

SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

www.societyhillcivic.org

Join Q&A with Councilmember Isaiah Thomas



Isaiah Thomas

The Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) invites all neighbors to join us on Zoom on Wednesday, January 20 at 7:30 p.m. to hear City Councilmember at Large Isaiah Thomas address our virtual General Membership Meeting.

We welcome hearing about his overall agenda for our city, as well as his thoughts about how Philadelphia neighborhoods can understand each other's priorities and cooperate to help regain traction toward economic progress.

Throughout his career, Councilmember Thomas has worked in the nonprofit, public and private sectors in positions that impact the important issues our city faces. He is eager to work together with SHCA to keep Society Hill strong. He looks forward to hearing neighbors' issues and concerns so he can be a robust voice in City Hall for the whole community.

Send SHCA Administrator Matt DeJulio, mattdejulio@aol.com, your up-to-date contact information so he can put you on our weekly email blast. Stay tuned for more information about the membership meeting as we get closer to January 20.

Shovel and Salt Sidewalks and Walkways

It's that time of the year again! Winter snow and ice make Society Hill a winter wonderland, but brick sidewalks and cobblestone streets are especially treacherous for pedestrians. Please do your part in keeping walkways clear and safe.



photo by Bonnie Halda

Neighbors should be aware that Philadelphia has an ordinance requiring building owners, agents and tenants to clear a path of at least 36 inches wide on sidewalks in front of their building within six hours after snow has stopped falling. If the building is a multifamily dwelling, the owner or agent is responsible for the snow removal. Snow and ice cleared from the property cannot be placed in the street. The owners of corner properties are responsible for clearing curb cuts that give access to intersections.

Violating this ordinance could result in a \$50 to \$300 fine. It is also illegal to use private plows to pile snow in the street after city teams have cleared the road. It is a hazard to drivers and pedestrians.

You can report instances of snow removal violations by calling the Philadelphia Streets Department Customer Affairs at 215-686-5560 or by contacting the city's 311 service.

SIGN OF THE TIMES



Neighbor Ed Coyle chats with President-elect Joe Biden and his wife, Dr. Jill Biden, who were laying a wreath at the Korean War Memorial on Veterans Day. Biden went out of his way to question Ed about the Distinguished Service Cross he was wearing. The couple expressed sympathy upon discovering that the medal belonged to Ed's brother Garry who died in the Co Cui tunnels in Vietnam in 1966. As a medic Garry saved five comrades.

Wednesday,
January
20

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Society Hill Civic Association Meeting
Wednesday, January 20, 2021

via Zoom

5:45 p.m. Board Meeting

7:30 p.m. General Membership Meeting

Speaker: City Councilmember at Large Isaiah Thomas

Topic: Q&A with Councilmember Isaiah Thomas

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SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

**NUSA
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2020**

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at www.societyhillcivic.org.

The views set forth in the opinion articles are the views of the authors and are not necessarily those of SHCA.

Submissions

If you have news that would be of interest to Society Hillers, email Sandra Rothman at sandra.rothman@aol.com. Materials must be submitted in writing and include the name of a contact person. Edited submissions will be considered for publication if space permits. Letters to the Editor must be signed, with contact information.

SHCA Mission Statement

The aims and purposes of SHCA are: to promote the improvement of the Society Hill area of Philadelphia, including its cultural, educational and civic activities, and the preservation and restoration of its historic buildings; to represent the residents of Society Hill in matters affecting the City of Philadelphia generally and Society Hill in particular; and to interpret the value and significance of Society Hill to the public.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY LARRY SPECTOR

Wishes for a Safe and Productive 2021

Well, with some confidence, I believe you will join me in bidding good riddance to 2020. Not our favorite year.

Looking forward to a better year ahead, I have my own wish list on what I hope the future will bring.

I wish that everyone has working smoke alarms and at least one fire extinguisher. We had a small fire in our home because a power strip was left too close to a pile of papers. Without the smoke detector that sent me downstairs to discover flames shooting up a dining room wall and a nearby kitchen fire extinguisher to put them out, we might have been seen shivering outside in fire department blankets on that night's local news. We might say, "That will never happen to me." But it did.

I wish we could boost SHCA membership. We have about 1,100 dues-paying members. Most of them are individual homeowners. But whether owning or renting and whether living in a single-family home or apartment or highrise, everyone who lives in Society Hill benefits from the services paid for by SHCA. Everyone benefits from our payments to Center City District for extra sidewalk cleaning. Everyone benefits from our payments to Todd Kelley, who does a fantastic job ridding the neighborhood of graffiti. Everyone benefits from walking down streets made attractive with subsidies from our Tree Tender program and sidewalks made safe by our "Fix the Brix" service and our bright Franklin Lights. Everyone benefits from the pleasures of Washington Square. So if you are getting these benefits without contributing to what they cost, please become a member of SHCA. If you are a member, find someone who is not and make the case for them to join. See pages 14 and 15 for more.

I wish to have no more unnecessary incidents of police killing black people, more dialogue and re-direction of police funding toward that end, not

defunding, and that SHCA continues to show its support of the police for the heroic job they do helping others and doing their best to keep us safe.

I wish that we see real progress at the end of the year as projected in the construction of the cap over I-95 that is supposed to bring us over 11.5 acres of additional space between Chestnut, Market, Walnut, Front Streets and the edge of the Delaware River. Part of that acreage is supposed to be an eight-acre park and civic space to include a new skating rink, water features, a café and a variety of other recreational uses. Pew has contributed \$2 million of the \$6 million needed. The completion date is scheduled for late 2024.

I wish to see real progress for the Durst proposal accepted by the Delaware River Waterfront Commission, for the development of lands north of the Hilton Hotel and south between Spruce and Lombard Streets. The trick here will be to avoid making Spruce Street the major conduit to Center City from the southern part of the development.

I wish that by coming through with its promised pilot project to close Spruce Street to eastbound traffic coming from Columbus Boulevard and other measures, the city helps reduce next year's potential onslaught of loud and dangerous ATV, motorcycle and car traffic racing through our streets.

I wish that the realistic assessment of Philadelphia's economy that Paul Levy so brilliantly presented to us in our November community meeting sparks our leadership to adopt at least some of his ideas to hasten our city's recovery from the pandemic.

I wish you a year of enjoying — in person — the love of friends and family, and I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year!



