

SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

May/June 2023

The Newsletter
of The Society Hill
Civic Association

www.societyhillcivic.org

The 2023 Gardens of Society Hill Tour

A FUNDRAISER FOR SHCA

Step into wonderful hidden and lush secret spaces on Saturday, June 3 & Sunday, June 4, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Join us for a self-guided walking tour of approximately 16 gardens, all within our beautiful and historic Society Hill neighborhood. This event is a fundraiser for the Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA).

We're back! SHCA is pleased to announce that after a three-year hiatus from our popular Society Hill Open House & Garden tour, we will continue the tradition, but with a focus exclusively on outdoor spaces. Showcased will be private urban gardens of varied sizes and designs. Step into wonderful hidden and lush secret spaces

often not in view from the street. Come and get inspirational ideas for your own gardens!

Right now, we ask for your support of this fundraiser event. Do you have a garden you are willing to share for the tour? Gardens may be of any size and design, but must be easily accessible. Can you volunteer your time to be a host in a garden that weekend? All hosts will receive a complimentary ticket for the tour. Please contact tour coordinators with your availability and/or questions: Martha Levine, marthalev6@gmail.com or Linda Skale, LCSkale@gmail.com.



Photo courtesy of Dennis Duffy and Armando Llanes

Details of the Tour

- Dates: Saturday, June 3 and Sunday, June 4, 2023, 1 to 4 p.m.
- **Ticket sales start May 1.** Advance ticket purchase suggested. For more information or to order tickets, email info@societyhillcivic.org or go online to societyhillcivic.org/gardentour.
- Pre-purchased tickets will be held for pickup on tour day at the Hill-Physick House tour headquarters, 321 S. 4th Street.
- Tickets may be also purchased on tour day at the Hill-Physick House tour headquarters.
- Each ticket is valid for one tour day.
- Only paid ticket holders may enter the gardens.
- Restrooms and refreshments will be provided at the tour headquarters.

Thank you to our business sponsors:

Fred Manfred, Realtor; Bartlett Tree Experts; Fine Garden Creations; Liberty Tree & Landscape Management; Earthly Delights (garden design).

As in previous years, all proceeds of this fundraiser tour will go towards SHCA neighborhood improvement and beautification projects and programs that benefit us all: weekly sidewalk cleaning, graffiti removal, "Fix the Brix," and Tree Tenders, among others.

Thank you for your continued support of our neighborhood.

Wednesday,
May
17

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Society Hill Civic Association Meeting
Wednesday, May 17, 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

Topic: Election of Board Members and Officers

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SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

**NUSA
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Society Hill Civic Association

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Website

Find past issues in full color at
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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P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

BY SUSAN BURT-COLLINS

Your Association Is Taking Action

Community members perceive the neighborhood differently, have different goals for the neighborhood, and have varying plans for how to reach those goals. SHCA works to balance the wants and needs of those who live in Society Hill, set goals, and come up with an action plan.

Much has happened since I became SHCA's president. We have begun devoting substantial effort to issues relating to South Street, including prodding the city to enforce the zoning and health regulations more rigorously. We have urged adoption of a zoning overlay to restrict the opening of smoke shops. Meeting weekly with South Street Headhouse District officials, we are working to build consensus on a way forward that works not only for South Street, but for adjacent neighborhoods as well. We have spearheaded a push to shift control of the Headhouse and Shambles to an entity dedicated to historic preservation. Quarterbacking our efforts directed at improving South Street are Mark Keener and other SHCA members with deep knowledge and experience in urban planning, design, and working with city officials.

On issues of safety and security, we have formed a cooperative relationship with a new group that popped up to address security concerns in their immediate area of Delancey Street and the south-east side of Society Hill. David Haas has taken

on the task of representing us at the Crosstown Coalition. To address an eyesore at the far eastern edge of the neighborhood, Mary Purcell shepherded through a design for Foglietta Plaza. We are engaging proactively on issues and problems, as we endeavor to be responsive and effective.

Internally, we have looked to streamline and modernize our operations. Determined to increase transparency and make SHCA more accessible to everyone in the community, Bonnie Halda and Danielle Sandsmark have redesigned our weekly email communication. Now called the Society Hill Spotlight, the newsletters are organized and more engaging. David Haas and Bill Jantsch are leading the effort to put our reports, meeting minutes, and details with respect to everything we do online. We have established a new task force, the Clean and Beautiful Committee, to pull together all the disparate tasks intended to make our neighborhood even more beautiful and functional.

Join us. Get involved. Volunteer with a project or issue that matters to you or where you have special expertise. I invite all of you to become engaged with SHCA as we move forward towards summer and a new year for our organization.

Susan Burt Collins is a retired criminal and civil rights lawyer. She has 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,
SHCA President

Election of SHCA Officers and Directors

SHCA's next General Membership Meeting will be held at Pennsylvania Hospital's Zubrow Auditorium on May 17. The first item on the agenda is the annual election of SHCA officers and directors. See the complete slate of nominees below and to the right.

Everyone is invited to attend. Simply arrive at the auditorium, located on the first floor inside the main entrance at 8th Street near Spruce, before 7 p.m.

Officers

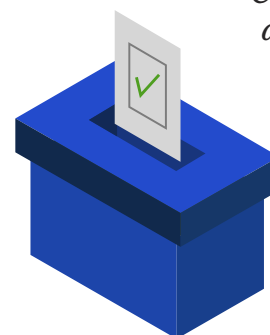
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Danielle Sandsmark

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Northeast: Mary Purcell, David Haas
Northwest: Stacey Ackerman, Bernard Gelman
Southeast: Robert Spears
Southwest: Yvana Rizzo, Mark Keener



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Meeting*

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION

BY JONATHAN RUBIN

A Primer in Exterior Restoration Painting

If you are like me, and you enjoy looking at architecture as you walk through the neighborhood, you're undoubtedly aware that there is a pleasant visual consistency to all the buildings in Society Hill. They're made of a most handsome red brick, framed by wood windows and trim, and painted in neutral historical colors. This is all complemented by the surrounding replica lighting, cobblestones, and old-growth tree canopy. Why is it like this? It's because the neighborhood wants it this way. Historic preservation is important to everyone who chooses to live here.

What exactly is historical restoration and why does it matter? Historical restoration simply means preserving a building's architectural details without cutting any corners or using any cheap materials. When my company, Philadelphia House Painting & Historical Restoration approaches a new project, it's as though we are having a conversation with the architects and builders of yesteryear, coming into direct contact with the very same materials and artistry used by craftsmen long ago. It's our job to bring it all back to what was "original."

