

SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

www.societyhillcivic.org

Recycling or Wish-cycling?

BY MELISSA LEWIS



NO! Anything in plastic bags will be incinerated or landfilled.



NO! Styrofoam & plastic wrap are not recyclable and jam machinery.



NO! Food and oil-soiled paper is not recyclable and contaminates other materials.

One night a week, we put our recycling at the curb: a curated collection of cardboard and paper, cans, plastic bottles and glass jars. Most of us think we're helping the environment with every item we separate from our garbage. In truth, many of us are causing more waste and cost.

Why Sorting Matters

The purpose of recycling is simple: renewal. Transforming our waste into other products helps to conserve natural resources, save energy, and reduce waste, pollution and greenhouse gases.

In Philadelphia, the process is simplified through "single-stream recycling," which is combining all of our recyclable materials for curbside collection. With ease comes risk: **Recycling done wrong contaminates entire batches, turning them into trash.**

From Riches to Rags

For years, Philadelphia profited by selling our recycling to China where, up until 2018, the majority of the world's recycling was sent. According to Kyle Lewis, Philadelphia's Recycling Program Director, the city got paid \$4 to \$7 million a year to provide used plastic, paper, glass and metals, bundled into bales of similar materials and sold to manufacturers. As more of those industries rejected the bales due to high levels of contamination, China chose to end the deal.

Countries including India and the U.S. started opening their own processing plants, known as Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs), including a private company in Northeast Philly, where

machines and people separate our recycling through numerous rounds of sorting. But the city now pays \$7 to \$8 million a year to recycle.

Much of that cost can be blamed on our poor recycling habits, which cause increased time and manpower to sort at the MRFs. We can change this! (To watch the process in action, search the Internet for "YouTube Philadelphia MRF.")

Wish-cycling

About 75% of the materials we put out at the curb can be recycled. The rest is trash. Much of that can be blamed on "wish-cycling," an industry term for the desire to recycle as much as possible without regard for what's accepted and can harm the process.

Likewise, leaving unclean items in the bin contaminates the rest of the batch, squandering time, resources and our own tax dollars.

Oil and food-stained food delivery bags and greasy pizza boxes? Trash, though you can tear off and recycle clean box lids. Pringles can? Only the metal bottom can be processed. Used coffee cups and paper plates? Trash. The DIY dinner from Hello Fresh? Reuse or trash the insulation and cold packs, and recycle only the clean, empty boxes. Shipments of electronics? Trash the extra packing, plastic and non-paper filler, including Styrofoam, which is 100% non-recyclable and a major contaminant as it breaks apart and mixes with other materials.

Leave out all hangers. Wire ones get tangled in the MRF sorters and jam the machinery. Wood and plastic hangers can't be processed.

Rinse It, Shake It, Toss It

It is essential that your recyclables are empty. "Anything with liquid in it needs to be as empty as possible," Lewis says. **"Rinse and shake out the excess moisture. Make sure there are no chunks of food or oil in containers before discarding in recycling.** With the cat food can, for instance, go around the rim to get all the bits out. Then rinse it, shake it out, and it's good to go."

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Wednesday,
November

16

Speakers:

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Nov. 16 Society Hill Civic Association Meeting
Pennsylvania Hospital, 8th & Spruce Streets**

5:45 p.m. Board Meeting

Pennsylvania Hospital's Great Court Room

7:00 p.m. General Membership Meeting

Pennsylvania Hospital's Zubrow Auditorium

State Representative Ahmen Brown

Sixth Police District Captain John Craig

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SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

NUSA
Award-Winning
Newsletter
First Place
2020

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Submission Deadline

Jan/Feb Issue: December 1

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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.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY SUSAN BURT COLLINS

Engage With Your Neighbors

As I sit to write this, it is still dark outside, though already time for coffee and my morning routine. The dawn is late, and the heat of summer is well gone. Step away for a moment from your usual place, alter your perspective for just a week or two with a short trip, and when you come back, things have changed. It is fall, Halloween has come and gone, Thanksgiving is close upon us, and the excitement of winter holidays is not far behind. So what has changed, what has remained the same, and what must be improved?

As an organization, SHCA has been a strong influence on the neighborhood. It has been a steward of what is good in this neighborhood, while fostering change and improvement when needed. There are everyday things we never think about, like Franklin lamps that light our sidewalks with a warmer glow than commercial street lights. Brick sidewalks and walkways that are a signature of our historic neighborhood. The leafy, green space of Washington Square. All of these things that enhance our neighborhood are things that were either done by, or supported by, SHCA's efforts and dollars. Still more is coming: we are working to improve Foglietta Plaza; cooperating with city planning, Queen Village Neighborhood Association, and South Street Headhouse District to change the South Street environment; and our biannual cleanup is coming December 3. Before we dive into what changes need to be made, let us acknowledge those things that make strolling through our neighborhood on a bright fall day a pleasant experience.

We live in a vibrant city, we live in the poorest big city in America. We live in a city with a long history of democracy, we live in a one-party town that has seen little real local opposition for decades. We live in a city rich with diversity and

tolerance. We have a history of violence against "others," Irish immigrants, Abolitionists, African-Americans. (One such incident is known as the Lombard Street Riot.) Philadelphia and this historic neighborhood is not one story, but many. It is a city that needs mending, needs honest conversation and needs civic engagement. SHCA is an avenue for such engagement.

To that end, I invite everyone to join us in a conversation about our neighborhood at SHCA's November 16 General Membership Meeting. Joining our meeting will be State Representative Ahmen Brown, District 190, to discuss ATVs and his efforts to rid our city of these dangerous vehicles. We also will host Sixth Police District Captain John Craig to give us the facts about any problems within our borders.

The goal will be to listen, to learn what is important to our neighbors, and to come up with suggestions for improvement and involvement. Perhaps you want to beautify your block by establishing a group that would help with cleaning and planting the tree pit or set up weekly sidewalk sweeping. Perhaps you want SHCA to work on lighting our small walkways or tending to a neglected playground just beyond our border. It is the effort at looking forward, seeing what can be done and, most importantly, creating a community that works towards change. My daughters went to a wonderful summer camp in North Carolina where they were regularly reminded of this corny but true aphorism: Your attitude controls your altitude. So let's stay positive and get to work on improving our little patch of Philly.

Susan Burt Collins is a retired criminal and civil rights lawyer. She worked to free a wrongly convicted man, taught history, and created Friends of Spring Garden School to raise money to build a playground.



Susan Burt Collins

Philadelphia is a city that needs mending, needs honest conversation, and needs civic engagement.

Membership Perk – List of Contractors

SHCA gets at least five requests every single week for our popular **List of Contractors**. If you're a current SHCA member and need a copy, just ask! All of the contractors come highly recommended by neighbors.

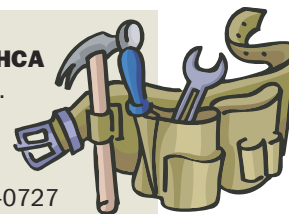
Included are general contractors, plumbers, electricians, HVAC techs, painters, window replacement specialists, window washers, interior designers, masons, and roofers. A miscellaneous section includes furniture repair, rug cleaning, clock repair, smart home services, and more.

You must be a current SHCA member to receive a list.

Be sure your membership is up-to-date.

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

The list is available by email or snail mail. Please do not share with non-members, as the list is a perk of membership.



