

SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

March/April 2022

The Newsletter
of The Society Hill
Civic Association

www.societyhillcivic.org

New SHCA Grants Program for 2022

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) is pleased to announce the funding of a Grants Program in 2022, a second program comparable to the \$50,000 program in 2019. We are looking to provide grants to non-profit entities operating within Society Hill that have programs or projects in need of funds. We will also consider non-profit entities outside our borders, whose mission and projects serve Society Hill as well as the City of Philadelphia. The use of the grant funds must be in alignment with the stated mission of SHCA, which can be found on page 2.

Each applicant must complete and submit a grant proposal form including the following:

- A brief description of the organization;
- A general description of the project or program;
- An explanation of how the project or program aligns with the mission of SHCA; and
- An outline of the budget and time frame for use of the funds, as well as the plan to reach goals.

Funds must be used within one year of receipt.

Where to Find the Grants Application

The grant application may be found at our website: [societyhillcivic.org/What's Happening/News](http://societyhillcivic.org/What's%20Happening/News). Applicants can download the form, fill it out electronically, and email it to our grant's chair at marthalev6@gmail.com. Or download and print the form, fill it out, and mail the hard copy to SHCA, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147. The deadline for application submission is **March 31, 2022**.

Background/History

In 2019, SHCA funded a \$50,000 Grants Program that distributed an average of \$5,000 per grant to 11 nonprofits. The recipients were groups located in our neighborhood, as well as groups outside our neighborhood that also serve Society Hill.

For questions, please reach out to the Grants Committee Chair, Martha Levine, at marthalev6@gmail.com or 215-629-0727.



Nonprofits serving Society Hill may qualify for grants from SHCA. Applications are due by March 31st, 2022.

Plans for the I-95 Cap Park



On Wednesday, March 23, SHCA will host its General Membership Meeting via Zoom.

Get the latest update from Douglas Robbins, the spokesman for the cap park's infrastructure planner, and from other stakeholder representatives, in this monumental project that could have a significant impact on life near I-95 and Society Hill.

Wednesday,
March
23

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Society Hill Civic Association Meeting
Wednesday, March 23, 2022

7:30 p.m. General Membership Meeting via Zoom

Speaker: Douglas Robbins, AICP, PP

Topic: I-95 Cap Park at Penn's Landing

SOON TO BE SPRING



Cherry blossoms will soon return to the walkways and streets of Society Hill.

photo by Bonnie Halda

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A Pizza Named Desire



SOCIETY HILL

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Website
Find past issues in full color
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 the editor, Judy Lamirand, at judy@parallel-design.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, and, as above, include 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

Issues Through the Years



Larry Spector

Recently, I needed some information from a past issue of the Society Hill Reporter. I found the issue I was looking for in the Reporter archives accessible on our website.

Then I couldn't stop browsing past issues, fascinated by their chronology of our neighborhood history as documented in the Reporter and its predecessor publications. Perhaps the following samples from 60 years of coverage of Society Hill will pique your interest to do some browsing yourself.

My own skim through our history makes me realize how critical many residents and the SHCA Board have been in the development of this neighborhood; how they helped the neighborhood to realize its potential decades ago; and how fortunate we are to have the benefits of their efforts. It remains our responsibility to do justice to their legacy.

Society Hill News, Gazette of the Society Hill Area Residents Association "Published Every Once in Awhile"

February 1958: photo of the model for the proposed Lombard Street Interchange of the Delaware Expressway.

May 1960: mosquitos plague the neighborhood, due to standing pools of stagnant water; photo of new Delancey Street playground replacing the demolished police/fire station in 300 block of Delancey.

The Resident Newsletter

November 1966: touting the "rebirth" of Society Hill; parking problem because city allows new development without parking; association dues of \$2, \$3 for husband and wife.

November 1969: describing award from Progressive Architecture for proposed residential commercial complex of three building groups linked by inner courtyards and walkways bounded by Front, Lombard, Pine and Second Streets.

November 1972: "Most important and hotly contested election" in Society Hill history — dissident residents opposing 19 units of low-cost housing want to "capture the Association" by running their own separate slate of directors.

April 1975: neighbors explore development of 6th and Pine to replace Black History Museum going to 7th and Arch.

April 1976: "to those who have fallen away from Civic Association faith, come back; all is forgiven." Membership dues of \$5, \$8 for husband and wife.

July 1977: Darts and laurels — laurel to the Ritz theater for bringing back the \$1.50 movie.

April 1980: Managing Director W. Wilson Goode to address general membership.

May 1983: SHCA opposes parking meters in Society Hill.

September 1987: SHCA succeeds in requiring horses to wear diapers to prevent horse manure from ruining the neighborhood.

March 1990: higher court vacates injunction against Gloria Levin-proposed parking lot at 3rd and Lombard, and she sues SHCA for \$1.1 million.

Society Hill Reporter

July 1995: community opposition to Hyatt hotel construction at Penns Landing and proposed use of McCall School playground for transient parking lot.

October 1998: proposal for a Center City Community Court to deal with quality of life problems ignored by City Hall.

May 2001: SHCA helps raise \$25K for Independence Library branch; complaints that Foglietta Plaza is unwelcoming and unsafe; uproar over Fat Tuesday mayhem when 40,000 mob South Street.

September 2007: SHCA and others lobby for 1,500-foot buffer between casinos and residential areas.

April 2013: 35th annual House and Garden Tour; real estate tax assessments increase after actual value initiative; recipe for sherry-charred Brussels sprouts.

October 2013: Philly bike program coordinator outreach about bike delineators on Spruce and Pine; Obama cites Sissy Lipton for her community service maintaining Washington Square.

May 2018: tall ships will spend Memorial Day at Penn's Landing.

May 2020: COVID-19 means cancellation of SHCA events.

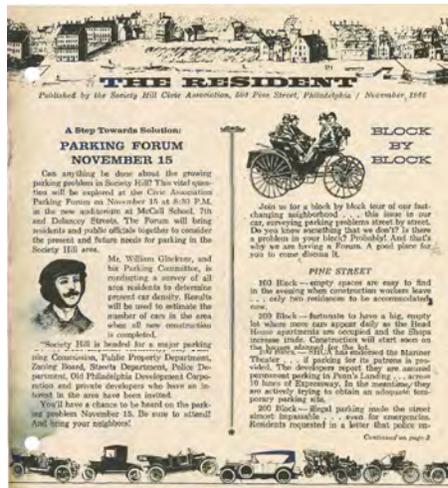
January 2022: SHCA solicits applications for grants comparable to \$50,000 distributed in 2021.

We have come a long way.

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 his wife, Ann.



February 1958: Photo of the model for the proposed Lombard Street Interchange of the Delaware Expressway.



November 1966: What can be done about the growing parking problem in Society Hill?

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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.

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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.



215-844-TREE



BUSINESS PERKS

BY ANDREA LAYDEN

Deals and Discounts for SHCA Members

There is no better time than now to join SHCA or renew your membership. We all know that SHCA membership dues benefit our neighborhood. We love keeping our historic neighborhood beautiful, and enhancing our quality of life. But are you aware of all the individual member benefits? Maybe you have requested a copy of our coveted contractor list, used a "Fix the Brix" subsidy to maintain your sidewalk, or planted a new tree with the help of our tree subsidy, to name a few of the individual member benefits.

