



SOCIETY HILL

# Reporter

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

## Watch Your Stoop!

### *Stealthy Porch Pirates Invade*



We Society Hillers are conditioned to watch our step on brick sidewalks and cobblestone streets. Sadly, the need to watch our stoops because of package theft is becoming another painful fact of city life. Here are some tips to proactively deter brazen “porch pirates.”

Some studies have suggested that 93 percent of stolen packages were visible from the street. A simple solution to porch pilfering is a large planter with instructions for carriers to tuck parcels out of sight. An agreement with nearby neighbors to look out for each other’s deliveries is also helpful. Leaving mail unattended for the shortest time possible is the best strategy.

#### **Plan Ahead**

You can, however, attack the problem at its source. Choose a shipping option that requires a signature for delivery. A valuable item should be sent by registered mail to ensure special handling from the time it’s mailed until it’s delivered, documenting the chain of custody.

Schedule packages to arrive when you are at home or arrange to ship to a location where a friend, relative, trusted neighbor or building super can accept them on your behalf. Or, ship to your place of employment. You can request that the delivery service hold your package for pick-up at their facility. Importantly, always track your shipment online.

When shipping packages you can choose the “Hold for Pickup” option, and then collect at the local post office. Just go to [www.USPS.com](http://www.USPS.com) and choose USPS Package Intercept. Use this option when mailing gifts so recipients can collect them at their local post offices.

If you order most of your packages through Amazon, you can take advantage of a local delivery location. Whole Foods at 10th and South provides this free service. You will receive a notification when the package is delivered with an access code. You’ll then be able to unlock the locker and pick up your package.

Our two local CVS pharmacies at 421 S. 2nd and 314 S. 5th Streets are UPS Access Points, where you can drop off pre-packaged, pre-labeled shipments and pick up packages if you choose one of them as a delivery option at online checkout. This service is free.

To eliminate porch theft, consider BOPIS. This is an acronym that stands for buy online, pickup in store. This strategy is also referred to as click and collect, curbside pickup or reserve online, pickup in store. Shoppers don’t have to deal with shipping costs, long delivery timelines or shipping back items that don’t fit expectations. Many of our local stores like Best Buy, Home Depot and Target offer this shopping option.

#### **Install Deterrents**

Where applicable, consider installing a wi-fi enabled camera that provides alerts. Pair it with motion-

*continued on page 3*

*Wishing  
you a happy  
and healthy  
New Year!*



## SWEEPING CHANGES!



**Clean Up Day is back! See story on Page 5.**

photo by Rhonda Moody

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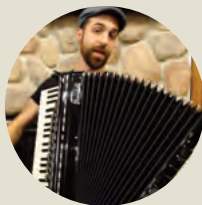
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SOCIETY HILL

*Reporter*

**NUSA  
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Newsletter  
First Place  
2020**

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**Submission Deadline**  
March/April Issue:  
February 1

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

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

**Submissions**

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

**SHCA Mission Statement**

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

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

BY LARRY SPECTOR

Year-end holidays can boost our mood and lift our hopes for a happy New Year. My own spirits are raised by my annual march as a balloon captain in the Thanksgiving Day Parade. This time I had my six-year-old grandson grab a rope and help spin Buddy the Dinosaur. Maybe next year we can form a Civic Association balloon handling crew. It's a joy.



**Larry Spector (right) helps his grandson grab a line and lead a Thanksgiving parade balloon handling crew.**

The Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) hopes to spread good cheer in the new year by making grants to further services or projects in Society Hill, and/or the city itself, that serve our mission. We donated \$50,000 in 2019, and a comparable amount is approved for 2022. Grant recipients will be selected following a review of applications, which must be submitted by February 28, 2022. The application form is available on our website and our Facebook page. If you know of a cause or project worthy of consideration, please alert the responsible parties to apply.

Reference to Facebook must come with thanks to Board member Bonnie Halda for maintaining the SHCA page with timely information that continually shows the work of the association and activity in Society Hill. That page, our weekly email newsletter, this *Reporter* and what will soon be a revitalized

SHCA website, make up our effort to keep the neighborhood well informed.

Special thanks as well to Susan Burt Collins and Yvon Rizzo for leading us in our Fall Clean-Up (tons of leaves never had a chance); and to the costumed residents of decorated Delancey Street who staged an outdoor Halloween festival for what was surely over a thousand trick-or-treaters.

The long-delayed pilot project relating to the possible closure of Spruce Street to westbound traffic from Columbus Boulevard has begun. In the week before Thanksgiving, the city measured traffic in all of the nearby intersections to quantify the "before closure" statistic. A closure will take place in early 2022 to measure the "after closure" traffic flow.

The Downey's restaurant site at Front and South Streets is the subject of the proposed development of a 13-unit apartment building over 60 feet tall with ground floor restaurant space intruding on the sidewalk. SHCA and Queen Village Neighbors Association opposed variances sought by the developer to build at that height and density. The Zoning Board of Adjustment granted the variances. The Association has not decided whether to appeal. The appeal period has not yet begun to run.

I have taken all too much for granted the terrific historical essays that Al Cavaliere writes for the Society Hill Reporter. His essays relying on vintage postcards, photos and original materials have enlightened us on everything from long-gone buildings and faux Franklin Stoves to slave memorials and Independence Hall imitations. They enrich us about the bygone era that gives Society Hill its wonderful history.

We look forward to an upbeat 2022, when we will return to the Washington Square Affair. May it be happy and healthy.

---

**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 his wife, Ann.



**Larry Spector**

**Watch Your Stoop!** *continued from p 1*

sensor lighting and a package locker, which is basically a lockable mailbox for packages. You can place it wherever you want it. The delivery driver can then put the package into the box, a weatherproof locker that cannot be accessed without a key or key code.