Find the quality workmanship that your house deserves.

Recycling or Wish-cycling? *continued from page 1*

Even empty soda cans need a quick rinse and shake before tossing in your recycling. This is equally necessary for non-food containers, such as cleaning products. The residue will ruin the processing of those containers — imagine burnt-on food when plastic is melted down — and spill onto paper in our single-stream recycling process. This is why aluminum foil is not accepted in Philly recycling; not enough people bother to clean it.

The “215” Yo!

Let our area code be your guide: if plastic doesn't have a #2, #1 or #5 on it, Philadelphia recycling cannot take it. Double-check those plastic take-out containers, plates and cup lids. No number at all? Don't recycle. Straws and plastic utensils? Trash. Old toys? Trash 'em or donate 'em.

Not allowed: plastic bags, plastic film, bubble wrap and plastic mailers. They clog the sorting machinery at the MRFs. “NO recycling is acceptable in a plastic bag, no matter if it is labeled as a ‘recycling bag’ on the grocery store shelf,” Lewis stresses. “Some residents have seen plastic bags of recycling going into a trash truck and complained. But, a plastic bag full of recycling is a bag of trash since we only accept loose recycling in the bin.”

Good news: most supermarkets have receptacles to drop off clean plastic bags and plastic film.

The Problems With Paper

Paper products must be clean and dry. As Kyle Lewis explains, “Wet, saturated paper and corrugated material, as it goes through the sorting process, falls apart. Because the material cannot retain its rigid structure, it falls through the screens in the

sorting system” and ends up in clumps of residue. Lewis says paper mills will reject any material with moderate to excessive moisture levels.

This begs the question of how to protect our paper recycling from the rain, since most of our bins don't have lids, which are too costly for the city to provide at this time. Lewis suggests finding something waterproof to use for cover, such as larger trash can lids.

Lewis adds that rain will cause a cardboard box or bag filled with recycling to fall apart. It's best to put crushed boxes and those paper bags in any hard-sided container, such as an old kitchen trash can. Consider marking these cans and makeshift lids with the recycling symbol and your house number.

Soft papers, such as napkins, paper towels, and tissue paper are not recyclable due to their broken fibers. Shredded paper is banned from recycling and Lewis recommends leaving out any pieces of paper smaller than a post-it note. That's because the paper bits could fall through sorting grates at the MRFs and contaminate the glass, which breaks during processing and gathers in piles at the bottom of the sorters.

Remove liner bags from food boxes, such as cereal, crackers, and cake mix. Toss out any waxed products, including wax paper, waxed butcher paper, and candle holders with wax residue. Did you know that dairy cartons and juice boxes are recyclable because they have an acceptable polyethylene coating, not wax? Just be sure to empty, rinse, and shake out those cartons.

All of our efforts literally pay off with a little more attention paid to recycling the right way.

Melissa Lewis has lived in Society Hill for 10 years.



YES! Empty, rinsed cartons, aluminum cans, plastic bottles, glass jars, clean paper and flattened cardboard boxes go in the bin.



Take a minute before you bin it. When in doubt keep it out!

YES

CLEAN PAPER – remove plastic sleeves

- Newspapers and inserts
- Magazines, brochures, catalogs
- Junk mail, envelopes, writing paper
- Scrap paper, paper bags
- Phone books, paperbacks (no hardbacks)
- Greeting cards, gift wrap (no metallic/glitter)

CARTONS – rinsed, emptied

- Milk, juice, wine, broth, soup

CARDBOARD – flattened, clean

- Corrugated shipping boxes
- Non-greasy pizza boxes or lids
- Paper towel rolls
- Egg cartons (cardboard only)
- Dry food boxes

PLASTICS – rinsed, emptied, caps on

- Marked #1, #2 and #5
- Food and beverage containers
- Hard plastic takeout containers
- Detergent and shampoo bottles
- Pump and spray bottles
- Plastic bottles and jugs

METALS – rinsed, emptied

- Aluminum, steel, and tin cans
- Empty paint cans
- Empty aerosol cans
- Aluminum or steel baking trays/dishes
- Jar lids, bottle caps

GLASS – rinsed, emptied, caps on

- All bottles and jars

NO

- Food or food-soiled paper/cardboard
- Tissue paper, paper towels, napkins
- Disposable plates, cups, takeout containers
- Styrofoam
- Shredded paper
- Candles or containers with wax
- Random metal items (nails, screws, clips)
- Aluminum, steel, and tin cans
- Clothing hangers
- Wood or ceramics
- Batteries or electronics
- Pots or pans
- Needles or syringes

**NO PLASTIC BAGS!
DO NOT BAG YOUR RECYCLABLES**



BOXES ON FRONT STEPS

BY MARTHA LEVINE

We Must Get Package Theft Under Control

COVID-19 lockdowns have accustomed us to the convenience of online ordering and delivery. Sadly, this has resulted in a new problem: package theft. According to Philadelphia police, boxes on front steps attract thieves who open them and sell the contents, often for drug money. Society Hill is proving to be a great hunting ground for these pirates. Plus, companies are increasing prices to cover the cost of undelivered packages.

There are suggested steps you can take to prevent porch piracy.

Neighbors Looking Out for Neighbors

Being present in the neighborhood helps. A simple way to remove temptation from thieves is to move boxes inside quickly. Let your neighbors know if you see a package dropped off, you can take it inside and hold it for them. Ask them to do the same for you. It's a good way to get to know your neighbors and encourages a sense of community.

Safe Place Delivery

Have your box delivered to a gated side alley, basement stairs, or your office or workplace.

When ordering from Amazon, look at the delivery address. At the bottom in blue is an option to "Add Delivery Instructions." Click on that to open a dialogue box where you can direct where you want the package deposited.

Use a Locker or Recipient Service Center

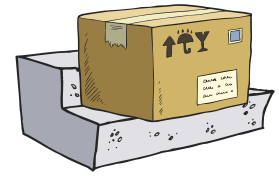
Amazon Hub Lockers. When you order online with Amazon, you can choose a home address or delivery to a location near you. Here are local delivery locations within walking distance.

- Whole Foods, 929 South Street
- Rite Aid, 704 E. Passyunk Avenue

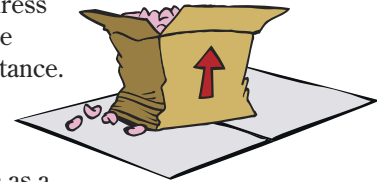
UPS Access Points. A local business acts as a safe pickup and drop off point for UPS packages.

- CVS at 314 S. 5th Street
- CVS 259 Market Street
- CVS at 421 S. 2nd Street

USPS. The Postal Service provides delivery lockers through Gopost. Go to www.gopost.usps.com for details.



Boxes left on front steps attract thieves. Take them inside, or have them delivered to safe pickup locations.



Ripped open boxes litter our sidewalks. As a community, we can do something about it.



Martha Levine is on the SHCA board.

