

SOCIETY HILL

# Reporter

www.societyhillcivic.org

## Society Hill Stays Connected on Zoom



Join us on September 16 for a virtual general membership meeting on Zoom.

The Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) invites neighbors to join us on September 16 for a virtual general membership meeting on Zoom. We will discuss quality-of-life issues and various activities of the association. Because of the health and safety concerns caused by COVID-19, we've had to rely on modern technology to continue educating our community and providing a way to connect, albeit from a distance.

Just recently, nearly 150 neighbors Zoomed in to see Mark Kelly Tyler, the pastor of Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, address the topic of Black Lives Matter Here. He shared his experiences and thoughts about the protests of the murder of George Floyd that have rocked our city, our nation and the world. For more on this important social issue, read Claudia Carabelli's

article on page 7 and check out Head House Books list of relevant reads on page 19.

And thanks to a Zoom collaboration between the Society Hill Towers and Penn's Landing Square, almost 130 residents were able to join Philadelphia City Councilman At-Large Allan Domb on August 4. Councilman Domb spoke about the ways both COVID-19 and the Black Lives Matter protests have impacted our region.

Contact Administrator Matt DeJulio, mattdejulio@aol.com, with your up-to-date contact information so he can put you on our weekly email blast. Stayed tuned for more information about the membership meeting as we get closer to September 16.

### SIGN OF THE TIMES

#### *Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow*



Markus Aman, owner of The Lion's Mane at 1133 Pine Street, gives a COVID-style cut.

### Plan Your Vote

Philadelphia registered voters will cast their ballots on Tuesday, November 3, in a critically important General Election complicated by COVID-19. Polling places in the city saw a dramatic 80 percent reduction in in-person voting for the June primary. With ongoing staffing issues due to the pandemic, things aren't going back to normal in time for the November election.

Unfortunately, methods of voting have become one of the central fights in a presidential election that could be decided by a small number of votes in a handful of states, including Pennsylvania.

Remember that all Pennsylvania residents who are registered to vote can request a mail ballot at [www.VotesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot](http://www.VotesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot). Voting by mail in the past has been a safe, easy, secure way to ensure that your voice is heard. As the *Reporter* goes to press, however, there is a great deal of anxiety and confusion about recent changes in the United States Postal Service.

Although you have until 5 p.m. on October 27 to get your application for a ballot to the county election office, either hand delivered or by mail, it is more prudent to do so immediately. The October deadline is most certainly too late to receive the ballot and then return it by mail.

Your filled-in ballot must be in the county election office by 8 p.m. on election day, not post-marked, and give yourself at least two weeks or more before the election to post. In Philadelphia, more than 14,600 ballots for the June primary arrived after the hard deadline, with tens of thousands more late ballots statewide.

If you are concerned about the USPS system, there could be other options. It is expected that the city will set up mailbox-style drop-off spots. These would be collected by election officials, not by the USPS. Philadelphia is also trying to establish satellite election offices where voters can apply for and complete a mail-in ballot on the spot.

Complicating the process, however, is a Trump reelection campaign lawsuit against the State of Pennsylvania filed on June 29. The lawsuit claims that mail ballot drop boxes were unconstitutional in the way they were used in the June 2 primary election and asks that the federal court bar them in November.

You can always, though, drop off your ballot in person at Philadelphia's county election office in City Hall, Room 142. Stay informed by visiting [www.philadelphiavotes.com](http://www.philadelphiavotes.com) or phone the Supervisor of Elections at 215-686-3469.

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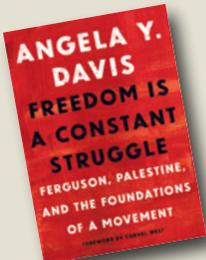
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SOCIETY HILL

# Reporter

**NUSA  
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First Place  
2020**

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**Submission Deadline**  
November/December Issue:  
October 1

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at [www.societyhillcivic.org](http://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](mailto: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

We have long been accustomed to noise, trash and traffic due to our proximity to South Street and Spruce Harbor Park. But the danger from drag-racing ATVs and dirt bikes is something new that we simply can not tolerate. We have not endured a pandemic only to have deafening blasts from drag-racing ATVs give us sleepless nights and dirt bikes speeding on sidewalks make us fear opening our own front doors.

Police are helpful in trying to minimize the problem, but have limited manpower that they can assign. Other than erecting barricades, they can enforce noise and traffic ordinances, but only by issuing a ticket. Their ultimate weapon is to confiscate offending vehicles, which they have done at times in citywide operations. It remains to be seen if this drastic action will have a long-term positive effect.

Ultimately, we must count on the Mayor, City Council and Philadelphia's Office of Transportation, Infrastructure and Sustainability. They tell us the problem is citywide. That is all the more reason we should expect a response — still not received as of this writing — to our continuing requests to prevent traffic from Columbus Boulevard from turning onto Spruce Street. If the answer is no, we may have to try to come up with our own studied approach to paying for and installing traffic calming devices. Beware, however, that when hearing about speed cushions, an ATV rider or dirt biker's reaction may be: "Go ahead. Make my day." And any vehicle creates noise bumping its way over rumble strips. In the end, the best solution may be encouraging bikers to go elsewhere. Could the city do for ATVs and dirt bikes what it did for skateboarders?

Certainly, this will be a topic at the annual meeting of SHCA, which will take place virtually on September 16. This will be a meeting for general discussion of matters relating to quality of life and the various activities of SHCA.

Among them, following Mayor Kenney's veto, is a second effort to have the city adopt our Master Plan for remapping the uses that would be permitted on numerous lots in Society Hill. We also want an overlay that will, among other things, address the parking squeeze in our neighborhood and impose a 65-foot height limit in the two hundred block of Walnut Street. We are scheduled to present our Plan at the next session of the City Council Rules Committee.

In direct opposition to reasons for the proposed height limit, a developer seeks to demolish the existing large residence at 232-234 Walnut Street and replace it with a 15-story, 185-foot luxury hotel without parking. The Architecture Committee of the Historical Commission has made a non-binding recommendation to the full Commission to disallow this development due to the mass of the structure that would run along 3rd Street and loom over the historic Merchants Exchange Building across Walnut Street in Independence Park. The developer is nonetheless expected to pursue Commission approval, at which time SHCA and Independence Park would oppose the plan.

We were proud to host a Zoom meeting on July 22 when Mother Bethel's Dr. Reverend Mark Kelly Tyler spoke about the turmoil in our city following the death of George Floyd and the socioeconomic issues that we face in responding to the call of Black Lives Matter. Over 140 people registered for the event, and about 105 people were on at any given time. The feedback showed how grateful and inspired they were by Reverend Tyler's presentation. We are fortunate to have had his perspective and his enthusiasm for the opportunity to speak — and work in the future with — residents of Society Hill. The recording of the event can be found on SHCA's website.

We hope you will attend our virtual meeting on September 16.



**SHCA President  
Larry Spector**



**Rev. Mark Kelly Tyler**

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**'FIX THE BRIX' IN THE AGE OF COVID**

BY MARTHA LEVINE

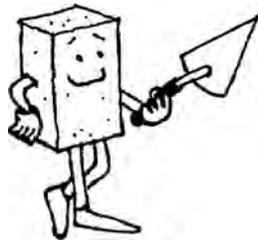
# We Are Walking More Than Ever



**Take in and store loose bricks, which can be used to break into cars.**

**D**uring the pandemic, it seems that more and more people of all ages are outside taking walks. This is important for our physical as well as mental health. No one wants to use an Uber, Lyft or taxi right now. So, it's a fine time to make sure our sidewalks are in good shape to prevent falls. Isn't a pandemic enough to worry about?