**If Your Package is Stolen**

Report stolen packages to the police, and if delivered by the USPS, to the postmaster. These are crimes, and they need to be investigated.

If you bought a package on Amazon, you might need to contact the seller first and later file a claim with Amazon. In many cases, sellers will locate your package or

issue a refund or replacement. Other times, they might direct you to the shipping company. Luckily, many shipping companies have online portals where you can file a claim and determine where your package is and if it'll be delivered.

Please report suspicious persons or activities to the police. Let's watch out for one another!



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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.



215-844-TREE





FALL CLEAN-UP DAY

BY SUSAN BURT COLLINS

# Brooms, Bags Make Society Hill Sparkle

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, neighbors took to the streets and sidewalks with brooms, bags and optimism to clear away debris and fallen leaves in early December. With help from the Sanitation Department, which provided blowers, flushers, sweepers and a long, snake-like vacuum to suck up leaves, we made Society Hill's streets neat and tidy. The Office of Special Events again issued permits for street closures, parking changes and helped with coordination.

Over 100 "Move Your Car" and "No Parking" signs were posted, thanks to the diligent work of SHCA block coordinators. We gave out hundreds of leaf bags and even had the city drop off 20 recycling containers with lids! All the bags got used, the recycling bins found homes and most of the new SHCA-owned brooms and rakes were returned. (If anyone forgot to return one, please do so.)

Our new gathering place at Three Bears Park seemed cozier and more comfortable than the Acme sidewalk. People were able to hang out, meet and chat. We even provided hot chocolate and sweets at the close of the day. Although we went home to warm up and relax at 1:30 p.m., the city workers kept at it until dark and returned Sunday morning to finish.

Our neighborhood and civic association invested both time and dollars to make this event a success. Although by Monday a fresh golden blanket of Ginkgo leaves adorned many sidewalks, the hard work and neighborliness of everyone made the coming winter seem so much brighter than the last. For those neighbors whose blocks were missed, please accept my apologies and next time, together, we will work to get all of Society Hill covered. Thanks to everyone who made it happen!



**Clean-Up Day coordinators Yvana Rizzo and Susan Burt Collins**



Photos by Bonnie Halda

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

BY MARTHA LEVINE

# Updated SHCA List of Contractors



**H**ot off the press and ready to go! Over many years, our popular List of Contractors has been a valuable resource for neighbors. It was time to edit and update it, as some contractors may have retired during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Updating the list was not an easy task. We had to contact every contractor to confirm that they are still in business and willing to work in Society Hill. Some of the phone numbers were no longer in service; some contractors had retired. Contact information and websites were checked for accuracy. This new, more usable list is now pared down from 14 to 11 pages, with a total of 300 contractors to choose from. To make the list easier to use, we added a table of contents.

**You Can Help.** To keep the list current, we rely on residents to inform us if a contractor has retired. At the same time, we encourage you to recommend good contractors you have used in your home to add to our list. That is how the list was created. All contractors have been highly recommended by Society Hill neighbors.

If you have had work done in your home and are pleased with the results, email me the contractor's name and contact information. Make sure the contractor is interested in being on the list. Our exhaustive list includes all types of contractors: general contracting, painting, electrical, HVAC, roofing, plumbing, masonry, landscaping, windows, etc. plus a miscellaneous section. We are looking for more candidates for the handyman category.

The list is now ready for distribution. You can request to have it sent to you by email or, if you prefer a hard copy, a printed copy can be mailed directly to you. To get a list, you must be a current SHCA member. We ask that you not share with non-members, as the list is a perk of membership. To request a list, please email me at [marthalev6@gmail.com](mailto:marthalev6@gmail.com).



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

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DOING GOOD IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

BY MARY PURCELL

## A Partnership at Work

On Wednesday October 27, Society Hill Preservation Foundation (SHPF) presented a check to Independence National Historical Park officials for improvements to Washington Square, standing at one of the flower beds lovingly cared for by community volunteers.

The \$29,000 check helped to fund the repairs that brought the fountain to life again this past spring. In addition, there were repairs to the irrigation system, tree trimming and flower bed planting.

We hope you are enjoying the Square. If you see a volunteer or Park Service employee, be sure to voice your appreciation!



**L to R: Acting Park Deputy Superintendent Tom Rogers; Park Public Affairs Officer Andrew McDougall; Chief of Assets, Preservation, and Maintenance Matt Hess; Superintendent Cindy MacLeod; SHPF President Mary Purcell; Washington Square and Washington Square Affair Committee Co-chair Fred Manfred; SHPF Treasurer Marc Feldman; Washington Square Committee Co-chair Sherley Young.** Photo by Bonnie Halda,

NEW IN 2022

BY ANDREA LAYDEN

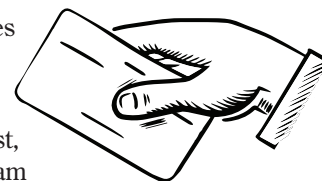
## Local Merchants Offer Discounts to Members

There is no better time than now to join SHCA or renew your membership. Members have long been eligible for our many incredible subsidy programs such as “Fix the Brix” and Tree Tenders, as well as our coveted Contractor List.

Starting in 2022, SHCA members will now also be eligible to benefit from our new “Business Perks Program.” Businesses would like to thank you for your patronage by offering exclusive discounts and/or specials simply for being SHCA members. This includes restaurants, retail establishments, museums and services.

Join or renew your SHCA membership, and then bring your membership card to participating businesses. There, you will receive discounts/specials as outlined by our merchants. This program benefits patrons as well as promotes our neighborhood businesses.