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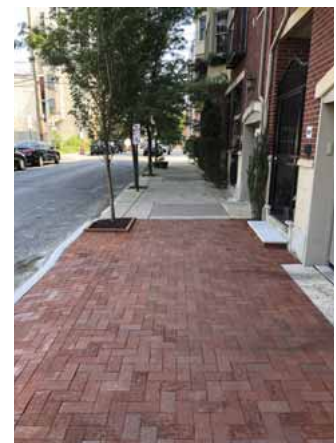
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Fix Your Bricks

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

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KEEPING POSTED

BY AL CAVALARI

Learning from History's Untold Stories

Yale history professor Joanne Freeman has five tips on studying American history. Search for “Joanne Freeman lectures” on YouTube, and you can take her class for free. Tip number four: it’s not just about “the founders.” We place people like George Washington on pedestals, such as the one in front of Independence Hall. Yet there were millions of people we don’t hear about who participated in the Revolution and whose lives were forever changed by it. Our postcard commemorates Washington’s residency at the corner of 6th and Market Streets, where he rented a house during his two terms as president. Independence National Historical Park wants you to see who else lived there.

To run his household, Washington brought nine enslaved people with him from Mount Vernon: Austin, Paris, Hercules, Christopher Sheels, Richmond, Giles, Oney Judge, Moll, and Joe. Their names are carved into a memorial wall at the site. While the house was torn down long ago, the floor plan has been recreated with walls and pavement markings. Correspondence with Washington’s personal secretary Tobias Lear tells us that six enslaved people from Mt. Vernon lived in the main house and three lived in a small addition to the rear. The location of their enslavement, five feet from today’s entrance to the Liberty Bell, a symbol of freedom recognized around the world, is fitting commentary on our founding paradox: the rise and defense of liberty by the same generation that saw the rise and defense of slavery. The Park Service has provided extensive exhibits telling the story, and there are several videos running 24 hours a day.

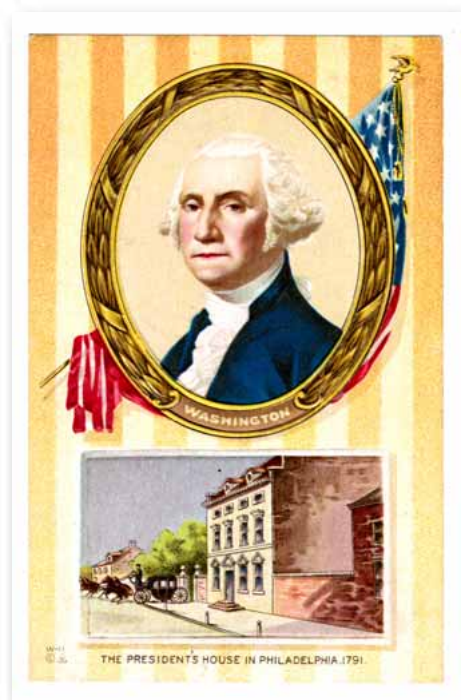
In Washington’s farewell address to the nation, we hear an apology and a wish for forgiveness. The man who signed the Fugitive Slave Law, probably in this house, expressed hope that God will “mitigate the evils” that may have been caused by any errors he made in nearly forty-five years of public service. He hoped the country would “view them with indulgence” and that “the faults of

incompetent abilities will be consigned to oblivion, as myself must soon be to the mansions of rest.” We are left to imagine what he might say his mistakes were, but his wish was prophetic. He left office upon Adams’ inauguration, which took place just a block away in Congress Hall on March 4, 1797, and he passed away suddenly at the age of 67 on December 14, 1799, after a one-day illness. In Congress Hall, the world would hear him eulogized as “first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen.”

Four blocks down 6th Street, another eulogy would be delivered at Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church by Richard Allen, its founder. Allen began life in slavery, eventually purchased his freedom, and rose to become a rich real estate investor and businessman. One of his enterprises was a chimney sweeping business, and I’ve read that Washington was his customer. Allen was also a mover behind one of the first antislavery petitions to be delivered to Congress while it was meeting here.

What would a man who, as a child, saw his mother sold away from him have to say about the passing of a large Virginia slave holder? When Allen delivered his eulogy on December 29, 1799, he was aware that Washington had left instructions in his will for his enslaved people to be freed upon the death of his wife, and that he left behind a fund to care for them. Allen calls the president’s passing “an event which causes the land to mourn... Our father and friend is taken from us... To us he has been the sympathizing friend and tender father. He has watched over us, and viewed our degraded and afflicted state with compassion and pity... he... thought we had a right to liberty — he dared to do his duty, and wipe off the only stain with which man could ever reproach him.” The eulogy is a remarkable expression of goodwill and hope for the future. Read it for yourself, and decide if Washington received any forgiveness from Richard Allen.

W.E.B. Dubois, who lived and worked for a time in our neighborhood, wrote



Our postcard commemorates Washington's residency at the corner of 6th and Market Streets where he rented a house during his two terms as president.

in *The Souls of Black Folk* “the problem of the Twentieth Century is the problem of color line.” It is a crucial part of our country’s story, from its pre-founding to current day events. Slavery is a tough issue. It makes many people uncomfortable, and everyone, like me, who leads tours here, will eventually experience pushback. One visitor criticized me for even bringing it up, saying it is not a necessary part in telling “the story of Independence Hall.” One wonders just what story he wants to hear. Washington’s passing and his farewell address are an opportunity for us to connect with people of the founding generation and remember “It’s not just about the founders.” I’ll bring you more of Freeman’s tips in future issues. Her lecture series on the American Revolution is one of 42 courses offered online by Open Yale Courses.

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





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Liberty Tree

by Thomas Paine

In a chariot of light, from the regions of the day,
The Goddess of Liberty came,
Ten thousand celestials directed her way,
And hither conducted the dame.
A fair budding branch from the gardens above,
Where millions with millions agree,
She brought in her hand as a pledge of her love,
And the plant she named Liberty Tree.

The celestial exotic stuck deep in the ground,
Like a native it flourished and bore;
The fame of its fruit drew the nations around,
To seek out this peaceable shore.
Unmindful of names or distinctions they came,
For freemen like brothers agree;
With one spirit endued, they one friendship pursued,
And their temple was Liberty Tree.

Beneath this fair tree, like the patriarchs of old,
Their bread in contentment they ate,
Unvexed with the troubles of silver or gold,
The cares of the grand and the great.
With timber and tar they Old England supplied,
And supported her power on the sea;
Her battles they fought, without getting a goat,
For the honor of Liberty Tree.

But hear, O ye swains ('tis a tale most profane),
How all the tyrannical powers,
Kings, Commons and Lords, are uniting amain
To cut down this guardian of ours.
From the East to the West blow the trumpet to arms,
Thro' the land let the sound of it flee;
Let the far and the near all unite with a cheer,
In defense of our Liberty Tree.



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MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

Trash Talk

Who keeps Society Hill clean, and how can you help?

There's no denying that trash is unsightly. It makes a neighborhood look unkempt, feeds vermin, and sends a message that it's okay for litter, garbage, and junk to proliferate. Have you noticed how one small pile of debris encourages people to pile on more? Trash definitely attracts trash. What can we do other than chronically complain?

One ongoing solution, compliments of SHCA, is seen in the red-shirted workers from the **Center City District (CCD)**. You've probably noticed them on trash days sweeping up after the sanitation trucks come through. They're hard at work on Fridays throughout the year and on Mondays from May through October, when seasonal crowds generate more debris. They efficiently clean up any refuse that's blown about or dropped, and they take away anything the sanitation workers inadvertently leave behind. This is just one of several wonderful services that your SHCA dues support. But wait, there's more!

