

SOCIETY HILL

# Reporter

March/April 2023

The Newsletter  
of The Society Hill  
Civic Association

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

## Foglietta Plaza Concept Design Presentation

BY MARY PURCELL

*Join us at 7 p.m.  
Monday, March 6,  
for a Virtual  
Public Meeting*

**M**ore good news from the Foglietta Plaza Committee! Since our last report, Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) has hired the landscape architecture firm OLIN to develop the concept design for the park. Building off the results of our use study, which can be found at Foglietta Plaza Final Report March 2022.pdf - Google Drive, OLIN has, in turn, engaged with stakeholders, including near neighbors, memorial stewards, City Councilmember

Mark Squilla, State Representative Mary Isaacson, the Interstate Land Management Corporation, and other key city and state agencies.

As usual, OLIN's work is beautiful and thoughtful. We're finding more consensus than differences across the stakeholders.

### Your input is welcome and necessary!

Please join us on Monday, March 6, at 7 p.m. for a virtual Public Meeting, where we will review the design and seek your input. Follow our weekly e-mail newsletter, the *Society Hill Spotlight* for details on registering for the meeting, or if you're reading this online, register at [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_SeCI3J-GTWeZgBxKRm8qCw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SeCI3J-GTWeZgBxKRm8qCw).

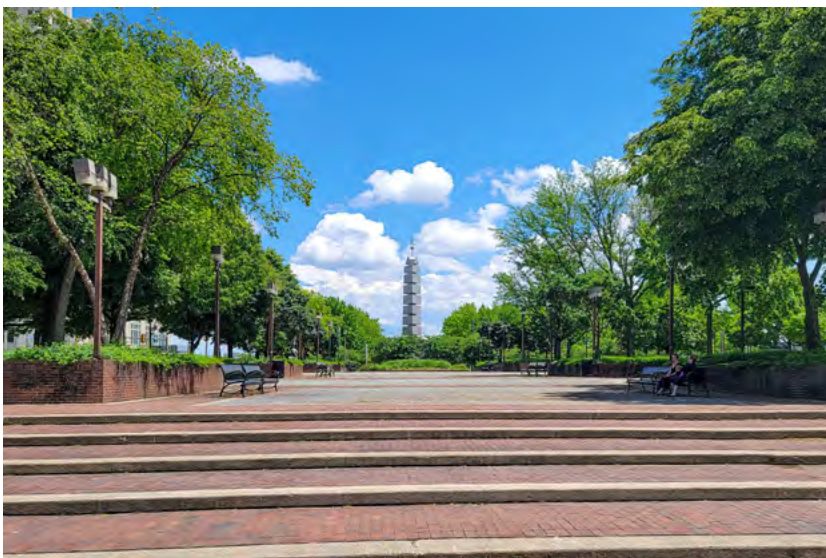
Thanks again to those who contributed to make this design project possible, especially Councilmember Mark Squilla, who secured \$14,500 in Philadelphia Parks & Recreation funding; a total of \$27,000 in leadership donations from LCOR Dock Street, Penn's Landing Square, Society Hill Towers, and Delaware River Waterfront Corporation; over 90 grassroots donations from all across the community totaling another \$13,000; and sponsoring funds from SHCA and the Society Hill Preservation Foundation. Thank you, also, to fellow committee members Bill Jantsch, Lorna Katz Lawson, Bob Kramer, Mollie McEnteer, and Larry Spector.

The broad support across the community, coupled with the collaborative stakeholder engagement, demonstrates once again strong commitment to reimagining Foglietta Plaza as a green and welcoming space.

We hope you can join us on March 6, as we share our beautiful new park design. Be on the lookout for the meeting registration!



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



Foglietta Plaza

Photo courtesy of Bonnie Halda

Wednesday,  
April  
**19**

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Society Hill Civic Association Meeting  
Wednesday, April 19, 2023

#### Pennsylvania Hospital, 8th & Spruce Streets

##### 5:45 p.m. Board Meeting

Pennsylvania Hospital's Cheston Room

##### 7:00 p.m. General Membership Meeting

Pennsylvania Hospital's Zubrow Auditorium

Speakers:

**Stay tuned... for an informative, timely presentation.**

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SOCIETY HILL

# Reporter

**NUSA  
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First Place  
2020**

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

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

**Submissions**

If you have news that would be of interest to Society Hillers, email the editor, Judy Lamirand, at [judy@parallel-design.com](mailto: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 MARK KEENER

# Is South Street Your “Main Street?”

Any time the Phillies go deep (figuratively or literally) in the post-season or the Eagles win a big one, the celebration is exuberant, loud, and goes late. A lot of that fun focuses on South Street. For better, or sometimes worse, the commotion spills across nearby neighborhoods, as bars empty and revelers head home. South Street remains a go-to place for Philadelphians and visitors alike to hang, eat, drink, cheer, and laugh. All of that is just fine, except when it isn't.

Near neighbors have been occasionally troubled by South Street carousers for decades, maybe for generations. But, lately, there are more and more incidents of noise, code violations, mischief, felonies, and even homicides. Fun is not the problem. Deeper trends are at work. If you've been on the street lately, you have noticed there are more than the usual number of empty store fronts. High turnover is one result of the COVID-induced drop in spending and in-person purchases. Indeed, the economics of walk-in retail shopping were in dire shape, not just on South Street, but nationwide, even before the pandemic. As we have seen, the decline has coincided with a rise in ugly, and sometimes criminal, behavior.

How do neighbors figure into the mix here? I talked with local Paul Levy, who heads the Center City District. Paul queried census data and other sources and confirms: the substantial earning and spending power of the adjacent neighborhoods seldom makes it to South Street shops. As pandemic restrictions diminish, and in-person fun, shopping, and dining are on the upswing nationwide, why do neighbors remain unenthusiastic about coming to South Street to stroll, imbibe, or buy? I've heard two main reasons.

- 1 None of my neighbors go to South Street anymore. “It is too crowded.” “The crowd and the businesses there are not for me, not my taste.” “I'll go to Walnut Street or Old City instead.”
- 2 South Street feels unsafe and unwelcoming. “There are more and more incidents of noise, code violations, mischief, felonies, and even homicides. So, I'll take my business and my socializing elsewhere.”

Are these factors keeping you from enjoying your neighborhood main street? If the answer is yes, the good news is that neighborhood leaders from Society Hill, Queen Village, Bella Vista, and Washington Square West have started meeting

weekly with the South Street Headhouse District and Councilman Mark Squilla's staff. They are working together in an effort to shift current trends in directions everyone can welcome.

You have seen a heightened police presence on South Street, a short-term and partial remedy at best, but something we badly need. More important is the ongoing collaboration and commitment from city agencies, including Licenses and Inspections, the Health Department, and law enforcement, as well as Councilman Squilla, to monitor bad actors and issue violations.

Looking for long-term solutions, SHCA and our neighborhood partners have joined **ReEnvision South Street**, a multi-year project designed to:

- Highlight local spending power and shopping behaviors/preferences of South Street's near neighbors, including Society Hill.
- Assess and encourage competitive market opportunities on South Street for desirable, high-quality retailers.
- Engage real estate brokers and property owners to promote responsible South Street development.
- Analyze what zoning improvements can do to help.

Want to know more? An all-neighborhood event, laser-focused on improving South Street, is planned for early spring. Stay tuned.

