

SOCIETY HILL

# Reporter

March/April 2018

The Newsletter  
of The Society Hill  
Civic Association

www.societyhillcivic.org

## Philadelphia Architecture Writ Large



John Andrew Gallery



The Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) is excited to invite neighbors to our next General Membership meeting on Wednesday, March 21, when John Andrew Gallery will discuss Philadelphia's architectural heritage.

John has had a distinguished career in urban design and city planning in Philadelphia. He worked at the City Planning Commission with Edmund Bacon, served as director of the Office of Housing and Community Development under Mayor Frank Rizzo, and for the 10 years prior to his retirement in 2012, he was executive director of the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia. He has also been

a principal of Urban Partners, a consulting firm for community development.

Since 1984, John has edited and written the definitive guidebook to our architectural heritage: *Philadelphia Architecture, A Guide to the City*. He will share his observations about the current state of architecture in the city in an illustrated talk, drawing on his experience in preparing this fourth edition of his book. Autographed copies will also be available for purchase.

Remember, everyone is welcome to attend. Simply arrive at Pennsylvania Hospital's Zubrow Auditorium, located on the first floor inside the main entrance at 8th Street near Spruce, before 7 p.m.

### SHCA BOARD ELECTIONS

## Seeking Nominations for Directors and Officers

We're looking for people with good ideas, willing to roll up their sleeves to help get the job done. Do you fit the description? Then consider volunteering for a position on the SHCA Board of Directors and Officers. Join a team of dedicated and hard-working neighbors who embrace SHCA's mission (see Page 2) and labor on behalf of more than 5,000 residents and 3,000 households.

This year's elections will take place at our May 16 General Membership Meeting. Members will elect a president, two vice presidents, a secretary, a treasurer and up to eight directors at large, all for one-year terms. Also, four of the 12 quadrant directors will finish their three-year terms and need to be replaced. SHCA's Nominating and *continued on Page 3*

### WEDNESDAY

March

# 21

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Society Hill Civic Association Meetings  
Wednesday, March 21, 2018

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

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

**Speaker: John Gallery, author of *Philadelphia Architecture, A Guide to the City, Fourth Edition***

**Topic: Philadelphia's Architectural Heritage**

### GET INSPIRED!



**Kudos to Linda Skale, awarded a Blue Ribbon in the Individual Flower Garden category, 2017 Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Gardening and Greening Contest — selected from over 350 entries. See page 27 for more about the contest.**

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SOCIETY HILL

*Reporter*



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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](mailto: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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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

BY ROSANNE LOESCH

# Philadelphia's Noteworthy Architecture

Spring is around the corner, and what better way to celebrate the coming good weather than to discover the curated collection of important new Philadelphia buildings our March speaker John Gallery will present to our membership. In a fascinating interview on the Hidden City website, John reveals the extensive selection process he used for choosing the most noteworthy new buildings included in the updated fourth edition of *Philadelphia Architecture*. Join us on March 21 at 7:30 p.m. to see if you agree with John's list.

Of course, these new additions join a plethora of historically noteworthy buildings that the city is known for. Philadelphia's selection as the nation's first World Heritage City is in recognition of the UNESCO World Heritage site of Independence Hall, located steps from Society Hill. Independence Hall forms part of the cultural and natural heritage that the World Heritage Committee considers as having outstanding universal value.

Our city also has 67 National Historic Landmarks within the city limits, of which half a dozen are located within Society Hill's historic district

boundaries, including Pennsylvania Hospital, St. Peter's Church, the Physick House, Mother Bethel Church, the Philadelphia Conservancy and the Reynolds Morris House on Washington Square. But of greatest architectural note, I think, is the exceptional concentration of well-preserved 18th- and 19th-century housing that distinguishes Society Hill.

The original urban revitalization plan for the Independence Hall area and surrounding neighborhood contemplated destroying these buildings and replacing them with modern, high-end residential and commercial new construction. Sounds quite familiar when we look at present-day unsuccessful efforts to save the historic buildings on Jewelers Row. But back then the preservationists, led by famed urban planner Edmund Bacon and preservationist Charles Peterson, saved the day.

We are truly fortunate to live in such an historic neighborhood and city. We look forward to introducing you to more of the architecture of Philadelphia at John Gallery's talk in March. Join us!



**Rosanne Loesch, SHCA President**

**TREE CARE SUBSIDIES**

SHCA tries to keep Society Hill green and beautiful. Did you know that part of your membership dues goes to street tree planting and care subsidies? Read more on page 27.

**VERIZON UPDATE**

Verizon has completed 40 percent of Fios installation in Society Hill. They expect the installation to be completed by the end of March.

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SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, MAY 20

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## 2018 Open House and Garden Tour

Mark your calendars! The Annual Society Hill Open House and Garden Tour returns for its 40th year on Sunday, May 20, from 1 to 5 p.m.

This much-anticipated event attracts people from all over the tri-state area and is SHCA's only yearly fundraiser, with 100 percent of the funds raised coming back to the association for neighborhood improvement projects. Look for our beautiful brochure in April.

**Your help is needed.** We are still seeking a few more interesting houses. If you have suggestions, contact Co-Chair Martha Levine at marthalev6@gmail.com or 215-629-0727.

Volunteers are an essential part of the tour. If you wish to volunteer to house sit for two hours,

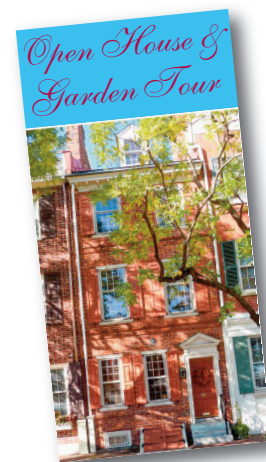
we offer you one complimentary ticket. For more information, contact Co-Chair Linda Skale at lcskale@gmail.com or 215-238-1040.

Tickets can be purchased in advance at \$35 each or at the door for \$40. Group and student rates are available upon request.

Information and ticket purchase options:

- Phone SHCA Administrator Matt DeJulio at 215-629-1288.
- Email him at mattdejulio@aol.com.
- Visit our website, [www.societyhillcivic.org](http://www.societyhillcivic.org). Click on Open House Tour. Visa and MC are accepted.

