

SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

www.societyhillcivic.org

General Membership Meeting

Tickets now available for the Sunday, May 21, Society Hill Open House & Garden Tour

See Page 5



The Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) will host its General Membership Meeting on May 17 at the Pennsylvania Hospital's Zubrow Auditorium, located on the first floor inside the main entrance at 8th Street near Spruce.

The first item on the agenda will be the annual election of SHCA officers and directors. See box to the right for the complete slate of nominees.

John Gibbons and Laura Ahramjian from KSK Architects, Planners and Historians will present their recommendations for the Master Plan for Society Hill. The purpose of the plan is to do any corrective zoning needed under the 2014 Philadelphia Zoning Code and to shape the future growth of this historic neighborhood.

All neighbors are encouraged to attend. Please arrive by 6:45 p.m. for light refreshments and the opportunity to socialize with neighbors. If you are an SHCA member and are interested in topics concerning our community, you are welcome to attend the Board meeting at 5:45 p.m. in the Hospital's Great Court Conference Room.

The Nominating and Elections Committee has completed this slate of proposed SHCA Officers and Directors. Thanks to chair Mary

Purcell, Bob Kramer, Martha Levine, Madeline Miller, Martha Moore, Woody Rosenbach and Mary Tracy for a job well done!

Slate of Proposed SHCA Officers and Directors

President Rosanne Loesch	Quadrant Directors finishing terms ending 5/31/19: Southeast Doug Stay Northeast Brian Wengeroth
First Vice President Martha Levine	Continuing Director Bob Curley
Second Vice President Kim Williams	Hi-Rise Reps Hopkinson House Concha Alborg
Treasurer Madeline Miller	Independence Place Jerry Yablin
Secretary Kate Robinson	Penn's Landing Square Loretta Burton
Directors at Large Susan Collins, Amy DeMarco, Barbara Gelman, Dan Horowitz, George Kelley, Norm Lieberman, Camille Orman, Lisa Unger	Society Hill Towers Mary Purcell
Quadrant Directors Northeast Lorna Katz Northwest George Dowdall Southeast Jeff Berry Southwest Larry Spector	St. James Court Norm Wisler The St. James Priscilla McDougal

WEDNESDAY

May

17

5:45 p.m.

7:30 - 9 p.m.

First Up:

Speakers:

Topic:

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Society Hill Civic Association Meetings
Wednesday, May 17, 2017

Pennsylvania Hospital, 8th & Spruce Streets

Board Meeting

Pennsylvania Hospital's Grand Court Room

General Membership Meeting

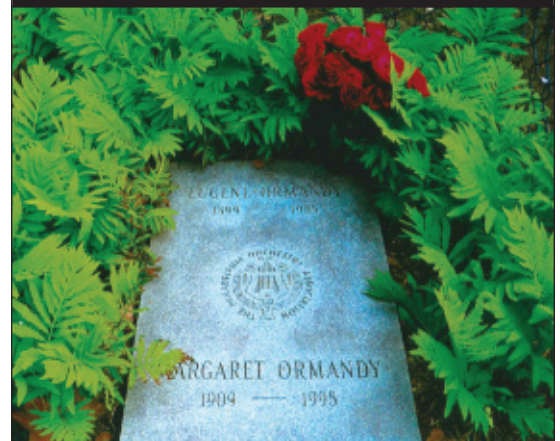
Pennsylvania Hospital's Zubrow Auditorium

SHCA Election for Officers and Directors

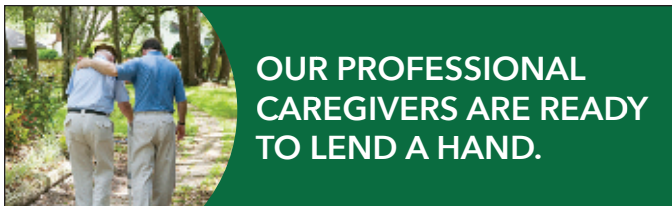
John Gibbons, Laura Ahramjian
from KSK Architects, Planners and Historians

Final presentation of the Society Hill Master Plan

AN ODE TO ORMANDY



Read about a very private love story on page 9.



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SOCIETY HILL

Reporter



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Sandra Rothman

Columnists
Marilyn Appel, Claire Batten, Jane Biberman, Al Cavalari, Matt DeJulio, Mike Harris, Lisa Kelly, Martha Levine, Sandra Rothman, Keri White, Katy Wich

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Tel. 215-629-1288

Website
Find past issues in 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 Sandra Rothman at sandra.rothman@aol.com. Materials must be submitted in writing and include the name of a contact person. Edited submissions will be considered for publication if space permits. Letters to the Editor must be signed, with contact information.

SHCA Mission Statement

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

SHCA Board Officers and Directors

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Martha Levine

Second Vice President
Kim Williams

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Madeline Miller

Secretary
Diane Stein

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NW Quadrant
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P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

BY ROSANNE LOESCH

Working to Continue the Legacy

Did you know that the Redevelopment Plan for Society Hill created in the 1950s included a 45-foot height limit for all of Society Hill? This and other restrictions under the Redevelopment Plan have since expired, but under the Master Plan being finalized this month, Society Hill is seeking this height limit to be reinstated for all of Society Hill outside of Washington Square and the western part of Walnut Street.

Of course, where the zoning of a property is more restrictive, the lower height would be required. When the pending bill sponsored by our District Councilman Mark Squilla gets passed, we will also be protected from the extra height and density bonuses allowed under the zoning classification CMX-2 (low-rise neighborhood commercial).

Why do we care so much about height and mass in Society Hill? For the same reason that city planner Ed Bacon and architect Charlie Peterson included the 45-foot height limit: to preserve the historic character of the neighborhood. During the founding period of our country and the beginning of its independence, Society Hill was a residential neighborhood of three-story

townhomes dotted throughout with the much higher spires of church towers. The character changed to a neighborhood of rooming houses and houses converted to commercial purposes from the mid-19th to mid-20th centuries.

Fortunately, for Philadelphia and our nation as a whole, the neighborhood was never razed for urban renewal, as was the usual approach prior to Bacon. Through fortuity and creative planning, Society Hill was converted back to its original character as a low-rise, largely residential neighborhood and now serves as an economic engine for tourism, and an important tax base for the city. Equally valuable was the preservation of a significant part of our nation's history. We celebrate Society Hill's historic character and work to continue Bacon's legacy through our Master Plan.

I urge you to come out to our May 17 General Membership Meeting for the final presentation of the Master Plan.

Rosanne Loesch is an attorney and president of SHCA. She, her husband and two children have lived in a historic house on Spruce Street since 2002 and, before that, lived for 14 years in the Washington Square West neighborhood.



Rosanne Loesch,
SHCA President

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by Annie Hartnett

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Backyard: Judy Gelles

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*The Society Hill Civic Association
Cordially invites you to the 2017
Society Hill Open House & Garden Tour*

You are invited to attend the 39th Annual Society Hill Open House & Garden Tour.

Join us and explore an array of exceptional private homes and gardens,
open only on the tour day, plus a magnificent museum house.

Sponsored by Society Hill Civic Association, the tour is the Civic Association's only
annual fund raiser with proceeds going toward neighborhood improvement projects.

We hope you will join us in supporting our neighborhood.

Society Hill Open House & Garden Tour
Sunday, May 21, 2017
1 to 5 p.m.

Tickets: \$35 in advance; \$40 at the door.

Refreshments, restrooms available ~ Comfortable shoes highly recommended.

To obtain tickets choose one of the following:

- ~ Fill out the bottom portion of this page and mail to SHCA, PO Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147.
- ~ Go to SHCA website, societyhillcivic.org, and click on Society Hill Open House Tour/buy tickets.
- ~ Order by phone ~ Call SHCA at 215-629-1288.
- ~ Tickets on sale on the tour day starting at 12 noon at Old Pine Community Center,
401 Lombard Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Society Hill Open House & Garden Tour ~ Registration Form

Please print clearly and fill out all parts below.

