

SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

www.societyhillcivic.org

National Spotlight Shines on Society Hill

The Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) invites everyone to the November 15 General Membership Meeting, which will feature a presentation by Ron Blatman, executive producer of the television series *Saving the City*.

Neighbors might have noticed film crews throughout our community on October 9. They were from *Saving the City: Remaking the American Metropolis*, a 13-part national series that highlights successful and unsuccessful examples of urban development throughout the U.S. and Canada. Philadelphia, along with Pittsburgh and Los Angeles, will be featured in the first episode

to represent the evolution of the post-WWII city center. Ron Blatt will give us a behind-the-scenes look at this project. Come and see what he has to say about Society Hill!

Remember, everyone is welcome to attend our General Membership Meeting. Simply arrive at Pennsylvania Hospital's Zubrow Auditorium, located on the first floor inside the main entrance at 8th Street near Spruce, at 7:30 p.m. All SHCA members interested in Society Hill issues are also welcome at our monthly Board Meeting, held earlier that same evening at 5:45 p.m. in the Great Court Conference Room.

Why join?

SHCA helps foster community spirit and involvement with interesting bi-monthly General Membership meetings, where you can meet and greet your neighbors.

Membership Drive Kickoff

SHCA membership renewal notices for 2018 were recently mailed to Society Hill residents. You can join or renew by sending back the form in the notice or the form that can be found on Page 29 of this issue and clipped out. Our newly updated website, www.societyhillcivic.org, makes it easy to pay by credit card or with your PayPal account.

While we appreciate that the 2017 membership drive broke records with 1,138 "Hillers" either joining for the first time or renewing their

memberships, according to statistics from the Center City District, more than 6,200 people live in Society Hill. We need more of you to help make our 2018 drive the most successful ever!

What does SHCA do for you? Why should you join? Why should neighbors living in high-rise buildings who pay their own association fees join? Check the sidebars throughout this issue for good reasons why you should support your community civic association.

WEDNESDAY

November

15

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Society Hill Civic Association Meetings
Wednesday, November 15, 2017

**Pennsylvania Hospital
8th & Spruce Streets**

5:45 p.m. Board Meeting
Pennsylvania Hospital's Grand Court Room

7:30 – 9 p.m. General Membership Meeting
Pennsylvania Hospital's Zubrow Auditorium

Speaker: Ron Blatman
Executive Producer of the television series
Saving the City

Topic: Behind-the-scenes look at making the series

CELEBRATE THE SEASON



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SOCIETY HILL

Reporter



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January/February Issue
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Society Hill Civic Association

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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.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY ROSANNE LOESCH

Lots to Celebrate

We have lots to celebrate here in Society Hill. Our newsletter just received a first-place national award from Neighborhoods USA for the second year in a row. Did you know that an issue of the *Reporter* gets delivered to 3,000 households, business and institutions on the first weekend of every January, March, May, July, September and November? We want to make sure that every member of the Society Hill community, whether an SHCA member or not, is kept abreast of all the news in Society Hill. Congratulations to Editor Sandra Rothman and the whole editorial and design team for their fine work!

We can also celebrate the conclusion of our community's battle to keep the neighborhood supermarket on 5th Street. Its continued existence was cast in doubt for a two-year period when the new owner of the property proposed to either eliminate or dramatically downsize the only full-service food store within our boundaries. Happily, in September ACME signed a 10-year lease with the property owner with options for another 19.5 years. In the same battle, we fought to protect the scale of the building on

the supermarket site so that the residences on Spruce Street and Lawrence Walkway that are immediately contiguous would not have a five- or six-story building (for which the same developer filed numerous zoning permits) looming over their rear facades and gardens. We are happy to keep the scale of this area of Society Hill consistent with the vision that urban planners Ed Bacon and Charlie Peterson had when they planned the redevelopment of this most historic neighborhood. Congratulations to the many neighbors who worked tirelessly for keeping our supermarket and opposing an out-of-scale building, and to the board members who spent countless hours negotiating the agreement with the developer that made this possible.

Finally, we can celebrate that Society Hill is being featured in a television series called *Saving the City* which is being filmed here as I write this message. You can read more about this exciting project at www.savingthecity.org. Its executive producer, Ron Blatman, will be the guest speaker at our November General Membership meeting. Come be the first to know more about this exciting media showcase of Society Hill!



Rosanne Loesch, SHCA President

Why join?

SHCA keeps you informed about issues important to Society Hill by hand-delivering free issues of the *Reporter* to every household, as well as sending a weekly email blast to all who sign up.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Holiday Social on Wednesday, December 6

All SHCA members are invited to our Annual Holiday Social on Wednesday, December 6, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Bridget Foy's, 200 South Street, third floor. The \$15 cover includes hors d'oeuvres. A cash bar is available and \$5 wine will be available. If you wish to attend and are not yet a member, join by filling out the form



on Page 29 or visit societyhill.org. RSVP by Thursday, November 30 with your payment, so that we can provide the restaurant with an accurate count of expected guests. Make check out to SHCA and mail to SHCA, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147. If you have any questions, please email mattdejulio@aol.com.

Why join?

SHCA hosts several convivial events throughout the year where neighbors can meet and have fun.

In This Issue...

Page 4
SHCA Signs Agreement with Alterra

Page 7
Sculpture Garden Plans Scuttled

Page 9
McCall School Is a Winner!

Page 11
Keeping Posted: Philly's 1926 Sesquicentennial

Page 13
From a Philly Prison to a Jersey Farm

Page 19
World-Class Contemporary Dance

Page 27
Dexter the Therapy Dog

Page 30
Nifty Neighbors: Celebrating the Life of Wilma Ackerman

FULL-SERVICE SUPERMARKET STAYING

SHCA Signs Agreement With Alterra

SHCA signed an agreement with the Alterra Property Group in early September.

Two neighbor groups that appealed Alterra's prior permits are also party to the agreement. The agreement pertains to the commercial properties owned by Alterra on either side of 5th Street just south of Spruce, including the ACME supermarket and the three-store commercial building across from the ACME.

Negotiations for this agreement were ongoing for a number of months. SHCA has regularly informed and sought feedback from the Society Hill neighborhood on the key points of the agreement through several public meetings and periodic emails. The signed agreement reflects the key points that have been previously communicated through these meetings and emails and contains nothing new.

As part of the settlement with SHCA, Alterra has signed an agreement to extend the ACME supermarket lease by 10 years with options for another 19.5 years. The lease agreement gives ACME the right to build a roughly 2,500-square-foot one-story addition to the 12,000-square-foot existing supermarket. ACME also has the option, if and when it chooses to use it, to demolish the existing building and rebuild a new one of 13,500 square feet at the same height. We have no information as to whether or not ACME will pursue either of these two options.

Also, under the terms of the agreement with SHCA, Alterra has agreed to legally abandon permits it held for a mixed-use residential and commercial project on the ACME supermarket site, strongly opposed by Society Hill residents, that would have drastically reduced the size of

the existing supermarket, as well as adding significant height and mass to the building.

SHCA has also agreed not to oppose Alterra's plans for a CVS to be located on the property across the street, which is currently home to a liquor store and other shops.

During our redevelopment period, the commercial buildings on 5th Street were carefully sized to fit into Society Hill's historic character, with a full-service supermarket being at the heart of the neighborhood. In reaching this agreement, SHCA was guided by the Society Hill community's desire to retain a full-service supermarket at this location and its opposition to new construction that would have been out of scale with the surrounding homes.

This agreement means that a full-service supermarket and the current building height and mass (with the exception of the 2,500 square foot potential addition) will likely be maintained for the foreseeable future. It also means that the opposite side of the street will remain a one-story building, a scale that Society Hill residents think is appropriate for the site. While we agree that the loss of the three stores will be unfortunate, it is part of the overall compromise needed to achieve this positive result.

