

SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

July/August 2022

The Newsletter
of The Society Hill
Civic Association

www.societyhillcivic.org

Board Election Results

Thanks to all Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) members who voted in the recent annual election for board officers and directors. There are two brand new board members,

Vince Trotta and Vince Piazza. The remainder of the board is probably familiar to most of our readers, but, as you'll see, many of these familiar names are in new positions. Let's take a look...



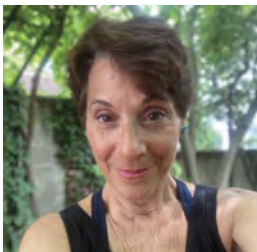
William Jantsch, President

William Jantsch has been an SHCA member for 10 years and served on the Board of Directors five of those years. He is a physician, lives in Independence Place with his wife, Nancy, and wishes to preserve Society Hill's historic beauty and promote safety and quality of life.



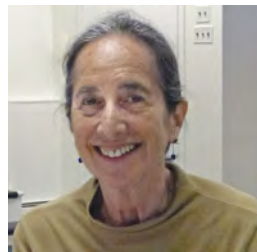
Nick DeGregorio, SE Quadrant Director

Nick, board president at Penn's Landing Square, has served on SHCA's board for one year. He is retired from sales and management. He and his wife, Venice, have lived in Society Hill for seven years. They have three grown sons. His concerns are safety and historic preservation.



Susan Burt Collins, 1st Vice President

Susan Burt Collins, a career criminal trial lawyer and a teacher, has lived in Society Hill since 2016. She has served on the SHCA board for the last five years, on the Safe Streets and the South Street Head House committees, and has run the bi-annual clean ups.



Lorna Katz Lawson, Director at Large

Lorna Katz-Lawson is a retired architect and a long-term resident of Society Hill. She chaired the combined Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee for eight years, and worked to develop our Master Plan. She and husband, John, are Open House Tour and Clean-Up Day volunteers.



Barbara Gelman, 2nd Vice President

Barbara Gelman has lived in Society Hill nearly thirty years with her husband and two children. She began her tenure on the SHCA board in the 1990s, is a block coordinator, an election official, and a school district psychologist, where she writes articles about public policy.



Andrea Layden, Director at Large

A resident of Society Hill for 22 years with her husband, Dan, and their two children, Andrea has been very active on the SHCA Board, as well as on the McCall and Central High School Home & School Associations. She created and chaired the first Washington Square Affair.



Vince Trotta, NE Quadrant Director

Vince Trotta is the head of business development for Snowflake Computing, a company he started in 2014. Vince moved to Society Hill in 2019. He is keenly interested in preserving the neighborhood's beauty and integrity, focusing on quality of life.



Martha Levine, Director at Large

Martha initiated Block Coordinators, the "Fix the Brix" subsidy, the Open House Tour, and Welcome Gift Bags. She is on the Safe and Sound, Safe Streets, Master Plan, Grants, Membership and Franklin Lights committees. She created and manages the List of Contractors.



Vince Piazza, SW Quadrant Director

A native New Yorker, Vince Piazza and his wife, Sabrina, moved to Society Hill in 2018 with their three young children, who attend local schools. Vince works in banking and investment management, and volunteers on the Old Pine Street Church Finance Committee.



Mary Purcell, Director at Large

Mary has been very active, donating thousands of hours including chairing the SHCA holiday social, the Nominating Committee, the Master Plan Committee and the Foglietta Plaza Committee. In addition she has served on the Finance, Grants, and McCall School committees.

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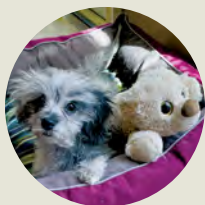
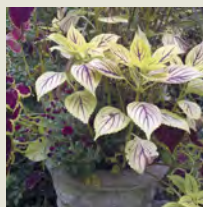
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SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

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

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Website
Find past issues in full 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 the editor, Judy Lamirand, at judy@parallel-design.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, and, as above, include contact information.

SHCA Mission Statement

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

SHCA BOARD OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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Bill Jantsch

1st Vice President

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2nd Vice President

Barbara Gelman

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Michael Gorman

Secretary

Vacancy

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Lorna Katz Lawson
Andrea Layden
Martha Levine

Continuing Director

Larry Spector

Quadrant Directors

Northeast: Robert Kramer,
Vince Trotta, Vacancy
Northwest: Norm Lieberman,
Sissie Lipton, Vacancy
Southwest: Yvana Rizzo,
Vince Piazza, Vacancy
Southeast: Al Meinster,
Nick DeGregorio, Vacancy

**Condominium
Representatives**

Hopkinson House: Ramona Johnson
Independence Place: Bernard Gelman
Penn's Landing Condos: Jay Borowsky
Society Hill Towers: Terry Conn
St. James Court: Sharon Simon*
The St. James: Helen Grady*
Bingham Court: Bernice Koplin*
*non-voting directors

P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

BY WILLIAM JANTSCH

Membership Determines Mission

It is my honor and privilege to address you as the newly elected president of SHCA. I approach this office with humility and with full recognition that it is SHCA's membership that determines the policies and initiatives that are in keeping with our mission. The president's function is to help promote the effectiveness of those activities.

My vision for SHCA for the next year is simple: let's focus on doing our fundamental work well while making our organization more inclusive and efficient. I am grateful to our immediate past president Larry Spector, whose tenure resulted in many favorable accomplishments, including zoning revisions, renovation of the SHCA website, and commencement of creating a new design for Foglietta Plaza. I hope to continue to expand on these fine efforts, as we face new challenges with safety and quality of life in the neighborhood.

We were all shocked by the tragic events on South Street last month, while experiencing anger and frustration from the area's ongoing noise and reckless activity. The SHCA is engaging with other community groups, elected officials, and business leaders, with the goal of addressing the root causes of the South Street problems. The intended result will be to help reshape South Street into a safe destination that can coexist responsibly with our residential areas.

Although we have a robust association already, we are always looking for ways to make it even stronger and more meaningful to the residents of Society Hill. One way to accomplish this is to solicit more involvement from you, the members of our community. In the coming months, we will be asking for your participation in activities such as clean-up days and membership meetings.

I also encourage you to consider joining one of our committees. We have plenty of committees that would welcome extra help. Each is doing its part to oversee the work of the organization. Many of these will be reorganizing in the coming months. Do you like gardening? Can you help with tree planting? How about graffiti spotting? Are you a writer? If so, you can contribute topical material to the *Reporter*. Do you have some basic spreadsheet skills? If so, maybe you can help organize the ad reservations for the *Reporter*.

If you'd like to be even more involved, ask to be considered for a position on the board. It is here that we determine policies for our governance and create position statements regarding the important issues

that face us as residents of Society Hill. We are committed to making sure there can be new development as long as there is adherence to zoning ordinances, as well as preservation of the historical character of the neighborhood. We maintain close ties with city government and police when dealing with issues involving security, traffic, and noise pollution. Finally, we are always looking for ways to make our neighborhood even more attractive. Personally, I would like to encourage the development of more green spaces and garden areas. If issues like these are important to you as well, definitely consider asking for an invitation to the board.

Much of my work over the next few months will not be very visible to the public, as we address issues regarding the board's bylaws and overall committee structure. Upon completion of this process, I can confidently assure you that SHCA will continue to be a highly effective organization dedicated to the maintenance and improvement of our quality of life here in Society Hill.

William Jantsch has been an Emergency Physician for over 40 years, and presently serves as a consultant to Vybe Urgent Care. He and his wife, Nancy, moved to Society Hill over 10 years ago in order to be near their children — daughter Carol who plays tuba in the Philadelphia Orchestra, and son Bert who lives in Brooklyn.



William Jantsch

Get 'Em While They Last!



Plastic bags are out, tote bags are in.