**SHCA President
Larry Spector**



*I wish you
a year of
enjoying
in person
the love of
friends and
family.*

*I wish you
all a happy
and healthy
New Year!*

Larry Spector is an attorney handling business disputes and related litigation. He has lived in Society Hill since 1976, married, and raised two daughters here with wife, Ann.

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A COVID GOOD NEWS STORY

BY SANDRA ROTHMAN

Staying Afloat in Trying Times

Like for many of you, my world shrank steadily this past COVID-19 summer, and danger seemed to lurk around every corner. Even grocery shopping became a scary venture. So when a friend gave me a heads-up that the Small World Seafood cold truck was coming to Washington Square, I was interested to learn more.

I found this direct-to-consumer business to be very user friendly, fueled by a simple email newsletter and weekly Google order forms. First, I joined the mailing list at www.smallworldseafood.com. Then every Tuesday, I check my inbox for a chatty bulletin full of interesting things, like how weather conditions around the world shape the week's offering. The order form for Society Hill arrives on Thursday. I prepay with a credit card, ensuring that pickup on Friday is quick and safe. The white truck with a cool fish logo parks in front of the Locks Gallery at 600 South Washington Square between 2 and 3 p.m. Look for a line of masked, socially distant neighbors!

The Power of Word of Mouth

Small World's founder Robert Amar shares how the pandemic turned his professional universe upside down. "When Mayor James Kenney closed down the restaurant scene in mid-March," Amar says, "I went from being a boutique wholesaler providing top-quality seafood to about 20 of Philadelphia's best restaurants to overnight finding myself sitting on an inventory of 200 pounds of fresh fish."

Not willing to trash the catch, he sent out an email to his Fairmount-area neighbors offering mussels, scallops and salmon for the taking. They were literally hooked on the quality and freshness of this unexpected windfall. Could he get other fish — say branzino or shrimp? Just like that, his business turned around mid-stream.

Soon people all over center city heard about the new service — absolutely fresh seafood available for outdoor pick-up. They tried it, loved it and not only became regulars, but told their friends and family. The email list expanded exponentially and is currently at 3,000 customers, generating about 600 orders a week.



Small World's founder Robert Amar
photo by Denny Hatch's Marketing Blog



Masked neighbors with their fish.

A Diverse Offering

I love the diversity of Small World's selections, which has encouraged me to try new things. But I must admit that the very odd bone-in skate wing had me stumped, until I checked out the terrific recipe section on their website. A video there demonstrated how to prepare skate with brown butter. It's simple to make and yummy. Robert boasts that they sold more than 200 pounds of the wing in one week, something that he couldn't remember ever happening in Center City before COVID-19.

Amar appreciates the retail customer's steady demand for variety, unlike the chef's need for consistency due to menu constraints. Bringing restaurant-grade seafood to home cooks, in a time when restaurants themselves are shuttered, is its own reward.

"The amazing thing has been the community part of it," says Amar, "and how much it connects us on delivery days to so many people across the city."

Robert also delights in watching how his clientele have developed as cooks. "It went," he says, "from questions on how to cook mussels to requests for fish bones to make stock for bouillabaisse!" Check out Small World Seafood on Instagram and be prepared to be amazed at some major culinary skills.

Hoping to encourage more of this experimentation, he will soon start offering cooks some shortcuts like fish stock, flavored butters, sauces, etc. from many of the city's top chefs. In addition, Small World has expanded to occasionally introducing pantry items and prepared foods from small businesses throughout the city, helping them to stay solvent in these tough times. Although my trip to Paris was canceled in April, it was somewhat consoling to have the opportunity to try delicious escargot from Bibou, make my own flaky croissants with dough from Oui Pastries and sample Third Wheel's great cheese selections!

When Philadelphia finally emerges from these dark times, many businesses, including favorite restaurants, will have gone under. So, it's uplifting to see how some, like Small World, have managed not only to stay afloat but to reinvent themselves and prosper.

Sandra Rothman is the *Reporter's* editor in chief and a retired educator for the School District of Philadelphia.



A PERK OF MEMBERSHIP

BY MARTHA LEVINE

The SHCA List of Contractors

One of the perks of SHCA membership is access to our 14-page **List of Contractors**. This includes contractors of all types, like general contractors, painters, electricians, carpenters, plumbers, roofers, masons, window replacements, HVAC, chimney work, locksmiths, landscape designers and more. All of the contractors have been highly recommended by our neighbors right here in Society Hill. Still, we recommend getting references and several quotes for the work.

To obtain a list, please contact me at marthalev6@gmail.com, and I will email a copy to you. If you prefer, a copy can be mailed to you

as well. Since the list is a perk of SHCA membership, we ask that you not share with nonmembers. If a contractor is no longer in business, please advise us.



Prepare Your Home for Winter

Fireplace caveat: The City of Philadelphia has an ordinance requiring that all working fireplaces must be lined before using them. Many older homes have multiple fireplaces, so if you use yours, make sure they are all lined to prevent a fire. Never use an unlined fireplace. See our section on Chimney and Fireplace Work, including gas fireplaces.

HVAC: For your heating system to work efficiently, and to save on heating costs, it's best to have a fall/winter tune-up each year by a qualified HVAC contractor. Check out our HVAC section of the list for a selection of contractors.

Fire extinguishers and smoke detectors: In addition to having working smoke detectors, everyone should have at least one fire extinguisher in the house. It is best to have one mounted near your kitchen in case of fire. It could mean saving your house from serious damage or worse. See Page 3.

Martha Levine is a vice president of SHCA.



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A SHCA SUBSIDY PROGRAM

TREE TENDER COMMITTEE REPORT

Tree Tenders Are Back on the Street

On Saturday, November 21, the Tree Tenders were out and about planting trees in our neighborhood. Mother Nature was on our side and gave us a beautiful, sunny day. Fourteen members came together to plant four new trees, while following all the health guidelines — masks, distance, hand cleaning. The spring 2020 planting had been cancelled due to the pandemic. These were the trees originally scheduled for that time. Fall 2020 plantings have been bumped to spring 2021.

The new little saplings are located on Spruce at 2nd and 4th Streets. You will notice they are tied to wooden stakes for support. Be mindful when parking alongside them and remind any delivery

drivers not to get too close. Maintaining our tree canopy is essential to the health and beauty of our city. As older trees become diseased and removed, it's crucial that we keep planting replacements.

