

SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

July/August 2020

The Newsletter
of The Society Hill
Civic Association

www.societyhillcivic.org

Staying Connected and Informed

Be in the Loop — Society Hill-Style

It's vital for us to stay connected and informed in these uncertain times. Here in Society Hill, we are fortunate to have several options to keep us abreast of what's happening locally.

Newsletter

As the bimonthly voice of the Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA), our national-award-winning *Reporter* has been keeping the neighborhood informed since 1958, when it began as the *Society Hill News*. Visit our website at www.societyhillcivic.org to access the *Reporter's* archives for a fascinating glimpse of our community's history.

In normal times, the *Reporter* is hand-delivered to every household. Please note that concerns for safety due to the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated publishing the May/June issue online.

Website

In addition to full-color past and current issues of the newsletter, our website offers access to information about community resources, services and events.

Weekly Email Blast

For a timelier source of neighborhood information, anyone can sign up for our weekly email newsletter at our website or by contacting administrator Matt DeJulio at mattdejulio@aol.com.

Block Coordinators

SHCA initiated a Block Coordinator Program in 2001 as a conduit for important information communicated on short notice. We now have over 60 volunteers, each serving as a point person to pass on news such as trash collection changes, road closures and Clean-Up Day information. Block coordinators also pass information back to SHCA, like names of new neighbors who might want a Welcome Basket or locations of graffiti that needs cleaning. They are there to communicate the community's concerns to the SHCA Board via quadrant directors.

During these troubling times, SHCA encourages residents to share their email addresses with their block coordinators. Contact Matt for your coordinator's name and email.



We're Number One! The *Reporter* has again been awarded first place for excellence in a national competition for neighborhood newsletters.

TWO SIGNS OF THE TIMES



Mask wearers in Washington Square protect their own health, as well as those around them.

Who Was That Masked Man?

Humans have worn masks for almost as long as they've had faces. Early cultures all over the world used ceremonial masks for religious rites, celebrations of marriage, childbirth, coming of age — and death rituals. Throughout history, humans have worn masks for protection, disguise, performance and entertainment.

Now, masks are everywhere you look. We're all characters in a new worldwide release called *COVID-19: Revenge of the Super Virus*. You can tell the heroes in this flick; they wear masks. Many of them work in hospitals. Others spend their days making sure the rest of us ordinary citizens can get food and medicine and mail — and their packages delivered. Others work in warehouses and factories, making and shipping our food and other essential goods. Others keep our streets and homes safe.

Most people are showing their support for the heroes by wearing masks — not just in sympathy, but in the knowledge that if more of us wear masks, fewer of us will get the plague, and the sooner all of us can show our faces again.

Excerpted from an article by Bruce VanWyngarden for the *Memphis Flyer*

In This Issue...

Page 5
Pulling Some Positivity
from a Pandemic



Pages 6-7
Restaurants that Deliver:
Keeping them Solvent



Page 11
Keeping Posted:
The Walnut Street Theater



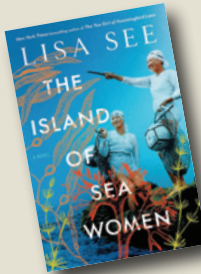
Page 15
The Philadelphia Navy Yard:
Plenty of Space to Social
Distance



Page 17
Washington Square: A Place
to Gather, Connect and Heal



Page 20
In Memoriam:
David Charles Auten



Page 21
On Our Shelf:
Island of the Sea Women
by Lisa See



Page 27
Best Practices:
Maintaining Your
Home's Plumbing

Page 30
Nifty Neighbors in My Own
Backyard: Man on South
American Street: Bob Curley



SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

**NUSA
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Newsletter
First Place
2020**

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Website
Find past issues in color
at www.societyhillcivic.org.

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

Submissions

If you have news that would be of interest to Society Hillers, email Sandra Rothman at sandra.rothman@aol.com. Materials must be submitted in writing and include the name of a contact person. Edited submissions will be considered for publication if space permits. Letters to the Editor must be signed, with contact information.

SHCA Mission Statement

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

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(as of June 1, 2020)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY LARRY SPECTOR

We are all still dealing with the stress of the pandemic, a depressed economy and the soul searching prompted by the crying out that Black Lives Matter. I trust that many of you have talked with family, friends and coworkers on these subjects and that these discussions will lead to actions creating better days ahead.

Meanwhile, it remains SHCA's primary function to focus on and to keep you involved in the goings-on affecting our immediate neighborhood.

We were disappointed when told by Councilman Squilla's office that our vetoed zoning bills, since revised, were not on the agenda for the June 17 meeting of the City Council Rules Committee. They would not be considered until at least September 2020 because, due to the pandemic, City Council would consider only legislation related to the city's economic recovery efforts. Yet zoning bills sponsored by other council members are being processed. We also foresee delay on the bill we proposed to allow bike delineator posts within 60 feet of Spruce and Pine Street intersections east of 8th Street.

Another bill has been proposed reportedly because of the perception that some Registered Community Organizations (RCOs) may not adequately represent certain segments of their neighborhood's population. Bill 20005 provides that for large impactful developments, negotiations to reach a Community Development Agreement with a developer would take place not exclusively with the RCO, but with a five-member Host Community Board consisting of one member appointed by the local City Councilman, one representative of the RCO, one member appointed by the City's Director of Planning

and Development, and two more selected by those three. Such a bill would reduce bargaining power of RCOs.

When this issue of the *Reporter* is available, the annual election of Board officers and directors will have taken place via electronic ballot due to our inability to convene an in-person annual meeting and because of a contested race for positions of Director at Large. We hope that we can convene an in-person annual meeting in September where members could have an overdue opportunity to speak out on any issues of interest to our community.

As you read this issue of the *Society Hill Reporter*, I hope you appreciate the effort of those who contribute to it and how well they portray in words and pictures the people, history and current events in our neighborhood. We know that Neighborhoods USA does. NUSA is a national non-profit organization committed to strengthening neighborhood associations and promoting their communications with both public and private sectors. It annually recognizes excellence in neighborhood publications. The *Society Hill Reporter* is the sole winner of NUSA's award of First Place among all nominees nationwide of hard copy newsletters. It will be recognized as such at an NUSA annual meeting in Texas. With great pride and gratitude, we congratulate editor Sandra Rothman, graphic designer Judy Lamirand and advertising manager Bill Jantsch, and we thank those of you who contribute to, read and support the *Reporter*.



**SHCA President
Larry Spector**

Larry Spector is an attorney handling business disputes and related litigation. He has lived in Society Hill since 1976, married, and raised two daughters here with wife, Ann.

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A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

The Pot Bangers of Pine Street



Every evening at 7 p.m., the neighbors on the 500 block of Pine Street open their doors and step outside. Sporting face masks and armed with pots and pans, they position themselves along the street, six feet apart, to show appreciation for our amazing health care heroes. They've been there rain or shine for more than two months now, deterred only twice by a 6 p.m. curfew. For 20 minutes or more they cheer, bang pots and hold up signs.

Passing motorists and pedestrians honk, flash lights, clap, smile, pump fists in the air and give thumbs up. The Pennsylvania Hospital employee shuttles pass by, regularly filled with staff that wave and smile. Nurses and doctors walking or biking on their way home get to "run the gauntlet" of gratitude. One such nurse took the time to share her appreciation with the note reprinted here. It shows how little gestures mean so much, especially now. Enjoy.

Gratitude Begets Gratitude

6/3/20

Dear Pine Street Neighbors,

I just want to say thank you. I am a nurse at Jefferson, and I work at the Center City campus. My boyfriend and I moved into the city on April 1 (mid-pandemic), and let's just say that moving out for the first time ever looks different than I had imagined it! While we haven't gotten a "normal" city living experience quite yet, Philly has shown its charm through this quarantine. Being a nurse, like any profession, has its ups and downs, and yesterday was a tough day at work for me. Riding my bike is always my decompression time, and when I came upon your block yesterday, all of you clapping and waving with signs and pots and pans brought tears to my eyes. It has been a tough week and year, in this city, country and the world. Your street's small act of kindness made my day, so thank you. Thank you for being a block of happiness and gratitude in a time that has seemed overwhelmingly dark.