For your convenience, the participating businesses will be listed in our weekly e-blast, the *Reporter*, and our Facebook and Instagram pages, with detailed information about the discounts. Join or renew now. Your support is greatly appreciated.



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**MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

# Volunteer at America's First Hospital

It can be easy to forget how much history surrounds us, not only in Philadelphia, but even in Society Hill. I know it sometimes takes an out-of-town visitor to remind me how amazing this area is. We have a lot of “firsts” in the city. One of the most notable is **Pennsylvania Hospital**, the nation’s first hospital. It was founded in 1751 by Benjamin Franklin and Dr. Thomas Bond “to care for the sick, poor and insane who were wandering the streets of Philadelphia.” Almost three centuries later, the need continues.

COVID-19 reared its ugly head in March of 2020 and gave us all a stark reminder of just how essential, and sometimes fragile, our healthcare system can be. The past 22 months have taxed some hospitals to the breaking point and left health care workers, especially bedside nurses, overwhelmed and exhausted. Some of these professionals literally put their lives on the line to care for the rest of us. Here’s a way to show your appreciation and simultaneously do your part.

Pennsylvania Hospital has a vibrant volunteer program in place with opportunities that tap into a variety of skill sets. Pandemic safety protocols kept volunteers out of the hospital for many months. They welcomed volunteers back this summer and still have openings. Think you don’t have what it takes to get involved? Think again. There are many possibilities to explore.

**The Adult Volunteer Program** offers opportunities based on “the current needs of the requesting department and the volunteer’s suitability, experience and time commitment.” Ideally, they like volunteers to work a minimum of four hours per week and to do so for at least four months. After applying, there is an interview, orientation and health screening. You’ll have an initial TB test and must be vaccinated for COVID-19 and the flu. Child abuse and FBI clearances may be required if you’re assigned to a department with children. Face masks are required at all times in the hospital setting.

Volunteer categories include:

**Public/Patient/Visitor Services**

Work at one of the three **Information Desks** to answer questions and provide directions to visitors. Weekday four-hour shifts are available from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**The Gift Shop** needs help with sales and operating the cash register during four-hour shifts from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**The Admissions Desk** uses volunteers to greet patients and families and assist staff with the admissions process. Weekdays, two or four-hours shifts between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

**Patient Care**

**Volunteer Patient Representatives** visit patients who are newly admitted to the hospital, orient them to non-medical services and address their concerns. This requires a two to four-hour shift on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Bookmobile** volunteers organize the library and help patients select reading materials. This entails a three-hour shift from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. during weekdays and some weekends.

**Animal-Assisted Therapy** is for volunteers with a therapy dog certified by one of the official pet certification agencies. This is my special niche. My dog Dexter and I have been visiting for several

years. If you want to see instant smiles on patients and staff alike, consider signing up with your therapy dog. One to two-hour shifts are available seven days a week. Contact the volunteer office for further information.

**The Emergency Department** utilizes volunteers as a liaison for patients and families. You can provide a personal touch for those in the waiting area by making phone calls, running errands and supplying them with comfort measures like water, juice and blankets. This is a great opportunity for pre-med and post-baccalaureate students.

**Non-Patient Services**

If you prefer working in non-patient areas, there is always the need for help with clerical support, filing, typing, computer work, data entry, answering phones and running errands during two to four-hour shifts weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Staff and patients alike are very appreciative of the volunteers. They recognize them as an essential and special part of the health care team. Call the Volunteer Office at 215-829-5187 to get started.

**Claudia Carabelli** is a Southwest Quadrant Director for SHCA.



**If you want to see instant smiles on patients and staff alike, consider getting your pet certified as a therapy dog and signing up.**

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KEEPING POSTED

BY AL CAVALARI

# Sons of Temperance Fountain

This card shows a structure that once stood behind Independence Hall, but its purpose was a mystery. Fortunately, rangers love questions, and I got an immediate answer from one at Independence National Historical Park (INHP). He said, “That’s the Temperance Fountain. It was first installed by the Sons of Temperance as part of the Centennial Exposition in 1876. In 1877, it was moved to Independence Square. It remained here until 1969 when it was placed in storage.” I have since learned that the object’s full name is the Sons of Temperance Ice-Water Fountain!

The Sons was a fraternal organization founded in 1842 to promote temperance and provide support in the form of insurance policies and savings plans. By the 1850s, they had 5,000 chapters and eventually spread internationally. Initially membership was restricted to white males. Women were admitted as full members in 1866. By the early 1880s, most divisions admitted people of all colors.

Presidents Lincoln, Hayes and Grant were members. Ironically, John Wilkes Booth might have benefited from membership. Prior to assassinating Lincoln, he had just come out of a saloon after drinking two glasses of brandy.

The presence of alcohol at the 1876 Centennial fair was controversial. At the Sons of Temperance annual four-day meeting in Independence Hall during June of 1876, in the aftermath of the Civil War, a keynote speaker spoke of “forgetting and forgiving the bitterness and strife that deluged our land with blood, uniting in thanks to the God of heaven that our Centennial year finds our flag of stars waving over a free, united people.” But turning his attention to the “International Exhibition” about to take place he continued, “We have the irrepressible conflict — here, as elsewhere, we meet the defiant rum-power. It has entrenched itself in every portion of the Exposition grounds and buildings.”

Citing a state law passed in 1868 “that no intoxicating liquors shall be allowed to be sold within said park,” Fairmount Park, the fair venue, a resolution was passed calling for the Centennial Commission to cancel all arrangements it had made with vendors to provide alcoholic beverages, so that the “nations of the earth” would not be “invited to an inspection of our unparalleled facilities for manufacturing drunkards.”