The examples above are just the tip of the iceberg. Card-carrying members get even more benefits with our Business Perks Program. Join SHCA or renew your membership, and you will now also get special offers from local businesses. **You must show your 2022 membership card to receive the discount.**

Go to www.societyhillcivic.org/membership/membership-form/ or fill out and mail in the membership form found on page 25. Check out our weekly eblast updates, as new businesses are joining every day, and check out our Facebook page www.facebook.com/societyhillcivic for detailed discount information.

Don't delay — you can start enjoying all these generous perks of membership today.



Andrea Layden is an active SHCA board member.

Take a Look at These Perks

Are you in need of a haircut? Why not head on over to **M's on the Square** where SHCA members get **10% off**.



Are you looking to engage in a little history? **The Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks** has you covered and will give SHCA members **10% off** the price of admission to any of its historic house museums, including the Hill-Physick House and the Powel House, right here in Society Hill.



Does the winter snow have you hoping to do some landscaping and hardscaping? Look no further than **Liberty Tree & Landscape Management** who will give SHCA members **\$100 off**.



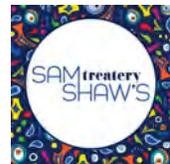
Do you have a problem at your home or business that needs superior cleaning and restoration services? Well, **Servpro** of Society Hill will be of service and give SHCA members a **5% discount**.



Are you looking to spruce up your home with a fresh coat of paint? **Yex Painting** has you covered (pun intended) with a **5% discount**.



Do you want to treat yourself or someone else? Stop by **Sam Shaw's Treastery** on South Street, a culinary and lifestyle boutique where you'll find amazing gifts as well as getting **10% off** when you show your SHCA membership card.



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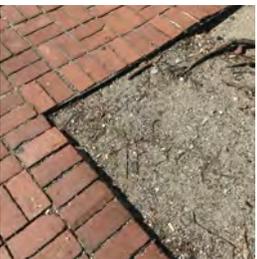
'FIX THE BRIX'

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Troublesome Tree Pits Need Our TLC



This poor tree needs its pit to be expanded with a defined surround, one that is flat to avoid trips.



This flat edge is the best way to fix your tree pit and allow rainwater to drain into the soil.

As you walk around the neighborhood, you may notice that many of our tree pits are a mess, with loose bricks scattered about instead of secured in place. Besides their untidy appearance, the bricks could be used by vandals to break car windows, or worse. Loose bricks are also a tripping hazard. A tree pit should have a defined border and be as flat as possible to prevent trips and falls (see photos).

Society Hill property owners have an option to remedy this, by taking advantage of our successful and popular "Fix the Brix" subsidy program. Our neighborhood has many multi-unit buildings, some of which are not cared for as we would like. Owners of multi-unit buildings as well as single-family dwellings are eligible to participate and are encouraged to join in and fix their sidewalks.

SHCA will reimburse you for 40 percent of the paid invoice, up to \$400 for current members, and up to \$300 for non-members.

It pays to be a member!

Simple steps to get your sidewalk in great shape:

- Take photos of your problem sidewalk and email them to marthalev6@gmail.com.
- Get a few estimates, and hire a qualified mason to do the work. Need a recommendation? We have a short list.
- After the work is done, make sure it is done to your satisfaction before paying the bill. Email us a photo of the completed work.
- Mail the original paid invoice to us (make a copy for yourself).
- Include proof of payment — a copy of your cancelled check.
- Mail to: SHCA, P.O. Box 63503, Phila. PA 19147.
- Receive a check within a few weeks.

Thanks to all property owners who have repaired their sidewalks. Every fix is a gift to the neighborhood in which we live. Email questions to marthalev6@gmail.com.

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TREE TENDERS UPDATE

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

Looking for a Few Strong Volunteers

Even with all the challenges of the last two years, **Tree Tenders** have continued to plant trees in our neighborhood each spring and fall. We have a wonderful group of volunteers, many of whom have helped with this effort for years. What we could really use now are some strong young folks to help with the more strenuous work. We carry the trees and equipment from 4th & Cypress Streets to each empty pit, dig the holes, and plant the trees. It's a lot of good clean fun and camaraderie, but more muscle would really come in handy.

We have a busy spring ahead of us, with six trees slated for planting on **Saturday, April 23**. In addition, we've been asked to extend our

boundaries, for planting purposes, all the way to South Street. This should add to the number of trees we handle going forward. Our biannual plantings usually take a few hours on a Saturday morning. We go out at other times to prune some of the smaller tees. You need not commit to every event.

We can connect you with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Tree Tenders training. Pruning workshops are also offered. Or you can just join up with us to help out and see if you like it. Everyone is welcome!

If you're interested, please contact SHCA administrator Matt DeJulio at mattdejulio@aol.com.



6th District Police Enjoy a Treat from SHCA

To show our appreciation for their service during difficult times, SHCA provided 45 delicious Primo Italian hoagies, plus a cookie tray, to our 6th District Police for lunch in January.

Community Relations Officer Julie Carpenter and Officer Joe Ferrero were there to accept the delivery and expressed their heartfelt appreciation on behalf of the district.



Looking for the Calm of Spirit?

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

A New Home with HeArt

Joining forces to find homes for Afghan refugees.



Mohammad Sadiq Sadeed and Alexa Ragsdale

The hustle and bustle of daily life can leave us little time to contemplate much beyond our immediate surroundings. August 2021 brought copious news coverage of the U.S. exiting Afghanistan and the terrible humanitarian crisis that followed. Alexa Ragsdale, vacationing on a tranquil lake in North Carolina, was deeply saddened by what she saw and became determined to do something. But how could she even begin to address such an overwhelming problem?

Alexa, owner of Ariel Capital Pennsylvania, is a Philadelphia real estate investor. One thing she knows well is houses, and Afghan refugees would certainly need somewhere to live. But where to start? Upon arrival in the U.S., Afghans (about 85,000 total) are housed at one of eight military bases around the country to await clearances and approval for resettlement. About 7,000 reside at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in South Jersey in “Liberty Village.” That number will increase significantly as the government shuts down other bases to consolidate the refugees at the New Jersey site. The shortage of clean, safe, affordable housing greatly hampers the U.S. government’s ability to move people off these bases.

To start, Alexa reached out to Mohammad Sadiq Sadeed. After working as an interpreter for the

U.S. in Afghanistan, he relocated to America two years ago. He’d been profiled on TV and in print media, so Alexa took a risk. She tracked down his phone number and cold-called him. Already very engaged in the effort to resettle his fellow Afghans, he eagerly joined forces with her. Mohammad, with his knowledge of the culture and language, acts as an intermediary for Alexa. Many, but not all, resettled Afghans have some knowledge of English from their work for the U.S. in their homeland.

Alexa started with a property she owns in Northeast Philadelphia. The area has become the heart of the Afghan community in Philadelphia, especially Mayfair and Oxford Circle. She took one row house property, had it renovated and cleaned, and offered it to an Afghan family of five. They moved in, very appropriately, the day before Thanksgiving. Thus, was born her not-for-profit, **HeArt House**. That’s not a typo. Art is capitalized in the title because Alexa hopes to incorporate art as a way to bridge cultures and connect to Afghan art. Stay tuned for more of that in the future.

She bought two more houses over the holidays, updated them, and moved two more families in on February 1. HeArt House aims to focus on *continued on page 11*



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

continued from page 10

Afghan refugees and help them secure long-term, welcoming, safe housing. Its goal is to house 10 families by this year's end. All are connected to agencies that help with resettlement, most notably HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) and NSC (Nationalities Services Center), both of which cover several months of rent to allow people time to find employment and become self-supporting. To expedite things, HeArt House will front the families six months of rent and then recoup it from the agencies.

