

SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

May/June 2021

The Newsletter
of The Society Hill
Civic Association

www.societyhillcivic.org

SHCA Election and McCall School Updates



**Stephanie Stover
McKenna, McCall
School principal**

The Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) invites neighbors to Zoom in on our May 19 General Membership Meeting. Stephanie Stover McKenna, principal of McCall School, will speak about how teachers and students are coping during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please note that this talk was originally scheduled for our March meeting.

Stephanie, a 2015 Neubauer Fellow, has served as McCall principal since 2016. Under her leadership, McCall School received a 2017 U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School award. In addition, the school

received the top "Model" designation on the School District of Philadelphia School Progress Report for three consecutive years.

The other item on the agenda is the annual election of SHCA officers and directors. Check out the weekly email blast for the 2021 slate.

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 May 19.

Spring Clean-Up Day Saturday, May 15

*Break Out
the Brooms!*



Join your neighbors on Saturday, May 15, for SHCA's annual Spring Clean-Up Day. Remember we are custodians of a beautiful, unique community that needs occasional tender, loving care!

In addition to removing winter's sodden debris, it's the perfect opportunity to check sidewalk bricks and tree pit enclosures for necessary repairs. Sweep around your house, on your block and get those gutters cleared, as well as nearby walkways and alleys. Check, also, for graffiti on public spaces such as trash receptacles and notify Todd Kelley (215) 809-3300 as to location.

As we go to press, details are still being worked out. We know for sure that the event will run from 9 a.m. to noon. The offices of State Representative

Mary Isaacson inform us that they will provide, as in past years, shredding and electronic disposal at St. Peter's School parking lot at 319 Lombard Street.

Stay tuned through our weekly email blasts for more information as it develops.

SIGN OF THE TIMES



The End of a Year Full of Trouble

A full year after the start of COVID-19, we are beginning to see signs of hope for new beginnings. Our beloved tavern, which has stood with us through this year full of trouble, looks especially lovely framed with colorful tulips planted at Penn's Landing Square. Photo by Bonnie Halda

Wednesday,
May
19

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Society Hill Civic Association Meeting
Wednesday, May 19, 2021

via Zoom

5:45 p.m. Board Meeting

7:30 p.m. General Membership Meeting

Speaker: Stephanie Stover McKenna

Topic: Annual election of officers and directors;
McCall School Update

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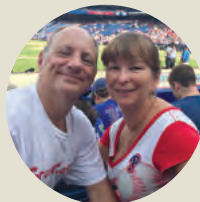
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A Passion for All Things
Philadelphia



SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

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

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Society Hill Civic Association

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Website

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

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

Submissions

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

SHCA Mission Statement

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

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*non-voting directors

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY LARRY SPECTOR

When SHCA worked to have its Master Plan become law, we made a concerted effort, largely successful, to create a 65-foot height limit for the 200 block of Walnut Street. Before our Plan passed through the Rules Committee, and before it was ultimately approved by the full City Council over Mayor Kenney's veto, the Historical Commission approved an eight-story, 110-foot-high luxury hotel and event space at 232-234 Walnut Street.

Recent events demonstrate the practical effect of our efforts. On April 7, Licenses and Inspections granted a zoning permit for the construction of the hotel. But the other two properties on the block, the Nelson Building and the Ritz Movie property, had become subject to the 65-foot height limit. This was significant because both sites had been the object of possible highrise development. Our bill meant that such development, with its negative impact on the scale of the block and the historic character of the Merchants Exchange Building, could not take place without a developer seeking a variance from the 65-foot height limit.

We are pleased to report that the **Nelson Building** (the building pictured on the left in the accompanying photo) has recently been sold to owners who intend to use it for offices as it currently exists. We applaud that the Nelson Family never favored high-rise development on their site, but the 65-foot height limit in our Master Plan bill substantially contributed to why the historic character of the building will remain intact and complement the beauty of Independence National Historic Park across the street.

Comparable efforts to maintain the quality of life and character of our neighborhood are at times more easily frustrated. We have yet to see a pilot project that could somewhat ease the dangerous use of Spruce Street as a drag strip for cars and cycles coming off of Columbus Boulevard. We await the city's response to our repeated reminder that it has promised this project.

Elsewhere we have done everything possible to support the police as they try to enforce laws restricting ATVs and dirt bikes. We have collaborated with South Street Headhouse District Executive Director Mike Harris to diminish the attraction of South Street as a biking destination by closing at Lombard Street the southbound numbered streets Second through Eighth. Given these concerted efforts and the citywide recognition that these bikes can be a menace on our streets, I do believe that the problem will be somewhat diminished. But I am also realistic believing that it will not go away.

That leaves only the consolation that most of the time our neighborhood offers city life at its best. We would ordinarily be able to celebrate this around now with our Washington Square Affair and House Tour. But the pride we take in our surroundings is just as evident in how attractively many of our properties are adorned with flowers and plants and the special care our volunteers give to beautify the plant beds in Washington Square. Let us keep up such good work on our Spring Clean-Up Day on Saturday, May 15.

We look forward to gathering virtually at our general membership meeting on May 19 when we will begin the period of voting for Board officers and directors and have a presentation and Q&A with Stephanie McKenna, the principal of McCall School.

Meanwhile let's all try to make up for pandemic down time and enjoy this spring.

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.



The Nelson Building (left), across the street from the Merchants Exchange Building (right)

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

A Real Shot in the Arm!

