

SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

www.societyhillcivic.org

McCall School Update and SHCA Election



**Tune in to the Zoom
General Membership
Meeting for updates
on McCall School.**

The Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) invites neighbors to Zoom in on our March 17 General Membership Meeting to hear a representative from McCall School update our community on how its teachers and students are coping during the pandemic and what its impact will be in the long term.

Send SHCA Administrator Matt DeJulio, mattdejulio@aol.com, your up-to-date contact information so he can put you on our weekly email blast. Stay tuned for more information about the membership meeting as we get closer to March 17.

Seeking Nominations

Hopefully the COVID-19 pandemic has given you the time and space to reflect on how fortunate we are to live in this very special community. We are a beautiful, clean and safe neighborhood in large part due to the efforts of the Society Hill Civic Association.

Do you or someone you know have the time and desire to make our wonderful historic community even better? If so, we invite you to volunteer for a position on the SHCA Board of Directors and Officers. Join a team of dedicated and hard-working neighbors who embrace SHCA's mission (see Page 2) and labor on behalf of more than 5,000 residents and 3,000 households.

This year's elections will take place at our May 19 General Membership Meeting. Members will elect a president, two vice presidents, a secretary, a treasurer and up to eight directors at large, all

for one-year terms. Also, four of the 12 quadrant directors will finish their three-year terms and need to be replaced. SHCA's Nominating and Election Committee proposes individuals for these positions. Others may be nominated by petition.

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

Those being recommended for a position must live within the boundaries of Society Hill, be at least 21 years of age and be a member of SHCA. Visit www.societyhillcivic.org for more information about our civic association, its board and nominating process. Submissions must be received by March 30 in order to be considered. Nominations will be listed in the next issue of the *Reporter*. Send nominations to SHCA Administrator Matt DeJulio at mattdejulio@aol.com.



**To nominate yourself
or a neighbor to serve
on the SHCA Board
of Directors, submit
a petition signed by
10 SHCA members.**

SIGN OF THE TIMES



The Beginning of the End

It has been a long difficult year for everyone, and it finally looks like the end is in sight. However, one last collective push is required to put this nightmare behind us. Sign up for your COVID-19 vaccinations! Go to www.covid@phila.gov or call the PDPH COVID-19 hotline at 215-685-5488 to find the most recent information.

Wednesday,
March
17

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Society Hill Civic Association Meeting
Wednesday, March 17, 2021

via Zoom

5:45 p.m. Board Meeting

7:30 p.m. General Membership Meeting

Speaker: McCall School Representative
Topic: Coping During the Pandemic

In This Issue...

Page 4

Restaurants
Navigating the Pandemic:
A Conversation with Ellen Yin



Page 5

Doing Good in the Neighborhood:
Leaf Clearing Project



Page 5

Doing Good in the Neighborhood: Helping to
Feed Those in Need



Page 9

Washington Square:
Planning and Playing



Pages 11

Keeping Posted:
A Puzzle Within a Puzzle



Page 13

Headhouse Farmers Market:
A Penne for Your Thoughts



Page 14

Nifty Neighbors in
My Own Backyard:
A Narrative Painter's Story



Page 21

On Our Shelf:
A Grateful Thanks
to Caring Customers



Page 26

Making A Difference:
Reading Through
the Pandemic



SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

**NUSA
Award-Winning
Newsletter
First Place
2020**

Editor in Chief

Sandra Rothman

Columnists

Claire Batten,
Jane Biberman,
Susan Burt-Collins,
Claudia Carabelli,
Al Cavalari,
Matt DeJulio,
Martha Levine,
Fred Manfred,
Sandra Rothman,
Gabrielle Rumney,
Larry Spector,
Keri White,
Richard de Wyngaert

Contributors

Kathy Winter

Graphic Design

judy@parallel-design.com

Press Release Liaison

c/o Matt DeJulio
mattdejulio@aol.com

Advertising Manager

William Jantsch
wmjantsch@hotmail.com

Submission Deadline

May/June Issue: April 1

Society Hill Civic Association

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

Website

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

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.

SHCA BOARD OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President

Larry Spector

1st Vice President

Mary Purcell

2nd Vice President

Martha Levine

Treasurer

Brian Wengenroth

Secretary

Ben Speciale

Directors at Large

Jeff Berry
Susan Collins
Robert Kramer
Andrea Layden
Lorna Katz Lawson
Sissie Lipton
Carla Petri McMullen
Mary Tracy

Continuing Director

Rosanne Loesch

Quadrant Directors

Northeast: Bonnie Halda,
Lisa Unger, George Kelley
Northwest: Concha Alborg,
Bill Jantsch, Norm Lieberman
Southeast: Joe Dillon,
Barbara Gelman, Robert Curley
Southwest: Claudia Carabelli,
Kim Williams, Madeline Miller

**Condominium
Representatives**

Hopkinson House:
Ramona Johnson
Independence Place: Vacancy
Penn's Landing Condos: Vacancy
Society Hill Towers: Terry Conn
St. James Court: Sharon Simon*
The St. James: Helen Grady*
Bingham Court: Frank Chudnow*
*non-voting directors

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY LARRY SPECTOR

Collective Responsibility

This past summer we all watched anger boil over into violence on Philadelphia streets following the murder of George Floyd and other incidents. Events made us reflect upon our attitudes about race, policing and the poverty that plagues our city. Collectively, through our civic association, we heard Reverend Mark Kelley Tyler share his perspective and challenge us, as a predominantly white neighborhood, to remain engaged and “at the table” in dealing with these problems. For myself, I joined a group of about 15 people, black and white represented equally, which my wife and two friends organized for monthly discussions on race. I read *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson, and I made a point to better realize just how horribly racial bigotry, xenophobia and socioeconomic tensions impacted American life for decades in my own lifetime. I am sure that many of you spent time similarly.

So now what?

Many of us are active in supporting causes and participating, in our own way, in the work that addresses inequality and poverty. The economic catastrophe resulting from the pandemic overwhelmed millions — putting people out of jobs and causing them to worry about how to keep a roof over their heads and feed their families. It made personal efforts to address inequality more important than ever. But I wonder whether we should also be doing more collectively, as a civic association. As I wonder, I am mindful of the SHCA mission statement:

“The aims and purpose 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.”

The question is whether this mission statement makes it any of our business as a civic association to help improve the lives of other Philadelphians. Certainly the thrust of the statement is to work for the betterment of Society Hill proper. At the same time, “promot[ing] the improvement of the Society Hill area of Philadelphia... and represent[ing] [its] residents... in matters affecting the city of Philadelphia generally”

suggests that our well-being in Society Hill is at least somewhat linked to the well-being of the city as a whole.

When you pay your dues to SHCA, do you expect that it will be spent only in Society Hill? Or is it acceptable that we prudently use some of it for the benefit of other Philadelphians? Should addressing Philadelphia’s problems be a matter of only individual charity; or should we act in the name of SHCA to serve our greater community?

As an immediate response to the drastic problems created by the pandemic, SHCA gave \$10,000 each to Philabundance, Project Home and Women Against Abuse. That \$30,000 was an extraordinary response, and cannot be seen as a routine level of generosity. But our financial condition is such that we remain financially capable of donating some thousands of dollars annually, while still maintaining the resources to deal with unforeseen problems that could arise in Society Hill.

Social and economic progress is fueled by education. It has been suggested that SHCA could create and annually donate to a scholarship fund for Philadelphia students seeking to attend an area college. Or that it commit to funding art, music, computer literacy or some other cultural learning, in an underfunded Philadelphia public school. SHCA’s Board will be forming a committee to consider these and comparable ideas. Should our civic association implement one of them as a statement of our interest in the needs elsewhere in our city, or should we limit the use of our resources to what goes on within the boundaries of Society Hill?

Board membership is not a requisite for service on such a committee. If you are interested in being on it, please contact us at info@societyhill-civic.com. If you have thoughts on the subject we welcome hearing from you on the basic question of whether these ideas are consistent in the first place with the mission of our association.

Thanks, and best wishes that we all return in good health and to life at full strength in the months ahead.



**SHCA President
Larry Spector**

Should addressing Philadelphia’s problems be a matter of only individual charity; or should we act in the name of SHCA to serve our greater community?

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.