Everyone is familiar with those **Bigbelly** trash receptacles stationed throughout the area. SHCA paid for two of the newer no-touch foot pedal models to the tune of \$8,000 a pop. With one side for trash and one for recycling, they compact the contents and are emptied regularly.

Keep in mind that the Bigbelly trash receptacles are not your personal trash cans. They're meant for incidental items like a bag of dog poop or an empty coffee cup. A large bag of trash can jam it

up for everyone else, and should be kept on your property until trash day. Also, if the Bigbelly compactor is full or won't open, please be considerate and don't put your "deposit" on top of it or beside it.

It may be one of the most commonly ignored and least enforced laws in the city, but **littering is still a no-no**. Trash receptacles abound throughout the downtown area, so please, just walk another block and put your unwanted items where they belong.

If you see it, pick it up. I know this idea isn't popular with everyone, but it's true that every little bit helps. If you're squeamish, don a pair of gloves, or a plastic bag, and scoop up any debris you come across during your walks. Several neighbors in our area have made it their regular mission to pick up trash on their block or in Washington Square. It's usually a thankless job, but it makes a difference. At the very least, how about picking up whatever ends up on your own front sidewalk? Also, regular sweeping of your outdoor space always makes for a clean, well-kept look.

Secure your trash. Don't contribute to the problem you're trying to solve. Windy days can transform Society Hill into trash squalls. Even CCD workers have a hard time retrieving everything. This can be prevented by proper containment. Make sure your trash is bagged and tied securely, or put it in a can with a lid. Recycling should also be secured, especially when the winds pick up.

New collection times are in effect.

In an effort to cut down on traffic congestion from trash trucks, the city has started a six-month pilot program. It began September 26 and requires residents from Vine to Bainbridge Streets and from the Delaware to the Schuylkill Rivers to have their trash curbside no earlier than 7 p.m. the night before and **no later than 5:45 a.m.** the morning of collection. This means the trucks will start rolling through at 6 a.m. Not sure what this will mean for those who like to sleep in, but it's worth a try.

Holiday reminder. Keep in mind that any legal holiday will delay your trash pick-up by one day. Please don't put it outside until the actual night before or day of collection.

Move-out trash. This issue primarily affects rental units. If you have tenants moving in or out, make them aware that trash should not be left curbside before trash day. No dump and go. Arrangements need to be made for the proper disposal of larger items. A grimy mattress lingering on the sidewalk does not make a pretty picture.

The ubiquitous trash may seem like an insurmountable problem, but if we all do our part, and even a little bit more, we can create a streetscape to be proud of.

Claudia Carabelli is a former RN and retired school counselor. She does therapy dog work at CHOP and Pennsylvania Hospitals.



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'FIX THE BRIX'

BY MARTHA LEVINE

The City Will Not Fix Your Sidewalk



These loose bricks need to be secured or stored.



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

If you are waiting for the City of Philadelphia to fix your bad sidewalk, don't hold your breath. It won't happen. Not only that, if someone falls and gets injured, you can be held liable. Your property extends to the curb, and you are responsible for sidewalk maintenance. As a matter of fact, there are several lawsuits currently working their way through the courts for exactly this reason.

Let's face it. Some of our sidewalks are in pretty bad shape, and it is up to every property owner to do something about theirs. SHCA is doing everything in its power to encourage homeowners to do the right thing and fix their bad sidewalks. We will even help you pay the bill!

Through the "Fix the Brix" program, you can get a sizable return on your sidewalk repair expenses: 40 percent of the invoice, up to \$500 for current SHCA members and \$400 for non-members. See the easy steps below.

There is still time before cold weather moves in to have your front sidewalk fixed.

Many thanks to all of our neighbors who have already had their sidewalks leveled. You've made this a better and safer neighborhood.

Here are the simple steps to get it done:

- 1** Take a before photo of your problem sidewalk. Email it to me at marthalev6@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 for referrals.
- 3** Email me a photo of the completed work.
- 4** Make a copy of the original paid invoice to keep for yourself. Send us a the original paid invoice and a copy of proof of payment.
- 5** Mail to: SHCA, P.O. Box 72102, Thorndale, PA 19372.
- 6** Receive a check within a few weeks.

Together, we can make our sidewalks safe for residents and visitors alike.

Martha Levine is an SHCA Board Member.

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TREE TENDER UPDATE

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

Trees vs. Trucks: Never a Fair Fight



A tree on the 700 block of Pine Street was taken down by a large truck, damaging a nearby Franklin lamp and injuring a passing pedestrian and her young child.

We all know that the city’s street trees face a lot of difficulties. Will they get enough water? Is the soil conducive to healthy growth? Can the species thrive in our environment? But the single greatest enemy of our curbside friends may just be all those trucks that traverse the neighborhood. Society Hill streets were designed to accommodate the horses and carriages of the 17th and 18th centuries. Their designers couldn’t even conceive of the 18-wheel monsters that transport today’s goods. Watching one of these behemoths make a turn onto a neighborhood street can leave you with your heart in your mouth.

A few years ago, a decision was made to move the bike lanes on Spruce Street and Pine Street to the opposite side of the roadway. What the city failed to consider when they made the decision was the potential damage to the existing curbside trees. After many decades growing low over parked cars, they suddenly became open targets for the much larger delivery trucks that could shear off branches or even take down an entire tree. When the bike lane change was proposed, the Tree Tenders reached out to multiple city agencies to request proactive pruning. Whether it was due to time or financial constraints, the pruning never happened. As a result, a number of large established trees, and the property owners who treasured them, have suffered.

A couple of years ago, a tractor trailer leaving the 2nd Street Wawa and turning right onto Pine Street took down a very large tree. My next-door neighbor’s young sapling was destroyed by a truck backing into it. Another big tree on the 200 block of Pine Street met its end when hit. Worse yet, more recently, on the 700 block of Pine Street, another huge vehicle not only took down a very

large tree, but it also injured a passing pedestrian and her young child. One neighbor on the 200 block of Locust Street had her tree damaged by a truck supplying a contractor who was working nearby. Luckily, the tree was salvageable, and the guilty party agreed to pay to have it repaired by an arborist. I don’t know if any of the other losses in the neighborhood were likewise compensated.

Is there a solution? I wish I had an answer. Might the city be willing to limit oversized vehicles to streets that can safely accommodate them?

Deliveries to local businesses are obviously needed, and post-quarantine, even more people are shopping online. The sheer number of deliveries has skyrocketed. Some cities limit large trucks to certain areas and then have them off-load their goods to smaller vehicles to make deliveries. Of course, stores like supermarkets need big tractor trailers to handle the volume of products they receive. Obviously, a number of factors need to be considered before we arrive at the perfect balance.

If you order from Amazon on a regular basis, consider combining your deliveries to arrive the same day. It’s offered under “delivery options” when you checkout, and it reduces the number of trucks coming through.

In the meantime, I fear the best thing we can do is to offer friendly reminders to trucks as they park in our area to “please watch out for the trees.” The little ones especially need someone to look out for them. As always, the Tree Tenders will keep on planting.

Combining your Amazon deliveries to arrive the same day will reduce the number of trucks coming through.

Offer a freindly reminder to truck drivers to “please watch out for the trees.”

Claudia Carabelli is a former RN and retired school counselor. She co-chairs the Society Hill Tree Tenders.



WELCOME GIFT BAGS

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Thanks to Welcome Gift Bag Contributors



Sneha, Anand and son.