We cannot predict what the future will hold. Much of it depends on market conditions, including in the supermarket industry, and the decisions of others, but we remain optimistic. This has been a huge endeavor for SHCA and the entire neighborhood. We appreciate your involvement in helping us through this process, and your passion for and dedication to this historic neighborhood.

Why join?

SHCA advocates for you in matters that impact our community. Imagine Society Hill without a supermarket.



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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Fall Clean-Up Day

As fall turns into winter, we remember how dangerous our bricks and cobblestones can get when snow and ice cover accumulated leaves and litter on streets and sidewalks. So let's roll up our sleeves, get out the brooms and rakes and join our neighbors for Fall Clean-Up Day on Saturday, November 18.

This year, sweeper trucks will be on the streets on Friday evening, November 17, to pre-clean before cars are moved to the alternate side. 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.

Consider stepping up to the plate if you notice your neighbor is away or a rental property needs a little TLC, and let's not forget Three Bears Park! It's worth noting that because of city budget cuts, SHCA is picking up half of the bill for the sweeper trucks this year. State Representative Michael O'Brien is paying for the shredding services, and staff from his office will be there to answer any and all questions.

Trash bags will be available, handed out by SHCA's Clean-Up Day volunteers, at the South 5th Street Acme Market, from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Your bagged leaves and street litter, but no household trash, should be left by noon at intersections on Locust, Spruce, Pine or Lombard Streets, where they cross the numbered streets.

Wherever signs are posted, cars must be moved to the opposite side of the street after 6 p.m. on Friday night, or they could be ticketed on Saturday morning beginning at 8 a.m. Please note that to accommodate Saturday synagogue services, the 300, 400 and 500 blocks of both Spruce and

Lombard Streets will be swept by 8:30 a.m. — leaving the south side of these streets available for congregants to park their cars. All streets will be swept from Front to 8th and from Chestnut to Lombard Streets. There will be no parking on either side of the 300 and 400 blocks of Front Street or the 200 and 300 blocks of 2nd Street and Lawrence Court. Although "Other Side Parking" signs will generally read "from 6 p.m. Friday until 3 p.m. Saturday," Society Hill's Block Coordinators are encouraged to remove these signs as near to 1 p.m. as possible in order to permit cars to be moved back to their usual side of the street between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. and prevent those cars from getting ticketed.

Shredding and Recycling

St. Peter's School Parking Lot
3rd and Lombard Streets, November 18
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. or until truck reaches capacity

- This shredding service is for the convenience of local residents only — sorry, no businesses. It is only for confidential materials; non-confidential papers should be recycled, not shredded.
- Only paper is accepted. No CDs or disks.
- Electronic recycling will take anything with a plug, except televisions and computer monitors.
- No large appliances like refrigerators or washing machines. Also, no smoke detectors are accepted.

If you use these special services and are not yet an SHCA member, please consider joining SHCA by simply filling out the form, either on page 29 of this newsletter or online at www.societyhillcivic.org. Any questions? Call 215-629-1288.



Why join?

SHCA helps keep Society Hill clean for you by funding spring and fall Clean-Up Days, as well as paying for weekly street sweeping.

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Grades PreK-4

Thurs., Nov. 16, 8:45 a.m.
Grades 5-12

After 10 weeks of training, middle school student docents tour their peers through a Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts exhibit.

TREE TENDER NEWS

BY LAURA LANE DEVOE

Keeping Our Streets Green

This year SHCA is implementing two new initiatives to support the improvement of street trees in our “Greentowne.” SHCA now offers subsidies to property owners to remove dead trees and replant. In addition, the same subsidy is available for residents who hire a professional service to prune their street trees.

SHCA will reimburse a property owner 50 percent of the cost of removing and replanting a tree up to \$500 for SHCA members and up to \$400 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 cost of planting of a replacement tree. SHCA will also reimburse a property owner up to 50 percent of the cost to hire professional services for pruning their street tree, up to \$300 for SHCA members and \$200 for non-members, no more often than every two years.

The \$150 subsidy for property owners who hire an arborist to plant a tree in their empty pit is still available.

Dead trees are hazards and can cause great harm to pedestrians, cars and houses. The property owner is liable for any harm caused if branches or an entire tree falls! If you are a property owner with a dead tree, be a good neighbor: remove it and replant. The city has limited funds for tree removal, and owners may wait two or more years after a request for removal and replanting. Speed up the process, and take advantage of the subsidy offered by SHCA.

Likewise, use the subsidy to have your tree professionally pruned. Doing so will greatly improve its shape and prevent future problems.

If you currently have an empty tree pit in front of your property, applications for a new street tree may be submitted until November 20 through the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) replanting program. For more information, visit www.phsonline.org/uploads/resources/Street_Tree_Request_Form_Spring_18.pdf. Send completed form to laura_lane_devoe@yahoo.com. The volunteers of SHCA Tree Tenders will plant trees in the spring of 2018.

Winter Care for Trees

Protect your tree by putting down a three-inch layer of mulch, leaving it three inches away from the trunk. This prevents trunk rot, keeps down weeds and lessens harm from dog urine and salts.

Why join?

SHCA offers subsidies for planting new street trees, as well as removing dead trees and pruning those in need. In addition, we offer incentives to “fix the brix” in front of your home.



Volunteers plant a street tree at the corner of Lombard and 6th Streets.

FOGLIETTA PLAZA UPDATE

Sculpture Garden Plans Scuttled

It was almost a year ago that OLIN, the prestigious Philadelphia landscape architecture and design firm, presented plans at a public meeting for the installation of the International Sculpture Garden in a renovated Foglietta Plaza. Unfortunately, despite strong support from Society Hill residents and SHCA, the stakeholders for the project were unable to reach a consensus, and the project has been discontinued.

Foglietta Plaza lies on the eastern edge of Society Hill and is bordered by Spruce and Dock Streets, the 38th Parallel and Columbus Boulevard. This

public space, the only at-grade connection to the waterfront, is currently an underused space despite its important strategic location.

One of the space’s caretakers, the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation, wanted to transform the current hardscaping into a softer, greener park that would double as a new home for the City’s collection of historic sculptures that have been mothballed for more than a decade.

For more information about this issue, visit www.delawareriverwaterfront.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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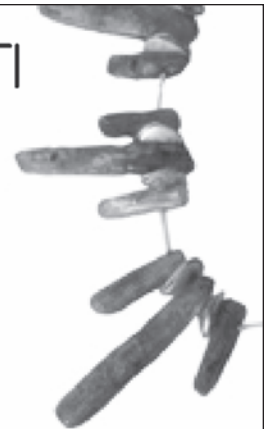
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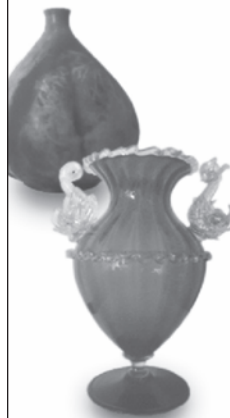
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MCCALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

BY LAUREL LANDAU

A Winner in Our Midst

General George A. McCall Elementary School is our neighborhood's local elementary school, located at 325 S. 7th Street. In September, McCall was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School by the Department of Education — one of 342 schools nationwide and one of 18 in Pennsylvania! This national program was created in 1982 to honor schools that have achieved high levels of student achievement or made significant improvements in closing the achievement gap among student subgroups.

Children who live in McCall's catchment area, including Society Hill, Washington Square West, Old City and Chinatown, may attend. It serves over 700 students, ranging from kindergarten through eighth grades. In upcoming issues, we will introduce our relatively new principal, Stephanie McKenna, and focus on the accomplishments of different grades.