If your front sidewalk is less than safe for pedestrians, why not look into our SHCA subsidy program, aptly called "**Fix the Brix.**" We have been a resource to help with sidewalk repairs since 2009, with over 150 homeowners taking advantage of our program.



**Rick the Brick**

**Here's how it works:**

SHCA will provide a subsidy of 40 percent of the total cost of your sidewalk repair, up to \$400 for current SHCA members, or 40 percent up to \$300 for

non-members. The city does not have a program for this much-needed service, so SHCA takes care of its own.

**A few easy steps to get your subsidy:**

- Take a photo of your problem sidewalk and email it to me at marthalev6@gmail.com.
- Have a qualified mason or arborist repair your sidewalk. Try to get a few estimates. If you need a recommendation, we can supply a list. Make sure the work is done to your satisfaction.
- Make a copy of the invoice for yourself, then mail the original with the contractor's name at the top to us: SHCA, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia PA 19147. If possible, mail a copy of your cancelled check.
- You should receive a check within two weeks.

Every sidewalk that is improved makes our whole neighborhood a better place to live.



## VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSES

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Grades Pre-K & K

**Sat., Oct. 10**  
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**TRASH & RECYCLING**

BY MARTHA LEVINE

# Frustrated with Trash and Recycling Delays?

During July and August, our trash and recycling collection schedule has been erratic and frustrating. The messages from the Streets Department say “one day delays” but in reality, some blocks had to wait for up to four days before the pickup. To see the schedule for yourself, go to [www.philadelphiestreets.com](http://www.philadelphiestreets.com) and click on Alert/Learn More. Or call, or go online, 311, when 48 hours have passed with no trash/recycle pickup. They are inundated with calls, so you may have a wait.

SHCA has been trying to give accurate updates, but we rely on the messages from the Philadelphia Streets Department. Trash and recycling sitting on our sidewalks for extended periods of time present a health and safety hazard. It also collects new trash, as pedestrians dump their half-eaten food containers on top of the trash.

We realize that, during the pandemic, there are reasons for the delays: workers calling in sick, increased tonnage due to people staying home and ordering for deliveries, and workers needing better PPE (personal protective equipment).

Workers want puncture-proof gloves. Residents can help by following proper ways to deposit their trash and recycling. Multi-units are the worst offenders. Trash should be put out in securely tied plastic or paper bags to avoid spillage on our sidewalks, which attracts vermin and flies.

**Recycle the Right Way**

Food has no place in your recycling bins. Do not use plastic bags for your recycling, because it will be taken as trash. Best bet is the blue plastic bins issued by the city or any plastic or metal bin. Staples carries blue recycle bins. Cardboard boxes or paper bags are not acceptable, as they tear and dissolve in the rain.

**Yes**

**Empty, Clean and Dry:**

- Aluminum cans
- Cardboard boxes & cartons
- Paper (no paper towels, tissues)
- Plastic bottles & containers
- Glass jars & bottles (lids, too)

**No**

- Plastic bags
- Food waste
- Food-soiled or wet items
- Styrofoam



**Trash and recycling, sitting on sidewalks for up to four days, is a public health issue.**



**New recycling bins with lids prevent passers-by from tossing litter and pet waste in with your recycling.**



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## Service

We answer the phone when you call during business hours. Now, that's different! We are in constant contact with our arborists and field personnel to provide timely responses to your needs. A knowledgeable arborist will visit with you to discuss your needs and concerns. Seasoned veterans with well-maintained tools and equipment will perform the agreed-upon services to your satisfaction.

## Quality

Our recommendations are based on observations and a consultative approach that identifies your needs and expectations, tempered with our concern to maintain and improve the health, appearance and safety of your landscape. Custom pruning achieves the landscape appearance you desire while being performed to the specifications of proper arboricultural practices. Plant Health Care services include a thorough inspection before any

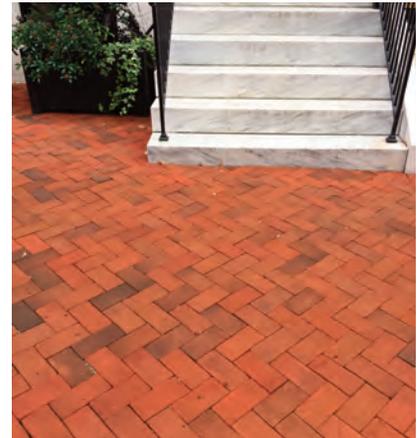
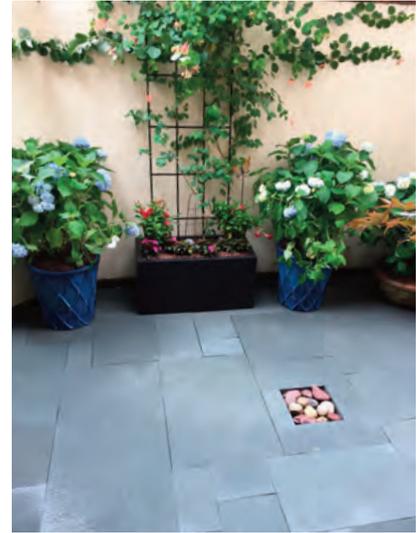
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## Distinctive

McFarland Blue trucks, uniformed personnel, attention to detail and thorough clean-up of your property help differentiate McFarland. Our management of your landscape can be total or selective, depending on your needs and budget. If we cannot immediately identify the cause of a landscape problem, we will research the issue until we have solid answers to report to you. As a second-generation business, we have been satisfying our clients with a lifelong-relationship approach to service.

## 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.

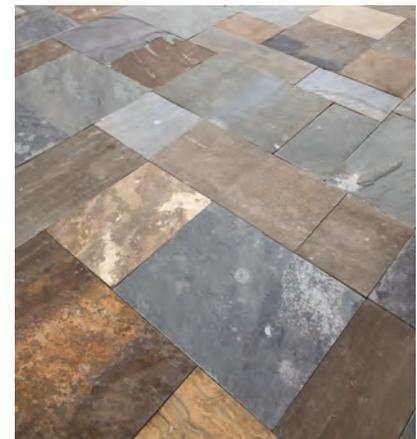
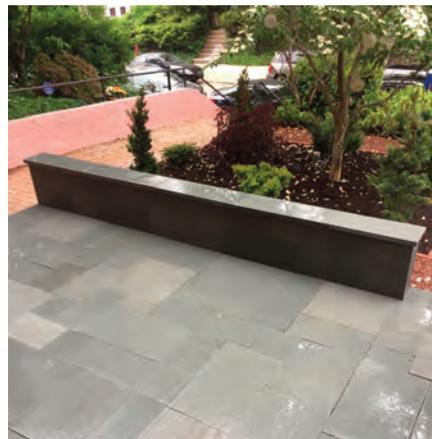


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MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

# Addressing Racial Injustice in Our Daily Lives

We are truly living through remarkable times. In the midst of a once-in-a-century global pandemic, we've seen people worldwide rise up to demand social justice for people of color. The horrific video of a Black man, killed under the knee of a seemingly dispassionate Minneapolis police officer, forced us all to face the fact that "justice for all" is not everyone's reality. In many instances, skin color still sadly determines how one is treated — by law enforcement, in employment, in access to health care, in educational opportunities and even everyday encounters.