JOY. It certainly has been in short supply this past year. But guess what? I found a whole big bunch of it right inside a COVID-19 vaccine clinic.

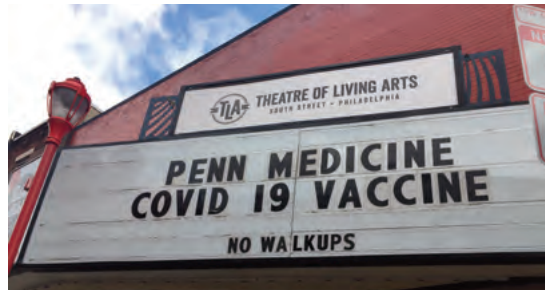
This year has meant terrible loss, heartbreak and financial struggles for many. Even for those fortunate enough to remain healthy and solvent, it's still been difficult. We've endured isolation from friends and loved ones. Everyone has worried about the threat of serious illness. Ongoing unpredictability has induced anxiety, sleeplessness and depression. Occasions to celebrate have been pared down, switched to virtual platforms or cancelled altogether. Not much to feel happy about.

Everyone copes differently. For me, when problems arise, my first instinct is to *do something. Anything.* There just wasn't much to do in the face of a global pandemic. I made face masks, cheered healthcare workers, donated to food banks and baked for hospital staff. It filled time but didn't really make for change. Then along came the vaccine. Hope at last! I knew I wanted to be part of it in any small way that I could.

When I heard that Penn Medicine would be opening a vaccine clinic nearby, I jumped at the chance. I already volunteer at Pennsylvania Hospital with my therapy dog, so I'd been vetted and approved. I signed up to help, along with three of my friends. Where would the vaccine site be located? *Wait, what?* The TLA on South Street? I thought I misheard. Wasn't this the site of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* in years past? Now it morphed into a COVID-19 vaccine clinic? Stranger things have happened.

In actuality, the site is a great idea. It's local and small enough to be manageable. Live Nation, the parent company of the TLA, gets rental income and Penn even spruced up the interior. Patients complete consent forms and move on to ticket/refreshment counters repurposed for check-in and allergy screening. Wheelchairs are available for those who need them. People file in one side for their brief wait. Vaccine and pharmacy stations are lined up in front of the stage like an orchestra pit of hope. The center area has socially distant seats for the 15 to 30 minutes of post-vaccine monitoring. Everyone then heads out the opposite side. It's very efficient.

Stage curtains are closed, chandeliers glow, and music, from Motown to classic rock to R&B, plays continuously. People sometimes boogie



The TLA on South Street is a vaccine site.

down the aisle to their much-anticipated jab in the arm. Someone is always dancing in place.

The best part is, of course, the people. The amazing and dedicated staff and volunteers keep the place running like a well-oiled machine. People are greeted by smiling, albeit mask-covered faces, from the front door staff to the exit volunteer handing out face masks. Hard-working nurses offer a friendly welcome to every single patient they see during their eight-hour shift. They administer 400 vaccines per day, six days a week. Extra time is offered generously to anyone with a physical challenge, intellectual disability, language issue or fear of needles. Some require additional information or clarification, which we all take time to provide.

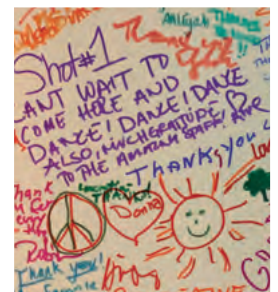
I've been given the honored title of "traffic aide," greeting patients right before they receive their vaccine and directing them to the appropriate nurse. People are routinely grateful and happy to be there. The vaccine feels like hope, like we can regain our lives, like we're getting back to normal. It's an emotional moment for many, myself included. Some tear up. Others thank us profusely. Many want a photo to capture the moment. A lot have their own TLA memories of movies or concerts or first dates. One man performed there with his band. Another woman was a bartender. I've heard, "this place sure looks different with the lights on." A few have even inquired if the bar is open.

On the way out, there's a huge and ever-expanding white board for people to sign. It's filled with the most touching comments — yet another reflection of the joy that permeates this place. I thought I signed up to help out. In reality, it's my spirit that's been nourished by this wonderfully human experience.

Claudia Carabelli is a Southwest Quadrant Director for SHCA.



There's a huge and ever-expanding whiteboard to sign on your way out.



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DOING GOOD IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Additional Sidewalk Sweeping Day

Did you know that SHCA pays for our weekly sidewalk sweeping on trash collection days? That's right, that Center City District (CCD) crew in turquoise jackets armed with brooms, dustpans and trash bags are hired by your association to keep our sidewalks free of litter, especially after trash collection. They get rid of cigarette butts, food packaging and papers that others leave behind. Without this service, our neighborhood would look a mess. SHCA pays \$16,320 annually or \$1,360 per month for this service.

As of May 1 and through November 1, we are adding an extra day of sidewalk sweeping to capture the debris left from the increased number of weekend visitors to our area during the warmer months. That means SHCA pays an additional cost of \$8,160 for the six months of cleaning.

This service is possible only through your membership. Help keep your own sidewalk clean by picking up and sweeping regularly. This makes a cleaner environment for us all. See page 9 for a membership form or go to www.societyhillcivic.org.



Your dues pay CCD sweepers to clean our blocks.

'FIX THE BRIX'

The City Won't Do It!

