



# SOCIETY HILL REPORTER

An independent newsletter published by the Society Hill Civic Association  
in cooperation with the East Philadelphia Sun

Vol. 2, No. 5 • Issued May 5, 1992

## NOTES from SHCA President

by Dick Ostrander

These notes are being written on Wednesday, April 28th, the day after Pennsylvania's Primary Election Day... which gives me a lead into the really important election coming up at our Wednesday, May 20th meeting. (Okay, so I exaggerated a bit if I got you interested, my comic worked!)

### Nominations Needed

The SHCA Nominating Committee—composed of retiring directors Sally Smith, George Scarulla, and Joel Chérnock, and chaired by retiring Vice-President Steve Skale—are preparing the new slate. As you probably know, one director is to be elected for each Society Hill quadrant. Suggestions

should be called in to the Committee as soon as possible. If you do not have their numbers at your fingertips, please call the SHCA office at 629-1288 for the phone numbers of the Nominating Committee.

### Zoning Matters

Several Zoning matters will be on the May 20th agenda, including the proposed 2nd story addition to Downey's outdoor cafe, which was tabled at our last Board meeting. We may also be asked to hear a revived Tun Tavern proposal, as reported in the April 24th FUN IN THE "SUN" edition. (This is a different version of the East Philadelphia Sun, written for corporate businesses and tourist readers rather than local residents.)

### The South Street 7 Arts Festival: May 16 and 17.

SHCA will operate an Information and Sales KIOSK during the upcoming 7 Arts Festival. It will be located at the south end of the Head House Shambles. We will be one of several information booths for the Festival and will have for sale the following goodies: Festival Posters, designed by Society Hill's acclaimed artist, Sam Maitin; Patron Badges (which provide discounts for gated events); and Festival tee-shirts; A share of the revenue of 7 Arts Festival items will add to the SHCA treasury as our reward!

We will also be selling packets of SHCA Note Cards imprinted with our wonderful logo, which was designed by another accomplished Society Hill artist, Pamela Sinkler Todd. This is a new SHCA sales item and should be a good money-maker for the association. All our supplies will be stored in the Head House storage room, courtesy of the Conservancy, so the logistics of selling the supplies should be relatively simple.

We hope to make a buck for the association, as well as support the Festival by helping direct visitors to the various sites. We need volunteers at the KIOSK for 3-hour shifts for

both Saturday and Sunday and for opening the KIOSK from 10:30 am—1:30 pm on Sunday. (Volunteers for the KIOSK opening on Saturday have already been committed.) We need three people for each shift, so that two can always be on duty. The Saturday and Sunday shifts are from 1-4 pm and from 3:30-7 pm (closing). The location for our KIOSK will be the south end of the Shambles, at 2nd and

Lombard Streets. Please call the office at 629-1288 and leave your preferred day and time on the tape.

### Goofy Name Tag Contest

We'll try the Goofy Name Tag Contest again during our social hour prior to the General Meeting at 7:30 pm on May 20th at the Old Pine Community Center. Winners of the "Most Beautiful" and "Goofiest" name tag categories will each take home a nice bottle of wine. The only rule for the contest is that your personalized and colorful name tag be no larger than a standard 4 x 6 card. Come to meet your neighbors, have some fun, and help us with a number of important agenda items... including a suggestion by Jean Bodine that we undertake a tree replacement project for the neighborhood.

Meanwhile, please remember that we meet and talk and come to decisions on issues that are very close to home. SHCA exists to protect and improve our homes and our community. We need your ideas. We need your participation. Think about what you can do to make your voice heard. (Go ahead, nominate yourself for the board. Volunteer for the 7 Arts KIOSK. We need you.!)

Till then, see you at the Festival or the May 20th meeting or maybe in the neighborhood while I'm out walking *The Wizard*. [Editor's Note: For those unfamiliar with *The Wizard*, he is a perfect specimen of a big, beautiful, black poodle. Dick and Wizard are the classic example of dog who resembles his master, especially when Dick wears his black beret, or vice-versa, as the case may be!]



## SEVEN ARTS

### Join the Festival, Join the Fun

SHCA will be joining the fun and festivities of the South Street 7 Arts Festival on the weekend of May 16 and 17. The SHCA Kiosk will be located at 2nd and Lombard Streets, where there will be available all relevant information and schedules of events. The bright and wonderful 7 Arts tee-shirts and aprons will be on sale at our booth, as well as the very special poster designed by renowned artist and Society Hill resident, Sam Maitin. And, hot-off-the-press: SHCA note cards, featuring our logo by Pamela Sinkler Todd will also be sold at the Kiosk.

You will probably want to purchase 7 Arts Patron Cards, which are good for discounts at gated events. These Patron Cards are being sold for \$10 by most merchants, vendors, and Kiosks throughout the Festival area. However, we are offering advance sales of Patron Cards. These sales will help benefit our neighborhood association. Hold on to the Patron Cards as they can be redeemed, for some time after the event, on discounts at South Street restaurants and stores. For more information or to reserve your Patron Card, call Dick Ostrander (922-6179) or Becky Stoloff (627-4910).