Name _____ Address _____

Phone/Email _____ City, State, Zip _____

Please indicate number of tickets: _____ x \$35 each = \$ _____

Choose Method of payment: _____ enclosed is my check, payable to SHCA

_____ Please charge my credit card : _____ VISA _____ MC

Card number _____ Expiration Date _____

Your signature _____

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Bonuses and Permits

Recently Councilman Mark Squilla introduced a bill in the City Council Rules Committee exempting Society Hill from two zoning bonuses. One is the Fresh Food Market bonus, which allows builders up to an extra 15 feet in height for “an establishment in which the sale of fresh fruits and vegetables to the general public occupies at least 50 percent of the display area.” The second is the Green Roof Density Bonus that gives developers extra density in exchange for a layer of vegetation that covers an otherwise conventional roof and can provide runoff volume reduction.

Be aware that this action does not necessarily affect the permits that have been issued to Alterra.

In addition, on April 6 the city issued a new conditional zoning permit to the owner of the ACME site at 5th Street. This appears similar to the one issued in January, which SHCA has appealed. According to the new permit, the height of the proposed building would be 53 feet, which is the same as the January permit, but has fewer units (47 instead of 65) and one less floor (4 instead of 5).

Our attorney is analyzing the new permits and will be giving us guidance on the next steps. We will continue to update the community in the weekly blast newsletters and through the Block Coordinators when needed.



Coming Soon?

M. Levine

SATURDAY, MAY 13

Time for Some Spring Cleaning

Join your neighbors on Saturday, May 13, for SHCA's annual Spring Clean-Up Day. Winter has left us with lots of sodden trash and debris that needs attention. It's also a perfect time to check sidewalk bricks and tree pit enclosures for necessary repairs.

We ask you to sweep around your house and on your block. Remember to get those gutters cleared, as well as nearby walkways and alleys, before the city's sweeper trucks come back sometime between 8 a.m. and noon.

All streets will be swept from Front to 8th Streets and Walnut to Lombard Streets, not including Walnut. To accommodate synagogue services, the 300-500 blocks of Spruce and Lombard will be swept by 8:30 a.m.

Consider getting a head start with your cleaning on Friday evening, as the sweeper trucks start as early as 7:30 a.m. on Saturday morning. Remember, wherever posted, cars must be moved to the opposite side of the street after 6 p.m. on Friday night or else be ticketed on Saturday morning, beginning at 8 a.m. There will be no parking on either side of the 300 to 400 blocks of Front Street. This also applies to the 200 to 300 blocks of South 2nd Street and Lawrence Court.

SHCA's Clean-Up Day volunteers will provide trash bags at the South 5th Street Acme, from 8 a.m. until noon. Your bagged street leaves and litter should be left by 12 p.m. at the major intersections of Locust, Spruce, Pine and Lombard Streets, as well as Three Bears Park. Bags are for street leaves and litter only — no household trash!

SHCA is again sponsoring electronic recycling and paper shredding services, thanks to State Representative Michael O'Brien. Recycling trucks will be parked in St. Peter's School parking lot, 3rd and Lombard Streets, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. or until capacity is reached. Electronic recycling will take anything with a plug, except any type of television or monitor. Neighbors can take these to Best Buy on Delaware avenue for recycling. The trucks will also not take large appliances like refrigerators or washing machines.

If you use this special service and aren't yet an SHCA member, please consider joining our civic association. Simply fill out the form on page 29 or online at societyhillcivic.org. Any questions? Call Matt DeJulio at 215-629-1288.



Get out the brooms for Clean-Up Day!

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OUR STREET TREES AND THE CARE THEY NEED

BY PRISCILLA MCDUGAL

Let's Show a Little TLC

Our lovely sidewalk trees add grace, shade and value to our properties, along with enhancing the streets of Society Hill.

It is important to know that, while the City of Philadelphia has jurisdiction over street trees, the trees belong to the property owners, who are responsible for keeping them healthy. That said, the Department of Parks and Recreation Tree Management Office must give permission before street trees can be pruned or have any work done to them. Individuals other than arborists or Tree Tenders cannot do this work. Tree Tenders are neighbors who have had tree-care training with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

Finding the right tree for the right spot is important. Consider space, overhead wires, the width of the street and already existing trees, as biodiversity is essential to continuing a healthy tree canopy. City contractors, city-approved nurseries and Tree Tenders can be of help in this area.

You may also apply for a tree to be planted free via the Tree Tenders program. Applications can be found at phsonline.org/programs/tree-tenders/philadelphia-treevitalize-street-tree-planting.

For the first two years after being planted, a tree requires 15 to 20 gallons of water per week from spring thaw until the ground freezes. During hot, dry weather, that amount may doubled. Be sure you have located a nearby water source. Stakes should be left in for at least one year to support the trunk. And do not use fertilizers as they shock new trees.

A gator bag is a watering system consisting of a plastic bag that wraps around the base of the tree. If you use this method, the bag must be filled twice a week; otherwise it will dry out the ground nearest the trunk. Gator bags may also rot the trunk by preventing it from airing out, and they can become a nesting area for rodents and mosquitoes.

Many people build a brick or stone enclosure around the tree pit. However, this is not a good idea as it prevents rainwater from draining into the tree pit. This is not good for your sidewalk or your tree!

Trees need regular care. Remove weeds, road salt and dog waste from the pit to help the tree grow and remain healthy. Soften soil by occasionally loosening dirt, and place compost three inches from trunk and three inches thick, spring and fall. Organic compost may be obtained free from Fairmount Park Organic Recycling Center. Bennett Compost on Hunting Avenue provides organic compost at a reasonable price and will deliver, see www.bennettcompost.com.

Interested in learning more about tree care and helping your neighbors? Consider becoming a Tree Tender, so you can provide planting and pruning services to your neighbors, as well as arboreal advice. Society Hill's group has aged and is in need of younger members willing to help with labor and care. Classes are being taught at the Philadelphia Horticultural Society on Mondays, May 8, 15 and 22. Learn more at www.phsonline.org/programs/tree-tenders.

Find more information about tree care at www.treehilly.org or plantonemillion.org.



Photos by Martha Levine

Belgian Blocks are a tripping hazard and direct rainwater away from the tree pit.



This tree pit is too small for a mature tree. To get water to the roots, a larger pit is needed.



This ideal tree pit is large and has no elevated borders.

WANTED: ALL DEAD TREES

Thanks to the foresight and hard work of residents who participated in the revitalization of Society Hill, our streets are lined with many beautiful, mature trees. However, some of those trees have reached the end of their life. To maintain the benefits of our tree canopy, it is important to remove them and replant.

If you have a dead or dying street tree in front of your property, SHCA has started a program to assist property owners with the costs of removing them and replanting. The SHCA will reimburse a property owner 40 percent of this cost, up to \$400 for SHCA members and \$300

for non-members. To qualify for reimbursement, the property owner must submit proof of the tree and stump removal, the cost of the removal and the planting of a replacement tree.

Trees provide many benefits: they remove toxins from the air, release clean oxygen, provide cool shade in the summer, reduce street noise and enhance our streetscapes. Help keep our streets looking great and protect our environment. For further information, contact Laura Lane DeVoe, coordinator of the Society Hill Tree Tenders at laura_lane_devoe@yahoo.com.



All Gloria Dei's venerable trees remained standing in Hurricane Sandy, preserving the historic graves below.

HISTORIC TREES UNHURT IN HURRICANE SANDY

... Thanks to Liberty Tree & Landscape Management

When Hurricane Sandy pummeled the city in late October, 2012, not one of the many 200+-year-old trees at Gloria Dei Church on Columbus Blvd. came down. Pastor Joy Segal credits that feat to the outstanding work of Liberty Tree and Landscape Management.

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in an Ode to Ormandy

May 15th wedding anniversaries were the most heartfelt days in the Ormandys' lives.

On that day, come find out why
 Old Pine Street Church
 places roses on their gravestone.