With one-time-use plastic bags banned in Philadelphia's stores, we all need to be prepared with our own tote bags. What could be nicer than a carrying a sturdy, washable, canvas market bag with our colorful, graphically striking SHCA logo, to show your support for our civic association?

Don't miss out on these great tote bags. We have only a small supply left at \$22 each. Contact us at societyhillcivic.org and click on "What's Happening," then "Tote Bags for Sale." Bags will be hand delivered to your door.

DOING GOOD IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

\$75,000 in Grants Distributed to Nonprofits

BY MARTHA LEVINE, GRANTS COMMITTEE CHAIR

SHCA is proud to announce the recipients of the 2022 SHCA Grants Program. This year, our Grants Committee and the Board of Directors voted to increase the total amount available from \$50,000 (in 2019) to \$75,000. Fourteen grants were awarded to nonprofits in Philadelphia. Each grantee received approximately \$5,000 except McCall School, which received a \$10,000 grant, and The Athenaeum Summer Concert Program, which received \$2,000.

Frieda Community

\$5,000 for a group art exhibition, a community-based cookbook, and a community-based art installation.



Frieda Community grant recipients Thomas Steinborn and David Wong.

McCall School Home and School Association (HSA)

\$10,000 for the Education Works Program helping K-8th grade students develop their social-emotional skills.



HSA President Priscilla Lo and McCall Principal Stephanie McKenna, with Grant Committee member Mary Purcell.

We reviewed 24 applications. It was a difficult decision for our committee to narrow it down to 14, as all proposals were deemed worthy of consideration.

The minimum criteria for receiving a grant included the following :

- The applicant must be a 501c3 nonprofit.
- The funds must be used for a project or program (not for operating budget) that aligns with SHCA's mission. (The

SHCA mission statement can be viewed in every *Reporter* issue.)

- Grant funds must be used within one year of receipt, and documentation that funds were used properly must be provided to us.

Here's the list of 2022 grant recipients, along with a brief description of their project or program, and a photo of the check presentation. We wish all of the recipients well in achieving their goals.

Friends of Three Bears Park

\$5,000 for much-needed repairs to the deteriorating playground mat surface and repair of the broken toddler slide.



Grants Chair Martha Levine presents check to Friends of Three Bears Park Chair Allison Taub.

Hand2Paw

\$5,000 for three programs including four-month paid internships for low-income underserved Philadelphia youth ages 16-24.



Hand2Paw Executive Director Penny Ellison and her dog Kona with Grant Committee member Claudia Carabelli.

Mother Bethel AME Church

\$5,000 for the Sharing and Singing Program to provide two digital projectors to improve communication within the church itself.



Grant Committee member Larry Spector presents check to Mother Bethel AME Church's Reverend Mark Tyler.

Old Pine Community Center

\$5,000 for the meal program facilities improvements, including food storage space, new refrigerators, shelving, and storage.



Mark Atwood, Director of Old Pine Community Center, receives check from Grant Committee member Claudia Carabelli.

DOING GOOD IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Old Pine Conservancy

\$5,000 for the restoration and repair of historic gravestone markers at Old Pine Street Church graveyard, a nationally recognized historic treasure established in 1764.



Docent Al Meinster, Treasurer/Historian Dan Campbell, and President Alice Reyes, with Grant Committee member Bill Jantsch.

Old St. Joseph's Church

\$5,000 for the Faith, Food & Friends Outreach Program that provides food and support for the food insecure and marginalized individuals.



Volunteer Mary Rached, Program Director Deborah Hluchan, Grant Committee member Mary Purcell, and Pastor Frank Hannafey.

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

\$5,000 for the PHS Tree Tenders, a program that works with neighborhood residents across Philadelphia to plant and care for trees in their own communities.



Jehane Samaha, Mindy Maslin, Grant Committee member Claudia Carabelli, and Dana Dentice.

Philadelphia Vietnam Veterans Memorial

\$5,000 for replacement of existing, dated lighting with state-of-the-art LED lighting to illuminate the memorial and improve security at the site and surrounding areas.



Veterans Memorial Treasurer Darryl Johnson and Vice President Dennis Best accepting check from Grant Committee member Mary Purcell.

Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks

\$5,000 for Powel House underground stormwater assessment and pipe replacement to prevent water infiltration.

5,000 for the Hill-Physick House historic window restoration project to deal with wood rot of windows, shutters, and reglazing.



Landmarks Executive Director Kayla Anthony and Hill-Physick House site manager Megan Thibodeaux.

Presbyterian Historical Society

\$5,000 for the restoration of its deteriorating entryway at 425 Lombard Street.



Executive Director of the Presbyterian Historical Society Nancy Taylor.

The Athenaeum of Philadelphia

\$2,000 for the Second Annual Summer Concert in Washington Square, a joyful celebration for neighbors.



Grant Committee member Bill Jantsch with Athenaeum Executive Director Beth Hessel and Board Vice-President Joan Countryman.

Special Thanks to the Grants Committee

- Martha Levine, Chair**
- Larry Spector**
- Rosanne Loesch**
- Bill Jantsch**
- Claudia Carabelli**
- Mary Purcell**
- Michael Gorman**
- Barbara Gelman**

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Service

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

Quality

Our recommendations are based on observations and a consultative approach that identifies your needs and expectations, tempered with our concern to maintain and improve the health, appearance and safety of your landscape. Custom pruning achieves the landscape appearance you desire while being performed to the specifications of proper arboricultural practices. Plant Health Care services include a thorough inspection before any



treatment so that we apply materials only when and where they are needed. Landscape projects are meticulously executed and guaranteed. We also offer Blue Stone installations.

Distinctive

McFarland Blue trucks, uniformed personnel, attention to detail and thorough clean-up of your property help differentiate McFarland. Our management of your landscape can be total or selective, depending on your needs and budget. If we cannot immediately identify the cause of a landscape problem, we will research the issue until we have solid answers to report to you. As a second-generation business, we have been satisfying our clients with a lifelong-relationship approach to service.

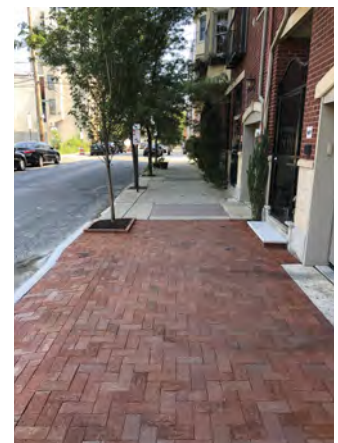
Fix Your Bricks

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



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REIMAGINING FOGLIETTA PLAZA

BY MARY PURCELL

We're More Than Halfway There!

We've shared with you OLIN landscape architects' Foglietta Plaza "use study," the result of dozens of meetings with stakeholders and neighbors this past fall, showing broad consensus in favor of a quiet, minimally programmed green space with the current disrepair and highway noise addressed.

We thank all who participated in the discussions.

For background, see the May/June 2022 issue of the Society Hill Reporter and for more, find OLIN's Report and our community presentation on SHCA's Facebook page.

The next step for this park in the eastern part of our neighborhood is "concept design," at a cost of \$48,000. In this phase OLIN will use the output of the "use study" to inform the design, re-engaging with stakeholders, meeting with the community, and engaging engineers to create the illustrative materials, site plans, diagrams and renderings. Note that while SHCA has borne the entire cost of the "use study" to date, competing priorities across the neighborhood require us to raise funds in order to proceed.

Now, we're asking the community to financially support the work of reimagining Foglietta Plaza. To date, we've raised over \$32,000 of the \$48,000 needed! Your donation will help us close the gap and reach our goal. Donations are being collected via our 501c3 non-profit subsidiary, Society Hill Preservation Foundation. That allows your donations to be tax-deductible.

And we have reason for optimism...

We've been in contact with our state and city representatives who have encouraged us to proceed to this design phase, and

have offered assistance in securing construction funding once design work is complete.

Please donate so we may continue on the path to reimagining Foglietta Plaza.