### Raffle to Benefit the Head House

The Head House Conservancy will have its own display and booth along with other historic and preservation groups at the 7 Arts Festival.

A new and exciting opportunity will exist at the Conservancy's table. Rena Sinakin, an accomplished portrait artist—who is currently a finalist in the competition to paint the "official presidential portrait" of President Bush for the White House—will be donating a pencil portrait to the raffle winner.

Rena's portraits are in many collections, and some examples of her work will be on display at the Festival. Among the many celebrities she has drawn are Academy Award winner Louis Gossett, Jr. and legendary folksinger Richie Havens. Ordinarily, a Rena Sinakin commissioned portrait costs a tidy fortune, but for the benefit of the Head House Conservancy, a raffle to win a personalized portrait (of yourself, your child, grandchild, whoever!) will sell for only \$4 each. These raffles will be offered for sale at the Festival on Saturday and Sunday, with the ticket-drawing to occur on Sunday night. You can also purchase raffle tickets in advance of the Festival (after May 10) by calling the Conservancy at 925-3285, and, incidentally, you don't have to be present at the drawing to win the prize!

Because the more raffle tickets you purchase will increase the probability that you (rather than somebody else) will win the raffle, we are providing an incentive to buy multiple tickets. The prices are as follows: Three Raffle tickets for \$10; ten tickets for \$25. All proceeds will go completely to the Head House Conservancy to help pay for the restoration of this Landmark structure, which is the historic centerpiece of the South Street/Head House District.

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# PENN'S LANDING TO BECOME "MONUMENT CITY" Military, Columbus Projects

## Philadelphia Korean War Memorial

At the April 25 SHCA Board meeting, representatives of the Korean War Veterans Association of Philadelphia presented their plan to install a memorial structure honoring metropolitan area veterans who were killed or missing in action in Korea during the three-year conflict in the 1950s.

This memorial will be located at the now defunct water fountain at Mattis Street, in sight of the Sheraton Hotel. Its design, by Francis G. Vitetta, consists of four columns partially enclosed by walls on two sides, with archways on opposite sides. The walls and the sides of the archways will be etched with scenes and the interior columns will be inscribed with the names of 600 veterans.

The rendering of the design was exhibited at the SHCA meeting. Board members and participants expressed their acceptance of the memorial, since it will probably complement the nearby Vietnam

Memorial. Potential groundbreaking is scheduled for June 1995.

## Tun Tavern

A new group of former Marines are again planning to recreate the birthplace of the U.S. Marines at the Tun Tavern site located at the corner of Spruce and Mattis Streets, one of the last undeveloped pieces of ground left in Society Hill. The location of the original Tun Tavern, built in 1693, was on Water Street, which is now covered by I-95.

There's been a great deal of Colonial history, as well as recent history regarding recreating a building that is so close to the heart of the U.S. Marines. Many Society Hill residents remember when the Marines first appeared in the neighborhood in 1970 with their proposal to build

a simulated Tun Tavern to commemorate the Marine's bicentennial. (The Corps was born on November 10, 1775.)



Tun Tavern

The current group of organizers, the Marine Corps Tun Tavern Foundation, are again actively engaged in planning and fundraising for their proposed museum. We'll probably see them again at

future SHCA meetings.

## Christopher Columbus Memorial

Homage to Columbus at Penn's Landing is also in the works, compliments of a group called America 500, who are planning the Columbus Quincentenary Celebration. (It was 500 years ago... ) You've probably already noticed the new signs for "Columbus Boulevard," otherwise universally and affectionately known as Delaware Avenue!

Remember when SHCA voted to retain the name "Delaware Avenue" in respect to the native Americans who preceded Columbus? Other communities, including Queen Village Neighbors, also expressed their preference to retain the original designation. Aside from the inconvenience and expense of having to change all maps and points of reference in this arbitrary name change, the new "Boulevard" seems ultimately down-right silly.

According to a press release by Timothy Martin to the Society Hill Reporter, the new Christopher Columbus Memorial will be erected in the center of the sculpture garden at Penn's Landing (Spruce Street) and will replace the existing sundial. Designed by Venturi Scott Brown and Associates, the memorial will be a "minuteman" tower over 100 feet tall with a granite base and stainless steel panels rising into the sky. Groundbreaking is scheduled to begin in June, according to Timothy Martin, awaiting design approval by the City's Art Commission.

Other than the PR piece received in the mail two weeks ago, there has been no announcement about this addition to Society Hill, either by word of mouth or through the Association. But SHCA President Dick Ostrander hopes to let more people know by getting in touch with America 500. We'll tell you more when we know more.

Meanwhile, with all the memorializing going on, it looks like Penn's Landing may be transformed into a kind of Monument City!

Any thoughts? Feel free to write...