The tragic death of George Floyd and others has spurred many individuals, of all races and ages, to stand up and advocate for change.

Coming on the heels of the protests, we lost a civil rights icon in the Honorable John Lewis. From a beating by state troopers during a peaceful 1965 demonstration to a position as a highly respected United States congressman, he dedicated himself to the fight for equality. The news coverage of his life has been a history lesson in both how far we've come and how much further we still need to go.

If you're white and privileged, how do you become part of the solution? People have many opinions about what constitutes appropriate action. SHCA formed a small committee to explore the issue. We interviewed those who work in the field of social justice and scoured resources on the topic. We were also honored to have the Reverend Mark Kelly Tyler, pastor of Mother Bethel AME Church, speak to many of our residents in a virtual Zoom meeting. Here are some things that are consistently seen to be helpful.

**Educate yourself.** No matter how extensive our education or how vast our experience, there's always more to learn. Read, watch videos or attend seminars. You need only google "books and movies about racial injustice" to come up with a plethora of resources. See a list of interesting and timely books on this subject on page 19.

**Challenge your own discomfort and prejudices.** Race can be a difficult subject to broach. We need to talk about it honestly and openly with people of all colors. I, for one, will not allow another white person to make racist statements without challenge. I won't let them assume I'm complicit just because my skin color matches theirs. Even older relatives need to be called out when they spout hateful speech. It's not ever okay.

**Use your white privilege for good,** as Reverend Tyler suggested. Many of us have social and business connections that give us access to those in power. Let's use it to advocate for our fellow citizens who may not be so connected. Show up at civic meetings, write letters to the editor, meet with police — speak up for others.

**Be an ally.** The best definition I found is, "Being an ally means being willing to act with and for others in the pursuit of ending oppression and creating equality." Step up to help your fellow human beings. It can mean protesting in the streets, but it can also be a simple act of kindness. Don't underestimate the value of even tiny steps towards the goal.

**Donate.** It can be money to an organization you support, books for a neighborhood school or meals provided by a local food bank. The need is never-ending, and any amount helps.

**Support Black-owned businesses.** Again, easily found on the internet. Entrepreneurship can be a way out of poverty. Supporting Black-owned businesses also helps the communities those businesses are based in, keeping those neighborhoods vibrant.

**Take action to create change.** This can mean different things to different people. As with many issues right now, it's complicated by the COVID-19 pandemic. There are fewer public meetings, and some city buildings have limited access. Protests might be too risky for someone who is older or has health concerns. Fortunately, many of the actions listed above can be done from the safety of your home, and a lot of us have more time on our hands to do so.

**Commit to do one small thing every day.** In the words of Gandhi, "Be the change you wish to see in the world."

**Claudia Carabelli** serves on the SHCA board as SW Quadrant Director.



*"Be the change you wish to see in the world."*

— Mahatma Gandhi

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## KEEPING POSTED

BY AL CAVALARI

## The Universal Peace Union in Old City Hall

In 1898, a reporter from *The Philadelphia Bulletin* visited the Universal Peace Union, which rented space in Old City Hall, the eastern wing of Independence Hall at the corner of 5th and Chestnut Streets. What ensued could be understood as a 19th-century version of McCarthyism. But my story begins at the time of the Civil War.

In July of 1863, a Philadelphia-born Quaker, appropriately named Alfred Love, was drafted. Declining to report for combat, based on conscientious principles, he offered to “take a post no matter how exposed, to alleviate suffering.” He would risk his life in combat, but only as a medic. His offer was refused and thus began a battle of wills.

Love rebuffed two friends who offered to take his place. He also refused to pay a fee to the draft board to be exempted. He met with them four times to find a face-saving solution. After two eye exams, the board finally gave him a medical exemption he had not sought.

By 1895, Alfred Love was the president of the Universal Peace Union (UPU). Founded in 1866, its agenda was to entirely rework the world’s social order. A popular slogan was “Remove the causes and abolish the customs of war.” The agenda was broad: Abolish war and the military. Agitate for disarmament. Remove all provisions related to war and the military from the U.S. Constitution; Congress should have no power to declare war. UPU was involved in Reconstruction, the Temperance Movement, Native American rights, women’s rights and the labor movement. It advocated creating a new government bureau called the Peace Department, and denounced white imperialism in Africa, lynching African Americans and excluding Asians from immigration.

In December 1895, UPU moved into rented rooms in Old City Hall with a warm welcome from the City of Philadelphia. The organization was quite aware of the influence it had acquired by being permitted to conduct its mission from

the very birthplace of the United States of America. It made ready use of its new prestige in its publications and fundraising. It established a peace museum, held conferences, hosted peace advocates from around the world, made appeals for Armenia and Cuba and involved itself in “every commercial and humanitarian measure that would promote peace and avert war now and forever,” to use its own language.

Meanwhile, tension had been increasing with Spain largely over U.S. support of the Cuba independence movement and fueled by “yellow journalism,” fake news of the day. Propaganda and sensationalism dominated coverage in an escalating circulation competition between newspapers owned by Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst. The explosion on February 5, 1898, that sank the U.S. Battleship Maine brought the matter to a boil. Both newspapers developed theories that Spain had destroyed the ship and printed the stories as fact.

The Universal Peace Union waded into the fray with a letter written by Love to the Queen of Spain. He urged Spain to grant Cuban independence, submit to international mediation and receive a delegation from the United States, thus averting war for “humanity, for happiness, for truth, for justice and for God.” The letter never reached the Queen but was published in some distorted form, leading to a reporter from the *Bulletin* wondering what a peace organization was doing in our national shrine dampening patriotic fervor just when the nation was rallying around the flag. The reporter walked into the Universal Peace Union’s offices and found the flag of Spain on the wall.

In May 1898, the *Bulletin* began an inflammatory series of articles. It attacked the peace group for having Spanish sympathies and accused it of treason. People were whipped into a frenzy of hatred towards the organization.



This postcard dates from about 1900 to 1907 and features Old City Hall, although the caption reads “Independence Hall.”

Pastors denounced it from pulpits. Angry crowds protested outside. The articles did not make clear that there was also a 40-foot American flag on the wall and that the Spanish flag was just one in a display of world flags, each about the size of a sheet of paper. The theme of universal peace simply encompassed all the nations of the world, and the flag display was quite a logical one for an organization of this kind to have.

One must wonder just what the city imagined its new tenant would be doing when it rented space to a peace activist group. By May 28, public anger had taken its toll. The Bureau of City Property sent a letter to Alfred Love informing him that the group would need to vacate the premises by May 31. The final indignity suffered by these people who saw war and tried to stop it occurred as they left. Members were harassed and roughed up. Belongings, records and mementos were lost or destroyed. Where did they go? When they first rented space in Old City Hall just three years earlier, Alfred Love lived at 219 Chestnut Street, three blocks away. Maybe they moved to Love’s home. The group survived until the death of Alfred Love in 1913. He had been its president since its founding.

**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](mailto:flagguys@aol.com).

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OUR CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

# Adopting a Friend to Stave Off Loneliness

The COVID-19 pandemic has been unpredictable in so many ways. One side effect, not foreseen even by expert epidemiologists, has been the dramatic uptick in pet adoptions. Hungry for companionship during this time of social isolation, many people opted for a furry friend, often adopting through rescue organizations. A win-win! The human gets a loyal housemate, and the dog or cat finds a home. This subsequently frees up a shelter spot for another homeless creature. The best news is that pets are known to alleviate stress, lower one's blood pressure and encourage people to get out and exercise.