Thank you to all 35 of the generous contributors to our Welcome Gift Bag program.

In this issue, we welcome three new donors: Liberty Tree and Landscape Management, Reading Terminal Market, and Bfit4life.

Liberty Tree and Landscape Management is a full service arborist and landscaping business serving Society Hill residents for many years.

Reading Terminal Market is a Philadelphia landmark at 11th and Arch Streets. If you haven't been there yet, it's well worth the visit. It's a vast food bazaar with a variety of locally owned, family-run stands, sit down eateries, and vendors selling crafts, flowers, cookbooks, and more.

Bfit4life (www.bfit-4life.com), at 400 Walnut Street, is a new fitness and wellness center that offers full service workouts, including personal training, fitness classes, cycling, and a healthy juice bar.

SHCA is proud to support local businesses. You can too. When you patronize these businesses that are Welcome Gift Bag contributors, thank them. Without contributors, we would have no program.

Are you a new first-time owner as of 2021 to 2022? Let us know! We can hook you up with a Welcome Gift Bag. Contact marthalev6@gmail.com.

Martha Levine is an SHCA board member.

REIMAGINING FOGLIETTA PLAZA

BY MARY PURCELL

Foglietta Fundraising Reaches Goal

We have good news from the Foglietta Plaza Committee. Thanks to you we have secured funding for the Concept Design Project!

What put us over the top was Councilmember Mark Squilla's work in securing \$14,500 in City Parks & Recreation funding for the design. City funding came in addition to leadership donations from LCOR/Dock Street, Penns Landing Square and Society Hill Towers, over 90 grassroots donations across the community ranging from \$10 to \$2,000, as well as sponsoring funds from SHCA and Society Hill Preservation Foundation.

The broad support across the community, coupled with the collaborative process in engaging all stakeholders, demonstrated to the city that we can succeed at reimagining Foglietta Plaza as a greener, safer, more welcoming space.

We are working on the contracts now and expect Olin to kick off the project this fall. We will keep you posted and come back to the community for crucial input on the design. Thank you for your continued support!

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



Foglietta Plaza, the second-largest park in Society Hill, can be made a greener, safer, place of respite.

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URBAN EDEN

BY MARY STURDIVANT

Action Plan for Autumn

Fall is no season for slackers. If you want to be bedazzled by bright yellow daffodils, tinier narcissi, or breathtaking displays of tulips in spring, you have to get those bulbs in the ground now, in November. The Ace Hardware store on 10th Street is displaying boxes of four bulbs. While that will not give you Wordsworth's "crowd, a host, of golden daffodils" — few of us city dwellers have the space to achieve that effect anyway — it will give you a cluster, and a cluster will do. Buy at least 8 to 12 bulbs to start.

Fall is also the season to get flower beds, tree pits, window boxes, and containers prepared for winter. You have decisions to make. Do you want to cut back the echinacea and other spent blooms to present a neat and tidy look? Or, do you want to leave them in place to allow birds and pollinators to suck at the dregs of the seed heads? How about doing both? One proposed compromise: cut the dying stalks back to the ground an inch above the soil, tie them in small bundles, and hang them from the branch of a nearby tree, so your guests may continue to dine.

I cut hostas back to the ground. Many friends prefer to let hostas and other fauna die back naturally. I'd rather compost the debris. Cutting back also enables you to see where the plants were, to determine where you might want to put bulbs or some other early spring starter. When the daffodils die back, then the next bloomer can fill their space. As you're planning for next year, remember that a fully planted space can cut down on the need for weeding. Even if the weed's seed should land, the foliage will block the sun those seeds need to germinate. Grow more, work less.

Many of our suburban green-thumbed friends are told to leave small piles of debris or a fallen tree trunk (if the property is large enough) to shelter small creatures, larvae of pollinators, birds, etc. City dwellers, reject this notion! When I lived on Pine Street, every year for the first three years, mice would move inside in October. Finally, I wised up and tore out the bed of ivy that sheltered them in the warmer months. I refuse to share my abode with vermin. They can find somewhere else to camp outside.

Containers are a gift from the goddess Ceres to city gardeners. If you indulged in show-stopping displays of annuals, you will soon be faced with a lot of fading foliage. When you empty ceramic containers, store them if you have the room,



After working themselves to the bones with all the fall to-do's, this Pine Street couple decided to wait for Thanksgiving to get some meat back on themselves.

Photo by Michael Marks, Independence Place resident.

or at the very least, turn them upside down. If you don't, when they fill with rainwater, they may crack as the water freezes. Remember from high school science that ice expands and takes up more volume. Now you know why the science teachers taught us this stuff.

Some of our neighbors are very clever. Rather than stare at an empty window box for several months, they fill it with evergreen boughs, some berries, even decorative pine cones. Pumpkins, cold weather cabbages and lettuces, interesting shaped squash, and all manner of organic material appear seasonally. It makes walking the neighborhood a visual feast.

Leaf meal (cut up tree leaves) makes wonderful mulch for your garden. Ask a friend with a tree, a lawn, and a mower to help. Rake the leaves, run them under the mower, and bag them to take back to your place. It's a win-win.

You should have a growing list of tasks for the coming weeks, including raking, pruning, mulching, and planting bulbs. It is also a good time to plant a new tree, giving the new arrival time to settle in before having to produce leaves, flowers, and fruits or seeds in the spring.

Bundle up and enjoy this glorious time of year. Remember to go leaf peeping for the magnificent color, and cider drinking just because.

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 yourself between a brick wall and a cement slab, just do your bloomin' best."



OUT AND ABOUT

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HALDA



"I cannot endure to waste anything so precious as autumnal sunshine by staying in the house."

— Nathaniel Hawthorne



OUT AND ABOUT

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HALDA



Bonnie Halda is a freelance photographer who lives in the neighborhood. She is retired from her position as a historical architect for the Northeast Regional Office of the National Park Service.

Laurie Phillips

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INDEPENDENCE HISTORICAL TRUST

BY JONATHAN BURTON

How Lucky Are We?

When did you last spend time in Independence National Historical Park (INHP)? More than two million people are on pace to visit this year, which is a far cry from pre-pandemic levels of over five million visitors. But still, two million people! We live in what is arguably the most historically significant city in the country. We're lucky. Do we take it for granted? Yes, probably a little bit. But deep down inside, we all know how lucky we really are. That's why Society Hill is our place of residence.

I was the executive director of the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, the organization that owns the Powel House and the Hill-Physick House in Society Hill. I lived inside the historic Powel House for five years. You can say I literally lived and breathed history. Now I work for Independence Historical Trust. If that doesn't sound familiar to you, then maybe you remember it by its former name, the Friends of Independence National Historical Park.

The name was changed five years ago, when the Trust embarked on a campaign to restore the First Bank of the United States. In short, it raises money for various projects in INHP including capital improvements, garden and landscape enhancements, and historically significant artifact acquisitions. It also creates programs throughout INHP for the public to enjoy.

The First Bank of the United States Restoration Project is the biggest fundraising endeavor in the Trust's 50-year history. Over \$4.5 million has been raised for the design phase of the project. This includes securing the renowned historic preservation architectural firm John Milner Architects, and an exhibit design firm from Brooklyn called Local Projects. Local Projects is known for their exhibits at the Museum of Collective Memory at the National 9/11 Memorial and Museum in New York and the Greenwood Rising exhibits about the Tulsa Race Massacre.