Tax-deductible donations may be made as follows:

Via Website

Go to www.societyhillcivic.org, and click on "Donate." Under "Donate Online for a Special Project" select "Foglietta Plaza." Click on "Donate Now" to contribute using PayPal, debit or credit card.

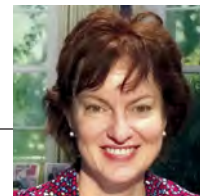
Via Check

Send a check payable to SHPF, with Foglietta Plaza noted on memo line, to Society Hill Preservation Foundation, P.O. Box 39755, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Thank you to those who already have contributed or pledged, especially LCOR/One Dock Street, Penn's Landing Square, and Society Hill Towers, who all have made leadership pledges.

Please help close the gap, and support reimagining Foglietta Plaza.

Mary Purcell is an SHCA Board member and the Foglietta Plaza Committee Chair.



Advertisement for Springboard Automation featuring services like Ultra-Fast Wireless Internet, Whole Home Music, Smart Lighting Control, Surveillance Cameras, TV Installation, and Automated Window Treatments. Includes contact information for Philadelphia's Home Technology Experts.

OPINION

BY SUSAN BURT COLLINS

South Street: Possibility or Nightmare?

Since the shootings on South Street, we have been asking how the street became a magnet for the endless loop of racing cars, ATV's, out-of-control bars and lounges, lewd behavior, and fights, with alcohol and drugs fueling all of it. We cannot isolate what happens on South Street: it is too close to be ignored.

What can be done? The deterioration of South Street did not happen overnight. It happened over years, as more bars and lounges were granted variances of one kind or another, smoke and sex shops proliferated while responsible businesses struggled and fled. Unfortunately, no one noticed until now.

Can the police do something about the behaviors that create this climate of recklessness? Disorderly conduct? Obstructing the highway? These can be prosecutable crimes if witnessed by police.

However, the police have limited resources, and making an arrest takes the officer off the street to process the person. Police also face the reality that the arrest may not result in charges, because it is up to the Charging Unit of the District Attorney's Office to review the arrest, believe the officer and choose to prosecute.

What about guns? Can't there be random searches for guns? No. The state Supreme Court has held that the officer needs to see some illegal behavior of a nature that warrants a "frisk" for a gun.

Let's understand the limits of policing, push for effective remedies, get a voice on variances and changes.

Susan Burt Collins is an attorney and first vice-president of the SHCA board. She has made a personal commitment to making South Street safe and attractive again.

TREE TENDERS

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

Need Tree Care? Let Us Help



You might already know that our local **Tree Tenders group** plants trees twice a year. You might also know that we do some pruning of smaller trees. But did you know that you can have dead trees removed, get new trees, prune existing ones, and that **we will help you pay for it?** That's right. Cold, hard cash \$\$\$\$.

SHCA recently increased subsidies for the following Tree Tenders activities. Here's what's available:

- **Plant a new tree** and receive \$150 towards the cost.
- **Remove and replace a dead tree** and you can be reimbursed for up to 50 percent of the cost for a maximum of \$600 for SHCA members, \$500 for non-members.

- **Prune your tree** and you can recoup up to 50 percent of the cost for a maximum of \$400 for SHCA members, \$300 for non-members.

It's hard to beat deals like this. Since you can join SHCA for as little as \$50, your membership pays for itself as soon as you take advantage of the tree care subsidy.

Ready to collect? Please send paper copies of your invoice and proof of payment (cancelled check or credit card statement) to: Matt DeJulio, SHCA Administrator P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147

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'FIX THE BRIX'

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Subsidy Increased to Up to \$500

Although I have been chair of “Fix the Brix” for many years, it wasn’t until I hurt my back recently, and have had to be more mindful when walking, that I became acutely aware of just how bad our sidewalks really are. Many are not level, have pop-ups, or are missing bricks entirely.

As homeowners, we all need to be aware that many people use our sidewalks each day, and consider the possibility that we may be the eventual cause of an injury, should someone trip and fall. SHCA is doing its best to put this awful possibility to rest by helping you pay for sidewalk

repair, offering a reimbursement of as much as 40 percent of your documented expense up to \$500 per property for current SHCA members or up to \$400 for non-members.

If you need help finding a mason, we can help with that, too. To get a list, or answers to any of your other questions, email me at marthlev6@gmail.com or call 215-629-0727.

Thank you to all of the property owners who have already used “Fix the Brix” to repair your sidewalks. This is a gift to the neighborhood!

Here are the simple steps to get it done:

- 1** Take a photo of your current sidewalk. Email it to me at marthlev6@gmail.com.
- 2** Hire a competent mason to do the job — make sure it is done to your satisfaction before paying the bill. Need a mason? Ask us.
- 3** Mail the original paid invoice to us and keep a copy for yourself.
- 4** Mail us a copy of your proof of payment.
- 5** Mail to: SHCA, P.O. Box 63503, Phila., PA 19147.
- 6** Receive a check within a few weeks.

Important: Loose bricks can be used to cause damage. Recently, a homeowner reported to us that a homeless person threw a brick through their front window, frightening their family and causing a repair expense. Take a look at your tree pit. If it has loose bricks, either remove and store them or have them set securely in place. There are too many loose bricks all over the neighborhood. Let’s get them cleaned up.

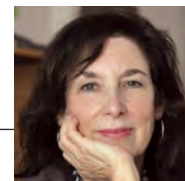


This flat edge is the best way to fix your tree pit and allow rainwater to drain into the soil.

Let’s work together to keep our sidewalks walkable.




These loose bricks need to be secured or stored, not only for aesthetics but for safety concerns.




Martha Levine, SHCA Board Member.

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The Old Pine Conservancy, a secular 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, invites anyone who is interested in local history to consider joining our efforts to preserve Old Pine Street Church's historic graveyard. Our mission includes the dissemination of researched-based information, tours, and special programs. We offer students the opportunity to discover the living history surrounding the patriots buried at Old Pine.

If you would like more information, please contact Alice Reyes at oldpine1768@gmail.com

Feel free to visit our website to learn more!

oldpineconservancy.org



Looking for the Calm of Spirit?

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

Sunday & Wednesday Services

Sunday School for Children • Reading Room

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

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

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

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KEEPING POSTED

BY AL CAVALARI

Changing the World

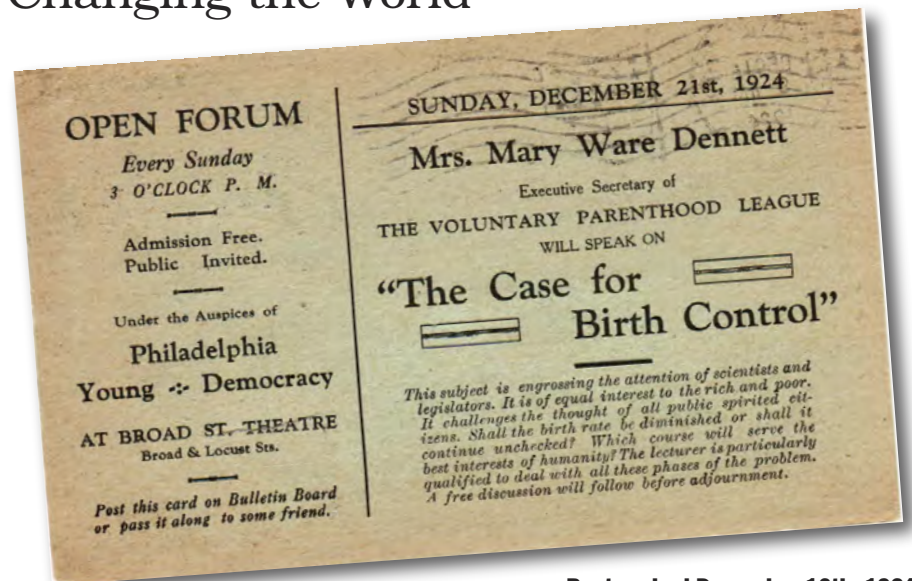
Imagine a world where you could go to prison for distributing information about reproductive health and birth control. That was our world in the early part of the 20th century. Our neighborhood has something to do with the preservation of liberty, but you will see the meaning of “liberty” is always subject to opinion. The card shown here is a departure from the picture postcards we usually see in this column. One might wonder why we would show a postcard with no image, but this card is very important. We’ll see it is rich in content that describes an era when one had to make a case for the benefits of family planning that today most would consider part of responsible and healthful living.