Although both dogs and cats have been sought after, for purposes of this article I will focus on canines. We've all seen those feel-good stories about pups finding their forever home. Unfortunately, not all rescues have happy endings. Without a good adoption match, some dogs end up returned to shelters, even multiple times. For your best chance at an ideal match, consider asking the following questions during the process.

**Has the dog been behavior tested?** Reputable organizations will have an animal behaviorist/trainer assess each dog before it's cleared for adoption. Food aggression, how the dogs react to other animals and whether they're safe around young children are evaluated. Believe what the evaluator says. While some behaviors can be retrained, risking your child's safety is never a good idea.

**Does the dog have a bite history?** This information is not always available, especially if the dog was a stray. If they've been known to bite, you should proceed cautiously, and only if you're a very experienced dog handler.

**Was the dog ever returned?** It's important to know the reason for an adoption failure. Was it a minor behavioral issue that you can address? Is it a young dog amenable to training, or an older dog whose habits may be more ingrained? Sometimes it's just a bad match, but it can also be a deal breaker.

**What's the dog's activity level?** If you're older with mobility issues, you'll do better with a more docile, sedentary dog. Younger, high-energy canines need a person who can provide them with the exercise they need. An energetic pup without enough stimulation is a recipe for household destruction.

**How did the dog end up in a shelter?** Abandonment? Abuse? A stray? Maybe surrendered by owners who fell on hard times. The more you know, the better able you will be to make an educated choice about what works best for your household.

**Animal shelters are a very stressful environment for any creature.** A dog doesn't know where it is or what's going to happen next. The place is filled with new smells, sounds and other animals. Many pups will look depressed or perhaps act aggressively out of fear. If you're able to find a dog that has been fostered in a home, you'll likely have a much better idea of their true temperament. I remember one dog at the PSPCA who looked so aggressive in the kennel that he was slated for euthanasia. It was only after a staff member took him home to foster that we realized he was a gentle boy who was just acting out of sheer terror.

**Consider a dog with a disability.** Three-legged dogs, also known as "tripawds," tend to do quite well once they acclimate to the limb loss. Blind or deaf dogs, with enough time to adjust to new surroundings, often do just fine. The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia has one therapy dog "on staff" that was born without any front limbs. He rolls around on his custom-made cart to the absolute delight of patients and staff.



**Children's Hospital of Philadelphia therapy dog.**

**Older dogs** can be the sweetest of companions. Sadly, they're often overlooked when individuals search for a new pet. Just be sure you're able to take on any financial responsibility that may come along with aging health issues.

Most importantly, if you've never had a dog before, be sure to prepare. Read up and consider a dog training class to learn from the experts. If you do it right, you can have a wonderful little friend for many years to come.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

**Keep Lawrence Court Walk Safe and Clean**

Lawrence Court Walk in the heart of Society Hill between Spruce and Pine Streets, provides a greenway to walk from 4th to 5th Street. Some use it to get to the ACME, others as respite from traffic on Spruce & Pine, or as a space for a mid-day break, to enjoy alone or with friends. Keeping this treasure clean and safe is costly and is NOT covered by the City of Philadelphia. Your donation to the Walkway Association will go directly to pay for maintenance including:



- Regular clean-up of trash, leaves and other seasonal tree debris, and snow removal.
- Power washing and repairing bricks to prevent slips and falls.
- Pruning trees & shrubs to protect pedestrians and to prevent rodent infestation.

Join others like you. Invest in your neighborhood. \$150 is recommended, any amount is appreciated. To make a contribution online, go to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/lawrence-walk-conservation> or send a check to Susan Purcell, 411 Pine Street, Phila PA 19106. Please direct questions or comments to: [lawrencecourtwalk@gmail.com](mailto:lawrencecourtwalk@gmail.com).

## WASHINGTON SQUARE COMMITTEE REPORT

BY FRED MANFRED

## Making Progress in a Time of Uncertainty

You may remember that this year's beautification season was kicked off by trimming the park's dense tree canopy. The project created new light patterns throughout, improving and strengthening the understory of plants and grassy areas. The project also removed trees and limbs susceptible to strong wind damage. During recent storms, Washington Square experienced far less tree damage than the rest of Independence National Historic Park (INHP) and the city.

Grounds have been mechanically and manually aerated to improve conditions for growing grass. Volunteers spread over 600 pounds of grass seed throughout and cordoned off the more difficult growing areas. Soon lush, green swaths of grass replaced former areas of dirt and mud. Functionally, the new and denser grassy areas have successfully stemmed the mud runoff problems from the year before.

By spring, the impact of COVID-19 was emerging, and safety precautions were being prescribed. INHP eventually closed, and the Washington Square Committee's spring planting plans were canceled. Those plans included 6,000 new plantings.

The entire spring planting season, however, was not lost. While working within national and local COVID-19 guidelines, a few planting bed mentors re-ordered almost 2,000 plants, which were received and planted by the end of May. Soon after, the committee continued with park maintenance work and began planning for the fall.

The need for masonry repairs caused the fountain to remain dry all season. Securing a historically certified restorer early in the season was also complicated by COVID-19. The uncertainty of how the virus may transmit via unfiltered pools of water contributed to INHP's decision to wait. Masonry repairs are scheduled for the fall.



**Trimming the dense tree canopy created new light patterns throughout the Square. Newly planted grass areas replaced areas of dirt and successfully stemmed mud runoff.**

Just prior to the Park Service closing in the spring due to the pandemic, the planting bed mentors began to notice evidence of rodents in the planting beds. The uptick in rodent activity coincided with the new construction happening along Jeweler's Row. Aggressive remediation was hampered by COVID-19 and INHP's furlough. Eventually, INHP selected a remediation method conducive to a park setting which hosts a variety of daily visitors. An aggressive trapping program has been deployed, which is proving to be effective while other methods are being evaluated.

Moving forward, the committee is pleased to share that Phase I of certifying Washington Square as a nationally recognized arboretum is complete. Each tree in the park has been mapped, identified and will have a plaque attached displaying its common and genus names.

With fall just around the corner, the Washington Square Committee has

completed its plans for upgrading the planting beds with a variety of native trees, shrubs and perennials. This fall's beautification program was expected to begin in late August.

The Washington Square Affair 2020 had been gaining historic momentum from both community excitement and early patron support. When we had to postpone the June 3 event, *the momentum remained optimistic for this fall*. With Mayor Kenney's recent announcement, we ask that you again remain optimistic as we postpone until June 2021. Those details will be dependent upon future factors and therefore will be announced after the New Year.

We extend our sincere thanks to Zoe Pappas and Aleni Pappas for graciously agreeing to host our Patron Affair. Our hosts were attentive to planning every detail with their signature generosity and style.

We're also incredibly grateful to our generous Washington Square Patrons and supporters; to our planting bed mentors and volunteers; to the Society Hill Civic Association for its support; to Cynthia MacLeod, Superintendent of INHP, for saying "Yes;" to Sherley Young, Co-Chair Washington Square, for her creative vision and leadership; to Fred Stein, events planner, for his experience, patience, and sage advice; and to our stalwart Washington Square Affair Committee: Concha Alborg, Trish Caesar, Kate Carr, Carol Hanlon, Judy Lamirand and Karen Sinclair.