We look forward to seeing you!




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SAVE THE DATE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6

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## 2018 Washington Square Affair

*Benefit Dedicated to Maintenance, Beautification and Restoration of Washington Square*

Join us under the tent on Wednesday, June 6, for the 5th Washington Square Affair to benefit Washington Square Park. Everyone is invited to enjoy a festive evening with friends, neighbors and local businesses to celebrate the jewel of our historic neighborhood. This tented event will be held in the Square from 6 to 9 p.m. The Affair will feature gourmet delicacies from area restaurants and caterers, along with wine, music and entertainment.

All proceeds will be used for maintenance, beautification and restoration projects in Washington Square. SHCA and its volunteers help keep the Square beautiful for visitors and residents.

Washington Square is part of the Independence National Historical Park (INHP). Over the years, SHCA has worked with INHP to refurbish the fountain and to restore the guardhouses. In 2016, SHCA in cooperation with INHP and the donated design services of The Olin Studio totally rehabilitated the landscaping around the memorial and fountain areas. Your support and generosity will ensure that this kind of maintenance and beautification of the park will continue.

Become a sponsor of the Washington Square Affair today! Visit [www.societyhillcivic.org/washington-square-affair](http://www.societyhillcivic.org/washington-square-affair) to learn more.



WASHINGTON SQUARE

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### Seeking Nominations for SHCA Directors and Officers

*continued from page 1*

Election Committee proposes individuals for these positions. Others may be nominated by petition.

To nominate yourself or a neighbor, submit a petition signed by 10 SHCA members. Nomination for quadrant director requires the signatures of 10 residents of that quadrant. The committee appreciates information about the nominee. Those being recommended for a position must

live within the boundaries of Society Hill, be at least 21 years of age and be a member of SHCA.

Visit [www.societyhillcivic.org](http://www.societyhillcivic.org) for more information about our civic association, its board and nominating process. Submissions must be received by March 30 in order to be considered. Nominations will be listed in the next issue of the *Reporter*. Send nominations to SHCA Administrator Matt DeJulio at [mattdejulio@aol.com](mailto:mattdejulio@aol.com).

STEPPING BACK IN TIME

BY SANDRA ROTHMAN

# A Farmer, Patriots and the Electoral College

## *A Glimpse into America's Oldest Hereditary Society*

It's almost impossible to walk through-out our neighborhood without finding places, objects or vistas that speak to our nation's complex history.

A case in point can be found at 321 S. 4th Street. This imposing Federal townhouse owned by the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks was built in 1786 for wealthy Madeira wine importer Henry Hill and later became the home of Dr. Philip Syng Physick, the "father of American surgery." For the curious, another layer to the house's rich story can be found upstairs on the second floor.

Here in a room covered by unconventional wallpaper, Pennsylvania's branch of the **Society of the Cincinnati** holds its quarterly meetings. Established as the Revolutionary War was ending, it is America's oldest hereditary association.

### Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus

The name of the society, as well as the ears of corn pictured on the wallpaper, give a nod to the Roman farmer Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus, a model of the selfless patriot. Living in poverty in 458 B.C., he was called to lead in battle. After victory, Cincinnatus chose to resign all the power that came with being Rome's foremost military officer and return to the plow.

The founders of the Society of the Cincinnati were young Revolutionary War officers who, like the Roman farmer, were called to lead. Having just survived

the biggest battles of their lives, they did not want to lose the bonds they had forged. Major General Henry Knox, George Washington's future Secretary of War, shaped the idea of establishing some sort of brotherhood to nurture these ties and assist the needy widows and orphans of fellow officers. Thus the society was born.

### To Pay or Not to Pay

These young men had sacrificed a great deal for a cause greater than themselves. Most served without pay. The bulk of the money Continental Congress reluctantly allocated, and was slow to pay, would go to the poorer enlisted men. Unfortunately, many officers were financially challenged at the end of the war, their families in debt and their sources of livelihood either gone or in severe disarray.

As the society's website states, "Unlike the military leaders of other successful rebellions... they would not use the army to impose their will on the government... their return to civilian life reenacted the return of Cincinnatus to his farm without claiming or accepting political power. Unlike Cincinnatus, however, they expected to be paid...."

### Controversy and Suspicion

The Cincinnati was the country's first *de facto* veterans' society and sparked controversy from the start. Contention began with the decision to present members with gold medals, nicknamed

the "Eagle," commemorating their war service. Critics questioned whether this evoked traditions of heraldry and the English aristocracy. Concern arose within the enlisted ranks that future generations would question, without possession of a similar medal, the fact or honor of their ancestors' service. Today we might question why the military took so long to decorate officers.

An elegant badge, encrusted with nearly 200 diamonds, rubies and emeralds, was presented to George Washington as a special tribute at Philadelphia's City Tavern. Washington, the society's first president-general, won the nation's respect when he refused a third term and, like Cincinnatus, returned to his farm, thereby setting a precedent for future leaders. *continued on Page 7*



**Upon Washington's death, his family returned this medal, designed by Pierre L'Enfant, to be worn by subsequent Cincinnati president-generals. It is the only one of Washington's possessions in continuous use for its original purpose.**



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STEPPING BACK IN TIME

continued from Page 6

A bigger storm swirled around fears of hereditary succession, seen by some as an attempt to establish hereditary nobility in the new republic. More practically, Major General Knox realized that the fight for commutation and veterans' pensions could take generations to settle. Sons and grandsons, he reasoned, might have to continue the struggle. In fact, it wasn't until after the War of 1812 that any widespread pension act was passed for Revolutionary veterans.

Designed at both the state and national levels, the Society of the Cincinnati was our only national organization, except for Congress, at the time. This caused critics to imagine that it might try to usurp the government. In fact, it did come to exert power and influence; of the 55 delegates who assembled for the Constitutional Convention, 21 were members of the society.

**The Electoral College**

As the convention opened, the Cincinnati delegates exerted a robust implicit force for a strong centralized government.

