

SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

www.societyhillcivic.org

Ready to Rebound: Reopening With Care



Paul Levy, Director of the Center City District, is the speaker for the November General Membership Meeting.

Although the City of Philadelphia is in a modified Green Phase and is “Reopening with Care,” large indoor gatherings, like our General Membership Meetings, are still not possible. Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) continues to follow guidelines for safety and hosts all of our meetings via Zoom.

The next SHCA General Membership Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 18. Paul Levy, Founding Director, President and CEO of the Center City District (CCD), will address the conditions and prospects for Center City as it recovers from the effects of the pandemic and racial unrest.

When the CCD was launched in 1991, Center City was a 9-to-5 office district. There was no convention center, only a few hotels, just one high-rise condo, and a small number of restaurants. Municipal government spiraled towards bankruptcy. Litter and graffiti were everywhere. The CCD focused on clean-up first, followed by economic recovery.

By 2008, Center City had diversified. The first Comcast tower had just opened. The convention center was expanding. Vacant buildings were now hotels and apartments; there were 50 condominiums. Health and educational institutions were expanding. Arts and culture, hundreds of restaurants, scores of outdoor cafes and all forms of nightlife were thriving. Empty-nesters and millennials were moving into the buildings that had been repurposed as apartments and condos.

All these hallmarks of success are now profoundly challenged by COVID-19 and its imperatives of non-essential business shut-downs, stay-at-home orders, and social distancing. Pedestrian volume has plummeted by 87 percent. Does the transition to working from home render business offices obsolete? Will online shopping doom traditional retail? These are questions asked by Paul Levy. Log in to his presentation at the General Meeting and listen to his answers: “In Philadelphia, we walk amidst centuries of history, echoes of challenges we’ve overcome. Philadelphia reminds us every day, despite setbacks, we will prevail.”

Login information for the November 18th meeting will be sent out to SHCA’s blast email subscribers. If you’re not already subscribed, send your up-to-date contact information to Administrator Matt DeJulio, mattdejulio@aol.com, so he can put you on our weekly email blast list.

The Stay-at-Home order is now the Safer-at-Home order. As you venture outdoors, stay safe, wear your face mask when you leave your own house, maintain six-foot social distancing, carry hand sanitizer and wash your hands frequently.

Wednesday,
November
18

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Society Hill Civic Association Meeting
Wednesday, November 18, 2020

via Zoom

5:45 p.m. Board Meeting

7:30 p.m. General Membership Meeting

Speaker: Paul Levy, Founding Director,
President and CEO, Center City District

Topic: Ready to Rebound: Pandemic Recovery



photo by Martha Levine

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SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

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2020

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Submission Deadline

January/February Issue: Dec. 1

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

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

Submissions

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

SHCA Mission Statement

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY LARRY SPECTOR

Success!

For much of October we acted as our own public relations and political operatives in dealing with the Mayor, City Council and the media coverage of our efforts to pass our zoning bills. Now all our efforts have ended with success! With strong support from the National Park Service and the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia, City Council unanimously passed our overlay and remapping bills on October 1. Mayor Kenney vetoed the overlay on October 12, the first veto in his five years as Mayor. We needed 12 votes to override the veto. Our Board wrote to the Mayor with a rebuttal to the veto; we made calls and sent letters, maps and a petition to every member of City Council. You made calls too, and gave us 700 signatures on the petition. On October 22 we prevailed by a vote of 13-4. Among other things, the bill creates a 65-foot height limit in the 200 block of Walnut Street to protect the historic Merchants Exchange Building from being dwarfed by high-rise buildings.

Through it all, Councilman Mark Squilla championed our cause and was instrumental in convincing his colleagues that the bill was in furtherance of historic preservation and not at all an obstacle to achieving affordable housing goals for our city. Special thanks to SHCA Vice President Mary Purcell and to Paul Boni; and to Rosanne Loesch, Bob Kramer, Mary Tracy and Lorna Katz Lawson, who were indefatigable in helping with the legislative process. Their efforts followed literally years of work from those who produced our Master Plan in the first place — selecting and meeting with consultants, extensive work with the Philadelphia Planning Commission, outreach to stakeholders and multiple community presentations. All that work was ably led by past president Rosanne Loesch with the benefit of architectural expertise from Lorna Katz Lawson and critical support from Urban Partners, Viridian Landscape Studio, and John Gibbons and Laura Ahramjian of the former urban planning firm KSK Associates.

Between the initial passage of our bills and the Mayor's veto, the Historical Commission held a hearing on whether to approve a proposed luxury hotel on the corner of 3d and Walnut. The structure, situated to detract from the scale and beauty of the Merchants Exchange Building across the street, was originally proposed at 10 stories and 180 feet high and later reconceived as 7 stories and 100 feet high. The Architectural Committee of the Commission unanimously disapproved both designs as too high and too massive to be located across from the

Merchants Exchange, a National Historic Site. These recommendations, however, were legally not binding; and the full Commission approved the project by a vote of 8 to 3. It remains to be seen whether the approval is affected by the veto override.

Why the approval? The Mayor appoints 6 of the 14 members of the Commission. It can be fairly assumed that developers routinely have his ear. When the suitability of the hotel for the site opposite the Merchants Exchange was being fully debated before the Commission vote, the Mayor's representatives said not one word. That is, until they each said "aye" in voting for the project. We are left to draw our own conclusion as to whether, notwithstanding all the architectural and historic preservation considerations, this was all along the inevitable result.

Recent events remind us how eagerly some are to take pot shots at Society Hill. While we viewed our zoning bills as honest efforts furthering historic preservation, critics were calling us NIMBY purveyors of "exclusionary zoning" that that would restrict the supply of affordable housing. We decided not to sit still for the implications of this claim and wrote the Mayor a letter (previously the subject of an email blast to the entire community) saying that we were not a political punching bag that would stand still in the face of such claims. We would like to think this message proved effective. We appreciate that in his responding veto letter, the Mayor did not say, as he had before, that our bills were "exclusionary."

The ATV and dirt bike problem persists, perhaps not as bad as in the Spring, and hopefully to subside with the cooler weather. Meanwhile on October 7, following a resolution introduced by Councilmember Alan Domb, the Public Safety Committee of City Council held a half day hearing on the subject. Participants included Deputy Police Commissioner Dale, at least 8 members of City Council, riders and many complaining citizens. The hearing covered enforcement resources, the bike culture and social media gratification that motivates the riders, and creation of an ATV park as a way to draw them off the streets. The commitment to improve the situation is undoubtedly there. As for more relief in the near term, it appears that only traffic calming measures, if practical, will diminish the roars.