7:30 pm Monday, May 15
 Old Pine Street Church
 412 Pine Street, Philadelphia

\$20 General; \$18 Seniors; \$10 Student
 www.oldpineconservancy.org
 May 15 at door; cash or check
 215-925-8051



OLD PINE STREET CHURCH GRAVEYARD

BY RONN SHAFFER

A Very Private Love Story Lives On

Tucked away in the bounds of Old Pine’s historic graveyard is the little-known memorial to renowned orchestra maestro Eugene Ormandy and his wife, Margaret, affectionately known as Gretel. How did a diverse-faith couple, married by a municipal judge, come to be interred in a historic Presbyterian Church burial ground? The story will intrigue you.

The Maestro and Mrs. Ormandy

You might not know that Eugene Ormandy, violinist and the music director of the Philadelphia Orchestra for 44 years, was born Jenő Blau in Hungary in 1899. A musical prodigy with perfect pitch, he studied as a child at the Royal Academy of Music. He immigrated to America in 1921 and was initially the conductor of the Minneapolis Symphony. Eugene married Gretel, his second wife, in 1950. Their families were friends in Europe, and Eugene sponsored her when she immigrated to the States in 1936. During World War II, Gretel earned a pilot’s license and became a control tower operator at the Naval Air Station. Her life’s work, however, was as a steadfast companion and helpmate to her celebrated husband.

The Old Pine Street Connection

As Ormandy was nearing the end of hospice-at-home care, Gretel asked her husband’s attending physician to contact a clergyman. Immediately,

he phoned his young friend, pastor at Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church, who was at Ormandy’s bedside within the hour. Realizing he had passed, those present reverently joined hands as the pastor quoted expressive words of scripture and comfort. It was a very private, emotional moment.



Margaret “Gretel” and Eugene Ormandy

The next day the pastor phoned Gretel, concerned that she was grief-stricken. The ensuing visit initiated a continuing dialog. She made it quite clear that “in life, my husband belonged to the world, now he belongs to me.”

As spring approached, Gretel welcomed an invitation to visit Old Pine’s churchyard. Impressed with the informal solitude, she chose it as the place to honor her husband’s noteworthy life. A decorative vintage iron fence defines the plot, which remained private until Gretel’s death and interment in 1998.



A Lasting Tribute

By written agreement with Gretel’s estate, Old Pine Street Church is to place a dozen roses on the gravestone annually to celebrate the Ormandy’s wedding anniversary on May 15. And so a very private love story lives on. See the ad on Page 8 with information about the event planned to honor this special couple.

EXERCISE & SOCIALIZE

Lovely spring mornings provide the motivation to lace up and join one or both of Society Hill’s walking groups.

The **Walkie/Talkies** meet at Three Bears Park, Delancey Street between 2nd and 3rd Streets, on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8:15 a.m. for a one-hour stroll through our historic community. Anyone is welcome to participate in this non-stressful, one-hour exercise & socialize program.

“**Philly Is Walking In The Park!**” meets at the fountain in the center of Washington Square, 6th and Locust Streets, at 8 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for a half-hour, self-paced walk through our historic, beautiful park, led by neighbor Dr. Lisa Unger. All are invited to join us.



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BE WELL NOW

BY JULIE FEATHERMAN

Steps Toward a Zero-Waste Lifestyle

Learning to simplify is the key factor in a zero-waste lifestyle. It's not just about what we discard, it may be more about what we obtain. Marie Kondo, author of *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*, notes, "I have yet to see a house that lacked sufficient storage. The real problem is that we have far more than we need or even want."

What items do you need on an everyday basis? What items are necessary for your health and happiness? How can you pare down in your household? Join the Minimal Movement. Start with these tips:

Prepare

Take inventory of what you actually use on a daily basis. Think about what can be donated and what should be kept. Before making any purchases, think about whether you truly need the item or are just buying it to assuage an emotional need. Perhaps you could borrow or buy the item used. Ask how the item will eventually be disposed. I used to love treating myself to flowers. With a little thought, I realized that they die quickly, are usually wrapped in non-recyclable plastic and are grown using pesticides. Better plan: buy a plant.

Avoid & Replace

Learn exactly what can and what cannot be recycled. Petroleum-based plastic and many paper goods are not as recyclable as we think. Avoid the straight-to-landfill plastic grocery bags, styrofoam and k-cups. Some paper goods, like many take-out paper coffee cups, are no longer eligible for recycling once they become wet. Why not pack a coffee tumbler instead? There are endless ideas for waste-less substitutions on Lauren Singer's Zero-Waste website, www.trashisfortossers.com. A friend of mine recently returned from Japan, amazed that there were no plastic utensils in sight. Why? Everyone seemed to carry a fabric napkin, real spoons and chopsticks.

Proper Disposal of Non-recyclable Waste

Old broken printers, computers and office gadgets somehow never leave our offices, basements and garages, because we don't know where to dispose of them. As you may have suspected, certain electronics do not belong in our weekly trash collection. According to Jenny Reverts of Philly's e-Force Compliance, televisions are the biggest offenders. They are also expensive to recycle in an environmentally responsible way. Check out e-Force's electronic recycling services in Gray's Ferry. Their website www.eforcerecycling.com lists upcoming collection events and details about small electronic drop-offs. Check out www.earth911.com

to find locations to dispose of motor oil, oil-based paint, smoke detectors, batteries, LED lights and more. In addition, the City of Philadelphia offers six convenient e-waste drop-off locations. Go to www.philadelphiastreet.com for more information. See page 4 for SHCA Clean-Up Day recycling services.

Donate

According to recent statistics, Americans now buy five times as much clothing as they did in 1980. This translates to 10.5 million tons of clothing each year ending up in our landfills. Add to this number every other unused object in your house, like old toys, sports equipment, books, kitchenware, old furniture and, well, we have too much stuff! Pack it up and bring it to one of Philly's non-profit donation centers, such as Circle Thrift, Habitat for Humanity, Philly Aids Thrift or Uhuru Furniture.

Compost

If you think textiles have a heavy hand in landfill buildup, wait until you hear about food waste! Organic waste is the second highest component of landfills — 33 million tons of food makes its way into landfills each year, making it a leading source of methane emissions. Every ton of food wasted results in 3.8 tons of greenhouse gas emissions. Why do most people resist composting when it's so easy to do? Bennett Compost founder Tim Bennett has some insights. "Most people are scared that it will be difficult or cause problems with bugs or rodents. None of those fears are true." Good news: the container Bennett provides has a lid and is collected as frequently as your trash. Cities like Seattle and San Francisco mandate a "Two Bag Only Rule" of regular garbage allowed per household per week. The rest of your waste better be compostable or recyclable. I asked Bennett if he thought Philadelphia will ever require mandatory composting. He thinks that at some point, Philly will figure out a better way to handle its organic waste. It might be composting, it might be anaerobic digestion or it might be some combination of the two.

Check out these books to learn more about waste-free lifestyles: *The Zero-Waste Lifestyle: Live Well by Throwing Away Less* by Amy Korst and *Your Complete Guide to the Art of Zero Waste Living* by Katie Patrick.

We have far more than we need or even want. Join the Minimal Movement!



Julie Featherman is the owner of Juju Salon & Organics, 713 S. 4th Street. Her mission is to help people live healthier, minimize their carbon footprint and think sustainably.

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TIPS TO HELP YOU AGE WELL

BY PATRICIA J. REPICI, DPT

Exercise Your Right to a Healthy Old Age

Bette Davis once said that old age is no place for sissies. There isn't an aging person who doesn't know that to be true. Growing old affects all of the body systems — including cardiac, respiratory, circulatory, muscular and skeletal. But that doesn't mean we have to give in helplessly to the process.

You have the power to stave off many age-related health problems. According to results from the Harvard Study on Aging, factors such as genetics, longevity, cholesterol levels and stress were surprisingly less influential than researchers expected. More important variables were coping skills, maintaining social relationships, keeping a healthy weight and exercising. Read more at news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2012/02/-decoding-keys-to-a-healthy-life/.