McCall has a strong Home & School Association (HSA) led by myself, Laurel Landau. The HSA, which has 501(c)(3) status, serves as a liaison among parents, students and administration. In addition, it handles the school's fundraising efforts. In light of the dim city budget, the HSA has replaced a badly damaged playground safety surface, funded the librarian's position, provided needed technology, as well as air-conditioning units. The HSA just hosted its 5th Annual Casino Night & Silent Auction in May to bring the community together and raised over \$45,000. We were thrilled to have so many neighborhood attendees!

McCall thanks SHCA and its members for their past generosity and support, including the recent supplement to our music program. Because of generous contributions, McCall is able to offer its students more opportunities. Recently named the #1 Philadelphia K to Grade 8 School, we realize how lucky we are to have it in our neighborhood.

If able to do so, please consider making a donation to our annual campaign. Donations are tax-deductible and may be cash or check. Checks should be made out to "McCall Home & School Association" and sent to McCall Elementary School, attention: McCall Home & School Association, 325 South 7th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106. You can also donate online at www.mccallschool.org.

Other easy ways to help McCall:

- Use the app Shoparoo. Pictures of your grocery receipts will help raise money to donate back to the school.
- Clip and collect "Box Tops for Education," which are on many common household brands like Nature Valley, Hefty and Ziploc, and bring them to the school.
- Many Amazon purchases made through smile.amazon.com are eligible for a percentage donation to McCall. Just make sure you select "McCall Home & School Association" as your charitable organization of choice.

For questions, contact Laurel Landau at president@mccallschool.org.

Why join?

SHCA supports the only public school in our neighborhood. Last year we donated \$11,000 to fund a keyboard lab, musical instruments, auditorium spotlights and a sound system.



McCall held a party to celebrate its being recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School.

'FIX THE BRIX'

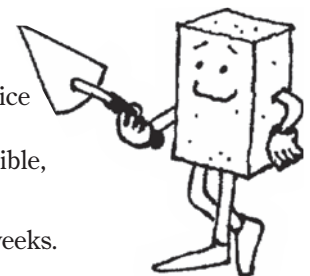
Get Ready for Winter

If you have been thinking about leveling the brick sidewalk in front of your house, now is the time to do so, before winter sets in.

Here's how the SHCA "Fix the Brix" subsidy program 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.





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KEEPING POSTED

BY AL CALVALARI

Philly's 1926 Sesquicentennial

A world of “modern” airships and biplanes provided a backdrop to the 1926 Sesquicentennial celebration held in our city. It began on May 31 and ended on November 30 in 1926. The idea of celebrating 150 years of American independence came from department store entrepreneur John Wanamaker, who had worked on the 1876 Centennial celebration that was a popular success. This time, however, the outcome would be different.

Like all great world fair events, part of the purpose was to showcase progress, innovation and pride in society's accomplishments. This one seemed to be on track to provide that opportunity. It would also bring investment by constructing infrastructure and, hopefully, provide a great economic boost to Philadelphia. In all, 45 major buildings and 250 pavilions and exhibits were built on 2,000 acres at the end of Broad Street, where we have our current sports stadiums in South Philadelphia. Dozens of countries, 16 states, the U.S. Military and hundreds of companies were represented. A convention center, a 120,000-seat stadium and a full amusement park were created. The Women's Committee created “High Street,” a recreation of 1776 Philadelphia, including reproductions of 20 historic buildings. The U.S. Mint issued coins, the U.S. Postal Service issued stamps. With so much going on, the planners had high hopes to boost the city economically and culturally.

However, as with cities that in modern times seek to host the Olympics, there was not universal support for Philadelphia to host a big party. The event suffered from conflict even in the early planning stages. Some wanted to focus on industry, while others wanted the emphasis to be on Philadelphia's cultural and historical importance. This rift delayed the selection of a director. A plan to have the public pay for the event through the selling of shares failed. Then taxpayers raised objections, fearing that tax hikes would be needed to fund it when money was needed for housing and infrastructure. Fairmount Park was the originally intended venue and this caused opposition. Ultimately an “Anti-Sesquicentennial” League sprang up, and even the mayor, an initial supporter, turned against the project.

The dysfunction within the event committee and the public lack of enthusiasm resulted in a very late start to the construction, which didn't get

going until 1924. By that time, the site had been moved from Fairmount Park to the undeveloped swampland in South Philadelphia, which had to be drained. After the fair opened, construction was still going on two months into the fair's six-month run, and the anticipated economic activity resulted in disappointment. Of the 36 million expected visitors, only 6.5 million showed up. Of the fair's 184-day run, it rained for 107 days. The event faced severe financial difficulties and organizational problems. Vendors eventually sued for nonpayment, and the Sesquicentennial ultimately declared bankruptcy.

Philadelphia did get some valuable infrastructure out of the deal. Municipal Stadium, renamed JFK Stadium, was used until it was torn down in 1992. Enhancements were made to Franklin Delano Roosevelt Park. Today's sports complex is on former swampland made available for development after the fair. The first bridge connecting Philadelphia with New Jersey was built in anticipation of the crowds that were expected but, sadly, never arrived. Maybe you've heard of it: the Ben Franklin Bridge. Benito Mussolini's Italy provided a fountain for the event that is still used today at the Fairmount Water Works. The Fountain of the Sea Horses was renovated in 2013, having been inactive since 2006.

The card pictured here shows the giant Liberty Bell over the main entrance. Over 80 feet high, it was constructed of concrete, steel, plaster and wood. At night it was illuminated by 26,000 light bulbs and was truly a site to behold. After the fair, it was torn down and sold for its scrap value.

The fair produced a wonderful array of souvenirs that are easy to find on eBay. I have hundreds of great postcards that make me wish I had visited the event. For anyone who did attend, it seems to have provided a fine outing. For anyone who planned or invested in it, the event seems to have been a problem.

Al Cavalari 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 flag business in upstate New York. Send comments to Al at flagguys@aol.com.



This vintage post card shows the giant Liberty Bell over the main entrance at the Sesquicentennial.



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TAKING HISTORY TO NEW HEIGHTS

BY DENNIS K. JOHNSON

From a Philly Prison to a Jersey Farm

This article was originally published in the July 2017 issue of AOPA Pilot, magazine of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, which gave us permission to reprint it.

When you think of the “first flight,” it’s Wilbur and Orville Wright on the dunes of North Carolina. However, the true first manned flight over North America departed from downtown Philadelphia, crossed the Delaware River, and landed in a farmer’s field (today behind a Walmart) in Deptford Township, New Jersey. The pilot was not a man named Wright from Ohio, but was a Frenchman named Jean-Pierre Blanchard.

On that chilly winter morning 224 years ago, many of the founding fathers — including President George Washington and future presidents John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and James Monroe — gathered in the courtyard of Philadelphia’s Walnut Street Jail to view the launch of a marvelous new invention: the balloon.

Blanchard, a 39-year-old Frenchman, made his first balloon flight in 1784, using a hydrogen gas balloon he built and launched in Paris. The first manned balloon flight had taken place just a few months before, in November 1783, when the Marquis d’Arlandes and Jean-François Pilâtre de Rozier piloted a hot air balloon, built by brothers Joseph-Michel and Jacques-Étienne Montgolfier, from the king’s palace at Versailles. In 1785, Blanchard was the first to fly across the English Channel, crossing from England to France in about two and a half hours. During the next nine years Blanchard made 44 balloon flights throughout Europe, including the first flights in Belgium, Germany, Austria, and Poland.

