

SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

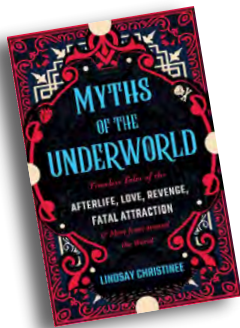
www.societyhillcivic.org

Sharing the Stories That Make Us Human

September General Membership Meeting Speaker



Lindsay Christinee



Myths hold such an important place in our culture. They're foundations for religions, explanations for why the world is the way that it is, and serve as symbols of the human experience. I've been a lover of myths since I was a child. The ancient worlds enamored me. Xena Warrior Princess filled my TV screen. And reading about these fantastical beings with the best and worst of human emotions was always exciting. When I wanted to share these stories with my daughter, I realized that my knowledge of folklore and mythological creatures was mostly Roman and Greek myths. But I was curious about the Blackfeet, a tribe whose presence stretched from Montana to Alberta, Canada, and were my ancestors. I wanted to share with her stories about Aboriginal gods which made up another part of her heritage. To me, reading myths to my daughter is an introduction to the diverse beauty of this world and the stories that make us human. When I couldn't find them, I gathered what information I could and wrote a few of my own that will be my debut book, *Myths of the Underworld*.

Ironically, this collection of stories isn't for children. It's for adults. I wrote most of the stories during a time of grief. I lost my dad. My emotions vibrated in the voice of the Norse goddess,

Hel, whose shape-shifting father, Loki, evoked feelings of abandonment in her. Or, the Hindu goddess, Mother Durga, who feels helpless as her best friend and confidant dies. Yet, as I wrote each story, I also wrote my own story of healing. I learned that some gods and goddesses serve as the bearers of life and death. I felt calm as I jotted down notes about how the sea goddess Sedna takes away life and nourishes us with her waters. And I wanted to offer a little solace to others who might enjoy these stories about fantastical beings having human experiences.

One day, I wonder what future generations will say about us when they uncover tales of Wonder Woman or Luke Skywalker.

Come to the General Membership Meeting!

All Society Hill residents are invited to the Wednesday, September 20, General Membership Meeting to hear my talk: *Myths, the Earth, Water*. Everyone is welcome to attend. Simply arrive at Pennsylvania Hospital's Zubrow Auditorium, located on the first floor inside the main entrance at 8th Street near Spruce Street, before 7:00 p.m.

Lindsay Christinee is a local mom who has lived in Philadelphia for eight years and whose daughter has attended McCall Elementary since kindergarten. When she was unable to find stories about myths from diverse cultures for her and her daughter to read, she set out to write her own stories that will be published in her debut book, *Myths of the Underworld*.

Her decade-long career in digital media includes bylines in publications such as Marketplace, Reader's Digest, and Re/Make. Passionate about environmentalism, she founded the sustainable lifestyle site, The Wellness Feed in 2020 and has been featured on podcasts Branches of Movement, Mama Minimalist, Kalyn's Coffee Talk, and Practical(ly) Zero Waste.

As a member of Black Owned Media, She Media, and the Female Founder Collective, she champions fellow female and minority founders. Continuing her passion for environmentalism, she was a delegate for the Southeastern Pennsylvania chapter of the Sierra Club and is currently a Stakeholder Advisor for the Philadelphia Water Department's water revitalization project.

Wednesday,
September

20

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Society Hill Civic Association Meeting
Wednesday, September 20, 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

Speaker: Lindsay Christinee, Author [*Myths of the Underworld*],
Founder [The Wellness Feed], Environmental Activist
Topic: Myths, the Earth, Water

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New Donors



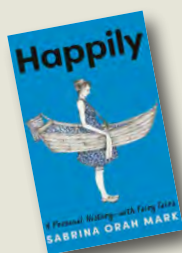
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SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

**NUSA
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2020**

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Submission Deadline

Nov/Dec Issue: October 1

Society Hill Civic Association

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Website

Find past issues dating back to
1950 at www.societyhillcivic.org.

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

Submissions

If you have news that would be of interest to Society Hillers, email the
editor, Judy Lamirand, at judy@parallel-design.com. Materials must be
submitted in writing and include the name of a contact person. Edited
submissions will be considered for publication if space permits. Letters
to the Editor must be signed, and, as above, include contact information.

SHCA Mission Statement

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY SUSAN BURT-COLLINS

Where We Are and Where We're Going

For Society Hill and your civic association, 2022-2023 was a time for complaining. By contrast, as we enter the 2023-2024 term, it's time for taking action. What follows is a summary of where we are and where we're going.

Under the direction of David Haas, Mark Keener and Kim Williams, the Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) has embarked on creating a strategic plan to help us be more effective and responsive. It's time. Our civic association was chartered in 1966. Since then, SHCA has done its best to serve as a careful steward of our neighborhood — installing period-appropriate Franklin lamps along our brick sidewalks, providing subsidies for repairing those sidewalks, planting trees to keep us cool, and beautifying Washington Square. All this and more have helped to keep Society Hill a valued and beautiful place to live. But what comes next? Is SHCA continuing to be relevant and effective as the voice of Society Hill? What can we do better, what needs to change, what efforts or projects need to be expanded and reinigorated?

Working with several residents abutting Lawrence Walkway (by the Acme), Martha Levine and others are looking at lighting improvements, landscaping additions, and brick repairs. Efforts to improve Starr Garden are being spearheaded by Stacey Ackerman, who is coordinating with the Friends of Starr Garden. Councilman Squilla has agreed to secure funding for a significant portion of the design plan for Starr Garden that was prepared by the Parks and Recreation Department. In addition, with encouragement from Councilman Squilla, we are working collaboratively with South Street Headhouse, Queen Village Neighbors Association and a historic preservation partner to create a conservancy structure for care and maintenance of the Headhouse and Shambles.

As for Washington Square Park, we have joined with the Independence Historic Trust (a recognized partner of the National Park Service) to use Society Hill Foundation dollars to restore the guardhouse by 6th Street. Going forward, we hope to work with the Trust to accomplish larger hardscape projects. Meanwhile, the plantings and work done by our dedicated volunteers, working under the direction of Shirley Young and Fred Manfred, continue to improve the park. In addition, we are supporting our institutional

neighbor the Athenaeum by contributing to the concert in the Square later this month. Finally, Mary Purcell and her team are pushing forward with all possible partners to bring to fruition the redesign of Foglietta Plaza.

On issues affecting security, SHCA is in regular contact with the city police, who have redoubled their efforts to maintain our neighborhood as a safe, hospitable place. We thank and recognize for their good work Captain Hartzell of the 6th District and Lieutenant Ricci of the South Street mini-station, both strong and diligent public servants. With other civic associations, we treated the officers to a catered meal on July 4.

In sum, our civic association has concrete plans, we are putting together a budget that will be publicly available, we are listening to members, and we are working with neighboring civic associations, city officials and others to preserve and improve Society Hill. We may ruffle some feathers and break some eggs, but we will keep moving forward to accomplish our goals.