Such a governing body would have taxation powers and could finally pay the officers for their war service.

But it was, ironically, suspicions about the organization's perceived power that resulted in a significant addition to the Constitution. Convinced that the ordinary citizen was ignorant and malleable, some delegates wanted to protect against the influence of powerful groups like the Cincinnati. An Electoral College insured that presidents would be elected both indirectly as well as directly by popular vote. This decision would prove contentious from its inception to the present day.

**To Learn More**

The history of the Society of the Cincinnati is long and complex. To learn more about its fascinating story go to [www.societyofthecincinnati.org](http://www.societyofthecincinnati.org). You also might want to read *The Society of the Cincinnati* by Charles River Editors, as well as *Liberty without Anarchy* by Minor Myers, Jr. More hands-on experiences can be found at the



**Colonel Benjamin Tallmadge and son, painted by Ralph Earl, 1790. Note both the Cincinnati "Eagle" and the gesture towards hereditary succession.**

Hill-Physick House, 321 S. 4th Street, [www.philalandmarks.org](http://www.philalandmarks.org), and the Anderson House, the society's national headquarters in Washington, D.C.

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

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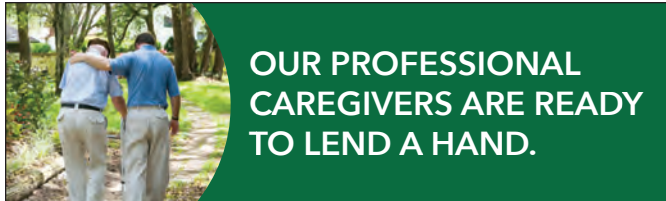
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**BIG BELLY UPDATE**

BY MARTHA LEVINE

# You Can Fight City Hall

In the last year, the city has removed 10 of our solar compactors, resulting in more unsightly trash on our sidewalks. This is not only an esthetic issue, but a health issue as well. Neighbors have contacted SHCA to complain, “What happened to the Big Belly on my corner? We need one here — it’s awful; trash everywhere.”

Because of SHCA’s continuing dialogue with the Sanitation Department, we recently were promised a full roll out for the 10 replacements by the end of February. We asked for six much-needed additional units, as well. Many will be the refurbished units with handles and a few will be new “media units” with foot pedals.

Media units generally have advertising to cover costs of maintenance. We clarified that we will not allow advertising in our historic residential area. We need to resolve this issue if we want some of the foot pedal models. It may be possible for us to pay to have no ads on these new



**Tarsh collected outside McCall School where a Big Belly was removed.**

units, but we need more information on the cost.

By spring, all of the Big Belly units will be connected to a controller board, which will send out a signal when a unit is in need of service or emptying. A quick response has been promised. A yellow flashing light means “warning — close to full”; a red light means “totally full.”

**You Can Help:** We were promised more frequent collection and maintenance than before. Here’s how you can help: if you see a Big Belly compactor or recycler that is filled to the brim and needs collection or repair, take a few minutes and call 311 to report the location. Also, neighbors should not use the units to deposit household trash. Hold onto your trash for your weekly collection.

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

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## KEEPING POSTED

BY AL CAVALARI

## First Presbyterian Church

As a certified member of the Association of Philadelphia Tour Guides, I enjoy sharing tourism secrets. This 1906 postcard of First Presbyterian Church provides me with an opportunity to tell you about a lovely “staycation” visit in our own neighborhood. However, it won’t be to this beautiful church that once stood at 7th and Washington Square South, since it was torn down in 1939. More about my tip later in this article.

A beautiful aspect of Philadelphia is its tradition of religious freedom. William Penn’s Charter of Privileges from 1701 provided that no one should be “molested or prejudiced, in his or their Person or Estate, because of his or their conscientious Persuasion or Practice, nor be compelled to frequent or maintain any religious Worship....”

**Interdenominational Cooperation**

In an era when Quakers were being executed in Boston, Baptists were being harassed in Virginia and the Catholic mass could not be legally celebrated anywhere in the British Empire, imagine how welcoming Philadelphia must have seemed. These faiths, along with others, existed side by side. In fact, the First Presbyterian congregation began with an example of interdenominational cooperation.

The First Presbyterian Church was organized in 1698. Its earliest meetings were in a warehouse at 2nd and Chestnut Streets that was being used by the Baptists, who agreed to share it. Interestingly, this building is purported to have belonged first to The Free Society of Traders, the development company from which Society Hill got its name. By 1704, the congregation constructed its own church at Market and Bank Streets. In 1793, it was rebuilt into an impressive structure that you can see in a “Birch Print” (a series of prints from the late 1700s by William Russell Birch) on display at the Second Bank portrait gallery at 420 Chestnut Street.



First Presbyterian Church postcard mailed in 1906.

**Fortunes Change**

By 1820, Market Street had become too commercial, the congregation had gotten too large, and the existing building developed structural problems. The same architect for Eastern State Penitentiary, John Haviland, designed the church shown on our card, which was finished in 1823. The neighborhood was flush with money, and the building was full of amenities. Membership soared. In 1831, when book publisher and Sunday school teacher Matthias W. Baldwin became a member, he was about to begin a new business making steam locomotives. By 1838, 45 percent of all domestic engines came out of his Philadelphia factory.

By the late 19th century, fortunes had changed. New waves of immigration brought Russian Jews, Italians and Eastern Europeans into the area, who were not likely to join a Presbyterian church. Existing members were moving to new neighborhoods in West Philadelphia. Those remaining were less wealthy, and church finances became unsustainable as membership plummeted. In 1905, there were only 642 members here compared to 3,500 at John Wanamaker’s Bethany Presbyterian in West Philly.

By 1927, membership was down to 256 souls, and in 1928 the church merged with Calvary Presbyterian on Locust near 15th Street. The Washington Square building was abandoned. Attempts to find a buyer failed and there was no money to fix the structure after a century of wear. Torn down to become a parking lot in 1939, the land was sold in 1945 to an apartment

house developer who would build the Hopkinson House there in 1960.

