

**SOCIETY**  
**HILL 2**  
**NEWS**

The Society Hill 2 at Jersey City Community Newsletter  
Posted Quarterly to the Community Website



*Summer 2010*

**CELEBRATING...**

***THE GARDENS OF SH 2***

SOCIETY HILL 2 NEWS CELEBRATES...

# OUR GARDENS ABLOOM

THERE ARE AS MANY TYPES OF GARDENS AS THERE ARE TYPES OF PEOPLE. SOME ARE WHIMISICAL, SOME TRADITIONAL, SOME ECLECTIC.

ALL ARE DELIGHTFUL EXPRESSIONS OF EACH GARDENER'S PERSONAL AESTHETIC. ON THESE FOUR PAGES, OUR NEIGHBORS MAKE EXQUISITE STATEMENTS WITH COLOR, SHAPE AND TEXTURE. ENJOY!



Society Hill 2 News/Summer 2010 | 2

*You can bury a lot of troubles digging in the dirt.*

—Author Unknown

# OUR GARDENS ABLOOM



Society Hill 2 News/Summer 2010 | 3

*The garden is the poor man's apothecary*—German Proverb

# OUR GARDENS ABLOOM



Society Hill 2 News/Summer 2010 | 4

***Many things grow in the garden that were never sown there.***

—Thomas Fuller, *Gnomologia*, 1732

# OUR GARDENS ABLOOM



Society Hill 2 News/Summer 2010 | 5

*The best fertilizer is the gardener's shadow.* —Author Unknown

## COMMUNITY SPIRIT REVIVED DURING MEET & GREET



**O**n June 24, 2010, the SH 2 clubhouse was the scene of a revival. Although it was not the religious kind, there was a kind of spirituality about it. They came in as merely residents. After meeting and greeting over dessert and cold drinks, they left as neighbors—and with renewed purpose.

During the 2 1/2 hour event, each person introduced themselves (some for the first time). Then one by one, each expressed his or her desire for a stronger connection between the SH 2 board and between themselves.

More importantly, each made an open commitment to work together to bring this closer relationship about. In short, **Community Spirit, long thought extinct, was renewed. Their comments speak volumes:**

“Very excited about tonight’s effort and hope it will be a new beginning. Perhaps we can commit to bring a friend [to the next meeting].”—Carolyn Scott Nelson

“Would love more communication between residents and more opportunity to mingle with neighbors.”  
—Kate & Adrian Murray

“Very happy to have this meet and greet. It’s wonderful to spend time with fellow neighbors. T Thank You!”  
—Michelle Fox

“I’m glad I showed up. We clearly need more organization. A phone tree might be useful in getting more people to participate. E-mail and websites are essential. A web log where people can communicate ideas and complaints.” —Joseph Pena

“[I wish for] amelioration of our community and to bring forward the beauty, friendship and progress this community has the potential to offer.”—Millie Lamboy

“This meeting was very enlightening and informative. Residents getting involved with their community with an effort to make it better and better demonstrates great energy and enthusiasm. We are willing to offer our help when we can to assist the association whenever possible.”  
—Letha Singleton and Elijah Davis

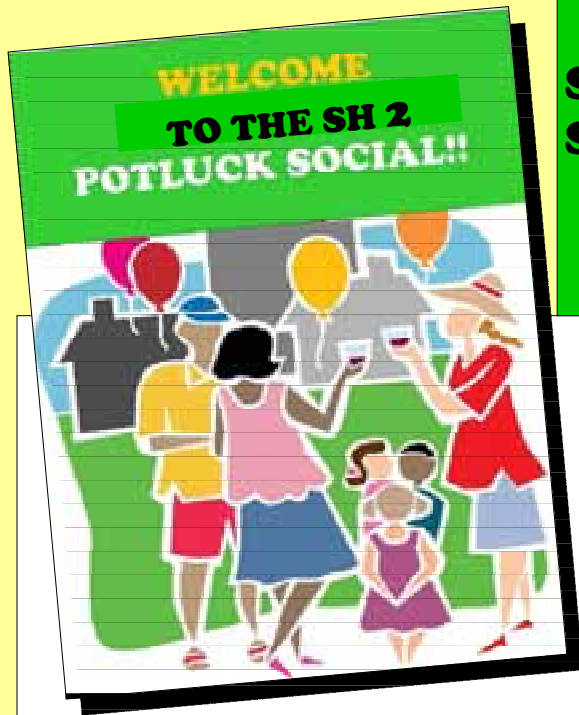
“I would be interested in the new home owners Welcome Committee and Landscape upkeep.”—Cynthia Jones