First, meet Anthony Comstock.

This United States Postal Inspector considered himself a “weeder in God’s garden” and conducted a campaign to censor anything he considered obscene sent by U.S. Mail. His notion of obscenity was very broad; it included anatomy textbooks and romance novels. The Comstock Laws for which he lobbied were passed beginning in 1873 and lasted into the early 1900s. They even targeted personal letters containing any sexual content and information regarding contraceptives or the prevention of venereal disease.

About half the states passed similar laws. Connecticut banned birth control entirely. Washington D.C. made lending or distributing a publication or article about contraception or abortion punishable by up to five years at hard labor. Any written material “for preventing conception” became illegal. The painting “September Morn” by Paul Émile Chabas achieved notoriety in 1913 because Comstock threatened to arrest the art dealer who had a reproduction of it on display. Within weeks, hundreds of thousands of copies were on sale throughout the country.

Comstock claimed that he made 4,000 arrests and drove 15 persons to suicide. His targeting of feminists led to some taking their own lives to avoid prison



Postmarked December 16th, 1924

terms for distributing marriage manuals or birth control materials. This happened in the United States of America.

Mary Ware Dennett’s advocacy for women’s rights began in the suffrage movement in 1908. In 1913 she was active in promoting advancements to ease the pain in childbirth and reduce infant mortality. During World War I, she joined the antiwar Womens’ Peace Party. In 1915 she wrote a sex education pamphlet “The Sex Side of Life,” used to instruct her own children when she could find no appropriate literature. She co-founded the National Birth Control League, and in 1919, the Voluntary Parenthood League (VPL), which is the organization named on this postcard. The VPL advocated for repeal of the birth control provisions of the Comstock Laws, arguing that the words “prevention of conception” should not be considered obscene.

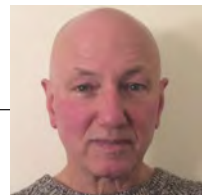
The Post Office informed Dennett that her pamphlet was obscene and warned her to stop mailing it. She did not. In 1928 she was arrested and indicted for violating the Comstock Laws. She was convicted by a jury of men and was fined, but an appeals court overturned her conviction in 1930.

As the Executive Secretary of the VPL, Ms. Dennett was taking a risk by giving the lecture named in this card,

advocating for unrestricted access to birth control without the permission of a physician. She argued that a requirement for a prescription would prevent poor women from receiving it. Where would we be without people willing to change the world?

Promoting a specific event, at a specific time, and a specific place, this artifact has a powerful presence, because it gives us a window into that society, on that street corner, at that time, on that day. My research did not turn up a single reference to “Philadelphia Young Democracy” which hosted the event, but I like the fact that the event was free, the public was invited, and it was to be followed by a “free discussion.” The card comes with instructions to post it on a bulletin board or pass it along, thus demonstrating the importance of postcards back then as mass market communication devices. The final thrill is that the card has been postally used, making it a true messenger from December 16th, 1924, the day it was postmarked in Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania. You can see the “flag cancellation” bleeding through.

Al Cavalari is a certified member of the Association of Philadelphia Tour Guides. Write to Al at flagguys@aol.com.





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ACME RE-DO

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

Back and Better than Ever

It's hard to believe that just a few short years ago, Society Hill was in danger of losing its only neighborhood supermarket. When developer Alterra announced plans to tear down the store and build apartments, it took the cooperation of Acme, which had taken over the store's lease after A&P filed for bankruptcy, and community action on the part of SHCA, to save it for us. Now, after undergoing a complete remodeling, our Acme is more than back, it's better than ever.

Having a small neighborhood grocery store is a wonderful convenience. I live nearby and can literally turn off the stove and run over for a missing ingredient. No one, however, would dispute the fact that the Acme was looking a little rough around the edges. A facelift was definitely in order. The start date for renovations kept being pushed back, but by spring of 2022, after closing the store completely for just a few weeks, our new and improved market re-opened.

All updates to the Acme remained within its footprint of 12,000 square feet — no intrusion into the parking lot. The exterior remains essentially the same, although they removed the dark shelving that blocked the glass panes along 5th Street and trapped items behind them, cluttering the windows.



The ACME storefront after its facelift.

It gives passersby a clear view of the store interior and looks much more inviting. Shopping carts are parked in their usual spot. My personal favorite update: they have a large fleet of smaller carts that actually fit down the store aisles.

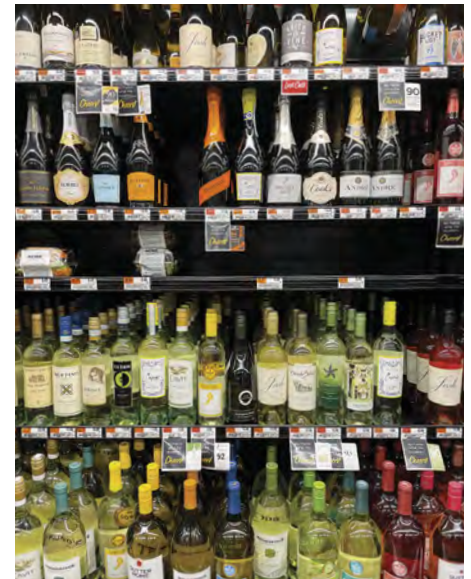
The first thing you'll notice upon entering the store is how much brighter it is. New lighting made a dramatic difference. Outdated flooring has been replaced with a composite that looks like a light-colored wood — also a nice upgrade. The manager's "office" is straight ahead as you come in the door. It's essentially a counter, so it's easy to see at a glance if someone is there to assist you. In addition to the usual full-service cashiers there are now four self-checkout kiosks. Remember, Philadelphia has a plastic bag ban, so bring your own or be prepared to pay 10 cents each for paper bags.



The open produce department is stocked with plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Store aisles have been reconfigured with a circular floral display as you enter the store and an open produce department with fruits and vegetables on display. The deli counter remains along the left wall with a small selection of prepared foods in a case at the end of the adjacent aisle. The fishmonger is no more, but there's a selection of frozen seafood as

well as some prepackaged fresh options. Meats and dairy are still along the back. Frozen items are on the right wall. Non-perishables are on shelves throughout the store. Some have been shifted around a bit. It just takes a few trips to relearn the layout.



Acme now stocks a full aisle of beer and wine, some chilled.

The big news of course is that the Acme now sells beer and wine. They have a decent selection, some chilled, with prices comparable to the state Fine Wine & Good Spirits stores. Even if you buy alcohol elsewhere, it's a nice convenience for a quick bottle or six-pack on your way out to dinner. Keep in mind that all alcohol purchases need to be made at a register staffed by a store employee, no self-check-out. Photo ID, no matter what your age, is routinely required.

Delivery can be done via Instacart. The Acme app with coupons and specials can be downloaded. The deli, bakery, and floral department all provide order-ahead services. Store hours are 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. except for Saturdays (closing at 10 p.m.) and Sunday (closing at 9 p.m.).

Claudia Carabelli is a former RN & retired school counselor. She co-chairs the Society Hill Tree Tenders and does therapy dog work at CHOP & Pennsylvania Hospital.



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WASHINGTON SQUARE AFFAIR

BY FRED MANFRED

Patrons Enjoy Rooftop View of Square

The sixth biennial Washington Square Affair, held on May 18th, 2022, reached new heights for celebrating Washington Square and expressing community pride. Both big events that comprised the bulk of the evening's activities, the Patron Cocktail Party and the tented Affair, were completely sold out. The roar of lively conversation and laughter permeated the two venues as friends and neighbors, new and old, came together to socialize and celebrate.