A COVID GOOD NEWS STORY

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

Restaurants Navigating the Pandemic

*A Conversation
with Ellen Yin*

I had the pleasure of sitting down recently with Ellen Yin, owner and co-founder of High Street Hospitality Group (HSHG) and one of our city's premier restaurateurs. Her eateries include Fork, High Street Philly, a.kitchen + a.bar + bottles, High Street Provisions on Penn's campus and High Street on Hudson in Manhattan.



Ellen Yin, owner and founder of High Street Hospitality Group

A Trailblazer

Fork opened in 1997 on the 300 block of Market Street. This American bistro made Ellen a trailblazer in the farm-to-table movement. With a creative menu and gorgeous interior designed by Marguerite Rodgers Interior Design, it remains to this day a destination dining spot for both locals and visitors. It has garnered acclaim across the dining spectrum with accolades from *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Bon Appetit*, *Travel & Leisure* and the James Beard

Foundation. Most recently, *Esquire* named Fork as one of the "100 Restaurants America Cannot Afford to Lose."

Pivoting to Survive

A certain degree of grit and determination is necessary to make it in the restaurant business in the best of times. The industry is regularly beset with problems that can make or break you. Unfortunately, no one could have predicted the impact of a global pandemic. Many restaurants have closed permanently. Others have shuttered temporarily. Survivors have to pivot continuously.

When the city closed restaurants mid-March, the effect was immediate and severe. Ellen had to lay off almost 90 percent of her staff. With a large rent increase before COVID-19 hit, High Street on Market was forced to terminate its lease. To complicate matters, it was the site of a bakery that produces the amazing artisan breads available locally and shipped around the country. For some reason, along with the pandemic came a high demand for bread — comfort food, I guess. High Street on Market has been relocated to 101 South 9th Street as High Street Philly. The space lacks an indoor dining area, but houses a large kitchen suitable for ovens and a front that can handle takeout. So, the baking continues. You can find their yummy breads at that site,

at the front window of Fork and at Headhouse Farmers Market on Sundays.

From mid-March until mid-June, restaurants depended on takeout orders. To provide this service takes more than just extra packaging. Menu options must lend themselves to the extended time between kitchen and table and hold up well during travel. Fewer people were coming into the city for work or dining, so Ellen decided to bring the experience to them. "Fork on the Road" was born. It delivers pre-ordered meals for easy pickup and delivery to the Main Line and surrounding suburbs. Check out <https://forkrestaurant.com/fork-on-the-road/> for more information.

Mid-June brought a much-awaited return to outdoor dining. You've probably seen the endless varieties of shelters that have sprung up. Fork started with tables and umbrellas, moved on to tents and finally erected an inviting three-sided "streetery" with heat lamps to offset the cold. All at great expense, of course. One can only hope the city allows restaurants to maintain these outdoor dining sites post-COVID. They deserve an opportunity to recoup some of their losses. As Ellen noted, they've gone from serving 300 meals in an evening to maybe 20 at the HSHG flagship, Fork. In addition, doing this in masks and face shields is safer, but less than comfortable.

An Unknown Future

Indoor dining recently resumed, but with a much-limited capacity. It's still uncertain how many customers will feel comfortable moving inside before we're all vaccinated.

Along with chronic uncertainty, concerns about the future, and worry about unemployed staff, Ellen sorely misses the total experience that makes her profession so enjoyable — circulating in the dining room and interacting with her guests.

In an ongoing spirit of community, Ellen's establishments continue to provide meals to frontline workers. She also helped establish mental health supports for restaurant staff, a typically vulnerable population, after one of her crew died from a drug overdose.

So, bundle up and make a reservation, order take-out or just grab a loaf of bread. Ellen and her restaurants are well worth preserving.

Claudia Carabelli is a Southwest Quadrant Director.



Fork's outdoor dining shelters make a "streetery" with heat lamps.

DOING GOOD IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Leaf Clearing Project: A Problem and Solution

Last December, our anticipated Clean Up Day was cancelled due to the pandemic and the lack of city trucks to help sweep and clean the streets. We were left with a massive amount of leaves on our sidewalks and in our streets. Storm drains were clogged. Then rain and snow made it all worse, tamping down the leaves into a mushy mess, which was not only unsightly, but a health hazard as well. Wet leaves get slippery.

SHCA hired graffiti removal expert Todd Kelley and his crew to remove the leaves. Todd's team of workers includes formerly homeless men and women. This extensive effort took six days for the five-person team to complete and fill 600 large paper leaf bags. They cleared leaves at curbs, gutters, between and under parked cars and at storm drains. It was especially difficult because

we did not have the usual "move your car to the other side of the street" setup. It was an arduous and dirty job for sure, and much larger than anticipated. Thank you, Todd and team!

Some bags were taken by Todd to a site for composting. Most were put out at major intersection corners for Sanitation Department pickup. I alerted Deputy Sanitation Commissioner Keith Warren that we would have a huge number of bags set out and he promised to send the trucks to collect them, which he did several times.

Thank you to the many homeowners who had previously swept and bagged their own leaves. Working together, we can keep our neighborhood clean, safe and attractive. Just as we clear our sidewalks after a snowfall, let's all do our part to keep our sidewalks clear of leaves.



Geraldine White, a member of Todd Kelley's team, bagging leaves.

Helping to Feed Those in Need

Old Pine Community Center (OPCC) at 401 Lombard Street has become a food distribution site for those who are in need, especially during the pandemic. To help this worthy program, SHCA Board members voted to donate \$3,500 to OPCC for its food program.

OPCC has developed two ways to feed those who are food insecure. **The Home Insecure Feeding Program** prepares a hot breakfast and lunch that is bagged to go every day of the week, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. These meals feed on average 20 people per day on weekdays and 35 people on weekends.

In addition, **The Care Package Program** provides packages of grocery items for families

in need. The packages are distributed every Saturday and Sunday from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Each package includes a breakfast item, milk, canned goods, rice, beans, pasta, sauce, meat, cheese, snacks and whatever other items can be acquired. A steady stream of fresh produce to add to the boxes is being sought. Currently, 65 to 70 care packages are distributed per weekend.

If you wish to make a monetary contribution to this important program, please call 215-627-2493 or go to the OPCC website at <https://oldpinecommunitycenter.org/donate>.

Food donations (non-perishables, excluding bread items) can be dropped off at the OPCC outside container Mondays through Fridays.



Care packages of grocery items are prepared for distribution on weekends.

Whole home control,
designed to seamlessly
match the way you live.

SPRINGBOARD
AUTOMATION

*Integrated lights, sound, temperature and more
with a simple touch or voice command.*

(215) 599-0794
smarthome@springboardmedia.com
springboardautomation.com



Your vision is our mission
Print with the team that prides itself in customer service and satisfaction

MORE THAN JUST COPIES

- Virtual Meeting Materials
- COVID-19 Resources
- Product Management and Fulfillment
- Nationwide reach
- Business Printing
- Fabric and Vinyl Printing
- Envelopes
- Postcards
- Booklets
- Media Kits
- Posters
- Banners
- Architectural Drawings
- Signage
- Brochures
- Promotional Items
- Stickers
- Packaging Labels
- Screen Printing

1315 Walnut St., Rear Lobby, Suite 131, Philadelphia, PA 19107
& 31 East State St., Media, PA 19063
Philadelphia: 215.717.5151 | Media: 610.566.8499 | www.mediacopyonline.com



parallel design

Find our designs online.
www.Parallel-Design.com

Logos
Websites
Banners
Books
Brochures
Invitations

Newsletters
The Award-Winning Society Hill Reporter!



Hi Tech. Hi Touch.

A Winning Combination—in Person and on the Web!

COMING SOON

Corner (NEC) 2 Bedroom/ 2 FULL Baths with Washer/Dryer and BALCONY OVERLOOKING WASHINGTON SQUARE! Updated Kitchen and Baths, Closets with built-ins; Dining Area with Custom built-in bar and Wainscotting; Lots of Storage and Freshly Painted!.

FOR SALE

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

FOR SALE

#504 - \$215K - L-Shaped Studio with Sleeping Alcove (600 sq ft) with BALCONY overlooking WASHINGTON SQUARE! Updated Kitchen and Bath, Freshly Painted.