Stay safe and healthy!
Meredith

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

A Place of Hope

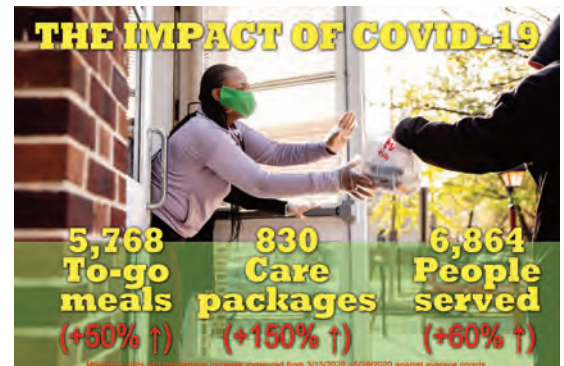
The Old Pine Community Center, at 401 Lombard Street, is Society Hill's small treasure. Aside from all of the programs it offers to the immediate community, the Center also serves as everyone's local non-profit, providing a safe haven for youth and seniors, recreation for adults and families, and a place of hope for those most in need.

The Center has been serving those who suffer from food and housing insecurities for over eight years with its most notable program being SHINE, which serves a community meal for approximately 100 people each Sunday morning, followed by a healthy grab-and-go lunch. Since March, with the rise of COVID-19, the Center had to close all non-essential programming, but did not close its doors. It redesigned its programming to focus solely on feeding its neighbors and others in the Philadelphia community. "We have seen so many of our families and children in need due to the high unemployment rate COVID-19 has caused, that we just couldn't close our doors; we worked harder," said April Thomas-Jones, Executive Director of the Center.

The Center moved from family care packages of food once a week to a seven-day operation of food

distribution. There is currently a 50 percent increase in breakfast and lunch grab-and-go meals, a 60 percent increase overall in distribution and a 150 percent increase in family care packages. As one of the few sites still able to operate, the Center works collaboratively with the city, other non-profit and for-profit organizations, and the kindness and generosity of individual community members to meet the high demand.

Each week COVID-19 generates more hardships, but also more chances to create opportunities of hope with people coming together for the greater good. Everyone can get involved; even community youth are a part of such a wonderful mission by painting colorful rainbows, symbolizing hope, to go into each family care package. If you have questions or want to make a donation, feel free to contact the Center at 215-627-2493, email them at center@oldpinecommunitycenter.org or send mail to 401 Lombard Street, Philadelphia PA 19147.



See Page 11 of the November/December 2019 Reporter for more about the Old Pine Community Center.



DO YOUR PART

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Help Out by Eating In

The following restaurants will deliver from their own locations or through Grubhub (grubhub.com), Caviar (trycaviar.com), DoorDash (doordash.com) or Uber Eats (ubereats.com) as indicated. Takeout by pre-order only.

Alyan's Middle East Restaurant, 603 S. 4th Street, 215-922-3553, takeout/Grubhub, Caviar

Ants' Pants, 526 S. 4th Street, 215-309-287, takeout only

Apricot Stone (Mediterranean), 1040 N. 2nd Street, 267-606-6596, takeout/Grubhub

Bainbridge Street Barrel House, 625 S. 6th Street, 267-324-3553, takeout/DoorDash

Bistro Romano, 120 Lombard Street, 215-925-8880, takeout/Caviar, Uber Eats, wine shop for delivery

Bodhi to Go (coffee), 410 S. 2nd Street, 267-239-2928, www.bodhi2go.com, takeout/delivery

Bud & Marilyn's, 1234 Locust Street, 215-546-2220, DoorDash

Buddakan (Asian Fusion), 325 Chestnut Street, 215-574-9440, takeout/Caviar, Uber Eats

Buk Chon (Modern Korean), 132 Chestnut Street, 215-925-9998, takeout/Caviar

Burrito Bonito (Mexican), 212 Market Street, 267-534-5079, takeout/Grubhub

Campo's Deli (hoagies, cheesesteaks), 214 Market Street, 215-515- 8562 takeout/Grubhub, Uber Eats

Casa Mexico, 1134 S. 9th Street, 267-455-2760, takeout only

Cavanaugh's Headhouse, 421 S. 2nd Street, 215-928-9307, takeout/Grubhub, Caviar

Chloe (BYOB), 232 Arch Street, 215-629-2337, pre-order/takeout Fridays

Chop Cheesesteak & Sausages, 602 South Street, 267-758-5712, phone orders/take out

Crème Brulee Bistro & Café, 1800 S. 4th Street, 215-334-9000, takeout/Grubhub

Cry Baby Pasta, 627 S. 3rd Street, 267-534-3076, takeout/direct delivery

Dan Dan Restaurant (Chinese, Asian), 126 S. 16th Street, 215-800-1165, takeout/Uber Eats, DoorDash

Dim Sum Garden (Chinese), 1020 Race Street, 215-873-0258, takeout/Grubhub, DoorDash

Famous 4th Street Deli, 700 S. 4th Street, 215-922-3274, takeout/Caviar

Fat Salmon (Japanese), 719 Walnut Street, 215-928-8881, takeout/Caviar, DoorDash

Fiorella Pasta Bar (Marc Vetri), 817 Christian Street, 215-305-9222, takeout only

Forsythia (modern French), 233 Chestnut Street, 215-644-9395, takeout/Caviar

Frieda Café, 320 Walnut Street, 215-600-1291, takeout/direct delivery/Uber Eats

Garces Restaurants, all deliveries, pickup at Olde Bar, 125 Walnut Street, 215-253-3777, Caviar, Uber Eats

Gigi Pizza, 504 Bainbridge Street, 267-457-5688, takeout/Caviar

Glory Beer Bar and Kitchen, 126 Chestnut street, 267-687-7878, takeout/Caviar

Gnocchi, 613 E. Passyunk Ave, 215-592-8300, takeout/Grubhub

GreenStreet Coffee, call 215-634-9044 for delivery, www.Greenstreetcoffee.com, takeout

High Street on Market, 308 Market Street, 215-625-0988, www.highstreetonmarket.com, takeout/direct delivery, Caviar

Homemade Goodies by Roz (bakery), 510 S. 5th Street, 215-592-9616, takeout only

Hungry Pigeon, 743 S. 4th Street, 215-278-2736, DoorDash

Indeblue (Indian), 205 S. 13th Street, 215-545-4633, takeout/Caviar, DoorDash, Grubhub

Isot Mediterranean Cuisine, 622 S. 6th Street, 267-457-3622, takeout/Grubhub

Kalaya Thai Kitchen (Thai), 764 S. 9th Street, 215-385-3777, takeout & delivery

Khyber Pass (Southern/Cajun), 56 S. 2nd Street, 215-238-5888, takeout/Caviar

La Bugambilas (Mexican), 148 South Street, 215-922-3190, takeout/DoorDash

La Colombe Coffee, www.lacolombe.com for free delivery

La Nonna, 214 South Street, 267-928-3262, takeout only

La Scala's Restaurant, 615 Chestnut Street, 215-928-0900, Grubhub

Laurel (French, American), 1617 E. Passyunk Avenue, 215-271-8299, takeout only

Little Fish, 746 S. 6th Street, 267-455-0172, takeout only

Little Nonna, 1234 Locust Street, 215-546-2100, Caviar

Lorenzo's Pizza, 305 South Street, 215-627-4110, takeout

Makhani (Modern Indian), 7 North 3rd Street, 267-214-0944, take out/Grubhub

Malbec Argentine Restaurant, 400 S. 2nd Street, 215-515-3899, takeout/Grubhub

Mei Mei (Chinese), 33 S. 2nd Street, 267-534-2157, takeout/Grubhub

Mustard Greens (Chinese), 622 S. 2nd Street, 215-627-0833, takeout only

Nora's Mexican Kitchen, 248 South Street, 267-758-2313, takeout/direct delivery

Old City Coffee, 221 Church Street, 215-629-9292, takeout/Caviar

Oily, 700 S. 5th Street, 267-457-5319, takeout/direct delivery

O'Neals Pub, 611 S. 3rd Street, 215-574-9495, takeout/direct delivery, Caviar

Pietro's Coal Oven Pizzeria, 121 South Street, 215-733-0675, takeout/Caviar

Pizzeria Stella, 420 S. 2nd Street, 215-320-8000, takeout only

Plough & the Stars (Irish & gastropub), 123 Chestnut Street, 215-733-0300, Grubhub