There are bad, unsafe sidewalks all over Philadelphia, and the city is not helping. Cracked, uneven surfaces are not only unsightly but a safety hazard. Fortunately SHCA, through membership funds, has a solution: "Fix the Brix," a subsidy program to help property owners repair their sidewalks.

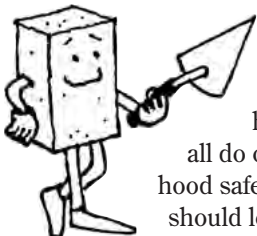
If you own property in Society Hill and need sidewalk repair, you can receive a subsidy of 40 percent of the total invoice up to \$400 for current members, and up to \$300 for non-members. Read on for how to participate. We should all do our best to make our neighborhood safe and attractive. Our sidewalks should look as good as our houses.

Here are the steps:

- Take a "before" photo of your problem sidewalk and email it to me at marthalev6@gmail.com.
• Contact and select a mason or arborist to do the work. Get a few estimates if possible. If needed, we have a list of suggested contractors.
• Have the work done to your satisfaction. Make sure the invoice says "paid."
• Make a copy of your paid invoice, and if possible, a copy of your cancelled check. Mail the original invoice and copy of cancelled check to us at: SHCA, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia PA 19147.
• Email us an "after" photo after work is completed.
• Receive your subsidy check in about two weeks.

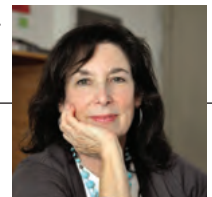


Get reimbursed for repairing tripping hazards like these loose bricks.



Rick the Brick

Martha Levine is a vice president of SHCA.



A PERK OF MEMBERSHIP

SHCA List of Contractors

Our very popular Society Hill List of Contractors is available by email or hard copy. The 14-page list has been compiled over years with recommendations from our own neighbors. If you need any type of contractor to do work for your home, this is a good place to start. Categories include: general contractors, painters, carpenters, plumbers,

electricians, landscapers, tree experts, masons, HVAC plus a miscellaneous section. We have it all.

Caveat: You must be a current SHCA member to receive the list. To receive a list, contact marthalev6@gmail.com or call 215-629-0727. Not a member? Join online at www.societyhillcivic.org/membership.



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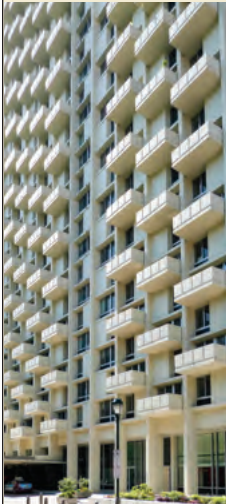
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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY MATT DEJULIO

New Memberships Soar in 2021

By early April, 1,032 Society Hill residents had either renewed their association membership or joined for the first time, only two fewer than early April 2020.

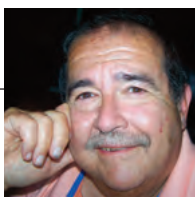
So far 88 new members have signed up, way up from 29 last year at this time. Some 169 residents have not yet responded to two mailings, down from 199 last year. Our goal is to surpass last year's total of 1,141, and that looks very achievable. If you have delayed in sending in your renewal, or wish to join, please do so today.

Please remember to sign up for our **weekly** email newsletter at our website www.societyhillcivic.org to be kept regularly informed of all important neighborhood issues.

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

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

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



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

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

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

Residential Memberships

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

Business Memberships

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

Additional Contributions

\$ _____ Washington Square Beautification \$ _____ Franklin Lights

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

\$ _____ Fix the Brix \$ _____ McCall School

Charge VISA/MasterCard: Total Enclosed \$ _____

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:

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WELCOME GIFT BAGS

BY MARTHA LEVINE

SHCA is Still Welcoming

Yes, we are back to welcoming new homeowners to Society Hill! Despite taking one year off due to the pandemic, we have reinvented the basket program to make it safe with no close contact. It's called the Welcome Gift Bag. Each bag contains one bottle of wine, one bag of coffee, a pastry treat and some gift cards to area restaurants, shops, services and museums. Important neighborhood information helps newcomers feel familiar with the neighborhood and SHCA.

Are you a first-time home or condo owner in Society Hill? If so, and you wish to receive the welcome gift, please contact us for an appointment to drop off at your door, a quick hello, followed by a phone call to review the bag contents.

Contact Martha Levine for an appointment at marthalev6@gmail.com or 215-629-0727.

Several newcomers presented with Welcome Gift Bags recently shared some thoughts.

"The gift bag full of delicious goodies and gift cards from local vendors established instant familiarity with the neighborhood. And the provided information about the area encourages my husband and me to become involved in this community."

– Gloria, Lombard Street

"We moved into our home at the end of February 2020. Our first year of homeownership during the shutdown was not an easy one, but we quickly realized that especially in trying times, this neighborhood was a wonderful place to be. The work SHCA does to keep our community safe, clean and in good repair is evident during our evening walks through the neighborhood. We couldn't think of a better place to live in the city."

– Cory and Kevin, Cypress Street



Thank You, Donors



Paul Harris of Show of Hands Gallery and John Arnet of Adornamenti have merged their two galleries at 1006 Pine Street.

Help thank the following businesses that donate to make the welcome gift bags possible by patronizing their establishments.

