

SOCIETY HILL

# Reporter

July/August 2019

The Newsletter  
of The Society Hill  
Civic Association

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

## Tree Tenders Keep Our Neighborhood Green



**Society Hill Tree Tenders have planted more than 70 trees in our neighborhood, which help to make the air that we breathe more healthy.**



The Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) is proud to sponsor services that keep our neighborhood more beautiful: weekly sidewalk sweeping, graffiti removal, and spring and fall clean-up days. We're fortunate to reside in an area filled with history, interesting architecture and residents who take pride in keeping their homes well maintained. What else makes a neighborhood more beautiful? **Trees!** Not only are trees lovely, they're also good for your health and budget. Trees provide shade that keeps both the temperature and air conditioning costs lower.

From the National Park Service: "A tree has the ability to provide an essential of life for all living things on our planet — oxygen — and the power to remove harmful gases, like carbon dioxide, to make the air we breathe healthier."

But the truth is, street trees have it tough. Unlike their country cousins, they have to contend with a daily onslaught of vehicle exhaust fumes, careless delivery trucks, doggie toileting and inadequate tree pits. The fact that so many do survive is actually quite remarkable.

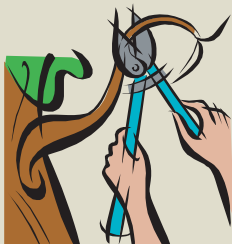
Society Hill Tree Tenders (TT) is responsible for planting many of the trees that grace our streets — over 70 just in our neighborhood. You've

probably read about the subsidies we provide for dead tree removal and replanting: up to 50 percent of the total cost, up to \$500 for SHCA members, \$400 for non-members; and pruning: 50 percent of the total cost, up to \$300 for members, \$200 for non-members. See instructions below for how to apply for this subsidy.

Tree Tenders also plant new trees twice a year — spring and fall. These are free to homeowners and planted by TT volunteers. An application needs to be submitted six months before planting, and the owner must agree to water regularly. With the tree owner's permission, TT also prunes trees they've planted throughout the year.

Even with a dedicated core group of Tree Tenders, we can always use more help. If you're not up to planting and pruning, there are still opportunities to be involved. You can survey for dead trees, empty tree pits and those in need of pruning. Homeowner's information has to be researched and letters sent to offer our services. Personal outreach to neighbors you know often encourages an otherwise uninterested person to accept a tree. Every little bit helps.

Contact co-chairs Bob Curley or Claudia Carabelli to get involved by emailing [mattdejulio@aol.com](mailto:mattdejulio@aol.com).



### Dead Tree Removal 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 and the cost of the removal and 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 at [mattdejulio@aol.com](mailto:mattdejulio@aol.com).  
For more info, contact Laura Devoe at [laura\\_lane\\_devoe@yahoo.com](mailto:laura_lane_devoe@yahoo.com).

### MANY THANKS



**At the May General Membership Meeting, Kim Williams, on behalf of SHCA, acknowledged Rosanne Loesch's hard work and dedication to our community as president of this organization. We thank her for her many years of service.**

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SOCIETY HILL

# Reporter

**NUSA  
Award-Winning  
Newsletter  
2014 thru  
2018**

**Editor in Chief**

Sandra Rothman

**Columnists**

Marilyn Appel  
Claire Batten  
Jane Biberman  
Claudia Carabelli  
Al Cavalari  
Matt DeJulio  
Mike Harris  
Martha Levine  
Sandra Rothman  
Larry Spector  
Kelsey White  
Keri White  
Richard De Wyngaert

**Contributors**

Lisa Kelly  
Allison Taub

**Graphic Design**

judy@parallel-design.com

**Press Release Liaison**

c/o Matt DeJulio  
mattdejulio@aol.com

**Advertising Manager**

William Jantsch  
wmjantsch@hotmail.com

**Submission Deadline**

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**Society Hill Civic Association**

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

**Website**

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

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

**Submissions**

If you have news that would be of interest to Society Hillers, email 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.

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

BY LARRY SPECTOR

# Transition

I am pleased to assume my role as the new president of the Society Hill Civic Association. Really.

While some have wished me luck and warned me, "you'll need it," I relish the opportunity to work with wonderful people who care about this unique neighborhood and volunteer their time to help it flourish. They include our five officers, 29 board members, and the committee members dealing with everything from zoning and historic preservation to getting rid of graffiti. I hope that many of you among our more than 1,200 members will be motivated to join a committee and support its efforts. You'll find it energizing and fulfilling.

As I look ahead to the concerns of our community, the looming issue is potential taller development to serve the city's stated goals to promote density and attract more commercial activity. Under the tireless leadership of my predecessor, Rosanne Loesch, SHCA developed and got approval from the City Planning Commission for a Master Plan that would place reasonable limits on such development on certain parcels within Society Hill. But a Master Plan is not law, and the Master Plan did not cover development along the waterfront, where high-rise projects will invariably be situated along specific segments.

We must, therefore, continue to work for appropriate zoning limits that respect the low-rise character of our historic properties and maintain a flow of open space leading to the Delaware River. That is not an easy task when commercial and some political interests have other ideas.

When it comes to the matters that are entirely under SHCA control, we strive for a safe, clean community with attractive public spaces and vital historic sites. In that regard:

- I am happy to report that we have recently awarded grants of \$1,100 to \$6,000, mostly \$5,000, to area playgrounds, churches, historic properties and the Vietnam Memorial, so that they can preserve and promote these facilities, which are so integral to our neighborhood.
- We thank Sherley Young as Chair of the Washington Square Committee and her 25 volunteer recruits for their incredible dedication and many hours of hard work in creating 15 beautiful new plant beds in Washington Square.
- We thank Martha Levine for procuring three new Big Belly trash receptacles to be located on 4th and 5th Streets; for leading a small group to meet with a Spruce Harbor Park official and Councilman Mark Squilla to improve serious quality-of-life issues; for arranging for 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. police patrols to control unruly behavior in areas leading away from Spruce Harbor Park; and for working to have the Center City District arrange a second street sweeping per week, this on Mondays off of South Street.
- We thank Joe Dillon and Susan Burt Collins for supervising and motivating so many residents in sweeping, shoveling and bagging on our May 10 Spring Clean Up Day.

On the personal side, I am a native Philadelphian and moved to this neighborhood in 1976. I married in the Society Hill Synagogue. Together, Ann and I raised two wonderful daughters here. We are blessed to have them visit with three young grandchildren and play with them as we played with our own children in Starr Garden.

I look forward to working with many of you to always maintain Society Hill as a place to live safely and proudly call home.



**SHCA President  
Larry Spector**

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## STEPPING BACK IN TIME

BY SANDRA ROTHMAN

## Sailors (and Chickens) in Our Midst

*A walking tour through local history.*

*“I really believe  
I would have  
drowned myself  
if the singing  
had not drawn  
me here on  
my way to  
the wharf.”*

— Sailor quoted in  
the **Mariners’ Church**  
Yearly Report, 1908

Writing this column has filled my mind with ghosts of people long gone, folks who once walked the very streets I traverse daily. This space recently became more crowded as imagined fleets of sailors from across the globe dropped anchor into my consciousness. Perhaps if you visit the nearby site of the Mariners’ Church, which once stood at the south corner of Front and Delancey Streets, you’ll feel their presence too.

**Raising the Bethel Flag**

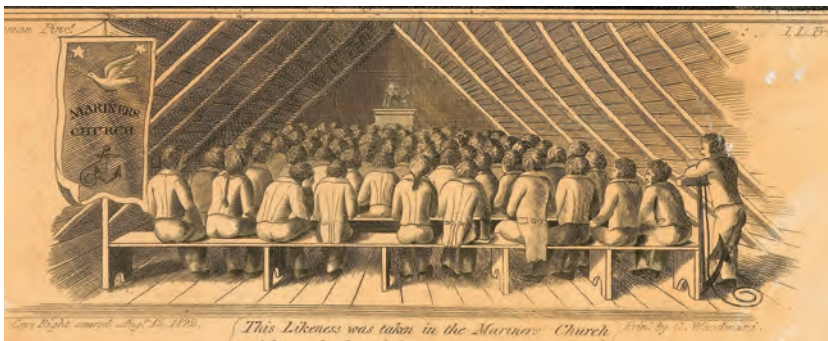
The church’s origins began one brilliant October Sunday morning in 1819, when a Philadelphia cabinetmaker named Joseph Eastburn raised a Bethel flag above Jacob Dutton’s sail loft just north of Market Street on the waterfront. The 57-year-old preacher stood on the dock welcoming sailors as they debarked nearby ships, inviting them to attend his Sabbath service.