Free street trees are available to any property owner. Please know that the application process takes a while — typically five to six months from application to planting. Notify the Tree Tenders via MattDeJulio@aol.com if you are interested in obtaining a tree or helping with planting and pruning. Or plant one on your own and collect a \$150 subsidy from SHCA. For more information, contact Claudia Carabelli at ccarabelli@comcast.net.



One of four saplings planted near the Old Pine Community Center.

CITY TAVERN CLOSES

A COVID Casualty

Sadly, City Tavern, the colonial-themed restaurant on the site of a 1773 tavern at 138 S. 2nd Street, has closed due to decreased business because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The site has witnessed significant moments in American history, such as Paul Revere's announcement of the closing of the Boston port. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Richard Henry Lee and Peyton Randolph were some of the participants who relaxed there before and after sessions of the first Continental Congress. And both the Continental and British troops used City Tavern to house prisoners of war.

The building was finally razed in 1854, after sustaining heavy damage from a fire 20 years earlier. Independence National Historical Park took over the site and commissioned an historically accurate reproduction of the original tavern, which was opened in time for the United States Bicentennial celebrations in 1976.

The restaurant, popular with both tourists and locals, featured colonial reenactors and Chef Walter Staib's award-winning menu. It will be missed.



Chef Walter Staib



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KEEPING POSTED

BY AL CAVALARI

The Myth of the Franklin Stove

This 1937 card of Congress Hall shows the House of Representatives room before the National Park Service (NPS) restored it to the historically accurate version we see today. Take this photo with you when the park reopens to visitors. What differences can you find? NPS has added iron stoves that are documented to have been the heat source in the 1790s. But are they “Franklin stoves?” A historical puzzle is that while every Franklin stove is an iron stove, not all iron stoves are Franklin stoves.

Compare the Franklin stove, said to have been given to Thomas Paine by Franklin, with the wide range of designs you’ll see in a Google image search. Can they all be Franklin stoves? Are any of them? Samuel T. Edgerton was the historian responsible for restoration of fireplaces and heating devices in Independence Park. His article “The Myth of the Franklin Stove” from the June 1976 issue of *Early American Life* tells us that Franklin’s stove never caught on! His 1744 design instructions, published in a pamphlet “An Account of the Newly Invented Pennsylvania Fireplace,” are “unfulfillable” because they were based on faulty science. Edgerton wrote that no original Franklin stove exists today that operates using his exact design. Franklin’s brother bought eleven of them for resale in 1744 but sold only two in 20 years. A letter by Hugh Roberts, a close friend of Franklin, claimed none were in use, no complete intact one even existed and parts were being used for other things. “Franklin’s stove did not work,” writes Edgerton. “The Franklin stove is one of the most enduring myths in U.S. history.” By 1776, all the original models had been discarded or altered.

How is it then that so many 18th century buildings have Franklin stoves? The name became generic. Long before Franklin turned his attention to creating an efficient heating system, many innovators in Europe and here in the colonies were devising numerous other designs and concepts. Some were freestanding stoves that would vent with a stovepipe through a wall, window or roof. Some, like Franklin’s, were inserts that would be installed into a fireplace or wall and were *similar in appearance* to the one designed by him.

Franklin’s design, however, was not only an insert. His stove was merely the visible part of a complicated system of baffles and flues that had to be constructed as part of the masonry under



Postcard showing how Congress Hall looked in 1937, before it was restored by the NPS.

the floor and inside the walls. Other designs are similar in that they are based on eliminating the idea of a great wasteful open fireplace and they may be alterations or improvements on Franklin’s stove. But they do not use his system which, by the way, was not actually his! In his above referenced pamphlet Franklin credits the Frenchman Nicolas Gauger, whose book on the subject Franklin had used.

Franklin never made any money from this enterprise. He gave the design free of charge to Robert Grace of Warwick Furnace. The Governor offered to give Franklin a patent for it, but he declined. In his autobiography Franklin writes “That, as we enjoy great advantages from the inventions of others, we should be glad of an opportunity to serve others by any invention of ours.”

I suspect the fact that Franklin did come up with a design which did reach the marketplace, combined with the fame of his name, led people then, as it does now, to assume any stove built into a wall is a Franklin stove. The Paine Cottage stove looks nothing like Franklin’s design, but it does insert into a wall. I suppose the desire to connect these two founding fathers through what we all hold to be a fun and welcome Franklin invention — we all love to be warm — is irresistible. It may well have been a gift from Franklin but, if we can believe Mr. Edgerton, it is not a Franklin stove.



The “Franklin stove” said to have been given to Thomas Paine by Franklin.



The only known Franklin stove from about 1750; Bucks County Historical Society, photo by Samuel T. Edgerton from “Heat and Style: Eighteenth-Century House Warming by Stoves” *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, Vol. 20, No. 1 (Mar., 1961)

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



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HEADHOUSE FARMERS MARKET

BY GABRIELLE RUMNEY

A Healthy, Spicy Dish to Warm Up Chilly Winter Days

As we head into the winter months in Society Hill, we could be spending more time in the kitchen as we continue to hunker in place with COVID-19 concerns. A spicy Korean kimchi might be just what the doctor ordered!

It's a dish that's guaranteed to boost the immune system, especially since it's full of beta-carotene and other antioxidants that can help reduce the risk of serious health conditions. Kimchi is an excellent source of Vitamins A and C. Kimchi is also rich in Vitamin K, which helps your blood clot and keeps your bones from becoming brittle.

Market volunteer Sanja Martic generously shares this recipe. The amount lasts her two weeks, stored in a cool place.



Blooming Glen Organic Farm at Headhouse Market.



Sanja Martic's Kimchi.



Queens Farm, located in West Chester, grows unique fresh ginger that can be pickled.



Their fresh giant green onion is more flavorful than the ones from most supermarkets.



Cabbage, carrots, garlic from Savoie Organic Farm, Williamstown, New Jersey.

Kimchi is guaranteed to boost your immune system



Gabrielle Rumney is Headhouse Market Manager.

EASY TO MAKE KIMCHI

Ingredients

- 10 pounds napa cabbage. Remove core and cut leaves into bite-size pieces.**
- 1 cup kosher salt**
- 10 diagonally sliced green onions**
- 1 cup minced white onion**
- 1 cup crushed garlic**
- 1 to 2 tablespoons of minced ginger**
- 2 cups chopped leeks**
- 2 cups julienned Korean radishes**
- ¼ cup julienned carrot**
- ½ cup sweet rice flour**
- ¼ cup sugar**
- 1 cup fish sauce**
- 6 salted anchovies**
- 2 ½ cups Korean hot pepper flakes**
- 1 large apple, cored and sliced**
- water**

Directions

Soak the pieces of cabbage in cold water, then put the soaked cabbage into a large basin and sprinkle with salt.