To have a real impact, of course, will require more than just Alexa's houses. She's working to persuade other property owners to rent to these families. It's a tough sell. Today's low vacancy rates allow owners to pick and choose their

tenants. For Afghan families with limited English proficiency and no credit history, employment, or Social Security, few owners are willing to take the risk. Alexa is hoping her organization will soon be able to co-sign leases and provide some of the rent upfront to encourage landlords to give these people a chance.

Afghan culture is very welcoming. **Afghans consider "their" house to be "your" house.** You can knock on their door at any time and be invited inside. Let's show them what American hospitality can look like by helping with this wonderful effort.



Claudia Carabelli is a Southwest Quadrant Director for SHCA.

What You Can Do to Help

- **Learn** more about HeArt's efforts by visiting the website www.hearthouseus.org.
- **Offer** your time and experience if you have expertise in grant writing.
- **Make** connections to property owners to open conversations about renting to Afghan refugees. Consider it yourself if you're a landlord.
- **Donate** clean, gently-used, room-size rugs. Meals, prayer, and communal time in Afghan families all take place on their carpets.

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Liberty Tree

by Thomas Paine

In a chariot of light, from the regions of the day,
The Goddess of Liberty came,
Ten thousand celestials directed her way,
And hither conducted the dame.
A fair budding branch from the gardens above,
Where millions with millions agree,
She brought in her hand as a pledge of her love,
And the plant she named Liberty Tree.

The celestial exotic stuck deep in the ground,
Like a native it flourished and bore;
The fame of its fruit drew the nations around,
To seek out this peaceable shore.
Unmindful of names or distinctions they came,
For freemen like brothers agree;
With one spirit endued, they one friendship pursued,
And their temple was Liberty Tree.

Beneath this fair tree, like the patriarchs of old,
Their bread in contentment they ate,
Unvexed with the troubles of silver or gold,
The cares of the grand and the great.
With timber and tar they Old England supplied,
And supported her power on the sea;
Her battles they fought, without getting a goat,
For the honor of Liberty Tree.

But hear, O ye swains ('tis a tale most profane),
How all the tyrannical powers,
Kings, Commons and Lords, are uniting amain
To cut down this guardian of ours.
From the East to the West blow the trumpet to arms,
Thro' the land let the sound of it flee;
Let the far and the near all unite with a cheer,
In defense of our Liberty Tree.



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2022 WELCOME GIFT BAGS

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Treats in Store

In 2021, SHCA presented Welcome Gift Bags to 85 new first-time home and condo owners in the neighborhood. We have many more new neighbors to visit this year. You can find photos of many of the happy recipients in the January issue of the *Reporter* on our website. Go to www.societyhillcivic.org and click on Publications or Reporter/See Archive.

Each gift bag contains a bottle of wine, a bag of coffee, and a pastry treat, plus important neighborhood information and gift cards to local restaurants, retail stores, services and museums. The presentation is by appointment with no close contact. If you are a new first-time owner in Society Hill, and would like to receive a gift

bag, contact us for an appointment. Email: marthalev6@gmail.com or call 215-629-0727.

We welcome an exciting new business contributor to our family of supporters: **Sam Shaw's Treatory**, a culinary and lifestyle boutique, located at 306 South Street. There are treats in store for you at Sam's even if you don't qualify for a gift bag. Stop by and show your 2022 membership card to receive a 10 percent discount on your purchase. For more information on this new South Street business, go to www.samshawtreatory.com.

Martha Levine is a vice president of SHCA.



SAMtreatory
SHAW'S



Sam Shaw's Treatory is a new contributor to the Welcome Gift Bags.

Thank You to Our Generous Welcome Gift Bag Donors

Restaurants

Bistro Romano, 120 Lombard Street
Buca D'oro, 711 Locust Street
Cavanaugh's Headhouse, 421 S. 2nd Street
Fork Restaurant, 306 Market Street
Frieda Café, 320 Walnut Street
Gnocchi (Italian), 613 E. Passyunk Avenue
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La Colombe Coffee Roasters, 100 S. 6th Street
Malbec Argentine Steakhouse,
 400-02 S. 2nd Street
Panorama, 14 N. Front Street
PJ Clarke's, 601 Walnut Street
Starr Restaurant Group
The Twisted Tail, 509 S. 2nd Street
Talula's Daily, 208 W. Washington Square
Xochitl (Mexican), 408 S. 2nd Street

Retail, Services and Museums

Adornamenti (jewelry), 1006 Pine Street
Bloom Philadelphia (flowers), hello@bloomphiladelphia.com
Ghost Tour of Philadelphia, 215-413-1997, ghosttour@ghosttours.com
Gopuff (expedited delivery service), www.gopuff.com
Head House Books, 619 S. 2nd Street
Independence Seaport Museum, 211 S. Columbus Boulevard
Jason Matthew Salon (award-winning), 1735 Chestnut Street
Judy Moon Massage, 829 Spruce Street, Suite 300
Lee's Cleaners, 241 S. 6th Street
Museum of the American Revolution, 101 S. 3rd Street
National Liberty Museum, 321 Chestnut Street
Paper on Pine (stationary), 1310 Sansom Street
Physick House & Powel House (museums) 321 S. 4th Street
Pileggi Salon on the Square, 717 Walnut Street
Sam Shaw's Treatory, (culinary & lifestyle boutique) 306 South Street
Show of Hands (craft gallery), 1006 Pine Street

YOU OUGHTA KNOW

How to Get Things Done

Street Lights Out?

Call 311 or go online to Philly311. Have the exact address ready to report. You will get a tracking number to follow up.

Snow Removal

The City of Philadelphia requires that owners and residents clear a 36-inch path on their sidewalks six hours after the end of a snowfall. Failure to comply could result in a citation.

Trash/Recycling Time

Wait until AFTER 5 p.m. October - March and after 8 p.m. April - September the day before the regular collection day to put trash and recycling at the curb.

Doorway Package Theft

Report all package thefts by calling 911. Police need to know where there are spikes in cases. Help by contacting your neighbors if you see a package at their door.

Bad Sidewalk?

Use SHCA's "Fix the Brix" to have your sidewalk repaired, then get a reimbursement of 40 percent up to \$400 for members. See page 6 for details.

Tree Issues

Need a new tree? Need a tree pruned or a dead tree removed & replaced? SHCA has a subsidy for any of these. Find details at www.societyhillcivic.org/service/tree-tenders/.

See Graffiti?

See graffiti on mailboxes, light poles, controller boxes? For fast removal within a day or two, email a photo and location to Todd Kelley, Graffiti Removal Experts — todd@graffitiremovalexperts.com. SHCA pays for this service annually.

Membership Up-to-Date?

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Graffiti reported to Todd Kelley will be removed within a day or two.



