

Society Hill REPORTER

...Working Together
For a Better Place To Live

March 2001

Newsletter of The Society Hill Civic Association

General Membership Meeting: March 21, 2001

Lynne Abraham to Speak



Her infectious smile and genuine concern for all living things make Philadelphia District Attorney Lynne Abraham irresistible. Don't resist! Join us to hear what your neighbor, the Honorable Lynne Abraham has to say. Mark your calendar for our General Membership Meeting, on Wednesday, March 21st, 7:30 PM, at Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church, 412 Pine Street.

A native Philadelphian, Lynne has lived most of her professional life, and all of her almost 25 years of marriage to Ed Felbin, in Society Hill. Now the vice-president of her condominium association, she has served twice as its president. She was a board member of the St. Peter's School; both she and her husband walked the streets of Society Hill when Town Watch was still active.

Abraham's legal career began in the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. She worked as the city's Assistant DA, was Executive Director of the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority, Judge of the Philadelphia Municipal Court, and Judge of the Common Pleas Court. She has served as Philadelphia's DA since 1991.

Lynne is known as an extraordinary cook, but then she has Ed as her sous chef. She is also famed for her joke-telling talent, although she is still not quite up to Ed's level. Wherever she travels, Lynne carries flip-top, self-opening cans of animal food for stray cats and dogs. Two altered cats live in her office and four more live at home. And then there is her love of gardening, plus all the birdhouses to fill. Somehow Lynne always finds time to listen to and give support to those who need her.

Mark your calendar. Attend our next General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, March 21st and hear what your neighbor and our city's District Attorney has to say.

Civic Association Elections 2001

It is time once again to nominate Society Hill Civic Association members as Officer and District (Quadrant) Director candidates. The Board of Directors appointed a Nominating Committee during its January meeting. **Becky Stoloff** is Committee Chair.

The other members of the Committee are **Mark Bonavita**, **George Coch**, **Amy Foran**, **Mark Keener**, **Herb Lipton**, **Cirel Magen**, **Becky Stoloff** and **Mark Valen-**

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Open House Kick-Off Party: Tuesday, April 17, 6-9

Society Hill Opens Doors for Philadelphia Open House Tours

For the 23rd year, Society Hill homeowners will participate in Philadelphia Open House. The Friends of Independence National Historical Park coordinate this annual, region-wide series of tours. Recognized as one of the country's most successful tour programs, POH is considered one of the city's premier annual events by the Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau—along with the Flower Show, Antiques Show and Crafts Show.

The three-week series of tours of homes, gardens and historic sites throughout the city and its environs was born here in Society Hill in 1972. The only tour at that time, the program was so successful that it has grown across the region. The tour benefits the Friends of Independence and a variety of co-sponsoring communities and organizations. Society Hill Civic Association will directly benefit from its proceeds. POH 2001 is being sponsored by Prudential Fox & Roach Realtors.

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Your Role As Resident

If you would be willing to share the beauty of your home for the benefit of both our civic association and Independence Park, please let our hardworking tour coordinators know as soon as possible. The coordinators are Martha Levine (215-629-0727) and Linda Skale (215-238-1040). They are once again giving their time and energy to make this a successful endeavor. Or, if you can volunteer to serve as a host or hostess in one of our open houses, please let either of them know. By donating two hours of your time—providing security and answering questions about a building's provenance or a homeowner's collections—you'll be able to visit all the other houses of the tour.

Tour-goers must pre-register with The Friends of Independence. This can be done by phone. Confirmation letters are then mailed with tour details. The cost of the Society House Tour for

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Watch for Spring 2001 Clean-Up Day!

The date for the Spring Clean-Up Day has not yet been determined. Keep an eye out for our flyer.

Fall Clean Up Day

As most neighbors know, the Society Hill Civic Association sponsors a communitywide Clean-Up Day in the spring and in the fall.

Mark Valentine, committee chairman, and **Frank Hoban**, co-chair, would like to thank those who made the fall 2000 Clean-Up Day a success.

First, thanks to our Clean Up Day quadrant captains, **Jim & Janice Hayes, Howard Landers, Larry Meehan, Day Murray, Linda Percival, Liza Seltzer, Sherry Shamansky, David Stevens, Mary Sturdivant, Ruth Valentine and Wally Wing** for distributing flyers, posting and removing signs.

Next, thanks to the **Streets Department, Police Department and the Parking Authority** for their services.

Thanks to **Pennsylvania Hospital** for use of their cafeteria and **Alan Stiteler, Mellisa Young and Melva Hardy** for coordinating the lunch.

Finally, thanks to all the **South Street vendors** who provided the food. Donors for the fall lunch included ...

Auntie Ann's, Bridget Foy, Chef's Market, Copabanana, Dairy Queen, Jack Downey's, Jim's Steaks, Jon's Bar & Grill, Monserrat, Philadelphia Deli, Pietro's, Pink Rose, Pizzeria Uno, Pomodoro Pizza, South Street Souvlaki, Wawa.