Thanks to everyone who joined in the October 31 Clean Up Day. Vote. Come to our November 21 community meeting featuring Paul Levy. I'm having a drink.



SHCA President
Larry Spector



*Our warmest
wishes to you,
your family
and friends
for a happy
and safe
holiday season
of hope!*

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.

MAKING STREETS SAFER

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Goodbye, Potholes

The Philadelphia Streets Department has its hands full with the repair of potholes from last winter. In the last few weeks, I have reported two major potholes to the Streets Department and have gotten results as soon as two days. No, they didn't make it as pretty as it should be, but they filled in the dangerous holes that could have caused serious accidents for both pedestrians and

vehicles. Apparently, we have a friend in the Streets Department who is responsive to SHCA.

See before and after photos below. We were told that 6th Street will be re-milled soon.

If you see significant potholes in or near Society Hill, please take a photo with the address, and send it to me at marthalev6@gmail.com.

A friend in the Streets Department is getting results. Potholes are filled in as soon as two days.



At 5th and Market Streets, a busy center for tourists, this Belgian Block street was a disaster waiting to happen.



After an email to our contact at the Streets Department, the pothole was patched. Not a pretty sight, but they will return in the spring to repair it properly.



A large and deep pothole at 6th and Spruce Streets put pedestrians and cars at risk. Again, a temporary patch job was completed for safety reasons. When 6th Street is resurfaced, which is scheduled soon, it will be improved.

DELINEATOR DEBATE

BY LARRY SPECTOR

Surprise! Delineators Suddenly Installed

There may be confusion as to why bike lane delineators were recently installed at corners of Spruce and Pine east of 8th Street. We had no prior notice from the city that the installation would so suddenly take place. It should not have been a surprise, however, because earlier this year Councilman Squilla, recognizing that there were many people with strong views on both sides of the debate, introduced in February an ordinance that would allow delineators between Front and 22nd Street on Pine and between Front and 18th Street on Spruce; but they could not be placed more than 60 feet from an intersection. Delayed by the pandemic, the bill has now made its way through City Council and will have been passed as of this writing.



Bike lane delineators have been installed on Spruce and Pine Streets.

BREAK OUT THE RAKES

BY SUSAN BURT-COLLINS

Clean Up Time!

SHCA is coordinating a Clean-up Day the first weekend after Thanksgiving to help neighbors join together to tidy our sidewalks and streets. It's especially important that we sweep up those slippery leaves before winter mixes in ice and snow, making our charming brick and cobblestone sidewalks a tad treacherous on wet winter days. Come out to the 5th Street Acme, where SHCA will be set up from 8 a.m. until noon handing out brooms, bags and gloves provided by the city. Grab some neighbor time before winter closes in.

We will be posting No Parking signs along our streets, asking people to switch to the opposite side of the street on Friday evening until Saturday after 2 p.m., allowing residents to sweep debris from the gutters. Unlike other years, we are unlikely to have city sweeper trucks pre-cleaning the gutters. As with everything else that has been disrupted this year, the Streets Department is limiting overtime, so this service that we have

had in other years may not happen this time. We are working on it, but at this writing we are not hopeful. Nonetheless, sweep and bag the debris, and if you have a hose handy, wash down the area near your home. Hopefully, others will do the same and the accumulated debris of this Annus Horribilis will be swept away.

Your bagged leaves and street litter, but no household trash, should be left by noon at intersections on Locust, Spruce, Pine or Lombard Streets, where they cross the numbered streets.

Although this Clean-up Day is different, without city trucks and crews helping us, it is nonetheless an important event when we can gather together to both freshen our streets and work as neighbors to make it plain to residents and visitors alike how much we value our little patch of history and charm.

Questions or comments: Susan Burt-Collins, susan.burt.collins@gmail.com, 610-331-8203.

*Saturday,
December 5,
9 a.m. to
1 p.m.*



Why Every Day Is Clean-Up Day for Al Meinster

We noticed Al Meinster watering the gardens in Three Bears Park and stopped to thank him for his contribution to making our neighborhood more beautiful. Al was kind enough to share this story of why he volunteers to help maintain the park:

"I thought that I might explain why I'm so dedicated to tending to Three Bears Park. As a toddler, in our neighborhood during and just after the war, there were no places to "be a kid" other than Washington Square and a rather uninviting, derelict and cinder-covered Starr Garden. My mother did her best to allow me to do kid things on the sidewalk — not the best way for a child to experience the outdoors.

"Fast forward 70-plus years. We now have Three Bears Park, where parents and their young children can enjoy what had been unavailable to me at their age. Walking through the park, seeing the joyful exuberance of kids at play made me sad to realize what I had been denied as a child, but I am very, very pleased to be part of the Friends of Three Bears Park, a neighbors' group that in many



Al watering the gardens in Three Bears Park

small ways helps to maintain the park, a park that brings delight to today's toddlers.

"I pressure-wash the benches and picnic tables, and turn the lights on in the evening and off in the morning when I remove the previous day's litter, and water the garden. Additionally, along with other neighbors, I'm alert to situations that might lead to damage, requesting the police to remove the skateboarders who come camera-equipped to film their concrete and slate-destroying acrobatics.

"The park is a treasure and is vital in encouraging young families to remain in our neighborhood. I can see no better recipient for my contribution of time and energies."

So now you know,
Al Meinster

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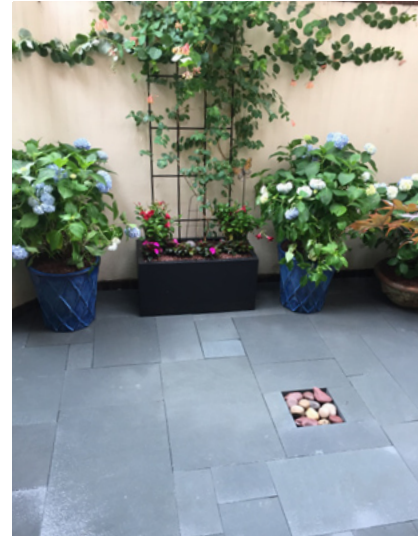
treatment so that we apply materials only when and where they are needed. Landscape projects are meticulously executed and guaranteed.

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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.