**A Trip Close to Home**

Now to that trip you should make. I spent some pleasant hours in the reading room of the Presbyterian Historical Society (PHS) at 425 Lombard Street, where I discovered most of the information presented in this article. In the current exhibit, you can have an intimate visit with handwritten letters from Washington, Jefferson, Madison, John Adams and Franklin, along with other original publications and documents from the 18th century.

You will also find a connection to that First Presbyterian Church I began with. To sell its valuable land on Market Street, 1,500 graves needed to be moved from the church burial ground there to a vault in the new Laurel Hill Cemetery. The headstones would now not be needed. The congregation had a second plot on Pine Street, where we today find Old Pine Street Church. Some of the stones were taken there and simply leaned against a wall. In the 1960s, PHS purchased part of this lot to build their existing home, and those headstones were incorporated into the back wall, where you can visit them to this day.



Embedded tombstone dating back to 1795

The Presbyterian Historical Society is open to the public Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. For more information, call 215-627-1852 or visit [www.history.pcusa.org](http://www.history.pcusa.org).

**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](mailto:flagguys@aol.com).


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**'FIX THE BRIX'**

BY MARTHA LEVINE

# Celebrate Spring By Making Your Sidewalks Safe

SHCA's subsidy program "Fix the Brix" provides an incentive for homeowners to make their sidewalks safe for pedestrians. It not only benefits the homeowner, but also creates a level surface for all of us as we navigate our way to the gym, to the supermarket and while walking our dogs.

The City of Philadelphia has no sidewalk program; therefore we have taken it upon ourselves to improve sidewalks in the public walkway. Remember, your home ownership extends to the curb in front of your house, and any injuries there are your liability.

To date, over 200 property owners have participated in this initiative. Still, too many sidewalks, both brick and cement, have loose or uneven surfaces that pose a safety risk. Get on board today to remedy this situation.

Let's look forward to more smooth traveling — on our sidewalks, that is.

**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.
- First, 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.



**Belgian blocks around a tree pit present a tripping hazard.**



**Tree pit too small for rain to water this tree.**



**Best option: allow rain to water a tree with no tripping potential.**

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On Sunday, April 22, 2018 at 1:00 p.m., Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church will conclude its distinguished speaker series with a panel discussion of how faith intersects with local and national politics.

During "Faith & Politics," panelists Dr. Ron Sider, Professor at Palmer Theological Seminary, and Dr. Wilson J Goode, former mayor of Philadelphia and president of Amachi, Inc., will guide our exploration of the role faith has in how we approach the political landscape.

For more information, go to [www.oldpine.org/anniversary](http://www.oldpine.org/anniversary), email [info@oldpine.org](mailto:info@oldpine.org), or follow #OPC250 on Twitter.

To register to attend, go to <https://opc250-faith-and-politics.eventbrite.com>

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# Neighbors Welcoming Neighbors

Those homeowners new to our neighborhood are in for a treat. This Welcome Basket is packed with goodies and gift certificates to area businesses, restaurants, theatres, shops, services and museums.

If you, or someone you know, is a first-time homeowner in Society Hill within the last year, call Martha Levine to set up an appointment to receive this gift in your own home. Reach her at [marthalev6@gmail.com](mailto:marthalev6@gmail.com) or 215-629-0727.



**Malek and Layla Kamoun**



**Wendy Rispani with Philly**



**Geoff Argons and Kathy Cater**



**Trish Byrne and Lee Jablow with Ella**



**Eddie Tyson**



**Julia Pudlin and David Wishnick**



**Steven and Anne Docimo**



**Noelle Johansson with daughter Tessa**



**Babs and Mike Delorey**

Photos by  
**Martha  
Levine**

## OUT AND ABOUT

BONNIE HALDA, PHOTOGRAPHER

## How About Those Eagles?

What a day, what a night, what a parade! Jubilant crowds everywhere celebrated the Philadelphia Eagles first Super Bowl win,

defeating the New England Patriots 41-33. Our congratulations to the Eagles and to the City of Philadelphia!



**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.



OUT AND ABOUT

# Celebrations Get the Green Light

*Philadelphia Continues to Make History*



## OUR CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI AS TOLD BY GREG DITEODORO

## One Lucky Dog

**H**appily, this isn't a heartbreaking saga. It's just a tale about a little pup that got a last-minute reprieve.

You may not know that despite ongoing work by U.S. animal welfare and rescue groups, an estimated 1.5 to 2.7 million animals are euthanized annually. Almost half are dogs. About 3,000 are in Philadelphia. Exact numbers are difficult to confirm since no federal agency tracks the data. While some are humanely put to death because behavioral or health issues make them unadoptable, many more are put down because of space constraints. Shelters may need room for incoming animals, or a given dog has exceeded its allotted time. Often the animal's sole offense is being unwanted. Doggie death row has no lawyers, appeals or last-minute stays of execution. Animals often pay the price for irresponsible pet owners.

To appreciate this story, we have to start with Greg DiTeodoro. Greg is SHCA's accountant and a resident of Society Hill. He has always loved dogs. As a child he could never convince his parents to get one, but as an adult he's had several.

Dial back about a year. At this point Greg has been without a dog for some time and isn't sure if he's ready to commit again. As it turns out, Greg's sister is a big supporter of animal rescue, and she fosters homeless pets. Her one problem is her tendency to fall in love and adopt them herself. She's at capacity, so when the next dog comes along she convinces Greg to foster him. He already has a new family in the works, so this will just be temporary. As it turns out, the paperwork takes longer to be finalized than anticipated. Greg ends up with the dog for several weeks beyond what was expected and finds he really likes having him around. But this dog is promised to someone else, and when the adoption is official, Greg hands him over to his new family.

Enter Alfe. He's a sweet mix of Pit Bull, Boxer and American Bulldog. He may also have some Husky mixed in as evidenced by his one blue and one brown eye (*heterochromia iridis*). This only adds to his charm. Almost five years old with an incomplete history, he's trained, well-cared for and social. He most likely was part of a family at some point. Unfortunately for Alfe,



Alfe

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

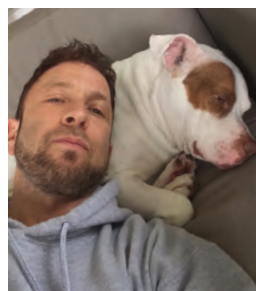
he's housed in a shelter in Atlanta, one day away from being euthanized. He's been there for several months. No one has adopted him and his number is almost up.