A publication paid for by Civic Association membership dues and advertisers

Editor-in-Chief, January 2001

Cirel Magen

Editorial Board

Amy Foran, Bernice Hamel, Cirel Magen

Business Manager

George Koch

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Barbara Epstein, Frank Hogan, Kelly Nelson,
Liza Seltzer, Donna Thomas, David Woods

SHCA Officers, Directors, Editors and Contributors may be reached throughout the SHCA office at 215-629-1288 or fax 215-625-9914
SHCIVICA@AOL.COM

Signed letters to the editor are welcome.
SHCA, P.O.Box 3, Philadelphia, PA, 19105
Next Reporter Deadline
Wednesday, February 14, 2001

prudential
Rosemary flehr
same as previous

President's Message



I learned the word inertia in a junior high-school science class. As we all know, it means a state of rest, which requires energy to overcome. To kids, it is synonymous with "to chill." But to me, it can also signify benign neglect. Benign neglect is an enemy. It's when one does not preserve, maintain nor enhance.

Such is the history of Society Hill. At the inception of our nation, our neighborhood was America's first and foremost neighborhood. When my immigrant maternal grandmother moved into Society Hill over 100 years later in the early part of the 1900s, it was among Philadelphia's worst neighborhoods. She, fortunately, was able to move up and out—to Camden.

That is why I have special appreciation for our neighbors who serve and have served our communal interests. For the Society Hill Civic Association, it is our unsung heroes and heroines who produce our Reporter; serve on our Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee, tend to our trees, oversee weekly and other regular street and sidewalk cleanup, welcome new neighbors, promote membership, work for the fruition of our upcoming Independence Branch library, interface with the City and represent us on numerous coalition organizations.

We are blessed to live in Society Hill. As the keeper of America's first neighborhood, we undertake a special obligation to our nation. It is a stewardship. We are the trustees. We must always be vigilant, not only to what is happening today, but to what the future holds as well. This is not only in our self-interest, but is also our fiduciary responsibility.

At the January General Membership meeting, the keynote

speaker was James Cuorato, Philadelphia's Commerce Director. I have known Jim for over 10 years. We are fortunate to have him overseeing economic development in our city. As a Philadelphian, I am pleased that we will finally have development on our waterfront. Jim told us that the Simon DeBartolo project will commence construction this spring and will open in spring 2002.

Simon DeBartolo is the world's largest entertainment retailer. They are making a huge investment. This project is being touted as the nation's largest urban waterfront entertainment center. Having visited almost all of the nation's major urban waterfront entertainment centers, I can assure you that the size of this project is staggering. It will employ 1,350 employees. It is directly across Columbus Boulevard from the Society Hill Towers and Penn's Landing Condominium. With the size of the development, the 20-screen cineplex, the capability of Simon DeBartolo as the operators and the number of employees, this project will generate very large crowds every week of the year.

No matter where you live in our community, your quality of life and your property values are a function of how Society Hill is perceived. Will it be perceived as my grandmother's generation perceived it, or continue to be perceived as it is now as Philadelphia's equivalent to Georgetown and Beacon Hill?

Perceptions can change very quickly. When they degenerate because of increased litter, graffiti and crime, we all begin to suffer and we violate our responsibilities. I am thankful to those who have served us, to those who presently serve us, and to those who are committed to insure that we are prepared for the future.

Inertia is an enemy. Commitment to today and planning today for the inevitable events of the opening of the Simon DeBartolo project is enlightened stewardship.

time. District Directors and Officers may be nominated through submission of a petition signed by at least ten members to the Nominating Committee. In addition, the Nominating Committee itself may nominate candidates. All petitions must be received no later than April 1.

The slate of candidates will be published in the May Reporter and the election will be held at the May 16 General Membership meeting. Positions for which nominations will be accepted are: 1) Directors for each of the four Districts; 2) President; 3) Senior Vice President; 4) Vice President; 5) Secretary; and 6) Treasurer.

Frank Hoban was elected as Society Hill Civic Association's Treasurer on January 17, 2001, to fill a board vacancy. Born in Newport News, Virginia, Frank has lived in Philadelphia on and off for twenty years. He moved to Society Hill approximately four years ago at which time he joined the Association Board. He has headed up the financial committee and co-chaired Clean-Up Day. A Temple University graduate, Frank is a financial manager with the Rohm and Haas Company. He is currently in the process of rehabilitating a 1798 townhouse.

Society Hill Civic Association

Board of Directors

Officers

President: Malcolm Lazin
Senior Vice President: Mary E. Sturdivant
Vice President: Jim Moss
Treasurer: Frank Hoban
Recording Secretary: Diane Molas

Directors

Northeast Quadrant

Portia Bonavitacola • Cirel Magen • Ann Verber

Northwest Quadrant

Frank Hoban-Mark Valentine-Perry Whyte

Southeast Quadrant

Amy Foran-Kelly Nelson-Becky Stoloff

Southwest Quadrant

Mark Keener-Martha Levine

Condominium Representatives

Blackwell Court: Debbie Robinson
Hopkinson House: George Koch
Independence Place: Herb Lipton
Penn's Landing: Barbara Gelman
Society Hill Towers: Marc Bonavitacola & Bonnie Halda
St. James Court: Morris Chomitz

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Join the Society Hill Civic Association!

