

SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

November/December 2023

The Newsletter
of The Society Hill
Civic Association

www.societyhillcivic.org

Richardson Dilworth: Reforming Philadelphia

November General Membership Meeting Speaker



Richardson Dilworth

Richardson Dilworth lives in South Philadelphia and is a professor and head of the Department of Politics at Drexel University. His research and teaching focuses on American urban political development, urban environmental policy, and community economic development. He has graciously agreed to speak at the November Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) General Membership Meeting about his recently published book, *Reforming Philadelphia, 1682-2022* (Temple University Press, 2023).

Reforming Philadelphia examines the cyclical efforts of insurgents to change the city's government over nearly 350 years. Dilworth tracks reformers as they create a new purpose for the city or reshape the government to reflect emerging ideas. Some wish to thwart the "corrupt machine," while others seek to gain control of the government via elections. These actors formed coalitions and organizations that disrupted the status quo in the hope of transforming the city... and perhaps also enriching themselves.

Dilworth addresses Philadelphia's early development through the present day, including

momentous changes, from its new city charter in 1885 and the Republican machine that emerged around the same time, to its transformation to a Democratic stronghold in the 1950s, when the city also experienced a racial transition. Focusing primarily on the 20th and 21st centuries, Dilworth evaluates the terms of Mayors Frank Rizzo, Wilson Goode, and Ed Rendell, as well as John Street, Michael Nutter, and Jim Kenney, to illustrate how power and resistance function, and how Philadelphia's political history and reform cycles offer a conceptual model that can easily be applied to other cities.

Dilworth's talk will provide a new framework for understanding the evolving relationship between national politics and local city politics.

Come to the General Membership Meeting!

All Society Hill residents are invited to the Wednesday, November 15, General Membership Meeting to hear Mr. Dilworth speak. 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.

Wednesday,
November
15

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Society Hill Civic Association Meeting
Wednesday, November 15, 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: Richardson Dilworth**
Department Head, Department of Politics Professor,
Department of Politics Center for Public Policy,
Drexel University
- Topic: *Reforming Philadelphia, 1682-2022***

Fresh Fall Harvest Every Sunday



Headhouse Farmers' Market, Sunday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Photo by Martha Levine

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SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

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

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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

Gritty, with Heart and Smarts

Philadelphia is a hard city. Like the Flyers, it is gritty, but it has a heart and a history. SHCA is mindful of that history. We recognize our role as part of the larger whole, endeavoring to encourage a thriving, healthy Philadelphia, not asking too much, doing for ourselves as we can, and recognizing the assets in our midst that deserve our attention, resources and time.

Starr Garden

The best news is that, with gentle pushing from SHCA board member Stacey Ackerman and the Friends of Starr Garden, Parks and Recreation is ready to move forward with the renovation and upgrade of Starr Garden at 6th and Lombard. There will be small play equipment for younger children and larger play equipment for older kids. The play surface will be replaced so that a fall from a swing doesn't land a child in a dirt divot. New trees will be planted, old ones pruned or removed. SHCA received a gift from Poor Richard's Fund, which will be used to install a new, clean, working water fountain. Councilman Mark Squilla secured the money for the project so that construction can begin within a few months' time.

Washington Square

Washington Square needs hardscape improvements and restoration of the 6th Street guardhouse. We have decided that to accomplish these projects we need a liaison to Independence Historic Park (INHP). Independence Historic Trust has that relationship. (See the article in this issue on Page 5 from Jonathan Burton of the Trust.) SHCA and our Preservation Foundation will work with the Trust to accomplish these larger projects. First on the list is the guardhouse, dating from the 1870s. Repair and restoration are now in the approval process with INHP. With the dollars raised for Washington Square work at our bi-annual Washington Square Affair, the little guardhouse will be brought back to health. Another bright spot: INHP has a new superintendent. Steven Sims comes to us from his tenure at Gettysburg National Military Park.

Walkways

We are moving ahead with repairs to Lawrence Walkway, including brick repairs, improvements to lighting, and landscaping, so the walkway is safer and pleasantly attractive.

Blighted Property Here?

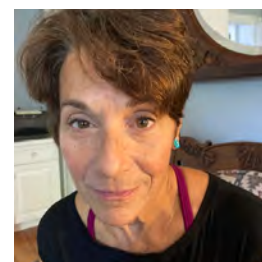
A house in severe disrepair sits among lovely homes on the 400 block of Spruce Street. An absent owner has been unwilling to make repairs or maintain the property. Neighbors have complained. Violations were issued but nothing changed. SHCA decided to spearhead a resolution. We found Beth Grossman of Scioli Turco, who suggested seeking a determination of blight under Pennsylvania Act 135. With no charge to SHCA, she has petitioned to have the property placed into conservatorship so the problems can be remedied. An evidentiary hearing on the Act 135 Petition is scheduled for **December 13th in City Hall**, Room 453 at 2:30 p.m. Attend if you are interested.

Our **parking lot** has additional, new safety features: six working cameras and more lighting.

Finally, working to preserve and use our valuable historic sites, the terms upon which the New Market Headhouse Conservancy will operate are being finalized. The goal of this new organization is to breathe life back into this block of 2nd Street while also undertaking care and restoration of the structure.

We are moving ahead, slow but steady. Philly isn't a shiny penny, but with heart, grit and smarts, we continue to maintain our neighborhood as a good place to live.

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.



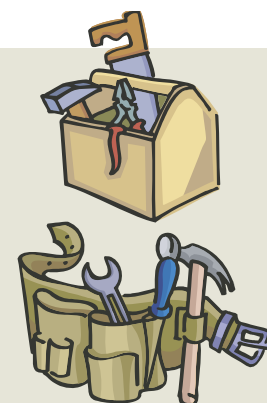
Susan Burt-Collins,
SHCA President

*We're moving
ahead, slow
but steady.*

SHCA Member Perk: List of Contractors

If you are a current SHCA member, you can receive our popular and helpful List of Contractors. The list has 11 pages of contractors under all categories, including general contractors, handymen, electricians, plumbers, window washers, HVAC and more. You name it, we have it. We are happy to send you the list electronically or as a hard copy.

To get your copy, contact us at 215-629-0727 or marthalev6@gmail.com.