**Mark Keener** is an architect and city planner happily easing into retirement from a 30-year practice focused on urban design and development guidance for towns. He and his wife, Karen, have lived in neighborhood since the late 1900's.



**Mark Keener, guest author of this issue's President's Message, is a Southwest Quadrant Director on SHCA's Board.**

## Our Popular List of Contractors

The SHCA List of Contractors is so popular that we get five to ten requests for it every week. The list is one of many membership benefits so remember, you must be a 2023 SHCA member to receive a copy.

Contractors of every kind are listed, all highly recommended by our own Society Hill neighbors. Included are general contractors, electricians, plumbers, roofers, HVAC technicians, painters, masons, interior designers, and more. We even have a new solar energy business listed.

Furniture repair, smart home services, organizing and moving specialists, and rug cleaning are included in the miscellaneous section. We accept recommendations for your favorite contractors.

The list is available by email or snail mail. All we ask is that you not share it with non-members, as the list is a benefit of membership. To obtain a list or to recommend a contractor, please email [info@societyhillcivic.org](mailto:info@societyhillcivic.org).



## KEEPING POSTED

BY AL CAVALARI

## Carpenters' Hall Fire

*This historic "Master Builders" Headquarters reopening was delayed due to arson.*

*Renovations are restarting.*

It is 11 p.m. Christmas Eve 2022. Alex Palma, the assistant director of Carpenters' Hall, is the only staff member still in town. He is contacted by the National Park Service. At 8 p.m., a ranger on foot patrol noticed smoke coming out of the hall's basement. There has been a fire, but a rapid response by the Philadelphia Fire Department had it extinguished by 8:45 p.m. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Philadelphia Police Department, and Park Service rangers are on the scene. Alex is there within the hour, and he is crestfallen. After an eight-month renovation costing \$3 million, the building was only two weeks from completion and scheduled to reopen on February 2. Key elements of that work — the new HVAC equipment, basement waterproofing, and electrical system improvements — were destroyed, and they'll have to start over.

This was arson. The basement was broken into. The number one question that kept coming up was: "Why?" As Alex said, "We can't even imagine what it would have been, what could have been in the head of someone to make them want

to do this." He summed up everyone's primary emotion with one word: "befuddlement." Nevertheless, Alex and company keep in mind how lucky they were that the fire was contained.

It would not have taken long to lose the entire structure. No one has claimed responsibility. There is no known motive. He can't even guess at one. This was a planned attack.

Somebody was really trying to "make this happen." The FBI has released very little information pertaining to the investigation.

**Background**

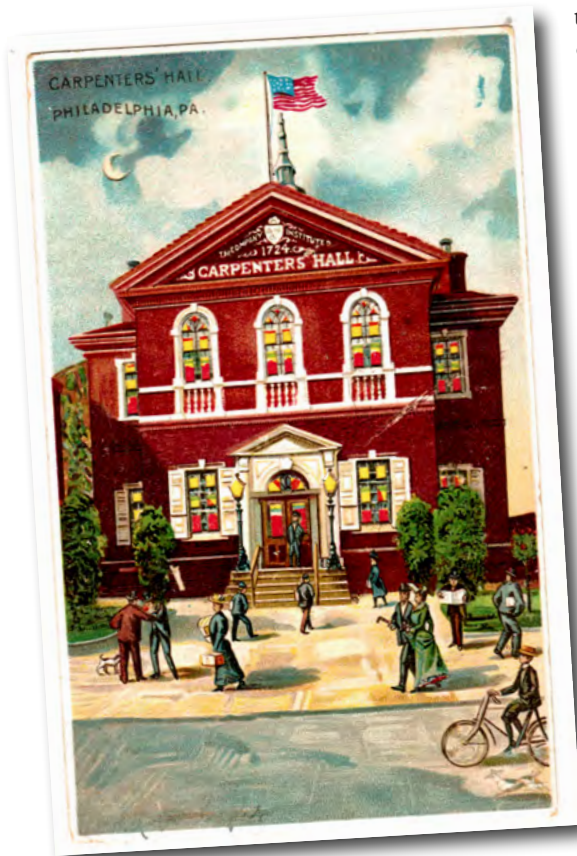
Carpenters' Hall is a jewel of 18th-century Georgian architecture and home to the Carpenters' Company, formed in 1724. The name is a bit of a misnomer. Today we would call it a contractors' association, for its website tells us members were those who owned businesses active "in drawing plans for a building, hiring bricklayers, glaziers and carpenters, then supervising construction and engineering. They were truly "Master Builders" and referred to themselves as such. They constructed Carpenters' Hall to be their headquarters, and it became a crucial place in the story of our founding quite by chance. In September 1774, an intercolonial meeting to discuss the problems with the mother country was scheduled. It would be our First Continental Congress, and they needed a place to meet. Joseph Galloway, Loyalist Speaker of the Pennsylvania Assembly, offered Independence Hall, then called "The State House," thinking that its impressive grandeur could cool down any of the radical anti-government rabble-rousing that had been on display in Boston. The opposition preferred neutral ground. As it happened, Carpenters' Hall had just been completed, and it was chosen as the meeting place.

Delegates included cousins John and Sam Adams from Massachusetts, John Jay of New York, John Dickinson for Pennsylvania, Patrick Henry from Virginia, and Roger Sherman of Connecticut. There was considerable interest in George Washington, who had already become a celebrity for his exploits in the French and Indian War. They formed the Continental Association in

*continued on page 5*

**Our card, postmarked 1907 in Philadelphia, is the first "Hold to Light" specimen featured in this column.**

**The windows are cut out to reveal a thin layer of colored paper underneath.**



KEEPING POSTED

continued from page 4

a document that pledged their loyalty to King George, outlined their grievances, agreed to a trade embargo against Britain, disavowed any control of Parliament over them without their consent, and discontinued the slave trade. Most importantly, they agreed to meet again the next year if things did not get better. Out of many individual colonies, a union was formed. Said Patrick Henry, "The distinctions between Virginians, Pennsylvanians, New Yorkers and New Englanders, are no more. I am not a Virginian, but an American." E pluribus unum.

Our card, postmarked 1907 in Philadelphia, is the first "hold to light" specimen I have shown you. The windows are cut out to reveal a thin layer of colored paper underneath. In the early decades of the 20th century, postcards became a worldwide communications medium. Exchanging and collecting them turned

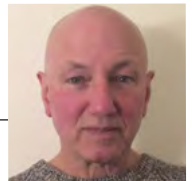
into a popular pastime. Publishers continually found new ways to enhance the product, and holding a card up to a light source to illuminate the windows had a novel entertainment value.