Name(s) _____

Address: _____ Zip _____

Phones:

Work (_____) _____

Home (_____) _____

E-mail _____

New Membership Renewal

Household Membership: . . \$40

Business Membership: . . . \$100

*Additional Contribution: \$ _____

*Earmarked for: Project Sweep Stakes
 Library Campaign
 Street Trees/Tenders

I/We would like to work on the following committees:

Clean-Up Day Liquor Control
 Historic Preservation/Zoning Society Hill Reporter
Development Street Trees/Tree Tenders
 Library

Make your check payable to: Society Hill Civic Association
Mail to SHCA, Box 3, Philadelphia, PA 19105

Questions? 215-629-1288

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previous

portraits pamela
same as
previous

barri
shor ad
same as
previous

McCann ad
new art with
usual photo
righthand
page

izzy sigman
same as
previous

The Fight Against Graffiti

The Community Partnership Program offers coordinated services of city departments and agencies to help residents keep neighborhoods clean and safe. A primary target is graffiti removal.

The Graffiti Abatement Team (GAT) provides community organizations, businesses and homeowners with free power wash services to remove graffiti from their properties and neighborhood. Graffiti on brick, trees and sidewalks can be easily erased by power washing. In the past three years, GAT has cleaned more than 100,000 properties.

GAT removed two large scrawls located on a brick wall near my home the day after I called them. They were not only prompt, but courteous as well, even asking if I knew of any other vandalism in the neighborhood that required cleaning. If you are interested in this free service, call (215) 685-9556.

Free paint and supplies

The Managing Director's Office provides free paint and supplies, including wipes that can be used to remove graffiti from traffic signs, vendor boxes, etc., to businesses and homeowners. Graffiti on the Franklin light posts or other surfaces requires re-painting.

Supply voucher

To receive a paint and supply voucher, call (215) 686-2024. The Civic Association is in the process of acquiring supplies, including the paint color matching the Franklin lights. If you are interested in using our materials, call the Civic Association office at (215) 629-1288. According to the City's Managing Director's Office, it is important to be vigilant in removing graffiti as soon as possible, because it serves as an enticement for further vandalism. If graffiti is removed quickly the incentive for the tagger to continue is eliminated. Do your part to keep your block graffiti free.
— Kelly Nelson

Prudential
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previous

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New Businesses on Our Fringes

Bluezette, a tres chic, haute soul-food restaurant has opened at 246 Market Street. The owner is Delilah Winder of "Delilah's" in the Reading Terminal. Reservations are strongly recommended. 215-627-3866.

Fresh Fields at 929 South Street is due to open in late March. Fresh Fields has a policy of donating 5% of its after-tax income to the community, primarily in goods and services. Plan to shop there the first Saturday after the opening, when 5% of the profits will be donated to a local community group. The community liaison is Brett Mapp. He can be reached at 215-733-9788.

Metropolitan Bakery has opened at 126 Market Street, for those who find the 1114 Pine Street location too long a walk. The Market Street phone number is 215-928-9528.

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Philadelphia Open House Kick-Off Party: Tuesday, April 17, 6-9 PM

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Or, if you can volunteer to serve as a host or hostess in one of our open houses, please let either of them know. By donating two hours of your time — providing security and answering questions about a building's provenance or a homeowner's collections — you'll be able to visit all the other houses of the tour.

Tour-goers must pre-register with The Friends of Independence. This can be done by phone. Confirmation letters are then mailed with tour details. The cost of the Society House Tour for Sunday, May 6th, is \$35 per person. The Garden tour on June 3rd is \$30. For more information, or if to receive a descriptive and complete Philadelphia Open House brochure, call The Friends' office at 215-928-1188.

POH holds a fun and fundraising celebration to kick-off the three weeks of tours. This year the event will be held in within Independence Park — at the spectacularly renovated, soaring, three-story atrium of the Chemical Heritage Foundation, at 315 Chestnut Street — a breathtaking and "little-known" environment for mingling, nibbling, and bidding in both our "live" and silent auctions.

Chef's Market, the Chemical Heritage Foundation's official caterer, will be providing the delectables for the party. Society Hill neighbors Nula Thanhauser and Bernice Hamel are the party's co-chairs.

We hope you will consider joining us for this opportunity to mingle, as we support the Friends of Independence National Historical Park and contribute directly to our own Civic Association. To receive an invitation in the mail, call The Friends at 215-918-1188. Tell them "we sent you."

downtown club
same as previous

Peterson's Book Published

Our 94-year-old neighbor, **Charles E. Peterson**, one of the pioneers of Society Hill and the first resident architect at Independence National Historical Park, has recently published a book he had been working on for the past 50 years.

This book is about Robert Smith, the most influential architect-builder in the American colonies. Smith's many buildings adorned Philadelphia. His reputation brought him commissions throughout the colonies.

Smith's works that stand today within our immediate community include St. Paul's Church at 225 S. 3rd; "Old Pine" or Third Presbyterian Church at 412 Pine; the steeple of Christ Church, 2nd Street, between Market & Arch; Carpenters' Hall, 320 Chestnut; and the interiors of the Powel House (244 S. 3rd).

The title of Peterson's book, beautifully illustrated with photographs, drawings and prints, is: *Robert Smith, Architect, Builder, Patriot 1722-1777*. Published by The Athenaeum of Philadelphia, it is available for sale at The Athenaeum, 219 South 6th Street, and The Carpenters' Company.