Clearly... it takes a village to raise an Affair! PLUS one amazing Co-Chair, Joan Rollins Tropp. It's impossible to measure Joan's contribution to both the Affair and the park. Ingredients in her secret sauce are her tireless energy, creativity, spirit and friendship.

We look forward to seeing everyone happy, healthy and ready to celebrate in 2021.

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Christine Lussier & Robert Hamill  
Johanne Lamarche & Chris Hardinger  
Nancy & William Jantsch

**Thanks to Square Affair  
Sponsors and Patrons**

We give many thanks to our generous patrons, sponsors and volunteers. Without your donations and sweat equity, none of our initiatives would be realized. The early support demonstrated community approval of our completed projects and those in the planning stages.



**Hydrangea.** Photos by Fred Manfred.

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**THANK YOU, BLOCK COORDINATORS!**

BY MARTHA LEVINE, CHAIR

**The Eyes and Ears of Society Hill****Martha Levine**

In 2001, the Block Coordinator (BC) program was established to meet the need for better communication between SHCA and the neighborhood. We had no weekly e-newsletter at that time, so it provided a two-way path for communication. An all-volunteer group with close to 60 members, the program provides each block with one or two coordinators. They are truly the “eyes and ears” of the community!

Each BC is the point person for their respective block and can forward important and timely information to their neighbors. They can also give us feedback about any concerns on their block: news about trash collection changes, Clean Up Day information, new graffiti locations, the weekly crime report, quality-of-life issues, last-minute special meetings, petitions, reminders of upcoming events like the Society Hill Open House & Garden Tour and so much more.

The Block Coordinators also help with membership by encouraging their neighbors to join SHCA. Each

BC is given a list of their neighbors, with contact information, and is encouraged to keep an updated list of email addresses for better communication. BCs also help identify new homeowners so that they can be presented with a Welcome Basket, SHCA's gift to new neighbors. Twice a year, for Clean Up Day, the BCs erect and remove the important “Move Your Car” signs so that city trucks can properly sweep and wash our streets.

Several years ago, preparing for our important Master Plan, each Block Coordinator, armed with their block map, was asked to survey their block and identify how each property was classified: single home, multi-units, number of floors, etc. This was compiled and presented to our architectural firm KSK.

We are lucky to have these dedicated foot soldiers, many new ones and many who have been on board since the program's beginning, to assist in taking care of Society Hill.

**2020 Block Coordinators**

Jessica Ackert	100 Pine Street	Barbara Gelman	200-300 S. 2nd Street
Debbie Zak Cohen	200 Pine Street (N)	Judy Hartl	200 S. 3rd Street (W)
Rhonda Moody	200 Pine Street (S)	Alice Levy	200 S. 3rd Street (E)
<i>Vacancy</i>	300 Pine Street	Joe Dillon	300 S. 3rd Street
Kim Williams	400 Pine Street	Jeff Berry	400 S. 3rd Street
Linda Skale	500 Pine Street	George Zolot	200 S. 4th Street
Yvana Rizzo	600 Pine Street	Charles Todd	300 S. 4th Street
David Axelrod	700 Pine Street	Anne Kelly King	300 S. 5th Street
Penns Landing Assn.	100 Spruce Street/ 300 S. Front Street	Mary Hawkesworth	300 S. 6th Street
George Kelley	200 Spruce Street	Martha Moore	400 S. 6th Street
Carla McMullan	300 Spruce Street	Derek Brader	200 S. 7th Street
<i>Vacancy</i>	400 Spruce Street	<i>Vacancy</i>	300 S. 7th Street
Rick McConnell	500 Spruce Street (N)	Richard Goldberg	400 S. 7th Street
Rick Herskovitz	500 Spruce Street (S)	Jo Surpin	500 Addison Court
Martha Levine	600 Spruce Street	Martha Moore	600 Addison Street
Joel Chernock	700 Spruce Street	Gail Hauptfuhrer	300 Gaskill Street
Norma Van Dyke	100 Lombard Street (N)	Laura Lane	300 S. St. Peters Way
Sarah Kern	100 Lombard Street (S)	Marc Kittner	300 S. Lawrence Court/Lawrence Street
	100 Naudain Street	Charles Prendergast	Willings Alley Mews
Jeff Ingber	200 Lombard Street	Rhonda Moody	Blackwell Place/Stamper Street
Doug Stay	300 Lombard Street	Bernice Koplin	Bingham Court
Leslie LaRocca	400 Lombard Street	Sharon Simon	St. James Court
Seth Laver	500 Lombard Street	Diane Harrison	200 S. Philip Place/200 St. James Place
Dolores Helb	600 Lombard Street	Amanda Lehman	300 S. Philip Street
Janet Lewis	700 Lombard Street	Karen Sztencel	300 S. American Street
Jack Kannon	100 Delancey Street	Ramona Johnson	Hopkinson House
Carol Pate	200 Delancey Street	Jerry Yablin	Independence Place
Rory Boyle	300 Delancey Street	Terri Conn	Society Hill Towers
Joan Tropp	500 Delancey Street	Jose Vallejos	410 S. Front Street
Al Meinster	300 Cypress Street	Jim Melancon	The Ayer
Tricia Bozek	500 Cypress Street	Helen Grady	St. James Apartments

HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE 2020 BLOCK COORDINATORS

PHOTOS BY MARTHA LEVINE AND SANDRA ROTHMAN



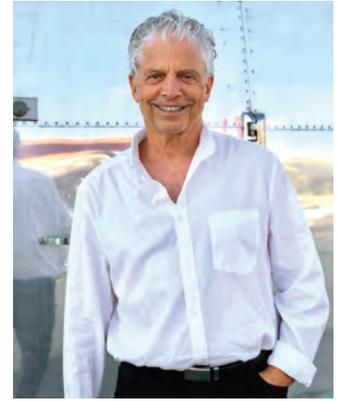
**Barbara Gelman**



**Rich Goldberg**



**Gail Hauptfuhrer**



**Jeff Ingber**



**Seth Laver**



**Rich McConnell**



**Carla McMullen**



**Albert Meinster**



**Carole Pate**



**Yvana Rizzo**



**Linda Skale**



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**Jose Vallejos**



**Kim Williams**



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**SOUTH STREET HEADHOUSE DISTRICT**

BY KERI WHITE

# Responding to Pandemic Challenges

The South Street Headhouse District (SSHD) has been busy with a variety of initiatives designed to improve the commercial corridor and engage the community. Responding to the challenges surrounding COVID-19, SSHD launched a number of programs and advanced several ongoing projects.

**Activating the Shambles**

With outdoor space at a premium due to safety guidelines, SSHD worked with local businesses to optimize the Headhouse Shambles. Five restaurants along 2nd Street and Lombard Street have created safe, appropriately distanced outdoor dining spaces for patrons to enjoy. Also, two local yoga studios have offered classes under the Shambles. For information about these and other Shambles programs, visit [www.southstreet.com](http://www.southstreet.com).

**Collaborating with Civic Associations**

On July 30, SSHD Executive Director Mike Harris convened a meeting with the Presidents of SHCA, Queen Village Neighbors Association, Bella Vista Neighborhood Association and Washington Square West Civic Association to begin a conversation about strategic planning for the future of the South Street commercial corridor. The meeting was intended to be the first of many to ensure that SSHD is proactively and productively engaged with local neighborhoods. The group discussed quality-of-life issues, including traffic and noise, and identified ways to collaborate and advocate to effectively harness resources through the city, police department, state, and other entities. As a first step, they are tackling how to ensure effective responses to the dangerous behaviors of dirt bike and ATV drivers that are disrupting the community. They will also join together to conduct a traffic study of the area, with an eye toward devising a plan to reduce speed, improve flow and enhance safety.