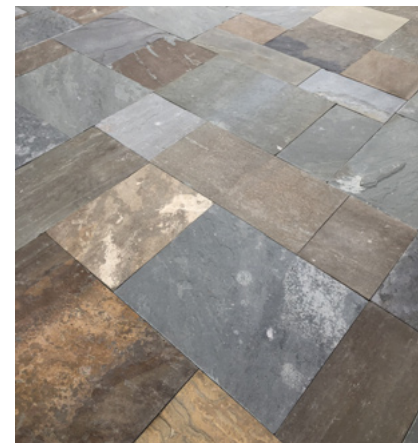


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‘FIX THE BRIX’

BY MARTHA LEVINE, CHAIR

Keeping Our Bricks in A Row



During the pandemic, it is easy to feel we have little control over what’s happening in our world. It’s time to think small! One thing we can do to get a sense of control is to improve our properties inside and out. While we are spending more time at home and walking in the neighborhood, sidewalks should not be an added hazard.

Step Back in Time

Back in the 1960s, during the Society Hill Redevelopment period, it was decided that Society Hill would have brick sidewalks. Our brick sidewalks are not historically significant. In the 1800s, there were large slate pavers, not bricks, covering our sidewalks. You can still see these pavers on Pine and Spruce Streets in Washington Square West and other places.

Bricks are small and tend to move due to tree root growth and ground settling. As a result, it has been a challenge to keep the sidewalks level and safe, with the burden falling on the homeowners, not the city, to maintain their safety.

Stop The Tripping

Join the homeowners who have taken advantage of the popular “Fix the Brix” subsidy program. Hundreds have used the subsidy to make their sidewalks safe and beautiful, but we still have a lot of work to do. It’s not just for our individual sidewalks, it’s for all of us who walk daily. Stop the tripping!

Current SHCA members can receive a subsidy of 40 percent up to \$400 of the total invoice; non-members can receive a 40 percent subsidy up to \$300 per invoice.

Here’s how to start:

Please email a “before” photo as well as an “after photo when work is completed to marthalev6@gmail.com.

- Choose a mason or arborist to do the work. It’s good to get a few estimates for the best prices. If needed, SHCA has a list of suggested contractors.
- After the work is done to your satisfaction, make a copy of the invoice, keep the original for yourself, and mail the copy to us at: SHCA, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia PA 19147.
- Mail in a copy of your cancelled check as proof of payment.
- Receive a check from SHCA within a few weeks.

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SHOW OF HANDS
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KEEPING POSTED

BY AL CAVALARI

Neighborhood Connections

Did you know we have a federally funded slavery memorial at the entrance to the Liberty Bell? Written on its wall is an African word: Sankofa. “Go back and get things you’ve forgotten.” It is a call for us to go back to the past and bring forward the experiences that will help us build a successful future. The memorial is a contemplative space set apart from the hustle of visitors that surrounds it. Go to the bell’s entrance and find the wooden structure. Stand inside and read the inscriptions. You are on the same ground that housed enslaved people that George Washington brought from Mount Vernon when he lived there, at the site we now call the President’s House.

This 1948 card shows one of Philadelphia’s first federally funded housing efforts. Its namesake is Richard Allen, the founder of Mother Bethel Church. Hundreds of houses were torn down to make way for these homes in 1941. Some say it destroyed the existing African American neighborhood and that it displaced more people than it housed. By the 1980s it had become dilapidated and crime-ridden, leading to its demolition and reconstruction in 2003.

Richard Allen was born into slavery but purchased his freedom and moved to Philadelphia where he became a rich businessman, real estate investor and influential minister. Our neighborhood demonstrates many connections between him and Washington. One of Allen’s businesses was chimney sweeping, and Washington was a customer. Although a free man, Allen was connected to Washington through slavery. In our neighborhood, Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Act, written to effect the capture of people escaping from slavery and return them to bondage. The standard of proof was so low, it created a cottage industry in which free black people were kidnapped from the streets of Philadelphia and transported south. Washington likely signed the act in the President’s House, and Richard Allen became a victim of it. Picked up and accused of being a fugitive slave, Allen fortunately had the money, connections and standing to put on a successful legal defense.

Others were not so lucky. Four Philadelphians, who had been freed in North Carolina but were threatened with re-enslavement due to a change in North Carolina law, sought relief in the first petition to Congress by a group of African Americans. Delivered in Congress Hall, their plea makes heart-wrenching reading. Congressman James Madison summed up the reasons for its rejection:

“If they are free by the laws of North Carolina, they ought to apply to those laws, and have their privilege established. If they are slaves, the Constitution gives them no hopes of being heard here.”

In his farewell address upon leaving office in 1797 Washington admitted

“I may have committed many errors” which he hoped would be “viewed with indulgence.” He called upon the Almighty to “mitigate the evils” such errors may have caused and hoped that after 45 years of service to his country, the “faults of incompetent abilities will be consigned to oblivion.” The President would be “consigned to oblivion” just two years later.

His death on December 14, 1799, occasioned his eulogy in Congress Hall, where he was called “first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen.” Then on December 29, Allen delivered his own eulogy for Washington at Mother Bethel, down the street. By then it was known that Washington’s will would free his enslaved people upon the death of his wife and leave money for their care. What would Richard Allen, who as a child saw his mother sold away, who had to purchase his own body, who, as a prominent civic leader, was forced to convince a court of his own humanity, say about the death of the slaveholder who had signed the Fugitive Slave Act?

Allen called Washington’s passing “...an event that causes the land to mourn... Our father and friend is taken from us... to us he has been the sympathizing friend and tender father... and viewed our degraded and afflicted state with compassion and pity. (He) thought we had a right to liberty... he dared to do his duty, and wipe off the only stain with which man could ever reproach him. ...show to the world that you hold dear the name of George Washington.”

Sankofa.



This 1948 postcard shows one of Philadelphia’s first federally funded housing efforts, named after Richard Allen, located at 11th & Poplar.



*Sankofa.
“Go back and
get the things
you’ve forgotten.”*

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.



IN THE CITY AND OF THE CITY

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Fred Manfred is a real estate licensee affiliated with Compass Re. Compass Re is a licensed real estate broker and abides by equal housing opportunity laws.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

Keeping Us Healthy and Green Since 1827

Even amidst a once-in-a-century pandemic, we've seen many interesting outcomes that no one anticipated. With so many of us spending more time at home, and often alone, individuals now have both the time and the inclination to spruce up their surroundings. Sales of houseplants skyrocketed once people came to appreciate how soothing plants could be, how much plants added to their decor and how therapeutic it is to tend to plants. For one organization, this is nothing new.