“Would love more meet and greets such as this one.”  
—Ella Myer

“Would it be possible to have a representative from each block to approach residents of that block and tell them about meetings on a personal basis?”—Ginny Meyer

“Would love to meet more families and stay-at-home parents.”—David Lesser

“I hope everyone here tonight keeps coming to the monthly meetings so they can have input into what should be the policy of the association.”  
—Kathleen Chester



## SPRING POTLUCK SOCIAL IN A WORD...

# DELICIOUS!

**O**n May 22, 2010, Society Hill 2 residents of all ages gathered at the clubhouse to enjoy good food, good music and each other's good company.

The Spring Potluck Social, SH 2's first major gathering since the Halloween party in 2008, had been planned since December '09. This spring it came off beautifully— due in no small part to the diligent planning of the Potluck Committee: Aleks Brzezanski, Hugh Michael Brown, Connie Lee and Patricia Riley.

However, perhaps the most compelling reason for the event's unqualified success was that more than 50 neighbors participated. They contributed a host of delicious dishes and refreshing beverages, which created an impressive buffet. Most importantly, they turned out to meet and greet their neighbors, making for an afternoon filled with laughter and sparkling conversation. Here are a few photos from the Spring Potluck Social.

*The Lip-smacking buffet!*



FROM THE SH 2  
POTLUCK SOCIAL

# SCRAPBOOK



*They ate,  
drank and  
were merry!*





*They  
toasted  
the  
occasion!*



FROM THE SH 2  
POTLUCK SOCIAL

**SCRAPBOOK**





FROM THE SH 2  
POTLUCK SOCIAL

# SCRAPBOOK



*All  
ages  
had  
fun!*



...FROM THE SH 2  
SPRING POTLUCK SOCIAL  
**GUEST BOOK**

Excellent idea! Great food! Great group of people!—Daisy Orr U

Thank you to the party committee for this special gathering. The party was well organized and it gave everyone a chance to meet their neighbors.—Diane & Alex Bynum

Wonderfully planned! We appreciate all the effort put into this! Eleanor & Andrea Borlin

This social was enjoyable. When is the next one?—Rosa Jones

This was wonderful! I enjoyed meeting my new neighbors and doing a bit of catching up with my other friends. The food was great.  
—Juanita Greene D

Thanks for having the social event for the neighborhood. Great job!—Inez Thompson

Great company. Great food. Thanks,  
—John Reid

Thank you for having this lovely event. I've been a SH2 resident for 10 years and never experienced such a pleasant afternoon with such pleasant neighbors.—Karen Callender K

Thanks for thinking of all of us. What a wonderful, thoughtful thing to do. —Eileen Sayyed

Nice get together! Thanks for inviting me.  
—Charlene Wright

Thank you so much for getting so many people together to enjoy some great food! These are exactly the kinds of things that will increase the sense of community. We hope for more events like this and are willing to help organize them in any way that we can.—The Corrado Family, Nick, Diana, Nicholas & Dominic

Thank you so much. This was a wonderful idea and we were thrilled to meet our neighbors! We would love to go to more events like this. Thanks again!—Dave, Allie & Penny Lesser

Thanks for the opportunity to meet so many of our wonderful neighbors. We must do events like this more often. We love the community, the walkway and the water.—The Murry Family, Adrian, Kate, August

Thank you for bringing the community together. It's such a great way to meet your neighbors! The party was well put together, friendly, peaceful and pleasant.