**Launch of “My South Street Story”**

SSHD is home to over 400 businesses, many small and family owned. When the pandemic forced some to close their doors, SSHD wanted to show the world just how amazing this group is. They teamed up with photographer Andrea Cipriani and created “My South Street Story.” A new story is posted every Thursday — some tell of a 100-year, multi-generational business history, others an immigrant story, others a journey of entrepreneurship, innovation and dream chasing, and some a combination of all of these. To learn more, visit [www.southstreet.com/my-south-street/](http://www.southstreet.com/my-south-street/).

**Heirloom Giant Supermarket Update**

As reported in the last issue of this publication, a number of utilities upgrades were required in order for the supermarket to deliver the customer-focused, high-end shopping experience that is planned for the store. These upgrades have been completed, and the next phase of construction has begun.

**Headhouse Plaza**

Construction is progressing on schedule and SSHD looks forward to completion in November.

**Best of Philly**

Congratulations to the following members of SSHD who received Best of Philly 2020 awards in *Philadelphia Magazine*: Pizzeria Stella, Emmy Squared, Gigi Pizza, Bloomsday Café Fancy Wine Club, Walter Pine Plant Shop, Queen and Rook Game Café, Whole Animal Gym, and Black and Nobel.

**New Businesses**

SSHD welcomed several new businesses to the district in the past few months. These include:

- **The Merrygold Shop**, a boutique novelty shop filled with unique jewelry, home décor, party supplies stationery, curio and accessories. 707 S. 4th Street, [www.themerrygoldshop.com](http://www.themerrygoldshop.com)
- **Henck Design**, an award-winning interior design company focused on creating beautiful spaces through imaginative solutions using a mixture of old and new. 733 S. 4th Street, [www.henckdesign.com](http://www.henckdesign.com)
- **Three Graces Coffee**, a gourmet café offering a variety of coffee and tea beverages, as well as a wide selection of artisanal pastries. 730 S. 5th Street, [www.threegracescoffee.com](http://www.threegracescoffee.com)
- **Philadelphia Piano Institute**, founded by Erika Gingery, MMus, offering piano and vocal lessons. 621 S. 2nd Street, [www.philadelphiapianoinstitute.com](http://www.philadelphiapianoinstitute.com)
- **Pizza Da’Action**, offering a menu that features an array of local favorites: pizza, cheesesteaks, wings, salads, hoagies, etc. 431 South Street
- **Mexi-Talian Grill**, a lunch & dinner spot that features a variety of Mexican and Italian dishes. 411 South Street
- **Subculture Hair Studio**, a salon and spa specializing in advanced hair care and makeup techniques. 525 S. 4th Street, [www.subculturehairstudio.com](http://www.subculturehairstudio.com).



# Selling Society Hill Towers Condominiums for 40 Years

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## Sun-soaked Studio



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**522 sf | Offered for \$199,900**

## Move-in Ready Studio



Move-in ready studio on a high floor offering wood floors, stunning river and city views and a fully-equipped bright kitchen.  
**522 sf | Offered for \$189,900**

## Spacious Studio



Light-filled and spacious studio with see-forever vistas showcased from a wall of oversized windows and incredible natural light.  
**522 sf | Offered for \$179,900**



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ON OUR SHELF

SUGGESTIONS FROM RICHARD DE WYNGAERT

# Understanding and Dismantling Racism

*An Anti-Racism Reading List*

Recent nationwide protests sparked by the death of George Floyd have resulted in a renewed investment from white people who want tools to help gain a foothold in their struggles to understand the ways that racism and white supremacy operate in their minds, their families and the larger world.

Here are a few books to start the discussion.

***Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*  
by Isabel Wilkerson**

Beyond race, class or other factors, there is a powerful caste system that influences people's lives and behavior and the nation's fate. Linking the caste systems of America, India and Nazi Germany, Wilkerson explores eight pillars that underlie caste systems across civilizations, including divine will, bloodlines, stigma and more. Using riveting stories about people, she shows the ways that the insidious undertow of caste is experienced every day. She documents how the Nazis studied the racial systems in America to plan their out-cast of the Jews. She discusses why the cruel logic of caste requires that there be a bottom rung for those in the middle to measure themselves against. She writes about the surprising health costs of caste, in depression and life expectancy, and the effects of this hierarchy on our culture and politics. Finally, she points forward to ways America can move beyond the artificial and destructive separations of human divisions, toward hope in our common humanity.

***Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, and Big Business Re-Crete Race in the Twenty-First Century*  
by Dorothy Roberts**

Though the Human Genome Project proved that human beings are not naturally divided by race, the emerging fields of personalized medicine, reproductive technologies, genetic genealogy and DNA databanks are attempting to resuscitate race as a biological category written in our genes.

This groundbreaking book examines how the myth of race as a biological concept — revived by purportedly cutting-edge science, race-specific drugs, genetic testing and DNA databases — continues to undermine a just society and promote inequality in a supposedly “post-racial” era.

***Freedom is a Constant Struggle: Ferguson, Palestine, and the Foundations of a Movement*  
by Angela Y. Davis**

Reflecting on the importance of black feminism, intersectionality and prison abolitionism, Davis discusses the legacies of previous liberation struggles, from the Black Freedom movement to the South African anti-Apartheid movement. She highlights connections and analyzes today's struggles against state terror, from *Ferguson* to Palestine. Facing a world of outrageous injustice, Davis challenges us to imagine and build a movement for human liberation. In doing so, she reminds us that “freedom is a constant struggle.”

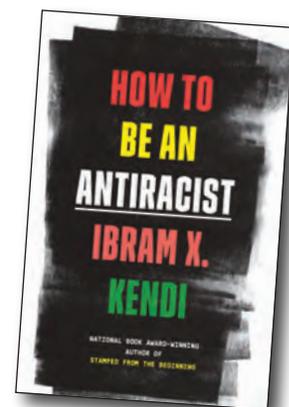
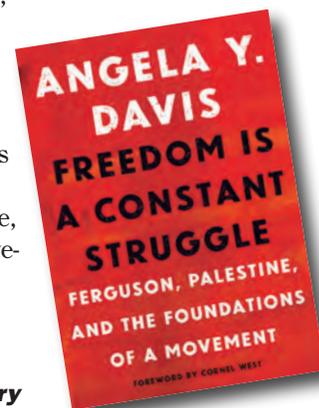
***From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the Twenty-First Century*  
by William Darity**

Racism and discrimination have choked economic opportunity for African Americans at nearly every turn. At several historic moments, the trajectory of racial inequality could have been altered dramatically. Perhaps no moment was more opportune than the early days of Reconstruction, when the U.S. government temporarily implemented a major redistribution of land from former slaveholders to the newly emancipated enslaved.

But neither Reconstruction nor the New Deal nor the civil rights struggle led to an economically just and fair nation. Today, systematic inequality persists in the form of housing discrimination, unequal education, police brutality, mass incarceration, employment discrimination and massive wealth and opportunity gaps. Economic data indicates that for every dollar the average white household holds in wealth, the average black household possesses a mere 10 cents.