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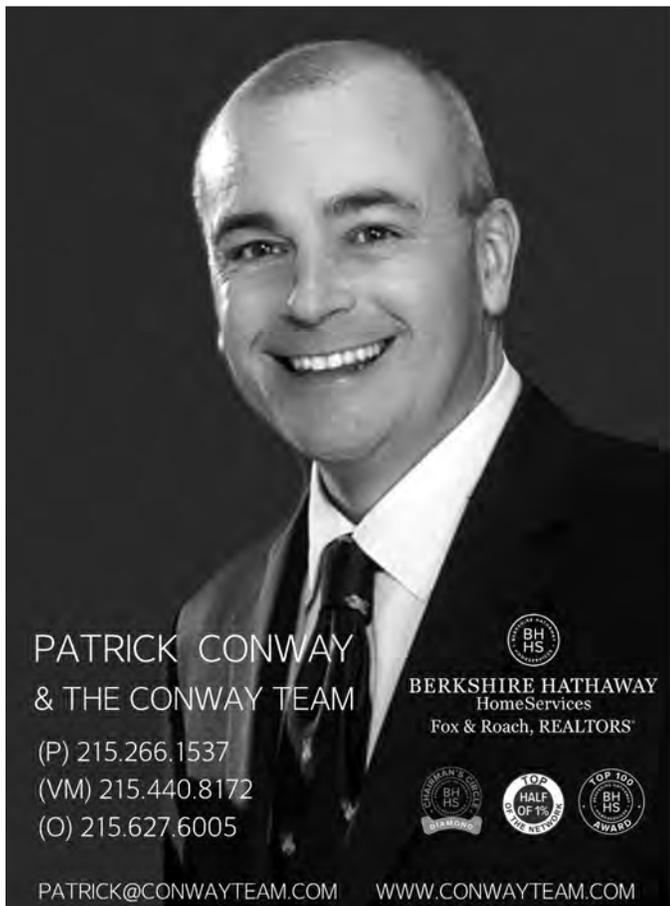


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KEEPING POSTED

BY AL CAVALARI

A Visit to Ben Franklin

Ben Franklin died on April 17, 1790, at age 84, so it is fitting that we visit his grave this time of year. The simple stone is exactly as he instructed in the 1789 codicil to his will: "I wish to be buried by the side of my wife, if it may be, and that a marble stone, to be made by Chambers, six feet long, four feet wide, plain, with only a small molding round the upper edge, and this inscription:

Benjamin And Deborah Franklin 178_ to be placed over us both." His son Francis, who died at age four from smallpox, his daughter Sarah (Sally), and her husband Richard Bache are buried nearby.

How exactly did Franklin die? The short answer: a lung infection. One finds varying and sometimes conflicting information about the medical details. By comparing various sources, here is my conclusion. The term most commonly used for Franklin's ailment is "pleurisy." Some sources say this is "pneumonia." It isn't. Wikipedia describes it as an "...inflammation of the membranes (pleurae) that surround the lungs and line the chest cavity." Other sources confirm that definition. If extra fluid builds up between these membranes, they may press against the lungs, thus compressing them and making breathing increasingly difficult. Enough pressure can collapse the lungs. The extra fluid can also become infected, creating a pus-filled abscess.

Franklin had been coughing continuously, complaining about severe pain in his side, and running a fever, indicating an infection. The pain then subsided. He rose and asked that his bed be made up so he could "die in a clean bed." His daughter quipped that he would recover and live many more years, to which he replied "I hope not."



Postcard from 1904 showing Franklin's grave and the nearby street scene.

Franklin's physician, Dr. John Jones, wrote "his pain and difficulty of breathing entirely left him, and his family were flattering themselves with the hopes of his recovery, when an imposthumation [abscess] which had formed itself in his lungs suddenly burst, and discharged a quantity of matter, which he continued to throw up while he had sufficient strength to do it; but, as that failed, the organs of respiration became gradually oppressed — a calm, lethargic state succeeded — and, on the 17th of April, 1790, about eleven o'clock at night, he quietly expired."

Franklin's instructions for his simple gravestone are in keeping with the way he describes himself in his 1789 will: "I Benjamin Franklin of Philadelphia, printer, late Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States of America to the Court of France, now President of the State of Pennsylvania, do make and declare my last will and testament as follows..."

There you have it. At the end of a long and eventful life, he is world-famous, fabulously wealthy, politically influential, has dined with kings, and has signed our nation's formative state documents. The first title he lists for himself — the first accomplishment he names — is "printer." He remains first and foremost the leather apron tradesman who arrived

in Philadelphia as a seventeen-year-old runaway kid who has no place to stay, no job, and knows no one in the largest city in North America. And, as he put it, "My whole stock of cash consisted of a Dutch dollar, and about a shilling in copper." His community's response to his passing says it all. An estimated 20,000 people turned out for his funeral at

a time when the city of Philadelphia's population was 28,500.

Here is your assignment: sometime in April, take this issue of *The Reporter* over to Franklin's grave at 5th and Arch. Show the image to some strangers there and share what you've learned. If possible, take some kids with you.

Bonus activity: the 1904 street scene captured here instantly places us in a bygone era when ladies wore fashionable hats. Go to the Lit Brothers Department Store building from the golden age of retailing at 8th and Market Streets. Find the sign at the entrance that reads "Hats Trimmed Free of Charge." At first reading, I thought "trimmed" meant that they would custom cut your hat to make it fit you. Not so. Take a close look at the postcard. See all of those decorations on the ladies' hats? That is the trimming. Buy the hat, and you could pick out how you wanted it to be trimmed for free.

**Al Cavalari**

is a certified member of the Association of Philadelphia Tour Guides. Write to Al at flagguys@aol.com.



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WASHINGTON SQUARE

BY FRED MANFRED

Celebrate Washington Square

This year's spring showers will bring much more than May flowers! On **April 28**, pre-Arbor Day, the Washington Square Committee's co-chairs, Sherley Young and Fred Manfred, will join the Independence National Historical Park (INHP) service in a public celebration to officially announce Washington Square as an Internationally Accredited Arboretum! The co-chairs will present Cynthia MacLeod, Superintendent of INHP, with its official certificate. This prestigious recognition is the result of the Washington Square Committee's work in preparing and documenting the park's 255 trees along with detailing its wide variety of tree species.



Tree labels are part of what makes Washington Square an Internationally Accredited Arboretum.

Soon after, the park will be transformed as host to the **2022 Washington Square Affair**, a festive garden-style fête fundraiser with proceeds to be dedicated to the beautification of Washington Square. The event will take place on Wednesday **May 18**, 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., under a big white tent on Washington Square's historic grounds. The event's co-chairs, Joan Tropp and Fred Manfred, have planned a stylish neighborhood gathering, featuring a variety of food and spirits from area restaurants, caterers, and boutiques, for all to enjoy. Tickets are on sale now and are available through the SHCA website. The Affair never fails to provide the perfect environment for friends, neighbors, and local businesses to come together in celebration of the park and the richness of our community. To be admitted, all guests must show proof of vaccination.

A stunning pre-Affair Patron Party has been planned from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the penthouse

residence of Zoë Pappas & Aleni Pappas, located at the Saunders Building, 220 W. Washington Square. The apartment and its wrap-around terrace offer sweeping views of the park and city skyline. Again, to be admitted, all guests must show proof of vaccination.

The community can anticipate the completion of many new projects in the park along with the continuation of other annual efforts. INHP has confirmed with us that new benches and trash receptacles will be installed. The benches will feature center armrests, and the trash receptacles will be rodent-resistant. In stages, the park's brick walls will be steam cleaned, inside and out.

Thousands of native perennials, bushes, and trees will be planted this spring and fall. Soon, you will begin to see our volunteers preparing the planting beds for spring and spreading wood chips around the tree wells. Turf restoration and strengthening will be a layered effort throughout the spring and summer seasons. Additional trimming of the tree canopy is scheduled. The guardhouses will be completed and freshened. And much more...

It's going to be an exciting spring for Washington Square! You're invited to take regular strolls through the park to track its evolution, and with any luck, we'll see you under the big white tent celebrating Washington Square.