Back to Present Day

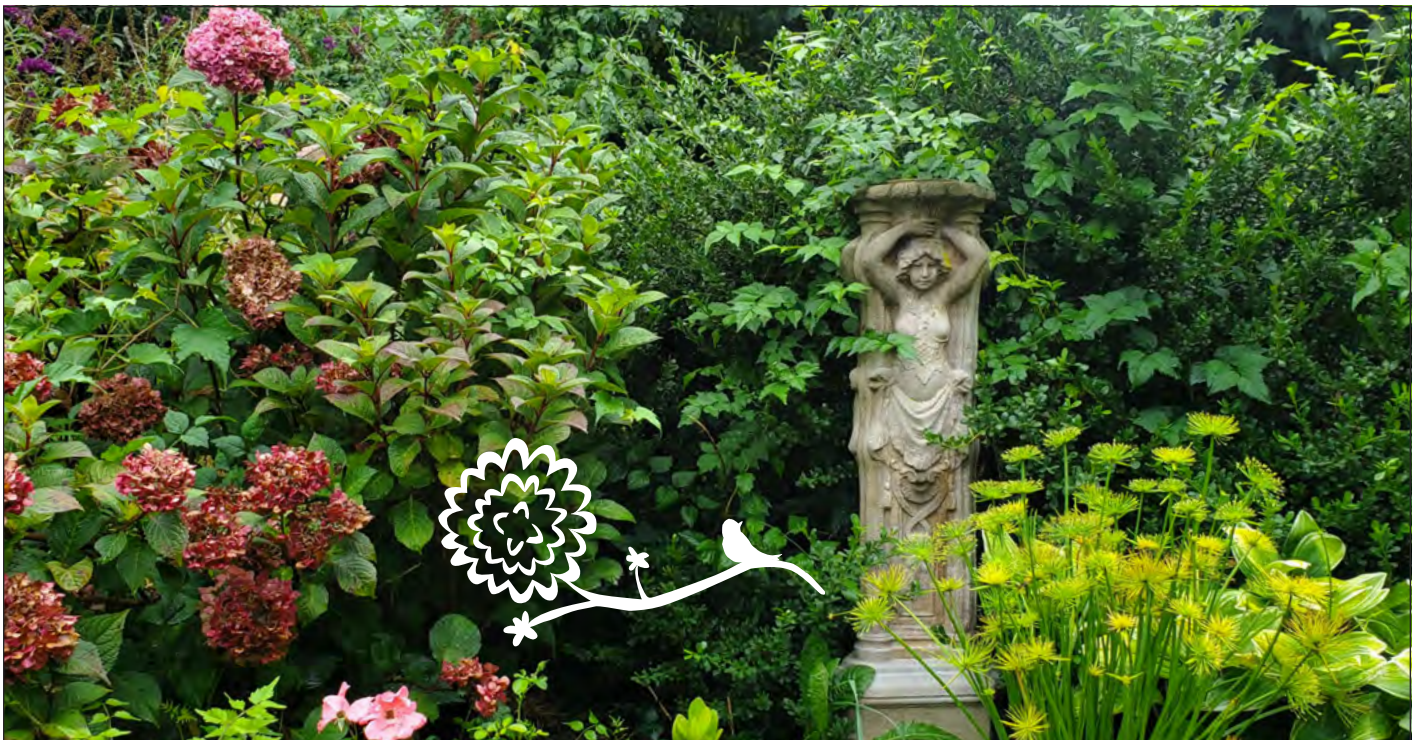
What happens to the hall now? Alex says the smell of gasoline, presumably used as an accelerant to spread the fire, is still being removed by air scrubbers. Paper archival materials are being treated with a freeze-drying process to remove moisture acquired in the fighting of the fire. The building is structurally sound, but not usable. Only a minimal amount of electricity has been restored. Insurance companies and contractors are being dealt with to create a plan going forward. The hope is to reopen sometime this summer, but it may not be until end of year. Much is up in the air, and you can help!

Carpenters' Hall is privately owned by The Carpenters' Company, funded by its membership dues, hall rentals for events, gift shop sales, and donations. It is not a Park Service building. Insurance will not cover all their costs. A neighborhood fundraising campaign is underway, and there are two ways you can help. Go to [www.carpentershall.org/](http://www.carpentershall.org/) or visit The Museum of the American Revolution, where our good neighbors have allowed a kiosk to be set up so that Carpenters' Hall can maintain a public presence during this extended down time. Give anything you can to restore this neighborhood treasure.

E pluribus unum.



Al Cavalari is a certified member of the Association of Philadelphia Tour Guides, Write to Al at [flagguysdn@aol.com](mailto:flagguysdn@aol.com).



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## WALKING AS THERAPY

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

## It's Like Our Feet Are Little Psychiatrists

Are you searching for a perfect, inexpensive way to exercise? If the answer is yes, then look no further than to your own two feet. Putting them in a good pair of sneakers can spare you the expense of a gym membership and the hassle of reserving court time. No other fancy clothing or equipment is required. Now, go for a walk! You can walk alone or with any number of friends.

Believe it or not, Philadelphia is ranked the fifth-most-walkable large city in the country. Most of us are aware of the well-established benefits to walking, both physical and psychological. Those benefits really became apparent to me during the pandemic. While many hunkered down, sheltered in place, and packed on the proverbial "COVID 15," two good friends and I decided that we would walk almost every single day. We donned our homemade facemasks and set out in all directions. It was a great way to see the city, get some clean fresh air, stay physically active and fit, and most importantly, to maintain our sanity in a world turned upside-down. Our first "lunch out" combined take-out sandwiches with a sunny walk along the Schuylkill River Trail, leading to fine dining while sitting on park benches behind the Art Museum. The whole thing may not have rated a Michelin star, but to us, it was heaven.

Where should you walk? That's a personal preference, of course. A lot depends on the distance you can handle and whether you prefer to walk at a continuous pace or take a leisurely stroll. Nevertheless, here are some of my suggestions.

**Penn's Landing** is a wonderful place to walk. Once you cross Columbus Boulevard, you can forget about dealing with traffic for a while. From Spruce Street, you can loop south toward the Chart House and come back, taking in all of the riverfront attractions. Or, you can go north to Race Street. The recently renovated Race Street Pier is its own hidden gem. It offers an amazing view of the Delaware River, an appreciation



Views from the Race Street Pier.

of the enormity of the Ben Franklin Bridge (1.5 miles each way to walk across, pedestrians access from 5th Street), and benches to sit on as you take it all in. Want a little diversion along the way? Cherry Street Pier houses artist's galleries and a dining area overlooking the water. On the way back, you can retrace your steps or head up Race Street to 3rd to peruse interesting shops and galleries. The truly conditioned walker might even choose to trek the additional 2.7 miles north to Penn Treaty Park, which offers another lovely river view.

A short distance south of Society Hill, the **Delaware River Trail** trailhead is at Washington Avenue, just outside the Coast Guard base. The first pier that you'll pass on this route is a charming little wildlife sanctuary. Look for turtles, waterfowl, and spectacular wildflowers. There's even an observation deck if you're intrepid enough to climb its spiral staircase.

On the other side of town, another length of walking path is the **Schuylkill River**

**Trail.** Named for the river it borders, the trail can be most easily accessed from the South Street Bridge or from 25th and Locust Streets. Be aware that long freight trains sometimes stop and temporarily block access from Locust Street, in which case, you might want to cross the tracks using the pedestrian bridge in the park, just a block or so to the south. The trail extends from just south of South Street northward along the river, behind the Art Museum, alongside Fairmount Waterworks, and joins Kelly Drive at Boathouse Row. If you have the stamina, you can continue along the drive to Falls Bridge, cross over to MLK Drive, and follow that course back. You can watch skateboarders at Paine's Park near the Art Museum or stop near Spruce Street for a bird's-eye view of the popular dog park below.

**If history is your thing**, you can map out a walk to include Washington Square, Independence Hall and Mall, the Constitution Center, Carpenters' Hall, and the many gardens surrounding them. Tour groups abound, so you can easily eavesdrop if desired. This route is a reminder of the rich history that surrounds us in the City of Brotherly Love.

