



SOCIETY HILL

Reporter

July/August 2025

The Newsletter
of the Society Hill
Civic Association

www.societyhillcivic.org

Giving Back to St. Peter's Churchyard



**Dorothy Krotzer (left)
and senior conservator
Kathryn Brown**

*Gravestones:
Treat with respect,
Enjoy with care.*

Dorothy Krotzer, a neighbor who lives just a block from St. Peter's Episcopal Church at 3rd & Pine Streets, was walking her dog Romeo through the churchyard, as she often does. Although most of the gravestones around her were in good condition, a few damaged ones caught her eye. Several marble grave markers were cracked, and one had been pushed off its base completely.

Dorothy decided to do something to help. She is director of the Philadelphia office of Building Conservation Associates, a historic preservation company located in Old City. Her company specializes in restoring historic buildings, art, and monuments. Dorothy contacted St. Peter's Church and generously offered her firm's services pro bono. Her take on the situation: "I value St. Peter's as an asset to the community. They do so much for us, I thought it would be nice to do something for them."

During the winter and spring of 2025, the Building Conservation Associates team visited the churchyard and assessed the marble gravestones. Of the 1,433 grave markers, they identified 21 with severe deterioration. Some markers are detached or cracked, and others have open mortar joints. This summer, their team, led by Senior Conservator Kathryn Brown and Conservation Intern Kate Whitney-Schubb, will repair each of these damaged markers. They will fix ones that have been pushed over, stabilizing them with new stainless steel anchors. They will remove the old pins in broken markers and install new lightweight basalt pins, repair the mortar, clean the stones, and patch the stone face.

Major repairs in the St. Peter's Cemetery were last conducted in 2002-08, when about 400 grave markers were restored and patched. Kathryn noted that this work was well done, but it is to be expected that some repairs have failed, remarking, "After so many years of it being there, the marble is very thin and it's prone to breakage."

Dorothy urges visitors to the churchyard to be mindful of the fragility of the grave markers. Be careful when you walk amongst the stones, and avoid leaning on stones or letting dog leashes rub across them. "We are fortunate to have the churchyard to use as a green space, but we should treat it with respect," Dorothy said. "Enjoy with care."

The most important thing for you to do is to let St. Peter's staff know if you notice a marker that has recently broken or cracked. That way staff can conserve the broken pieces. St. Peter's Church is so grateful to our neighbor Dorothy Krotzer and Building Conservation Associates for their generous assistance and care for this churchyard that is shared with the community!



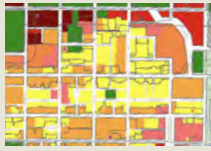
Ask an Expert!

Q Since my Society Hill home is located in one of Philadelphia's Historic Districts, do I have to use a certain color of paint on my home's exterior?

A No. The Historical Commission does not regulate paint color. But we recommend the historical color lines of Benjamin Moore and Sherwin Williams. — Paul Steinke, Preservation Alliance of Phila.

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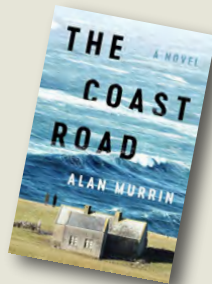
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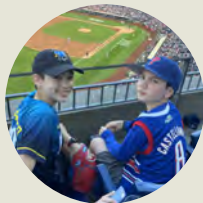
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SOCIETY HILL

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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.

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 ROBERT KRAMER

Let's Make this Year Meaningful and Memorable

It is with gratitude and a sense of responsibility that I assume the role of president of the Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) for the 2025-26 term. Society Hill is not just a neighborhood; it is a living, breathing tapestry of history, culture, and community. I am honored to serve such a vibrant and engaged community of individuals who care so deeply about maintaining and enhancing the beauty, safety, and vitality of our neighborhood.

As I step into this role, I want to thank Susan Collins for her dedication during her term as president. Susan's activism and energy were tireless. From spearheading initiatives like the restoration of the Head House clock to navigating the complexities of urban challenges, she was committed to ensuring Society Hill remains a flourishing, beautiful, and crime-free neighborhood.

Now, as we turn the page to a new chapter, I am committed to addressing the evolving needs of our community. My vision for the upcoming year centers on fostering inclusivity, collaboration, transparency and good governance. I'll outline below some of the priorities and initiatives that will guide my term as president in the coming months.

Strengthening Community Engagement

The strength of Society Hill lies in its people. During my term, I aim to foster even greater community participation in SHCA activities and decision-making. From public meetings to community clean-ups, I encourage every resident to lend their voice and energy to the betterment of our neighborhood. Together, we can ensure that Society Hill thrives as a place where everyone feels heard and valued.

Traffic and Transportation Solutions

Traffic and transportation remain key focus areas for our neighborhood. I support a balanced approach to traffic calming measures, including speed bumps and bike lanes, while ensuring residents have safe access to their homes. We will advocate for the motions already taken by the SHCA board



Robert Kramer, SHCA President

regarding impacts to Pine, Spruce, and 3rd Streets, and we will engage with the community on these matters, pursuing solutions that reflect the majority opinion and are workable for all.

Preserving Our Historic Charm

Society Hill's historic architecture and green spaces are treasures that must be protected. We will prioritize fundraising efforts, based on volunteer and community interests, to maintain and enhance pocket parks, playgrounds, and open spaces like Starr Garden and Washington Square. Additionally, we will work closely with the City of Philadelphia to address zoning concerns and support thoughtful development that aligns with the character of our neighborhood.

Collaboration with Surrounding Communities

Society Hill does not exist in isolation. We are part of a larger urban ecosystem, and collaboration with nearby neighborhoods and city officials is essential. Whether addressing issues on South Street or advocating for responsible city legislation, SHCA will work to ensure our voice is heard while fostering positive relationships with external stakeholders.

Supporting SHCA Volunteers

As a volunteer-driven organization, SHCA's success depends on the dedication of its members. My goal as president is to empower and support our volunteers by providing clear direction, resources, and encouragement. Whether your passion lies in zoning, traffic, fundraising, or neighborhood

maintenance, there is a role for you in shaping the future of Society Hill. Members of SHCA are encouraged to join or form a committee to work on issues that they are passionate about. You don't need to be a director to join or chair a committee. Please contact me if you want to be on or form a committee. The committees and task forces of the Board of Directors and a brief narrative of what they do appear after this message. For those not familiar with the many activities of the SHCA, information on the many programs and structure of the SHCA can be found on our website at www.societyhillcivic.org.

In the spirit of transparency, we will also continue to amplify our communication efforts through the weekly Spotlight newsletter, our website, social media and the *Reporter*. These resources will keep you informed of our activities and provide opportunities for you to get involved.

Lastly, I want to emphasize that this is *your* association. SHCA exists to serve the needs and aspirations of the Society Hill community. I invite you to share *your* ideas, concerns, and dreams for our neighborhood. Together, we can build on our successes, address our challenges, and ensure that Society Hill remains a beacon of beauty, history, and community spirit for generations to come.

Thank you for your trust and support. I look forward to working alongside all of you to make this upcoming year a memorable and meaningful one for Society Hill.

Please Join Us

If you're not currently a member, please consider joining us to help support our mission. Everyone is needed and welcome. You can join us on our website here: www.societyhillcivic.org/join.

Robert Kramer is a retired attorney who has served as an SHCA Board Member since 2015. He has acted as chair of the Legal Committee, Nominations Committee, and 5th Street Committee, and has been a member of the Finance, ZHP, I-95, Parking, Master Plan and Foglietta Plaza Committees. He and his wife have lived in Society Hill since 2012.