The **Pennsylvania Horticultural Society** (PHS), founded in 1827, has evolved over the last two centuries into an organization that commits to using horticulture to advance the health and well being of the Greater Philadelphia region. They number 300,000 strong: supporters, volunteers and gardeners. PHS uses its activities to advance four impact priorities:

- Creating healthy living environments
- Increasing access to fresh food
- Expanding economic opportunity
- Building meaningful social connections

How, exactly, do they accomplish all this? Many of you have probably visited the PHS **Philadelphia Flower Show**. If you haven't, you're missing something spectacular. Typically, just as March rolls around, and we're all yearning for warmer weather, this horticultural extravaganza fills the Philadelphia Convention Center with indoor displays that you really must see to believe. One comes away rejuvenated and eager for the first blooms of spring. It's the nation's largest and longest-running event of its kind. In 2021, for the first time ever (thank you, COVID-19) the show will be an outdoor event at an early summer date. The venue is yet to be announced.

You may also be aware of the Society Hill **Tree Tenders** who plant and care for trees in our neighborhood. You may not know that they operate under the auspices of PHS, which oversees a multitude of other Tree Tenders groups throughout the city. Tree Tenders plant over 1,300 trees each year, all done by volunteers. A tree canopy contributes to the health of a given area. Thirty percent is considered "good" tree canopy coverage. Philadelphia has 20 percent overall, but some areas in the city have as little as two and a half percent. There's still much work to be done.

PHS's **Watersheds** program provides tech support along with funding to watershed nonprofits. As a result, thousands of trees are planted in sensitive water protection zones every year.

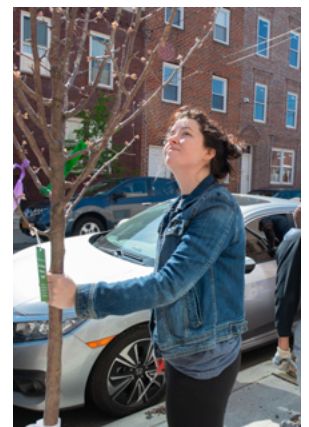
Community Gardens are a great way to strengthen social connections between neighbors while increasing access to fresh produce. PHS offers resources for community gardens, like materials, seedlings and gardening workshops. Fresh produce can be expensive. In some poorer areas of our city, it's difficult to come by even if you can afford it. These gardens donate to local food pantries or share crops with their community. You can log on to the PHS website to join "Harvest 2020" if you'd like to grow your own food to share with others.

Are you already a gardener looking for more options and information? PHS McLean Library offers general and specialty gardening information along with historical connections. Looking for a blog? "Public Landscapes in Bloom" may fill that void. Children's summer reading and activities are available as are training programs. "Green City Teachers" has a curriculum for educators, parents and gardeners to start a school garden. There is an annual gardening contest for those who like to share their efforts. Peruse their *GROW* magazine, an award winning quarterly publication of PHS.

PHS is also responsible for many of the beautiful **Pop Up Gardens** in Philadelphia — most notably 1438 South Street and 106 Jamestown Avenue in Manayunk. Food and drinks are also served at the Pop Up Gardens, following all current CDC health guidelines.

As you can imagine, even though PHS uses a multitude of volunteers, there is still staff to be paid, materials to be purchased and offices to maintain. Like so many non-profits, they've seen a decline recently in much-needed funding. If you're so inclined, log on to www.phsonline.org to donate. Even if you're not in a position to offer funds, log on to see the many things they offer and consider volunteering in some capacity for a fun and rewarding experience.

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



Society Hill Tree Tenders work under the auspices of PHS.



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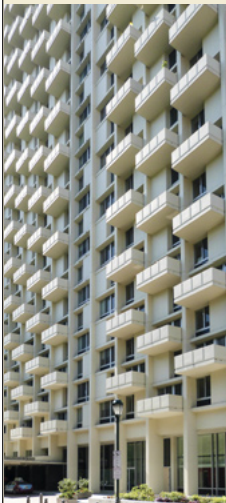
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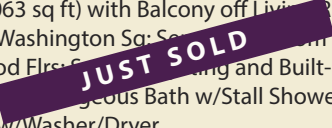


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#2004 - \$199K- L-Shaped Studio (600 sq ft) with Separate Sleeping Alcove and Separate Office overlooking Washington Square – BRAND NEW HARDWOOD FLOORS and Unit Freshly Painted.

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HEADHOUSE FARMERS MARKET

BY GABRIELLE RUMNEY

Featuring Fresh Local, Seasonal Flavors

Food Trust volunteer Sanja Martic shares this recipe for Monkfish Stew that she made when inspired by ingredients from Headhouse Farmers Market — fish from Shore Catch, Calabrian Chilies from Savoie, and tomatoes from A.T. Buzby.

A.T. Buzby Farm, a 190-acre family farm in rural Salem County, New Jersey, grows a variety of fresh produce for local markets. At one time, a large portion of our diet was supplied by the fertile lands which surround us. Today our food system has changed. It's common today to find imported produce in the grocery store while the local crop is in season and being shipped out of state! How crazy is that? A.T. Buzby will fill your dinner table with fresh, nutritious produce connecting you with the seasonal nature of local food.

Savoie Organic Farm is a family-run farm where vegetables are harvested just hours before being brought to market. This guarantees that you are enjoying your produce at its peak flavor and nutritional value. Only certified organic farming practices are used at Savoie. All of the produce is grown without chemical pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers. These practices ensure that soil remains healthy, creating a habitat for wildlife and beneficial insects such as honey bees, praying mantis, and ladybugs.

Shore Catch from Barnegat, NJ, brings us a variety of fresh seafood from the Jersey shore. Their selection changes seasonally due to water temperature changes, and includes oysters, squid, tuna, swordfish, monkfish and more.



Monkfish stew with fresh chilies and tomatoes.



Let fresh produce from A.T. Buzby be the inspiration for what you will make for dinner.



Barry and Carol Savoie from Savoie Organics help to keep things safe by wearing masks.



MONKFISH STEW

Ingredients

- 3 lbs monkfish tail fillets
- 4 tbsp all-purpose flour
- 4 tbsp unsalted butter
- 4 tbsp olive oil
- 4 tbsp cognac
- 3 cloves chopped garlic
- 1 large chopped onion
- 3 medium diced Calabrian chilies
- 3 large diced tomatoes
- 3 tbsp tomato purée
- 1 cup fish stock*
- 1 cup white wine
- ¼ tsp cayenne pepper
- salt & pepper to taste
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 tsp thyme
- 2 tbsp crème fraîche
- 2 tbsp fresh parsley

Directions

Cut the monkfish tail fillets into large chunks or medallions. Rub the raw fish with lemon juice, then coat lightly in the flour on a large plate.

