

SOCIETY HILL

# Reporter

May/June 2022

The Newsletter  
of The Society Hill  
Civic Association

[www.societyhillcivic.org](http://www.societyhillcivic.org)

## Foglietta Plaza Update

BY MARY PURCELL

### Did You Know?

Contrary to popular belief, Foglietta Plaza was not named to recognize our former U.S. Congressman Tom Foglietta but rather to recognize his father **Michael Foglietta**, who was elected to City Council in 1947 and served the district that then covered all of Center City and South Philadelphia. His accomplishments included ordinances dealing with demolition of the divisive Filbert Street viaduct and enabling the creation of Independence National Historical Park.

At the east end of our neighborhood, situated between Spruce and Dock Streets, Foglietta Plaza has great potential to serve as a place of respite, reflection, and recreation. This park is in a prime location, surrounded by important city assets: the waterfront, the historic Society Hill neighborhood, and Independence National Historical Park. However, in its current state, Foglietta Plaza is a lost opportunity.

An effort in 2016 to create a new design for the park produced some useful findings but failed to reach consensus across stakeholders. The site is both fortunate and challenged by having an array of ownership and stakeholder entities, including the city, PennDOT, Interstate Land Management Corporation (ILMC), various memorial stewards, neighboring business improvement districts, and Delaware River Waterfront Corporation (DRWC), as well as the Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA), and the Registered Community Organization broadly, and near neighbors particularly.

Since 2016, the neighborhood has strengthened relationships with other park stakeholders and has committed to a collaborative process. Also importantly, plans have progressed for the new I-95 cap park, construction has commenced on the new residential tower “Dock Street” just north of the plaza, and DRWC has selected the Durst Organization for developments on Penn’s Landing. We learned that the decades-long “I-95 Revive” project will require replacement of the I-95 cap at Foglietta Plaza in approximately 20 years.

Most recently, in fall 2021, SHCA engaged renowned landscape architects OLIN Studios in a “highest and best use” study for the park. The study encompassed an analysis of the existing park state and over 30 stakeholder meetings. Many of you participated in the study by attending the three community meetings already held, or have seen the report and final presentation, which are available via our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages.

*continued on page 5*

## Allan Domb Speaks



Allan Domb

On Wednesday, May 25, SHCA will host its General Membership Meeting via Zoom. Our speaker will be City Council at Large member Allan Domb, owner of Allan Domb Real Estate. He will address Philadelphia economics, quality of life issues, upcoming elections, and how new City Council initiatives will affect Society Hill. His remarks will be followed by an open question and answer forum.

Wednesday,  
May  
**25**

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

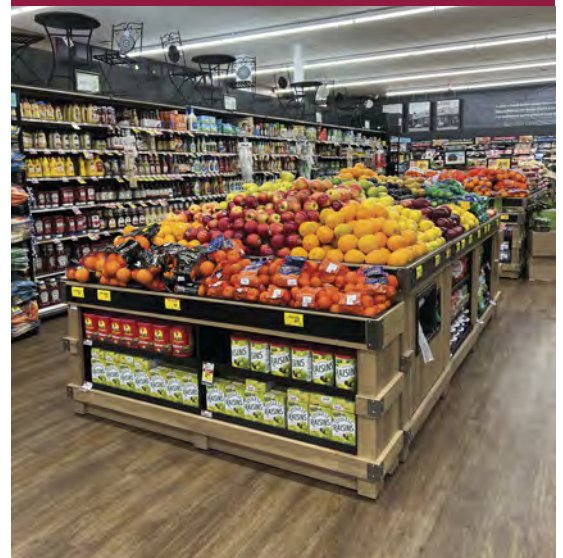
Society Hill Civic Association Meeting  
Wednesday, May 25, 2022

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

**Speaker: City Council Member Allan Domb**

**Topic: Remarks followed by Q&A**

### ACME GRAND OPENING



**A grand re-opening for the ACME at 309 S. 5th Street was held on Friday, April 15. Total renovation and design have made this store look welcoming, spacious, and brand new.**

photo by Martha Levine

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SOCIETY HILL

# Reporter

**NUSA  
Award-Winning  
Newsletter  
First Place  
2020**

**Editor in Chief**

Judy Lamirand

**Columnists**

Jane Biberman,  
Claudia Carabelli,  
Al Cavalari, Matt DeJulio,  
Jaime and Mike Fox,  
Martha Levine, Fred Manfred,  
Sandra Rothman,  
Danielle Sandsmark,  
Larry Spector,  
Mary Sturdivant,  
Richard de Wyngaert

**Contributors**

Kristen Brown, Barbara Gelman,  
Bonnie Halda, Andrea Layden,  
Penny Pleasance, Mary Purcell,  
Chris Reynolds

**Graphic Design**

Parallel Design, Inc.  
judy@parallel-design.com

**Press Release Liaison**

c/o Matt DeJulio  
mattdejulio@aol.com

**Advertising Manager**

William Jantsch  
wmjantsch@hotmail.com

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**Society Hill Civic Association**

P. O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA  
19147, Tel. 215-629-1288

**Website**

Find past issues in full color  
at [www.societyhillcivic.org](http://www.societyhillcivic.org).

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

**Submissions**

If you have news that would be of interest to Society Hillers, email the editor, Judy Lamirand, at [judy@parallel-design.com](mailto: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.

## SHCA BOARD OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY LARRY SPECTOR

## SHCA Board Elections Approaching

Long in the making, you can now go to our new website (<https://societyhillcivic.org>) to learn about what's happening in our neighborhood. It will be the vehicle for casting votes in our upcoming annual election and is the place to buy tickets to the upcoming Washington Square Affair to be held on May 18.

We are thrilled to finally look forward to the Affair as the culmination of a tremendous effort by producers Fred Manfred and Joan Rollins Tropp. They have endured repeated pandemic-related stops and starts, while working to keep participating restaurants on board. As it has been in past years, the Affair will be a sparkling evening for the gathering of our community in support of our glorious Washington Square.

Please read Mary Purcell's fine article on page 1 describing our efforts to date toward the possible rejuvenation of Foglietta Plaza. Many of you participated in community meetings on the subject. If the prospect is to be pursued either through SHCA or a new entity created exclusively for that purpose, it will create an opportunity to meet an exciting challenge. Stay tuned.

I have made it a point not to use this space for commenting on crime in Philadelphia that does not spare our neighborhood. You need not read here what you can learn about in other ways, so I will only remind you that one of those ways is to attend monthly meetings held by leadership for the Sixth Police District and to refer to its website.

This is my last President's Message as I approach the end of my third and final year as president of SHCA. The remark I heard most often when I began in the position was something like: "Whatever possibly possessed you to do that? You must be a glutton for punishment."

In truth there *has* been some punishment. I have fielded criticism from SHCA members on various issues; and on occasion I have had to reckon with disagreements among Board members on controversial subjects.

But the rewards have far outweighed the punishment. Most importantly, I have a much better grasp of how Philadelphia government functions, as a result of frequent communication with members of City Council and Mayor Jim Kenney's administration. I have been enriched by the smiles and upbeat attitudes of individuals and families in our community and among our leadership.

As we look ahead to maintaining the quality of life in Society Hill and improving conditions generally for everyone in Philadelphia, I am energized by this experience to stay involved in making Philadelphia a better place to live. I have grandchildren here who have a great stake in the future of this city and who deserve my continuing efforts.

And yours. Another remark that came too often to my attention is that some people are not interested in participating on our Board or in the activities of SHCA because it is led by "the same old people" and "I don't feel that I my input would be valued." Nonsense. First, the work of SHCA is largely accomplished by its committees. Virtually all of the committees are open to any member of SHCA whether or not they are board members. Check out our website to learn about their work and have your voice heard.

Second, to the extent that the "same old people" are on the SHCA board, it is because they are the ones who have continually stepped up and have been hands-on in doing everything possible to keep our neighborhood clean, to promote its safety and to generally serve the SHCA mission. We have an election of officers and directors in the next two weeks. We have new candidates who obviously do not heed the naysayers. With the fresh participation of those elected and the continued great work of the "same old people" chosen to remain on our board, we will continue to serve this amazing neighborhood.

