

SOCIETY HILL

# Reporter

November/December 2019

The Newsletter  
of The Society Hill  
Civic Association

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

## The Hill Is Alive... With the Sound of Music



Bradford Voigt

The Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) invites all neighbors to its General Membership Meeting on November 20 at the Pennsylvania Hospital's Zubrow Auditorium. Brad Voigt, Vice President of the Philadelphia Orchestra, will engage the audience in an interactive trivia game with special prizes for the winners. A former musician and seasoned development professional, Voigt was appointed to lead the Orchestra's development program in February 2015. A fundraising professional

for 30 years, he has managed programs that have raised over \$750 million.

So, brush up on the notable facts, figures and personalities from the 120-year history of one of the world's pre-eminent orchestras, and be prepared to have some fun!

Everyone is welcome to attend. Simply arrive before 7:30 p.m. at Pennsylvania Hospital's Zubrow Auditorium, located on the first floor inside the main entrance at 8th Street near Spruce.

Wednesday,  
November

20

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Society Hill Civic Association Meeting  
Wednesday, November 20, 2019

**Pennsylvania Hospital  
8th & Spruce Streets**

**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

**Topic: The 120-Year Legacy of The Philadelphia Orchestra**  
**Speaker: Bradford Voigt, Vice President of Development of the Philadelphia Orchestra**

### SWEET AND SCARY



Wednesday,  
December

4

### HOLIDAY SOCIAL

SHCA members are invited to the Holiday Social  
Wednesday, December 4, from 6 - 7:30 p.m.  
Cavanaugh's Headhouse, 421 S. 2nd Street.

\$15 per person for SHCA members. Hors d'oeuvres included, cash bar. RSVP by Friday, November 29. Payment is required with your RSVP, so that we can provide the restaurant with an accurate count. Your name tag will be provided when you arrive at the restaurant. Please visit [www.societyhillcivic.org](http://www.societyhillcivic.org) to purchase tickets or mail your check for \$15 per person to SHCA with your name(s): SHCA, PO Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147. Any questions? Please e-mail [Mattdejulio@aol.com](mailto:Mattdejulio@aol.com). Society Hill residents who are not members are most welcome to join us and meet their neighbors if they sign up for SHCA membership and remit the \$15 per person cover charge.



Dads and daughters trick-or-treated for sweets, while scary ghouls stared out from behind closed windows. Halloween brought out the best of treats and spine-tingling fun for everyone.



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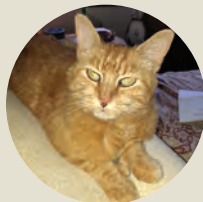
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Our Creatures Great and Small:  
I Was a Dog Person Before  
Cats Entered My Life



SOCIETY HILL

# Reporter

**NUSA  
Award-Winning  
Newsletter  
2014 thru  
2019**

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December 1

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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.

## SHCA BOARD OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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

BY LARRY SPECTOR

This column so often reports on quality-of-life issues that we have to keep in mind a proper perspective. Noise, traffic, trash and misguided development do not define our day-to-day experience in Society Hill. Simple pleasures — sidewalk chats with neighbors, welcoming family and friends into our homes, patronizing local businesses, walking past our history or just enjoying the scene from a seat on a park bench — all give us a sense of community that more than outweighs our neighborhood tribulations.

**Fostering Community Spirit**

There are opportunities to strengthen that sense of community. Knowing that we are a fairly cultured neighborhood, we are switching gears for our next general membership meeting on November 20. Our speaker will be Bradford Voigt, Vice President of the Philadelphia Orchestra. If there is any remedy for the cacophony of city living, it is the beauty of music. Please join us for Brad's interactive presentation that will be as uplifting as it will be informative.

Then there is the Philadelphia Marathon cheering party on November 24, with the gospel choir of Mother Bethel Church. If there is anything that can generate community spirit, this is the event that will do it.



**Mother Bethel Church Gospel Choir cheering for the 2018 Philadelphia Marathon. See Page 13.**

Our community is strengthened when there is widespread participation in the work of our civic association. We have incredibly dedicated board members and committee volunteers. But board members have term limits, and they would be first to admit that they do not have a monopoly on the good ideas or projects that can benefit Society Hill. There are others out there now uninvolved whom we urge to come forward. Please contact me or others on our board, so we can all benefit from your participation.

**Master Plan Status**

By the time this message reaches publication, Councilman Squilla should have introduced our Master Plan in City Council. It consists of a re-mapping showing what we believe should be the proper zoning classification for every lot in Society Hill. It seeks to exempt our neighborhood from well-intentioned bills supposedly encouraging historic preservation, but which may well have the opposite effect if applied to Society Hill. The Plan may come up for a City Council vote in mid-November, and we will alert you if we need a show of support at the Council meeting.

**Delaware River Development**

In addition to the capping of I-95, future development along the Delaware River will soon be on the drawing board. The Delaware River Waterfront Commission (DRWC) will, by year end, issue a request for proposals from developers. Depending on the height limits and other regulations adopted by DRWC, the result could have a major impact on Society Hill. We have been actively monitoring this long-term project and will make sure our voice as a stakeholder is heard.

My best wishes for the upcoming Holiday Season.




**SHCA President  
Larry Spector**

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## SOCIETY HILL TREE TENDERS

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

## Trees, Please!



*Let's green it up!*

Concerned about global warming? Want to lower your air conditioning bill? Craving cool shade on a hot summer day? We have just what you need! Not an infomercial for some wacky new product, just a solution readily provided by Mother Nature, with a little help from us humans. Plant a tree!

Replenishing the Amazon rainforest is probably out of reach, but we can easily replant trees in our neighborhood. Society Hill currently has **37 empty tree pits** that the **Tree Tenders** would love to fill, at no cost to you. You need only complete a brief application and commit to watering the tree from early spring until the first frost for two years. Basic pit care — weeding and mulching — and regular pruning will provide you with a beautiful, long-lived tree — pending any errant delivery trucks, of course. Tree Tenders will even do pruning while the tree is small.

#### **Empty tree pit?**

Contact us for an application, due in November, for a new tree to be planted in the spring.

#### **Neighbor with an empty pit?**

Encourage them to replant and refer them to us for additional information.

#### **Small tree that needs pruning?**

Contact us. If we can reach the problem areas without a ladder, we'd be happy to give a small tree a sharp new haircut.

#### **Large tree that needs pruning?**

We can provide names of some arborists. SHCA will reimburse you for half the cost up to a maximum of \$300 for members, \$200 for non-members.

#### **Dead tree?**

We can reimburse you for half the cost of removal and replanting up to a maximum of \$500 for members, \$400 for non-members. Don't forget to have the stump and roots ground down and removed.

Contact Tree Tenders co-chairs Bob Curley or Claudia Carabelli via our administrator: [MattDeJulio@aol.com](mailto:MattDeJulio@aol.com).



