

SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

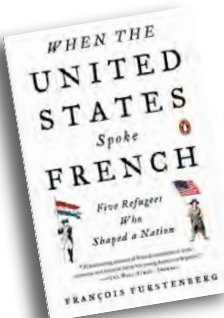
www.societyhillcivic.org

An Evening at the Athenaeum

Parlez-vous Française? Oui or non, this invitation is pour vous!



François Furstenberg,
General Membership
Meeting Speaker



All Society Hill residents are invited to attend a very special General Membership Meeting and lecture at the Athenaeum of Philadelphia on Wednesday, February 21. François Furstenberg, author of the book, *When the United States Spoke French — Five Refugees Who Shaped a Nation*, will share with us his interest in the francophone history of Philadelphia.

In the 1790s, amidst the electrifying possibilities and terrifying violence of the French Revolution, thousands of French refugees poured into Philadelphia. Among them were five of the country's most distinguished leaders, including the great diplomat Talleyrand. These five men, who had led the French Revolution in its early stages, found refuge in Philadelphia's Society Hill neighborhood. Their stories offer an extraordinary new way of understanding the challenges faced by the United States in this pivotal moment in its history — and of seeing connections between Philadelphia, France, the Caribbean, and North America's continental interior. Furstenberg will describe a Philadelphia, and a Society Hill, you never imagined existed.

François Furstenberg grew up and was educated in the U.S. before moving to Montreal to begin

his career as a professor of U.S. history at the Université de Montréal. He moved back to the United States in 2014, and now lives in Baltimore, Maryland, with his partner and two young daughters. He is a professor of history at Johns Hopkins University, and writes about higher education in the U.S., as well as connections between U.S. history and contemporary politics.

Repondez, S'il Vous Plaît (RSVP)

Furstenberg's lecture is open to all and is free, however, the Athenaeum requests that those planning to attend register for the meeting at philaathenaeum.org/event-detail/?event_id=14454. Then come to the Athenaeum, 219 South 6th Street, on Wednesday, February 21 before 6:30 p.m. and enter through the front door on 6th Street. Check in at the front office and head upstairs to the Busch Room on the second floor. An elevator and accessible ramp are available.

Wednesday,
February

21

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Society Hill Civic Association Meeting
Wednesday, February 21, 2024

The Athenaeum of Philadelphia
219 S. 6th Street

- 5:30 p.m. Board Meeting**
Busch Room
- 6:30 p.m. General Membership Meeting**
Busch Room
- Speaker: François Furstenberg**
Professor of History, Johns Hopkins University
- Topic: When the United States Spoke French**
Five Refugees Who Shaped a Nation

Bonne Année!



SHCA wishes you a happy and healthy New Year!

Painting by Michael Neff

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SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

**NUSA
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2020**

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Society Hill Civic Association

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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

Working Collaboratively to Amplify Our Impact

SHCA has had a year full of change and a year full of joining with others. Within our organization, new people have gotten involved, bringing their talents, ideas, and energy to our work. As we moved forward, we have become truly tech savvy and green, putting everything we do in Google drives so our use of paper, postage, and time is greatly lessened. This was made possible by David Haas, a recent addition to our board, who has invaluable expertise in systems and the technology that makes them work. Our “office” (we don’t have one!) is handled remotely, incorporating our new technology into their system. Our membership committee chair, Carol Hanlon, another new board member, is busy organizing the 2024 membership drive, bringing fresh ideas to the effort that will likely bring in new members. In short, we are saving money and getting more done, as we encourage more involvement in SHCA’s work.

Collaborating to connect across our borders, our officers have been meeting regularly with those from neighboring civic associations. SHCA and our closest neighbors, Queen Village and South Street Headhouse, have been diligently pursuing changes on South Street, including restrictions to certain types of businesses and more enforcement by police and Licenses and Inspection. Change is happening there, as the business district transitions to new leadership, with an eye to making South Street a place everyone can enjoy. It will take time, but it will happen.

Within our borders, we are assembling an array of experts on historic preservation and economic

development. This group will create the New Market Headhouse Conservancy and bring more activity and engagement onto the 400 block of South 2nd Street. By working with others, including South Street Headhouse District, we will bring that wonderful market space to life throughout the week, not just on Sundays.

In Washington Square, we continue to work with the Independence Historical Trust to resurrect the 6th Street guardhouse, a structure that was originally a guard box for the Fairmount Park Guards. We expect that our collaboration with the Trust will enable us to take on the larger hardscape projects in the park that need doing.

Raising our sights up beyond our streets, we look forward to a new mayor and a new vision for our city. We are once again very involved with the Crosstown Coalition, a collection of civic associations from across the city. David Haas is our representative to that group and has become their treasurer. Most recently, David and Claudia Carabelli attended a Crosstown meeting where the new mayor met with people, listened to members, and spoke about her goals for the city (see story on p. 11).

We are no longer the Republic of Society Hill, as we were once unfairly dubbed. We are engaged with and welcoming others. Let us continue in this way into the 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**

We are engaged with and collaborating with others. Let us continue in this way into the new year.

Members-Only Benefit: List of Contractors

If you are a current SHCA member, you are eligible to 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 members the list electronically or as a hard copy.

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CLEAN UP DAY

BY AL MEINSTER

Community Clears Streets and Sidewalks

Another Clean Up Day has passed, signaling our sendoff of the summer's spent and fallen leaves. Thanks to community effort, our streets and sidewalks are now reasonably cleared. We raked and bagged. Martha Levine and her cadre of block coordinators positioned signs and distributed important information. The editors of the *Reporter* and *Spotlight* effectively used their publications to promote an awareness of the day. Mark Squilla and his staff were most accommodating in obtaining special consideration of our needs from the Streets Department, and we are grateful for the city workers who helped make it all happen.

Clean Up Day restores the beauty of our very special neighborhood and reflects the pride shared by those of us fortunate enough to call Society Hill our home. It is an imperative undertaking for keeping drains and gutters flowing, and providing safe passage for residents and visitors alike along sidewalks free of slippery leaves. Your participation is critical to our success, and we thank all of you who came out to support this effort.

Can we do even better next year? Most certainly, and I very much welcome your suggestions.

Al Meister is an SHCA board member.



The 500 block of Delancey had a solid turnout, especially now that a number of the block's youngest residents are old enough to take direction and work together!



STEPPING BACK IN TIME

BY MARC S. RASPANTI

Was a Bonaparte Living in Philadelphia?



Portrait of a younger Joseph Bonaparte

Surprisingly, the answer is yes. Joseph Bonaparte, the older brother and a close confidant of Napoleon, lived in and around Philadelphia for more than 20 years. Born in Corsica in 1767, he started his career as a Pisa-trained lawyer in both civil and canon law. Joseph was later appointed as ambassador to Rome, and, over time, his brother presented him with the crowns of Sicily, Naples, and Spain. Later in life, he turned down the Mexican throne while he was in Philadelphia. Considered by most as a very reluctant king but an effective diplomat, Joseph was thoughtful, well educated, handsome, levelheaded, and erudite, but lacked the vigor for conquest emblematic of his brother. Unlike his brother, Joseph was unsuited for rigorous military service, although he did witness combat. Though in many ways the polar opposite of his younger brother, Joseph remained fiercely loyal to Napoleon until the end.

After Waterloo, Joseph and his family were exiled from France in 1815. Joseph first fled to Switzerland and then later settled in the United States, where he flourished.

Joseph Finds Refuge in Philadelphia Society

In 1815, Joseph sought refuge in America. He tried mightily to persuade Napoleon to join him. While Napoleon seriously considered his brother's request, in the end, the self-proclaimed emperor of France had no intention of living under a pseudonym or under false documents. Once Joseph left France, the two brothers never saw each other again.