His lack of education prevented the Presbytery of Philadelphia from ordaining him into the ministry. Instead, in 1805, it granted him a qualified license to be chaplain of the Walnut Street Jail, as well as the Pennsylvania Hospital and the Philadelphia Bettering House — once occupying the block between 10th and 11th, Spruce and Pine Streets.

A personal tragedy, however, changed the trajectory of this man’s life. His only child went to sea and eventually became commander of a merchant ship. Thomas was returning from the West Indies as a passenger when a pirate vessel fired a cannon at the ship, decapitating the 24-year-old young man. In his grief, and as a tribute to his son, Joseph turned to ministering to merchant seamen.

**Mariners’ Church of the City of Philadelphia**

Dutton’s sail loft quickly outgrew the needs of the Mariners’ Church, which on some Sundays drew as many as 500 men to its services. By 1824, the congregation built a church on the east side of Water Street, between Chestnut and Walnut, designed by renowned architect William Strickland. Here they were able to fully embrace giving aid and succor to merchant sailors from around the world. In addition to preaching the



The only known depiction of Jacob’s Sail Loft, part of an etching with the portrait of Eastburn shown below, Independence Seaport Museum

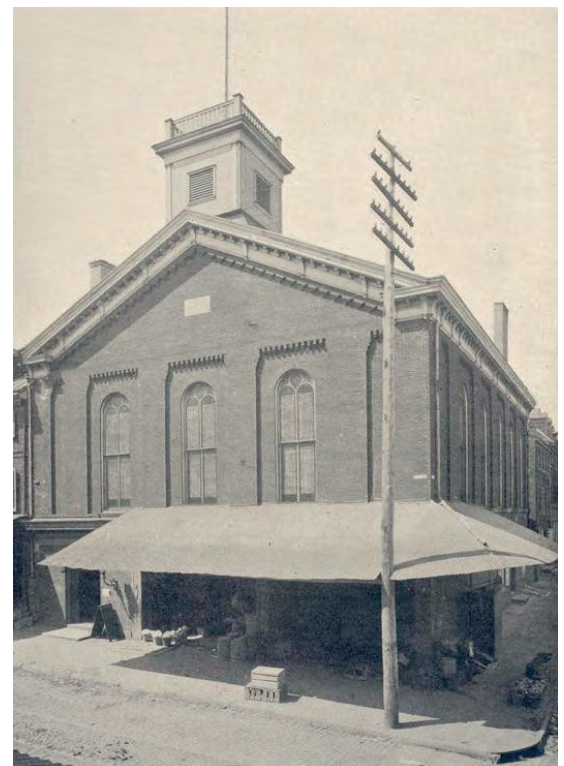
Eastburn chose the site with great deliberation; he wanted the church to be as accessible to the seamen as the tavern, the gambling den or the brothel. The flag he flew represented a newly formed religious organization called the British and Foreign Seamen’s Friend Society and Bethel Union. Merchant seamen had traditionally been a spiritually neglected group, as was finally being recognized at the beginning of the 19th century. Joseph Eastburn’s Mariners’ Church was among the very first in America devoted to addressing these needs.

**Joseph Eastburn**

Universally lauded as an exceptionally gifted preacher, Eastburn was compassionate and dedicated to his beliefs. He performed heroically for the city during the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793, tending to the sick and dying, constructing coffins, laying out the dead and praying over their graves.



**Joseph Eastburn**  
(1748-1828)



**The Mariners’ Church, Front and Delancey Streets**

STEPPING BACK IN TIME

Gospel, they provided food, clothing and shelter in cases of need; maintained a free reading room; provided registration offices where masters of vessels could apply for seamen of good character; cared for mail, money and luggage; paid visits in sickness and attended the sailors in death. The church stood in this location for 40 years until a changing riverfront forced them to relocate again.

The lot at 322-326 Front Street originally was granted to the Free Society of Traders in 1682. It changed hands 29 times before the Mariners' Church purchased it in the mid-1860s and finally dedicated its new sanctuary in 1869. The congregation continued its vocation here for the next hundred years, adapting as both the maritime industry and the neighborhood changed.

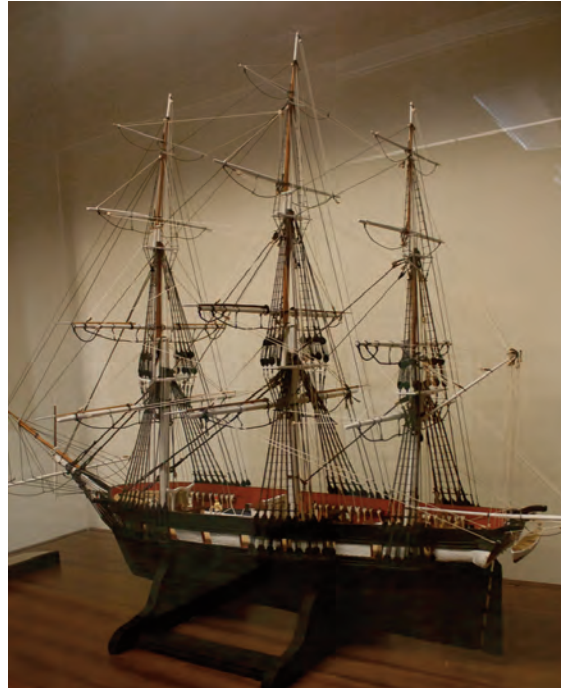
Gradually the church found less seamen needed their aid, a direct result of being able to unload, then reload, a ship in a day rather than a week. Increasingly the neighborhood became grittier and poorer.

By the time the Redevelopment Authority began negotiations to purchase the property in the early 1960s, to make way for the proposed Delaware Expressway, which became the present-day I-95, the church pews were full of unemployed men who were living in nearby lodging houses.

Negotiations came to a fiery conclusion on June 24, 1963, when flames engulfed the building in the early morning hours, seriously damaging the structure. It was eventually demolished, and the church was absorbed into Old Pine at 412 Pine Street, whose name is officially The Third, Scots and Mariners Presbyterian Church.

**Bits and Pieces**

One of the wonderful truths about Philadelphia is that few things ever completely disappear. For instance, there are bits and pieces of the Mariners' Church residing throughout our neighborhood. Beside the Mariners' records stored in its archives, the Presbyterian Historical Society at 425 Lombard Street has a real treasure on display. Almost 200 years ago, the crew from the sailing vessel Benjamin Rush paraded to the church on Water Street, holding aloft a votive ship they had constructed on their long voyage home from Canton. Named the Beulah, in reference to the text from Isaiah 62:4, it means,



**The votive ship Beulah, 1826,** The Presbyterian Historical Society

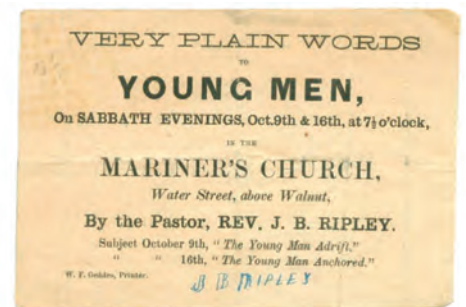
“You are no longer forsaken.” The men suspended the model above the pulpit in a tradition going back to the 1500s in Europe, as a way for sailors to express their gratitude for a safe trip back to port. Fortunately, it had been removed and safely stored before the fire destroyed the Front Street structure. William C. Wester restored it beautifully in the early 1980s.

Speaking of the pulpit, the Mariners' original capstan is in storage at the Independence Seaport Museum on Columbus Boulevard. A capstan, the vertical cylinder used to wind rope, is customarily used as a pulpit aboard sailing ships. The Museum also stores the Mariners' silver communion service and the broadside displayed here.

I get a certain satisfaction bringing old neighbors back into the light of day, much like fetching chickens back home to roost. In that vein, who knew that Front Street between Pine and Spruce was Philadelphia's wholesale poultry market? In addition to renting out space to a lunch counter to help pay the bills, the Mariners' Church leased part of its building facing Delancey to Segal Feed Store, which operated a thriving chicken-plucking concern.