Sometimes, when scraping old paint down to the bare wood, we can actually touch a piece of wood that began its growth from a seed 500 years ago and was installed by skilled hands long before the advent of power tools and other fancy gadgets. Unfortunately, over the years, many a historical house gets a hodgepodge of work done to it. One can only scratch their head and wonder: Why on earth did that beautiful wood siding get covered with vinyl? Why was the old caulk left on the brick to make a sloppy edge? What was going on in the heads of the people who worked on this building? Were they conscientious, caring, and skilled in their crafts? Or were they inexpensive and lacking the knowledge or integrity it takes to do the job right?

The goal of historic preservation is to take things back to the original condition and work from there, whether it's painting, masonry, or carpentry, as needed.



234 S. 3rd Street after exterior restoration was completed.

Here's an example: Charles and Margo's house at 234 S. 3rd Street. The cast iron balcony is of great historical significance. Our task was to preserve it. Instead of painting directly over rusty metal, we applied a special oil-based rust-inhibitive primer, and then a full coat of oil gloss paint. Over time, the paint will wear down. That's to be expected. It's doing its job, functioning as the outermost architectural layer of the house, rebuffing the wind and rain, and preventing oxidation. Ten years from now, instead of having to go through a lot of prep work, a new coat of paint will be all that's needed to redo the job.

Next: the windows! Sometimes an old window hasn't been touched in 40 years. No matter what, the same formula is followed. The work is divided into three phases: 1. Demolition and Discovery. 2. Repair. 3. Paint.

The first phase of D&D (as we call it) consists of scraping and sanding. This is the messy work! This is also when the full requirements of the job are discovered. Is there wood rot? Does the caulk need to be taken out where it meets the trim? Is wood or masonry repair needed? Demolition is the time to make these decisions.

After everything has been scraped and sanded, and any rotted wood has been dug out, everything is sealed in with an oil-based primer. This stops the oxidation process. It seals in any lead or oil-based paint, which will react badly with water-based paint applied on top. Oil primer is like double-sided, sticky tape. It sticks to everything, and everything sticks to it!

The next phase is repair, namely applying wood fill, repairing wood, and problem-solving items that are too expensive to replace, but nevertheless must be repaired. Then, let things dry.

Any patching or glazing work will be sanded. Then oil primer is applied on top of any work that has been repaired. We called this "the primer sandwich." The repair material sits between two layers of primer. Skip this step and apply paint directly to wood, filler, or patch, and the paint just will not stick properly.

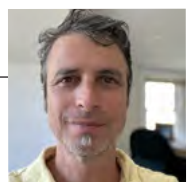
The last step before painting is caulking. We view caulk as a type of paint. It provides a seal from the weather, and also creates clean lines where two colors meet.

The final phase is painting. This is the fun stuff! No more noise and mess, just the quiet of a brush gliding over freshly laid primer. This is our reward after all the hard, dirty work.

After everything is completed, a razor blade is used to scrape the windows, and then they are windexed to a shine!

We like to think that the craftsman who built these homes would be proud of the work we are doing. We're not "kicking the can down the lane" and avoiding doing the hard work. We are protecting and beautifying these historical structures for future generations to enjoy!

Jonathan Rubin is the owner and operator of Philadelphia House Painting & Historical Restoration www.PhiladelphiaHousePainting.com. He lived in Queen Village for 18+ years and chaired Friends of Bainbridge Green. He now lives with his wife and two kids in Merion Station.



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FOGLIETTA PLAZA REDESIGN

OLIN Design Team Shares Plans and Views

On Monday, March 6, SHCA was pleased to share with the community the new concept design for Foglietta Plaza. Introduced by SHCA Committee Chair Mary Purcell, OLIN Partner Michael Miller presented the reimagined park.

Chair Purcell described the collaborative process that led to the design. This included a successful Programming/Use Study sponsored by SHCA in 2021. The varied stakeholders coalesced around a greener, more welcoming space, respecting the existing memorials and including a central lawn flanked by gardens. She thanked the lead donors and the 90 grassroots donors who contributed to this design project, including Councilmember Mark Squilla, who secured a city grant.

Now to the design... furthering the Use Study work, OLIN developed and presented three alternate designs in a series of stakeholder meetings. The "Green Plaza" design was selected and then refined. Pictured to the right is an overview of the beautiful Green Plaza design, which includes a central lawn, sensory gardens, additional tree groves, a possible new memorial site, and a bike lane, with the existing bike share station moved to the south side of the plaza.

Nearly 200 community members attended the Zoom presentation, submitting questions and ideas and expressing enthusiasm for realizing the new design! Here's a link to the presentation: www.youtube.com/watch?v=HTdU92ZW638.

Next steps include engineering review, estimating construction costs and identifying a structure for managing and fundraising for the project. With the broad community support and involvement of all the key stakeholders, we have a good story to tell that we hope will help sell the project!



Green Plaza Concept Plan



Central lawn bordered by walkway and raised bed gardens.



North bosque with seating and view of the Korean War memorial.



Native plant and sensory gardens.

TREE TENDERS

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

A Decade Devoted to Greening the City



This year marks the beginning of our city's first 10-year strategic plan for the planting and care of Philadelphia's urban forest. The **Philly Tree Plan** will provide recommendations to the city to coordinate and strengthen work on tree planting and maintenance, as well as examine the role policy can play to support a more tree-friendly culture across the city. It boasts a project team of city, state, federal, and non-profit partners focused on values of environmental justice, community engagement, and sustainability.

What is an **urban forest** and why is it important? It may sound like an oxymoron, but it actually refers to "a collection of all the trees that grow in a city." Philadelphia boasts everything from the 2,000-acre gem that is Fairmount Park to impoverished areas of the city almost completely devoid of greenery. Trees obviously add lots of natural beauty, but they do so much more.

Trees protect us from heat, sometimes providing as much as a 22-degree (Fahrenheit) difference between the hottest and coolest locations.

Trees improve mental health and wellness. Studies show that greenery reduces heart rate and helps children with focus and concentration.

Trees act as an air filter for the city.

Areas with fewer trees have higher rates of asthma and pulmonary disease.

Trees combat climate change.

Philadelphia trees alone can store 2.6 million tons of carbon dioxide, a primary greenhouse gas.

Trees impact the health of our watersheds.

They manage stormwater by slowing it down, soaking it up, filtering it, and evaporating it.

Fruit-bearing trees are a source of nutrition.