HOPKINSON HOUSE UNIT FOR RENT

JUST REDUCED #1204 - \$1,325 - L-shaped studio (600 sq ft) with sleeping alcove overlooking Washington Square with Hardwood Floors, Newer Kitchen and Bath - Available Immediately.



Buying? Selling?
Please call or email your neighbor,
Rosemary Fluehr Associate Broker, GRI

215-514-9884 – Cell rosemary.fluehr@foxroach.com
215-440-8195 – Direct www.rosemaryfluehr.com
215-627-6005 – Office 530 Walnut Street, Suite 480
Philadelphia, PA 19106



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices | **Fox & Roach, REALTORS®**

‘FIX THE BRIX’

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Why Not Fix Your Bricks?

Over the last ten years, close to 250 households have taken advantage of the “Fix the Brix” program to level their sidewalks. According to the City of Philadelphia, sidewalks are the responsibility of homeowners. We sweep them of leaves, we clear them of snow and we make sure they are in good repair. We do this to keep us all safe when walking.

It is a neighborly gesture to make sure your property is in good shape. SHCA provides an incentive to help. If you repair your sidewalk, SHCA will provide a 40 percent subsidy up to \$400 for current SHCA members, and up to \$300 for non-members. It pays to be a member. Here are the steps to take to have your sidewalk repaired and get your reimbursement.

- Take a “before” photo of your problem sidewalk or tree pit and email it to 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 before choosing one. We can provide a list of suggested contractors.

- Have the work done and **make sure, before you pay the bill, that it is up to your standards.**

- After work is completed, email me an “after” photo of the finished work.

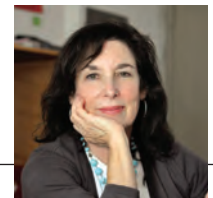
- Send the invoice to us, (keep a copy for yourself), along with, if possible, a copy of your cancelled check.

Mail to: SHCA, P. O. Box 63503, Philadelphia PA 19147.

- Receive a check.



Have your loose bricks reset and leveled.



Martha Levine is a vice president of SHCA.

TREE TENDERS UPDATE

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

The pandemic may have slowed down tree planting last spring, but the Society Hill Tree Tenders are still plugging along. We planted four new trees in November and have three more slated for the spring. Pruning will hopefully resume once the weather gets warmer.

If you’d like to apply for a Fall 2021 tree, you can now complete your portion of the application online. **All applications are due by the end of April.** Our Tree Tender volunteers do the planting, and you have the responsibility for continued watering and pit care. Please contact Claudia Carabelli at ccarabelli@comcast.net for more information.

Tree Tenders subsidies are always available for planting, pruning and dead tree removal.

You can save even more money if you become a SHCA member. The subsidies are as follows:

Pruning: Get up to 50 percent of the cost at a maximum of \$300 for members and \$200 for non-members.

Planting: Receive \$150 for planting a new tree.

Dead tree removal & replanting: Get up to 50 percent of the cost at a maximum of \$500 for members and \$400 for non-members.

To collect a subsidy: Please mail a copy of your invoice along with proof of payment (cancelled check or credit card receipt) to: SHCA, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147.



by Michael Neff

COMPASS
 Expertly Representing Buyers and Sellers in Society Hill
 Claudia McGill 267.435.8015
 claudia.mcgill@compass.com claudiamcgill.realtor

Intelligent Exercise with Profound Results!

Private or duet sessions available at our fully equipped studio at 9th and Spruce Streets

Inquire about our new client special.

PilatesByPamela
 Stott Pilates Certified Instructor
 914-552-0288
 pilatesbypamela@gmail.com www.pilatesbypamela.com



ST. PETER'S SCHOOL
NON-SECTARIAN | INDEPENDENT | COEDUCATIONAL

Be respectful.
Be kind.
Be inclusive.
Be creative.
Be compassionate.
Be honest.
Be curious.
Be thoughtful.
Be engaged.

Be your best self.

Join a Virtual Admissions Info Session

ST. PETER'S SCHOOL
Preschool (Age 3) through Eighth Grade
319 Lombard Street | 215.925.3963 | st-peters-school.org/visit

ADORNAMENTI
A Collection of Jewelry
new and unique art-to-wear jewelry

Wearable Venetian Art Glass
by
Sent Sisters

See: marinaesusannasent.com
Shop: Adornamenti

1006 Pine Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147
215 592 4010
adornamenti@aol.com
showofhandspfila@aol.com

SHOW OF HANDS
A Collection of Crafts
ceramics & mid-century glass

COMPASS RE

Test the market. Sell faster.

Listing your home with Compass Private Exclusive will provide direct access to your home before it hits the multiple list. On average, private exclusive properties sell for 13% higher and reduce days on market by 7%.

Contact me to learn more about this proprietary service, unique to Compass.



Fred Manfred
Five Star Real Estate Agent — Philadelphia Magazine
fred.manfred@compass.com
M 215.687.8687
O 267.435.8015

ON THE **SQUARE**
REAL ESTATE

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.

WASHINGTON SQUARE COMMITTEE REPORT

BY FRED MANFRED

Planning and Playing

At first glance, with the absence of volunteers dotted all over the park, one may assume that winter is a slow period for the Washington Square Committee. Not true!

As trees and plants went dormant for winter, the Potting Shed Cabinet (PSC) came alive and began feverishly planning for spring. The process begins with gathering information from each planting bed. The cabinet then devises a cohesive vision for the design of each plot. This process provides for consistency and seasonal color throughout the year.

PSC then compiles a master list of plantings and submits it to Independence National Historical Park (INHP) for review and approval. The final selections must be made before December 1 or we run the risk of nurseries being sold out of popular or specimen products. As it stands, we've ordered approximately 3,500 new plants for spring.

Sherley Young and I, co-chairs of the Washington Square Committee, have extended our commitment to turf building, maintenance and chemical-free weed control. Leveraging last year's successes, we will experiment with new grass mixes, seeding cycles, regular aeration and responsive irrigation to achieve even greater results. With more and more people enjoying all areas of the park, grass has become a baseline priority. As part of this commitment, INHP will cordon off quadrants of grassy areas throughout the season, allowing time for recovery and new growth.

With great enthusiasm, we welcome Liam Cleary as INHP's new landscape architect. We look forward to collaborating with him on the needs of the park. Liam served in the U.S. Army from 2004 to 2011. His military service included tours in Afghanistan and Egypt, along with New Orleans for Hurricane

Katrina relief. He's certain that these experiences influenced his interest in environmental design. After separating from military service, he attended Temple University where he received a Bachelor of Science *magna cum laude* in Landscape Architecture. He is passionate about park, trail and streetscape design.

INHP also hired Marilou Ehrler as their Historical Architect and Cultural Resource Manager. Marilou has a Master of Science degree in Historic Preservation from Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation. She will head up INHP's cultural and compliance division, reporting directly to INHP Superintendent Cindy MacLeod.

In other park news, Joan Rollins Tropp and I, co-chairs of the Washington Square Affair, hoped to have an update on the postponed Washington Square Affair. The ongoing uncertainty with the pandemic, however, does not provide us with enough confidence to make a projection at this time. We give our stalwart patrons many thanks for their patience and generosity.

As we stand at spring's doorstep, it's worth remembering the fun and excitement of the three-day snowstorm of February 1. Without fail, the storm drew adults, children and dogs into the park for a little frolicking. I chuckled as I watched a young father teach his daughters how to make snow angels. Everyone was in high spirits; I could feel the smiles from behind their masks!

All I could think and feel was "joy to the world."

Fred Manfred is a Realtor® at Compass, and co-chairs Washington Square Committee and Washington Square Affair.



February's snowstorm drew adults, children and dogs into the park for some frolicking.



Old Pine Street Church
412 Pine St.
Sunday Worship 10:30am

R. CHOBERT PAINTING
Residential | Commercial | Interior | Exterior
www.rchobertpainting.com

Michael Chobert 215-389-7788
Fax 215-755-6655
rchobertpainting@aol.com
641 Reed Street, Phila. PA 19147

Creating Beauty Since 1967



**KATHY, PATRICK &
THE CONWAY TEAM**

CONWAYTEAM.COM KATHY@CONWAYTEAM.COM
(P) 215-266-1537 (K) 215-850-3842 (O) 215-627-6005



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices
Fox & Roach, REALTORS




**PHILADELPHIA'S PREMIER
IN-HOME PERSONAL CARE AGENCY**

At Home Helpers, our caregivers undergo a detailed background check prior to employment. As a licensed homecare agency, employees are fully insured and bonded eliminating your financial risk liability. We offer ongoing training in fall prevention and dementia care. Our services include:

- Dementia care
- Fall prevention care
- Personal hygiene
- Light housekeeping
- Medication reminders
- Meal Preparation
- Companionship
- Direct Link Personal Response System
- And much more...