**The Mariners' Church pulpit,** Independence Seaport Museum



**Broadside,** Independence Seaport Museum

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## Quality

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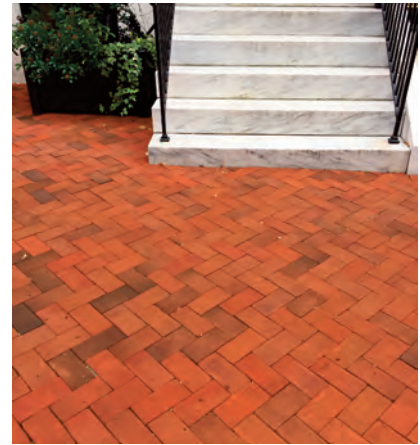
treatment so that we apply materials only when and where they are needed. Landscape projects are meticulously executed and guaranteed.

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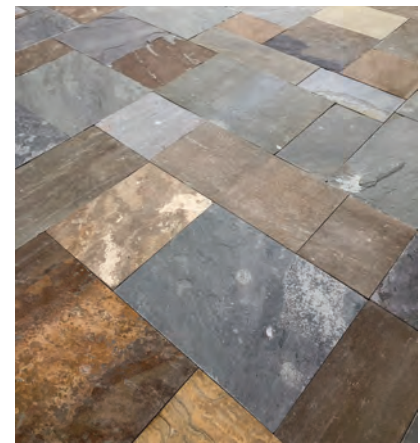
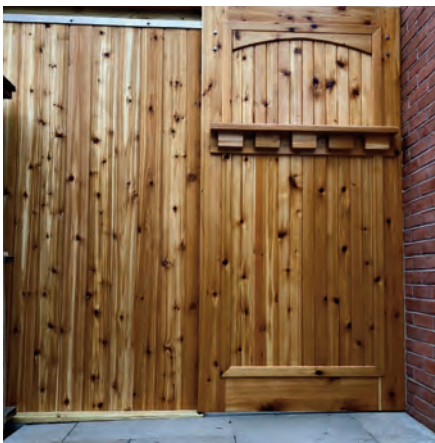
Brick sidewalks in Society Hill and downtown Philly are being renovated to provide a smooth, safe walking surface for pedestrians. We have experience and have repaired many sidewalks and patios in the city. The upheaval caused by tree roots can often be carefully corrected without removing or killing trees. Call McFarland to inquire about fixing your bricks.



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THE WEED PATROL MARCHES ON

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

# The Group That Really Shouldn't Have To Be

Every spring arrives with beautiful flowers and lush green trees. Unfortunately, it also brings an abundance of weeds that fill tree beds, sprout up between bricks and make the area look unkempt. The Weed Patrol, 13 strong at this writing, ventures out for several hours each week to try to keep the pesky plants in check.

Sadly, they do this because those who should have weeded shirked their responsibility. The biggest offenders are rental properties, and vacant residences for sale or unoccupied while owners travel. Believe it or not, some of our respected local institutions are also complicit, chronically neglecting the care of sidewalks that border their buildings. Most surprisingly, owners of some beautiful homes in the neighborhood can be just as neglectful.

To address this, the Weed Patrol clears growth from sidewalks and tree beds and bags the debris for the homeowner to dispose of. A letter explaining what the patrol has done and offering suggestions to better maintain the outside of the property is left at the site. It's back-breaking working done with little or no acknowledgment.

What can you do to help?

- Make an effort to pull weeds outside your home as soon as you see them sprout. If you keep on top of it there's not much effort required.
- Do **not** use the weed killer *Roundup*. It's been linked to certain cancers and can contaminate ground water.
- Mulch your tree bed once it's cleared of weeds. It will deter weed growth while providing nourishment. Use the 3-3-3 rule: 3-foot radius around the tree, 3 inches deep, 3 inches away from the trunk.
- Sweep regularly to remove any organic debris. It acts as a fertile breeding ground for weeds.
- Report any areas that need attention to the Weed Patrol via Matt DeJulio at [mattdejulio@aol.com](mailto:mattdejulio@aol.com)

You can also e-mail Matt to join our team. We typically meet up on Tuesday mornings. It's a fun, friendly group, and we welcome everyone.

Please, be a good neighbor and do your part.



'FIX THE BRIX'

BY MARTHA LEVINE

# Neighborhood Sidewalk Subsidy

Society Hill is a beautiful neighborhood, and many of us feel lucky to live here in this "most historic square mile. People who choose to live here move here for its beauty, history and its tranquility. Still, there has been some talk about making our neighborhood look much better. Here are a few issues:

- **Trash & litter**, mostly food containers left by visitors coming to and from South Street.
- **Too few trash cans.**
- **Weeds**, growing out of cracks in sidewalks everywhere. Avoid using chemicals, please!
- **Uneven brick and cement sidewalks**, which cause tripping and falling.

"Fix the Brix" is a successful subsidy program that you can take advantage of if your sidewalk is uneven, or even dangerous for pedestrians. Take a moment and check your front sidewalk. Is it a tripping hazard? If so, let us help you fix it. Some repairs are inexpensive, and others

are more complicated. We even have a list of masons and arborists, if you need suggestions.

**Four Easy Steps to "Fix the Brix"**

- 1 Take a photo of your problem sidewalk and email to me at [marthalev6@gmail.com](mailto:marthalev6@gmail.com).
- 2 Choose a contractor to do the work — it's good to get a few bids before selecting one.
- 3 After work is done to your satisfaction, email me a photo of the finished work. Keep a copy for yourself and send us the original paid invoice and, if possible, a copy of your cancelled check. Mail both to: SHCA, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147.
- 4 Receive a check for 40 percent, up to \$400, of the total invoice for SHCA members; 40 percent, up to \$300, for non-members.

Don't wait — take advantage of the mild weather in the next few months to help make our sidewalks walkable.



**If your sidewalk poses a tripping hazard, let us help you fix it.**



**This flat edge around a tree pit allows rainwater to reach tree roots.**

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KEEPING POSTED

BY AL CAVALARI

Independence Hall Assembly Room



**Postcards of Society Hill are difficult to come by. I finally found this one last year in Maryland. It was mailed from Philadelphia in 1907, and now it has come home. Look carefully at the addresses and double cancellation stamps, and you can see that this postcard was originally sent to New Hampshire and then forwarded to Vermont.**

For July we'll return to the Assembly Room of Independence Hall for an example of the undivided back postcards required by postal regulations until March 7, 1907. The entire back of the card was for the address only. Publishers often left a blank margin on the front for a small message. Our modern eyes are used to seeing a full image that extends to the edges of a card. The effect is that such cards instantly evoke a far distant time.

**Why Is the Chandelier Under Wraps?**

I have seen other images of the chandelier in the assembly room being wrapped during construction jobs. But what would be the purpose of keeping it wrapped in a finished room? You will see the same practice at work in the Todd House, the home of Dolly Todd, who would one day be First Lady Dolly Madison. Wrapping furniture and other home appointments would protect them from dirt and droppings left by insects in nice weather. We see from the open window that it is hot weather and insect season.

In 1906, we had a very different Independence Hall than we do today. The assembly room was still used as museum space rather than interpreted in its historic context as we now show it. The paneling in this view is from the 1831 John Haviland restoration, which was in turn altered in the 1890s restoration. It was removed in 1961 when The National Park Service restored the room to its 1776 appearance and can be seen at the Mellon Bank lobby inside the Lit Brothers building on Market Street between 7th and 8th.

This card has been through the mail. Postally used cards are more fun. They are more intimately tied to a specific bygone time, long ago. In this case we have a nice clear cancellation, showing it was sent to New Hampshire but forwarded to Vermont. Look carefully and you can see Ben Franklin peeking at us on the stamp.