**Churchyards** are accessible at Old Pine Church, St. Peter's, and Christ Church. Some offer tours, or explore on your own. **Quaint little streets** abound in Society Hill and nearby neighborhoods. Take one you've overlooked before and be delighted by the architecture and plantings you encounter.

All these options can be taken at your own pace. How far you go is up to you. Just turn around when you've reached half your endurance. If you persist, chances are you'll see your speed and distance increase over time. In the words of Hippocrates, "Walking is a man's best medicine." Woman's too.

**Claudia Carabelli**

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



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**S A F E   A N D   S O U N D**

BY MARTHA LEVINE

## New 6th Police District Captain

A warm welcome to Capt. Brian Hartzell, the new commander of the 6th Police District, which includes Society Hill. He’s clearly a team player. Let’s let him introduce himself:

“This is a homecoming of sorts for me. I served as Police Officer in the 6th District from 2008-12. I have also been the Commanding Officer of the 3rd and 17th Districts in South Philadelphia, as well as an investigator at the Internal Affairs Bureau.

I am married to a detective, who is the daughter of a retired detective and a crossing guard, so I am part of a law enforcement family. I am looking forward to this new chapter in my career and once again serving the residents of the 6th District.”

A fond farewell to Captain John Craig, who served as 6th Police District Commanding Officer for several years. Craig was reassigned to a position as Commander of the Northwest Detectives Division. All the best wishes and a “thank you” to Captain Craig for his work in keeping Society Hill safe.

Our 6th District police ask us to use 911 when we have a problem and need their help. Do not hesitate to call. This includes vandalism and package theft. By calling 911, a record of these types of crimes in our neighborhood is created.



**Brian Hartzell (center) gathers with 3rd District officers to play a community basketball game.**

**Martha Levine** serves SHCA as board vice president.



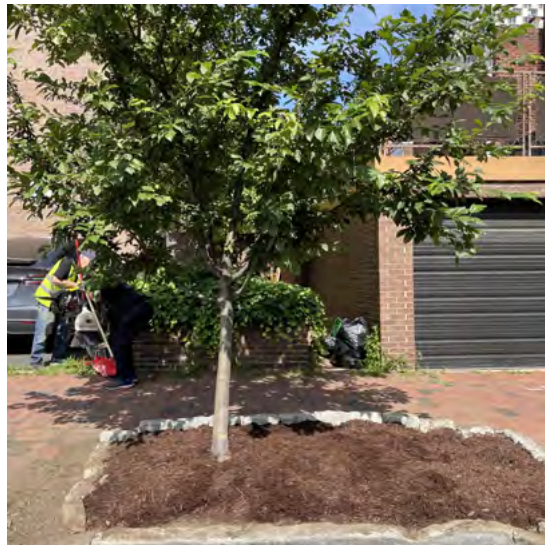
**W E E D   P A T R O L**

BY IRENE CONNOLLY

## Rooting Out Weeds

The Society Hill **Weed Patrol** is back! We need good men, women, and even children, to join in our ongoing effort in the war on weeds. We’re a group of volunteers who get together once a week to pull weeds throughout Society Hill. We focus on the sidewalks at street corners, the oft-neglected areas that homeowners tend to overlook.

The Weed Patrol will meet on Thursday mornings this summer. The more help we get, the better our neighborhood will look. Come on out and get some fresh air and exercise. We provide the trash bags, but you should bring your own work gloves. Email Irene Connolly at [ireneandshaun@comcast.net](mailto:ireneandshaun@comcast.net) to sign up or ask questions.



**Before and after pictures of a tree pit that the Weed Patrol cleaned out and mulched.**



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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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**ANNUAL ELECTIONS**

SHCA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

# Nominations for Directors and Officers

If you have good ideas about how to improve our community and are willing to roll up your sleeves to help get the job done, consider volunteering for a position on the SHCA Board of Directors and Officers. Join a team of dedicated and hard-working neighbors who labor on behalf of more than 5,000 residents and 3,000 households.

The election for the 2023-2024 SHCA officers and directors will take place at our May 17 General Membership Meeting. The slate will include one president, two vice presidents, secretary, treasurer, and eight directors-at-large — all for one-year terms. Candidates will also be proposed for six of the 12 quadrant directors' positions, for three-year terms. Of the six quadrant directors to be elected, we need to elect one from the NE Quadrant, two from the NW Quadrant, one from the SE Quadrant, and two from the SW Quadrant.

All SHCA members interested in becoming a director or officer should contact the committee for consideration. We urge all members to become involved and volunteer. The SHCA Nominating and Election Committee will propose individuals to stand for election from the list of persons offering themselves for consideration. You may also nominate yourself or a neighbor by submitting a petition signed by 10 SHCA members. Nomination for quadrant director requires the signatures of 10 residents of that quadrant. If you volunteer, please provide some information about yourself.

Those being recommended for a position must live within the boundaries of Society Hill, be at least 18 years of age, and be a member of SHCA. Submissions must be received by SHCA Administrator Matt DeJulio at [info@societyhillcivic.org](mailto:info@societyhillcivic.org) by March 31, 2023, in order to be considered.

**Quadrants**

The neighborhood quadrants are called Northeast, Southeast, Northwest, and Southwest.

Fourth Street serves as the dividing line between the east and west quadrants.

Spruce Street is the dividing line between the north and south quadrants.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

BY MARTHA LEVINE

# Daily & Monthly Parking in Our Neighborhood

We all know that parking in our section of the city can be a hassle. If you're from somewhere else, it can be a complete nightmare. But, did you know that SHCA offers a simple and safe solution?

It's true. SHCA leases a secure parking lot in our neighborhood offering both daily and monthly parking options. Better yet, it's less expensive than most garages and on-street Philadelphia Parking Authority parking. The lot is located on Front Street, between Lombard and South Streets, and is operating under the management of Park America.

If you need a consistent reliable place to park your car, this lot might be for you. If you're one of the lucky homeowners to have an on-site parking space, and you are expecting visitors, this lot could still be for you. It is a great place for your friends and family to park off-street, for a few hours, a few days, or more. For short-term parking, vehicles can just pull into the lot. For monthly parking, contact lot management for more information. Proceeds support SHCA's many programs and services that keep our neighborhood clean, safe, and beautiful.

If you are interested in monthly parking, contact Ed Sullivan, Park America, at 610-637-6832.



**Both short and long-term parking at the lot on Front Street generates income for SHCA.**



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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](mailto:oldpine1768@gmail.com)

Feel free to visit our website to learn more!

[oldpineconservancy.org](http://oldpineconservancy.org)



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## URBAN EDEN

BY MARY STURDIVANT

## Spring, Hallelujah!

Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" has earwormed its way into my consciousness.

As our planet's axial tilt and elliptical orbit allow the sun to bathe our faces in just a little more sunshine each day, hallelujah!

As the decision makers at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society wisely moved the Philadelphia Flower Show back to March 4 through 12, the time of year when it is needed for us survivors of February, hallelujah!

As the profusion of evergreen branches, white boughs, pinecones, and ribbons in window boxes brightened us on dreary winter errands, hallelujah!

As I wonder at the pink blossoms on the tree at the northeast corner of 5th and Pine Streets in full bloom at the end of January, hallelujah!

But wait. There is alarm at seeing those pink flowers that early in the New Year, like finding a stray cat or dog. What are you doing out here **now**? I will have to check back, when I see the Bradford pears and cherry trees in bloom, to see if this phenomenon sapped the tree of its energy to do it again. Is it an encore of nature or a mutant behavior of this particular variety? A friend assures me she has seen identical miracles in other locales in South Philadelphia. Patience will give us the answer. Patience is a required virtue for gardeners, urban or otherwise.