Are we addressing every neighborhood issue? No. Will we succeed at all we hope for? Probably not. But will we make changes for the better? For sure. Please come to our civic association meetings, join an SHCA committee, and let us know what you think. Welcome to a new year!

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.



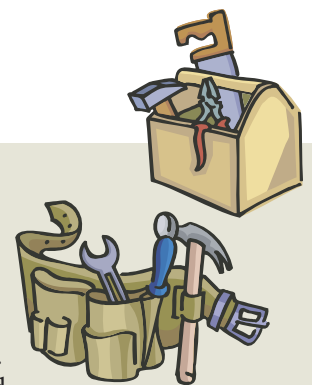
Susan Burt Collins, SHCA President

Will we make changes for the better? For sure.

SHCA Member Perk: List of Contractors

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Irish & Scottish Memorials at Foglietta Plaza? Weigh in on September 7

BY MARY PURCELL

Did you know... Foglietta Plaza is a 3-acre park in Society Hill with complicated ownership and stakeholder rights, from the City of Philadelphia to PennDOT, Interstate Land Management Corporation, memorial stewards, SHCA and others? With so many entities, is it any wonder the park has been minimally improved in 50 years?

In fact, we have turned that challenge into success! The stakeholders have united around a shared vision, as outlined in OLIN's Programming Study and Concept Design. See our "Green Plaza" design in the May/June *Reporter* (www.societyhillcivic.org/publications) and Foglietta Plaza Design Concept Presentation on March 6, 2023 (YouTube).

Here we share a request to temporarily locate the Irish and Scottish memorials in Foglietta Plaza for five years, in the location planned for a grove and possible new memorial.

I-95 CAP Park and Relocating the Irish and Scottish Memorials

PennDOT will begin demolition soon in preparation for the I-95 Central Access Philadelphia (CAP) project, a new cap over I-95 and a new 11.5-acre park, just north of Society Hill. We are working with PennDOT to obtain and share updates on plans and neighborhood impacts, such as detours.

In order to reduce the CAP project schedule by an estimated nine months, the construction company has requested a change in plans: Instead of keeping the existing Irish and Scottish memorials in place during construction, relocate them. The southwest corner of Foglietta Plaza was identified as an "ideal" location.

PennDOT and their consultants have coordinated with those memorials' boards in the designs for the proposed temporary location from fall 2023 through spring 2028.

PennDOT will host a virtual meeting at 7 p.m. on September 7. The meeting is open to the public. The virtual meeting link is [here](#).

PennDOT plans to present the proposed relocation designs to the Art Commission for approval on September 13, which will give community members another opportunity to weigh in.



Proposed site plan drawings

Recall from the OLIN plan, the design for the southwest corner of Foglietta Plaza is a neighborhood grove and a possible new memorial to Pennsylvanians who died in Iraq and Afghanistan.

PennDOT's ability to reduce the project duration would be a benefit to the community and everyone. But the Foglietta Plaza Committee is committed to **realizing the vision of the park concept design, and respecting the stakeholders and process** we have just undertaken, which does not provide for these memorials on the site.

We have advocated for assistance from the CAP project leaders in achieving the Foglietta Plaza design. **Shortening the CAP project by nine months must result in significant savings; could that be used to realize our Foglietta Plaza design?**

It remains to be determined to what extent this proposed temporary placement, which is inconsistent with our design, would help or hinder in bringing to reality our reimagined Foglietta Plaza.



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

Stakeholder Feedback from a Recent PennDOT Presentation to Near Neighbors

Some Positives...

It is a major benefit to shorten the CAP project. That's nine fewer months of disruption and nine fewer months awaiting the new CAP park.

PennDOT endeavors to make commitments towards our design in the SW corner, leaving it in an improved state in 2028. This is not yet expressed in a design and may include:

- New widened brick sidewalks;
- Removal of slab and regrading of the corner site, including any archeology needed;
- ADA-accessible crushed granite stone; and
- Large shade trees.

PennDOT has stated they would work with us on the design for new improvements in this area for 2028, since their presentation reflected a limit of work statement that didn't include the entire SW corner

On the Other Hand...

Stakeholder comments on the **draft temporary memorial** design included:

- Proposed trees screening the old pump building should be reconsidered in favor of improvements to the building and area, which currently attracts negative uses.
- Add trees on Spruce Street, screening the Irish memorial and providing a reveal upon entry.
- The biggest issues are:
 - **This use is not what stakeholders embraced for the Plaza.**
 - These large memorials will have little breathing room.

Comments on the **proposed improvements in 2028**:

- There is not yet a firm commitment to a design.
- In general, there is no commitment for realizing the broader vision for Foglietta Plaza.

KEEPING POSTED

BY AL CAVALARI

Lincoln's Balcony on Franklin's Hotel



Lumitone Photoprint card



Card with inset highlighting the Lincoln Balcony

Let's once again take a look at a building you've likely walked by but have not thought about. Why is there a balcony on the edge of our neighborhood named after Abraham Lincoln? The "Lincoln Balcony," on Chestnut Street between 8th and 9th, just three blocks from Independence Hall, belongs to The Franklin Residences, a "luxury residential community featuring contemporary apartments, unparalleled amenities, on-site retailers, and a friendly dedicated 24-hour service team." But what does it have to do with Abe Lincoln?

We need to begin in 1860 when the newly built Continental Hotel opened on that site. A six-story, tall for its day, luxury hotel with 700 rooms, it had one of our country's first elevators, a grand stairway of polished Italian marble, rooftop garden, and a main entrance later redesigned by Philadelphia architect and Civil War recipient of the Medal of Honor, Frank Furness. Do yourself a favor and Google him. The Continental hosted the likes of Ulysses S. Grant, President Andrew Johnson, Charles Dickens, and King Edward VII of England as well as the Kentucky born rail-splitter Abe Lincoln.

In February 1861, Abe was on his way to assume the presidency in a nation that was crumbling after decades of internal strife. Seven states had already seceded, and war was looming. After arriving at the hotel, Lincoln spoke from the balcony to a crowd so massive one observer stated, "We are confident that not one person in the crowd below heard one word of Lincoln's speech." But it was enough to give the balcony a famous name and a place in history. That evening, he was informed of a plot to assassinate him. Encouraged to change his plans, he refused.

The next day he visited Independence Hall to take part in a ceremony honoring George Washington. A photograph exists of him raising an American flag that had just been given its 34th star with the admission of Kansas as a free state three weeks earlier. He then made a speech that haunts us with an eerie comment. Speaking about the great principle of our country, "that all should have an equal chance," he stated, "But if this country cannot be saved without giving up that principle, I was about to say I would rather be assassinated on this spot than surrender it." You can go stand where Lincoln stood that day. The spot is marked with a plaque in the pavement front of Independence Hall.