Zoning & Historic Preservation Report

By Bernice Hamel

The following four projects were reviewed at the February meeting:

Please Touch Museum Signage at Penn's Landing Development: Signage for the top of the museum's building had been brought before the Art Commission previously and has recently been reduced in size. However, lighted signage carrying the museum's name ("Please Touch") along with its sponsor ("McDonald's," advertising its famous arch) has been added to the top of the building's west and north facades. Note: The museum's overall graphics were not exhibited within the context of the entire Penn's Landing project.

• • •

516 Pine Street: Immediate neighbors of this property requested our committee's investigation. Permits by both the Zoning and Historical Commission were granted for a two-story addition to this single-family dwelling. The developer/contractor's behavior on the project caused serious problems to many neighbors, but these problems were beyond our committee's scope.

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Lippincott Building at Washington Square: Plans are to raise the building by two stories and convert this 100-year-old, commercial building into 30 condominium apartments of approximately 2,000 sq. ft. each, with underground parking for 30 cars. A preliminary proposal, with rough conceptual drawings, were brought to the meeting by the developer and his architect prior to bringing these plans to the Historical or Zoning Commission hearings. The committee appreciates this positive beginning and dialogue. Meetings with nearby neighbors of St. James Court and again with the committee—prior to attending city hearings and requesting permits—are being planned.

• • •

100 Delancey Street: After submitting drawings that were unacceptable to nearby neighbors, the owners of this property have significantly modified their architectural plans such that they are preserving open space at the site as requested by SHCA. The new plans are "as-of-right," and therefore will now proceed without any further comments from SHCA.

Zoning Co-Chairs are **Mark Keener** (215-751-1133) and **Morrie Chomitz** (215-629-0245). Historic Preservation Co-Chairs are **Becky Stoloff** (215-627-4910) and **Bernice Hamel** (215-925-4363). Current members include: **Jackie Axilbund, Bonnie Halda, Peter Hynes, and Lorna Katz Lawson.**

The committee is seeking other interested neighbors—particularly, we need an attorney to counsel us. Our next scheduled meeting is for Thursday, March 15th at 7:30 PM, at the Old Pine Community Center. If interested, please contact any of the co-chairs. Thank you.

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Birds of a Feather

In the heart of a big city, Society Hill has a suburban feel, probably because we have so many trees and shrubs tucked away among our blocks. Birds must think so too, because bird-watching rewards are great in this neighborhood. Our location on the banks of a great north-south river insures that we get bird traffic, both migratory and permanent.

Hawks

In the past five years, there has been an upswing in hawk sightings in our secluded gardens. Obviously, the hawks have noticed that our feeders can provide them with meals, and I don't mean birdseed!

Red-tails and sharp-shins are regulars (remember the tourist who was attacked last summer by an angry Mama Red-Tail for being too near her nest in the adjacent graveyard?). A sharp-shinned hawk is scarcely bigger than a blue jay, so it might not attract much notice; a red-tailed hawk is a big, impressive bird, but its flight is swift and it perches high, so that it will escape the eye of street dwellers intent on city business.

Identity Crisis

This winter, we have an unusual visitor which, although I have seen it up close on six occasions, I cannot identify with certainty, because there are three (improbable!) possibilities, all with the same coloring, and all rare in urban sites.

A large, long-tailed hawk, larger than a crow, it skulks in evergreens near feeders and has captured two pigeons and one house sparrow in my backyard alone since December. The choices: an immature, but large-for-the-species Cooper's hawk

(an endangered species), an immature Northern Goshawk (right size and behavior, but should be in the Poconos) or a mature female Northern Harrier, or Marsh Hawk. My money is on the Goshawk based on appearance, but I'm looking for additional sightings and opinions. Let me hear from you!

— Donna Thomas, donato706@aol.com

Don't Miss The Physick House Plant Sale

May 4th through May 6th, 321 South Fourth Street

The Physick House will be selling bedding plants of exceptionally high quality, at reasonable prices, in the wonderful atmosphere of The Physick House Garden. Annuals, perennials, and some herbs and vegetables are chosen for the sale based on their suitability for city gardens, especially container and window-box gardens.

Whether you have a deck in full sun or a mossy bit of earth in deep shade, the Physick House Plant Sale will carry healthy specimens that you can plant and enjoy. Proceeds help support the maintenance and care of The Physick House.

Friday, May 4, 1 P.M. to 7 P.M.

Saturday, May 5, 10 A.M. to 6 P.M.

Sunday, May 6, 12 Noon to 4 P.M.

Pre-order forms will be distributed to people who request them and should be returned by April 15. For your order form, phone the Physick House, 215-925-7866, and leave your name, address and phone number.