**Watermark**  
STATIONERS

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**But We'd Never Leave South Street.**

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# SHCA Calendar

(clip & save)

For info call: 928-1188

## Wednesday, May 20 SHCA General Membership Meeting

Old Pine Community Center  
6:30 pm: Board Meeting  
7:30 pm: Refreshments/Name Tag Contest  
8 pm: General Meeting & Election

## Sunday, June 7 St. Peter's Church "Summer Sunday in the Churchyard"

3-5 pm  
Tours: grave rubbings & demonstrations

## Wednesday, June 17 SHCA Board Meeting

Old Pine Community Center  
7:30 pm

Saturday, May 9  
**Old Pine Street Church Flea Market**  
& Community Fair  
10 am—5 pm

Saturday & Sunday, May 16—17  
**South Street 7 Arts Festival**  
SHCA Kiosk  
2nd & Lombard Streets  
daylight hours

Saturday, May 26  
**POH Tour: Society Hill**  
houses & gardens  
1—5 pm

Continued from first page

So give it a try! Invest in a bunch of raffles—knowing that if you spend, for example, \$50 dollars on the Raffle tickets, all of this money will go to the Conservancy's important cause, while you will have 20 potential shots at winning your own portrait!

Meanwhile, if you haven't yet purchased a roof slate for the "time capsule" campaign, slates will be on sale at \$25 each during the Festival. If you ordered a roof slate previously but never got around to leaving your John Hancock, the Festival is a great time to visit the Conservancy's booth and leave your own personal design on your slate—which will be used to repair the roof of the Shambles, under which some future architectural historian will discover your message when the roof, in some future generation, will again need restoration.

Be sure to visit your neighbors at the 7 Arts Festival. Stop by at SHCA Kiosk and the Head House Conservancy booth to say hello.

## WHAT'S FRANK JOHNSON'S PLACE?

Some sharp eyes spotted a legal notice in which Bill # 76 proposed to "also name" the 500 block of Pine Street with the moniker: "Frank Johnson's Place." Turns out Mr. Johnson was a well-known early 19th Century musician, bandmaster and composer who lived for eighteen years at what is now 536 Pine Street. He was born in 1792, which was also the founding year for the St. Thomas Episcopal Church at 52nd and Parrish Streets. Governor Casey and former Mayor Wilson Goode issued proclamations honoring the bicentennial of Johnson's birth. A concert featuring some of his music was performed on April 5th as part of the church's bicentennial celebration.

About the signs: Not to worry! The Pine Street sign will remain and if special signs are made for the "also naming," they would not replace the regular signage. It is also possible that a State historic site plaque could mark the location.

If you want more information, you could contact the Frank Johnson Memorial Bicentennial Committee at the St. Thomas Church at 52nd and Parrish. The zip is 19139.

## STARR GARDEN SHINES

Good news for all the youngsters who use the Starr Garden playground! Old, decrepit and marginally dangerous equipment is being replaced with shiny, colorful and safe new equipment. City crews expect to finish the work by the end of this week. Special THANKS go to the Friends of Starr Garden and to former Councilman Jimmy Tayoun, who worked vigorously in support of this project.

## ZONING MATTERS

Lawrence Court: There are proposals for two additions to different buildings, both of which would require zoning variances. Currently neighbors are conferring about these proposals. The application for a garage/study out-building for 318 South 4th Street was refused, and the owner is working with an architect and neighbors trying to decide on whether to pursue the design or another concept.

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## A SUMMER SUNDAY IN THE CHURCH YARD

On June 7 bells will ring out from the bell tower of St. Peter's Church in celebration of its 150th anniversary. The church and the yard will 3—5 pm, for tours which will be led by architectural historians. Visitors will be able to hear the newly refurbished organ in the

church and do grave rubbings in the yard. As a result of the graveyard vandalism that occurred during the March 6th weekend, will be demonstrated. Photographs and artifacts from the history of the church will be on display. The public is welcome.

Please consider joining the "Friends of St. Peter's Church Yard." Your tax-deductible contribution will help cover the expense damaged gravestones and memorials. Send your check to St. Peter's Church, 313 Pine Street, Philadel

## WELCOME TO NEW SHCA MEMBERS

HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS:  
Deborah & Jim Burger  
Miffy & Howard Coonley  
Adele Greene

Kenneth Klass  
Kent & Barbara Rayburn  
Phil Rogers  
Helen Shonbrun  
Catharine Toso  
Suzanne Wescoe  
**BUSINESS MEMBERS:**

## THE SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

If you didn't receive a 1992 membership renewal letter...it means, naturally, that you were not a SHCA member last year. Your membership and your voice will make a difference in our neighborhood.

Tear off and mail to:  
**Society Hill Civic Association**  
P.O. Box 3, Philadelphia, PA 19105  
Attention: Treasurer

- New Member
- Household \$25
- Membership Renewal
- Business/Corporate \$50
- Corporate Sponsor \$100

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (eve) \_\_\_\_\_

I(We) would be interested in working with the following committees:

- Membership
- Liquor Control
- Neighborhood Maintenance
- Town Watch
- Recycling
- Reporter/Sun newspaper
- Zoning
- Legislative
- Preservation
- Other (please specify)

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# OLD PINE COMMUNITY CENTER

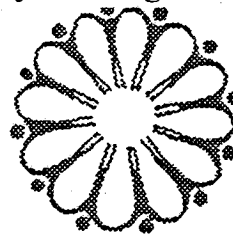
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