The Continental Hotel was torn down in the Roaring 20s and replaced with the even more massive and opulent 18-story, 1,200 room Benjamin Franklin Hotel, which opened in 1925. An example of Gilded Age splendor, it was the last of the great grand hotels built before the Depression. Architect Horace Trumbauer, whose works include the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Public Ledger Building at 6th and Chestnut, and the Union League, placed the new "Lincoln Balcony" in the same spot as the original.

The Ben had been the road hotel of the Brooklyn Dodgers for many years, until they came to town in 1947 with a new teammate, number 42, Jackie Robinson. The Phillies had called ahead and warned the Dodgers not to come if they were to bring Robinson. The New Yorkers came anyway, but were abruptly turned away by The Ben, whose bellhops unceremoniously stacked their luggage on the sidewalk. A cabbie randomly took the team's traveling secretary to The Warwick Hotel, where the manager said they would be "delighted" to have them, all of *continued on page 7*

KEEPING POSTED

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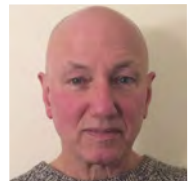
them. The Warwick became the new Dodger home in the City of Brotherly Love. On April 15, 2016, the City Council passed a resolution formally apologizing to Mr. Robinson for the mistreatment he had experienced. April 15 is the day of Robinson's debut in the major leagues and is commemorated each year by every player wearing his number 42.

In the 1980s the hotel became The Franklin Residences with a \$45 million dollar conversion into the apartment/

office complex it is today. The developers pulled a fast one by obliterating a great deal of protected architectural detail, including turning the spectacular ballroom into common office space. The National Park Service was the agency in charge of approving an \$11 million dollar tax credit for the project and forced the owners to tear out what they had built and restore the original appearance.

As for Lincoln, he visited us one final time after speaking from the balcony,

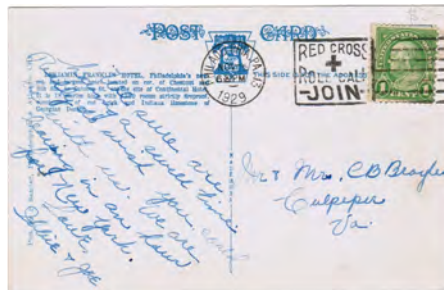
which to this day bears his name. The occasion was during his long journey home to Illinois when, as our martyred President, he lay in state in the Assembly Room of Independence Hall for 20 hours while some 100,000 people passed by his remains. The lamp you can see hanging over his balcony just down the street is the one under which he stood during the visit when he reminded us that our founding principle is "that all should have an equal chance." Go walk by the balcony and have some thoughts about Lincoln and number 42. Where would we be without people willing to change the world?



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



Card published in 1929, front and back.



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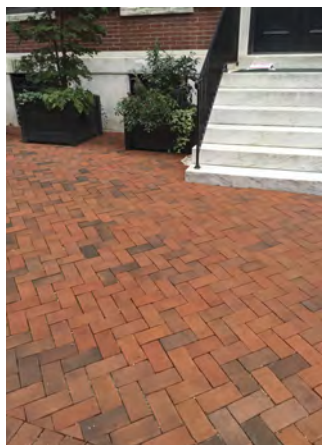
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STEPPING BACK IN TIME

BY MARC S. RASPANTI

Who Was Eliza Lucas Pinckney?

I have asked myself this question many times while walking my dog through the 261-year-old graveyard of historic St. Peter’s Church. If you enter the east gate of St. Peter’s Church, off of South 3rd Street, and walk about 120 paces into the main graveyard, you will spot a four-story tall, magnificent southern magnolia tree. Directly underneath the magnolia tree there are two interesting items, pictured here.



One is an ornate bronze circular marker dated 1775.



The other is a rectangular grave monument that proclaims:

IN AN UNMARKED GRAVE
LIE THE REMAINS OF
ELIZA LUCAS PINCKNEY
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
1723-1793
SHE WAS THE MOTHER OF
CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY
AND THOMAS PINCKNEY,
PATRIOTS, SOLDIERS, DIPLOMATS
ERECTED BY THE ELIZA LUCAS CHAPTER,
COLONIAL DAUGHTERS OF THE 17TH CENTURY

After reading this haunting epitaph, I asked myself the following two questions. Who was Eliza Pinckney? Why was a prominent South Carolinian lying in an “unmarked grave” in St. Peter’s Church graveyard, 700 miles away from her native home?


I snapped a picture of the monuments and sent it to a South Carolina attorney. Within minutes my colleague enthusiastically sent back some very interesting facts about Elizabeth, who was known to the world as Eliza Pinckney. These clues sent me on an unusual quest for more facts about this South Carolinian. There is much to her story, much more than can be recorded here. Through the indefatigable efforts of this remarkable woman, and due to a complex series of personal events, she managed five large South Carolina plantations in the 18th century, while she was in her twenties.

Eliza shall be forever remembered as the person credited with bringing the growing and processing of the brilliant blue dye of the indigo plant to South Carolina. This “indigo girl” was responsible for extraordinary agricultural and manufacturing developments, at a time when enormous societal restraints made such accomplishments difficult for a woman. With the knowledge and labor of slaves who had grown indigo in the West Indies and West Africa, Eliza investigated growing indigo in a new climate and soil. She experimented with indigo seeds, finding methods for growing strong disease-resistant plants, processing those plants, and producing a rich blue dye that excited merchants around the world. Under her watch, indigo became a coveted cash crop for South Carolina.

Eliza had four children. Her two sons embraced illustrious careers in the formative years of the American Republic. Charles Pinckney was a Brigadier General and close confidant of George Washington. He became a distinguished lawyer, diplomat to the prestigious French Court, senator, and prominent statesman. He ran three times for president but was defeated by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. He was an author and signer of the United States Constitution. President Washington appointed his brother Thomas Pinckney Ambassador to Great Britain. Thomas was a congressman, governor of South Carolina, and also ran for president twice but was defeated by John Adams and Thomas Jefferson.


continued on page 11

Under the watch of this “Indigo Girl,” indigo became a coveted cash crop for South Carolina.



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STEPPING BACK IN TIME

continued from page 9

Amazed by the accomplishments of Ms. Pinckney and her family, I wanted to learn how she ended up in Philadelphia, far from her home in South Carolina, in an unmarked grave. Fortunately, Philadelphia has a host of amazing resources to help solve that mystery. Through inquiries to St. Peter's Church Historical Society, the Athenaeum of Philadelphia, the University of Pennsylvania library, the South Carolina Historical Society, and other sources, an interesting picture developed.

At the age of 70, Eliza was suffering from metastasized breast cancer. Through her extensive connections in Philadelphia, her family decided that the best doctors of the time were located in and around the Society Hill section of Philadelphia. She undertook an arduous sea journey from South Carolina to Philadelphia with her daughter, two granddaughters, and several of her slaves. She arrived in Philadelphia on April 20, 1793.

At that time, Philadelphia had a population of 42,500 residents. Eliza stayed at a boarding house at 3rd and Spruce Streets for \$45 per week. Of note, she arrived weeks before the outset of the devastating yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia. By the end of the summer of 1793, over 5,000 Philadelphians had died from this dreaded disease. Bodies were piling up in local cemeteries.