Enter, once again, Greg's sister. She's sure this is just the pet for Greg and begins to conspire with Greg's partner, Jeff. It's a warm spring evening in May and the three of them decide to meet for dinner at Pietro's Pizza. Greg suggests they sit outside and sees a dog tied up in the outdoor seating area. Guess who? Jeff

and Greg's sister try to pass him off as belonging to the waitress. Greg, dog-lover that he is, immediately starts interacting with Alfe and they hit it off instantly. He soon figures out what's going on, and an hour later Alfe has found his own forever home with Greg.

Alfe arrived at his new digs in Society Hill, settled in for the night and never made a peep. This cute fellow knew he'd hit the lottery. Greg describes him as a big lap dog, well-adjusted and good with other dogs. He likes kids, but was initially intimidated by the cat. They've since reconciled. He charmingly offers his paw to "shake hands" with everyone who enters the house. Kids at McCall School greet Alfe by name on his morning walk. He's learned to balance a treat on his nose and even lets Greg brush his teeth. This is definitely a "happily ever-after" story.

A great read to dispel all those Pit Bull myths is *Pit Bull: The Battle over an American Icon* by Bronwen Dickey.



Greg and Alfe chillin'

If you'd like a sweet pal of your own, please consider adopting from PSPCA, PAWS, Morris Animal Refuge or ACCT Philly. Alfe would definitely approve.

**Greg DiTeodoro** serves SHCA as accountant and *Reporter* deliverer.

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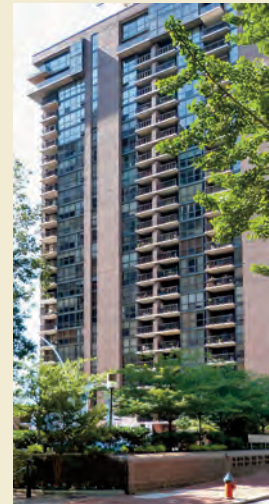
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## ON OUR SHELF

BY RICHARD DE WYNGAERT

## Head House Books Celebrates Local Authors

**Philadelphia: Finding the Hidden City**

by Joseph Elliott, Nathaniel Popkin and Peter Woodall

This book, written by homegrown authors, was a huge hit over the holiday season, and we're so thrilled it's back in stock. It is stunning and reveals many of the secrets hiding behind Philadelphia's familiar facades. Through beautiful photographs and illuminating prose, discover the history and ruins within Macy's in Center City, Philly's Metropolitan Opera House, City Hall and many more familiar landmarks.

**Circe by Madeline Miller**

Madeline Miller, local writer and author of the bestselling *The Song of Achilles*, is back with more larger-than-life characters in her new book, *Circe*. It's a page-turner, a love story and an examination of how power gets passed down. You'll be drawn in by Miller's reimagining of characters we know from myths, but it's the depth and complexity of Circe herself that will hook you until the end.

*Circe* contains many stories within, such as the creation of the sea monster Scylla, the birth of the Minotaur and Odysseus' perilous return home to Ithaca. Some of the stories and many of the names are familiar from Lit class — Zeus, Hermes, Athena — but what makes this book better than myth is that the characters are vivid, fallible, petty and complex. Miller succeeds in transforming what is caricature in myth into believable, albeit extreme, personalities. Even more powerfully, she succeeds in portraying motivations; Scylla was born from a broken heart, the Minotaur from a loveless marriage.

Circe is, of course, the most powerfully rendered character — the least-loved daughter of the god of the sun, Helios. In Greek mythology, she is best known as the nymph that Odysseus encounters on his journey back to Ithaca. Her childhood is unbearable; her three siblings are more beautiful, better loved and more powerful than she. Circe simply tolerates her life at home: "I would like to say that all the while I waited to break out, but the truth is, I'm afraid I might have floated on, believing those dull miseries were all there was, until the end of days."

Thus marks a central question of the book and of Circe's journey: how to live a good (immortal) life? An outsider from her family and community, Circe is on her own to find out. She discovers her ability to perform magic using herbs and plants,

but when higher-ranking gods find her out, she is exiled — her ability misunderstood and feared by gods accustomed to power in the form of a spear or arrow. After she's exiled to Aiaia, Circe discovers opportunity in isolation.

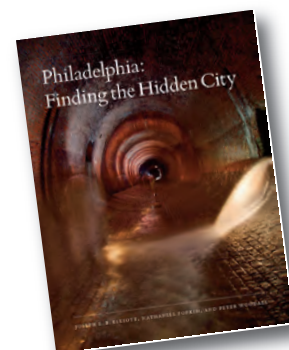
The book reads quickly. It's action packed, and there's never a dull moment. This is impressive when you consider that most of it takes place on an abandoned island. It really finds its stride, however, when Odysseus and his men appear on Circe's home turf. What felt like a collection of stories rather than a novel finds clarity and arc.

Certainly one of the main strengths of the book is the way it subverts so many of the things we take for granted about ancient Greece and its legends. In *Circe*, power is not always based on strength, inheritance doesn't always mean following in your parents' footsteps, and women can prevail over men. Circe only finds agency and her magical powers when she considers that she needn't live by her parents' rules, by her birthright. "I once thought it was passed through blood," Circe says, referring to her magic. "I have come to believe, instead, that it's mostly will."

*Circe* is fun, certainly, and it digs deeper than you might expect. You'll be left wondering: how does one live a good life when life is immortal? The question will keep you hooked until the very end, and even then, you might not see what's coming next for our heroine.

**Bring this article to Head House Books and get 50 percent off the net proceeds from any purchase in stock or ordered online, or have it donated to SHCA on your behalf.**

**Richard De Wyngaert** is the proprietor of Society Hill's only local, independently owned bookstore, Head House Books, located at 619 S. 2nd Street. Events Coordinator Vivienne Woodward wrote this article.