While I admire the stark beauty of trees stripped of their leaves, February seems such a slog to get through. Is that why Julius Caesar took a day away from it to add to his own month of July? Is that why his nephew, Augustus, came along and took another day for his month of August? Slimming down February won't make winter any shorter. Nature always acts on its own calendar.

The Flower Show demonstrates the Herculean effort to force nature to move forward at exactly the right time to make breathtaking displays. If you made any health-related New Year's resolutions, what could be healthier than taking a brisk walk around the show's exhibits and market for 20 minutes or so? After that, you can stroll through again, more leisurely this time, taking in all the details and maybe enjoying a little shopping spree. While there, look for seeds and small plants you can nurture inside before moving them outside after the last frost in early May.



Was the Texas bird pepper, pictured here, popularized by Philadelphian Bernard McMahon, who got the seeds from Thomas Jefferson?

Remain committed to your resolution to eat healthier by adding fresh herbs that you have grown yourself to your meals. Think of adding edible plants to your ornamental gardens and containers. I remember my delight at seeing rosemary and basil growing amongst the marigolds in a neighbor's window box. Together they all made up a charming mix of colors, textures, and heights.

Now those window boxes can be both beautiful and productive. A few years ago, Dan Scott of Meadowbrook Farm in Jenkintown wrote an article describing the edible plants he put in his own ornamental garden. He included dwarf tamarillo, okra, daylilies, nasturtium, and American groundnut. Awhile back, no plate of hors d'oeuvres would be passed at a cocktail party without a garnishment of edible flowers. Even Iovine Brothers at Reading Terminal Market carried small, clear boxes of nasturtium. I haven't seen them in some time, so if it is not still a thing, maybe you can resurrect the practice.

Like Scott, I also spent a few years in the South, in school at Chapel Hill, but I never acquired a taste for okra. That is a non-starter for me. But, I was intrigued by the Texas bird pepper (*Capsicum annum var. glabriusculum*). It grows from one to three feet in height, so plant it behind the shorter plants or in the middle of a round container. Scott claims this variety of pepper was popularized by Philadelphian Bernard McMahon, who got the seeds from Thomas Jefferson. Even if apocryphal, it makes a great story to tell your guests. If you dry and grind the red or orange pods into flakes to add to vinegar, you have half of the ingredients for a unique vinaigrette. Hallelujah!



Long-time neighbor **Mary Sturdivant** is a passionate gardener who oversees plot #5 in Washington Square with Ruth Ann Fenton and Jokè 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."

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# Wheeler Dealer Gang Hits Washington Square

*People with mobility issues “mobilize” on scooters.*

They're self-proclaimed “rebels with a cause.” A group of golden-aged Philadelphia seniors have organized a group that aims to create support and camaraderie for those who count on scooters and motorized wheelchairs to get around town.

**The Wheeler Dealer Gang** came together as the brainchild of Don Rosenblit, a 90-year-old former advertising executive whose experience with a lung condition recently forced him to purchase a medical scooter to continue to enjoy his daily excursions to Washington Square Park. It's his belief that “belonging to a group like the Wheeler Dealers is therapeutic. When you establish a connection to others, you know that you're not alone in your struggles, painful emotions, and difficult times. Instead of sitting alone in the park, we're seeing some real social bonding. We share stories and laugh a lot.”

The “gang” has aggressive plans for expansion. Their goal is to create a social community that provides tips on getting around town, moral support, and, of course, miles of fun. The gang is now drawing members from homes surrounding Washington Square Park. Its next move will be to enlist members from other parts of the city, and then see how far the concept can spread.



**Wheeler Dealer members: Don Rosenblit, Herb Lipton, Steve Silberberg**

“The thrill of riding a motorized medical scooter or wheelchair is unlike anything,” says Rosenblit. “The wind in what’s left of your hair, the roar of the batteries, and the freedom we experience on three or four wheels are enough to make anyone’s heart skip a beat.”

To start your journey with the Wheeler Dealers, contact Lori Braunstein at [WheelerDealerGang@gmail.com](mailto:WheelerDealerGang@gmail.com).



**Don Rosenblit sports a Wheeler Dealer t-shirt.**



*Enjoy the scenery in Washington Square!*

*Squirrels at the Big Burl'd Tree Near 7th and Walnut by Michael Neff*

OUT AND ABOUT

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HALDA

*It's time to get back outside...*



*...and enjoy the company of others.*





**OUT AND ABOUT**

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INDEPENDENCE HISTORIC TRUST

BY JONATHAN BURTON

# Spring in Our National Park

Will March come in like a lion or will it come in like a lamb? Either way, I am sure we will all be itching to get outside. Luckily, we have 51 acres of National Park land right in our backyard. Established a short 75 years ago, Independence National Historical Park was created to preserve the cultural and historical landscapes associated with our nation’s founding. Although there are 55 buildings in the park, we have many beautifully landscaped gardens and open spaces to explore. Nearby, Café Freida’s is the perfect place to grab a coffee or a to-go lunch to take with you when you explore the Benjamin Rush Garden, before construction begins to turn it into the Bicentennial Bell Garden. Likewise, you can stock up at Talula’s Daily, then take a stroll in Washington Square, or enjoy the Magnolia and Rose Gardens on Locust Street. You can venture over to Old City with your dog or your neighbors and spend some time in Wilson Park.

Wilson Park sits just to the south of Historic Christ Church and has become a haven for dog walkers and others who enjoy a glimpse of greenery. This park, often overlooked, may also be changing soon. The Independence Historic Trust and the Old City District have been in talks with the National Park Service on giving James Wilson Park a makeover some time before our nation’s

250th birthday in 2026. Concept drawings have been designed, and the fundraising campaign will begin. The aim is to beautify the corner of 2nd and Market Streets and improve the viewshed to the historic church.

I especially enjoy sitting on a park bench in Independence Square and taking in the feeling I get every time I look at Independence Hall. We have so much beauty around us. It’s time to get outside and enjoy it!



The Magnolia Garden

Please click or visit this link to watch a brief video about the Independence Historic Trust. <https://youtu.be/OGE-znly2YM>

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



‘FIX THE BRIX’

BY MARTHA LEVINE

# Loose Bricks Break Windows

Bricks thrown through our house windows?! Although rare, it happened in late January of this year, when bricks were thrown through the windows of two residences in Society Hill. No one was hurt, fortunately, but this is an experience all of us can do without. There are too many loose bricks and stones left on our sidewalks and tree pits, and they are an invitation for vandals to use them in destructive ways. Loose bricks and stones can also be used to break car windows and assault people.

We need to correct this.

**Solution:** We can easily prevent this vandalism from occurring by securing or removing any loose bricks and stones from our tree pits and sidewalks.