Joseph slipped out of France with the aid of friends and benefactors in France and the United States. He eluded the British and headed for the east coast of America. After spending some time in New York and Baltimore, he settled in Philadelphia, a city well-known for its sophistication and affection for the French. His first task was to find suitable homes for himself and his family. As a Bonaparte, he demanded both town and country estates. He rented a number of homes during his post-exiled life under the name "Count of Survilliers," presumably to avoid detection. However, he was a well-known and respected figure in early 19th-century Philadelphia society. His homes became the center of activity for many French expatriates, as well as numerous Philadelphia luminaries of the time.

Joseph rented a house in Philadelphia at 260 South 9th Street, which still stands, and the Lansdowne

House in Fairmount Park, originally built by John Penn. Joseph even rented a house for several winters from another famous Frenchman, Stephen Girard. He eventually bought a sprawling estate of over 1,800 acres known as "Point Breeze" in nearby Bordentown, New Jersey. He purchased the property for \$17,500 but made lavish alterations in excess of \$300,000 at the time, exclusive of exquisite furnishings, paintings, and an 8,000-book library, some of which still adorn stately Philadelphia homes. Observers of his massive estate wrote that it was the second-finest house in America, after the White House.

The Gentleman Farmer

Joseph considered himself a gentleman farmer. He imported pheasants, quails, hares, rabbits, and even exotic swans from Europe and kept stables of fine horses. Joseph was by far the richest of all the Bonapartes. In 1820, however, his beautiful Point Breeze estate burned to the ground. The citizens of Bordentown, who admired their French neighbor, turned out in droves to help Joseph save most of his artwork, extensive library, rugs, and other furnishings. Unfortunately, all that remains of the original mansion is the Gardener's House and some of the original stone foundation and steps. The community has now turned the site of his estate into a park. Elaborate plans are being considered to replicate some of the Bonaparte gardens. The Gardener's House is being restored. Joseph built another mansion in a nearby location which was equally grand. That property was passed on to his grandson after his death on July 28, 1844, at the age of 76, after which many of his possessions were sold at public auction. Napoleon had died 23 years earlier at the age of 51.

Joseph loved Philadelphia society and was considered a man of consequence and influence in the city. The Philadelphia *Public Ledger* described him as "a man of superior education...an elegant scholar, and likewise deeply read in human nature." He entertained many European luminaries and local residents at his Bordentown estate, including an extended visit by the Marquis de Lafayette, who was then in his 60s, in 1824.

Some of the opulent treasures from Joseph's Bordentown estate ended up in several palatial Philadelphia homes such as the Physick House located at 321 South 4th Street in Philadelphia.

continued on page 7



Historic marker in front of Joseph Bonaparte's residence at 260 South 9th Street

STEPPING BACK IN TIME

continued from page 6

Several magnificent paintings are on display at the Physick House and a number of local museums. Dr. Physick and Joseph were friends. An alluring sculpture, created by Antonio Canova, of Napoleon and Joseph's younger sister Pauline Bonaparte Borghese adorns the lobby of the Athenaeum Building in Philadelphia to this day. Joseph was a frequent guest at the Athenaeum, where his actual signature can be viewed in an attendance book. A small, but interesting, collection of Napoleon Bonaparte's artifacts can be viewed at the Athenaeum. Joseph was also a member of the nearby Philosophical Society.

Joseph left Philadelphia in June 1832, to tend to political and family issues in Europe, but returned in 1837. For two years, he fought the railways that wished to run tracks through his estate. He won the case with the help of good counsel. In 1847, Joseph's grandson sold his Point Breeze estate to a Philadelphian, who in turn sold it to an Englishman, who razed the second house and rebuilt it in a far less grand style. The property changed hands many times over the years, finally purchased in 1970 by a Catholic seminary. The seminary has graciously donated much of the remaining estate to a land preservation trust.

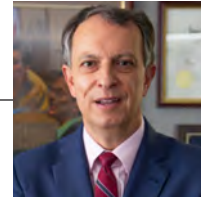
Joseph's final interment is in Les Invalides in Paris, where his remains were laid to rest on June 14, 1862.



King Joseph at Point Breeze, painted in 1832 by the French artist Innocent-Louis Goubaud, during a visit to Bonaparte at his estate in New Jersey



Joseph's signature can be viewed in an attendance book at the Athenaeum, where he was a frequent guest.



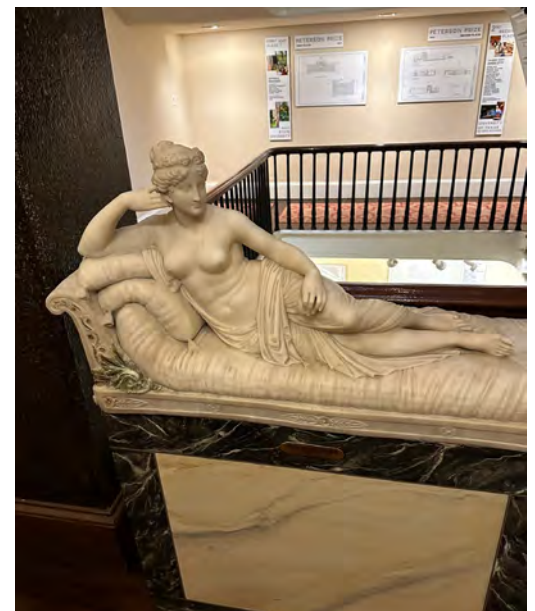
Marc S. Raspanti is an active Center City trial lawyer who resides with his wife in Society Hill. In addition to his passion for the law, he considers himself an amateur historian.



The house Joseph rented in Philadelphia at 260 South 9th Street still stands.



Signage identifies the South 9th Street house.



Sculpture of Joseph's sister Pauline Bonaparte Borghese adorns the lobby at the Athenaeum.

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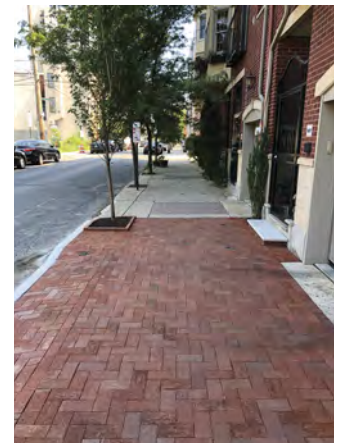
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Brick sidewalks in Society Hill and downtown Philly are being renovated to provide a smooth, safe walking surface for pedestrians. We have experience and have repaired many sidewalks and patios in the city. The upheaval caused by tree roots can often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



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HEADHOUSE SQUARE

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

Headhouse Square Gets A Make-Over

Being surrounded as we are by so many historical sites, it can be easy to overlook their significance as we go about our day-to-day pursuits. One such site, **Headhouse Square**, on 2nd Street between Pine and Lombard, was established in 1745 as New Market, an open-air market where people went to buy food directly from farmers. In fact, George Washington was among those who frequented the site to buy eggs, butter, meat, fish, and vegetables. In 1803, Joseph Wetherill, a wealthy merchant and master builder, loaned the city \$1,000 to build the Head House, a Georgian-style brick firehouse with Federal-style ornamentation. The site now hosts a Sunday morning Framers Market, thereby continuing a modern-day version of its original purpose.

Much like anything that's aged over the years — be it our homes, decor, or hairstyles — Headhouse Square also found itself in need of an update. A joint effort between the community and our city partners has finally made that happen.