**Call Me for a No-Cost Assessment
Andrea Hawley at (267) 402-7271**



**JOIN US
FOR A
VIRTUAL
VISIT**

friends-select.org

**IN THE CITY
AND OF THE CITY**

FRIENDS SELECT

The Only Pre-K to 12 Center City Quaker School

FRIENDS SELECT SCHOOL 17th & Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19103 215.561.5900

KEEPING POSTED

BY AL CAVALARI

A Puzzle Within a Puzzle

Here is a puzzle I use on my tours and that you might want to ask your friends. Name the political document that begins with "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." The inevitable answer is the Declaration of Independence, to which I reply, "Which one?"

Few people will have considered that the declaration launched in the Pennsylvania State House went on to inspire others. Since 1776, there have been more than 100 declarations by which people around the world have proclaimed their own freedom; all exhibit the yearning expressed in our own. Many use some of the same language and, in some cases, quote it exactly. But here's the trick: I asked which document begins that way. Ours does not.

Ours starts with "When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another..." The text I first cited is the second sentence. The answer to my question is: the Declaration of Independence of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. When Ho Chi Minh made his announcement on September 2, 1945 declaring independence from France, he used our second sentence to begin his document.

Imitation is the best form of flattery. Not only has our founding document been copied, but so has the building where it was born. In recognition of April Fools Day, see if you can pick which of these post cards are Independence Hall imitators. Turn this page upside down to find the answers.



Answer to the photo challenge: They are all imposters!
A Pennsylvania Building, New York World's Fair 1939
B Baker Memorial Library, Hanover NH
C Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn, MI
D Officer's Mess, US Navy, Norfolk, VA
E Edison Institute and Museum, Detroit, MI
F Pennsylvania Building, Jamestown Exposition 1907
G Knott's Berry Farm, Buena Park, CA

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. Write to Al at flagguys@aol.com.



McFarland's Value Proposition

Experienced and Educated

Since 1958, McFarland Tree, Landscape and Hardscape Services has provided arboricultural service throughout Greater Philadelphia. Our comprehensive experience is augmented with continuing education and researched understanding of the practices of modern arboriculture along with our past experience. Staffed with a Board Certified Master Arborist and Certified Arborists, McFarland stays informed about current conditions and issues affecting your trees, shrubs and ornamentals.

Service

We answer the phone when you call during business hours. Now, that's different! We are in constant contact with our arborists and field personnel to provide timely responses to your needs. A knowledgeable arborist will visit with you to discuss your needs and concerns. Seasoned veterans with well-maintained tools and equipment will perform the agreed-upon services to your satisfaction.

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. We also offer Blue Stone installations.

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.



www.mcfarlandtree.com

215-844-TREE



HEADHOUSE FARMERS MARKET

BY GABRIELLE RUMNEY

A Penne for Your Thoughts

Pasta is such a comfort food, and comfort is what most of us are seeking in these stressful times. Here in Philadelphia, we can depend on local vendor Pasta Lab to fill our noodle needs.

With no retail outlet, Pasta Lab sells only at area farmers markets. Catch them at Headhouse Market every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Preorders are highly encouraged. The most popular products — filled pasta, tagliatelle — tend to sell out quickly. If you place a preorder online, you can rest assured that your items will be waiting for you. A handful of pantry items are available only online. Preordering gives access to a greater variety

of goods such as salumi, aged cheese and tomato products. Visit www.thepastalab.com for a complete description of what's available.

The company is noted for its fresh, local ingredients and careful craftsmanship. For instance, the tagliatelle dough contains not only whole egg, but a generous percentage of yolk for color and flavor. Lancaster Farm Fresh supplies these delicious eggs from pastured hens. The flour is milled from friends at Lost Bread Co. Try the following dish and be prepared to be soothed!



A variety of squash from Blooming Glen Farm.



Gabrielle Rumney is Headhouse Market Manager.

CREAMY VEGAN BUTTERNUT SQUASH TAGLIATELLE WITH FRIED SAGE

Spiced and creamy, yet cream-less, butternut squash sauce tossed with whole grain tagliatelle. Top with fried sage for a healthy, comforting main dish. Serve with salad or roasted vegetables to further lighten up the meal.

Recipe yields 4 large servings.

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh sage
- 2 pounds butternut or kabocha squash, peeled, seeded and cut into small ½-inch pieces (about 3 cups)
- 1 medium yellow onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, pressed or chopped
- ½ teaspoon red pepper flakes (up to ¼ teaspoon for spicier pasta sauce)
- salt
- freshly ground black pepper
- 2 cups vegetable broth
- 12 ounces whole grain tagliatelle, linguine or fettuccine
- Optional additional garnishes: shaved Parmesan or Pecorino and/or smoked salt

Instructions

Warm the oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Once the oil is shimmering, add the sage and toss to coat. Let the sage get crispy before transferring it to a small bowl. Sprinkle it lightly with salt and set the bowl aside.

Add the squash, onion, garlic and red pepper flakes to the skillet. Season with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the onion is translucent, about 8 to 10 minutes. Add the broth. Bring the mixture to a boil, then reduce the heat and simmer until the squash is soft and the liquid is reduced by half, about 15 to 20 minutes.

In the meantime, bring a large pot of salted water to a boil and cook the pasta until al dente according to package directions, stirring occasionally. Reserve 1 cup of the pasta cooking water before draining.

Once the squash mixture is done cooking, remove it from the heat and let it cool slightly. Transfer the contents of the pan to a blender but keep the skillet handy. Beware of hot steam escaping from the top of the blender. Purée the mixture until smooth, and then season with salt and pepper until the flavors sing.

In the reserved skillet, combine the pasta, squash purée and ¼ cup cooking liquid. Cook over medium heat, tossing and adding more pasta cooking water as needed, until the sauce coats the pasta, about 2 minutes. Season with more salt and pepper if necessary.

Serve the pasta in individual bowls topped with fried sage, more black pepper and shaved Parmesan/Pecorino and/or smoked salt, if desired.



The Food Trust, in partnership with Get Healthy Philly, operates more than 25 farmers' markets in Philadelphia, including the Headhouse Farmers' Market, Philadelphia's largest outdoor market. The Food Trust has been working to ensure that everyone has access to affordable, nutritious food and information to make healthy decisions.



The Food Trust

NIFTY NEIGHBORS IN MY OWN BACK YARD

BY SANDRA ROTHMAN

A Narrative Painter's Story

Readers may have taken note of the charming watercolor botanicals scattered throughout the last several issues of the *Reporter*. Now it's time to meet the man behind the brush: Michael Neff, a painter, professor and long-time Society Hill neighbor.

Headed in the Right Direction

Although Mike was born in West Philly, he spent much of his childhood headed towards our end of town. Growing up in the early 50s, he'd hop on the trolley with his little brother and roam Center City, going to kid-friendly places like the movies, the planetarium and the automat. Then at the end of the day, his large extended family would gather at "the store" — his grandparents' tailor shop at 10th and Locust Streets — to enjoy his grandmother's great cooking.

His sense of belonging to Society Hill was deepened while living at the Pine Street home of his uncle, Philadelphia artist Sol Calvin Cohen. In the mid 1990s, Sol offered Mike a painting studio in his house. After his uncle's unexpected death, the house was sold, but Mike never left our neighborhood.