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



The 2022 Square Affair event's co-chairs, Joan Tropp and Fred Manfred.

Save the date!
Wednesday,
May 18

Tickets for the Patron Party and the Washington Square Affair are on sale now and can be purchased at the SHCA website.



OUT AND ABOUT

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Spring Maintenance Sightings

SHCA's list of contractors can help you find the quality workmanship your house deserves.

Spring is just around the corner, signaling a kind of rebirth from the cold and doldrums of winter. It is also a great time to think about making improvements to the exterior, and interior, of your home. Society Hill is a beautiful neighborhood because of its history, architecture and the care we take of our properties.

Are you in need of a reliable contractor for a project in your home and don't know where to turn?

To serve that need, SHCA publishes a list of contractors that may help solve that problem. The list includes contractors of every type — all highly recommended by our neighbors —

general contractors, electricians, masons, plumbers, roofers, gardeners, painters, carpenters, and many others. Additionally, the list has a page with a variety of other types of workers for home-related needs. The 11-page list was recently edited to keep it updated for accuracy.

The list of contractors is available on request.

You must be a 2022 member to receive the list, so remember to renew or join. The list is a “thank you” to members, a perk of membership, so we ask that it not be shared with non-members.

To request a list, which can be delivered either by email or snail mail, please call 215-629-0727 or email marthalev6@gmail.com.



OUT AND ABOUT

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HALDA





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URBAN EDEN

BY MARY STURDIVANT

Envisioning Spring

A lot of us chose Society Hill, and continue to live here, because we love the four seasons: spring for planting, summer for growing, fall for harvesting, and winter for dreaming. Time now to convert dreams to executable plans.

For this exercise, find a playlist for plants curated by Spotify, or *"L'Horloge de Flore,"* which the Philadelphia Orchestra premiered in 1961. The seductive oboe allows you to contemplate your limited number of spaces to garden while opening your imagination to unlimited possibilities. Ignore the back yard, carport, terrace, balcony, deck, shared walls, or windowsills. Pull up a comfortable chair to a window overlooking the street. You may have a tree and tree pit, a Franklin Lamp, a small flower bed excavated from the brick sidewalk, window boxes, a low stoop indicating a business operated on the first floor, or a small flight of stairs so the first owner could show off his status. A container or planters might already be in place.

Eyes wide open. Visualize what you want to bring forth. In the 1980s, when urban renewal was well underway, former neighbor Jean Bodine grew concerned about the loss of street trees, whose life expectancy was then about ten years. In her garden at 4th and Cypress, she organized about 20 neighbors to survey the tree population. Many of us then volunteered to be trained by Mindy Maslin from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society as Tree Tenders. Claudia Carabelli, the latest Tree Lady, routinely offers tips on the selection and care of trees, as well as design tips on pits in this newsletter. Check out back issues before undertaking any renovations.

A stroll around the neighborhood takes you past plantings ranging from button-down-style Brooks Brothers pits, with bricks level with the sidewalks and simple mulch ground cover, to exuberant displays worthy of Viktor & Rolf's latest haute couture show, including fencing, bollards, plant material, and polite, but pointed, signs about not using the pit for a canine urinal. Some (more than two) neighbors have expanded the definition of street trees to include rose bushes. If your tree has succumbed to disease or a car accident, remember SHCA offers a subsidy to help replace it.

The Franklin Lamps were installed in the 1960s. While they are electric, they kept the design of the original whale oil lamp. This includes poles

on either side of the support that the lamplighter used to balance his ladder for lighting the fixture. When sprucing up the neighborhood to welcome the National Republican Convention in 2000, many neighbors were inspired to organize a hanging flower basket program utilizing the poles.

Occasionally, an enterprising neighbor will still hang baskets. If you want to join in, when picking your plants, consider if you are on the shady side or sunny side of the street. Some of our blocks have gale force winds created by breezes off the river and funneled by the high rises and our hill. Discreet wires can secure the basket to the pole and discourage opportunistic thieves.

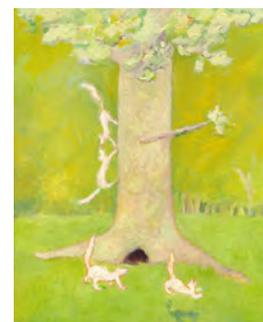
Usually, two choices are available for lining the baskets. One, buy a precut circular coco mat, plop it into the basket, and you're done. Or two, laboriously soak moss and fit it around the basket for a more authentic, antique look. Either way, at the end of the flowering season, empty the soil and take the basket indoors. You should be able to reuse it for several years.

But the most important factor is water. Only a few homeowners have faucets outside. Carrying a watering can from the kitchen to the street with a step stool or ladder to water the baskets gets very old very fast. The coming hike in water bills makes choosing drought tolerant and low water usage plants common sense. An internet search offers lots of listings for water storing/slow release pellets/crystals to amend the soil. I am hoping that the ten-year-old Green City Clean Water organization figures out how to capture runoff in a reservoir that we could tap to water street plants and trees.

Most of the information about hanging baskets applies to window boxes and containers: light, plant selection, water, soil mediation and security. Those antique iron urns should be tethered. The weight of stone pots with soil acts as a deterrent.

Enjoy the seed catalogs or websites like Jackson & Perkins, White Flower Farm or the Philadelphia-based Truelove Seeds. Let your imagination run wild. Winter: time to prepare.

Long-time neighbor **Mary Sturdivant** is a passionate gardener who oversees plot #5 in Washington Square with Ruth Ann Fenton and Joke Nieuwland. She's a plucky petunia, who advises, "When you find your-self between a brick wall and a cement slab, just do your bloomin' best."



Paintings by Mike Neff.



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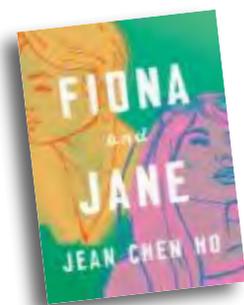
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ON OUR SHELF

BY KRISTEN BROWN

Fiona and Jane

Packed with friendship, heartbreak, and cheap shots of soju, Jean Chen Ho's newest release, *Fiona and Jane*, serves as a potent testimony to love, loss, and the queer experience. Having met in the second grade, the two heroines instantly bond over their shared Taiwanese-American background and, eventually, their mutual feelings of loneliness. Ho's reinvigorated coming-of-age story artfully tracks three decades of friendship between Fiona and Jane as they navigate relationships, racism, and traumatic family rifts.

The story opens in Taiwan at the Shilin Night Market; 18-year-old Jane eats oyster vermicelli with her father, who she refers to as Baba. A heated conversation over dinner reveals that her father left Jane and her mother two and a half years prior, abandoning his family in Los Angeles to live in Taiwan. Jane demands answers for his absence, but when her father admits to leaving the family for a love affair with a man, she stops asking questions and instead decides to never see him again.

Jane resents her father for being gay and, in turn, scolds herself for having just kissed a girl, a college-aged piano instructor named Ping. Jane relays Baba's secret to her mother, betraying her father's trust. Her guilt, as well as her shame surrounding her own sexuality, is only amplified in the character's moody narration. As Jane explores her memories, she does so with a private, detached, and reserved sensibility.