**Al Cavalari** is a certified member of the Association of Philadelphia Tour Guides. 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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# Liberty Tree

by Thomas Paine

*A song written early in the American Revolution.*

*In a chariot of light from the regions of day,  
The Goddess of Liberty came;  
Ten thousand celestials directed the way  
And hither conducted the dame.*

*A fair budding branch from the gardens above,  
Where millions with millions agree,  
She brought in her hand as a pledge of her love,  
And the plant she named Liberty Tree.*

*The celestial exotic struck deep in the ground,  
Like a native it flourished and bore;  
The fame of its fruit drew the nations around,  
To seek out this peaceable shore.*

*Unmindful of names or distinction they came,  
For freemen like brothers agree;  
With one spirit endued, they one friendship pursued,  
And their temple was Liberty Tree.*

*Beneath this fair tree, like the patriarchs of old,  
Their bread in contentment they ate,  
Unvexed with the troubles of silver and gold,  
The cares of the grand and the great.*

*With timber and tar they Old England supplied,  
And supported her power on the sea;  
Her battles they fought, without getting a groat,  
For the honor of Liberty Tree.*

*But hear, O ye swains, 'tis a tale most profane,  
How all the tyrannical powers,  
Kings, Commons, and Lords, are uniting amain  
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## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

## Homeless Youth and Shelter Pets Work Together

In 2009 while a student at UPenn, Rachel Cohen started volunteering at PAWS (Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society) in Gray's Ferry. Walking from campus across the University Avenue Bridge, she saw many homeless teens and noticed that some clung to a dog as a source of support. Sad as it was, it made her think about the strength of that human-animal bond. She knew firsthand that the shelter was always short of help to care for their animals, so she came up with an idea that she hoped could bring these two marginalized groups together and be mutually beneficial. Why not take an activity homeless kids seemed to love — caring for animals — and develop a program to teach them some skills needed to function in the adult world? **Hand2Paw** was born in 2009, initially as a volunteer program, and has been providing paid internships to youth since 2011. It empowers young adults to take charge of their lives and learn real, marketable skills to pursue fulfilling employment working with animals.

It's really a win-win situation. These at-risk young people gain meaningful job skills to enter the workforce, while the animals receive extra training and socialization that makes them more adoptable. The youth, who have often lived through difficult situations themselves, have a great deal of empathy for shelter animals that have had a rough start in life.

Hand2Paw has grown tremendously in the nine years since its inception. In the beginning, volunteers worked with young people (also volunteers) to teach them some marketable animal care skills while being supervised by shelter staff. As the program evolved, they realized that shelter workers were already overwhelmed, without the time or expertise needed to provide the support this population required. The group did some fundraising and now has its own skilled staff. One full-time program director and two part-time supervisors oversee the young people during what is currently a six-month paid internship.

Participants are typically older teens or young adults. Some have been homeless. Others have aged out of the foster care system. Many have dropped out of school for a time. All have experienced difficulties that make a smooth entry into the workforce very challenging. They may lack stable housing, transportation funding, interview skills or a work wardrobe — it runs the gamut.



Every year, two million youth in our country will face a period of homelessness. On a local level, the poverty rate in Philadelphia is stuck at an alarming 25 percent. Our city also has America's highest rate of citizens living in deep poverty, defined as having an annual income of less than 50 percent of the poverty level.

According to a 2015 Drexel University report, one in four Philadelphia youth are disconnected from both school and work. Most of the Hand2Paw participants fall into this category — homeless, in foster care or a group home. Many of the city's foster children age out of the system without a permanent placement. Forty percent become homeless. By partnering with agencies that serve this population, Hand2Paw is able to reach out to young people who have been traumatized by housing insecurity and sometimes abuse or neglect.

The need for programs that help individuals continue their education, learn job skills and obtain steady employment is ever present. Hand2Paw is one group that helps to fill the void. Internships have included work at the PSPCA, Morris Animal Refuge, PetSmart and Animal Control. The youth learn everything from animal care to customer service to humane education. Many of the skills are transferable to other career paths. Their staff has developed a solid curriculum so that interns develop a skill set that can serve as a stepping-stone to meaningful employment.

Would you like to help Hand2Paw support both at-risk young people and shelter animals? You can make a one-time or monthly donation at [www.hand2paw.org](http://www.hand2paw.org). There's also a link to do fundraising for them. Maybe you have a local business and would like to donate a portion of one evening's proceeds to them. Staff will happily show up to talk about their mission.



**Claudia Carabelli** is a SHCA Director at Large. She also serves on the board of Hand2Paw.



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## ON THE GO

BY KELSEY WHITE

## Amsterdam Done Right

As promised in the last issue, I am going to share the keys to “Amsterdam done right,” with insights from my local tour guides and friends. When I first learned that my childhood best friend started dating an Amsterdam local, my initial reaction was “great, I’ll meet him in the Netherlands!” My presumptuous request came to fruition last July when I spent a long weekend touring one of the most unique cities on continental Europe from a true insider’s perspective.

I was privileged and honored to stay in a prime location. The family I visited resides in a traditional Dutch town house — providing me with the quintessential lodging experience. The mansion overlooks Keizersgracht Canal and was an accessible distance from everything a tourist could possibly need, though Amsterdam is incredibly difficult to navigate — winding, unfamiliar, and complicated. Its pristine uniformity of architecture does not help, and I frequently found myself walking in circles because the streets look and sound the same. Believe it or not, there is a huge difference between Raamstraat and Rumstraat! A tip for anyone as directionally challenged as myself is that the canals are concentrically built around the city’s center. They are named Herengracht, Keizergracht, and Prinsengracht — respectively translated to Lord’s Canal, Emperor’s Canal and Prince’s Canal. These canals are excellent landmarks and directional guides. Another helpful tip: Ubers do not exist in Amsterdam, so erase any notions of driving or public transit. Be prepared to walk. A lot.

Amsterdam is not known to be a foodie’s paradise, but there are local cuisines that rival neighboring nations’ epicurean reputations. My trusty guides led me to several local bars. We sat on picnic tables outside and were served traditional Dutch bar snacks: bitterballen and kroketten, which are deep fried bites filled with a ragout of meat or vegetables, accompanied by mustard and paired with local beers. Bordering Belgium, the true home of the French fry, the Netherlands have also perfected the art of the classic potato snack. My personal favorites were found at Vlemingckx de Sausmeester, a tiny storefront. There will undoubtedly be lines down the street, but it will be well worth the wait! Another must-try in Amsterdam is Stroopwafel — a heavenly sweet dessert made of warm, thinly pressed dough filled with caramel syrup. One can find these at virtually any bakery, but the best I sampled were from local street carts, hot off the waffle press.

The fact that Indonesia was once a Dutch colony is an important part of the Netherlands’ food culture. This makes Amsterdam home to some of the best Indonesian food in the world. For an excursion, one can venture to Blauw — the locals’ best kept secret. Here you can find authentic Indonesian cuisine, without tons of tourists. My personal favorite food stop in the Netherlands was not of Dutch or Indonesian influence, but was a Turkish cuisine called Döner Kebab that cannot be properly found anywhere outside of Europe. Leeman Döner of Amsterdam happens to be home to one of the best sandwiches I have ever tried. It rivals a fresh roast pork sandwich from DiNic’s. Seriously, it’s that good. It’s like a more flavorful, less smelly version of a gourmet cheesesteak, and after a visit to one of Amsterdam’s “coffee shops” — part of the experience! — nothing beats it.

While Amsterdam is a relatively small city, its history is vast. If you are short on time, I suggest you to skip the classic Rijksmuseum and Rembrandt Museum. Make a day of the Museum Het Grachtenhuis, the Canal Museum. This site provides a comprehensive understanding of how and why the city exists as it does and is truly a fascinating way to learn about the Netherlands. We paired this museum visit with a paddleboat jaunt around Prinsengracht Canal. From the canals, one can spot architectural traits of the city that are explained in the museum. This was an intimate and informative way to internalize several aspects of Amsterdam.

It almost goes without saying, but when in Amsterdam, one must visit and tour Anne Frank Huis. For the optimal experience, I urge you to read the full diary beforehand and book a time slot for a tour in the morning. Neither words nor explanation do this location justice. The preservation of suffering, history and family will be an emotional adventure, but undoubtedly the most important reason to visit Amsterdam.

The city has a reputation of being a leafy green, red-lighted haven. There is more depth, history and tradition to this city than is credited. Maximizing a stay here simply requires a bit of research, an open mind and solid walking shoes.



**Outdoor dining at a picnic table near one of the canals.**



**Author gets ready to bite into a Stroopwafel.**

**Stay tuned to learn how to spend seven days in London — with seven of your closest friends!**

**Kelsey White** grew up in Society Hill and is a rising junior at Boston College, studying Communication and International Relations.