- Bistro Romano, 120 Lombard Street
- Cavanaugh's Head House, 421 S. 2nd Street
- Fork Restaurant, 306 Market Street
- Frieda Cafe, 320 Walnut Street
- Gnocchi, 613 E. Passyunk Avenue
- Garces Restaurant Group
- High Street, 101 S. 9th Street
- La Buca Ristorante, 711 Locust Street
- Malbec Argentine Steakhouse, 400-402 S. 2nd St.
- PJ Clarke's, 601 Walnut Street
- Adornamenti, Show of Hands Gallery, 1006 Pine St.
- Bloom Philadelphia, 267-730-3358 (new donor)
- Head House Books, 619 S. 2nd Street
- Paper on Pine, 1315 Sansom Street (new location)
- Lee's Cleaners, 241 6th Street
- Judy Moon Massage, 829 Spruce Street



Marilyn



Nick



Leslie and Kyle



Alison



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WASHINGTON SQUARE COMMITTEE REPORT

BY FRED MANFRED

A Busy Spring on the Square

An unknown sage once uttered, "To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow!" At this time last year, the joys of springtime were dashed by the uncertainties of a global pandemic. With great care, the Washington Square Committee and volunteers stayed the course and planted the park's 15 planting beds. Many of those bushes, trees and perennials are now in bloom, celebrating optimism and renewal.

Planting bed mentors, volunteers and the Potting Shed Cabinet began to execute Spring 2021's planting season in early April. The beds were cleared of debris, the hydrangeas were deadheaded and pruned, and bushes and trees were carefully trimmed and given a three-inch blanket of mulch.

The volunteers got a jump on spreading wood chips around the base of all 226 trees this spring. That includes the trees inside of the park and those on the outside perimeter. The wood chips are critical for a number of reasons. They help to retain moisture during periods of drought, while staving off mud runoff during heavy rains. In addition, the chips create a barrier, preventing the Independence National Historic Park's (INHP) grounds crew from accidentally cutting into the root system of a tree or damaging the tree's bark from the whips of a weed trimmer.

One of the wood chips' more important roles is to provide an attractive scent to dogs and serve as an invitation to urinate on the chips! Dog urine is the cause of the dead grass, flowers and bushes,



particularly those located at the park entrances. Success in luring the dogs to urinate on the wood chips will go a long way in preserving the park's grassy areas, plantings and create a better overall experience, particularly as more and more of our community engage in picnicking activities.

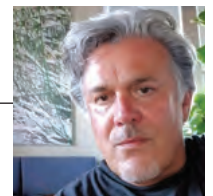
We thank our many dog owners who have heard our pleas, before entering the park, to direct their dog to the trees and wood chips surrounding the perimeter. We note your thoughtfulness and thank you. To all, if you think that you can make a difference by mentioning this request to a friend with a dog, we thank you, too.

INHP has and will continue to implement rodent control measures. New rodent resistant trash cans have been identified for the park, and we expect to deploy them late this summer. In addition, park rangers will begin enforcing park rules posted at each entrance that include no feeding of the animals. Enforcement will begin with issuing offenders with a warning. Chronic offenders will be subject to a \$200 fine.

In 2020, the Washington Square Committee had the park's trees identified, plotted and affixed with identifying plaques. This year, INHP and the Washington Square Committee came together to celebrate Arbor Day at noon on Friday, April 30. The Arbor Day Foundation, started in 1972, inspires people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees. INHP Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod and committee co-chairs Sherley Young and Fred Manfred led the celebration with remarks. This inaugural celebration will be an annual public event, which contributes to maintaining the park's designation as a national and historic arboretum.

Spring planting began in late April and continues through May. Over 3,500 perennials, annuals and bushes were planted by community volunteers. Turf building efforts began in late March, when INHP aerated the soil and spread the first rotation of grass seed. This process will continue through the fall. The park's irrigation system was charged in April. Repairs and tweaks were made to ensure even coverage. Plans are in place to test a new drip-hose irrigation system in two of the planting beds. The new system is expected to be more efficient by delivering targeted irrigation and requiring less water. Fountain repairs have been made to the basin, and the coping's grout resealed. If authorized by the city, INHP promises the fountain will be operational this year.

I'll close this update by expressing gratitude, on behalf of all our volunteers, to the steady stream of neighbors and park patrons who stop to thank them for their work and commitment to the park. Being appreciated is priceless.



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

OUT AND ABOUT

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HALDA

Revisiting Past Tours While Looking Forward to Next Year



Home featured in the 2017 Society Hill Open House & Garden Tour

Our popular Annual Society Hill Open House and Garden Tour is again canceled due to pandemic concerns. In the meantime, we offer neighbors these photos taken of past tours by Bonnie Halda.

The tour was created 42 years ago as part of a series of dozens of tours sponsored by Friends of Independence National Park encompassing our tri-state area. In 2009, when the Friends suspended all of its tours, SHCA decided to go it alone. Tour coordinators Linda Skale and Martha Levine took up the reins and organized the house and garden tour, successfully doubling previous attendance to 500 visitors. Annual proceeds of \$18,000 to \$21,000 are common, and are used solely for neighborhood improvement and beautification projects that benefit us all.

Martha and Linda deserve our great gratitude for the terrific job they have done in the past and will continue to do into the future. It is a huge undertaking that involves annually finding new houses and gardens; recruiting and organizing almost 175 volunteers; and coordinating marketing and publicity.

If these photos have you hungering for more, download The Self-Guided Walking Tour of Society Hill on our website www.societyhillcivic.org. The brochure lists 12 locations with photos and detailed descriptions. The tour is totally outdoors and can be done solo or with a friend. Enjoy our beautiful neighborhood!