Tips to Help You Age Well

Exercise. Your heart wants you to exercise. Cardiovascular disease is the number one killer in the U.S. Research shows exercise can improve your health if you have heart disease.

Exercise. Your brain wants you to exercise. Physically active people are less likely to develop memory loss or Alzheimer's disease, a condition affecting 40 percent of the population over 85.

Exercise. Your bones want you to exercise. Osteoporosis affects more than half of Americans over the age of 54. Walking, jogging, dancing and

weightlifting can improve bone strength and help prevent bone loss.

Exercise. Obesity and physical inactivity put you at risk for diabetes, which affects one in four Americans over the age of 60. Regular physical activity is one of the best ways to prevent and manage type 1 and type 2 diabetes.

Exercise. An appropriate exercise program can help you improve balance and reduce fall risk. About one in three American adults over the age of 65 falls each year. Fall prevention preserves independence.

Exercise. Research shows resistance exercise can improve strength in your 60s, 70s, 80s and even older. This type of exercise has been shown to prevent frailty and also can lessen fall risk.

Exercise. Lower-back pain is often over-treated with medications and surgery. Current evidence published in the Journal of American Medical Association suggests that exercise alone or in combination with education is effective in preventing lower-back pain.

Exercise is the non-pharmaceutical mood enhancer! It can help reduce anxiety and depression and help you maintain a positive outlook.

If you are unsure of how to begin an exercise program, contact a physical therapist for help getting started on aging well.



Dancing and weightlifting can improve bone strength.

'FIX THE BRIX'

BY MARTHA LEVINE

It Takes a Village to Make Safe Sidewalks

Help make our neighborhood safer for all pedestrians. Some sidewalks are in good shape, while others pose a liability problem. If your front sidewalk is in need of leveling, or your tree pit has dislodged or broken bricks, people may trip and fall. You are legally liable for any injuries. Help remedy this situation with "Fix the Brix," SHCA's subsidy program that has helped over 200 households.

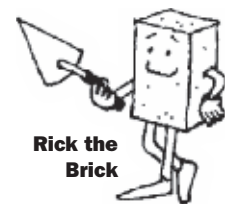
Help do the right thing for all of us who use our sidewalks to go to work, to the supermarket, to the gym, to houses of worship, or just for daily life.

Here's how it works:

- Participants in the program will receive a subsidy of 40 percent of the total invoice for

the leveling of their sidewalks, brick or cement. Current SHCA members receive up to \$400; non-members receive up to \$300.

- Take a "before" photo of your problem sidewalk and email to me at marthalev6@gmail.com.
- Choose a mason (or arborist) to do the work — we can provide a suggested list if needed.
- After the work is completed to your satisfaction, make a copy of your paid invoice and mail the original to us at: SHCA, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147. If possible, include a copy of your cancelled check.
- A check will be sent to you within several weeks.



Rick the Brick



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KEEPING POSTED

BY AL CAVALARI

No Profane Language, Gambling or Spitting

As we continue to examine postcards showing Philadelphia institutions associated with Ben Franklin, we can take a walk here in our neighborhood to Pennsylvania Hospital at 800 Spruce Street. As you will remember, I originally asked how we would respond to Franklin if he asked us to support this legacy. To do so, I personally decided to become a member of each of four institutions that serves us still today.

As America's first hospital, Pennsylvania Hospital is an example of community activism and private fundraising, as well as an early example of matching fund grants. Founded in 1751, it was the brainchild, not of Franklin, but of Dr. Thomas Bond, a Quaker who studied medicine in London and Paris. He was inspired by the hospitals he had seen in Europe and resolved to establish one here.

Because there was no model at this time for the government to fund such a project, Bond attempted to obtain private funds. He initially failed to garner support, largely because potential donors first wanted to know what Ben Franklin thought of the plan. The two were longtime friends, and Bond was a member of Franklin's Library Company and the American Philosophical Society. Bond eventually got the message that Franklin had to be on board for a project to succeed in Philadelphia.

When asked, Franklin became a subscriber, and his support convinced others to do the same. He then became the mover behind a petition calling on the Pennsylvania Assembly to help subsidize the project. At first, politicians balked. To overcome their objections, Franklin promised to raise 2,000 pounds if they agreed to match the sum. For the Assembly, this was a win-win situation because they believed that Franklin would never be able to raise his part of the money. They anticipated getting credit for being helpful without spending anything. To their surprise, Franklin raised more than 2,000 pounds in record time, giving birth to the first matching grant.

One day while walking by the main entrance of Pennsylvania Hospital, I decided to just walk in and inquire about a tour. I was directed to the gift shop where, for a five-dollar donation, they give you a full-color booklet that takes you on a self-guided walking tour of the historic buildings.

The earliest building dates from 1755. They let you just walk through the place on your own! And you can stay as long as you like. But they do ask that you follow the original rules: no profane language, gambling or spitting on the floor.

Follow in Franklin's footsteps. Explore the place just as John Adams did during the First Continental Congress in 1774. You'll visit three sections of the original Pine Street Building. These are beautifully preserved and wonderfully appointed. You'll feel as though you have traveled back in time to the 18th century. Two spaces, particularly, should be pointed out. The historic library from 1807 is a lovely space with intricate woodwork and houses 13,000 medical works dating back to the 15th century. The most unusual space is the nation's first surgical amphitheater from 1804 where students and locals would pay to observe operations. These could include amputations or removal of internal tumors or cataracts. Anesthesia was not used until 1848. Before then, doctors got the patient "blind drunk," or administered opium or "a sharp tap on the head with a mallet."

Pick nice weather for your visit, because the grounds and gardens are pleasant and historical in their own right. The original cornerstone with text by Franklin is still on view. On Sundays, for entertainment, townspeople could pay four pence to watch the mentally ill patients being exercised in the dry moat. Stand at that moat and imagine a world where that was considered normal.



Pennsylvania Hospital on a postcard mailed in 1911. Note the dry moat under the stairs right of center.

Inside the building, look for the brochure I used to join the Friends of the Historic Collections. I called Stacey Peebles, curator and lead archivist, who explained that it is not a voting organization with regular meetings. There is a yearly reception for members, a newsletter informing you of projects and news about the collection. Your satisfaction will come from being part of Ben Franklin's matching fund challenge that began almost three centuries ago.

Self-guided tours can be taken Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Purchase the tour booklet for \$5 in the gift shop, accessible through the main entrance on 8th Street between Pine and Spruce Streets. Any group with more than five people must schedule a guided tour. These can be scheduled during regular business hours or by special appointment at least 48 hours in advance and are based on volunteer availability.

Call Library Services at 215-829-3370, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Contact the Archivist Stacey Peebles for additional information at 215-829-5434 or stacey.peebles@uphs.upenn.edu.

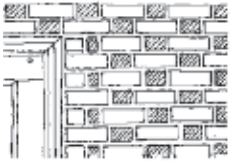
Al Cavallari is a certified member of the Association of Philadelphia Tour Guides and gives tours as a volunteer for the National Park Service. For a day job, he operates The Flag Guys, a business in upstate New York.

OUT AND ABOUT

BY BONNIE HALDA

The Architectural Styles of Society Hill

As you stroll the streets on May 21 during the 39th Annual Open House & Garden Tour, use this primer to help inform you of Society Hill's architectural history. Our community is nationally recognized for containing the largest concentration of 18th- and early 19th-century buildings in the country. The broad spectrum of architectural styles range from modest colonial dwellings, elegant Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival houses to Italianate, Victorian, and Modern buildings.



Flemish Bond with Glazed Headers

Georgian

The oldest houses in Society Hill were built in the Georgian style. Often called Colonial because it was popular before the Revolution, the Georgian style is named for the reigns of King George I, II, and III. The earliest Georgian buildings are typically two-and-a-half stories tall, with Flemish bond brick walls, in which headers, the short end of the brick, and stretchers, the long end of the brick, alternate. The buildings have gambrel or steeply pitched gable roofs, shed or gabled dormers, and pent eaves above the first floor.