She was treated by two prominent physicians in Philadelphia, Dr. William Tate and Dr. William Shippen, Jr. Effective treatments for metastasized breast cancer were extremely difficult during the 18th century. A potential application

of mature leeches, as well as radical surgery without anesthesia, were rejected as treatments. Eliza arrived from South Carolina far too weak to survive surgery. The leeches that were available in Philadelphia did not stick properly to her flesh. Instead, Dr. Tate used a novel medical non-surgical potion. It included arsenic and other unknown ingredients and was unsuccessful. While attempting to recuperate on Spruce Street, a who's who of Philadelphia society visited her and tried to comfort her. Her bedside visitors included President George Washington, Alexander and Elizabeth Hamilton, Congressman Lambert Cadwalader, Alice Izard, Justice James Iredell, Chief Justice Benjamin Chew, as well as multiple members of the powerful Shippen, Willig, and Powell families. Eliza died on May 26, 1793, at the age of 70, with her family, friends, and slaves at her bedside, a few blocks from St. Peter's Church. She was buried the very next day on May 27, 1793, her wedding anniversary, in St. Peter's graveyard.

Multiple published reports claim that President Washington himself requested the honor of being a pallbearer at her funeral. I was unable to find any support other than family legend. There exists no account of her actual funeral or burial. There is no question that Washington had visited her several times while she was sick and took a direct interest in her care and overall well being. Even Martha, who was herself sick at the time, wrote letters to Eliza. Several years earlier Washington had visited Eliza in South Carolina and was awed by her meticulous hospitality. At some point in time, the Colonial Daughters decided

to commemorate the life and death of Ms. Pinckney. Despite repeated efforts, I have not been able to find the date of this event. Presumably, the now mature magnolia was planted at this ceremony, which suggests it was some time ago.

There was some discussion in journals and family letters of moving her remains back to Charleston, South Carolina, but they could not be located at the time. Moreover, the yellow fever epidemic made family trips back to Philadelphia very dangerous. Yellow fever may have also contributed to the loss of her gravesite, as the large number of dead overwhelmed cemeteries all over Philadelphia. Some research suggests that her remains were moved to St. Michael's Church in South Carolina, but the stories I have read seem more legend than fact. To this date, no grave for her has been located in either Philadelphia or Charleston. While no painting survives showing her image, due to a series of fires at her home, the Charleston Museum contains some of her personal belongings.

The next time you stroll through St. Peter's Cemetery, seek out the site that commemorates the memory of a truly remarkable woman, who South Carolinians still remember for her generous spirit and her cutting-edge cultivation of indigo.



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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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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BY JONATHAN BURTON

A Toast to George Washington

Celebrations are a timeless tradition when you accomplish something great or overcome difficult hurdles. People often celebrate with friends and family over dinner and drinks — after graduation ceremonies, weddings, funerals, work accomplishments, Super Bowl victories, etc. Well, the founding fathers were no different.

Imagine attending an almost four-month long conference in the middle of the summer in Philadelphia in 1787. It's hot, sticky, and smelly, but you have work to be done. In 1787, Congress authorized delegates to gather in Philadelphia and recommend changes to the existing charter of government for the 13 states, the Articles of Confederation, which many Americans believed had created a weak, ineffective central government. From the start of the convention, however, it became clear that the delegates from every state but Rhode Island, who refused to attend, were forming an entirely new form of government.

There were 55 delegates at the 1787 Constitutional Convention. That's 55 opinions on what each thought was the correct course of action for our young nation! Edmund Randolph proposed the "Virginia Plan," drafted by James Madison, which recommended an entirely new form of government, including an executive, a judiciary, and a legislature composed of two houses and including several representatives from each state based on their population.

Opposition came from the small states, which feared domination by the more populous states in the legislature. William Paterson proposed the "New Jersey Plan," which essentially revised the Articles of Confederation, preserving equal representation of the states. After much debate, the Convention rejected the New Jersey Plan, deciding instead to work toward an entirely new form of government. Sorry, Jersey.

The issue of representation in the two houses of the new national legislature became a major sticking point for the Convention. Roger Sherman was helpful in framing the "Connecticut Compromise," a plan that suggested representation in the lower House of Representatives based on population and equal representation in the upper Senate. With this compromise, the Convention succeeded in completing a rough draft of the Constitution.

A Committee of Style was appointed to create a final draft; Gouverneur Morris was chosen to write it. After carefully reviewing the draft, the Convention approved and signed the Constitution on September 17. Even though the Constitution was signed on September 17, it was finalized by the 15th, and where do you think some of the delegates went? City Tavern. To do what? Party. Washington's friends in the First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry, along with several other framers of the Constitution, decided to throw a celebration at the City Tavern.

The party had roughly 55 guests, which included troops, politicians, friends, and family along with 16 more people who were working that night, including musicians, servers, and hosts. The details of the night are hazy, but the receipt for the night was saved in the First Troop Cavalry archives. It was among the original records transcribed by Dr. David Kimball, former lead historian at Independence Hall.

By the end of the night, Washington's party drank: 54 bottles of Madeira wine, 60 bottles of Bordeaux wine, 8 bottles of old stock whiskey, 22 bottles of porter ale, 8 bottles of hard cider, 12 jugs of beer, and 7 large bowls of punch. The staff and musicians drank 16 bottles of Bordeaux wine, 5 bottles of Madeira wine, and 7 bowls of punch. The bill also includes a tab for many broken glasses, which, adjusted for inflation, equals about \$300 worth of reimbursements. The final bill came out to £89 and 4 shillings, or roughly \$17,253 in 2018 dollars.

The impressive part of this story isn't that they drank it all, or that drinks back then tended to be more potent than their modern counterparts, but the fact that Washington was functional enough just two days later to see the Constitution signed.

The Independence Historical Trust, with the help of Quaker City Mercantile, Art in the Age, and Hale and True Cider (7th and Kater Streets) will be hosting "A Toast to George Washington" in the garden of City Tavern on Wednesday, September 13, 2023. Go to the Trust's website at www.inht.org for tickets and more information. Get ready to raise a glass, just don't break the glasses or the plates, please. George Washington and his troops will be there, will you?

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



After the Constitution was finalized, where do you think some of the delegates went? City Tavern. To do what? Party!





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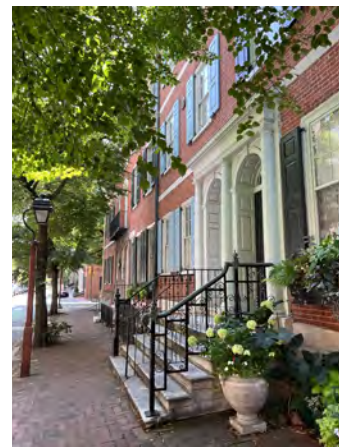
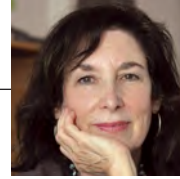
NOTE CARDS

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Society Hill Note Cards Are Here!