Trees are a habitat for migratory birds and pollinators.

Another essential consideration is the city's **tree canopy**. This is defined as "the layer of leaves and branches you can see if you look up when you're under a tree." In the past decade alone, our city has lost six percent of its tree canopy — the equivalent of 1,000 football fields' worth of cover. Furthermore, the canopy is not equally distributed across our region. Some areas boast a tree canopy of more than 45 percent while others are under five percent. The plan will focus much of its energy on those underserved areas.

continued on page 9

*Enjoy our piece
of urban forest
tree canopy in
Washington
Square!*



First Spring Painting by
Michael Neff

TREE TENDERS

continued from page 9

How will this all work? The plan started with a **citywide engagement process** in which more than 9,000 residents participated. A temporary website was developed during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic to share information and facilitate discussion. Stakeholder workshops shared the challenges they face in planting. Neighborhood ambassadors advocated for the specific needs of their community. A citywide survey was offered in eight different languages. The project team visited community meetings, and there was an opportunity for people to share tree stories via an Instagram photo challenge.

Key takeaways fall into three categories.

1. Residents recognize the value of trees. They're also acutely aware of the disparity across communities. Aging trees and those removed by development are not always replaced. The new plan would require developers to plant the same number of trees that they remove.

2. Communities feel the loss when trees are not replaced. Natural lands are vitally important to communities, yet the city lacks adequate staff to enforce tree protection.

3. Trees can be a burden on homeowners. Some can lead to property damage, safety issues, and conflicts between neighbors.

Here in Society Hill, we're fortunate to have a robust tree canopy and many vibrant street trees that add to the beauty of the neighborhood. SHCA provides generous subsidies for dead tree removal, tree planting, and pruning. Not all neighborhoods have the financial resources to provide that level of support. Even with all we have, there is still room for improvement. Many of our trees could use a pruning to remain healthy and safe. Numerous tree pits are in need of soil loosening and mulching. Some older trees should be evaluated for health issues and possible removal. Most importantly, those empty pits out there need stumps removed and new trees planted. Applications for free fall 2023 trees need to be submitted by mid-May. Contact me at ccarabelli@comcast.net for instructions.

The entire Philly Tree Plan can be viewed at www.phila.gov/programs/philly-tree-plan/.

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



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FIX THE BRIX

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Loose Bricks – What, Me Worry?



Remove and store loose bricks. Unsecured bricks like the ones pictured become tools of vandals.

Serious vandalism: In January, bricks were used to smash the front window of a home on Spruce Street and one on Delancey Streets. In February, over one dozen cars along 4th Street had their windows smashed with bricks lying loose on our sidewalks. Some were from tree pits and some from construction sites where the crew failed to cover the bricks with a tarp. In March, one unoccupied home had its windows smashed, and two people gained access inside. The one common factor: loose bricks on our sidewalks.

It's a fact. We homeowners are responsible for the safety and appearance of our sidewalks.

There are many tree pits with bricks not secured in place. Imagine what loose bricks in the wrong hands can do — smashing windows and causing bodily injuries. Getting our bricks and Belgian Blocks in order will take a community effort.

Easy Steps

- Step 1: Please check your sidewalk and remove and store any bricks or blocks that are loose.
- Step 2: Secure loose bricks and blocks if needed. Contact a mason to help. SHCA offers a list of masons as part of our List of Contractors. If you are a current SHCA member, the list is free on request. Email me at marthalev6@gmail.com.

Fix the Brix Subsidy

Our subsidy, Fix the Brix, will subsidize any payments made to have your sidewalks and tree pits repaired. We offer 40 percent of the invoice up to \$500 for current members and 40 percent up to \$400 for non-members. After the work is done, mail your repair invoice to SHCA, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147. Be sure to keep a copy for your records and include proof of payment.

Martha Levine serves SHCA as vice president.




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MCCALL SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

BY DANIELLE SANDSMARK

Magical, Musical McCall Cabaret

The musical theater program is a longstanding activity at McCall School, producing biannual, elaborate productions performed in the school's auditorium. Beginning in 2018, McCall partnered with the MacGuffin Theatre and Film Company, a local youth theater company that has trained over 6,000 young actors since 1998. In 2019, MacGuffin director John Rea led the students in a popular performance of *Annie*. Students were hard at work for a performance of *High School Musical* in 2020 when that year's plans were derailed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the resumption of in-person activities, the McCall musical theater program has been reimagined, focusing on cabaret performances in the fall and a longer, musical theater production performed in the spring. McCall music teacher Julia Lee and MacGuffin directors and instructors teach McCall students what it takes to make a successful performance through practice and performance etiquette. The students also work closely with MacGuffin's choreographers.

This spring, twenty-two McCall students of all ages participated in a production of *A Peter Pan Story*, featuring an original script and music written by John Rea. Students performed at the school and in community productions held at the MacGuffin Theatre at 20th and Sansom. Ms. Lee relates, "My favorite part of the program is watching the students' pride in their work grow as each song and scene takes shape. I also enjoy seeing the students pair their talent and hard work together to create something magical."



The McCall music theater program is working to raise money to buy bodypack microphones for use in their productions. Donations can be made via PayPal (<http://bit.ly/3nQBmXh>) or Venmo (@McCallHSA) with a note to mark the donation "Music Theater."

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



PARK , A M E R I C A !

Both long-term and short-term parking are available in the lot at 511 S. Front Street, between South and Lombard.

Using the lot generates income for SHCA.

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



MEMBERS - ONLY BENEFIT

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Where's a Contractor When You Need One?

Are you in need of a good contractor, one that comes highly recommended by other Society Hill neighbors?

We have just the ticket. SHCA publishes a List of Contractors, an 11-page compilation sorted into categories like general contractors, HVAC, roofers, electricians, plumbers, painters, window replacement, smart home technology, home organization, and more. This useful list is available by request to all SHCA members. Your membership must be up-to-date.

In March of this year, we received more than 20 requests for this much-sought-after list.

If you have employed a contractor with whom you've had good results and would like to recommend them, let us know.

The list is available in both hard copy and electronic forms. To obtain one, either by email or snail mail, contact us at info@societyhillcivic.org.

Martha Levine serves SHCA as vice president.



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URBAN EDEN

BY MARY STURDIVANT

Spring Basic Training

Urban gardening poses particular challenges in this neighborhood. Like gardeners everywhere, we work with the elements of light, water, and soil. But in Society Hill, we must also pay attention to our Zoning Committee's work to limit highrises or even a fence or rooftop deck that does not adhere to code. Illegal construction could block or alter our light significantly, turning a bed for sun-loving flowers into a no-grow zone. Even legal alterations could force one to adapt. Encroaching branches from a neighbor's tree will test your negotiation skills.