Heat the butter and olive oil in a cast-iron kettle (dutch oven), and once slightly bubbling, add the fish. Lightly brown on all sides, then add cognac. Take the pan off the heat and flambé off the alcohol (if you're worried about the open flame, add the cognac into the pan and boil it off). Using a slotted spoon, place the fish medallions aside on a plate.

Put the same pan back on the heat, gently fry the onion until translucent, add the Calabrian chiles and the tomatoes, purée, garlic, fish stock, wine, cayenne, bay leaves and thyme. Bring to a boil then simmer and reduce (uncovered) for about 35 minutes.

Return the fish to the pot and heat through for just a further 10 minutes. Don't cook for much

longer, and don't stir this stew, just shake the pot slightly to move ingredients around, or the fish will break up and you'll end up with a soup, not stew! Add fresh parsley and a few turns of the salt and pepper mills to taste and, if using, stir in the crème fraîche.

Notes: Serve with fragrant rice (I also like a mixture with wild rice) and add some extra fresh parsley with a teaspoon of lemon zest. Suggested wines: a fruity and sunny ample white such as Crozes Hermitage, Meursault, Savennières or Alsace Riesling; or a rosé such as Bandol, Côtes de Provence; or a red Sancerre.

*Chicken stock may be substituted, or if you like, here's how to make Quick Fish Stock: Put the skin and fish bone in a large pan with a carrot, onion, fennel bulb, 2 bay leaves, sprig of thyme, 5 peppercorns and add just enough water to cover. Boil, remove any scum, then cover and simmer for 20 minutes. Strain and cool.

OUT AND ABOUT

PHOTOS BY MARTHA LEVINE

Signs of the Season



OUT AND ABOUT

PHOTOS BY MARTHA LEVINE

Happy Thanksgiving to All!

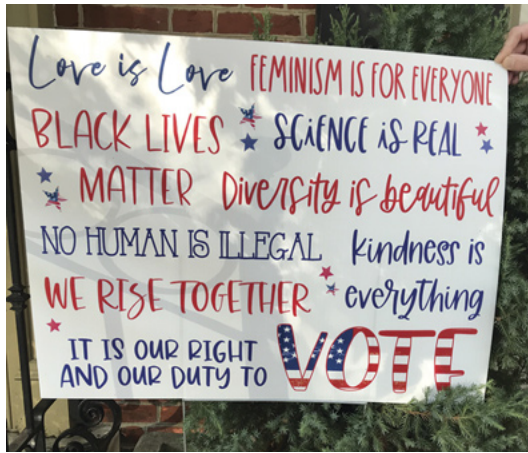




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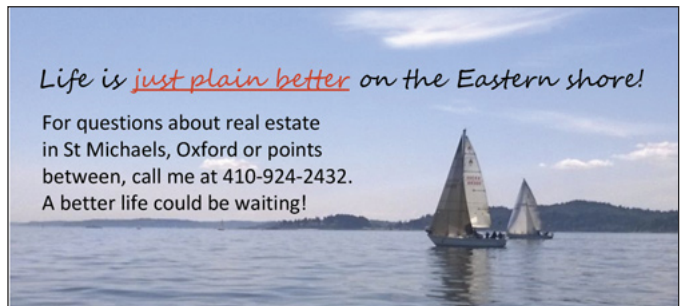
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WASHINGTON SQUARE COMMITTEE UPDATE

BY FRED MANFRED

Phase I of certifying Washington Square as a nationally recognized arboretum is complete. Sherley Young is in the process of submitting the required paperwork to the International Arboretum Accreditation Program. Each tree has been identified and tagged with its common and genus names.

In the coming months, we will be working closely with Independence National Historical Park (INHP) to segment the park into named quadrants and to have each tree mapped and numbered. INHP is in the process of hiring a new Landscape Architect; once onboard, this initiative will continue to move forward.

Several trees have been removed due to disease. Sherley Young is in the process of identifying native trees currently not represented in the park. That list will be presented to INHP for selection, approval and placement.

The lantern flies are here, and the numbers are growing. INHP has identified a community-safe spray that will help retard the proliferation of lanternfly eggs on the trees' bark. In addition, INHP is making plans to deal with the 17-year cicada and locust invasion which is expected mid-May 2021. The counties surrounding Philadelphia will be hardest hit.

The planting beds continue to evolve. In September we planted over 51 trees or shrubs and over 1,000 perennials. Their seasonal blooms will be enjoyed in 2021.

INHP anticipates that the fountain will be up and running for 2021. They have scheduled masonry repairs and identified staff to maintain the fountain. This, of course, is dependent upon no pandemic-related restrictions.

The STAR (that's rats spelled backwards) remediation program continues to make progress. The trapping strategy has been augmented by using dry ice pellets specifically designed to eradicate nests and dens of rats. In addition, INHP has approved a new rat trap, the A24. It's CO2 driven, resets itself and functions for approximately two months before requiring maintenance. This trap will be effective in controlling and preventing infestations.

Long-term remediation depends on a number of factors. Eliminating their food source is essential. New animal-resistant trash barrels are being evaluated by INHP; however, the single largest culprit is people feeding the squirrels and birds. As a community we must educate and discourage people engaging in this activity.

Our volunteers did an amazing job of growing and maintaining grass throughout the summer season. We maintained a regime of aerating the soil, seeding and careful watering. The volunteers were diligent in eliminating plantain weeds closest to their planting beds. The brown spots, currently visible, are deliberate due to a focused plan of ridding the grassy areas of "goosegrass." The goosegrass was targeted with a dose of 30 percent vinegar; the resulting brown patches will soon be tilled and seeded.

The community has been generous with their approval of the park's evolution and beauty along with the amazing dedication of the volunteers. Picnicking remained a popular community activity throughout the summer. The Potting Shed Cabinet is busy planning for the spring 2021. Plant selections were submitted to INHP in mid-October for approval.



Sweetgum and Gingko leaves late summer 2020, by Michael Neff

THE SHCA LIST OF CONTRACTORS

A Perk of Membership

The SHCA List of Contractors is a hot item in our neighborhood! It is available now in both hard copy and electronically, but **you must be a current SHCA member to receive it.**

The 14-page list includes the following types of contractors, services and categories: general contractors, carpenters, painters, roofers, electricians, plumbers, landscapers, masons and more.

Everything you might need for your home. While we do not endorse any particular contractor, the list is based upon neighbors' recommendations.