See you around the campus.

**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.



**Larry Spector**

*This is my last President's Message as I approach the end of my third and final year as SHCA's president.*

### Annual Board Elections

The annual election of SHCA Board Officers and Directors will take place in the month of May. Election information and voting procedures will be communicated to the general membership via weekly email blasts. The SHCA Board Membership Slate will be presented via email on May 17th. Ballots and the voting process will be posted at <https://societyhillcivic.org>, the SHCA website's home page.

If you are a current member, **PLEASE VOTE!**

# McFarland's Value Proposition

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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.

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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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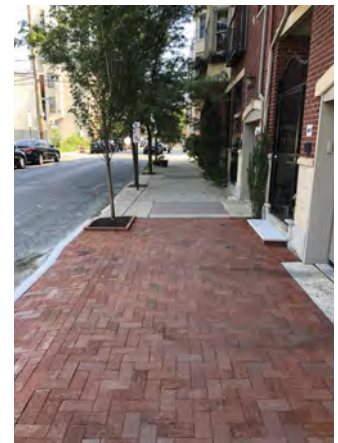
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## Fix Your Bricks

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



**FOGLIETTA PLAZA UPDATE**

*continued from page 1*

**Foglietta Plaza Study Findings**

**Key Report Takeaways**

- Current state: While the memorials are well-maintained and many trees and plants are healthy, repairs and better activation are needed.
- More greenscape, less hardscape is desired. Add lawns and gardens and not stone slabs.
- Better surfaces, rails, lighting, signage, accessibility, and highway sound mitigation are needed.
- Quiet, minimally-programmed space is desired.
- New memorials. While the existing memorials are revered, new memorials are a key sticking point. However, perspectives show finding common ground is possible by combining meaningful community input with the desire for greenscape.
- Recognition of “long temporary.” The highway cap is to be replaced around 2045, too long for the park to remain as is, but not long enough for the highest level of investment.
- Stakeholders credit the process, accept the need to collaborate, and share many common goals.

**Remaining Questions**

- Who will manage the design and construction of a revived park? A government or non-profit entity?
- Who will fund a revived park? State grants possible for accessible spaces and multi-modal transportation projects? Charitable foundation? Funding must provide for ongoing maintenance.
- New memorials or public art: Is the park to include these? If so, the city’s process requires community engagement early on and throughout, Art Commission approval, and confirmed construction and maintenance funding.

**What’s Next?**

We’re continuing dialogue with our elected officials and other stakeholders. In an initiative such as this, the next step would be to proceed to “concept design” where the designs are fully formed through continued engagement, and then “schematic design” where the actual plantings and materials are selected and cost estimates and fundraising materials are produced. At its April meeting the SHCA board decided that we should indeed engage in the design project and raise funds to pay for it. Tax-deductible donations will be accepted by our 501(c)(3) non-profit, Society Hill Preservation Foundation, for this purpose. **If you would like to contribute, stay tuned for more information via upcoming e-mail blasts.**

In the meantime, just as the *Reporter* deadline was looming, we have had contact with a group interested in siting a memorial at Foglietta Plaza. The memorial would recognize the sacrifice of 300 Pennsylvanians who died while serving our country in Iraq and Afghanistan. They have been working on designs with their selected architect, but we understand they are not married to a design or site on the plaza, and they have reviewed our report and accept its findings that any new memorial would require community input. Know that we will continue to keep the neighborhood informed and engaged via our email blasts and social media.

**Reimagining Foglietta Plaza**

While challenges remain to realizing a revitalized Foglietta Plaza, *the possibilities really do exist.* All of the stakeholders are involved, see the opportunity, and seem interested in finding consensus. We’ll keep working on it and ask for your support and continued participation!

**Mary Purcell** is SHCA’s First Vice President and Foglietta Plaza Committee Chair.



*There is cause for optimism that we can realize a reimagined Foglietta Plaza, following on the constructive process OLIN has facilitated and the spirit of shared interest and collaboration exhibited by the stakeholders.*

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## IT'S IN THE BAG

## The New SHCA Tote Bags Are Here!

Plastic bags are out, tote bags are in. With one-time-use plastic bags banned in Philadelphia's stores, we all need to be prepared with our own tote bags. What could be nicer than carrying a canvas market bag with our colorful, graphically striking SHCA logo to show your support for our civic association? The design is by our *Reporter* designer and editor, Judy Lamirand.

Purchase your own beautiful SHCA tote bag at \$22 each, and help promote our association.

Washable, sturdy canvas bags hold your groceries and other shopping purchases. They're great for the beach as well.

To make a purchase online, go to our website, <https://.societyhillcivic.org>, and click on "What's Happening" to find the section on the SHCA tote bags.

To buy a bag by phone, call our administrator Matt DeJulio at 215-629-1288.



## TO MARKET, TO MARKET

## Heirloom GIANT Market on Market Street

Our Washington Square neighbor Joan D'Antonio loves to shop, cook, and entertain. She's found a new place to do some of her marketing at 8th & Market Streets. A GIANT Heirloom Market has opened in the former Strawbridge's building at 801 Market Street. It features local produce, a large plant-based food department, a self-serve tap wall with more than 30 selections, a Starbucks, and a Hissho sushi bar.

The historic 1928 building once housed Philadelphia's iconic Strawbridge & Clothier department store. GIANT has restored it and maintained many of its interior design elements including decorative trim, chandelier lighting, signage, and *Il Porcellino*, the bronze wild boar statue based on a famous fountain in Florence, Italy (pictured below).

GIANT Heirloom Market draws inspiration from European grocery stores, with a format and products tailored for urban neighborhoods. "It seems only fitting that our growth and investment in the city this year culminates with this new store in a legendary location that has served Philadelphians

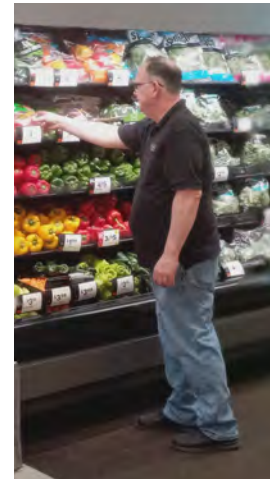
and visitors to our city for decades," said GIANT Company president Nicholas Bertram at the grand opening in December 2021. "This store will reach residents and workers, as well as visitors to Philadelphia's nearby historic sites and museums."

The store features Philadelphia-area food purveyors including Claudio Specialty Foods and Isgro Pastries, as well as the option to grind your own coffee beans, featuring One Village Coffee.

Additional features of the store include:

- a plant-based department as well as gluten-free and organic offerings,
- a gourmet cheese section with pairing recommendations, and
- a food hall featuring Boar's Head Deli.

The store will operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week, and employ approximately 100 full and part-time team members. Store Manager Nick Meyer says he and his team can't wait to see what you think of this store, which has been designed for you!



**Shelves are stocked with plenty of fresh, local produce.**



**Il Porcellino, a long-time Strawbridge's icon, remains. Tradition says touching its nose brings you good luck!**



**The Boar's Head Deli, where you'll find goodies galore, is right next to the boar statue.**

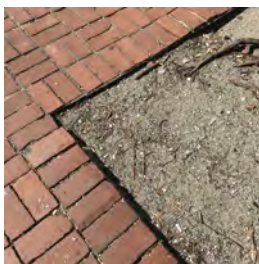
## 'FIX THE BRIX'

BY MARTHA LEVINE

## New \$100 'Fix the Brix' Subsidy Increase



**Make sure the bricks in your sidewalk are level to avoid causing falls and injuries.**



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

How many injuries will it take before we get serious about repairing our sidewalks? There have been numerous reports of residents falling and being injured as a result of unsafe sidewalks.

Currently, the City of Philadelphia has no program for sidewalk repair. It's up to us to make sure our sidewalks are safe. This is the reason SHCA started the "Fix the Brix" program: to encourage property owners to repair bad sidewalks and make them safe.