The \$25-30 million construction phase of the restoration project is listed as a line item in the federal budget's Great American Outdoors Act through the Legacy Restoration Fund. We are waiting ever so patiently for Congress to pass the budget, to see if it is included.

The Trust is currently working to raise another \$5 million for the fabrication and installation of the exhibits and yet another \$2 million for an endowment.

Once exhibits are completed, visitors will discover the sweeping vision of then-Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton to remake the nation's entire economic and financial system. The First Bank was a cornerstone of his vision — an institution that could establish the nation's foreign credit, give solidity to a new national currency, and provide robust financial markets that would be the foundation of a free enterprise system. The First Bank's success ultimately transformed the fledgling American nation into a leading industrial and world power.

Visitors will also discover the abundance of the new nation, both in land and natural resources, and the growing spirit of entrepreneurship that would launch the industrial revolution and lead America to be one of the first to propose free international trade. At the same time, visitors will learn of the contradictions in America, a nation founded on the concept of equality, but which was economically dependent on enslaved labor and the forced displacement of Native American people by westward expansion.

In future articles, I plan to include updates on the First Bank Project and provide information about events and programs in INHP. For instance, did you know you can see a facsimile of the Stone Declaration of Independence that once belonged to Charles Carroll of Carrollton inside the free Liberty Bell Center? Exhibit panels explore how the printer, William J. Stone, created a copperplate engraving of the original Declaration in the 1820s. He printed 201 copies for distribution to all 24 U.S. states and to the three surviving signers of the Declaration of Independence: Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and of course, Charles Carroll of Carrollton.

It's a National Park, but it's our park. We are lucky to have it in our backyard.

Jonathan Burton is Director of Development for the Independence Historical Trust and former executive director of the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks.



The First Bank of the United States on South 3rd Street.

The Trust raises money for acquisitions and improvements to Independence National Historical Park, as well as creating programs for the public to enjoy.



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- Alan - Philadelphia, PA

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- Emmanuel - Souderton, PA

ON OUR SHELVES

BY KRISTEN BROWN

A Few of our Favorite Books of 2022

As the holiday season begins and the year 2022 ends, we here at Head House Books have curated our top list of noteworthy and gift-worthy books released this past year.

The Books of Jacob

Ideal for the avid bookworm, Olga Tokarczuk's *The Books of Jacob* is an epic masterpiece set in the 18th century that spans over 900 pages. The novel was initially published in 2014 in Polish, and after eight long years, Jennifer Croft beautifully translated the story, all while retaining the authenticity and beauty of Tokarczuk's writing. Though the colossal size is initially daunting, the novel is divided into seven riveting stories, each told by the various followers of the mysterious self-proclaimed messiah, Jacob Frank. Tokarczuk won the Nobel Prize for literature in 2019 and is a literary titan who brilliantly reimagined the true story of Jacob Frank.

Time is a Mother

Emotional, poignant, and at times unforgettably dark, Ocean Vuong's *Time is a Mother* explores the strain of grief. Written after the death of his mother, Vuong illustrates a remarkable portrait of his mourning through his clever mastery of language. Each metaphor is somehow both silky and sharp: the imagery is incredibly intimate yet cuts deep into the reader's psyche. The result is a breathtaking collection of work that artistically represents what it means to endure the finality of death.

The Invisible Kingdom

The Invisible Kingdom: Reimagining Chronic Illness is a scientific study into the realm of very real, often misdiagnosed, invisible illnesses. The author Megan O'Rourke battled a myriad of mysterious physical ailments that doctors often dismissed as psychological or exaggerated. After being officially diagnosed with debilitating auto-immune disorders, O'Rourke set out to advocate for those who suffer in silence. The healthcare system disproportionately invalidates the severity of illnesses found in women,

people of color, and the working class; O'Rourke asserts this fact with evocative testimonies from patients and doctors.

South to America

South to America: A Journey Below the Mason-Dixon to Understand the Soul of a Nation is more than a book; it's a journey. Earning her Ph.D. from Harvard in American studies, Imani Perry's extensive research on the United States' racist origins provides an encyclopedia of information that is both accessible and didactic. Perry guides readers below the Mason-Dixon line and time-travels to historical turning points. The echoes of racist southern traditions and slavery underscore the socioeconomic and political structures of the United States today. To create a more equitable future, Perry argues, we must first understand the vibrations of the past.

The School for Good Mothers

Jessamine Chan's *The School for Good Mothers* is a riveting semi-dystopian novel highlighting the sexist expectations on women. The main character Frida Liu is an overworked mom, newly divorced, and essentially abandoned by her husband. After she made one parenting mistake, Child Protective Services installed cameras around her house, surveilled her every move, confiscated her 18-month-old-daughter, and eventually sent her to an institution that teaches women how to fulfill the government's idea of domesticity. Chan's novel is as haunting as it is beautiful; she crafts a three-dimensional world entrenched in female oppression — a world that is not much different from our own.

Reminders of Him

Known for her *New York Times* best-selling books *Verity*, *It Ends With Us*, and *Ugly Love*, it is no surprise that Colleen Hoover's latest novel *Reminders of Him* became an immediate social-media sensation. *Reminders of Him* centers around the scandalous relationship between Kenna Rowan, a new mom recently released from prison, and Ledger Ward, the local bar owner.

Filled with surprising twists and unexpected truths, Hoover writes a novel about isolation, grieving, guilt, and self-forgiveness.

Surrender: 40 Songs, One Story

Bono, from the band U2, is an artist in every sense of the word. The world-famous musician was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2005, and his new memoir *Surrender: 40 Songs, One Story* is sure to receive the same level of love and praise. The book is divided into 40 chapters, each accompanied by original drawings, and is a retelling of his life growing up in Dublin, his experience with U2, and his advocacy to fight AIDS. Brimming with poetry and perfect for any music lover, the emotional epicenter of the book teaches the reader to surrender to the precarious beauty of life.

The Light We Carry

The world is complicated, but in Michelle Obama's *The Light We Carry*, she argues that we can overcome life's obstacles by finding the light within ourselves. Drawing on her experience as a lawyer, mother, and first lady, she explains how self-empowerment reveals our strengths and erases our weaknesses. Similar to her first book *Becoming*, Michelle Obama writes with unparalleled elegance, wit, and heart.

The Writers

Laura Wilson had the unique opportunity of photographing 38 critically acclaimed writers like Margaret Atwood, Rachel Cusk, and Haruki Murakami. Now her series of 220 duotone photographs is available in the coffee-table-worthy book, *The Writers*. The collection of photo essays is an impressive artistic feat that captures the true personality of each writer. It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words, or in the case of Laura Wilson's *The Writers*, a series of pictures is worth dozens of books and countless words.

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

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OBITUARIES

Honoring Departed Neighbors

Sidney Curtiss, 91, longtime Society Hill resident, member of the Philadelphia Orchestra for 42 years, award-winning music coach at the Settlement Music School, and inspirational mentor, died August 10.

Born March 23, 1931, in the Bronx, Sid studied violin and viola at NYC's High School of Music and Art, served in the Army (where he played bass drum), and studied viola with Leonard Mogill at the Philadelphia Conservatory of Music, now the University of the Arts. After playing in the New Orleans Symphony and the National Symphony Orchestra in D.C, he joined the Philadelphia Orchestra in 1960 under Eugene Ormandy.