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Tour net proceeds exceeded \$14,000, which will be used for neighborhood improvement and beautification projects. Many thanks to our homeowners who allowed us to show their wonderful homes and gardens to the delight of visitors. Thank you to our 130 volunteers, mostly Society Hill residents, whose help is so essential for a successful tour. The good weather helped too — we had a perfect day of sun and mild temperatures.

We’re proud to share part of a letter we got from a tourgoer from Buenos Aires, Argentina:

“I reside in Buenos Aires, Argentina, am currently visiting a friend in Philadelphia and decided to take the tour. It was so interesting to visit these special houses where it was obvious that “past” meets “present.” Old, narrow buildings totally renovated in the interior with XXI century comfort! A special word for the work of the volunteers that welcomed visitors to the homes. So kind, so friendly, and so informed. They were always ready and willing to answer all kinds of questions from attendants. I’m sure that an event like this one must have meant long hours of hard work. A gigantic enterprise! Please accept my gratitude for allowing me and many others to attend a cultural event of this level. You should be proud!”

We thank you all for attending, volunteering and supporting your civic association.

*“Past” meets “present”... in 21st century comfort!”*

**—Tourgoer from Argentina**



Photos by **Martha Levine**, vice president of SHCA.

## OUT AND ABOUT

## Three Bears Park

This charming little pocket park, tucked between 3rd and 4th on Delancey Street, has held a treasured place in the hearts of Society Hill families since 1965, when renowned landscape architect John Collins designed it as part of the City's redevelopment initiative. Formally named the Delancey Street Park, countless children know it better as Three Bears, because of artist Joe Winters's beloved sculpture.

Our community is grateful to the Friends of Three Bears Park, a nonprofit organization that has been maintaining and enhancing the playground since 1989. In addition to rehabbing the entire park, fundraising

events like the annual Fall Festival and Park After Dark are held to finance weekly cleaning and maintenance of the grounds and equipment. These functions, along with private donations, help host fun family activities like the Halloween Parade and Costume Contest, Spring into Your Park Clean Up and the Easter Egg Hunt.

To learn more about how you can become involved, visit [www.threebearspark.org](http://www.threebearspark.org) or contact Alli Taub at [allisontaub@gmail.com](mailto:allisontaub@gmail.com) or call her at 215-606-7195. If you wish to make a contribution, mail a check made out to Friends of Three Bears Park to their treasurer, Kevin Miller, at 227 Delancey Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106.



Face painting at the Fall Festival



Student volunteers run arts and crafts table.



Balloon artist creating playful creatures.



Enjoying the playground.



Visiting business tables.



Giddy up! Pony rides.



OUT AND ABOUT

# Activities for All Ages at a Park for All Seasons

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALLISON TAUB



Checking out Easter baskets.



Kids volunteer and do all of our planting every year in the center planter.



Older kids enjoying the park.



Neighborhood children line up for the Easter Egg Hunt.



Adults enjoy the fundraising event Park After Dark.



A costume contest and parade are held every Halloween, with free pizza and drinks.



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OUR CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

# Feline Double Trouble

When it comes to cats, there seem to be two kinds of people: “cat” people and “I don’t like cats” people. In my experience, many in the latter category haven’t actually lived with a feline and often stereotype them as aloof and unfriendly. Any of us who have shared an abode with one can attest to the fact that they have as many distinct personalities as any dog or human. Just as each kitty is unique, so are their relationships.

You’ve heard of Bonnie and Clyde, Cheech and Chong, and Abbott and Costello. But Tito and Charlie? Read on.

Camille Orman grew up with both a cat and a dog. Her husband, Jim, had a dog as a child and was willing, although not excited, to have a cat. Along with two kids, they started with a pair of cats that lived to the ripe old ages of 16 and 18. Once the family was ready for a new addition, they adopted Harry, described as Camille’s “most favorite cat of all time.” A beautiful gray male with a sweet and slightly goofy disposition, he would lie on his back nestled in a decorative glass bowl on their coffee table. Sadly, at two years of age, he succumbed to a sudden onset of congestive heart failure. Doctors at Penn Vet diagnosed a rare heart disease, seen primarily in male cats, for which there is no treatment. It was a huge loss for everyone.

Camille was so connected to her beloved gray cat, she went in search of another. That would be Tito, named after Jim’s favorite vodka. He was indeed gray, male and feline but that’s where the similarities ended. Found in an industrial garage as a kitten, they adopted him from a cat rescue at about eight months of age. The history of his formative months is a mystery. This little guy was a literal ankle biter. He would even leap across the sofa to chomp family members on the arm. He definitely needed some serious behavioral intervention. Luckily, Camille has a few friends who are veterinarians. They strongly recommended a kitty companion, so off they went in search of a brother for Tito. Enter Charlie.



Charlie

Charlie, about the same age as Tito, is an orange and white tabby cat found with a broken leg and wearing a collar. The collar would suggest he once had a home. How he broke his leg remains unknown. Never claimed, he needed surgery for the leg and was put up for adoption. Even though the limb is now completely healed, he has the funny habit of sitting on the top of the couch holding his leg in the same position as when it was in a cast.

As is recommended when introducing a new cat to an already cat-inhabited household, they tried to initially keep Charlie in a separate room. That lasted one day. Once introduced to each other, the boys chased each other incessantly for the first 24 hours. Whether due to exhaustion or acceptance, they then settled down to a peaceful life together, with no more biting from Tito! Camille fondly refers to Charlie as Tito’s “therapy cat.”



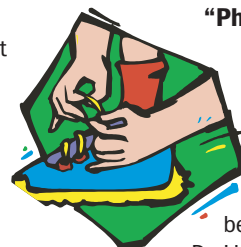
Tito

Which is not to say that the guys are without their own issues. Much like little pups, they’ll greet family members at the door. Unrolling toilet paper is a popular recreational activity. They’ve even been known to pull down the shower curtain. Charlie loves to be held while Tito prefers to sit close by. Neither has much respect for the privacy of humans. When using the bathroom, one usually sees four little paws reaching as far as they can beneath the door. Tito is known for covertly wandering into open closets and then getting shut inside. He also eats constantly with no off switch. Charlie’s food has to be kept on higher ground so the somewhat more rotund Tito can’t get to it. They’re both friendly and playful and crave your attention. So much for being aloof!

Tito is not Charlie, Charlie is not Tito, and neither one is Harry. They’re each special in their own way, which is just as it should be.

## EXERCISE & SOCIALIZE

The **Walkie/Talkies** meet at Three Bears Park, Delancey Street between 3rd and 4th Streets, on Tuesday morning 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 and socialize program.



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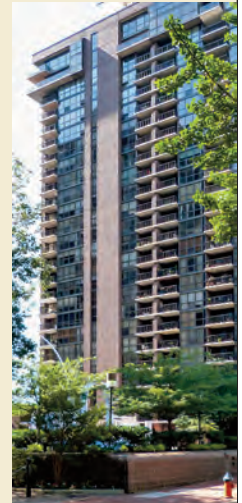
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## ON OUR SHELF

BY VIVIENNE WOODWARD

## Blurring the Line Between Poetry and Prose

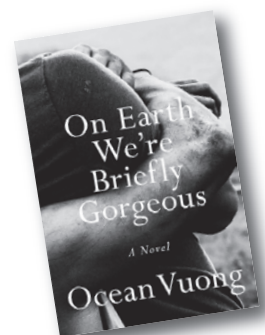
*On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* is written by Ocean Vuong, whose poetry collection, *Night Sky With Exit Wounds*, won the Whiting Award and T.S. Eliot Prize in 2017. With this, his first novel, the line between poetry and prose blurs. Almost every sentence bears contemplation in its unusual beauty. Lines like, "Ever since I could remember, she flickered before me, dipping in and out of sense," defy the convention that description means a collection of adjectives. Vuong's novel is one of feelings first; the way he combines words isn't always familiar, but the feelings they evoke are instantly recognizable.

The entire novel is a letter written from a son, Little Dog, to his mother. Although it is written as a direct address, from early on we understand that she will not read it; she does not read English. Little Dog's letter spans the history of his family, beginning with his grandmother, Lan, in Vietnam and ending with his career as a writer in his late twenties. The letter is one of imperfect love: Little Dog explores the fraught relationship he has with his mother, and reveals the history of his first romantic love. If people in the novel are feelings, love is explored through actions. He plucks the white hairs from his grandmother's back; she brings him a bag of Doritos. He rubs the knots from his mother's back. The boy he loves tells him he's "good." He examines love as an imperfect offering.