Legal action was threatened. A telegram was sent to the President of the Centennial Commission calling on him to forbid the sale of alcohol. “In

commemorating the glorious events that made us a free people, let us not place prominently before the assembled world that which is enslaving its millions in our otherwise free land.” The effort seems to have had an effect, but according to the *Encyclopedia of Philadelphia*, “Profits trumped morality, however, and when attendance flagged at the fair, the organizers allowed the sale of wine and beer.”

The Sons was one of two organizations that built water fountains at the Centennial with the hope that they would prevent people from drinking alcohol. A previous article in these pages focused on yet another group, The Philadelphia Fountain Society, that built some 80 fountains around town for the same purpose. You can see examples on Independence Square South and at the Arch Street Friends Meeting House.

What happens to all the stuff left over when a world’s fair ends? Some of the items have an obvious use. The Please Touch Museum is in Memorial Hall, one of the few buildings left from the 1876 Centennial Expo. However, most things are torn down, sold as surplus or moved. A *Philadelphia Inquirer* article from May 22, 1877 explains that the “Temperance Ice-Water Fountain” is now in place in “Independence Square. The water is cooled by being run through a large coil of pipe in the center of a large iron cylinder filled with ice located in the ground.”

Did the city, which ran Independence Hall before the National Park Service, seriously commit to providing fresh ice water and send someone by each day to refill the ice? Maybe for a while, but there is this response from Karie Diethorn, current INHP Chief Curator: “The fountain parts we have in storage include a lot of 20th-century cast iron pipes, so I wonder if eventually the fountain was supplied underground by the municipal water system, rather than from a reservoir of ice.”

**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.



Postcard showing the Temperance Fountain.



Plan of the fountain as it was to be installed under a gazebo in Fairmount Park for the Centennial Celebration.



Photo of the fountain taken in 1961.







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**WASHINGTON SQUARE COMMITTEE REPORT**

BY FRED MANFRED

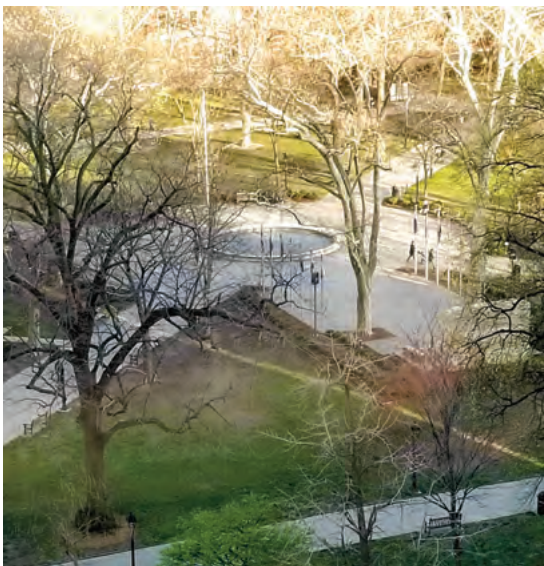
**Save the Date!**

Plans for 2022's Washington Square Affair, hosted by SHCA, are well under way. Cochair Joan Tropp and I have assembled a seasoned committee of volunteers to assist. The Patron Party and tented Washington Square Affair are planned for the same evening and scheduled for earlier in the season from years past, Wednesday, May 18. Save the date!

The Affair is a celebratory fundraising event to provide continued support to the community-sponsored beautification of Washington Square. A secondary benefit is how this garden-style fête supports our community by bringing family, friends and neighbors together to enjoy a variety of food specialties, wine, spirits and lively conversation.

As we move forward, public safety will be prioritized by promoting the Affair as contingent upon favorable national and local health guidelines for large gatherings and requiring proof of vaccination at each event.

Ticket information and sales have begun via SHCA's website. If you sign up as a patron, you will be invited to a very special pre-Affair Patron Party hosted by Zoë & Aleni Pappas at their one-of-a-kind, bi-level penthouse apartment at the Saunders building, 220 W. Washington Square, where the apartment and its wrap-around terrace offer sweeping views of the park and city skyline. Immediately following is the tented Affair across the street on Park grounds. Tickets at both events are limited.



**Sign up as a Patron and enjoy a penthouse view of the Square at the Pre-Affair Patron Party.**

We appreciate and thank our loyal patrons and community donors for supporting our efforts. During the past two years, generous donations have resulted in many important and exciting changes, including new bushes and trees, trimming of the tree canopy and establishing the park as an international historic arboretum, as well as scores of new perennials, and colorful annuals. Volunteers have also begun to initiate new projects such as turf restoration, fountain and irrigation repairs, new park benches, steam cleaning the park walls... the list goes on.

A few weeks ago, Superintendent of INHP Cynthia MacLeod announced that Andrew McDougall will take over the position of Deputy Chief, Maintenance Operations, a position long held by Eamon Leighty. Andrew, our primary interface, has hit the ground running and was instrumental in developing an aggressive and cooperative work plan for 2022 which outlines many new projects in which the SHCA's Washington Square committee will participate.



**Thanks to Deputy Chief Andrew McDougall for developing a cooperative work plan for 2022 that includes the participation of the Washington Square Committee.**

Financial contributions are critical to ensure the continued revitalization and transformation of our wonderful park. To those Patrons who contributed early in 2020, we thank you again and will apply your party benefits to 2022. If you have any questions, please contact one of the cochairs through SHCA Administrator Matt DeJulio at mattdejulio@aol.com. Tickets will be held at the door. Proof of vaccination will be required to enter.

There is a lot to look forward to in 2022, and we hope to see you under the big white tent!