If you were distressed to see some of the older **trees** come down recently, stress no more. In conjunction with experienced arborists, it was determined that several of the trees bordering the market area were dead or dying. The good news is that the four trees that were removed have been replaced with seven new ones. Stumps were ground out, and the pits were enlarged to four by five feet. The remaining older trees were pruned. The new trees are Princeton Elms, a fast-growing species (four to six feet per year) resistant to Dutch Elm Disease. The branches are bare now but will look beautiful when they leaf out come spring.

The **Belgian blocks** on both sides along 2nd Street have long made for a challenging walk

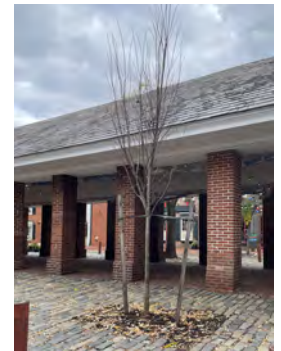
because they were so uneven. Unfortunately, the city doesn't have sufficient funding to pull up and reset the entire area. They will, however, work on leveling out the most problematic spots. Stiletto heels are still contraindicated for traversing the area, but it should be considerably more user-friendly for those of us in sensible shoes.

The **roof** of any structure needs maintenance, and this one has been neglected for a while. As part of the project, damaged shingles will be replaced. Interestingly, the project manager told us that some of the roof damage had been caused by bullet holes over the years — the likely culprits being New Year's Eve revelers shooting guns into the air in celebration. Let's hope that this risky tradition has gone by the wayside.

The **cupola** that tops the Headhouse will also receive a much-needed makeover. Old paint will be scraped off the wooden structure, repairs made to damaged areas, and the entire surface will receive a fresh coat of paint. The copper portion will also get a cleaning.

The **Lukens Clock**, made by Isaiah Lukens, who also built the clock at Independence Hall, hasn't been operational for many years. It was removed and is still in the process of being repaired. We should hopefully see it reinstalled and keeping time once again in the not-too-distant future.

As this little gem gets a much-needed polishing, the hope is that Headhouse Square will evolve into a well-used and lively community space housing not only the Farmer's Market and an occasional craft show, but also a vibrant outdoor dining scene and site of regular social events.



One of seven new trees planted at the Shambles.

The four trees that were removed have been replaced with seven new ones in enlarged tree pits.

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





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What famous Philadelphia Orchestra Maestro is buried at Old Pine?



The Old Pine Conservancy, a non-profit, secular 501 (c)(3) organization, invites you to consider joining us as we seek both to preserve Old Pine Street Church's historic graveyard as well as share the stories of the lives of those buried in this sacred place. Our mission includes the dissemination of research-based information, tours, and special programs.

Do you have an interest in planning for our country's upcoming 250th anniversary? We would love to explore ideas on how to commemorate this occasion.

If you would like more information, please contact Alice Reyes at oldpine1768@gmail.com. Feel free to visit our website oldpineconservancy.org to learn more!



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CROSSTOWN COALITION NEWS

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

Madam Mayor

A Meet and Greet with Cherelle Parker

On November 20, the **Crosstown Coalition** hosted a **Meet and Greet** with then **mayor-elect Cherelle Parker** at the Settlement Music School in Germantown. The event was attended by representatives from community groups from all over the city. David Haas, SHCA board member and treasurer of the Crosstown Coalition, and I participated as representatives from Society Hill.

The first female mayor of Philly, Ms. Parker is nothing if not enthusiastic. Her dynamic personality makes one believe that meaningful change might actually be possible. She began her career as a high school English teacher before moving into the political realm. I've always felt that if you can wrangle a roomful of teenagers into compliance, you can handle just about anything. One priority she stressed was that she would be a mayor for ALL of Philadelphia. She complimented her opponents, both David Oh and those from the Democratic primary, noting that all of them care deeply about the city, and each of them brings something of value to the table. Coming from modest means herself, Ms. Parker embodies what I consider to be a healthy balance: plans to provide people with the assistance they need while simultaneously demanding a reasonable degree of personal accountability.

Our new mayor stressed that she was okay with making mistakes. She'd rather try several things that don't work, if that results in eventually finding something that does. Better that than settle for the status quo. She seemed genuinely open to new ideas... from everyone. Her transition website www.transition2023.org offers an opportunity for any of us to either apply for a job with her administration or to share ideas you have for the city. I think the best leaders are those who realize they don't have all the answers. Remaining open to new ideas is refreshing. Delegating to those with more expertise is another plus.

Questions from the audience hit on expected topics: education, crime, homelessness, and drug addiction.

Education is, not surprisingly, a priority for Ms. Parker. She espoused a strong commitment to quality education for all of our city's children. Not to sound too jaded, I think we can all agree about that. Unfortunately, it all comes down to money. Since schools don't generate income,



**Madam Mayor
Cherelle Parker**

and kids can't vote, funding has always been problematic. Many people have great ideas. Executing them is the challenge. Let's hope our new mayor's determination will be enough to overcome the longstanding inertia.

Homelessness, substance abuse, and mental health are inextricably linked.

David Holloman, Executive Director of the Office of Homeless Services, was at this meeting to discuss the issue. He and his staff are looking at more creative and comprehensive solutions. He discussed a layered system of supports so that those who are struggling can get the meaningful help needed to get back on their feet. He mentioned ideas like using existing empty buildings to house those without shelter — think Hahnemann Hospital or an empty high school. Mr. Holloman also told us that, unlike the homeless population we see on the streets, most shelter beds are filled with families. Many unhoused people on our streets suffer from some degree of mental illness and/or substance abuse diagnoses. Programs will only be effective if they encompass support for all of these issues.

The final speaker was Linda Colwell-Smith from Friends of the Free Library. She shared the good news that 12 of our city libraries have expanded their weekday hours and will once again be open on Saturdays. This is just the beginning of rolling openings, with hours expanded at more libraries every few months. In case you need an eye-popping statistic to remind you how important those library services are, know that for the entire Philadelphia School District, with more than 118,000 students, there are only **four librarians!**

Madam Mayor, we wish you well. Your success will be ALL of Philadelphia's success.

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



**David Holloman,
Executive Director
of the Office of
Homeless Services**



**Linda Colwell-Smith,
Friends of the
Free Library**

KEEPING POSTED

BY AL CAVALARI

The Philadelphia Art Alliance

How are Igor Stravinsky, Gertrude Stein, Martha Graham, Diego Rivera, Andrew Wyeth, Alvin Ailey, Merce Cunningham, and E. E. Cummings connected to the images on page 13? These people all presented their craft at the Philadelphia Art Alliance, which produced this series of postcards. The Alliance was founded in 1915 as war raged in Europe. Founder Christine Wetherill Stevenson, actress, playwright, theater producer and socialite, felt that the U.S. was destined to be the caretaker of art: "American institutions must be proportionally constructive as European war is destructive." She wanted an institution that was multidisciplinary "to promote the arts of music, drama, painting, sculpture, interpretive dancing, interior decorating and other fine arts...for the purpose of studying said arts and for social intercourse." Two years later the organization had hundreds of members, but still had no home, and was operating out of temporary office space not suited to its purposes. Her father supported her work and provided a solution.

Samuel Price Wetherill, whose ancestor and Betsy Ross were fellow members of the Free Quaker Meeting House, was a real estate developer, pharmacist, and entrepreneur who formed a prosperous company making components used in the production of paint. An early believer in Rittenhouse Square, he purchased multiple properties and built his own mansion there. In 1917 he sold the Alliance two houses at 1823-25 Walnut Street for 42 percent less than he paid for them and held the mortgage on very generous terms. In October of 1918 the Alliance opened its home in those renovated Walnut Street houses.