Vuong's novel juxtaposes the beauty of life — and Little Dog finding his own life beautiful — against the backdrops of war in Vietnam and violence and addiction in Hartford, Connecticut. He frequently uses animals to contrast the innocence of existence with the often brutal ways we encounter the world. Monarch butterflies migrate south, over 4,000 miles, never to return. Vuong writes, "Sometimes when I'm careless, I believe the wound is also the place where the skin reenounters itself, asking of each end, where have you been?" Little Dog does not say that we need pain to find beauty, but he does find that the threads of his life have created a story worth repeating, a story that is beautiful and bears replication by writing it down.

*On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* is difficult to define; it is part poetry, part letter, part novel. Sometimes it takes a left turn, and it feels like an essay, as in the chapter which meditates on Tiger Woods' mixed-race heritage. Vuong recounts Little Dog's history inside out and sideways: from before he was born, almost always out of order, sometimes with diversions, but as the novel states early on, "Every history has more than one thread, each thread a story of division." Enjoy this replication of a life, and you will find beauty.

**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.



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## SUMMER READING

The season of summer reads is upon us. We'd like to help you make it the best one ever.

**Mostly Dead Things by Kristen Arnett**

One morning, Jessa-Lynn Morton walks into the family taxidermy shop to find that her father has committed suicide, right there on one of the metal tables. Kristen Arnett's debut novel is a darkly funny, heart-wrenching and eccentric look at loss and love.

**The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead**

In this bravura follow-up to the Pulitzer Prize- and National Book Award-winning #1 *New York Times* bestseller *The Underground Railroad*, Colson Whitehead brilliantly dramatizes another strand of American history through the story of two boys sentenced to a hellish reform school in Jim Crow-era Florida.

**Trick Mirror: Reflections on Self-Delusion by Jia Tolentino**

A breakout-writer at *The New Yorker* examines fractures at the center of contemporary culture with verve, deftness and intellectual ferocity.

**Inland by Tea Obreht**

The *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Tiger's Wife* returns with a stunning tale of perseverance — an epic journey across an unforgettable landscape of magic and myth.

**The World Doesn't Require You by Rion Amilcar Scott**

This novel announces the arrival of a generational talent. In creating his very own Yoknapatawpha County with the fictional Cross River, Maryland, Rion Amilcar Scott shatters rigid genre lines to explore larger themes of religion, violence and love.

**Kids****Being Edie is Hard Today by Ben Brashares, illustrated by Elizabeth Bergeland**

This warm and tender story about being yourself — even when you're sad, anxious or feeling lonely — reminds readers that human connection is essential, tears can heal, and a new day is always coming.

**Writers and Their Pets by Kathleen Krull**

Discover how animals influenced 20 of the world's most beloved authors, from Charles Dickens to J.K. Rowling. These stories and many more are told with full-color illustrations.

**The Poison Jungle (Wings of Fire 13) by Tui Sutherland**

The *New York Times* bestselling series continues with a thrilling revelation — brand-new tribes of dragons!

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Howl with laughter with Dog Man, the internationally bestselling series from Pilkey, the creator of Captain Underpants!

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*Built in 1829 by Joseph Norris, this historic home became known as The Cadwalader house thanks to Judge John Cadwalader who both resided in and had his legal office there. Cadwalader was best known for serving one term in the US House of Representatives and then later becoming a United States District court judge, an appointment made by his good friend President James Buchanan. Over the years the residence has served as the home of the Mutual Assurance Company and offices for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.*



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Washington Square facing 1 bedroom on a high floor with balcony, high-end finishes throughout including custom built-ins and Stark carpet and a new bathroom. **843 sf | \$329,900**



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**1,781 sf | \$975,000**



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HEAD HOUSE FARMERS MARKET

BY LISA KELLY

# Artisanal Pasta at Head House Market

Pasta Lab joined the esteemed list of merchants at the Head House Farmers Market this past spring. Co-owners Chris Wright and Gina Rubinetti consider this market the “holy grail of farmers markets” and are thrilled to be here. “We don’t live in the immediate neighborhood, but we’ve been shopping here for years, biking over every Sunday to stock up,” says Wright. They’ve always been passionate about food, but Wright and Rubinetti did not initially set out to create an artisanal pasta company — he started as a custom bicycle maker, and she was in the catering field.

Wright explains: “I sort of fell out of love with the custom bike business. Every component of the bikes was handmade by me, but the price point to justify that level of craftsmanship meant that I couldn’t really share my work with many people.” He shifted his focus to food, which seemed equally artisanal and more accessible to a wide-customer base. He continues: “We bought all sorts of cooking equipment and experimented with it. We took a deep dive into food at the most basic level. We really dug into bread, using our own sourdough starter and fresh milled flour. The flour kind of stuck with us; we had buckets of different types, dozens of them, all over our apartment. We loved the flavor and the variety, but we were running out of room!”

They began focusing on pasta, which was a natural segue from the world of grains, and continued to strive for a way to connect meaningfully with their customers; access is key. They really wanted to deliver restaurant-quality pasta to people for home

use, at a price point that is far less than a meal at a five-star restaurant. Rubinetti worked for a caterer, so they collaborated with this company to have a commissary kitchen and more room to work.

Both Wright and Rubinetti have been in and out of the food business, front and back of house, since 2006. As a result, they have serious culinary chops, though neither has any formal training beyond on the job experience. They characterize farmers market customers as ideal: “People who want a strong connection to the producers of their food and seek high quality, local products.”

Rubinetti describes the filled pasta as “our favorite, because it really is a hand-made, hands-on creation. Of course, the extruded pastas are wonderful, too, but we really value the artisanship of this process, and the filled pastas enable us to be deeply connected and literally hand fill and hand fold every single one. They also give us the opportunity to use other artisanal products like ricotta cheese and locally grown herbs.”

When asked what their go-to recipe is, Wright is clear: Sausage and Broccoli Rabe. The ingredients can be sourced from the Head House market merchants: greens from the produce stands, sausage from the butchers, cheese and butter from the dairy farmers. To round out the meal, hit the bakers for some bread and dessert, the vintner or brewer for a tippie, and enjoy the feast!

**Lisa Kelly** is Director of the Farmers Market Program, The Food Trust.



**Freshly made bucatina**  
Photo credit: Chris Wright.



**The Food Trust**, in partnership with Get Healthy Philly, operates more than 25 farmers markets in Philadelphia, including the Head House 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. To get involved with The Food Trust, see our website [www.thefoodtrust.org](http://www.thefoodtrust.org).

## Pasta With Sausage and Broccoli Rabe (serves two)

**Ingredients:**

- 2-3 Tablespoons olive oil
- 1 link of sausage (pork or turkey), casing removed
- 1/2 lb fresh pasta, something short and small, like conchiglie (shells)
- a sprinkle of dried chili flakes
- a sprinkle of fennel seed
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 4 oz white wine vinegar
- 8-10 oz water, additional as needed
- 4 cups broccoli rabe
- 1-2 Tablespoons butter
- Salt, to taste
- Black pepper, to taste
- Demerara (unrefined) sugar to taste

**Directions:**

- 1 Bring a large pot of well-salted water to a boil. (It should taste salty — use more than you think you need.) Keep covered until you are ready to drop in the pasta.
- 2 In a shallow sauté pan, add a few table-spoons of olive oil, and brown sausage over medium heat until well caramelized — 5 minutes. Periodically chop the sausage into small pieces as it browns.
- 3 Add garlic, whole fennel seed and chili flakes, and sauté for a minute or so. Deglaze the pan with vinegar, and scrape up all the delicious bits from the bottom of the pan. Cook this until most of the vinegar evaporates — 2 to 3 minutes.
- 4 When the pan is almost dry, add water, bring to a boil, let simmer for 10 or so minutes. (You are essentially making a quick stock.)
- 5 Drop your pasta into the boiling water. At the same time as you drop the pasta, place the broccoli rabe into the sausage mixture and stir. When pasta is 80 to 90 percent done, usually 2 to 3 minutes for PastaLab fresh pasta, remove it from boiling water and combine with your sausage and greens. Cook this mixture over high heat until most of the water evaporates — 2 to 3 minutes. Keep the ingredients moving in the pan to prevent sticking, and be sure everything continues to cook evenly.
- 6 At this point, start seasoning to taste with salt and sugar. When you are happy with the thickness of your sauce, finish with a little bit of butter. We find that this helps bind the ingredients together. Divide between two plates and top with aged cheese.