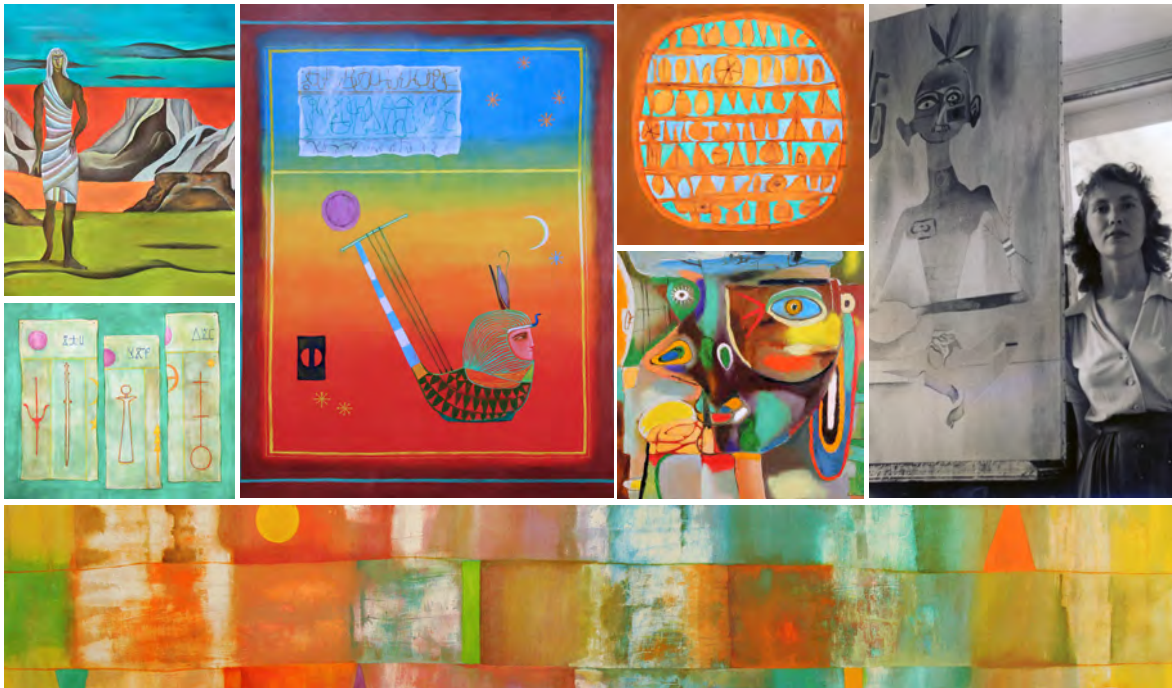


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THE PETER MILLER STORY:
A Forgotten Woman of American Modernism

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Born Henrietta Myers in 1913, the artist known as Peter Miller graduated from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA) in 1934. In an effort to ensure fair evaluation of her artwork, Henrietta changed her name to Peter, believing her art would be more positively received when attributed to a male creator. Miller's extraordinary 250-piece collection was found in a barn during COVID, and restored by Princeton University conservator and gallerist Paul Gratz. Since the re-discovery of her work was made in 2020, 50 of her paintings have already sold on the primary and secondary market.

Please join us as we give PETER MILLER her long overdue Philadelphia SOLO EXHIBITION. All paintings on view will be available for sale.



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INDEPENDENCE HISTORICAL TRUST

BY JONATHAN BURTON

Washington Square Guardhouse Restoration

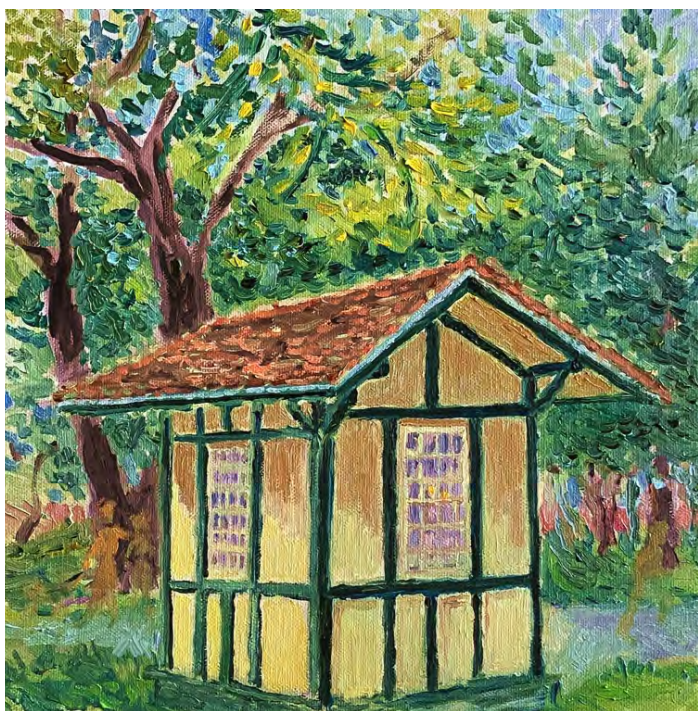
Progress is being made in Washington Square. Under the guidance of Fred Manfred and Sherley Young, both dedicated leaders of improvements to this green treasure, SHCA has begun a cooperative relationship with the Independence Historical Trust to spur along deferred maintenance projects in Washington Square. The first project is the guardhouse by the 6th Street entrance. Sherley, Fred, and all the garden volunteers use the southeast guardhouse as storage for their gardening equipment.

This is not an ordinary storage shed: it is one of Philadelphia's last surviving guardboxes — originally used as patrol posts by the Fairmount Park Guard. After over a century of use, wear and tear, and deterioration, the Fairmount Park Commission decided in the 1950s to get rid of the remaining ones. Most were either destroyed or given away. As late as the 1970s, when the Fairmount Park Guards merged with the Philadelphia Police, the city was actively auctioning them off for as little as \$10 each. Of the more than 100 guardboxes that once graced the Fairmount Park system, the Washington Square guardhouses are two of only a handful that remain.

SHCA and Trust to Collaborate

Sherley and Fred noticed the need for repair and restoration, but getting such a small project completed by the short-staffed National Park Service (NPS) has taken longer than expected. By partnering with the Independence Historical Trust, this project can be accomplished. Once the Washington Square guardhouse is repaired, SHCA and the Trust will collaborate with the National Park Service to find and raise funds for other hardscaping projects in the park that will benefit the community.

Like Rittenhouse Square, Washington Square Park was city property and a city responsibility. The route to becoming part of the National Park perhaps began in 1954, when the Washington Square Planning Committee decided that, instead of the original proposed monument to Washington, a monument to all soldiers and sailors of the Revolutionary War would be built. A detailed history of this project follows on Page 7. The historical context to the Revolutionary War made the acquisition of the park logical for Independence National Historical Park. In 2005, the National Park Service took over ownership and management of Washington Square through an easement from the City of Philadelphia.



The Guardhouse in the Park, October 2023

Painting by Michael Neff

SHCA Cooperation with NPS

When Washington Square became federal land, SHCA entered into a cooperating agreement with NPS to raise funds for additional garden maintenance and general upkeep of the park. Since 2010, the Washington Square Affair has been a vibrant biennial fundraising event that has helped fund the Washington Square Gardening Committee. This committee, now led by Master Gardeners Sherley Young and Fred Manfred, has done a tremendous job enhancing and maintaining the beautification of the park. The committee ensures year-round pops of color with its regular spring and fall plantings in the 15 garden beds. Due to the commitment and dedication of the Washington Square Gardening Committee, Washington Square received accreditation as a Level 1 International Arboretum in 2021. This new partnership between Independence Historic Trust and SHCA is simply another logical step towards keeping this green gem alive and thriving.

Trust and INHP Partnership

The Independence Historical Trust (formerly known as the Friends of Independence National Historical Park) has been a philanthropic partner to INHP since 1972, when then Superintendent

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Cooperation between SHCA and Independence Historical Trust will help get Washington Square projects completed.

INDEPENDENCE HISTORICAL TRUST

Washington Square Guardhouse Restoration

continued from page 5



The Hut in the Park, October 2023

Painting by Michael Neff

Hobie Cawood needed assistance from the public to prepare and enhance the national park in preparation for the Bicentennial. The Trust's agreement with INHP allows the Trust to raise money on behalf of the park and hire contractors to perform work on federal land. As a partner, the Trust invests philanthropic dollars in park programs, conservation efforts, and capital campaigns like the First Bank of the United States Restoration and the soon-to-come creation of the Bicentennial Bell Garden at 3rd and Walnut Streets. The Trust also works with other partners in the historic area to enhance the visitor experience while maintaining a focus on the needs of the residents in the surrounding gateway communities.