The novel's timeline switches gears, and we meet Fiona. Fiona's name sounds like the Cantonese word for wind, and that's just what she is — a formidable force constantly on the move, blowing through boyfriends, cities, and childhood dreams. Ho first introduces Fiona as "Ona," a wide-eyed, curious girl who recently immigrated to Los Angeles from Taiwan after surviving a lethal earthquake, a spilled family secret, and a backstabbing grandmother.

The change in her name results from Fiona's first encounter with racism in

the United States — a fellow classmate who remarked that the name Ona "didn't make sense." Ho intelligently calls out the very real societal pressure minority groups face to anglicize their names. Ho brilliantly reclaims the Taiwanese-American identity, making *Fiona and Jane* not only a contemporary exhibition of love and life, but also a didactic commentary on our flawed, Euro-centric society.

The non-linear format oscillates between Jane's first-person recounts and a third-party perspective retelling Fiona's life. Each chapter reads like a heartfelt short story, or rather, a blurred snapshot of memory. Together, Fiona and Jane learn how to drive, drink, and flirt. In their adolescent escapades, they discover the subtle freedom in driving along the California coast, they learn the meaning of being a "lightweight," and after some exploratory kissing between two best friends, Jane grows into her bisexuality. Ho creates an accurate and intimate portrait of girlhood: three-dimensional and relatable. The post-modernist timeline echoes the way in which the brain recalls a memory, often sporadic and unexpected, in uncontrollable dreamlike sequences.

In their twenties, Jane and Fiona inevitably lose touch. Jane doesn't leave her hometown, she burns through jobs like cigarettes, and, after her father dies, her life grows even more cyclical and stagnant. The image of her staring at a ceiling fan in her mother's living room is especially haunting, as it mirrors Jane's everyday life, spinning in monotonous perpetuity.

On the other hand, Fiona can't seem to stay in one place. She follows an unfaithful college sweetheart to New York City, drops out of law school, and, along with a lover, loses all of her money. Both protagonists endure colossal heartbreak during this decade, and, unfortunately, their friendship remains as distant as the miles that separate them. Out of sheer desperation, Fiona returns to Los Angeles.

Ho provides little exposition for how the girls reconnect. Instead, the narrative resumes the way all friendships do,

as if no time has passed. Despite their reunion, life does not become easier. Divorce, despair, and dark secrets define their thirties. Jane assumes an overwhelming sense of responsibility for her father's death. She represses the memory of him until a triggering relationship moves her to confront how and why he died. Ho offers a sudden, rare, and vulnerable glimpse into Jane's psyche in an emotional monologue where she remarks, "my father was a gay man, closeted and alone."

In a world of so much loss, Ho poignantly teaches all the quiet ways in which love manifests. For Fiona, love means caring for a terminally ill friend named Kenji, even if it means being around a cheating ex-boyfriend. For Jane, love means trimming her mah's toenails after a surgery, despite their tumultuous relationship. As for the love language they express to each other, it's calling up to say hello, even after a fight.

Ho gives the reader a window into the lives of two young women who were just trying to hold their own. *Fiona and Jane* is a parable on self-forgiveness and a list of instructions for how to pick up the pieces of yourself in times of distress. Filled to the brim with rich dialogue and heart, it is clear that Jean Chen Ho intuitively understands the day-to-day nuances of a semi-dysfunctional best friendship.

The novel ends with Fiona and Jane, closer than ever, sharing a meal. Jane decides to document their friendship within a book, interestingly, the one you are reading, a book that, upon finishing, makes you want to revisit old family photo albums and tell the people you love that you love them. But mostly, finishing this story makes you want to call your childhood best friend and make a date to share a drink.

Kristin Brown works at Society Hill's only local, independently owned bookstore, Head House Books, owned by Richard De Wyngaert.

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SOUTH STREET HEADHOUSE DISTRICT

Spring into Spring with New South Street Businesses

Recent Launches: A resurgence on the 300 block of South Street

Spring has brought an exciting resurgence to the 300 block of South Street! The South Street Headhouse District (SSHD) has worked tirelessly to recruit a diverse array of businesses, while coordinating with landlords, engaging with the city, and balancing the wants and needs of the neighborhood, to create a unique and interesting commercial corridor.

The following businesses have recently launched on the block:



Sam Shaw's Treatery

Society Hill native Sam Shaw brings baked-in-store Koffmeyer's Old Fashioned Cookies back to the neighborhood, alongside boutique kitchen and lifestyle products. You'll be reading more about Sam, a St. Peter's School alumna who was born and raised right here in Society Hill, in the next issue.

Première Bande

In honor of their late son and brother, the Johnson family has brought Sircarr Johnson Jr.'s artistic dreams to life with this new apparel store. This location features a collection of Johnson Jr.'s designs and will serve as a community space for backpack drives, coat drives, and more.



Dobbs on South

This South Street staple has reopened under new management, now hosting nightly events on the first floor, as well as offering a sports bar, dart board, and pool table on the second floor.

Fresh 2 Go

This new corner store is fast becoming a go-to neighborhood spot, a favorite for grab-and-go sandwiches, juices, smoothies, and basic groceries!



Brooklyn Exotics

Having recently relocated from Brooklyn, owner Shanel creates and designs her apparel by hand, aiming to uplift and support women of all shapes and sizes, as well as the local dance community.

At press time, there were several other projects in the pipeline. Keep an eye out for new and exciting businesses at 300 South Street (formerly Jon's), 303 A & B South Street, 313 South Street (formerly C. Neri Antiques), and 347 South Street (formerly Starbucks).

SSHD Executive Director Mike Harris comments, "Our commitment to deliver a unique and relevant mix of retail to the community is unwavering. We place a high priority on diversity, and are proud to welcome businesses that reflect the diversity of our city. We will continue to work to fill these storefronts with offerings that serve the community well."

EDUCATION WORKS AT MCCALL SCHOOL

The McCall Home and School Association is raising money to support Education Works, an educational enrichment program that provides a dedicated staff member who teaches team building and supports students' social-emotional health. This program has become even more important given the challenges of the past two years, but falls outside of the school budget.

Please consider supporting this important program! Donations can be made via PayPal (<http://bit.ly/SupportMcCall>), Venmo (@McCallHSA), or send a check to: McCall Home and School Association Attn: Alyson Quigley, HSA Treasurer 325 S. 7th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

INDEPENDENCE PLACE

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY MATT DEJULIO

SHCA Members: Remember Your 2022 Dues

By early February, 510 Society Hill residents had already renewed their association membership or joined for the first time. This is significantly fewer than last year at this time. (On the other hand, 82 of the 510 are new members. This is a healthy increase over 2021, which saw 56 new members joining during the same period.) We hope to exceed our 2021 membership total of 1,165.

As the numbers indicate, more than 600 residents have not yet responded to our emails urging them to renew. In order to save money, we have resisted sending snail mail. We'd rather apply the funds to neighborhood improvement projects. That's why we rely on members renewing online.

If you've delayed sending in your renewal, or wish to join for a first time, please do so today. Otherwise, if membership numbers continue to lag, we will have to resort to snail mailing printed reminders.

Winners of restaurant certificates for those who renewed by December 31, 2021 were Trish Bozek and Dexter Watson, and Barbara and Bob Behar. Congratulations!

Each of the over 3,600 households in our neighborhood should 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. **Sign up today!**

Email Mattdejulio@aol.com with questions or comments which will be shared with 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.

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.