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**WEED PATROL UPDATE**

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

**A Banner Year for Weeds**

The Society Hill Weed Patrol will be wrapping up another season soon. They've worked tirelessly almost every week, even through the worst heat of summer. It's been a banner year for weeds. Should blame be assigned to weather conditions, or neglectful property owners and residents? My money is on a combination of both factors.

The crew has formed wonderful friendships and had lots of laughs. We take pride in the improved appearance of sites we work on, but we've also been discouraged by the lack of follow-up on the part of many residents. We've cleared some areas two to three times this summer. Rental properties are big offenders, but guess what? City of Philadelphia code makes it clear: **"The owner and the occupier** of any private property shall keep the abutting sidewalk free of any litter, snow, or other obstructions." True, a subsection relieves tenants of multi-family buildings from responsibility for shoveling snow, but clearing sidewalks of litter and obstructions is **everyone's** responsibility.

We are grateful to the tenants who pitch in, and hope they will pressure their landlord to do so.

Some renters are amazing. There's a woman at 6th and Lombard who weeds the outside of her rental and beyond. Another nice young woman on the 500 block of Pine plants and maintains flowers in front of her building. But on the flip side, there's the owner at 7th & Lombard who lets the weeds grow wildly unchecked and has an uneven brick pit that's a "slip and fall" waiting to happen.

**Here are our suggestions going forward.**

- Keep your front area swept. It really helps control weeds.
- Remove vegetation before it produces seeds to minimize future growth.
- Corner property owners should remember that they're responsible for the entire area surrounding their property.
- Clear debris from under and around parked cars.
- If you rent, please help clean up and encourage your landlord to do their part.

If you'd like to join us next season, contact Madeline Miller via [mattdejulio@aol.com](mailto:mattdejulio@aol.com).



**Weeder Ed Schern hard at work at 7th & Lombard.**



OPEN HOUSES

Thurs., Nov. 7  
8:45 a.m.  
Grades Pre-K - 4

Mon., Nov. 11  
8:45 a.m.  
Grades 5 - 12

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**'FIX THE BRIX'**

BY MARTHA LEVINE

# What's on Your Sidewalk?



Recently, I learned from some neighbors that they had fallen due to bad sidewalks and curbs. Apparently this is a common occurrence all over Center City. Some involved broken bones and the use of casts and crutches or canes. This is why we urge homeowners to look at their front sidewalks and assess if they are a hazard. No one wants to be the cause of another's injury.

There's still time before the cold weather sets in to fix your troublesome sidewalk. SHCA can help with our **"Fix the Brix" subsidy program**. We provide a 40 percent subsidy up to \$400 for current SHCA members and up to \$300 for non-members. We can also supply a list of suggested masons and arborists. Since 2009, 236 households have participated in the Fix the Brix program.

Another issue is bricks that have become dislodged, mainly from tree pit areas, and need to be properly put back in place. Loose bricks can be used for nefarious purposes, so we should do our best to get them back to their proper place or store them in our gardens or basements.

If you need a jump start to fix your sidewalk, SHCA's Fix the Brix subsidy program has steps to get started:

- Take a photo of your damaged sidewalk, and email it to me at marthalev6@gmail.com.
- Hire a mason or arborist. SHCA has a suggested list on request.
- When the work is completed to your satisfaction, mail us the paid invoice. Keep a copy for yourself. If possible, mail us a copy of your cancelled check. Mail to SHCA, PO Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147.
- Receive a check within a few weeks from SHCA.

Be part of the neighborhood. Keep your sidewalks in good condition.

For more information, contact me at marthalev6@gmail.com or 215-629-0727.

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



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2019 SOCIETY HILL LIST OF CONTRACTORS

BY MARTHA LEVINE

# What Is it? How Do You Get One?

Over the last 19 years, SHCA has provided a valuable resource for our members: **The Society Hill List of Contractors.** In that time, we have sent out thousands of lists to residents by request.

The 14-page list is comprised of contractors of all kinds under categories such as general contractors, painters, electricians, plumbers, roofers, HVAC, window replacement, masons, landscapers, tree services, interior design and more. There is also a miscellaneous section which includes other services such as furniture repair, glass and mirror services, home helpers, rug cleaning, moving assistance, etc. All contractors have been highly recommended by Society Hill homeowners. Still, we recommend getting additional references. The list gets updated many times a year.



**Caveat:** It may not always be a good idea to hire the guy who is working at your neighbor's house until he has completed the work satisfactorily and the neighbor is pleased.

In order to receive a list, you must be a current SHCA member. You can join in several ways.

- Go to our website, [www.societyhillcivic.org](http://www.societyhillcivic.org), and click on membership. Pay with credit card.
- Check: Make your check payable to SHCA, and mail to SHCA, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147.

The list is mailed directly to you on request — sorry, it's not available online. Contact me at [marthalev6@gmail.com](mailto:marthalev6@gmail.com) or call 215-629-0727.

Join SHCA! Remember, membership helps to support all of the important activities we do for the neighborhood. We are comprised of a board of volunteers, plus many other volunteers, who are dedicated to this neighborhood. Membership also makes us feel part of the neighborhood!



**Remember—  
Flip the switch!  
Turn on outside  
lights at night and  
make it bright!  
Keep our  
neighborhood safe.**

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## Quality

Our recommendations are based on observations and a consultative approach that identifies your needs and expectations, tempered with our concern to maintain and improve the health, appearance and safety of your landscape. Custom pruning achieves the landscape appearance you desire while being performed to the specifications of proper arboricultural practices. Plant Health Care services include a thorough inspection before any

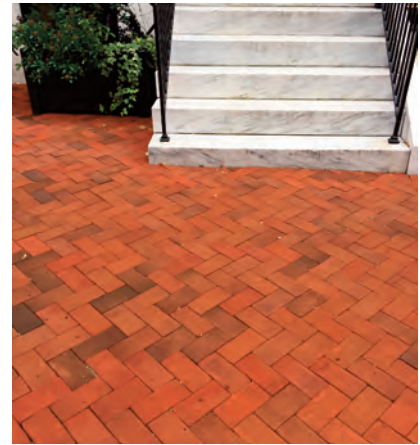
treatment so that we apply materials only when and where they are needed. Landscape projects are meticulously executed and guaranteed.

## Distinctive

McFarland Blue trucks, uniformed personnel, attention to detail and thorough clean-up of your property help differentiate McFarland. Our management of your landscape can be total or selective, depending on your needs and budget. If we cannot immediately identify the cause of a landscape problem, we will research the issue until we have solid answers to report to you. As a second-generation business, we have been satisfying our clients with a lifelong-relationship approach to service.