— Barbara Epstein

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214 Spruce St. Chimney repairs, caulking, stucco
421 Spruce St. Facade rehabilitation, concrete removal & replacement, brick paver installation

620 Spruce St. Brick pointing, wall rehabilitation, waterproofing, marble cleaning & repair
264 S. 3rd St. Brick patio installation, brick cleaning & patch painting
268 S. 3rd St. Stucco, Brick pointing, brick paver installation



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A Few of My Society Hill Sales in 2000

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 239 S. 3rd Street | 323 Cypress | 321 S. 6th Street |
| 220 W. Washington Sq | 319 S. 3rd Street | 100 Delancey |
| 3rd & Locust | 130 Spruce | 1 Willing's Alley |
| | | 604 Washington Square |

and over \$19 million in Center City properties in 2000

"I looked for a house for almost a year; first trying it on my own by calling around and going to open houses. Then I worked with 3 other Realtors, all who kept wasting my time by showing me properties that did not meet my requirements. I was just about to renew my lease when my friend told me about her Realtor. She raved about how knowledgeable, responsive & organized he was and said even I would be impressed.

I was very skeptical, but I called Antonio anyway. In 2 weeks he found me exactly what I wanted! Then his staff handled all the details to settlement, but kept me in the loop through weekly e-mails. It was the best real estate experience I have ever had! I tell everyone about Antonio, he is amazing!"

— *Jean-Claude Jaquet, Ritz-Carlton*

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Letter to the Editor

Need is there but NID is not the answer

In the past several months, there have been numerous discussions, both in public forum and privately, among the Civic Association, its membership and other parties concerning the Neighborhood Improvement District ("NID") concept and legislation, General Assembly of Pennsylvania House Bill No. 2828.

There are very few individuals who live within the Society Hill Historical District that would not agree that keeping our community a safe, clean, and aesthetically pleasing one should obviously be a high priority.

Unfortunately House Bill No. 2858 is an ill-conceived and poorly written piece of legislation. This proposed legislation would:

- Allow for creation of a NID Management Association (NIDMA) that would not only have the power to initiate and administer programs, but have the power to assess property owners within the NID a special property assessment fee acknowledging that property owners need not benefit equally;
- Allow the NIDMA to be sued;
- Allow the NIDMA to buy and sell and/or dispose of real property;
- Allow the NIDMA to impose liens on property for the non-payment of these special property assessments;
- Allow the NIDMA to issue bonds, notes or guarantees, or other instruments of indebtedness or obligation;
- Allow the NIDMA to impose additional "special assessment fees" on property owners within the NID;
- Allow the NIDMA to hire additional off-duty police officers with no provisions for liability and insurance issues.

There is a need for a community strategy to address neighborhood needs that are beyond city responsibilities. However, House Bill No. 2858 is not the solution. I would urge all who live within the District to work together and participate in shaping a plan that addresses the community's most pressing needs.

— Elizabeth Armour

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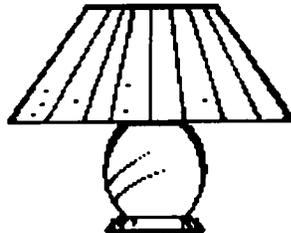
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Noteworthy Neighbors

Michael Granato and Joette Adams



Two hundred years ago, the building served as a warehouse and granary; today, it's a restaurant in which the warehousing is for several hundred bottles of wine; and the only grain is in the excellent breads and pastas — and possibly within the bottles of spirits that grace the brick-lined bar.

Enter Bistro Romano and you are almost immediately in that bar whose serving area is backed by a 20-foot long oak carving that was originally the portico to the dining room of the Lake Erie luxury liner, City of Detroit.

Down the winding stone steps from the bar is the romantic cavelike dining room, with its stone walls, subdued lighting and intimate, dark polished wood banquettes.

In one of those, I met with Society Hill residents Michael Granato and his wife of just a few weeks, Joette Adams. Michael has a degree in finance from Villanova and started his career as an accountant with Price Waterhouse. From an early age, he had it in mind to apply his skills to the restaurant business. When the opportunity arose to buy Bistro Romano in 1988, he jumped at it. The restaurant specializes in regional Italian cuisine and has a staff of 20, including a chef and four cooks. The house specialties are a unique Italian duck dish, lobster ravioli and a prize-winning Caesar salad. On Fridays and Saturdays, the restaurant also features a ticket-only mystery theatre dinner, where participants play a live game of Clue.

Joette, until very recently executive director of the Philadelphia Restaurant Association, is retiring from that role so that she can work with Michael to market and promote Bistro Romano ... and perhaps add one or two more restaurants. A graduate in business administration from Gwynedd-Mercy College, she is currently enrolled in a masters degree program at Villanova. She is a former chief of staff to state senator Craig Lewis.

The couple, just back from an extended honeymoon in Asia, first met during a Restaurant Association meeting at Bistro Romano. Their wedding reception was held at the Four Seasons, a venue they rate as excellent. Asked which other eateries they favor in what they describe as a great restaurant city, Michael and Joette name the nearby Monte Carlo Living Room and also Dmitri's on Fitler Square.

Great enthusiasts of Society Hill, the two agree that they want to engage in more community work. That means hosting more local groups and meetings, and making room space available in the "corporate" dining area on the restaurant's spacious second floor.

When not cooking up plans for Bistro Romano, Michael and Joette enjoy travel, power boating on the Chesapeake, theatre and opera, reading and walking in the neighborhood — a neighborhood, they agree, "that has everything."

While the couple revel in Society Hill's ambience they are on course to enhance it even further.