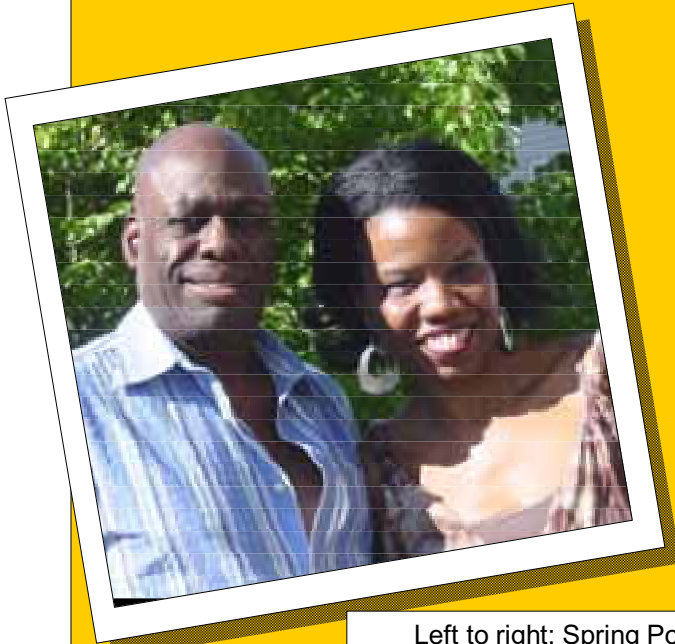
I love Society Hill 2 because of its humble, friendly people, its private, suburban feel and the beauty of the nature that surrounds us. I hope we can keep doing events like this a few times a year. Again, thank you! —Millie Lamboy



## ...FROM THE SH 2 SPRING POTLUCK SOCIAL **GUEST BOOK**

To my co-committee members: your help planning our Potluck Social was invaluable. Judging from the turnout and the positive responses, we hit a home run.

Aleks Brzezanski, Connie Lee and Patricia Riley—my hat's off to you!—Hugh Michael Brown



Left to right: Spring Potluck Social committee members: Hugh Michael Brown, Patricia Riley, Connie Lee and Aleks Brzezanski.

**A**tending clubs and participating in activities is a great way that neighbors can meet and interact with each other. If you'd like to help begin any of the clubs/activities listed below, please call Connie Lee at **201-332-6927**.

### CLUBS

- Biking Club
- Bowling Club
- Chess Club
- Computer Club
- E-Bay Club
- Exercise Club
- Metaphysics/ESP Club

- Music Lovers Club
- Nature/Garden Club
- Pet Club
- Travel Club

### ACTIVITIES

- Aerobics
- Bridge
- Cooking
- Line Dancing
- Mah-Jongg
- Mat Pilates
- Meditation

- Painting
- Photography
- Scrap Booking
- Tai Chi
- Texas Hold'em
- Walking

## SH 2 SECOND QUARTER UPDATE



HERE'S  
WHAT'S BEEN  
ACCOMPLISHED!

**I**n an effort to keep the community better informed, this SH 2 Community Update page will appear in *Society Hill 2 News* each quarter. Here you'll find a recap of the latest accomplishments the board has achieved on behalf of the community.

- Executive meeting minutes are available for viewing at the management office by appointment. They cannot be reproduced
- The 2009 Approved Financial Audit is available by request at the management office.
- A 10 foot fence will be installed around the Greenspace behind the pool to prevent use as a dog run and reduce liability to the association.
- Parking line and renumbering will be conducted as per warranty by Advanced Pavement Technologies
- Renegotiated revenue reimbursements from Comcast Communications, which includes a door fee, internet and television subscription revenue percentages
- Clubhouse rental fees increased from \$250 to \$300 off-season and to \$350 during the summer to offset water and utility costs and renovation of clubhouse bathrooms.
- Nemco Incorporated was hired to clean the clubhouse bathrooms on Saturdays during the pool season.
- One of the community's trash dumpsters is being repaired as a short-term solution to stopping unsanitary trash leakage and to avoid JCMUA fines. The Board is considering acquiring a new dumpster to forestall continually patching the old one.
- The recycling center camera wireless system is currently being upgraded to a larger hard drive, which should greatly improve its functionality.