During the pandemic, many of us are limiting our activities and spending more time at home. Why not make your home as attractive and comfortable as possible? This is a great time for home improvements, both interior

and exterior. Change is good. Isn't it time to paint that bedroom or repair the leaky roof? Our extensive list is an excellent resource for all types of home renovations.

To request a list, contact Martha Levine at marthalev6@gmail.com or 215-629-0727. If your list is old, feel free to request an updated one. Remember, it is still important to ask the contractor for several references before hiring.



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OUR CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

One Look and She Was Smitten

“That dog will never set foot in this house,” or so said Randy Schwartz. Nine years ago, while our neighbors Randy and her husband Jay Finestone were still living in the suburbs, their son Adam procured a puppy. With both of their children launched, they were enjoying an empty nest devoid of responsibility for other living things. A puppy was not part of the plan. To Randy’s complete surprise, one look into those soulful puppy dog eyes, and she immediately fell in love with a little Boston Terrier named Olive. As they say, life is what happens while we’re making other plans.

Five years later, their son moved home for six months with his canine buddy in tow. He was working long unpredictable hours, so most of Olive’s care fell to his parents. By the time Adam was ready to move out, Olive was very bonded to Randy and Jay, so they took the pup into their home permanently and never looked back. Over the last four years, she’s become a part of the family and still gets to see Adam regularly.

Boston Terriers originated as a breed in the U.S. in 1873. The first was a cross between a male bull-terrier mix and a female white bulldog. They’ve been bred down in size over the years to a now typical weight of less than 25 pounds. In 1893, the American Kennel Club first recognized them as a non-sporting breed. “Bostons” tend to be highly intelligent and very easily trained. They are described as a “gentle breed that typically has a strong, happy-go-lucky and friendly personality with a merry sense of humor.” Perhaps that’s why people often comment that Olive looks like she’s smiling. Maybe one day she’ll let us in on the joke.

Living with Olive presented a challenge to Randy since she’s long suffered with multiple allergies, including dogs. Fortunately, adding an air filtration system and keeping Olive out of their sleeping space made things manageable. Olive, like most members of her breed, is pretty low maintenance. As friendly as she is, she doesn’t demand too much attention. She seldom barks, requires little grooming and needs only moderate



Olive, a Boston Terrier

exercise. She’s friendly with other dogs but definitely prefers the company of humans. While not typically a cuddly dog, she changed her tune recently. When Jay had double knee replacements in 2019 and was struggling post-op, Olive clearly sensed his distress and snuggled next to him throughout his recovery.

Boston Terriers are a brachycephalic (flat-faced) breed. This affects their heat tolerance and also increases the likelihood that they will snore. It’s fortuitous that Olive doesn’t share her human’s bed, as she can seriously “saw some wood.”

Boston Terriers are also prone to eye problems. Those same endearing yet prominent eyes make them more vulnerable to corneal ulcers. Olive has had some in the past that healed well with medication. This summer she faced a serious health challenge when a corneal ulcer didn’t respond to the typical treatment. She declined quickly and had to be rushed to the veterinary ER at Penn Vet, where it initially looked like she might lose the eye. Luckily she received top-notch veterinary care and went home with her devoted “parents” who spent the first 24 hours administering various eye drops every hour round the clock. Olive slowly responded. Now, other than a little discoloration of her sclera (white of the eye) from scar tissue, she’s back to her old self.

Typical life for Olive includes trips to CVS, where the clerks ply her with dog biscuits. She greets her many friends during walks around the neighborhood and is especially fond of her favorite treat-laden letter carrier, whose cart she recognizes immediately. Her days sometimes include stolen delicacies, like cookies a neighbor slipped through the mail slot — without raisins, of course — or unguarded chicken lo mein that she devoured — except for the broccoli. She once scored an entire blueberry cake!

When it’s time for a nap, you can find her perched atop the highest pile of blankets and pillows she can find. It’s definitely a dog’s life worth living.

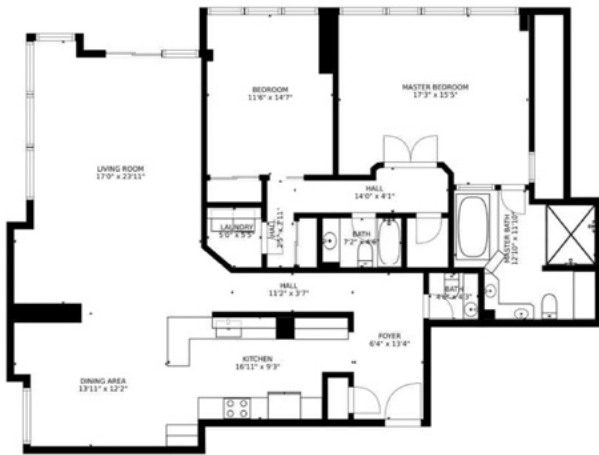
Do you have a pet tale you’d like to share? Please email it to sandra.rothman@aol.com or give us the facts and we’ll write it for you.



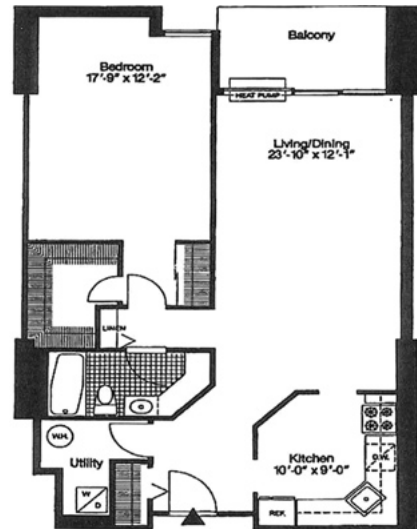
When it comes to naptime, Olive perches atop the highest pile of pillows she can find.

INDEPENDENCE PLACE

233 - 241 S. 6th Street



Completely updated 2 bedroom (converted from a 3 bedroom), 2.5 bathroom with a private balcony on a high floor of Independence Place, Tower I. This sun-soaked residence offers high-end upgrades, designer finishes and see-forever river city and views.
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SOUTH STREET HEADHOUSE DISTRICT

BY CLAIRE BATTEN

Making Lemonade out of Lemons

The Headhouse House Plaza beautification project is going according to plan. Mike Harris of the South Street Headhouse Business District expects the majority of the construction to be completed between Thanksgiving and Christmas. “The area is definitely beginning to take shape,” says Mike. “The curbs are visible, the new lighting is in, you can see where the benches will be going, and we’re getting ready to plant many new trees before the end of the year’s growing season.”