Positano Coast, 212 Walnut Street, 215-238-0499, takeout/Caviar, Uber Eats

Primo Hoagies, 128 S. 11th Street, 215-925-4500, takeout/Caviar, DoorDash, Grubhub

Pura Vida (Latin American), 527 Fairmount Street, 215-922-6433, takeout/Grubhub, DoorDash

Radicchio Café (Italian), 314 York Ave, 215-627-6850, takeout/Grubhub

Revolution House (American/Bar), 200 Market Street, 215-625-4566, takeout/Caviar

Shiroi Hana (Japanese), 225 S. 15th Street, 215-735-4444, takeout/direct delivery, Grubhub

South Philly Barbacoa (Mexican), 1140 S. 9th Street, 215-694-3797, delivery Sat. & Sun. only, takeout

South Street Philly Bagels, 613 S. 3rd Street, 215-627-6277, phone orders/pickup only

Spasso Italian Grill, 345 S. Front Street, 215-592-7661, DoorDash

Spread Bagelry, 443 South Street, 215-560-8154, takeout/Caviar, Grubhub

Talula's Daily, 200 W. Washington Sq, 215-592-6555, takeout only

Tamarind Tai Restaurant, 117 South Street, 215-925-2764, takeout/Grubhub, Caviar, DoorDash

Tiffin (Indian), 1100 Federal Street, 215-468-0104, direct delivery/Grubhub

Triangle Tavern, 1338 S. 10th Street, 215-800-1992, Caviar

Twisted Tail, 509 S. 2nd Street, 215-558-2471, takeout/direct delivery, Uber Eats

Vetri Cucina (Italian), 1312 Spruce Street, 215-732-3478, takeout

Village Whiskey (burgers), 118 S. 18th Street, 215-253-3777, Caviar

Xochitl Restaurant (Mexican), 408 S. 2nd Street, 215-238-7280, takeout/Grubhub

This list will be updated periodically. Let us know if a restaurant or store is no longer providing service, and we will remove it from the list. SHCA does not endorse any particular restaurant or business.

If you are a grocery store, market, pharmacy or restaurant offering takeout or delivery to the Society Hill community and would like to be included on this list, please contact SHCA at 215-629-0727, or marthalev6@gmail.com.

SAVE PHILLY EATS

Ten Tips to Help Restaurants Survive

Thanks to Irene Levy Baker, author of *Unique Eats and Eateries of Philadelphia*, for these tips. Check out her interesting blog at www.100ThingsToDoInPhiladelphia.com/blog.

- 1 Order pick up/delivery.** When possible, order directly from the restaurant.
- 2 Tip,** even if you don't usually tip on take out. In fact, over tip.
- 3 Buy gift certificates.** Once the restaurant re-opens, give it time to get on stable financial footing before using the certificates.
- 4 Buy merchandise.** Be an ambassador by wearing apparel on walks, or use mugs during a Zoom meeting.
- 5 Be generous.** Look for GoFundMe campaigns supporting restaurants.

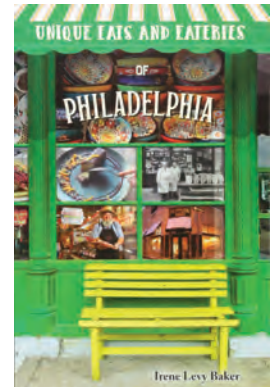
6 Buy one-of-a-kind experiences, like hosting a cooking class or dinner party in your home with a chef. Visit www.SavePhillyEats.com.

7 Donate. Go to the Pennsylvania Restaurant & Lodging Association's website, www.PRLA.org, and give to the Hospitality Assistance Response of Pennsylvania, a non-profit that provides emergency relief to hospitality workers.

8 Thank heroes. Help restaurants and healthcare workers at the same time by buying meals for healthcare workers at www.Frontlinefoods.org.

9 Write reviews. Leave positive reviews for your favorite restaurants on Facebook, Google, Yelp and Tripadvisor.

10 Be Social. Help your favorite eatery spread its message. Like, retweet share social media posts.



Irene Levy Baker's book, *Unique Eats and Eateries of Philadelphia*.



The Beautiful Society Hill Outside Walking Tour: It's Free!

This year, due to the need for social distancing requirements, SHCA was unable to present its annual fundraiser, the 2020 Society Hill Open House & Garden Tour. In lieu of the actual tour, we are presenting a self-guided walking tour of 12 locations in our neighborhood, including beautiful, full-color photos and valuable information for each stop. This is an opportunity to enjoy the fresh air, while revisiting our exceptional collection of historic and contemporary architecture in Society Hill. Photos by Bonnie Halda.

To access, go to societyhillcivic.org and click on Our Neighborhood and then Open House & Garden Tour. It's easy to download and print out the four-page guide, or read it on your cell phone as you walk.



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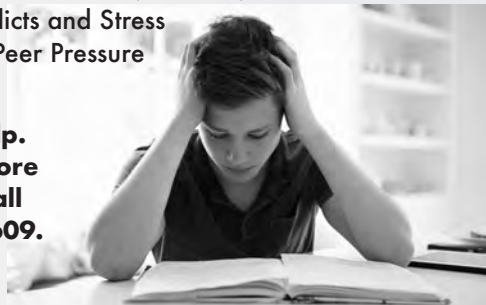
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PULLING SOME POSITIVES FROM A PANDEMIC

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

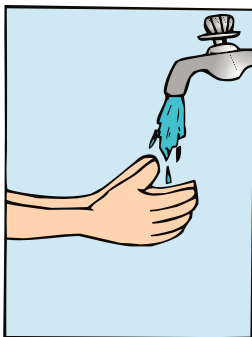
Is Anything Good Happening?

Here we are in the midst of a global pandemic, with almost 120,000 dead, and counting, in the U.S. Unbelievably, 38.6 million individuals have lost jobs and filed for unemployment. People are hungry. Essential workers are stretched to the limit. Health care professionals are traumatized by the amount of death and suffering in their midst. To top it off, the death of a Black Minneapolis man at the hands of four police officers has brought social unrest to a boiling point. Everyone is sad, scared and suffering in some way. Do we have anything to be optimistic about?

Homo sapiens have dealt with all sorts of disasters since the beginning of time, and the species has somehow survived. Even though it's difficult to see light at the end of the tunnel, chances are good that we'll get through this, too, even if few remain unscathed. The trauma that accompanies these experiences is real. So in the interest of maintaining a semblance of hope and sanity, let's look at some positive outcomes from all this despair.

The importance of human relationships has become even more apparent. Dealing with so much loss and uncertainty has reminded us of the value of family, friends and neighbors. Countless acts of kindness are seen every day and help sustain us. Check-ins with loved ones became a priority instead of an afterthought. With person-to-person touch off limits, we're reminded of our tremendous need for physical contact.

Pets are being adopted in large numbers. People are turning to dogs and cats to stave off the loneliness of social isolation, a win-win for humans and animals.