Two years later, a musical friend introduced Sid to his bride-to-be, bassoonist Shirley Vineyard. Sid had been invited to spend the summer of 1962 at Vermont's Marlboro Music Festival. The only way Shirley could join him was as his wife, so he proposed, and she accepted. Their honeymoon was spent at the Marlboro Music Festival.

Madeline Eliot Miller of Philadelphia, died at age 77 on Thursday, September 1, from encephalitis brought on by West Nile virus. Her death was a tragic shock to all who knew her indomitable spirit, boundless warmth, and ebullient love of life.

Born in Norfolk, Virginia, she earned a BA in English from Randolph-Macon Woman's College, and a master's degree in Library Sciences from Simmons College. While working at Harvard's Widener Library, she offered suggestions to her then-husband on one of his papers for Harvard Business School. He told her, "If you're so smart, why don't you go to Harvard Business School?" She applied the next year, and was among the first wave of women to attend. After graduating with her MBA in 1970, she became a trailblazer for women in business. She landed senior positions at The Boston Company, where she won an award for

Sid and Shirley both wanted to live in Philadelphia and were among the first pioneers to settle in Society Hill. Henry Magaziner was the architect of their house on Spruce Street, where Sid, both wine connoisseur and adept builder, constructed his own wine cellar.

The couple taught at Settlement Music School, and Sid's students went on to play for orchestras in Philadelphia, Detroit, Houston, Toronto, Pittsburgh, and elsewhere. Sid doted on his Airedale Terriers, played chess often, and liked to fish and sail. He moved to the Quadrangle in Haverford after Shirley's death.

A musical celebration of the lives of Sid and Shirley Curtiss is scheduled for 5 p.m., November 27, at the Mary Louise Curtis branch of the Settlement Music School, 416 Queen Street. A reception is to follow. Donations in their names may be made to Settlement Music School, P.O. Box 63966, Philadelphia, PA 19147.



Sydney Curtiss
1931-2022

leadership, and at Merrill Lynch in NYC. In 1990 she left business to attend Bank Street College, where she earned her third master's degree, this time in Early Childhood Education. She moved to Philadelphia and became a kindergarten teacher, which was without a doubt the job dearest to her heart. She loved her students, and especially enjoyed helping them learn to read.

Aside from her busy personal and professional life, she served as the first woman president of the board of Randolph-Macon Woman's College, as well on the boards of SHCA, The Shipley School, and St. Peter's School. She was a brilliant and unstoppable gardener, weeded the City of Philadelphia in her spare time, and swept every street she ever lived on. We join her friends and family in mourning her loss deeply.



Madeline Miller
1945-2022

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

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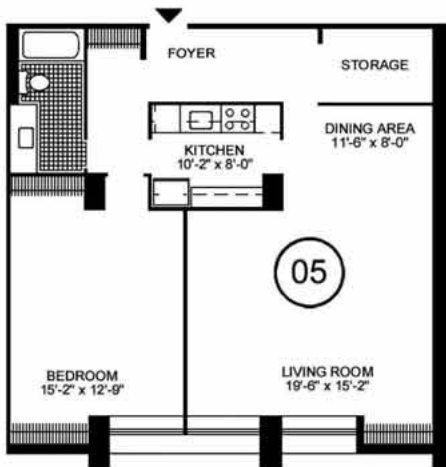
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 \$459,900**

Lovely One Bedroom

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**843 sf | Offered for
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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY MATT DEJULIO

New Memberships Reach 166, An All-Time High

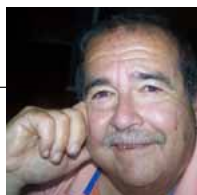
To date, SHCA has a calendar year 2022 membership total of 1,140, slightly below last year's total of 1,165. On the other hand, the 166 new memberships this year is an all-time high, surpassing last year's impressive total of 160.

As great as it is to have attracted new members and the vitality they always bring, we must admit that we are disappointed that 151 members from last year did not renew. Sadly, this is up from only 104 non-renewals last year. If you are one of our non-renewers, you can still help us make our numbers for 2022 by signing up again before the official 2023 membership drive commences in early November. The email notifications will go out soon. Please go to our website www.societyhillcivic.org to sign up or renew.

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

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

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



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

PARK, AMERICA!

A limited number of monthly parking spaces are available at the 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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Address _____ Apt. # _____

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Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Email (print clearly) _____

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

Residential Memberships

\$ 50 Basic Household Membership

\$ 40 Senior/Student/Single

\$ 100 Federal Friend

\$ 150 Georgian Grantor

\$ 300 Jefferson Benefactor

\$ 500 Washington Benefactor

\$ 1,000 Benjamin Franklin Benefactor

Business Memberships

\$ 100 Institutions — 5+ employees

\$ 60 Institutions — fewer than 5 employees

Additional Contributions

\$ _____ Washington Square Beautification \$ _____ Franklin Lights

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

\$ _____ Fix the Brix \$ _____ McCall School

Charge VISA/MasterCard: Total Enclosed \$ _____

Number _____ Exp Date _____

Signature _____

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

Clean-Up Day

Washington Square

Zoning & Historic Preservation

Franklin Lights

Social Events

5th Street Development

Dilworth House

Property Taxes

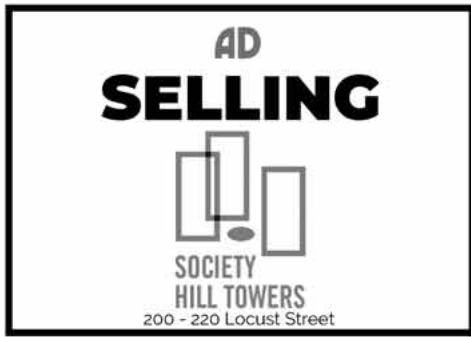
Local Crime Incidents and Alerts

Reporter

Fundraising

Please return completed application to:
Society Hill Civic Association, P.O. Box 72102, Thorndale, PA 19372
 Make check payable to Society Hill Civic Association or join online at:
www.SocietyHillCivic.org

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PENDING

Loft-Style One Bedroom

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Sprawling Two Bed

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HAPPENINGS AT MCCALL SCHOOL

BY DANIELLE SANDSMARK

McCall Teacher Recognized as Outstanding Art Educator

When McCall students returned to the classroom at the end of August, they were greeted by a familiar face, that of Ms. Erica Mandell, the leader of McCall's art program since 2017. A student favorite, Ms. Mandell gets to know McCall students well, working with all of the kindergarteners through 8th graders every week. This year, Ms. Mandell's exceptional work was recognized when she received the Outstanding Art Educator Award from the Pennsylvania Art Education Association. The award reflects both Ms. Mandell's work in the classroom and her outside efforts in the wider art education community, which includes presenting at art conferences, serving as a mentor to aspiring art educators, and advocating for art education resources and support.



Ms. Erica Mandell, leader of McCall's art program, displaying student work.

Ms. Mandell graduated from Temple University's Tyler School of Art with a bachelor's degree in art education in 2011. Upon graduating, and in light of the hiring freeze affecting the School District of Philadelphia at the time, Ms. Mandell ventured out west to Phoenix, Arizona, where she began her teaching career. In 2014, she returned to Philadelphia and taught in several public schools until she landed at McCall, where she has been teaching since 2017. That same year, she graduated from Moore College of Art and Design with a Master of Arts in Art Education. Her graduate work focused on inclusive practices in art education, culminating in her thesis centered on supporting English language learners in the art classroom. Her expertise in this field made her a perfect fit for the diverse student body served at McCall.