## Fix Your Bricks

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

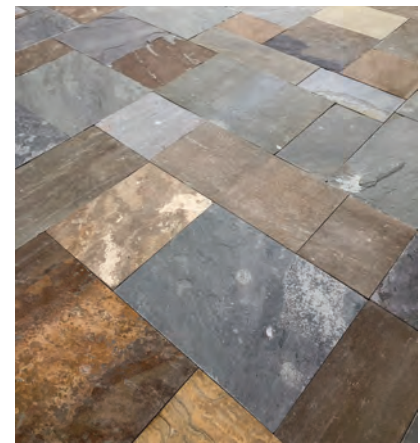
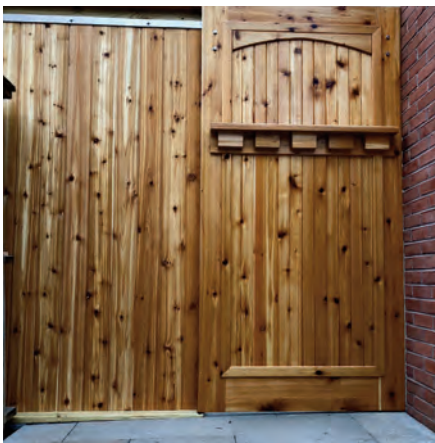


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## KEEPING POSTED

BY AL CAVALARI

## A Man is Known by the Candies He Sends

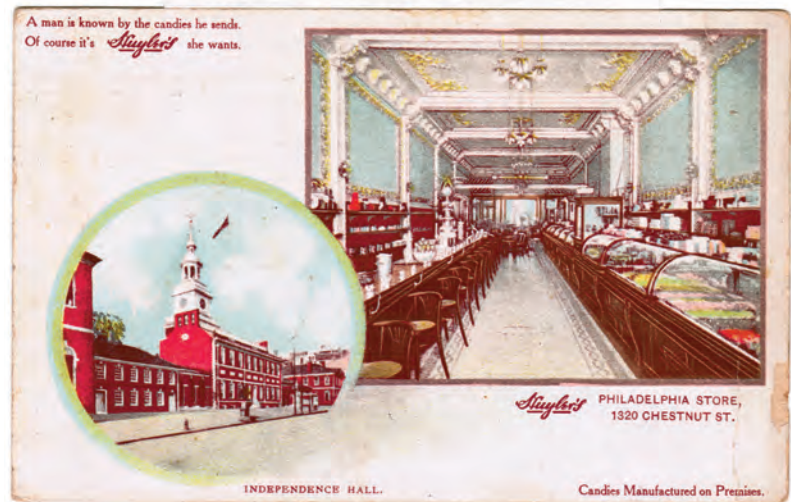
Independence Hall is a favorite site for history buffs and visitors from around the world. It is a World Heritage Site, because the sisterhood of nations has deemed it to be of such universal importance it is worthy of protection for benefit of all of humanity.

As you can see from this post card, it is also a favorite of advertisers. No different than an advertiser putting their message on a T-shirt today with the hopes that you will wear it and thereby spread their message. Huyler's Candy Company was hoping you'd use this souvenir card to commemorate your visit to Philadelphia. It was mailed to Chester, Illinois, in 1914, about five months before the outbreak of World War I. With December holiday shopping in the air, take a look at this store's interior from the golden age of retail, when a store's interior decor was more important than online sales.

John S. Huyler grew up in his father's New York Greenwich Village ice cream and bakery shop. There he began making and selling his own candy "recommended by doctors and physicians for coughs and colds." He devised the concept, still used today, of operating candy-making equipment in the storefront window or in plain view inside the shop, thus emphasizing the cleanliness and freshness of his product. He was also ahead of his time in maintaining food safety standards in his manufacturing process. Satisfaction was guaranteed: any box found to be unsatisfactory could be returned for an exchange or full refund.

His firm grew rapidly and became known as a leader in quality candy and chocolates. Makers from around the world came to study his methods, including a young entrepreneur you may have heard of. Hilton S. Hershey worked for Huyler for two years in New York before starting his own company. At the time of his death in 1910, at age 65, Huyler's company had grown to a chain of 54 retail stores, 14 factories and over 2,000 workers across the country and Canada. Part of this growth curve included the addition of a quick service luncheonette feature, which you can also see in this card.

By the roaring twenties, Huyler's had become a household name, but the stock market crash and the beginning of the Great Depression marked what would be the beginning of the end for this company that was selling a luxury item. Huyler family members had already sold their shares



in the business to a syndicate, and the company entered the world of corporate mergers, bankruptcy and reorganizations. An attempt was made to merge its retail concept with tobacco counters to capitalize on "women taking up smoking in earnest." It took the company decades to die. By 1964 it existed in name only as Huyler's Distributors, Inc. That year its doors were closed for the last time.

After more than seven decades as one of the nation's premier confectionaries, with a name synonymous with sophistication and elegance, the Huyler's company had become little more than a brand name slapped onto inexpensive convenience food items.

But its ghost lives on, and you can visit it. Take a walk down Chestnut Street. Stand in the entrance to Macy's and look across the street to the building at 1320 Chestnut. You will be looking back through time into Huyler's store. The company always remained based in New York City, but the store in this card was part of that chain.

If you walk down to 110 Market Street, you will be at Shane Confectionery, "America's Oldest Candy Store," and you will be right back in the golden age of retail. You'll feel as though you were back in Huyler's, where, as the post card says, "A man is known by the candies he sends."

Source: *History of Huyler's Candy Company* by Jennifer Walkowski

**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).

**Huyler's Candy Company was hoping you'd use this souvenir card to commemorate your visit to Philadelphia. It was mailed to Chester, Illinois in 1914.**



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# Liberty Tree

by Thomas Paine

In a chariot of light, from the regions of the day,  
The Goddess of Liberty came,  
Ten thousand celestials directed her way,  
And hither conducted the dame.  
A fair budding branch from the gardens above,  
Where millions with millions agree,  
She brought in her hand as a pledge of her love,  
And the plant she named Liberty Tree.

The celestial exotic stuck deep in the ground,  
Like a native it flourished and bore;  
The fame of its fruit drew the nations around,  
To seek out this peaceable shore.  
Unmindful of names or distinctions they came,  
For freemen like brothers agree;  
With one spirit endued, they one friendship pursued,  
And their temple was Liberty Tree.

Beneath this fair tree, like the patriarchs of old,  
Their bread in contentment they ate,  
Unvexed with the troubles of silver or gold,  
The cares of the grand and the great.  
With timber and tar they Old England supplied,  
And supported her power on the sea;  
Her battles they fought, without getting a 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  
To cut down this guardian of ours.  
From the East to the West blow the trumpet to arms,  
Thro' the land let the sound of it flee;  
Let the far and the near all unite with a cheer,  
In defense of our Liberty Tree.