Delayed Gratification: Plant in October or November for bursts of blooms in April. While this spot gets plenty of sun, a wind tunnel down Walnut Street keeps flowers dancing.

The recent water alert after a chemical spill into the Delaware River sounded a new alarm. Normally, watering is one of the easiest elements to control. Our plots are small enough to be handled by one individual comfortably. Previous problems were getting an irrigation system or person in place to water while you were away. Most of us never had to ask, "What if I can't use the water?" If the city tells me not to drink the water, I would be very reluctant to sprinkle it on my tomatoes. Using bottled water to garden seems like an egregious environmental expense. Here is another reason to seek out native plants, which are more drought tolerant. To find native plants for our area, check out nwf.org/nativeplantfinder. Maybe the time has arrived to acquire a barrel or two to collect the rainwater. This also helps with storm runoff. The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and the Philadelphia Water Department are partnering to supply us each with a free water barrel and contractor to set it up for us. You must attend a webinar to qualify. Check out the program RAINCHECK at pwdraincheck.org.

Our third element, soil, is not just homogenous dirt, not in an old neighborhood like ours. We have been building and altering buildings for over three centuries here. It would be naïve to assume that sometimes it wasn't easier to bury the rubble than to haul it away. For an archaeologist, this is gold. For us, it may be a migraine. Some old concrete way down there may be leaching into the soil and really messing with your pH balance. Fortunately,

our tax dollars support local agriculture outreach from institutions like Penn State, so you can get your soil tested. The details will be sent out in SHCA's email newsletter. Soil samples from several locations can determine what will thrive there without a lot of soil amelioration. Just follow that old adage: when life gives you lemons, make lemonade.

Finally, urban gardeners need attitude. If you are a lifelong Philadelphian or lived in or near the city for a long time, you probably pronounce this trait as "atty-TOOD," rhyming

it with rude. Whatever. Gardening demands optimism. Channel the optimism of that dear friend who has just announced his third marriage. Obviously, his optimism has triumphed. Yours must also. I personally am totally repressing the four pots of primroses that never made it to their May baskets. In gardening, there are no failures, only learning opportunities. Yet our optimism must be balanced with Einstein's wisdom that doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results defines insanity. Next year, tulips, small narcissus, and hyacinths! No primroses. If you have planted marigolds in your tree pit three years running, and they have failed to thrive, stop. It is time to recalibrate. Too much sun, dog urine, or competition for water? Look around. What is working in your neighbors' pits? Is it time for wood chips, to give you and the space some respite while you figure it out?

Late last October, I planted eight daffodil bulbs, following directions: four inches deep and four to six inches apart. The bulbs came from the Ace Hardware on 10th Street. Seven ten-inch stalks were blooming by Easter. I lost one. I don't know if it was a dud, took a gap year, or provided a tasty dinner for one of our hundreds of squirrels. When the daffodils stop blooming, I will gather the withering foliage, fold it over, and tie it up with raffia just so it looks neater. The bulbs should self-propagate, so we can enjoy even more blooms next spring. Yes, I have a little swagger in my step. Attitude: it's a Philly thing.

Urban Gardening 101: The elements of light, water, and soil.

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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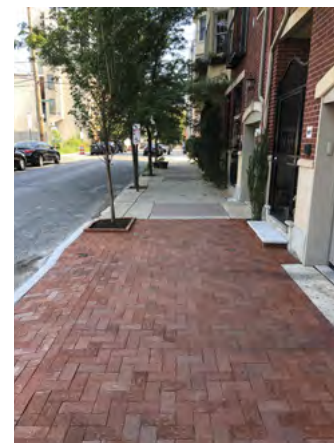
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KEEPING POSTED

BY AL CAVALARI

Inside the Curtis Industrial Complex

The Curtis Publishing Company building at the corner of 6th and Walnut Streets, with its 12-story atrium, terraced waterfall, and the largest Tiffany glass mosaic in the world, *The Dream Garden* designed by Maxfield Parrish, describes itself as “one of the great public spaces in the city.” Its stately French Beaux-Arts style reveals nothing of its original function as the massive industrial complex for which it was constructed in 1910. It became famous as the home of *The Saturday Evening Post*.

First we must bust a myth. *The Saturday Evening Post* was **not** founded in 1728 by Benjamin Franklin, as its front cover claimed! The false presumption is that Franklin’s well-known *Pennsylvania Gazette* morphed into *The Saturday Evening Post*. Franklin and a partner, Hugh Meredith, did begin a printing business in 1728. Franklin retired in 1748, turning the printing business, as well as his newspaper, over to David Hall, an employee he had prepared to become his partner. Franklin died in 1790, and *The Pennsylvania Gazette* died in 1800. Only the printing business carried on under new owner Samuel Atkinson. It was **21 years later** that Atkinson’s partner, Charles Alexander, convinced him they should start a new magazine. *The Saturday Evening Post* actually debuted on August 4, 1821.

Publisher Cyrus Curtis purchased the failing *Saturday Evening Post* in 1897 and turned it into a mass market “powerhouse” that, along with *Ladies Home Journal* and other publications, made him a fortune worth \$50 billion dollars in today’s money. *The Post* became famous for its decades of Norman Rockwell front cover illustrations. Many floors of the building were devoted to manufacturing the magazines. The printing processes, binding, cutting, warehousing giant rolls of paper, and then shipping millions of finished magazines were all done in house. The card showing the power plant required to generate electricity speaks to the massive operation inside. It is one in a series of some dozen post cards presented on the following pages that show the company’s entire range of operations going on across the street from Washington Square Park.

Every aspect of magazine production existed there. Cards show executive offices, great halls full of clerks in the subscription departments, editorial offices, the shipping department, the paper warehouse, the board, recreation rooms,



The Curtis Building as seen from 6th Street, behind Washington Square.



A view from Chestnut Street, with Independence Hall in the foreground.

etc. It was all under one roof. Founded in 1891 by publisher Cyrus Curtis, the company survived into the 1960s, when it sold its headquarters and various magazine titles before slipping away into insolvency. Its legacy continues as the nonprofit Saturday Evening Post Society, formerly the Benjamin Franklin Literary & Medical Society, founded in 1976 in Indianapolis. Its mission is “to honor, preserve, and share its historical legacy of promoting the arts and literature, while inspiring and empowering individuals to embrace a proactive approach to physical, mental, and spiritual health.” As it happens, that is an entirely Franklinesque mission.