OUT AND ABOUT



McFarland's Value Proposition

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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.

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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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HEADHOUSE FARMERS MARKET

BY GABRIELLE RUMNEY

Winner, Winner, Chicken Dinner

Opinions about roast chicken are plentiful. For instance, British chef Nigella Lawson once said, “You probably could go through life without knowing how to roast a chicken. But the question is, why would you want to?”

We’re fortunate that Headhouse Farmers Market volunteer Sanja Martic knows her way around a hen and has generously shared

her version of a classic garlic and lemon roast chicken recipe. The chicken is from Griggstown Farm, the butter comes from Hillacres Pride, and garlic is from Three Springs Fruit Farm.

It’s proof that nothing is simpler or more comforting than a golden bird surrounded by buttery, garlicky pan juices. It’s not just easy, it’s also delicious!

“There is nothing like roast chicken. It is helpful and agreeable, the perfect dish no matter what the circumstances. Elegant or homey, a dish for a dinner party or a family supper, it will not let you down.”

Laurie Colwin,
Gourmet Magazine
columnist



Chicken from Griggstown Farm



Garlic from Three Springs Fruit Farm

Gabrielle Rumney is Headhouse Market Manager.



NO-FAIL ROAST CHICKEN WITH GARLIC AND LEMONS

Ingredients

- 1 lemon
 - 1 head of garlic
 - 3½ to 4-pound whole chicken
 - 1 eggplant, chopped into chunks
 - 1 large onion, chopped into chunks
 - 4 to 5 generous pinches of kosher salt
 - 4 whole teaspoons of freshly ground black pepper
- Add finely chopped garlic, rosemary and thyme to equal parts melted, unsalted butter and olive oil for a rub.

Steps

Preheat oven to 425 degrees.

In a cast iron frying pan, lay a “rack” of sliced lemon rounds (¼ to ½ inch thick) with seeds removed. These will hold the bird while roasting, caramelizing throughout the process and be delicious to eat if you like charred food.

Dry the bird thoroughly; this is very important for crispy skin. With chicken breast facing up and legs pointing toward you, use a sharp knife to slice through loose area of skin connecting each leg to the breast, making about a 3-inch incision. Continue cutting down until you hit the joint that connects the thigh to the body; do not cut through the breast flesh. This exposes the leg joint, making it easy to tell if chicken is done.

Rub every surface of the chicken, including skin along the backbone, inside cavity, under the wings and inside the exposed legs, with the mixture of olive oil, butter and finely chopped garlic, thyme and rosemary. Season the same areas with lots of salt and pepper.

Cut one head of garlic in half crosswise and one seeded lemon in half crosswise.

Transfer chicken to the layer of lemon slices, drizzle with the melted butter, and put in the hot oven for 30 minutes. Then arrange onion and eggplant chunks, lemon and garlic halves around the chicken and continue to roast.

Roast until chicken is nicely browned and cooked through, checking after 45 minutes. Pierce meat at leg joints. If juices run clear it’s done.

It’s very important to let the bird rest in the skillet for at least 15 minutes before carving to allow the juices to redistribute.

Transfer to platter, pour pan juices over the meat and serve with the caramelized lemons, onions, eggplant and garlic.

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.





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RESTAURANTS NAVIGATING THE PANDEMIC

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

Still Blooming on Headhouse Square

Restaurants have been especially hard hit by COVID-19. While more established restaurateurs might have the means to erect expensive outdoor dining shelters, how does a relatively new establishment cope?

Bloomsday Café, on South 2nd Street at Headhouse Square, opened in May 2019. It was an ambitious undertaking on many levels. The restaurant served three meals every day, except for dinner on Sunday. It had a beautiful interior designed by Ambit Architecture, a live moss wall, house-made breads and pastries and a wine shop. Ten months in, the café was really hitting its stride. It had garnered a loyal neighborhood following, was hosting parties, offering wine classes and had even booked their first wedding. One might have anticipated a problem with permits, construction delays, temperamental ovens or staffing issues. But a global pandemic! What are the odds?

Staff was let go. Even takeout wasn't happening. How did Bloomsday Café make it through to the other side? I met with general manager Tim Kweeder and owner/sommelier Zach Morris to learn more about their journey through COVID-19. Zach is co-owner with Kelsey Bush, who directs the entire culinary operation. They also own the popular Green Engine Coffee Company in Haverford. Restaurant business isn't new to them, but this was a completely different situation to contend with.

Like all dining establishments, they had to shut down in March 2020. Staff was laid off with no idea of if or when they would return. When re-openings were permitted more than three months later, it was limited to takeout and outdoor dining. Fortunately, the South Street Headhouse District helped them and adjacent restaurants with city regulators. South 2nd Street was closed to vehicular traffic and dining extended beyond the sidewalk onto the street and under The Shambles. Dragging tables and chairs in and out each day added to the physicality of the work. Unpredictable



Sous chef Tim Smith, co-owners Zach Morris and Kelsey Bush, and general manager Tim Kweeder



A small part of Bloomsday's extensive wine and gift shop

weather, even with some covered seating, made it difficult to anticipate how many meals would be needed on any given day. Takeout continued throughout. Tim repeatedly expressed sincere appreciation to the community, both for patronizing the business and for offering ongoing encouragement.

Many eateries have looked for creative ways to keep their business viable. Bloomsday Café is lucky to have an innovative and talented crew willing to think outside the box while staying true to their goal of social responsibility.