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## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

## Serving Up Dignity One Meal at a Time

Current events can make it feel like the world is filled with alienation and animosity. If you want to shift your focus to something positive, you need look no further than 4th and Lombard Streets. **Old Pine Community Center** hosts many wonderful programs benefitting people of all ages in a multitude of ways. What you might not know is that they also have an amazing outreach program for those struggling with homelessness and food insecurity.

Eight years ago, in what started out as an initiative, Old Pine's Executive Director, April Thomas-Jones, did some outreach to South Street businesses. Store owners were discouraged by the number of homeless people camping out near their entrances. While sympathetic to their plight, businesspeople still had to focus on keeping their doorways inviting to customers. Old Pine began providing sack lunches. This encouraged the people to move away from storefronts and meet up where the food was distributed. The center's staff also approached those living outdoors in other areas, such as under I-95, to hand out meals along with information about housing and support services. As the program expanded, street outreach became too much for Old Pine's staff to handle, and they began to offer meals at the center.

People who are homeless or food insecure suffer from more than just those obvious needs. Mental illness and/or substance abuse may play a part. Job loss, family estrangement and economic downturns also contribute to the problem. One thing that's universal to this population is loss of dignity and the feeling of being invisible. Old Pine tries to offer a holistic and educational approach to meet a myriad of needs. They serve dignity along with the meals and work hard to break down barriers.

During the week, breakfast and lunch is provided in "sack meals" to anyone in need. These are nutritious options that include a meal, a snack and water — no sodas. On Fridays from 7 to 7:30 a.m., individuals can get a shower and hot coffee. "Care Packages" of food, clothing and toiletries are offered weekly by appointment.

Every Sunday, they host the "Shine Program." At its inception, the center partnered with the Mayor's Office of Empowerment and Opportunity. The city promised one year of funding, but was so impressed that it subsequently funded a second. People show up early in the morning

and have the opportunity to select clean clothing, much like one would in a store. They take a shower, using a selection of toiletries, and change into the fresh clothes. Next is a sit-down breakfast, comprised of healthy and delicious foods, served to them by volunteers. Sometimes there's entertainment. Everyone is welcome. Those who may be living on the streets dine with neighborhood folks, as well as volunteers. Each person is treated with respect. Many have very interesting histories to share, if one will only listen.

Stephen, from the maintenance team, is a lead on the program. Rosemary, a nurse, does blood pressure and health checks. Often the first to detect a problem that needs attention, she's also a great cheerleader for those who make health improvements.

Each week a new "Resource Card" is distributed describing a program or support that the guests can access. Old Pine has connected many people to jobs, education, support services and even family. Many former guests have come back to volunteer once they're back on their feet.

#### Over the past year, Old Pine Community Center's Shine Program has provided:

- 4,962 Breakfasts
- 1,050 Showers
- 3,947 Lunches
- 6,531 Articles of Clothing
- 602 Volunteers

#### How can you help?

- Funding is an ongoing need, so watch for their Annual Appeal letter and donate.
- Consider attending their annual Mardi Gras fundraiser.
- Rent out their facilities for a party or meeting. It's a great revenue source for them. 215-627-2493.
- Donate seasonally appropriate clothing, toiletries, canned or dried food or educational books.
- Volunteer! You can use the Sign-Up genius on their website at [www.oldpinecommunitycenter.org](http://www.oldpinecommunitycenter.org).
- Instead of handing out money to people on the street, make a contribution to Old Pine so those same people can be helped in a meaningful way that's more likely to effect real change.



**Volunteers prepare nutritious snack meals.**



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2019 PHILADELPHIA MARATHON

BY LARRY SPECTOR

# Get Up, Bundle Up, Show Up!

That was the rallying call for Society Hill residents to cheer on 30,000 competitors in the 2018 Philadelphia Marathon, part of the largest cancer research run in the U.S.

On that Sunday morning, the race was routed north on 6th Street, past the Mother Bethel AME Church on the corner of 6th and Lombard. And did runners ever get an energy boost there.

I had for years cheered for New York Marathoners as they passed the Emanuel Baptist Church in Brooklyn. There its choir and band regaled the runners with joyous gospel. As a neighbor across the street from Mother Bethel, I approached its Reverend Mark Kelly Tyler with a video of the scene in Brooklyn and suggested that Mother Bethel do the same thing for the Philly marathon. Frustrated for years by the marathon street closures that made it difficult for worshipers to get to his Sunday morning service, Dr. Tyler decided that “If you can’t beat ‘em, join ‘em.”

Reverend Tyler was outside at six a.m. on the 38-degree morning of November 18, setting up a loudspeaker system. Then from 7:30 to 9 a.m., in their fifth mile, as they passed the steps and magnificent wooden doors of the church, runners were reveled with the songs of the Mother Bethel choir. Led by Music Director Jonas Crenshaw,

15 congregants, swaying and clapping gave rhythmic voice to gospel refrains: “I’m Not Tired Yet” from the Mississippi Mass Choir and “99 ½ Won’t Do” by Hezekiah Walker.

Passing runners waved their arms, clapped their hands, blew kisses, laughed and yelled back their appreciation, “Thank you! Thank you! You guys are great!” They exchanged high fives with congregants passing out neon rubber bracelets printed with “Keep Pace With God.” Fifty or so hearty souls from the neighborhood, warmed by Mother Bethel hot coffee and hot chocolate, cheered the scene. The neighborhood had come together to be stirred by the singing and to witness the determination, grit and diversity of the runners. The best of the human spirit was on display.

ABC news and WHYY reported that morning on the event. After the last runner passed, neighbors were invited inside to mingle over coffee and donuts. Everyone agreed that this Marathon Cheering Party featuring the Mother Bethel Gospel Choir should become annual tradition. Dr. Tyler promised his church was all in. To show its support, SHCA included Mother Bethel Church in its neighborhood grants program, explained in the September/October 2019 *Reporter*.

Larry Spector is president of SHCA.



**On Sunday morning, November 24 from 7:15 to 8:45 a.m., the rallying cry to our community will again be Get Up, Bundle Up, Show Up to Mother Bethel Church and cheer on the 2019 Philadelphia Marathon runners as they race for a worthy cause. You can nap in the afternoon.**





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**PARTY ON AT PHYSICK HOUSE**

PHOTOGRAPHS BY FRED MANFRED

# Washington Square Volunteer Appreciation Party

Recently, the intrepid group of volunteers who have enthusiastically worked hard to make Washington Square so lovely this year gathered at the Physick House to toast a job well done.