Curtis Publishing was in some ways a progressive company. A paper read by a manager in April 1916 before the Philadelphia Association for the Discussion of Employment Problems tells us that *continued on page 16*

KEEPING POSTED

INSIDE THE CURTIS INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

continued from page 15

it believed the word “employ” should signify “the care and development of the employees rather than the mere act of engaging workers and placing them on the payroll.” The idea was that happy workers are loyal and productive workers who, in turn, allow the company to pay a higher wage. A medical division saw to their health by providing nurses, a doctor, and a hospital on site. An instruction division increased their job skills, offering classes in typing, stenography, English, geography, business math, penmanship, and spelling. To comply with the new Keating-Owen Child Labor Act, Curtis partnered with the Philadelphia School Board by providing a classroom for a city teacher to instruct the 80 boys under age 16 it employed. An apprentice program assured a supply of skilled compositors.

The welfare division looked after the employees’ state of mind so that they could be happy, free of anxiety, and unafraid of the future. It was also

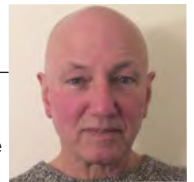
responsible for the work environment: quality of light and air, safety devices, sanitary arrangements, and elevator service. In-house restaurants provided meals at “minimum” rates below the company’s cost. Restrooms were decorated with original paintings that had appeared in the magazines.

There were recreation rooms for talk, dancing, and “making as much noise as anyone wished.” A library stocked with 6,000 books was in great demand. A savings fund paid nine percent interest, a mutual benefit fund provided sick pay, and then there was the country club. It began in an old farm house near Swarthmore, but the company built a new one in Lawndale, just north of the city. It included sports fields, tennis courts, a swimming pool, trap shooting, a well-equipped club house for dances, and educational movies. Dues were minimal. A separate boys’ camp provided recreation on weekends and during vacations.

All this progressivism did have its limitations. This was the era of Jim Crow. I refer you to our website archives where you can look up our January/February 2018 issue in which I presented a Curtis company postcard advertising one of its apprentice programs “through cooperation of the school authorities.” It was for “white boys” only.

We often travel to vacation destinations far from home and never visit those around the corner. Those who have walked by The Curtis Publishing Company’s former headquarters and never gone inside owe it to themselves to do so. You will be connecting with an important American publishing company, an iconic magazine, a spectacular building, and in a roundabout way, to Ben Franklin.

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



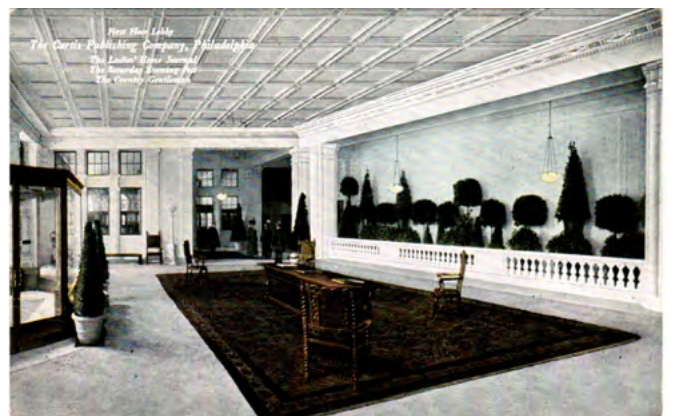
Office of the President



Office of the Editor



Director's Room



First Floor Lobby, where the Tiffany Mural is now.

KEEPING POSTED

INSIDE THE CURTIS INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX



Section of Engraving Department



Cover Printing, The Saturday Evening Post



Women's Recreation Room



Women's Rest Room



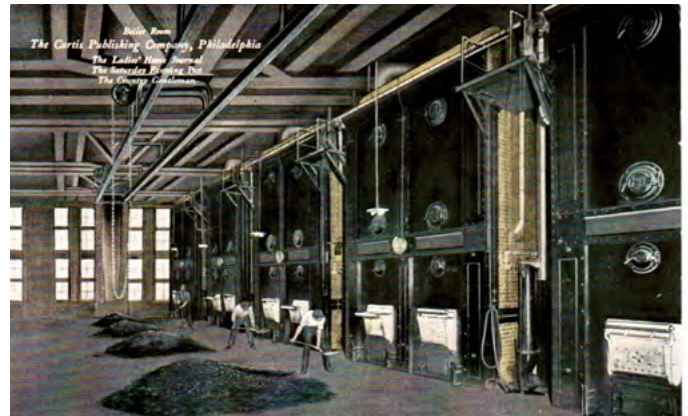
Women's Lunch Room



Power Generators



Section of one of the Press Rooms



Boiler Room

WELCOME GIFT BAGS

BY MARTHA LEVINE

New to the Neighborhood?

Every year, SHCA greets about 45 first-time home and condo owners with a Welcome Gift Bag. It's our way of saying, "Welcome to our community. So glad you are here!" To help them learn more about Society Hill, we provide important neighborhood and city information.

To apprise them of all of the wonderful resources we have, we give gift cards to many area restaurants, retailers, services, and museums.

Contact Us

If you are a new owner, as of 2022 or 2023, and wish to have a gift bag

presented to you, please contact us at info@societyhillcivic.org or call 215-629-0727. Gift bags are presented in person, by appointment, and take about 30 minutes. See photos below of some of our new neighbors who have happily received a Welcome Gift Bag this year.



Addie & Michael with daughter



Chris & Judy



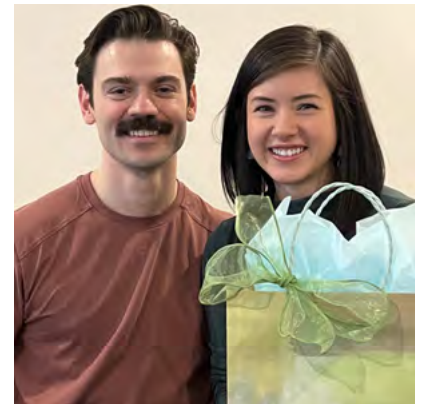
Marjorie



Phil & Carolyn



Ronnie & Meghan with son



Shane & Iya



Jennie & Steve



Tanya & Val



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WELCOME GIFT BAGS

Thank You, Welcome Gift Bag Donors

Please help us say thank you to our Welcome Bag contributors by patronizing their establishments, listed here.