**Solution #1:** Have your tree pit bricks and stones secured in place by a mason or arborist.

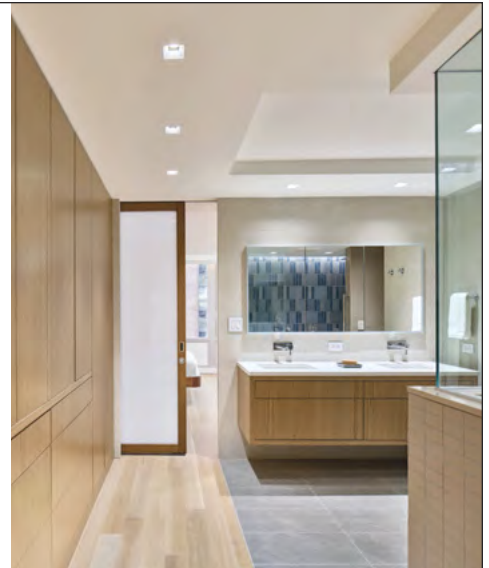
**Solution #2:** Pick up the bricks/stones and store them in a safe place at your home.

It is up to us to act collectively to help prevent this vandalism from happening again. See photos here of two tree pits badly in need of help.

**SHCA Can Help.** Utilize our “Fix the Brix” program to have a mason secure your bricks and stones, and get a subsidy at the same time. We offer a 40 percent subsidy up to \$500 for current SHCA members and up to \$400 for non-members. Go to our website [www.societyhillcivic.org](http://www.societyhillcivic.org) and click on “What We Do,” then “Fix the Bricks & Tree Tending,” for details. This program has provided subsidies to nearly 300 households.



Loose bricks need to be secured or removed.



Hopkinson House Condo images © Jeffrey Totaro

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## ON OUR SHELF

BY KRISTEN BROWN

## A Field Guide to Philly

Perfect for the beginner hiker, expert birdwatcher, or wildflower lover, Mike Weilbacher's easy-to-read and beautifully illustrated guidebook, *Wild Philly*, uncovers the camouflaged world of wildlife tucked in between the corners of Philadelphia.

The book is separated into three sections. The first is Philadelphia's ecological history, the second is an encyclopedia of 101 local plant and animal species, and the third and final section, which is also my favorite, catalogs the best hikes in the area. So, grab a pair of comfy sneakers or sturdy hiking boots and get ready to go outside.

Philadelphia's ecological history runs deep, dating back about 280 million years. Weilbacher provides a compelling geological timeline of the land's unique creation. Philadelphia sits between two geological provinces, the Coastal Plain and the Piedmont Plateau, which converge in a series of scenic waterfalls and rapids at the Fall Line. The ancient stirrings of tectonic plates have carved dramatic rock formations in the Wissahickon valley and continue to reverberate in the geological architecture of Philadelphia.

It is a misconception, however, that this stretch of primordial land remained wild and unoccupied until William Penn laid out Philadelphia in 1681. Weilbacher includes the important history of the Lenape, the indigenous people who resided in the territory from Maryland and coastal Delaware through Eastern Pennsylvania for 10,000 years. The Lenape were highly skilled ecologists and implemented strategic conservation tactics to preserve animal populations and cultivate fruitful forests.

Colonization and industrialization killed and displaced the Lenape, while destroying the environment. Slaughterhouse waste contaminated drinking water, deforestation destabilized animal habitats, and imported goods brought dangerous invasive species. Despite the damage, Weilbacher inspires hope in the reader by listing the efforts of conservationists to preserve and rebuild forests.

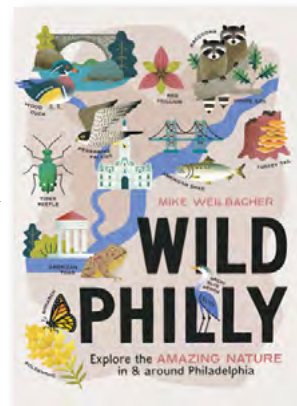
In the second section of *Wild Philly*, Weilbacher explains in great detail the key characteristics of 101 different species calling Philadelphia home. For each species, Weilbacher presents fun facts about their identifying factors and history. He even includes the best lookout points to identify fungi, to spot birds, and to smell fragrant flowers. The information is well organized on the page,

and the poetic descriptions are like passages from Henry David Thoreau's *Walden*. The city truly boasts a vast diversity of biota, including rare flowers and sly coyotes. After leafing through the high-definition photographs, I wanted to buy binoculars, a magnifying glass, a field notebook, and a map, then go out and find egrets and analyze maple trees.

The final section of the book lists 29 different field trips, including the best parks, preserves, hikes, forests, vistas, and animal sanctuaries in which to experience the wonders of nature in the Philadelphia area. Each field trip states the address, admission fee, parking situation, disability access, difficulty level, bathroom facilities, special notes, and in some cases, available public transportation. Moreover, the field trips also explain the best time to visit and what species to look out for, though it is stressed that any hike is beautiful in early spring, as all trails burst with budding wildflowers.

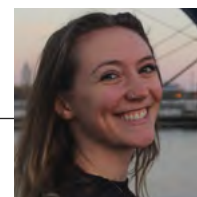
In spring, the beavers swim, the frog chorus sings, and maple trees radiate red flowers at the Black Run Preserve. For Bartram's Garden, the ideal time to visit is in June, to witness the rare sighting of the Franklin tree in bloom. The John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum was America's first urban wildlife refuge. It preserves 1,200 acres of the largest remaining freshwater tidal marsh in Pennsylvania. In April, chirping warblers, soaring ospreys, statuesque herons, and nesting bald eagles all emerge in the wood.

*Wild Philly* is an artfully crafted crash course in Environmental Studies and a must-read for any Philadelphian looking to explore the naturally wild side of Philly. It's author, Mike Weilbacher, serves as the Executive Director for the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education and has accumulated over 40 years of environmental education experience. After leading lectures, writing newspaper essays, and once even appearing as "Mike, the All-Natural Science Guy" on an award-winning live children's radio show, he has condensed his impressive array of knowledge into a truly remarkable guide.

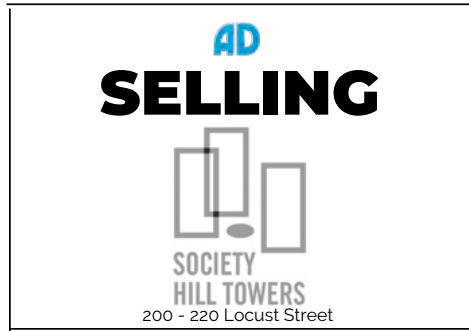


*Uncover the camouflaged world of wildlife tucked in between the corners of Philadelphia.*

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



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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY MATT DEJULIO

Remember Your 2023 Membership DUES

By early February, 492 Society Hill residents had already renewed their SHCA membership or joined for the first time, slightly behind last year at this time. We are hoping to exceed last year's membership total of 1,148. Winners of the restaurant certificates, drawn from those who had renewed by December 31, 2022, were Gail Ehrlich and Myrna Asher. Congratulations!

If you are not sure if you have renewed, contact Matt DeJulio at info@societyhillcivic.org.

So far, 78 new members have signed up this fiscal year, which is on par with last year at this time. Over 600 residents have not yet responded to our emails. We have not sent any snail mail reminders yet, which we will only do if numbers continue to lag. If you have delayed in sending in your renewal, or wish to join, please do so today. We encourage everyone to sign up or renew online, so we can avoid paying postage and put the funds we save to better use on neighborhood improvement projects.

Each of the over 3,600 households in our neighborhood would benefit from joining SHCA. Our civic association helps protect your real estate investment by funding improvement projects, as well as by providing subsidies to neighbors who plant trees and fix their sidewalks. We help enhance your quality of life when we advocate on your behalf with regard to 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 membership dues, SHCA would cease to function. Protect your neighborhood and your real estate investment.

Sign up today!

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.