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



*2022 Square Affair  
Wednesday, May 18  
Save the date!*





## OUT AND ABOUT

BY MARTHA LEVINE

## Finishing 2021 with Welcome Gift Bags Galore...

As of the end of 2021, we are glad to report that since February 1, we have presented 90 Welcome Gift Bags to new first-time home and condo owners in Society Hill. With that impressive number, we still have many more to present. If you are a new first-time owner in Society Hill, and are interested in receiving a Welcome Gift Bag, please contact [marthalev6@gmail.com](mailto:marthalev6@gmail.com) or call 215-629-0727.



Vijay &amp; Dima



Brian &amp; Meghan



Serena



Mike &amp; Colleen



Joanne



Lois &amp; Frank



Dawn



Matthew &amp; Jessica



Bob &amp; Shelly



**OUT AND ABOUT**

BY MARTHA LEVINE

...And Thanks to our Generous Gift Bag Donors

We ask that you help us say thank you to the generous business and organization donors by patronizing their establishments. They make the Welcome Gift Bag program possible. All bags contain one bottle of wine, one bag of coffee, important neighborhood information and many gift cards to local restaurants, retail, services and museums, all donated by local establishments. Let us help all of our donors to succeed in these difficult times.

*Restaurants*

- Bistro Romano**, 120 Lombard Street
- Buca D'Oro**, 711 Locust Street
- Cavanaugh's Headhouse**,  
421 S. 2nd Street
- Fork Restaurant**, 306 Market Street
- Frieda Café**, 320 Walnut Street
- Gnocchi** (Italian), 613 E. Passyunk Avenue
- High Street Phila.** (take-out), 101 S. 9th Street
- La Colombe Coffee Roasters**, 100 S. 6th Street
- Malbec Argentine Steakhouse**,  
400-02 S. 2nd Street
- Panorama**, 14 N. Front Street
- PJ Clarke's**, 601 Walnut Street
- The Twisted Tail**, 509 S. 2nd Street
- Talula's Daily**, 208 W. Washington Square
- Xochitl** (Mexican), 408 S. 2nd Street

*Retail, Services and Museums*

- Adornamenti** (Jewelry), 1006 Pine Street
- Bloom Philadelphia** (flowers), hello@bloomphiladelphia.com
- Ghost Tour of Philadelphia**, 215-413-1997, ghosttour@ghosttours.com
- Gopuff** (expedited delivery service), www.gopuff.com
- Head House Books**, 619 S. 2nd Street
- Independence Seaport Museum**, 211 S. Columbus Boulevard
- Jason Matthew Salon** (award winning), 1735 Chestnut Street
- Judy Moon Massage**, 829 Spruce Street, Suite 300
- Lee's Cleaners**, 241 S. 6th Street
- Museum of the American Revolution**, 101 S. 3rd Street
- National Liberty Museum**, 321 Chestnut Street
- Paper on Pine** (stationary), 1310 Sansom Street
- Phila. Society for the Preservation of Landmarks**  
(Physick & Powel Houses) 321 S. 4th Street
- Pileggi Salon on the Square**, 717 Walnut Street
- Show of Hands** (craft gallery), 1006 Pine Street



**Bruce & Mary Frances**



**Emily**



**Eric & Sarah**



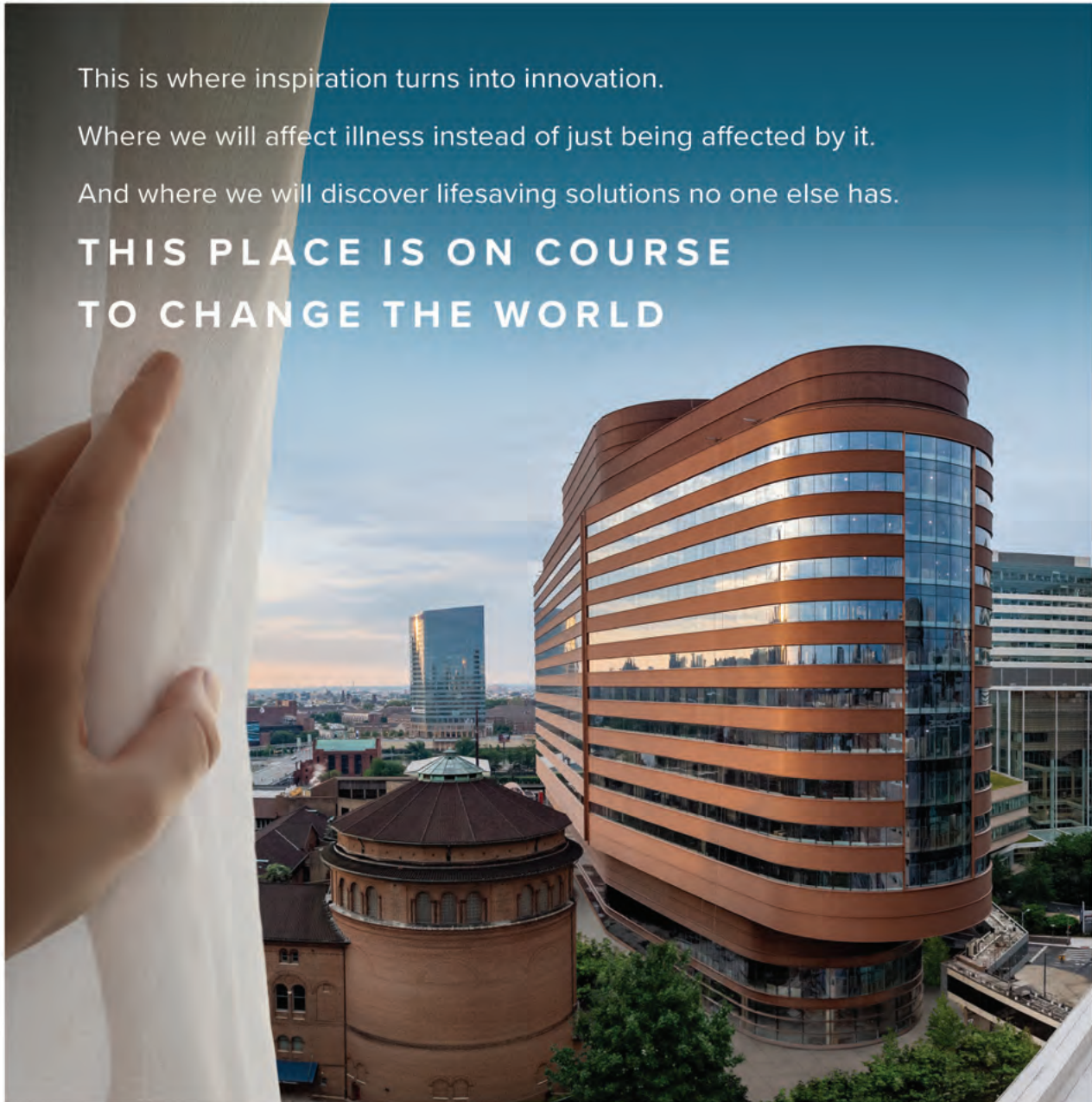
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## RESTAURANTS NAVIGATING THE PANDEMIC