It already had a natural wine shop featuring a large and interesting selection. Natural wines typically come from smaller, organic, sustainable wineries. They're chemical-free and usually come

from local vineyards to decrease the carbon footprint of lengthy transport. While the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board allows online ordering, customers do have to pay for and pick up wine in person. Bloomsday also offers a "Fancy Wine Club" which includes three bottles per month, of Bloomsday's choosing, for the open-minded consumer eager to try new varietals.

Zach Morris has now taken a dive into vermouth production with an initial blend named "Dumpster Juice." Only in Philly! I haven't sampled it yet, but it has already received critical acclaim from Craig LaBan, restaurant critic.

Takeout orders continue at a brisk pace. You order and pay online. You can choose home delivery, but pickup comes with the extra perk of a treat for your canine buddy, should he accompany you.

Sadly, the live moss wall did not survive the pandemic. On the upside, the extra wall space allowed for additional shelving for wines, tinned fish, cookbooks and other interesting items.

The restaurant features house-made bread and pastries by Sofiane Bellal. The light and fluffy croissants rival those of any bakery in Paris. One bite and you'll be hooked. Sarah Thompson heads up their charcuterie program. Biscuit Pop-Ups feature her tall, burnished biscuits with both sweet and savory toppings.

Bloomsday continues to use primarily local ingredients for the menu with most items made from scratch. They're holding off on indoor seating until mid to late summer in consideration of everyone's health.

Check out www.bloomsdaycafe.com for their hours. If you're looking for a great local dining spot run by some really nice people, this could be it. Be forewarned: the avocado toast is addictive!

Claudia Carabelli is a Southwest Quadrant Director for SHCA.



604 S. Washington Square

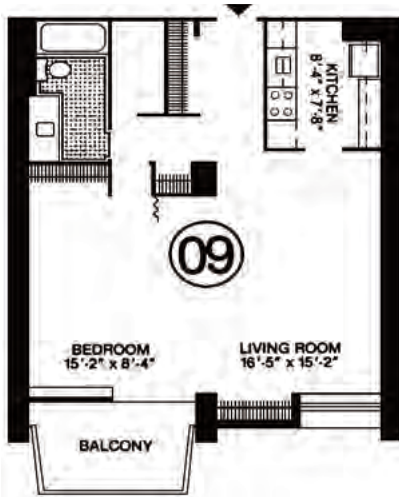


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Deluxe One Bedroom on High Floor

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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 \$258,900



Spacious Two Bedroom

On a high floor, this light-filled 2 bedroom, 1.5 bathroom home offers incredible natural light and an open layout with forever views to the south from a private balcony.
1,200 sf | \$495,000



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KEEPING POSTED

BY AL CAVALARI

Two Priceless Treasures Demolished

Sadly, Philadelphia has a long history of not always respecting its history. Case in point is the tale of two buildings erected on the same site at 7th and Market Streets.

Here in 1883, attorney Thomas Donaldson watched workmen begin tearing down The Graff House, where Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence. Sacrificing history to commerce, Penn National Bank was clearing the lot to construct the Frank Furness-designed building you see on this post card. One writer titled this event “A Cloud upon the Patriotism of the City.”

The home of bricklayer Jacob Graff, where Jefferson rented a suite of rooms while he was a delegate to the Continental Congress, seems to have been sold as part of a group of buildings. Pharmaceutical magnate William Weightman, Philadelphia’s largest property owner, converted hundreds of acres of farmland into entire neighborhoods for middle-class housing. He also made it a practice to buy up and demolish blocks of old buildings to make way for new construction. The Graff House became such a casualty.

Donaldson, an agent of The Smithsonian Institution, made a deal with the demolition contractor and salvaged the deconstructed building materials — woodwork, timbers, stonework — for \$75, with the hope of reconstructing the house in Washington. That plan failed, and the materials remained stored outdoors in a West Philadelphia vacant lot. Suggestions to reconstruct it in Fairmount Park or at the University of Pennsylvania also went nowhere. The materials became lost to vandals through the years and scattered to various people who preserved them as relics. The National Park Service’s “Historic Structure Report, Graff House,” which is the main source for this article, states that it has in its collection a lintel



Postcard shows 7th and Market Streets prior to 1906.



View of 7th and Market Streets as it is today.

block, an iron key and a doorknob from the house.

Jefferson had been rooming on Chestnut Street across from Carpenters Hall but found the neighborhood too congested! His solution was to move to the outskirts of town on Seventh Street, where he could get some fresh air and be away from the hustle and bustle. In the bargain, he would wind up with more rooms for less money.

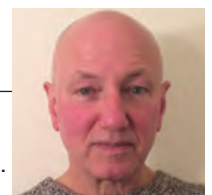
Later this dwelling would have other historic tenants. John Dunlap, whom Congress tasked with printing the Declaration on the night of July 4, 1776 and who printed the Constitution, lived in the house from 1785 to 1787. James Wilson, a signer of the Declaration and the Constitution, and justice on the first Supreme Court, lived in the house for five years after 1788.

Thomas Jefferson and architect Frank Furness both created something on that same street corner. Furness’s creation

was built of stone but only lasted from 1884 to 1974, when it was torn down for The National Park Service to build The Graff House replica in time for the Bicentennial. In contrast, Jefferson’s fragile document was scratched on paper with a feather 245 years ago and still survives.