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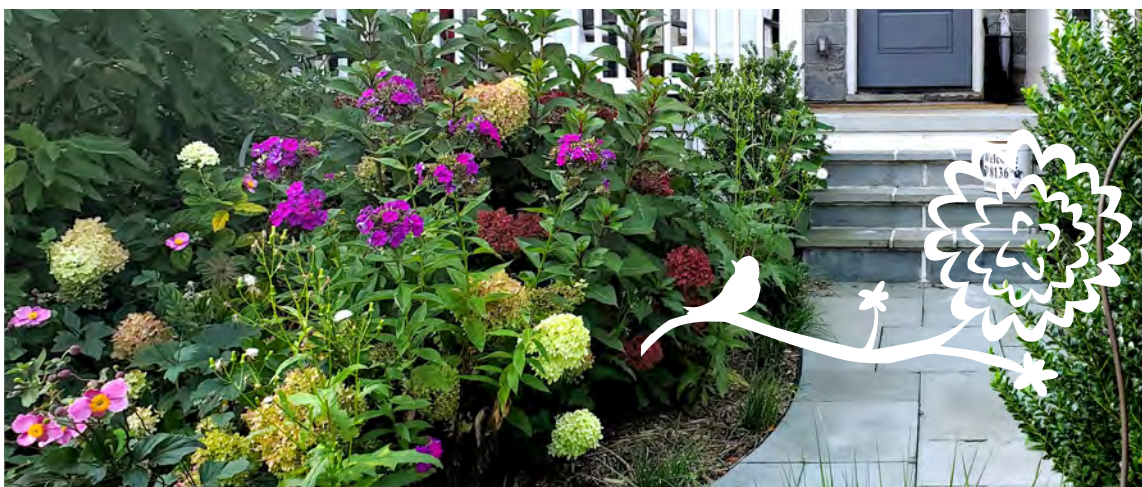
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ZONING & HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

BY PAUL BONI

Zoning Variance Requests

The Zoning & Historic Preservation Committee becomes involved when a property owner seeks approvals from either the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) or the Philadelphia Historical Commission (PHC). For matters going to the ZBA, we are a legally required part of the process.

We remind owners that most permanent changes to your property require a building permit. For permanent changes to the exterior, the process of obtaining a building permit will require approval of the PHC. Because Society Hill is designated a "Historic District," this means most buildings require such approval, even the infill buildings from the 1960s and 1970s, etc.

For any given project, SHCA's ZHP Committee hosts a meeting attended by the near neighbors and the applicant. During the meeting, the applicant will make a presentation, and we have Q&A and comments, including from near neighbors. The ZHP Committee will ultimately decide on a recommendation to the city agency. We often recommend approval; we often try to negotiate for better design, materials, etc.; and we sometimes recommend denial.

Our current matters include the following:

- **3XX Lombard Street**

St. Peter's School is proposing an expansion of the current school building towards the west, partially into the existing playground. An outdoor play area would be included on the top floor of the building expansion. The school has submitted an application to the Philadelphia Historical Commission. The ZHP Committee hosted

a community meeting on June 9th, and several near neighbors attended. Some compliments were provided, and a small number of concerns were raised, but there was no major criticism. Our committee continues to review this project. Approval from the ZBA will also be required.

- **1XX Pine Street**

The property owner of this single-family residence is constructing a pergola in the rear yard. Construction began without city approvals, and now the owner is seeking zoning variances for the pergola's dimensions and location. The ZHP Committee convened a meeting on May 5th, which was attended by many near neighbors. The committee asked the applicant for additional information. Another community meeting is possible. The ZBA hearing is scheduled for August 2025.

- **170 S. Independence Mall West (601 Walnut)**

The property owner is opening a steakhouse restaurant, named Rockwell & Rose, inside the space currently housing P.J. Clarke's, which will remain in a smaller footprint. The owner is proposing Rockwell & Rose signage for the marquee/canopy that exists along the Walnut Street façade. This requires a zoning variance. We will hold a meeting in the coming month or so. The ZBA hearing is scheduled for November 2025.

Please contact the ZHP Committee Chair, Paul Boni, at pboni@bonilaw.com with any questions.

Paul Boni is a zoning and land use attorney, who serves on the SHCA board and chairs the Zoning & Historic Preservation Committee.



The interactive zoning map of Philadelphia can be found at openmaps.phila.gov.



DELANCEY SQUARE TOWN WATCH

Parking Lot Added to Security Patrol Route

The SHCA parking lot at Front between South and Lombard has been added to the Delancey Square Town Watch Summer Security patrol area. Summer Security patrols, running from mid-June through late September, have helped keep our streets just a little safer. The Delancey Square Town Watch is currently raising money for Summer Security. As the only certified Town Watch in Society Hill, this marks the 3rd year of this successful and effective effort, with over \$100,000 raised in 2023 and 2024 and almost \$30,000 raised so far for 2025.



Will and Kevin are the Summer Patrol's two main safety officers. The patrol vehicle says **IRON ROCK SECURITY** on the side, and has a light bar across the top.

To learn more about the Town Watch, Summer Security and the coverage area, email dstownwatch@gmail.com or visit <https://gofund.me/2ec999ae>.

Make all the right moves

Call me for an assist with your action plan



I'll net you the most amount of money, in the least amount of time, with the least amount of aggravation.



FRED MANFRED

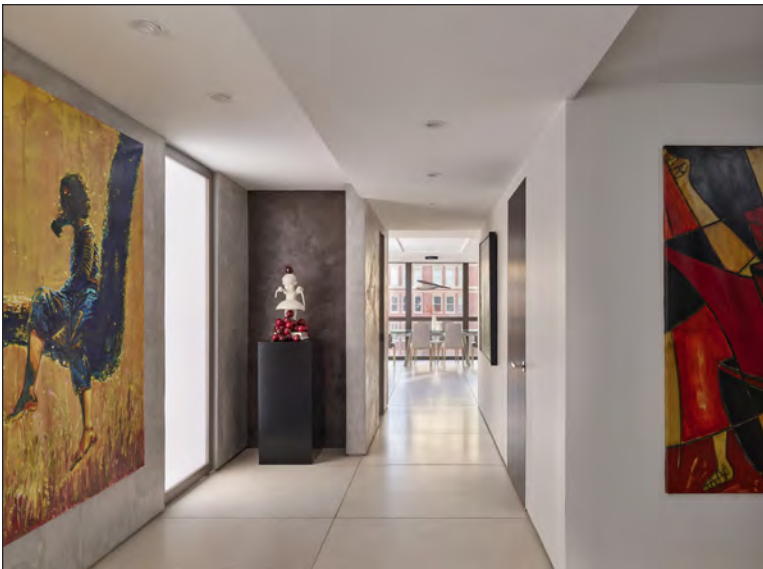
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NEW MARKET & HEAD HOUSE CONSERVANCY NOTES

BY SUSAN BURT-COLLINS

City Allocates \$1.5 Million for Head House Restoration and Improvement

It has been almost a year since the New Market & Head House Conservancy began the ambitious project of restoring and revitalizing the Head House and Shambles on 2nd Street between Lombard and Pine Streets. We aim to preserve this 18th-century historic landmark while making it a vibrant gathering place for community events, markets, and occasions like weddings.

We began with a Conditions Assessment Report conducted by Milner Preservation Architects, generously paid for by SHCA. The analysis determined that the building is structurally sound, though in need of much restoration and repair. The support stanchions for the bell are in the most critical condition, a problem that will be remedied.

With the report in hand, we began fundraising. Our initial request, in July 2024, was met with broad support. Within two and half months we raised more than \$56,000 from the local community. Then, at the end of a three-week effort, culminating with an event at the Twisted Tail, \$16,000 was raised to restore the clock. This level of interest and financial support from the community demonstrated the importance of this project to the City of Philadelphia. Now we could ask for the big dollars from the city so that we could move quickly towards getting the job done.