Thus began a robust program of events and exhibits: Russian and Chinese paintings, a yearly outdoor sculpture show in Rittenhouse Square, music performances, theatrical productions, wrought ironwork, engravings, printmaking, and pottery. By 1925 membership had grown to 2,200 and the Alliance was selling some \$6,000 in art in its galleries yearly. Multiple

committees ran the operations, and it became an important Philadelphia institution experiencing growing pains. After Samuel Price Wetherill's death in 1926, the solution was to sell the Walnut Street houses for \$850,000 and purchase the father's mansion at 251 South 18th Street for \$450,000. It became "a Mecca for artists all over the world."

It was there that the organization's events came to resemble the remarkably wide variety of subject matter that reminds me of our own Athenaeum on Washington Square. There was programming in architecture, crafts, theater, opera, drama, dance, literature, music, industrial design, oil painting, prints, sculpture, and watercolor. A five-o'clock weekly lecture series included a range of topics not necessarily connected with the arts. One month the four topics were Guatemala, Goya, occupational therapy, and American illustration. There was a graphic arts forum for typographers, editors, and art directors that put on an exhibition of Music Printing. A controversy ensued in 1930 when the Alliance canceled an invitation it had made to display a full-body nude sculpture of singer/actor Paul Robeson titled "Negro Spiritual" with this response: "The executive committee expressed their apprehension of the consequences of exhibiting such a nude figure in a public square, especially the figure of a Negro, as the colored problem seems to be unusually great in Philadelphia."

In 1935 the Alliance put on "one of the most extraordinary and, in some aspects, one of the most important exhibitions ever held in Philadelphia." N.C. Wyeth of nearby Chadd's Ford was given a show including the work of his three children. Son Andrew's group of oils were noted for their "technical mastery," an example of an important service of the Alliance: the "scouting out and the discovery of new talent." In 1944 a special exhibit marked the tercentenary of Antonio Stradivari's birth with the display of violins worth half a million dollars. Pinkerton agents guarded the collection around the clock. These were

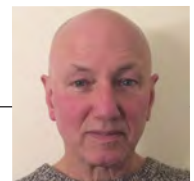
famous "named" Strads from four famous periods. They were not only displayed and lectured about. They were played.

The postcard series consists of at least 27 line drawings by multiple artists and was The Alliance's response to what it considered the existing "dreadful" selection of cards available at the time. In 1923 200,000 cards were sold in six months. The Committee for Publication published *The Philadelphia Art Alliance, Fifty Years 1915-1965*. The book singles out one card, stating, "The Pennsylvania Railroad's own historical museum itself does not possess a photograph or drawing of the old Broad Street Station, nor does it own Pennell's lithograph of the great train shed reproduced in the Art Alliance postcards."

Christine Wetherill Stevenson seems to have been an interesting soul. She is described as a "Theosophist," which is one who believes in an ancient and secretive brotherhood of enlightened elites living in Tibet whose teachings espouse a universal equality and brotherhood of human beings. After the Art Alliance was up and running in Philadelphia, she migrated to California. There she was involved in two theater companies and created a deeply researched pilgrimage play based on Jesus, for which she spent time in Jerusalem acquiring native costumes. She died at the age of 44 in 1922 and is buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery.

Her work lives on still in the home her father built on Rittenhouse Square. In 2018, the celebrated Philadelphia Art Alliance merged with University of the Arts, uniting two century-old institutions as the Philadelphia Art Alliance at University of the Arts which is "committed to inspiring, educating and preparing innovative artists and creative leaders for the arts of the twenty-first century."

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

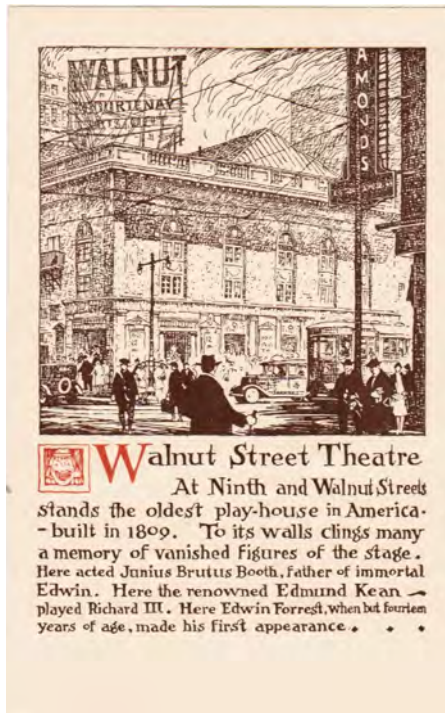


KEEPING POSTED

“Destined to Be the Caretaker of Art...

...to promote the arts of music, drama, painting, sculpture, interpretive dancing, interior decorating and other fine arts... for the purpose of studying said arts and for social intercourse.”

— The Philadelphia Arts Alliance Founder Christine Wetherill Stevenson



The postcard series of at least 27 line drawings by multiple artists was The Alliance's response to the "dreadful" selection of cards available at the time.

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HISTORIC RESTORATION

BY JONATHAN RUBIN

Sourcing Historic Materials

In my last article, I talked about how the use of materials affects how we feel about a building, and consequently how we feel about ourselves within the community. Today I'm going to talk about the source materials we use to restore historic buildings.

The most obvious material we use is primer and paint. For historic structures, we only use oil primer. It seals in the juices, so to speak. All the messy stuff is gone and on top is the good stuff: high-grade, latex acrylic paint.

Sometimes wood must be fabricated when pieces that are rotted need to be replaced. If it can't be found in a normal hardware store or lumberyard, it has to be custom made. When this happens, only select pieces of wood are replaced, and with a little creative wood fill and sanding, you'll never know the difference. The seam is invisible. Problem solved. Of course, soft pine is to be avoided — only use hardwood. We use Tague (a bit corporate for us; looking for a mom and pop mill), and we are developing a wood shop to do custom work.

There are several types of Victorian-style window bays throughout Society Hill, Queen Village, and the rest of the city. Most of these were built from sometime before the turn of the century to the 1920s. These "bump-outs" add a significant amount of light and dimension to an otherwise flat house profile. The row of "painted ladies" at 3rd and Bainbridge is a great example. On top of a wood skeleton frame is a jigsaw puzzle of metal panels intertwined so they fit mostly without screws. On top of the panels is the fun stuff: decorative, ornamental, pressed metal pieces.

Often, the metal rusts, and we have to replace parts of it. Any intricate detail work on these bays is pressed metal ornaments. The only manufacturer we know of in the United States with the original casts is WF Norman. It's incredible to check out their catalog! They have everything from lions to ornate flowers and vines, to simple boxes and



Worker at a metal machine shop in Northeast Philadelphia uses a "brake" to shape metal to match deteriorated trim that was pulled off the building.



more "modern" art-deco designs. Pressed metal ornaments can be ordered either in zinc or copper. Since we always paint over the ornaments, zinc will do just fine. It must be primed with a metal primer and then painted. We usually like to spray paint them for a smooth finish.

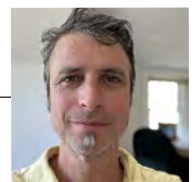
In extreme cases, parts of the metal skin of the bay — more structural pieces, like ledges — have to be fabricated. We pull a piece that is mostly intact off of the building, bring the sample to the shop, and basically have them duplicate it as best they can. The presses they have are on an industrial scale: 10,000 pound presses! It's like going into a time machine to see how things were made. (Perhaps 3-D printing will make fabrication easier and simpler, but I will miss having direct contact with these craftsmen, who represent a dying breed.)

