bakery, 262 S. 19th Street (Rittenhouse Square)
- South Street Bagels, 613 S. 3rd Street

Other Services

- J. Sima Salon, Society Hill Towers, 257 St. James Place.
- Judy Moon Massage Therapy, 829 Spruce Street, Suite 300
- Liberty Tree & Landscape Management, 215-725-3637
- M's on the Square (salon), Hopkinson House, 604 S. Washington Square
- Lee's Cleaners, 241 S. 6th Street
- The Worth Collection (women's fashions), 215-925-8813, spattison@comcast.net

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY MATT DEJULIO

2019 Membership Below Last Year's Record

By early August, 1,167 Society Hill residents had either renewed their association membership or joined for the first time, down three percent from last year's record high of 1,206, but ahead of the 2017 total of 1,141.

Also, 103 new members have signed up, a decrease from 148 last year. We still have 109 members whose dues are in arrears, up from 85 at the same time last year.

If you have delayed in 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 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 Society Hill 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 most unique historic neighborhood.

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

Park, America!

A limited number of monthly parking spaces are still available at the renovated lot at 511 S. Front Street, between South and Lombard Streets. If interested, contact Ed Sullivan with Park America at 610-637-6832.



Membership Application

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<p>Residential Memberships</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>Business Memberships</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
\$ _____ 5th Street Legal Fund	\$ _____ McCall School

Total Enclosed \$ _____

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<input type="checkbox"/> Reporter	<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/> 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

A Woman Who Leads a Purposeful Life

Delores Flynn Brisbon's life is an open book. In fact, it's two books. After publishing *A Privileged Life: Remembering My Journey* almost 10 years ago, she has written a sequel that is now available on Amazon. *A Privileged Life II* is subtitled *Wisdom From My Journey*. It is an enlightening explanation of how Delores managed to navigate disappointment, racism and grief to reach the venerable age of 86 with equanimity, grace and gratitude.

"Since publishing my first book, I have learned a lot from my life's vast exposure and experiences, which I call wisdom," says Delores. "Perhaps the major adjustment since writing the first volume is that now I travel with a companion when I am on the road speaking about my books. I'm also selective about whom I spend my time with because I've learned that I must take care of my spiritual energy — to do what matters to me and my family and community. I am more aware of almost everything around me, and I try not to waste time, energy, thoughts and engagements. Making these adjustments has given me significant contentment without isolation."

I'm lucky enough to have Delores as my neighbor, and I can't recall ever seeing her without a smile on her face in two decades. That includes the 17 years that she cared for her beloved husband, James Flynn, at home. Although he suffered from Alzheimer's, dying in November 2004, Delores was the perfect caretaker, having spent many years as a nurse at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. When she left in 1986, she had been promoted to Chief Operating Officer. It's she we have to thank for designing the Silverstein Pavilion.

For those who didn't read it, or perhaps weren't members of SHCA, I introduced Delores to *Reporter* readers almost 10 years ago, in the May/June 2011 issue.

A tall, statuesque woman, Delores experienced poverty growing up in 1930s Florida, where she earned money by cleaning bathrooms in a motel and working as a maid for a kind white woman who gave her clothes and a sense of pride in her 5'11" height. Delores was one of eight children. "I was encouraged by my father, who was a janitor, to become a teacher or a nurse, so that I would always be financially independent," she says.

Delores graduated from the School of Nursing at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. After working for a



Delores Brisbon

time in New York, she moved to Philadelphia to be near her aunt and found a job nursing at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. This was in the 50s, and she experienced both prejudice and hostility. Nevertheless, Delores worked there for 30 years. From 1979 to 1986, she served as Chief Operating Officer. After she left, she started her own management consultant business, which she ran for 15 years.

Delores has never managed to retire, though. In fact, she now teaches and mentors young people.

Today, she serves on many boards and helps dozens of people. "It is my mentored who have truly enriched me," Delores has said many times. "They have told me that I have changed their lives."

One program she leads gives Delores particular gratification. It serves black pre-teen boys in Point Breeze, South Philly. "The mission of this program is to build their resilience through human contact, mentoring and preparation for college," she explains. She also teaches a monthly class at the First Presbyterian Church where she's "especially attentive to members who are challenged with health concerns." Another monthly class she began is instructing businesswomen on how to integrate professional skills with spiritual belief. As if this were not enough, Delores offers a Bible class for seniors housed in a retirement home.

"Some 25 men and women across varied professions call me mentor, coach, advisor," says Delores. "It requires a significant amount of my time. I usually see people upon request, over meals, a minimum of every other month. These activities are prioritized based on time with my grandchildren, adult children and nephews."

In order to accomplish so much, Delores rises early and studies the Bible for a few hours — a practice that she began in childhood. Then she may convene a meeting in her home or go out to attend one. Naturally, she is never bored or lonely. For entertainment? "Music feeds my spirit and reading my mind," she says with a smile.

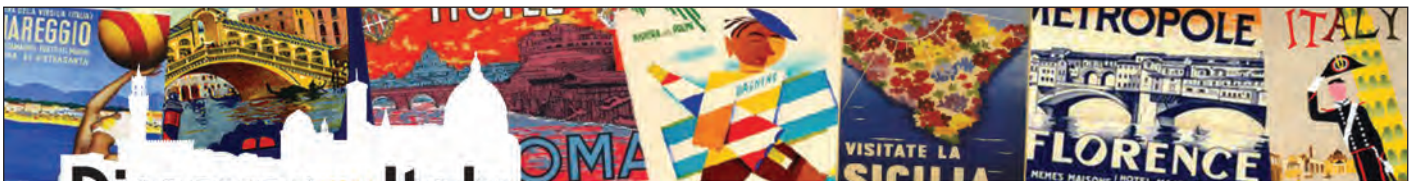
Jane Biberman, former editor of *Inside Magazine*, is a freelance writer who has contributed to a variety of publications.



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