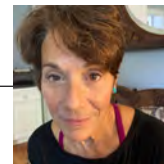
We began talks about funding with Councilman Mark Squilla and representatives of the city's Department of Public Property. We were very pleased to secure \$160,000 from the city for detailed design and the preparation of construction bid documents. Then, in early spring, we received great news from Councilman Squilla that he was

able to get the Parker administration to allocate \$1,500,000 for restoration and improvement of the building. We are now working with the design and preservation team, focusing on the repairs and upgrades that are most needed. If all goes well, the project can go out for bid in the fall.

We are thrilled to report that, as a first step, the Head House's historic clock is coming back. Out of commission for years, the clock is being restored to its former glory and will operate with a new electric motor. We expect the clock to be telling time at the Head House by October. We will wait until the full restoration project is underway to repair the stanchions for the bell so it can once again be rung. The clock faces will also be refurbished when the larger work is done.

Your generosity and support have been critical in getting us to this point. By coming together as a community, and with the support of our councilman and the city, we will not only preserve this historic structure, we will transform it into a vibrant gathering space for our neighborhood and the city. We will continue to provide updates through the summer, and hopefully, in the not too distant future, we will invite you to dance, dine, and celebrate under the Shambles of the 21st century. To learn more or make a donation, visit www.headhousesquare.org.

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.



View of the Head House Lukens clock from inside the tower.

For Members Only: Society Hill List of Contractors

SHCA serves the neighborhood in many ways. Each year hundreds of Society Hill residents rely on access to SHCA's List of Contractors to make improvements or repairs to their homes. The list contains names and contact information for all types of services: general contractors, plumbers, HVAC, electricians, painters, handymen, and much more.

A resident commented: "The list is invaluable when the unexpected happens to your home."

The list is updated as needed during the year. To suggest a new contractor with whom you have had good results, or to notify us that a contractor has retired, contact list curator Martha Levine at marthalev6@gmail.com.

As a perk of membership, all new and renewing members will receive an email with a link to download a copy of the list. Not a member yet? Join or renew today to receive your copy of the list!



KEEPING POSTED

BY AL CAVALARI

A Black Founding Father

*Founders
don't just
build impressive
structures. First
and foremost they
build our ideals
and beliefs.*



The American war is over: but this is far from being the case with the American Revolution. On the contrary, nothing but the first act of the great drama is closed." These words, spoken in January 1787 by Benjamin Rush of Philadelphia, signer of the Declaration of Independence, speak volumes. He knew well what we often forget: If we focus solely on the proud successes in our history, we risk ignoring the shortcomings from which we should learn.

Richard Allen, founder of Mother Bethel African Methodist Church, knew well the pain of slavery, into which he was born on Valentine's Day, 1760. As a child he saw his mother and several siblings sold away from him, never to be seen again.

He began life in the household of Philadelphia attorney Benjamin Chew, later chief justice of the colonial Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Chew had three plantations in Delaware and a home in Philadelphia. There is uncertainty as to where Allen was born. We know that around 1768, Allen was sold to Stokeley Sturgis of Delaware, who allowed him to work on his own time and save up money to purchase his freedom. While with Sturgis, Allen attended Methodist services and experienced a religious awakening. After his manumission, he became an itinerant preacher. Eventually he was invited to lead regular services at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church (still on North 4th Street) in Philadelphia. This was a great step for him, but led to trouble, "good trouble" as it happened.

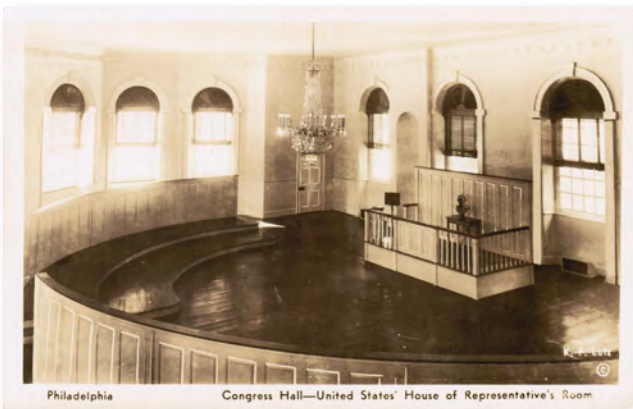
Different races worshipped together there until Allen's charismatic work attracted so many new black parishioners that hostility developed among the white members. One day in 1787, as the U.S. Constitution was being born in Independence Hall, the black attendees were told suddenly

to segregate themselves in the newly constructed balcony, which *they themselves had helped to build!* Allen's autobiography tells us they responded with an instant exodus. "We all went out of the church in a body, and they were no more plagued with us in the church." Instead they began raising money to build their own church. Benjamin Rush was among the first contributors, which later included George Washington. Allen had by then become a rich real estate investor, landlord, and businessman. He personally purchased the land at 6th and Lombard Streets in 1791, but it took several years for a permanent structure to be built. The fourth church building was constructed on the property in 1890, and it stands to this day.

Allen's travails with the Methodist denomination were not over. His dispute had been with St. George's Church, not with the Methodist denomination itself, and he wanted his new church to remain Methodist. He signed, *without consulting a lawyer*, what amounts to a licensing agreement with the Methodist Conference. In 1815 the relationship had devolved over many issues, and Allen was horrified to learn that the agreement he signed had transferred the title of his land and church to the Methodist Conference. The Methodists had the authority to sell the property, which they did in a public auction! Allen had no choice but to show up at the auction and buy back his own church for \$10,125 (\$210,000 in 2025 dollars).

In 1797 Richard Allen was a mover and signer of the first anti-slavery petition delivered to Congress while it met in Congress Hall from 1790-1800. Perhaps written by Absalom Jones, it implored Congress to protect people freed from slavery and contained the appeals of four Philadelphia men who were pleading for their lives. Their names deserve to be read here: Jupiter Nicholson, Jacob Nicholson, Joe Albert, and Thomas Pritchett. Formerly enslaved in North Carolina, they had been freed there by Quakers who ignored the 1775 law requiring county court permission to manumit someone. They seem to have been doing so in such numbers that a law was passed in 1788 calling for the capture and sale of anyone freed illegally.

The petition's text includes the personal stories of all four men. It is the source of the following information and quotations. We read of the lives they built after freedom and of the honest jobs



Seen here in the 1930s is the first floor of Congress Hall, where the House of Representatives met from 1790 to 1800, while the Capitol building in Washington, DC, was under construction. The Senate met on the second floor.

Philadelphia

Congress Hall—United States' House of Representative's Room

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KEEPING POSTED

continued from page 8

they had. Jupiter worked as a seaman in North Carolina for four years, then as a sawyer after fleeing with his wife to Virginia. Four years later he was employed as a dockworker in Philadelphia. He left behind a mother and father who were also freed but then “taken up” and sold into bondage.

Jacob was pursued “night and day” by “violent men who, induced by the profit afforded them by law followed this course as a business.” These were professional slave catchers following the new fugitive slave law which allowed the seizure of suspected runaways without a warrant. Without a trial and based only on sworn white testimony, suspects could be sent into slavery, where they perhaps had never been. Jacob left behind a mother, a child and two brothers.

Joe was freed by a man who then provided a house for him and his wife. Joe was captured and thrown into prison. After a month “I made my escape, and for three dollars was conveyed, with my wife, by a humane person, in a covered wagon by night, to Virginia.” After working in Virginia for four years as a sawyer, Joe was “advised to move northward” and uprooted himself to move to Philadelphia, where for two years he was working along shore and in stores in the summer. In winter he was a sawyer. His mother and sister were both freed back home but were also subsequently “taken up” and sold into slavery.

The man who freed Thomas provided him with land in North Carolina, where he built a house and sustained himself with a small farm. “Being threatened by Holland Lockwood, who married my said master’s widow, that if I would not come and serve him, he would apprehend me, and send me to the West Indies,” he left everything he owned, fled first to Virginia, then to New York, and then to Philadelphia where he worked as a waiter for almost three years.