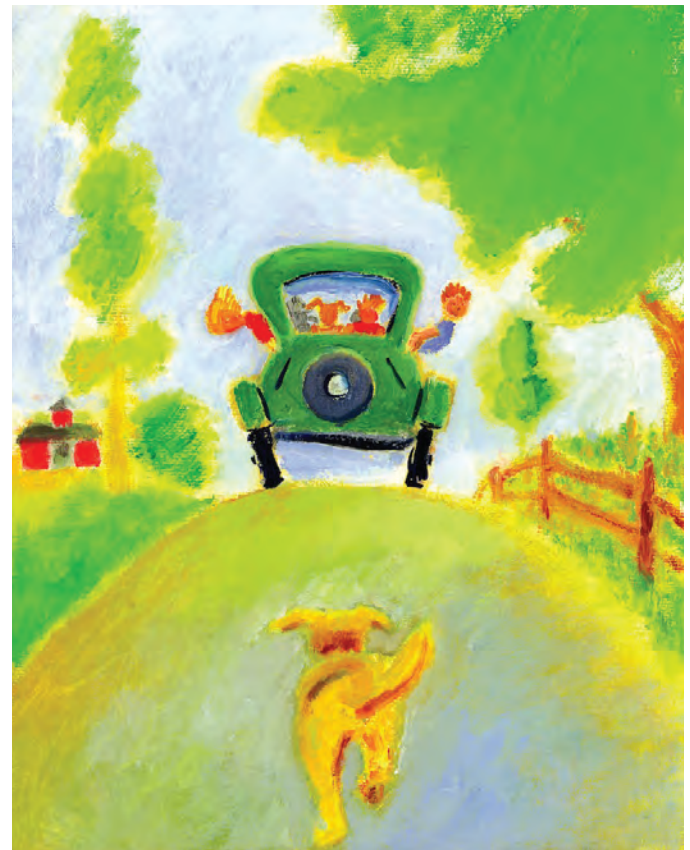
**Michael Neff****His *Anni Mirabilia***

Because the Neff family was working class with aspirations, Mike was expected to toil from an early age to "save for tuition." He was an errand boy on Sansom Street, sold hotdogs on South Street, unloaded boxcars in Camden and never travelled anywhere but the Jersey shore. Then came his *anni mirabilia*, his remarkable year.

"It was my great good fortune to win a scholarship from Penn to study in England, and Cambridge was the place that took me. I was an actor in those days and travelled with a student group through Europe playing Shakespeare at theater festivals in summer, 1968. What an eye opener! We performed in a Roman amphitheater outside of Florence, in a mountain-top medieval fortress in Tuscany, in a chateau in France.

"I remember when we were playing Hamlet, a story about the death of kings. The British Council funded our stay in a castle in exchange for a performance before the Diplomatic Corps. This was the year of the coup in Greece, opposed by their king who was to be the guest

continued on page 15

**Banjo Bears****Out for a Ride**

NIFTY NEIGHBORS IN MY OWN BACK YARD



A mural at the Independence Branch Library, 18 S. 7th Street.

“I have always been a narrative painter, someone who likes to tell stories with my work. I like to use mythic moods. I like a sense of humor. Some say my paintings are whimsical.”



Winter Animals

of honor with his queen. We performed in the courtyard of this ancient castle with torches on the parapets. Seated in the front row was the deposed King of Greece! It was very poignant. I couldn't help but wonder what he was thinking. After the play, there was a huge feast with wild boars spitted above great fires, and we gathered in a line to greet him. As my turn approached, I realized that my fellow students, all British, each made a bit of a bow or curtsy before the royals, but I thought, 'I'm an American! Do I do that?' And then there I was! I put out my hand, shook his, and said, 'Hi. How're you doing?' The King smiled and seemed fine with me."

The Turbulent Years

Life was about to change dramatically for this student actor. Still at Cambridge, Mike was drafted, resisted and spent a year negotiating with the Army. Back in the States, he was disoriented and didn't know what to do with his life. A friend taught sixth grade at the Miquon School in Conshohocken. Many of the students who had graduated were reacting to the craziness of the times. Doing drugs, taking the el train and dropping out. A group of parents wanted to start a secondary school on the nurturing principles of Miquon. It seemed like the path with the most heart, so Mike, who had never considered a career in education, took part in founding what became the Crefeld School.

"It was an all-consuming venture, to start a school," he says, "and I often felt in over my head. I decided to model my
continued on page 17



THIS MOMENT MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO THE GIFT OF LIFE

It only takes 30 seconds to sign up as a donor and save a life.

Since the Penn Transplant Institute's first transplant in 1966, thanks to the generosity of donors, more than 12,500 people have received the gift of life through transplant at Penn. One person can save up to 8 lives. Learn more and sign up to be an organ donor today.

PennMedicine.org/DonateLife



Penn Medicine
Transplant Institute

NIFTY NEIGHBORS IN MY OWN BACK YARD

continued from page 15

teaching on the Cambridge tutorial: have a conversation with the students. As many of them were dropouts — though from educated professional families — you couldn't force compliance with the usual carrots and sticks, like grades. So, we gave no grades. We treated each student as an individual and gauged their accomplishment on what progress they made themselves, not on standardized tests. I discovered that the only way you could hold their interest was to talk about things that were clearly important. This was my training as an educator, although at the time I never would have predicted that I'd continue to teach, let alone in a university. When that came to pass, I always based my classes on those ideas. It seems to have worked!"

Professor and Painter

An instructional professor at Temple University since 2000, Mike teaches the great books of the world in his Intellectual Heritage courses. These include everything from Gilgamesh to Rumi to W.E.B. Dubois. He says that although the students don't expect it at first, the work turns out to be very relevant to today's issues.

He's always painted. An early interest in community development through the arts led to many projects, including painting murals in a West Philly school. He realized that combining elements of teaching with painting was satisfying to him, so he began a personal initiative called Art for A School. Today his work brightens many local schools and libraries.

"The best thing about still teaching at my age," Mike concludes, "is that I get to know a lot of great young people. That keeps me optimistic. A long time ago, during a rough patch in my life, I read something by the Japanese Nobel Prize novelist, Kenzaburo Oe, who had lived through the atom bombs and had a child with severe disabilities. He said that we should construct mechanisms of hope. It can be difficult, but that's what I'm trying to do with my teaching and painting."

Look for more of Mike Neff's art in future issues of the Reporter!

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



"I agree, a brisk walk is best. Still, from time to time I like to bark my head off."



Ruth Kelley
Private Tutor
 K - 12
ZOOM, OR IN PERSON.

I specialize in the learning needs of students and I love working individually to collaborate in creative problem solving:

- Writing and Creative Writing
- Reading
- Special projects (journaling, collage, etc.)
- Homework and Organizational Skills

MEd (Drexel), BA (Yale) — my tutoring experience with students at Penn Charter, Friends Select and Masterman as well as my teaching experience in Lower Merion School District drives my broad and deep enthusiasm for the ways that students think and learn.

Ruth.r.kelley@gmail.com



Philadelphia Gardens, Inc.

URBAN GARDEN DESIGN + INSTALLATION
+ CONTAINER GARDENS by Toni Ann Flanigan
215.951.9193 // www.philadelphiagardens.com

Background Checked
Trained & Insured



Care for Everyone



Our supportive caregivers offer help at home, when you need it most.

**We Offer: Companionship • Personal Care
Homemaking • Errands and Appointments
Medication Reminders • Meal Preparation
Much More!**

Call for your FREE Care Assessment
267-499-4700
synergyhomecare.com



**SMART
RESPONSIVE
EXPERIENCED**

BARI SHOR
**Real Estate
MatchMaker**

Whether you're selling or buying a home in amazing Center City, Bari Shor cares and *delivers* for you.

I am your neighbor,
let me be your Realtor,[®] too!



**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HomeServices
Fox & Roach, REALTORS[®]

Cell: 215-287-5260
baribshor@gmail.com
Office: 215 627-6005



**HOME
INSPIRED**

Builders / Remodelers
Classic
Contemporary
Historic

ORION ★ ★ ★
www.oriongc.com 610-649-4545
2017 Award Winner - Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia PA 5533

WELCOME BASKET PROGRAM

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Welcome Gift Bags for New Neighbors

SHCA has begun **Welcome Gift Bag** presentations to recent first-time Society Hill home and condo owners. Due to the pandemic, with its social distancing requirements, we modified the long-time Welcome Baskets program. The gift bags are being presented in a safe way by appointment and a drop off to the recipient's door. Included in the bag are: one bottle of quality wine, one bag of gourmet coffee from a local dealer, a selection of gift cards to restaurants, retail shops and a museum. Theater vouchers are not included since the theaters have closed.