There are about 40 general volunteers who come out for special projects like the planting of 2,000 annuals, weeding, mulching, etc. Twenty bed mentors have been trained on the basics of plant identification and pruning. The Square has 15 planting beds; each has at least one bed mentor. Mentors are responsible for bed maintenance, planting of new product, plant extraction should they not be doing well, mulching, trash removal and planting-bed planning with the

assistance of SHCA Committee Chair Sherley Young. Early on, Young carefully selected her advisory board, known as the Potting Shed Cabinet. They consult and assist with the planning of the park. The Cabinet is made up of volunteers, including a landscape architect, a botanist, a Mt. Cuba-trained plant specialist and two master gardeners. Master gardeners are volunteers who have received the requisite gardening education and performed volunteer work in the gardening community.

Young organized this bash and reveled in the convivial evening. As she remarked, "It was rich in kindness and shared camaraderie."



**Marion Pulsifer, Sherley Young**



**Larry Spector, Joan Rollins Tropp, Fred Manfred**



**Trish Caesar, Patricia Kapur**



**Barbara Gorman, Michele Keltz**



**Lisa Flynn, Ryan Miller**



**Al Meinster**



**Penny Pleasance, Joan Rollins Tropp, Karen Sinclair**



**Layla Kamoun, Caroline Bernard**



**Mary Sturdivant, MK Carmichael**

OUT AND ABOUT

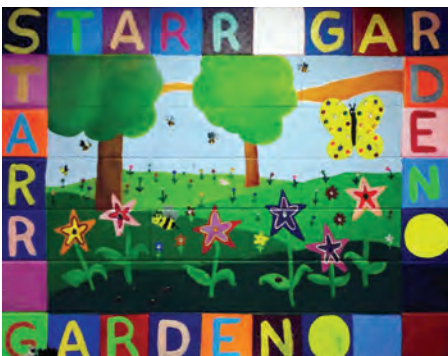
PHOTOGRAPHS BY CAROLYN STANISH

# A Starring Role in our Community

Starr Garden, at 600 Lombard Street, has the honor and distinction of being Philadelphia's first playground. In addition to a large playground, the park boasts an enclosed tot lot. It has an active and

engaging Recreation Center with afternoon and summer programs. There is a water feature, a basketball court, a picnic area and a field for T-ball, soccer and other community activities and events. Since

the formation of Starr Garden Neighbors & Friends in 2011, the playground has been awarded grants, won contests, had cleanup days, held fundraisers and hosted festivals for all to enjoy.





## STARR GARDEN RENOVATION UPDATE

BY CAROLYN STANISH

## A Call for Community Collaboration and Engagement

Over the past eight years Starr Garden has gotten lots of love from our community and Friends group, but unfortunately it does not reflect the loveliness of our historic neighborhood. In truth, it has been many decades since its last upgrade, and, as all can see, Starr Garden is in need of a complete renovation.

Even though it is not technically within the borders of Society Hill at 600 Lombard Street, Starr Garden is most certainly in our neighborhood. It is the only large, multi-age playground in the community. It is enjoyed by both children and adults and hosts programming and activities for all ages. Starr Garden is a gathering place, a place to unplug and connect with friends. As with all green spaces in an urban environment, it improves the quality of our lives.

Therefore, we were grateful when our councilman Mark Squilla funded a design process for a large renovation. A new park layout and design was completed by a talented team in collaboration with Starr Garden Neighbors & Friends and other members of the community.

Throughout this process, the design team thought there would be enough city funding for the project to become a reality. However, it turns out this is not the case. Going forward, we estimate that a complete renovation could cost three to four million dollars.

Councilman Squilla has allocated \$300,000 and possibly more. He is enthusiastic about the project and has been an advocate for Starr Garden since our Friends group started in 2011.

While Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (PPR) is not able to allocate funds, the Commissioner and



**Neighbors gather in the park for Movie Night.**

Deputy Commissioner are both supportive of this project and will help in any other way that they can, whether that be internally at PPR, attending fundraisers or joining us for meetings when needed.

As we see it, there are two options available. We can either fundraise to do the entire project, or we can do a small piece of the plan with the available \$300,000 and hope more gets done down the road. Our vote is for completing the entire project! This would include two phases for fundraising. One: assembling a team, and then two: planning a strategy and executing it.

To begin phase one, our neighborhood needs to come together. We need to assemble a powerful team of engaged community members who are willing to put their hearts into this project and plot a course forward to raise the funds necessary for this renovation.

What can you do to help? Where is your expertise? How can you contribute? Will you join the team to explore the funding avenues of grants, corporate sponsorships and private fundraising?

Right now, we live in the most beautiful section of our city, and sadly, our most widely used park/field/playground is shabby and run down. It's not an aesthetic reflection of our community nor the amazing shared space that this park could be.

Let's come together, put our hearts into this project and make a new park together!

**We can do this!**



**Starr Garden is Philadelphia's first playground.**

**Carolyn Stanish** is the Society Hill Resident Representative of Starr Garden Neighbors & Friends.

## STEPPING BACK IN TIME

BY SANDRA ROTHMAN

## The Butcher, the Baker, the Windsor Chair Maker

I have a particular interest in tracing the history of our community back to bare ground and then reconstructing it based on research. In this vein, the block bounded by Front, Pine, S. 2nd and Lombard Streets has held a continuing fascination for me because of its richly diverse past, much of which is still accessible to the local history buff.

**The Bare Ground**

I discovered that colonial investors Anthony Morris, Samuel Powell and Joseph Wharton each purchased pieces of this parcel in 1738-39. They helped shape the block we know today, and made considerable fortunes in doing so.

In addition to land speculation, Anthony Morris was the owner of one of Philadelphia's leading breweries and served as mayor in 1704.

As a developer, Samuel Powell was more hands-on than Morris. Nicknamed the "rich carpenter," he was one of the greatest contributors to the growth of early Philadelphia. Powell raised his family in a house at the northeast corner of S. 2nd and Pine

Streets, now a Penn's Landing Square townhouse. He also left in his will land to the Religious Society of Friends, where in 1753, the Pine Street Meeting House was erected and stood until the mid-1800s. It's interesting to note that Powell's grandson was Samuel Powel, with one "l", who was both Philadelphia's last colonial and first post-revolutionary mayor.

Merchant Joseph Wharton was likewise a major player in the early evolution of the city. He left his mark on our neighborhood by creating Lombard Street on the southern edge of his property. Wharton also gave land to create space for New Market, which he and Mayor Edward Shippen built at their own expense in 1745.



**Joseph Wharton built four homes on Lombard Street in the late 1700s. Only 117 and 119 stand today.**

**The Butchers**

New Market was built to complement Philadelphia's original farmers' market, located several blocks away on High Street, today called Market Street. As this print shows, the open shed initially looked very different from the present Headhouse Market. Locals called it the Shambles, an archaic term for a slaughterhouse. The pungent smells, noise and general disarray had to be distressing to nearby wealthy neighbors like Pennsylvania Supreme Court Judge William Coleman, who lived in a grand three-story brick residence at the Wells Fargo Bank site. Shipping merchant John Ross



**Aquatint of New Market by Bernardoni, 1827. Looking north.**

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## STEPPING BACK IN TIME

*A walking tour through local history*

also lived uncomfortably close to the market in his palatial home that still stands on the southeast corner of 2nd and Pine Streets.