Blanchard arrived in Philadelphia in 1792. In January 1793 he advertised the sale of tickets to the first balloon flight in the United States. Blanchard chose a prison as his launch site for several reasons. Even though surrounded by prisoners, it was a secure spot to set up his balloon and the apparatus for making hydrogen gas. The enclosed courtyard



Blanchard's balloon before take-off.

protected the balloon from the winter wind during inflation, and allowed him to sell exclusive tickets to view the launch. At first, the price was \$5, but it was lowered to \$2 when sales were not so brisk. Five dollars was a huge sum for the average American in 1793.

The flight achieved several “firsts” in U.S. aviation history. At the last moment before launch, someone placed a dog in the basket with Blanchard, making it the first flying American hound.

At 10 a.m., Blanchard lifted off with an official letter from the president, which was America’s first air-mail delivery. It read in part: “George Washington, president of the United States of America...recommend to all citizens of the United States, and others, that in his passage, descent, return, or journeying elsewhere, they oppose no hindrance or molestation to Mr. Blanchard; And, that on the contrary, they receive and aid him with that humanity and good will which may render honor to their country.”

Blanchard later described the flight: “When, elevated at a certain height over the city, I turned my eyes towards the immense number of people, which covered the open places, the roofs of the houses, the steeples, the streets and the roads over which my flight carried me in the free space of the air. What a sight! How delicious for me to enjoy it!

As Blanchard sailed toward the Delaware River, he made the first aerial encounter with birds in America, too. “I met a numerous and thick flock of wild pigeons: they seemed to be much

frightened. Alas! it was never my intention in traversing the ethereal regions to disturb the feathered inhabitants thereof; they separated into two different parties and left a passage open for me.”

After leveling off, Blanchard completed a few scientific experiments, including taking air samples at an altitude of 5,400 feet, checking his pulse rate, testing the strength of a magnet, and noting the temperature and air pressure.

Before landing, Blanchard also partook of the first inflight meal in America as he “strengthened my stomach with a morsel of biscuit and a glass of wine.”

Forty-five minutes after takeoff, Blanchard landed the balloon in a plowed field in Deptford, New Jersey, eight miles from the launch. A New Jersey farmer was terrified by the sight of a man descending from the sky, but the pilot beckoned him closer.

“Recollecting that the exhilarating juice of the grape was always amongst mankind the happiest sign of friendship and conciliation, I showed him a bottle of wine. So much eagerness on my part inspired him with confidence; he approached, I invited him to drink, he would not venture, I then drank, first, and he followed my example.”

Properly lubricated, local farmers assisted Blanchard in carting his balloon from the field and finding a carriage back to Philadelphia. That evening, the French pilot shared the details of his flight with President Washington, doubtless with the help of additional wine.

Blanchard returned to Europe in 1797 and continued to fly until he suffered a heart attack during a flight in 1808. He fell from the balloon but survived for almost a year before succumbing to his injuries in 1809. After his death, his widow performed balloon flights until she also died in an accident.

Dennis K. Johnson is a freelance writer and pilot living in New York City.

BOOKS ABOUT TOWN

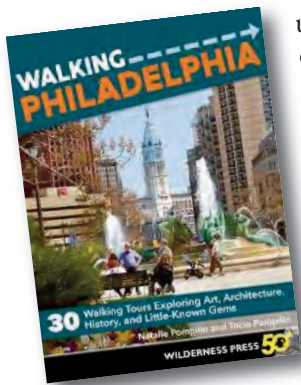
Walking Philadelphia

30 Walking Tours Exploring Art, Architecture, History, and Little-Known Gems

by *Nataie Pompillo, author, and Tricia Pompillo, photographer, Wilderness Press (May 22, 2017)*

Grab your water bottle and become an urban adventurer! Award-winning journalist Natalie Pompillo guides you through 30 unique walking tours in this comprehensive guidebook.

Go beyond the obvious with these self-guided tours that showcase famed fare (such as cheesesteaks, pretzels, and beer that make Philadelphia a foodies' paradise), as well as vintage boutiques, high-end shopping destinations and one-of-a-kind local goods.



Discover Philadelphia's many "Firsts:" the first zoo, first library system, and first hospital, plus dozens of historic sites you learned about in school. Explore a museum district that's second to none, an all-encompassing park system, America's Most Historic Square Mile, and much more.

Walking Philadelphia is the only guide to the city that makes you feel like you're being led by your smartest, funniest friend. The tours not only include all the important historic facts and figures, but Natalie also shares behind-the-scenes stories and tidbits that you'll later rush to tell others. It's recommended for locals, as well as tourists, promising something for everyone. It's a perfect holiday gift.

WASHINGTON SQUARE AFFAIR :: 2018

Back by Popular Demand!



It's time to mark your calendars! The much-anticipated 5th Washington Square Affair will take place on Wednesday, June 6, 2018. As in the past, the tented event will feature food from local restaurants, music, wine and fun for everyone.

Created as one of William Penn's five public squares, Washington Square is considered by many to be one of our nation's most significant Revolutionary War burial sites, with an estimated 2,000 Revolutionary War soldiers interred there. At present, thousands of visitors and residents enjoy its center fountain, majestic trees, slate walkways and lush expanses of lawn throughout the year.

Over the years, SCHCA has worked with Independence National Historical Park (INHP) to refurbish the fountain and to restore the guardhouses.

In 2016, SHCA, in cooperation with INHP and with the donated design services of renowned Philadelphia landscape architectural firm The OLIN Studio, totally rehabilitated the landscaping around the memorial and the fountain areas.

A new Washington Square Affair Committee has been formed, and Joan Tropp, long-time SHCA member and block coordinator, has been named chair. We hope you'll consider making a tax-deductible contribution. Your generosity will ensure that maintenance and beautification of the park will continue. Please visit www.societyhillcivic.org/donate.

Businesses and individuals interested in sponsorship opportunities should contact SHCA administrator Matt DeJulio by emailing him at mattdejulio@aol.com or by calling 215-629-1288.

NEED SOME SPACE?

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. 2018 renewal notices will go out on November 1. If interested, contact Ed Sullivan with Park America at 610-637-6832.

ON OUR SHELF

BY RICHARD DE WYNGAERT

So Much Blue

Review by Vivienne Woodward

Percival Everett is the most prolific author you've probably never heard of. The author of almost 30 books, he's still flying under the radar, despite the wide critical acclaim for many of his books, such as *I Am Not Sidney Poitier* and *Erasure*. His latest, *So Much Blue*, further proves his deftness as a storyteller.



So Much Blue is about 56-year-old painter Kevin Pace, living in Rhode Island with his wife and two kids. His marriage is amiable but stale, his children are old enough not to need him for anything beyond “daily familial maintenance,” and his work is confounding him. He is successful,

but he struggles to understand why he is painting. In the present, he is singularly obsessed with one painting he won't show anyone — a painting he fears would ruin his relationship with his children and his wife if they saw it — a painting that reveals all his secrets.

And secrets he has. The book alternates between three narrative threads: El Salvador 30 years ago, Paris 10 years ago and the present in Rhode Island. In El Salvador, Kevin and his best friend are searching for his friend's drug-dealing brother with the help of a gun-wielding mercenary called “the Bummer”; in Paris, Kevin has an affair with a much younger woman; in Rhode Island, Kevin's daughter tells him a loaded secret, making him promise not to tell his wife or son. If the unhappy, middle-aged father who had an affair sounds like a lot of clichéd noise, Everett subverts that expectation.

For one thing, the storytelling is captivating — the book moves easily between thrilling in El Salvador, romantic in Paris, and confounding in small-town America (complete with the wealthy hardware store owner who pays to maintain a failing delivery truck for the benefit of his wealthy patrons' expectations). No one section outshines another. And it's funny.