The note cards are finally here! SHCA now has long-overdue note cards for sale. Each bundle contains 12 cards showing photos of some favorite and beautiful spots in Society Hill. Cards are available for purchase at \$18 per bundle. To order, go to societyhillcivic.org and follow the link. The cards will be delivered to your door.

Martha Levine is an SHCA board member.



Note card photos by Martha Levine

WELCOME GIFT BAGS

PHOTOS BY MARTHA LEVINE

Welcome, New Neighbors!



Mitiki and Jagjit

A shout out to any new owners out there. If you purchased your first property, house or condo, in 2022-23, we want to hear from you, set up an appointment, and present you with a Welcome Gift Bag.

Contact Martha at marthalev6@gmail.com or call 215-629-0727.



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- Fork Restaurant**, 306 Market Street
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WELCOME GIFT BAGS

BY MARTHA LEVINE

New Business Donors

Our gift bag program not only welcomes new first time owners to Society Hill, but it also promotes our local businesses who provide us with the gift cards and products to fill up each bag. Please check out our long list of continuing, and new, businesses and help us say thanks with your patronage. We welcome two new businesses: Fitz on 4th and Naked Chocolate.

Fitz on 4th

This family-owned vegan restaurant is located in Queen Village, just a stone’s throw from Society Hill. Featuring a cozy brick-walled dining space and intimate bar, they pride themselves on plant-based dishes curated with fresh, flavorful ingredients. The family is committed to making a positive impact on our health and well-being by serving seasonable, sustainable ingredients. This is done through their partnership with local vendors who supply the fresh ingredients for delicious vegan dishes. This restaurant is a favorite for many in our area.

Fitz on 4th, 743 S 4th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147

Naked Chocolate

As they say, “Life Happens. Eat Chocolate.” You may remember Naked Chocolate in its original location at 1315 Walnut Street, with satellite stores in both Rittenhouse and University City. Since then, they have relocated to Newtown, Pennsylvania. They specialize in bonbons and bars and are known for their critically acclaimed hot chocolate mix, made in house and seen on the Rachel Ray Show among other TV shows. Naked Chocolate hand grinds single origin cacao, select cocoa powders, and a little bit of pure cane sugar for the most intense drinking chocolate experience you’ve ever had. Naked Chocolate specializes in assortments for life events, corporate gifting, or just one of their curated chocolate relief boxes. Treat yourself for no special reason at all.

For more information, visit their website at www.nkdchocolate.com or follow them on Instagram and Facebook, too. Too far to go? No worries, they deliver to your home.

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Bon Bons from Naked Chocolate



Plant-based “crab” cakes from Fitz on 4th



Fitz on 4th general manager Alex Soto with executive chef Alison Fitzpatrick (his mom)



Naked Chocolate’s Chef Rachael



Table at Fitz on 4th



Naked Chocolate’s Bon Bon display case

URBAN EDEN

BY MARY STURDIVANT

Pruning for Profusion

We enjoy glorious springs of colorful azaleas, Bradford pears, cherries, crabapples, dogwoods, lilacs, redbuds, and the occasional magnolia. Then comes summer. Except for the flamboyant fuchsia crepe myrtles, our trees only display some shade of green. A bit boring.

Just as fishermen are known for their tall tales of “the one that got away,” gardeners are equally notorious for their claims that “You should have been here last week,” or “I’m so sorry you won’t be here next week when...” In fact, unless they are meditating on the grass or a bench, most gardeners seem to have missed the entire “live in the moment” movement.

But after an epic fail of experimental pruning, I looked at my mophead hydrangeas and told one visitor last summer, “You should have been here two years ago.” Last summer, five blooms. FIVE! The summer before, the mophead hydrangea bushes were covered in breathtaking blue balls, thanks to weekly applications of coffee grounds. The three tree-like paniculata hydrangea sported white flames of flowers from early summer to fall. Bridal parties loved the flowerbed as a backdrop for group photos. Individuals stopped by to take snaps on their phones. Children gazed in wonder.

Then after some debate, we pruned both types at the same time of year and on the same principles. Know this: hydrangeas are not all-sizes-fit-one style of pruning. There are hundreds of varieties and a bazillion cultivars. With so many, I can barely manage a superficial survey, let alone an exhaustive study. So just for what thrives in our neighborhood, first, identify your hydrangea.

1. Mophead: big leaf, bushy, pink or blue color depends on soil.

2. Lace cap: also big leaf, bushy, color affected, but the flower ball is topped by a circle of much smaller flowerets — the cap.

3. Smooth (arborescens): stunning white balls



Mophead



Lace cap



Smooth



Paniculata

4. Paniculata: ours are usually white, more flame-like, almost like some chestnuts.

The big leaf types, mophead or lace cap, change colors: blue in acidic soil and pink in alkaline soil. Don’t bother trying to change white hydrangeas; you will just frustrate yourself. There is a good reason a very popular type is called “Snowball.” Sometimes the paniculata turn from pale green to white as they continue blooming.

The second key for success requires knowing which types bloom on old wood and which ones bloom on new wood. This determines the time of year that you prune. The mopheads and lace caps are old wood rebloomers (if that is a word). Cut them back after they bloom in the fall. Don’t be shy. Cut a third of the long stems out almost to the ground. Then cut the rest to 18 inches high. On me, that is to my knee. Don’t panic. By June these bushes were head high... if you are 5’2” like me. Because they get so tall and bushy, we decided to take two of the five out to make room for more plantings.

The paniculata “trees” produce blooms on new wood. So in late winter, we pruned mainly to shape them. We had also left the old browned flower heads on, which made some lovely wreaths. The new buds bloomed exuberantly a few weeks after the mopheads. The excessive heat in June and the loss of afternoon shade from a removed tree did discourage the mopheads a bit. Then the leaf mulch put on the beds in the spring made the soil more alkaline or sweet. They could have used more coffee grounds, too.

A picture is worth a thousand words. So I am going to direct you to a YouTube tutorial created by an intern at the Scott Arboretum on the Swarthmore campus. Thanks to Dennis McGlade, a retired landscape architect who mentors a bed in Washington Square, for bringing this resource to my attention. Because you cannot click on paper to access a site, I recommend using these four search words in your browser: “Scott Arboretum Hydrangea Pruning.” This will take you to “Gardener’s Almanac: Pruning Hydrangeas.”

Gardening is a process, not a project with a clear beginning, middle, and end. There is a lot of trial and error. Like the nursery rhyme says, “If you don’t succeed at first, try, try again.” Or, be like a sports fan: “Next season!”

URBAN EDEN

BY MARY STURDIVANT

Tribute to Madeline Miller

It has been almost a year since our neighbor and fellow gardener was bitten by a mosquito and died at Pennsylvania Hospital. Madeline Miller succumbed to encephalitis from West Nile virus. Since almost all of us can recall getting at least one mosquito bite while outside around dusk in our neighborhood, this loss sparked both sorrow and alarm.