<p>Residential Memberships</p> <p><input type="radio"/> \$ 50 Basic Household Membership</p> <p><input type="radio"/> \$ 40 Senior/Student/Single</p> <p><input type="radio"/> \$ 100 Federal Friend</p> <p><input type="radio"/> \$ 150 Georgian Grantor</p> <p><input type="radio"/> \$ 300 Jefferson Benefactor</p> <p><input type="radio"/> \$ 500 Washington Benefactor</p> <p><input type="radio"/> \$ 1,000 Benjamin Franklin Benefactor</p>	<p>Business Memberships</p> <p><input type="radio"/> \$ 100 Institutions — 5+ employees</p> <p><input type="radio"/> \$ 60 Institutions — fewer than 5 employees</p>
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Additional Contributions

\$ _____ Washington Square Beautification	\$ _____ Franklin Lights
\$ _____ Sidewalk Cleaning/Graffiti Removal	\$ _____ Tree Tenders
\$ _____ Fix the Brix	\$ _____ McCall School

Charge VISA/MasterCard: Total Enclosed \$ _____

Number _____ Exp Date _____

Signature _____

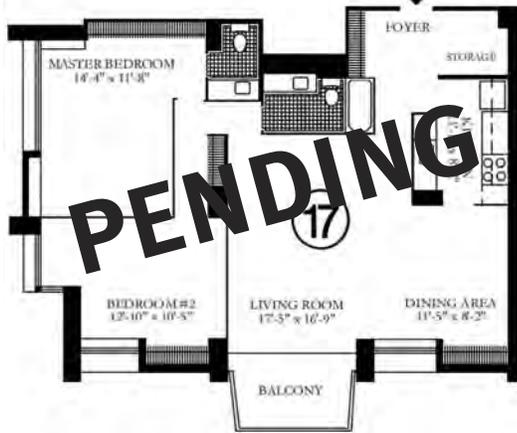
The following topics are of special interest to me. I welcome receipt of email updates on these topics.

<input type="checkbox"/> Clean-Up Day	<input type="checkbox"/> Washington Square	<input type="checkbox"/> Zoning & Historic Preservation
<input type="checkbox"/> Franklin Lights	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Events	<input type="checkbox"/> 5th Street Development
<input type="checkbox"/> Dilworth House	<input type="checkbox"/> Property Taxes	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Crime Incidents
<input type="checkbox"/> Reporter	<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/> and Alerts

Please return completed application to:
Society Hill Civic Association, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147
 Make check payable to Society Hill Civic Association or join online at:
www.SocietyHillCivic.org



604 S. Washington Square



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Efficiency with South-Facing View

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415 sf | Offered for \$179,900

OUR CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

Small But Mighty

Allergies are funny things. Some last a lifetime, a few begin in adulthood, and others dissipate over time. Shelly Spiegel can attest to the last possibility. Always allergic to cats, by the age of 12 she had subsequently developed dog allergies. This was unfortunate because she'd always liked dogs. Time spent at homes of family members with pups invariably left her sneezing with watery eyes. She never even considered having one of her own. It just wasn't in the cards.

Then came the summer of 2021. She was looking for a fun activity to do with her 12-year-old nephew. Since he's such an animal lover, she opted for a Lake Tobias Safari Tour in Halifax, Pennsylvania, and figured she'd just endure her allergies for the day. They had a great time and afterwards her nephew remarked that she hadn't sneezed even once. Wait. What? The family dogs didn't seem to trigger her now, either. What did she do then? She contacted a breeder to reserve a puppy, of course.

Shelly is the CEO of her own company, Fire Engine RED, and has worked remotely for the past 20 years. Being home with a dog all day, even while risky, is the ideal situation for puppy training, Shelly's family has always had poodles. She thought a small one would be best for apartment living, and the non-shed coat should be less likely to trigger any resurgence of her allergies. With that in mind, in October of 2021, along came Daphne, a three-pound ball of exuberant black fluff.

Poodles are a well-known and popular breed. They come in a multitude of colors and range in size from standard to medium to miniature to toy. While commonly thought to have originated in Germany, where they are called "Pudels," some claim they were initially bred in France, where they're known as "Caniche." The breed is known to be obedient, smart, and playful. The fact that they were originally used as "water dogs," fetching shot game, accounts for the unusual poodle haircut. The coat was left longer on the chest area for insulation against the cold water and shaved on the hindquarters to decrease drag.



Shelly Spiegel and Daphne

The original standard poodle (40 pounds for a small female to 70 pounds for a large male) has been bred down in size over the last century. The smaller varieties, commonly used as circus performers, are now popular companion animals as evidenced by a stroll around our neighborhood any day of the week.

This was Shelly's first foray into dog "parenting" and raising a puppy. Training can be challenging and requires lots of patience and consistency. Daphne, now closing in on six months, is living quite

the life with a sizable array of toys, beds, and doggie containment devices. She's progressing nicely with her house training and is quite the social butterfly. When we met for this "interview," she was very happy to climb onto my lap and make herself at home. Shelly's mother adopted Daphne's brother, Quincy, so the pups get to play together on a regular basis. The good news is Daphne is indeed quite smart. The bad news is she's channeled some of that canine intelligence into figuring out how to unlatch her crate to let herself out. On two occasions, Shelly has locked the dog in her crate, left to run an errand, and returned to be greeted at her door by an ecstatic, albeit very loose, puppy.

Dog ownership prompted Shelly to poll her employees to see how many had pets. It was a whopping 83 percent. More of her team had pets than had children! Shelly decided to institute paw-ternity leave, a British concept she'd read about, giving workers two paid days off when they acquire a new pet along with paid time off for veterinary visits.

At her current weight of just five pounds — she should max out around six — little Miss Daphne has loads of energy. She's up to two laps around Washington Square three times per day, a lot of steps for those tiny legs. She's quick to greet everyone, human and canine alike. Feel free to say hello if you spot her in your travels.

Meet Daphne, a three-pound ball of exuberant black fluff.

NIFTY NEIGHBORS

Mindfulness, Youth Transformation and The Spirit of Our Country's Founders

With Amy Edelstein



Amy Edelstein

Society Hill is a friendly neighborhood. We say hello to each other at the Farmer's Market, help each other shovel or clear the fall leaves, but we don't always know what our neighbors do. This issue, we're highlighting educator and author Amy Edelstein, her recent memoir, and her Philly-based non-profit Inner Strength Education, which has supported 17,000 of our city's high school students with mindfulness and systems thinking.

Q: You have so much to share, but let's start with what's common to us all — Society Hill. What brought you to this neighborhood?

A: When I came to Philadelphia with my husband in 2013, I was drawn by the spirit of this country's ideals. I would walk the streets knowing that the visionaries of the American democratic experiment paced these same cobblestones, daring to imagine new structures of government that would best foster our higher human capacities. As imperfect as they were, the ideal was to design a nation that would enable us to pursue deeper happiness and purpose. That quest has always moved me and there was no better place to make my home.

Q: Tell us a little about where that inspiration has taken you.

A: I am a forty-year mindfulness practitioner. When I moved here, I decided I wanted to take the best of my skills and apply them in a way that could empower a significant number of people in Philadelphia and, over time, improve our shared culture. A friend invited me to run a mindfulness program at Bodine High School. Even though I hadn't set foot in a high school since 1979, I agreed. I wrote a curriculum that weaves together evidence-based mindfulness techniques along with an understanding of the evolution of the brain and the science of large-scale culture change and how those shifts affect us. I fell in love with the students. They were bright, curious, searching, and thirsty for meaning — a lot like I was when I started meditating. This became the nonprofit Inner Strength Education, which was honored with a Philadelphia Social Innovation Award for our work in violence reduction. Now, eight years later, the School District of Philadelphia has partnered with Inner Strength Education, and

over 17,000 students in 19 public high schools have completed our three-month program.