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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KEEPING POSTED

BY AL CAVALARI

Washington Square: A History of Honor

Washington Square Park was not always the pristine place curated and patrolled by the National Park Service. Until the 1950s, there were none of the elegant improvements we enjoy today and little to indicate there are many thousands of graves underneath. William Penn established the square in 1704 as a potter's field for unknown or indigent people, black people, victims of plagues, and in the southeast area, Catholics. Beneath the soil in the northwest area rest the largest number of Revolutionary War soldiers anywhere, likely over 2,000. Into the 19th century, enslaved and free Africans gave it the name "little Congo" when during fairs and holidays as many as 1,000 people would gather to dance and sing in their native languages and commune with their relatives buried below.

If you have only ever walked by or through the park without really spending a few hours there in the presence of the monuments and reading the many plaques and wayside exhibits, you owe yourself that experience. Until the 1950s, very few of these amenities existed. Attempts to create a memorial in 1833 and 1915 had both failed.

In 1952, 11 publishing firms that fronted the square took matters into their own hands. They formed the Washington Square Planning Committee to enhance the park and educate the public about its historical significance. The Curtis Publishing Company, which made Norman Rockwell a household name, was among them. They took it upon themselves to build the well-researched colonial perimeter wall, install the accurate street lamp reproductions of Ben Franklin's design, plant untold numbers of trees and flowers, erect a monument to George Washington, and memorialize the sacrifices of our soldiers with a Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the Revolutionary War. The quarter million dollars they raised — \$2.7 million in today's money — came mostly from businesses, but they also welcomed donations from anyone who wanted to help. In 1954 the Athenaeum contributed \$1,000 to the cause, which is \$11,033 in 2023 money.

The archives of the Athenaeum, a subscription library founded in 1815, occupying since 1847 the building to the left of condominium tower you see being built on the park's eastern 6th Street side, still has original records of the Washington Square Planning Committee. My main interest in searching them was to find out more about the process that led to the selection



This postcard shows the monument and tomb as originally dedicated in 1957.



Here we see the tomb with posts and chain, added a few years later. The eternal flame we have today was installed still later, in time for the 1976 bicentennial.

of the specific flags you see displayed at the tomb. The governors of the 13 original states were each asked to pick a flag representing their state's Revolutionary War experience. In 2013 an NPS ranger wrote a report questioning the accuracy of some of the choices. N.W. Ayer, one of the committee's member firms, whose headquarters was the art deco structure built facing the square on 7th Street side to the west (now condominiums), published a small book in 1957 titled *Washington Square*. It is a general history of the park and explains the reasons each flag was chosen. Email me if you'd like pdf files of both publications.

Individuals could pay to sponsor a flag and pole from one of the 13 states you see at the tomb. I found two noteworthy sponsorships. On July 3, 1957, Charles Woodward of Philadelphia wrote, "Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$300... for the gift of the South Carolina flag and pole... the reason my wife and I wanted to do this is that my wife, and therefore my daughter, are descendants of Christopher Gadsden... He was also a general in The Revolution but was

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Attempts to create a memorial in 1833 and 1915 both failed. In 1952, publishing firms that fronted the square took matters into their own hands.

KEEPING POSTED

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unfortunately captured by the British and spent the war in prison in St. Augustine." Gadsden was the designer of the famous flag depicting a coiled rattlesnake on a yellow background bearing the legend "Don't Tread on Me."

Similarly, on June 24, 1957, Alan Lee, President of the Western Saving Fund Society located in Philadelphia, included a letter explaining why he was sponsoring the flag of Virginia: "It is a privilege to do this because, as far as I know, my most distinguished Revolutionary forbears were Virginians. Richard Henry Lee, my great-great-grandfather, was a signer of The Declaration of Independence... It is my understanding also that there were several members of the Lee family with Washington at Valley Forge." Those \$300 donations were worth \$3,226 in today's inflation-adjusted dollars.

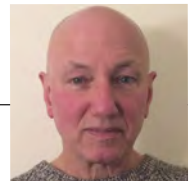
In 1956 an archeological dig was conducted to select a soldier to

reinter in the Tomb that was being created. After several test pits, the search was narrowed down to a mass grave in the northwest area. Multiple sets of remains were examined. The one with a "plow wound" to the skull was presumed to be that of a soldier. Apparently a bullet grazed but did not penetrate his skull. He was not in uniform, which is thought to mean that they were in too short supply to bury with him.

The first postcard shows the monument and tomb as originally dedicated in 1957. The posts and chains seen in the second card were added a few years later. The eternal flame you will see there today was added for the 1976 bicentennial. There was a plan to install it 12 feet in the air on a pole. The thinking was that the elegant ground installation we have now would be a danger to kids and animals. Playground equipment was also added in the southwest corner but removed within a couple years.

The officers and crew of the aircraft carrier U.S.S. John F. Kennedy gave a notable tribute to our nation, the people, and the memories associated with Washington Square. A plaque at the flagpole near the fountain reads "Every morning and evening from November 1993 to September 1995 an honor guard from the Kennedy raised and lowered the American Flag in Washington Square in honor of the thousands of American War heroes buried here." Sailors honoring soldiers. The Kennedy was decommissioned in 2007. Plans to donate her to become a ship museum failed to find any takers. In 2021 she was sold for one cent to a ship breaking company and is once again berthed in Philadelphia where she awaits her doom.

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



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COMMUNITY PARTNERS

BY MARK ATWOOD

Getting to Know Old Pine Community Center

"I know Old Pine Community Center, but I don't *know* it." I hear this a lot.

Some have walked past our building many times, yet have never been inside. Some have seen people playing basketball in the gym, but didn't know how to participate. Others attended an event here many years ago, and never returned.

For those of you who know us, but don't *know* us, I'd like to tell you about who we are, what we do, why it's important, and how you can be a part of all of it.

We've been at the corner of 4th and Lombard since 1977. *The very first Star Wars film was #1 at the box office the same month we opened our doors.* Our mission is to enrich the lives of our neighbors through programs and services focused on addressing food insecurity, supporting children and families, and building community engagement.

Considering the generosity of allowing us to share our story in this issue of the *Reporter*, I want to mention that we've also had a true partnership with our neighbors in Society Hill since inception — we've received generous SHCA grants and volunteer support, and in turn provided space for meetings and events. We've worked together to make this building a real community center.

What do we do?

We help feed a lot of people.

Hundreds and hundreds every week, in fact, with healthy groceries and fresh meals — serving some of our most vulnerable neighbors including immigrants, children, seniors, and people experiencing homelessness.

We provide a safe, supportive space for children. Our afterschool and summer camp programs welcome dozens of local families each year, working closely with McCall, Meredith, and Nebinger schools as well as St. Peter's School and others throughout the city.

We bring our neighbors together.

Seven days a week, we provide an affordable and accessible place for



neighborhood groups, private party rentals, sports leagues, and educational and cultural events.

Our work is as diverse as the needs of our city. While our specific programs and services have changed over the past 46 years, the goal has remained the same: to address unmet or undermet needs in a responsive way, informed by our community, and hopefully engaging our neighbors — *like you!* — in this work.

Why is it important?