# INTERVIEW WITH NEWLY-ELECTED BOARD MEMBER DENISE BAILEY

## SH2 NEWS: PLEASE TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF.

**DENISE:** I've been a Society Hill 2 resident for 8 years. I am a Leadership Development Professional, specializing in diversity and inclusion. My industry experience includes financial services, pharmaceuticals and media.

## SH2 NEWS: IS THERE A PHILOSOPHY OR CREDO YOU LIVE BY?

**DENISE:** There are several. Actions speak louder than words. Don't be a part of the problem...be part of the solution and Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

## SH2 NEWS: AS A NEWLY-ELECTED BOARD MEMBER, HAVE YOU ANY IDEAS FOR IMPROVING SH2'S QUALITY OF LIFE?

**DENISE:** I believe that increasing communication and transparency to residents is essential, i.e. insuring that draft minutes are promptly posted; suggesting that meeting dates be posted well in advance so residents can plan to attend; and actively approaching residents to hear their opinions and gain their assistance in strengthening our community.

## SH2 NEWS: DO YOU FEEL IT'S POSSIBLE FOR ALL THREE COMMUNITIES TO WORK IN ACCORD FOR THE GOOD OF ALL?

**DENISE:** Yes, it's happening now! I am the founder and chairperson of the Friends of the Walkway, which is committed to reflecting the interests of not just SH2, but SH1 and Droyers Point as well.

## SH2 NEWS: WHAT IS THE FRIENDS OF THE WALKWAY AND HOW DID IT COME ABOUT?



Denise Bailey  
SH 2 Board Member

**DENISE:** The Friends of the Walkway is a group of residents from SH1, SH2 and Droyers Point who have come together to assist the Master Association (DPWA) with determining viable solutions to important community issues.

At its April 2009 open meeting, the DPWA Board mentioned being in contact with Jersey City officials regarding their request to remove 84 mature trees along the walkway [their solution to end sidewalk damage caused by the tree roots]. In May 2009, a large contin-

gent of residents from all three communities wrote a letter to the DPWA board stating they thought this measure was extreme.

As a result, The Friends of the Walkway committee was created in September 2009, sanctioned by the DPWA Board. The "Friends" were charged to research and recommend alternative solutions to removing the trees.

In April 2010, the "Friends" made a formal presentation to the DPWA and community residents. This presentation featured several eco-friendly and cost effective ways to preserve our mature trees while restoring safety to the walkway. Since that meeting, the "Friends" have received written support from Jersey City Councilman Sottolano and Division of Parks and Forestry Director Rodney Hadley. In addition, a petition to save the trees, currently being circulated, clearly demonstrates that residents insist on being heard on this matter.

We continue to hope the DPWA Board will honor the community's wishes—to repair the walkway safely, preserve the trees and maintain our community's beauty and property values.

**SH2 NEWS:** Perhaps now that residents are expressing their opinions on this issue, an agreeable resolution will ensue.

**DENISE:** That is the Friends' goal. We want each resident's voice to be heard— on this and future issues that affect our community. ✕

# STOOP RENOVATION NECESSARY

**T**he SH2 Board is poised to undertake a long overdue project—the renovation of the community’s stoops. There are numerous pressing reasons why this redo is needed.

## **THE PROBLEM:**

The existing design of the stoops does not allow water from rain and melting snow and ice to filtrate from the steps. This lack of drainage causes a flaking condition called “effervescence”. This is essentially a rotting of the steel rebar that supports the steps, resulting in water damage that breaks down the concrete of the stoops.

## **THE SOLUTION:**

A pre-fabricated step (which incorporates a filtration system) will be constructed. Existing railings will be sanded down, painted and reused. Before the new stoop is installed, an engineering inspection will be conducted to determine if the stoop foundation needs to be re-constructed.

## **THE PLAN:**

A 3-5 year plan to correct the problem will entail determining the condition of the stoops and beginning the repair on the streets with the highest number of damaged stoops.