The petition for these men did not fare well. Congress would not even receive it. By a vote of 50 to 33 it was denied a hearing in committee. Congressman and future president James Madison summed up the argument against it. In the records of Congress we read, “[Madison] thought this case had no claim on their attention... If they [the four black men] are free by the laws of North Carolina, they ought to apply to those laws, and have their privilege established. If they are slaves, the Constitution gives them no hopes of being heard here...” No hope.

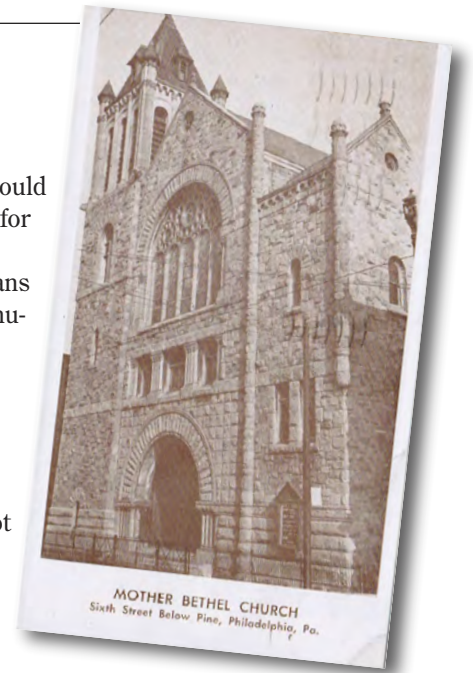
In 1799 Allen and the same team would introduce a second petition calling for an end to the African slave trade, protection of freed African Americans from kidnapping, and eventual manumission. On the petition’s original paperwork someone wrote it had “a tendency to create disquiet and jealousy.” It was referred to a committee where it died.

Post cards of Mother Bethel are not plentiful. Those in my collection are all from modern times. The church itself published a series in 1999. I have been waiting in vain for years to find any from the early 20th century. The card shown, the oldest I have seen, is from the collection of advanced collector of Philadelphia ephemera Gus Spector. It was postmarked in May of 1944.

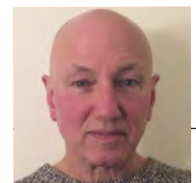
I was first introduced to the phrase “Black Founding Fathers” by Richard Newman in his book *Freedom’s Prophet*. Founders build things. They don’t just build impressive structures. First and foremost they build our ideals and beliefs. At a time when Thomas Jefferson argued that black people should be freed but *then deported to Africa* because he believed the races could not live together, Richard Allen was working to convince people, to quote from the 1799 petition authored by Absalom Jones, “If the Bill of Rights, or the declaration of Congress are of any validity, we beseech that as we are men, we may be admitted to partake of the Liberties and unalienable Rights therein held forth — firmly believing that the extending of justice and equity to all Classes would be a means of drawing down the blessing of Heaven upon this Land.”

As it happened, Allen and his wife, Sarah, ran an Underground Railroad station out of their home on Spruce between 4th and 5th Streets for over 30 years. Allen himself was once also accused of being a runaway. Unlike the four unfortunate men from North Carolina, he had the money for lawyers and plenty of white witnesses to vouch for his identity. Richard Allen and his wife Sarah are entombed in a crypt below the church. The church has a worthy museum that its website states is open by appointment after Sunday services.

Where would we be without people willing to change the world?



This post card showing Mother Bethel Church was postmarked in May of 1944.



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

McFarland's Value Proposition

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Quality

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.

Distinctive

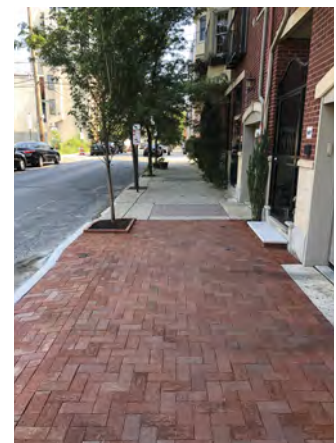
McFarland Blue trucks, uniformed personnel, attention to detail and thorough clean-up of your property help differentiate McFarland. Our management of your landscape can be total or selective, depending on your needs and budget. If we cannot immediately identify the cause of a landscape problem, we will research the issue until we have solid answers to report to you. As a second-generation business, we have been satisfying our clients with a lifelong-relationship approach to service.

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.



215-844-TREE



USING THE CITY'S CLIP PROGRAM

BY AL MEINSTER

Our Continuing War on Graffiti

Graffiti is so awful that we often experience a visceral reaction when it confronts us. SHCA has placed great importance on graffiti removal. A private firm was being paid \$1,325 per month for a service that removes scrawlings and adhesive-back stickers from public property, but not private property. As an alternative, SHCA's board voted to switch over to using the city's Community Life Improvement Program (CLIP) program, which provides services for both public and private property at no cost.

A few words about CLIP. Currently, there are 15 graffiti abatement teams, each equipped with the power washing equipment needed to remove graffiti. My experience with CLIP has been very

positive. When the wall of the off-street parking area at the northwest corner of 3rd and Delancey Streets was extensively graffitied with spray paint, CLIP arrived a day later to remove every trace of the eyesore.

We still need to alert the teams to the location of graffiti. If your property has been graffitied, or if you see graffiti on public property, contact CLIP by **calling 311 or visit www.phila.gov/311**. Be sure to ask about the effect of power washing before using it on older brickwork.

Al Meinster is SHCA's Cleanup Day Chairperson.



See Graffiti?

Call 311 or visit phila.gov/311 to report the location.



SUMMER HAS ARRIVED...AND SO HAVE THE WEEDS

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

A Weed-Free Society Hill

Summer in our area is nothing short of spectacular. The tree canopy has leafed out, window boxes are overflowing with color, and backyard gardens provide a beautiful respite. Just one pesky intruder has arrived to spoil the scene...**weeds!**

When I lived in the suburbs, where properties were typically a third of an acre, a yard full of weeds was an anomaly. Yet here in our neighborhood, with very small frontage, some neighbors turn a blind eye to messy overgrowth in their tree pits and on their sidewalks. What gives? Even the messiest corner property could be cleaned up in less than an hour and maintained with just a few minutes here and there. The area would look so much nicer.

Here in the city, the responsibility of sidewalk and tree/tree pit upkeep falls to the property owner. In rental properties, that means the building owner, but nothing says a renter can't pitch in. Although it doesn't often happen, Philly 311 can actually issue fines for weed overgrowth. But more than that, it's a matter of pride and a courtesy to your neighbors, to keep your place looking nice.

The best form of weed removal is right at the end of your arms. **Pulling weeds out by hand, including the root, is the easiest and safest method.**

A good layer of mulch in the tree pit will help nourish the tree and keep regrowth to a minimum. If you're compelled to use a spray, **please avoid anything toxic like Roundup**. A natural alternative is listed at the end of this article. It may leave things smelling like salad for a couple days, but it's safe and effective.

Whatever you do, **do not spray any kind of weed killer in tree pits**. Limit use to sidewalks. Herbicides can't differentiate between weeds and trees and can kill off even a healthy tree. The beautiful Mulberry tree on 5th Street across from the ACME parking lot met just that fate.

Please, do your part. Let's make Society Hill a lovely weed-free neighborhood.

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

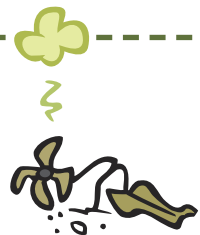


It only takes a few minutes to remove weeds from even the messiest tree pits and sidewalks.

Non-Toxic Natural Weed Spray

- 1 gallon 30% vinegar
- 1 cup table salt
- 2 tablespoons Dawn dish detergent

Mix all the ingredients and pour the solution into a spray bottle. Use on a dry, sunny day with no rain in the forecast for at least 48 hours. You don't want rain to dilute its effectiveness. Weeds will die off in a few days for easy removal.