In addition to the devastating loss of life and physical health challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, many social, emotional, and economic issues also intensified. Food insecurity has grown; more than 10 percent of Philadelphians struggle with food access, and that number is 50 percent higher among children. Isolation and missed social connections have caused increases in depression, anxiety, and loneliness. These issues have affected children dramatically.

That's why our work makes such a difference. While these problems are growing, so are we and so is our impact:

- We prepared 4,500 meals last year and are on pace to exceed 10,000 in 2023!
- Our grocery program expanded from a weekly average of 60 families in 2022, tripling in size to 170-180 this year!
- We welcomed 18 new children just this school year! Strong afterschool

programs are connected to positive outcomes, including higher grades, school attendance, and graduation rates.

- Events like our Jingle Jawn and Free From Fest markets, Storytime on Wednesday mornings, Cheese & Wine at Old Pine summer happy hours, and many others have been attended by hundreds of guests!

How can you help?

As an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, we rely exclusively on the time, talent, and treasure of our community and your generosity to keep our work going. Please make a financial donation if you're able. Spend a Friday morning in our kitchen preparing meals or Saturday morning packing groceries for your neighbors. The list of options goes on. Hold a food drive with your coworkers, volunteer in our afterschool program, attend an upcoming fundraiser, or rent our space for your next special event. *My one-year-old daughter highly recommends it after her first birthday party this fall!*

Have another idea? Let us know. Don't know what you can do, but want to contribute? We'll figure it out together.

We need your help to continue serving our neighbors in need.

And if you need support, please don't hesitate to reach out either.

I hope next time you say, "I know Old Pine Community Center," you're able to follow that with "and here's what I'm doing to help them help others." Want to learn more? Reach out to me directly anytime at 215-370-3026 or mark@oldpinecommunitycenter.org.

P.S. A great way to support us and our community is to attend our "Jingle Jawn" holiday market on Sunday, December 10!

Mark Atwood is the Executive Director of Old Pine Community Center.



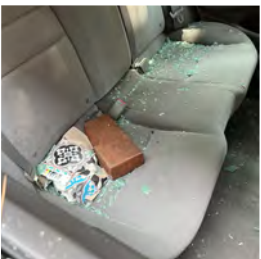
'FIX THE BRIX' - CONCRETE TOO!

BY MARTHA LEVINE

A Subsidy Program Means Cash Back to You!



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



Car window broken by a loose brick.

SHCA's goal is to make our sidewalks safe and attractive. We can't do it alone — we need you, our neighbors, to take action. Your sidewalk is your responsibility and we can help with our generous subsidy of 40 percent up to a maximum of \$500 for members, (\$400 for non-members), for fixing brick or concrete sidewalks.

Sidewalks: Too many sidewalks have tripping hazards. Help do your part to make sure no one falls and gets injured on your property. You are liable for any injuries caused by disrepair on your property.

Tree Pits: There are too many loose bricks lying around tree pits. You can help keep them out of the hands of vandals. Remove loose bricks and store them, or secure them in place. A loose brick in the wrong hands can wind up through a house or car window. It has already happened here in Society Hill, at least six times, as well as other places in Philadelphia. Tree pit work qualifies for the "Fix the Brix" subsidy.

Please follow these easy steps and get a check from SHCA within weeks.

- 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.



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HISTORIC PRESERVATION

BY JONATHAN RUBIN

Why Restoration Matters

We live in a time of inauthenticity. Andy Warhol's concept of the cheap replication of the image has never been more part of our way of life. We buy disposable plastic junk on Amazon and throw it away carelessly, forgetting to consider how a piece of plastic never ever truly disappears. It's impossible to tell the difference between the knock-off and the real thing.

When we look at a building, we don't always notice the subconscious feelings we get from the building, based on its materials. In a neighborhood like Society Hill, if it weren't for the Historical Commission and neighbors willing to invest in restoring their properties, the original grandeur would become covered with cheap, inferior materials.

Vinyl siding is one of the worst products ever created, and yet it has its place, since not everyone has the budget to restore their property beautifully. But when it is used, the dream is lost. I'm no longer back in 1825, but thrust into a post-post-modern future, staring at a piece of drooping faded vinyl that makes me feel something less than wonderful.

It's one thing to wax poetic about aesthetics and design; it's quite another to actually have a carbide pull scraper in your hands, touching a piece of woodwork that was made 150 years ago.

It's a conversation between the Restorer and the Craftsman. I'm always thinking to myself, "How can I bring this back to the original intention?" "Who on earth

put *this* in here?" — materials like the newspaper I found stuffed behind wood trim on the Pennsylvania Bible Society building we are currently restoring.

How much of the old material do I take away, knowing that it's going to cost a lot more, and be physically difficult, to remove the old and get back to the original? It's easy to leave old junk in place and add more on top. Kick the proverbial can down the lane. Leave it for the next guy to deal with. But I feel confident that our clients want us to do the right thing. Still, these micro decisions go through my mind multiple times a day. Do I keep pulling out all this old caulk or is it time to stop?

Contingencies are written into our estimates. We can't know what's behind the exterior woodwork until it's removed. Once we get our hands on the building, and start demolition, then we can know the true scope of work.

I hack away at the decayed and gnarly caulk, pulling it back to reveal a clean edge between the masonry and the woodwork. Then I grab my trusty festool sander with coarse 60-grit sandpaper, grinding down the edge until I'm able to follow up with 120 then 220-grit sandpaper for a tight, smooth grain. If need be, it's time to re-create some of the original woodwork from a hardwood which will hold up against the elements. It's incredible, but some of the old-growth wood that was milled 200 years ago can sit out in the rain and not rot. There just isn't any wood like that left

anywhere in the United States, except maybe in the national parks. Once I feel there's no more scraping or sanding to be done, then we halt the oxidation process with a thick coat of oil primer. Demo phase done. Onto repair we go.

Our goal is to keep digging until we find the bottom, until we actually can see the original work of the craftsman who built magnificent houses for Philadelphia's finest citizens. Pulling out inauthentic materials just feels good. I imagine the wood thanking me for freeing it from the messy work laid upon it.

Restoration matters, because how we feel matters. The materials we buy and the environmental impact caused by the fabrication of these material matters. In *The Architecture of Happiness*, Alain de Botton talks about these very ideas, that natural decay of quality materials is not only inevitable, but can be beautiful. There is nothing beautiful about aging vinyl or rotting particle board. It looks sad and decrepit.

I'm grateful for Society Hill, its stately beauty, and its resistance to change. Let's hope it still looks the same 100 years from now!



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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TRIBUTE TO MATT DEJULIO

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Matt DeJulio's Retirement

Matt DeJulio, administrator for SHCA, has retired as of September 2023. This article serves a tribute to him, as he will be missed by so many who have worked with him over the last 22 years. Matt has been the backbone and the glue of our organization, keeping us on track. His institutional knowledge has been a crucial asset for consistency.

graduate school at the University of Pennsylvania and has been here ever since. Matt settled in Society Hill for its quiet, historic nature.

I have worked closely with Matt over the years, and he has been very helpful and supportive. His oversight has resulted in our membership more than doubling, from 400 to nearly 1,200 members. In 1994, through Chilton Publishing Company, he arranged the publication of the first "Guide to Historic Society Hill." His monitoring of membership has been impeccable. He has worked closely with me on the annual Society Hill Open House Tours for the last 20 years, keeping track of ticket purchases and staffing the table at the event. He helped organize our social events as well as other fundraisers, including processing ticket sales and welcoming guests for many bi-annual Washington Square Affairs which raised substantial funds for the park.