Noting the urgency of this problem, the SHCA board voted unanimously to expand the "Fix the Brix" subsidy with a **\$100 increase for both members and non-members**. Members will now get 40% of the total invoice up to \$500. Non-members get 40% of the total bill up to \$400.

Don't delay. This is the season to get your houses in order, and that includes your sidewalks. Properties extend to the curb, so your sidewalk is part of your property. Here are the steps to take part in the "Fix the Brix" subsidy program. SHCA will provide a list of masons if needed. Contact [marthalev6@gmail.com](mailto:marthalev6@gmail.com) with questions.

**Get your sidewalk in great shape and save money.**

- Take photos of your problem sidewalk and email them to [marthalev6@gmail.com](mailto: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.

Be a good neighbor and make your sidewalk safe for everyone. A big thank you to all Society Hill owners who have repaired their sidewalks for the benefit of residents and visitors alike.



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Sunday Worship 10:30am



**TREE TENDERS UPDATE**

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

**Get Ready for Spring**

It may be officially spring, but we're still seeing cool days interspersed with pops of beautiful warm weather. While it's still too early for some plantings, you can definitely get a jump on tree care. Society Hill Tree Tenders planted six new saplings in May to help maintain our beautiful green streets.

Here are some steps you can take to keep our existing trees healthy.

**Pruning**

The heat of the summer is not the ideal time to prune. Spring and fall are better options. As trees bloom and leaf out, it's much easier to see where they may have dead branches that need attention. SHCA has raised the subsidies for tree care. You can now recoup up to 50 percent of the cost up to a maximum of \$400 for members and \$300 for non-members. Just provide a copy of the invoice along with proof of payment to collect.

**Planting**

Spring and fall are also the best times to plant new trees. If you didn't take advantage of the Tree Tenders free trees, you can still plant your own. SHCA will reimburse you \$150 for a new tree. To offer the best chance for survival, be sure to follow up with adequate watering and pit care.

Applications for fall 2022 trees, free from the Philadelphia Horticultural Society and planted by Tree Tenders volunteers, are due by the end of May. Contact ccarabelli@comcast.net for details.

**Pit Care**

Now is the perfect time to give your tree's home a "spring cleaning." Remove any weeds or debris. Loosen the surrounding soil, and use licorice root mulch. Spread the mulch three inches deep and three inches away from the trunk.

Our friends the trees will thank you.

List of Contractors



*SHCA's List of Contractors can help you find the quality workmanship your house deserves.*

Spring is a great time to think about home repairs and renovations. SHCA can help by providing an extensive 11-page list of contractors, free to all current 2022 members. All contractors on the list have been recommended by our own Society Hill residents. Included are general contractors, plumbers, electricians, HVAC technicians, painters, window replacement specialists, window washers, interior designers, masons, and roofers, plus an "other services" section including furniture repair, rug cleaning, technology for the home, clock repair, etc.

The List of Contractors is available by email or hard copy. Contact us at marthalev6@gmail.com.



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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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## URBAN EDEN

BY MARY STURDIVANT

## What Kind of Gardener Are You?

The Bradford pear trees have snowed down their magic white petals — no shoveling required. The cherry and magnolia blossoms have announced spring, carpeting the ground in pink, and departed. Your palms itch to get your hands on a spade and dig in the dirt. Before you grab that tray of geraniums you could not resist at the Hill-Physick Spring Plant Sale and head outside, halt! You have been seduced by the yellow and white daffodils and deceived by the colorful and specially developed cold weather pansies. It is not safe. Wait until May 15, the last date where night frost might harm your flowers. Then the fun can begin.

Last issue, we imagined what our streetscape might look like, from tree pits, hanging baskets, and containers to window boxes. Now we can add May baskets on the doors. But in these few days before the actual planting can begin, you should do an exercise in introspection to figure out what kind of gardener you are. Think of it as a therapy session with your outdoor space. What do you want from this relationship? Be honest.

**Are you a perfectionist?** I was once asked that question and, of course, demurred. “No, nothing I ever do is perfect!” The follow up was, “Do you think it should be?” “Of course!” Well, apparently even thinking something should be perfect puts you in the category of perfectionist. Gardening might break you of this expectation. It’s a process, so even a project that seems to have an end will go on and on. Remember the story of the Zen master, whose students were laboring away in the garden? They raked, mowed, watered, and edged, but when they sought the master’s approval, he shook his head in disappointment. They went back to the path and made sure each pebble was the same shape and color within the edging. Still the Zen master did not approve. In desperation, the students brought out rulers and magnifying glasses to make sure every blade of grass was the same height. Sadly, the master did not approve. At their wits’ ends, the students begged to know, “What can we do?” The master went over to a blooming cherry tree and gently shook it so a few petals fell down on the lawn. He turned to his students and said, “Now it is perfect.” Another example of this aesthetic is pointed out by the guides at the Shofuso Japanese House and Garden in Fairmount Park. A naturally cracked beam was left in place rather than covered up. The lesson? Nature’s flaws are perfect, while human perfection is flawed. Never challenge nature’s perfection.

**Are you a putterer?**

You work in the garden because no one bothers you. You have no plan and will never be done. I remember Mr. Z, whose wife did not approve of drinking and would not allow alcohol in the house. He had a refrigerator stocked with beer in his shed.

As a gardener, I like to maintain a judgment-free zone. Later in the year, I will share his beer recipe to kill slugs. The man’s zinnias were magnificent. Alexa, a Washington Square bed mentor, likes to plug in her earbuds and prune. It is her “me time.” Joanna finds the repetitive motion of weeding a major de-stresser. Only the most tenuous threads connect the means to the ends.

**Are you an aspirational gardener?**

Like Vita Sackville-West, do you imagine friends flocking to your garden for cocktails, nibbles, and fascinating conversation in the foreground of the spectacular backdrop you created? Or just a retreat for your morning croissant, fresh juice, and café? You need a vision and a plan.

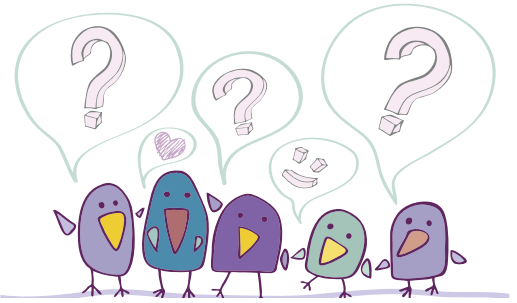
**Are you a practical gardener?**

You are going to grow herbs and vegetables, maybe even fruits for your table. This requires commitment. If you are not willing to learn how to save seeds for next year and propagate them yourself, you might end up with the most expensive salad in Society Hill. Delicious, but Barclay Prime prices. You may identify with the mischievous Peter Rabbit, but the first rabbit, mouse, or vole who dines alfresco on your carrots might transform you into Mr. MacGregor.

Another thought occurred to me as I strolled through Reading Terminal Market. In the flower stall, a glass vase displayed stems of an orange local plant that was very dramatic. It was also about \$7 for a single stalk. My father always insisted no money tree was growing in our backyard, but that comes close. Gardening for profit!

For those without a garden, volunteer opportunities in Washington Square will be listed online.

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.”

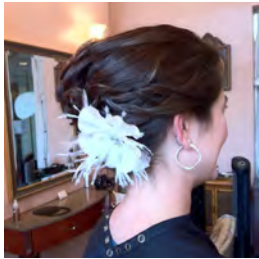


*Plotter,  
Planter,  
Waterer,  
Rake?*



**BUSINESS PERKS**

BY ANDREA LAYDEN

**Budget Bonuses for Card-Carrying Members**

**M's on the Square is one of several local businesses offering discounts to SHCA members.**

**H**ave you renewed your SHCA membership? Are you still on the fence about joining? Well, now is the time! Our **Business Perks** program provides discounts to current SHCA members.

Recently an SHCA member needed to refresh her home. She was not prepared to do a large renovation and didn't have the time or the budget to do something grand. She called Yex Painting, and within a few days, spring had sprung. The painting of her home was a beautiful upgrade, and a five percent discount put it completely within her means. Another member was looking to have her daughter's hair done for prom. She made an appointment with M's on the Square.