## EXERCISE AND SOCIALIZE

Take advantage of these warmer days and join one of Society Hill's walking groups.

**Walkie/Talkies** meet at Three Bears Park, Delancey Street between 3rd and 4th 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.

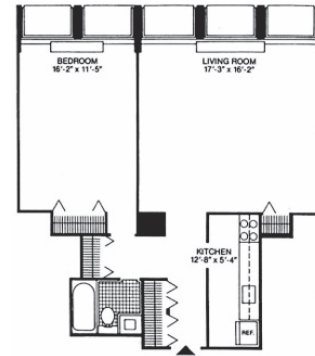
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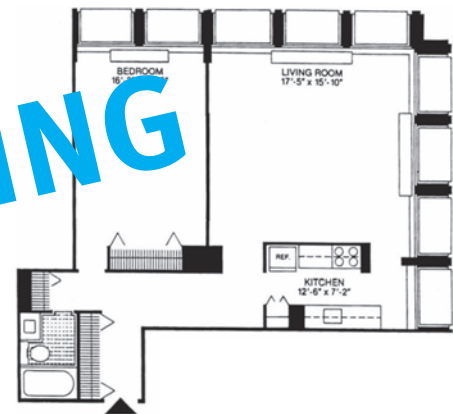


## Recently Renovated Corner One Bedroom



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**HEADHOUSE FARMERS' MARKET**

BY LISA KELLY, THE FOOD TRUST

**Oats and Dumplings**



*New Vendors at Headhouse*

The Headhouse Farmers' Market, now a year-round enterprise, is going strong through the winter. Merchants continue to offer a wide array of top-quality fresh local foods. Find meats, fish and soups, as well as breads, baked goods, coffee, herbal remedies and chocolates. It's your go-to place for flowers, cheese and dairy, in addition to seasonal produce such as winter greens, root vegetables, apples, pears and mushrooms. The market is open every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

In an ongoing effort to maintain a variety of offerings for shoppers, The Food Trust has welcomed two new vendors this winter.

**Morganics**, an organic farm in New Jersey, is selling locally grown grain products. Owner Scott Morgan is currently selling heirloom oats, and as customer interest builds, he will begin bringing a mill to grind flour on the spot. He expects to offer other grains in the coming weeks. Morganics will be on site every Sunday through April.

**Asian Farmer** will also join the ranks twice per month through April. Owner Michael Zhang, based in Abington, offers handmade, locally sourced and produced dumplings. These "heat and eat" dumplings are offered in meat and vegetarian varieties. Dipping sauces are also available.

The Market was expanded to a year-round format in response to community feedback and customer interest. Please continue to support the merchants through the 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 everyone has access to affordable, nutritious food and information to make healthy decisions. To get involved, visit [www.thefoodtrust.org](http://www.thefoodtrust.org).

**MORGANIC'S COUNTRY BOY BREAKFAST**

- 1/2 cup cooked groats
- 2 teaspoons fat (we like to use coconut, bacon or butter)
- 1 tablespoon fresh grated ginger
- Drizzle of sesame oil
- 5 kale leaves, cut into slivers
- Dash of salt
- Leftover pulled pork
- Homemade aioli
- 2 fried eggs



Melt fat in pan and add all other ingredients. Cook on medium to medium low for 5 to 10 minutes. You may need to adjust heat according to pan and stovetop. You will know it's done when groats are crispy and slightly browned. When finished, place on plate. Top with the fried egg and warmed pulled pork. Finish with a drizzle of homemade aioli. Serves two.

You'll never go back to biscuits again!

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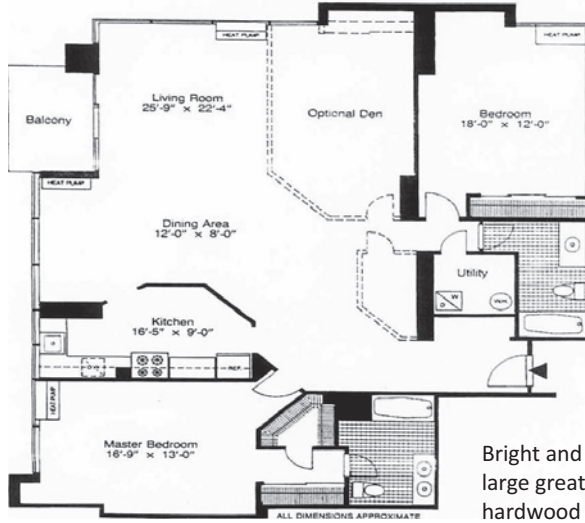
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# INDEPENDENCE PLACE

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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 | **\$1,125,000**

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## SOUTH STREET HEADHOUSE DISTRICT

BY MIKE HARRIS

## South Street's Live Music Scene

"One of the greatest things about my job is that I get to see a diverse crowd of people come through our doors every night," comments Matthew Westbrook, Theater of the Living Arts (TLA) general manager. "Our music appeals to all demographics. We cater to every musical taste. One day we'll feature hip-hop, the next a metal band and then there's always the Chippendales! We see all ages, all backgrounds, and every part of the city is represented in our audiences."

The TLA has always been a key part of the fabric of South Street. The building has existed at 334 South Street as a performance site for almost 100 years. It first opened for business as a nickelodeon called the Crystal Palace in 1908 and continued as a movie house for nearly 20 years, until it was reborn as the Palace Theater concert venue. The building has experienced various incarnations since, first as a theater, next an independent movie house and, most recently, a live music venue. Live Nation, one of the world's largest global entertainment companies, has managed the theater since 2007.

Westbrook remembers the TLA from the other side of the stage. Prior to managing music venues in his hometown in Kentucky, and before taking the helm at the TLA, he was on the road with bands such as Beats Antique. "I've been through here more than once," he confided. Today he works for Live Nation, drawing on their national talent-buying team to identify acts and develop content for shows. Clearly they are hitting the mark. Many of the shows are sold out way in advance. Bands like Spoon and Brockhampton sold out the minute the word got out that they were in town.