We're all practicing much better hygiene habits. Have you ever washed your hands so much? Or sung so many verses of "Happy Birthday?" If these good habits become ingrained, we should see a significant decrease in colds

and flu. They may even stop spitting in baseball!

Working from home, a necessity during social distancing, has proved to be more efficient and cost effective than initially thought. Chances are many more employees

will now be allowed to work at least partly from home. Imagine what you can save on dress pants and shoes. No commute means savings on gas, transportation and parking. Best of all, you can reclaim that most valuable commodity — time.

Now more than ever, we've come to appreciate our essential workers.

Health care professionals, first responders, grocery and food service workers, delivery people and so many more are the ones who really keep society functioning. Never mind celebrities, athletes and Instagram influencers. We now see who the real superheroes are. Let's continue to express our gratitude and, hopefully, advocate for better compensation.

We now really appreciate our teachers.

As any parent will tell you, trying to work from home while teaching your children is not for the faint of heart. How do teachers keep 10 preschoolers focused or 30 middle school kids on task? Do they really do it for 15 minutes? Or 30? Or 45? After this, you'll never underestimate the value of a teacher. Better pay would go a long way here, too.

With fewer vehicles on our roads and in the sky, air quality worldwide has improved dramatically.

Proof positive that climate change is largely due to mankind. If we each decrease our carbon footprint in some significant way, we can have a much-needed positive impact on our planet.

So many of us have used this time to learn a new skill.

Maybe you're the king of takeout, but now have learned to cook. Perhaps you'd never sewn on a button, but managed to construct a face mask. Or you took an online class. Or did some DIY projects around the house. Creating something is very satisfying. It makes us feel competent.

Hopefully, all of this — pandemic, job loss, economic insecurity and civil unrest — will force us to take a step back to reevaluate our priorities. Maybe we can all take better care of each other, treat everyone with respect, stand up for injustice when we see it and come out of all this better people and a better society than we were before. I'm hopeful.



Imagine how much you can save on dress pants and shoes if you continue working from home!

Claudia Carabelli serves on the SHCA board as SW Quadrant Director.

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Service

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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

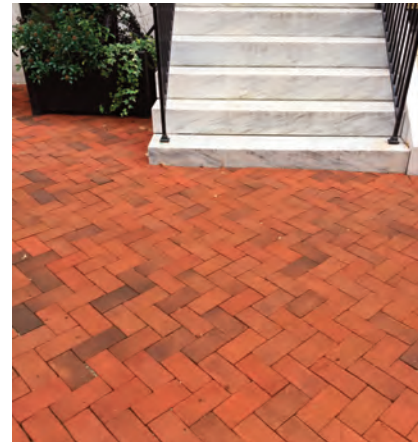
treatment so that we apply materials only when and where they are needed. Landscape projects are meticulously executed and guaranteed.

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

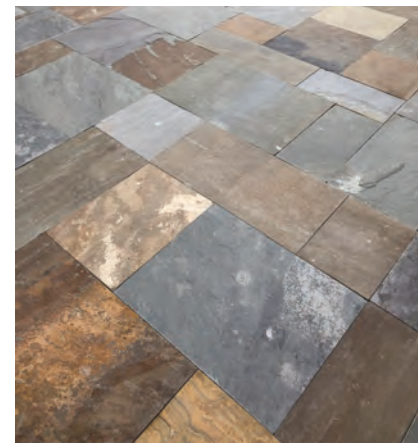
Brick sidewalks in Society Hill and downtown Philly are being renovated to provide a smooth, safe walking surface for pedestrians. We have experience and have repaired many sidewalks and patios in the city. The upheaval caused by tree roots can often be carefully corrected without removing or killing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



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KEEPING POSTED

BY AL CAVALARI

The Walnut Street Theater

Alive and Well After All These Years

“The theater is always dying” writes playwright David Mamet. John Steinbeck agrees: “The theater is the only institution in the world which has been dying for four thousand years and has never succumbed. It requires tough and devoted people to keep it alive.” Motion pictures were going to kill it off. Then came television, movies on videotape, DVDs, and streaming video on demand, available in any number of platforms. Now we have the global pandemic.

Finding this unusual postcard made me curious about the vitality of the Walnut Street Theater, so I recently visited www.walnutstreettheatre.org. I’m happy to say that it isn’t going anywhere.

The message in the video that greets you on the home page is titled “We Miss You” and states: “For over 200 years, The Walnut has been here for you. Our stages are dark for now, but just like you, we are looking to the future. The Show Will Go On.” What also greets you is a presentation of its \$39 million expansion. It will include a 400-seat theater-in-the-round, additional space for rehearsals and education programs, lobby and box office renovations, a bar, gift shop and restaurant. You’ll have fun just clicking through the drawings and taking the “fly through” virtual reality tour of the new building to be built adjoining the historic building.

It was not always people that were the stars of the show. In the beginning, horses performed in what the website describes as an “equestrian circus.” Not to be confused with our idea of a circus, these were staged “horse dramas” or “hippodramas” which Wikipedia describes as “a genre of theatrical show blending circus horsemanship display with popular melodrama theatre.” The theater company of Pépin and Breschard built theaters across the United States and Canada. On February 2, 1809, our Walnut Theater opened to “the pounding of hooves mingled with the shrieks of delight from the crowd as teams of horses circled a dirt riding ring.” By 1812 the horses had been put out to pasture, a stage had replaced the ring and operation as a legitimate theater had begun. Thomas Jefferson and the Marquis de Lafayette attended the first opening night.

The Walnut has continued as a place of many firsts: the first use of gas footlights, and in 1855, air conditioning! The curtain call, now part of

performances everywhere, is claimed to have begun there. The list of famous actors who performed there and of famous plays that debuted there is vast. With 50,000 subscribers it is “the most subscribed theatre company in the world.”

For a postcard collector the one shown is a great find. First, it is postally used, making it worlds more fun than an unused card, even if the message is mundane. In case you were wondering, the weather was “very warm.” But a used card with a stamp and a cancellation is more charming than an unused one. The image is lacking in quality, but cards of Society Hill are rather scarce, and finding anything new is wonderful. Secondly, this one has something special going for it. Notice it was used as a promotional piece by “His Honor the Mayor.” Did he give them out as souvenirs? Did he use them in mailings to get out the vote or push his agendas? Why this image? Maybe he was a theater buff. Or just maybe this card is just one of a series showing other landmarks, providing the collector something to keep searching for. So, this card is not only a piece of Philadelphia cultural history, it is also a crossover into political history.

Which mayor issued this card? Based on the postmark of July 8, 1907, and the undivided back, the mayor who produced this card was either John Weaver or John Reyburn, both Republicans. Reyburn was instrumental in the creation of the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Ben Franklin Parkway. Both won in big landslides.

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.



This postcard, mailed in 1907, shows the Walnut Street Theater and was produced “Compliments His Honor the Mayor.”

IN MEMORIAM

David Charles Auten



David Charles Auten
1938-2020

We are sad to report the death of long-time Society Hill resident David Auten on May 9 of complications from Parkinson's Disease.

Born in the Frankford section of Philadelphia, David was a lifelong Philadelphian. He attended Frankford High School and earned both his undergraduate and Juris Doctorate degrees with honors from the University of Pennsylvania.

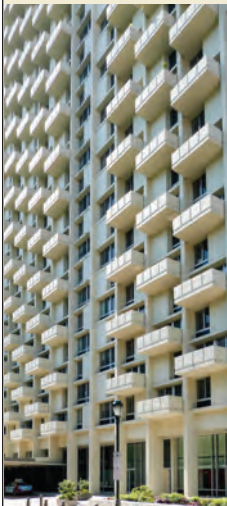
David was an accomplished lawyer who practiced for 50 years. He served as the Managing Partner of the Philadelphia Office of Reed Smith LLP for 16 years. He was listed in publications honoring his legal acumen, including *Best Lawyers in America*, *Who's Who in the World* and *Philadelphia Leaders*, and he was a member of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers.