***How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi**

At its core, racism is a powerful system that creates false hierarchies of human value. Its warped logic extends beyond race, from the way we regard people of different ethnicities or skin colors to the way we treat people of different sexes, gender identities and body types. Racism intersects with class and culture and geography and even changes the way we see and value ourselves. This book takes readers through a widening circle of antiracist ideas — from the most basic concepts to visionary possibilities — that will help readers see all forms of racism clearly, understand their poisonous consequences, and work to oppose them in our systems and in ourselves.



*continued on page 21*

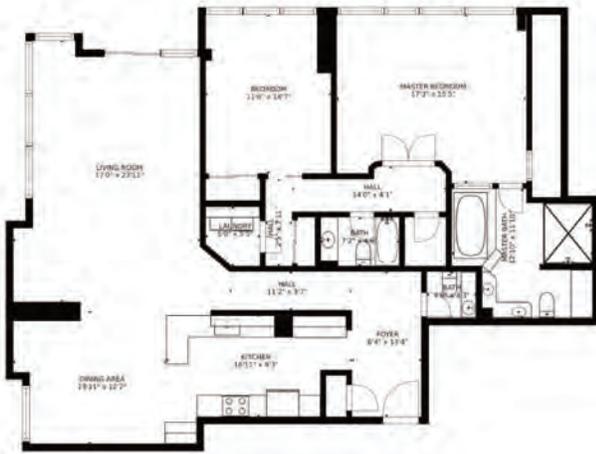
# INDEPENDENCE PLACE

233 - 241 S. 6th Street



Fully remodeled 1 bedroom plus alcove, 1.5 bathroom with a private south-facing balcony showcasing 270 degree city views, a beautifully renovated kitchen and bathrooms, and ample entertaining space.

**1,205 sf | Offered for \$459,900**



Completely updated 2 bedroom (converted from a 3 bedroom), 2.5 bathroom with a private balcony on a high floor of Independence Place, Tower I. This sun-soaked residence offers high-end upgrades, designer finishes and see-forever river city and views.

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## Recently Sold by Allan Domb Real Estate at Independence Place

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continued from Page 19

**Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America by Ibram X. Kendi**

Some Americans insist that we're living in a post-racial society. But racist thought is not just alive and well in America — it is more sophisticated and insidious than ever. As award-winning historian Ibram X. Kendi argues, racist ideas have a long and lingering history, one in which nearly every great American thinker is complicit. In this deeply researched and fast-moving narrative, Kendi chronicles the entire story of anti-black racist ideas and their staggering power over the course of American history. He uses the life stories of five major American intellectuals to drive this history: Puritan minister Cotton Mather, Thomas Jefferson, abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, W.E.B. Du Bois and legendary activist Angela Davis. As Kendi shows, racist ideas did not arise from ignorance or hatred. They were created to justify and rationalize deeply entrenched discriminatory policies and the nation's racial inequities.

**The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America by Richard Rothstein**

Richard Rothstein's *The Color of Law* offers a forceful argument on how federal, state and local governments gave rise to and reinforced neighborhood segregation. Exploding the myth of *de facto* segregation arising from private prejudice or the unintended consequences of economic forces, Rothstein describes how the American government systematically imposed residential segregation: with undisguised racial zoning, public housing that purposefully segregated previously mixed communities,

subsidies for builders to create whites-only suburbs, tax exemptions for institutions that enforced segregation, and support for violent resistance to African Americans in white neighborhoods. *The Color of Law* forces us to face the obligation to remedy our unconstitutional past.

**The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander**

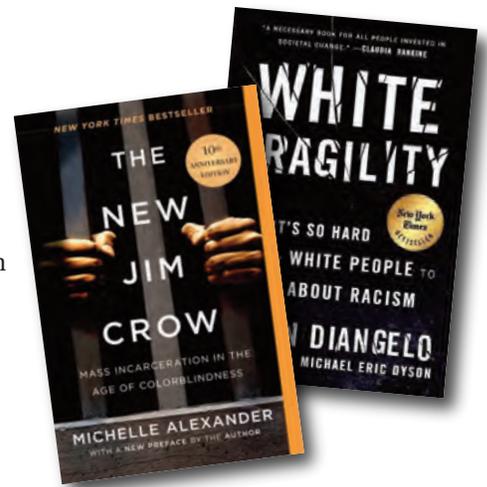
*The New Jim Crow* is a stunning account of the rebirth of a caste-like system in the United States, one that has resulted in millions of African Americans locked behind bars and then relegated to a permanent second-class status — denied the very rights supposedly won in the Civil Rights Movement. As the United States celebrates its “triumph over race” with the election of Barack Obama, the majority of black men in major urban areas are under correctional control or saddled with criminal records for life. Jim Crow laws were wiped off the books decades ago, but today an extraordinary percentage of the African American community is warehoused in prisons or trapped in a parallel social universe, denied basic civil and human rights — including the right to vote, the right to serve on juries and the right to be free of legal discrimination in employment, housing, access to education and public benefits. Today, it is no longer socially permissible to use race explicitly as a justification for discrimination, exclusion and social contempt. Yet as civil-rights-lawyer-turned-legal-scholar Michelle Alexander demonstrates, it is perfectly legal to discriminate against convicted criminals in nearly all the ways in which it was once legal to discriminate against African Americans.

**White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism by Robin DiAngelo**

Anger. Fear. Guilt. Denial. Silence. These are the ways in which ordinary white people react when it is pointed out to them that they have done or said something that has — unintentionally — caused racial offense or hurt. But these reactions only serve to silence people of color, who cannot give honest feedback to “liberal” white people lest they provoke a dangerous emotional reaction.

Robin DiAngelo coined the term “White Fragility” to describe this process and how it serves to uphold the system of white supremacy. She shows us how to start having more honest conversations, listen to each other better and react to feedback with grace and humility. Change starts with us all at a practical, granular level and it is time for all white people to take responsibility for relinquishing their own racial supremacy.

**Richard de Wyngaert** is the proprietor of Society Hill's only local, independently owned bookstore, Head House Books, located at 619 S. 2nd street.



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Jim Murphy will present a pre-recorded video stream starting at 7 p.m., which will conclude at 7:45 p.m.

Then, Jim will be LIVE for your Q&A until 8:30 p.m.

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Sun-drenched 1 bedroom with a generously sized balcony, amazing natural light, parquet wood floors and excellent storage space. Great investment opportunity.  
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**IN MEMORIAM**

Society Hill recently lost an extraordinary couple. On March 14, Judy Gelles died of a ruptured brain aneurysm at age 75. On the day she was buried, her husband of 48 years entered hospice for care-at-home service for the brain cancer he was diagnosed with in June 2019. Richard passed away on June 26 at age 73.

An artist, photographer and filmmaker, Judy was born in Somersworth, New Hampshire and received her MFA in photography from the Rhode Island School of Design and her master's in counseling from the University of Miami. Her work is in major collections throughout the world.

One of her best-known endeavors is the "Fourth Grade Project," which she conceived while volunteering at George Washington Elementary School. Judy interviewed and photographed more than 300 fourth-grade students from a wide range of economic and cultural backgrounds: China, Dubai, England, India, Israel, Italy, Nicaragua, St. Lucia, South Africa, South Korea and multiple areas of the United States. She asked all of the students the same three questions: Who do you live with? What do you wish for? What do you worry about?

Born in Newton, Massachusetts, Richard was a writer and sociologist. After starting his teaching career at the University of Rhode Island, he joined the University of Pennsylvania in 1998. Three years later he was named interim dean of what was then the university's school of social work, which he renamed the School of Social Policy & Practice.