**Madison House
(c. 1791)**



Rhoads-Barclay House (1756-58)



Powel House (1765)



413-15 Locust Street (c. 1805)



Hill-Physick-Keith House (1786)

Late Georgian

The high-style buildings from the later Georgian period are larger — typically three-and-a-half to four stories in height — and more elaborate, with multi-paned windows, columns surrounding the doorways, and Flemish bond brick walls that incorporate horizontal stringcourses in brick or stone to add accents at the floor levels of the upper stories. The roofs are steeply pitched, with pedimented dormers and large cornices with decorative brackets.

Federal

The Federal style became popular in the early decades of the new nation. During this period, many structures still featured the Flemish bond brick walls, gable roofs, and classical ornaments from the Georgian style, but they generally had lighter, flatter, and more delicate details, and often featured swags, garlands, and urns. Fanlights over doorways became more common, as well as flanking sidelights and recessed panels surrounding the door opening.

OUT AND ABOUT

BY BONNIE HALDA

An Architectural Primer

Greek Revival

This style flourished during the early nineteenth century, as Americans showed an increased interest in ancient Greek culture and its democratic ideals. The distinctive elements of the Greek Revival style include flat, tall red brick facades, shallow gable roofs with rounded or gabled dormers, and arched or flat doorways. Marble was used for the lintels and sills above and below the windows, over the doorways, and for the steps and stoops.



730-734 Pine Street (c. 1850)

Italianate

As its name implies, this style drew upon the architecture of Italy. The round-headed windows of Tuscany and the classical architraves of the Renaissance were often used as inspiration to ornament the facades of buildings in America. In Society Hill, the most notable Italianate buildings were constructed of brownstone instead of brick.



Bouvier Row (1849-50)

Victorian Era

The late-nineteenth century is known for a mixture of architecture styles that were inspired by European medieval sources. Frequently called Victorian, because of the reign of Queen Victoria, the various styles include Second Empire, Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, and Romanesque. Although not many buildings in Society Hill were built during this time period, a few earlier rowhouses were altered to incorporate features from these styles.



636 Pine Street (façade c. 1890)



434-36 Spruce Street (c. 1895)

Modern

The mid-century renewal of Society Hill is notable not only for the restoration of its historic rowhouses, but also for the construction of new residential blocks designed in a contemporary style. The modern buildings of the 1960s-70s represent a dramatic shift away from the traditional forms of the past, and were built in an unornamented style that emphasizes geometric shapes.



Bingham Court (1960)



Society Hill Towers (1964)

Bonnie Halda is a freelance photographer specializing in historic buildings and the urban environment. She's also a historical architect with the Northeast Regional Office of the National Park Service.

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SOCIETY HILL WELCOME BASKETS

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Don't Be A Stranger

Although we try to do our best, it's not always easy to identify new home and condo owners who have recently moved into our neighborhood. If you are a first-time owner since 2016 to date, please reach out to us and let us know who you are. We would like to present you with a Welcome Basket, which is SHCA's gift to new neighbors. Each basket contains fresh foods, important neighborhood information and gift certificates to theaters, museums, restaurants, shops and services.

Please contact me to set up an appointment for a Welcome Basket at marthalev6@gmail.com or 215-629-0727.

This program relies on our many business contributors. Help us say thank you by patronizing them. Remember that we need to support our local businesses!

Welcome to Two New Contributors:

Cavanaugh's Headhouse, 421 S. 2nd Street, is a cozy two-story pub with Old English charm and is adjacent to historic Headhouse Square. It boasts a large craft bottle beer selection and a premier scotch and whisky collection. Expect sports on the TVs and a menu of award-winning wings and pub grub. Unwind after work with happy hour, Monday to Friday, 5 to 7 p.m.

Evantine Design, 715 Walnut Street, will relocate from Rittenhouse Square in June. They specialize in floral bouquets and potted plants, along with an eclectic mix of stylish novelty items, gifts and accents for the home. Arrangements are designed-to-order for any occasion, using local seasonal flowers and imports sourced from around the world. Open Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.



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Acme Market, 5th & Pine Streets

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Cavanaugh's Headhouse, 421 S. 2nd Street
City Tavern, 138 S. 2nd Street
Creperie Beau Monde, 624 S. 6th Street
Fork, 306 Market Street
Frieda's Café, 320 Walnut Street
Garces Group: Amada, 217 Chestnut Street;
Rosa Blanca, 707 Chestnut Street
Gnocchi, 613 E. Passyunk Avenue (near 5th & South Streets)
High Street on Market, 308 Market Street
Keating's Rope & Anchor Bar & Kitchen, Hilton at Penn's Landing
La Buca Ristorante, 711 Locust Street
La Forno, 636 South Street
Malbec Argentine Steakhouse, 400-402 S. 2nd Street
Positano Coast Restaurant, 2nd & Walnut Streets
Serpico, 604 South Street
Talula's Daily, café & take out, 208 West Washington Square



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Knead Bagels, 725 Walnut Street
Little Bird Bakery, 517 S. 5th Street
Melange Tea & Spice, 1042 Pine Street
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South Street Bagels, 613 S. 3rd Street



Specialty Shops

Adornamenti (jewelry), 1106 Pine Street
Cohen & Co. Hardware, 615 E. Passyunk (off 5th & South)

Evantine Design, 715 Walnut Street
Happily Ever After (toys), 1010 Pine Street
Head House Books, 619 S. 2nd Street
Paper On Pine (invitations/stationery), 115 S. 13th Street
Show of Hands Gallery (crafts), 1006 Pine Street
SoapBox (Hand-made skin care), 616 S. 6th Street

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Historic Philadelphia Inc., SW corner 6th & Chestnut Streets
InterAct Theater Company, at the Drake, 302 S. Hicks Street
Lantern Theater Company, 10th & Ludlow Streets (south of Market)
National Museum of American Jewish History, 5th & Market Streets
National Liberty Museum, 321 Chestnut Street
Next Move Dance at the Prince, 1412 Chestnut Street
Pennsylvania Ballet and Academy of Music, Broad & Locust Streets
Penn's Landing Playhouse at the Seaport Museum, 211 S. Columbus Boulevard
Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, 215-569-8080
Philadelphia History Museum, 15 S. 7th Street
Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre, 2111 Sansom Street
Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, 321 S. 4th Street
Philadelphia Theatre Company, Suzanne Roberts Theater, Broad & Pine Streets
The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, Kimmel Center, 215-545-1739
The Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble, Old Pine Church, 412 Pine Street
Wilma Theater, 265 S. Broad Street



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SAFE AND SOUND IN SOCIETY HILL

BY MARILYN APPEL

Help to Scram the Scammers – Just Hang Up!

Being scammed by dishonest people who are out to get your money is on the rise, and it is never a pleasant experience.

You get a phone call or email which appears to come from a government official. They inform you that someone you know is in trouble and needs money. This could be a grandchild, relative, friend or someone you may have met online. According to the Federal Trade Commission, government agencies never ask you to send money. If you get a call like this, just hang up! I got not one but two calls with the greeting “Hello, Grandma.” I knew immediately they were scams, but did not hang up before saying, “I know this is a scam, do not call back!” Then I hung up.

To avoid identity theft, protect information such as your credit card and Social Security numbers. Check all of your monthly statements, and shred anything with your personal information. Get a free credit report once a year from a service like AnnualCreditReport.com.

Do not pledge to a charity over the phone unless you know the caller. Never send cash to any charity.

Healthcare scams are troublesome, especially during open enrollment season. Scams offer

you big discounts and want your Social Security number or your insurance and financial information. Check their legitimacy by calling Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE.

Beware of a call announcing that you’ve won a prize or free trip. All that excitement by the scammer is faked, especially if they ask for a fee, even if it’s only a buck. Imagine collecting a dollar from thousands of people.

On another topic, did you know that when you lock your car with a remote key someone with the code still can open it? To avert this, press the close button three times.

Also, as al fresco dining opens again, remember to protect your belongings. Do not hang purses on the backs of chairs, and place wallets in a front pocket. Do not leave your cell phones on the table.