Q: I've read about programs in other cities, I had no idea we had something like Inner Strength in Philadelphia! That's good to hear. Are you seeing a change?

A: I see so many individual miracles, anxious students learning the skills to calm themselves, and teachers finding a modicum of relief as their own stress dissipates. I highlight some of these stories and the principles behind the program in my book *The Conscious Classroom*. As we know, we have many entrenched social concerns in Philadelphia, and it's going to take a 360-degree approach to truly change outcomes. Our youth have so much capacity, talent, and vision that can contribute positively to our city's future. We need them to thrive for so many reasons, I feel urgent about supporting as many as possible to grow into their higher potentials!

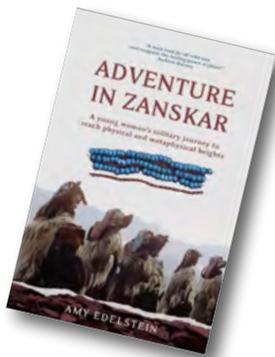
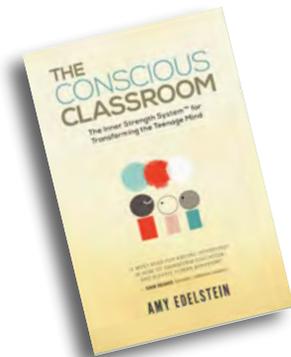
Q: That's a big goal! You've also pursued other audacious endeavors. Tell us about your new memoir *Adventure In Zanskar*.

A: In 1983, I went to Asia, where I spent four years traveling and studying different systems of thought. For twelve months, I walked, on my own, in the Himalayan mountains. *Adventure In Zanskar* describes one particularly impactful adventure I had in one of the most remote areas. Zanskar is situated in North India and geographically is part of the Tibetan plateau. I went with a paper map, you have to remember, this was a time before cell phones, internet, or GPS. I slept in caves, traversed roaring glacial rivers on rope bridges, and crossed mountains 16,000 feet high. That's higher than our Rocky Mountains! It was a magical time.

Q: Where are your favorite places to spend time in Society Hill?

A: I love the little park benches in St. Peters, Three Bears Park, and Washington Square. I've also spent a lot of time in our coffee shops, and I am happy they are reopening for indoor service again!

Amy certainly brings some unexpected experience to our neighborhood, and we thank her for sharing a little of her story with us.



Copies of these books authored by Amy can be purchased at **Headhouse Books**.



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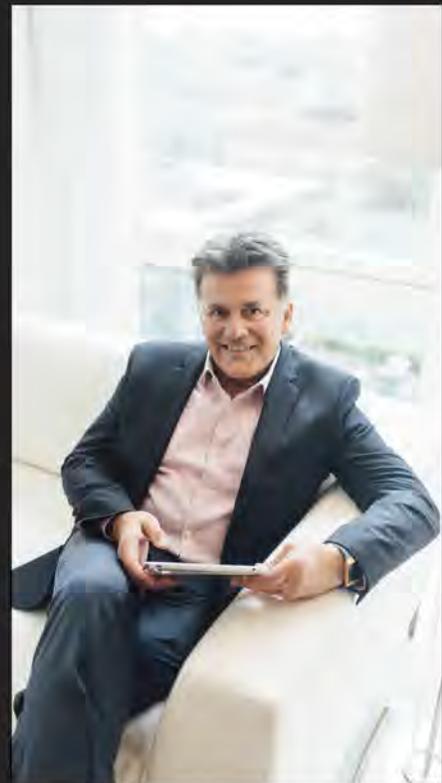
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KIDS' KORNER

BY JAIME AND MIKE FOX

Stella! A Pizza Named Desire



Pizzeria Stella

420 S 2nd St; <https://pizzeriastella.net/>

We want to meet Stella, shake her hand, give her a big hug, and tell her what her pizza means to our family. But, even if Stella does not exist, nothing is going to dampen our love for this restaurant. It's our number one and a hit for the whole family. Located in lovely Headhouse Square, its outside dining in almost any weather makes for outstanding people watching. If you choose to eat indoors, you can watch your pizza being made in the open kitchen. What more do you need? Kids favorites include the rosemary flatbread and margherita pizza, while pistachio pizza is the adult favorite. Buon Appetito!

Philly AIDS Thrift

710 S 5th street; <https://phillyaidsthift.com/>

This massive thrift store is a local treasure and a great place to take the kids for some treasure hunting. It has so much to offer, from stuffed animals to Elvis posters to lava lamps and everything in between. Philly AIDS Thrift strives to "sell the lovely, useful, interesting, amusing, and sometimes mysterious items that generous people donate to our thrift store and then distribute the proceeds to local organizations involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS." You can donate or shop. Gently used appliances, books, cars, CDs, records, tapes, clothing, shoes, accessories, DVDs, VHS, electronics and stereo equipment, furniture, home furnishings, household items, jewelry, and sporting goods are accepted. Donations are tax-deductible. Stop by to claim your own treasure.



Toys and games are just a few of the treasures you and your kids will discover at Philly AIDS Thrift.

Market Street Post Office

316 Market Street

What makes the Market Street Post Office better than every other post office? No, not free postage. Something even better. Not only can you walk through and visit Franklin Court — more on that later — but if you bring your mail, the postal employee will hand cancel your postage with Postmaster Benjamin Franklin's "B. Free Franklin" stamp.



Postmaster Benjamin Franklin's "B. Free Franklin" postage cancellation.

It is now time for the history segment of our column. Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) was appointed the postmaster of Philadelphia in 1737 and later served as co-Postmaster General of the North American colonies for the British from 1757 to 1774. In addition, Mr. Franklin served as Postmaster General under the authority of the Continental Congress from 1775 to 1776. Seriously, is there anything this man didn't do?

No. 1 hits, treasure hunting and history for the whole family.

Franklin Court is situated behind the post office between Market and Chestnut Streets. This home was built in 1786 by Mr. Franklin as a rental property. Once you enter Franklin Court, you can check out the archeological exhibit containing artifacts found buried in the court. Stripped down to the bare walls, the building allows us to examine 18th-century building practices. It also shows some of Franklin's fire safety improvements.

You can enter Franklin Court through the post office when it is open, the Chestnut Street gate and cobblestone walk next to the Liberty Museum, or the Market Street brick passageway between 316 and 318 Market Street. The entrance door for the Fragments of Franklin Court exhibit is just west of the brick passageway. This activity is free and outdoors.



Market Street entrance to the Post Office



The Fox family moved to Society Hill in August 2021 and loves to take advantage of the wonderful spaces and activities that Society Hill has to offer. Kids' Korner will feature topics such as restaurants, parks, recreation and culture. Feedback and suggestions from readers are welcome.



Giselle Sees An Allergist.



Tom Does Not.

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Dr. Mark Posner (2020-2013), Dr. Eva Jakobovics (2020-2014),
 Dr. Robert Anolik (2020-2017), Dr. Nora Lin (2020-2017),
 Christine Malloy, MD (2020-2018), Annie Khuntia, MD (2020-2018),
 Matthew Fogg, MD (2020-2018), Patrick Vannelli, MD (2020-2018),
 Sandhya Desai, MD (2020-2018)

THE LIPPINCOTT

227 S. 6th Street



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4,517 sf | \$3,250,000



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