Society Hill CIVIC ASSOCIATION Membership Application form with fields for Name, Address, City, State, Zip, Home Phone, Work Phone, Email, and various membership options.

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**WELCOME GIFT BAGS**

BY MARTHA LEVINE

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**Jennifer**

If you are a new first-time homeowner in Society Hill as of 2022 or later, haven't already received a Welcome Gift Bag, and wish to receive one, please let us know you are here by emailing us at [info@societyhillcivic.org](mailto:info@societyhillcivic.org) or phoning 215-629-0727. A gift bag will be delivered to your home, and the whole presentation takes about 30 minutes. Each gift bag includes a bottle of wine, a bag of coffee, a pastry, important neighborhood information, and lots of gift cards, redeemable at local restaurants, retailers, service providers, and museums.



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- Kanella** (Mediterranean), 1001 Spruce Street
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- Malbec Argentine Steakhouse**, 400 S. 2nd Street
- Panorama**, 14 N. Front Street
- PJ Clarke's**, 601 Walnut Street
- Reading Terminal Market**, 1136 Arch Street
- Starr Restaurant Group**
- The Twisted Tail** (Southern), 509 S. 2nd Street
- Xochitl** (Mexican), 408 S. 2nd Street

*Retail, Services, and Museums*

- Adornamenti** (jewelry), 1006 Pine Street
- BFit4Life**, 400 Walnut Street
- Bloom Philadelphia** (flowers), [hello@bloomphiladelphia.com](mailto:hello@bloomphiladelphia.com)
- Ghost Tours of Philadelphia**, 215-413-1997, [ghosttour@ghosttours.com](mailto:ghosttour@ghosttours.com)
- Gopuff** (expedited delivery service), [www.gopuff.com](http://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
- Liberty Tree & Landscape Management**, 215-725-3637
- MASS F.I.T. (gym)** 401 S. 2nd Street, lower level
- Museum of the American Revolution**, 101 S. 3rd Street
- National Liberty Museum**, 321 Chestnut Street
- Paper on Pine** (stationery), 1310 Sansom Street
- Physick House & Powel House** (museums), 321 S. 4th Street
- Pileggi on the Square** (salon), 717 Walnut Street
- Sam Shaw's Treatery** (culinary & lifestyle boutique), 306 South Street
- Show of Hands** (craft gallery), 1006 Pine Street

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MCCALL SCHOOL

BY DANIELLE SANDSMARK

# Girls on the Run

This spring, be on the lookout for a pack of 3rd through 8th grade girls running in our neighborhood in the late afternoon! These motivated athletes are members of McCall School's **Girls on the Run** program.

Girls on the Run (<https://www.gotr-philadelphia.org/>) is an international nonprofit organization that encourages girls, through getting out and running, to build their self-confidence while also fostering compassion for themselves and toward others. Each spring and fall, 20 girls from McCall participate in the training program, which involves twice weekly practices and culminates in a 5K race at the Philadelphia Navy Yard.

The program is supported by McCall 5th grade teacher Ms. Russell, McCall vice principal Mrs. Walls-Asto, and three community volunteer coaches. In addition to training, the girls participate in a community impact project. The girls choose a charity of importance to them and donate money or time to the charity's mission. Past efforts have included

holding a bake sale to donate money to PAWS, writing letters and cards to children requiring hospital care, and collecting donations for a local pet shelter.

According to Mrs. Walls-Asto, the program "helps to build a sense of community. Girls on the Run helps our students build self-esteem and confidence. Girls learn much more than just about running — they learn skills to help them navigate friendships and build their own autonomy." She should know! Mrs. Walls-Asto is the

longest-serving volunteer for Girls on the Run Philadelphia, having supported the organization since 2014.

The next Girls on the Run season begins on March 6. Please cheer them on if you see them in your neighborhood!

**Danielle Sandmark** is an SHCA board member and McCall School parent.



Girls on the Run held a bake sale to donate money to PAWS.



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PRICE AVERAGE:

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MEET THE MAESTRO OF FITNESS

BY MARC S. RASPANTI, ESQUIRE

Welcome to Mass F.I.T.

If you walk 50 paces from the center of the historic Shambles in the heart of Headhouse Square due east toward the Delaware River, you will spy steps leading to the ground floor of the historic John Ross House. John Ross was the first husband of the famous flag lady, Betsy Ross. He finished this imposing home in 1775. What will catch your eye, when you get there, is a hand-hewn wooden sign for Mass F.I.T. Located at 401 S. 2nd Street, Mass F.I.T. is a unique Society Hill independent gym. While a tad hard to find, it is a hidden gem well worth the effort.

Whether you are a competitive or amateur powerlifter, a dedicated or casual gym-goer, a rehabilitating local resident, a weekend warrior, or anything in between, Mass F.I.T. offers a safe, convenient, and clean 6,000 square-foot, well-equipped gym. There is 24/7 access to all members, and the equipment is plentiful. Mass F.I.T. also offers day passes that can be purchased for long- or short-term goals and a host of training opportunities with top-flight trainers.

Mass F.I.T. was started ten years ago by its infectiously enthusiastic owner and head trainer, Steve Massimini. Steve has spent close to 20 years in every facet of the fitness industry. With all that experience, Steve is a maestro of fitness. Not only does he train, supervise, and entertain his members, but he is also always willing to provide a helping hand, a different way to work out, a myriad



Mass F.I.T. Owner and Trainer Steve Massimini



of nutrition tips, and a holistic approach to effective workouts.

Steve is also a bit of a renaissance man, as well as a colorful raconteur. He is a history aficionado, enjoys gardening, camping, cooking, and with some urging

from members, is even starting to market some of his beautiful and creative pieces of woodwork to friends and other local establishments. (Guess who made the Mass F.I.T. sign!) During the stressful challenges that arose during the worst of the pandemic, Steve found a way, using extraordinary sanitary practices and other measures designed to keep his members safe, to keep the gym open, when unfortunately, many others were forced to close. It was not without its difficulty, both emotionally and financially, but Mass F.I.T. was able to weather the storm and continues to be an asset and valued part of the Society Hill community.

Mass F.I.T.'s members are an enjoyable mix, who hail from all walks of life: carpenters, doctors, surgeons, lawyers, judges, psychologists, scientists, roofers, and a few professional athletes. There is a wonderful camaraderie between members and trainers. The daily chatter, against the backdrop of pre-revolutionary brick that is still visible, is entertaining, in large part due to the diversity of the clientele. Mass F.I.T. maintains Instagram and Facebook pages, which are easy to access for further details.



**Marc S. Raspanti** is an active Center City trial lawyer who resides with his wife in Society Hill. In addition to his passion for the law, he considers himself an amateur historian.