The goal is to always bring things back to what they were, retaining the original shape and the style. It's never easy putting materials back on the building. Sometimes we need to use glue, and tape replacement parts onto the metal until it dries. Then we caulk everything in place. It's dangerous to try using a soldering gun, since the wood behind all this metal could catch fire. Wood epoxy, Bondo, and special putties are all meant to fill holes, gaps, and seams that we just can't fill any other way. So long as we prime this material before painting, it will last, especially if it is seamless, so water can't seep into a crack, freeze, and expand.

Honestly, we have learned most of this through trial and error. Throw in a dash of common sense, then return regularly to the work site, to make sure everything is holding up!

In a way, this work found us. We were busy minding our business doing boring apartments and easy-to-paint exteriors until Locks Gallery came calling, and we couldn't say no. We looked up historical restoration, and we found a niche market that keeps us on our toes and in business. See you in the spring!

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.



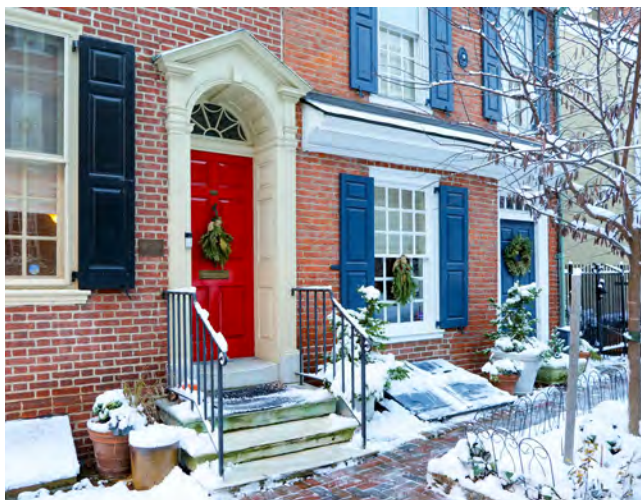
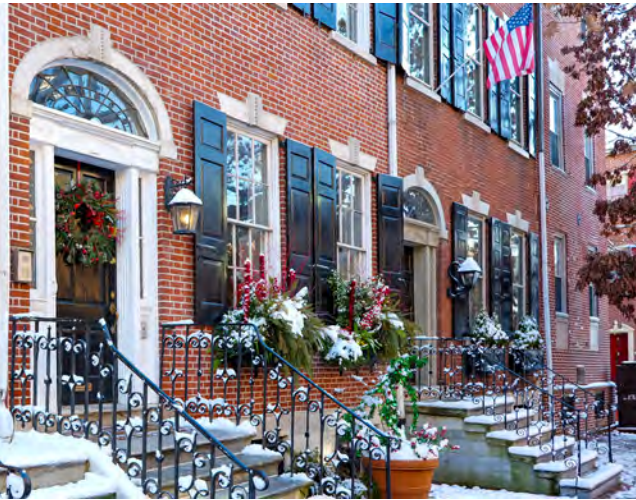
OUT AND ABOUT

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BONNIE HALDA

Seasons of Society Hill Captured

“To the attentive eye, each moment of the year has its own beauty, and in the same field, it beholds, every hour, a picture which was never seen before, and which shall never be seen again.”

— Ralph Waldo Emerson



OUT AND ABOUT

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BONNIE HALDA

Society Hill 2024 Calendar Available

The 2024 calendars, with these seasonal images of our historic neighborhood, taken by photographer and SHCA board member Bonnie Halda, are available

for sale. All proceeds from sale of the calendars will be donated to SHCA. Go to tinyurl.com/3ntddm6r to order your calendar for \$15.



WELCOME GIFT BAGS

PHOTOS BY MARTHA LEVINE

Are You a New Owner in Society Hill?

*Forty Gift Bags
Were Presented
in 2023*

During 2023, SHCA presented 40 Welcome Gift Bags to first-time homeowners in Society Hill. Did you become a new house or condo owner in Society Hill during 2023? Did we miss you? It's not too late.

Have you become a new house or condo owner in Society Hill in 2024? Contact me to have a Welcome Gift Bag presented to you in person at your convenience. To set up an appointment, email marthalev6@gmail.com or call me at 215-629-0727.



Andy and Amy



Helene



Rich, Lorraine, and son



Joyce and Ronald



Tova

Welcome, New Business Donors

We are excited to welcome these two new businesses to our Welcome Gift Bag family of donors. Let's support both our new and long-standing, local businesses! We want them to stay.

Rosy's Taco Bar East, 624 S. 6th Street

A fiesta awaits you just steps away from Society Hill: Rosy's Taco Bar East. Our newest Mexican restaurant is located at 6th and Bainbridge in the building formerly occupied by Creperie Beau Monde. The interior provides a warm and inviting, contemporary setting, including a working fireplace. Rosy's serves a full menu of appetizers, entrees, tacos, salads, enchiladas, specialties, and desserts. For a full menu, check out their website: www.rosystacobar.com.

Hours: Monday - Friday, noon to 2 a.m.
Saturday - Sunday, 10:30 a.m. to 2 a.m.
Brunch: Saturday - Sunday 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Happy Hour: Monday - Thursday 4 to 6 p.m.

Mahalo Hawaiian BBQ, 117 South Street

Aloha to Mahalo Hawaiian BBQ, a new modern restaurant and great addition to South Street. Mahalo is a Hawaiian word meaning "thank you" or expressing gratitude. Some of the many Hawaiian BBQ offerings include chicken, seafood, beef, and pork, plus salads and desserts. Party trays are available. The menu is extensive, so go to their website to see it all at www.mahalophilly.com. 215-876-9709.

Hours: Sunday - Thursday 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Friday - Saturday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Closed Tuesday.



Rosy's Taco Bar enchiladas with rice and beans.



Mahalo Hawaiian BBQ appetizer.

WELCOME GIFT BAGS

As always, we ask you to support our long loyal business donors listed here. 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
- Mahalo Hawaiian BBQ**, 117 South 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
- Rosy's Taco Bar East**, 624 S. 6th Street
- Starr Restaurant Group**
- The Twisted Tail** (Southern), 509 S. 2nd Street

Retail, Services, and Museums

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- 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
- 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

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ON OUR SHELVES

BY IZZY HALLORAN

Book Review: Grief in *Death Valley*

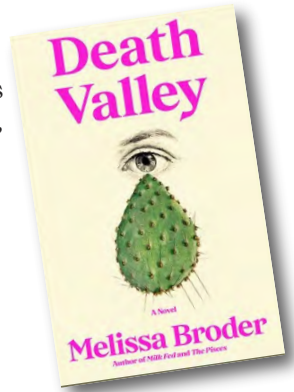
Death Valley by Melissa Broder is a complex portrait of grief and self-discovery. Broder tells the story of an unnamed narrator who takes a solo trip to the Mojave desert as a vacation from caring for her chronically ill husband, worrying about her father, who's in the hospital following a near-fatal accident, and finding an end to the novel she is struggling to finish.

Broder's main character is motivated by small details and specific interests, such as Best Western hotels and subreddits on death and grieving. Battling her own feelings of guilt and inadequacy as both a wife and a daughter, she seeks an escape from herself as she ventures further into the void of Death Valley. Broder does an excellent job at building a world of emotion, one in which reality twists and transforms until the reader is left questioning what is real and what is imagined. The narrative takes a whimsical turn when the main character climbs through a slit on a giant, magical Saguaro cactus she encounters on a desert trail. Within the otherworldly womb of the cactus, she must confront alternate versions of her husband and father.