Guests for the cocktail party began arriving at 5 p.m. and were greeted by a committee member for check-in prior to advancing up

to the penthouse. Our hosts, Zöe Pappas & Aleni Pappas, spared no expense when it came to welcoming and entertaining our patrons. With live jazz piano playing in the background, the waitstaff seamlessly butlered divine hors d'oeuvres to their steady stream of guests.

To top things off, it was a gloriously mild and sunny day, which drew many of the patrons up to the apartment's second level, where they could step outside onto a wraparound terrace providing remarkable views of the park and cityscape. This event could not have been more perfect. *continued on page 16*



Bird's eye view of Pappas' wrap-around terrace where the Patrons Party was held.

Photos by **Edward Savaria Jr**



WASHINGTON SQUARE AFFAIR

PHOTOS BY EDWARD SAVARIA JR

Tented Affair Caps a Magical Evening

continued from page 15

In the meantime, committee members hurried to ready the tent for the Affair's grand event. Restaurateurs were ushered to their places around the tent's perimeter. The center wine and beer bar was iced, stocked, and ready to serve. Stateside's vodka bar and Volver's specialty drinks bar were located at the rear of the tent.

Guests began arriving at 6:30 p.m. and were greeted with dueling jazz guitarists.

Again, committee members wasted no time getting guests checked in. Soon the event was filled to capacity. Some guests headed right for the wine bar, while others wanted a head start reviewing, choosing, and tasting the savory restaurant selections.

By any measure, the Washington Square Affair 2022 was a major success. As the event wound down at 9 p.m., it was delightful to see so many friends

and neighbors continue to enjoy the magical evening.


We look forward to hosting everyone again in 2024.

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



WASHINGTON SQUARE AFFAIR
PHOTOS BY EDWARD SAVARIA JR





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WELCOME GIFT BAGS

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Thank You to Gift Bag's New Donor, Kanella

Each gift bag contains a bottle of wine, a bag of coffee, a pastry treat, important neighborhood information, and gift cards to local restaurants, retail stores, services, and museums. The presentation is by appointment with no close contact. If you are a new first-time owner in Society Hill and would like to receive a gift bag, email marthalev6@gmail.com or call me at 215-629-0727 to make an appointment.

The newest contribution to the gift bag comes from Kanella at 1001 Spruce Street. Kanella is a welcoming, casual, Greek/Cyprian BYOB, specializing in kebabs and other Mediterranean fare. After 13 successful years in the neighborhood, the restaurant has a new owner and manager. It still maintains its Mediterranean focus but has added Turkish and Greek influences. Indoor and outdoor seating is available, as well as delivery. Stop in to say hello and enjoy a great meal.



Kanella serves up Mediterranean, Turkish and Greek fare.

So Many New Neighbors!



John & Joanne with Cleo



Melody & Bob



John & Anca



Andrew & Jennifer with Pharaoh

Thank You, Welcome Gift Bag Donors

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- Buca D'oro**, 711 Locust Street
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- 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
- Kanella**, (Mediterranean) 1001 Spruce Street
- La Colombe Coffee Roasters**, 100 S. 6th Street
- Malbec Argentine Steakhouse**, 400 S. 2nd Street
- Panorama**, 14 N. Front Street
- PJ Clarke's**, 601 Walnut Street
- Starr Restaurant Group**
- The Twisted Tail**, 509 S. 2nd Street
- 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
- Physick House & Powel House** (museums) 321 S. 4th Street
- Pileggi on the Square**, (salon) 717 Walnut Street
- Sam Shaw's Tretery**, (culinary & lifestyle boutique) 306 South Street
- Show of Hands** (craft gallery), 1006 Pine Street

SHCA MEMBERSHIP PERKS

List of Contractors

SHCA gets at least five requests a week for our popular **List of Contractors**. If you need a copy, contact us. All of the contractors come highly recommended by neighbors here in Society Hill. **You must be a current SHCA member to request and receive a list**, so make sure your membership is up to date.

Included are general contractors, plumbers, electricians, HVAC technicians, painters, window replacement specialists, window washers, interior designers, masons, and roofers. A miscellaneous section includes furniture repair, rug cleaning, clock repair, smart home services, and more.

To obtain a list, email marthalev6@gmail.com or call 215-629-0727.

The list is available by email or snail mail, but we ask that you not share with non-members as the list is a perk of membership.

SHCA's List of Contractors can help you find the quality workmanship your house deserves.



Business Discounts

Present your SHCA membership card and receive a discount on goods and services at the following businesses.

Liberty Tree & Landscape \$100 Gift certificate, www.libertytreecare.com

Serv Pro of Society Hill, 5% discount, www.servprosocietyhill.com

Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, 10% off ticket admission, www.philalandmarks.org

M's on the Square Salon, 10% discount, 604 S. Washington Square. www.msonthesquare.com,

Sam Shaw's Treatery, culinary & lifestyle boutique, 10% Discount, 306 South Street www.samshawstreatery.com/

Show of Hands/Adornamenti, 10% discount, 1006 Pine Street

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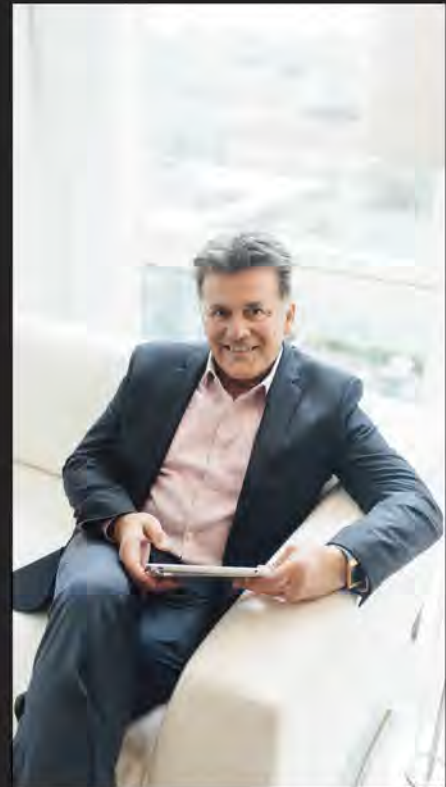
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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY MATT DEJULIO

2022 Membership Tops the 1,000 Mark

By mid-June, 1,060 Society Hill residents had either renewed their association membership or joined for the first time. We still have a challenge to meet or exceed last year's total of 1,165 members. We trust that the 207 members who have not yet renewed will do so, today. A final reminder went out the first week of June. Not sure if you have renewed your SHCA membership for 2022? Email mattdejulio@aol.com and ask.

Also, remember to go to our website www.societyhillcivic.org sign up for our weekly email newsletter, so you can keep informed on a regular basis of all important neighborhood issues.

We invite each of the more than 3,600 households in Society Hill to join SHCA. Your civic association helps protect your real estate investment by funding many improvement projects, as well as providing subsidies to neighbors who plant trees and fix their sidewalks. We help to 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, who represent 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 lot at 511 S. Front Street, between South and Lombard Streets.

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



Membership Application

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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
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Additional Contributions

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- \$ _____ Sidewalk Cleaning/Graffiti Removal
- \$ _____ Fix the Brix
- Charge VISA/MasterCard: _____
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- \$ _____ Tree Tenders
- \$ _____ McCall School
- 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
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- Reporter
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- 5th Street Development
- Local Crime Incidents and Alerts

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ON OUR SHELF

BY KRISTEN BROWN

White on White

Elegant, mystifying, and reserved, Aysegül Savaş' novel *White on White* is a stunning reinvention of fiction. Smooth, silky, and sparse, the deconstructed plot is noiseless, discreet, and reduced only to whimsical subtleties. The novel centers around an anonymous Narrator receiving her doctorate in Gothic nude studies in an unknown, vaguely Italian city. From the beginning, the innate ambiguity of the text garners an almost insidious ambiance that bewilders the reader.