Most of all, not only has Matt been an integral part of SHCA, he is a kind, empathetic person and I consider him a friend. We will miss him.

continued on page 13



Matt recently married his longtime friend Patricia Numerously, in 2021.

Before becoming our administrator, Matt worked in the corporate world at Chilton Publishing Company as marketing director for several business magazines. Then he worked as a freelance publishing consultant. Originally from Mount Vernon, New York, he moved to Philadelphia in 1972 to attend



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TRIBUTE TO MATT DEJULIO

Thanks, Matt!

Words of Appreciation from Colleagues

“Having served as President of SHCA twice in the last 14 years, I can personally attest to Matt DeJulio’s tremendous dedication to our neighborhood, his extraordinary knowledge of our membership and history, and his invaluable work supporting the SHCA mission. Everybody knew Matt and everybody could depend on his assistance in whatever matter concerned them. I will truly miss Matt’s steady, dependable presence and his unfaltering support of Society Hill. I wish him the very best in a well-deserved retirement.”

— **Rosanne Loesch, former SHCA President**

“Matt De Julio was a wonderful asset to SHCA. He was always available, extremely knowledgeable about issues regarding SHCA. He was quick to investigate background on past dealings and present answers on past situations. I worked with Matt over many years and every occasion was positive. I will miss Matt’s guidance and wish him happiness and good health in his retirement.”

— **Sissie Lipton, SHCA Board Member**

“Certainly Matt was not just our Administrator but our SHCA historian. Presidents came and went, but Matt was our mainstay throughout, managing our membership rolls, compiling and managing our weekly e-blasts, communicating with our board, supporting our social events, especially with his beautiful calligraphy on nametags... and much more. Hats off to Matt, enjoy your well-deserved retirement!”

— **Mary Purcell, SHCA Board Member**

“Matt DeJulio has been an exceptional asset to the neighborhood and to SHCA. For at least the past 15 years, we have relied on Matt to get us through the myriad of details essential to producing the Society Hill Open House and Garden tours. Without Matt’s constant attention to updating and maintaining correspondence resources consisting of hundreds of volunteers and tour participants, tireless work on communication and marketing, and his adept management of ticket sales, we never could have gotten the job done. The success of the Open House and Garden tours has been in no small way thanks to Matt’s behind-the-scenes work. A steadfast and collaborative team member with great skills and a calming demeanor, Matt will truly be missed as he steps down from his post!”

— **Linda Skale, Co-chair, Society Hill Open House and Garden Tour**

“I met Matt probably 20 years ago, as I would often see him in Washington Square. I most remember his friendly nature and welcoming smile. About 13 years ago I expressed my interest in delivering the *Society Hill Reporter*, and Matt helped to make this happen. Since Matt also knew that I was an accountant, he informed me that there was an upcoming opportunity to do accounting for SHCA. He provided me with contact information for the people involved in hiring, and the rest is history! Since then, I have worked closely with Matt each month. From the start, it was apparent to me that Matt was the glue and the heart of the organization. He had great rapport with both board members and general members, as both groups reached out to Matt with various questions and requests for support in getting things accomplished. His dedication and work ethic is known by all who had the privilege to meet him and work with him. His presence will surely be missed in the Society Hill neighborhood.

— **Greg DiTeodoro, SHCA Accountant**

There are no words for how much I will miss working with Matt DeJulio to produce the *Society Hill Reporter*. Twenty-two years of a bi-monthly newsletter being delivered on time, every issue, is a miracle. Deadlines for advertisers, columnists, and proofreading were forever in flux, but the day that the printed *Reporter* hit the streets was written in stone and was never missed. Matt DeJulio was the one who made sure that it happened!

— **Judy Lamirand, Reporter Editor and Designer**



Linda Skale and Matt DeJulio working and welcoming guests to the Society Hill Open House and Garden Tour.

WELCOME GIFT BAGS

PHOTOS BY MARTHA LEVINE

Welcome, New Neighbors!

Many houses and condominiums have been purchased in 2023. As I meet new owners, while presenting them with a Welcome Gift Bag, they tell me how happy they are to be living in this wonderful neighborhood. When I ask them why they chose Society Hill, as opposed to other neighborhoods, they say they chose it for its history, beauty and sense of community. As I like to say, Society Hill is like a village within a large city.

Each year, SHCA presents 45-50 gift bags to new first-time owners, and this year is no different. If you are new, or know someone who is new, please reach out to us for an appointment to have a Welcome Gift Bag presented to you. It takes about 35 minutes at one's home.

To schedule an appointment, contact me at marthalev6@gmail.com or 215-629-0727.



Abel and Maria with daughter



Mike and Irene



Mike and Jenny



Dina and Edi

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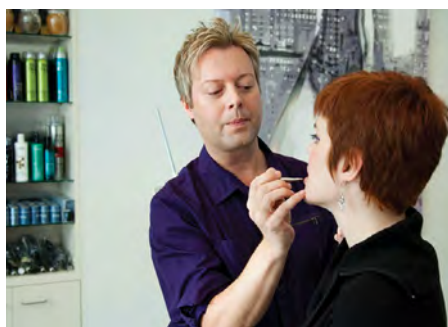
WELCOME GIFT BAGS

Thank You, Donors!

We welcome new donors to the Welcome Gift Bags program.



1812 Productions, Philadelphia's all-comedy theater company. Come and have a good laugh. As they say, "We take our mission seriously." Performances at Plays and Players, 1714 Delancey Street. www.1812productions.org.



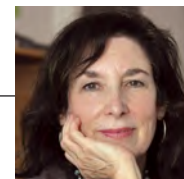
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Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble, the oldest continuously performing chamber ensemble in the Delaware Valley, performs right here in Society Hill at Old Pine Church, 412 Pine Street in October, February and May. www.PCEconcerts.org



High Street Is Back — in a larger, more ambitious setting, and six blocks from where it began. The restaurant has taken the corner space at the Franklin Residences at 9th and Chestnut Streets with new features, including a glassed-in pastry shop, a 14-seat bar, and a private dining room.



Martha Levine is an SHCA board member.

Please help us thank our generous donors by patronizing their businesses. Without them, we could not have the Welcome Gift Bag program.

Restaurants

- Bistro Romano**, 120 Lombard Street
- Bridget Foy's**, 200 South Street
- Cavanaugh's Headhouse**, 421 S. 2nd Street
- Cry Baby Pasta**, 627 S. 3rd Street
- Fitz on 4th** (vegan), 743 S. 4th Street
- Fork Restaurant**, 306 Market Street
- FRIEDA** (café), 320 Walnut Street
- Gnocchi** (Italian), 613 E. Passyunk Avenue
- High Street Philly**, 101 S. 9th 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

- 1812 Productions** (all comedy), 1714 Delancey
- Adornamenti** (jewelry), 1006 Pine Street
- BFit4Life**, 400 Walnut Street
- Ghost Tours of Philadelphia**, 215-413-1997, ghosttour@ghosttours.com
- Head House Books**, 619 S. 2nd Street
- Jade Fashion Boutique** (fashion, jewelry, accessories), 250 South Street
- Judy Moon Massage**, 829 Spruce Street, Suite 300
- Lee's Cleaners**, 241 S. 6th Street
- Liberty Tree & Landscape Management**, 215-725-3637
- MASS F.I.T.** (fitness), 401 S. 2nd Street, lower level
- Museum of the American Revolution**, 101 S. 3rd Street
- Naked Chocolate**, www.nkdchocolate.com
- National Liberty Museum**, 321 Chestnut Street
- Oggi Salon & Spa**, 1700 Locust Street
- Paper on Pine** (stationery), 1310 Sansom Street
- Phila. Chamber Ensemble** (at Old Pine Church), www.pceconcerts.org
- 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 Treatory** (culinary & lifestyle boutique), 306 South Street
- Show of Hands** (craft gallery), 1006 Pine Street

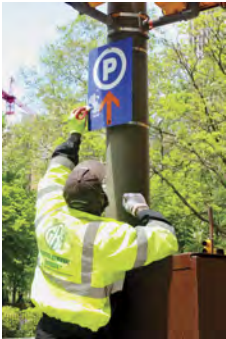
OUT AND ABOUT

Keeping the Character...