David Auten was proud of the fact that he and his family were part of the Society Hill revival and preservation movement in the 1970s. The family

loved living in Society Hill, surrounded by so many dear friends and historic treasures.

David has been honored countless times over the years for his extraordinary and selfless service to so many organizations. He was the recipient of the Penn Alumni Award of Merit, the inaugural Penn Presbyterian Hospital Hero Award, The Association of Fundraising Professionals Greater Philadelphia Chapter Lifetime Achievement Award, and was one of the first inductees of The Parkinson Council Dan Aaron Hall of Fame.

In addition to his wife of 50 years, Suzanne Crozier Plowman, David leaves behind two daughters, three grandchildren and a brother. Donations in his memory may be made to The Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Center at the University of Pennsylvania or the Union League Legacy Foundation.



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'FIX THE BRIX'

BY MARTHA LEVINE

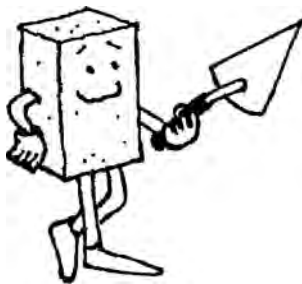
Walk the Walk... But Don't Trip!

Despite current social distancing limits, many outside services are permitted to continue. These include repairs to our homes: sidewalk repairs, tree work, exterior house repairs and painting, etc. This is a good time to have repairs done as contractors may be easier to schedule.

It is essential that we maintain our homes to keep them in good condition. SHCA has provided

resources for you to achieve that through our "Fix the Brix" program. Many of our sidewalks are still not in good order and can cause tripping.

Here are the steps you can take to remediate your problem sidewalk.



Rick the Brick

- Take a photo of your problem sidewalk or tree pit and email it to me at marthalev6@gmail.com.
- Contact a mason or arborist to check out your problem sidewalk or tree pit. It's good to get at least two estimates from which to choose. We can email you a list of masons and arborists.
- Have the work done and make sure, before you pay, that it is up to your standards.
- After the work is done properly, email me a photo of the finished work. Then mail the invoice (keep a copy for yourself) to us, and if possible, a copy of your cancelled check. Mail to: SHCA, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia PA 19147.
- Receive a check for 40 percent of the total, up to \$400, for current SHCA members; 40 percent of the total, up to \$300, for non-members.



Take in and store loose bricks, which can be used to break into cars.

RESOURCE FOR HOMEOWNERS

BY MARTHA LEVINE

What Is the Society Hill List of Contractors? How Do I Get One?

Over the last 20 years, SHCA has provided a valuable resource for our homeowners: **The Society Hill List of Contractors.** Since then, we have sent out thousands of lists to residents by request.

The 14-page list comprises 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 contractor who is working at your neighbor's house until the work is completed 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:

- Credit card: Go to our website, societyhillcivic.org, and click on membership.
- Check: Make your check payable to SHCA, and mail to SHCA, P.O. Box 63503, Phila, PA 19147.

The list is mailed directly to you on request — sorry, it's not available online. Contact me at 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. Membership also makes us feel part of the neighborhood!





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THE PHILADELPHIA NAVY YARD

Plenty of Space to Social Distance

During these trying times, it's natural to want to head outdoors for a change of scenery. Being outside can be uplifting, positive and soothing. As our community leans into social distancing, the Navy Yard, 4701 Intrepid Avenue, remains open. The park spaces, riverfront and historic architecture can provide a brief escape from the confines of our homes.

If you're looking for a place to step out and reset, here are 10 ways to do so at the Navy Yard! If you choose to head outdoors, please take steps as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to protect yourself and others, such as social distancing and proper hygiene. Stay at home if you are sick.



1 Experience the history and awe-inspiring views on a nature walk.



4 Grab your bike and helmet, and ride along the open streets.



8 Practice some restorative yoga. Visit www.navayogacenter.com/ classes for online offers and advice for distance self learning.



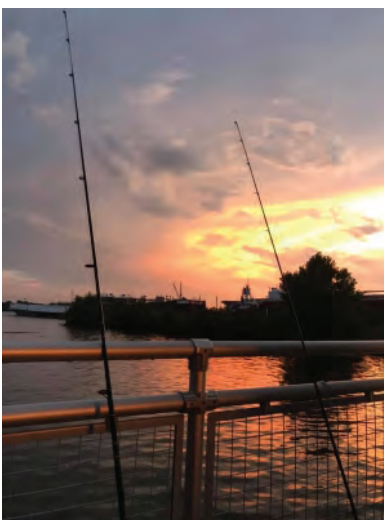
2 Lace up your running shoes and jog along the Riverfront Greenway, with views of the Delaware River.



5 Create an impromptu photoshoot, capturing that perfect photo and tag us @navyyardphila.



9 Did you know that the Navy Yard is a certified arboretum? Walk around the Navy Yard and look at the variety of tree species.



3 Dust off the fishing pole and set up where it's nice and quiet on Admiral Peary Way, east of Broad Street. Fishing is allowed from sunrise to sunset. You must have a state-issued fishing license.



6 Bring a book and read on the sunlawn at Central Green or a bench in Crescent Park.



7 Get a take-out meal from Bar Amis, DiNic's or Mercer Café for a picnic.



10 Take the Navy Yard Self-Guided Walking Tour — Grab a copy at the Broad Street Entrance (4500 South Broad Street) from our security ambassadors or download it at <https://navyyard.org/information-and-directions/walking-tour-visitors-guide/>.



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WASHINGTON SQUARE COMMITTEE REPORT

BY FRED MANFRED

A Place to Gather, Connect and Heal



Washington Square is bringing people together during a time of unprecedented social distancing.

We informed neighbors in our last update that the COVID-19 pandemic influenced the Washington Square Park Committee to cancel spring planting and postpone the Washington Square Affair to Thursday, October 8. We also advised that Independence National Park was closed, except for essential services like trash pickup.

Despite all this, many people came out to experience our beautiful spring. Initially, some observed six feet of social distancing, but didn't wear masks. However, as virus cases rose in Philadelphia so did the volume of mask-wearing visitors who continued to give each other space. As *The Philadelphia Inquirer* reported on the number of COVID-19 cases in

the region, it was no surprise to see that Society Hill's number of confirmed cases was among the lowest.

As Philadelphians honed their social distancing skills and accepted the ritual of donning a mask, the volume of park patrons grew and grew. The park has always been a place where people from all over the world gather. However, now with travel and shelter-in-place restrictions, our local community seems to have rediscovered the space. And we've watched kindness spread as quickly as COVID.

On a couple of afternoons, while socially distanced, I approached a variety of patrons and asked if COVID-19 had changed how they used or viewed the park. Most were eager to share their thoughts. As the stress of COVID-19 infiltrated their lives, the park became

a refuge by restoring connections with friends, community and nature. All commented on the beauty of the park, including the lush swaths of grass throughout, which seemingly inspired picnicking as the new park pastime.

When the city's COVID-19 restrictions began transitioning from red to yellow, it inspired a new wave of patrons. Recently, every quadrant of the park was dotted with activity... kids playing ball, exercise enthusiasts defining new routines, walkers doing their laps, lots of picnics, and friends and neighbors enjoying bench-to-bench conversations.

One thing is for sure; Washington Square continues to expand its role as a place to gather, connect and contemplate, while healing its community during these turbulent times.

WELCOME BASKET PROGRAM

Welcome Baskets on Hiatus

We are sorry to report that due to COVID-19, SHCA has put our Welcome Basket program on hiatus. We must maintain our six-foot social distance and stay away from close contact with people. Hopefully, we will resume later this year.

From October 2019 to March 2020, we presented 23 baskets, which is short of the usual 40-43 baskets we normally present annually. If you are new to Society Hill and would like to receive a basket, we need to wait until it is safe to resume our basket presentations.