Do yourself a favor and visit some Frank Furness buildings. There are still some around, including the stunning Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts at Broad and Cherry Streets. The buildings are easy to find on the internet and walk to. Stand in front of one, and you simply cannot stop looking. Furness designed about 600 buildings, most of them in Philadelphia. It will leave you speechless when you see the ones that used to be right here within walking distance but have been destroyed.

This is a fabulous card for a Philadelphia collection. The World Post Card Company had sharp quality images; the Furness bank building makes a striking presence. The detailed and active street life draws the viewer into that moment in time that can be dated prior to 1906, based on the card’s undivided back. The dresses of the little girls and women, the concentration of horse-drawn conveyances and the many commercial signs are all great features. With a loupe many of them are readable. The best one is the vendor’s cart on the corner. He is selling spring water for 1¢. Today the street vendors at Independence Hall sell spring water for \$1.



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.

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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.
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SOUTH STREET HEADHOUSE DISTRICT

BY KERI WHITE

Vaccines and Vintage Collections

South Street Headhouse District (SSHD) has been busy these last few months with a variety of initiatives for the benefit of the community and area businesses.

TLA's COVID-19 Vaccine Center

SSHD joined forces with Penn Medicine to expand vaccine access to our local community. The project began when Pennsylvania Hospital, wishing to avoid crowds around the hospital, looked for a space nearby to deliver this critical service.

Enter Dana Feinberg, SSHD Project Coordinator, who suggested repurposing the Theatre of the Living Arts (TLA) at 334 South Street, which had been vacant since the pandemic began. Thanks to Penn Medicine, the TLA and its parent company Live Nation, the center opened on February 17 and has been delivering 400 shots per day to Penn Medicine patients.

The waitlist was subsequently opened to the SSHD business community, which has enabled some local business owners and employees to secure much-needed shots. SSHD Executive Director Mike Harris comments, "This is a great use of the TLA's space, and we are thrilled to play a small role in expanding vaccine access, helping make the District a safer place for shoppers, visitors and employees. It is truly our privilege to be part of the solution."

The vaccine clinic will operate six days a week, Monday to Saturday, through the month of June as supply permits and demand requires. Please contact your Penn Medicine doctor for more information.

See page 5 for a personal story about this center!

Focus on Shopping Local

The events of the last year have pushed the "shop local" movement into high gear. Since supply chains for many types of goods were

disrupted by the pandemic, consumers had to rely on local makers and producers, as well as upcycled and vintage goods for their various needs. In response, the merchants in and around South Street stepped into the spotlight. Project Coordinator Dana Feinberg explains, "It's all here. People don't have to travel to a mall, or even across town. We have shops selling high-quality merchandise of enormous variety. Whether it's plants, home decor, apparel, beauty products, sneakers or gifts, the District has merchants selling all of these types of items in a wide range of labels, styles and price points."

The work-from-home trend has taken significant hold for many professionals, and with it, "work-place" fashion has changed. Dana continues, "Our clothing stores have responded to the demand for stylish yet comfortable clothing and athleisurewear, as people spend more time at home. Places like P's and Q's, Totem Brand, Steel Pony and Urban Princess offer fashionable, quality apparel that emphasizes comfort.

"And the District has been on the cutting edge of the vintage and upcycling trend, well ahead of the curve. Green Street Consignment, Raxx Vintage Emporium, Bella Boutique, Suplex, Philly Aids Thrift and Retrospect all offer well-curated vintage collections and upcycled goods."

New Website Launch

In order to deliver a more user-friendly, vibrant online resource to the community, SSHD has created a new website that makes it easier to search for restaurants, businesses and events. Built primarily by their recently hired Digital and Marketing Coordinator Sarah Cowell, the site went live in April and has been well received. Check it out at <https://southstreet.com/>.

SSHD wishes everyone a safe and healthy spring and looks forward to seeing you around the District!



Raxx Vintage Emporium offers well-curated collections and upcycled goods. Shop Local!



Old Pine Conservancy seeks **volunteers** with an interest in the Revolutionary War who would enjoy serving as **docents**. Contact us to find out how you can help us share the stories behind the patriots buried in our historic graveyard.

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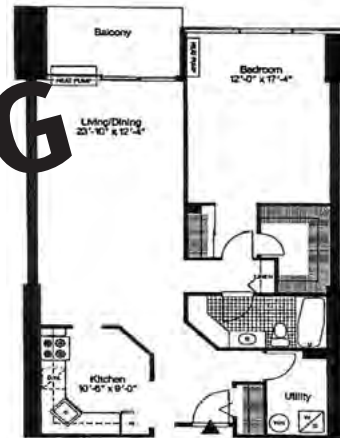
Old Pine Street Church
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INDEPENDENCE PLACE

233 - 241 S. 6th Street



PENDING

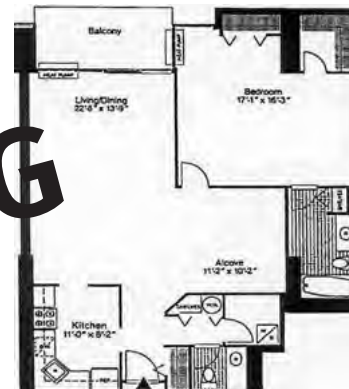


Completely renovated one bedroom, one bathroom with gorgeous treetop views of Washington Square and the Center City skyline showcased from a private balcony! This spacious one bedroom home offers wood like floors and walls of oversized windows in all rooms.

928 sf | Offered for \$350,000



PENDING



*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

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IN MEMORIAM

Louise Bornemann Beardwood



Louise Beardwood, right, in conversation with Sarah Weatherwax and William Bucher at the Library Company.