Many neighbors may not realize it, but the majority of the new stonework is for stormwater management to help water runoff in the area. While it may not be glamorous, it is essential work from which many businesses and local residents will benefit.

The only change to the general beautification plan is to the fountain. While the fountain was a high-profile feature in the neighborhood, the planners decided, for health and safety reasons, that the fountain should be converted into an additional seating area.

“We have to say thanks to all the businesses that have been so supportive of this development project,” Mike adds. While the construction has gone on, local businesses such as **CVS, Bistro Romano** and **Society Hill Veterinary Hospital** have all shown incredible patience. And **Twisted Tail** has even managed to make lemonade from

the situation. The owners have been using some of the curbside space opened up during construction for additional outdoor seating.

Outdoor dining has proven to be extremely popular throughout the summer. Curbside dining has flourished on both the 400 and the 700 blocks of South Street. As Mike explains, “Coronavirus safety precautions have forced businesses to be creative. We’ve been using the Shambles space and even the cobblestone streets as additional dining space for the restaurants that run alongside the Shambles. And we know the restaurants’ customers are liking it.”

What Happens When Temperatures Drop?

All the Philadelphia Business Districts (such as Old City, Fishtown, Center City and South Street Headhouse) are putting their heads together to figure out how to continue outside dining into the fall and even the winter. The Districts are waiting on guidelines from the city, but in the meantime, they’ll start getting creative when the temperature starts to change. Mike Harris believes that this trend to outside dining is good for the neighborhood. “It has a great influence; outside dining seems to calm South Street down, so we’re keen to continue this into next year. We’ll be loaning heat lamps to businesses to facilitate this trend.”

For further information about the Headhouse Plaza project contact mikeharris@southstreet.com.

Outside Dining

The following restaurants have outdoor seating:

MilkBoy**Bistro Romano****Malbec****Xochitl****Cavanaugh’s Headhouse****Pizzeria Stella****Pietro’s Pizza****Paddy Whacks****Queen and Rook****LaNonna****His and Hers****O’Neals****CryBaby****Woolly Mammoth****Hungry Pigeon****Bahn Mi & Bottles****Brauhaus Schmitz****BeerLove****Olly’s****ModoMio****Emmy Squared****Spread Bagelry****Tattooed Mom****South Street Diner****Twisted Tail**

Dining outdoors at the Shambles

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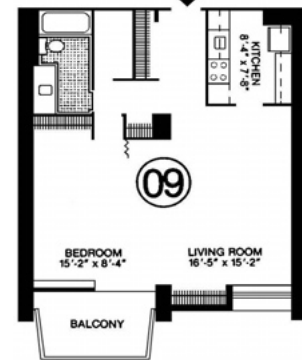


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IN MEMORIAM

We regret to inform you of the recent deaths of four long-time neighbors.

Thomas K. Gilhool

Tom Gilhool died on August 22 in Massachusetts after suffering a heart attack while on vacation. He was 81 years old.



Tom was a lawyer who fought for the rights of children, the disabled and the poor. He was lead counsel in two landmark federal cases that changed treatment of the nation's disabled people. He believed they had civil rights that could be enforced through litigation, something that hadn't been done before.

"Those who knew Tom recall his creativity, passionate spirit, perseverance, driving energy and leadership," said a statement from the Public Interest Law Center, where he was chief counsel for a quarter century. "When he found a path forward for advancing justice, he inspired others to follow and gave them the tools and knowledge to do so."

Tom earned a bachelor's degree from Lehigh University in 1960 and both a master's degree in political science and a law degree from Yale University in 1964, the same year he married law school classmate Gillian Russell. After law school, he joined the Philadelphia law firm Dilworth Paxson. He served as Governor Robert P. Casey's secretary of education from 1987 to 1989, then taught eighth grade for a year at North Philadelphia's Vaux Middle School.

Besides a brother and a sister, he is survived by his wife, daughter, son and four grandchildren.

James A. Trimble

The Rev. James Armstrong Trimble Jr., 89, former rector of Christ Church in Old City, died September 6 of renal failure while vacationing on Martha's Vineyard.



He graduated from the Virginia Theological Seminary. His first assignment was as an associate minister at Grace Church in Mount Airy. He then established the Church of the Redemption in Southampton. Rev. Trimble joined Episcopal Academy as chaplain in 1963.

Starting in 1978, Rev. Trimble became the 18th rector of Christ Church, the founding church of the Episcopal denomination in America. The church served as a parish and historic site, roles that often conflicted.

He built the congregation by opening the church to what was then an increasingly gentrified neighborhood.

"We developed some community things for people to use," he said. "We had a gym, a basketball court, and we had kids in from the neighborhood — that was kind of neat. We also called on new people in Society Hill, and we got them to come to Christ Church."

In 1956, he married Nadine Canfield. After her death, he married Gail Hutchison in 1996.

Besides his wife, Gail, he is survived by a son, two stepdaughters and five grandchildren. A daughter and son predeceased him.

Ann Wilkerson

Ann Wilkerson died peacefully at home on September 9 from complications from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

She lived in a row-house with a tiny backyard, but that didn't keep her from interacting with butterflies. Farmers and flower growers throughout the Philadelphia area knew she loved monarch butterflies. Late in August, at the start of the monarch fourth-generation migration, they would bring her milkweed branches with butterfly eggs attached that she would nurture and the release on their journey.

While her favorite avocation was watching and nurturing butterflies, Ann's vocation was teaching and



nurturing young children. Born in LeRoy, Illinois, she studied piano from an early age and played the organ at church and the piano at school. After she was persuaded by her parents to study "something practical" at the University of Illinois, and later in graduate school at the University of Wisconsin, she chose early child development as a career.

Her longest assignment was as a kindergarten teacher at St. Peter's School in our neighborhood. Ann's circle of friends grew through school, neighborhood and church acquaintances, as well as shared interests such as knitting and reading.

Divorced from John Davies, with whom she had two children, she married Doug Wilkerson, a pediatric neurologist in 1986. Besides her husband, she is survived by her son and daughter, two stepsons, eight grandchildren and two nephews.

Richard Ketterer

Rick Ketterer died on August 29 after a ten-year battle with cancer. He was 73 years old.



His good friend Rick Herskovitz eulogized him with these words: "Purpose. Resilience. Devotion. Rick Ketterer always lived this way, resulting in 73 years of tremendous impact on countless lives. The inspiring father. The loving life-partner. The brilliant consultant. The role model brother. The guardian angel for those less fortunate. The father and friend to anyone who needed it. He was a reminder of human potential and all that is good in this world. Rick's legacy will be carried on via his son, Ted (and daughter-in-law Inaja Lima); daughter, Tara (and son-in-law Dr. Will Chen and granddaughter Ori); brother Drew; sister, Barbara Neubauer; life partner, Deb Maher; in addition to amazing and supporting friends, colleagues and family. While Rick's body might have left us, his garden is just beginning to bloom."