Madeline never wanted to mentor a flower bed in Washington Square, but she generously volunteered time weeding and planting. I recall her tutoring a few others and myself about the differences in the ferns we were setting in place. The fronds on the Christmas ferns really do look like Christmas trees — an easy clue.

There are many ways to honor her memory. Tidy up around your place. Read to a child. Or maybe head to Head House Books, the Athenaeum, or the Independence branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia, to get one of her daughter's best sellers, *Circe* or *Song of Achilles*.

Best of all, honor Madeline's life by taking care of yourself. When gardening, wear light colored pants and long sleeved shirts. Tuck the cuffs of pants into socks or boots. Use a bug repellent. Some hikers and birders recommend treating socks and pants with a permethrin repellent.

After learning about Madeline's death, I did some online research. Two days later Amazon delivered Murphy's Naturals Lemon Eucalyptus Mosquito and Tick Repellent. So far, no bites.

While I sometimes fuss with the challenges and setbacks of gardening in an urban village like Society Hill, recent tick warnings reminded me that at least I don't have to contend with foraging deer or deer ticks. For all we hold dear, take care.

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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ON OUR SHELF

BY IZZY HALLORAN

Happily: A Personal History — With Fairy Tales

This August, I was fortunate to stumble upon *Happily: A Personal History — With Fairy Tales*, a collection of essays by Sabrina Orah Mark. Although this book is categorized under “nonfiction,” it is far too imaginative to be constrained to our physical world.

Sabrina Orah Mark is a Jewish woman raising two Black and Jewish sons, Eli and Noah, with her husband in Georgia. In *Happily*, she weaves a complex narrative on motherhood by referencing a range of fairy tales and myths, from ancient stories to contemporary ones. Incorporating text and imagery from Jewish Mysticism, Mark explores the threads that connect her family to the magical realm. As she navigates inheritance, love, loss, and loneliness, Mark illuminates the perils, triumphs, and joys of being alive in twenty-first-century America.

The topic of motherhood permeates each of Mark’s dazzling chapters. Her husband’s third wife, Mark is stepmother to two daughters, as well as mother to two sons. In chapter five, she calls upon the “evil stepmother” trope and the story of Cinderella to understand her role as a stepmother and her own insecurities about belonging. Mark incorporates dialogue from conversations with her own mother, her sons, her stepdaughter, and her husband into the text. The dialogue often relays her mother’s reactions to her stories, and surprisingly insightful observations by her young children. They allow the reader a peek into Mark’s consciousness as she reimagines her challenging reality.

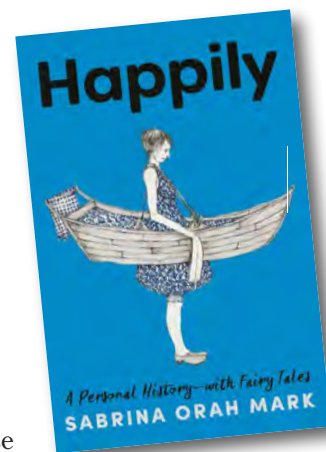
Mark makes use of popular stories such as “Pinocchio,” *Peter Pan*, “Hansel and Gretel,” “Rumpelstiltskin,” “The Little Mermaid,” “Rapunzel,” and *The Wizard of Oz*. She also includes lesser-known tales like “The Spider and the Flea,” “Tom Thumb,” “Pearl Tears,” “The Juniper Tree,” and “The Pied Piper of Hamelin.” In these retellings, Mark connects mythical characters and objects to people and things in her own life. In Chapter 16, “Sleeping with the Wizard,” Mark details a toxic romantic relationship with a professor in college, whom she deems the “Great Oz” because of her ability to manipulate and persuade Mark. In Chapter 15, “Fairy Tales and the Bodies of Black Boys,” Mark relates Tom Thumb’s unfortunate tendency to be swallowed in “The History of Tom Thumb” to her concern for the safety of her Black

children. She asks, “Will they be sent into a swallow cycle to satisfy the hunger of our dear, sick country?” (page 113).

Throughout *Happily*, Mark ruminates on the idea of inheritance. She explains how she has inherited her husband’s former wives and children through the story of “Bluebeard,” and recalls her grandfather’s inheritance in Holocaust reparations from Austria. Mark also inherits her stepdaughter’s pet tarantula, Mavis, when her stepdaughter moves out and leaves the spider behind. Mark, who initially fears the spider, becomes its caretaker because she feels that Mavis is an inheritance from her stepdaughter. In a closing chapter, Mark and her sons discover that Mavis has molted, shedding the skin of her former self. Mavis comes to represent a magical transformation, a shedding of one world and an entrance into the next.

Happily by Sabrina Orah Mark is an enchanting book that encapsulates the pain, confusion, and wonder that accompanies motherhood. Lively and engaging, the text varies from lyrical and dreamy at times, to educational at others. As Mark blurs the line between real and imagined, the reader discovers the world of fairy tales under their nose. It is no wonder Kiese Laymon calls *Happily* “Easily one of the most inventive, phenomenally executed books I’ve read this year.”

Izzy Halloran is a bookseller and Events Coordinator at Head House Books, Society Hill’s only local, independently owned bookstore.



As she navigates inheritance, love, loss, and loneliness, Mark illuminates the perils, triumphs, and joys of being alive in the twenty-first century.

We’re On The Map!

The Free Library and others have released the Philadelphia Bookstore Map. It celebrates the independent bookstores in Philadelphia and the communities of which they are a part. The colorfully illustrated map, created by local artist Henry Crane, showcases these vital contributors to our cultural landscape. Free copies of the map are available at The Free Library, Head House Books, and other independent bookstores throughout the Philadelphia region, as well as hotels and tourist centers.



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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY MATT DEJULIO

2023 Membership Down Slightly

By early August, 1,082 Society Hill residents had either renewed their SHCA membership or joined for the first time. This is down 4 percent from the 2022 total of 1,129. There are still 159 members who have not yet renewed. Please do so today! Thankfully, we have 139 new members.

Sign up for the Spotlight, our weekly email newsletter, on our website societyhillcivic.org, so you can keep informed on a regular basis of all important neighborhood issues and cultural events of interest.

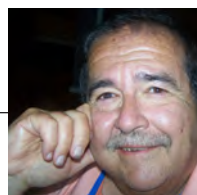
Without membership dues, SHCA would cease to function. Protect your neighborhood and your real estate investment. Sign up today!

Email info@societyhill.org with questions or comments, which will be shared with our board members, who represent every quadrant in our unique, historic neighborhood.

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

- **Keeping Us Safe:** We work with officers of the 6th 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 membership, please contact us at info@societyhillcivic.org.



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



Society Hill
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Email (print clearly) _____

Residential Memberships

- \$ 50 Basic Household Membership
- \$ 40 Senior/Student/Single
- \$ 100 Federal Friend
- \$ 150 Georgian Grantor
- \$ 300 Jefferson Benefactor
- \$ 500 Washington Benefactor
- \$1,000 Benjamin Franklin Benefactor

Business Memberships

- \$100 Institutions – 5+ employees
- \$60 Institutions – fewer than 5 employees

Total Membership \$ _____

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.