The results were stunning, and the 10 percent discount was a bonus for her budget.

You deserve some added perks in your life. Being part of SHCA puts those perks right in your hands. Get discounts from Liberty Tree & Landscape, ServPro of Society Hill, Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, M's on the Square Salon, Sam Shaw's Tretery, Show of Hands/Adornamenti, and Yex Painting. Find perk details at <https://societyhillcivic.org>. While you are at it, check out all the great reasons to be an SHCA member. You won't regret it!

**Andrea Layden** is an active SHCA board member.

**DOING GOOD IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD**

BY MARTHA LEVINE

**Let There Be Lights**

*A shout out to our SHCA Block Coordinators*



**Franklin lights need our attention. See a bulb out or blinking? Report by phone to 311 or online at [www.phila.gov/departments/philly311/](http://www.phila.gov/departments/philly311/).**

**A** shout out to our 58 SHCA Block Coordinators, many of whom helped with a neighborhood-wide survey of our 500 Franklin lights this past February.

After receiving many notifications from residents that some Franklin lights were out, we asked the block coordinators to survey their own, as well as other blocks and to report the lights that were not working or blinking off and on. In some cases, neighbors had already contacted 311, but most problems had not been resolved.

The survey revealed that close to 30 Franklin lights were out. The next step was for SHCA to compile the survey data and forward it to the Street Lighting Department. The chief lighting engineer, with whom we have a connection, promised the department would prioritize us since so many lights were out. We'll be watching.

We are fortunate to have a block coordinator system in place. These neighbors keep an eye out and report things like graffiti, dangerous potholes, and more. One block coordinator reported that many of her block's front door lights were not turned on after dark. The result: we put a reminder to homeowners in our weekly e-blast to see that the lights are on from dusk to dawn. Block coordinators are the eyes and ears of the neighborhood!

**Block Coordinators Needed.**

We are still looking for block coordinators for these blocks: 100 Pine, 300 Pine, 600 Pine, 300 Lombard, 400 S. 7th, 300 S. 4th, 500 Lombard south side. If you live on one of these blocks and are interested, contact [marthalev6@gmail.com](mailto:marthalev6@gmail.com).

**Martha Levine** is a vice president of SHCA.

**TAI CHI IN THE SQUARE**

A free "Community Tai Chi" group meets every Sunday at 10 a.m. in Washington Square, or in the Atrium in the Curtis/Lyndon building at 6th & Walnut in inclement weather. **Community Tai Chi is free and open to all.** Anyone can jump right in the warm-up portion of the session, observe and follow along. Learn more about tai chi in an article written by group leader Irene Reinke that appeared on page 19 of *On the House*, the spring issue of the Hopkinson House newsletter, at <https://tinyurl.com/ywe2m9tt>. If you have questions about Community Tai Chi, you can contact Irene at [ireinke56@gmail.com](mailto:ireinke56@gmail.com) or go to [www.PhillyIrene.com](http://www.PhillyIrene.com).



**Irene Reinke leading tai chi in Washington Square.**

*Laurie Phillips*  
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## KEEPING POSTED

BY AL CAVALARI

## A Roof With a View

An utterly mundane postcard can be a tremendous find. The scene pictured here doesn't show much, and modern views of big cities are so common they are usually relegated to a dealer's "quarter box." However, this card was a thrilling gift from a friend, and is one of my collection's gems. Firstly, any card actually from our neighborhood is a treat, because there are so few of them. Finding anything not seen before is rare. Secondly, the image is from the cover of Bell Telephone Company's 1966 "telephone book." Young people will want to look up that pair of words. Thirdly, it documents the skyline of 56 years ago, which looks very different today. Fourthly, it was photographed from Hopkinson House.

A small booklet, "Hopkinson House, Living Monument to History" was published by the building in 1998 on the occasion of its 35th anniversary. I was surprised to learn that in the 1960s, it was not a given that high-rise apartment living could work. I thought that was what cities were all about, but the project was described as a risky experiment and a "pioneering venture." What exactly could be so questionable about whether people would want to live in a beautiful building in a beautiful and historic neighborhood? Answer: Society Hill was a different neighborhood back then.

We learn that "Hopkinson House was an integral part of the progressive plan" that began in 1949, when Edmund Bacon, father of actor Kevin Bacon, became the head of Philadelphia's Planning Commission. Society Hill and Washington Square were "priority targets" for urban renewal. The neighborhood is said to have "declined in a pattern common to many neighborhoods in many American cities... Most of Society Hill was deteriorating badly." Historic houses were in jeopardy. Bacon and Mayor Richardson Dilworth, who built a townhouse on Washington Square (now slated to be replaced by a residential tower), believed that the area could be reclaimed with a plan to attract people to a safe urban life. Washington Square was a key to the plans, and Hopkinson



**Postcard picturing Philadelphia's skyline in 1966 as seen from the roof of Hopkinson House.**

House would be a "keystone." They would bring apartment living to Washington Square.

First, someone would have to believe in the plan enough to fund it. A group called Major Realty Corporation stepped forward as the developer. The First Pennsylvania Bank, founded in 1782, financed the plan, along with various insurance companies, contractors, and the Federal Housing Administration. Construction began in 1959, and the first occupants moved into the unfinished building in 1962. By mid-1963, all 33 floors and 536 apartments were complete. In 1980, those were converted to condominiums.

German immigrant Oskar Stonorov was the architect, and his award-winning design with its striking pattern of balconies is considered groundbreaking. Edmund Bacon wrote that Stonorov "combined art and building in a marvelous way." The lobby and rear plaza are adorned with sculptures, a water feature, and a very large mural. The penthouse floor has a large solarium community room with sweeping views, a library, an outdoor sun deck, and a rooftop swimming pool. It was one of Philadelphia's first buildings with an incorporated garage that allows immediate access to the building.

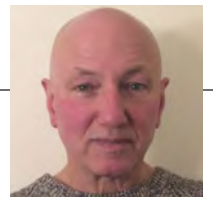
The building's namesake is Francis Hopkinson, a musician, composer, lawyer, judge, and holder of numerous public offices at both state and federal levels.



**The same view today.** Photo by Lynn Miller.

He represented New Jersey in the Second Continental Congress, where he achieved eternal fame as one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. He is also widely recognized as having designed the American flag while serving on the Navy Board. Hopkinson is buried in Christ Church Burial Ground.

The building is placed directly on the south side of Washington Square Park, taking advantage of founder William Penn's original plan for Philadelphia to be a "greene countrie towne." Wouldn't he smile if he could see everyone enjoying the park in the nice weather? Penn placed the square and three others, now named Rittenhouse, Logan, and Franklin, at each corner of the grid layout he conceived for the city. Historic Washington Square is now part of Independence National Historical Park. It's not every homeowner who can say their front lawn is maintained and patrolled by National Park Service rangers!

**Al Cavalari**

is a certified member of the Association of Philadelphia Tour Guides. Write to Al at [flagguys@aol.com](mailto:flagguys@aol.com).



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## WASHINGTON SQUARE

BY PENNY PLEASANCE

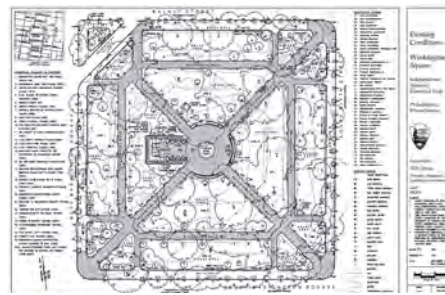
## Washington Square Receives Arboretum Designation

Over the nearly two-and-a-half centuries since Washington Square was first laid out as one of Philadelphia's five original squares by William Penn in 1682, there have been myriad changes and improvements to the design and layout of the square. One of the constants, however, has been its trees. The first ornamental trees were planted in Washington Square in 1794. Trees have always been an intentional and integral part of its landscape.