Last but not least, stolen packages are a problem in our neighborhood, our city, and our nation. Try to mitigate this by requiring your delivery service to get a signature upon delivery. If this is not possible, try mailing to your office or arrange safekeeping with a neighbor.

Marilyn Appel has served as chair of our 6th District’s Police District Advisory Council since 1980.

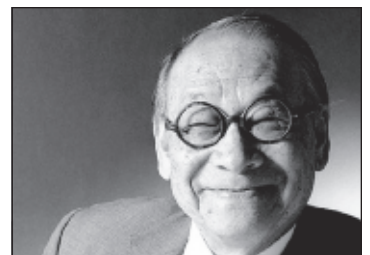
Historic American Street Gets a Facelift

By the time you read this, work should have started on the 300 block of American Street, off Spruce between 2nd and 3rd Streets.

The Philadelphia Streets and Water Department determined, after a citywide survey of historic streets, that the original brick sewers needed to be relined and the Belgian blocks leveled. The curbs will also be repaired. The old Belgian blocks and curbs will be returned and properly reinstalled.

The city of Philadelphia faces an immense challenge as it seeks to preserve its existing capital assets, including its historic streets. Some of these old streets have aged to the point of needing repairs and, sometimes, full replacement.

American Street, with its original homes, is a rare surviving fragment of the history of Philadelphia street paving. It is also an important glimpse of the way the city looked in the past. We’re grateful that the work now being done will insure that future generations can enjoy this Society Hill gem.



Happy Birthday, Mr. Pei!

The world-renowned architect I.M. Pei has been a towering presence in Society Hill since the early 60s, so it’s only appropriate that we should offer him warm wishes as he turned 100 on April 26! In addition to designing Society Hill Towers, which exemplified the integration of urban renewal into our city fabric, Pei left his mark on this neighborhood with the townhomes within the Tower complex, as well as those in Bingham Court. There are also 10 Pei townhouses along St. Joseph’s Way.

Both listed and sold in less than a week!
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SOUTH STREET HEADHOUSE DISTRICT

BY MIKE HARRIS

Exciting New Initiatives

The South Street Headhouse District (SSHD) continues to thrive. This month, it is announcing a number of exciting new initiatives, which will benefit neighbors, businesses, and visitors.

Partnership With City of Philadelphia Performances in Public Spaces Program

SSHD has recently solidified a partnership with the city of Philadelphia's Office of Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy Performances in Public Spaces Program. Through this new initiative, SSHD will present dance, theatre, jazz, classical, and country & western music performances in the historic Headhouse Shambles during the spring and summer. The partnership enables the district to showcase carefully screened local and regional artists while enlivening the Shambles and bringing the community together through the lively arts.

Stay tuned for details and dates, or check the website at www.southstreet.com.

Dining Scene Diversifies

The District's restaurant scene continues to grow with an increasingly diverse array of international cuisines. Last year's openings featured Latin American flavors with Malbec Argentinian Steakhouse at 2nd and Pine Streets and Puyero Venezuelan Flavor at 4th and Gaskill Streets.

Other global flavors can be found in the following local eateries:

Japanese: **Hikaru**, 607 S. 2nd Street
 Vietnamese: **Bahn Mi & Bottles**, 714 South Street
 Thai: **Tamarind**, 117 South Street
 Indian: **Lovash**, 236 South Street
 German: **Brauhaus Schmitz**, 718 South Street
 French: **Bistrot la Minette**, 623 S. 6th Street
 Turkish: **Isot**, 622 S. 6th Street
 Moroccan: **Marrakesh**, 517 S Leithgow Street
 Lebanese: **Cedars**, 612 S. 2nd Street
 Mexican: **Las Bugambillas**, 148 South Street
 Jamaican: **Lil Negril Grill**, 627 South Street
 Italian: **Gnocchi**, 613 E. Passyunk Avenue
 Greek: **South Street Souvlaki**, 507 South Street

This is just a taste of the cuisines on offer. Please check the SSHD's website for a full listing at www.southstreet.com/directory-food-drink.

South Street Hall of Fame

Since 1993, SSHD has honored business people and residents by celebrating their longevity and service to the district. After a long hiatus, the Hall of Fame was re-instated last spring and this year we congratulate four new inductees:

Joel Spivak

Architect, artist, author, community activist, hot dog aficionado

Marvin and Marilyn Cohen

Cohen & Co. Hardware

Tom Vasiliades

South Street Souvlaki

The Fleishman Family

Stanley and Tricia Fleishman
 Fleishman Fabrics & Supplies

Bud Plumer Community Service Award

Alvin (Bud) Plumer, founder of the South Street firm Plumer and Associates, Inc., passed away in 2014. He was known for his tireless commitment to the Street and the entire city. An annual award in his name will be bestowed upon an individual or group that embodies these same qualities. The first recipient is Christina Kallas-Saritsoglou of Philly AIDS Thrift.

In 2005, with co-founders Tom Brennan, Peter Hiler and Kevin Wilson, Christina opened the landmark store. The group banked on their experience in "thrifting" and hoped to use the business to help combat HIV/AIDS in Philadelphia. They have succeeded.

Christina Kallas-Saritsoglou is an ardent believer in the concept that service enriches one's soul and promotes society's evolution. She explains: "Yes, I am a business owner, but nobody here is in this for himself or herself. We're here to give and to encourage the philosophy that we're all in this life together, regardless of sexual orientation; and that we need people in our corner no matter our social standing."

Congratulations to Christina, and to all of the 2017 Hall of Fame inductees.

Mike Harris is Executive Director of the South Street Headhouse District.



Mike Harris, SSHD Executive Director



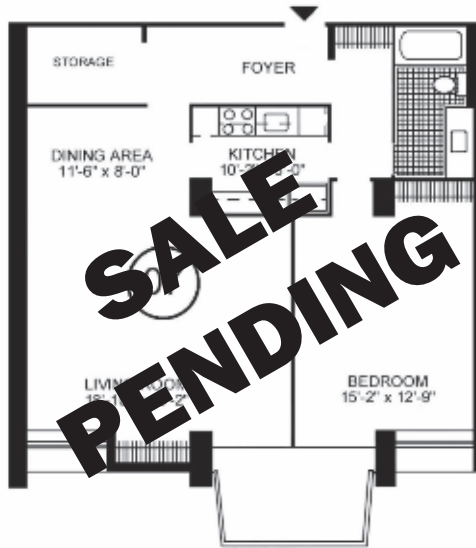
Christina Kallas-Saritsoglou



604 S. Washington Square



One bedroom, one bathroom with hardwood floors in the living area, fully renovated kitchen and bath, and a sun-soaked master with a balcony boasting panoramic views of the Delaware River, Center City skyline, and unobstructed see-forever views to the south.
778 sf | ~~\$319,900~~ ~~\$309,900~~ \$299,000 Priced to buy!



Updated deluxe one bedroom, one bathroom with a light-filled living and dining area, newly renovated galley kitchen, a generously sized bedroom with a large closet, and a private balcony offering panoramic views to the east, south, and west from a high floor.
1,003 sf | \$377,900

THE WESTERN UNION BUILDING

1101 Locust Street



Spectacular three bedroom plus den, three and a half bathroom residence that soars above Washington Square West. The heart of the home is the grand great room with a light-filled living area, large open dining area, and custom kitchen. The space offers a master suite with two custom walk-in closets, a home office, and two balconies boasting Center City skyline views to the west
. 2,511 sf | **\$1,695,000**

THE BANK BUILDING

421 Chestnut Street



A unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to custom build a home from raw space to your own specifications and desires in a boutique condominium building across from Independence Hall. The space enjoys excellent natural light from south-facing windows. Residents enjoy the same services as guests of the adjoining Omni Hotel.
1,000 sf | **\$295,000**



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HEADHOUSE FARMERS' MARKET

BY CLAIRE BATTEN

Year-Round Farmers' Market Now a Reality

"It just felt like the right time," explains The Food Trust's Lisa Kelly. "We had a strong market going into the holidays in 2016. While customers were always asking us why we didn't run the market year-round, this time, it was also the vendors inquiring. So we decided that now is the perfect time to step off the ledge and make it happen."