— David Woods

Thank you to Welcome Basket donors



The Welcome Committee extends our sincerest thanks to all who donate goods and services to make our Welcome Baskets so wonderful to receive. Newcomers to Society Hill are the recipients of these baskets. Please show your thanks for their generosity by patronizing the following:

- Arden Theatre Company - 40 North 2nd Street
- Bridget Foy's South Street Grill - 200 South Street
- Chef's Market - 231 South Street
- Dickens Old Curiosity Shop - 417 South 2nd Street
- Fork - 306 Market Street
- Fresh Fields - 929 south Street
- Homemade Goodies by Roz - 510 South 5th Street
- Italia Ristorante - 318 South 3rd Street
- Judy's Café - 627 South 3rd Street
- Knave of Hearts - 230 South Street
- The Mann Center for the Performing Arts - 52nd & Parkside Avenue
- Metropolitan Bakery - 1114 Pine Street and 126 Market Street
- Mom's Bake at Home Pizza - 241 South 6th Street
- Mums and Pops Confectionery - 932 Locust Street
- National Liberty Museum - 321 Chestnut Street
- Old City Coffee - 221 Church Street and The Reading Terminal Market
- Overtures Restaurant - 609 East Passyunk Avenue
- The Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble - Old Pine Church, 400 Pine Street
- Philadelphia Sports Clubs - 220-250 South 5th Street
- Pileggi on the Square - 717 Walnut Street
- Pink Rose Pastry Shop - 630 South 4th Street
- Riff Cleaners - 314 South 5th Street
- Rita's Water Ice - 239 South Street
- Ritz Theatres - 214 Walnut Street, 4th & Ranstead Street
- Salon @ 5th - 316 South 5th Street
- Sfizzio Restaurant - Society Hill Towers, 237 St. James Place
- ShopRite - 29 Snyder Avenue
- Show of Hands Gallery - 1006 Pine Street,
- Soapbox - 1216 Locust Street
- Society Hill Playhouse - 507 South 8th Street
- Starbuck's Coffee, Inc. - 347 South Street
- Super Fresh Food Markets - 5th and Pine Streets
- TLA Video - 517 South 4th Street
- The Wilma Theatre - 265 South Broad Street
- XandO Coffee and Bar - 215 Lombard Street
- Zeke's Deli - 318 South 5th Street

If you know of any residents who have recently moved to Society Hill, please contact **Martha Levine** at 215-629-0727 so that she can bring them a basket.

The Independence Branch Library Is Open!

By Liza Seltzer



I can hardly believe I'm writing this, but yes, it's true, your local library is finally open. It's been almost four years since the East Philadelphia Coalition for a Free Library Branch was formed to lobby for the branch. Check out the picture above to see the fruits of the Coalition's labors — the Independence Branch of the Free Library on 7th Street just south of Market. Better yet, stop by the branch and check out a few books.

I'm pleased to report that, as of this writing, the campaign to raise \$230,000 to complete the Independence branch collection is within \$13,000 of its goal. A portion of the money raised to date came from foundations like the **Samuel S. Fels Fund** and the **Rittenhouse Foundation**, as well as from corporations such as **Rohm and Haas**.

Community organizations including the **Society Hill Civic Association** and the **Asian American Women's Coalition** held events that brought in large gifts to the campaign. The raffle also brought in quite a bit of money, with Society Hill neighbors like **Howard Magen** and **Cynthia Eiseman** selling tickets, and the **Penn's Landing Condominium Association** buying a ticket for each of its residents.

We even received a generous donation from the **Friends of the Philadelphia City Institute Library Branch** (Rittenhouse Square). But the vast majority of the money raised came from individuals, in gifts both large and small. Many of you donated in honor of **Dr. Daniel Barol** to benefit the children's collection or

in honor of **Barbara Gittings** to name the Gay/Lesbian collection. Many more sent in checks just because they believe that the library is a valuable addition to our neighborhood.

Be a Friend of the Independence Branch

Join the Friends of Independence Branch now! The Friends act as a liaison between the branch and the community, plan interesting programs and community events and raise money for these and other Independence Branch needs. To be a part of the effort to make Independence the most vibrant library branch in the city, contact **Liza Seltzer at 215-625-7995** or at **LizaNicker@aol.com**.

With donations still coming in every day, I am confident that by the time you read this the campaign will be complete. So, thank you to everyone who worked on the campaign or donated to it. Without your help and support, none of us would be enjoying our new library.

CORRECTION

In the last issue of the *Reporter*, the title above the list of people who attended and/or supported the SHCA Major Donor Event to benefit the Independence Branch was inadvertently omitted. We received a number of calls from those of you who previously made donations to the Independence Branch, so we regret any confusion this error may have caused. The full list of all donors to the Independence Branch will be published in the next issue of the *Reporter*.

In addition, we apologize to **Fahyna and Donald Bean**, who supported and attended the SHCA event, yet were not included in that list.



From right to left - Iris Newman, president of the Friends of the PCI Branch Library on Rittenhouse Square, handing a \$1,000 contribution to Jennifer Chang, head librarian of the Independence Branch, and Joe Baker, raffle chair of the Independence Branch Coalition.