The TLA team prides itself on the spot's eclectic musical schedule. As a promoter, Live Nation is willing to take a chance on up-and-coming bands, mixing them with more established headline acts. According to Westbrook, "Some of the most amazing bands have played on our stage at the beginning of their careers. We helped launch those like the Britpop supergroup Oasis, and the Red Hot Chili Peppers. Many use our stage to warm up before they kick off on their U.S. tours. The maximum capacity is 1,000, so the audience is right up there with the performance. It's a very intimate setting."

#### Philly's Rich Heritage

Philadelphia is a city with a rich musical heritage. It has given voice to superstars in all fields of

music from classical to jazz, to 1950s doo-wop and right up to current-day rap and hip-hop. Jamie Lokoff, founder of the popular MilkBoy eatery and live music venue at 401 South Street, reminisces: "We all know the history of music in Philly; it was made most notably famous by The Sound of Philadelphia with bands like Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes, The Stylistics and Teddy Pendergrass. People sometimes forget, going back further, that Philly gave the world Dick Clark's American Bandstand, which really gave birth to rock & roll and popular music. It all started in Philadelphia; artists such as Patti LaBelle, Hall and Oates, Will Smith and The Roots have just carried on the tradition."

Part of the richness of this heritage can be attributed to the number of adventurous live music venues keen on discovering new talent. In addition to MilkBoy and the TLA, South Street is fortunate to have several others that boast equally bold music programming. The Twisted Tail at 509 S. 2nd Street is one such pioneer.



*Mike Harris and Matthew Westbrook, TLA general manager, recently reflected on South Street's contribution to Philadelphia's live music scene.*



**Mikey Junior, host of the Twisted Tail Jam**

#### Blues at The Twisted Tail

Located right on Headhouse Square, The Twisted Tail features live blues & roots music six nights a week and boasts some of the region's most sought-after talent. Andrew Hudak, entertainment manager, discussing one of their most popular events, says "We're proud to host the Open Blues Jam every Sunday from 5 to 9 p.m., featuring everyone from tasteful beginners to Philadelphia's finest players. The Jam is hosted by house entertainer Mikey Junior, who also performs regularly on Wednesday from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. Visit us at the Twisted Tail for the food, the dancing or just dinner and drinks at Philadelphia's only juke joint."



**For a full listing of the upcoming music schedule for these venues, check out [www.venue.tlaphilly.com](http://www.venue.tlaphilly.com), [www.thetwistedtail.com](http://www.thetwistedtail.com), [www.milkboyphilly.com](http://www.milkboyphilly.com).**

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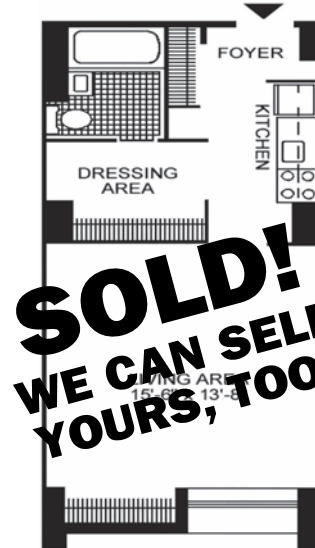
- George Washington
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The Estate Homes at 4th and Locust provide a rare opportunity to create a custom mansion from the combination of two Society Hill residences. The property has a tremendous history. One house was built in 1750 and the other in 1829, 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.

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**SHCA SUBSIDIES**

BY LAURA LANE DEVOE

# Street Trees and Their Care

Trees are an important feature of our neighborhood, and over the years, SHCA has fostered several programs to encourage the planting and care of trees that line our streets.

**Dead Tree and Pruning Subsidies**

Because Philadelphia Parks and Recreation is unable to maintain and remove dead trees in a timely manner, SHCA offers property owners 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 show proof of the tree and stump removal, the cost of the removal and the planting of a replacement tree. SHCA will also reimburse a property owner up to 50 percent of the cost to hire professional services to prune their street tree, up to \$300 for SHCA members and \$200 for non-members, no more often than every two years. Remember property owners are liable for any damages caused by falling limbs. Submit paperwork to Matt DeJulio mattdejulio@aol.com.

**New Tree Planting**

Every spring and fall, applications are submitted to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, which

coordinates the planting of new street trees. The trees are planted by Tree Tenders, who are your fellow residents. New volunteers are always welcome.

**Basic Street Tree Care**

Water, water, water — at least 15 to 20 gallons a week starting early April and keep it up through October. This is especially important for young trees.

Mulch prevents weeds and damage from winter salts and dog waste. Keep it at least three inches away from the trunk. No mulch volcanoes.

**For More Information**

Sign up for Tree Tenders Basic Training (three-class series) which will be held on Wednesdays, May 9, 16 and 23, 5:45 to 9:00 p.m. Go to [www.phsonline.org](http://www.phsonline.org).

Applications for Fall 2018 Street Tree Plantings may be found at: [www.phsonline.org/uploads/resources/Street\\_Tree\\_Request\\_Form\\_Spring\\_18.pdf](http://www.phsonline.org/uploads/resources/Street_Tree_Request_Form_Spring_18.pdf). Complete and submit to [Laura\\_Lane\\_Devoe@yahoo.com](mailto:Laura_Lane_Devoe@yahoo.com) by April 27.

**Laura Lane DeVoe** is the coordinator of the Society Hill Tree Tenders.



**Show your trees a little love.**

**CALLING ALL GREEN THUMBS**

**The Pennsylvania Horticulture Society (PHS)** celebrates the accomplishments of gardeners in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware with the PHS Gardening and Greening Contest. This contest invites backyard gardeners, community gardeners and anyone passionate about greening our public spaces to enter. Individual gardeners may enter in-ground gardens or gardens grown exclusively in containers. Community gardeners may enter vegetable and flower gardens, garden blocks, public-space plantings and parks.

Also eligible are businesses that have beautified their establishments.

Garden entries are judged on maintenance and horticultural practices, as well as the variety, color and suitability of plantings. Design and total visual effects are also considered, with extra points awarded for creativity and sustainable practices.

To learn more, visit [www.phsonline.org/ggcontest](http://www.phsonline.org/ggcontest), where you can also download the entry form.