**The Baker**

In time the rich moved farther west and the neighborhood became populated with craftsmen and tradespeople. One was baker John Palmer, who purchased a deep lot from Anthony Morris along S. 2nd Street next to where the CVS pharmacy now sits. As fire regulations dictated, Palmer erected his bakeshop at the rear of the property away from other dwellings. When it was built in 1753, the bakery could be accessed both from Lombard and S. 2nd Streets.

Astoundingly, the building still exists tucked behind the stores on S. 2nd Street. If you walk up the steps that used to lead to the mall and turn right, Palmer's Bakehouse is just up the wooden ramp.

An archaeological team excavated the building's basement in the mid-1990s and discovered that the entire eastern wall had been taken up by a large brick oven, hearth and chimney. The circular domed underground oven measured 12 feet in diameter. Bakers of this period made home-prepared breads for paying customers, and they also baked commercial goods for ships' stores and for export.

After Palmer's death in 1800 the property was sold, and the subsequent owner used it as a blacksmith shop.

**The Windsor Chair Maker**

In 1768, cabinetmaker Francis Trumble hung a sign illustrated with a scrutore outside the workshop he had just built at Front and Pine Streets. Instead of this writing desk, a more appropriate image might have been a Windsor chair. Trumble was, in fact, one of a small group of craftsmen who pioneered in Windsor chair production in Philadelphia. Robert Edge Pine's painting *Congress Voting Independence* shows Benjamin Franklin resting on one of the 78 Windsor chairs that Trumble supplied to the State House.

Trumble's shop produced fine furniture during the last four decades of the eighteenth century, in quantities indicating the assistance of a number of journeymen and apprentices. I found an advertisement from the time that listed for sale 80 mahogany chairs; 30 tea tables; 20 dining



**Palmer's Bakehouse still stands tucked behind the stores on S. 2nd Street.**



**Thomas Harper's houses seen from the Headhouse Market.**



**Trumble Windsor chair**

tables; 6 desks; an assortment of chests of drawers, bookcases and dressing; writing and card tables; as well as bedsteads and cradles.

**Still Standing**

Several original 18th-century buildings still exist on the block. In 1775, Thomas Harper built twin houses fronting S. 2nd Street, joined by an arch on the upper level that covers a narrow alley between them. There were stores behind the buildings by 1790, but the archaeological evidence suggests the lots were used well before the houses were constructed, possibly for wagon parking and off-loading.

Joseph Wharton built four houses on Lombard Street, including the home where John Palmer lived while running his bakehouse. Palmer's house no longer stands, but was probably similar to those at 117 and 119.

**More**

To learn more, I suggest *Digging in the City of Brotherly Love* by Rebecca Yamin and *Francis Trumble of Philadelphia: Windsor Chair and Cabinetmaker* by Nancy A. Goyne. Access *Reporter* archives at [www.societyhillcivic.org/about/publications/newsletter-archive](http://www.societyhillcivic.org/about/publications/newsletter-archive) to read about Judge Coleman (January/February 2018), John Ross (November/December 2018) and The Pine Street Meeting House (January/February 2019).

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

**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.

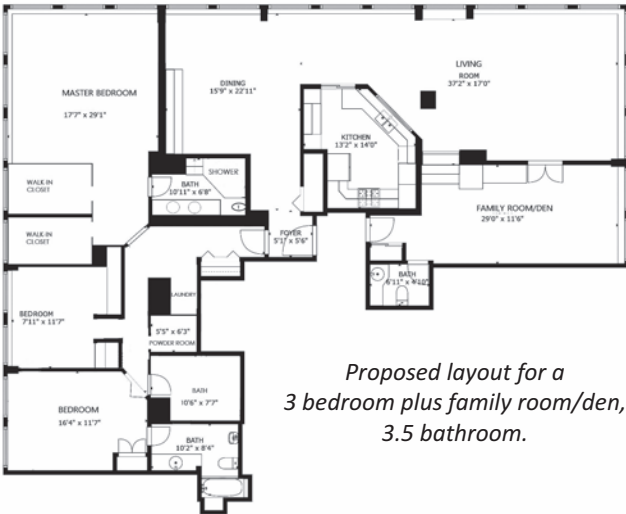
**"Philly Is Walking In The Park!"** meets at the fountain in the center of Washington Square, 6th and Locust Streets, at 8 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for a half-hour, self-paced walk through our historic, beautiful park led by neighbor Dr. Lisa Unger. All are invited to join us.

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18TH-CENTURY SALONS

# PhilaLandmarks Early Music Series

Over the past two years, Society Hill's Powel House and Hill-Physick House have hosted a number of budding and seasoned classical virtuosos in PhilaLandmarks' Early Music Series. Each season featured four Philadelphia chamber music ensembles who eloquently transported audiences back to a time of intimate salons like those hosted by Elizabeth Powel, a notable 18th-century saloniere who entertained the founding fathers in her home on S. 3rd Street.

The environment that the founding fathers encountered was dramatically different from the modern concert hall: it was intimate and social, involving music, conversation, poetry readings and games. Today, PhilaLandmarks' concerts include interspersed historical and educational commentary throughout the performance, encouraging audience members to participate in a casual discussion with the musicians at a post-concert reception.

In March, PhilaLandmarks partnered with the American Philosophical Society and the Raritan Players to host an 18th-century salon at the Powel House for a much younger audience of early music enthusiasts from St. Peter's School.



St. Peter's Students listen to Raritan Players.

Several classes learned about Madame Brillon, who hosted salons in France for Benjamin Franklin. In contrast to most women of her age, Madame Brillon was also a composer and a widely admired harpsichordist and pianist. Composers and performers from across Europe visited her salon, played for her and dedicated their compositions to her. Students had the opportunity to learn about this little known female composer in the classroom and then listen to a salon concert themselves at the Powel House.

PhilaLandmarks is hoping to create more experiences like this for local students within walking distance of Powel House and Hill-Physick House.

## CALENDAR

**2020 PhilaLandmarks Early Music Series**

**February 20, 2020**

The Franklin Quartet

**March 26, 2020**

Night Music

**April 16, 2020**

Filament

**May 21, 2020**

Kleine Kammermusik

Stay tuned for details!