BY MARC RASPANTI

## A Neighborhood Treasure

For over 34 years, Michael Granato and his wife Joette Adams have stewarded meticulously an iconic Italian treasure nestled less than 50 yards from the epicenter of Headhouse Square in earshot of the historic Shambles dwelling. **Bistro Romano** is located at 120 Lombard Street in the heart of Society Hill. Although Bistro Romano has been around for 34 years, the building itself goes back to the 18th century. It shares a rich history, typical of early Philadelphia, first as a vinegar factory and later as a granary.

It was transformed by Mr. Granato into a regional Italian restaurant specializing in ever-changing Italian cuisine. The menu takes advantage of seasonal freshness, local ingredients and, wherever possible, sustainable ingredients. To the delight of guests, Executive Chef Steven Howells is constantly experimenting. Pastas are all homemade and extraordinary. Classic veal, pork, lamb, beef and fresh seafood dishes have been creatively transformed.

The main restaurant and intimate bar can seat over 120 people. However, the upstairs private room, newly and beautifully renovated in a Tuscan wine theme, can hold 100 people for a special candlelight dinner or 175 people for a lively cocktail party with butlered hors d'oeuvres and music.

Bistro Romano prides itself on its impressive wine collection. Its wine cellar holds over 800 carefully curated selections. The restaurant is the proud recipient of the prestigious *Wine Spectator* Best of Excellence Two Glasses Award. Only six restaurants in the City of Philadelphia can boast such an impressive achievement. It has also been listed in the *Best of Philly Condé Nast Traveler* as one of Philadelphia's most romantic restaurants. Bistro also boasts a unique wine shoppe that stocks over 125 selections at competitive prices.

Bistro Romano is well-known for its wine tastings, paired with epicurean treats, that were held all through the pandemic at Headhouse Square. They are now being held at its newly renovated, and quite exclusive, wine room. The signature wine dinners are very popular, fill up quickly and, frankly, are good value.

The downstairs restaurant is a grotto-like setting, which takes advantage of the original distressed stone and brick work. It is an intimate candlelit space. The upstairs bar area, which is a favorite to locals who frequent Bistro Romano, is captivating. As soon as you enter the bar, you will see a massive hand-carved sea nymph that appears at first glance to be chiseled marble. It is actually glazed



**The upstairs bar area features hand-carved sea nymphs that came from a Great Lakes schooner built at the turn of the century.**

wood and was extracted from a Great Lakes schooner built around the turn of the century. It invites guests to dine in the bar area for a robust selection of Italian meats, cheeses, mussels or grilled octopus while enjoying a bottle of wine, one of their handcrafted cocktails or homemade cellos by master mixologist Sean Foyle. There is adequate seating around the bar to make for cozy events while enjoying piano music on holidays and weekends. Bistro recently renovated its street curb area and added several cute tables along with embedded lighting. This is a perfect spot for people-watching in the summer.

While COVID-19 was devastating to all restaurants in Philadelphia, the Bistro's owners are proud of the fact that they kept the restaurant open, one way or another, and employed as many members of their staff as possible. This was done through a series of outside events hosted at the Shambles, a robust and creative takeout service and wonderful neighborhood personal delivery services.

Michael and Joette not only kept the restaurant open during the height of the pandemic, but invested in a state-of-the-art HVAC system which boosted the circulation of air from outside the restaurant to provide their guests with the greatest amount of comfort and protection. This is quite an engineering feat for a building of its age. Bistro follows all state and city COVID-19 protocols, and all staff have been vaccinated.

Lastly, Bistro is well-known for its special Valentine's Day dinners and candlelight Christmas Eve dinners, as well as festive New Year's Eve offerings. General Manager Victor Valles, Executive Chef Steven Howells and their team go all out to make sure Bistro Romano's guests are kept happy.



**The building that houses Bistro Romano, 120 Lombard, was once a vinegar factory in the 18th century.**



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**SOUTH STREET HEADHOUSE DISTRICT**

BY SARAH COWELL

**New Year, New You**

**H**appy New Year from the South Street Headhouse District (SSHD)! The year is off to a great start with the launch of several new businesses, as well as the ongoing tenure of several other mainstays. These all offer unique and special experiences for those of us wishing to try something new in the new year.

Whether your interest is food, crafts, music, gaming or something else, the SSHD has a wide array of independently owned businesses that provide diverse experiences and amenities.