Straying from standard literary conventions, the mysterious Narrator is seldom the main character of the story. The Narrator describes her time studying abroad through an objective, emotionless perspective. She details the idiosyncrasies of people, the strangeness of vacant spaces, and the symbolism in Gothic art, yet she never reveals her identity. Instead, the novel unfolds as an erratic monologue told by Agnes, the Narrator's elusive landlord.

As an artist herself, Agnes appears fashionably chic and charismatic, yet with a seductive coldness that lures the Narrator towards her. Agnes and her husband, Pascal, rent out the apartment on the condition that Agnes can freely utilize the flat's art studio upstairs whenever she visits the city. Agnes and the Narrator's brief interactions cohabiting in the apartment with each other are, at first, innocuous, even warmly welcomed. However, as they grow closer, the plot begins to unravel alongside Agnes' mental state.

Agnes freely talks about herself in uninterrupted tangents. She discusses her artwork, the strain of motherhood, the intangibility of memories, tiffs and rifts with family and friends — she even alludes to an affair her husband had with a teenage au pair years prior. During these initial conversations, Savaş cleverly foreshadows the cryptic nature of Agnes and Pascal's dysfunctional marriage, as if to say nothing is quite as it seems.

The art studio soon becomes a sanctuary for Agnes. She claims her frequent visits are because of her newest art endeavor: "a series of white paintings of the human figure, with expressions both serene and demented." When the Narrator finally beholds the early versions of Agnes' work, it is clear that some strange forces immobilize Agnes. Her paintings are blank, unfinished, shades of white paint on a white canvas, no doubt a product of an artist torn between ideas, or rather a victim of misery suspended in blurry memories and clouded truths.

It is soon revealed that Pascal has been cheating on Agnes with a new woman. Pascal's infidelity is an abrupt and haunting turning point in the novel. How does one endure a culmination of painful memories, an absent husband, a loveless family, and a lonely apartment with a tenant as the only companion? Pascal apathetically violates Agnes' trust, and as a result, Agnes snaps.

During Agnes' mental disintegration, she creates festive wreaths, walks around the apartment like a ghost, lights candles, craves attention, and begs the Narrator to witness her suffering. Pascal lowers the rent to incentivize the Narrator to stay while Agnes' mind is described as "skidding across a smooth surface each time she tried to focus." Agnes' tangents intensify, and her once sophisticated fashion sense becomes disheveled, even nonsensical. During a shocking twist in the novel, her carefully curated happy-family, successful-art-career charade crumbles like an ancient marble statue.

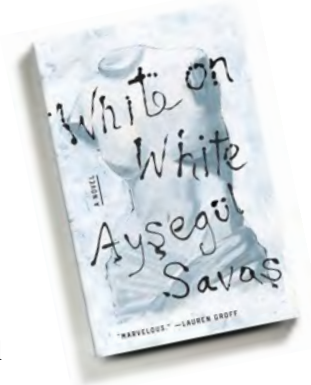
Savaş brilliantly positions Gothic nudes as an extended metaphor for Agnes. As the Narrator sifts through archives, admires nude sculptures, and visits medieval churches, she discovers that "flesh didn't signify nakedness at all, but was rather a sly cloak that concealed an inner-truly-naked meaning." In other words, clothing and skin are

nothing more than veils hiding one's truest self. Agnes conceals her inner-truly-naked meaning with lavish outfits, a calculated demeanor, and a forced feminine charm. The duality between what is seen versus unseen creates a gripping tension in the novel — the reader wants to remove the mask that Agnes fabricates.

Woven into the chaos of Agnes and Pascal's relationship are quiet moments where the Narrator escapes into the serenity of art. The Narrator describes 13th-century artistic reimaginations of Adam and Eve and depictions of Judgment day with a celestial poetic agency that feels sacred. Her visually striking observations examine the space between heaven and hell, good and evil, sanity and insanity. The transitional spaces between ideas create an atmospheric realm of limbo — as if, at any moment, the reader can disappear into the unknown, or rather, into the novel's vanishing point.

Savaş' *White on White* is a master class in Gothic art and a dissertation on the meaning of vulnerability. Though quiet, minimalist, and at times emotionless, the novel bursts loudly with philosophy. Savaş writes an impressive tour de force that is austere, vacant, and as immaculate and full of possibility as a white canvas. At once dense and airy, with an abundance of breath in between chapters, *White on White* is part book, part art critique, part gallery exhibition, and part fever dream.

Kristen Brown is a staff member at Head House Books, Society Hill's only local, independently owned bookstore.





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Bright and Sunny One Bedroom

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HAPPENINGS AT MCCALL SCHOOL

BY LARRY PETUSKEY

Science Enrichment

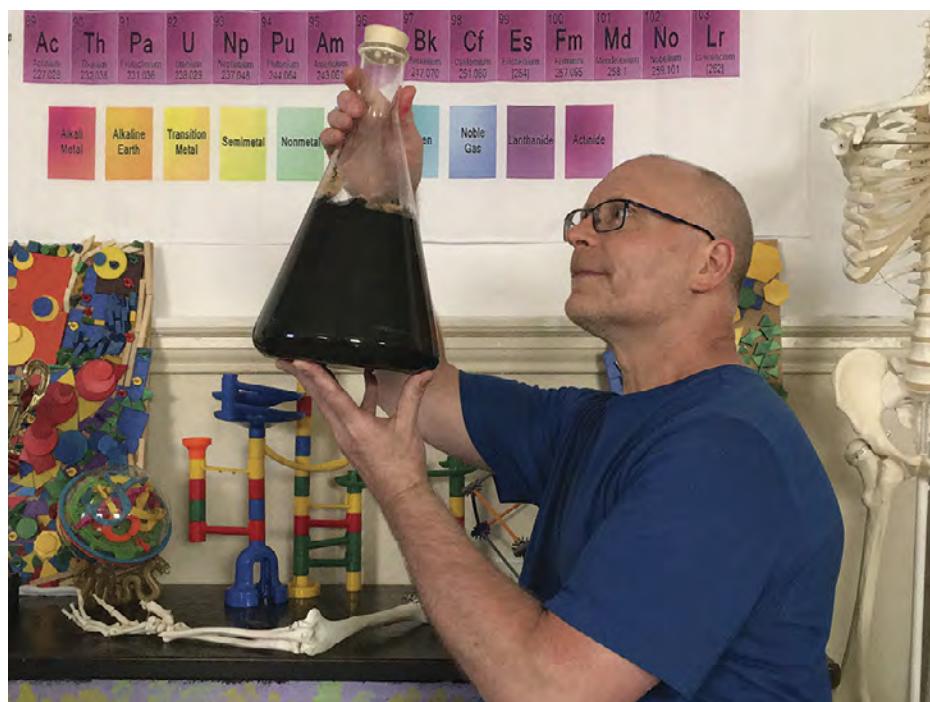
The McCall Science Enrichment (SE) program began in the fall of 2016 at the request of parents and teachers seeking a stronger foundational science curriculum to aid in the transition from elementary school to middle school science. Available to less than 10 percent of Philadelphia public school students, the program is based on two foundational concepts: 1) It is never too soon to begin a lifelong love of science, and 2) Students learn best when their hands and minds are engaged.

Thus, the SE program provides all McCall students with hands-on science inquiry experiences, at least once a week, beginning in kindergarten.

This program supplements the typical science curriculum taught by the classroom teacher. Kindergarteners come to McCall with all kinds of science facts already in-hand, so classes built around the Periodic Table of Elements are a natural fit for many students. Legos are another classroom constant, where they are employed to engineer the six simple machines, build programmable robots, shape geometric designs, and model rising global sea levels.