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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY MATT DEJULIO

SHCA Membership Down From 2019

SHCA membership totaled 1,130 by early October — down 4.5 percent from last year’s total of 1,183 (our all-time record high was 1,206 in 2018). This year we welcomed 65 new members, compared to 107 new members last year. There were 127 non-renewals, versus 107 last year.

This year’s renewal notices will go out in early November via email with a later follow-up by postal mail. This will be the first time we will send our initial request by email. Those who still prefer to pay by check may always sign up at any time by filling out the adjacent form and mailing it to our post office box. We hope most will renew online so we can avoid unnecessary postage and handling costs.

If you renew before December 31, you will 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 2021.

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 rerouting, etc., it makes a greater impact if they can say they speak on behalf of the majority of residents.

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


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

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

PARK, AMERICA!

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

If interested, contact Ed Sullivan with Park America at 610-637-6832.



Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Email (print clearly) _____

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

<p>Residential Memberships</p> <p><input type="radio"/> \$ 50 Basic Household Membership</p> <p><input type="radio"/> \$ 40 Senior/Student/Single</p> <p><input type="radio"/> \$ 100 Federal Friend</p> <p><input type="radio"/> \$ 150 Georgian Grantor</p> <p><input type="radio"/> \$ 300 Jefferson Benefactor</p> <p><input type="radio"/> \$ 500 Washington Benefactor</p> <p><input type="radio"/> \$ 1,000 Benjamin Franklin Benefactor</p>	<p>Business Memberships</p> <p><input type="radio"/> \$ 100 Institutions — 5+ employees</p> <p><input type="radio"/> \$ 60 Institutions — fewer than 5 employees</p>
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Additional Contributions

\$ _____ Washington Square Beautification \$ _____ Franklin Lights

\$ _____ Sidewalk Cleaning/Graffiti Removal \$ _____ Tree Tenders

\$ _____ Fix the Brix \$ _____ McCall School

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Charge VISA/MasterCard:

Number _____ Exp Date _____

Signature _____

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

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

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

NIFTY NEIGHBORS IN MY BACKYARD

BY JANE BIBERMAN

Joan Tropp: Ultimate Volunteer

Registered nurse Joan Rollins Tropp has been active with SHCA ever since she moved to Society Hill 23 years ago. She was living and working in Bryn Mawr, when she met and married her husband, Tom. A retired hospice nurse, Joan finds time to volunteer for many things. “I served briefly on the SHCA Board when we first moved into the city, and have remained active as a Block Captain and Chair of the Washington Square Affair (WSA) in 2018. This year I was to be co-chair with Fred Manfred of WSA, which unfortunately had to be postponed due to COVID-19.”

Joan also takes care of one of the gardens in the Square. “And actually, since March, I’ve been making daily rounds in the late afternoons to pick up trash throughout the Square. I am delighted to say trash has decreased, even though there has been an increase in people using the Square.”

She has been active with the Philly AIDS Thrift store, and, pre-pandemic, volunteered there twice a week. She had just started volunteering with Hub of Hope doing mending when COVID-19 came, and she hopes to get back to that.

Joan completed nursing school at the University of Pennsylvania, and went on to get her master’s degree in organizational development at Antioch. Along with Sandy Karger, she started one of the earliest area hospice programs at Bryn Mawr Hospital in the late 70s. When she moved into the city, she decided she wanted to be exclusively



Joan and her husband, Tom, in Sicily.

a hospice nurse and step away from the increasingly complicated administrative part. Which she did and loved it. She retired as a Hospice Nurse with the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) in 2014.

Her husband, Tom, a retired lawyer who is very active with AJC (American Jewish Committee) and the Foreign Policy Research Institute, is very supportive of Joan’s volunteering. Like all Society Hillers, they love the walkability of their neighborhood and particularly Delancey Street, where they live. Joan has a son, a daughter and three stepdaughters, all of whom are grown, with families of their own.

Since their last dog died, Joan and Tom have been pet-less. “I miss owning a pet, but as we love to travel it has given us a sense of freedom that we enjoy. We have been to Kuwait, Bhutan, Africa, England — my daughter lives in London — France, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Morocco — where we got engaged — Germany, Switzerland, Austria — where Tom’s parents are from. We look forward to traveling more.” They love to eat out. “My favorite lunch is the quiche at Caribou Cafe! I have missed Bistro La Minette, McGillian’s and Judy’s — that was a long time ago! We are loving eating outside now that the restaurants are reopening; it feels very European.”

She also loves having the Ritz movie theaters so close. “That was one of our favorite routines — Friday night movies and dinner. We’ll get back there soon, I hope.” In the meantime, Joan loves to read, do needlepoint and keep up with her kids, none of whom live in the area. She tries to take advantage of the many things Society Hill and Philadelphia have to offer.

“My concerns include the homeless and the effect that has on city life and on them, and people who leave their cigarette and cigar butts in Washington Square. Do they think they will just evaporate? They don’t.” Additionally, of course, as a gardener, she would prefer not to see any dogs or children romping in the flowerbeds!

Jane Biberman, is a freelance writer who is a longtime contributor to the *Reporter*.

An advertisement for Elfant & Wissahickon Realtors. The background is a close-up of a cobblestone path. The text reads: "Elfant & Wissahickon REALTORS — Expertly Representing Philadelphia's Finest Neighborhood for History, Architecture, and its Vibrant Community. Claudia McGill 215.893.9920 claudia@elfantwvissahickon.com claudiamegill.realtor".

An advertisement for Old Pine Street Church. It features a collage of photos of people, including families and individuals. The text reads: "Old Pine Street Church 412 Pine St. Sunday Worship 10:30am".



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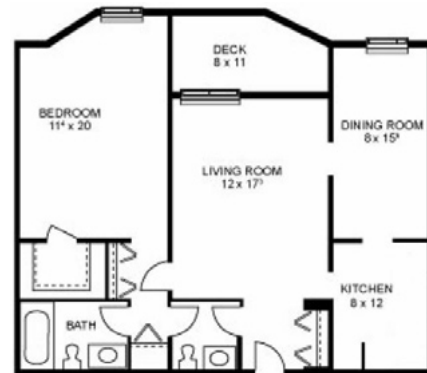
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