Please continue to patronize our basket contributors, although we know that some, like the theaters and shops, are not yet open. Many restaurants and food stores do have delivery services and takeout available, so check them out and help them stay in business with your support. See Page 6 for a list of local restaurants.

Pictured are some of our new neighbors who received a Welcome Basket in 2020. The January/February issue had a photos of most of the 2019 basket recipients.



Alexandra & Will Cobb



Dan & Barrie Levine and twins



Chuck Prendergast & Mae West



Magnolia Indira & Jay and family



Ellen & Mickey Simon



Gregory Graves



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THANK YOU 2020 SOCIETY HILL WELCOME BASKET CONTRIBUTORS

Coffee Shops

Greenstreet Coffee, 1101 Spruce Street
 La Colombe Coffee, 100 S. 6th Street
 Passero's Coffee Roasters, 834 Chestnut Street

Food Stores

Acme Market, 5th & Pine Streets

Restaurants

Ants' Pants, 526 S. 4th Street
 Bistro Romano, 120 Lombard Street
 Bistrot La Minette, 623 S. 6th Street
 Cavanaugh's Headhouse, 421 S. 2nd Street
 City Tavern, 138 S. 2nd Street
 Creperie Beau Monde, 624 S. 6th Street
 Fork, 306 Market Street
 Frieda's Café, 320 Walnut Street
 Garces Group – Amada, 217 Chestnut Street, and others
 Gnocchi, 613 E. Passyunk Avenue (near 5th & South)
 High Street on Market, 308 Market Street
 La Buca Ristorante, 711 Locust Street
 La Scala's Restaurant & Bar, 615 Chestnut Street
 Malbec Argentine Steakhouse, 400-402 S. 2nd Street
 P. J. Clarke's, 601 Walnut Street
 Pizza Fresca, 703 Chestnut Street
 Positano Coast Restaurant, 2nd & Walnut Streets
 Talula's Daily, café & take out, 208 W. Washington Square



Specialty Shops

Adornamenti (jewelry), 1106 Pine Street
 Evantine Design, 715 Walnut Street
 Head House Books, (independent bookstore), 619 S. 2nd Street
 Paper On Pine (invitations/stationery), 115 S. 13th Street
 Paul Morelli Design Inc. (jewelry), 1118 Walnut Street
 Show of Hands Gallery (crafts), 1006 Pine Street

Theaters/Entertainment

Arden Theater, 40 N. 2nd Street
 1812 Productions (all comedy theater), 215-592-9560
 Ghost Tours of Philadelphia, 610-587-8308
 InterAct Theater Company, at the Drake, 302 S. Hicks Street
 Lantern Theater Company, 10th & Ludlow Streets (south of Market)
 National Museum of American Jewish History, 5th & Market Streets
 National Liberty Museum, 321 Chestnut Street
 Pennsylvania Ballet, Academy of Music, Broad & Locust Streets
 Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, 215-569-8080
 Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, 321 S. 4th Street
 Philadelphia Theatre Company, Suzanne Roberts Theater, Broad & Pine Sts.
 The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, the Kimmel Center, 215-545-1739
 The Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble, Old Pine Church, 412 Pine Street
 The Philadelphia Orchestra, the Kimmel Center for Performing Arts, Broad & Spruce Streets
 Wilma Theater, 265 S. Broad Street



Specialty Foods

Homemade Goodies by Roz, 510 S. 5th Street
 Knead Bagels, 725 Walnut Street
 Metropolitan Bakery, 262 S. 19th Street (Rittenhouse Square)
 South Street Bagels, 613 S. 3rd Street

Other Services

J. Sima Salon, Society Hill Towers, 257 St. James Place
 Judy Moon Massage Therapy, 829 Spruce Street, Suite 300
 M's on the Square (salon), Hopkinson House, 604 S. Washington Square
 Lee's Cleaners, 241 S. 6th Street
 Worth Collection New York (women's fashions), 215-925-8813, spattison@comcast.net

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ON OUR SHELF

BY VIKTORIA LANGE

Reading In the Time of Pandemic

I have always been attracted to literature that launches me into a different world. This has especially been the case throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. While this often means science fiction or dystopian novels, lately instead of escaping into fantastical worlds, I have been consuming distinctly earthbound journeys.

My quarantine reading has had the common theme of taking me to places that were not covered in my history and geography books, but should have been. For instance, *Disappearing Earth* by Julia Phillips, which is June's Head House Books Female Authors Book Club pick, transported me to a remote Russian peninsula, and Yaa Gyasi's astonishing *Homegoing* took me to the horrendous gateway to American slavery on the West African Gold Coast.

Island of Sea Women by Lisa See should also be on this list. Set on the Korean island of Jeju in the 1930s to 40s, the novel is rooted in the culture of the fierce female divers, the *haenyo*. The *haenyo* are the ultimate earthbound super women: deft divers with incredible lung capacity, harvesters of the bounty of the sea floor and providers for their families, in addition to being mothers, sisters and farmers. Lisa See, known for historical fiction, focuses her novel on the friendship between novice *haenyo* or "baby divers" Young-sook, daughter of a *haenyo* chief, and Mi-ja, an orphan marginalized by the community because of her father's past collaboration with the Japanese.

Young-sook and Mi-ja are fast friends, with Mi-ja becoming an adopted daughter of the village's *haenyo* collective. Yet within the first few chapters, tragedy strikes on the water. See does not hold back in both poeticizing and exposing the healing power of the ocean and its equally destructive capacities. An accident causes serious brain damage to the collective's most promising young diver, and Young-sook's own mother's life is dramatically cut short in a further accident.

These events shape Young-sook, who is convinced she is to blame, as well as Mi-ja. The two friends find solace in one another as they grow into experienced divers, and the proverbial clouds darken over Jeju Island. The Japanese become an ever greater, more oppressive presence. Further along in the novel, the Americans arrive. Jeju Island is an ideal geographic location for military activity, the result of which is an onslaught of foreign male presence on an island historically

run by women. These historical events create a setting rich with tension, which See uses to often graphic effect.

As Young-sook and Mi-ja carry out the *haenyo* lifestyle as much as they can — diving, marrying, giving birth and diving again — the tensions of military occupation also invade the friendship on which *Island of Sea Women* is grounded. Unspeakable choices suddenly thrust a rift between the two friends, and it is the unravelling of this friendship and the reverberating effects that we will follow for the rest of the novel.

See makes use of the flash forward. At choice moments, we experience a Young-sook in her eighties, living in a present-day Jeju where the elderly *haenyo* have become a tourist attraction. As eye-opening as the historical events of Young-sook's life have been, it is this woman in her eighties with whom I wish See would have spent more page time. We feel her age, her crotchiness at the contemporary. Yet I wanted to hear more from the present-day *haenyo*, by all accounts an endangered way of life today.

It is indisputable that we are living in a difficult time. Given the vulnerability we are all undoubtedly feeling, it would be irresponsible for me not to warn you: both a strength and weakness of this novel is the graphic exposition See deploys to highlight the cruelty of the Japanese and American military occupations of Jeju, as well as the choices the *haenyo* face in the turmoil. I felt myself holding my breath multiple times, as if I was viewing a documentary of the events of the cruel events of the Jeju Uprising — April 3, 1948 to May 1949 — instead of reading a novel which I initially thought would be more of a study of female friendship.

Nonetheless, *Island of Sea Women* is a read worthy of attention. A complex female friendship carries us through an even more complex historical time. Too long has this particular perspective on war been foreign, at least to my generation. At its core, the novel holds a magnifying glass to the infinite continuity of the tides and to the resilience of women.



Bring in a copy of this review and receive 20 percent off any one title in our store or ordered online at www.HeadHouseBooks.com.