2025 - 2026 SHCA BOARD OFFICERS

CLAUDIA CARABELLI, NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR

Meet SHCA's Board Officers and Directors-at-Large

This year's call for nominees to SHCA's annual election of the board of directors brought so many responses that the candidates outnumbered the openings. So rather than SHCA's nominating committee presenting an uncontested slate, a ballot of candidates was emailed to voting households, and an electronic election was held. The link to the electronic ballot and an access code were emailed to voters on May 19, and election results were announced on May 23. The SHCA Board Officers and Directors at Large introduced here took office on June 1 and will serve through the end of May 2026. In the next issue, we'll introduce SHCA's Quadrant Directors. Thank you to all of the SHCA member households who voted in the 2025 SHCA board elections. We are grateful for your engagement and for making your voices heard in shaping the future of our neighborhood.

**Bob Kramer** *President*

My goal as president is to empower the SHCA Board and committees to set the SHCA agenda through respectful debate and community outreach. I have served as an SHCA Board Member since May 2015, during my tenure I have been chair of

the Legal Committee, the Nominations Committee, and the 5th Street Committee, which led the effort to retain the Acme market on 5th Street. I have also been a member of the Finance, ZHP, I-95, Parking, Master Plan and Foglietta Plaza Committees. My wife and I have been residents of Society Hill since 2012. I am a retired attorney. During my career I have represented clients with respect to real estate matters, mergers and acquisitions, securities, corporate governance, commercial transactions, employment law, and finance.

**Mary Purcell** *1st Vice President*

I have been volunteering in the community for over 10 years, having been a Partner of Towers Perrin and a Principal at Mercer, leading teams in account, operations and project management. In SHCA I have worked in ways large and

small, from clean-up days, the holiday social, chairing the McCall School Committee and helping enact our Neighborhood Plan into law. I chair our I-95 and Foglietta Plaza committees. In my time volunteering here, I have found the people of Society Hill to be caring and creative and willing to work together for our community and city. I hope for us to reinvigorate that and promote a more positive culture on our board and in the community. We need everyone.

**Jay Borowsky** *2nd Vice President*

As second vice president, I intend to focus on revitalizing the 2nd Street business corridor, specifically to fill the vacancies in the former CVS and Wawa spaces. I recently served as a SE quadrant director as well as the chair

of the SHCA legal committee. I have long been involved in local community affairs. I am the founder and served as the first board president of Independence Charter School in Center City. In my professional life, I am the principal at the Law Offices of Jay M. Borowsky, LLC., where I engage in practice of business law. I counsel small and midsize companies in all business aspects ranging from start-up through succession planning. I also serve as general counsel for a Philadelphia region start-up.

**William Koch** *Treasurer*

My wife and I reside on Delancey Street and can't imagine living anywhere else. I'm passionate about the neighborhood and protecting and improving its unique charm. I recently founded Society Hill

Advisors, a boutique consulting firm providing business development, exit planning and strategic direction to founder-owned businesses. I believe my professional background in strategy and planning will complement the backgrounds of the other board members, helping us to prioritize and sustainably fund meaningful contributions to the neighborhood. I'm passionate about safety, cleanliness and promoting local business, I'm willing to support/lead any of the SHCA committees.

**Brooke Marshall** *Secretary*

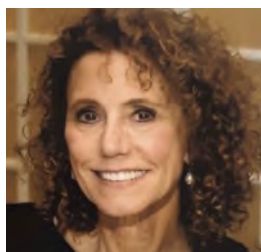
I'm Brooke Marshall and I've proudly called Society Hill home for four years. Prior to moving to Philadelphia, I lived in the Ambler suburbs for a decade. In Ambler, I was deeply engaged in community initiatives — from serving

as an elected member of Borough Council, to aiding in the launch of a community-owned co-op grocery store, and volunteering at Pennypack Farm and the Farmers' Market. I'm passionate about building strong, connected communities. As a Board member, I will be actively engaged, transparent, and equitable in my representation of the community. I'm excited to bring my experience and dedication to the Society Hill Civic Association.

continued on page 13

2025 - 2026 SHCA DIRECTORS AT LARGE

continued from page 12



Stacey Ackerman *Director at Large*

I have served as an SHCA Board member and have been a member of the Condo Board for St. James Court for the past 14 years, and intermittently since 1986. I am a longtime SHCA member (since 1986) and a Board member since 2023. I also serve on the Board of the Society

Hill Preservation Foundation. Recently I worked with the City of Philadelphia, SHCA's administrator Samantha Brown, and others to secure a large grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to renovate Starr Garden. I am a retired ophthalmologist. My education includes a Cornell University Medical Degree.



Antonio Atacan *Director at Large*

I have lived in historic homes in Society Hill since 2000. My wife and I raised our two children, who are now in college, here. I am a real estate entrepreneur. I first owned Keller Williams Center City, and I now own Venture Philly on Washington Square, which specializes in luxury

residential sales in Society Hill. I appreciate the neighborhood and respect its preservation. I'll help us improve South Street and make the thoroughfare more family-friendly. As a natural team player, I am ready to collaborate and contribute to the board's efforts to enhance the vitality and quality of life in Society Hill.



Rick Herskovitz *Director at Large*

My wife and I have had the pleasure of raising our family in Society Hill and living here for several decades. I am a long-time member of SHCA and a Block Coordinator. Given my careers as an architect and developer, I am pleased to serve on the Zoning & Historic Preservation Committee,

helping our community grow responsibly. I always enjoy assisting neighbors, old and new. This is my community, my home and they are my friends. Ed Bacon was a mentor, and I was the managing director of the Penn's Landing Corporation at its inception. I will listen to your views and take them to heart.



Judie Koss *Director at Large*

I have lived in Society Hill for the past 24 years and proudly raised my children here. It's an amazing community with caring people and vibrant businesses, including some on Headhouse Square, near my home. I am passionate about keeping our neighborhood safe, supportive and connected. I'm an attorney

in the education and tech industries. I bring years of experience of tough, detail-oriented analysis. I am committed to advocating for what matters most to our residents. I believe in being proactive, having open communication and discussing resolutions. In serving on the Board I can help SHCA do its best to serve our community.



Nancy Lanham *Director at Large*

I have always been an urban resident, first in Chicago, then in Society Hill for the last 36 years. My commitment to building community is a constant. The diversity of our residents is one of our strengths. Through listening, clear communication and consensus building, our community can be safer,

more comfortable and welcoming. I am a Block Coordinator, Democratic Committeeperson, pedestrian and Rep Mary Isaacson's representative on the Interstate Land Management Corporation Board, working with SHCA on Foglietta Plaza. Professionally, prior to retirement, I was a banker and a non-profit executive director.



Kathleen McAfee
Director at Large

I've lived in Society Hill for 14 years and worked in public service for the entirety of my forty-year professional career, all in Philadelphia. Although I'm now self-employed, I look forward to continue to serve others as

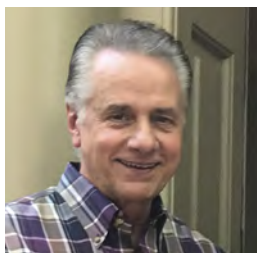
an SHCA Board Member. This neighborhood and the people who live here are important to me. I will work to make sure everyone has a voice in the decisions that are made by SHCA's Board, because they affect us all.



Ned Scharff *Director at Large*

As a long-term Society Hill homeowner, I will help to preserve and enhance the special charm and character of our neighborhood and promote the spirit of neighborliness and civility that make Society Hill a special place to live. As an ongoing board

member, I will work to bring a sense of common courtesy and community to our board meetings, and I will support the fresh SHCA leadership that is grounded in respect and caring for all our neighbors.