Turn the cabbage over every 30 minutes to salt evenly (total salting time will be 1½ hours).

Rinse the cabbage in cold water 3 times to clean it thoroughly.

Drain the cabbage and set aside.

Make porridge
Put 3 cups of water and ½ cup sweet rice flour in a pot. Mix well and bring to a boil. Keep stirring until the porridge bubbles — about 5 minutes.

Add ¼ cup sugar. Stir and cook for a few more minutes until it's translucent.

Let cool.

Make Kimchi paste

Place the cold porridge into a large bowl.

Add fish sauce, hot pepper flakes to taste, crushed garlic, minced ginger, minced onion, apple and salted anchovies. Blend mixture in food processor. Note that you can substitute dried chilies and Hungarian smoked paprika powder for the Korean hot pepper flakes.

Add green onion, leek, radish and carrot.

Mix all ingredients well and the kimchi paste is done.

Final steps

Put the kimchi paste in a large basin and add the cabbage. Mix by hand.

Put the kimchi into an air-tight sealed plastic container or glass jar.

Eat fresh right after making or wait until it's fermented. Fermentation starts in about two days.

McFarland's Value Proposition

Experienced and Educated

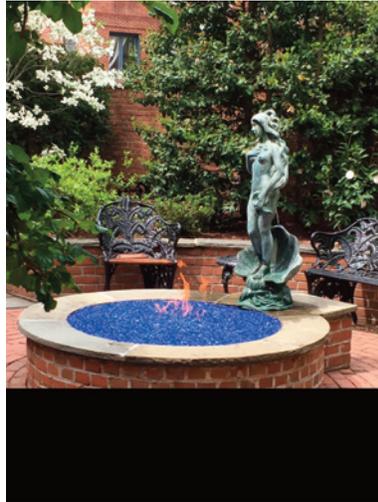
Since 1958, McFarland Tree, Landscape and Hardscape Services has provided arboricultural service throughout Greater Philadelphia. Our comprehensive experience is augmented with continuing education and researched understanding of the practices of modern arboriculture along with our past experience. Staffed with a Board Certified Master Arborist and Certified Arborists, McFarland stays informed about current conditions and issues affecting your trees, shrubs and ornamentals.

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



treatment so that we apply materials only when and where they are needed. Landscape projects are meticulously executed and guaranteed. We also offer Blue Stone installations.

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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WASHINGTON SQUARE COMMITTEE REPORT

BY FRED MANFRED

Back to the Basics: A Community Anchor

In many ways, this past year has been a journey of “back to the basics,” where community focus turned to friends, family and everyone’s collective good health. Neighbors near and far seemed to rediscover Washington Square as a community anchor during the uncertain times of a global pandemic and contentious national election.

The healing power of nature was out in full force over the past few months as the park’s brilliant autumn foliage enticed record numbers of visitors. All the while, Sherley Young, co-chair of the Washington Square Committee, with valued mentor Penny Pleasance, was immersed in planning for spring. The evolving planting beds will receive over 3,500 new plants, shrubs and trees this spring.

With an ecological conscience, Sherley Young continues to engage consultants and the Independence National Historical Park (INHP) on how best to strengthen the turf this coming spring while controlling weeds. She also asked to have additional tree trimming done on the south side of the park to allow more light into that

quadrant’s grassy area. INHP had many of the limbs removed from the ginkgos on South Washington Square. We hope this will help solve the turf problem and prevent the ponding that occurs following periods of heavy rain.

In the November/December *Reporter*, I discussed a rodent problem in the park caused by the construction at Independence Place and the Toll Brothers project on Sansom Street. A diligent routine of filling the rat holes with dry ice has paid off. We observe an 85 to 90 percent reduction in holes throughout the perimeter of the park. We continue to work with INHP to improve these results and implement preventative strategies.

In the March/April *Reporter*, I will detail our spring planting schedule and report on the maintenance projects planned for the fountain and guardhouses. Stay tuned.

Fred Manfred is a Realtor at Compass, and co-chairs Washington Square Committee and Washington Square Affair.



Fall Oak Leaves, by Michael Neff



WELCOME BASKETS: A NEW (TEMPORARY) LOOK

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Due to the pandemic, the Welcome Baskets Program has been on hiatus since early March 2020. Welcome Baskets are usually presented to new first-time homeowners with a welcoming personal in-home visit that also increases our membership. Each year, we usually welcome 40 to 45 households. Over 930 baskets have been presented over the years through early March 2020. During these difficult times, because there are so many new homeowners, we had to figure a way to welcome them in a safe way.

That is why we are now presenting the Welcome Bags: a lovely decorative bag filled with one bottle of wine, one bag of coffee, several gift cards for local businesses plus important neighborhood information. Each bag will be presented at the recipient’s door by appointment with no close contact.

We look forward to meeting and welcoming our many new neighbors in person again.

If you are a new first-time homeowner in Society Hill, and would like to receive a gift bag, please contact me at 215-629-0727 or marthalev6@gmail.com.



OUT AND ABOUT

Caring for Our Community...

The Society Hill Civic Association was established in 1965. From the start, there were issues that threatened Society Hill, and

SHCA was there to advocate for the neighborhood. Over the past 50 years, through good times and bad, SHCA has responded to challenges facing our community with a commitment to enhance the quality of life enjoyed by those who live and work here. Today, the organization represents over 5,000 families, individuals and businesses.

See for yourself how your member dues help to enhance our lives. Remember that we're all in this together, and we need your support to continue keeping our neighborhood safe and clean through this trying period. Please go to Page 25 to find out how to become a member or renew your current membership.



SHCA pays for immediate removal of graffiti on our public spaces.



SHCA general membership meetings provide information about neighborhood issues and foster community spirit. Here, residents ask questions and voice opinions about reassessment and property tax increases.



SHCA provides funds and volunteers to help keep Washington Square beautiful for visitors and residents alike.



SHCA has presented 940 new, first-time Society Hill homeowners with a Welcome Basket, filled with fresh foods, neighborhood information and gift cards to area theaters, restaurants and retail businesses.