[www.philalandmarks.org/philalandmarks-early-music-series](http://www.philalandmarks.org/philalandmarks-early-music-series)

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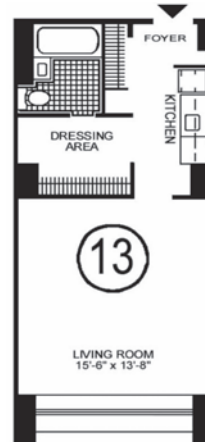
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## ON OUR SHELF

BY ELIZA GUNTHER-MOHR

## Images Worth a Thousand Words

*Rusty Brown*

The idea of the “graphic novel” might turn serious readers away. Yet the concept is older than any other forms of storytelling, starting in ancient caves and Egyptian temples to the Irish monks’ illuminated book of Kells. Image and text are intrinsically how we build meaning. A whole generation cut their reading teeth on the comic book escapades of Batman, Spiderman and The Fantastic 4. Chris Ware certainly did and has spent his life elevating the comic form into one of such nuance, insight and atmosphere — he solidifies comics as part of this grand graphic lineage.

Chris Ware’s comic strips are regularly found within the thin pages of *The New Yorker*. For those still suspicious of his merits, he has been heralded by the likes of authors Zadie Smith and Dave Eggers as a genius; his literary accolades are numerous. However, it is obvious that Mr. Ware adores and clings to the original comic books that inspired him as a child. He manages to dance between highbrow and lowbrow, the way a true innovator of the form would.

*Rusty Brown*, in Ware’s idiomatic style, is a story within a story, within a story, within a story. He manages to highlight both the interconnectedness of all things and the terrible isolation that is innate to the human condition. He cleverly maps out moments between characters, confirming their connection and also how alienating it can be to exist. Chris Ware often draws on personal experience to create his worlds, and *Rusty Brown* might be the closest to an autobiography as Ware has gotten.

Set in 1970s Omaha, Nebraska, where Ware was raised, it follows the overlapping lives of six varying characters. Many of them are shades of the

author in different phases of life: the nerdy and bullied Rusty, his sci-fi obsessed and distant father, and an apathetic art teacher, also named Mr. Ware. All orbiting and informing each other’s lives, it becomes a meditation on childhood and community, self and imagination. We circle between stories of middle-aged teachers and students, both young and almost adult. Ware masterfully immerses us in popular visual culture — that of the 70s, but mostly the visual signature of Americana.

It is too easy to demean image-based storytelling as shallow or one-dimensional. Fine art is almost exclusively “elite,” and comic books along with advertisements, magazines and illustrated books were the first to crack that seal. Yet, of course, the “art world” will scoff at these mediums simply because they make beauty and expression more egalitarian. Ware burns these boundaries and celebrates what is so often ignored in our world — that we are all one. For those looking to be transported into a world of nostalgia, American ephemera and the strange vulnerability of being a child, Chris Ware will dazzle and illuminate. The absolute beauty of it will keep you coming back again and again.

There are some comics, it is true, that within a single reading are totally understood; the comic would only suffer from being reread. However, the magical moments in Ware’s books will need second and third readings, which is what separates a good story from literature.

**Richard De Wyngaert** is the proprietor of Society Hill’s only local, independently owned bookstore, Head House Books, located at 619 S. 2nd street. Senior Bookseller Eliza Gunther-Mohr wrote this article.



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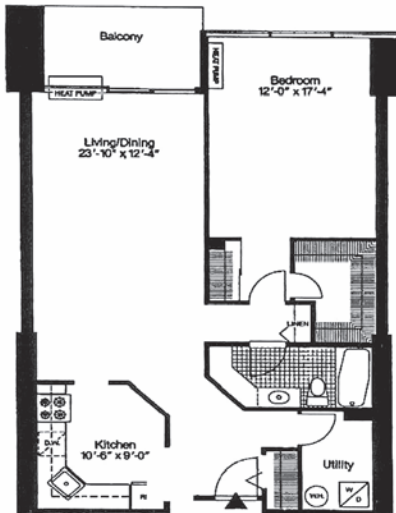
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**HEADHOUSE FARMERS MARKET**

BY KERI WHITE FOR THE FOOD TRUST

**For Your Holiday Dining Pleasure**

As we move into the holidays, the Headhouse Farmers Market continues to provide a bounty of fresh, local foods for our festive boards. The following recipe showcases autumn’s harvest in simple and delicious ways!

This Brussels sprouts recipe is ideal to serve with Thanksgiving dinner. It was told to me by food writer and Headhouse Farmers Market shopper Rick Nichols, who learned it from

Philadelphia chef Marc Vetri. Nichols told me, “People think they hate Brussels sprouts because they associate them with the oversized, sulphurous orbs that you find in supermarkets. But local, baby Brussels sprouts are wonderful.” This is a great way to use the magnificent stalks of sprouts on offer at the market, and it can be doubled and tripled for a holiday meal, depending on the size of your crowd.



**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).

**Nichols-Vetri Sherry-Charred Baby Brussels Sprouts**

Serves 4 as a side dish

20 Baby Brussels Sprouts, trimmed and cut in half

1 clove garlic, sliced

1 tablespoon butter

1 to 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided

2 to 3 tablespoons sherry vinegar, divided

Salt and pepper to taste

1. In large skillet, heat oil and butter. Add garlic and sauté briefly, long enough to allow flavor to blend.

2. Remove garlic from pan and discard. Add sprouts, face down, and char them over high heat until dark brown, about 5 minutes.

3. Remove from heat and season with 2 tablespoons sherry vinegar, salt and pepper.

4. Return to heat, allow flavors to blend, add remaining vinegar,



and heat through. Serve hot immediately or at room temp up to six hours later.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Donna Robertson Thomas**

It is with sadness that we inform neighbors of the death of long-time Society Hill resident Donna R. Thomas on June 26, 2019. Donna, who was 73 years old, was born in Norfolk, Virginia.

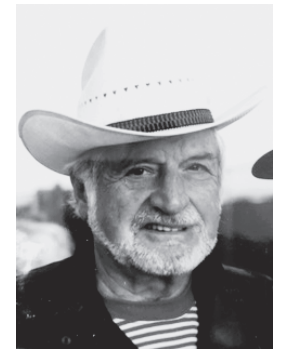


Donna made enormous contributions to our community with her work on the Hill-Physick House garden, as well as 30 years contributing to the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks.

Our condolences are offered to Wayne, her husband of 39 years, daughters Laura and Suzanne, and three grandsons.

**Franklin S. Roberts**

We are sorry to report the death of Society Hill pioneer Franklin Roberts on August 27, 2019. He was 92 years old. He was a prime mover in the neighborhood and may have been the last surviving man of the initial period of redevelopment. Franklin was president of the Homeowners and Residents Association in the 60s and started the first community newsletter, called *The Resident*. Three Bears Park was created under his watch.



After living at 222 Delancey, he and his wife Lynne built the house designed by noted architect Romaldo Giurgola at 228 Delancey in the early 1970s. Franklin was a prolific producer and playwright whose original productions toured the National Parks during the Bicentennial.