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## SOUTH STREET HEADHOUSE DISTRICT

BY CLAIRE BATTEN

## Bloomsday All-Day Café Opens

At last! **Bloomsday Café** is now open for business on Head House Square. The new all-day café has opened in the large, double-fronted retail location on the same block as Malbec and Xochitl, combining a restaurant with a retail wine store and a private event room.

Bloomsday Café is a casual breakfast, lunch and dinner spot with a memorable menu. In addition, it features a carefully stocked wine cellar and craft beer selection. Zachary is responsible for the wine and beverages, while his business partner Kelsey Bush is responsible for the menu. The front of house is run by general manager Tim Kweeder.

This trio brings a wide range of complementary experiences. Tim's background is in wine. He has curated a sophisticated collection of natural and sustainable local wines. Tim enjoys sharing his love of wine and independent vineyards with other people, and plans to host a series of private wine tasting classes during the evening in the café.

Kelsey is an experienced restaurateur and chef and was one half of the team behind Green Engine Coffee in Haverford, an integral part of that community. He wants to apply this same winning formula to Bloomsday, a place to get coffee and a pastry before work and come back later for lunch or dinner.

Pastries are a specialty of Bloomsday. The culinary team includes behind-the-scenes Sofiane Bellal, an Algerian pastry chef with a penchant for butter and natural ingredients. All pastries are made in house at the café, says Kelsey: "One of our most popular items is our pastry chef's croissants, which are made with French flour and butter. And Sofiane has created a layered chocolate brioche filled with pastry cream that is out of this world."

Bloomsday's seasonal menu was inspired by the three entrepreneurs' experiences traveling around the world. The menu reflects how they like to eat. It consists of light fare, which comes on small plates, much like you'd expect in a wine bar. The sous-chef has a particular interest in fish and pasta, but there is a strong veggie and meat focus. Much of the menu is made in house; they do all the curing, smoking and pickling. Longer term they hope to establish a charcuterie in house, too.

What standout item on the menu would Kelsey recommend to *Reporter* readers? Without hesitation Kelsey said, "Our gravadlax salmon



**Bloomsday Café features pastries made in-house and sophisticated local wines.**



is a standout. The salmon is sustainably sourced from central Pennsylvania, and we cure it in house in Aquavit. We serve on sourdough bread with cream cheese and homemade pickles. It's really special!"

Bloomsday is a kid-friendly space with seating for 70 and a private event space that can cater for up to 30. Within the café itself, there are lots of different types of seating, which zone and define the ambience within the café. Dependent on your mood, you can choose from the more formal table and chair set up, to eating at the bar, to diner-like banquettes. While the café has a sizeable footprint, the design of the space lends a smaller, more human scale to the interior. Reservations can be made online via Resy.

When asked why the team picked the South Street Headhouse District to locate their new enterprise, Zach was quick to respond: "We settled on this spot in Head House because we trade and are friends with many of the merchants who are part of the Farmers Market. This is an iconic location and is infused with history. The Farmers Market is one of the strongest in the city, and we're proud to support the local merchants here."

### Coming Soon

What is a Japanese Robata restaurant? Find out in the next issue of the *Reporter* when we sit down with Brian Calhoun, owner of Bincho, one of the latest restaurants to open on South Street.

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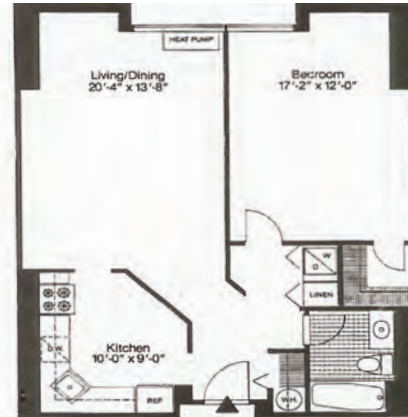
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Updated two bedroom, two bathroom showcasing panoramic river and city views, ample space for entertaining, beautifully appointed kitchen, spacious bedrooms and a private balcony.  
**1,897 sf | \$979,900**



One bedroom with sunrise views to the east, an eat-in kitchen, large great room, generously sized bedroom, washer/dryer and great closet space.  
**850 sf | \$269,900**



Completely renovated, south-facing two bedroom, two bathroom with a chef's kitchen, balcony, wood floors and beautifully appointed bathrooms.  
**1,387 sf | \$899,900**



Three bedroom, two bathroom featuring a sun-soaked open floor plan with a luxurious master suite, beautifully appointed bathrooms, balcony and see-forever views from the river to the skyline. **1,734 sf | \$1,095,000**

## Recently Sold by Allan Domb Real Estate at Independence Place

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1606-I	1505-II	706F-II	1906-7-I	2107-I	1501-II	2210-II
2408-I	1410E-I	608C-II	1906-II	2106-II	2102-II	2211-II
1509D-I	1907H-I	612G-I	1511-I	1102-I	812-II	2007-I
1802L-II	1906C-I	1901K-I	301K-I	1206-II	502-II	1807-I
2407-II	1102-I	1412B-II	706F-II	1706-I	1506-II	1801-II

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**IN MEMORY OF CONSTANTINE STEPHANO**

We are sad to inform neighbors of the death of Constantine Stephano, age 74, on May 15. He was the third and final generation behind Stephano Bros. Inc., the company founded in 1895 by Constantine Stephano, his immigrant grandfather of the same name, who got his start rolling cigarettes at the corner of 10th and Walnut Streets.

Until the family sold the domestic arm of the company in 1970 and the overseas branch in 1975, Stephano Bros. was a driving force behind the establishment and success of the Greek community in Philadelphia, often lending money to local entrepreneurs.

After the company was sold, Mr. Stephano earned a master's degree in business administration from the Wharton School. In 1978, he founded Stephano Marketing Associates, a consulting firm that large companies turned to for help in launching new brands or bringing foreign products to the U.S. market.

Constantine married Jan Carl in 1968. They lived in Society Hill for 48 years, where he became the

unofficial "mayor," his son said. Starting in the 1970s, Mr. Stephano served on the SHCA Zoning Board, working for consistent building standards as the neighborhood was redeveloped. He also was president of the Washington Square Townhouse Council.

A lifelong gardener, he created and maintained a large public garden at Third Street and St. James Walk. His efforts won him, along with fellow gardeners Kevin Gorman and Oliver Millet, awards from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and SHCA. The garden will go on in his honor.

He added to the neighborhood canine population by rescuing two black labs and an ornery beagle. Constantine travelled to all seven continents and 22 countries. He also enjoyed playing golf or cooking for family and friends.

He attended Christ Church, where he is buried. Besides his son and wife, he is survived by two granddaughters, a sister and two nieces. Donations in his honor may be made to Philabundance via [www.philabundance.org](http://www.philabundance.org).



**Constantine Stephano, 1945-2019**

**SAFE AND SOUND IN SOCIETY HILL**

BY MARILYN APPEL

**All About Fraud**

The pop-up message on your computer that says you have a virus may be a fraud. If it gives you a phone number to call, be careful. If the responder asks for money or remote access to your computer, hang up. Shut down your computer, wait a minute, then turn it back on. The message should disappear. If a caller tells you that you've won a sweepstakes and then asks for money in order to claim the prize, it's a scam.

I almost got caught by the PECO scam. Someone called to tell me that they haven't gotten my PECO payment for the last two months and would shut

off my electricity the next day if I didn't pay up immediately. Hang up and check your payment history. PECO doesn't do that and will inform you in writing if something is wrong. Scammers used to call from anywhere in the U.S., and you could recognize a distant area code. No more. They use local area codes, so be wary if you don't recognize a friend's or family's phone number.

**Just a personal note:** I have 500 Philadelphia Orchestra Cookbooks left to sell. I've already sold 2,500. Call me at 215-922-2626 if you would like to purchase some. All proceeds go to the orchestra.