Prior to the pandemic, the SE laboratory promoted zoology and empathy for animals with living pets: two parakeets, one gerbil, a goldfish, and a mealworm colony. These animal friends will be returning to classes this September, and hopefully the variety of animals will expand. Twenty years ago, nearly every homeroom had a class pet. It is much less common today, though the need is greater. Today's students, more than ever, learn compassion while interacting with animals.

Above all else, safety in the SE classroom is priority number one and the subtext of every class. The SE laboratory uses authentic science tools, like beakers, flasks, pipettes, and digital scales, and students are taught to use these tools safely. Even if a student is determined not to be a professional scientist,



Mr. Petuskey demonstrates some of the tools he uses in the Science Enrichment classroom at McCall School.

experience with these tools teaches data analysis, organizational skills, and research practice.

In previous years, favorite student activities included fish and squid dissection, Tesla coil and Elephant's Toothpaste demonstrations, and a tour of the effects of acid rain on marble surfaces in the Society Hill neighborhood. The SE program includes plans for science field trips, Arbor Day tree plantings, increasing the recycling of plastic waste at McCall School, and conducting science fairs for all grade levels.

Most importantly, the McCall SE program will develop the 6th Street side of the schoolyard into a flourishing outdoor laboratory. Working closely with the Home and School Association's Garden Committee, which includes school families and community members, and using plans developed at the Iowa State University, the outdoor space will be redeveloped with native plantings to create a discovery garden and a true

outdoor classroom amphitheater. Here, butterflies and pollinators will be readily at-hand for discovery. Birds and botany will enhance the appearance of the space year-round. It will provide a venue for student and community outdoor learning. Fundraising and grant-writing to support the project in phases are ongoing.

Donations can be made via PayPal (<http://bit.ly/SupportMcCall>), Venmo (@McCallHSA), or check (McCall Home and School Association, Attn: Alyson Quigley, HSA Treasurer, 325 S. 7th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106).

Please consider joining the Home and School Association's mailing list, and learn how to get involved in this and other important initiatives at the school (<https://mccallschool.org/>).

Larry Petuskey is a ten-year public school teacher, a member of the McCall Garden Committee, and a proud supporter of the Philadelphia Orchestra's APPLE program.

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URBAN EDEN

BY MARY STURDIVANT

Contain Your Enthusiasm!

With its brick sidewalks, Franklin lamps, tree canopy, and green spaces, Society Hill exudes a village vibe. Every year, we host Welcome, America! — a celebration of our unique place in the founding of our country. Residents and visitors alike can enjoy the abundance of original 18th and 19th-century homes. Gardeners contribute with a profusion of containers and window boxes lining the sidewalks and stoops.

Containers are great vessels for gardeners who suffer from FOMO (fear of missing out), that nagging sensation that there could be a better plant out there. Containers do not require as much commitment as a flower bed. Things can easily be switched out seasonally or rearranged on a whim, and failures can quickly be composted. Soil and water are totally at the gardener's command. Only light needs to be acquiesced to, and maybe some artistic rules of composition.

A friend of mine living in Switzerland learned how those Swiss villages achieve their postcard prettiness: they legislate it. The village council votes on a scheme, and residents comply with appropriate window boxes. If a geranium dies, the homeowner is responsible for replacing it with another of the same color and size, enforceable by stiff fines. I prefer our unfettered diversity and sometimes wild exuberance.

If you live on the sunny side of the street, i.e. the north side of an east-west street, get full sun, and want a traditional composition, a popular plan includes tall grass at the center for height, anywhere from three to five bright geraniums, surrounded by petunias, some Dusty Miller for filler, and vinca to flow gracefully down the sides. Use red geraniums with white and blue petunias, and you are ready for Fourth of July fireworks. This classic works well in hanging baskets, too.

Geraniums and petunias are not cutting flowers, which reduces their appeal to be snatched out of your pot by the passing pedestrian. Remember to loosen the



Meadowbrook Farm horticulturists contrasted lime green with burgundy coleus to create a dramatic urn for shady space. Notice how the burgundy button chrysanthemums highlight the coleus' leaves.

roots when transferring the plants from their pots to your container. This encourages the roots to run into the soil and root more firmly, and be less likely to pop up, beckoning to be removed.

Oscar Wilde once said, "Imitation is the highest form of flattery..." and went on to add, "that mediocrity pays to greatness." Accepting that I am not a gardening genius, my ideas for the shady south side of east-west streets, where containers are in deep shade most of the day, are lifted from the gurus at Meadowbrook Farm. Bequeathed to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society by J. Liddon Pennock, the 25 acres in Abington showcase interesting experiments. In an urn on a very shaded outdoor staircase, the horticulturists used variegated coleus, grasses, and deep burgundy chrysanthemums to create a dramatic arrangement.

When you look at something and wonder, "What is that?" there is an app for you. Picture This has a free trial period for both Apple and Android users. Most of my gardening friends have installed it. We walk by something unfamiliar, whip out our phones, take snaps, and wait for the answer. If some clever gardener has created an interesting composition, take a picture so you can study the components and recreate it on your own. Imitation!

Another component of choosing what plants to include surprised me — emotional attachment. Memories of geraniums and hydrangeas growing at the shore find their way IRL (in real life) to Philadelphia backyards. Orange day lilies connected to the Merritt Parkway drive through Connecticut catch the eye in front of the Parkway Central Library. Can thimbleweed's (*Rudbeckia Laciniata Hortensia*) relative obscurity be attributed to its long use as camouflage for outhouses — some Jungian collective unconsciousness? Dismiss carnations due to disappointment over predictable prom corsages? Unpacking the emotions from flowers can help you appreciate the dharma of the plant.

Wander our gardens, most managed by Independence National Historic Park, for ideas: the Rose Garden, the Magnolia Garden, 18th-Century Garden, Bishop White (or Rush) Garden, Carpenters Hall, and Pemberton House.

Stroll the grounds of Pennsylvania Hospital. Tour both the Hill-Physick and Powel Houses. Linda Skale along with Martha Levine promise the Society Hill House and Garden Tour will resume next year. It's summer!



Long-time neighbor **Mary Sturdivant** is a passionate gardener who oversees plot #5 in Washington Square with Ruth Ann Fenton and Joke Nieuwland. She's a plucky petunia, who advises, "When you find your-self between a brick wall and a cement slab, just do your bloomin' best."



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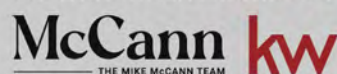
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OUR CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

Meet Myrtle

After compiling many wonderful stories about neighborhood pets, I hope readers will indulge me while I profile one of my own. We have a new puppy! Lots of people my age are finished with pets. Too much work! They tie you down. It's so hard when you lose them... am I nuts? Maybe. But almost nothing makes me happier than a puppy.

Myrtle joined us April 23rd, weighing in at just under four pounds. She should max out at a whopping 12. She's a Cavapoo, a Cavalier-Poodle mix, with a gray and black coat, big brown eyes, and a whole lot of cuteness. Our dog Dexter has now reluctantly become a "big brother."

We sadly lost our older dog, Lola, in August of 2020. She developed seizures, most likely from a brain tumor. At her age, almost 14, surgery was not an option, so we treated her with medication until it was time to humanely euthanize her. All the while, Dexter acted as her medic alert dog, barking and whining to call us when she had a seizure. Now, 18 months later, we felt ready to welcome another dog.

Dexter and our two previous pets have all been certified therapy dogs. For many years, I did school-based counseling with adolescents. The dogs were an amazing adjunct to my work. They acted as an icebreaker with resistant kids, while offering unconditional love. They'd lure a student into my office who might otherwise have hesitated, and routinely helped to calm tense situations. Dogs really are a little bit of magic.