Head House Books hosts a monthly book group open to all. The current theme is Female Authors, with the July selection *A Girl Returned* by Donna di Pietrantonio. Sessions are currently being held on Zoom. Anyone interested in joining should contact www.HHBookclub@gmail.com for further information.

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 **Viktoria Lange** wrote this article.

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SOUTH STREET HEADHOUSE DISTRICT

BY KERI WHITE

A Business Collaboration and SSHD Updates

South Street Headhouse District (SSHD) is proud to unite with Business Improvement Districts (BID) across the city to form the Philadelphia BID Alliance. This 15-member consortium includes districts from East Passyunk in the south to North Broad and Mayfair in the north. It has banded together to collaborate on everything from advocacy to purchasing power to information sharing.

SSHD Executive Director Mike Harris explains: “Every commercial corridor in the city faces similar challenges, and the last few months have been unprecedented in the history of our city. By collaborating, we have strength in numbers, and we are working together for the common good to help all. We can advocate more effectively to the city and state, cooperatively strategize to plan for recovery, attract and support local businesses and, perhaps most importantly, send an authentic message of unity in support of the Philadelphia economy.”

Based on models in New York City and Washington, DC, the Philadelphia BID Alliance is joining together to promote commercial corridors throughout the city. During this time of figuring out a “new normal” and the impacts on the business sector, Philadelphia BID members have been in constant communication to share best practices, information and advice with each other. One concrete step of the BID Alliance’s cooperation is the development of a set of recommendations to the city about the potential expansion of outdoor seating and the creative use of sidewalks and parking lanes to help with the safe recovery of restaurant and retail businesses.

Update on the Heirloom Giant Supermarket

Plans are proceeding with the new supermarket at 2nd and South Streets. Latest news is that the project is undergoing infrastructure upgrades to ensure that the space can accommodate the features and amenities planned for the market. Heirloom Giant has designed a modern, upscale neighborhood store with many innovative, customer-centric features, and these involve certain infrastructure requirements. As of press time, these issues were being addressed through Heirloom Giant, Abbotts Square, the city, the architects and the construction team.



Headhouse Plaza Project Underway

The Headhouse Plaza project has broken ground! Construction started outside the Wawa on 2nd Street in June and is expected to continue through the fall, with a ribbon cutting tentatively planned for November.

The completed plaza will offer an enhanced mixed-use space for the community with improved landscaping, increased lighting, safety features and, potentially, an expanded farmers market. Due to recent health and safety considerations, the fountain has been removed from the plan; that area will be earmarked as an additional public space with seating and plantings.

During the project, the streets are intended to remain open to traffic, although when the construction began, traffic had been light due to the pandemic. Mike Harris explains, “I guess you could say it’s a bit of a case of making lemons out of lemonade. We had the construction planned on this timeline to coordinate with our spring festival, but that ended up being canceled due to the pandemic. With the reduction in traffic, and the stay-at-home orders, this was as good a time as any to start. The last time this area had a major construction project was 60 years ago when the southern portion of the headhouse was demolished, so we are eager to make these long-anticipated upgrades for the benefit of the community.”

SSHD will keep us all informed of construction activities and schedules throughout the project.

Rendering of the plaza that is currently under construction.

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WEEDS AND TREES

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

Keeping Our Neighborhood Green & Tidy

Recent social distancing recommendations have reluctantly put the **Society Hill Weed Patrol** on hiatus. It shows. Many house fronts, sidewalks and tree pits are filled with overgrown weeds. Frankly, it looks a mess. To those of you who have continued to maintain your property, thank you! Neighbors do appreciate your efforts. To those who have let your property go to seed, please step up. Donning a facemask and gloves and cleaning up your property doesn't take much time or effort. Let's everyone take some responsibility. Come on people, get it together!

Society Hill Tree Tenders had to cancel spring planting due to COVID-19 restrictions. Trees that were approved will hopefully be planted in November. We have a total of six for the fall if we get the go-ahead. In the meantime, here are some tips for maintaining the health of existing trees.

- Clear your tree pits of weeds and trash.
- Loosen the soil and add some licorice root mulch. Remember the 3-3-3 rule. Three inches deep, three feet out from the tree and a three-inch clearance around the trunk. You don't want to bury that root flare.
- Water regularly, especially if it's a young tree and especially during the heat of the summer.

- Now that the trees are in bloom it's easy to see if you have dead branches that need pruning. If it's a small tree that can be reached without a ladder, let us know and we'll try to take care of it. This needs to be a street tree on your property. We need written permission if it was not planted by the Tree Tenders.
- For bigger trees please call an arborist to prune. The SHCA will subsidize up to 50 percent of the cost for a maximum of \$300 if you're a member and up to \$200 for non-members.
- Street trees take a hit from delivery trucks. If you see a broken branch, please notify the homeowner or the Tree Tenders.
- If you have a dead tree, it will be quite obvious right now. We also subsidize up to 50 percent of the cost for removal and replacement. Maximum of \$500 for members and \$400 for non-members.
- It's always a good idea to have your tree checked out every few years by a licensed arborist. With their trained eye, they can make recommendations for pruning, feeding and general maintenance.
- Feel free to have a tree planted in your empty pit. We will reimburse \$150.

Let's green it up. Contact Tree Tenders co-chairs Bob Curley or Claudia Carabelli through SHCA Administrator, MattDeJulio@aol.com.



If there are weeds growing in the cracks of your sidewalk, please take a few minutes to step outside and clean up your property.

Tree Fun Facts

"A tree is a wondrous thing. It runs entirely by solar energy. It turns water and carbon dioxide into building material. It is powerful enough to split rocks. It can contain up to 50,000 cubic feet of wood. It has a plumbing system that can raise water 100 times as efficiently as the best suction pump made. It is the oldest and largest living thing on earth. It can tell time. It may grow to 300 feet in height, yet it feeds itself entirely through a network of roots that are finer than a string. It may pour hundreds of gallons of water into the air in a day's time. It befriends us by taking and using our waste products (carbon dioxide) and giving back life-supporting oxygen. It sometimes grows so large that it contains enough wood to build a community of 50 six-room houses. It protects itself with bark against insects, diseases and fire. It does all these things and never moves."

— Author Unknown

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| 2007-I | 312-I | 1501-II |
| 1801-II | 2404-I | 812-II |
| 1807-I | 2210-II | 809-I |
| 502-I | 2211-II | 907-I |
| 502-II | | 1710-II |

BEST PRACTICES

TYRONE SMITH

Maintaining Your Home's Plumbing

While taking on tasks to improve your property's curb appeal may be the first — and the most fun — thing that comes to mind when it comes to home improvement, tending to your home's structural aspects, like your plumbing, should always take precedence. Taking care of key fixtures using the following pointers can help keep your plumbing system in tip-top shape for years to come.

Nix chemical drain cleaners

Clogged drains are one of the most common home plumbing issues, and chemical drain cleaners are frequently used to solve the problem. While it's tempting to reach for the nearest bottle of drain solution the next time the sink or shower pools with water, know that it may just be a temporary fix that can do more harm than good.

That's because the chemicals used in drain cleaners can slowly eat away at your pipes, eventually damaging them beyond repair. Even worse, these products typically don't remove the entire clog — they just make the blockage smaller, which means you'll be reaching for the bottle again soon.

To save your pipes from further damage from chemical-laden drain cleaners, try tackling stubborn clogs with natural solutions instead. In the event of a stubborn clog, pour one cup of baking soda and one cup of white vinegar into the drain, followed by three cups of boiling water, and wait for the bubbles in the solution to dissipate.

If the clog is a recurring issue, it may be best to hire a plumber to snake the drain and remove the debris blocking the line. If you'd prefer to handle the issue on your own, try plunging, and if that doesn't work, seek professional help.

Soften your hard water

Some cities, including Philadelphia, have "hard water" — meaning the water supply contains a higher percentage of naturally occurring minerals, usually calcium and magnesium. This buildup may show up as a white deposit in your taps, showerheads and water-using appliances. Hard water can shorten your plumbing's lifespan, as minerals build up inside of pipes and constrict water flow, increasing water pressure and corroding pipe joints and fittings.