The 2017 Headhouse Farmers' Market opens for business on Sunday, May 7. There will be many familiar faces at the market and a few new ones. Weaver's Way will not be returning, as the company has decided to focus on its retail operations in northwest Philadelphia. Their spot will be taken by Green Zameen, a new, mixed-produce farm located in Perkasie, Bucks County, that is owned by a husband-and-wife team, Tasneem and Hasan. In addition to the produce you'd expect to see grown locally in Pennsylvania, look for specialty crops used in the South Asian kitchen. Expect to find interesting produce such as fenugreek, gourds and Indian broad beans.

Due to popular demand, the much-loved pasta vendor, Vera Pasta Co. will be setting up stall every Sunday rather than every other week as they did in 2016. Those who love the food truck scene at the Headhouse market will be pleased to know that Mom-Mom's Polish Food Cart and Poi Dog Philly will be alternating weeks. Poi Dog Philly enjoyed a particularly successful year in 2016, so much so that in March the owners opened their first brick and mortar business on 21st and Sansom Streets. If you can't get enough of their hybrid Hawaiian-style street food, check out their new restaurant with its greatly expanded menu.

According to The Food Trust, the most significant change that will affect all farmers' markets in the city is a revision to the State Liquor Board's licensing laws, which regulate the sale of alcoholic beverages at markets such as Headhouse. In previous years, the only alcoholic beverages that could be sold at local markets were locally grown wines and hard apple cider, because they are defined as farm produce. With the loosening of the Liquor Board's restrictions, however, local breweries and distilleries are now able to sell their wares at farmers' markets, which is great news for Headhouse! "We are talking to the Dock Street Brewery about coming to Headhouse," Kelly comments. "While the company is now based in West Philly, by coming back to the market, they are honoring the Dock Street district that was, in the late 1700s, the largest producer of beer in the newly formed nation."

This year The Food Trust is celebrating its 25th anniversary, and it's a milestone year for the Trust. For example, 2017 marks the 20th anniversary of the Clark Park Farmers' Market. Additionally, the Night Markets are growing each year both in terms of vendors and locations and are now an important part of Philadelphia's cultural scene. Check out 2017 dates and locations for the Night Markets and other Farmers Markets around the city, by visiting www.thefoodtrust.org.

The Food Trust, in partnership with Get Healthy Philly, operates more than 25 farmers' markets in Philadelphia, including the Headhouse Farmers' Market, Philadelphia's largest outdoor market. For more than 20 years, The Food Trust has been working to ensure that everyone has access to affordable, nutritious food and information to make healthy decisions.



Mom-Mom's Polish Food Cart and Poi Dog Philly will be alternating weeks.



The Food Trust

Nina Covrljan

Financial Advisor

215.587.4727

1650 Market Street, 29th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103



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2,650 sf | **\$1,350,000**



Opportunity to combine a two bedroom and one bedroom
into a deluxe three bedroom residence. The first unit is currently a two bedroom, one bathroom offering unobstructed views of Center City, and an updated bathroom. The second unit is currently a one bedroom with south views. Both homes offer walls of floor-to-ceiling windows and great natural light.
1,814 sf | **\$675,000**

THE LIPPINCOTT

227 S. 6th Street



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2 bathroom with oversized windows that literally bring Washington Square into the home. The residence features high ceilings, exposed ductwork, an open chef's kitchen and lavish master suite. Bathrooms are beautifully appointed in marble. There are hardwood floors and designer finishes throughout. 1,775 sf | ~~\$1,495,000~~ **\$1,395,000**

SOLD! WE CAN SELL YOURS, TOO!

Custom 3 bedroom plus den, 2 and a half bathroom with private terrace overlooking Washington Square. 2,932 sf | **\$2,250,000**

ON OUR SHELF

BY RICHARD DE WYNGAERT

Loss and Grief Examined With Dark Humor

Annie Harnett's debut novel, *Rabbit Cake*, is a highly original coming-of-age tale. It's a story about loss and grief written with a streak of dark humor.

Elvis Babbit is a precocious 12-year-old girl with a scientific mind. When her mother dies in a fatal sleepwalking episode, Elvis investigates the mysterious circumstance of her mother's death while navigating shifting family dynamics and approaching adulthood.

Harnett has a gift for storytelling; her prose is lively and delightfully unpredictable. Sometimes absurd, but always believably human, Elvis and the Babbit family are easy for readers to love.

Elvis wants to know: How does one grieve normally? According to her school therapist, grieving is supposed to be an 18-month process, with clearly marked stages. But this doesn't seem right to Elvis. Neither does the entry on loss in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders for Kids*, which Elvis consults regularly. The Babbit family verges on the dysfunctional as each member grieves uniquely. Elvis's father experiments with dressing up in her mother's nightgowns and makeup, while playing the online dating game. Her older sister, Lizzie, bakes 1,000 rabbit cakes, their mother's favorite, for the *Guinness Book of World Records*, while dealing with destructive sleepwalking bouts. Elvis speculates on the causes of her mother's death,

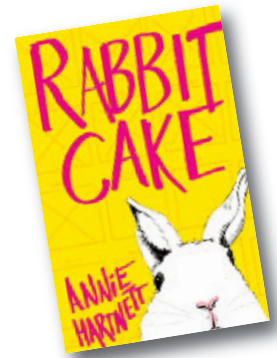
contacting her mother's former lovers and her mother's psychic, Miss Ida, for evidence.

Animals are at the heart of the Babbit family. Their dog Boomer and parrot Ernest are full members of the family. Charming and very human, the Babbit family finds comfort in their pets when nothing else seems to make sense. Elvis finds solace in volunteering at the zoo, where she learns about human behavior through studying animals. Her favorite is the naked mole rat, an animal that cannot feel pain.

She follows in the footsteps of her mother, a biologist, by contributing to her mother's unfinished manuscript, *The Sleeping Habits of Animals*. Through her devotion to zoology, Elvis hopes to cure her sister's sleepwalking and heal their family.

Though many of Elvis's queries are left unanswered, she comes to terms with the irrationality of grief. She reckons with survivor's guilt, harbored by each family member. She learns to see her parents and sister as people, with needs and desires, as well as shortcomings. With compassion and endurance, Elvis steers her family from the brink of dissolution towards healing and redemption.

Richard De Wyngaert is the owner of Head House Books, Society Hill's only local, independently owned bookstore, located at 619 South 2nd Street. Bookseller Hannah Salzer wrote this review.



SATURDAY, MAY 20

Make McCall a Winner on Casino Night

McCall School will be hosting its 5th Annual Casino Night & Silent Auction on Saturday, May 20 at 7 p.m. at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown. This exciting gala will help to raise thousands of much-needed dollars to support the school. You are invited to join in supporting McCall locally and help maintain its enriched learning environment for children.

McCall thanks SHCA and its members for their past generosity and support. Because of these contributions, McCall is able to offer its students tremendous opportunities and remain a top Philadelphia school. In fact, the School District of Philadelphia recently named it the Number One Kindergarten Through Grade 8 School in the city, as well as the designation "Model School."

Please consider being an event sponsor, donating an item or unique experience to our silent auction and attending. Last year there were many attendees from the Society Hill community.

For questions, contact Laurel Landau at president@mccallschool.org. You may purchase tickets and learn more about the event at www.mccallschool.org.



SHCA donated \$11,000 to McCall to pay for a keyboard lab, musical instruments, auditorium spotlights and sound system. Pictured are SHCA board member Mary Purcell, McCall Principal Stephanie McKenna, SHCA President Rosanne Loesch, and McCall Home & School Association President Laurel Landau.

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY MATT DEJULIO

2017 Membership Drive on Course for Another Record Year

By early April, 1,017 Society Hill residents had either renewed their association membership or joined for the first time — slightly ahead of the same time last year. We are on course to possibly exceed the all-time high of 1,127 reached last year.