If you are a new first-time homeowner, please feel free to make an appointment to receive this gift. For an appointment, contact Martha Levine, program coordinator, at marthalev6@gmail.com or call 215-629-0727.

Listed here are the businesses that continue to provide gift cards for our gift bags. We encourage you to patronize them and help them stay in business during these hard times.

Restaurants: Dine In / Delivery / Takeout

- Bistro Romano, 120 Lombard Street, 215-925-8880
- Fork Restaurant, 306 Market Street, 215-625-9425
- Garces Restaurant Group:
 - Amada, 217 Chestnut Street
 - Tinto, 114 S. 20th Street
 - Village Whiskey, 118 S. 18th Street
 - The Olde Bar, 125 Walnut Street
- High Street Philadelphia, 101 S. 9th Street, 215-625-0988
- La Buca Ristorante, 711 Locust Street, 215-928-0556
- La Scala's Restaurant & Bar, 615 Chestnut Street, 215-928-0900
- Malbec Argentine Steakhouse, 2nd & Pine Streets, 215-515-3899
- PJ Clarke's, 601 Walnut Street, 267-879-9653



Retail Shops, Services & Museums, Etc.

- Show of Hands Craft Gallery & Adornamenti (jewelry), 1006 Pine Street, 215-592-4010
- Paper on Pine (stationary etc.), 1315 Sansom Street, 215-625-0100
- National Liberty Museum, 321 Chestnut Street, 215-925-2800
- Lee's Cleaners, 241 S. 6th Street, 215-925-1193
- Judy Moon & Associates (massage), 829 Spruce street #300, 267-671-0861
- Head House Books 619 S. 2nd street, 215-923-9525

Chairman's Circle Diamond Award
Top ½ of 1% of BHHS Network Nationwide

Accredited Luxury Home Specialist

I am a professional,
 full-time real estate agent
 as well as your neighbor.



■ Pamela D. Laws
 ABR, ALHS, SRES, ASP

*Like many of my clients,
 Society Hill is my home.
 I specialize in Center City
 because I love Philadelphia.
 Let me market and sell your
 home for the top price in the
 minimum amount of time!*



**BERKSHIRE
 HATHAWAY**
 HomeServices

Fox & Roach,
 REALTORS

215.783.7117 pam.laws@foxroach.com
WWW.PHILADELPHIAPROPERTIES.NET

A member of the franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC 



Looking for the Calm of Spirit?

*Our Church invites the community to join us
 for spiritual growth through:*

Sunday & Wednesday Services

Sunday School for Children • Reading Room

Sunday Service: 11AM • Wednesday Evening Meeting: 7:30PM

Reading Room Hours: Monday: 11AM to 1:30PM,
 Wednesday: 2PM to 7PM

Thursday and Friday: 11AM to 4PM Saturday: 11AM to 1:30PM

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, PHILADELPHIA
... Supporting healing for all mankind

225 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106
215-922-0828
 visit us at: firstchurchcspfila.org

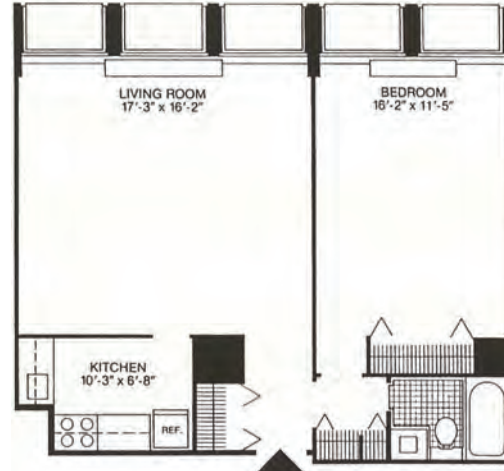
Selling Society Hill Towers Condominiums for 40 Years

Sun-soaked Studio



Sun-soaked studio with a wall of floor-to-ceiling windows, parquet wood floors and excellent closet space.
522 sf | Offered for \$199,900

Updated One Bedroom



Updated One Bedroom offering wood floors, floor-to-ceiling windows, newer kitchen and bath and southern views over Society Hill. Excellent investment opportunity.
700 sf | Offered for \$257,500

Seamlessly Combined Three Bedroom



3 bedroom, 3 bathroom showcasing unobstructed north and east views from Old City to the Ben Franklin Bridge and sweeping across the Delaware River! Seamlessly created from the combination of a corner 2 bedroom with the adjacent 1 bedroom, this flat offers a high-end chef's kitchen and designer appointed baths.
1,965 sf | Offered for \$850,000

Corner Two Bedroom



Corner two bedroom, two bathroom with treetop and river views, a modern kitchen, wood floors, and lots of natural light through walls of windows.
1,183 sf | Offered for \$499,900



Allan Domb Real Estate

PHILADELPHIA'S LARGEST SELLING CONDOMINIUM REALTOR® WE COOPERATE WITH ALL REALTORS®

1845 Walnut Street, Suite 2200, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Phone: 215.545.1500 allandomb.com domb@allandomb.com



ON OUR SHELF

BY CLAIRE BATTEN

A Grateful Thanks to Caring Customers

According to the trade journal *Publishers Weekly*, 2020 has been “a surprisingly strong year” for sales of printed books. Yes, you heard right — old-fashioned paper books are back in vogue. The world may have turned largely to e-commerce, but electronic books have diminished in popularity, while sales of print titles were up over 60 percent in the first nine months of 2020.

Richard de Wyngaert confirms the trend. “We’ve been holding our own during the pandemic. We had to pivot quickly from an in-store experience to online commerce. In the process, we’ve grown closer to many of our existing customers and, happily, we’ve expanded our footprint and acquired a number of new friends!

“Our holiday season was particularly robust. We had people call or email us their lists, asking us to select books for their uncle, niece or brother-in-law. We wrapped and hand-delivered books throughout the holidays — often by bicycle — or we found ourselves shipping the books elsewhere. Our customers have been very loyal: we’ve sent books all over the city, of course, but also to Massachusetts, the Jersey shore and Florida. Thankfully, our customer base has been intent on honoring and broadening, diversifying if you will, the existing relationship with Headhouse Books. Our customers don’t want to spend their dollars on Amazon, they want to support their local community, even if they are living elsewhere temporarily. And we appreciate and value that commitment,” Richard concluded.

Numbered among their new online customers are many 20 and 30-year-olds. “I’ve always thought millennials get a bad rap on the whole — they are often cast as being self-absorbed. But we’ve found quite the opposite,” opined Richard. “Many have stayed downtown during the pandemic, contributing to the dynamism of urban life, and are reading ferociously in their apartments. They want to help keep their communities alive. I’ve been exposed to a completely different side of Philadelphia during this time.”

Headhouse Books has been helped in 2020 by a great crop of new books hitting the shelves. Blockbuster titles released in 2020 included Barack Obama’s long-awaited autobiography, *Deacon King Kong* by James McBride, *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson and *The Vanishing Half* by Britt Bennett. There are a slew of new cookbooks. One of the surprise sleeper hits of 2020 was food author Julia Child’s book

of quotations, *People Who Eat Are Always the Best People: And Other Wisdom*, which turned out to be the perfect stocking stuffer!

“What drove this trend to want to curl up with a good book?” I asked Richard. He replied, “Personally, I love the feel and smell of new books. When you read a real book, you are transported to a different place; it’s like leaving a trail of breadcrumbs. You can pick up where you left off and disappear into the pages of a good book.”

Some soon-to-be-released titles that Richard recommends:

While Justice Sleeps: A Novel by Stacy Abrams

The brilliant political strategist from Georgia has written a wonderfully suspenseful legal thriller centered around a Supreme Court clerk who must assume the responsibilities for an investigation when the Justice for whom he clerks falls into a coma.

Second Place by Rachel Cusk

Author of the amazing trilogy *Outline*, Cusk now explores the multiple tensions that shape and permeate human interactions. Seeking to clarify and gain insight into her own work and life, the female protagonist invites a famous artist to her remote coastal home. A remarkable writer.