500 Franklin Lights were replaced in 2007, funded with \$600,000 from a SHCA campaign. This project insured a brighter and safer neighborhood.



SHCA normally hosts several social events each year, giving the community opportunities to meet and greet neighbors in convivial settings.

OUT AND ABOUT

Through Good Times and Bad



Every spring, SHCA sponsors the Society Hill Open House and Garden Tour. This popular fundraiser shows visitors, who come from far and wide, the special and beautiful place we call home!



On Spring and Fall Clean Up Days, volunteers clear leaves with the help of city trucks. Shredding and electronics recycling services are also provided.



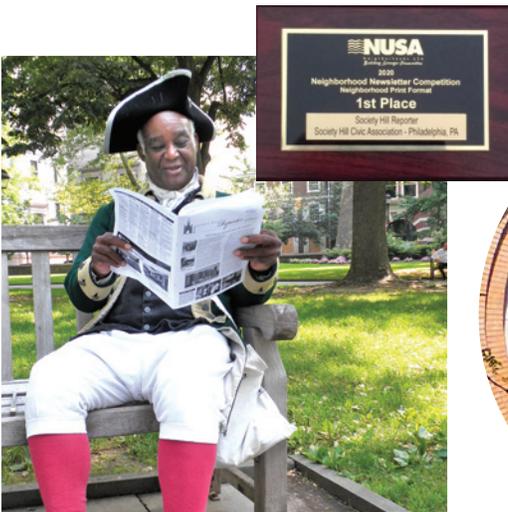
SHCA pays the Center City District to sweep our sidewalk debris on Mondays and Fridays.



The "Fix the Brix" program offers homeowners a subsidy for repair of uneven sidewalks that has made our community safer and more attractive.



SHCA offers a \$150 subsidy to residents who plant new trees in our neighborhood, with the help of Tree Tenders. We also offer a subsidy for tree pruning, as well as dead tree removal.



Over 3,800 households are informed of important issues through a hand-delivered copy of the national-award-winning *Society Hill Reporter*. Our email blast keeps us up to date on a weekly basis.



SHCA advocates for the preservation and restoration of its historic buildings and keeps tabs on current issues.



SHCA negotiated 40 resident parking spaces on Front Street, below South, for neighbors to lease on a monthly basis.



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SOUTH STREET HEADHOUSE DISTRICT

BY KERI WHITE

New Arrivals and Old Revivals



Donald Salamone is a “guerilla gardener.”



Find a warm space in harmony with nature.



Pots, plants and more are sourced locally.



A rabbit may appear at any time in Donald and Kate’s emporium. It’s magic!

Despite 2020’s unprecedented challenges, the South Street Headhouse District (SSHD) welcomed a number of new businesses.

Kate Vail and Donald Salamone, who have lived in the neighborhood for 16 years, opened **The Magical Woodsman** over Thanksgiving weekend. Their philosophy is clearly articulated on the front window: **“There is magic in the world. It begins with one flower, one plant, one pot, one hand, one step. Bring magic to your life!”**

Part garden center, part gift shop, part lifestyle store, this verdant emporium at 761 S. 4th Street is a feast for the senses. Kate explains, “The Magical Woodsman came out of an idea that we had in 2019. Donald is passionate about gardening and is super creative and artistic. We keep a running tally of his ideas, and before the pandemic, we had set a goal in 2020 to pilot pop ups of his top three. Then the world changed, but we took the leap of faith and decided to launch this shop. The idea of helping the community create warm spaces that are in harmony with nature really resonated with us, and based on the response, it hit the mark with a lot of other people as well.”

Kate describes Donald as a “guerilla gardener,” meaning he carries seeds around with him, and if he sees a space that needs plants, he goes to work — fallow tree pits, empty pots, patches of dirt are like blank canvases to him. She continues, “He loves to share his passion and help people rediscover the wonders of nature and the seasons through planting. We are also committed to helping the bee population and work hard to provide plants to support this critical flying insect.”

The Magical Woodsman prioritizes local suppliers for all of its merchandise — plants, bulbs, seeds, cards, candles and pots are sourced as locally as possible. Their winter hours are Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and by appointment. Check their Instagram page for more details @TheMagicalWoodsman.

The Return of Beloved Bridget Foy’s

Another success story is Bridget Foy’s December pre-launch as the East Philly Café. Owner Bridget Foy explains, “We are offering a simple, comfort-food/bar-food-style menu for takeout, as well as porch dining as a pop up. Our newly rebuilt space, at 2nd and South Streets, has expanded the porch, and we have installed overhead heaters to help make guests more comfortable.”

The menu will include dishes like burgers, sandwiches, salads, macaroni and cheese, several types of wings, vegetarian chili, as well as short rib chili. East Philly Cafe will also offer a full bar and cocktails to go. There will be a delivery option for customer convenience.

Next spring, the restaurant plans a full launch with a larger menu that will showcase the chef’s creativity and sophistication — but it will still stay true to their roots as a casual neighborhood restaurant.

Visit www.toasttab.com/eastphillycafepopup-at-bridgetfoys/v3 to view the menu and place takeout orders.

Market Update

The anticipated Heirloom Giant Supermarket at the corner of 2nd and South Streets remains on the horizon. Ashley Flower, Manager and Public Relations for the GIANT Company comments, “We’re still committed to the Queen Village location and will share more information when we can.”

SSHD Executive Director Mike Harris sums it all up, “As difficult as 2020 was, we have seen tremendous innovation, strength, support and community here in the District. The launch of these new businesses and the fortitude shown by the existing businesses speaks to optimism and a bright future. We look forward to 2021 with hope.”

Keri White and Claire Batten share this column.