So far, 77 new members have signed up this fiscal year, which is behind last year at this time, and 175 residents have not yet responded to two mailings. If you have delayed in sending in your renewal and wish to join, please do so today. A final reminder notice was emailed out on April 6, but we do not have all members' email addresses. If you are not receiving our weekly email newsletter, please go to our website and sign up.

We welcome each of the over 3,600 households in Society Hill 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 with questions or comments, which will be shared with our board members representing every quadrant in our unique and historic neighborhood.

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

Front Street Monthly Parking

A limited number of monthly parking spaces are still available at the newly renovated Front Street lot at 511 S. Front Street, between South and Lombard Streets. If interested, contact Ed Sullivan with Park America at 610-637-6832.



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
\$ _____ 5th Street Legal Fund	\$ _____ McCall School

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Charge VISA/MasterCard:

Number _____ Exp Date _____

Signature _____

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

<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

NIFTY NEIGHBORS IN MY OWN BACKYARD

BY JANE BIBERMAN

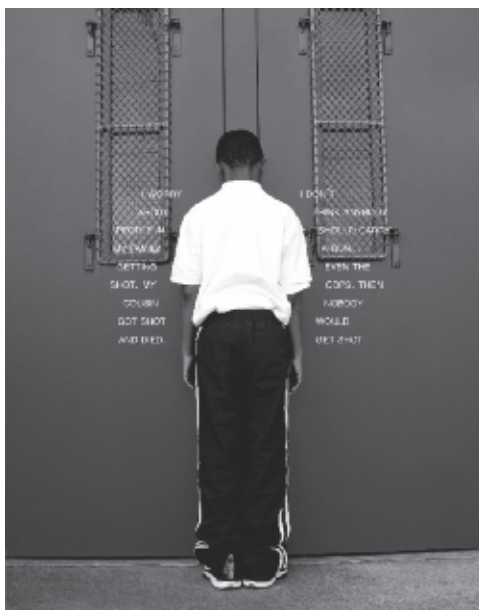
Judy Gelles's Fourth Grade Project Goes Global

Nine years ago, artist Judy Gelles spent a year volunteering at a public school in South Philly as part of a Society Hill Synagogue initiative. "I was helping fourth-graders with reading and writing," she explains. "One day, I asked the teacher if I could take their pictures. She jokingly replied that, because of privacy issues, I could photograph them from the back. Suddenly, a light bulb went off in my head! That was the seed of an idea that grew and flourished into what may be my life's signature work: The Fourth Grade Project."



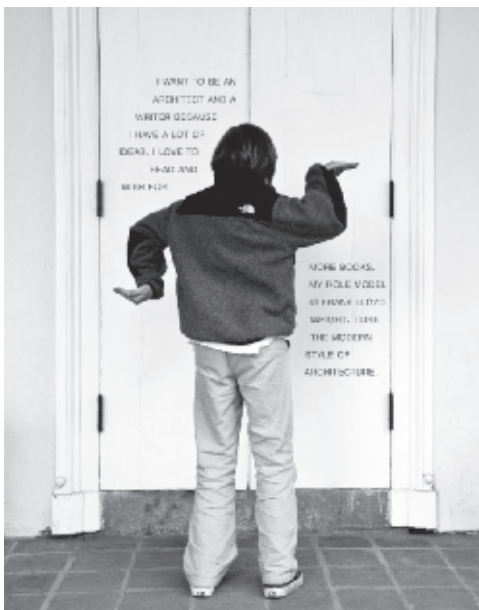
Judy Gelles and South Korean Fourth graders.

A successful photographer and a one-time school counselor, Judy talked to the children at length and then asked them three questions: "Whom do you live with? What do you wish for? What do you worry about?" She then incorporated their answers into the finished portraits. Two years later, Judy went to a private Quaker school in suburban Philadelphia and repeated the experiment. Not surprisingly, the answers were completely different: Rather than living in a fractured family, wishing for more to eat and worrying about getting shot on the way to school, most of the more affluent children lived with their parents and siblings, wished to become doctors or architects and worried about climate change and world peace. "I knew then that I had a viable project," recalls Judy.



In 2015, Judy gave a TED talk at the University of Pennsylvania (www.youtube.com/watch?v=rEgnJ3PERUY). It reached thousands of teachers across the globe, resulting in invitations to photograph their fourth graders. "That's when the project really took off," she says. "It has taken on an entirely different dimension." Judy has now interviewed and photographed more than 300 fourth-grade students in the U.S., China, England, India, Italy, Nicaragua, South America, South Africa, South Korea and, most recently, Israel.

"Their stories touch on common human experience and urgent social issues," notes Judy, adding that the goals of the project are to bridge cultural differences and foster a strong, tolerant student community. "We live in a global society where interconnectedness is every-



where in this digital era. I discovered that across the spectrum, fourth graders have little contact with, or knowledge of, people from other cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.

"Fourth grade is a turning point in children's lives, because nine-year-olds are on the cusp of adolescence. They're able to think critically and are interested in helping others. They're openly curious about the world. It's a moment in children's development when worldviews start to

become entrenched and paths to the future are getting set. Through the sharing of stories, students can focus on tolerance and empathy." In return for their participation, Judy gives each student a photo and the school receives a book of portraits with stories. "It's my way of giving back," she says.

Here's a portrait of the artist in her own words: "I live with my husband, Richard Gelles, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania, where he is former dean of the School of Social Policy and Practice and author of, most recently, *Out of Harm's Way: Creating an Effective Child Welfare System*;

"I wish for funds to continue my traveling and work on the project. Members of my advisory board are creating a curriculum and a website for teachers all over the world so they can use the Fourth Grade Project in their classrooms; funds are also needed for a local playwright who is interested in creating a theatrical performance based on the Fourth Grade Project;

"I worry about not getting the funding. While I'm good at putting art together, I'm weak when it comes to the financial side."

Judy has received many accolades. One of her fourth grader portraits is now on view at the National Portrait Gallery in London. And closer to home, her work may be seen at the Pentimenti Gallery in Old City.

Jane Biberman, freelance writer and former editor of *Inside Magazine*, commissioned Judy to do one of her signature portraits of her beloved dog, Butchie, of blessed memory.

INDEPENDENCE PLACE

233 - 241 S. 6th Street



2 bedroom plus den area, 2 bathroom custom-designed by Cecil Baker with a sun-filled living room with floor-to-ceiling windows, adjacent dining area, designer-appointed kitchen, and a balcony boasting panoramic Washington Square, Center City skyline, and Delaware River views. There is spacious den area that could be converted to a second bedroom, separate den currently used as a home office, lavish master suite with custom closets, and contemporary bathrooms. 1,818 sf | **\$1,195,000**



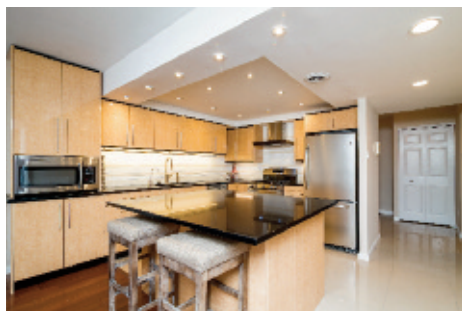
Beautifully renovated south-facing 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom featuring a fully renovated kitchen and breakfast bar that opens up into the great room. The private balcony boasts unobstructed 270 degree city views to the east, south and west, and the generously-sized bedroom has a custom walk-in closet. Additional highlights include ample natural light from southern exposures and hardwood floors throughout. 928 sf | **\$389,900**

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- 301K-I
- 706F-II

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130 Spruce Street



Beautifully appointed 2 bedroom, 3 bathroom townhouse condominium that comes with a private parking space in a secure, on-site underground garage. This home features an open kitchen with stainless steel appliances and island that seats two, spacious living room and dining space, and private terrace overlooking historic Delancey Street. 1,630 sf | **\$769,900**



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