So, enjoy the new year and the new you in the South Street Headhouse District. Here's a short list, showcasing a sample of our offerings:



**Loomen Labs Candle + Seltzer Bar**

620 S. 5th Street, <https://www.loomenlabs.com>  
Plan your next date night or friend get-together at this eco-friendly make-your-own seltzer and candle bar. The shop offers a fun, unique night out, and is also available for private events and parties. Loomen is a welcoming space committed to local sourcing, sustainability, diversity, eco-packaging and carbon-neutral shipping. It is also a BIPOC-owned business.

**Ambra**

705 S. 4th Street, <https://www.ambraphilly.com>  
This chef-driven restaurant, sister to Southwark, offers a gastronomic experience that rivals Michelin-star dining. The multi-course meal showcases local ingredients with wine and beverage pairings, and even offers a four-seat “in-the-kitchen” dining experience for the truly adventurous.



**Philly Game Shop**

519 S. 5th Street, <https://www.phillygameshop.com>  
Explore the world of tabletop gaming with weekly meetups, events and entry-level classes. The shop also offers an enormous selection of games to purchase, both in-store and online.



**Tattooed Mom**

530 South Street, <https://www.tattooedmomphilly.com>  
Go vegan or just taste your way through the vegan and vegetarian-friendly menu at Tattooed Mom, which features “sammies,” plus tots, waffle fries and other snacks to accompany the unique cocktail and beverage menu at this neighborhood staple bar, restaurant and event space.



**Liberty Bellows Accordion Shop**

614 S. 2nd Street, <https://www.libertybellows.com>  
Ready to pick up a new skill this new year? How about accordion lessons? Schedule a lesson at Liberty Bellows, one of the last full-service accordion shops in the U.S., located right here in the South Street Headhouse District.

South Street leans into diversity and “quirkiness,” delivering everything from a world-class dining experience to accordion lessons. SSHD Executive Director Mike Harris sums it up: “SSHD is true to our hashtag #SlightlyOffCenter. We really embrace that phrase, and we live by it. We are incredibly proud of the wide range of businesses that have chosen South Street because of our past, present and future. And we will continue to recruit and support the creative and independent spirit of the district in every way we can.”

**Sarah Cowell** is the Digital & Marketing Coordinator for South Street Headhouse District.

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Spacious Two Bedroom



Spacious two bedroom with great unobstructed city views to the south and west through floor-to-ceiling windows showcasing sunset city views. The contemporary galley kitchen offers wood cabinetry, stainless steel appliances, granite counter tops and a tile floor.  
**1,131 sf | Offered for \$439,900**

Corner One Bedroom



Corner one bedroom featuring modern kitchen, updated full bathroom, floor-to-ceiling windows, and more than enough space for living and dining.  
**750 sf | Offered for \$299,900**

Sun-soaked Studio



Sun-soaked studio with a wall of floor-to-ceiling windows, parquet wood floors and excellent closet space.  
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604 S. Washington Square



**Light-Filled Two Bedroom**

Two bedroom, one and a half bath offering incredible natural light, an open layout, panoramic city views, parquet wood floors, and updates to the kitchen and bathrooms.

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**One Bedroom with a View**

One bedroom offering amazing Washington Square and city Skyline views, a private balcony and newly refinished parquet wood floors.

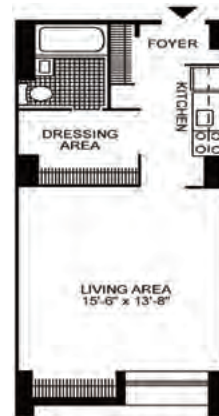
843 sf | Offered for \$209,900



**One Bedroom with Balcony**

With balcony and garden views; the home has parquet wood floors, a galley kitchen and great natural light.

778 sf | Offered for \$249,900



**Efficiency with South-Facing View**

Well-proportioned efficiency with south-facing views and great natural light featuring a modern kitchen, updated appliances, wood cabinetry, and ample room for both a bed and living area.

415 sf | Offered for \$179,900



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**2,575 sf | Offered for \$1,950,000**



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**777 sf | Offered for \$299,900**



This home features a generously sized living and dining room, a fully-equipped kitchen with great cabinet and counter space and large bedroom that enjoys great closet space, brand new carpet, and ensuite bathroom with shower/tub and single vanity.

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY MATT DEJULIO

Membership Renewals Rolling In!

By early December more than 450 Society Hill residents had already renewed their SHCA membership. The first membership notice went out in early November and will be followed up by email and snail mail. We are hoping to exceed our 2021 membership total of 1,165. Winners of the restaurant certificates for those who renewed by December 31 will be announced in the March/April 2022 issue of the *Reporter*.

If you have delayed sending in your renewal, or wish to join, please do so today. 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](mailto: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.

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

**Additional Contributions**

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

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Please return completed application to:  
**Society Hill Civic Association**, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147  
 Make check payable to Society Hill Civic Association or join online at:  
[www.SocietyHillCivic.org](http://www.SocietyHillCivic.org)

## OUR CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

## A New Loyal Friend

Washington Square Committee co-chair Fred Manfred has always been a dog lover. He's a big supporter of dog rescues, most notably the Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Over his lifetime, he's had an assortment of breeds including a Rhodesian ridgeback, dachshund, cocker spaniel, terrier and mixed breed.

His all-time favorite, hands down, was Ruby, his red Doberman pinscher. When she died four years ago of pancreatic cancer, he grieved for three years before he was able to commit to another dog. Ruby was a special dog in many ways. Not only was she a loyal companion, but she may well have saved his life.