Of course, trees have their own stories, and not all of them have survived. Through historical records, we know that in 1817, there were some 200 trees in Washington Square, of which it was reported that 62 were dead. A list of suitable trees to be planted in the square was subsequently provided by prominent Philadelphian George Vaux and purchased from Bartram's Garden. The purchase included 12 trees, some of which are undoubtedly still standing in Washington Square, like the giant sweetgum tree located in the northernmost flower bed along west Washington Square.

Today, Washington Square boasts 288 trees and 52 varieties within its 6.3 acres. Some of the varieties are native while many are not, reflecting the fashion to collect more exotic ornamentals in centuries past. As a whole, however, they represent the rich historical significance of the square while also providing environmental and aesthetic features.

Recognizing the tree collection as a laudable feature of Washington Square, Sherley Young, co-chair of the Washington Square Committee, began the process of registering the square as an internationally accredited arboretum through



Record of Washington Square's 288 trees



Washington Square co-chair Sherley Young

ArbNet, a global network of tree-focused professionals who oversee the accreditation of arboreta and maintain a global registry through the Morton Arboretum near Chicago.

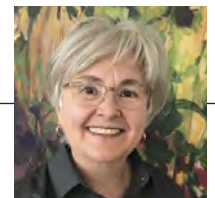
Ms. Young began the application process to meet Level I accreditation in 2018, and in early 2022, Washington Square officially became a Level I accredited arboretum. Fittingly, on Arbor Day this year, Washington Square Committee co-chairs, Sherley Young and Fred Manfred presented Cindy McCleod, Superintendent of Independence National Historic Park, with the certificate issued by ArbNet citing Washington Square as having attained Level I accreditation.

What this designation means is that Washington Square has been recognized as a tree-focused garden meeting certain

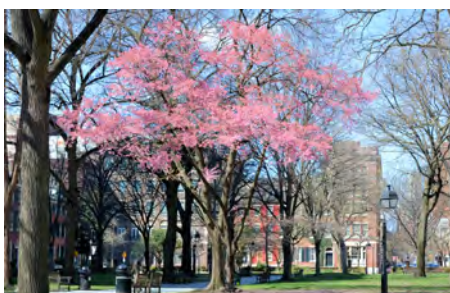
professional and conservation standards. As part of the application process, all the trees in Washington Square have been labeled, and a yearly public educational program about the trees will be a permanent focus of the Washington Square Committee. But why stop at Level I accreditation? Sherley Young and Fred Manfred are gearing up to apply for Level II, which will require a stated tree collection policy and enhanced public educational programming.

Washington Square has a rich history. From its uses as a potter's field, burial ground for soldiers of the American Revolutionary War, and gathering place for free and enslaved African Americans in Colonial times to the installation of the central fountain and the Memorial to the Unknown Revolutionary Soldier in the 20th century, Washington Square has played an important role in Philadelphia and our nation's history. It is the reason Washington Square is included in the National Register of Historic Places.

Now in 2022, Washington Square has received a new designation thanks to the hard work and vision of Sherley Young and the Washington Square Committee. On Arbor Day, April 29, 2022, Washington Square publicly announced its designation as an internationally accredited arboretum. It's an important achievement and one that enhances the status of our beloved square that celebrates what our trees do for us every day.



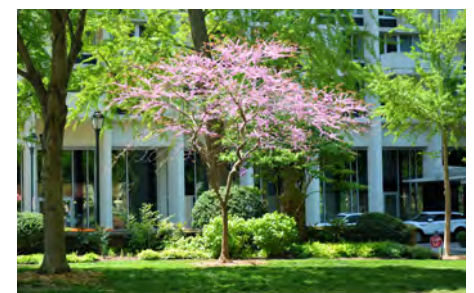
**Penny Pleasance** is one of the Potting Shed Cabinet's leaders and a plant specialist.



Okame Cherry



Redbud



Pink Dogwood

## OUT AND ABOUT

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HALDA

## Good Doorways Make Good Neighbors

From a simple four-pane transom to a fanlight in a pedimented frontispiece, Society Hill contains a wonderful variety of doorway styles. Keep your eyes open as you stroll the neighborhood and see for yourself.



OUT AND ABOUT

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HALDA

# Faces Our Homes Present to the Public

Does the entrance to your house provide a peek into your personality? A preview of your period interior decorating? What does your doorway say about you?



*Front door lights turned on from dusk to dawn help make your home and block brighter and safer!*



## WELCOME GIFT BAGS

BY MARTHA LEVINE

## New to the Neighborhood?

New first-time owners in Society Hill are welcomed to the neighborhood with our SHCA Welcome Gift Bag. Get in touch with us if you are new and wish to receive one. Each gift bag contains one bottle of wine, one bag of coffee, a pastry treat, plus many gift cards for local restaurants, stores,

services and museums, and includes important neighborhood information. The presentation is made by appointment and in a safe manner. Email [marthalev6@gmail.com](mailto:marthalev6@gmail.com) for an appointment.



**Martha Levine** is a vice president of SHCA.

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**Frieda Café**, 320 Walnut Street  
**Gnocchi** (Italian), 613 E. Passyunk Avenue  
**High Street Phila.** (take-out), 101 S. 9th Street  
**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  
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**Physick House & Powel House** (museums) 321 S. 4th Street  
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PHOTOS BY MARTHA LEVINE

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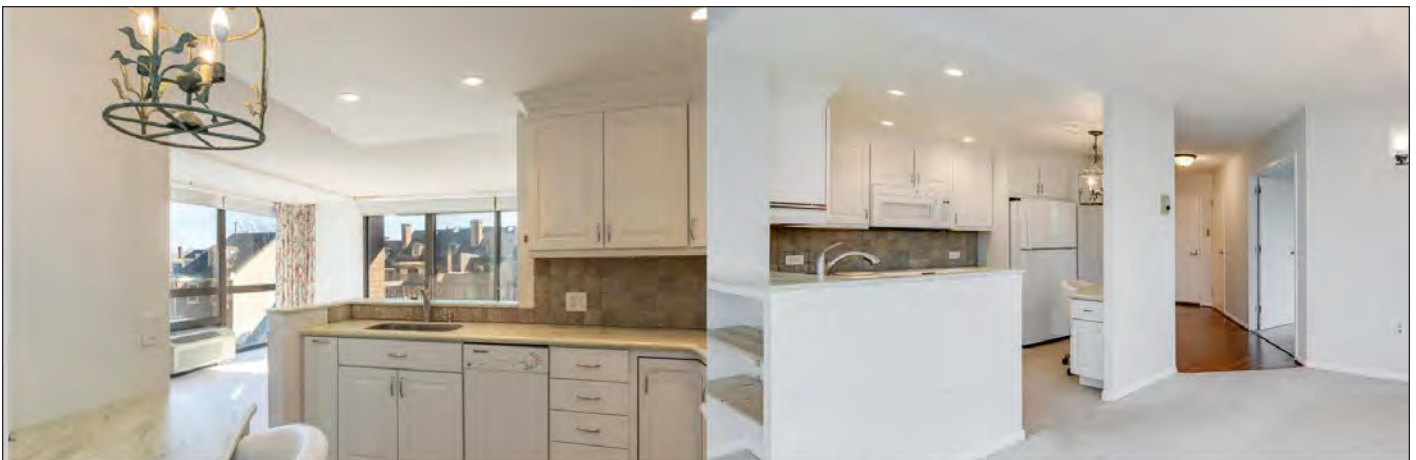
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## GENERAL GEORGE GROWS GREENER

BY CHRIS REYNOLDS

## More Gardening at McCall School

Through a slowly warming spring season, the gardening program at General George McCall School, Society Hill's K-8 public school, has grown steadily, promising a bountiful harvest for this season and in the future.

The 2021 refurbishment of the school's raised-bed gardens and the addition of picnic tables near the 7th Street entrance make it an appealing place for students to hang out and check in on what's growing. Early April planting of cabbage, greens, spring onions, lettuce, and herbs will yield crops for community distribution this spring. In future years, the plan is for teachers to incorporate garden components, as well as tending a year-round green space, into curriculum planning.