Donations to SHPF

- \$ _____ Unrestricted
- \$ _____ Historic Lukens Clock at Headhouse
- \$ _____ Beautification of Washington Square
- \$ _____ Walkways
- \$ _____ Sidewalk Cleaning
- \$ _____ McCall School

Total Donations \$ _____

Charge VISA/MasterCard:

Number _____ Exp Date _____

Signature _____

If paying membership dues by check, please make the check payable to:
Society Hill Civic Association

If making a tax-deductible donation by check, make the check payable to:
Society Hill Preservation Foundation

Mail this form and your check(s) to:
Society Hill Civic Association, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147

Or join online at societyhillcivic.org



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**699 sf | Offered for
\$259,900**



Updated One Bedroom

Beautifully updated one bedroom featuring a sun-drenched great room with a wall of windows and treetop vistas, an open modern kitchen with stainless steel appliances, and a bright and spacious bedroom with excellent closet space.

**683 sf | Offered for
\$244,900**



Sprawling Two Bedroom

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**1,201 sf | Offered for
\$489,900**



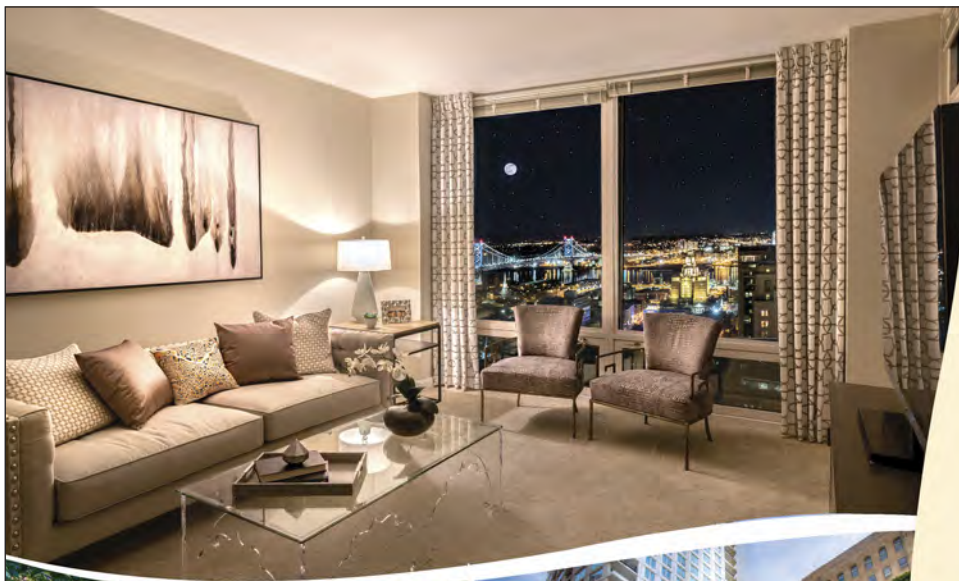
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Open House Block Party Hosted by Yowie Hotel on South Street



Shannon Maldonado, born and bred in Philadelphia, followed her passion from fashion to creating the home-goods store Yowie. The adventure continues with the grand opening of South Street's Yowie Hotel – a charming 13-room retreat above a gift shop and coffee shop. Neighbors gathered at the corner of 4th and South Street in mid-August for a block party and open house with self-guided tours.



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VIEWS OF WASHINGTON SQUARE



Trident Sycamore,
August 2023
by **Michael Neff**



The Candelabra
Tree, August 2023
by **Michael Neff**

TREE TENDERS UPDATE

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

Why Prune?

Much like humans and automobiles, your street tree can benefit from some preventive maintenance. While trees in forested areas may do fine falling at will and dropping branches when they see fit, city trees need to exist within some constraints. Dead or broken limbs can pose a real hazard to pedestrians and vehicles below. Storm damage across the country this year, captured in dramatic news photos and videos, reveals the devastating damage a large tree can cause when felled in a storm.

Proactive pruning, while not a guarantee, is your best defense against falling trees and branches. Just recently, a large locust tree came down in our area and badly damaged two cars. Luckily, no one was hurt. This was an expensive reminder of the need to remove dead or diseased trees and replace them with young, healthy ones. SHCA offers a generous subsidy for dead tree removal: up to 50 percent of the cost for a maximum of \$600 for members, \$500 for non-members. The city removes them for free, but unless the tree poses a hazard, the wait may be long.

How does pruning help?

Good pruning encourages trees to develop a strong structure. Thinning out overly dense areas allows sunlight to reach all parts of the tree to promote healthy growth. It decreases the likelihood of weather damage and helps mitigate the risk of broken limbs and falling branches. If the tree has branches that may have broken off (partially or entirely), professional pruning of the site encourages wound closure. A good arborist will also consider the aesthetics when pruning so that your tree is left looking sharp with their nice, new “haicut.”

Again, SHCA offers a subsidy for pruning to help offset the expense: up to 50 percent of the cost for a maximum of \$400 for members, \$300 for non-members.

Keeping Society Hill green is an ongoing process. Older trees die off and must be replaced. Some end up damaged by vehicles or are stricken by disease. Occasionally a newly planted sapling doesn’t survive, most often due to lack of sufficient watering. Of course, property owners must be motivated enough to pay for the services of an arborist or to apply for a free Tree Tenders planting. Did you know that over the past 10 years the Society Hill Tree Tenders have planted more than 40 trees just in our neighborhood?

Imagine what the area would look like with 40 fewer trees.

There are still a number of empty pits that we’d love to fill. A brief online application is all that’s required for a Tree Tenders tree. The deadline for a Spring 2024 tree is November 2023. Just email me at ccarabelli@comcast.net. I’m happy to walk you through the process and answer any questions. Of course, you can always plant on your own and collect the subsidy. I can also help with that. Keep in mind that the Tree Tenders always welcome new volunteers.

A word about weed spray: If you’ve walked our streets you’ve no doubt noticed that the weeds are sadly plentiful. We’ve offered a recipe for a natural weed killer which I will list again here. Two important points: First, do NOT use Round Up. Heavy use has been linked to cases of non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Second, weed killer of any kind cannot differentiate between weeds and desirable plants or trees. It will kill whatever it’s sprayed on. Do **not** use it in tree pits; it can harm the tree. Just pull those pesky weeds out by hand and cover the soil with mulch to inhibit regrowth.

Weed Spray: 1 gallon white vinegar, 1 cup table salt and 1 tablespoon liquid dish detergent.


Mix well and spray on weeds on a sunny day when no rain is anticipated for 48 hours. The weeds will turn brown and die within a day or so.


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



A large locust tree came down in a storm in our area and damaged two cars.