We are sad to inform neighbors of the death of Louise Beardwood, known to her friends as Bunny, who passed away on September 6, 2020 at the age of 90.

Louise attended public schools in Haverford Township before entering Ursinus College, where she majored in English Literature and graduated in 1951. While at Ursinus, she met Joseph T. Beardwood III, and they married in 1952. They were both active in political and community affairs in Cheltenham Township and Philadelphia. Joseph died in 1983.

Louise was secretary to the Arts Editor of the *Saturday Evening Post* from 1952 to 1963, where she met Norman Rockwell and many other popular artists of the time. In 1972, she earned a master's degree in Library Science from Drexel University and proceeded to work as a law librarian at several prominent Philadelphia law firms, including Morgan, Bockius & Lewis.

During this time, she was active in the Greater Philadelphia Law Library Association. Her work in publishing and law inspired an interest in business and economics, which prompted her to get an MBA degree from Temple University in 1985. She retired in 1993 and devoted considerable time to civic volunteer activities, including the Library Company, the Free Library of Philadelphia, Center for Literacy, Associated Services for the Blind, Fleisher Art Memorial, SHCA and the Philadelphia Convention Center and Visitors Bureau.

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NIFTY NEIGHBORS IN MY BACKYARD

BY JANE BIBERMAN

A Passion for All Things Philadelphia

Although he was born in England, Woody Rosenbach has no passion for tea. “My father was abroad for a one-year medical residency,” he explains. “So, I lived there for only a few months. Alas, I have no British accent.”

Woody grew up in Pittsburgh and came to Philadelphia to attend college. “I got three things from my time at the University of Pennsylvania: a great education — my bachelor’s and MBA degrees from Wharton — and I met my best friend, Brooke Smith, who lived across the hall from me.”

Not only were they friends, but they got married some 40-plus years ago. “And my love for Philadelphia. I have an incredible passion for all the great things about Philly: the sports, history, culture and architecture.”

Woody is so grateful for all he received here that he has a growing commitment to give back. “I’d like to work on some of the challenges within Philadelphia.”

Following Penn, he started a 35-year corporate career that included executive roles with Procter & Gamble (Vicks Cough & Cold products, Pampers), Campbell Soup (Vlasic Pickles, V8 Juice, SpaghettiOs) and Mattel Toys (Barbie, Hot Wheels, Fisher-Price). This included his living in Norwalk, Connecticut and Cincinnati, Ohio before moving back to Mt. Laurel, New Jersey, in 1993. “Interspersed during our Mt. Laurel years, we lived abroad through two expat assignments with Mattel Toys,” (Amsterdam and Paris).

Brooke taught math at Moorestown Friends High School and only recently retired. The couple has two children. “Sarah is a doctoral candidate at NYU and Andrew works for the Hershey Chocolate Company,” says Woody. “With both kids out of the house, Brooke and I decided the time was right to move back to Philadelphia. “Following a full year, river-to-river, Broad Street to Washington Avenue search, we settled on Society Hill and moved here in 2013.



Brooke and Woody Rosenbach

“Ironically, during our Penn years, we found ourselves in the neighborhood frequently, usually for food. We loved the long-gone Knave of Hearts, Rusty Scupper and Le Champignon. At the time, we said that we liked Society Hill and could see ourselves living here. Neither of us realized that it would be 35 years before it was a reality.”

Hand-in-hand with Woody’s love for Philadelphia came an increasing commitment to devote time to helping improve Philadelphia. This led to board roles with the Please Touch Children’s Museum, Drexel’s School for Food & Hospitality Management and leadership roles in Philadelphia. Woody began volunteering with SHCA, thanks to Martha Levine.

“Following the Meet & Greet Welcome Basket, Martha nominated me for SHCA board membership. I served for four years and had the good fortune to work with past presidents Bob Curley and Roseanne Loesch, as well as current president Larry Spector. I served as treasurer for my final two years.”

Additionally, Woody was the chairman of the Society Hill Preservation Foundation, which worked with the National Park Service and an outstanding volunteer group.

“The commitment to the non-profit community took a significant uptick from volunteer hours to full-time paid

work in the summer of 2019. I was recruited to become CEO of COMHAR. COMHAR is a 45-plus year-old human services organization that includes community centers, community living arrangements, co-occurring behavioral health and addiction programs, services for the Latino community, services supporting individuals with HIV/AIDS, and children and family services. Our agency comprises 550 team members who serve more than 5,500 individuals per month.”

Upon acceptance of the COMHAR role, “which is truly a 24/7 job, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, I had to scale back my volunteer non-profit commitments, including my service to Society Hill.”

During the pandemic, Brooke and Woody started two new “togetherness” activities. “We are now fans of ‘Yoga with Adriene.’ She has hundreds of free classes on YouTube,” he confides.

In addition, they’ve taken up hiking. “It’s one of the best outdoor socially distanced activities. We use a great book entitled: *60 Hikes Within 60 Miles of Philadelphia*” (by Lori Litchman).

After the pandemic, there are many things they are looking forward to. “Whether it’s going to see the Phillies at Citizens Bank Park, taking in a concert at the Kimmel Center, eating inside at all the great neighborhood restaurants or just getting reacquainted with neighbors. We are also looking forward to restarting our international travel.”

Their goal is to earn membership in the “100 Country Club.” Currently, they have 60 countries stamped in their passports.



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



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