The book is funny when it could be overly sentimental and nuanced where it could be overwritten. One of the amazing things is

that it covers only a handful of days. The El Salvador and Paris trips span only three days each. The present in Rhode Island covers only a few days. The reader gets none of the backstory we're so comfortable with. We don't find out about Kevin's childhood or his parents or his first dog — in each respective section, all we have is the present and the reverberations of the sections that fall chronologically before.

The effect is that we don't get to psychoanalyze Kevin — we don't get to blame his thoughtlessness on a mother who never hugged him or his fickle loyalty on an absent father. We see him only as he behaves in the most extraordinary days of his life.

And it's enough. Everett is abstemious with details — he doesn't try too hard to make Kevin one thing or another and he's not preoccupied with making sure we like Kevin. Instead, we try to make sense of the way these three extraordinary threads of Kevin's life have shaped him — right along with him as he muses, “The thing I admired about Leonardo da Vinci was his insatiable hunger to understand everything around him. A good thing in an artist, but at this I was a terrible failure... in regard to my own inner life, I was oblivious as to how my secrets had influenced, shaped my vision, in the most literal sense.” If it doesn't sound like the “gotcha!” plot twist you're hoping for in a book, rest assured that you'll be turning pages to see whether you, and Kevin, can figure it out.

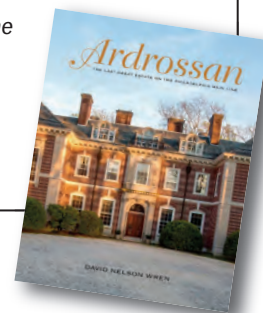
Bring this article to Head House Books and get 50 percent off the net proceeds from any purchase in stock or ordered online. Or, decline the discount, and it will be donated to SHCA.

Richard De Wyngaert is the proprietor of Society Hill's only local, independently owned bookstore, Head House Books, located at 619 South 2nd Street.

Wonderful Gift for the Holiday Season

Ardrossan: The Last Great Estate on the Philadelphia Main Line by David Nelson Wren and Tom Crane (Photographer)

A beautiful and richly detailed history of the baronial splendor of the Philadelphia Main Line estate Ardrossan, and of the Montgomery family who built it. Real-life American counterparts of the Granthams of Downton Abbey, the Montgomeries are best known as the family on which Philip Barry based his 1939 play, *The Philadelphia Story*, featuring Katharine Hepburn. The authors will be at Head House Books for a reading and to sign copies on November 16.



OUT & ABOUT

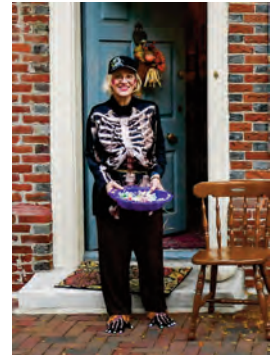
PHOTOGRAPHS BY BONNIE HALDA

Hot Dog! And Lots of Other Costumes

Society Hill celebrates Halloween every year with festivities that attract trick and treaters from all over the city. As you can see from last year's event, creativity is rampant and the fun is contagious!



OUT & ABOUT



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.

SOCIETY HILL TOWERS

THE CONDOMINIUM

200-220 Locust Street

Corner 1 Bedroom



with panoramic Benjamin Franklin Bridge, river, and southern views. This highly customized home features a beautifully renovated open kitchen, light-filled living room with walls of windows, master bedroom with 2 wall closets, modern bath, and hardwood floors throughout.
803 sf | **\$369,900**



2 Bedroom plus Den



2 and a half bath that is the custom combination of a 2nd bedroom and 1 bedroom. The home has floor-to-ceiling windows in all rooms boasting incredible views of the Delaware River and Society Hill. The home features a magnificent double-sided fireplace, formal living room, spacious great room with wet bar, master suite with a large walk-in closet and marble appointed ensuite bathroom.
2,650 sf | **\$950,000**



Beautifully Renovated 2 Bedroom plus Den



4 bathroom with jasper countertop, 270 degree panoramic view of Delaware River, Center City skyline views. The home is the combination of two homes, boasting a great room surrounded by walls of windows, double-wide living room, dining room, fully upgraded kitchen with breakfast bar, marble and hardwood floors throughout, and two wet bars.
2,650 sf | **\$1,275,000**



NEXTMOVE DANCE

BY ANNE-MARIE MULGREW

World-Class Contemporary Dance

A cultural treasure resides just a short distance from your neighborhood. NextMove Dance, which brings world-class contemporary dance to the Prince Theater, is at 1412 Chestnut Street.

NextMove Dance's artistic director Randy Swartz is no stranger to the Philadelphia arts and culture community. A longtime Center City resident, his career as a presenter began in the 1970s with the Dance Series at the Walnut Street Theater, featuring celebrated dance artists such as Merce Cunningham, Pilobolus, Alwin Nikolais, Alvin Ailey, Erick Hawkins and Paul Taylor.

Its 2017-2018 season promises to wow with its artistry and diversity and features eight companies from six countries in 40 performances.

Ronald K. Brown brings his talented company EVIDENCE, A Dance Company, to the stage from December 14 to 17. Known for his uplifting and emotionally driven works, Brown holds the distinction of being one of the few choreographers who created a full evening of works on the eminent Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. EVIDENCE tells stories about the struggles, the tragedies and triumphs of the human spirit through African and contemporary dance, music and spoken word. Brown's repertory for Philadelphia includes *Torch* and *Ebony Village*, as well as his latest collaboration, *New Conversations*, with multi-Grammy-award-winning composer Arturo O'Farrill. His work is known for its power, poignancy and infectious energy that make you want to dance. Brown has also created works for Cuba's Malpaso Dance Company and Philadanco.

BodyVox, an imaginative troupe from Portland, Oregon, ushers in the new year, January 18 to 21, with its hilarious 20th anniversary program,



EVIDENCE, A Dance Company



BodyVox

Urban Meadow, featuring dance, theater and film. Ballets Jazz de Montréal, a Philadelphia favorite, returns February 15 to 18 with works by Israeli choreographer Itzik Galili. Company Wang Ramirez makes its debut, March 15 to 18, in *Monchichi*, a full-length work rooted in hip hop, contemporary and urban dance theater. Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company with live music by the Ahn Trio graces the stage April 19 to 22 with *A Quest for Freedom*, a work inspired by artistic director Nai Ni Chen's personal journey from Taiwan to the United States. Closing the series May 10-13 is MOMIX, a world-renowned troupe of dance illusionists under the direction of Moses Pendleton.

Tickets are available by phone at 215-422-4580, online at www.princetheater.org/next-move, or in person at the box office. Use promo code SAVE10 and receive \$10 off single ticket prices.

In addition to the performances, companies offer pre- and post-performance chats, master classes and Student Discovery programs for schools. For more information visit www.nextmovedance.org.

Anne-Marie Mulgrew is Project/Education Director for Nextmove Dance.

BIKE LANE COMMITTEE REMAINS VIGILANT

As you may know, the Civic Association's Bike Lane Special Committee is actively engaged in the issues relating to bicycle safety, traffic safety and pedestrian safety in Society Hill. We meet internally on a regular basis.

We've seen efforts by the City Administration to make changes to bike lanes in other parts of the city. To be proactive, we have met with the city administrators to make sure that no changes are made in Society Hill, at least not without due consideration and input from our residents.

We are told that there are no imminent proposals at this time. We've asked for the bike lanes to be repainted — they are quite faded in many areas.

We are committed to ensuring safety for all users of our streets and sidewalks. Our councilman, Mark Squilla, is aware of our concerns.

We continue to get inquiries from folks in Society Hill, and we appreciate and share your concerns. We remain active and vigilant.