More New Businesses

In addition to the launch of The Magical Woodsman and East Philly Café Pop-up at Bridget Foy’s, SSHD welcomed the following new business in 2020:

Little Italy Trattoria
342 Queen Street

The Merrygold Shop
707 S. 4th Street

Henck Design
733 S. 4th Street

Three Graces Coffee Co
730 S. 5th Street

Philadelphia Piano Institute
621 S. 2nd Street

Pizza D’Action
431 South Street

Mexi-Talia Grill
411 South Street

Subculture Hair Studio
525 S. 4th Street, Ste 101



PHOTO: JEFFREY TOIARO

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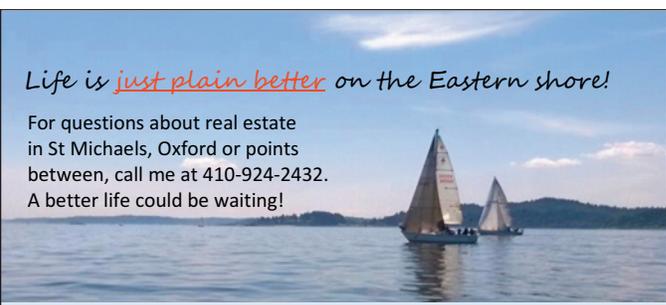
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MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

Bridging the Divide

This column typically profiles organizations that do good work and offer opportunities to get involved. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, many people have discovered new ways to be self-sufficient. Learning to cook, educating our children and coloring our own hair — the list is endless. In that same vein, it might be helpful to examine ways that we, as individuals, can do our part to help effect positive change.

I don't think there's much doubt that the U.S. is less than united right now. The fact that this is happening in the midst of a global pandemic, an occurrence that by all accounts should have us pulling together, is quite disturbing. Coming out of a tumultuous election season, we now have an opportunity to change the tide, to reunite and to work together for the common good. These suggestions are nonpartisan. Try to think of them as three simple ways to make significant, positive change in the world.

First, let's all agree that **our only common enemy is COVID-19**. Despite the coronavirus disproportionately affecting people of color, it does not discriminate. Any and all of us can succumb. Sadly, the stark socioeconomic disparities in this country leave some more vulnerable. Poverty, poor access to health care and the resultant comorbidity of pre-existing conditions related to those factors cannot be denied. But this is everyone's problem.

So why has this issue become so politicized? Our public health officials and scientific researchers are some of the most ethical and independent among us. They work in search of the truth to benefit everyone. Research is ongoing, and best recommendations are updated as research progresses. Research follows scientific methodology based on evidence. Can we all just agree to follow their guidelines? Wear a mask, for goodness sake! Make sure it covers your nose. It's pain-free and inexpensive. You can protect yourself and others with this one little act. Make it a fashion statement. You might even save a life.

Along those same lines, wash your hands, practice social distancing and avoid crowds. Yes, it's a sacrifice. I know. We all miss the human contact, but it won't last forever. The vaccine is here, and will be available in the coming months.

Secondly, remember that the **truth matters**. The Internet has allowed us to access so much great information and do many wonderful things.

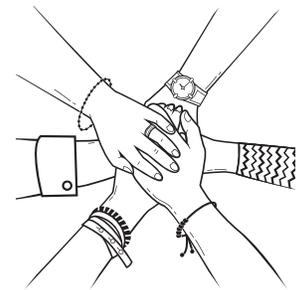
Where would we be now without Zoom meetings? The downside is that it's also full of an incredible amount of disinformation. Sadly, many people believe anything they see in print or online. We all have to be cognizant of our sources. Be sure they're truly reliable. Be a skeptic. **Question, question, question!** Don't be so quick to buy into anything. Confirmation bias, the tendency to believe something that confirms one's prior beliefs or values, is a real thing. Let's all commit to be more discerning. Be sure to fact-check. Do your research via multiple sources. Let's make a sincere attempt to actually listen to each other.

Most importantly, **be kind to one another**. Trust me, there are plenty of people out there that I disagree with — adamantly. But it may help to keep in mind that most of us want the same things out of life — a steady job, the means to take care of our families, good health, the chance to do something positive in the world. If we can all try to tap into our commonalities, maybe we can begin to see each other in a new light. Take some baby steps towards bridging the gap. While there are those on the extremes who may resist, many of us might find a connection we didn't know existed.

Volunteering to help others often benefits the volunteer even more than the recipient. People are out of work right now, hungry, suffering, even dying. Do what you can. So many organizations are in dire need of donations and volunteers. Be as generous as you're able. Don't hesitate to ask for help if you need it. Many of your neighbors would be happy to assist.

Denial, ignorance and hatred benefit no one. Our entire world is at a crossroads right now. Let's each do our part.

Three simple ways individuals can do their part to help effect significant, positive change.



Claudia Carabelli is a Southwest Quadrant Director.

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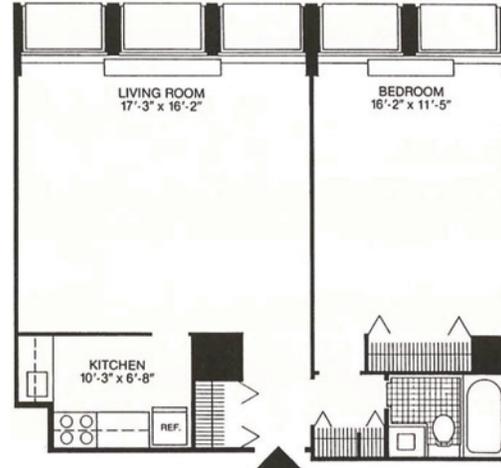
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OUR CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

Love Them or Hate Them, They're Here to Stay

People love them or hate them, feed them or hunt them. No matter your opinion, the ubiquitous Eastern Gray Squirrels are here to stay. We see them every day but may not give them much thought. Full disclosure here: I'm an animal lover. Years ago, I bottle-fed a baby squirrel for several days before surrendering it to a wildlife rescue. Yet here I sit, typing this within view of my garden, where two of the little buggers are currently tearing open a trash bag that didn't fit in the receptacle. Ingrates!



Baby squirrels returned to tree in Washington Square

So how exactly did these little creatures come to share our city habitat? Prior to the mid-19th century, the city environment was inhospitable to squirrels. They were numerous in the countryside, even considered pests, with bounties paid on 640,000 of them in 1749 alone. According to Penn historian Etienne Benson, sometime in 1847 officials released three gray squirrels into Franklin Square. They were considered a wildlife novelty at the time. Since the area was devoid of nut trees, people provided nest boxes and food. This was intended to “beautify the city and elevate the moral character of the citizenry.” It was thought that a child who was kind to a squirrel learned charity. But squirrels, true to their nature, quickly took over.

By the 1860s, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society deemed squirrels a threat to the birds — valued because they ate insects. Adios, squirrels! But that didn't last. They were subsequently reintroduced with the idea that nature was necessary to support people's health and sanity. By the 1920s, ecologists supported a more natural view of nature. That meant no feeding, an idea that holds to this day despite people's ongoing inclination to do so. Sloppy little eaters that they are, squirrels often leave food debris behind which subsequently attracts **rats**. Keep that in mind the next time you're inclined to share your peanuts with squirrels in Washington Square.