A black and white advertisement for Claudia McGill, a Realtor. It features her name and contact information: 215.893.9920 and claudiamcgill.realtor. The logo for Elfant &amp; Wissahickon Realtors is also present, along with the tagline "Your Neighborhood Resource For Everything Real Estate".

A black and white advertisement for Damon Michels, a Realtor. It features his name and contact information: 610.668.3400 and www.DamonMichels.com. The logo for Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Fox &amp; Roach, Realtors is also present, along with the tagline "Specializing in The Main Line and Center City".



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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY MATT DEJULIO

2018 Membership Drive 7% Ahead of Last Year

By early February, 882 Society Hill residents had already renewed their association membership — about seven percent ahead of the same time last year. Winners of the restaurant certificates for those who had renewed by December 31, 2017 were **Rosemary Fluehr** and **Deen Kogan**. Congratulations to these lucky folks!

So far 78 new members have signed up this fiscal year — up by 23 percent over 63 from last year at this time. But 321 residents have not yet responded to two mailings, slightly down from last year, which saw a record membership total of 1,141. If you have delayed in sending in your renewal, or wish to join, please do so today. It's easier than ever when you use a credit card on our website, [www.societyhillcivic.org](http://www.societyhillcivic.org).

We welcome each of 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](mailto:MattdeJulio@aol.com) with questions or comments, which will be shared with our board members representing every quadrant in our unique, historic neighborhood.

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

**PARKING OPPORTUNITY**

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



*Society Hill*  
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email (print clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

IMPORTANT: Today, most everyone communicates via email. Please be sure that we have your current email address — so that you can receive important updates between publication of our community newsletter. All SHCA emails will be judiciously screened, and rarely will we send emails more than once a week. Nor will we share your email address with anyone else. This convenient, 21st-century system helps save our civic association postage costs, while keeping you regularly informed.

**Residential Memberships**

- \$ 50 Basic Household Membership
- \$ 40 Senior/Student/Single
- \$ 100 Federal Friend
- \$ 150 Georgian Grantor
- \$ 300 Jefferson Benefactor
- \$ 500 Washington Benefactor
- \$ 1,000 Benjamin Franklin Benefactor

**Business Memberships**

- \$ 100 Institutions — 5+ employees
- \$ 60 Institutions — fewer than 5 employees

**Additional Contributions**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Washington Square Beautification      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 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.

- Clean-Up Day       Washington Square       Zoning & Historic Preservation
- Franklin Lights       Social Events       5th Street Development
- Dilworth House       Property Taxes       Local Crime Incidents
- Reporter       Fundraising      and Alerts

Please return completed application to:

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

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

## Saving the World, One Cupcake at a Time



**-InKind-**  
baking project

*Prompted by the turmoil of current events and the targeting of marginalized communities, bakers from all over the city volunteered to bake for their neighbors as a sign of welcome, community and solidarity.*

A few years ago Molly Lester, our near neighbor in Wash West, saw a story online about a small boy living in a homeless shelter. He had never had a birthday cake. It broke her heart. Molly always liked to bake, and so she made a birthday cake for the little guy and dropped it off anonymously at the shelter. After that she began delivering sheet cakes monthly and subsequently reached out to a few other organizations that welcomed her contributions. Her hope was to make life just a tiny bit sweeter for people who were struggling.

#### Solace in Troubling Times

The changing political climate of 2016-2017 concerned Molly. She was troubled by the uptick in hatred directed at people who were being oppressed and marginalized. The refugee ban mobilized her to do something more. In January 2017, she decided to go with what she knew and reached out online to see if other bakers would join in her effort to send a message of welcome and inclusion. The response was immediate as other home bakers came on board. And so the **InKind Baking Project** was born.

The InKind Baking Project started a little over a year ago. To quote their website:

“Prompted by the turmoil of current events and the targeting of various communities, bakers from all over the city volunteered to bake for their neighbors as a sign of welcome, community and solidarity. As of December 2017, our 375 bakers (and counting) have baked for over 8,800 people, including birthday cakes for families staying in a homeless shelter, cookies for refugees, cupcakes for ESL classes, muffins for immigration clinics and more. Our project bakers range from enthusiastic amateurs to all-but-professionals and we are happy to consider requests from both individuals and organizations.”

The desserts that InKind Baking provides have been a godsend for many of the organizations they serve. Budgets are often very tight, with little left

over for the extras. They provide a personal, caring touch to make a meeting, an event or a community dinner that much more special. Imagine being down on your luck and living in a shelter or new to a country and feeling like a stranger. That small act of kindness that a birthday cake or cookie provides can be enough to make you feel cared for.

#### Ways to Help

How does it work? If you'd like to get involved, step one is to go to [www.inkindbakingproject.org](http://www.inkindbakingproject.org). Once you sign up, you'll receive regular emails from Molly listing all the upcoming events that have requested goodies. Dates and number of people, along with drop-off times and specific requests (individual servings, gluten-free, nut-free)

are noted. With a quick email to Molly, you can claim an event. Some events require multiple bakers, in which case you'll be connected with the others to coordinate who's making what and arrange for drop-off. All the baking is done in your home kitchen. If you're an experienced baker, there's lots of room to be creative. If you're more of an amateur, you can feel free to whip up a

batch of boxed brownie mix. The recipients enjoy and appreciate whatever you contribute. All items must be labeled as being made in a home kitchen with a list of the top five ingredients. An InKind Baking label must also be attached.

If you don't bake, contributions of money or supplies are always welcome. Molly doesn't want any willing baker to be excluded because of financial constraints.

The project is constantly looking for more groups or organizations in need of baked goods. If you have any in mind, you can feel free to pass them on to Molly at [inkindbakingPHL@gmail.com](mailto:inkindbakingPHL@gmail.com). There's also a form on the website for them to complete.

If protesting and letter-writing isn't your thing, you might consider baking to make a small yet positive change in the world. Who doesn't love a cookie?



**Molly Lester offers fresh cookies at the start of an ESL class at the Nationalities Service Center.**

JESSICA GRIFFIN PHOTO

**Claudia Carabelli** serves SHCA as a director at large.



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