THE ESTATE HOMES AT 4TH AND LOCUST

The Shippen-Wistar and
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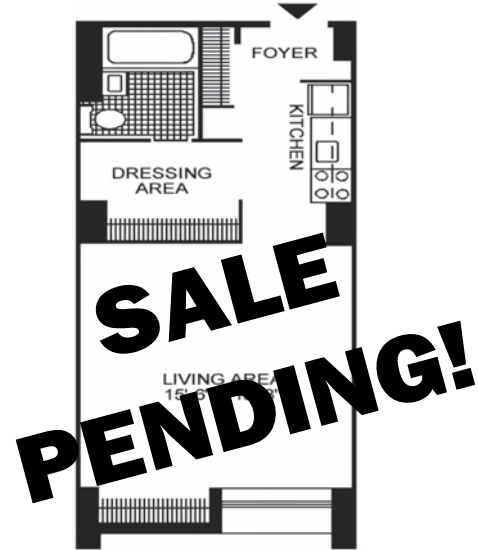
- George Washington
 - John Adams
- Meriwether Lewis
- Richard Henry Lee
- Francis Lightfoot Lee

The Estate Homes at 4th and Locust provide a rare opportunity to create a custom mansion from the combination of two Society Hill residences. The property has a tremendous history. One house was built in 1750 and the other in 1829, and both have the potential to be restored to their original grandeur. The estate enjoys a prestigious location, large private gardens and approval for up to four off-street parking spaces. Also available as two individual homes.

13,673 sf | **\$4,950,000**



604 S. Washington Square



Studio on a high floor with panoramic southern views, an open kitchen and great closet space.
415 sf | **\$179,900**



Bright and sunny corner 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath with see-forever river and city views to the south and east. The home features an open floor plan, perfect for entertaining. Both bedrooms are generously sized and there is a private balcony. 1,200 sf | **Sold for \$490,000**



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SOUTH STREET HEADHOUSE DISTRICT

BY CLAIRE BATTEN

A Neighborhood Culinary Tour

South Street Headhouse's business district is well-known for its vibrant restaurant scene. Walk less than six blocks in any direction and you'll be able to sample nearly any international cuisine or food trend.

Enjoy this whistle-stop tour of three welcome additions to the neighborhood: the Hawaiian/Korean-inspired Red Poke, the Australia-leaning Ants Pants Café and the vegan coffee shop Dottie's Donuts.

Poke Your Way

Red Poke (pronounced Pok-Hay) has arrived at Headhouse Square. Situated on the corner of South and 2nd Street, this Hawaiian/Korean-fusion eatery is now open for business, much to the delight of Society Hill neighbors. The traditional pokebowl consists of raw protein, usually a fish, such as tuna or salmon, atop a customizable mound of greens, fresh fruit, crunchiness in the form of seaweed, tempura or similar, and drizzled with one or more dressings. "Poke your way" means just that. If you have an aversion to certain foods, or need gluten-free friendly fare, then this is the place to go.

On our first visit, I picked tuna and salmon on a salad that included fresh greens, avocado, sliced radish, onion crisps, cilantro, spicy mayo and an additional ginger shoyu dressing. My dining partner ordered the Fire Bowl with tuna, onion, scallion, spicy mayo and chili flakes and threw on some crab for good measure. "It's very fresh, has lots of flavor and my kids will love it. It's healthier than the usual sandwich," she commented.

Red Poke is open 11 a.m. to 9.30 p.m. most nights and stays open until 10.30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Get your "5 A Day" with spicy mayo at Red Poke.

The Hot New Brunch Spot

Located at 536 S 4th Street, **Ants Pants Café** is the second outpost of Ants Pants. The original café location, a flourishing fixture on the Rittenhouse side of Philadelphia, enjoyed its 13th birthday this year. As Nancy Silverman, one of the two original founders of Ants Pants explained, 4th Street was the ideal choice for their new café: "We figured that we have Society Hill and Queen Village on our doorstep, and residents here like to go out! Also, I'm a local; I live on Catharine Street, so I can walk to work." Liz Fleming,

Nancy's business partner, spent several years living just outside of Sydney. When she returned to Philadelphia with her husband, who is Australian, she decided she wanted to open a coffee shop inspired by her experience running cafés in Australia.

Liz brought many of the drinks and menu items that were best sellers in Sydney with her to Philly, such as "the stack" (a unique bacon, egg and arugula dish), ice cream drinks and, of course, the famous Vegemite spread. "We've been serving flat whites for the last 13 years, it's only recently that Starbucks has popularized the drink! The coffee itself is an Australian label, Toby's Estate Coffee, and we're delighted they just established a roaster in Brooklyn," comments Nancy. "We opened on 4th Street on August 30 and so far, it's going well. We seem to have a nice, regular crowd, which is critical for a small business like ours."

When we visited on a Thursday a month after its opening, Ants Pants was packed at brunch time. The café's popularity is unsurprising, given its tempting menu of smoothies, shakes and breakfast and lunch items. We sampled the Dill Scrambled Eggs and the Spinach, Goat Cheese and Caramelized Onion Omelet. We kept it healthy on this first visit but were drawn to other menu items such as the Brie-stuffed French Toast, which we'll be trying soon!

If you do stop by Ants Pants, take a look at the lush, hand-painted floral mural by local artist Gibbes Connors and enjoy an Australian cup of Joe.

Calling all Donut Enthusiasts!

If, like me, you have a weakness for donuts, then **Dottie's Donuts**, opposite Starr Gardens at 509 S 6th Street, is for you. These donuts are vegan-friendly and marginally lower calorie than traditional donuts, which are usually fried in animal lard. Dottie's recipe substitutes egg-replacer for eggs and vegetable shortening for conventional fat. You won't recognize the difference; the donuts are equally light and fluffy. The raspberry jelly powdered sugar confection that I sampled was divine. Say no more.



Mike Harris, SSHD Executive Director



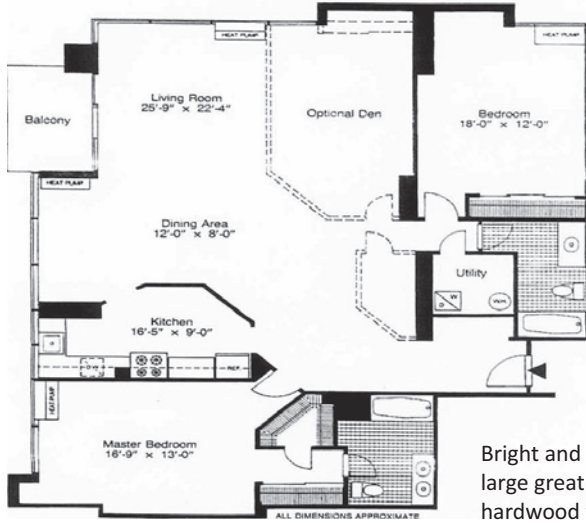
Try an Ice cream drink at Ants Pants Café.



Dottie's displays a tempting assortment of vegan doughnuts.

INDEPENDENCE PLACE

233 - 241 S. 6th Street



Bright and open 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom perfect for entertaining with its large great room, river and city views to the east and north, brand new hardwood floors throughout the living space, a recently updated kitchen, and private balcony. 1,897 sf | **\$975,000**



SALE PENDING!

Sun-soaked 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom on a high floor with magnificent Washington Square and city skyline views. The home is completely renovated and boasts a new kitchen with high end appliances and new bathrooms with beautiful marble tilework. There is large, open entertaining space and a private balcony. 2,045 sf | **\$1,075,000**

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HEADHOUSE FARMERS' MARKET

BY LISA KELLY, THE FOOD TRUST

Think Gift Giving

As the holidays approach, the Headhouse Farmers' Market is gearing up to provide a bountiful cornucopia of specialty foods and gifts to the community to help celebrate the upcoming festive season. The Market's schedule will alter slightly to accommodate Thanksgiving orders and to allow the vendors to enjoy the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Please note the following changes:

Wednesday, November 22

A modified Market will operate from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for turkey and pie pickups. There will be about seven merchants on hand selling vegetables and other items and ingredients to produce a delicious Thanksgiving dinner.