While there are several varieties of tree and ground squirrels, Eastern Gray Tree Squirrels are most common in our city. Their life span averages six years, although the record is

12 in the wild and 20 in captivity. They weigh in around a pound and have a 44-day gestation period. One seldom sees baby squirrels, since they remain in their leafy nest, high in the trees, until they mature. I did witness an exception recently. A few months ago, having a socially distanced lunch in the park with a friend, we were disrupted by a scream from the elderly gentleman seated across

from us. Two tiny squirrels had fallen from their nest. In a panic, one little creature scurried up his leg. In response, the startled man jumped up and attempted to beat it with his cane — definitely from the anti-squirrel camp. My friend and I, both admittedly pro-squirrel, came to their rescue, aided by a passing neighbor. We put them on the side of the tree from which they'd fallen, where they hung on tightly and hollered for mama. We hope she retrieved them, but don't know for sure.

There is no denying that squirrels can be a real nuisance. They chew wires, dig up flower beds, destroy insulation and make their way into eaves, roofs and fireplaces. Hence their status as one of the top wildlife pest control problems. In Europe, they're listed on the Invasive Species list because they can carry and transmit squirrel pox. The grays are immune, but red squirrels, their much-less-problematic cousins, are vulnerable. An exterminator may be called if these rodents invade your home. Less-professional methods can be employed to eradicate them from your garden. They don't like spice, so pepper, cayenne or paprika can be effective.

You may have spotted a distinctly black squirrel near Three Bears Park over the last several years. Black squirrels are actually just a variety of the gray squirrels with an elevated production of melanin, the dark pigment that colors their skin and fur. Black squirrels are commonly seen in the North Central counties of Pennsylvania, but rarely in the city. Now a second black squirrel with a white-tipped tail has made an appearance in the area. Philadelphia is evidently unique in more ways than we knew!

In 1847, officials released three gray squirrels into Franklin Square. The intention was to “beautify the city and elevate the moral character of the citizenry.”



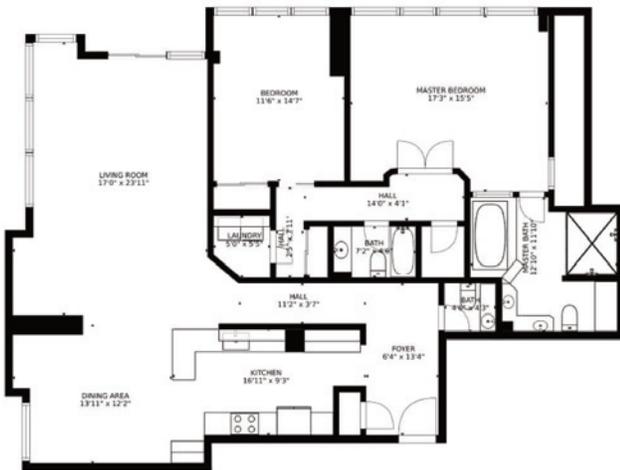
Black Squirrel



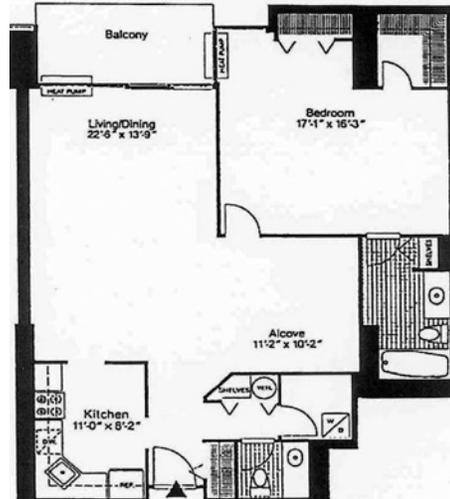
Black Squirrel with white-tipped tail

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An S.O.S from Old Pine Community Center

In response to the many calls and concerns of seniors, families and community members, the Old Pine Community Center (OPCC) took a strong stance against hunger and became a food distribution site to support those hardest hit due to COVID-19. As the pandemic continues, the need in our community continues to grow daily. We need your support not only to continue food distribution but also help support our youth.

Due to the pandemic causing schools to close, parents are faced with the choice of not going to work or leaving their children home alone. In response, the Center has created the Safe Learning Space program, which has provided a safe haven

for children of working parents with a focus on frontline families.

Old Pine Community Center has begun its Annual Appeal for 2021, and the goal is to raise \$40,000, so it can continue to support vulnerable communities throughout Philadelphia. Donating to OPCC helps us to provide hope and peace of mind to the people who need it most. Please share our message with your friends, family and anyone who would like to make a difference and donate to our cause. OPCC is a 501(c)(3) organization, meaning all donations are tax deductible. Interested parties can donate at <https://oldpinecommunitycenter.org/donate/>.



With your help, the Old Pine Community Center can continue to be a food distribution site.

LAWRENCE COURT WALKWAY FUNDRAISER

In the heart of Society Hill, this walkway is a well-used city treasure. Keeping it clean and safe is costly and is not covered by the city. Please consider supporting the Walkway Association, whose mission is to maintain and preserve this space. Your donation will go directly to the ongoing cost of clean-up and maintenance.

- Although \$150 is recommended, any amount you can afford is appreciated.
- Send your check, made payable to Lawrence Court Walkway Fund, to: Susan Purcell, 411 Pine Street, Philadelphia PA 19106.
- To be added to our email list or if you have questions or comments, email us at lawrencecourtwalk@gmail.com.