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- Bridget Foy's**, 200 South Street
- Buca D'oro**, 711 Locust Street
- Cavanaugh's Headhouse**, 421 S. 2nd Street
- Fork Restaurant**, 306 Market Street
- Frieda Café**, 320 Walnut Street
- Gnocchi** (Italian), 613 E. Passyunk Avenue
- Kanella** (Mediterranean), 1001 Spruce Street
- La Colombe Coffee Roasters**, 100 S. 6th Street
- Malbec Argentine Steakhouse**, 400 S. 2nd Street
- Panorama**, 14 N. Front Street
- PJ Clarke's**, 601 Walnut Street
- Reading Terminal Market**, 1136 Arch Street
- Starr Restaurant Group**
- The Twisted Tail** (Southern), 509 S. 2nd Street

Retail, Services, and Museums

- Adornamenti** (jewelry), 1006 Pine Street
- BFit4Life**, 400 Walnut Street
- Bloom Philadelphia** (flowers), hello@bloomphiladelphia.com
- Ghost Tours of Philadelphia**, 215-413-1997, ghosttour@ghosttours.com
- Head House Books**, 619 S. 2nd Street
- Independence Seaport Museum**, 211 S. Columbus Boulevard
- 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
- Reading Terminal Market**, 1136 Arch Street
- Rowbust Fitness**, 525 S. 4th Street, Suite 242
- Sam Shaw's Tretery** (culinary & lifestyle boutique), 306 South Street
- Show of Hands** (craft gallery), 1006 Pine Street

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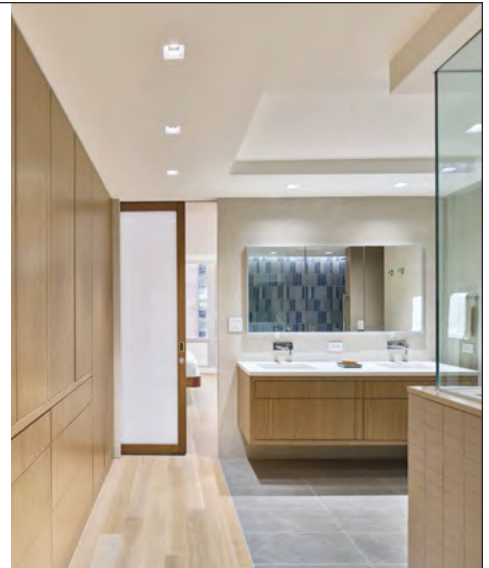
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ON OUR SHELF

BY KRISTEN BROWN

Hello Beautiful

Vibrant, painful, and relatable, it's no wonder Oprah Winfrey selected Ann Napolitano's newest novel, *Hello Beautiful*, to be the 100th book in her legendary book club. The story tracks William Waters and his relationship with the Padavanos over the course of several decades, beginning in 1960 and ending in the present. The tidy structure spotlights a different character for each chapter, creating a three-dimensional world full of life, heart, and body. In other words, the book reads like an old family photo album, a collection of letters, or a mosaic of perspectives.

When discussing the novel, Oprah remarks, "I had to slow myself down from reading. And this is when you know you're in a good book." I couldn't agree more. Ann Napolitano, known for her hit *Dear Edward*, can now add another remarkable book to her publishing repertoire. Given the popular demand for *Hello Beautiful*, it's safe to say that this novel will be listed in *The New York Times* Best Books of 2023 List and is the perfect book to kick off the summer.

The first chapter opens in 1960 with the story of William Waters, a quiet boy from Boston who always questioned if he deserved to live. Shortly after his birth, his three-year-old sister Caroline died unexpectedly from pneumonia. William's parents lost their motivation for happiness along with their daughter, and as a result, they felt as empty as Caroline's bedroom. Later in life, William would remark that he should have been the one to die, and his unnecessary guilt feels palpable.

Ann Napolitano's expert character construction instantly earns the reader's heart. I found myself captivated by William's shy demeanor and empathized with his sadness. *I had* to keep reading. *I had* to turn the page. *I had* to know if William turned out okay.

When faced with grief, it is human nature to find an escape; William found his escape in basketball. The game required attention, logic, strategy, and self-discipline — all characteristics that also comprise William's personality. William must escape his thoughts, parents, and loveless household. Thanks to a massive growth spurt and his innate athleticism, William gets recruited to play Division I basketball for Northwestern University in Chicago, and from there, his life begins.

In a college course, William meets Julia Padavano. Julia walks with purpose, asks

insightful questions, commands every room she enters, and instantly views William Waters as an opportunity. If Julia could plan her life to the second, she would, and she knew that William's passive personality would willingly (or unwillingly) abide by all her visions for the future.

The two fall in love, and William gains both a partner and a family. Julia Padavano grew up with two caring parents and three adoring sisters in a small house in a working class neighborhood in Chicago. Charlie, the father, loved Walt Whitman, drinking, and most of all, his daughters. Rose, the mother, wore a baseball catcher's uniform while she gardened and had a stubborn will. Meanwhile, Julia's younger sisters included Sylvie, an avid reader who kissed boys in libraries; Cecilia, an artist; and her twin, Emeline, a caretaker. Throughout the novel, the sisters are often compared to the characters in *Little Women*, as if the book itself echoes Louisa May Alcott's masterpiece.

The Padavano home provides a trap door for William, one that exemplifies the rare possibility of a loving home. After spending every holiday together, William and Julia wed. The novel then takes a depressing turn after an unexpected death, an unplanned birth, an unpredicted illness, and an unforeseen mental health episode. Obstacles in life challenge the Padavanos, and the family must decide if their bonds can withstand the test of time. William once again craves the need to escape the chaos of his mind, and he will resort to any method to do so.

Usually, when I write book reviews, I include an in-depth plot synopsis, but not this time. Ann Napolitano catapults the reader onto an emotional roller coaster, one that I found engrossing. To avoid any spoilers, I will say that this book, at its core, is about forgiveness. People make mistakes, but the ability to take accountability, forgive others, and forgive themselves leads to ultimate reconciliation. The sisters must learn how to forgive one another, forgive their mother, and forgive William for what could not be controlled. There is liberation in confronting the ghosts of your past, and that's what makes life truly beautiful.



"I had to slow myself down from reading. And this is when you know you're in a good book."

— Oprah Winfrey

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

2023 Membership Increases Significantly

By early April, 831 Society Hill residents had either renewed their association membership or joined for the first time, significantly higher than last year's total of 752 during the same time. So far, 98 new members have signed up.