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SOCIETY HILL

TOTAL SOLD VOLUME:

\$252,445,975

TOTAL HOMES SOLD:

378

SOLD PRICE VS LIST

PRICE AVERAGE:

96.9 %

MCCALL SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

BY DANIELLE SANDSMARK

Library Leadership

In 1991, there were over 176 librarians serving the School District of Philadelphia’s nearly 200 schools. By 2021, there were fewer than 10 such professionals in the school district as budget shortfalls, among other challenges, restricted such “luxuries.” Today, many schools in the district operate without functional libraries or scrape by using volunteers rather than trained professionals to staff their school libraries.

McCall School in our neighborhood has been one of those lucky few that has had the trusted support of Ms. Kathy Phillips, a Library Instructional Materials Assistant, since 2007. At McCall, students in grades K-6 have weekly library periods. During this time, library instruction is reminiscent of what many of us recall from our own school days: students read books with Ms. Phillips or independently, learn how a library is organized, explore thematic units such as insects or dinosaurs, learn how citations are written and used within students’ research, and work on creative pieces to go along with their lessons. Students in grades 7 and 8 visit the library as needed, for books for enjoyment and research.

Over her years at McCall, Ms. Phillips has run numerous extracurricular activities through the

library. Extracurricular activities have included Drama Scenery, ASAP Scrabble, WHY Media Lab, and Reading Olympics. Since 2018, Ms. Phillips’ has led numerous Odyssey of the Mind teams. These teams work over a six month period, using their creativity to build, sew, paint, and more, to solve the given problem. Team members apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. They bring their solutions to competition on the local, state, and international level. Their hard work has resulted in two regional championships and multiple trips to the state finals!

The library does not have a dedicated budget for the purchase of new materials and relies on donations to allow its book collection to grow. Funds are divided between the hottest new titles and ensuring that informational books are up-to-date for research. If you are interested in supporting the library at McCall, consider purchasing something from Ms. Phillips’ Amazon Wish List <https://tinyurl.com/msnwpc2d>.

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



Ms. Kathy Phillips



At McCall, students in grades K-6 have weekly library periods when they read books with Ms. Phillips or independently, learn how a library is organized, and explore thematic units such as insects or dinosaurs.

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KIDS KORNER

BY JAIME AND MIKE FOX

Celebration on the Square, Art and Science on the Parkway



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www.talulasgarden.com

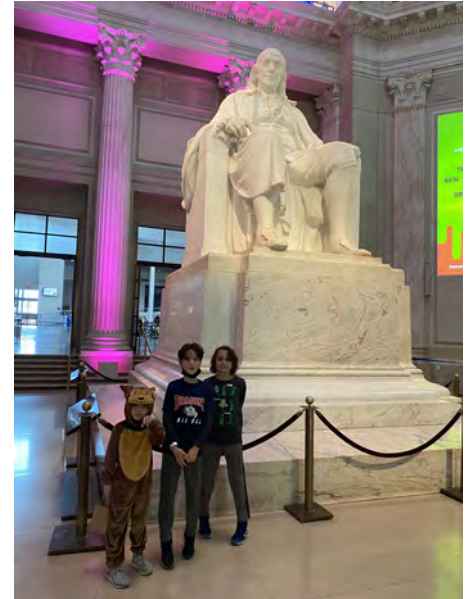
We celebrated Jaime's parents' 52nd wedding anniversary at Talula's Garden. While Jaime and Mike have eaten there several times, this was Jaime's parents' second time and the third time for the kids. Each time we go, we start with the cheese board. Having sampled several throughout the city, this is hands down our favorite. The cheeses are always varied and excellent and paired with items that complement them perfectly. After the cheese plate appetizer, we moved to the main courses and sides. Some of our favorites are the roasted chicken & gnocchi, seared sea scallops and gulf shrimp, and a side of ruby beets. We cannot forget dessert. Our favorite dessert is the warm brownie-cookie dough "brookie" skillet. With seating outside or in, a five-minute walk from home, and Washington Square as the backdrop, this is the perfect restaurant for special occasions.



Barnes Museum

Benjamin Franklin Parkway
www.barnesfoundation.org.

The Barnes Museum offers free admission on the first Sunday of the month. Jaime called a few days before and was able to reserve free tickets for the whole family. As we entered the museum, Mike told the kids the story of Albert Barnes and how the museum came to be located in Philadelphia. It's an interesting story, definitely worth sharing when visiting this fantastic, somewhat recent addition to the city. In the lobby, the kids participated in an art project to create an animal out of Model Magic clay. Owen created a tiger while Jordan made a bird in a nest. As we wandered the second floor of the museum, the children quickly lost interest. But we turned it around when we found the museum has a scavenger hunt. The kids were so excited by the scavenger hunt that we visited the second floor twice to find all of the items we didn't know to look for the first time around. After they found everything, the kids were rewarded by the museum with a small notepad, which they quickly got to work filling in, as Jaime and Mike listened to music and relaxed in the beautiful lobby. A very relaxing and enjoyable visit for the whole family.



Franklin Institute

222 N. 20th Street
www.fi.edu

Have you been to the Franklin Institute? We have... only about **100 times!**

With membership for the last 10 years, we head to the Franklin Institute about once every month. During one recent trip we had only an hour, which was just enough time for our two favorite rooms: Sports and Sir Isaac's Attic. Bring your pennies and watch gravity do what it does. Raise each other up using a pulley or race against your favorite mascot, the Philly Phanatic. Whether you have one hour or four, there is always something exciting to do and to learn. Next time, we plan to crawl through the brain and race around the heart, an absolute classic. But we will save all of that for next month.



The Fox family

moved to Society Hill in August 2019. They love to take advantage of the wonderful spaces and activities that Society Hill and Philadelphia have to offer. Kids' Korner will feature topics such as restaurants, parks, recreation and culture. Readers feedback and suggestions are welcome.

'FIX THE BRIX'

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Brick and Cement Sidewalk Repair Covered

Do we want safer sidewalks with fewer falls? Yes. Do we need to remove loose bricks at tree pits? Yes. Loose bricks in the wrong hands can be used for vehicle break-ins and thefts.

Did you know SHCA provides a subsidy for fixing sidewalks? It's 40 percent up to \$500 for current



Contractors resetting bricks to level a sidewalk.

members, and up to \$400 for non-members.

Got cement? "Fix the Brix" also subsidizes cement sidewalk repairs. This subsidy program has already been utilized by 250 households.

Here are the steps:

- Take a "before" photo of your problem sidewalk and email it to me at marthalev6@gmail.com.
- Contact and select a mason or arborist to do the work. Get a few estimates if possible. If needed, we have a list of suggested contractors.
- Have the work done to your satisfaction. Make sure the invoice says "paid."
- Make a copy of your paid invoice, and if possible, a copy of your cancelled check. Mail the original invoice and a copy of the cancelled check to us at:
SHCA, P.O. Box 63503,
Philadelphia PA 19147.
- Email us an "after" photo after work is completed.
- Receive your subsidy check in about two weeks.



Loose bricks can be used for vandalism in the wrong hands. Remove or secure them in place.



This flat edge around a tree pit allows rainwater to reach tree roots.

117 Walnut Street



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