Mike Fox, co-chair of the McCall Garden Committee, says, "Ultimately, the main goal is to create a sustained community supported garden we can all be proud of." Volunteers on the garden committee in-

clude students and their parents, community members, and school teachers.

Already, the group has secured a \$10,000 grant from the Goldman Sachs Philanthropy Fund and has been named by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society as a City Harvest site. That support, along with donations from individuals and businesses, helps fund veggie acquisition, tool storage, and maybe, down the road, a greenhouse to continue the growing season and curriculum all year long.

Volunteers are welcome to share their skills as plant tenders now through harvest time in the summer. Repair, maintenance, and construction skills are also in demand. Coming events include garden planting in the raised beds on the weekend of May 7. For more information, contact Mike Fox at [fox\\_mike@hotmail.com](mailto:fox_mike@hotmail.com).

**Chris Reynolds** works as a volunteer gardener at McCall School.



In early April, veteran and novice gardeners worked together to plant vegetable seedlings in McCall's raised bed garden.


## SummerSessions

June 27 - August 19



Register online at [friends-select.org/summersessions](https://friends-select.org/summersessions)

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## ON OUR SHELF

BY RICHARD DE WYNGAERT

## A Meditation on the Meaning of Life

Spiritual yet secular, moving yet disturbing, abstract yet grounded, Sheila Heti's latest novel, *Pure Color*, is a purely raw, philosophical meditation on the meaning of life. Reality shifts into the horizon of the surreal as the lines between life and death are erased. A woman becomes a leaf, the dead inhabit the living, and God sets our world on fire. Heti moves beyond the conventions of fiction to create a deeply disorienting book with the likes of a solar system.

The book begins with God contemplating the world he had built. Humans are flawed and complicated, which is why he is heating up the "first draft" of our world to create room for the better, more unctonal second draft. To gather insight into what went wrong, God categorizes human behavior into three separate viewpoints: birds, fish, and bears. A person born of a bird loves beauty and harmony. A person born of a fish egg advocates for the collective good, whereas people born of the bear species protect a few selected loved ones. The book boldly asks right from the start, *who* are we?

Heti introduces her three primary characters with these three theoretical planes of existence. Mira is born of a bird egg, her father is born of a bear, and Annie, Mira's love, is born of a fish.

Heti's characters are deceptively simple and vastly multi-dimensional beings. Mira is no exception. Being birdlike, Mira cherishes art because, as Heti writes, art elicits the notion that "human endeavor has wings." So naturally, Mira appreciates the refined aestheticism of the expensive lamp shop she works for. Each night, Mira turns off the lamps until she sits in a dark, peopleless space, a room that was once glowing now cast in shadow. She, like most birds, prefers the company of beautiful objects to people. Unlit lamps provide a certain solitude so quiet "she could hear herself living."

Annie disrupts Mira's desire for isolation, and the two experience a magnetic connection that can only be described as otherworldly. Their paths intersect

while Mira studies art criticism at a prestigious university, but her focus shifts to Annie as the early stirrings of a queer flirtation escalate.

They are fundamentally different. Mira seeks a life of individualism, while Annie, being a fish, cherishes community. Still, Mira's chest is described as a portal opening for Annie, "like her rib cage was being pried apart, so that worker hands could get at her heart." Heti profoundly sums up the pain of vulnerability: opening yourself up at the risk of breaking yourself apart. Mira is a prophetic catalyst for Heti's musings on art and attraction as if to say art and sorrow and love all originate from the deepest, most intangible part of ourselves.

The novel evolves into a Socratic seminar about life as Mira watches her father die. Being of a bear egg, her father once promised Mira he would give her the most authentic gesture of love, pure color. When he died, Mira finally found pure color: a deathbed in a maroon room wallpapered with candlelight and absence. Heti describes the delirium of grief with a refreshing poetic agency, a level of age-old wisdom not unlike Khalil Gibran's *The Prophet*.

Bereavement is being trapped alone in a room, it's reliving memories, it's the foundation for art. How do we reconcile with life's darkest riddle? Heti postulates we can turn to mysticism, nihilism, or existentialism, or simply, we can find answers by listening to the goodness within ourselves because that goodness, as the novel argues, is eternal. The metaphysical goodness of Mira's father penetrates her in an extremely disturbing, unnecessarily intimate transaction. It is from his body she was born, and it is in her body his spirit lives on.

Heti sketches a contemporary depiction of grief. God notes to eliminate the feeling of suffering for the second draft. To do so, he decides, "there would be no fathers." Desperate to hold onto any memory of her father, Mira revisits their favorite spot, a shaded area near the

water. Mira seeks "inner peace," but instead she turns into a leaf. Interestingly, her father's spirit transforms with her, and he reincarnates into the same leaf. Together, they remain distant observers of the past, trapped and immobilized, being shaken only by the wind.

It is easy to live in the continuum of the past when the present is heartbreakingly bleak. But one day, Annie sits beneath the tree. Aching to be near Annie, Mira can decide to either stay a leaf or become a human, or in other words, she can decide to live in the past or the present.

This novel offers no concrete answers for why life pans out the way it does. Heti only asks more questions. Somehow, humankind's dark curiosity for the unknown allows us to feel more connected to the inexplicable. Do the stars predetermine our fate? Is there hope for a better tomorrow, a second draft of existence, when all seems meaningless? *Pure Color* overflows with poetic images discussing the importance of beauty, harmony, the aesthetic of trees, and the mystery of the sky. Each page feels metaphysical but grounded in the collective questions we regularly ask ourselves. *Pure Color* is a cosmic parable that contemplates all things abstract, all things real or imagined, all things born from art.

**Our Beach Read Picks:**

Described as this summer's "ideal beach read" by *Cosmopolitan*, Jennifer Weiner's novel, *That Summer*, is delightful, riveting, and the perfect companion for relaxing on the shore.

*New York Times* bestseller Emma Straub releases her much-anticipated novel, *This Time Tomorrow*. Nostalgic, heartfelt, and entirely gripping, the novel's main character, Alice, time travels to the past in order to better understand the tragedy of her present.

**Richard De Wyngaert** is the proprietor of Society Hill's only local, independently owned bookstore, Head House Books. Staff member **Kristen Brown** is the writer of this article.

# Selling Society Hill Towers Condominiums for 40 Years

## One Bedroom with See-Forever City Views

Bright and cheerful one bedroom on a high floor with sprawling city views and a mix of carpet and parquet wood floors throughout.  
**712 sf | Offered for \$275,000**



## Sun Soaked One Bedroom

One bedroom with a large kitchen, generous closet space, floor-to-ceiling windows in both the living room and bedroom and tree-top city views to the west.  
**700 sf | Offered for \$249,900**



## Beautiful Two Bedroom

Spacious two bedroom with unobstructed city views to the north and west through floor-to-ceiling windows, as well as an updated kitchen and bath.  
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## Corner One Bedroom

Corner one bedroom featuring modern kitchen, updated full bathroom, floor-to-ceiling windows, and more than enough space for living and dining.  
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## OUR CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

## Dogs Can Yodel, Too

**SER•EN•DIP•I•TY:** “the occurrence or development of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way.” Humans love to imagine they have control over their lives... although COVID-19 may have put a dent in that theory. In reality, much of what we experience, who we meet, interests we develop, and employment we find, is just serendipity — right place, right time, and being open to what transpires.

Jacqueline Shultz was fresh out of college and living in University City when she met a vet tech on the street with a tiny puppy. The dog had been burned and abandoned in a box. Jacqueline’s first thought was, “I wish I could take him.” Turns out the puppy needed a home, and so she took him in. Once he recovered, Dante joined Jacqueline and subsequently, her husband, John. Dante lived a long and happy 18 years. Thus began Jacqueline’s commitment to animal rescue.

Dante’s successor, Dempsey, joined the family by way of **Morris Animal Refuge**, our neighborhood shelter on Lombard Street. Dempsey was a sweet mixed breed who Jacqueline and John sadly lost last year at the ripe old age of 16. If you’ve never had a dog, it may be difficult to appreciate that saying goodbye to your pup is almost like losing a family member. It can take time before you’re ready to move on.