Our goal is to surpass last year's total of 1,148, which was down a bit from 1,165 in 2021. If you have delayed sending in your renewal, or wish to join, please do so today.

Please remember to sign up for the Society Hill Spotlight, our weekly email newsletter at our website societyhillcivic.org, so you can keep informed on a regular basis of all important neighborhood issues.

SHCA is a volunteer organization that works to keep our neighborhood safe, clean, and beautiful for residents and visitors alike. Your membership dollars and your donations help us enhance the quality of life in our historic district. We are also thankful to our many business members who help make our programs possible.

Join us to help support the many services SHCA arranges to provide to our community.

Keeping Us Safe: We work with officers of the Sixth District of the Police Department on problems relating to traffic, noise, and crime.

Keeping Us Clean: Membership dollars pay for extra sidewalk cleaning by the Center City District, weekly removal of graffiti, and spring and fall neighborhood clean ups.

Beautifying: Membership dollars let us subsidize members for planting or pruning trees and leveling their sidewalks. Our Washington Square Committee beautifies the square.

Preserving: The Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee works with residents, developers, and city officials to preserve the unique historic scale and overall character of Society Hill.

Connecting: We keep you informed with a weekly newsletter, bimonthly Reporter, and quarterly community meetings with speakers.

We encourage everyone to sign up or renew online at societyhillcivic.org. If you are not sure whether you have renewed, or if you have any questions about your membership, please contact us at info@societyhillcivic.org.

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



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Your membership is important to us, but your tax-deductible contribution will help to support our many programs. All donations to the Society Hill Preservation Foundation (SHPF), a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, are tax-deductible.

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INDEPENDENCE HISTORICAL TRUST

BY JONATHAN BURTON

Changing of the Guard

Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod to Retire After 15 Years at Independence National Historical Park

Cindy MacLeod, who has fearlessly led Independence National Historical Park (INHP) for the last 15 years, has decided to hang up her ranger hat after 42.5 years with the National Park Service (NPS). Considering that this year marks the 75th anniversary of INHP, Cindy has led the park for a full 20 percent of its existence. Her 15 years at the helm, the second longest tenure of any superintendent at INHP, included a financial crisis and a global pandemic.

In summarizing her career here, MacLeod emphasized that her last 15 years at INHP, Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site (NHS), Thaddeus Kościuszko National Memorial (NM), and Gloria Dei Church NHS have been fulfilling in magnificent ways. She reminded her park team that the mission of each park in Philadelphia is enormous, and she thanked the staff who rise to meet those missions every day. Cindy said to her staff, "I've asked you to be accountable, creative, kind to each other, and to embody integrity in all you say and do. Thank you for always carrying those principles with you." Then she added the good news that her deputy, Amnesty Kochanowski, will be the acting superintendent for 120 days or until a new superintendent can be selected.

Superintendent MacLeod's contributions will always be visible at INHP in the restoration and construction projects she has brought to fruition, making the park experience that much more enjoyable for its visitors. Her influence will be felt by the many staff, partners, and members of the public that she has inspired through her vision and leadership. The Independence Historical Trust (formerly the Friends of Independence National Historical Park), the philanthropic partner to INHP for over 50 years, has worked on countless projects with her over the course of her 15 years. The Trust is grateful for Cindy's dedicated service and her ability to ensure INHP is the best that it can be for the millions of visitors that come annually. We were honored to work on projects like the rehabilitation of the First Bank with her. Her steadfast leadership has led to many improvements in INHP.

**Cynthia MacLeod**

Cynthia MacLeod came to INHP in 2008. During her time as superintendent, she oversaw many NPS projects, including the opening of the President's House Site in 2010, renovations to the Ben Franklin Museum in 2013, and new exhibits in the Edgar Allan Poe NHS, Thaddeus Kościuszko NM, and the Germantown White House (Deshler-Morris House). She also led the way during many commemorations at INHP, like the 225th anniversary of the Constitution, NPS's 100th birthday, and the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment.

INHP spans 54-plus acres in Philadelphia and is home to some of the nation's most treasured icons, including Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. This National Park, right here in Philadelphia, welcomes millions of visitors each year from across the country and around the world. Under NPS stewardship, the buildings, artifacts, and founding ideals represented by Independence Hall will be here for years to come. As the nation looks to celebrate 2026 and its 250th birthday, Philadelphia and INHP will shine, thanks to Cindy's leadership.

Under Cindy's direction, park staff strove to be accountable, creative, kind to each other, and to embody integrity.

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



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NIFTY NEIGHBORS IN MY BACKYARD

BY JANE BIBERMAN

Fascinating Fast Facts

Jim Murphy moved to Society Hill from Upper Darby in Delaware County in 2008. "I grew up there and then lived in Delco off and on for about 50 years," he says. "I spent most of my life going into Philly for college, restaurants, sports events, and entertainment, all while living just three miles from the city limit at 63rd Street."



Jim Murphy

After his parents died, he and his wife, Rosemary, looked at about 35 houses in Philadelphia. They wanted something that would give them a little outside space. "We found it in a townhouse in a homeowners association near South Street that had a marvelous shared courtyard," says Jim, who loves walking around Society Hill, Queen Village, Old City, and Bella Vista. "I find something new to see and admire every single day," he says, adding that he had never lived in a big city before. "It took me all of five minutes here to realize this is where I should have been all my life."

It wasn't long before our newsletter's former editor, Bernice Hamel, contacted him. "She knew I wrote and edited *Choices*, a magazine for Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union with a circulation of 80,000 copies." She convinced Jim to begin writing a column for the *Society Hill Reporter* in late 2010. He called it "Exploring the City."

"Each story took me 25 to 35 hours to research and write," Jim says, adding that he had to "write tight," meaning about 750 words. Within a short time, he says, "People started asking me if I was **the** Jim Murphy writing these stories. When I said, 'Yes,' several told me my column was the first thing they turned to. So I knew I was onto something."

After about five years of doing six columns a year, Jim felt that the articles needed to be in a more durable format. "So I emailed Temple University Press with an idea for a book titled *Real Philly History, Real Fast*. The editor, Aaron Javscas, liked the idea, but also asked for about nine more stories. So my first published book ever didn't appear in bookstores until I was already in my

upper 70s. The nice thing is that people realize it includes info that no other book has. And most people buy one or more for their friends and family."

Today, 24 months after publication and with no major media coverage, it is still number nine on Amazon's list of Best Sellers in Philadelphia Travel Books. Of course, some days it's number 35 and other days number two or three.