Sunday, November 26

Market will be closed.

Sunday, December 3, 10 and 17

Market will resume normal hours 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sunday, December 24 and 31

Market will be closed.

Sunday, January 7

Market will reopen with winter hours, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and will operate on Sundays year-round.

Gift-Giving Opportunities Abound...

As the festive season arrives, gift-giving opportunities abound. The Headhouse Farmers' Market offers an abundance of options, whether you are looking for the perfect hostess gift, a stocking stuffer or a special present for a special someone.

Green Aisle Grocery: Their preserves, pickles and nut butters are produced from mainly local ingredients and are of top quality. They offer unique and thoughtful combinations such as blueberry cardamom jam and salty strawberry spread.

Soap Box: These all natural soaps, bath and body products and household cleaning supplies are made from organic ingredients and deliver intoxicating aromatherapy in each and every creation. Their shop on 6th and Bainbridge offers an even wider selection of products and gifts.

Three Springs Fruit Farm: In addition to fresh fruits and vegetables, the farm produces a line of jams and jellies made from their own harvest. Renowned local chef Melissa McClellan, author of the ubiquitous cookbook *Food in Jars*, created the recipes.

John and Kira Chocolates: Their artisanal chocolates draw chocolate connoisseurs from far and wide. Bring these as a hostess gift and you are assured of a repeat invitation!

Red Brick Craft Distillery: This award-winning local producer of small-batch, high-quality spirits offers an array of specialty quaffs: whisky, rum and black birch, a new liquor inspired by Pennsylvania Dutch birch beer.

Introducing a New Merchant

Primordia Farms, a mushroom vendor from Berks County, joined the Market in October. They offer a variety of mushrooms and other foraged items and will be participating in the Market year round.

The Food Trust and The Headhouse Farmers' Market merchants wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, Season's Greetings and a Joyous New Year!

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. The Food trust has been working to ensure that everyone has access to affordable, nutritious food and information to make healthy decisions.



EXERCISE AND SOCIALIZE

Dress warmly, wear sturdy shoes and take to the sidewalks this winter.

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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IN MEMORIAM

Roland Davies

We are sad to inform neighbors of the death of Society Hill pioneer Roland “Rody” Davies. He passed away on August 9 while working on his sailboat on the Severn River in Maryland. Rody is survived by Peggy, his wife of 56 years, his three sons and four grandchildren.

Rody and his wife Peggy were true Society Hill pioneers, but they both came to Philadelphia from a southerly direction. Rody was born in Washington D.C. in 1932. After graduating from Washington and Lee University in 1955, he served in the Navy on the USS Valley Forge. In 1957, he began his study of architecture at the University of Virginia, finishing with a Masters from the University of Pennsylvania.

Before graduating, Rody and Peggy bought two trinity houses on the 300 block of American Street. They redid the houses themselves; climbing ladders and sanding floors, to make two narrow houses into the Davies family home. Rody actually worked out of the living room until 1969, before moving to Old City, renovating a loft building in that neighborhood into studio space. In many ways he was a pioneer of Old City as well, filling his building with people working in the arts.

Under the name Roland Davies and Associates, Rody enjoyed a long career. His work is everywhere: the town houses at Front and Pine and Front and Delancey, an addition to the Philadelphia Contributionship, beach houses in Avalon and Stone Harbor and vacation homes in the Poconos. He also helped many architectural students get their start.

Rody served on numerous boards like the SHCA, the Old City Civic Association and the Old Pine Community Center. He helped to keep the Old Pine Community Center going, and he was honored for that in 1998. His efforts also helped to preserve neighborhood landmarks, such as St. Peters Church and Head House — it was his work with

the “time capsule” campaign that got the clock at Head House working again for the first time in almost 100 years.

After 40 years in Society Hill, Rody and Peggy moved back to Maryland in 2002, where he continued to practice as an architect up to the time of his death. He always loved the Society Hill neighborhood that he helped build and was loved by the people here.

A memorial service is being planned for early 2018 in Philadelphia. For details go to www.familyofrolanddavies.tumblr.com.



Roland Davies

Giuseppe Giuliani

Founder of one of our neighborhood’s beloved institutions, La Buca Restaurant, Giuseppe Giuliani passed away from a brain tumor on August 28 at the age of 86.

The restaurant, which opened at 711 Locust Street in the spring of 1980, is one of the longest-operating restaurants in Center City.

Giuseppe came to the United States from Pisa, Italy, in 1958. He spoke no English. He and his wife, Mary, settled in Philly, where he worked at a collection of long-ago restaurants, including Arthur’s Steak House and Gaetano’s. He was honored in 1997 by Italian president Oscar Luigi Scalfaro for promoting Italian food and culture. Besides his wife, sons Anthony and Richard and four grandchildren survive Giuseppe.



Giuseppe Giuliani

Wilma Ackerman

We regret to inform neighbors of the death of longtime Society Hill resident Wilma Ackerman on September 30 at the age of 100. She leaves behind son Bruce, daughter Harriet, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Jane Biberman had just completed an interview with Wilma for her “Nifty Neighbors in My Own Backyard” column. Please learn more about this interesting woman on Page 30.



Wilma Ackerman

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OUR CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

Dexter the Therapy Dog

I was that kid who often brought home furry friends that I pleaded with my parents to let me keep. When my sons were children, the other neighborhood kids knew just where to bring little creatures that their parents wouldn't allow in the house. It's no wonder that, as I moved through my career in school counseling, I found a way to incorporate animals into my work.

Sixteen years ago, after seeing a TV special about therapy dogs and connecting with the program at Abington Memorial Hospital, I got my first therapy dog certified. Chloe, our Golden Retriever, died at 13 after spending eight years as a therapy dog. She accompanied me to work, made hospital visits and co-facilitated bereavement groups with me. Lola, my now 11-year-old Yorkie mix, took over as my counseling assistant next. Now semi-retired, she spends most of her time guarding the homes in Society Hill from any mail carrier within a five-block radius. Dexter, our four-year-old Cavachon (Cavalier-Bichon mix) is my newest and now full-time working dog.

What exactly is a therapy dog? Not to be confused with service dogs, who are highly trained, partnered with an individual and granted access to all sorts of facilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act, therapy dogs are family pets with special skills and certification. They need to be at least one year old, in good health, have basic obedience training and pass a therapy dog evaluation that focuses primarily on temperament. They must be predictable in all sorts of settings, able to tolerate even rough handling, navigate elevators, crowds, noise and remain calm throughout.

Dexter has a resumé that far exceeds my own. He worked with me at Abington Junior High School supporting special needs students and becoming an integral part of the school community. In fact, when I retired, the first question everyone asked my successor was, "Do you have a dog?" There were innumerable instances in which Dexter calmed a school-phobic student enough to get



Dexter and Lola

them into the building, soothed a depressed child so they could open up and talk, comforted that kid who felt bullied earlier in the day and eased a social introduction for the student who had trouble fitting in.

Now that I've left my full-time job, Dexter has the opportunity to do even more. With more available time, I set out with the goal of getting him on the registry at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP) and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). As I've told friends, I could have had my child admitted to Harvard with less effort than the lengthy process involved. Despite already being a certified therapy dog, Dexter had to go through additional behavioral and health screenings at Penn's School of Veterinary Medicine, I had to update my police and child abuse clearances, and we had to do supervised visits, provide references and go through multiple interviews. But we made it!