By June 2021, Jacqueline and John felt ready to welcome another dog. The family was pre-approved for adoption through PAWS (Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society) and so they started their search. PAWS saved 2,300 pets last year. A medium-size mixed breed, about a year old, had been found by a good Samaritan and turned into ACCT Philly (Animal Care & Control Team). Luckily, the pup was pulled by PAWS and placed with a foster mom. Shelters can be a very stressful environment for dogs. They do much better when placed in a home. The couple met up with the pup and her foster mom. It looked like a good match, so Stardust (an homage to David Bowie) became the newest member of their family.

With her short tan/auburn coat, perky pointed ears, and white muzzle and paws, they suspected she was a typical “Philly Pocket Pittie,” one of the many small pit mixes that abound in our city. To their surprise, in walks around the neighborhood several people asked if Stardust was a Basenji. Known as “Africa’s barkless dog,” Basenjies, due to their unusually shaped larynxes, make a sound

likened to something between a chortle and a yodel (search for the audio to fully appreciate). Indeed, Stardust doesn’t bark. Instead, she yodels when she’s hungry and when she’s happy. She also sits charmingly with her front paws crossed. The breed, a variety of hunting dog, originated in central Africa and is described as a “compact, sweet-faced hunter of intelligence and poise.” They groom themselves like cats and have no “doggy smell.” I can’t attest to Stardust’s hunting skills, but when we met up in St. Peter’s churchyard, she was sweet and friendly with me and very eager to interact with passing dogs.



Jacqueline Shultz and Stardust

Every shelter dog adopted saves two lives, both the adopted dog and the dog moving into the vacated kennel. The Philadelphia area is home to many animal rescue groups, some of which develop and support reciprocal relationships between animals and humans. **Hand2Paw** provides paid internships in animal care to youth experiencing homelessness or aging out of foster care. **New Leash on Life** places shelter dogs with prison inmates. The inmates train the dogs, making the dogs more adoptable, while the inmates learn marketable skills. **City of Elderly Love** specifically places older pets with adoptees. **ACCT, PAWS**, and the **PSPCA** (Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) are the area’s larger shelters with lots of adoptable dogs and cats. Smaller rescues abound, and fostering is also a great option.

Jacqueline, John, and Stardust are big supporters of animal rescue. As they look towards retirement, they’re thinking about where to direct their energies in this area. No doubt they’ll make a wonderful contribution wherever that is.

**Claudia Carabelli** is a Southwest Quadrant Director for SHCA.



*PAWS saved the lives of 2,300 pets last year.*



604 S. Washington Square

**Bright and Sunny One Bedroom**

One Bedroom, one bath on a high floor featuring a private balcony, generous living/dining room perfect for entertaining, and kitchen with excellent cabinet space.  
**600 sf | Offered for \$249,900**



**Light-Filled Two Bedroom**

Two bedroom, one and a half bath offering incredible natural light, an open layout, panoramic city views, parquet wood floors, and updates to the kitchen and bathrooms.  
**1,200 sf | Offered for \$459,900**



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One bedroom, one bath with balcony and garden views; the home has parquet wood floors, a galley kitchen and great natural light.  
**778 sf | Offered for \$249,900**



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## HAPPENINGS AT MCCALL SCHOOL

BY DANIELLE SANDSMARK

## ‘Coach D’ Trains Students in Lifelong Skills

The General George A. McCall School, located at 325 S. 7th Street, is a fixture in Society Hill, serving students, and their families, from kindergarten to 8th grade. After conducting classes virtually for over 12 months due to the pandemic, the School District of Philadelphia returned to operating fully in-person since September 2021.

As has been reported nationally, McCall students have felt the stress as they shifted back to in-person learning while still actively navigating the COVID-19 pandemic. Fortunately, the school has been able to lean on the support of “Coach D” to help students excel despite the disruptions of the pandemic.

Demetrius McGhee, lovingly known as Coach D to McCall students and families, came to work at McCall in 2019 through EducationWorks, a nonprofit organization that provides enrichment support for Philadelphia students. At McCall, the EducationWorks program has been the backbone of a school-wide effort to promote social-emotional learning, a process aimed at developing students’ skills, attitudes, and behaviors to make successful life choices in the classroom, at home, and in their communities. The program provides support to all children in grades K-8, primarily through organized, socialized recess and game activities done in individual classes.



**Demetrius “Coach D” McGhee with some of his McCall students on the playground.**

Coach D engages children in structured recess activities which promote team and community building, conflict resolution, and leadership skills by encouraging cooperative play rather than “schoolyard chaos.” Coach D also leads each class in biweekly organized game time, again promoting team building and cooperative play. He joins classroom morning meetings too, and assists with one-on-one support for students in need of individualized attention.

The EducationWorks program led by Coach D is central to McCall’s positive

school climate and anti-bullying initiatives. More broadly, this programming helps students build the lifelong skills of empathy, self-awareness, and responsible decision-making needed to succeed in every stage of their lives. While Education Works was found to have a very positive impact since its start at McCall in 2019, the pandemic made it even more critical for students, helping them to re-engage in classroom-based learning, with their peers in class and on the playground, and within their community.

The EducationWorks program at McCall School is entirely supported by McCall’s Home and School Association and is the primary focus of the group’s annual fundraising efforts. Please consider joining the Home and School Association’s mailing list to learn about important initiatives and ways to get involved at the school (<https://mccallschool.org/>). Donations can be made via PayPal <http://bit.ly/SupportMcCall>, Venmo (@McCallHSA), or check (McCall Home and School Association, Attn: Alyson Quigley, HSA Treasurer, 325 S 7th Street, Philadelphia PA 19106). Support of the Society Hill community is appreciated!

**Danielle Sandmark** is an SHCA member and McCall School parent.



## IN MEMORIAM

BY BARBARA GELMAN

## Carl Moody

I was privileged to know Carl Moody for the past few years and considered him and his wife, Rhonda, friends. Sadly, Carl passed away Saturday, April 2, leaving behind his beloved wife, as well as five children and grandchildren. Carl was a retired insurance executive, and he and Rhonda retired to Society Hill about nine years ago to live in his late mother’s home in Blackwell Court. Rhonda is a Block Coordinator, and she

and Carl could be counted on to roll up their sleeves and participate in Clean-Up Days to beautify our neighborhood.

Carl was a kind and decent man. He never hesitated to walk me home when I visited. In fact, days before he passed, he walked home a friend of mine he had met for the first time! My friend could see the good man many recognized. Carl was a man of faith. During the pandemic

and the difficult time we have gone through, he offered words of comfort, his belief in God, and, I suspect, a belief in the goodness of people.

I know his neighbors are very sad about his passing. Carl was one of those people who was a shining light. The world is a bit darker, and he will be missed. I wish Rhonda and their children comfort in the coming years.

# INDEPENDENCE PLACE

233 - 241 S. 6th Street

This home features a generously sized living and dining room, a fully-equipped kitchen with great cabinet and counter space and large bedroom that enjoys great closet space, brand new carpet, and ensuite bathroom with shower/tub and single vanity.

**1,205 sf | Offered for \$399,900**



Beautiful one bedroom plus alcove, one and a half bathroom offering nicely sized living spaces with access to a private balcony showcasing Washington Square views.

**1,118 sf | Offered for \$399,900**



Rarely available three bedroom, two and a half bathroom penthouse with a wrap-around balcony, fireplace, updated kitchen and bathrooms and see-forever views of the Delaware River and Society Hill.

**2,575 sf | Offered for \$1,950,000**



Completely renovated one bedroom, one bathroom with gorgeous treetop views of Washington Square and the Center City skyline showcased from a private balcony!

This spacious one bedroom home offers wood like floors and walls of oversized windows in all rooms.

**928 sf | Offered for \$350,000**



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1304-I	1801-II	1505-I	312-I	1309-II	1710-II	510-I	1310-II
2007-I	1807-I	1602-II	2210-II	1010-I	1711-I	1104-I	2508-I



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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY MATT DEJULIO

# 2022 Membership Lags Behind Last Year

By early April, 752 Society Hill residents had renewed their association membership or joined for the first time, significantly below last year's total during the same time. But we have signed up 112 new members, way above last year. Regular members who have not yet responded to our emails will receive a mailed notice.