Jack Gontowski sharing his computer skills with friends

Cuorato Sees Bright Future for Philadelphia Development

James Cuorato, City Representative & Director of Commerce, spoke at SHCA's January 17th General Membership Meeting

Mr. Cuorato has been in city government for over 25 years — focusing on economic development. A lifelong Philadelphian, he was Executive Vice President of the Penn's Landing Corporation from 1994 through July 2000. Needless to say, the subject of Penn's Landing and its development is high on our community's list of projects to watch, so it was with great interest that many neighbors came out to hear what Mr. Cuorato had to report.

Stadiums: A staunch supporter of sports stadiums, Cuorato believes that providing world-class facilities for both the Phillies and the Eagles, in South Philadelphia will be a great investment for the next 30 years. According to Cuorato, the new football stadium will be a major plus when the city attempts to extend its contract as host of the Army-Navy game, which expires in two years. Cuorato said that each stadium will install its own special services district to provide security and sanitation services for its surrounding communities. He predicts that the Eagles will begin playing in their new stadium by 2003, and that the Phillies will inaugurate their new stadium in 2004.

The Airport: Cuorato quoted a study of 20 national airports conducted by the Wall Street Journal. The newspaper named the five best airports — and included the Philadelphia Airport in this list. The Airport's master plan features two new terminals, currently under construction. One will be an additional international facility and the other will provide 38 more gates for U.S. travel. When completed, the expanded airport will be able to carry 25 million passengers annually. Regarding the proposed merger of USAirways and United Airlines, Cuorato said this subject is currently in the "discussion stage."

Convention Center Redux: A \$450 million expansion of the Convention Center will soon begin. Cuorato reported that recent disputes between unions and management have been settled, so that working conditions will no longer cause problems. The Center will be expanded west to Broad Street, with an additional 685,000 feet of exhibit space. Combined with the city's new hotels, Cuorato believes that this improved Convention Center will put Philadelphia firmly in the second tier of American cities that host large conventions.

Independence Mall: The rebirth of Independence Mall will dramatically transform this corner of our city. The Mall will provide pedestrian crosswalks connecting the streets in a campus-like setting, and will offer gardens, an outdoor cafe, picnic areas and gathering spaces. It will include a new Liberty Bell Pavilion, a new Gateway Visitor Center, an educational facility for school children and the National Constitution Center. Completion of the complex is expected in two to four years.

Attracting Businesses: A promising proposal in City Council—to encourage businesses to locate in Philadelphia and stay in the city—is now being considered. These Keystone Opportunity Zones would encourage the development of distressed properties. In addition, a 10-year tax abatement program for new construction, is behind the groundbreaking for an office complex at 17th and JFK Boulevard.

Arts, Culture and Games:

Kimmel Regional Arts Center: This outstanding new performing arts center on Broad Street will open in December 2001.

Calder Museum: Three cities — New York, Paris, and Philly — are currently pursuing the development of a Calder museum that would feature three generations of this famous Philadelphia family of artists. Cuorato believes the ideal place for this museum would be Philadelphia, the Calder's hometown. From a strictly commercial point-of-view, nothing attracts visitors as much as quality art and culture. Consider this: the recent Van Gogh exhibit at the Philadelphia Museum of Art brought 11,000 people to our city.

Editors' Note: It has since been announced that the Calder Museum will be at 22nd and the Parkway in Philadelphia.

The X-Games: The 2001 and 2002 X Games will bring an expected 200,000 visitors into our city. The X Games, created by ESPN in 1995 as the Extreme Games, are an Olympics-like festival of nontraditional sports. ESPN will set up in and around the First Union Center in late August 2001 for the first six-day festival. Events such as acrobatic skateboarding, inline skating and biking events will be held there. Wakeboard will be held on the Schuylkill River. An event where bike riders zoom down a ski slope will be held in Woodward, about 130 miles northwest of Philadelphia. A course location for street luge has not yet been announced.

Penn's Landing Project, now pending: This major new family entertainment and retail complex is under construction. According to Cuorato, this will be the largest leisure waterfront complex in the world. It will offer shopping, dining, movies and theaters, as well as a newly built ice-skating rink. It will also feature a new, expanded version of the world-class Please Touch Museum.

Neighbors expressed a variety of concerns. Examples: Where will all these people come from and why will they come? Will there be adequate transportation or parking to accommodate the thousands expected? How will the city (and our immediate neighborhood) deal with the impact of having so many visitors on a regular basis? Will there be adequate security and sanitation services beyond the actual boundaries of the complex itself?

For more about this, see the President's message and the letter to the editor. Cuorato tried to allay community fears by explaining that a comprehensive transportation system is currently being planned. This includes the Delaware River Tramway, which will commute between Camden and Philadelphia, as well as increased ferry scheduling between the cities.

Adequate signage and directions will lead people in their cars to Columbus Boulevard and, of course, public transit (buses) will carry a majority of visitors from neighborhoods throughout the city to this entertainment and shopping destination. Regarding additional police and sanitation services to our corner of the city, Cuorato was less well informed about plans, but said that these issues deserved to be studied. We'll be looking and listening!

Hopkinson House Volunteers Love Their Work at McCall School



Doris Bowman with "her children" in Elaine Buono's class at the McCall School

"Will you come back tomorrow?"

"Yes!"

The entire kindergarten class at McCall School, 6th and Delancey Streets, cheers.