**Marilyn Appel** has served as chair of our Sixth District's Police District Advisory Council since 1980.

**Do You Have Questions for City Officials?**

- Want to communicate concerns with the mayor's office?
- Have questions for the Philadelphia Parking Authority?
- Homeless issues on your mind?
- Need to find out if there is any crime in our area?
- Do you have a complaint for the 6th Police District?
- To get contact information for these and more, go to our website: [www.societyhillcivic.org](http://www.societyhillcivic.org) and click on "Our Neighborhood" and then "Community Resources"
- Emails work better than phone calls..

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY MATT DEJULIO

# 2019 Membership Lags a Bit

By early June, 1,133 Society Hill residents had either renewed their SHCA membership or joined for the first time — two percent behind the same time last year. Our goal is to equal or exceed 1,206 — an all-time high which we reached last year.

So far, 90 new members have signed up — down 33 percent from 133 from last year. Unfortunately we still have 132 members whose dues are in arrears — up from 97 last year at this time. If you have delayed in sending in your renewal, or wish to join, please do so today. If you are not receiving our weekly email newsletter, please go to our website to sign up. You may also pay your dues conveniently by credit card there.

We welcome each of the over 3,600 households in Society Hill to join SHCA. Your civic association helps protect your real estate investment by funding many of our improvement projects, as well as providing subsidies to neighbors who plant trees and fix their sidewalks. We help enhance your quality of life when we advocate on your behalf regarding zoning changes, real estate taxes, crime problems and traffic issues. All of this is accomplished through the hard work of our dedicated board of directors, committee members, block coordinators and most importantly, your membership dues.


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

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

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

## Park, America!

A limited number of monthly parking spaces are 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.



## Membership Application

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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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><b>Residential Memberships</b></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><b>Business Memberships</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> \$ 100 Institutions — 5+ employees</p> <p><input type="radio"/> \$ 60 Institutions — fewer than 5 employees</p>
--	---

**Additional Contributions**

\$ _____ Washington Square Beautification	\$ _____ Franklin Lights
\$ _____ Sidewalk Cleaning/Graffiti Removal	\$ _____ Tree Tenders
\$ _____ 5th Street Legal Fund	\$ _____ McCall School

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Charge VISA/MasterCard:

Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Please return completed application to:  
**Society Hill Civic Association**, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147

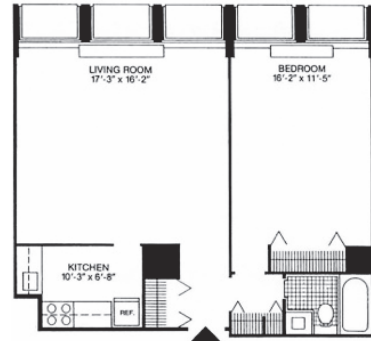
# Selling Society Hill Towers Condominiums for 38 Years

## FOR SALE! Sunny One Bedroom



The home features walls of floor-to-ceiling windows, fully-equipped kitchen and parquet wood floors throughout.

**683 sf**  
**Offered for \$259,900**

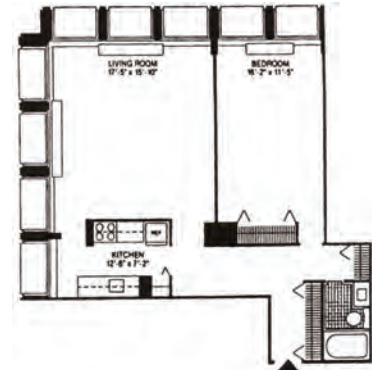


## Corner One Bedroom with Treetop Views



Corner one bedroom with treetop views of Society Hill and the river, new wood floors, walls of windows providing incredible natural light, and great closet space throughout.

**750 sf**  
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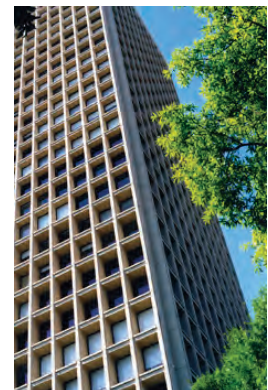


## Recently Sold by Allan Domb Real Estate at Society Hill Towers

Thinking of buying or selling a condo at Society Hill Towers?

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- |             |           |            |
|-------------|-----------|------------|
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| 11BCD North | PH6 South | PH5 South  |
| 24G North   | 21G West  | 12G South  |
| 14C South   | 27B West  | 29E South  |
| 28E North   | 22AH West | 10AH North |
| 23B South   | 5B North  | 4E South   |
| 26C West    | 19A North | 24G North  |
| 26B West    | 4G North  | 2E West    |
| 10E West    | 31C West  | 8F South   |
| 19BCD South | 24B West  | 22D North  |
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**NIFTY NEIGHBORS IN MY OWN BACKYARD**

BY JANE BIBERMAN

## A Snapshot of Bonnie Halda

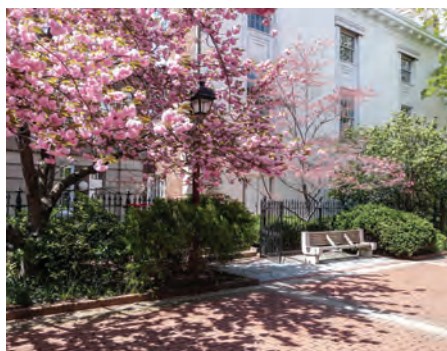
“It’s hard to pinpoint exactly when I decided to become an architect,” says Bonnie Halda, “but when I was six, I watched as my parents built a new architect-designed house, and my dad would take me to the construction site.” Her father and two older brothers influenced her decision. “They all knew how to build things, which fascinated me, and eventually they went into a family business together as a plumbing company.” Growing up in Mayville, North Dakota, Bonnie liked to be creative, including drawing and photography, and it was her dad who suggested architecture.

When she was in college in Fargo, Bonnie got a job one summer producing measured drawings for a historic house in her hometown, which sparked her interest in historic preservation. Those drawings are currently in the Historic American Building Survey collection at the Library of Congress. After Bonnie got a degree in architecture, she knew she wanted to either work at a firm or government agency that specialized in preservation. “I was fortunate that I landed the job to serve as the Historical Architect with the State Historical Society of North Dakota, a job I absolutely loved,” she says. It was where she could do the most good to preserve the state’s past. From there it was on to the National Park Service in Denver and, finally, to her current job with the Northeast Region of the National Park Service, which includes parks from Maine to Virginia.

“I moved to Philadelphia 30 years ago, and naturally I wanted to live in historic Society Hill,” says Bonnie. “It was the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 that is the root of all preservation,” she explains, adding that it was created in response to urban renewal. She notes there are 68 historical landmarks in the Philadelphia area, including Head House, St. Peter’s, the Physick House and Loews Hotel, the former PSFS building. “My favorite historic building, which isn’t a national landmark, is the beautiful Customs House, where my office was until last year, when it moved to the SEPTA building.”

Unsurprisingly, Bonnie lives in I.M. Pei’s historic Society Hill Towers. From her home on the 14th floor, she can see — and photograph — a large swath of Philadelphia, including the Delaware and its famous ships. “There’s something relaxing about Society Hill,” says Bonnie. “The little streets, the greenery, the historic homes.” If you see her walking around our neighborhood, it’s probably with a camera in her hands. She started shooting pictures at age 10 with an Instamatic. “It’s natural for me to take pictures of historic architecture because I like to photograph what I see.”

It’s Bonnie we *Reporter* readers have to thank for the monthly Society Hill calendars as well as the centerfolds that appear in the *Reporter*. “Except for those, I refuse to photograph people,” she says. Cats are another matter. Her longtime companion Gracie is a stunning Burmese and Siamese mix, and she made a memorial book of photographs of her neighbor’s black cat Quincy. It’s Bonnie who takes the pictures for the annual May house tour and poster. She contributed photographs to the forthcoming *Historic Pennsylvania, a Tour of the State’s Top National Landmarks*.



**Bonnie Halda and Gracie.**

“I still miss the cold winters and snow of North Dakota, but I love it here,” says Bonnie. “If you have to live in a city, Philadelphia is the place.” When she’s not walking or hiking, she stays home to cook. A vegetarian, Bonnie shops at Head House year round. “I don’t go out to eat much, except for breakfast and brunch.” Of course, there’s no better view in the city than that from her apartment, so it’s easy to see why Philadelphia is her favorite city.

Visit Bonnie’s Instagram account [www.instagram.com/bhalda/](http://www.instagram.com/bhalda/).

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

**Four of Bonnie’s photographs of Society Hill, one from each seasons.**





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