Ms. Mandell notes that the sequential years of contact with her students allows her to scaffold the lessons, empowering students to build on skills learned in prior years. By the time they reach middle school, students are able to combine many skills, allowing them to shade, blend, and build, often surprising themselves with their capabilities. Ms. Mandell says, "My class is all about problem-solving, confidence-building, and taking ownership over creative decisions." These are all critical foundational skills, regardless of the specific professional or life pursuits students might choose later.

This year, Ms. Mandell is joined in her classroom by two other artists: Ms. Law, a teaching artist through Artist Year, who will share her printmaking skills with the students, and Ms. Ruffner, a student teacher, who

will bring sculpture and community art experience to the students. As Ms. Mandell collaborates with these other artist-teachers, she continues to grow and expand the McCall art program, as exemplified by adding more 3D projects. Ms. Mandell and Ms. Law will also be leading an after-school art club this year, which is highly sought after by students!

You can follow Ms. Mandell and view the awesome work of her talented McCall student artists on Instagram by following @mccall-artists. Support Ms. Mandell's classroom through her Amazon wishlist: visit www.mccallschool.org or www.amzn.to/3RyQZM2.

Danielle Sandsmark is an SHCA board member and McCall School parent.



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NIFTY NEIGHBORS IN MY BACKYARD

BY JANE BIBERMAN

From The Bottom to the Top

On a recent late September Saturday in Fairmount Park, Kareem Rosser spun his polo pony around and whacked a ball across the goal line, scoring yet another point for his team. The spectators, numbering more than 1,000, cheered. Like many of his fellow riders that day, which included his brother Daymar, he is a star in the sport of polo. Kareem has competed around the world and, on his way, received a scholarship to Colorado State University.



Kareem Rosser competing on the Work to Ride team.

Today, Kareem works in Philadelphia as a financial analyst and lives with his girlfriend and child on Washington Square. Last year, when St. Martin's Press published his memoir *Crossing the Line*, he added writer to his already impressive resume. The book is now available in paperback.

As he writes in his exciting memoir, Kareem and his siblings thought they would always be stuck in "The Bottom," a neighborhood in West Philly marked by poverty and ravaged by drugs and violence. But Kareem was fortunate. He and his siblings discovered Work to Ride.

Work to Ride (WTR) is a non-profit started by a truly remarkable woman named Lezlie Hiner. Lez, as everyone calls her, found an abandoned stable in Fairmount park, originally built to house Philadelphia's mounted police horses, and took over the lease. Always sympathetic to kids and horses, she started a program in 1994 with donated horses and twenty children anxious to know them. The program is intended for horse-loving kids who want to learn about safety, teamwork, responsibility, animal husbandry, barn management, and animal behavior. WTR prides itself for being a community-based prevention program that aids disadvantaged urban youth through constructive activities centered on horsemanship, equine sports, and education. WTR graduates receive help with college enrollment.

Kareem says there's a history of horses and horsemanship in The Bottom that goes back a century or more: "Men who still call themselves Black Cowboys keep horses in their tiny backyard

sheds or garages, graze them in empty lots, ride them through the streets and race them down the Speedway (a long stretch of uneven path in Fairmount Park), making bets on the winners. Some of these guys have created clubs made up of a few rescued horses."

At about age eight, Kareem began to learn how to groom a horse and take care of it. He gladly mucked manure and did whatever was required. In other words, he worked, so he could

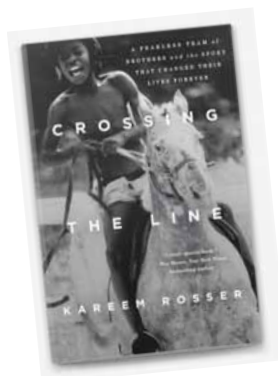
ride. His riding earned him a place on the WTR polo team. There, he drew the attention of the Valley Forge Military Academy (VFMA) polo team, which recruited him. He also continued to play polo with the Work to Ride team, which won national championships in 2011 and 2012. After graduating from VFMA, he went on to Colorado State University, where he earned a BA in economics while leading his collegiate polo team to a national championship and being named intercollegiate polo player of the year in the process.

Today, Kareem is on the board of WTR and is heading a capital campaign to raise money for an indoor ring at its Chamounix Equestrian Center. "It will be phenomenal," he says, "because it will allow participants to ride all year round." True to his roots, Kareem also continues to work to inspire other kids to pursue their dreams and work their way out of The Bottom.

At the end of his book, Kareem writes: "Never did I imagine writing a memoir at the age of 27." He ends by expressing his gratitude to Lezlie Hiner, "who sacrificed her life to save mine and many others."

If you'd like to watch some polo, go to ChuckerTV.com. You may also contribute to WTR's capital campaign at www.worktoride.net.

Jane Biberman is a freelance writer and longtime contributor to the *Reporter*. She volunteers at the Bucks County SPCA and has two rescued donkeys, along with an adopted dog and cat.



Kareem's memoir, now available in paperback.

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be jolly

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phillyseaport.org

KIDS' KORNER

BY JAMIE AND MIKE FOX

Revolution and River-to-River Rooftop Views



Museum of the American Revolution

www.amrevmuseum.org
101 S. 3rd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

We recently returned to the Museum of the American Revolution after a three-year hiatus (thanks, COVID!). Our 10-year-old loves history, so this is the perfect place for him to explore. On this visit, we boarded a privateer ship, picked up a Family Scavenger Hunt sheet at the information desk, and marveled at the Museum's eerily lifelike figures. But the best part was the Revolution Place. Located in the basement and open on weekends, this family-friendly area is a great place for hands-on play. Besides being educational, the museum is a lot of fun and a great addition to the neighborhood.



Emmy Squared

www.emmysquaredpizza.com/
632 S. 5th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147

Whether you've just exhausted yourself at the museum or simply happen to be in the neighborhood, be sure to walk over to Emmy Square's rooftop deck for pizza, beer, burgers, or appetizers. The rooftop is one of the city's best-kept secrets, with 360 degree views going from river to river including everything in between. To get to the deck, enter the building, head to the elevator, and press "R" for roof! Although they have a kids menu, we skip right over that and order the chicken crunchers and waffle fries. The pizza appears small, but it is very filling. The Classic and the Good Paulie are our favorites. Just be careful not to drop your knife through the wooden deck slots. Luckily, no one was hurt.



The King of Shave

www.thekingofshave.com
1201 Pine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

Ever since our friends told us about The King of Shave, we have been regular customers. They have cuts for adults, cuts for kids, and even a Father and Son Haircut special. Initially, our son's favorite part was the free matchbox car that came with every kid's haircut. Now, he really likes the neat old-school Philly-themed decorations. We've had haircuts from Gene and Diego and been equally pleased by both. The King of Shave is open Tuesday through Saturday, with evening hours on Thursdays. Make an appointment online.



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. Readers feedback and suggestions are welcome.

Is the Playground Surface Too Soft, Too Hard, or Just Right?



Workers completing surface repairs to the playground at Three Bears Park.



Three Bears celebrating!

Painting by Michael Neff.

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