Libertie: A Novel by Kaitlyn Greenidge

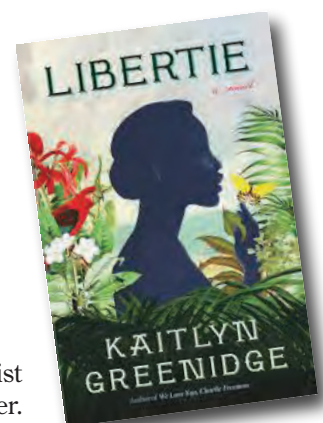
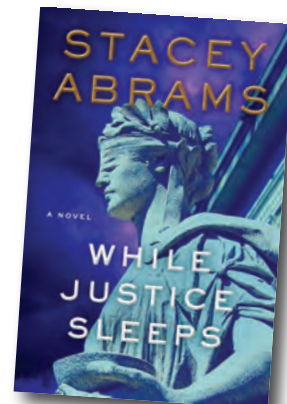
The critically acclaimed, award-winning author of *We Love You, Charlie Freeman* returns with an unforgettable story about the meaning of freedom. A beautiful, exalting story.

Facing the Mountain by Daniel James Brown

The author of *Boys in the Boat* writes a gripping saga about a Japanese American army unit that overcame brutal odds in Europe, their families incarcerated back home, and a young man who refused to surrender his constitutional rights, even if it meant imprisonment.

Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro

His first novel since he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature, Ishiguro tells the story of Klara, an Artificial Friend with outstanding observational qualities. From her place in a store that sells Artificial Friends, she watches carefully the behavior of those who come in to browse and of those who pass on the street outside.



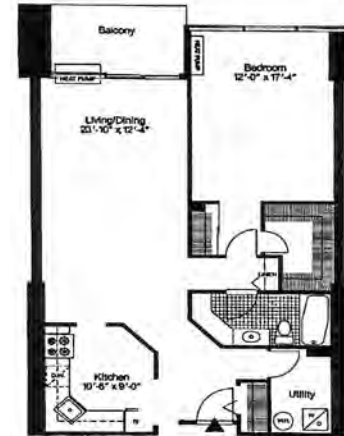
Bring in a copy of this review and receive 20 percent off any one title in our store or ordered online at www.HeadHouseBooks.com.



Richard De Wyngaert is the proprietor of Society Hill’s only local, independently owned bookstore, Head House Books. **Claire Batten** wrote this article.

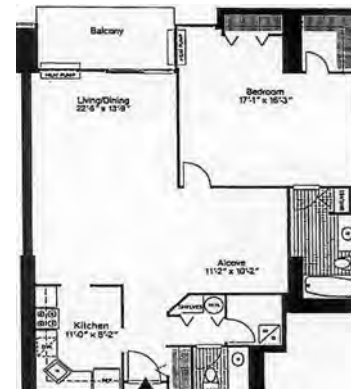
INDEPENDENCE PLACE

233 - 241 S. 6th Street



Completely renovated one bedroom, one bathroom with gorgeous treetop views of Washington Square and the Center City skyline showcased from a private balcony! This spacious one bedroom home offers wood like floors and walls of oversized windows in all rooms.

928 sf | Offered for \$350,000



*Mirrored version of the actual floorplan

One bedroom plus alcove, 1.5 bathroom with a private balcony showcasing Washington Square and Center City skyline views; the home has been well maintained and offers a flexible floorplan with great natural light.

1,118 sf | Offered for \$385,000

Recently Sold by Allan Domb Real Estate at Independence Place

2001-II	2011-I	502-I	312-I	1010-I	1009-II
1304-I	1801-II	1505-I	2210-II	809-I	510-I
2007-I	1807-I	1602-II	2211-II	1710-II	



WE COOPERATE WITH ALL REALTORS®
 1845 Walnut Street, Suite 2200, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Phone: 215.545.1500 allandomb.com domb@allandomb.com



IN MEMORIAM

Andrea Gallet Lander

We offer sincere condolences to the family and friends of Andrea Lander, who passed away on January 4.



Andrea was born in Brooklyn and moved to Pennsylvania to attend Wilkes College. There, she was an active and vocal participant in the Women’s Rights movement and an active member of the Democratic Party. While at Wilkes, she met Howard and married him in 1969.

After graduating, she moved to Harrisburg and worked for the state in the Department of Community Affairs, specifically dealing with housing issues in Pennsylvania. Following her year in Harrisburg, she moved to Philadelphia to work for Model Cities, where she became an advocate for social change and the building of affordable public housing. Andrea graduated with her master’s in political science from Temple University. She worked in real estate for more than 25 years.

She is survived by Howard, three children and two grandchildren.

Gerald H. “Jerry” Yablin

We are sad to inform neighbors of the death of SHCA board member and long-time neighbor Jerry Yablin. He passed away on January 5 at age 86.



Jerry was a graduate of West Philadelphia High School and the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science. He spent many years in various positions in the pharmaceutical industry before starting his own consulting business.

His passion was golf, and he played as often as possible. Jerry was able to turn this passion into a gratifying volunteer experience when he began coaching with the Mid Atlantic Blind Golfers Association. SHCA president Larry

Spector remembers spending the best time possible on the golf course with a man who played with a smile and a wonderful sense of humor. He says, “I became especially fond of him when I saw him working with a blind golfer. It was a testament to Jerry’s warmth and generosity of spirit. We will miss his kind presence and participation on our board.” Jerry served on the Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee, as well as the Nominating Committee.

Jerry leaves behind his wife of 63 years, Dorothy, three sons, three grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

Lucinda Sandford Landreth

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of Lucinda “Cindy” Landreth who passed away on January 31 from pancreatic cancer. She was 73.



Cindy was a partner with her husband Charles in the firm of Wentworth Capital Partners.

Her investment career began at PNC Bank in 1969 where she became Senior Vice President, Managing Director of the investment and research group. She joined Alex Brown Capital Advisory and Trust, located in Baltimore, in 1995 where she was Chief Investment Officer. In 1997 she joined Fortis, Inc as Executive Vice President, Director of Equity Investments and Chief Investment Officer of the Fortis Mutual Funds.

She is survived by her husband, Charles, two stepchildren and their spouses, one grandchild and four sisters.

Society Hill Open House & Garden Tour Postponed Again

Regrettably, SHCA is forced to cancel its 2021 Open House and Garden Tour because of COVID-19. We’re optimistic, however, that with a vaccine and improved health and safety conditions, we will resume this much-loved event next May. For updates in the future and a history of the tour, please go to societyhill-civic.org and click on Our Neighborhood.

Sherl Joseph Winter

Philadelphia sculptor Joe Winter passed away on July 19 at age 85 at his home in Chestnut Hill with his wife, Kathy, and his three children by his side.



Although Joe did not live in our community, part of his heart will always reside at 319 Delancey Street, in Delancey Park.

Countless Society Hill parents, children and now grandchildren are familiar with one of his most famous sculptures — the tactile, climbable cluster of three stone bears that has given the playground its more familiar name: Three Bears Park.

In 1966, Joe was commissioned by John F. Collins, noted landscape architect, to create a play sculpture for the park. He received a Department of Housing and Urban Development design award for outdoor sculpture for the work.

How the Bears Got to the Park

Story by Kathy Winter, Pictures by Joe Winter

This charming little book deserves a place on the shelves of homes throughout Society Hill. Most of us, at one time or another, have passed by or through the inviting pocket park that sits at 319 Delancey Street. Parents, grandparents and neighbors enjoy watching kids of all ages climb and explore *Family of Bears*, an award-winning sculpture by Joe Winter.

Joe’s wife Kathy has written a lovely tribute to her husband’s most famous piece. In it she explores how a family of bears living in the woods decided to relocate so Little Bear could have friends to play with. They trek to Philly and pass many iconic sites before finding a small park with lots of happy kids. There they find their “forever” home, much to Society Hill’s continuing delight!

You can purchase *How the Bears Got to the Park* on www.amazon.com or at www.winterartsudio.com.