The only way to completely eliminate issues caused by hard water is to install a water softener. These appliances use sodium to neutralize minerals in water and stop build up at the source. A downside

to this solution is that water softeners can be expensive and will slightly increase your monthly utility bills.

If a water softener isn't the best option for your household, there are alternate methods you can employ to deal with mineral buildup. Plain white vinegar is great for cleaning mineral deposits off of plumbing fixtures and appliances like coffee makers. You can even use white vinegar in place of a rinse agent in your dishwasher and fabric softener in the washing machine to prevent residue from forming on your dishes and clothing.

Keep your sewer lines clear

Your sewer main line is a pipe that connects your home's plumbing to the municipal sewer system. Any waste produced in your household travels through this pipe. If this sewer main line becomes clogged, sewage can back up into your home.

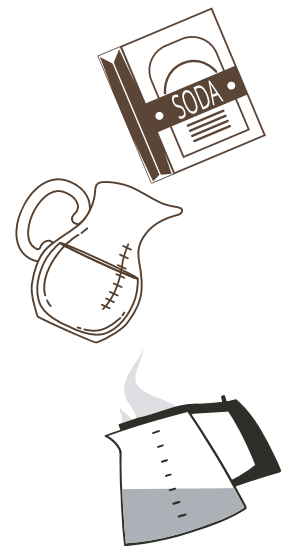
You can evaluate the effectiveness of your sewer line by emptying all of the sinks and tubs in your house at the same time, watching to see if one of your floor drains backs up, or if it takes a significant amount of time for all the drains in your home to empty.

The best way to avoid a sewer line blockage is by having it regularly cleaned and maintained by a plumber. Every few years, have a plumber come snake your main sewage cleanout. During the procedure, the plumber will use a high-pressure hose to push any contents into the sewer, eliminating debris that can potentially cause blockages. This process, typically costing around \$125 to \$200, will remove tree roots and other materials that have worked their way into pipes.

Check your homeowner's insurance policy

When was the last time you took a look at your homeowner's insurance plan? Break out your current policy and brush up on what it does and doesn't cover. Consider enrolling in a protection program for gaps in coverage. There are home protection programs available through American Water Resources, visit AWRUSA.com to learn more and to see what programs are available in your area. This investment will protect your time, money and peace of mind in the event of a plumbing emergency.

Tyrone Smith is the Philadelphia Contractor Network Supervisor for American Water Resources. He is a skilled Master Plumber with more than 30 years of experience in the greater Philadelphia area.



One cup of baking soda, one cup of white vinegar and three cups of boiling water is a natural cleaning solution that won't damage pipes.



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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY MATT DEJULIO

2020 Membership Falls Behind

By early June, 1,071 Society Hill residents had either renewed their association membership or joined for the first time — 5.4 percent behind the same time last year.

Our goal is to equal or exceed last year’s total of 1,183, so we have a ways to go.

So far 34 new members have signed up — down from 90 last year. Unfortunately, 160 members have not renewed, up from 132 last year at the same 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 at www.societyhillcivic.org to sign up. You may also pay your dues conveniently by credit card there.

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

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

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

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

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A limited number of monthly parking spaces are available at the renovated lot at 511 S. Front Street, between South and Lombard Streets.

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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.

Residential Memberships

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

Business Memberships

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

Additional Contributions

- \$ _____ Washington Square Beautification
- \$ _____ Sidewalk Cleaning/Graffiti Removal
- \$ _____ Fix the Brix
- \$ _____ Franklin Lights
- \$ _____ Tree Tenders
- \$ _____ McCall School

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Charge VISA/MasterCard:

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Signature _____

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

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

Please return completed application to:

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

NIFTY NEIGHBORS IN MY OWN BACKYARD

BY JANE BIBERMAN

Our Man on South American Street

The street that Bob Curley lives on has ten houses, eight of which were built prior to the Mexican-American War in 1847. The cozy home Bob shares with his wife was built during that war. He and his wife have lived there — on tiny South American Street, since 2005. “We moved from a large house near the Wissahickon woods in Chestnut Hill 15 years ago when we decided to downsize,” says Bob. The couple was very familiar with Society Hill because they had both worked here for years: Bob was a labor lawyer representing unions and worked at O’Donoghue & O’Donoghue at 4th and Chestnut up until last October when he retired.

It was Bob and three other SHCA board members who negotiated with the Interstate Land Management Company to get a parking lot at 2nd and South Street. The money raised supports Society Hill Civic Association activities. SHCA, in turn, donated the funds to local charities, including, most recently, Philabundance, Project Home and Women Against Abuse, as well as other charities described on Page 15 of the September/October 2019 issue of the *Reporter*. Bob, who is on the board of SHCA, is also a volunteer tree tender.

The couple had many plans following retirement, including traveling. “We were going to go to Iceland in the spring and Italy in the fall until COVID-19 interfered with our plans,” Bob says. “Instead, I’ve been home being bored.” Of course, that’s an exaggeration. A lover of history, he’s a great reader. “I’m reading Richard Ford’s *Sorry for Your Trouble* and Jack Beatty’s *Age of Betrayal: The Triumph of Money in America, 1865-1900*. We both enjoyed going to movies at the Ritz, to small theaters like the Arden and the Wilma, and to a lot of small venues for concerts, as well as the Philadelphia Orchestra.” For the time being, there are the TV series *DEVs*, *I Know This Much Is True* and



Bob Curley



South American Street

The Plot Against America. “And I like the Free Library’s author podcasts since the library itself is closed.” His wife is reading *The Good Lord Bird* by James McBride and orders from Head House Books.

Of course, they enjoyed local restaurants. “But my wife is a great cook,” raves Bob. “So I enjoy eating at home, too.” Both are history enthusiasts, and history is all around them. “Our house has a colonial feeling because it was never gutted,” explains Bob, adding that they’ve always lived in old houses. Their current house has its own special history. Built as single-family home, it was converted to a shared home for three Russian Jewish immigrant families at the turn of the century, and then it became a boarding house. Bob credits previous owners Penny and George Batcheler for restoring the house and preserving all of the original details. He and his wife also

chose to preserve unique and important features of the house after they moved in.

These days, Bob keeps himself busy. He admits to being a political junkie and is, of course, focused on the upcoming election. He’s been sending letters to make sure everyone is registered to vote. Current events consume him. “I was a legal observer for the National Lawyer’s Guild with the Black Lives Matter protest that took place in Center City,” he relates. “It was 90 percent millennials. I do think the movement will make a big difference.”

Reflecting on his own history, Bob recalls enjoying taking printmaking classes at the Fleisher Art Memorial. But for the time being, he and his wife will simply enjoy strolling in the neighborhood.

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



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photography © Jeffrey Tolaro

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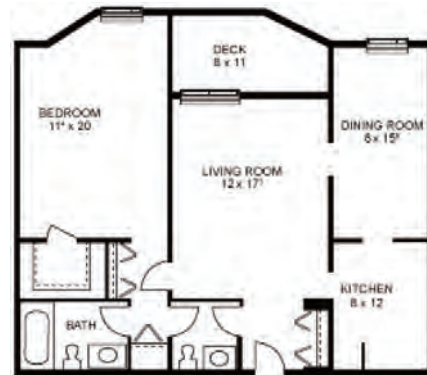
Dr. Mark Posner (2019-2013), Dr. Eva Jakobovics (2019-2014), Dr. Robert Anolik (2019), Dr. Nora Lin (2019-2017), Christine Malloy, MD (2019), Shashank Sheth, MD (2019), Annie Khuntia, MD (2019), Matthew Fogg, MD (2019), Patrick Vannelli, MD (2019), Sandhya Desai, MD (2019)



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