"Fortunately for me," Jim relates, "Sam Katz of History Making Productions, Paul Steinke of Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia and writer Tim McGrath, author of several books, including a great one on Commodore John Barry, all read my book's proofs and wrote very positive comments about it, which I really appreciated."

The book answers such questions as: Who stole the first book from the Library Company of Philadelphia? What famous artist may have been the first nude model in Philadelphia? Where did the Liberty Bell suffer damage most recently? What may be the second most photographed statue in Philly? Which Philadelphian terrorized the British by taking the war right to the English Channel? Where is the oldest quarantine station in the western hemisphere?

Jim conducts tours of Society Hill and Old City and never lets anyone get away without their hearing about Philly superstars, Penn and Ben.

continued on page 29



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NIFTY NEIGHBORS IN MY BACKYARD

continued from page 27

“While they missed each other by a little over 20 years, William Penn set up Philadelphia and Ben Franklin improved everything he touched.”

Jim loves to tell people that Philadelphia started 58 years after New York City and 52 years after Boston. “That means they would have already qualified for AARP. And by 1770, we were the largest, most important, most cultured city in the Colonies, thanks to Penn and Ben.”

Jim also tells tourists what they won’t see — much graffiti. “Or walls and fortifications to keep people out,” he says, adding that Penn wanted to attract people here, not bar them. “But tourists will see awesome public art and sculpture and marvelous murals, thanks to our revolutionary Percent for Art program established in 1959, and our Mural Arts program in 1984.”

According to Jim, Philadelphia has the smallest footprint of any of the 10 most populous cities in the U.S. “It is the second-largest city on the east coast and is one of only three cities in the U.S. with a density of 11,000 people per square mile or more.” The others are New York and Chicago. “To me,” says Jim, “density is what makes cities interesting.”

He adds that one of every six doctors in the U.S. has trained in Philadelphia at some point in their careers.

Jim reports that Houston and Phoenix have passed us in size and soon Jacksonville probably

will. “But, compared to our size of 134.4 square miles, those cities, which have lassoed every municipality in sight, are 640.4, 518, and 743.7 square miles, respectively.”

Whenever Jim gives personal appearances, he likes to talk about William Penn. “I like to tell people that in 1847, San Francisco made its Market Street 20 feet wider than Penn made 100-foot-wide Market Street, because they thought theirs would become more important. San Francisco does have a wonderful Market Street, but maybe it’s too wide.” Jim adds that a year or two ago, San Francisco made part of it pedestrian-only, perhaps because their street was just a bit too big. “Maybe Billy Penn was right after all.”

Lately ...

Since June of 2021, Jim has written over 42 free blog posts on Philadelphia history. His website **www.realphillyhistory.com** includes potential tours, upcoming presentations, and a place to sign up for his free monthly newsletter with a Philly Fact of the Month and more.

Naturally, Jim is happiest staying home. He says, “Our son lives in California with his wife and our granddaughter, all of whom we love to visit. For three long years we couldn’t, because of COVID.” But he’s the first to tell you, “There’s no place like home.”

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



HOW SOCIETY HILL GOT ITS NAME

Society Hill is named after the 17th-century Free Society of Traders, which had its offices at Front Street on the hill above Dock Creek. The Free Society of Traders was a company of elite merchants, landowners, and personal associates of William Penn, who were granted special concessions in order to direct the economy of the young colony.

- Area: 163 acres (66 ha)
- Architectural style: Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival
- Built: 18th century and later
- Location: Center City, bounded by 8th, Front, Walnut and Lombard Streets

FASCINATING FAST FACTS

By 1831, Washington Square served as an arboretum to help educate the public about horticulture. It contained more than 50 varieties of trees.

How important was the Mason-Dixon Line? Abolitionist Harriet Tubman, who escaped from the slave state of Maryland to Philadelphia in 1849, said it best: “When I found I had crossed the [Mason-Dixon Line] I looked at my hands to see if I were the same person...the sun came like gold through the tree and over the field and I felt like I was in heaven.”

In 1933, new Philadelphia football team owners... drew inspiration from the National Recovery Act’s NRA’s symbolic blue eagle and renamed the team the Philadelphia Eagles.

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KIDS KORNER

BY JAIME AND MIKE FOX

Getting Ready for Summer

Philadelphia Sports Club (PSC) Pool

220 S. 5th Street
www.philadelphiasportsclubs.com/clubs/society-hill

Everybody in the pool! The Philadelphia Sports Club's pool, that is. This pool is great for families. The kids come for the water and the adults come for the chaises and cabanas... when they are not chasing after their kids. Here are the basics for 2023: PSC members pay as little as \$250 for the season. Each add-on is \$125 to \$325. Non-members pay \$499. Day passes are \$20 to 25. The pool stays open well into September and has great hours throughout the week. Children are welcome any time. Cannonball!



Dive in to some family fun at the PSC Pool.

Ping Pod

Located at the corner of 4th and Walnut
www.pingpod.com/

Contactless, clean, interactive, and ready-made for social media. This is ping pong for 2023. When we arrived, we were instructed to unlock the front door using the email from our reservation, which we made before arriving. At first, the place was empty, but eventually, an actual human being who works there arrived and offered us the use of an additional table for free, which was very kind of him. Our 30-minute session (a perfect length of time for our first visit) cost \$7.50 for the table. Rates vary based on the time requested. Stop by for a game!



Thanks, Morimoto, for Jordan's complimentary birthday dessert!

Morimoto

723 Chestnut Street
www.Morimotorestaurant.com

Owen and Jordan love California rolls. They make their own at home once or twice a month. For Jordan's 8th birthday, we decided to take them to the finest restaurant we know of for California rolls, and all other rolls for that matter, Morimoto. With their newly acquired sophisticated palettes, homemade sushi is no longer going to cut it for these kids. The entire experience was exceptional. From the beautiful surroundings to the outstanding service and food (We got a complimentary appetizer and dessert in honor of Jordan's birthday!), we were mesmerized by the experience and left after two hours completely satiated.



Stop by Ping Pod for a game of ping pong.



We started with edamame, which everyone picked at until a surprise hot stone wagyu arrived. Mike enjoyed the ishi yaki buri bop, which was a rice dish of king yellowtail prepared in a hot river stone bowl.

What is a birthday without dessert? We ordered the yuzu tart for dessert and were confused and pleasantly surprised to receive the goma namelaka as well. Thanks, Morimoto, for an experience we won't soon forget.

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.





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