604 S. Washington Square

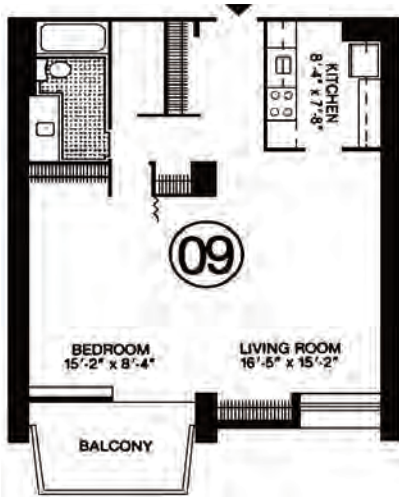


Deluxe One Bedroom + Den

Combination of two adjacent units to create a deluxe 1 bedroom plus den/home office, 2 bathroom overlooking Washington Square; this home has endless potential.
1,443 sf | Offered for \$550,000

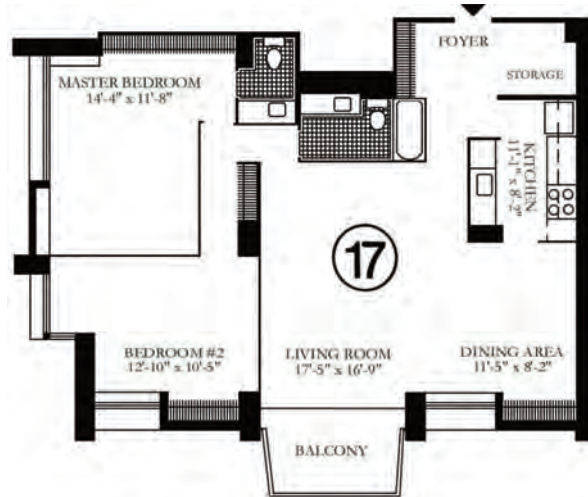
Deluxe One Bedroom on High Floor

Lovingly cared for deluxe 1 bedroom on high floor featuring private terrace with city views, updated kitchen, modern bathroom and brand new carpeting.
1,003 sf | Offered for \$329,900



Sun-soaked One Bedroom

Spacious 1 bedroom with incredible natural light, a private balcony and parquet wood floors. Leased through 8/31/21.
778 sf | Offered for \$274,000



Coming Soon!

Coming soon! 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath on a high floor with balcony and see-forever southern views.
Call for more information!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY MATT DEJULIO

2021 Membership Drive Continues on Course

By early February, 815 Society Hill residents had already renewed their SHCA membership, slightly behind last year at this time. Postal delays need to be factored in. Winners of the restaurant certificates for those who had renewed by December 31, 2020 were Edwin Chen and Teresa Ward, along with William and Pat Green.

So far 56 new members have signed up this fiscal year — only down by two from 58 last year at this time. As yet, 356 residents have not responded to two emails and one postal mailing. This is about the same number as last year, which saw a membership total of 1,141 — the same goal we hope to achieve in calendar 2021.

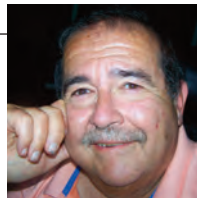
If you have delayed in sending in your renewal or wish to join, please do so today. In greater numbers each year, members are renewing online at our website, www.societyhillcivic.org. We welcome that since it cuts down on postage and mailing costs.

Each of the 3,600+ households in our neighborhood should 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.



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.



Society Hill
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Email (print clearly) _____

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

Residential Memberships

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

Business Memberships

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

Additional Contributions

\$ _____ Washington Square Beautification \$ _____ Franklin Lights

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

\$ _____ 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.

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

Please return completed application to:

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

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

Reading Through the Pandemic

Vicki Bralow, a family-practice doctor, always loved books. She long wanted to help children with reading, but her schedule never allowed it. Transitioning to MD-VIP, a personalized medical practice, provided more free time, so Vicki contacted George W. Nebinger Elementary School to volunteer. Over the next four years, she developed a Reading Buddies Program that now serves 20 students.

When she first embarked on the project, the school library had just recently reopened. It was shuttered for several years and only brought back to life by the efforts of another equally dedicated team of volunteers.

At Vicki's urging, I joined the program in 2019. Once a week we waited in the library for our second grade "buddies" to join us. We read to each other, played word games, worked on vocabulary and basically made reading fun. If you've ever spent time with young school-aged students, you know how they thrive with individual attention. True to form, the Nebinger kids quickly bonded with their adult "buddies." Most would run to the library each week, eagerly scan the room for their partner and settle down with a handful of reading material. We plied them with snacks and stickers and literary adventures. A fun time was had by all, and as a bonus, the children's reading scores improved over the course of the year.

Then came COVID-19. It was a disaster on so many levels, especially for our school children. Many lacked the resources to access online learning. Some had families who needed to work outside the home, struggled with English or lacked technology skills. It was months before everyone was provided with computers and connected to the internet. Meanwhile, the volunteers fretted about their little buddies. How were they doing? Was there any way to get books to them? How far behind would they fall?

Reading is inarguably essential to mastering other academic subjects. The school district's goal last year was for 62 percent of their third graders to be reading at grade level by June. Sadly, only 33 percent are. Reading at grade

level by the end of third grade has been linked to a higher likelihood of graduating from high school. This is important.

Instead of a Fall 2020 return to classrooms, we saw a continuation of online education. Vicki and her Reading Buddies were determined to make it work. With the blessing of Nebinger's administration and the unwavering dedication of their three third-grade teachers, we launched what has

become a very successful program. Without the physical constraints of limited space, we added more volunteers. While there are no specific requirements for participating, we happen to have an especially competent and skilled group that includes teachers, reading specialists, an elementary librarian, a speech therapist and a counselor.

So, what could possibly go wrong? Well, since most volunteers were retired

from full-time work, hence their ability to be available, this also made for a more "mature" group, not all on the cutting edge of technology. How could this work? Luckily, Nebinger uses Zoom, which most of us had developed some familiarity with during the pandemic. After meetings with staff and group troubleshooting, we were ready to go. I, for one, held my breath during the first log-on.

We needn't have worried. If there's one thing kids like as much as individual attention, it's being able to show an adult how to do something. And show us they certainly did. We log on to their classrooms, the teachers put us into Zoom "break-out rooms" with our buddies, and the kids take it from there. They know how to screen share and can easily open online books to read together. Hovering over a new vocabulary word provides a definition, and there are interactive games to play. It's all pretty amazing. As word spread, now other schools in Philadelphia are looking to replicate the program.

The adults clearly enjoy it as much as the kids.

Claudia Carabelli is a Southwest Quadrant Director for SHCA.



If there's one thing kids like as much as individual attention, it's being able to show an adult how to do something. And show us they certainly did!





The Luxury.
The Views.
The Lifestyle.

**THE ST·JAMES
 WASHINGTON SQ.**

CENTER CITY APARTMENTS
 200 W. Washington Square
 Philadelphia, PA 19106
 TheStJamesPhiladelphia.com
 844.762.5416



**PHILLY'S #1
 TRUSTED
 PARTNER**

Mike McCann, "The Real Estate Man"
 The Mike McCann Team at Keller Williams
 Office 215.607.6007 Direct 215.709.4141
 www.McCannTeam.com



Stop Playing the Allergy Guessing Game

Do you often wonder...

Which allergy medication should I take?

Why do I feel tired all the time?



What am I allergic to?

Why won't this cough or throat clearing go away?

**Get answers.
See an allergist.**



Setting the Gold Standard for Care

**Schedule
online or call at**

1-800-86COUGH

AllergyAndAsthmaWellness.com

**Seeing patients in 8
convenient locations**



Dr. Mark Posner (2020-2013), Dr. Eva Jakabovics (2020-2014),
Dr. Robert Anolik (2020-2019), Dr. Nora Lin (2020-2017),
Christine Malloy, MD (2020-2019), Shashank Sheth, MD (2020-2019),
Annie Khuntia, MD (2020-2019), Matthew Fogg, MD (2020-2019),
Patrick Vannelli, MD (2020-2019), Sandhya Desai, MD (2020-2019)

THE LIPPINCOTT

227 S. 6th Street



Bright and sunny south-facing 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom with high ceilings, high-end finishes, custom millwork, a chef's kitchen open to the great room, marble appointed baths, and a luxurious master suite.
1,601 sf | \$1,175,000

**Since 2005,
Allan Domb Real Estate has
been responsible for selling
more condominiums at
The Lippincott than any
other REALTOR.®**



Allan Domb Real Estate

**PHILADELPHIA'S LARGEST SELLING
CONDOMINIUM REALTOR®**

WE COOPERATE WITH ALL REALTORS®

1845 Walnut Street, Suite 2200, Philadelphia, PA 19103
Phone: 215.545.1500 allandomb.com domb@allandomb.com