The Society Hill Civic Association was established in 1965. From the start, there were issues that threatened Society Hill, and

SHCA was there to advocate for the neighborhood. For nearly 60 years, through good times and bad, SHCA has responded to challenges facing our community with a commitment to enhance the quality of life enjoyed by those who live and work here. Today, the organization represents over 5,000 families, individuals and businesses.

See for yourself how your member dues help to enhance our lives. Remember that we're all in this together, and we need your support to continue keeping our neighborhood safe and clean through this trying period. Please go to Page 25 to find out how to become a member or renew your current membership.



SHCA pays for immediate removal of graffiti on our public spaces.



SHCA general membership meetings provide information about neighborhood issues and foster community spirit.



SHCA provides funds and volunteers to help keep Washington Square beautiful for visitors and residents alike.



Each year, SHCA presents Welcome Gift Bags to 45 to 50 new first-time Society Hill owners. Each bag contains a bottle of wine, coffee, chocolates, and gift cards to restaurants, retail, services, museums and entertainment. What a great welcome to Society Hill!



500 Franklin Lights were replaced in 2007, funded with \$600,000 from a SHCA campaign. This project insured a brighter and safer neighborhood.



Our popular and helpful List of Contractors contains 11 pages of contractors under all categories, such as general contractors, handymen, electricians, plumbers, window washers, HVAC and more. You must be a current SHCA member to receive one.

OUT AND ABOUT

Gearing Up for the 2024 Membership Drive

How SHCA Services Enhance Our Lives



Post-Covid, the Gardens of Society Hill Tour was sponsored by SHCA in spring of 2023. This popular fundraiser shows visitors, who come from far and wide, the special gardens we create and tend.



On Spring and Fall Clean Up Days, volunteers clear leaves with the help of city trucks. Shredding and electronics recycling services are also provided.



SHCA pays the Center City District to sweep our sidewalk debris on Mondays and Fridays.



The "Fix the Brix" program offers homeowners a subsidy for repair of uneven brick and concrete sidewalks that has made our community safer and more attractive.



SHCA offers a \$150 subsidy to residents who plant new trees in our neighborhood, with the help of Tree Tenders. We also offer a subsidy for tree pruning, as well as dead tree removal.



SHCA oversees over 40 parking spaces on Front Street below South, for neighbors to lease on a monthly basis and for guests and visitors to use on a short-term basis. Using the lot generates income for SHCA.



Over 3,800 households are informed of important issues through a copy of the national-award-winning *Society Hill Reporter*. Our email blast, *Spotlight*, keeps us up to date on a weekly basis.



SHCA advocates for the preservation and restoration of its historic buildings and keeps tabs on current issues.



In 2022 SHCA distributed \$72,000 in grants to organizations that serve our neighborhood. The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society was one of 14 grant recipients.

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URBAN EDEN

BY MARY STURDIVANT

Holiday Wreaths

From my personal favorite holiday, Thanksgiving, to Three Kings on the twelfth night of Christmas, a lot of us are on a mission to decorate for the seasonal celebrations. Cull the corn, bales of hay, and pumpkins from the Halloween leftovers, because they can supply the basics for Thanksgiving decorations.

Expressing gratitude for a bountiful harvest we probably didn't have to reap ourselves, we put up fall wreaths on our doors. To fellow Society Hill neighbors, I urge caution. Conspicuous consumption in outdoor embellishments — in other words, yielding to the primitive passion for having the biggest or best on the block — may invite the mischievous, larcenous, or just inebriated to misappropriate your display. Resist the urge to put up prestigious and pricey Hammacher Schlemmer wreaths, swags, and garlands.

I recommend natural wreaths with little to no monetary value. Pinecones, apples, dried orange slices, and pretty wheat spikelets all make attractive wreaths. What could be more 18th century than a pineapple? Even a few dried ears of corn tied with a colorful ribbon say, "We have more than enough to spare."

While most of these Urban Eden columns have addressed the decorative and aesthetic aspects of gardening, Thanksgiving celebrates our successful agricultural origins. So I hope some preserved fruit or vegetable products from your garden or the Sunday Head House Farmers' Market make it to your table. I love Thanksgiving because it is all about family, friends, and food. It is American. We all get to celebrate it together. Once the dishes are put away, that other very American life force — consumerism — kicks into overdrive with Black Friday.

Following Black Friday, a virtual plethora of seasonal celebrations, both religious and secular, pop up, particularly in our commonwealth, which from the beginning has welcomed those of all faiths. But despite our differences in faith, or lack

thereof, everyone will welcome some nice fresh greenery to refresh the air in winter. When my parents retired, they took a wreath making course at Linvilla Orchards. Each year I hang their beautiful pinecone wreath with the plaid ribbon on my door — simple and sentimental.

The sticker shock of a real Christmas tree dampened my enthusiasm for the practice. City fire code prohibits "fresh cut" trees in properties of three units or more, and will only allow trees in a root ball. Highrises in our neighborhood may have even more strict prohibitions, limiting you to artificial trees and wreaths. But there are so many flowering flora options for indoor winter decor. Poinsettia, introduced to the U.S. by our own Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, screams Christmas. Paperwhite bulbs just need a shallow container, some pebbles, and water to provide blooms and wonderful fragrance. A friend usually sends an amaryllis, which dramatically blooms with zero attention.

My so-called Christmas cactus usually blooms by Thanksgiving in its window with southern exposure. Outside, the winter rose or hellebores can be seen by mid-January at the latest.

Cyclamen can brighten the gloomiest winter day in colors that range from white to all the warm shades of red, pink, orange, and yellow. Jasmine!

Those white-flowered sturdy vines seem willing to try to master any topiary pose.

I'll be walking around the neighborhood to see what creative ideas you have brought to life. Thank you in advance for all that you do. Enjoy the winter holidays as we look forward to the next growing season.



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



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

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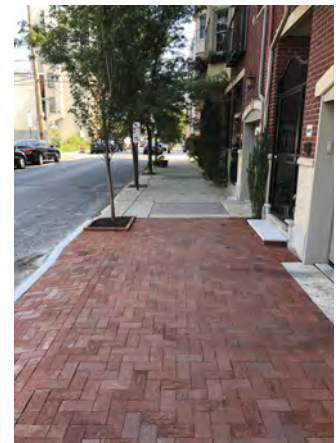
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Fix Your Bricks

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

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ON OUR SHELF

BY IZZY HALLORAN

Head House Books Holiday Picks

Books are timeless gifts that contain worlds within them. They have the power to encapsulate an incredible range of experiences and emotions, capturing the essence of what it is to be alive. Looking for the perfect gift for someone you love? Take a look at Head House Books' Holiday Picks!