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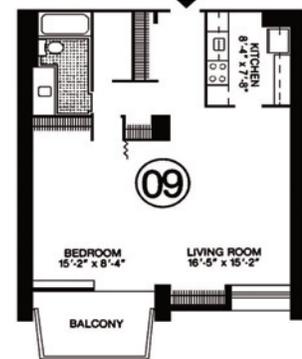


604 S. Washington Square



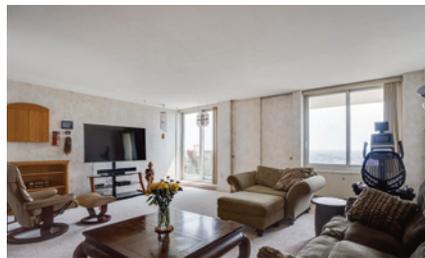
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Spacious 1 bedroom with incredible natural light, a private balcony and parquet wood floors.
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Lovingly cared for 1 bedroom on high floor featuring private terrace with city views, updated kitchen, modern bathroom and brand new carpeting.
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South-facing Deluxe One Bedroom

South-facing deluxe 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom offering a private terrace, laminate floors, incredible natural light and excellent closet space.
1,003 sf | Offered for \$289,900

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY MATT DEJULIO

2021 Membership Drive Off To A Good Start

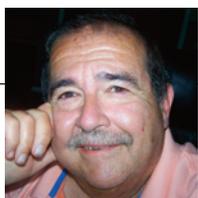
By early December 2020, over 450 Society Hill residents had already renewed their SHCA membership. The first membership notice went out on November 13, and will be followed up by emails and snail mail. We are hoping that in 2021 we will exceed our 2020 membership total of 1,141.

Winners of the restaurant certificates for those who renewed by December 31 will be announced in the March/April 2021 issue of the *Reporter*.

If you have delayed in sending in your renewal, or wish to join, please do so today. 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 of our improvement projects, as well as providing subsidies to neighbors who plant trees and fix their sidewalks. We help enhance your quality of life when we advocate on your behalf regarding zoning changes, real estate taxes, crime problems and traffic issues. All of this is accomplished through the hard work of our dedicated board of directors, committee members, block coordinators and, most importantly, your membership dues.

Without member dues, SHCA would cease to function. Protect your neighborhood and your real estate investment. **Join today!**

Email Mattdejulio@aol.com with questions or comments, which will be shared with our board members who represent every quadrant in our most unique historic neighborhood.



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

PARK, AMERICA!

A limited number of monthly parking spaces are 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
- \$ _____ Sidewalk Cleaning/Graffiti Removal
- \$ _____ Fix the Brix
- \$ _____ Franklin Lights
- \$ _____ Tree Tenders
- \$ _____ 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
- Franklin Lights
- Dilworth House
- Reporter
- Washington Square
- Social Events
- Property Taxes
- Fundraising
- Zoning & Historic Preservation
- 5th Street Development
- Local Crime Incidents and Alerts

Please return completed application to:

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

NIFTY NEIGHBORS IN MY BACKYARD

BY JANE BIBERMAN

Rev. Mark Tyler Speaks Out

As of mid-December, more than 470 people had been murdered in Philadelphia in 2020, a statistic that comes even as community activists, nonprofits and young people have mobilized against a rising tide of gun violence. Most of the 244 murder victims were Black men and boys. Of the 21 women and girls killed, 15 were Black. More than half — 57 percent — of the murder victims were Black men between the ages of 18 and 34.

The Rev. Mark Kelly Tyler, the 52nd pastor of Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, protests. The native of Oakland, California, notes that Mother Bethel has the distinction of being the birthplace of the African Methodist Episcopal denomination, founded by Bishop Richard Allen in 1794. He adds that the land that the Bishop purchased for the church in 1791 is the oldest parcel of land in the nation continuously held by African Americans.

The current building, the fourth structure, was dedicated in 1891 and is designated as a National Historic Landmark. The Richard Allen Museum, housed in the church, is an international tourist destination. Rev. Tyler has appeared in and consulted on numerous films about religion and culture, such as on Dr. Henry Louis “Skip” Gates’ PBS documentary, *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross*.



The Rev. Mark Kelly Tyler, Pastor of Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

Rev. Tyler believes that “while the uprising in our nation began, rightfully so, in response to the horrific murders of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd, the underlying conditions have been building for some time.” He elaborates: “Our nation has yet to deal with the realities described more than 50 years ago in the Kerner Commission Report.” The Kerner Commission, appointed by

President Lyndon Johnson, concluded: “Our Nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white — separate and unequal.”

He notes that the 244 Black murder victims represent a 33 percent increase from this time in 2019 and is the highest number of murders the city has seen at this point in the year since 2007. “Until we deal with the systemic issues that have resulted due to institutionalized racism, we will continue to arrive in the same place,” believes Rev. Tyler, echoing the words of the Kerner Report.

Rev. Tyler is also a documentary filmmaker, radio host, motorcyclist, an adjunct faculty member at Payne Theological Seminary and an affiliated faculty member of Methodist Theological Seminary. He’s a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, husband and father of four children.



Jane Biberman, is a freelance writer who is a longtime contributor to the *Reporter*.

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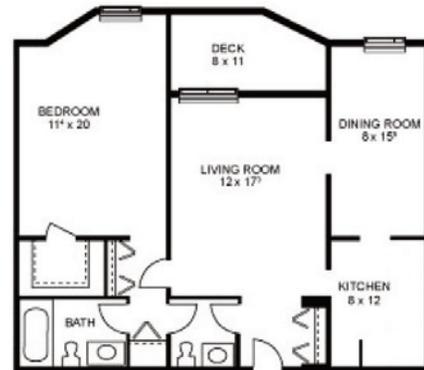
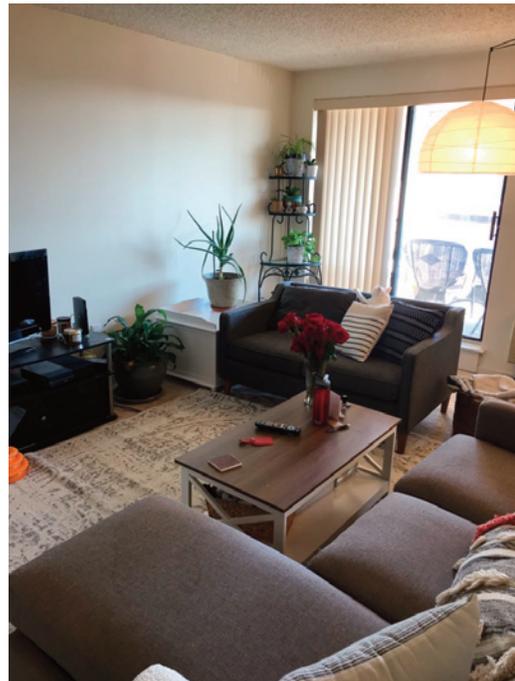
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Dr. Robert Anolik (2020-2017), Dr. Nora Lin (2020-2017),
Christine Malloy, MD (2020-2018), Annie Khuntia, MD (2020-2018),
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