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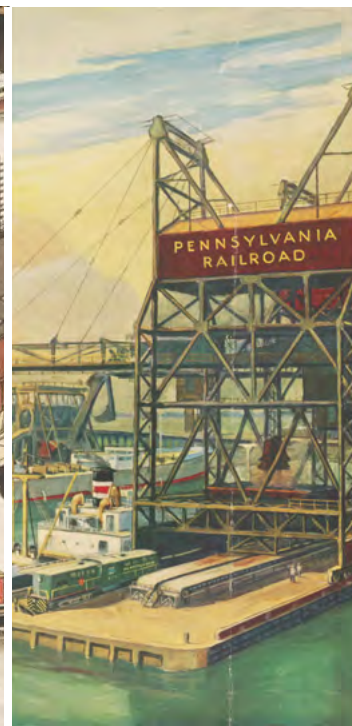
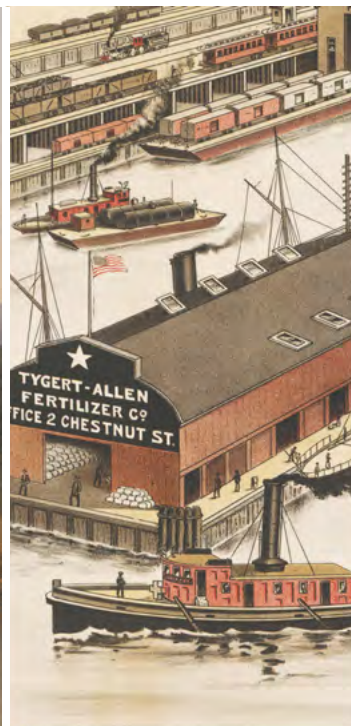
Requests from Readers Welcome

*You like reading the Reporter, so let us know what you would like to see more of.*

*Send your story suggestions to info@societyhillcivic.org.*



**NEW EXHIBIT**  
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**At the Water's Edge**  
Working and living along the Delaware River

This exhibit will be on display in the new Richard C. von Hess Foundation Gallery. We thank the Richard C. von Hess Foundation for their generous support.



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KIDS KORNER

BY JAIME AND MIKE FOX

# Staycation Spots

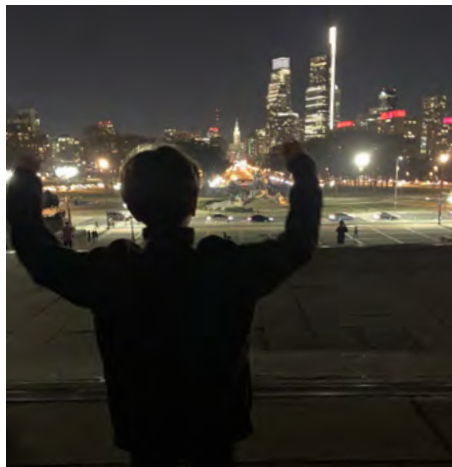
This past winter break (2022-2023), we took a staycation, and boy, did we explore the Center City area.

### Round 1

First, we went to Round 1. Conveniently located next to an AMC movie theater, Round 1 offers bowling, billiards, arcade games, prizes, and a variety of food and drinks. Sure, air hockey is an all-time Fox family favorite, but our kids kept their eyes on the prize(s). When you're ticket hunting, the trick is to find games that offer the biggest bang (number of tickets, in other words) for the buck. Like ticket ninjas, Jordan and Jaime scouted out the games other people were playing that paid out. They came through big time with enough tickets for Owen to claim an Eagles football and assorted prizes for Jordan. Mission accomplished! 1001 Market Street in the Fashion District on the 3rd floor. Round1usa.com.

### Art Museum after Dark

On Friday nights, the Philadelphia Museum of Art undergoes a haircut of sorts. By day, the Art Museum keeps it high and tight with priceless artwork and a whiff of stuffiness throughout. But on Friday nights, the Art Museum rocks the mullet — business up front and a party in the back. The artwork is displayed and open to the public. The band is playin', and people are swayin'



**Pro Tip - Obtain your tickets ahead of time or you will be left standing outside on your phone trying to "purchase" them.**

to and fro. Drinks are poured, and the energy of nightlife fills the building.

On the Friday of our staycation, after plans were canceled due to a COVID-19 scare, we headed to the Art Museum to explore. With plenty of parking in the Fairmount neighborhood, we entered the museum after a walk past the Rocky statue and a race up the steps (see photo). Inside, we made a beeline for the armor collection. The kids were mesmerized by the battleaxes and giant swords. We then checked out the newly renovated and magnificent first floor area, second floor bookstores, and the less-than-exciting American Art section. We finished our evening with a visit to the large museum store on the first floor and came home with a new 2023 calendar!

### John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge

On the prettiest day of our staycation, we grabbed our binoculars and took our new puppy, Cali Juniper Fox, to the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge. This beautiful area, filled with hiking trails and fresh air, is just 20 minutes south of Center City. We parked by the visitors' center and took a trail, which looped around the preserve. Along the way we saw many dogs and people, icy waterways, and a few signs of wildlife. The Frog Trail was the coolest, according to the kids. 8601 Lindbergh Boulevard. www.fws.gov



**Gives a new meaning to the phrase "taking the dog for a walk" at the Heinz wildlife preserve.**



### Osteria

One of our final excursions during the staycation was to Osteria. During an era affectionately known as BC (Before Children), we ate there quite a bit. The Lombarda (pizza with cheese, sausage, and a runny egg in the middle) has been a must-have on every visit. For the first time, we brought the kids along. The ambiance was perfect. We ordered five items to share, including the Lombarda. The cheese platter did not disappoint. Although we enjoyed the calamari, it was a very small portion. We weren't blown away by the choices in the vegetable antipasto. The ribs were very enjoyable. But the icing on the cake was the cake, which included a sparkler to celebrate Jaime's 21st birthday (or an unnamed anniversary thereof). The children inhaled the apple pastry in record time. We will certainly come back as a family to Osteria soon.



640 North Broad St.



### 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.

# Old Pine Preservation Project

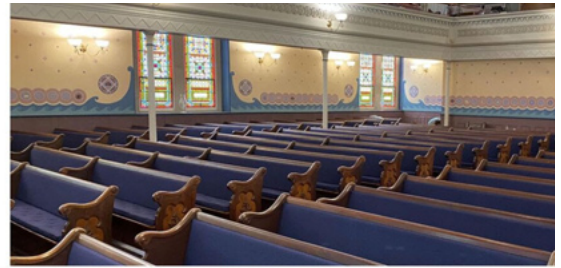
BY KAREN WINEY

We are your neighbors. Since before the American Revolution, Old Pine has been a cornerstone of our neighborhood. Along Pine Street between 4th and 5th Streets, Old Pine is a distinctive landmark with yellow stucco, tall white columns, and a historical graveyard. For those who pause to read the message board, there is inspiration for daily living. Moreover, we have been and continue to serve the community as place of quiet respite, spiritual sustenance, and community gathering. We regularly host AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) meetings, Philadelphia Chamber Orchestra concerts, and special events for St. Peter's School and the Boy Scouts. All are welcome here.

## Renewing Old Pine

Beginning in 2019, we initiated our first major renovations in 30 years with a focus on preserving this historical gem, so that we can continue to serve the neighborhood. As detailed on our website, we are making substantial progress. The completed, scheduled, and future projects

will protect the integrity of the building and, more importantly, will make Old Pine even more welcoming and better able to serve our members and community for decades to come.



We need your help. To date, the members of the congregation have generously pledged more than \$718,000 and secured \$551,000 in grants. We are now launching a community-wide fundraising effort. As a resident, business owner, or supporter of historical places, we know you understand the value of a well-maintained and beautiful property in the neighborhood. A vibrant institution, Old Pine attracts members, visitors, and occasional film crews, who support local businesses. Your investment helps ensure the future of this historic treasure as a vibrant and welcoming place in our community.

**Old Pine provides meeting space to SHCA. We encourage neighbors to generously support the preservation of this architectural gem.**

Learn more, pre-register for a tour, and donate today at <http://oldpine.org/the-church/community-fundraising/>.

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