## **THE RESULT:**

Society Hill 2’s damaged stoop problem will be remedied and the community will be graced with stoops that are attractive, uniform and most importantly, better designed.

This will mean fewer repairs will be necessary for many years in the future.



Side view of a SH2 stoop shows cracking and lack of “weep holes” to allow water drainage.

## **WHY THE STOOP REDO NOW?**

Due to the increased cost of manhours and materials to do patchwork repairs on the stoops, the stoop project had been in the initial planning stages as early as the spring of 2008.

However, due to the financial downturn of the economy and the rise of foreclosures in the community, the board postponed the project.

A careful review of our 2010 budget, shows SH2 to be in good financial standing. The current plan is to fund a percentage of the project from our money market and reserve accounts—with a special maintenance assessment making up the balance of the project. The board is confident in moving forward on this project, starting on or about April 2011.

# WHAT 'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?



MONITORS LEFT ON BRICK RAIL BELONG IN DUMPSTER ON RAMP.

CARDBOARD BOXES SHOULD BE COMPLETELY BROKEN DOWN, TIED WITH STRING AND PUT IN PROPER SHUTE OR DUMPSTER

TRASH AND RECYCLABLES SHOULD NOT BE LEFT ON CURB OR ROADWAY.

LARGE ITEMS LIKE TVS BELONG IN BULK DUMPSTER ON RAMP, NOT LEFT ON CURB OR ROADWAY.

## TRASH-RELATED DO'S

- **Do** DISPOSE OF TRASH DOWN THE PROPER BINS AND **INSIDE** THE BULK DUMPSTER ON THE RECYCLING CENTER RAMP
  - **Do** PICK UP PET WASTE
- **Do** MAKE SURE THE PLASTIC BAGS YOU USE TO DISPOSE OF RECYCLABLES ARE CLEAR, SEE-THROUGH— NOT OPAQUE SUPERMARKET BAGS

## TOILET & DRAIN DISPOSAL DON'T'S

- INFANT OR ADULT DIAPERS
  - BABY WIPES
  - COOKING OILS
  - OILY SOLVENTS
- PAINT AND PAINT THINNERS
  - KITTY LITTER
  - PAPER TOWELS
- BULK PLASTIC ITEMS, LIKE TOYS
  - SANITARY NAPKINS



## HERE 'S THE RIGHT PICTURE!



### DID YOU KNOW:

It takes our handyman 3 hours or more per week to dispose of garbage and recyclables left incorrectly by residents? That equals almost \$500 a month...nearly \$6,000 per year!

This is our money, which could be better used to install pavers, repair roofs or clean our grounds.

We have the power to:

- Avoid costly fines levied on the community by the Jersey City Utilities Authority.
- Avoid expensive sewer backup problems, for which all residents pay to correct.

PROPER TRASH  
DISPOSAL & KEEPING  
THE RECYCLING CENTER  
TIDY SHOWS...

**WE TAKE PRIDE  
IN OUR  
COMMUNITY.**

# SENIORS CLUB BUSY AS EVER!

by Joan Dillman

**T**he seniors have been busy as bees since our last report. We've given gifts to the Hudson Cradle, Magnificent Residence for Women, meals for the needy through Cultural Affairs as well as bags of groceries for the St. Aloysius Food Pantry. We've had lunches at Shannon Rose in Clinton; Iberia in Newark; and China Chef in Secaucus. The City provided transportation. What's more, our flea market in June 2010 was extremely successful.

Our bowling team will be having it's bowling luncheon at Houlihan's. And with bowling scores ranging from the 90s to 170s, we're having a great year so far.

Please keep in mind that we meet in the SH2 clubhouse at 7 p.m. the first Monday each month (except September, when we meet the

## UPCOMING SENIORS ACTIVITIES

- a five day trip to Wildwood in September (meals included) \$360
- an overnight trip to Sight and Sound in Lancaster, PA (including an Amish dinner) \$200
  - attending NJPAC shows, including South Pacific, Spamalot, A Chorus Line and Beauty & the Beast.
- the County Boat Ride and Luncheon up the Hudson River in August
  - a trip to the Sands Casino in Bethlehem, PA in the fall 2010.