"There was a boy, so bad, so unhappy. After six months, he smiled. I love it! I love it!" says Hopkinson House resident **Doris Bowman** of her 15 years as a volunteer at the McCall School.

For the past 12 years she has been 4th-6th grade teacher Elaine Buono's volunteer, working with children who need a little extra attention. Just because she has a broken wrist, it doesn't mean she can't hug with the other arm. Both her ears are available for listening.

Charlotte Weiss has been volunteering in Carol Smith's kindergarten two or three days a week for more than two years. She talks about the innovative teacher

"If a little Polish boy with practically no English can't learn his letters one way, the teacher finds another way. When he finally begins to know the difference between upper and lower case letters, I am so uplifted."

Doris and Charlotte give the luxury of listening to one child at a time. "If you show an interest, they blossom," say Doris Bowman.

Enrich your life! Reward yourself!

Phone Mrs. Reah Force at the McCall School, 215-351-7247 or Rforce@phila.k12.pa.us



Charlotte Weiss at lunch with her McCall kindergarten class

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A historic piece of Philadelphia's fine architectural style located on West Washington Square is being recreated into an exclusive condominium residence consisting of full floor homes. This is an opportunity to create your own estate home on West Washington Square. Each full floor shell of 3,100 square feet of open space is being offered at prices starting at \$635,000. Private parking spaces available. For an exclusive appointment to preview this exciting residence, please call today.

Society Hill Towers corner 1 bedroom, townhouse view - \$169,900
Pier 3 - 2 bedroom, 2 bath, terrace, available immediately \$240,000
Pier 3 - 2 bedroom, 2 bath, terrace, eat-in-kitchen - \$249,900
Pier 3 - 2 bedroom, terrace, customized kitchen and bath \$259,900
Independence Place - 1 bedroom, 1.5 bath, alcove, balcony - \$270,000
Hopkinson House - 2 bedrooms, high floor, balcony - \$315,000
Independence Place - corner junior 2 bedroom, balcony - \$300,000
Hopkinson House - 1 bedroom & den can be combined to form a 3 bedroom, balcony, high floor, southern exposure - \$369,900
Pier 5 - 3 bedroom, 3 bath, deck, fireplace, 1 car parking included, river view, customized kitchen, granite counter space - \$450,000
Independence Place - 2 bedroom & den, balcony, panoramic southern views, sunny eat-in-kitchen, spacious master bedroom suite \$650,000
Independence Place - 3 bedroom bi-level penthouse, highly customized, river, skyline & park views, terrace, skylights - \$975,000



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Save These Dates

SHCA Zoning and Historic Preservation

Open Committee Meeting
 Thursday, March 15, 2001, 7:30 PM
 Old Pine Community Center
 4th and Lombard Streets

SHCA General Meeting

District Attorney Lynne Abraham, Special Guest
 Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church
 412 Pine Street
 Wednesday, March 21, 2001
 Meet and Greet 7:00 PM
 Meeting 7:30 PM

Philadelphia Singers

Two seats for the price of one
 Friday, March 9 & Saturday, April 21
 The Church of the Holy Trinity
 Rit tenhouse Square
 For ticket prices and information: 215-751-9494

Concerts at Old Saint Joseph's Church

Friday & Saturday, March 16 & 17, 8:00 PM
 Friday & Saturday, April 6 & 7, 8:00 PM
 321 Willings Alley
 For ticket prices and information: 302-594-1107

SHCA Board of Directors Meeting

(Open to General Membership)
 Wednesday, April 18, 7:00 PM
 Old Pine Community Center, 4th and Lombard Streets

Physick House Plant Sale

Friday, May 4 • Saturday May 5 • Sunday, May 6
 321 South 4th Street
 215-925-7866

Philadelphia Open House 2001 tours

Society Hill House Tour: Sunday, May 6
 Society Hill Garden Tour: Sunday, June 3
 For brochures, tickets and prices: 215-928-1188

South Street HeadHouse District Dinner Dance

Sheraton Society Hill Hotel, 2nd and Walnut Streets
 Monday, May 7, 2001
 A benefit for the District and "Race for the Cure"
 Dinner, dance fashion show and silent auction
 For information and tickets, phone Bernice Hamel
 215-925-4363 or 215-925-3285

Society Hill Civic Association Elections

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

Society Hill Opens Doors for Philadelphia Open House Tours

Sunday, May 6th is \$35 per person. The Garden tour on June 3rd is \$30. For more information, or if to receive a descriptive and complete Philadelphia Open House brochure, please call The Friends' office at 215-928-1188.

POH holds a fun and fundraising celebration to kick-off the three weeks of tours. This year the event will be held in within Independence Park—at the spectacularly renovated, soaring, three-story atrium of the Chemical Heritage Foundation, at 315 Chestnut Street—a breathtaking and “little-known” environment for mingling, nibbling, and bidding in both our “live” and silent auctions. Chef's Market, the Chemical Heritage Foundation's official caterer, will be providing the delectables for the party. Society Hill neighbors, Nula Thanhauser and Bernice Hamel are the party's co-chairs.

We hope you will consider joining us for this opportunity to mingle, as we support the Friends of Independence National Historical Park and contribute directly to our own Civic Association. To receive an invitation in the mail, call The Friends at 215-918-1188. Tell them “we sent you.”