Therapy dogs can be any breed. They must be at least a year old with basic obedience training, up-to-date vaccinations, and general good health. The three-hour therapy dog evaluation primarily assesses temperament. Pups have to remain calm with crowds, noise, and other dogs. They must tolerate rough handling — fingers in their ears, light pinches, handling their feet — without reacting aggressively. They obviously can't bite, and they need to meet all these criteria while also enjoying it.



Myrtle, a Cavalier-Poodle mix with big brown eyes and a whole lot of cuteness.

A dog who complies, but is obviously stressed, is not a good candidate.

How to select a dog that fits the bill? While some shelter adoptees make wonderful therapy dogs, a puppy that you can work with right from the beginning is usually your best bet. You know their history, and there's less chance that they'll be unexpectedly triggered by something. Go with a breed that is typically gentle, good with people, and likes to be handled. During the first year of the puppy's life, it's crucially important to socialize them with humans and dogs alike. Even with all that, there's no guarantee that they'll make the cut.

So far, and it's admittedly early, Myrtle seems to have the right stuff. Although still a puppy and somewhat insane, she's super social with everyone and loves human contact. My hope is that she'll have what it takes to follow in Dexter's footsteps. He visits patients with me at CHOP and the chemo unit at Pennsylvania Hospital, does college

de-stress events, and participates in humane education programs with the Pennsylvania SPCA. He's also done special events too numerous to list. It's a lot to put on a little puppy's plate, but we'll take it one step at a time.

How am I holding up? I feel a little like a new mom. For the first few weeks, Myrtle was waking up once a night. Luckily, she'd quickly take care of business in our garden and go back in the crate without a whimper. She's now sleeping through the night — whew! Housebreaking is still a work in progress. She knows where to go, but can't always get there in time. Exercise and play time are essential. Puppy "zoomies" ensue a few times every day, and Dexter continues to correct her when she pulls on his tail or chews his ears. She needs lots of supervision, since everything goes in her mouth. Chew toys abound, but she'll inevitably find other things to gnaw on. I've done this before though, and I'm confident she'll figure things out as she matures.

Please stop for some puppy love if you see us out and about.



Claudia Carabelli is a former RN & retired school counselor. She co-chairs the Society Hill Tree Tenders and does therapy dog work at CHOP & Pennsylvania Hospital.

More Puppy Love

Thanks to neighbor Michael Neff for sharing his painting, "Lady and the Tramp"

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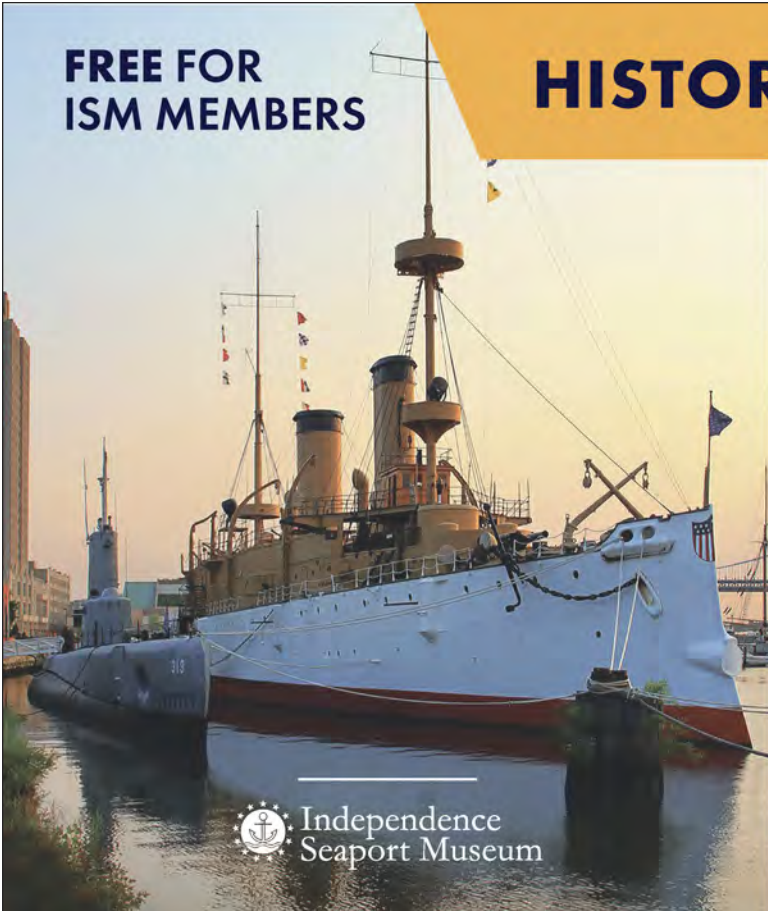
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KIDS' KORNER

BY JAIME AND MIKE FOX

On the Waterfront

Spruce Street Harbor

Penn's Landing is alive! With more attractions than ever, you can sense the excitement about this long-neglected area of our fair city. Spruce Street Harbor Park (SSHP) is just one of the amenities that you will find fronting the Delaware River. SSHP offers great views and hammocks galore. For the giants in your life, you will find a huge chess board, a colossal Connect-4, and a Jenga large enough to knock down a small village. For those of you under seven feet tall, there are normal-sized ping-pong tables, bocce ball and shuffleboard courts. All of this is free and is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Dogs of all shapes and sizes are welcome, too.

Food and drink stands line the SSHP's boardwalk, offering crab fries, funnel cakes, French toast, tacos, and more. Vendors include Chickie's and Pete's, Philly Taco, French Toast Bites, and Funnel Cake by Frozen Delights.

This season, SSHP will hold family activities in partnership with local organizations on Sunday afternoons. In addition, from Memorial Day through Labor Day, you can find all sorts of handmade goods at the park. Every Saturday, from noon to 5 p.m., a rotating pool of primarily local vendors will be selling candles, art, clothing, bath and body products, and other items.

For a night out without the kids, the park's beer garden (open Friday to Sunday) and Barge Bar Oasis (open daily) are good spots for a frozen cocktail while sitting in a flat bottomed net lounge or in an Adirondack chair with a view of the Penn's Landing Marina.

SSHP is open from May to September, and hours change throughout the season. All activities close 30 minutes before the park closes.

301 S. Columbus Boulevard (corner of Spruce Street)
www.delawareriverwaterfront.com/places/spruce-street-harbor-park

Liberty Point

Speaking of amenities, Penn's Landing recently welcomed Liberty Point, Philadelphia's hottest and largest restaurant, showcasing unobstructed waterfront views. It has seating for 1,400 diners! Fun fact: the city's second-largest restaurant, Morgan's Pier, is just down the block. Liberty Point consists of three levels of outdoor seating to enjoy food, drink, and at times, live entertainment — and excellent people-watching.



Relax with crab fries and a great view at Spruce Street Harbor.

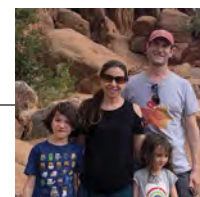
The drink menu features beer, wine, cocktails, and of course, kid-friendly drinks. Food is also adult and kid-friendly. With a full kids menu that includes chicken fingers, popcorn shrimp, and hotdogs at \$7 a meal, there are plenty of choices to satisfy the kids. Our children enjoyed macaroni and cheese during our first visit there, while we ate a healthy, practical, and perfectly sensible salad. Next time, we are getting the brisket cheesesteak. For those with dogs, the Boat Bar, which is located on the first level, is completely dog-friendly.

According to the website, they will have live music and DJs throughout the week. Note that they also have a semi-private space for your next event for 10 to 1,400 people.

Get there by boat, car, bike, or on foot — just get there!

211 S. Columbus Boulevard (Adjacent to the Independence Seaport Museum)
www.libertypointphilly.com/

The Fox family moved to Society Hill in August 2019 and loves to take advantage of the wonderful spaces and activities that Society Hill has to offer. Kids' Korner will feature topics such as restaurants, parks, recreation and culture. Feedback and suggestions from readers are welcome.



You'll find family activities at Spruce Street Harbor Sunday afternoons.

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