Poetry

Couplets by Maggie Millner, \$25

Couplets is a gripping love story told through rhyming lines of two. In a hundred pages, Millner explores topics of love, loss, infatuation, sexuality, and identity. In *Couplets*, a woman lives an ordinary life with her long-term boyfriend in Brooklyn. One night, a friend introduces her to a woman to whom she feels inexplicably drawn. Finding herself helplessly infatuated with this woman, she decides to leave the comfortable life she's built with her partner to follow her newfound desires. What ensues is a tale of self-discovery, as she messily attempts to understand herself through others.

Fiction

The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store by James McBride, \$28

The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride is a crime mystery set in deeply segregated 1930s America, the divisions of which are revealed through the secrets and tensions of the residents of Chicken Hill, a desperately poor and marginalized section of Pottstown, Pennsylvania. This once-thriving neighborhood has been left behind by those with ambition and dreams of a better life. Now, African Americans and immigrant Jews live side by side in makeshift housing, keenly aware that success and forward movement is a rigged system from which they are unlikely to prosper by conventional strategies. They live and conduct business by a different set of rules in order to survive in a white Christian town proudly showcasing its Revolutionary War heritage. James McBride's sharply drawn characters, while superficially appearing disabled by economic and social stratification, are ultimately triumphant. James McBride, a National Book Award winner for *The Good Lord Bird*, *The Color of Water*, and *Deacon King Kong*, has again written a book whose characters' growth is fueled by community, facing daunting circumstances with courage, grit, compassion, and one other.

Nonfiction/Essay

Winter Solstice by Nina MacLaughlin, \$14.95

Winter Solstice is an 80-page essay by Nina MacLaughlin that captures the essence of winter-time. MacLaughlin uses beautiful, lyrical language to describe the way the world changes when it gets cold outside. *Winter Solstice* perfectly encapsulates the complexity of the season: "In winter: the flash of wet light reflected in another's eye, close to yours, half closed in the dim. That eye shining in the dark, that blurred wet glaze and shine, everything else in shadow, form and heat, that lights for a flash as lid closes or head shifts, that is a mysterious and singular light." MacLaughlin's previous essay, *Summer Solstice*, is an excellent summer read.

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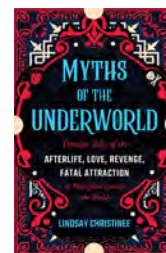
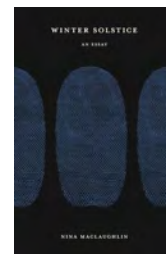
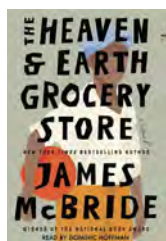
My Mother's War by Michael Fryd, \$14.99

My Mother's War by Michael Fryd tells the incredible story of the author's mother, Evelyn Fryd, who outsmarted the Nazis to save her family from the Holocaust when Nazi Germany invaded Poland. Fleeing their house in Poland, Michael and his family hid in a cellar for three years, while Michael's mother schemed creative ways to provide for them. This thought-provoking tale de-centers the perpetrators, instead highlighting the strength and courage of Evelyn Fryd and other survivors like her.

Myths of the Underworld by Lindsay Christinee, \$15.95

Myths of the Underworld is a vibrant retelling of forbidden love, acts of vengeance, and naive attractions. Modernized for today's reader, these ten diverse stories span time and space. Although the cultures and traditions discussed vary, the collection reveals how the struggle to understand and accept death is quintessentially human. If you attended the September General Membership Meeting, you heard Lindsay Christinee read the beginning of one of her myths. Want to hear more? Pre-order the book now or get it in-store upon its release on December 12th!

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





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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY CAROL HANLON

2024 Membership Drive Commences

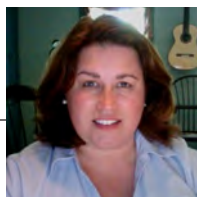
The 2024 SHCA membership drive has begun! We invite you to join with us as we continue our work **Keeping the Character** of our Society Hill neighborhood. Since 1965, neighbors have come together to maintain not only the physical characteristics but also the connection that we have with each other as community members. Join us again as we continue to provide services which enhance the quality of life in Society Hill.

- **Preserving our Historic Charm:** 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 our Members:** We keep you informed with a weekly email newsletter, bimonthly *Reporter*, and quarterly community meetings with relevant speakers. We welcome new neighbors with gift bags that include information and gift cards from area businesses.
- **Beautifying our Neighborhood:** Membership dollars let us subsidize members for planting or pruning trees and levelling their sidewalks. SHCA funds also support the efforts of volunteers who maintain gardens in Washington Square Park.
- **Keeping Us Safe:** We work with officers of the 6th District Police Department on problems relating to traffic, noise, and crime. Our network of volunteer Block Coordinators also provide important information throughout Society Hill quickly and efficiently.
- **Keeping Us Clean:** Membership dollars pay for regular sidewalk cleaning by the Center City District, weekly removal of graffiti, and spring and fall neighborhood clean-up efforts.

Please visit our website at societyhillcivic.org to join us in this effort. While you are online, sign up for the Spotlight, our weekly email newsletter, so you can stay informed of important events and initiatives in Society Hill. Payment by check can be made by completing the form on the right and returning both by mail.

Membership renewals received before December 31 will enter you in a drawing for a gift certificate to a local restaurant. As always, please email us at info@societyhill.org with questions or comments.

Let's work together **Keeping the Character** of our beautiful Society Hill!



Carol Hanlon is a SHCA board member who works on a variety of initiatives to support our schools, gardens and historic sites in and near Society Hill.



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 \$ _____ Walkways
 \$ _____ Historic Lukens Clock at Headhouse \$ _____ Sidewalk Cleaning
 \$ _____ Beautification of Washington Square \$ _____ McCall School
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Mail this form and your check(s) to:
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NOTE CARDS

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Beautiful Society Hill Note Cards for Sale

Our first printing of the Society Hill note cards was very well received with almost all cards sold within weeks. The holidays are coming and these cards are a great idea for holiday gifts. A second edition of the cards has been ordered.

The note cards are produced by a fine arts printing studio, using state-of-the-art equipment and paper stock of the highest quality. The results are impressive. Several neighbors liked their note cards so much that they suggested enlarging a few of the photos for framing. This can be done as a special order — cost to be determined depending on size. For any questions about the cards or enlarged prints, contact me at marthalev6@gmail.com.

To order cards: To view all 12 cards in detail and place an order, please go online to our website: www.societyhillcivic.org. Look on the home page for note cards. The price is \$22 per box. Sorry, there is a limit of two boxes of cards per household. All cards will be hand-delivered to you.



Note card photos by Martha Levine



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NIFTY NEIGHBORS IN MY OWN BACKYARD

BY JANE BIBERMAN

Enzo, aka “Mayor Mutter”

Although Linda Skale has lived in Society Hill for more than 40 years and has been a member of SHCA since 1983, she is not as well known as her dog, Enzo. A handsome Shih Tzu mix, he will be featured in the Morris Animal Refuge’s 2024 calendar. “Enzo is my second rescue dog,” says Linda. My first dog, from Morris, was Mante (short for Spumante), a cockapoo.” Enzo was adopted from Street Tails Animal Rescue, where he was known as “Mayor Mutter.” Mixed with a little Maltese, and at a healthy 25 pounds plus, Enzo is “off the charts” for his two breeds! “He is still quite playful and energetic at almost ten years old now, very protective of me, and always by my side — the best companion!” says Linda.