Throughout the novel, the main character attempts to understand her own frustrations around the way she thinks about her chronically ill husband and injured father. She expresses feelings of inadequacy and uselessness, hopeful that a trip to the desert will provide her a much-needed reprieve from her grim circumstances and sub-par mental state. What she ends up finding in the desert is far more profound and life altering than a trail walk.

After deciding to cut the vacation short and return home to Los Angeles, she embarks upon one last trip to the giant cactus to be sure of its

existence. Wandering through the uniformity of the landscape while searching the desert trail, she loses track of her surroundings and becomes lost, with a dying phone battery, an injured ankle, and a small water supply. As she navigates this life-and-death situation, she realizes her own passion to survive. With a newfound understanding and acceptance of her father and husband's realities, she discovers an immense appreciation for what she does have. In many ways, this is a novel about endings and the myth of finality. *Death Valley* forces the narrator to confront her fear of endings — an ending to her novel, her husband's suffering, and her father's looming death.




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

 **Society Hill Spotlight**
Society Hill Civic Association eNews


Your Weekly eNews!

Did you know SHCA sends out a weekly email full of neighborhood info and upcoming events? Go to societyhillcivic.org, scroll down to the lower left-hand corner, and click on the box that says "GET OUR E-NEWSLETTER."

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CHANGES TO FRANKLIN LIGHTS

BY MARTHA LEVINE, FRANKLIN LIGHTS COMMITTEE CHAIR

LED Coming to Society Hill?

The answer is yes — and some are already here. Have you noticed very harsh, bright, blue-white light coming from some of Society Hill’s Franklin lights? What’s going on? The blue-white light is coming from LED replacement bulbs for lights that were damaged or knocked down, usually by trucks. You need sunglasses to look at them. All replacements will be LED from now on.

Why LED? The City of Philadelphia Streets Department has determined that all lighting in Philadelphia will be converted to LED in the next few years, including Society Hill. They say LEDs are the most efficient and low cost way to light the city. As a matter of fact, using LED lighting is a trend all across the country.

Should we be concerned? One problem is that the Franklin Lights stand at about 11 feet tall and the light emitted is in our direct line of sight as we navigate the sidewalks. Our existing high pressure sodium lights (HPS) give off a soft, warm glow; not so with LED lights that provide a harsh, blue-white glare that is disturbing to the eye. Another concern is how it makes the neighborhood look — cold and scary or warm and friendly?

Not to worry. The Franklin Lights committee has been interacting with the Streets Department all along and recently set up a nighttime meeting with a high-level Streets Department official to survey the Franklin lights with LEDs and to ask about LEDs planned for all 500 of our neighborhood lights. One good thing is that we will retain the original Franklin light design, patterned after Ben Franklin’s oil lamps. The question is: are LEDs appropriate for a Franklin light fixture and for this neighborhood?

First, let’s learn some lighting terms:

LED: Light-Emitting Diode.

Kelvins: The temperature or hue of a light is measured in kelvins. The kelvin number measures the warmth or coolness of a light. Kelvins can range from 10,000 (a blue-white light) to 2,000 (a warm light). Here in Society Hill, we are used to the soft warm glow of the high pressure sodium lights. We might aim for a 2700 kelvin light.

Lumens: Brightness or light intensity is measured by lumens. The higher the lumen count, the brighter the light. There is a range of brightness from 250 to 1600. This is not the same

as wattage. We want the appropriate brightness for this residential area.

Wattage: Wattage is a measure of energy, the energy it takes to produce the light.

Dimmers: The Streets Department spokesperson told us that they will have the ability to dim lights that are too bright. The lighting should be appropriate for a residential neighborhood.

What are the issues?

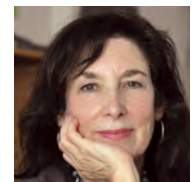
There are several issues to consider before all lights are converted here, including all of those items listed above: LED, kelvins, lumens, wattage and dimmers. Since the Franklin Light bulb is close to our eyes, there would need to be some way of diffusing the brightness and glare by increasing the opacity of the lenses or the bulbs. Each light fixture has five acrylic panels — one on each of the four sides and one at the bottom. What about the kelvins or temperature/hue? Do we want a cold look or a warmer look to our residential neighborhood? How about the lumens or brightness? We are told the city can dim lights to suit the surroundings. Admittedly, a lot of tweaking needs to be done to make these LEDs suitable for Society Hill.

We already have LEDs on 5th and 6th Streets but they are in the cobra-style light, at 25 to 30 feet high above our eyes. These are the type one finds in most Philadelphia neighborhoods.

The city has already installed LED lights starting in neighborhoods with the highest crime rates and auto accidents. Society Hill will be the last neighborhood to get the LEDs. SHCA’s Franklin Lights Committee is dedicated to working with the Streets Department to get the best outcome: a light that we can live with that is illuminating, visually pleasant, cost effective, and long lasting.



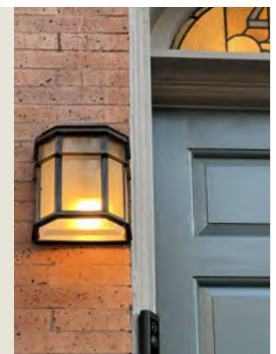
High pressure sodium bulbs emitting warm light are slated to be replaced with LEDs as part of a citywide energy saving project. The City of Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Energy Authority have launched trial installations for the Philly Streetlight Improvement Project, a comprehensive LED streetlighting, controls and networking project.



Martha Levine is an SHCA board member and chair of the Franklin Lights Committee.

Flip the Switch

Turn on your front door lights after dark. The wide spacing between our Franklin lights creates gaps between the lights, leaving dark spots on our sidewalks. There is a remedy: if every house had their front door lights turned on from dusk to dawn, it would create an even lighting of the neighborhood. So flip the switch or use an electronic method such as an automatic timer or photo sensor to turn on the light. What a difference it will make! We will all feel safer, as well.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY CAROL HANLON

How SHCA Services Enhance Our Lives

Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) is a volunteer organization that works to keep our neighborhood safe, clean, and beautiful for residents and visitors alike. Your membership dollars help us enhance the quality of life in our historic district. Here are some of the ways we achieve this.

WELCOMING

Welcome Gift Bags

First-time property owners in Society Hill receive a Welcome Gift Bag with wine, coffee, chocolates, pastry, and neighborhood information. Gift bags also contain gift cards donated by area restaurants, museums, entertainment, retail, and service establishments.

STAYING IN TOUCH

Block Coordinators

These are the “eyes and ears” of our blocks. Each block, and each high-rise, has a point person to help communicate messages from SHCA about important issues, notices, schedules, and delays.

Community Meetings

In-person meetings are held five times a year, with guest speakers, to inform residents of timely issues affecting the neighborhood.

Society Hill Reporter

This informative bi-monthly publication is delivered by hand to over 3,800 households in Society Hill. An online version is available on our website.

Society Hill Spotlight

This weekly email newsletter provides the most up-to-date information on topics of interest, events and programs in our area, as well as special alerts.

KEEPING US CLEAN

Spring and Fall Clean-Up Days

Clean-Up Days, including shredding and recycling services, are scheduled in spring and fall. We pay for city trucks to sweep and wash our streets.

Sidewalk Cleaning

We contract with the Center City District crew to do a weekly “sweep and bag” of debris in our neighborhood on Fridays all year long. Mondays are added during May through October to clean up after weekend visitors.

Weekly Graffiti Removal

We employ Graffiti Removal Experts to remove unsightly graffiti and stickers from public areas regularly, and keep us graffiti-free.

KEEPING US SAFE

Franklin Lights

In the recent past, SHCA raised \$600,000 to replace 500 Franklin lights, making the neighborhood brighter, safer, and more attractive.