Kim Williams *Director at Large*

My wife, Rosanne, and I have lived in Society Hill for 16 years. I am committed to preserving the beauty and historic character of our neighborhood. I've served on the Board previously as Vice-President and as a committee member. I am a Block Coordinator. I support the Friends of

Pine and Spruce and am committed to promoting the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists alike, through fair and reasonable public policy. I am a retired President/CEO with expertise in board leadership, strategic planning, fund-raising and financial management. I believe in a collaborative approach to promoting the quality of life, beauty and historic significance of our neighborhood and am honored to serve again on our Board.

OUT AND ABOUT

BY MARTHA LEVINE

A Tour de Force: The 2025 Gardens of Society Hill Tour

Despite a weekend forecast of continual rain, 400 visitors came out and contributed over \$16,200 for our two-day annual fundraiser event: The Gardens of Society Hill Tour, on June 7 and 8. This SHCA-sponsored tour brings in significant funds for neighborhood improvement and beautification projects. Visitors come from far and wide, including Center City, other Philadelphia neighborhoods, the Philly suburbs, many from New Jersey, and even New York City.

Ticket holders enjoyed visiting 16 private, lush gardens scattered through our neighborhood. We call them “secret gardens” because they are tucked behind houses and hidden from street view. Two public gardens on Walnut Street, the Bicentennial Bell Garden at 3rd and the 18th-Century Garden between 3rd and 4th Streets were also on the tour. One suburban visitor remarked: “I like

to come to this tour each year to see such great design and creativity while working with smaller city spaces.”

Highlights from the Tour

A rose-covered, arched pergola in a large bi-level garden; a blossom-filled Mediterranean style garden with a replica of an 18th-century guard house; a double-wide garden with a huge hydroponic green wall with perennials and tropicals; a large patio garden with perennial beds and a collection of kinetic metal wind sculptures; a multi-level garden featuring a limited-edition statue of Sabrina, the water nymph; an 18th-century museum house formal garden with native perennials plus those authentic to the colonial period; and a shade garden with a figurative sculpture made from found objects.

Tour Coordinators Linda Skale and Martha Levine extend their thanks to all of the garden owners who allowed us to

highlight their beautiful, well-cared-for gardens — certainly “labors of love.” Thank you to the 68 volunteers who watched over the gardens, welcomed visitors, and allowed only ticket holders to enter. They had such an enjoyable time seeing neighbors and meeting new people from other areas. Lastly, thank you to our sponsors for their support: Liberty Tree & Landscape Services, Bartlett Tree Experts, Premier Building Restoration, Daley Plumbing, Earthly Delights (Gardening), and McFarland Tree & Landscape Services.



Martha Levine and **Linda Skale** are the Garden Tour organizers.



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URBAN EDEN

BY MARY STURDIVANT

Four Virtues and a Vice

The Human Genome Project missed an important American genetic mutation: the pairing that compels us to self-improvement. Even before we became **US**, founding father Benjamin Franklin popularized a self-improvement program with worksheets. When a woman challenged him for not including “Pride,” he answered that he was afraid that if he overcame that vice, he would just fall into the trap of becoming proud of doing so. My advice to all my neighbors is: If you want to overcome pride, garden!

I have self-confidence that borders on arrogance (my brother-in-law has been quite frank). After nine years of growing paperwhites in shallow bowls of water for a winter indoor respite, I assumed this was a no-fail project. Two years ago: failure, as most bulbs failed to sprout. Last year: lots of stems and green, but only one flowering head. Testing each theory of what went wrong (bulbs put into water after sprouting, disease, too much direct sun) will take another year. This year, I scrubbed the bowl and stones with a steel brush and soaked them in a 30 percent solution of vinegar water for 48 hours. Now I wait for next winter. Humility and patience become ingrained in a gardener’s character, reinforced by the glowing reports of how well the bulbs from the same batch I gifted to friends did in their homes.

Growing dill from seeds further reinforced the lessons. I used both styrofoam and paper pulp egg cartons, with a recommended orchid potting mix. In five days, as if on cue, green appeared above the chunky media. A quarter inch! Half an inch! One inch! Then the green gave way to yellowing, flopping and death. At least gardeners get to compost their failures. Next try, I will move the tray to indirect sunlight until the seedlings are established. The pain still smarts, so this year I bought herbs at the Physick House plant sale.

Serendipitously, I caught an episode of *Shark Tank* where a young dairy farmer was pitching CowPots. She and her

“There is perhaps no one of our natural passions so hard to subdue as pride. Even if I could conceive that I had completely overcome it, I should probably be proud of my humility.”

—Benjamin Franklin



Neighbors and tourists alike are awed by this spring bloomer — an Eastern Redbud.

father had a business making growing containers from cow manure. This solved two problems for me. I always worry, when removing plants from their plastic nursery pots, that I am either too aggressive and hurt the roots when loosening the soil, or I am not aggressive enough so that the transplants pop up out of the bed. With CowPots, you plant the pot, the roots can grow out, and the manure provides natural nutrients. Biodegradable pots eliminate the problem of what to do with all the plastic ones. Simply don’t use them, a pragmatic solution. Ben would be so proud. Oops!

Gardeners learn generosity. We must. One bumper crop of tomatoes or zucchini will find us leaving paper bags of produce on a neighbor’s stoop, calling Philabundance to see if they accept donations, even testing for unlocked cars to deposit nature’s bounty. I don’t judge. It’s a story of doubtful authenticity anyway.

Even business owners in the field seem to be more generous. Steve Shreiner of

King of Prussia’s Shreiner Tree Care donated labor and materials to prop up the Eastern Redbud in Washington Square, helping out the SHCA volunteer committee. While we are grateful, I am not going to count gratitude as a garden-fostered virtue. It is its own reward. Thanks, Steve. A heartfelt thanks to all the neighbors whose window boxes, containers, tree pits and Franklin lamppost baskets make strolling our brick walks such a joy.

The fourth virtue after humility, patience, and generosity is the sense of wonder. See the photograph of the redbud in bloom. Feel the wonder. Really notice the changes around us. Become a steward of our environment. I understand some conservation groups have finally made headway with evangelical groups by rebranding as “creation care.” Whatever works!

That brings us to the snake in the garden: envy. Next to flower bed #5, less than six feet on the same northeast corner of Washington Square, Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*) thrive and bloom. I have taken home excess plants, but with no luck. After three unsuccessful tries, I had to reevaluate. Did I just need to persevere once more (a good thing)? Or had I slipped into mule-headed stubbornness (a bad thing)? My last attempt to find the issue will be soil testing with the \$9 kit from Penn State Extension. If there’s no result, the blue squills in spring and blue asters for summer will do. Here’s advice from an old pop tune: “If you can’t be with the one you love, love the one you’re with.” Ben would definitely get that.

Long-time neighbor **Mary Sturdivant** is a passionate gardener who helps with plot #5 in Washington Square with Ruth Ann Fenton and Judyth-Ayne Harvell. 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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ATV / DIRT BIKE UPDATE

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

What's Happening?

If you lived in Society Hill during the summer of 2020, not only were you dealing with a global pandemic and civil unrest, you no doubt also suffered through the onslaught of deafening ATVs and dirt bikes at all hours of the night. While dangerous car meet-ups still happen on larger roads, things have quieted down considerably on our neighborhood streets. What happened?

Some history. Street riding of these vehicles, illegal though it is, has become a popular part of urban hip-hop culture. Celebrities like rapper Meek Mills have promoted the activity in their music videos. Philadelphia is not alone. This phenomenon occurs in cities across the country. Participants see it as a way to escape more dangerous neighborhoods, engage with a community, show off risky tricks, and challenge authority. Their “wheels up, guns down” mantra identifies the activity as a better alternative to the gun violence plaguing our cities. Is it still dangerous? Of course. Does it affect an area’s quality of life? Absolutely. Traversing the city in packs while often ignoring traffic laws, these groups can be very intimidating to other drivers.