Tuesday after Labor Day).

We're having fun—living life to the fullest. We invite you to join us! ❖

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References are available from remodeling jobs performed in your neighborhood.

**SOCIETY  
HILL 2  
NEWS**

**CONTACT INFO**

To read Society Hill II News online, log on to:  
<http://taylormgt.ahn6.com/societyhillJCII>  
 Once at the SHII website, click "Newsletters".  
 Or, pick up a copy at the clubhouse.

To submit articles, ideas or suggestions for the newsletter, please contact the Editor, Hugh Brown, at [hubrown@comcast.net](mailto:hubrown@comcast.net)



Gabriel A. Valdes,  
Community  
Manager,  
Taylor  
Management  
Company

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CONTACT INFO**

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 266 Willow Street  
 Jersey City, NJ 07305  
 Phone: 201-324-0028  
 Fax: 201-324-2959

HOURS:  
 Mon., Tues., Fri.:  
 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
 Thurs.: 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
 Closed: Wed, Sat., Sun.

**MEET YOUR  
SOCIETY HILL 2 BOARD**

▶ Elected:  
 April 2009  
 Term  
 Ends:  
 April 2012



Tani Mills,  
President

◀ Elected:  
 April 2008  
 Term Ends:  
 April 2011



Rubina Vorha,  
Treasurer



Hugh M. Brown,  
Trustee



Denise Bailey  
Trustee



Carolyn Scott  
Nelson, Trustee

▲ Elected:  
 April 2010  
 Term Ends:  
 April 2013

▲ Elected:  
 April 2010  
 Term Ends:  
 April 2013

▲ Appointed  
 July 2010  
 Term Ends:  
 April 2011

**SH 2 OPEN BOARD MEETINGS ARE HELD IN  
 THE CLUBHOUSE THE FOURTH THURSDAY  
 EACH MONTH AT 7:30 P.M.**

**MAKE SURE YOU ATTEND TO FIND OUT  
 FIRST HAND ABOUT ISSUES THAT  
 AFFECT YOUR COMMUNITY!**

THE EDITORIAL DEADLINE FOR  
 AUTUMN SOCIETY HILL II NEWS IS FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 2010.  
 SEND ARTICLES, SUGGESTIONS AND SUBMISSIONS TO:  
[hubrown@comcast.net](mailto:hubrown@comcast.net)

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at 201-332-6927

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nity have no liability whatsoever for any  
dissatisfaction that may occur.

# COMMUNITY SPIRIT GROWING



Hugh Brown,  
Editor,  
Society Hill 2  
News

**O**N Thursday June 24, an impromptu Meet & Greet meeting was held in the clubhouse. Twenty plus SH 2 residents attended. They introduced themselves to each other while enjoying dessert. They shared their visions and ideas for making this a more cohesive, better functioning community. More importantly, they expressed their willingness to play “hands on” roles in opening up the lines of communication— between the SH 2 board and the residents as well as among the residents with each other.

In an effort to broaden communication, this issue presents the newly-added SH 2

Quarterly Update article on page 13. Be sure to see it.

This issue’s theme— *“Our Gardens Abloom”*—couldn’t be more apt. And so, too, are the words of French-born writer, Anais Nin, at right. Our Spring Potluck Social and the recent Meet & Greet get-together show that residents are ready to re-engage their neighbors. Community spirit is not just alive...it is determined to thrive! ✕

THERE CAME A  
TIME WHEN THE  
RISK TO REMAIN  
TIGHT IN  
THE BUD...

WAS MORE  
PAINFUL  
THAN THE RISK  
IT TOOK TO  
BLOSSOM.

—Anais Nin

SOCIETY HILL 2 NEWS  
Society Hill 2 @ Jersey City  
266 Willow Street  
Jersey City, NJ 07305

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

- Our Gardens Abloom, Pages 2-5
- Community Spirit Revived, Page 6
- Spring Potluck Social, Pages 7-12
- SH2 Quarterly Update, Page 13
- Interview with Board Member Denise Bailey, Page 14