Safe and Sound

This committee works with the 6th Police District and other city agencies to address crime and quality-of-life issues in our neighborhood.

GRANTMAKING

Neighborhood Initiative Support

Grants are awarded periodically to non-profit entities with programs or projects needing funding. In 2022, 14 grants were awarded to support park repairs, education, music, art, meal programs, historic restoration, internships, botanical initiatives, memorial lighting and security, and much more.

KEEPING US BEAUTIFUL

Zoning & Historic Preservation

This committee advocates for the preservation and restoration of our historic buildings, and represents the community’s interest concerning zoning issues, design, and development.

Washington Square

SHCA supports the volunteers who maintain the plantings in the park.

“Fix the Brix”

This subsidy program offers an incentive to homeowners who wish to improve their brick and concrete sidewalks for the safety and aesthetics of the neighborhood.

Tree Tending

This subsidy program helps pay for new street tree planting and dead street tree removal, as well as pruning every two years.

PARK, AMERICA!

**511 S. Front Street
Between South and Lombard**

Long-term and short-term parking are available. Using the lot generates income for SHCA. If interested, contact Park America’s Ed Sullivan at 610-637-6832.

SHCA is a Registered Community Organization. To sign up and become a member, visit www.societyhillcivic.org.



Members-Only Benefits

More Subsidies for Members

Members receive up to an additional \$100 for “Fix the Brix” or Tree Tender subsidies.

List of Contractors

A list of contractors who come highly recommend by neighbors is available on request to members only.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY CAROL HANLON

Keeping the Character...and Moving Ahead

Many of us feel quite lucky to live on a block or in a building where people are friendly and welcoming. The same can be said for the neighborhood that surrounds us. Society Hill offers something for everyone. We derive many benefits from being part of the larger neighborhood, and that is where membership in SHCA comes in.

The 2024 SHCA Membership Campaign is well underway now, and we hope that you will join us to support the work we do for our community. We are not only working to maintain what we have now, we are also keeping an eye out for changes that will affect Society Hill in the future. We feel this is important work that needs constant attention. We hope you will agree.

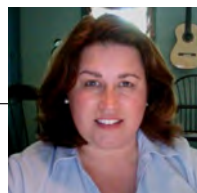
On this page is a form for those who would like to become a member by paying with a check. However, we encourage you to visit our webpage at societyhillcivic.org and click Join | SHCA Organization to help us streamline the process and pay for your membership using a credit card.

More Ways to Help


In addition to joining/renewing your SHCA membership for 2024, you can also choose to make a tax-deductible donation to SHCA’s 501(c)(3) charitable foundation, the Society Hill Preservation Foundation. Past donations have funded beautification projects in Washington Square and the redesign of Foglietta Plaza, among many other things. Donations can be made online or by check. You may designate your donation to benefit a particular project, or allow it to be used where it’s needed the most. Details on making foundation donations can be found at societyhillcivic.org/foundation/donate/.

In whatever way you choose to support us, whether by joining (or continuing) as a member, or by making a donation to the foundation, we look forward to working with you, as we do our best to “Keep the Character” of our beautiful neighborhood, Society Hill.

Thanks so much for your support!



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.



Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Email (print clearly) _____

Residential Memberships	Business Memberships
<input type="radio"/> \$ 50 Basic Household Membership	<input type="radio"/> \$100 Institutions – 5+ employees
<input type="radio"/> \$ 40 Senior/Student/Single	<input type="radio"/> \$60 Institutions – fewer than 5 employees
<input type="radio"/> \$ 100 Federal Friend	
<input type="radio"/> \$ 150 Georgian Grantor	
<input type="radio"/> \$ 300 Jefferson Benefactor	
<input type="radio"/> \$ 500 Washington Benefactor	
<input type="radio"/> \$1,000 Benjamin Franklin Benefactor	
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

\$ _____ Zoning & Historic Preservation	\$ _____ Franklin Lights
\$ _____ Sidewalk Cleaning & Graffiti Removal	\$ _____ Starr Garden
\$ _____ Beautification of Washington Square	\$ _____ McCall School
\$ _____ “Fix the Brix”	\$ _____ Tree Tending
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

EXTRAORDINARY COMPOSITIONS

BY JOHN KOEN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

The Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble

A Little Night Music

Meet the musicians at a wine and cheese reception following the concert.



Friday, February 9, 8 p.m.
Sunday, February 11, 2 p.m.
Old Pine Street Church, 412 Pine Street

The Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble, the oldest continuously performing chamber ensemble in the Delaware Valley, presents the second concert of its forty-sixth season on February 9 and 11. A core group of artists with strong ties to the Philadelphia Orchestra and a deep love of chamber music, the Ensemble held its first concert in 1977 at the Athenaeum. Today, the venue is the Old Pine Street Church, in the heart of Society Hill, with excellent acoustics and handicap accessibility. Known for rarely heard works, and instruments seldom played together, the Chamber Ensemble family continues to invite the audience to a reception attended by the musicians following each concert. Tickets are available at the door, or at pceconcerts.org.



February Concert Program

- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Flute Quartet in D major
- Franz Schubert, String Trio in B-flat major
- Darius Milhaud, La Cheminée du roi René, wind quintet
- Paul Hindemith, Kleine Kammermusik, wind quintet
- Arnold Schoenberg, Verklärte Nacht, string sextet
- Zhou Tian. Viaje, flute and string quartet

John Koen is the Music Director of The Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble.

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TOTAL HOMES SOLD:
378

SOLD PRICE VS LIST PRICE AVERAGE:
96.9 %





THE MIKE McCANN TEAM

NOTE CARDS

BY MARTHA LEVINE

Beautiful Society Hill Note Cards for Sale

Help support SHCA and enjoy these beautiful full-color note cards depicting your favorite scenes in Society Hill. The first and second printings have already sold out — that’s 40 boxes — and the third printing is available now, for \$22 per box.

The cards have been printed by a fine arts photography studio on the highest quality paper. Each box of cards contains 12 cards in full color with envelopes. Sorry, we must limit purchases to two boxes per household. If you would like an enlarged print of any of the images, we can offer 8.5" x 11" limited edition prints.

To learn more about the cards and prints and to order, please go to our website societyhillcivic.org and click on note cards. Cards will be delivered to you personally.

Martha Levine is an SHCA board member.



Note card photos by Martha Levine

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COMPASS RE

FROM THE ARCHIVES

American Spirits and French Pickles

(Gills of Spirits and Pickled Green Tomatoes)



The “gill” or “teacup” is a liquid measure equal to one quarter of a pint. Pictured here are copper gill and half-gill measuring pitchers.



Sugar loaf cones and a “nipper” used to break off pieces of sugar.

Here are some Colonial American recipes for you to try out. They are from the Morris Family Papers, which can be found in the Independence National Historical Park Archives.

Egg Nog

- 6 Eggs
- 1½ gills of Spirits* [6 oz.]
- Loaf Sugar**
- 1½ pint of Milk

Beat the yolks and whites of eggs separately, with a little of loaf sugar in each. When perfectly light, mix together well but reserve some of the foamy whites for frosting. Once mixed, pour in slowly 1½ gills of Spirit, stirring it all the time, then add 1½ pints of milk. When poured into glasses, place the frosting [foamy egg whites] upon it.

*While “Spirits” could mean brandy, rum, or bourbon, Americans took to spiking their eggnog with rum, because brandy and wine from overseas were heavily taxed in the 18th century.

**Loaf sugar is refined white sugar that had been hardened in a cone-shaped mold. Sugar had to be scraped from the loaf. You can substitute ordinary white sugar.