What’s legal? ATVs (all-terrain vehicles), dirt bikes, side-by-sides and dune buggies are **all illegal** on Philadelphia streets. No amount of customizing makes it otherwise. They can only be operated legally off-road or on private property. The one exception is the Polaris Slingshot, those three-wheeled vehicles (two in the back and one in the front) known as autocycles. Slingshots require a standard driver’s license to operate, despite being classified as motorcycles.

What’s being done? Enforcing laws related to the misuse of these vehicles has been a challenge for law enforcement. Police are expressly forbidden from pursuing them, since a high-speed chase poses all sorts of dangers. They can, however, intervene at stoplights or if the driver pulls over when requested. In 2024, Philadelphia officers confiscated more than 1,200 off-road vehicles and issued over \$2 million in fines. Once impounded, it can cost up to \$2,000 to get the vehicle back. So far in 2025, more than 600 vehicles have been taken off the streets.

Police have been able to glean information about meet-ups by infiltrating social media sites

the groups use for communication. Detectives use search warrants to uncover promoters, participants, and vehicles used. This data-driven approach includes working with other police departments across the country. Drivers can even be pulled over in another state for an incident that occurred here. The Philadelphia police welcome tips about locations where these vehicles are stored. Several officers have been trained to ride dirt bikes while others patrol on bikes and in SUVs. Specific streets and intersections are periodically selected for targeted traffic enforcement.



The latest tool. One of the newest innovations is automated enforcement of noise ordinances. Hard to believe, but yes, the city does have noise ordinances. Permissible hours of noise and decibel levels are mandated, typically for construction work and loud house parties. Much like the red-light cameras that take a photo of your license plate to issue a ticket, AI-powered noise-seeking cameras take a photo based on decibel levels. There’s currently one on the 100 block of South 13th Street and some being tested on busy blocks of South Street. Thirty more are deployed in various residential areas. While not a panacea, it is one more tool to address this ongoing problem.

What can you do? Police have repeatedly asked residents to **call 911** to report any concerns related to ongoing noise, drag racing, and dangerous driving. **911 is not just for life and death emergencies anymore.** The dispatcher will triage the call by priority. Even if an officer doesn’t respond, the call will be logged, so that the police can better gauge what the problems are and where they’re occurring. They’re doing their best, but they can’t be everywhere. We are their eyes and ears.

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



So far in 2025, more than 600 illegal vehicles have been taken off the streets.

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Comic Novel

Spent by Alison Bechdel, \$32

Spent by Alison Bechdel is a semi-fictionalized comic that centers around the narrator, Alison, her wife, Holly, and their eclectic group of friends. In *Spent*, Alison and Holly own and operate a goat sanctuary in rural Vermont, existing within a progressive utopia. As Alison struggles to complete her next creative project, she grapples with the dimming sociopolitical climate, faced with the impossible choice between cashing in and selling out. Smart, hilarious, and beautifully illustrated, Bechdel skillfully captures the tone of the current day.

Fiction

The Coast Road by Alan Murrin, \$17.99

The Coast Road is a moving debut novel by Irish writer Alan Murrin. Set in the mid-1990s in County Donegal, Ireland, *The Coast Road* is an honest portrayal of married life before the Fifteenth Amendment of the Constitution of Ireland legalized divorce in 1996. The novel centers around two women, Izzy Keaveney and Colette Crowley, who are each trapped in unhappy marriages, beholden to their estranged husbands. Murrin writes refreshingly complex, imperfect female characters who seek liberation within an oppressive, sexist system. A lyrical, fast-paced read, *The Coast Road* is a crucial reminder of the countless untold stories of domestic abuse in Ireland before the Fifteenth Amendment.

Illustrated Children's Book

A Life Made By Hand: The Story of Ruth Asawa by Andrea D'Aquino, \$17.95

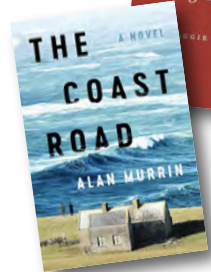
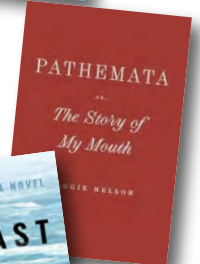
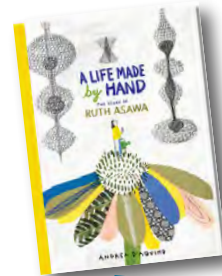
A Life Made By Hand: The Story of Ruth Asawa is a hardcover children's book written and illustrated by Andrea D'Aquino. *A Life Made By Hand* tells the story of Ruth Asawa, a prolific visual artist primarily known for abstract, gravity-defying wire sculptures. Although this book is geared towards children ages five to eight, it can be enjoyed by anyone with an interest in art. D'Aquino's impressive re-creations of Asawa's work are intricate and captivating. Through a fascinating combination of collage, written word, and illustration, D'Aquino honors Asawa's innovative nature by pushing the boundaries of the page.

Nonfiction

Pathemata, Or, The Story of My Mouth by Maggie Nelson, \$25

For many years, Maggie Nelson has experienced intense, relentless jaw pain. *Pathemata, Or, The Story of My Mouth* chronicles Nelson's treatment-resistant chronic pain through a stunning, dream-like work of prose. In *Pathemata*, Nelson seamlessly weaves a non-linear narrative that captures the coarseness of suffering and loss, while simultaneously honoring its inverse. Nelson is a master of the formless form, an expert in translating intensely personal thoughts, memories, and feelings onto the page.

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



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OBITUARY

BY CONCHA ALBORG

In Memory of Dr. Roger Moss



Dr. Roger W. Moss Jr.
1940-2025

Dr. Roger W. Moss Jr. died on February 8, 2025, at 85 years of age. He was a renowned educator, historian, administrator, and author. Born and raised in Zanesville, Ohio, he received his B.S.Ed. and M.A. degrees from Ohio University, where he was the curator of rare books. He studied for his Ph.D. at the University of Delaware, with a major in early American history and a minor in American Material Culture at Winterthur

Museum, while he also became an adjunct lecturer in history. He taught at the Weitzman School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania from 1981 to 2004.

In 1968 Dr. Moss became the Executive Director of The Athenaeum of Philadelphia, a position he held for 40 years. During this time, he restored the interior of the building and expanded the collections in architecture and Victorian design. His interests coincided with the creation of the Victorian Society of America, which was housed at The Athenaeum until the 1990s.

Dr. Moss was the recipient of many honors and awards, such as grants from the National Endowment for the

Humanities, the Biddle Award at the Preservation Alliance, and The Athenaeum Literary Award. He published more than ten books: *Victorian Interior Decoration: American Interiors, 1830-1900*; *Century of Color: Exterior Decoration of American Buildings, 1820-1920*; *Historic Houses of Philadelphia: A Tour of the Region's Museum Homes*; and *Victorian Exterior Decoration: How to Paint Your Nineteenth-Century American House Historically*, among others.

Roger Moss met his wife Gail Winkler at a conference on Victorian houses. In their 45 years of marriage and shared interests, they collaborated on many projects. While Roger wrote about *Lighting for Historic Buildings*, Gail published *Floor Coverings for Historic Buildings*, both in 1988. They both loved living in Society Hill, first in Society Hill Towers and later in Hopkinson House.

To make gifts in Dr. Roger's memory to The Athenaeum of Philadelphia, go to www.philaathenaeum.org/donate/ or contact Beth Hessel at bhessel@philaathenaeum.org.

Concha Alborg, PhD, is a retired academic and author originally from Spain. She writes fiction, creative non-fiction and a blog, "Epilogues/Epílogos." www.conchaalborg.com.