Dexter now visits the Abramson Cancer Centers at both HUP and Pennsylvania Hospital. I've had patients tear up at the sight of him because they've been sick so long and away from their own dogs. A few patients told me that the first time we met was their very first chemo session, and sitting with them to talk and pet the dog helped get them through it. I've had waiting rooms full of quiet patients and families turn into mini-support groups once Dexter breaks the ice and everyone starts sharing stories and laughing. He gets his share of belly rubs in return, so it's a definite win-win.

Do you have a pet tale you'd like to tell? Please email it to sandra.rothman@aol.com, or give us the facts and we'll write it for you.

At CHOP, the children's faces light up when I walk into their rooms with a dog. Dexter will get up on the bed to nuzzle and cuddle with them. Many kids have told me it's the best thing that's happened to them during their entire hospital stay. Even the doctors don't interrupt the dog visits. They all know how much it means to the children. The only downside is when I leave. The kids almost without fail will turn to their parents and ask, "Can we get a dog?"

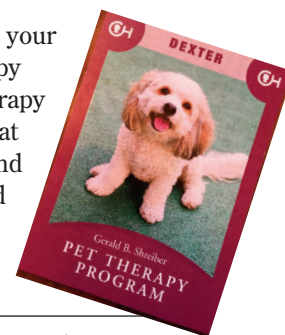
Many colleges now have dogs in the library during exam week for the students to de-stress. Dexter has visited Penn, Drexel and Temple — both the university and medical arts libraries. He even stars in the Penn Library video on its website. There are multiple dogs at the college events, and large crowds of students typically show up. It's amazing how much joy they get from some doggie snuggles before or after a big exam.

I do some work at the Pennsylvania SPCA, and Dexter has joined their humane education outreach team to help with educational programs in Philadelphia schools. Since the shelter dogs aren't predictable enough for school kids to interact with, Dexter comes along for some doggie "hands-on" time.

Even though Dexter can be a goofball at home, once I put that therapy dog scarf around his neck, he straightens up and exhibits his best behavior. I think he knows he's going to "work."

If you'd like to have your pet become a therapy dog, check out Therapy Dogs International at www.tdi-dog.org. And if you see us around the neighborhood, feel free to say hello.

Claudia Carabelli serves the SHCA as a director-at-large.





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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY MATT DEJULIO

SHCA Membership Ends the Year at Another All-Time High

SHCA membership reached 1,138 by early October — an all-time high surpassing the previous high of 1,127 in 2016. This year, 130 new members gave our membership rolls a big boost, making up for the 106 non-renewing households.

Renewal notices for 2018 were mailed on November 1. This year you may conveniently go to our website societyhillcivic.org and pay by MasterCard, Visa or PayPal. Please renew as soon as possible; before December 31 if you wish to be placed in a drawing for a gift certificate to a local restaurant. New members this year who joined after July 1 will be grandfathered through 2018.


Reminder: If you are a member and have not requested your free copy of our *Guide to Historic Society Hill*, now is the time to do so, before supplies are exhausted. It makes a perfect holiday gift for your friends and relatives who do not live in Philadelphia. One copy per member; additional copies may be purchased at \$10 plus shipping.

Why is your membership so important? Besides providing funding for our many neighborhood improvement projects, such as graffiti control, weekly sidewalk cleaning and plantings in Washington Square, numbers speak volumes. When our board advocates on your behalf regarding zoning changes, real estate taxes, crime problems, ramp issues, trash receptacles, street lighting, bus re-routing, etc., it makes a greater impact if they can say they speak on behalf of the majority of residents. You are also guaranteed a personal invitation to each of our social events.

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

Email Mattdejulio@aol.com if you have any questions or wish to comment on why you are not a member. All comments will be shared with the board, which is representative of every quadrant in our unique, historic neighborhood.

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



Membership Application

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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

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

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<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

Celebrating the Life of Wilma Ackerman

Author's note: I interviewed Wilma on the afternoon of September 20, shortly before Rosh Hashanah. She suddenly fell ill and, sadly, passed away on September 30, Yom Kippur. The following was written while she was well and looking forward to her 101st birthday.

Since Wilma Ackerman was born more than a century ago, several wars have taken place, the airplane was invented, John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King were assassinated, and the Internet and the computer in all its forms became ubiquitous. "If JFK were alive today, he would also be 100," noted Wilma, remarking that he and FDR were her favorite presidents. "The airplane was thrilling, but the high point of my life was the birth of my children, Bruce and Harriet. Family has always been more important to me than anything else." She is now the proud grandmother of two and great-grandmother of three.

Wilma was born on March 17, 1917, St. Patrick's Day. "My father Sam, who was a Russian immigrant, always marked my birthday with a shamrock plant," she reminisced. Wilma and her older sister Hannah grew up in West Philly. After graduating from West Philly High and the University of Pennsylvania, with a B.S. degree in education, Wilma went to work in the annuities department of First Pennsylvania Company. Then, over July 4th weekend in 1944, she met her future husband — another Sam — on the beach in Atlantic City. "We were introduced by a mutual friend, and it was love at first sight," Wilma said. "We were married four months later, on Thanksgiving."

She moved to Sam's hometown, Millville, New Jersey, also the birthplace of Herbert Light, the recently retired violinist of the Philadelphia Orchestra. "Herb always came out to greet me after concerts," she recalled. Besides raising her children, Wilma opened a children's clothing store across the street from her husband's furniture store.



Wilma with her great-grandchildren Henry (right), Theo and Dylan (inset) at 100th birthday celebration.



One of Wilma's colorful wall hangings.

Harriet, who lives on Rittenhouse Square, visits her mother almost daily in her two-bedroom apartment at Independence Place. "Mother lives alone and is still independent," she said. "We frequently have dinner together, and we cook together too. We also enjoy going to art museums." Harriet, also a Penn grad, is a recently retired art teacher. Bruce, who lives in Princeton, graduated from Yale Law School.

On the day I met Wilma, she was working on an intricate needlepoint pillow, one of hundreds she has made ever since she began doing handwork as a young girl. "My husband used to say I would ruin my eyes, but I found it very relaxing when I came home from work," she said. She also made quilts, embroidered tablecloths and needlepoint wall hangings that decorate her apartment. "Mom made all of our sweaters, too," added Harriet, who had come by to straighten the piles of *New York Times* newspapers stacked on a chair. Obviously, reading and doing needlepoint have not impaired Wilma's vision.

When she is not otherwise engaged, Wilma may be found in Washington Square, where she likes to sit in fine weather. "I like to say hello to friends and neighbors," she said. "I also still like to walk a lot, which is why I believe I have enjoyed such good health."

Wilma and Sam moved to Independence Place in 1987. Unfortunately, Sam, who

was 12 years older, died in 1990. So, as she had done for most of her life, Wilma immersed herself in volunteer work. She volunteered at the gift shop at Pennsylvania Hospital, the Museum of Jewish History and the McCall School. "I enjoyed reading to the children there," she said. She was also a member of Hadassah and the Association of University Women. As a young mother, she served on her children's PTA in Millville, where she was actively involved in the community.

On the occasion of her 100th birthday, the staff of Independence Place surprised her with 100 red roses. Wilma marked the occasion with a party in her apartment for friends and relatives. The family also celebrated with a luncheon.

"Family is more important to me than anything else," Wilma reiterated.

End note: Wilma died surrounded by her family. Shortly before her death, while she could still communicate on the phone, she learned that her granddaughter, who lives in Jackson Hole, is pregnant with her second child. "So a fourth great-grandchild is on the way," said Harriet. To keep Wilma's spirit alive, the family will cook Thanksgiving dinner with all of her traditional dishes.

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



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