Our goal is to surpass last year's total membership of 1,165. If you have delayed sending in your renewal, or wish to join, please do so today.

Please remember to sign up for our **weekly** email newsletter at our website [www.societyhillcivic.org](http://www.societyhillcivic.org), so you can be kept informed on a regular basis of all important neighborhood issues.

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. Sign up today!

Email [Mattdejulio@aol.com](mailto:Mattdejulio@aol.com) with questions or comments, which will be shared with our board members representing every quadrant in our unique, historic neighborhood.



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

## PARK, AMERICA!

A limited number of monthly parking spaces are available at the lot at 511 S. Front St, 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
- Charge VISA/MasterCard: \_\_\_\_\_
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Franklin Lights
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Tree Tenders
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ McCall School
- Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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  
Make check payable to Society Hill Civic Association or join online at:  
[www.SocietyHillCivic.org](http://www.SocietyHillCivic.org)

## NIFTY NEIGHBORS IN MY BACKYARD

BY JANE BIBERMAN

## Samantha Shaw's Recipe for Success

In the last issue, we welcomed Sam Shaw's Treatory to South Street. The Treatory offers discounts to card-carrying SHCA members and is a contributor to the Welcome Gift Bags. Jane visited the store and met the owner Samantha Shaw in person. Here's what Jane learned about Samantha, her hobbies, and her passions.

#### Where did you grow up and go to school?

I was born and raised in Society Hill, Philadelphia. I was a lifer at St. Peter's School in Society Hill and then attended Springside School (now Springside Chestnut Hill Academy).

St. Peter's was a special place, with many fond memories. I walked to school every morning with my friends in the neighborhood. They are still some of my dearest friends today, 40 plus years later. On our way home, it was inevitable we would stop at Koffmeyer's to get cookies. You never know where the road might lead; now I'm selling Koffmeyer's cookies in my old neighborhood.

#### What are your Society Hill likes and dislikes?

Can't say that I have any dislikes. I have always loved Society Hill, its cobblestone streets, historic homes... I loved growing up in the neighborhood. South Street was always a favorite. My friends and I walked down these streets to Keep in Touch and Zipperhead. I got my first hoop earrings at Eyes Gallery. I've come full circle and now am a business owner here. I hope I can spark another small business to take the leap as I did.

The best part about Society Hill is the strong sense of community. I have been welcomed back to my neighborhood with open arms and great excitement.

#### I'm interested in your tennis and where you competed. I love watching tennis on TV. So glad Nadal won in Melbourne. Who are your favorites?

I started playing tennis at a young age and always loved it. My first lessons were at Pier 30, which no longer exists. The club was legendary for those that



Samantha Shaw

remember — a cool spot on the waterfront and not far from our house on Front and Delancey. When I became serious about playing around age 12, I trained at Penn's Levy Tennis with Eric and Mark Riley and with Julian Krinsky. I competed in Middle States, a section of the U.S. Tennis Association, and played all four years at Lafayette College, NCAA Division I. I was captain my senior year. I loved playing a college sport. While it was a huge commitment on and off the court, I gained life lessons and time management skills that I still use today.

The sport launched a 20-plus-year career as an executive in professional tennis, with Billie Jean King and her company, World TeamTennis (WTT). The Philadelphia Freedoms played each summer. As the Senior Vice President of Operations, I managed all of the player recruiting, from scouting the latest talent to signing deals with some of the biggest names in the sport: Venus and Serena Williams, Maria Sharapova, Andy Roddick, and John McEnroe among others.

So for my favorite players... of course, Venus and Serena, and Roger Federer! Jim Courier, Monica Seles, Andre Agassi, Jennifer Capriati, Steffi Graf, and Maria Sharapova round out the list. I'm super

lucky; I got to work with them all, and yes, my forehand did improve!

#### Did you watch the Netflix movie King Richard about Venus and Serena's dad?

Yes, I did watch it and thought it was excellent. I was fortunate enough to have a close relationship with both Venus and Serena over many years and watched them develop into the superstars of the sport. Richard Williams sure did a great job. I met him once throughout the years I worked with his famous daughters. The first event I worked for WTT was Smash Hits, a big fundraiser for the Elton John AIDS Foundation, starring Billie Jean King, Elton John, Andre Agassi, and Pete Sampras in 1997. Venus and Serena participated. It was the first exhibition Venus played in after reaching her first U.S. Open singles final.

#### What are your other interests besides baking and tennis?

I love to ski! I grew up racing at Elk Mountain. Anytime I can make turns on the snow is a great day. Opening the shop has halted my skiing right now, but I do hope to get back on the snow soon.

I love to shop! In my tennis travels, I scoured a good part of the world for the unique merchandise that you can now find in my shop. I hate to shop online, I'm old school. I want to see, touch, and try on.

#### Do you bake vegan cookies?

We don't, but it's certainly a thought for the future, along with gluten-free.

#### If you were a cookie, what flavor would you be? Why?

I could only be a Koffmeyer's Peanut Butter Cookie. First of all, they are my favorite. Why? They have a cool, rustic look to them, taste amazing, and are totally unique. I love anything peanut butter, especially these!



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





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## KIDS' KORNER

BY JAIME AND MIKE FOX

## Food, Fun, and a Medical Museum



**Mmm... Bodhi's  
homemade muffins  
right out of the oven.**

**Bodhi**

Bodhi is officially our favorite café, not only in the neighborhood, but in the entire city! The service is friendly and excellent, and we always find time to chat with the owner Bobby, catch up with Marco, an employee who is almost always there, and get to know the café's growing community of regulars. Bodhi is conveniently located in Headhouse Square, so stop by before or after your trip to the Farmers' Market and get homemade muffins right out of the oven. Blueberry is our top choice. We cannot wait for summer, as their non-dairy ice cream is out of this world.

**Dave & Busters**

In the past, whenever we thought about Dave & Busters, the following came to mind: an electric chair amusement ride called the "Original Shocker," and griminess. Well, we recently attended a birthday party at Dave & Busters (thanks for the invite, neighbors!), and our perception of it totally changed. We all had an awesome time.

Sadly, the Original Shocker is there no more. [Editor's note: this electric chair look-alike ride is a shaking, not a shocking, experience.] But on the bright side, not only is the place really clean, there are a ton of fun games, televisions, and areas to sit in and enjoy a nice meal or drink. After you have played Wheel of Fortune until you can play Wheel of Fortune no more, head to the Prize Factory and exchange the tickets you won for a de-stressing squishy pig toy, bath bombs, a flask... you name it; we found it.

The birthday package included a party room, food, a fully stocked Power Card, plus unlimited video game play and a power tap band for use during the party. Once we used up our Power Card, our prize tickets were right on the card. No fuss, no muss. Go and have a blast!

**Mütter Museum**

At what age is a child old enough to visit the Mütter Museum, consisting of medical oddities, anatomical specimens, and medical instruments in a 19th-century "cabinet setting?" To find out, we decided to conduct a social experiment using our kids as subjects. It turns out, for our kids anyway, the sweet spot lies somewhere between age 7 and age 9.5. While the older one enjoyed himself, the younger one focused mainly on the display of skulls when trying to fall asleep that night. Parental fail? Maybe. But all in the name of science!

One thing is for sure, the Mütter Museum is amazing. According to its website, "the Museum helps the public understand the mysteries and beauty of the human body and appreciate the history of diagnosis and treatment of disease." We could not agree more! Plus, we now know it is possible to grow a horn out of one's forehead.

Located on 22nd Street near Market Street, it is easy to access by bus, and there is ample street parking. Order tickets ahead of your visit to avoid a long wait time. For the kids, be sure to grab the "scavenger hunt" and find the items in the photos on your way through. Also, we highly recommend checking out the gift shop.



**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.

*Laurie Phillips*  
LUXURY COLLECTION



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