Back in 2011, Fred had a terrifying encounter with an armed robber who forced his way into the home, demanding money. At the gunman's direction, Fred locked the dog in the bathroom and handed over his phone and \$500 cash. The intruder demanded more money while holding Fred at gunpoint. He was desperate, with nothing to lose, and Fred had seen his face. At this point, Ruby body-slammed the bathroom door to get out. That was enough for the gunman to reconsider and take off. To his credit, Fred was sympathetic to his assailant. He understood that hard times could lead people to take desperate measures. But when he heard that the same man had also attacked a young woman in the city, he agreed to testify in court, and the perpetrator was subsequently convicted. The bond between Fred and his dog was even more firmly cemented. Losing her was tough.

Fast forward to 2021, when Fred felt ready to make another canine part of his family. He especially likes "powerful breeds" and understands the responsibility that comes with owning one. His heart was set on another Doberman.

Dobermanns were first bred in 1880 by Karl Friedrich Louis Dobermann of Germany, who ran a dog pound. With access to multiple breeds, he set out to create one that would be ideal for protecting him. Initially named Dobermann-pinscher in 1894, it's believed to have been a combination of several breeds including



Fred Manfred and Fia

the Beauceron, German pinscher, Rottweiler and Weimaraner. Now known in most parts of the world as "Dobermann," the U.S. and Canada are the only countries to have dropped an "n" and retained the word pinscher. The breed, less than 150 years old, became popular over a very short period, most notably during World War II, when they were used as guard dogs. They're extremely intelligent, especially in the category of "obedience command training." Considered working dogs, Dobermanns are often stereotyped as aggressive and ferocious. These traits served them well as police, protection or war dogs but not so much as companion animals. Their aggression

has been toned down over time by breeders. Today's Dobermanns are good-natured, as well as extremely loyal, easily trained, energetic and obedient. Proper training is a must, and they are not a breed for the inexperienced. A well-trained Doberman will become your loyal companion, both intuitive and intelligent.

Fred's search started with a rescue that didn't work out. He finally found a good match with his new pup, Fia. This little girl is a traditional black and tan Doberman. Fred brought Fia home, gave her a dog toy with a recorded heartbeat, and she slept on it for three hours. He likes to take his dogs everywhere and even has his car outfitted with a Tempur-Pedic mattress for their traveling comfort.

When we met in Washington Square for her "interview," Fia was already 35 pounds at four-and-a-half months old. Her adult weight should be around 80 pounds. She'd just come back from a two-week doggie boot camp training program run by a Marine/dog trainer. She's a sweet, friendly pup with lots of energy, and is quite alert and very interested in each passing dog, while simultaneously vying for Fred's attention. She's a chewer, pretty common for puppies, and also loves to vocalize. Fia clearly recognized Fred as "her person." It didn't take much to see how bonded they are already.

I think this puppy hit the jackpot.

**Claudia Carabelli** is a Southwest Quadrant Director SHCA.





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**KIDS' KORNER**

BY JAIME AND MIKE FOX

## Featuring Family-Friendly Fun



**W**elcome to Kids' Korner! We are the Fox family. We moved to Society Hill in August 2021 from Fairmount. Our children attend McCall School. We love our neighborhood and appreciate all that it has to offer. Whether we are on the swings at Three Bears, throwing a football at Magnolia Garden or shopping at the Headhouse Sunday Market, we love to take advantage of the wonderful spaces and activities that Society Hill has to offer.

We plan to share information with you about these experiences. Kids' Korner will feature topics such as restaurants, parks, recreation and culture. We welcome feedback and suggestions from readers.

**Carriage Ride**

<http://www.phillycarriagetours.com/>

For the past two years, around Halloween, we have taken a horse-drawn carriage ride with 76 Carriage Tours. For about \$75, you can take a 30-minute ride right in our own neighbor-

hood! During the day or at night, this ride offers a new perspective on Independence Mall and Society Hill. We received a history lesson on our area's churches, government, buildings and local homes. A special thanks to our carriage driver, Cece, for suggesting that we check out *National Treasure* for its local connection, and an extra special thanks to our horse.

**Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest**

<https://www.delawareriverwaterfront.com>

Do you dream of being a Philadelphia Flyer? Better not answer that. The Blue Cross RiverRink, located at 101 S. Christopher Columbus Boulevard is open. Ice skates can be rented for \$10 per session while access to the rink is \$5 per person. If you have Blue Cross insurance, you can get tickets for free.

**National Treasure**

You all have heard of *National Treasure* featuring national treasure, Nicolas Cage. Did you know a good portion of the movie was filmed right here in our neighborhood? That's right! Independence Hall, the Reading Terminal Market, Headhouse Square and other locations are prominently featured. We recently watched the movie with our kiddos, ages 6 and 9, and we were all entertained the whole way through. We can't wait to show them *Con Air*. But that might be a few years from now.

**Franklin Square**

[www.historicphiladelphia.org/franklin-square/winter-in-franklin-square](http://www.historicphiladelphia.org/franklin-square/winter-in-franklin-square)

Franklin Square is one of Philadelphia's five original squares (Rittenhouse, Washington, Logan and Centre being the others). Franklin Square features free and for-fee activities for visitors of all ages.

**Philly Mini Golf.** It's Philly themed and is the only way you will ever get from the Ben Franklin Bridge to the Art Museum in less than 15 minutes, depending on your golf handicap. Adults: \$10; Children: \$8.

**Parx Liberty Carousel** for ages 3+. \$3 per person.

**SquareBurger,** which in addition to burgers, has a fairly solid ice cream and shake selection.



**Playground** is **free** and open all year round.

In the winter, Franklin Square offers a light show which runs every 30 minutes from 5 to 9 p.m. daily and until 10 p.m. on Fridays & Saturdays from November 18 to February 27. Pro Tip: The light show is best paired with a Hurricane Flurry from SquareBurger.



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