**Richard and Judy Gelles**

His 1974 book, *The Violent Home*, was the first systematic investigation of family violence. With the publication of *The Book of David* in 1996, he helped raise awareness of the tragic, sometimes unintended consequences of trying to reunite children in foster care with their biological families, whatever the domestic history. He was influential in the passage of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997.

The couple is survived by sons David and Jason, and three grandchildren.

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(1,200 Sq Ft); NW Corner with Balcony off Living  
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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY MATT DEJULIO

# 2020 Membership Down About Five Percent

By early August, 1,109 Society Hill residents had either renewed their association membership or joined for the first time, down five percent from last year.

Also, 53 new members have signed up, a decrease from 103 last year. We still have 143 members whose dues are in arrears, up from 109 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 our neighborhood to join SHCA. Your civic association helps protect your real estate investment by funding many 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](mailto:Mattdejulio@aol.com) with questions or comments which will be shared with our board members representing every quadrant in our unique, historic neighborhood.

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

**PARK, AMERICA!**

A limited number of monthly parking spaces are 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.



*Society Hill*  
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email (print clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

IMPORTANT: Today, most everyone communicates via email. Please be sure that we have your current email address — so that you can receive important updates between publication of our community newsletter. All SHCA emails will be judiciously screened, and rarely will we send emails more than once a week. Nor will we share your email address with anyone else. This convenient, 21st-century system helps save our civic association postage costs, while keeping you regularly informed.

**Residential Memberships**

- \$ 50 Basic Household Membership
- \$ 40 Senior/Student/Single
- \$ 100 Federal Friend
- \$ 150 Georgian Grantor
- \$ 300 Jefferson Benefactor
- \$ 500 Washington Benefactor
- \$ 1,000 Benjamin Franklin Benefactor

**Business Memberships**

- \$ 100 Institutions — 5+ employees
- \$ 60 Institutions — fewer than 5 employees

**Additional Contributions**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Washington Square Beautification      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Franklin Lights

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Sidewalk Cleaning/Graffiti Removal      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Tree Tenders

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Fix the Brix      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ McCall School

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Charge VISA/MasterCard:

Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Please return completed application to:

**Society Hill Civic Association**, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147

## NIFTY NEIGHBORS IN MY OWN BACKYARD

BY JANE BIBERMAN

## Anne Elkin: Furnishing Men With Fashion

Almost four years ago, Anne Elkin was widowed and wanted to move into Philadelphia from the Main Line. She knew the Rittenhouse Square area because she has worked at Boyds Philadelphia clothing store for more than 43 years. "I didn't pick high-end menswear to sell," she says. "It picked me. I also sell accessories."



Anne Elkin

Anne wasn't very familiar with Society Hill except for the Ritz movie theaters. "I had been looking for a while with a realtor who took me all around Center City. But the traffic had gotten impossible. When she showed me Society Hill, I fell in love."

Until recently, Anne says she had a wonderful cat who was like a dog. "Before that," she says, "I had always had cats and dogs in the suburbs. I have four children of my own and two stepchildren who I love like my own. I also have 11 grandchildren. My husband Lenny was the most caring, loving person I ever met. He had a very big personality and lit up a room wherever he went."

She has found Society Hillers to be very friendly and welcoming. "It's hard being alone during COVID," says Anne. "I try to walk every day and communicate with friends and family. Since the pandemic, I'm only working three days a week."

That's largely because when protesters demonstrated following George Floyd's murder, they trashed Boyds and stole all of our expensive inventory. I did not march for Black Lives Matter, but I feel that everyone has the right to protest. They just should not destroy property. When I go to work it's largely to hone my skills in technology, which I think will be important when

Boyd's reopens, hopefully in early September when readers get their *Reporter*."

In the meantime, Anne loves to walk and spend time in Washington Square, where she reads fiction. "I love the space and all the greenery." She also loves to cook and take classes at the gym. "I miss working out on 5th Street. And I also love theater and concerts. But my work is my hobby."

Like everyone else, she is waiting for the pandemic to end and the shops and restaurants to reopen. "I haven't seen a good movie lately or gone out to dinner. Buddakan, Tallulah's Garden and Bistro Minnette are my favorites," says Anne. "Fortunately, I'm a good cook."

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

**Who is your style icon?**  
*Princess Diana*

**Who is your favorite designer?**  
*Ermenegildo Zegna*

**What is a must-have item in anyone's wardrobe?**  
*Good fitting jeans!*

## Looking for Some Pandemic Diversions?

BY MARTHA LEVINE



Mother Bethel Church

**Society Hill Walking Tour.**

SHCA could not provide our much-loved Annual Society Hill Open House & Garden Tour last May due to the pandemic. In its place, we created a self-guided walking tour of beautiful Society Hill buildings that you can do on your own or with a friend at a safe distance. Take a leisurely stroll and see the exteriors of some iconic buildings, plus memorable private homes. It is time to appreciate what we have right here in our neighborhood that we may often overlook. We have provided an online guide to the tour; go to [www.societyhillcivic.org](http://www.societyhillcivic.org) and click on "What's Happening" and then on "News."

You can download and print the guide or view it on your cell phone as you walk. It's a treat.

**Society Hill Restaurants and Markets.**

Local Restaurants and Markets are offering food deliveries, takeout and even some outside dining. We have a list of close to 80 restaurants open for business, offering all types of cuisine: American, Continental, Chinese, Indian, Italian, Mexican and more. Many have been recommended by our neighbors as their favorite places to dine. So, help keep our local restaurants in business during this pandemic so they will be around when it is all over. Go to [www.societyhillcivic.org](http://www.societyhillcivic.org) and click on "What's Happening" and then "News." Please let us know if any of the restaurants have closed.



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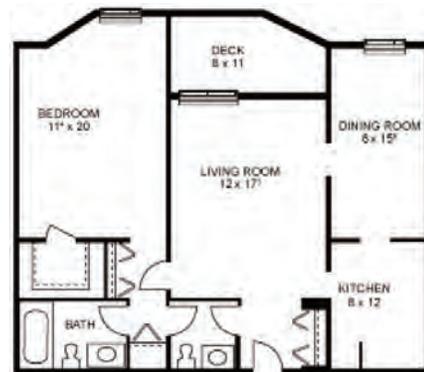
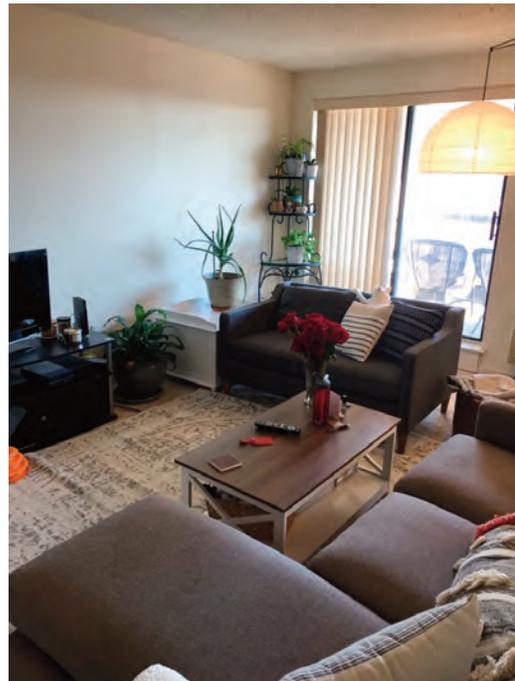
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 Patrick Vannelli, MD (2020-2019), Sandhya Desai, MD (2020-2019)

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