Besides his wife of 60 years, Franklin leaves behind his daughter Laura, son Andrew and four grandchildren.



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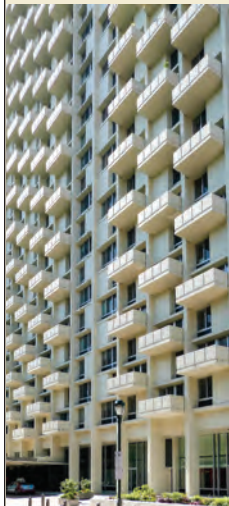
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**SOUTH STREET HEADHOUSE DISTRICT**

BY MIKE HARRIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Fun on 4th Street

Nearby 4th Street, better known to many as Fabric Row, is one of the hottest retail and dining districts in the city. Bounded by the stalwart **Famous 4th Street Deli** (700 S. 4th Street), which has been in business since 1923, and the modern American bar and restaurant Southwark, the street boasts a rich array of one-of-a-kind businesses.

Elena Brennan, owner of **Bus Stop** shoe boutique remarks, “I’ve been open on 4th Street for some 12 years, first at 750 S. 4th and most recently at 727 S. 4th. In that time, I’ve noticed how the street has changed. Developers are investing heavily in the area, and I think this activity is a good sign for the neighborhood. We’ve got a strong mix of residential and boutique retail and services. You can find anything and everything from craft beer and organic produce to clothing designers and full-range spa services. One of the most significant upgrades to the street was the lighting grant we secured for 4th Street. This was a tremendous change, because it enabled us to bring pedestrian lighting all the way from Lombard to Christian Street.”

It’s not only the retailers themselves who think they’ve created something special on 4th Street. *Philadelphia Magazine* just awarded Fabric Row the designation of 2019’s “Best City Shopping Destination in Philadelphia.” Brennan observes, “This win for 4th Street is huge. It’s a real accomplishment. We’ve always considered ourselves a diamond in the rough, and it’s great to be recognized as a destination shopping street!”

A number of award-winning businesses are located on 4th Street. The casual café and beloved local dining spot **The Hungry**

**Pigeon** has been nominated countless times, for example. This rustic café recently came second overall in *Philadelphia Magazine’s* list of Top 50 Best Restaurants in Philadelphia; the ranking was published earlier this summer. The plaudit is well deserved, according to Brennan. “The best thing on their menu is the ½ Keiser Pheasantry Chicken, which has been on their menu since day one. May they never remove it!”

If you have plans for the upcoming holidays this fall and are on the lookout for gift ideas for your host, then don’t forget to stop by the ever popular **Moon+Arrow**, which recently moved into its new home at 742 S. 4th, or take a look at Yowie ([www.shopyowie.com](http://www.shopyowie.com)).

Fourth Friday events will run on 4th Street through the month of November, when Fourth Friday morphs into Black Friday, followed by Small Business Saturday. So, there’s plenty of fun to be had on 4th this fall. Towards the end of the year, 4th Street will again be running a special Holiday Draw with some \$10,000 worth of prizes to be won. Stop by Urban Princess boutique (620 S. 4th Street) for details on this great promotion. Last, but not least, don’t forget about free holiday parking that is offered on Saturdays after 11a.m. between Christmas Eve and New Year’s Day.



**Elena Brennan is Board Chair of the South Street Headhouse District. Brennan has operated Bus Stop on 4th Street for over a decade.**





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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY MATT DEJULIO

# SHCA Membership Down Slightly from 2018

SHCA membership totaled 1,183 by early October — down slightly from last year’s record total of 1,206. This year we welcomed 113 new members compared to the 160 new members last year. There were 107 non-renewals, versus 80 last year.

In each weekly email, we have been reminding residents of the online renewal option; it saves us considerable dollars, which can be re-directed to community improvement projects. If you have not already renewed online via our web site — [www.societyhillcivic.org](http://www.societyhillcivic.org) — you should have received by now a reminder in the mail. **Please act today so no further snail mail is required.**

Whether you renew online or by mail, try to do so before December 31 if you wish to be placed in a drawing for a gift certificate to a local restaurant. New members this year who joined after June 1 will be grandfathered through 2019.


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

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

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

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

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



## Membership Application

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

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

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## OUR CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

BY JANE BIBERMAN

## I Was a “Dog Person” Before Cats Entered My Life

Until three years ago, when I started volunteering at a shelter, I was afraid of cats — their often-inscrutable faces, their sudden movements, their tendency to scratch or bite when annoyed. As a volunteer, I loved working with the dogs, walking them on the two days a week I scheduled. But as dogs move through the shelter quickly, I soon found the only work left was in the cat room.

I remember how nervous I was when faced with some 20 cats. I approached each one with caution, and sometimes, trepidation. I couldn't remember their names, but I couldn't forget the times when a sudden indiscreet movement on my part caused alarm followed by a hiss, or worse. After one bite, the shelter manager told me that she observed that I had petted this reprobate past the point of comfort. Had I watched his tail switching back and forth, I would have known my ministrations were no longer desired. So, with the guidance of staff and senior volunteers, I slowly learned to “read” the various cats, who gradually became personalities. I'll never forget Sinatra, who could “sing,” and B.B. King, who had adorable chubby cheeks. Today, I am in love with Magnus and Caesar, both sweet orange tabbies. While people come in and head for the kittens, I try to get them to adopt senior cats.

Now, three years later, as I write this little memoir, Ginger, my 17-year-old adopted orange tabby, sleeps peacefully on my desk, while Timur, 12, who is blind,



Jane Holding Morty at the SPCA shelter

relaxes at my feet. (In case you're wondering, his name comes from the character in Puccini's opera *Turandot*.) Every day that I go to the shelter, I am tempted to bring home another cat. My felines are affectionate but not as demanding as dogs. Timur does enjoy strolling on his leash, but only in nice weather.

I'd have to say that now, I am an all-animal person. Volunteering at a shelter has given me new respect for all species of pets. Not only do I get the opportunity to walk dogs, but I can pat

a rabbit or spend hours playing with and brushing cats. Many friends tell me that they couldn't volunteer because they'd want to take home all of the animals. But that's not true for the core of volunteers. We enjoy giving comfort and love to all the residents at the shelter and do our small part to help get them adopted. We assist the staff in caring for animals as well as doing whatever we can to make the shelter spotless and welcoming. If you can't adopt another homeless animal right now, then volunteer and become part of a dedicated and devoted core of fellow animal-lovers.

Remember, you can't buy love, but you can rescue it. Check out Morris Animal Refuge, the Pennsylvania SPCA and other shelters in our neighborhood.

**Jane Biberman** is a freelance writer who has contributed to a variety of publications.



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