French Pickles

- ½ peck of Green Tomatoes [1 dry gallon]
- ½ oz. Allspice
- 6 Onions
- 4 tablespoons Salt
- 6 Green Peppers
- Cold Vinegar
- 1 large Head of Cabbage
- Brown Sugar
- ½ lb. White Mustard Seed
- Celery Seed
- ½ oz. Cloves

Chop together tomatoes, onions, peppers and cabbage; but do not chop too fine. Add ½ lb. white mustard seed, ½ oz. Allspice and 4 tbs. of salt. Put everything in pot and cover with cold vinegar. Boil for two hours. Add a little brown sugar and a little celery seed for taste.



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INDEPENDENCE HISTORICAL TRUST

BY JONATHAN BURTON

A Warm Welcome to Superintendent Steve Sims

As the Director of Development for the Independence Historical Trust, I have had the privilege of working closely with Independence National Historical Park (INHP) for the last year and a half. It is with great excitement and optimism that I extend a warm and hearty welcome to our new superintendent, Steve Sims, who is poised to lead INHP into a vibrant and promising future. I sat down with Steve to gain insight into his new role and to learn his vision for the national park.

In our mission to support INHP, we understand the critical role that effective leadership plays in preserving and celebrating the historical treasures within our great city of Philadelphia. Steve Sims brings a wealth of experience and a fresh perspective to this vital position, and we are thrilled to have him on board. He knows national parks belong to the people, and he views himself as a civil servant looking to enhance the quality of life of those living near or visiting the park.

Steve, a Californian (don't worry, he's a Phillies fan), knows Philadelphia and INHP well, as he was the Chief of Asset Preservation and Maintenance from 2011 to 2014. After his time at INHP, Steve went on to be the Chief of Facilities for the entire Northeast Region until 2017, when he advanced to be the Superintendent of Valley Forge National Historical Park until 2020. He then moved over to Gettysburg National Military Park right before the pandemic began. His children attended McCall Elementary and St. Mary's in Society Hill and then moved on to St. Joe's Prep, CAPA, and Temple University, while his family lived in Philadelphia from 2011-2020. This makes him an adopted Philadelphian!

One of the most striking qualities that Steve brings to the table is his commitment to earning the trust of the local community. It is not lost on him that INHP is not just a park but an integral part of the Philadelphia community. His dedication to fostering strong relationships and proactive communication is evident from the outset. Steve recognizes that for INHP to flourish, it must be a place that Philadelphians hold dear, visit often, and engage with wholeheartedly.

Looking ahead, Steve Sims is stepping into this role at an opportune moment. With the 250th anniversary of the United States of America on the horizon, there is no doubt that this landmark occasion will be a highlight of his tenure.

The Independence Historical Trust and INHP are committed to commemorating this historic milestone in a way that will inspire and educate generations to come. Steve's enthusiasm for the upcoming celebration is infectious, and we anticipate great things as we work together to make this event truly memorable.



INHP Superintendent Steve Sims

The 250th anniversary is not just an opportunity to reflect on our nation's past; it is a chance to shape its future. Steve Sims understands this, and his vision for INHP is aligned with this forward-thinking perspective. He views 2026 as a "kickoff of great things to come for Philadelphia, not just a culmination" to celebrate the past. He recognizes the importance of ensuring that our historic landmarks remain relevant and engaging for future generations. Whether it's preserving historic buildings, enhancing visitor experiences, or promoting educational programs, Steve's commitment to progress is evident.

I want to reiterate how thrilled we are to welcome Superintendent Steve Sims to Independence National Historical Park. As the philanthropic partner to INHP, the Independence Historical Trust is excited about the journey ahead. We look forward to collaborating closely with Steve to continue our shared mission of preserving our nation's history and fostering a deep appreciation for our heritage.

The future is bright for Independence National Historical Park, and with Steve Sims at the helm, we are confident that it will continue to be a source of pride and inspiration for our community and our nation as we approach the 250th anniversary, and beyond, of the United States of America. Welcome, Steve, to this historic journey!

Charting a New Chapter for Independence National Historical Park



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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KIDS' KORNER

BY JAIME AND MIKE FOX

Dinos and Crickets and Chicken, Oh My!

Dino After Dark at the Academy of Natural Sciences

1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway

We have always enjoyed going to the Academy of Natural Sciences. When we lived in the Art Museum area, we purchased a membership, but we let it lapse once we moved to Society Hill. Now that each visit to the Academy costs real money, we jumped at the chance to visit on a “pay as you wish” Friday night in November. After grabbing dinner at Little Italy on 9th Street (we love that Little Italy pizza!), we took a bus across town to the museum. We initially hit up the skin exhibit and did some digging around the dinos. Then, we hit jackpot in the gift shop, when the kids found a bag of freeze-dried cricket snacks. In a way that would make Man v. Food’s Adam Richman blush, the Fox kids downed their insect delicacy while their parents looked on with a mix of admiration and horror. Next time we visit the museum, it will be the parents’ turn when we check out the Dino Draft Beer Garden in the Dinosaur Hall. “Pay as you wish” Friday nights in the first months of 2024 are scheduled for January 26, February 23, and March 22.



Digging for Dinos



Kroc Center Indoor Water Park

1865 Harrison Ave, Camden, NJ 08105

We went to the Kroc Center for Mike’s birthday. Jordan had been to the water park for a birthday party and was excited to show her family its greatness. Now, water parks may not be everybody’s cup of tea. However, we found the Kroc Center to be a fun way to pass a cool fall day. The water park has a gnarly looking water slide that you must be 50 inches tall to ride, which meant Jordan could not go on it. Mike, at about 71 inches, decided he was also too short for the slide (it had nothing to do with the fact he chickened out). Instead, Jaime and Owen went down and enjoyed the thrill. We all enjoyed the



Chomping on Crickets!

lazy river, bubbly area, and various water features in between. The cost was \$10 a person for a day pass. Pro tip: allow yourself extra time to fill out and complete the release.

Hangry Joe’s Hot Chicken

300 Market Street, hangryjoes.com

After walking past Hangry Joe’s Hot Chicken a number of times in 2023, we were curious to check it out. When an opportunity arose to bid on a gift certificate through the McCall School Gala (the owner is a McCall parent), we did so... and won! So, we took the kids, who brought one friend each, and ordered a ton of food to try. Our favorite item was the loaded fries, which consists of waffle fries, cheese, and chicken. With an entire menu of fried food (no grilled chicken here), this will be a treat that we will savor only on occasion.



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.



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- Society Hill Resident for 25 Years
- Studied at Wharton Business School
- Class Parent at Society Hill Synagogue Pre-School and St. Peters School
- Society Hill Civic Association Member
- Founded Keller Williams in Center City in 2006, The Atacan Group and Venture Philly Group
- Sold almost \$1 Billion in Philadelphia Real Estate



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CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

“ Relocating back to the US after several years in France, it was important for me to partner with a realtor with an analytical, focused and a comprehensive perspective. Antonio's Wharton background and his honest, numerate perspectives spanning decades of experience sealed the deal for me.

We appreciated his understanding of our specific brief – that reduced wasted efforts on either side. While I had accidentally spotted a particular property myself, Antonio and his team executed the various process steps superbly and speedily. Antonio's valuable guidance on pricing competitiveness, and on evaluating the specific quality parameters of the condo were most helpful and appreciated. His candor, his knowledge, his humility and his ready laugh make him an immensely trustworthy, reliable and likable partner.

I wholeheartedly recommend Antonio, and VenturePhilly. 🙏

Neel S. | Philadelphia **5.0** ★★★★★

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