“I am a supporter of animal protection organizations,” she adds proudly. “Entering the Morris Calendar contest was just one enjoyable way of being involved with raising money for a much-valued cause.”



Linda Skale and Enzo. One of our very own neighborhood dogs, Enzo has won a spot on the Morris Animal Refuge Calendar. Thank you to everyone who voted for him and made a donation to Morris.

Linda is committed to the neighborhood and involved in several activities: she is an election board worker, a block coordinator, and also a longtime co-chair of the Society Hill House and Garden Tours.

You can find details about Morris and how the calendar fundraiser worked, as well as pictures of the 12 winners with the number of votes each received, at www.gogophoto-contest.com/morrisanimalrefuge. Each vote represents \$1 contributed to Morris. It was up to entrants’ owners to encourage votes for their pet in the form of contributions from family and friends. There were 54 total entrants in this contest and together almost \$27,000 was raised for Morris, the oldest animal shelter in the United States, established in 1874.

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





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\$252,445,975

TOTAL HOMES SOLD:
378

SOLD PRICE VS LIST PRICE AVERAGE:
96.9 %



MCCALL SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

BY DANIELLE SANDSMARK

Digital Literacy

In our increasingly digital world, McCall students participate in a weekly class called "Digital Literacy and Technology" taught by Ms. Zara Pinto. Ms. Pinto notes, "Tech is all around us, and I want my students to be digitally literate, so that they are safe, respectful, and responsible when using technology."

While all district students receive a Google Chromebook at the start of kindergarten to support and supplement classroom instruction, the computer lab at McCall is outfitted with iMac desktops, where students learn fundamentals of computer science and coding. The curriculum includes instruction on digital citizenship, internet safety, and ethics and laws affecting computing. Children learn how to use digital media responsibly as they navigate; how to evaluate websites, news sites, and media for legitimacy; as well as how to organize and cite research resources. Students use Google applications to learn word processing, prepare presentations, organize spreadsheets, and collaborate and communicate effectively

using digital resources. Students also learn to use Adobe applications, complete typing lessons, and perform a variety of coding projects, even in kindergarten.

Over the next year, the McCall computer lab is looking to begin replacing the iMacs in the computer lab. Ms. Pinto also has a wish list of items that could be put to use in her technology classroom (<https://amzn.to/3CpbWz>).



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

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KIDS KORNER

BY JAIME AND MIKE FOX

Escape!



Would you Mind releasing this inmate on good behavior? Didn't think so. He's back in.

MindEscape Room

521 S. 4th Street, Philadelphia
215-454-6159, Mindescaperoom.com

For Owen's 11th birthday we took him and four friends to MindEscape, which offers three escape rooms to choose from. We chose to go with the "Escape from Thai Prison" room. As a parent, or a person who knows a parent, you may be questioning this decision, which is perfectly understandable. We still are. But we felt it was a step up from the "Jack the Ripper" room, which Owen was angling for. The "Escape from Thai Prison" room was as advertised and did not disappoint. Before entering the room, we were offered orange or black pinstriped jumpsuits. After dressing (and delousing), we were handcuffed and led to prison cells. We were given one hour to escape. Working together, we made every effort to break out just to fall short of our goal. Thankfully, the guards released us temporarily on good behavior, which allowed us to continue the birthday celebration at Little Italy Pizza (4th and Queen). But now we are back in and writing this column from solitary confinement. Please send help!

Longwood Gardens

1001 Longwood Road, Kennett Square
610-388-1000, longwoodgardens.org

On a warm day in August, we drove to Longwood Gardens. To us, even when hitting no traffic, the ride to the Gardens feels as long as a drive to California. In the past, we endured the trek mostly because the holiday displays are so beautiful. This was our first time going during the summer season. Though we were nervous about missing the holiday displays, we found Longwood enjoyable all year round, and well worth the effort getting there. When we weren't dodging prison escapees, we made our way to the Children's Corner. Located just past the fountains, it contains a beautiful water feature, meandering walkways, and lots of photo ops. We then headed to the Conservatory, which is our favorite place in the Gardens, and where we always spend the majority of our time. Wandering through from the "tree house" to the orchids appealed to four of our five senses; unfortunately, we were not permitted to taste the plants. On our way out, we couldn't help but purchase three plants for the children to remember the trip by — and perhaps for a snack on the ride home.



Kids Korner visits Longwood Garden's honeybee-themed Children's Corner. These drones were captured — taking an unauthorized break on their Queen's throne.



Longwood Gardens is the site of a succulent sensory experience.

Koto Sushi

719 Sansom Street, First Floor, Philadelphia
267-239-2250, kotosushipa.com

Those who have read this column before will know the Fox children love sushi, having visited and loved Morimoto for Jordan's birthday dinner several months ago. (Extra credit to those that can remember what Jaime was wearing.) Looking for a more budget friendly option, we decided to try Koto Sushi's happy hour. With discounted rolls for all of us and discounted drinks for the parents, we tried just about everything on the happy hour menu. The restaurant was mostly empty, which allowed the kids to wander to the counter to watch the sushi chefs work their magic while the parents sat back and enjoyed their cocktails. Service was efficient and friendly. Happy hour is daily from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

**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.

CLEAN-UP DAY

BY AL MEINSTER

Save the Dates, Show Your Pride

*Paper Shredding,
E-waste Recycling,
Street and Side-
walk Sweeping*



SHCA's traditional street and sidewalk sweeping Clean-up Day will be held on December 2 this year. The paper shredding and e-waste collection will be held two weeks earlier, on November 18.

**Society Hill Shredding and E-cycling
Saturday, November 18, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**
SHCA parking lot at Front Street, between Lombard and South Streets.

Bring all of your old documents, folders, and correspondence including personal and confidential information you would like to dispose of in a responsible and sustainable way while protecting yourself from identity theft. Gain a greener sense of security and organization! E-cycle your used electronics instead of placing them in a landfill. Bring anything with a plug except a television or monitor. No stoves or refrigerators, either.

Thanks to State Representative Mary Isaacson, Councilmember Mark Squilla, and Congressman Brendan Boyle for sponsoring this event. For further information, please contact Rep. Isaacson's District Office at 215-503-3245.

**Clean Up Day
Saturday, December 2**

Clean-up Day allows us to make our love and pride for Society Hill evident by clearing our sidewalks, curbsides, and sewer inlets.

During the week of November 27 leading up to Clean-up Day, signs will be posted requesting cars be moved to the opposite side of the street by 5 p.m. on Friday, December 1, and returned to the usual side after 3 p.m. on December 2.

Starting at 8 a.m. the morning of Clean-up Day, leaf bags along with brooms and rakes will be available in Delancey (a.k.a Three Bears) Park. Bagged leaves and street litter, but no household trash, should be left by noon at intersections on Locust, Spruce, Pine, or Lombard Streets where they cross the numbered streets.

Questions should be directed to Al Meinster, Clean-up Day co-chairperson, at k3eax@yahoo.com.

We look forward to seeing you at both events!

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