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FIX THE BRIX

BY MARTHA LEVINE

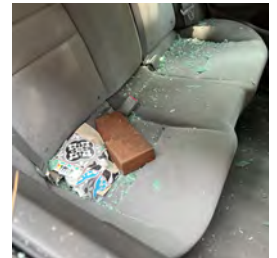
Our Pits Are the Pits

If you love to walk, you're in the right place. Society Hill is a great walking neighborhood. But what's happening with our tree pits? Many have unsecured loose bricks just sitting there. On almost every walk, I notice many pits like this. Sometimes I try to set the bricks back in place. Often, resetting a brick is more than I can do.

Let's face it, besides looking unsightly for such a beautiful historic district, loose bricks in the wrong hands could lead to smashed car windows or house windows, or, in a worst case scenario, a brick could be used as a weapon!

Homeowners, I ask you to check out your tree pits. If you have loose bricks, please secure them in place or remove and store them. Storing the bricks is a good idea. Replacement bricks can be quite expensive, and you never know when you might need one. Remember, even one brick could mean a broken window. Will it be yours?

Need help? There are several masons to choose from in SHCA's List of Contractors. The list is free to all current SHCA members.



SHCA's Fix the Brix subsidy program is ready to aid in your tree pit and sidewalk work. Go to www.societyhillcivic.org/whatwedo and click on Fix the Brix to apply for a subsidy.

It's more serious than you think.

Martha Levine is an active long-time SHCA board member.




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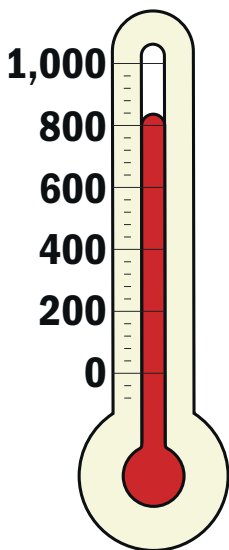
BY SAMANTHA BROWN

Your Membership Counts

Thank you to everyone who renewed their membership during April, May, and June. Fern Rosen won our April drawing for two tickets to the Lantern Theater. Congratulations to Fern, and thanks to all the contributors for their continued support!

Whether you mailed in a check or registered online, your membership counts. As of mid-June, we have 842 active memberships in the database, but we need 158 more households to sign up to reach our membership goal.

**2025 GOAL FOR
NUMBER OF
MEMBERS**



Three Easy Ways to Make Your 2025 Membership Gift

1 Use this QR code to make your gift by phone.



1. Open your phone's camera.
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3. Click the link that appears on the screen, and it will take you right to our web page where you can sign up!

2 Visit this URL to make your gift on computer:

www.societyhillcivic.org/join

3 Use the form on this page to pay by check.

Mail it to: Society Hill Civic Association
P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, PA 19147

We salute long-time members and warmly welcome new neighbors to join us.

If you haven't done so yet, sign up today!

Let's honor our history while shaping an even brighter future for Society Hill.

Samantha Brown is SHCA's Administrator and has called Society Hill home for 20 years.



Society Hill

CIVIC ASSOCIATION

2025 Membership Form

We encourage everyone to join online by going to www.societyhillcivic.org/join.

If you prefer to pay by check, fill out this form and follow the mailing instructions at the bottom.

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Society Hill Civic Association

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

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\$ _____ McCall School

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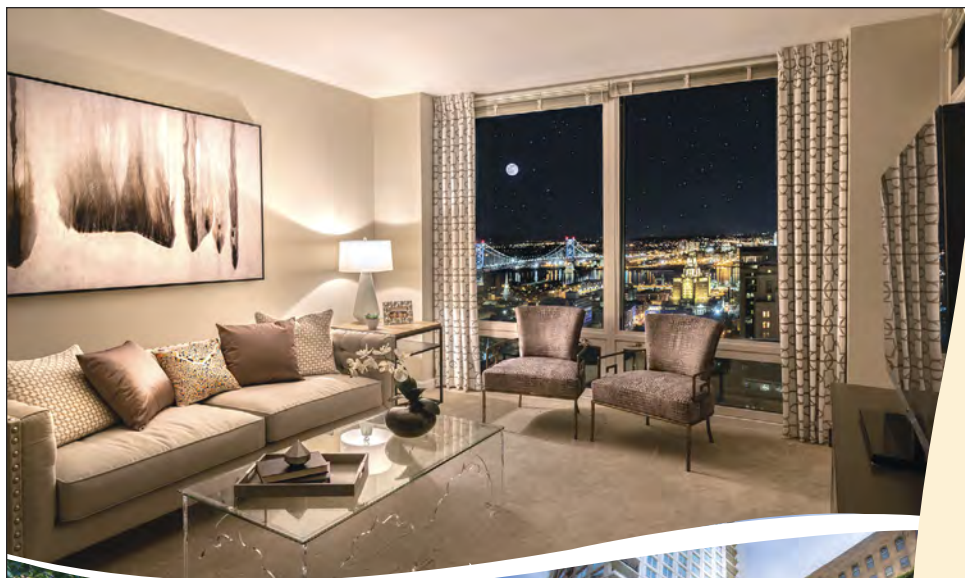
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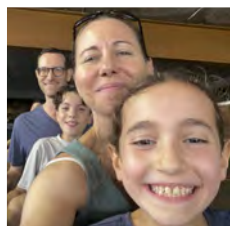
BY THE FOX FAMILY

Phantom Pleasure, Swinging Clubs, Birthday with Buddha

**Fightin' Phillies**

www.Phillies.com

It's a Thursday in the middle of spring, and for once we have no after-school activities. We have the night to ourselves. To ourselves! ...SNAP OUT OF IT! This is no time to panic. Ah, look! The Phillies are playing in town tonight. Like a red and white security blanket, the Phillies are always there for you. So, the Fox family plus a friend took the Broad Street Line down to NRG Station (aka Pattison station — if you know, you know). We asked for tickets out of the sun and ended up spending more than we hoped for 400 section seats. Not to worry, we brought our own water and peanuts to cut costs. We enjoyed the game and had a great time smelling all the smells and seeing all the sights always found in our beautiful ballpark. What is more Philadelphian than cheering on our Phillies with all of our friends in the City of Brotherly Love?



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 features topics such as restaurants, parks, recreation, and culture. Readers' feedback and suggestions are welcome.

Topgolf

www.Topgolf.com; 2140 Byberry Rd, Phila.

Owen and Mike went to Topgolf before, and ever since then, Owen had been begging to go back. When we learned that Tuesday at Topgolf is half price and we would be right near the Philadelphia Topgolf on the Tuesday of spring break, we went for it. With the discount, there was no need to bring our own water and peanuts to cut costs! This was Jaime and Jordan's first time there. It proved to be a challenging experience. The first challenge was that there was a 45-minute wait. We weren't expecting that during the daytime on a Tuesday. The next challenge was the staff taking 10 minutes to find left-handed clubs for the two left-handed Fox children. When we expressed our concern, they gave us a free 15 minutes to make up for it. The final challenge was that Jaime's shoulder was sore for weeks afterwards. Note to self: stretch first next time. Despite those challenges, the day was a success. Jordan enjoyed the experience. Owen liked using the driver and did not use it on Jordan.

**Buddakan**

www.Buddakan.com; 325 Chestnut Street

While walking past Buddakan one night, we realized the kids had never been there. After we suggested they sneak a peek of the giant Buddha, we decided to make a reservation for five to celebrate their great-aunt's upcoming 60-ish birthday. When we sat down for dinner, we agreed to share several items: edamame, pad thai, calamari salad, cod, and lobster fried rice. Owen's favorite dish was the fried rice, while Jordan reported that she liked the pad thai the best. When we told the wait staff it was our aunt's birthday, they brought a sparkler out with the donut dessert she ordered. The children chose a very interesting dessert called the Mandarin for themselves; they both really enjoyed it. We all left happily full, looking more like the giant Buddha than we did when we came in.



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